Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

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EST OBSIDIO

F'dan l-affresk li juri l-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565 impitter minn Matteo Pèrez d'Aleccio naraw diversi toroq fin-naħa t'isfel ta' Malta. Fost dawn it-toroq insibu t-triq prinċipali li miż-Żejtun tagħti lejn il-Kottonera, dik li hi magħrufa bħala t-Triq taċ-Ċawsli. Din l-istess triq kellha sehem importanti wkoll fl-Aħħar Ħbit mit-Torok, tas-6 ta' Lulju, 1614. Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun f'għeluq l-400 sena minn dan il-ħbit kien ħareġ żewġ bolol personalizzati li juru l-pittura tal-Knisja ta' San Klement u l-Qtugħ ir-Ras ta' Santa Katerina ta' Cassarino li juru l-mappa ta' dan l-attakk.

EMVIN CREMONA

Emvin Cremona (1919 - 1987) was a Maltese artist and stamp designer. Cremona was born in Valletta on 27th May 1919, exactly 100 years ago. See the article on page **11 >**

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Since 1840, when the Penny Black featured a profile of Queen Victoria, it has been a tradition worldwide for nations to honour on their postage stamps. See page **7 >**

KURŻITÀ

L-eqdem servizz postali privat imur lura għall-1929 fil-gżira Lundy, qrib Devon, ir-Renju Unit. Meta Martin Coles Harman, sid il-gżira, beda s-servizz postali tiegħu stess lejn ir-Renju Unit. Dan seħħ wara li l-pustier, li kien ilu 50 sena, ma baqgħax iservi lil din il-gżira. Il-bolol ta' din il-gżira kienu kollha juru purċinell jew numru ta' purċinelli b'valuri differenti.

Il-purċinell fuq il-bolla

Waslet il-Ħarifa ...

MILL-EDITUR
SEAN CHIRCOP

Matul ix-xhur ta' sajf, meta ħafna minkom tkunu qed tgawdu x-xemx u l-baħar u ma taħsbu f'xejn, il-membri tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun jibdew jaħsbu x'materjal se jkunu qed jesebixxu fil-wirja annwali tal-filatelija. Wara tillar bolol u informazzjoni jkun hemm sigħat twal ta' ħidma u passjoni kbira lejn dak li jikkolezzjonaw. Fostna għadna membri li ilhom jesebixxu kull sena fil-wirja tagħna għal ħmistax-il sena sħaħ, u llum il-ġurnata jesebixxu wkoll fil-Maltex u f'esebizzjonijiet oħrajn, dejjem b'wirja differenti.

Kif lill-artist m'għandekx tindaħħalu lanqas lin-namrat mal-kolezzjoni tiegħu m'għandekx tindaħħalu liema xogħol għandu jaħdem fuqu aktar biex ikun jista' jesebih. Fil-fatt din is-sena l-esebitturi, li b'kollox għadna 11-il esebittur, tħallew fil-libertà tagħhom biex jagħżlu t-tema li jixtiequ, minflok bħal dawn l-aħħar snin fejn kellna tema partikolari. Infatti l-isem tal-wirja hu l-Istorja Maltija, għax permezz ta' dawn it-temi differenti se nagħtu ħarsa lejn espisodji differenti tal-istorja ta' ġensna u anki lil hinn minnu, permezz tal-bolol u kurżitajiet oħra. Fosthom se nagħtu ħarsa lejn it-traġedja ta' Karin Grech u x'bidla ġabet magħha fis-servizz postali. Se nagħtu ħarsa lejn numru sabiħ ta' personalitajiet Maltin u bla ma jonqos infakkru lid-disinjatur ewlieni tal-bolol Maltin, l-artist Emvin Cremona. Se nmorru lura fi żmien u naraw l-użu tal-bolla f'affarijiet varji fosthom il-bolla fil-ħlas tal-kera u l-bolla fuq iċ-ċertifikati tal-mewt maħruġa mill-għassa. Se nagħtu ħarsa wkoll lejn in-natura Maltija li sabet ruħha għal użu postali.

