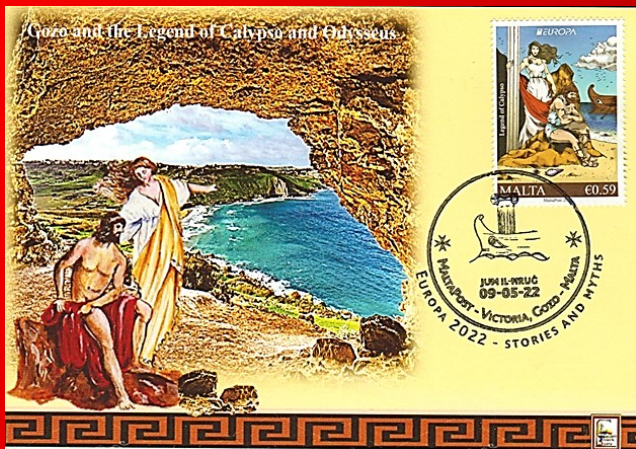
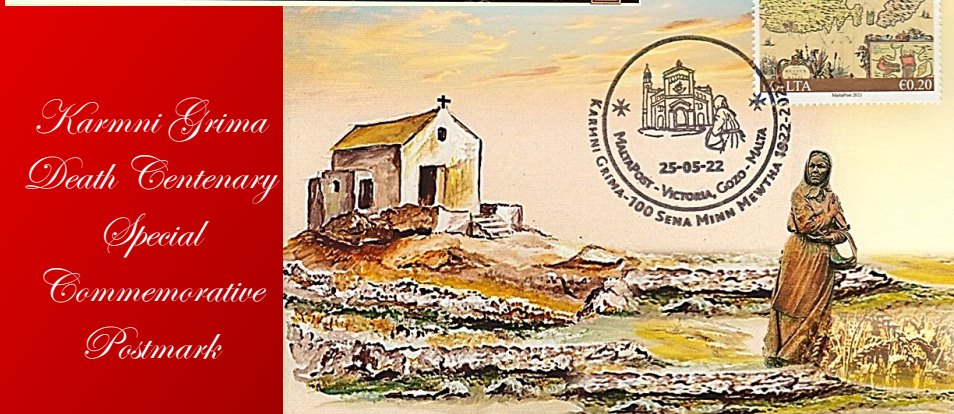


www.stamps-gozo.org



*Legend of
Calypso
Gozo-related
Malta Stamp*



*Karmni Grima
Death Centenary
Special
Commemorative
Postmark*



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GET IT SORTED WITH SENDON



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: Our latest Cards issues: Legend of Calypso and
Death Centenary of Karmni Grima.

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

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

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546 secretary@stamps-gozo.org



12 March 2022 The GPS showcase at *Il-Haġar* used for Richard England sets, as part of a huge exhibition of his works.

12 March Anthony Grech produces a Card for the “Richard England at Il-Haġar” handstamp.

13 March A further instalment in our thematic series in the national weekly in Maltese *Il-Lehen*.

2 April Anthony Grech produces Card for Pope’s visit.

22 April *Il-Haġar* showcase highlights stamps featuring 20th century paintings

23 April Committee decides to modernize and finally update website.

26 April Newsletter #85 is distributed somewhat belatedly.

9 May Anthony Grech produces Cover for Calypso stamp.

25 May Anthony Grech produces Cover for Karmni Grima handstamp

1 June Visit to San Lawrenz primary, with free stamp distribution

4 June President Jesmond Borg participates actively in a VO open day.

7 June Committee decides about updated website and funding schemes participation

12 June Our thematic series continues in the national weekly in Maltese *Il-Lehen*.

15 June *Il-Haġar* showcase highlights stamps with Jewish connections: Maltese Judaica (concurrently with Anne Frank exhibition).

#85 OOPS! The article about Marc Chagall (page 6) is actually by Anthony Grech.

Henry Archer - first postage stamp perforating

In 1840 the first postage stamp was born: the Great Britain Penny Black. The stamps were printed in un-perforated sheets. To separate the stamps, they had to be cut apart or sliced - or even crudely cut up using the fingers (often damaging the gum which resulted in stamp loss during transit) by the post office clerks or by the letter writer himself. This was really a time-consuming and expensive method - as one of my teachers, Mr Anton Vassallo, used to tell us TIME IS MONEY and the British Postmaster General knew it. Four years later an Irish-born London businessman Mr Henry Archer came up with a revolutionary idea how to separate stamps in a quicker and easier without damaging them. Of course Mr Archer did not have in mind philatelists who today are always on the lookout for perfectly cut and well-centred stamps of that epoch. Philately as a hobby was in its nappy days in 1848. Mr Archer submitted his idea to the Postmaster General, but the Treasury offered him a miserly £600 (which he refused) for his patent and perforating machine. This sum was ridiculous since the Treasury was to save at least £1000 a year with this innovation - and Archer had spent £900 to invent and develop his machine. After many negotiations and a Parliament petition, the Treasury offered £2000 which Archer refused again. After another year of negotiations, in 1853 the matter was at last settled for £4000 which, in today's money, is equivalent to more than £400k.

There are several unconfirmed stories about how Mr Archer got the idea of putting holes around the stamps. One story states that was in a pub when he noticed a journalist punching holes with a pin so he could apply the stamps on the several letters he had written. But this is a philatelic romantic story which we will never know if true or false.

Archer died in France in 1863.



