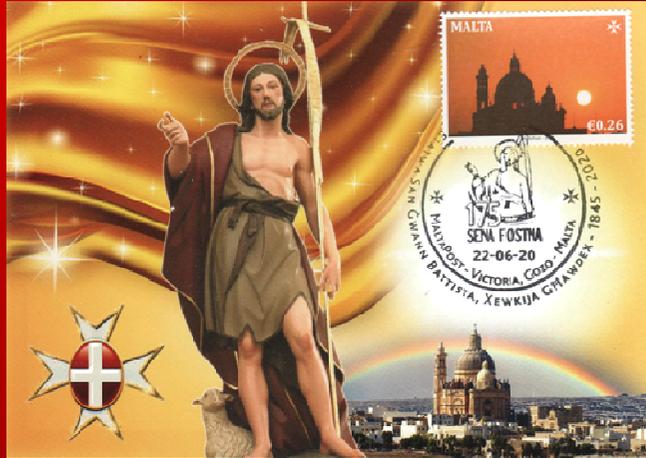
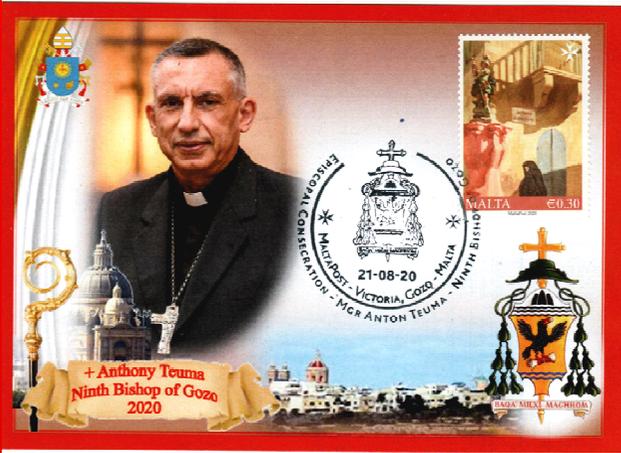


No. 80 – 2/2020
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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999
for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

Front page;- Postcards issued by the GPS -
Consecration of Bishop Anthony Teuma—175th Anniv. of St John Statue at Xewkija

**GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of
The Gozo Philatelic Society**

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 80 (2/2020)

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to:

The Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

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(74) *G.P.S. Diary*

Antoine Vassallo, Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary,
VO/0546



18 March 2020 Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, covers for the St Joseph statues stamps were not produced – against our normal practice. Moreover, office was kept closed for various weeks.

29 May Because of the pandemic, issue 79 (also including a new series) distributed late.

30 May Anthony Grech produces cover for Ta' Pinu centenary handstamp.

8 June Anthony Grech produces cover for *San Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar* stamp.

20 June Il-Ħaġar GPS showcase focuses on *San Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar* stamp and E Caruana Dingli.

22 June Anthony Grech produces cover for Xewkija statue handstamp.

Please note that our publications are included in Malta University's External Research Collection and can be assessed on <https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/24814>

#79 errata:

The “AGM Report” on page 6 was, of course, the report presented by the Secretary during the AGM.

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The Book & Stamp Shop

The editor



Stamp, coin and other similar collections are ideal hobbies for those who are keen on culture and history. Both the younger generation and the senior citizens are attracted

towards some form of collection as a pastime. The necessities of collectors can be wide ranging. The Diocese of Gozo felt that these needs should be catered for.

An opportunity arose when the Sliema Stamp Shop became available and the Administrative Secretary at Curia

agreed that GC Company Ltd should acquire the business in the hope of being in a position to satisfy the needs of collectors.

Volunteers from The Gozo Philatelic Society sorted and organised the stocks acquired and helped in the set up.

GC recently opened a shop in De Soldanis Street., Victoria and engaged an ex MaltaPost

Counter assistant to run this shop. In addition to stamps, coins and accessories for hobbies, the company directors have reserved a section of the shop for the retail of Religious books and gifts.

The current opening hours are:

Mondays: 14:45 to 18:45

Tuesday, Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays: 8:45 to 12:45

Wednesday: Closed

The shop stocks a wide range of items from renowned companies like Davo, Marini, Lighthouse, Prinz and Abafil amongst others. The shop also caters for individual collectors' requirements so as to render a good service to its estimated clientele. GC Co. Ltd has acquired and retained the rights over the JB logo, catalogues, stamp albums etc. in the hope that all publications done previously will be contained in the future.

Among items stocked, one can find stamp stock and albums, binders, stock sheets, a wide range of mounts and hinges, FDC binders, wide selection of FDCs, folders, Presentation Packs, mint and used stamps. In the Coin section one can find albums, binders, sheets, trays etc.

A vast range of books mainly published by Lumen Christi bookshop are also available.

All collectors are cordially invited to visit this shop and view in person this new collectors' outlet.





It has become quite common for additional materials to be added to stamps. I give five examples, with the intention of continuing in a later instalment.

I begin with stone – obviously not huge slabs!



