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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:

G.P.S. 23rd Annual Exhibition commemorative card and Medal awarded to exhibitors.

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF CANBERRA**



Large Silver Medal awarded to the Gozo Philatelic Society Magazine

**GPS Magazine —Official Organ of
The Gozo Philatelic Society**

First issued on 12 February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini — Designer Anthony Grech

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

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

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**Gozo Philatelic Society Patron His Excellency
Dr George Vella President of the Republic of Malta**

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

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546 secretary@stamps-gozo.org



- October 2022** *L-Anzjani Llum* quarterly (#108) carries another instalment – in colour – of our philatelic errors series.
- 15 October** Committee makes final preparations for Exhibition
- 30 October** National weekly *Il-Lehen* offers a further instalment in our thematic series.
- 1 November** Setting up begins for the 23rd GPS Exhibition
- 4 November** MaltaPost issues handstamp for Exhibition personalized Cards.
- 4 – 11 November** Exhibition open during Hall hours. (see pages?)
- 11 November** Exhibition dismantling
- 11 November** Mass by Chaplain Fr Joseph Attard at Saint Francis' Church for the repose of deceased members and our current needs
- 12 November** Committee meeting confirms Exhibition prizes, decides AGM date (22 January 2023) and prepares other dates.
- 22 November** Successful Seminary school visit
- 26 November** Anthony Grech produces and distributes to members the Christmas Greetings Cover.
- 3 December** Anthony Grech produces Cover for *Kunċizzjoni* statue anniversary handstamp.
- 12 December** GPS participates with a frame displaying Maltese stamps, GPS Postcards and FDCs in a Qala Christmas Exhibition (till 8/1/2023)
- 14 January 2023** Committee makes final preparations for AGM.
- 29 January** AGM held at Il-Haġar - see page? for Report
- 14 February** Successful visit to Żebbuġ Primary school.
- 18 February** First meeting of the new Committee and duties allocated:

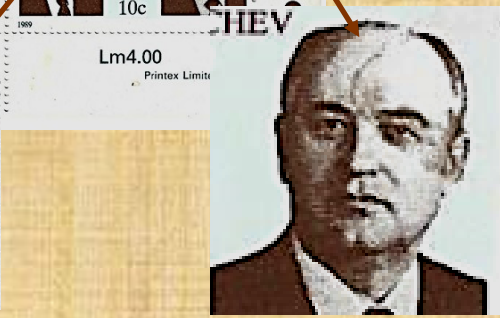
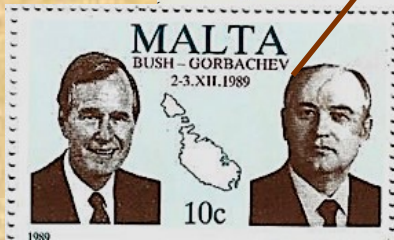
THE NEW GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY COMMITTEE-2023

Jesmond Borg	President & Funding coordinator
Anthony Grech	Vice President & Production manager
Antoine Vassallo	Secretary
Saviour Grech	Treasurer & Procedures coordinator
Mary Grace Xerri	School liaison manager
Fr Joseph Attard	Chaplain & Members' contacts coordinator
Rachel Debattista & Mark Anthony Poulton	Joint Librarians and & Archivists

ERROR OR VARIETY

Anthony Grech

Presidents Bush and Gorbachev historic meeting in Malta, issued 2 December 1989. Part mint sheet with stamp no 2 in row 4: Gorbachev “Birth marks” on forehead and ear.



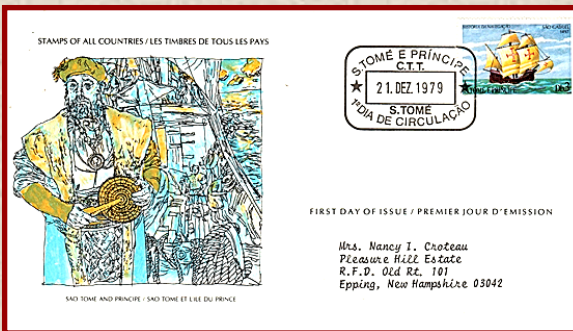
An FDC from each Issuer

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



ROMANIA

Colourfully costumed people enjoying folk festival are portrayed on the Romanian stamp. Both the stamp and the cachet design depict a crowd of dancers in hand-decorated traditional clothing gathering in the street and singing to the accompaniment of lively folk music.



SÃO TOMÊ E PRINCIPE

This stamp commemorates Vasco Da Gama's search for a sea route to India. The stamp depicts the Saint Gabriel, one of the 4 ships which in 1497 sailed from Portugal under Da Gama's command.



SEYCHELLES

The stamp on this fdc gives tribute on the 200th anniversary of the founding of Victoria, the capital city of the Seychelles. The design on this cover features one of the city's most notable landmarks, L'Horloge—a replica of the famous clocktower that stands in London's Vauxhall Gridge Road.

SINGAPORE

The stamp shows a map of Southeast Asia with the dotted line representing the proposed cable network between the ASEAN countries and the solid line connecting Singapore and the Philippines. As shown in the design on the cover, the cable can carry all types of telecommunications traffic.