Example of
Henry
Archer
Perforation

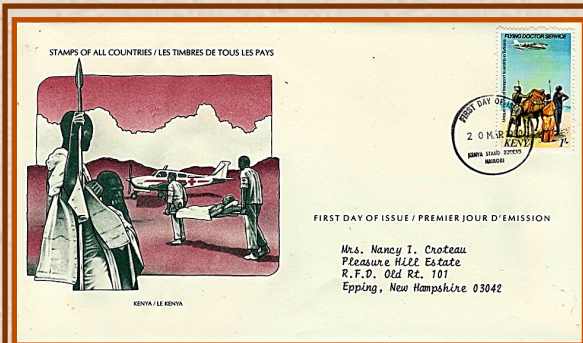
Pair of
Imperforate
Penny Blacks



It is suggested to read the excellent article about this subject written by Devlan Kruck entitled 'THE ARCHERS' in April 2022's Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

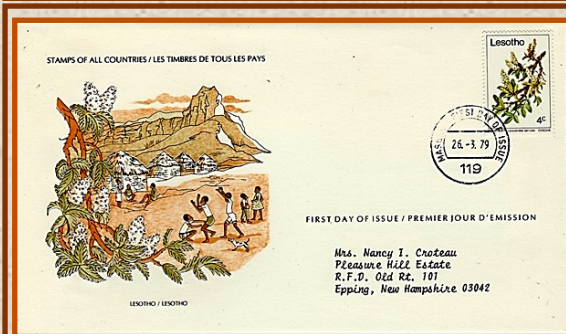
An FDC from each Issuer

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



KENYA

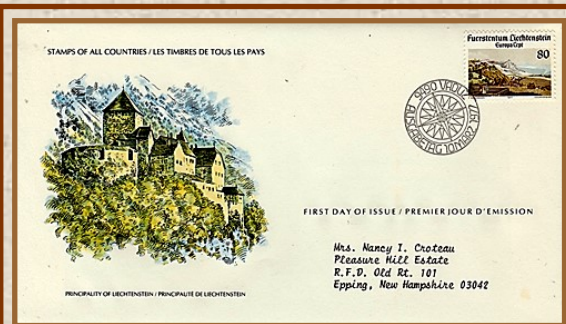
The stamp on the FDC shows a medical plane preparing to land while a native African family waits below with a patient. The cover design depicts medical orderlies carrying a patient to the aircraft for transportation to hospital. Since many parts of Africa are hard to reach, the 'Flying Doctor Service' has been almost effective means of providing medical attention for native people.



LESOTHO

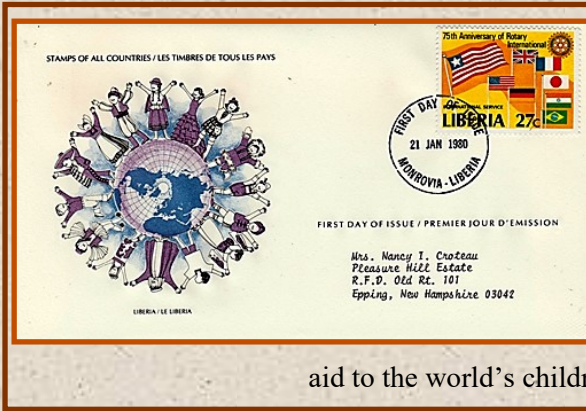
The stamp on this FDC features the Oudehout, a flowering tree much esteemed by the natives. In a land where trees are scarce, existing specimens are greatly valued. Most of the people of Lesotho live in small farming villages. The thatched hut pictured on the cover is typical of those found in rural villages. Lesotho was called Basutoland

until its independence from Great Britain in 1966



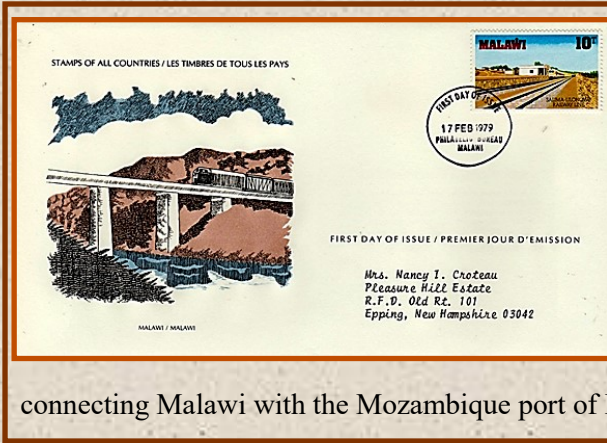
LIECHTENSTEIN

The stamp on this FDC features a painting created in 1815 by Ferdinand Bechmann depicting Vaduz Castle overlooking fertile fields and with the towering snow-covered Alps in the background. Liechtenstein is a small principality located in a beautiful Alpine valley between Austria and Switzerland.



LIBERIA

This stamp commemorates the 75th. Anniversary of Rotary International. The design includes an outline of the African continent and the Rotary logo. Through its international service project, Rotary places special emphasis on giving aid to the world’s children.



MALAWI

Malawi, a landlocked country in SE Africa, was formerly known as Nyasaland. This agricultural country is now an independent member of the Commonwealth. The stamp on this FDC commemorates the railway line that runs through the Shire Valley, connecting Malawi with the Mozambique port of Beira on the Indian Ocean.