In 2008 the Åland Islands celebrated successful rally driver Marcus Grönholm with a stamp designed by Cecilia Mattsson. It shows a gravel road, together with the profiles of both Marcus and his trainer (Christoph Treier). The little pieces of red granite were attached through thermography (by *Österreichische Staatsdruckerei*, the Austrian state printers).



In 2010 **Morocco** commemorated the 35th Anniversary of the Green March through two stamps within a miniature sheet designed by M Ghassane and printed by *Österreichische Staatsdruckerei*. Sand from the Sahara desert was affixed to each stamp and to the sheet itself (sealed in by a varnish overlay). The Green March was a mass demonstration coordinated by the Moroccan government in November 1975 to force Spain to hand over the disputed Spanish Sahara to Morocco. Probably illegitimate stamps ("République Sahraoui", "Saharan Republic" and "Sahara Occ. R.A.S.D") exist relating to this disputed area.



In 2007 **Thailand** offered a set of four stamps (also collected within a miniature sheet) showing views of Pa Hin Ngam National Park (in Chaityaphum Province) which is especially noted for strange rock formations created through erosion. In fact *hin ngam* simply means “beautiful stone”! The stamps (designed by Sawas Poonsawat and printed by Cartor) have little pieces of rock affixed to

each by thermography.



In 2002 **Gibraltar** issued four se-tenant stamps showing different views of the Rock (by Anselmo Torres): from the North, South, East and West respectively. Cartor Security used thermography to sinter to the paper surface crushed particles from the Rock of Gibraltar itself. This set has been described as the world’s first ever with actual rock, incorporated within the Gibraltar images where there is rock showing in the photo. The selected areas are printed with inks which do not contain “hardeners” so that they remain wet during the application of the powdered limestone. This was sourced by boring, accessed through World War II tunnels.

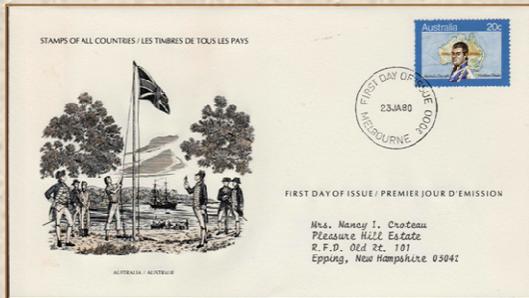


In 2010 **South Africa** produced a set of ten stamps (designed by Susan Eve Woolf) showing Taxi Hand Signs. They were printed as a setenant sheetlet, with traces of

powdered limestone affixed. Moreover they had raised designs to help the blind learn the signals.

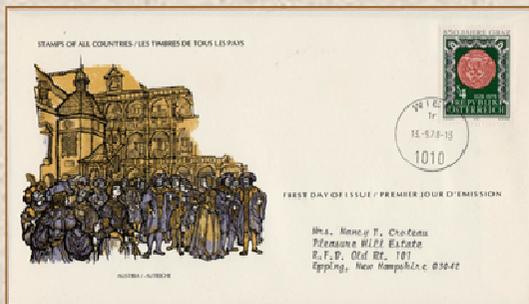
An FDC from each Issuer

assorted postmarks and designs on the specially commissioned covers in the “Stamps of all Countries / *Les Timbres des tous les Pays*” Collection
Victor Gusman



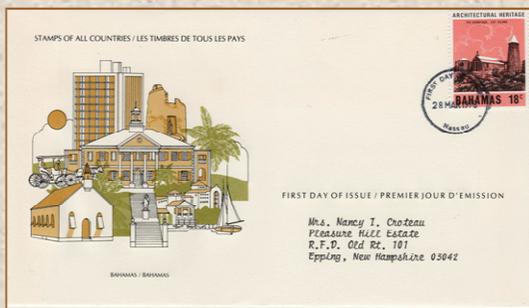
Australia

This Australia Day stamp – designed by Bruce Weatherhead – shows English explorer Matthew Flinders (1774 –1814) over a map of Australia. The first day postmark was given in Melbourne. The cover design shows the first settlers raising the Union Jack.



Austria

This stamp for the 850th anniversary of the city of Graz – by O Zeiller and W Seidel - shows the 1440 city seal. The first day postmark was given in Wien (Vienna), the capital. The cover design shows a courtyard from centuries back, surrounded by prominent residences.



Bahamas

This Easter stamp - designed by BG Studio – features a Durer engraving showing Jesus on the Cross. The first day postmark (St John’s, the capital) includes an outline of the island. The cover design shows a modern rendering of the Crucifixion, set in Durer’s Renaissance period. Antigua was later calledcalled Antigua & Barbuda)



Barbados



The stamp design – by John Cooter - shows an early mail steamer. The first day postmark does not specify exactly where it was given. The cover design shows colonists building a house.