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

Mrs. Nancy I. Choateau
Pleasure Hill Estate
R.F.D. Old Rd. 101
Epping, New Hampshire 03042

SOLOMON ISLANDS

This stamp depicts a woodcarving of a sea adaro or spirit. The carving is an artifact typical of the ancient culture of the Melanesians, the principal inhabitants of the Solomons.

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS - LES ILES SOLOMON

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

Mrs. Nancy I. Choateau
Pleasure Hill Estate
R.F.D. Old Rd. 101
Epping, New Hampshire 03042

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA

(now NAMIBIA)

The stamp depicts two members of the Onganjerre tribe. The cover design shows an Ovambo woman wearing native adornments, with a stylised krall in the background.

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS

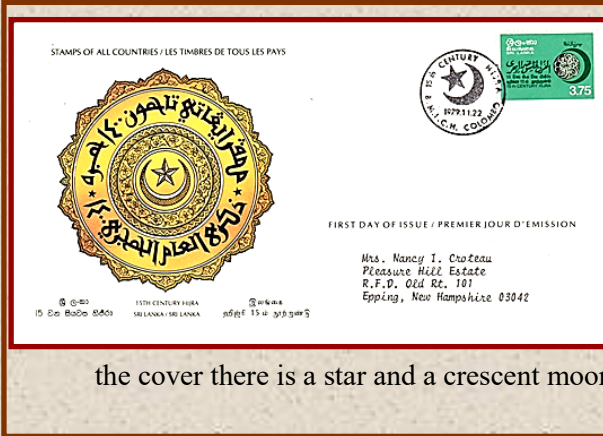
SOUTH-WEST AFRICA / SÜDWESTAFRIKA

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

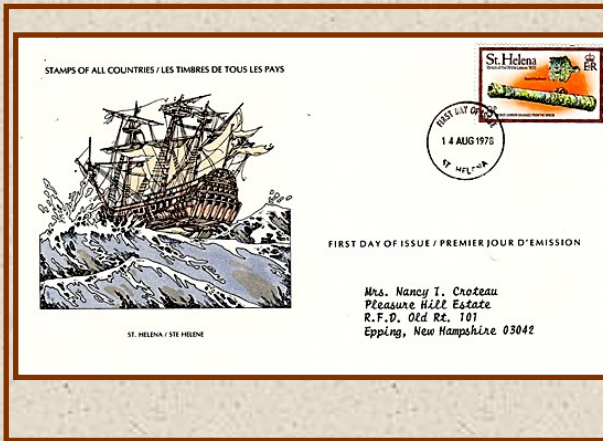
Mrs. Nancy I. Choateau
Pleasure Hill Estate
R.F.D. Old Rd. 101
Epping, New Hampshire 03042



SPAIN
 Charles III, who ruled from 1759 to 1788 is portrayed on the stamp. He is regarded as the greatest Bourbon king of Spain. The engraving on the cover depicts *La Granja*—The Farm, an impressive palace built by Charles’s father, Philip V.

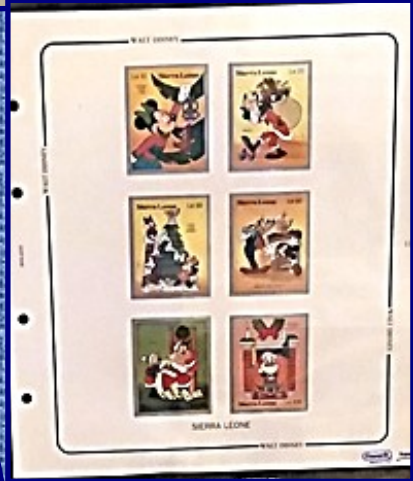
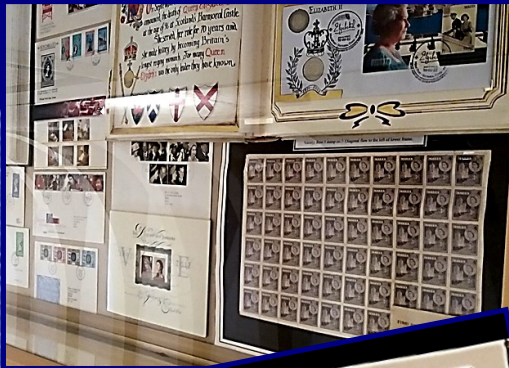
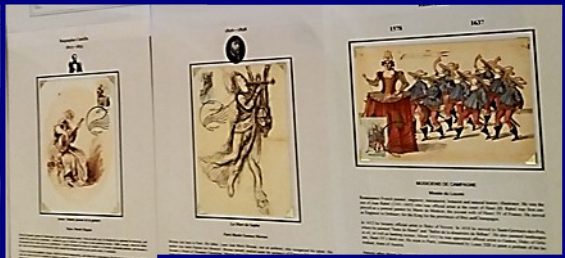


SRI LANKA
 This fdc commemorates *Hijra*, which derives from an Arabic word meaning to abandon and is the name given by Moslems to the prophet Muhammad’s journey from Mecca to Medina on 16 July 622. At the centre of the design on the cover there is a star and a crescent moon, symbols of Islam.



ST. HELENA
 This fdc commemorates the sinking of the Dutch ship ‘*Witte*’ by the Portuguese. The stamp shows a bronze cannon salvaged from the wreck, while the design on the cover shows the ‘*Witte*’ struggling in the choppy waters off the coast of St Helena’s coast.