MALDIVES

This stamp depicts the lovely flowering maple, a popular flower which grows in abundance in the nation located in the Indian Ocean. The cover design shows two fishing boats anchored in an inlet. Shown in the foreground is a cluster of the flowering maples. The Maldives became independent in 1965 and a Republic in 1968

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



MALTA / MALTE



MALTA
LEWVEL JUM TAE-HRIBS
VALLETTA
24-1-79


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

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


Rubens.

MALTA
The stamp affixed to this cover depicts one of the magnificent tapestries found in St John's Cathedral in Valletta. Entitled 'The Triumph of the Catholic Church', it is one of the Flemish tapestries woven on a design by Peter Paul

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



MONACO / MONACO



140
MONACO
MONACO
2 MAI 1978
JOUR D'EMISSION


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

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


book 'Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea'

MONACO
This fdc was issued to commemorate the 150th. Birth anniversary of French novelist Jules Verne. The stamp shows a scene from Verne's novel 'The Castle in the Carpath Mountains', while the underwater scene on the cover is from his best selling

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



MONGOLIA / MONGOLIE



MONGOLIA
MONGOLIA
7750-8
ULANBAATAR

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / PREMIER JOUR D'EMISSION

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

playing the morin-khor, a two-stringed violin-like instrument.

MONGOLIA
This stamp pays tribute to Mongolia's ancient tradition of folk dancing. The three dancers are performing the *hodac*, a dance representing health, happiness and friendship. Another aspect of Mongolian culture is featured on the cover— folk musicians

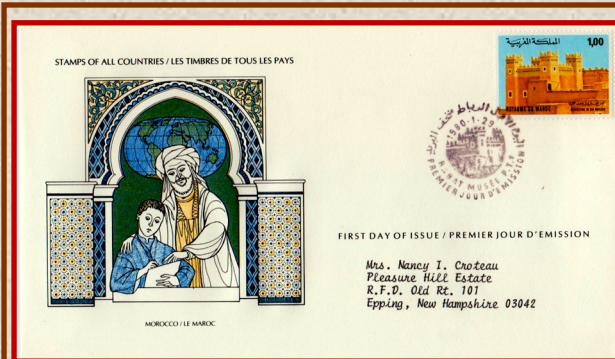


MONTSERAT

The stamp affixed to this cover depicts the lovely sea fan ‘Gorgonia flabellum’, a many-hued coral found

in the shallows of coastal waters of Florida and the West Indies. Its bright orange, yellow red pigments make it an outstanding subject for underwater photography.

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



MOROCCO

The stamp on this fdc suggests the influence of the Islamic religion on Moroccan culture. For about 1,300 years Islam has touched every aspect of Moroccan life, including architecture. Edifices such as the one on the stamp are still common sights in

modern Morocco, found alongside ultra-modern buildings.

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



NETHERLANDS

This stamp commemorates the 500th anniversary of the printing of the famous ‘Delft Bible’, the first book published in the Dutch language. The cachet design depicts an early hand operated printing press in use, very much like those

which printed the Delft Bible

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

E & O not E

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

Geographical errors from Italy.

Designers may always make mistakes, not necessarily glaringly obvious!

GAETANO MARINO was a politician who strongly supported European integration. His birth centenary was commemorated in the year 2000, reasonably enough, with a stamp showing the first members.



Unfortunately Cristina Brusciaglia did not put enough distance between

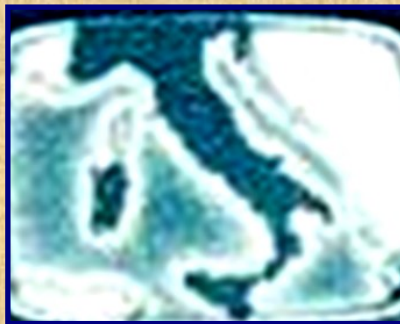
Germany (shown in yellow) and Italy (green), resulting in a crushed Austria!



America. The *Gronchi rosa* has been treated already in issue 18 - but now we use colour. So it's worthwhile to repeat that the incorrect map of Perù had diplomatic dangers since the border was still in contention with Ecuador; so a corrected version (in grey) was hurriedly produced. Roberto Mura's lack of



attention could have resulted into the cancellation of President Giovanni Gronchi's visit to Peru! Going further back, a rather indistinct error can be seen on the TV map included in the 1954 two-value set for the beginning of



transmissions. In fact Italy is shown as still possessing the Istrian peninsula (transferred to Yugoslavia by the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty). The mistake by L. Lazzarini might not seem very obvious but it still led to a Yugoslav decision to refuse correspondence sporting these stamps!

These designers might well have been using defective atlases!

BEETHOVEN RECORD STAMP

On the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th Birth anniversary, the Spanish postal administration—Correos de España - issued a postage stamp in the form of a vinyl record. When put on a record player, it will play Symphony number five in C minor op. 67 performed by the Madrid Festival Orchestra under Albert Skratov.



The stamp was issued on 9 November 2020 with a face value of €4. The stamp was designed by Juan A. Gonzalez and printed in offset, die cut to a round size of 36mm.
Chev John Micallef OSJ



POST HASTE

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

Antoine Vassallo



Space was too limited in the last instalment for a third cover.

This final cover bears a message printed on the stamp (US 3cent 1944 Steamship): “World’s only floating Post Office — Detroit”.

And now to this
issue’s
instalment!

In 1894 a US
businessman
operated a short
-lived bicycle
mail route in
San Francisco,
complete with
his own stamps.