Belize



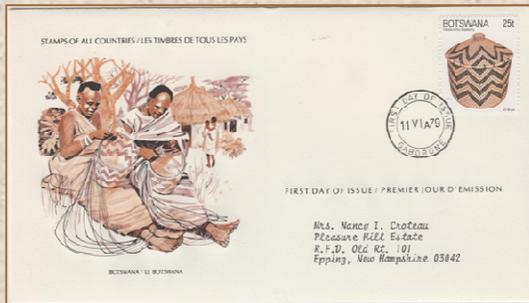
This Bird stamp – designed by John Waddington Security Print - shows a “boat-billed” heron. The first day postmark was given in Belize City, the former capital. The cover design shows this bird in its natural setting.



Bermuda



This Antique Map stamp – designed by John Cooter – shows a 1685 one of the main island by John Seller (1632–97). The first day postmark was given in Hamilton, the capital. The cover design shows aspects of early exploration, including a mileage scale, divider and sailing ship.



Botswana



This Handicraft stamp – designed by M Bryan – shows a woven basket. The first day postmark was given in Gaborone, the capital. The cover design shows tribesmen weaving similar baskets.



THE MALTA ORANGE

Lara Grech

The GPS Newsletter number 76 (Jan-Mar 2019) carried a copy of a receipt concerning the export of a box of oranges from Malta to London. The oranges were sent by H.E the Governor of Malta. But why was it worthwhile for the Governor to pay fifteen shillings to send a box of oranges? In 1848, 15/- was a good amount of money!



Probably the orange tree first appeared in the Mediterranean region during the Phoenician period. By the 12th century it was present in Malta. The fruit itself was very rare but not good to eat. It was usually dried and, with the addition of cloves, used to create pomanders - to perfume linen and other cloths. In some villages in Gozo this method of perfuming is still practiced. Pillows filled with orange leaves

were often placed under the head of the dead for burial. Fresh orange blossoms were distilled and sold as orange flower water. Home-made *ilma żahar* is still produced in Gozo, especially Xagħra, and in Malta, for stomach problems and to be added to coffee. Otherwise, orange trees were only cultivated to embellish gardens.

A different kind of orange tree was then imported



Grand Master de Rohan portrait by A. Favray with an orange tree in the background

from China and Ceylon by the Portuguese. This time the orange was sweet and edible. Two successive Portuguese Grand Masters, de Vilhena and Pinto, introduced to Malta the so-called 'Portuguese Red'. Though the price was four times the old ones, this was so successful that the 'Red from Portugal' became the 'Red from Malta' or simply 'The Maltese'. By 1770 Maltese oranges were often described "the best in the world". This new fruit actually brought new eating habits.



The Grand Masters used it as a political and diplomatic tool by giving it as gifts to the crowned heads

of Europe. Grand Master De Rohan boasted about the oranges of Malta by adding an orange tree on the background of his portrait painted by Favray. Wanting to develop relations even with non-Christian leaders, he sent fifty orange trees to the Bey of Tunis. The Bey liked them so much that he asked for another thousand! The Grand Master did send them: a definite blunder since fierce competition ensued between Maltese and Tunisian oranges.

Business-wise, the practice in Malta was for oranges to be paid for before harvesting. Only the best of the best were chosen, carefully placed in cases of a specific size holding 3 dozens. Each fruit was wrapped individually in paper or wood shavings, with cotton wool used for the exceptional.

Towards the end of the Order in Malta, the orange industry had become even bigger than that of cotton. It is documented that ‘everybody in Europe wanted Maltese oranges’ even if their price again doubled. By the last quarter of the eighteenth century, several countries had planted huge number of Maltese orange trees. This, together with the Napoleonic wars, ruined the Malta trade.

Today the ‘Maltese Orange’ is found widely, practically on every table. Many countries grow their own ‘Malta Orange’ - also called “sweet” because of limited acid - and show its importance through the issue of stamps featuring it. Malta imports oranges from many different countries including the “Maltese” orange of Tunisia, but the original Malta Orange remains unchallenged for its smell, goodness and sweetness.



This being a philatelic periodical, I conclude with a glance at an orange stamp - appropriately enough from Tunisia. Four citrus fruits, designed by Leila Allagui, were issued in 2017. And Orange Maltaise was not missing, together with mandarines and two types of lemons.



Ref; Treasures of Malta. Vol X . No 1 by Alain Blondy. A treasure of the 18th. Century Malta

An unusual 'Envelope' ... another curious item from my collection.

Anthony Grech



This 'envelope' measuring 16.5cm by 16cm contained Tea Samples and a handstamp applied with the words in English - 'TEA SAMPLES-NO CHARGE' It was sent from China to Messer Evans Gray & Hood Ltd of London, England in 1964. It bears a block of 4 red stamps showing 'The Gate of Heavenly Peace' and 4 other identical stamps showing the Museum of Revolutionary History. The envelope is made of whitish grey cloth and is secured by a string at the top opening. It is postmarked at the back by a small Chinese cachet in Chinese and French 'Par Avion' (乘飞机) and other markings in Chinese alphabet.