Barra minn hekk se noħorġu ftit minn xtutna u nagħtu ħarsa lejn il-bolol tar-Renju Brittaniku fil-kolonji Ottomani. U hekk kif qed insemmu l-Brittanja se naraw kif atturi Ingliżi sabu ruħhom ukoll fil-filatelija minn William Shakespare, Charles Dickens u anki l-kittieba ta' Harry Potter. B'hekk għat-13-il edizzjoni taż-Żejt iż-Żejtun għadna wirja mżewqa b'kollox li żgur xi rokan minna se tolqot li min se jiġi jżurha.

Minn hawn nixtieq nirringrazzja lill-11-il membru li qed jieħu sehem: is-Sur Raymond Agius, is-Sur Carmel Bonnici, is-Sur Joseph Carabott, is-Sur Mario Casingena, is-Sur Samuel Falzon, is-Sur Emmanuele Francalanza, is-Sur George Galea, is-Sur Albert Gatt, is-Sur Mark-Anthony Poulton, is-Sur Anthony Sant, u s-Sur Paul Zammit. Minn hawn nixtieq nirringrazzja wkoll lis-Sur Joseph Chircop għas-set-up tal-wirja u s-Sur Glen Chircop għad-disinn tal-poster, u l-fuljett.

Din id-darba ħadt ħsieb li l-gazzetta ta' Settembru tagħti ħarsa lejn uħud mill-affarijiet li se tkunu qed taraw fil-wirja biex dik ir-riċerka profonda li tkun saret ma tibqgħax ftit għal dawk il-jiem tal-wirja iżda tkunu tistgħu tibqgħu taqrawha aktar fil-kumdità d-dar tagħkom. Fl-edizzjonijiet li jmiss se jkun hemm artikli oħra dwar materjal ieħor li se jkun qed jidher dwar din il-wirja.

F'wirja waqt avveniment li qed ifakkar l-istorja u l-kultura Żejtunija ma nistgħux inħallu barra materjal li għandu x'jaqsam maż-Żejtun. Infatti kemm fil-gazzetta u anki waqt il-wirja ħadna ħsieb li nagħtu spazju wkoll l-istorja rikka li għandu ż-Żejtun. Fiż-Żejtun, barra l-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, insibu wkoll lis-Sagristan Paul Zammit, li f'isem il-Parroċċa taż-Żejtun, qed joħroġ numru ta' bolol personalizzati u kartolini b'hekk waqt din il-wirja ħsibna li nuru wkoll dan il-materjal filateliku.

Grazzi li ġejtu żżuruna.

Latest Stamps

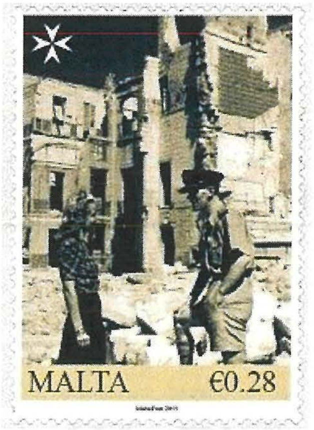
BY
MARIO CASINGENA

7 June 2019, marked the 100 anniversary of the riots post World War I and the sacrificed four Maltese nationals. Am not delving on the historical issue as this has been extensively covered on newspapers, except need the mention of an exhibition brought up at Parliament building, fine productions, and memorable items that included a period bread cart.. Bread soaring prices was partly an issue. Now going back to the miniature sheet, with a stamp at a staggering € 5.59, doubt how much it is actually adding value to my stamp collection. However, the crosses on the presentation are definitely out of text. The George Cross was awarded to the Maltese on 15 August 1942 while the event in question happened in 1919 and to alley guts to injury, the fallen were fired at by British troops

The same power that led the Island to a harder World War II. The Maltapost stamps made the bones of the victims rattle under the monument by Boris Edwards, which monument stands at Addolorata Cemetry which was erected on 8 June 1925 ie six years on. The eight-pointed cross belonged to the Knights period and now it belongs to Maltapost and can be used freely no matter what. Applied unimaginative colours, to make up the Maltese flag "complementing" the work by Anton Agius, which monument stands on Palace Square.