A PAGE FULL OF
EXHIBITS
GPS 23RD
EXHIBITION
2022
Mary Grace Xerri



Promoting Gozo through Philately **FRENCH TITULAR STATUARY IN GOZO'S PARISHES**

The two Marian statues from Gozo in the 2022 Festa series both came from the Marseille firm of Gallard & Fils. They were neither the first nor the last – and it is surely not amiss to attempt a simple survey, only tangentially philatelic, of how widespread statues from France are in this diocese.



It seems that the first statue imported from Gallard was in 1860: the **Xewkija** parishpriest Pietru Bartolo ordered one showing Our Lady in her Sorrows (“*Duluri*”). It was immediately accepted as being especially artistic and attractive – and a long list of titular processional statues from Marseille got initiated.

Just three years later, new **Zebbuġ** parishpriest Ġwann Camilleri announced during his installation ceremony that he intended buying a titular statue representing Our Lady in her Assumption (1) (“*Santa Marija*”) from *Marsilja*. Interestingly, he had come to know of the firm from Gozitan migrants who settled in this southern France port. Parishioners’ response was so positive that the statue actually arrived in time for the August feast in 1863.

After a further three years, another parish decided to do the same:

Our Lady of Loreto (2) for **Ghajnsielem**. The parishioners wanted to show their thanks for remaining safe after the cholera epidemic a few months earlier.





Fr Camilleri was transferred to **Xaghra** and he repeated the feat: he brought the titular statue of Our Lady in her Birth (“*il-Bambina*”) (3) in 1878.

And he continued: originally from **Nadur**, when he arrived back there he succeeded in sourcing

the 50 pounds sterling necessary to acquire the “double” titular statue (showing Saint Peter and Saint Paul) (4) in 1882.

Gozitan parishes seemed to be gravitating “automatically” to Gallard. **Qala** has two patron saints: the Immaculate Conception (“*Kuncizzjoni*”) (5) was acquired in 1887 and Saint Joseph (6) in 1890.



Then **Sannat** got its Saint Margaret (7) in 1891.

The method used by Gallard was basically the same in most cases

and thus styles do not change much though later adjustments and additions (such as gilding) offer a sense of distinguishable identity. The statue modelled in clay became a plaster cast which was filled with *papier-mâché* (*kartapesta* in Maltese/Italian) or pulped paper and possibly other materials. The actual statue, which appeared when the cast was broken up, then needed finishing.

All this remained basically the same over the years, even after changes in ownership. And it was actually because of these commercial developments that **San Lawrenz** suffered postponement until it finally received its statue (Saint Laurence) (8) in 1895.

Kerċem bought two statues since it is the other parish with a double patronage: our Lady of Succour (“*tas-Sokkors*”) (9) and St Gregory the Great (10). They arrived in 1897 and 1904 respectively.

I stop here, at the beginning of the new century. This big number of statues should not be taken to mean that others were not imported from other countries (usually Italy) or even made locally! In this latter case, *kartapesta* was used quite differently – not just for processional statues. A final comment: this high percentage (almost 60%) is substantially stronger than that for the island of Malta.



PHILATELIC NOTE

- #1 was featured in the 2017 Festa set;
- #2 was featured in the 2022 Festa set;
- #4 was featured in the 2018 Festa set;
- #6 was featured in the 2020 Festa set;
- #9 was featured in the 2022 Festa set.

PHILATELIC ARTISTS (1).

This year celebrates centennials of two British portraitists who were first honoured philatelically together in 1973. This set of four covered the 250th birth anniversary of Sir **Joshua Reynolds** PRA FRS FRSA and the 150th death anniversary of Sir **Henry Raeburn** FRSE RA RSA.

*Antoine Vassallo
looks randomly at*

dreamstime.

Art on Stamps



The latter is probably lesser known but he remains the most prominent Scottish painter (1756 –1823). The two works chosen in 1973 included a self-portrait (5p) and a small full-length portrait (9p).

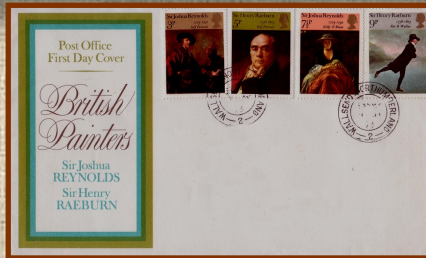
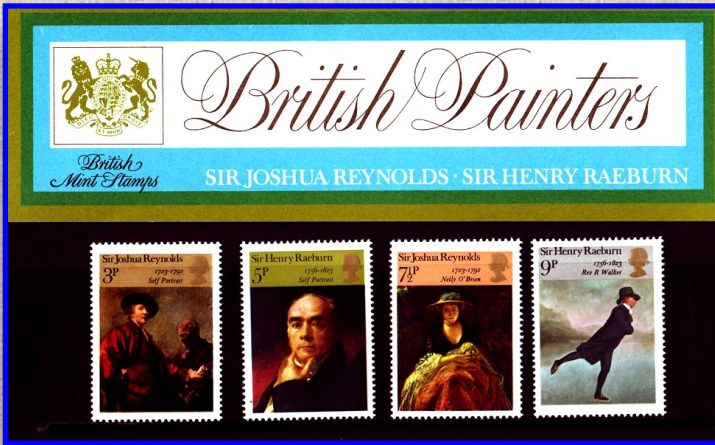
Although one of Scotland's best-known paintings and considered an icon of Scottish culture, “The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch” (or “The Skating Minister”) could very well have been really the work of Henri-Pierre Danloux! This oil on canvas (77cm x 66cm) is housed at the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The 5p adapts another oil on canvas (89cm x 70cm) produced by 1815, highlighting Raeburn's late style - with forceful three dimensional modelling and strong *chiaroscuro* Reynolds (1723 – 92) was the leading English portraitist of the 18th century, offering great variety. The 3p self-portrait – from about 1780 - was surely a deliberate homage to Rembrandt. It is a 127cm x 102cm oil on panel in the Royal Academy of Arts collection. An earlier self-portrait (64cm x 74cm oil on canvas) was later included in a set for the 150th Anniv of the National Portrait Gallery.