Catalogue of Commemorative Cards & Covers Issued by

The Gozo Philatelic Society

Part 3—continuation from News Letter No 70

2017-2020

Anthony Grech



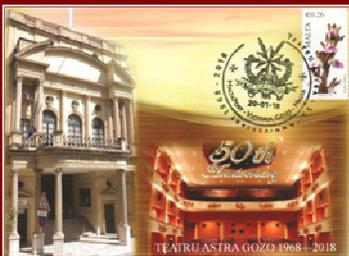
Card No (125) should be 126
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 GPS 18th Annual Exhibition
 2-9 November 2017
 Postmark, Personalised stamp and Card by
 Anthony Grech .Limited Edition 100



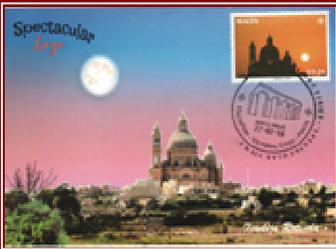
Card No 127
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 50th Anniversary Għarb Basilica
 28 November 2017
 Postcard & Postmark des. by Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100



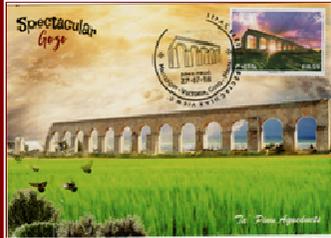
Card No 128
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 Christmas in Gozo
 2 December 2017
 Postcard & Postmark designed by
 Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100



Card No 129
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 50th Anniversary Teatru Astra
 20 January 2018
 Postcard & Postmark designed by
 Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100



Card No 130
Gozo Related Stamp-Xewkija Rotunda
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
27 July 2018
Stamp & Postmark designer MaltaPost
Card by Anthony Grech.
Limited edition 100. **Sold Out**



Card No 131
Gozo Related Stamp-Aqueducts
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
27 July 2018
Stamp & Postmark designer MaltaPost
Card by Anthony Grech.
Limited edition 100. **Sold Out**



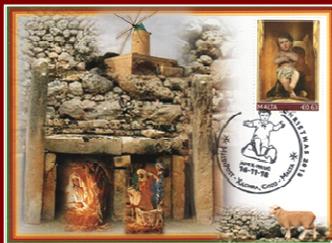
Card No 132
Gozo Related Stamp-Dwejra Cliffs
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
27 July 2018
Stamp & Postmark designer MaltaPost
Card by Anthony Grech.
Limited edition 100 **Sold Out**



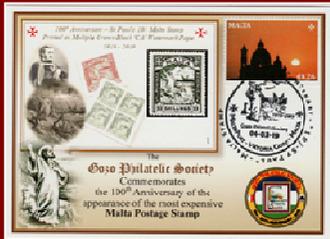
Card No 133
Gozo Related Stamp-Statue SS Peter Paul
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
14 August 2018
Stamp & Postmark designer MaltaPost
Card by Anthony Grech.
Limited edition 100



Card No 134
Special Handstamp Cancellation
G. P.S.19th Annual Exhibition
2—9 November 2018
Postcard Personalised Stamp & Postmark de-
signed by Anthony Grech
Limited Edition 100



Card No 134 (repeated number)
 Gozo Related Stamp-Statue of Baby Jesus
 Xaghra Church
 Fist Day of Issue Postmark
 16 November 2018
 Stamp & Postmark designer MaltaPost
 Card by Anthony Grech. Limited edition 100



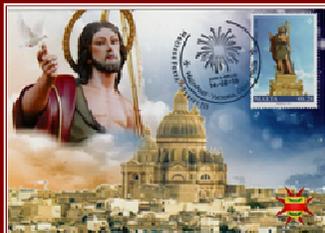
Card No 135
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 Centenary Malta Most Expensive Stamp
 6 March 2019
 Postcard designed by Samuel Parnis
 Postmark designed by Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100



Card No 136
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 125th Anniv.St George Demonstration Statue
 19 July 2019
 Card & Postmark designed by Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100



Card No 137
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 First visit to Gozo-Bishop Ġ.Ċefai
 10 August 2019
 Postmark & Card designed by
 Anthony Grech
 Limited Edition 100 **Sold Out**



Card No 138
 Gozo Related Stamp-St John Statue Xewkija
 Fist Day of Issue Postmark
 14 August 2019
 Stamp & Postmark by MaltaPost plc
 Card by Anthony Grech. Limited Edition 75 **Sold out**



Card No 139
Special Handstamp Cancellation
GPS 20th Anniversary
23 September 2019
Postcard & Postmark designed by
Anthony Grech
Limited Edition 100



Card No 140
Special Handstamp Cancellation
GPS 20th Annual Exhibition
2-9 November 2019
Postmark & Card designed by
Anthony Grech
Limited Edition 100



Card No 141
Gozo Related Stamp-Statue of Baby Jesus
Għarb Parish Basilica
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
29 November 2019
Stamp & Postmark by MaltaPost plc
Card by A. Grech. Limited Edition 100



Card No 142
Special Handstamp Cancellation
100th Anniv. 'Ta' Pinu' Foundation Stone
30 May 2020
Postmark & Card designed by
Anthony Grech. Limited Edition 75 **Sold Out**



Card No 143
Gozo Related Stamp-S. Ġorġ tal-Ħaġar
Fist Day of Issue Postmark
8 June 2020
Stamp & Postmark by MaltaPost plc
Card by A. Grech. Limited Edition 70