The occasion brought about the issue of a coin and a silver stamp jointly issued by Central Bank of Malta and Maltapost plc. I fail to understand the logic of having a joint issue, actually the relationship falls short of expectations and consider it much of increased revenue to any other issue. However the only advantage perhaps is the low quantity that are issued that may be of an advantage to the collector.

10 June 2019 MALTA AT WAR - The Map Plotters



Here the focus was intended to be "women" at the War rooms. The stamps unspecified designer except for Maltapost plc, are stamps taken from old photos. There is no particular comment, as such type of pictures have been the topic of similar issues, and in a way historical. The only concern is that the 28c fails to complement the other two, that is a stamp representing a cool and casual encounter, and a happy smile and alas against a pitiful backdrop. Thus such photo does hardly suggest that the lady is "engaged" working at the war rooms.

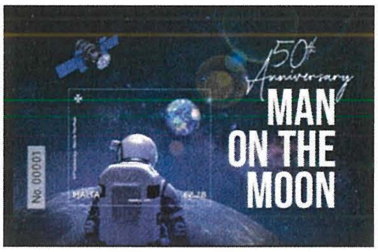
09 July 2019 Traditional Costumes Euromed Postal joint issue

What the hell is this presentation? First a year ago, garments for a phantom with a green background issue and this year this pitiful distasteful set unfit for a stamp issue with the courtesy of Heritage Malta. As if around there are no two beauties and a man that fit in such garments / outfit, or rather editing faces to the wardrobe pieces. Mentioning the last outfit, there was not the decency of presenting in a properly upright position. Actual stamps vary considerably to the above. Had it not been for the stamp collection this issue is not worth the money. If this is to be a winning entry, there surely must be the subject of heavy lobbying.

Cypriot Euromed presentation, (a random selection) a colourful build up but the male tea pot pose does not fit in the least.

France, meets much of my taste. A simple layout with an artistic value so much as a philatelist looks for to photo stamps which are becoming sickening to look at. To the point message as to what the issue involves, costumes of the Mediterranean. The country, Euromed logo and value are neatly set and do not interfere with the central image.

20 July 2018, another issue was the 50 year anniversary of the moon landing. Explained as " an artistic rendition of a Moon landing" as it could have happened during these past 50 years. What is striking in this presentation is the back side of the astronaut instead of forward facing. The size of the figure is not proportional to the moon surface and the coloured spots primarily suggests that the camera lens was not properly cleaned. Command module Columbia stayed in orbit while on the left side of the miniature sheet there is what looks the Intelsat Communications Satellite or an interpretation would be of a lesser dimension . Presentation could have the wording nicely in Maltese, "50 sena il-bniedem tela fuq il-qamar" ie, 50th woo, should have been just 50 or more fitting "The Eagle has landed. That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" or "L'Ajkla nizlet. Pass zghir tal-bniedem, huwa pass kbir ghall -umanita". A tube is jutting out from the left side of the helmet, reminds me of Jules Verne book, and a black and white old film clip that produced the moon with a face and a fired launch hitting the eye of the moon's face, wander what this could be. Never mind the price tag and the eight pointed cross am getting used to both.



This is a picture downloaded from NASA, that shows what the gear should have looked like on the stamp issue. Here it can be seen that from the back, it completely hid the helmet of the astronaut. Later, would expect the astronaut backpack to be a pocket size version. Therefore dare ask, are issues done haphazardly without any research or rather some sort of explanations can be made in an attempt to appreciate the whole presentation. At first glance could see that something was amiss. Finally an explanation is forthcoming on behalf of the average philatelist as to who decides on the design of a stamp issue before the process gets underway with the production printing.

