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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: CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all readers and members

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

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

*e-mail address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org*

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

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**NOTE. The new series GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS on page 15 to 18 were purposely printed in the middle of this Newsletter for those who wish to pull them out and use them as a thematic album.**

***What goes all the way around the world but stays in a corner?  
Answer on page 29***

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

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546 [secretary@stamps-gozo.org](mailto:secretary@stamps-gozo.org)



**10 July 2022** A further instalment in our thematic series in the national weekly in Maltese *Il-Lehen*.

**13 July** Vice President Anthony Grech again begins running stamp sessions at the Oratory Don Bosco Summer School.

**24 July** National weekly *Il-Lehen* carries another instalment in our thematic series.

**30 July** Anthony Grech produces Cover for *Santa Marija* anniversary handstamp.

**12 August** Anthony Grech produces Covers for Ghajnsielem and Kerċem stamps in the annual Festa statues series.

**17 August** Anthony Grech gives a personal Salesian collection, mostly philatelic, to Don Bosco Oratory director Fr Effie Masini.

**21 August** National weekly *Il-Lehen* offers a further instalment in our thematic series.

**27 August** Committee agrees about November Exhibition and about a book to cover all GPS Covers.

## #86 slips

The person mentioned on page 10 was actually Gaetano Martino.

The first half of the article on page 24 slipped out:

Basutoland's first stamp issue, engraved and printed by Waterlow & Sons, consisted of ten denominations with a portrait of George V and a vignette depicting a crocodile on a river bank (with the Drakensberg Mountains as a background). The same design was adapted five years later for George VI. So we have twentyone crocodiles between 1933 and 1938 – luckily enough, more general scenes were chosen for the Elizabeth II definitives!

However a crocodile returned in the 1967 defs when Basutoland became the independent Lesotho. And it was surely not an insignificant detail since it actually formed part of the country's Arms! Strangely enough, in spite of this emphasis on this lizard, crocodiles can no longer be found in this corner of Africa. Though sometimes described as extinct, no evidence actually exists of their presence!

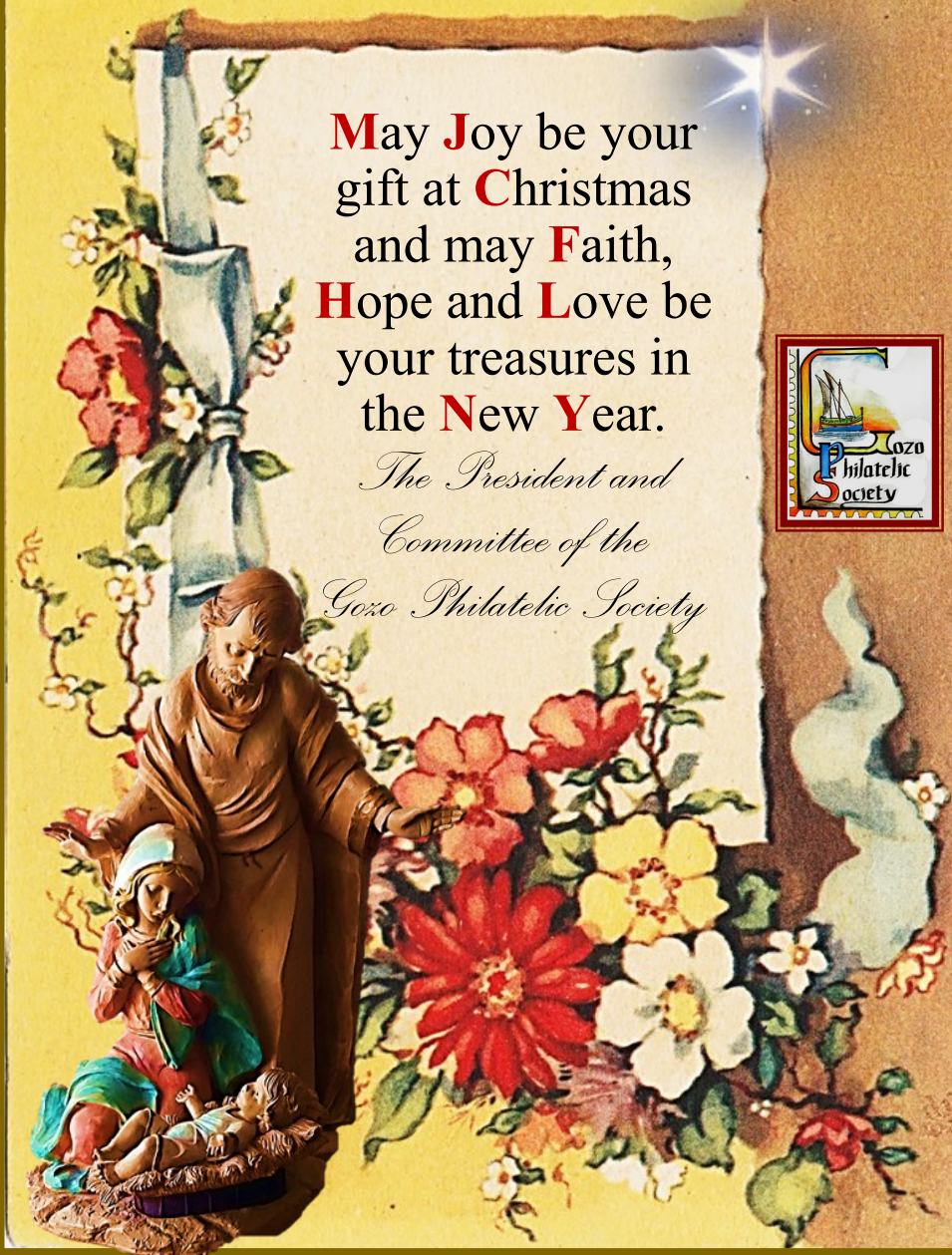
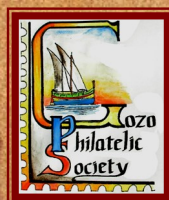
WHY?