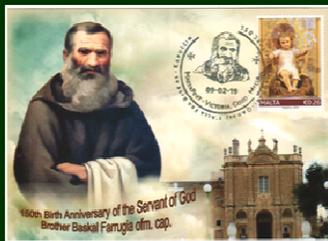
'A' NUMBERED CARDS ISSUED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES



Card No A 13
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 First Gozitan Apostolic Nuncio
 17 March 2018
 Card designed by Anthony Grech .
 Limited Edition 150 **Sold Out**



Card No A 14
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 1000 Edition 'Il-Hajja f' Ghawdex'
 6 October 2018
 Card designed by Anthony Grech
 Postmark designed by Mario Abela.
 Limited Edition 150



Card No A 15
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 150th Birth Anniversary Fra Baskal
 9 February 2019
 Postcard & Postmark designed by
 Anthony Grech Limited Edition 180



Card No A 16
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 400th Anniversary 'Ta' Pinu' Altarpiece
 22 June 2019
 Postcard & Postmark designed by
 Anthony Grech. Limited Edition 200 **Sold Out**

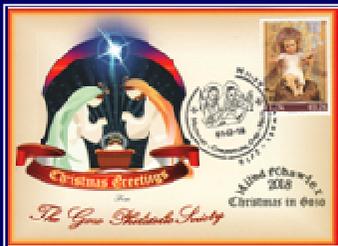


Card No A 17
 Special Handstamp Cancellation
 125th Anniversary St Lawrence Statue
 4 August 2020
 Postcard & Postmark designed by
 Anthony Grech Limited Edition 150

**‘B’ NUMBERED SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CARDS
SENT FREE TO ALL
GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEMBERS**



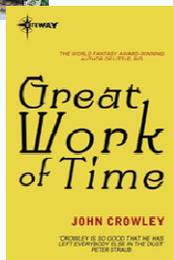
Card No B 10
Christmas Greetings Card
17 November 2017
FDC Postmark by MaltaPost
Card designed by Anthony Grech
Postmark designed by MaltaPost Limited Edition
of 150



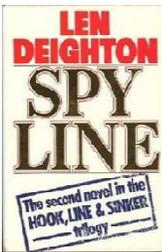
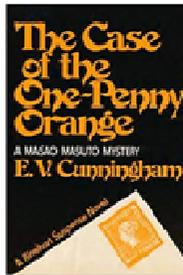
Card No B 11
Christmas Greetings Card
1 December 2018
FDC Postmark by MaltaPost
Card designed by Anthony Grech
Postmark designed by MaltaPost
Limited Edition of 130 **Sold Out**



Card No B 12
Christmas Greetings Card
30 November 2019
Milied F'Ghawdex Special Postmark
Postmark & Card designed by
Anthony Grech
Limited Edition of 150 **Sold Out**



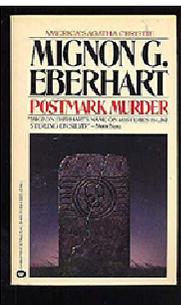
17= John **Crowley**: Great Work of Time (1989 science fiction story involving time travel which won the 1990 World Fantasy Award for Best Novella). It begins with Caspar Last inventing a time machine which he determines to use just once: to travel to 19th Century British Guiana and become wealthy by obtaining that rarest stamp.



18= EV **Cunningham** (pen name of Howard Fast): The Case of the One-Penny Orange (1977 mystery novel in which Beverly Hills detective Masao Masuto investigates the murder of a noted stamp dealer). The title refers to the 1847 Mauritius “Post Office” rarity which is looked for.

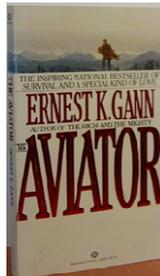


19= Len **Deighton**: Spy Line (1989 spy novel which includes a package from a stamp auction).



20= Doris Miles **Disney**: Unappointed Rounds (also called “The Post Office Case”, this was a 1956 mystery in the series with Postal Inspector David Madden).

21= Mignon **Eberhart**: Postmark Murder (1956 “Intelligently complicated” novel by one of the most prolific authors of the Golden Age of mystery).



22= Ernest K **Gann**: The Aviator (1981 adventure which became a movie about how a US Mail pilot and a young passenger survive a devastating crash in the Rockies, passing the time reading letters from the mail bag).



Is it
REALLY
True that....
3 postmen became US Presidents?! (16)

To get employed by the Post Office is not usually considered as the epitome of opportunities!

However at least three leaders of the United States did do postal service – though this is hardly an important biographical aspect. Interestingly the first two got assassinated – but not for failing to deliver letters!

This being a philatelic periodical, I will not delve too much into their lives but just list the basic facts.



Abraham Lincoln (12 February 1809 - 15 April 1865) was the sixteenth President of the United States of America (1861 – 1865). He had acted as postmaster for the village of New Salem and first appeared on a US stamp in 1866.