July 30, 2019 another beautiful and colourful set of four pieces, at least that is the first impression. Then a closer look, at each stamp reveals a number of issues. First of all the Bubaqra Tower does not blend in with the other dwellings ie, it belongs more to a tower to a residential house. The 10c stamps boasts the brand "Mdina Glass", and my question is, have the proprietors paid for such "advertising"? and this can also be applied to the 63c stamp but this time it is "Cardphone". What definitely stands out in these photo stamps is the photographers' lack of the same passion of the philatelist. The photographic technique is uncontested but would expect surprisingly different result had this been open to competition. Same stamp size 44mm x 31mm be it up right or horizontal.

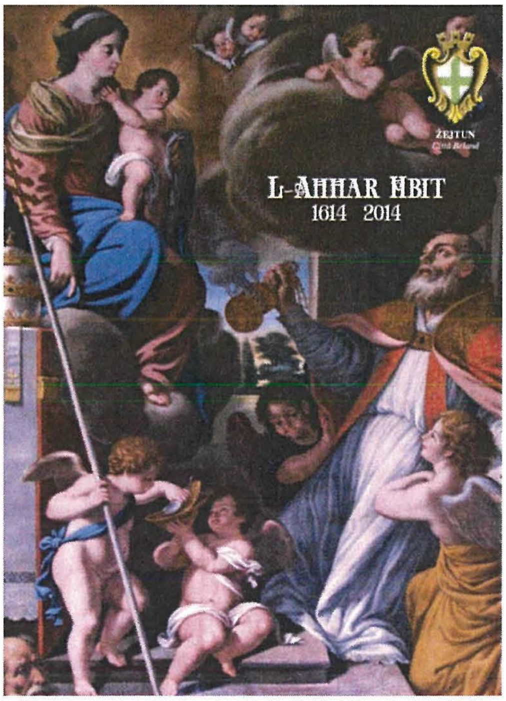
Then comes the third issue of the festa series

The bulletine that accompanied this great issue, stated that "some 80 religious feasts are celebrated annually in the towns and village". This very statement sheds some light as to what to expect, that is a total of eight issues, which leaves five to go. Theme in itself is relatively interesting, works of art that have withstood years. Devotion of religious generations that are slowly being lost save for the spectacularity that the feasts bestow. Price tag is for inland usage and would expect a number to be in circulation and finally replacing the 26c + 2c, especially the sickening fatso postman stamp alas. However going back on the issue, fail to understand any logical sequence in the selection and settle to a merely a random one as an explanation. A lightly clouded sky backdrop is a standard feature, although imagination of a statute in procession would perhaps have added profane colour. The bulletin gives a concise explanation explanation on each statue but nothing in particular and uniqueness on the statue of Saint Lawrence. A statue is made up of completely different material beside the fact that a couple of years back this was subject for treatment and restoration in a restoration works laboratory in Malta.

Triq l-Aħħar Ħbit

MINN

RUBEN ABELA



Kien proprju fil-bidu ta' din it-triq, li ż-Żwieten u ż-Żabbarin u aktar tard bl-għajnuna tal-kavallerija tal-Ordni, li t-Torok kienu ġew mirbuħa u ċedew lura lejn il-Bajja ta' San Tumas, fl-aħħar ħbit li għamlu fl-1614. It-triq hija l-aktar magħrufa bħala 'it-Triq taċ-Ċawsli'.