**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>**



**May Joy** be your  
gift at **Christmas**  
and may **Faith,**  
**Hope** and **Love** be  
your treasures in  
the **New Year.**

*The President and  
Committee of the  
Gocho Philatelic Society*



## 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*



### NEPAL

This First Day Cover commemorates the 25th anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest on 29 May 1953 by Edmund Hillary and guide Tenzing Norgay. Tenzing is depicted on the cover, proudly showing his ice axe, with

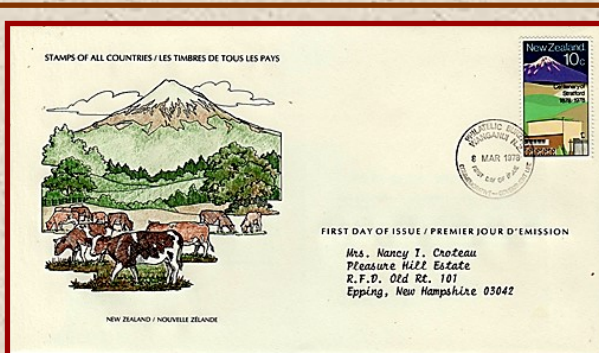
flags of the United Nations, Great Britain, Nepal and India.



### NEW CALEDONIA

The stamp on this first day cover commemorates nature conservation. It bears an illustration from an old legend with the inscription 'At last the Queen of the Eels rises from the waters, monstrous...'. A

stylised island paradise is shown in the original design on the cover.



### NEW ZEALAND

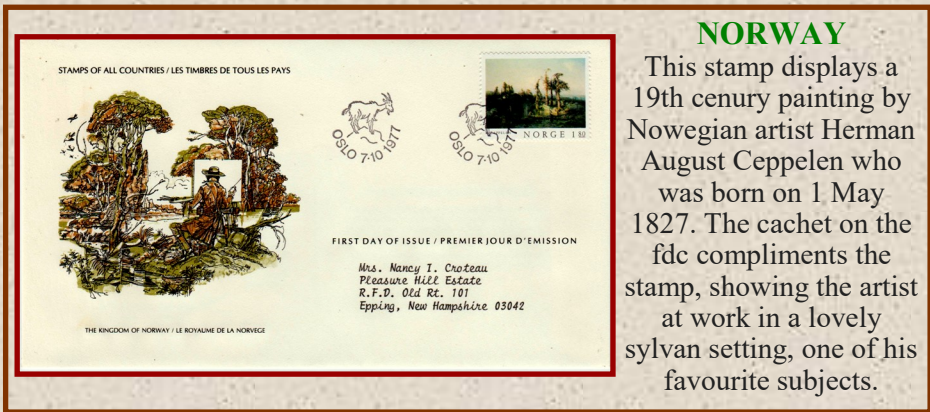
The stamp was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Stratford, a thriving farm community in the Taranaki Province on New Zealand. The design on the cover shows a peaceful rural scene with one of the most distinctive landmarks of the