William McKinley (29 January 1843 – 14 September 1901) was the twenty-fifth President of the United States of America (1897 – 1901). He had been a postal clerk from 1861 to 1865 and first appeared on a US stamp in 1904.

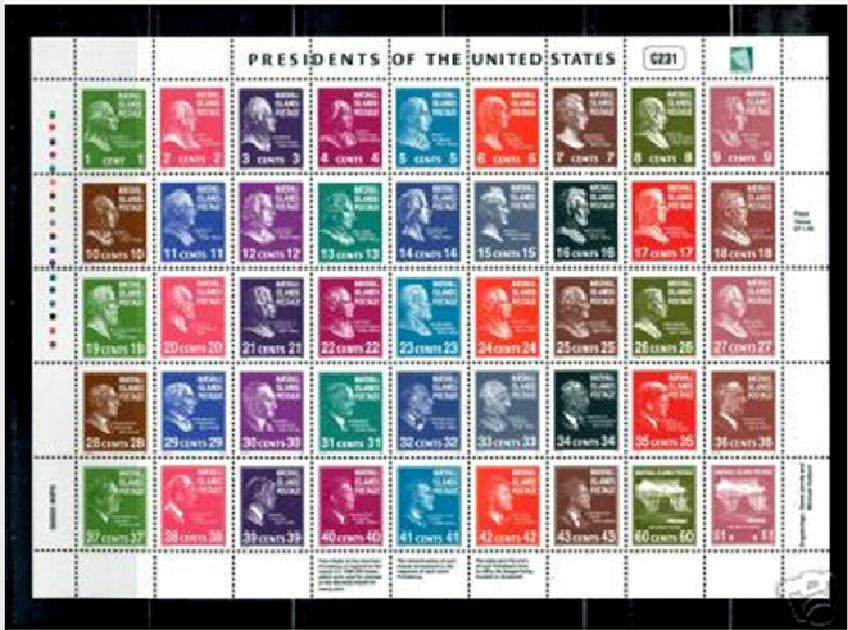


Harry Truman (8 May 1884 – 26 December 1972) was the thirty-third President of the United States of America (1945 – 1953). He had acted as postmaster in Grandview and first appeared on a US stamp in 1973.



All three are of course included – with face value corresponding to the chronological list - in the se-tenant set issued by the Marshall Islands in 2001, obviously inspired by the 1938 US series.

But various other countries including Malta have used presidential images for their stamps.



as for other series, readers are invited to submit their own articles or even just suggestions in 2001,



Antoine Vassallo



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (33)

Antoine

Vassallo



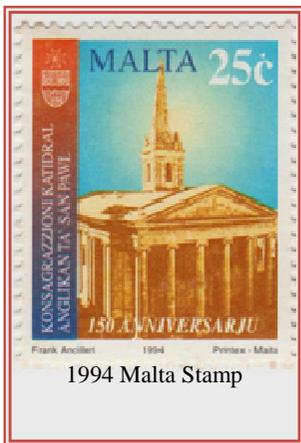
Malta has two Cathedrals dedicated to Saint Paul: the first is that at Mdina, the other (shown on a 1994 stamp – covered in Newsletter 22) is in Valletta. The full name of the latter is Pro-Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Paul, one of the three in the Anglican Diocese of “Gibraltar in Europe”. This building was chosen by Poland to represent us in its 2006 set of EU capitals.

This was understandable since St Paul’s is a universally recognised Valletta landmark. With the bell-tower and its spire rising some 60 metres, it is an iconic skyline element. It is considered a vital part of Malta’s rich cultural heritage and deeply symbolic of close Anglo-Maltese relations over more than two centuries. A major restoration project is underway to try to correct past mistaken decisions, as well as damage over the years.

Queen Adelaide, the widow of William IV, was keen to found a Collegiate church in the Anglican tradition. She laid the foundation stone on 20th March 1839 on the site provided by the Government: where the *Auberge d’Allemagne* (the conventual home of the German Knights) had stood. But the original building designed by Richard Lankasheer (a cabinet-maker by profession!) proved unstable and work started again in 1841 under new designs by William Scamp (who had been involved in the remodelling of Windsor Castle). The Collegiate Church of St Paul’s was formally consecrated by the Bishop of Gibraltar on 1st November 1844, even though the spire had not yet been completed.



The building is designed to a neo-classical architectural style with a grand temple-front portico incorporating Ionic columns. An array of eight Corinthian columns embellish its interior. Scamp’s rather severe interior with its pillars (made of good quality stone quarried from near St George’s Bay and transported to Valletta by the Royal Navy) and fluted engaged pilasters topped by Corinthian capitals supporting a cornice are architecturally harmonious and provide a dignified



1994 Malta Stamp

grandeur.

Despite its prominent and vulnerable position during the Second World War in “the most bombed city in Europe”, the Cathedral escaped serious damage. But the glass windows had to be completely replaced after the bombing, with further necessary repairs and adaptations. The Archbishop of Canterbury himself dedicated the new Chancel on 2nd December 1949 (the centenary of Adelaide’s death) in the presence of Princess Elizabeth who was visiting Prince Philip during his period of naval service in Malta.