Ir-rabta bejn iż-Żejtun u l-Kottonera hi waħda storika u importanti. Dokumentazzjoni storika li teħodna fiż-żmien Medjevali turi kif iż-Żwieten kienu responsabbli mill-ħarsien u d-difiża tal-Castrum Maris jew il-Forti Sant' Anġlu, f'nofs il-Port il-Kbir, u fl-istess waqt kellhom id-dritt li jistkennu f'din il-fortizza f'każ ta' xi attakk. Mal-wasla tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann f'Malta fis-sena 1530, huma għażlu lill-Birgu bħala s-sede uffiċjali tagħhom bil-Gran Mastru juża l-Palazz, fil-Forti Sant' Anġlu, bħala r-residenza tiegħu. Bil-flotta navali li kellhom u l-forma unika tal-Port il-Kbir, din l-għażla kienet waħda naturali. Dan wassal għal aktar attività fl-inħawi tal-Birgu u 'l madwar u għalhekk aktar xogħol. L-inħawi taż-Żejtun, jew il-Cappella Sancta Caterina sa qabel il-bidu tas-seklu sbatax kienet tinkludi x-Xlokk kollu ta' Malta u tmiss literalment mal-Birgu fuq in-naħa tal-Majjistral tagħha. M'hemmx għalfejn ngħidu li waqt l-Assedju l-Kbir dawn l-inħawi u l-abitanti kienu fost l-ewwel milquta mill-ħbit tat-Torok u hekk reġa' ġara fl-aħħar ħbit li sar mit-Torok fl-1614. Dan kien ifisser li bejn l-inħawi abitati taż-Żejtun ta' dak iż-żmien u l-inħawi tal-Birgu kien jeħtieġ li jkun hemm rotta jew triq li twassal l-abitanti fl-iqsar ħin possibbli għall-kenn tas-swar tal-Birgu jew il-Forti Sant' Anġlu.

Din it-triq tidher b'mod ċar fil-mappa ta' Malta ta' Perez d'Aleccio li ppubblika f'Ruma fl-1582, fit-tieni minn ġabra ta' tlettax-il inċiżjoni (minn fuq ir-ram) li fihom irriproduċa l-affreski tal-Assedju li kien ħadem fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastri, is-sett sħiħ, bl-isem 'I veri ritratti della guerra, et dell'assedio et assalti alle Isole di Malta dell'armata Turchesca l'anno 1565'. Din tibqa' tidher ukoll f'mapep oħrajn prodotti minn kartografi oħra fis-snin ta' wara. Mappa oħra ddettaljata li ltqajna magħha dan l-aħħar waqt li konna qed nagħmlu riċerka dwar l-inħawi ta' Buleben, sibniha fl-arkivji tal-Ordni fil-Bibljoteka. F'din il-mappa tidher triq dejqa u sserrep li tgħaqqad it-truf ta' Bisqallin (ir-Raħal t'Isfel), tgħaddi minn bejn Buleben il-Kbir u Buleben iż-Żgħir u tibqa' sejra lejn il-Kottonera. Din il-mappa tmur lura għall-aħħar nofs tas-seklu tmintax.

Kien matul it-tmexxija tal-Gran Mastru Ramon Perellos y Roccaful bejn l-1697 u l-1720 li matul din it-triq inbniet mitħna tar-riħ, magħrufa bħala l-mitħna ta' Bir Għeliem. Ftit 'il bogħod minn din il-mitħna, fi sqaq faċċata tagħha, ġo Buleben iż-Żgħir inbena wkoll razzett mill-istess Gran Mastru, kif ukoll razzett ieħor fi Sqaq il-Merħla, aktar lejn iż-Żejtun, f'Buleben il-Kbir.

It-triq taċ-ċawsli kienet testendi 'l hemm mill-mitħna sal-Mina ta' Hompesch u tibqa' sejra sakemm twassal eżatt sa wieħed mill-bibien li hemm matul il-fortifikazzjonijiet tal-Kottonera. Dan il-bieb, b'arkitettura Barokka mill-isbaħ, huwa magħruf bħala l-Bieb ta' San Klement. Ġie li wkoll jirreferu għalih bħala Bieb iż-Żejtun. Għalhekk jidher ċar li din kienet ir-rotta ewlenija li tgħaqqad iż-Żejtun mal-Kottonera.

Kien proprju minn dan il-Bieb li nhar il-5 t'Ottubru 1798 parti mill-armata Franċiża ħarġet mis-swar tal-Kottonera biex tattakka liż-Żwieten, waqt li sezzjoni oħra mill-armata ħarġet minn Bieb is-Sultan biex tattakka liż-Żabbarin. Iżda kemm iż-Żwieten kif ukoll iż-Żabbarin kienu ntebħu b'dan il-pjan, u minflok, l-armata Franċiża inqabdet fit-toroq dojoq taż-żewġt ibliet u qalgħu xebgħa ġebel minn fuq il-bjut tad-djar .