The 7½p reproduces a portrait of Nelly O'Brien (with a Maltese lapdog) from about 1763, measuring 126cm x 101 cm. This oil on canvas is part of the Wallace Collection in London, a popular image that was.

Cont on page 14

frequently engraved. Actually this was not the only occasion when Sir Joshua painted her.



It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform our members of the passing away at the age of 77 of **MARLENE BORG** who went to rest in the Loving Arms of her Creator on 11 February 2023. Loved and never forgotten by her husband Joseph, her daughter Mariella and husband Christopher, Jesmond, Gozo Philatelic Society President and his wife Maryanne, her grandchildren and all her relatives and friends

GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS

Issued by Malta Postal Administrations through the years

Continued from issue no 87

Anthony Grech



Overprinted
'SELF-GOVERNMENT
1947' Face Value 2d. Issued:
 Scarlet 25/11/1948. Yellow
 8/1/1953. Perforation 12.5
 Line.

Printers & Designers:
 Waterlow & Sons using the
 medallion portrait of King
 George VI by Bertram Park



MALTA INDEPENDENT



THE MAYMUNAH STONE

Face Value 2½d

Issued 7/1/1965—Colour Brown, Orange & Gold
 Perforation 12.5 Line .

Printers Harrison & Sons.

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



THE BANCA GIURATALE & THE MARBLE ROMAN STATUE OF IULIA AUGUSTA

Face Value 2/-.

Issued 7/1/1965. Colour Green, Grey, Red & Gold

Printers Harrison & Sons.

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



MAP OF GOZO & MALTA

Face Value 10/-

Issued 7/1/1965—Colour Mauve, Grey & Gold
 Perforation 12.5 Line . WM Maltese Crosses.

Printers Harrison & Sons.

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



**SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
MAP OF GOZO & MALTA**

Issued 24/1/1966

2d Black, Red & Gold. 3d Bronze, Sage & Gold.

1/- Purple, Red & Gold. 1/6d Blue, Deep Blue & Gold.

Perforation 14.5 x 14 Comb. Printers Harrison & Sons.

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



**QUEEN ELIZABETH II
ROYAL VISIT**

MAP OF GOZO & MALTA

Issued 13/11/1967 Face Value 3/-..Deep
Olive, Grey & Gold .

Perforation 14 x 15 Comb.

Designer EV Cremona



**COMMEMORATIONS
MAP OF GOZO & MALTA**

Issued 26/7/1969. Face Value 10d

Mustard, Black & Gold.

Perforation 13 Comb.

Printers De La Rue.

Designer Chev; EV Cremona .



**7 GIUGNO MONUMENT
GOZITAN ĠUZEPPI BAJADA**

Issued 20/9/1969

Face Value 2d. Black, Charcoal-Grey & Gold
Perforation 13 Comb.

Printers Joh Enschede en Zonnen Harlem,
Netherlands

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



**CHRISTMAS 1970
GHARB BASILICA FACADE**

Issued 7/11/1970 . Face Value 10d + 2d

Brown, Red & Black.

Perforation 14 x 13 Comb.

Printers State Printers, Israel.

Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



**PERSONALITIES
ĠIAN PIET AGIUS DE SOLDANIS &
GOZO COAT OF ARMS**

Issued 20/3/1971

Face Value 1/6d

Grey & Red. Perforation 13 x 14 Comb.

Printers Thomas de la Rue.

Designer Harry Alden.



RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES—ST JOSEPH QALA PARISH TITULAR

Issued 24/7/1971

Face Value 2d Multicolour & Gold with Dark Blue frame

10d Multicolour & Gold with Dark Green frame

Perforation 13 x 13.5 Comb.

Printers Thomas de la Rue. Designer Chev. Emvin Cremona



**FIRST DECIMAL MALTA COINAGE
GOZO EARTHENWARE OIL LAMP**

Issued 16/5/1972

Face Value 5m

Pale Violet, Silver & Gold

Perforation 14 Comb.

Printers Format International Security Printers.
Designer George M. Pace.

MALTA REPUBLIC



BIRTH OF THE REPUBLIC—DR. ANTON BUTTIGIEG

Issued 31/3/1975

Face Value 25c. Multicolour

Perforation 14 Comb.

Printers Printex Ltd. Malta. Designer Chev Emvin Cremona.



**EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE YEAR
PLAN OF ĠGANTIJA NEOLITHIC TEMPLES**

Issued 16/09/1975

Face Value 1c 3. White, Black & Orange

VICTORIA & ST GEORGE'S BASILICA

. 5c. White, Black, Grey & Orange.

Perforation 14 Comb.

Printers Printex Ltd. Malta.
Designer Richard England.



LONG LIVE THE MONARCH!

continuing from Antoine Vassallo's write-up in the last issue

Charles III



British stamps continued to feature the Elizabeth II cameo on further sets which had already been designed but King Charles's cypher began to appear: as an example, I choose the Robin Hood series issued by the small island of Alderney for Christmas '22.

After Royal Mail announced that Elizabethan stamps will not be withdrawn, they revealed - exactly five months after the sad passing - the image of the King Charles III definitives. He of course becomes the seventh sovereign to appear on stamps.

The design features a specially adapted version of the portrait created by Martin Jennings for the obverse of the new UK coinage. The minimalist, unadorned picture, with no crown on the stamp or any other decoration, was approved personally by the King. Royal Mail's David Gold said: "It's a very human image, with no embellishment". The sculptor emphasized that it took months of painstaking work to get the image right, based on pictures on Charles's seventieth birthday.

Their CEO noted that British stamps have always carried the image of the reigning monarch – and the definitive has become a recognisable symbol of each reign. Interestingly, the association with coins continues. Two examples suffice. The portrait of Queen Victoria on the Penny Black was based on that designed by William Wyon, chief engraver at The Royal Mint, for the 'City' medal of 1838. Arnold Machin in the 1960s created an Elizabeth II effigy for decimal coinage and then designed new definitive stamps, which became an iconic UK symbol around the world.





**REVIEW
THE G.P.S.
23rd.
ANNUAL
EXHIBITION**
Jesmond Borg



For this year's Annual Exhibition, we issued a commemorative card in a limited edition of 100, featuring the Gozo Boat, as depicted on the 1929 Malta postage stamp, on a stylized globe. The background shows Mgarr Harbour, home of this traditional boat and a welcome sight for Gozo visitors and especially to Gozitans. The Gozo Boat is the main image on the GPS logo. Each card was postmarked by a special handstamp issued by MaltaPost for the occasion and franked by a personalized se-tenant stamp with label showing the Gozo Ministry main entrance and its exhibition hall (photo by international photographer Daniel Cilia) where all GPS annual exhibitions are held.



The card and postmark were designed by Anthony Grech, Vice President of the Gozo Philatelic Society.

A special thank you goes to the exhibition judges Dr Carmel Navarro and Mr Samuel Parnis.



Qala Parish

4 h · 🌐



Kudos to Jesmond Borg, a friend of our parish, and the mind behind an increasingly popular stamp exhibition that is underway at the Gozo Ministry's hall till 11 November. Stamp collecting is not just a great pastime that can be shared with others. It is a chance to travel journey without leaving home. Stamps are tiny pods of stories, history and art, waiting to be retrieved. There is no lost knowledge and old stamps can be our teachers.

One of the best comments for our exhibition was from the Rev. Archpriest of Qala Parish



THANK YOU

For your cooperation and help.
Thank you MALTAPOST
COUNTER OFFICIALS
in all post offices in Gozo.
Thank you
PHILATELIC BUREAU
for your cooperation and
sterling work.

THE PARTICIPANTS

ANTHONY GRECH

A tribute to H.M. Queen Elizabeth.
St. Paul 1960 varieties sheet.

MARK ANTHONY POULTON

British authors & their works on
GB stamps.

JESMOND BORG

The Maltese Faldetta on Malta
stamps & vintage postcards
Malta George V 1926/27 Study .
Italian maritime mail from & to
Malta.
Bergamofil 2022 qualification
frame

MARY GRACE XERRI

50 Years of decimal currency.

ELAINE MARIE BORG

In loving memory of Q.E.II

VINCENT GRECH

G.B. Olympic Games medalists.

Rev. ANTON SCHEMBRI

Malta national commemorations.

ANGELO AGIUS

U.S.A. Beautiful Stamps

VICTOR GUSMAN

F.D.C's from different countries.

FRANCESCO BORG

Royal Air Force flown covers.

AMY AGIUS

The World of Disney on stamps.

NICHOLAS CURMI

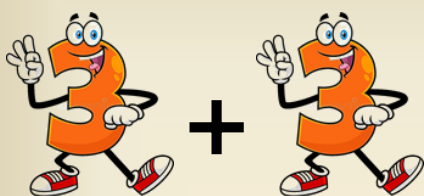
Flora & Fauna on U.S.A stamps.

NORA XERRI

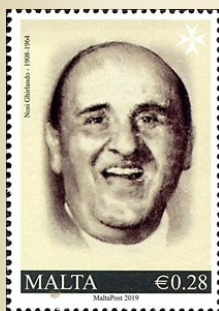
France mailed postcards.

CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors



MaltaPost issued an Entertainers set in 2019, hand-drawn by an unusual designer: surgeon Alex Manchè. Two of the stamps represent personalities who can surely be considered “prominent”, even though not necessarily as philatelists!