St Paul’s now houses the memorials of all units of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force on the oak panels around the Sanctuary. A Merchant Navy Memorial is located on the north wall and a Submariners Memorial Plaque is situated outside. The wooden lectern commemorates Sir Winston Churchill.

The historic organ and casework, originally built in 1684 for Chester Cathedral, was restored in 2013. Interestingly, tradition states that it had been played by George Handel to fine-tune his “Messiah”, on his way for its first performance. A head and shoulders portrait of St Paul (by Mattia Preti and his *bottega*) stands behind the Altar in the Reredos, together with a Chalon *Ecce Homo* (a de Piro long-term loan).

Concluding this brief overview, one should note that the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands gave this building a Very High Value assessment.

with acknowledgments to www.savethecathedral.com

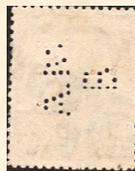
Valletta iconic sky-line with St. Paul’s Anglican Cathedral spire and the huge dome of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Basilica



A few examples have been featured in past issues - but

Antoine Vassallo

what are Perfins? →



A basic description could be: “postage stamps perforated on the face - or back - with the distinctive marks (initials or other) of an individual or firm using them, applied prior to the stamp being used, to deter pilferage”.

The origin of perfins is English, just like postage stamps themselves. The Oxford Union Society, which provided stationery and postage to its members without charge, sought to reduce losses in stamps that could not be accounted for. In fact, then one could sell stamps back to the Post Office or even use them to pay a bill. So the Post Office gave permission in 1859 for stamps to be overprinted (on the front, later on the back – or underprints).



Overprint

Underprint

Early Perfin

In late 1867 a firm of wholesale drapery warehousemen (already using underprints) asked the Post to be able to perforate additional small quantities received in payment which were not practical to print. Joseph Sloper, who patented a machine for puncturing railway tickets, became involved. Finally he received, dated 13 March 1868, a favourable reply: “The Postmaster-General, under the circumstances, will not object to the perforation of postage stamps in the manner described by you, with a view to protect merchants and others from the theft of the stamps used by them”.

A year later the Post Office advised its Postmasters that Sloper’s security system of perforating stamps with the firm’s initials had been approved, adding the instruction to “take care not to purchase any postage stamps thus marked which may be offered to them for sale”.

Since Sloper had a patent for the perforating machines, he took advantage of this monopoly until it expired in 1872. His business expanded and he began to do business through-



1873 Photo of Joseph Sloper



Early GB perfin cover

out Britain and over to Europe. Competition then became quite active. The leading competitors were London stationer Den Fisher and printer and stationer Francis Hancock.

At first, the perforating cost was free (after paying for manufacturing the die); this was because they received 1% “poundage” - commission paid by the Post Office for stamp sales. Though perforating machines were also sold to stamp users, most preferred to just perforate and get poundage income.

The poundage was discontinued from December 1877 for those who were not Postmasters – and from July 1879 a maximum poundage income of £400 per annum was set for these too. Mr. Sloper had his poundage income reduced by about £600. So firms perforating stamps began to charge for stamp perforating. In spite of this, the use of perforated stamps became ever more popular.

In the meantime, the practice was imported by others. Belgium authorized the use of perfins for security reasons in 1872. Germany, France, Denmark and Switzerland also approved their use in 1878. New Zealand approved the perforating of stamps, as well as postcards and newspaper wrappers in 1883.

Continued on p 26



Cummins Model 14

Cummins Model 52

The machine that has had the widest distribution in Canada is Model 52 from the F.B. Cummins Perforator Company of Chicago, Illinois. This machine has a width to accommodate a row of five regular sized (George V Admiral) stamps which necessitates a sheet of stamps being folded or separated in half prior to the perforation.



Earliest perforated
Canadian stamp

In Canada, stamps were perforated for identification as early as 1887. The Canadian Post Office stated in 1895 that it had no objection to the practice of perforating stamps with initials of the individual firm using them; in 1910 it ordered that the perforations must be approved prior to use, not exceeding specified limits.

The US Post Office did not sanction the use of perfins until 1908 but the first machine there was produced in 1887.

Sloper received a US Patent in 1874, for “improvements in perforating-stamps for producing perforations (grouped to represent marks, letters, figures or devices) through paper and other materials”. BF Cummins Company of Chicago then had a first perforating-stamp patented in 1889. Finally in April 1908, the US Postal Bulletin officially permitted the perforating of postage stamps with letters, numerals or other marks (for identification purposes only).

Two final notes: Since stamps were originally perforated to prove ownership and to deter their theft, the possession of mint perfins is usually considered to be improper. Collectors can look out for fakes, made on the wrong stamps or created in imitation.