region, Mount Egmont in the background



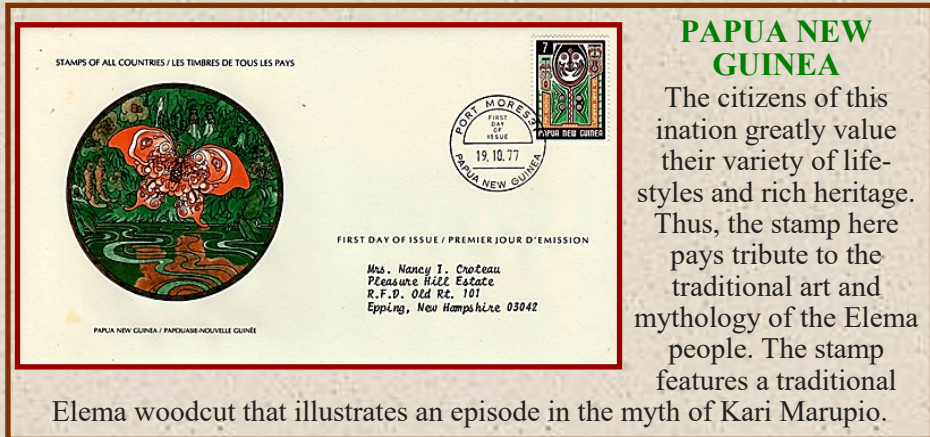
## NORWAY

This stamp displays a 19th century painting by Nowegian artist Herman August Ceppelen who was born on 1 May 1827. The cachet on the fdc compliments the stamp, showing the artist at work in a lovely sylvan setting, one of his favourite subjects.



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The citizens of this nation greatly value their variety of lifestyles and rich heritage. Thus, the stamp here pays tribute to the traditional art and mythology of the Elema people. The stamp features a traditional

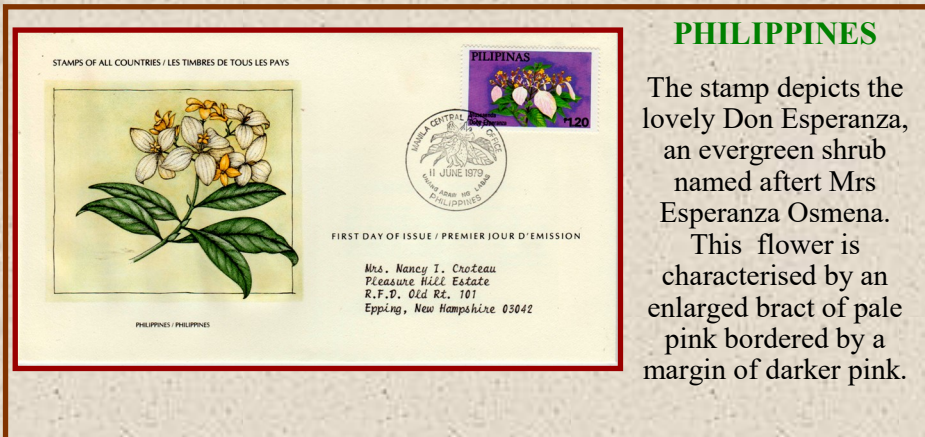


Elema woodcut that illustrates an episode in the myth of Kari Marupio.

## PHILIPPINES

The stamp depicts the lovely Don Esperanza, an evergreen shrub named after Mrs Esperanza Osmena.

This flower is characterised by an enlarged bract of pale pink bordered by a margin of darker pink.



STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



PITCAIRN ISLANDS / LES PITCAIRN



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

**PITCAIRN ISLAND**

A first day cover issued by this remote island in the South Pacific, where mutineers from the famous ship HMS Bounty established a colony in the early 1790. After they landed, the mutineers set fire to the Bounty in an attempt to avoid detection.

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



POLAND / POLOGNE




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


**POLAND**

This fdc was issued to commemorate the iceboat racing championship held in this country. The design on the cover portrays an iceboat swiftly and gracefully skimming across the frozen surface of a bay or lake.