Antonio “Nosi” Ghirlando was born in Sliema in 1908 but, on the early death of his mother, passed some years in Libya with Italian relatives – an experience which offered him the opportunity for a good grounding in that language. Back in Malta, he entered the civil service in 1929 and was employed in the Posts department in Gozo. Though he also had other posts elsewhere, he is especially known for his “unofficial” roles. He had a brilliant career on the stage, probably culminating in membership of the Radju Muskettieri company for ten years till his death in 1964. His memory and vocal capabilities pushed him to prominence in Maltese comedy in general. He was very successful in female roles, most famously in *It-Tieg ta’ Karmena Abdilla* – a part he “invented” himself on Rediffusion cable radio – which toured for years all over the islands.

Nosi’s wife Emma died in childbirth in 1942 and he had to rear their four boys and four girls. He had a humorous character, very interested in operas and Italian songs.



Johnny Navarro, born in 1912 in Valletta, can more truly be considered a philatelist since stampcollecting was included among his hobbies. In his “day” job, he was a civil servant – pensioned out in 1971 in quite a high position. And people often found it difficult to separate these two Johnnies! In fact he was widely known as a versatile actor, having participated in operettas, comedies, drama and variety shows in Italian, English and Maltese.

And his decorated “career” was really long: he began as a boy at the Valletta Catholic Action and the Sliema Salesians. Besides the stage in various places around the country (and even overseas), he was no stranger either to Malta TV nor to Rediffusion - with the exceptionally popular character of Spiru Cefai. Interestingly, he had a speaking part in the internationally famous movie *Midnight Express*, among others.

In his marriage to Mary, they had four daughters – and he retired in 1983 “to offer precious time to the family”, a duty he happily fulfilled until his death in 1997.



A similar concurrent set included **Johnny Catania**, born in 1925 and employed at the Dockyard for quite a few years. Still young, he had been introduced to the stage by his uncle and other family members. At his place of work, he was involved in the organization of shows to “help strengthen the spirits and encourage everyone”. Besides being active in the Stage Commandos Theatrical Company and the Radio Muskettieri, he also promoted amateur talent contests. In partnership with Charles Clews, Johnny was often seen on the stage and heard on the Rediffusion radio network. A well-loved comedian, he performed all over Malta – and overseas (in hardly insignificant cities, such as London, Melbourne, New York, San Francisco, Sydney and Toronto). He had also been a centre forward with his hometown football team.

He never got married, explaining humorously that he would not do so before reaching pensionable age so that “I wouldn’t be working for her”!

When his mother died, he emigrated to Canada in 1964 to live with his sister. There he got employed with the Posts. After working tirelessly in the community (also fundraising for the Dar tal-Provvidenza, our “national” residential home for the handicapped), he died there in 1991 – just a few weeks after he had again visited Malta to entertain his loving fans.

Without any exhaustiveness, I intend bringing the total in this article to six: there are so many well-known Maltese actors who had stamp connections!

Josie Coppini, born in 1933 (the son of a Posts Department Assistant Head), was trained as an operatic baritone by his uncle. After a Royal Academy of Dramatic Art course, he took the lead in an Atturi production (She’s done it again). He probably got the strongest public spotlight through his role in a successful 1977 TVM serial (F’Bahar Wiehed). He followed this with participation in two others: *Triq Wahda* and *Issa Naraw*. He acted in Feydeau farces and assorted Maltese stage plays, took part in rock operas and even sung in Giuseppe Verdi’s *La Traviata* (at the



part in rock operas and even sung in Giuseppe Verdi’s *La Traviata* (at the

Manoel Theatre). He also had character parts in films, such as Trenchcoat (1983), Final Justice (1984) and Black Eagle (1988, with Jean-Claude Van Damme). Coppini was the producer of local movies too.

Josie was a terrible kid, continually creating practical jokes – and worse! Moreover there was at least one incident during the war – during months of hunger - when he ate a whole loaf intended to be shared among the members of the family. He was a strong football fan and won some school sport competitions. A movie fan, he was really proud of autographs he acquired from important actors.

He had a total of three daughters from marriage to Josephine and then – a widower – to Carmen. He was a convinced family man and tried to find time to share with them. Among his hobbies, one finds painting, photography and stampcollecting. His characteristic of being rather absent-minded accompanied Josie to his death in 1998.

Frank Victor Ganado, born in 1913, is probably best known as an actor. Before retiring from twenty five years as police inspector, he got a couple of awards – including the Africa Star. Previously he was territorial cadet with the King's Own Malta Regiment.