Fil-bidu tas-seklu dsatax jidher li din it-triq ġiet imtejjba u ddrittata għal dik li nafu biha llum. Fil-fatt partijiet mill-ħitan tas-sejjieħ li fadal aktarx għadhom minn dan iż-żmien. Fuq parti minn dawn il-ħitan għad hemm ukoll ġebla bl-inizjali tar-Re Ġorġ. Din kienet titqiegħed fejn kien ikun hemm art amministrata mill-istat, dak iż-żmien mill-Gvern Ingliż.

Fl-1824, il-kumpanija British, Irish, Colonial Silk Company, imwaqqfa u ffinanzjata minn Sir Moses Montefiore, talbet lill-Gvern Ingliż biex jikrilha biċċiet ta' art f'Malta sabiex fihom tkabbar is-siġar taċ-ċawsli u trabbi id-dud tal-ħarir. Il-pjan kien li minn Malta tibda tipproduċi l-ħarir u tesportah. F'qasir żmien dawn importaw 110,000 siġra taċ-ċawsli, u bdew iħawluhom f'diversi nħawi li indikalhom il-Gvern. Fost il-postijiet li tħawlu dawn is-siġar kien hemm Strada Zeitun, jew kif ħafna jafuha 'it-Triq taċ-Ċawsli'.

Fil-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin, fil-bidu tat-triq taċ-ċawsli, inbniet mitħna oħra, din id-darba mitħna tal-istim. Dan wara li r-rivoluzzjoni industrijali serviet biex kien hemm żviluppi kbar fit-teknoloġija u ġew ivvintati magni sabiex jgħaqqdu l-ħtiġijiet tal-bniedem u jnaqqsu t-tbatija.

Fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, biċċa art kbira wara l-mitħna, fejn sa ftit żmien ilu kien hemm il-Hompesh Steel, inbidlet f'fortizza militari magħrufa bħala Tal-Karmnu u fiha ttellgħu numru ta' Nissan Huts biex fihom joqogħdu s-suldati li kienu jieħdu ħsieb u joperaw numru ta' kanuni kontra l-ajruplani tal-għadu, li kienu stazzjonati fir-raba' ta' Buleben il-Kbir.

English Writers

BY

MARK-ANTHONY POULTON

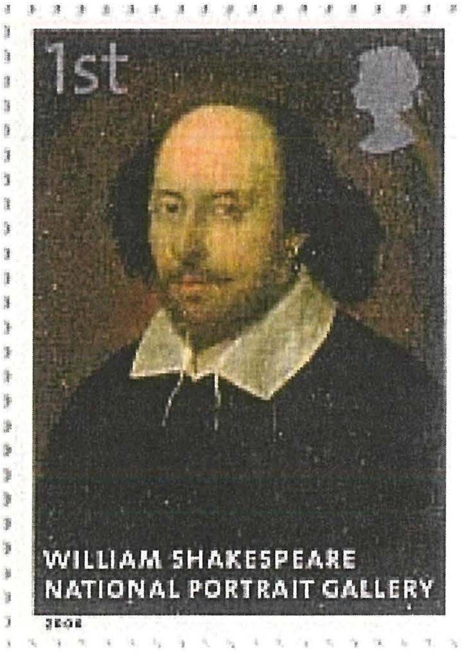
Since 1840, when the Penny Black featured a profile of Queen Victoria, it has been a tradition worldwide for nations to honour individuals on their postage stamps. Typical choices include monarchs, important figures of history, politicians, cultural leaders, and celebrities. The usual practice is for the stamp to feature a portrait of the person, either full-length or head alone. In a few cases, the person being honoured is represented by an image relating to the person's life and work.

Various authors and their works have been featured on their respective country's stamps and some have even features on other countries" stamps.

The UK"s Royal Mail has honoured among others, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, Roald Dahl and JK Rowling, but has refrained from depicting the authors themselves.