STAMPS OF ALL COUNTRIES / LES TIMBRES DE TOUS LES PAYS



THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC / LA REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA



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

**PORTUGAL**

The stamp portrays the most renowned historian and novelist in Portugal - Alexandre Herculano. The original cachet design in the cover compliments the stamp by depicting the noted author working at his desk.





## REPUBLIC OF CHINA

100 years ago the first Chinese postage stamps were issued in 3 similar designs. The main feature being an ornate dragon, the symbol of ancient imperial power and the Chinese national emblem.



## REPUBLIC OF MALI

The stamp features a stylised wood carving created by an artist of the nation's many tribes. The design on the cover shows Malians bearing their burdens in baskets balanced on top of their heads.



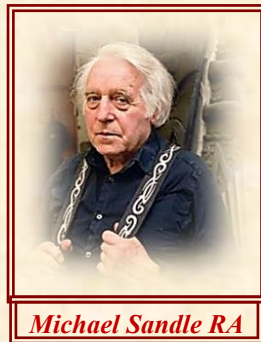
## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The flag of the Republic is portrayed on the stamp affixed on the fdc. The flag consists of white, orange and blue horizontal strips. In the centre of the white stripe is an Orange Free State Flag flanked on the left by the British Union Jack and the old Transvaal Flag.

## MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps

*Antoine Vassallo*



***Michael Sandle RA***

The Isle of Man

issued a set of six Cartor-printed stamps in 2022 to celebrate Michael Sandle RA who actually grew up in the island. Each one showcases a different sculpture, including (on the EU value) the Siege Bell Memorial perched above Malta's Grand Harbour, beside the Lower Barakka Gardens. The world-renowned prolific sculptor states that he is most proud of having produced this last, the architectural design additionally to the sculptural elements being four years in the making. And that is the photo chosen for the cover of the official IOM folder. The work commemorates the ending of the siege of the island by German bombers during World War II. The Memorial is a simple monument symbolising the plight of the many who fought and died for Malta – and the free world - during the Second World War. It was built – on the initiative of the George Cross Island Association - in 1992 on the 50th anniversary of the award by King George VI of the George Cross “to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history” during the attacks on the island. In fact our islands became the most bombed place during the war, with thousands of soldiers and civilians killed.

The Siege Bell Memorial – Mepa-scheduled as a Grade 2 national monument - was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1992. Its



modest design blends excellently with the natural surroundings and majestic fortifications built by the Knights of St John. The design of the structure consists of a belfry in the form of an elliptical neo-

classical temple supported by ten square-faced columns. The collonaded belfry contains a heavy bronze bell, the largest in Malta. The inspiration was the *Maria Gloriosa* mediaeval bell of Erfurt Cathedral in Germany. The tolling bourdon bell was intended to build up a drone, solemnly lamenting the bellic heroes across the waves.

The bell was cast by what are probably the world's largest bellfounders, John Taylor & Co Founders of Loughborough England. A Latin inscription adorns the mulley groove of the bell, quoting from Psalm 140 *Obumbrasti Super Caput Meum In Die Belli MCMXL – MCMXLIII* (“You cast your shadow upon my head during the time of war 1940-1943”). At its base, one notices commemorative plaques and a staircase leading to another pedestal where a catafalque lies. There, visitors can see a statue dedicated to the ‘Unknown Soldier’, symbolising all the people who died at war. The Valletta Rehabilitation Project was responsible for its construction. The site was specifically chosen because it marks the furthestmost point of Valletta within the Grand Harbour and its seclusion complements the meditating nature of the monument while the bell tolls solemnly in commemoration of the fallen heroes.

It is finally worthwhile to note that the site was chosen by MaltaPost to illustrate the 2017 miniature sheet on the 75th anniversary of Operation Pedestal.







## NUMISMATIC SPECIAL (4)

*Antoine Vassallo*

The Central Bank of Malta, in collaboration with Lombard Bank, issued on 29 November 2018 three gold bullion coins. They were given the name of “Melita”, as Malta was called under the Romans.

These legal tender coins, struck in Switzerland (PAMP S.A.) in a very high purity of 0.999, were issued in three different weights and denominations: €25 (one quarter-ounce), €50 (one half-ounce coin) and €100 (one troy ounce). The intention was that the coins would

be minted according to demand, with no differences except for the year of issue. Being classed as investment gold, they were exempt from VAT. As can be expected, they had certification and authentication support.