The economic panic of 1893 hurt businesses across the nation, the Pullman Palace Car Company among them. As demand for their train cars declined, the company cut wages. Workers then complained of the low wages and 16-hour workdays. When the company president, George Pullman, refused to speak to the employees, they launched a boycott, led by Eugene V. Debs of the American Railway Union (ARU).

The strike brought mail delivery in the affected areas to a halt, which inspired Arthur Banta, owner of the Victor Cyclery store in Fresno, California, to take action. He set up a bicycle mail route that spanned the 210 miles between Fresno and San Francisco. The route consisted of eight relay points where riders were to remain at the ready for their deliveries. Banta estimated the route could be completed in about 18 hours each way. The service officially began on July 6, 1894. Banta ran advertisements for the route, stating a rate of 25¢ for letters to San Francisco or other locations along the way. Customers had to get the letters to his store by 10 p.m. in order for them to be delivered the next day.

Banta also had special diamond-shaped Bicycle Mail stamps produced for the service. These special stamps were used on covers with current US stamps from the time or on stamped envelopes. The printer produced over 800 stamps before realizing he had misspelled San Francisco as San Francisco. Once he

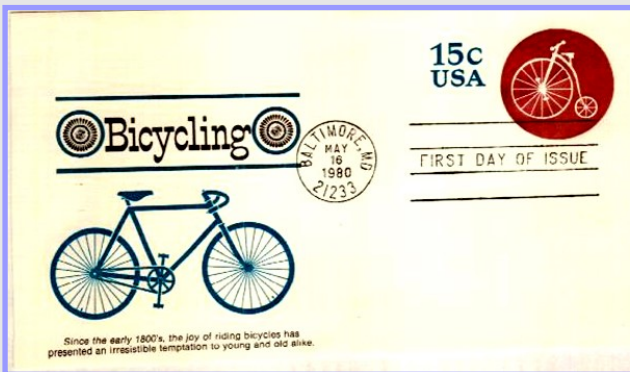
realized the error, he re-engraved the plate and printed more stamps. The service ran until July 18, when the railway strike ended. During that time, the bicycle mail service reportedly carried 380 letters, 315 of which were stamped and 40 of which were in stamped envelopes.

There's also a bit of controversy around these stamps. Since Banta didn't want to pay the \$5 fee to take ownership of the die, the engraver (who expected collectors would want these stamps and covers) produced a second die and defaced it - to convince Banta he'd defaced the original and thus couldn't produce more stamps. It was later discovered that he went on to produce more stamps and covers without Banta's knowledge. But when he found out, the engraver defaced the original die too.



A bicycle mail stamp with "San Francisco" misspelled.

Continuing about the strike, it had ended production in the Pullman factories and resulted in a lockout. Soon, railroad workers around the country refused to switch Pullman cars. Within four days, 125,000 workers from 29 railroads stopped working, causing the companies to hire replacement workers, which vastly increased hostilities. As tensions increased, so did the violence. The railroads then obtained an injunction, warning the workers to end the strike or be fired. When the workers and union leaders ignored the threats, US President Grover Cleveland claimed they were interfering with mail delivery and violating the Sherman Antitrust Act against public safety. As a result, he sent in thousands of Army troops!



An unusual set of postcards that tell a story.

ST JOAN OF ARC



A set of individual postcards 'jigsaw style', printed by 'Croissant' - CH Fontane—Editeur—Paris. Each card is marked on the front with the place and date of the episode where it took place.

Anthony Grech

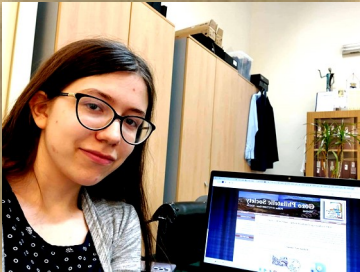


AT LAST: Website live again!

Welcome to

Jesmond Borg

www.stamps-gozo.org



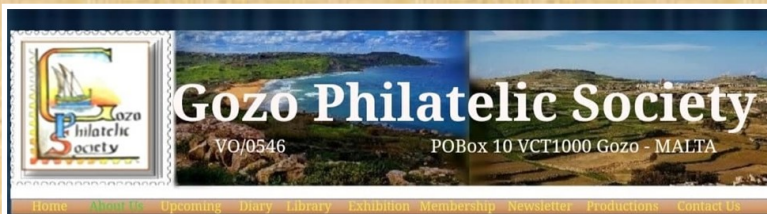
Because of various obstacles and problems, www.stamps-gozo.org remained dormant for years. A way forward has at last been found!

In fact, during the period of April and May, Ms Julia Latacz worked on the Gozo Philatelic Society website, upgrading it completely. This Polish student was on her placement in Gozo, focusing on I.T. Website and programing. She succeeded in clearing up various issues, supported by Committee members. The system allows easy regular updating and perusers will notice that all Newsletters and Covers are included, together with details of numerous events and activities - and even videos! The application or renewal Membership form, in its new format, now allows online filling.

Thanks are due to Ms Julia; we are happy to note that she acquired full marks for her placement work.

A very big well done!

We can now encourage members and other philatelists to go through our website's contents.





PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

*glances – and longer looks – at
events from a hundred years ago*

presented by Antoine Vassallo

Melita (1922)



Emvin Cremona's upheaval for Malta's stamps allow us to separate our designs into BC (Before Cremona) and AC. However the first period in fact did offer a highlight: the Melita set, which



began appearing in 1922.