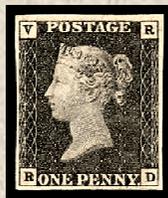


STAMP COLLECTOR

humour and sarcasm in verse
by Robert W. Service



My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
 My life collection of rare posta □e stamps;
 My room is cold and bare as you can see,
 My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
 Yet more to me than balances in banks,
 My albums three are worth a million francs.
 I keep them in that box beside my bed,
 For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
 But every day I take them out and spread
 Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold.
 Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
 I would defend them with my very life.
 They are my very life, for every night
 Over my catalo □ues I pore and pore;
 I recognize rare items with delight,
 Nothin □ I read but philatelic lore;
 And when some specimen of choice I buy,
 In the world there's none more glad than I.
 Behold my □em, my British Penny Black;
 To pay its price I starved myself a year;
 And many a night my dinner I would lack,
 But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
 Hitler made war that day, I did not care,
 So long as my collection he would spare.
 Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
 To purchase it I had to sell my car.
 Now in my pocket for some cents I grope
 To pay my bus fare when home is far,
 And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
 In haste to add some beauty to my store.



This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermilion, eighteen forty-nine...
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak they say), I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.
But oh, my dream is that someday I'll glow,
When I might discover a Mauritius blue,
Pokin amon the stamp bins of a show;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die...
Poor mister -----, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread.
But albums worth a million francs.
On them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven;
What did it profit in the end...
You can't take stamps to heaven.



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Albums



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Just for the record

San Ġorġ Tal-Haġar on Malta Stamp

Mary Grace Xerri



On 8 June 2020, MaltaPost issued a set of two stamps in the SEPAC Series. Both stamps depict paintings by Edward Caruana Dingli (1876-1950). The 30cents value shows ‘A Street Corner in Gozo’. The original watercolour is included in the collection at Malta’s new National Art Museum MUZA in Valletta.

The exact location featured in the old centre of Victoria is the corner of Library Street with St George’s Street (shown as *Strada S Giorgio*). This latter continues to the side of St George’s Basilica, called for centuries *San Ġorġ tal-Haġar* (ie of the capital’s built-up community - to distinguish it from other areas called after the patron saint). Later the church became plain “*San Ġorġ*”, with the street statue inheriting the fuller name – and resulting in an incorrect etymology.

The design shows a woman wearing an *ghonnella* (the traditional – though now practically extinct – overdress) passing by the statue of the saint standing triumphantly over the dragon. Both the sculptor and exact date are unknown. However the niche where the statue stands is surely hundreds of years old. In fact it seems that it was first mentioned in 1410 in a will by Arnaldo Arabi.

In 1925 the statue was removed and placed in front of the Gozo Seminary. Later it was shifted by a few metres to its present location atop a garden wall, surrounded by a huge Bougainvillea, in front of the Dominican Sisters convent in what is now Victoria’s Enrico Mizzi Street. Unfortunately this artwork got neglected for long years until Gozo Minister Dr Anton Refalo (an art lover himself) initiated a restoration project between his Ministry and heritage NGO *Wirt Ghawdex*: in 2014 the statue got back to its original glory.

The present statue in the *San Ġorġ Tal-Haġar* niche is by Gozitan artist Ġużeppi Agius (1893-1948) nicknamed *Il-Brejbejx* (“the devil”). A carpenter by trade, Agius’s talent can still be seen all over Gozo - in churches, streets, houses, shops and gardens.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issued a card franked with the stamp and postmarked with the first day of issue handstamp. (see picture on the front page of this news letter.)

Reference; ‘Herita e’ pa e 2033/2034
‘Il-Belt Victoria’ Jannar/Dicembru 2014



← The ‘New’ and the ‘Old’ statues of St. George →

Anthony Grech

STAMP



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.

Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.

Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged

Prot=Protectorate

REUNION
1852

RHODESIA
1890

RHODESIA & NYASALAND
1954

RIAU LINGGA
o.p Indonesia stamps
1954

RIO DE ORO
1907

RIO MUNI
1960

ROMAGNIA
1859

ROSS DEPENDENCY
1957

ROUAD ISLAND
o.p France stamps
1916

RUANDA URUNDI
o.p. Belgian Congo stamps
1916

RUANDA URUNDI OWN ISSUE
1931

RUSSIA
1858

RWANDA
1962

RYUKYU ISLAND
1948

SAAR
o.p Germany stamps
1920

SAAR Own issue
1913

SABAH
o.p. North Borneo stamps
1965

SABAH Own issue
1965

ST CHRISTOPHER
1870

ST HELEN
1856



ST KITTS
o.p St Kitts
Nevis stamps
1980



ST KITTS
Own issue
1980



ST KITTS-NEVIS
1903



ST LUCIA
1860



STE MARIE DE MADAGASCAR
o.p France stamps
1894



ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON
o.p. France stamps
1885



ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON
Own issue
1909



ST THOMAS & PRINCE ISLAND
1870



ST VINCENT
1861



SAMOA
1877



SAN MARINO
1877



SANTANDER
1884



SARAWAK
1869



SARDINIA
1851



SASENO
o.p Italy stamps
1923



SAUDI ARABIA
1916



SAXONY
1850



SCHLESWIG
1920



SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
1850



SELANGOR
1881



SENEGAL
o.p Values on France stamps
1887



SENEGAL
Own issue
1914



SENE-GAMBIA & NIGER.
O.p. France stamp
1903



SERBIA
1866



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