The coins feature the national emblem on the reverse and the figure of Melita on the obverse. This latter was clearly inspired by that created by prominent artist

Edward Caruana Dingli (1876-1950) for the famous 1922 stamp set issued immediately after Malta attained self-government in 1921. The allegorical female figure, shown wearing a classical helmet and armour, is holding a rudder – an obvious allusion to the fact that the new constitution led to a perception that we were now taking control of her destiny. These stamps were issued in values from 1/4d to 6d, together with £1 – most with distinctive shades. The set (except for the pound) then appeared in





1926 with a “postage” overprint when the decision was taken for separate fiscal stamps. As also mentioned in issue 86 of this Newsletter, other designs of his were used for the 25c Cali in 1996 and the two stamps in the 2020 Sepac.

This same Melita icon had another long numismatic use: on paper currency. In 1989, in coincidence with the Independence 25th anniversary, the Central Bank of Malta introduced its fifth series printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co Ltd. Sizes and denominations did not change but the front or obverse featured the allegorical figure. Also included were the United Nations emblem, doves (adopted from the 1964 stamp set, symbolizing our nation’s commitment to peace), the Bank’s armorial bearings, and mosaic designs from the Roman period.

The reverse did not have a common design: the Lm2 had the *Banca Giuratale* of Victoria and Mdina, the Lm5 the Mdina Gate back and the *Torre dello Stendardo*, the Lm10 a Gianni Vella painting of the VII Giugno uprising and the related Anton Agius monument, the Lm20 Giorgio Borg Olivier with the Independence Constitutional Instruments.

These four notes were also reissued with enhanced security features and changed signatures. The three lower values appeared in 2000 as a “Special Millenium Issue”. Malta’s first notaphilic notes had the addition of a hologram with a clockface, dove, map and “*lejn millenju gdid*”.



## Cinderella Shakespeare Antoine Vassallo

The British playwright William Shakespeare has appeared on numerous sets and stamps, including unofficial and non-postal Cinderellas.

**These examples are more than a hundred years old!**



These one shilling stamps were issued annually, produced by Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon as part of a fundraising scheme. The design was adapted from his memorial in that church, printed in a different colour each year.

As noted on the bottom of this card (an obvious Stratford souvenir), and in publicity elsewhere, the stamps could be used to send mail anywhere - including international addresses - if posted in the box at the door. Church staff would of course collect all items and then apply normal postage stamps to them. In those days, domestic - and even foreign - rates were well under a shilling and thus the scheme resulted in good surpluses!

Shakespeare memorial at Holy Trinity Church

# GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS

Issued by Malta Postal Administrations trough the years

Anthony Grech

When in 1999 a small number of Gozitan philatelists decided to organize a Gozo Philatelic Society, a logo had to be designed. This was entrusted to Anthony Grech, one of the founder members. Some three or four designs were submitted for the committee to choose the most adequate one. A design showing the Gozo boat was preferred against the usual Three Hills image usually used when Gozo is mentioned. The Gozo Boat design was chosen to give tribute to the hundreds of Gozitans who provided the Island with transport of all kind of goods to and from the main Island. Furthermore the Gozo Boat was the first image with Gozitan connections on Malta stamps.



## DEFINITIVE

1889

&

1904/11



### **GOZO BOAT**

Issued 4 February 1889.

Perforation 14 x 13.75

Sepia.

WM: Crown over CA

Printers: De La Rue.

Face Value 4½d.

Designer: Probably Post Office  
Official

### **GOZO BOAT**

Issued 27 February 1905.

Perforation 14 Line

Brown.

WM: Multiple Crown CA

Printers: De La Rue

Face Value 4½d

Designer: Probably Post Office  
Official



**DEFINITIVE 'MELITA' 1922\25**



1/4d Brown-1/2d Green-1d Orange on purple-1d Violet- 1d Brown/red-2d Bistre/brown & turquoise-21/2d Ultramarine-3d Cobalt-3d Bright ultramarine-3d Black on yellow paper-4d Yellow & blue- 6d Olive green & violet- £1 Black & bright carmine.

**GOZO  
BOAT**

-Pence values Issued 1922\1926.  
£1 value issued 14/5/1925  
Perforation 14  
WM; Crown Script CA . Printers  
De La Rue.  
Designer Edward Caruana Dingli

**OVERPRINT  
'TWO PENCE HALF PENNY'  
GOZO BOAT**

Issued 3 December 1925  
Perforation 14  
1 Cobalt—1 Ultramarine  
WM; Multiple Crown & Script CA .  
Printers De La Rue.  
Designer Edward Caruana Dingli.