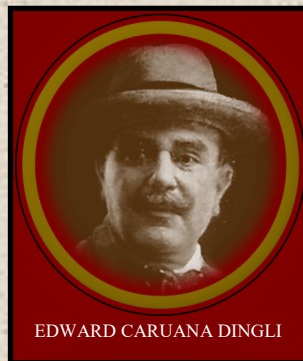
I will not treat the “intrigues” involved in the public competition (announced on the 17 June 1921) which could merit a fuller article. I prefer to emphasize the essential fact that works by two prominent artists were included.

The title by which this set is known refers to the Latin (or Roman) name in use for so many centuries: **Melita**. In fact the two designs used represent two different ideas of Malta personalized.



GIANNI VELLA

In May 1921 Malta had been granted Self Government and, reasonably enough, it was decided that a new definitive set of postage stamps would be issued to commemorate the

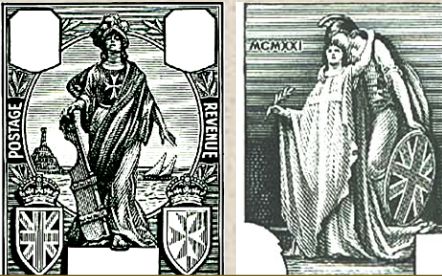


EDWARD CARUANA DINGLI

event. Edward Caruana Dingli's design was adopted for the penny values, as well as the £1 (the first time we've had such a high value); Gianni Vella's for the shillings. The former depicted a helmeted emblematic figure representing



Malta supporting a rudder with its right hand, with a seascape background containing a Gozo boat and St Elmo – and it seems that the artist was not satisfied with the way this was adapted! The latter consisted of emblematic



Die proofs printer's samples
Trials for 'Melita' Set of 1922

figures representing Great Britain (male), supporting a Union Jack shield with his left hand, embracing Malta (female) who holds an olive branch in her right hand.

Gianni Vella (1885 – 1977) was a prolific painter and illustrator, apprenticed early to the Italian Attilio Palombi who was working locally – and then continued his studies in Rome and began winning awards. He even continued to France, before returning. In 1924 he was appointed drawing instructor in government primary schools; he had been commissioned by the education director to illustrate *Ġrajjet Malta*.



Vella was cartoonist for the satirical paper *Il-Hmar* and designed carnival masks and floats. He collaborated with the Russian sculptor Boris Edwards for the *Addolorata VII Giugno* monument (shown on the 1969 Independence anniversary 2d) but remains especially remembered for popular church paintings (in both islands).



A church painting by Gianni Vella

Caruana Dingli (1876 – 1950) was a prolific artist too who resigned his army commission to dedicate his efforts full-time to painting. He received his artistic training from Giuseppe Cali, furthering his studies in Rome. Malta's participation at the 1924 British Empire Exhibition in London offered him the opportunity to produce paintings (reputedly admired by Queen Mary herself), medals, posters and diplomas. In 1928 he travelled to England, commissioned to make a portrait of King George V. Besides directing the Malta Art School for almost twenty years, thus strongly influencing a new generation of Maltese artists, he was a fashionable society portrait painter – but also created landscapes and scenes of Maltese life – in oils and watercolours.

Edward Caruana Dingli received numerous awards and prizes, including the OBE and knighthoods – and he bequeathed an important collection to the

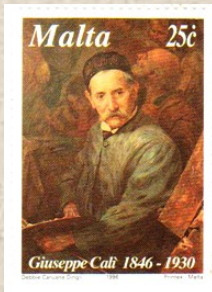
Fine Arts section of the Museums Department. It is interesting to note that other members of his family were accomplished artists too – Robert probably being the most famous; but stamp designer Debbie (as well as Gordon) cannot be left out!

It is worthwhile to note that the “Melita” figure created positive impressions and one can say that it actually became a national “icon” – and for long years



it was featured on Maltese paper currency. Moreover, Governors appointed the artist to consultative committees for stamp designs.

Besides the Melita, Edward is reproduced in other Malta stamps. Without getting into too many details, I mention the 25c in the 1996 Cali



150th anniversary set and the two for 2020 Sepac.

Remaing on philatelic aspects, all Melita values were printed by De La Rue



in typography on chalk surfaced paper (except the £1). The watermark was multiple script CA: sideways for pence and upright for shilling values; the £1 exists in both versions and thus can be considered as two different stamps.



It seems that even the single colour values were printed in two separate operations (the key and duty plates), confirmed by the numerous shades existing. Flaws (“errors”) are numerous. Though the reason is uncertain, besides the normal white transparent gum, a brownish type can be found. ‘Specimen’ overprints exist for all values and unissued colours can be found with and without.

Clamour against the poor colour of the 4d value was so insistent that it was about to be withdrawn. But then the authorities realised that the loudest voices about the colours possessed substantial stocks, the stamp having been the subject of strong speculation.

A few months after this set began being distributed (in instalments with uncertain exact dates), others were reported with a slightly longer dimension than normal. It is believed that the originator (actually arrested) produced the elongation by rolling the stamps under great pressure, obviously aiming at prospected profits!

Since new 2½d stamps were not ready for sale at the end of 1925 when the foreign letter rate was reduced, the Malta Government Printing Office surcharged 3d sheets 'Two pence halfpenny' (in two lines) to meet demand. It has been said that a typesetting error developed but withdrawn in time. As happens in most cases of surcharging, quite a few varieties are available. Due to the similarity of the colour of the new 2½d with the existing 3d (which already existed in two distinct blues), it was felt necessary to change the latter into a bi-colour.