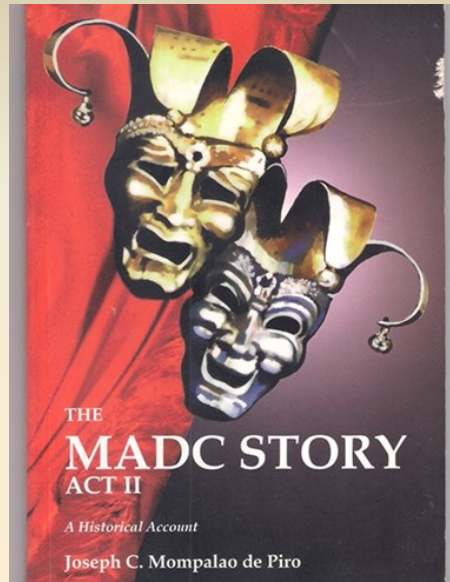
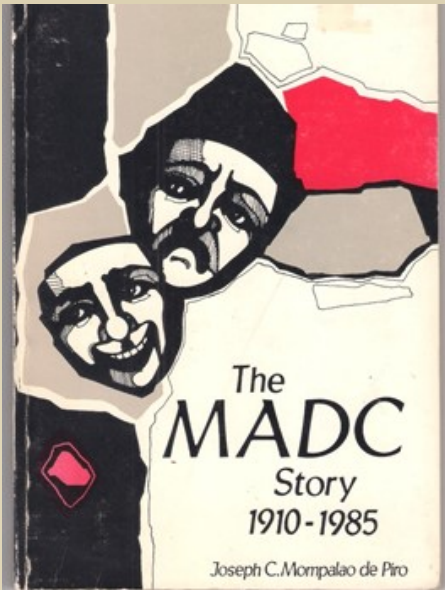
Ganado was a keen member of the Maleth Theatrical Company, its president for over twenty years. He was once overthrown by an uncooperative donkey during a comedy but he continued though in pain –he later learnt he had broken his ribs! He also wrote stage and radio plays – well over a hundred - in both English and Maltese, sometimes translated from foreign works. He wrote, acted, produced and directed, as necessary.

He married Lilian and they had two daughters. Sunday lunch was his responsibility! His interests were varied; for example he was elected Casino Maltese secretary and two scout troops had him as scoutmaster. Besides playing football with Floriana, Frank participated in various athletic disciplines. He actually was the best springboard diver in the period 1930 - 39.

As an amateur cabinet maker, he produced detailed pieces. He was described as being impressively meticulous, not least in his stampcollecting. Another hobby was listening to classical music. Ganado died in 1997, still wearing his typical smile.

Joseph Charles Monpalao de Piro, born in 1921, was a military officer but is better known as an actor. After enlisting in the KOMR (King's Own Malta Regiment), he received an officer's commission in the RMA and had an eventful career which included running propaganda BBC programmes to Italy. After almost thirty years of continuous alternation of service between Malta and overseas, he retired as a major in 1968. He thus could concentrate on gardening management, in which he was very successful. Elected a fellow of the UK's Royal Horticultural Society, de Piro was also the author of the reprinted bestselling "The Amateur Gardener".

His other "professional hobby" was in the Malta Amateur Dramatic Club



from 1952. He also wrote “The MADC story 1910-1985”. As a 16 year old, he had the part of Lady Macbeth in his boys school! He became very well-known because of numerous stage plays (in English) and TV roles (in Maltese). He also had a good part in the award-winning 1963 British film “Treasure in Malta”.

Surprisingly, he still found the time for sports (athletics, swimming, rowing and hockey!) and two hobbies on which he worked assiduously: stampcollecting and mahjong. Joe’s wife Julia supported him in drama publicity and make-up; together, they were into choral singing. They had two sons and a daughter. He died in 2001.



A small number of members haven't paid their renewal Membership fee for 2023. If YOU are one of them please send your fee to Anthony Grech ‘Warda Maltija’ 4, Triq Ibisku, Xewkija, Gozo, as soon as possible. You can send your fee (Euro 5.00) in Malta 5c, 10c or 20c mint stamps.

Thank you for your support.

E & O not E

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

Italian grammar *et al*

After looking at geographical errors on Italian stamps in issue 86, today I remain in the area but concentrate on “grammatical” mistakes. *One lira* can be written as either *una lira* or *lire una*. This is no longer very relevant since the currency is obviously now the euro! But a couple of inexactitudes did slip through along the years. Note that the third is correct.



In 1934 an overprinted set appeared for the first direct flight between the two capitals of Italy and Argentina: Roma and Buenos Aires. For some reason, this latter was shown incorrectly as Buenos-Ayres



The year 0 does not exist and thus 1AD follows immediately after 1BC. This resulted in defective calculations - for example - for the

celebrations for the two thousandth anniversary of the death of, respectively, Virgil and Augustus.

The great poet was honoured with a long 1930 set: since he died in 70 BC, the bimillenary actually occurred in 1931. In the same way, the set



for the emperor should have appeared in 1939 and not 1938, his death having happened in 63 BC.



Continuing with dates, an incorrect one was shown on a 1950 commemoration of the wool industry. Founder Alessandro Rossi was shown as having died in 1918, whereas the real year was 1898 – a twenty-year difference in his age! Both the two stamps in the 1982 Europa set had strange errors in dates!

The first celebrated Charlemagne’s coronation – but that happened in 800 AD, not 799! The other had an error in the date of the signing of the Treaty of Rome - a date early: 24 March, not 25.



And I conclude with a 1999 stamp honouring the Agnone bell museum. The main bell (golden) is inscribed *giubileum*, rather than the correct *giubilaum* – or even *giubilaeum*.

WHY?

continuing a series by Antoine Vassallo

to clear up uncertainties



Dennis the Menace us/gb



One of the stamps in the Sunday Funnies series issued by the US Postal service in 2010 featured Dennis the Menace. In 2021 Royal Mail celebrated the seventieth anniversary of Dennis the Menace with a set. But the GB Dennis does not look at all like the US one! **WHY?**

In one of the strangest coincidences in cartoon history, there are in fact two different characters called Dennis the Menace – and they first appeared practically simultaneously!