**'MELITA' OVERPRINT 'POSTAGE' 1926**



**GOZO BOAT**

Issued 1 April 1926  
 Perforation 14 Comb  
 WM; Multiple Crown  
 Script CA. Printers De La  
 Rue.  
 Designer Edward Caruana  
 Dingli



1/4d Brown.  
 1/2d Green. 1d Violet.  
 1 1/2d Brown/red.  
 2d Bistre/brown & turquoise.  
 2 1/2d Ultramarine.  
 3d Black on yellow paper.  
 4d Yellow & blue.  
 6d Olive green & violet.



**DEFINITIVE INSCRIBED  
 'POSTAGE'  
 1926-27**



**GOZO BOAT IN GRAND HARBOUR**

Issued 6 April 1926  
 Black  
 Value 1/-  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer John Harrison

**GOZO BOAT IN OPEN SEA**

Issued 6 April 1926  
 Black and Red  
 Value 2/6d  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 WM; Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer John Harrison



**OVERPRINT  
'POSTAGE  
AND  
REVENUE'  
1928**



**GOZO BOAT IN GRAND HARBOUR**  
 Issued 1928  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 Black  
 Value 1/-  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer: John Harrison

**GOZO BOAT IN OPEN SEA**  
 Issued 1928  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 Black & Red  
 Value 2/6d  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer: John Harrison



**DEFINITIVE INSCRIBED  
'POSTAGE  
AND  
REVENUE'  
1930**



**GOZO BOAT IN GRAND HARBOUR**  
 Issued 20/10/1930  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 Black  
 Value 1/-  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer: John Harrison

**GOZO BOAT IN OPEN SEA**  
 Issued 1920/10/1930  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 Black & Red  
 Value 2/6d  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers: Waterlow & Sons.  
 Designer: John Harrison



**DEFINITIVE 1938  
GOZO CITADEL**  
 Face Value 2d  
 Issued: Slate Black 17/2/1938  
 Scarlet 8/3/1943  
 Perforation 12.5 Line  
 WM: Multiple Crown Script CA.  
 Printers & Designers:  
 Waterlow & Sons.



## PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

*glances – and longer looks – at  
events from a hundred years ago .presented by Antoine Vassallo*  
**30 – Top Values (1922)**



The €1 “Melita” stamp was issued in 1922 – the first time a Malta stamp had such a high face value.

As we all know, the first stamps of Malta only appeared in 1860 but GB and others were also used. Until the first set in 1885, our top – and only – value was ½d: the famous halfpenny yellow.

### Foreign Stamps used in Malta



FRANCE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

TUNISIA



Great Britain pre paid postal card used in Malta

From 1885, Malta’s top value became one shilling (1/-) but just a year later we had a five shillings. The Dorè St Paul 10/- arrived in 1889 – and it remained in use with minor (or bigger) changes until the Melita set.

This one pound value was actually mainly used for non-postal purposes – and was not included (after a changed decision) in the Melita “Postage” overprints.

The 10/- remained the top value in succeeding definitives. However the 1949





1889 St Paul's Shipwreck



1956 Royal Silver Wedding



Definitive highest value

Royal Silver Wedding omnibus offered a much-criticized €1. Later definitives (from 1956) again included a one pound as top value. With the change to decimal currency, the top value became 50c – until the first decimal definitive continued to two Maltese liras (LM2).



The 1981 definitives (in a quite minute format) went a step further to LM3. This seemed to be



1973 Definitive

exceptional since the next defs (in 1991) stopped at two Liri. Stamps with euro values began appearing in 2006 (Crafts), topping at €1.40; but in 2007 we had a €3.49 (Prehistoric). That same year brought a €4.66 miniature sheet (Caravaggio), equivalent to the old LM2. The first euro defs appeared in 2009, with a €5 top value. Ten years later, in 2019, a further increase took place: in a VII Giugno miniature sheet (€5.59).



But this remains less than the equivalent of the record 1981 LM3!