Since an administrative decision was taken to have completely separate revenue stamps, the Melita issue (originally for dual use) was overprinted POSTAGE in 1926 – announced in a Notice dated 17 March. The overprinting was carried out at the Government Printing Office over fifteen days in linotype. A special ink was prepared by the Public Health Department – for an unspecified reason!

The £1 was normally used for fiscal duties and is rarely found postally used; still the remaining stock was overprinted too – but, when it was realised how few there actually remained, it was decided to burn them at the Marsa Power Station to prevent speculation.



The major variety here is the 3d with inverted overprint. There is uncertainty about genuinness of other errors. In fact defective copies were supposed to be destroyed. These overprints were immediately unpopular and this showed up in letters published locally and in the philatelic press, as well as in parliamentary questions!

Two other related articles are being prepared.





CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stamp collectors



2 Greeks A-Z

Alexander G **Argyropoulos** (1883 - 1962) was actually born in Great Britain, the son of the Greek ambassador to the United Kingdom. He trained as an agricultural engineer and was himself Greek Ambassador to Italy for a few years.



In his spare time he was a noted philatelist and was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1954. Argyropoulos won a Grand award at the International Exhibition in Lisbon in 1953 for his

collection of early Greek issues.

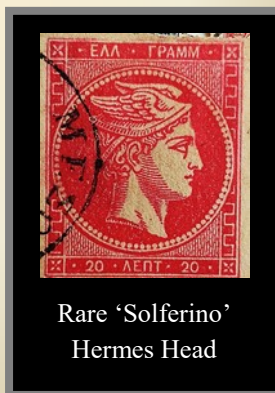
He served as an International Judge, had many articles published, and was the joint editor of *Philotelia*. This is the journal published by the Hellenic Philatelic Society, of which Argyropoulos was an early member. He was also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society.

George **Zachariades** (1916 - 1986) was born in Constantinople. The family



moved to Athens where he received the Polytechnic civil engineer diploma. He later moved to Cyprus and established one of the most important construction enterprises on the island, which was also extended overseas.

He was a famous Greek philatelist and legendary collector of Hermes head stamps of Greece. In 1955 he had started his first serious collection (Cyprus) and in 1960 he began collecting Greece (mainly Olympics). His love of the Large Hermes Heads was even reflected in the name of the block of flats



Rare 'Solferino'
Hermes Head

where he had his residence in Limassol. In fact the Solferino Apartments were named after the most famous Greek stamp.

One of the most important covers Zachariades owned was the so-called “Conegliano” (because of the address). It features numerous interesting (and rare) stamps and markings on front and back.



But the most expensive Greek item is the 1871 folded cover from Piraeus to Larnaca, franked with the 40 lepta “Solferino”. This nickname derives from the infamous battle where it is said that the blood on the dead soldiers' uniforms had this particular shade





Why?

*a new series tries to
clear up uncertainties*

Antoine Vassallo

BASUTOLAND AND CROCODILES

Geographically and topographically, the country offers nothing to attract such creatures.

Research into the ancient history of the Basothos reveals that their ancestors originated in what is now the Congo region of the continent, where numerous rivers and swamps abounded with West African crocodiles. When they



migrated southward over a period of hundreds of years, understandably



they carried cultural practices in their language and oral history. One tradition involved belief in a totemic creature that carried great significance for every clan member, which became the clan's emblem. They even called themselves Koena, which can be translated as "people of the crocodile". At the dawn of the nineteenth century the Basotho clan, led by a local chief named Moshoeshe, had made a strategic withdrawal into a landlocked mountainous region



from which they conducted a successful resistance against Zulu invaders. This intelligent ruler founded his capital on a lofty and steep-sided plateau which proved quite easy to defend. He decided to ask the British, who by that time called his inaccessible mountains Basutoland, to grant his “country” protectorate status. Basutoland was proclaimed a British Protectorate in 1868, two years before Moshoeshe died aged 94! For over sixty years, they made do with neighbours’ stamps. While the 1933 stamps were being designed, the monarch was automatically included – as was the general practice then. It was considered politically and socially expedient to acknowledge Basotho culture by adding a crocodile which could be represented as a local “leader”. In fact the particular tribe from which chiefs were chosen had this animal as emblem. This was confirmed with its prominent position on Lesotho’s national coat of arms.



Judaica Philately @ Il-Haġar

The editor

Concurrently with a temporary exhibition about Anne Frank at Il-Haġar museum in Victoria’s Pjazza San Ġorġ, the Gozo

Philatelic Society has set up a new display in its showcase on level -1.

It shows examples of Maltese Judaica: Jewish connections on stamps.

The range of covers and other material should be interesting even for those who are not really into stampcollecting.

Visiting hours remain 9am – 5pm seven days a week, still with no entrance fee. The Malta Tourism Authority and the Gozo Ministry’s Culture Directorate have extended their support.



Is it really true that...

A beaver was the first animal on a stamp?!

Antoine Vassallo

In April 1851, the Province of Canada took over responsibility for internal postage from the GPO in London and a set of three was issued. The low value, designed by Sir Sandford Fleming (famous for the system of worldwide time zones built around a prime meridian), showed a beaver

which has practically come to represent Canada.



Though one of the US Postmasters Provisionals in 1845 - St Louis Missouri - does show bears (from the coat of arms), this rodent is considered as the first animal from a “proper” country.