In fact both characters premiered in the same week, one in the United States and one in the United Kingdom. Both feature a boy with a tendency to rule breaking, although the tone of the two cartoons is rather different. The US Dennis tends to engender disaster more by mischance, whilst the UK version is generally straightforwardly malicious.

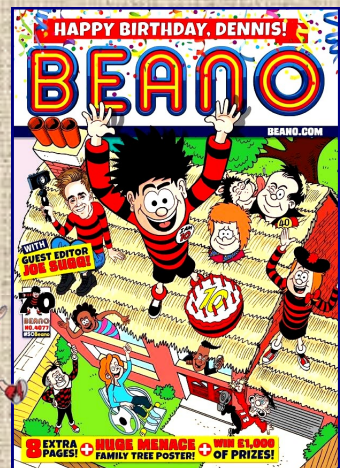
The Dennis the Menace comic strip appeared in newspapers across the USA for the first time on 12 March 1951. The strip is in the form of a single panel on weekdays, a full strip on Sundays. Cartoonist Hank Ketcham created the mischievous, blond-haired kid with an unruly lock: the character originally appeared as "The Pickle" and was later made into a TV cartoon, as well as a live-action movie.

Enthusiastic curiosity, combined with endless energy, make “five-an’-a-half-year-old” Dennis Mitchell the most lovable “menace” ever. Dennis

explores his small world with his trusty slingshot and Ruff the dog. His antics keep his doting parents on their toes, always ready for damage control. The Mitchells' retired neighbour, George Wilson, is less tolerant of Dennis; Mr Wilson's efforts to keep Dennis away are hampered by Mrs Wilson, who indulges him with cookies and milk! The **British** strip first appeared in issue 452 of children's comic The Beano, dated 17 March 1951 but on sale from 12 March. It is the longest-running strip in the comic though the name has changed from Dennis the Menace to Dennis the Menace and Gnasher. This Gnasher is his Abyssinian wire-haired tripe hound. The idea actually emerged when the comic's editor heard a music hall song with the chorus "I'm Dennis the Menace from Venice". The character became immediately very popular, leading to soaring sales. Dennis in fact took over the front cover from 1974.



The first artist was David Law who created the distinctive jersey – and devilish grin. Later artists did tend to change aspects but the main elements are easily recognizable, not least Dennis's trademark messy haircut! Slowly, various additional characters were introduced too, me a major mascot for a theme park!





23rd AGM (29/1/2023) Secretary's Report

I have the pleasant duty to report about the return from the pandemic-connected restrictions.

At the first Committee meeting following the 22nd AGM, posts were agreed:

Jesmond Borg – President; Anthony Grech – Vice President and Production Manager; Antoine Vassallo – Secretary; Mary Grace Xerri - Membership Secretary; Saviour Grech – Treasurer; Mark Poulton – Website manager; Raymond Buttigieg – Exhibition coordinator; and Fr Joseph Attard – Chaplain.

Since this first meeting, nine further formal meetings were held, during which discussions were held how to increase activities. We should succeed in publishing a special book within months (SSH!).

The annual GPS Exhibition, held as usual in the Gozo Ministry Hall (4-11 November), was quite successful but visitors were concentrated especially on the weekend. Prizes, certificates and medals are being distributed today – with MaltaPost still the main sponsor. On the Exhibition conclusion, we held a Mass – hopefully to be organized annually – at the nearby St Francis church.

Anthony Grech again designed a personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, offered as usual by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, Anthony prepares covers - or even the handstamp itself - whenever the opportunity arises (sometimes in collaboration with other bodies). During 2022 these occasions were Calypso and Ghajnsielem and Kerċem Marian statues stamps and Richard England, Papal Visit, Karmni Grima, Santa Marija and Kuncizzjoni statues anniversaries, and *Milied f'Ghawdex* commemorative handstamps (the last as a Christmas Card sent to members).

Our *Il-Hagar* showcase has seen regular replacements of the temporary mini exhibitions and has continually attracted positive comments. We also participated in a Qala Christmas Exhibition.

Visits to schools have resumed slowly, distributing free stamps liberally, and we have returned to the *Oratorju Dun Bosco* Summer School too. We are also trying to participate towards VO funding.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our Newsletter, for which Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles.

Unfortunately the normal four numbers could not be issued in 2022. Our Facebook page offers some coverage too and we have at last succeeded in finding a system to regularly update the Website.

We grasp all opportunities to thematically publicize stampcollecting.

For example *Il-Lehen* weekly paper and *I-Anzjani Llum* periodical include irregular instalments of a saints thematic and stamp errors series respectively.

A full set of GPS publications is now housed in the Bishop's *Curia* Archives, as well as being indexed on the University website. Quite a few local and foreign publications again featured our society and productions. Attractive leaflets remain available for distribution as publicity for our society.

Besides serving our Committee, the room at the top of Main Gate Street of course houses our library and the Juncker collection. Do imitate Wolfgang Juncker! Anthony tries to keep this *Putirjal* office open on Saturday mornings for enquiries and library dips.
Antoine Vassallo - Secretary

**Gozo Philatelic Society. Annual General Meeting 2023.
Presentation of Medals, Certificates and gifts to exhibitors of
the 23rd Annual Exhibition.**





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