## A Fantastic Find.

Anthony Grech

1960 XIX Centenary of St Paul Shipwreck in Malta.



*A complete sheet with colour varieties on most of the stamps. The varieties consist of missing colour patches especially on dark blue areas.*

*Some varieties are more intense and numerous than on others.*

*This missing blue colour occurs not only on the main design but also sometimes on the lettering beneath the design.*

*This item was on show at the Gozo Philatelic Society  
23rd Annual Exhibition.*





*E & O not E  
glances at stamps with  
design or printing mistakes*



In issue 84 (last year's "Christmas special"), I presented three seasonal



New Zealand printing errors. I now add a couple more.

These two copies from the 1975 Christmas set show quite a traditional "Virgin and Child" by Zanobi Machiavelli, a fifteenth century Italian artist who specialized in religious scenes. This egg tempera was acquired by New Zealand's own Dunedin Public Art Gallery in 1973. The red colour is omitted on the second, creating a very evident printing error.



*Dunedin Public Art Gallery*

Another – probably not as clear missing red had appeared in 1966. This "Virgin and Child" by Carlo Maratta (1625 – 1713), an artist who was especially famous in Rome and whose surname is shown as Maratti too, is exhibited in Vienna's *Kunsthistorisches Museum* (= "Museum of Art History").



*Kunsthistorisches Museum*





The 1970 issue offered other errors, of varied quality. The 3cent was reproduced from a stained glass window showing the Holy Family to be found in a church in Invercargill, a city on the country's South Island.

The missing green means that the stamp becomes anonymous and valueless!



I also add two further examples of defective printing: a colour displacement and perforation shift. Should such stamps have been distributed through post offices?!



This used 1997 self-adhesive is another example of a perforation shift, so misaligned that the booklet information

can be seen instead of the side of the design.

This was supposed to feature both a Memorial Cross and the *Te Harinui* folk song, described as “New Zealand's best-loved iconic Christmas carol”, celebrating the first Christmas Day service in New Zealand held by the Reverend Samuel Marsden at the Bay of Islands in 1814.



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The six normal sheet stamps illustrate the various verses. The \$1.50 in fact has a mistake since the first word should be “Now” not “How” (“Now in this blessed land / United heart and hand / We praise the glorious birth / And sing to all the earth”).



Ferns are quite common on New Zealand stamps, being practically a national symbol. They created an error on the 2003 self-adhesive 40cent (coil) because of a missing (black) silver fern on the Child’s arm.



I conclude with a final missing red, on the 1960 stamp, New Zealand's first – and a very early seasonal set. It reproduces “The Adoration of the Shepherds” which is housed in London's National Gallery. Though traditionally attributed to Rembrandt, it was probably actually produced by a talented student in his studio. The toned stamp paper was specifically chosen to produce a more authentic rendering. *Antoine Vassallo*

## **HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023?**

Please help your Philatelic Society to serve you.

Send your fee (local members Euro 5.00) to  
 Anthony Grech, 'Warda Maltija' 4 Triq Ibisku, Xewkija,  
 Gozo.

YOU CAN SEND YOUR FEE IN MINT MALTA POSTAGE  
 STAMPS. Thank you for your support



# Stamps



Today I'm in a stew  
Because I'm out of brew.  
Weather's bad, you clown  
So you can't go to town  
So what's an old f\*r to do?

Not able to make an excursion  
I needed some other diversion.  
So got out my stamps  
A good job for a Gramps  
And to that I had no aversion.

My collecting had been aborted  
Was a long time since I sorted.  
So to get back in the groove  
Bought some U.S. on approve.  
My album thought I'd been deported.

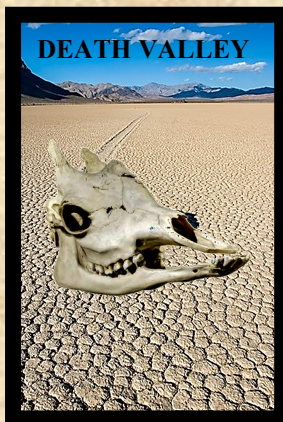


Turned out to be quite a caper  
Soaking those stamps off their paper.  
It took me so long  
That I sang me a song  
As I pressed them flat in newspaper.



And so I passed the time  
When I wasn't making a rhyme.  
Sorted out all the faces  
Pasted them in their places  
And was happy to get off the dime.

They call this hobby Philately  
It's a great way to dillidately  
If you've time on your hand  
It sure beats the band  
Of hiking through Death Valley.