This three cent stamp could serve as the basis for an (expensive) specialized collection since changes in shades, types of paper and printing methods exist. Actually it was first issued in imperforate sheets (resulting in complaints from postmasters because of additional work!) but unofficial perforations appeared until 1858 brought regular perfs.

This 1851 development was actually a change planned for some time. In 1849, Canada’s legislative assembly had in fact decided on prepayment of mail by postage stamps and that these stamps should be engraved. They had also decided on a set of three values: 3d – Beaver; 6d - Prince Albert; 12d - Queen Victoria.

Design of the 3d stamps was done locally, by the multi-talented Fleming. Besides developing the system of worldwide time zones and a 24 hour clock, he was also a surveyor, cartographer, and a railway engineer!

With the stamps, his original idea was to use the beaver on all values, but since the 6d and 12d would be going abroad, it was felt that royal portraits would be more appropriate. The picture of Prince Albert comes from a drawing by William Drummond and Queen Victoria from a full-length portrait by Alfred Edward Chalon.

When it came to printing the stamps, Canada looked across the border to the New York firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson. They printed de-

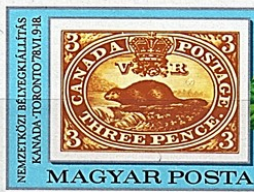
ventures for the Canadian government and banknotes for Canadian banks; and had been printing the United States' stamps since 1847.

The first stamps were printed on a laid paper, with horizontal lines for the 3d (and vertical for the other two values). It was handmade and supplied by the Ivy Mills of Chester Pa, who specialised in banknote papers. Shades of paper run from grey to white and the laid lines are often difficult to see. However, the new stamps were not popular with postmasters, who resented the labour involved. They preferred to simply handstamp the covers and collect the cash. This remained a common practice until the use of stamps was made compulsory in 1875.

This first stamp has been featured on numerous Canadian issues, as well as from other countries. This applies to generic beavers too.



In any case this 1851 stamp probably remained the only design showing a rodent until 1939, when Bolivia included viscachas (captioned “chinchilla”) with other animals.





Promoting Gozo through Philately: Wistin's Passion

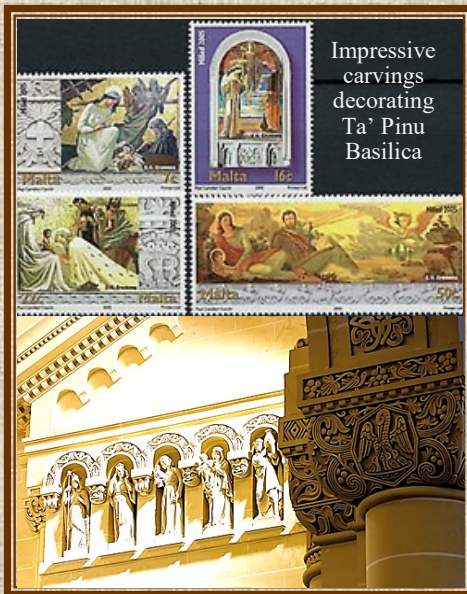
Antoine Vassallo



The 2006 Holy Week set photographed by Joe P Smith included a 22c showing the Mosta Monument which represents the buried Christ.

The sculptor was Antonio Agius, using a design by Agostino "Wistin" Camilleri.

This prolific Gozitan artist (1885 – 1979) is probably most famous for papier-mâché statues but showed expertise in numerous other crafts. In fact a few of his impressive carvings decorating Ta' Pinu Basilica had been included by his son Paolo Camilleri Cauchi in the 2005 Christmas set.



Impressive carvings decorating Ta' Pinu Basilica

During his long life, Wistin produced hundreds of crucifixes of varied sizes for homes and churches - congratulated enthusiastically by Dun (Saint) Ġorġ Preca. Though I would be foolhardy to guarantee exhaustiveness, I attempt a listing of those exhibited in his home island, including some other items connected with Lent and the commemoration of "il-Passjoni" (Our Lord's Passion). Obviously only a couple of photos are possible – not to fill up all the pages!

Fontana parish church possesses a Camilleri crucifix, usually kept in the sacristy.

The current **Ghajnsielem** parish church has another used by the confraternity but the former ("old") church also had one. Unfortunately a 1962 statue of Mary in her Sorrows ("*Duluri*") was replaced and lost.

Three different **Charb** churches vaunt Camilleri works. That referred to as *taz-Zejt* has a 1920 crucifix, as also Ta' Pinu basilica. A set of fourteen Way of the Cross (*Via Sagra*) images are hung around the small church dedicated to St Publius.

Ghasri - the tiniest Gozitan parish - possesses two crucifixes, respectively referred to as the Lenten (possibly his earliest) and the Advent. There are numerous statues, including *Gesù Nazzarenu* (Jesus crowned with thorns) and *Vara l-Kbira* (Crucifixion, consisting of the Crucified Christ surrounded by Our Lady of Sorrows, Mary Magdalene – *Maddalena* - and the Apostle John).

There is a *Vara l-Kbira* at **Kerċem** parish church too, as well as two angels used in the decoration of the Altar of Reposition on Maundy Thursday. A statue showing Christ carrying the Cross (*Redentur*), originally made in 1930 for a now-dismantled Victoria chapel, was later housed in Ghasri; because of damage suffered, it was replaced in 1955 with another (by the same artist) which acquired miraculous status.

Munxar parish church vaunts a three-figure *Vara l-Kbira* (including a 1962 *Duluri*) and a *Nazzarenu*. Xlendi church (which falls within this council's responsibility) has a crucifix.

Qala parish church offers an *Ecce Homo* (bust of Jesus crowned with thorns) and two figures (*Duluri* and St John) around the crucified Christ, as well as a *Via Sagra*.

San Lawrenz has a crucifix.

Sannat has a 1920 *Vara l-Kbira*, consisting of a *Duluri* and St John accompanying the crucified Jesus. It also uses two Camilleri angels for the Reposition Altar.

A total of ten churches around **Victoria** house images constructed by Wistin. The Cathedral's Passion pageant uses Christ in the Garden (*tal-Ort*), *Vara l-Kbira* (consisting of *Duluri*, St John, *Maddalena* and Longinus around a 1969 crucified Christ – his last crucifix) and the dead Christ being taken for entombment by St John, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. As a University student, I visited Camilleri at his workshop to get his signature for a "Homes for the Maltese" national petition and he used the support of the shoulders of this statue. A quite unique statue showing *id-Duluri* accompanied by Mary of Cleophas has been replaced.



Xewkija parish

Saint George's Basilica uses two angels for Holy Thursday and a crucifix for the Good Friday celebration. As far as the Passion procession is concerned, he constructed the *Veronika* in 1916, parts of the *Vara l-Kbira* (excluding the Crucified Christ) and four angels for the *Monument*.

There are crucifixes at Manresa, *Pompej* (Dominican sisters), *Tal-Istilla* (Franciscan sisters), Don Bosco Oratory, Saint Martha's and the church dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi. This last also has a *Duluri* and Saint John

for the *Vara l-Kbira*. Saint Augustine's possesses a crucifix and uses two flying angels for the Reposition Altar (as well as others). *Ta' Savina* Adoration church has two angels for the Holy Thursday altar.

Xaghra basilica displays a crucifix.

Xewkija parish church possesses numerous Camilleri processional statues from the 1920s (restored by one of his sons): *tal-Ort* (later adapted by the statuary himself), the scourged Christ (*tal-Kolonna*), Jesus wearing the crown of thorns (*tal-Porpra*), the *Veronika*, a four-figure *Vara l-Kbira* and the Dead Christ. A *Redentur* was replaced. The church at *Ta' Hamet* – on the outskirts - has a crucifix.



Zebbuġ parish church (already treated in issue 69) possesses a full set of good Friday processional statues: the 1968 Last Supper (Gozo's only thirteen-figure display, with the central figure also used for some years for the Easter Sunday celebration); *tal-Porpra* (1919); *tal-Ort*; *tal-Kolonna*; *Veronika*; *Redentur* (these four were made in

1966, replacing others from 1919); *Vara l-Kbira* (consisting of a 1919 crucified Jesus, 1966 *Duluri* and St John and 1967 Mary Magdalene); the dead Christ (from 1920, with four angels sculpted in 1966) and a separate *Duluri* from 1919. The sacristy has two crucifixes too. I would like to conclude by referring to another personal connection: Wistin's tomb at the state cemetery (in the area called *tal-Barmil*) is exactly side by side with my family's.



On the 25th anniversary of Wistin Camilleri's death Maltapost issued a commemorative handstamp on 3 July 2004 and the GPS issued a commemorative cover for the occasion



After 10 years at Ghajnsielem, Wistin Camilleri's monument was relocated to a more prominent position outside Villa Rundle Gardens

2 popular 1961 “postal” songs by The Marvelettes



The Twistin Postman

Sitting by the window feeling sad and blue

All because I haven't heard from you
And then my momma said Look, look,
here comes the postman

A-twistin down the avenue.

He's got a letter in his hand and I know
it has to be for you.

He's got the mail sack a-twistin round
his back

Cause he's a twistin postman.

A-hes a-twistin to the left, twistin to the
right

Twistin all around and round

If he didn't bring a letter

To make me feel better

I was gonna put you down

I'm so glad he came in time

To ease this achin heart of mine

Cause he's a twistin postman

He's got the mail sack a-twistin round
his back

Cause he's a twistin postman

A-hes a twistin to the left, twistin to the
right

Twistin all around and round.

If he didn't bring a letter

To make me feel better

I was gonna put you down.

I'm so glad he came in time

To ease this achin heart of mine

Cause he's a twistin postman.

Look, look here comes the mailman

A-twistin down the avenue

Please Mr. Postman

(first Motown act to have a Hot 100 chart-topper)

Oh yes, wait a minute Mister Postman
(Wait)

Wait Mister Postman

Please Mister Postman, look and see
(Oh yeah)

If there's a letter in your bag for me
(Please, Please Mister Postman)

Why's it takin' such a long time
(Oh yeah)

For me to hear from that boy of mine

There must be some word today

From my boyfriend so far away

Please Mister Postman, look and see

If there's a letter, a letter for me

I've been standin' here waitin' Mister
Postman

So patiently

For just a card, or just a letter

Sayin' he's returnin' home to me

Mister Postman, look and see

(Oh yeah)

If there's a letter in your bag for me
(Please, Please Mister Postman)

Why's it takin' such a long time
(Oh yeah)

For me to hear from that boy of mine

So many days you passed me by

See the tears standin' in my eyes

You didn't stop to make me feel better

By leavin' me a card or a letter

Mister Postman, look and see

If there's a letter in your bag for me

(Please, Please Mister Postman)

Why's it takin' such a long time

Wait a minute

Wait a minute

Wait a minute Wait a minute

(Mister Postman)

Mister Postman, look and see

Mister Postman



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