*George Hunter*





**LONG LIVE THE MONARCH!** *Antoine Vassallo*

As this issue was being finalized for printing, the sad news arrived of the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. Most stampcollectors – even if non-monarchists – will have her image in their collection. We actually intend to include in a further Newsletter a survey of the range of issues in which she appeared over these decades – not excluding Malta!

British royalty has various philatelic connections, not least the Royal Collection which we have previously mentioned and which we intend again featuring. But QE2 will probably remain associated with the hundreds of Machins!

As yet, we do not have any idea of King Charles III’s intentions regarding definitives; in any case, his reign will be shorter – but hopefully positive.



# U.S. STAMP CONTROVERSY X3+1



#1 Many artists objected in 1934

to the way James McNeill Whistler's famous 1873 painting was cropped to fit the horizontal stamp format. Others complained about the vase of flowers that had been added to a corner - possibly an early example of "product placement" for Mother's Day, which the stamp was meant to honour. In a telegram to the postmaster general, the American Artists Professional League charged that the stamp represented a "mutilation of the artist's original picture, thereby robbing it of much of its charm." The director of New York's Museum of Modern Art, which had recently borrowed the painting (officially titled *Arrangement in Grey and Black, No. 1*) from the Louvre, said that if Whistler "were alive today he would be enraged."

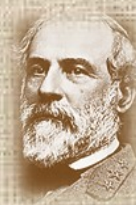
#2 Many Southerners were outraged by this 1937 stamp featuring three Northern generals (William Sherman, Ulysses



Grant, and Philip Sheridan). In particular, the first was still despised for his harsh tactics and his famously destructive 1864 "March to the Sea". Some state legislatures objected strongly. The postal department attempted to



mollify critics by assuring them that a “Southern” stamp was coming within a few weeks.



#3 Although postal authorities hoped this stamp honouring Confederate generals Robert Lee and Thomas Jackson would placate Southerners, it proved controversial in its own right. Unfortunately Lee’s portrait showed just two stars on his collar, even though he was a three-star general; thus it could appear that he had been demoted! The post office claimed that either the stamp had been based on an older photo or that the third star was hidden by his collar. I know that this design is sometimes considered as an example of a design error.

#4 To conclude with a much more recent controversy, I offer this 1995 commemoration of Richard Nixon. This US President had resigned in



disgrace in 1974, threatened with impeachment. But the tradition was kept of honouring former presidents after death with a stamp. It was predictably unpopular - and the butt of endless jokes! Sales picked up a bit, however, when a clever entrepreneur issued an envelope that made it look as if this controversial personality were behind bars.

**Gozo Philatelic Society**  
 VO/0546 POBox 10 VCT1000 Gozo - MALTA

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Answer to page 4 riddle: A STAMP





continuing a new series that tries to clear up uncertainties

## Why is the Yellow Hat stamp so rare?

The Yellow Hat stamp shouldn't even exist! The Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps states that "there is no evidence that these stamps were ever officially issued."

In 1997, the U.S. Postal Service proposed raising the First Class postage rate by a cent (from 32 to 33 cents). In

preparation for this increase which would go into effect on 10 January 1999, it released Uncle Sam's Hat non-denominated "H" stamps in advance – in a variety of perforations which can be easily acquired. The U.S.P.S. also requested a similar increase in the postcard rate which was refused by the Postal Rate Commission, whose responsibility it is to set postage rates. In this case too, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing had already printed the Yellow Hat "H" postcard-rate stamps and sent them to post offices. However, not being needed, they were never officially issued – and were supposed to be destroyed. Still, at least a couple of post offices sold some and a few are known used on cover.



### Why "H"?

From 1978, when postal rate increases were requested, the USPS began preparing stamps bearing letters representing each as-yet unknown rate. These non-denominated stamps would be used until stamps with the decided rate could be issued. The practice was initiated with an "A" and continued down the alphabet.



On arriving at E, an Earth design was used – followed by “F” (Flower) and “G” (Old Glory, the American flag). “H” showed a patriotic Uncle Sam’s Hat. It began by using letters A, B, C, and D, along with the USPS eagle.

Then the postal folks got clever. The “E” stamp featured Earth, “F” a Flower, and “G” the American flag (“Old Glory”). The years 1998 and 1999 brought the patriotic “H” stamps, showing Uncle Sam’s hat on a white background.



The “H” Stamps were the last of the lettered stamps, eliminated by the “Forever” stamps which are accepted for whatever the postage rate is at the time of usage.







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