In fact William Shakespeare is the only exception to this rule, and he has been depicted more than once on stamps. In fact William Shakespeare was the first 'non royal' personality to be featured on a British stamp. The set of stamps was issued in 1964 marking the 400th anniversary of the death of the poet. David Gentleman's designs were the subject of controversy primarily because Shakespeare's head was depicted larger than the Queen's! ... But the Queen took an instant liking to the designs, describing them as "striking and of high quality."

Shakespeare was again depicted on the Australian Bicentenary stamps issued in 1988. In the 34p stamp Shakespeare joins John Lennon, the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge on a stamp reflecting the continuing links between Australia and Britain through the performing arts.



A 25p stamp was issued in 1995 to commemorate the opening of the replica Globe Theatre on London's South Bank, showing a drawing of Shakespeare in the lower left corner of the stamp.

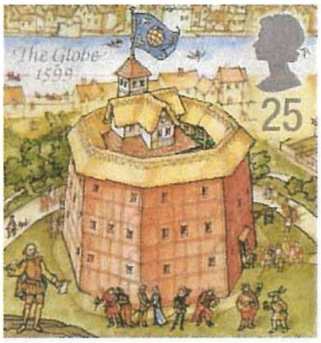
In 2006 Shakespeare's portrait was one of 10 portraits of well-known Britons to appear on the stamps marking the 150th Anniversary of the National Portrait Gallery. The portrait is attributed to John Taylor.

In 2011 his portrait was again featured on the right hand side of the four-stamp miniature sheet featuring the RSC's theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon.

None the less British authors have features in other GB philatelic material including First Day Covers, aerogrammes and booklets.

Continues on page on page 8

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)

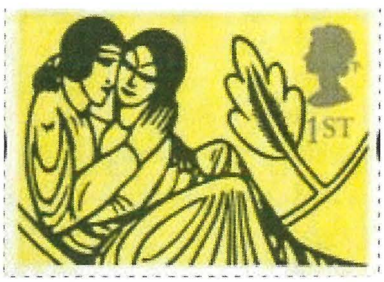


William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as both the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. 5 A lot of Shakespeare's works were depicted on stamps

A 25p stamp was issued in 1995 to commemorate the opening of the replica Globe Theatre on London's South Bank, and apart from showing Shakespeare himself in front of the building are (from left to right) characters form his plays: Lady MacBeth, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Richard III, Flastaff and Bottom the Weaver, from A Midsummer Night's Dream (enlarged image above).

In 2011 a four-stamp miniature sheet designed by Hat-trick features the RSC's theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon, a collage based upon the concept of the individual theatre's stage, including actors and theatrical scenery ; 1st - Hamlet (1965) actress, Janet Suzman ; 68p -Anthony and Cleopatra (2006) actor, Patrick Stewart ; 76p -Henry V (2007) actor, Geoffrey Streatfield ; £1.00 - Macbeth (1976) actress Judi Dench ; left hand side Macbeth(1955) actress, Vivien Leigh ; right hand side A Midsummer Night's Dream (2008) actress, Andrea Harris7

A lot of his other plays were featured individually on stamps, some depicting life images of theatrical productions, others characters from his plays and others depict quotes from his works. All the Love Poems of Shakespeare was published in 1947 by Sylvan Press. The book was illustrated by Eric Gill, and one of these illustrations featured onone of the 1995 stamp part of the „Greetings In Arts" issue designed by Newell and Sorrell.



This article continues on December's issue.

The Karen Grech Crosses

BY

CARMEL BONNICI

On December 28, 1977, Karen Grech, the teenage daughter of Professor Edwin Grech, was murdered by the explosion of a letter-bomb addressed to her father. Despite the lapse of time and the change in governments, no one has yet been charged with the infamous crime.

The repercussions – human, political and social – of that letter-bomb were far reaching. Tensions between the parties, already red-hot, increased. Fear, suspicion and murder added new dimensions to the local political scene; that dark menace has not been completely defused yet.

The postal authorities were quick to react to the outrae. Lethal letter-bombs previously unheared of in Malta, has overnight become a sad reality. Something had to be done, and fast.

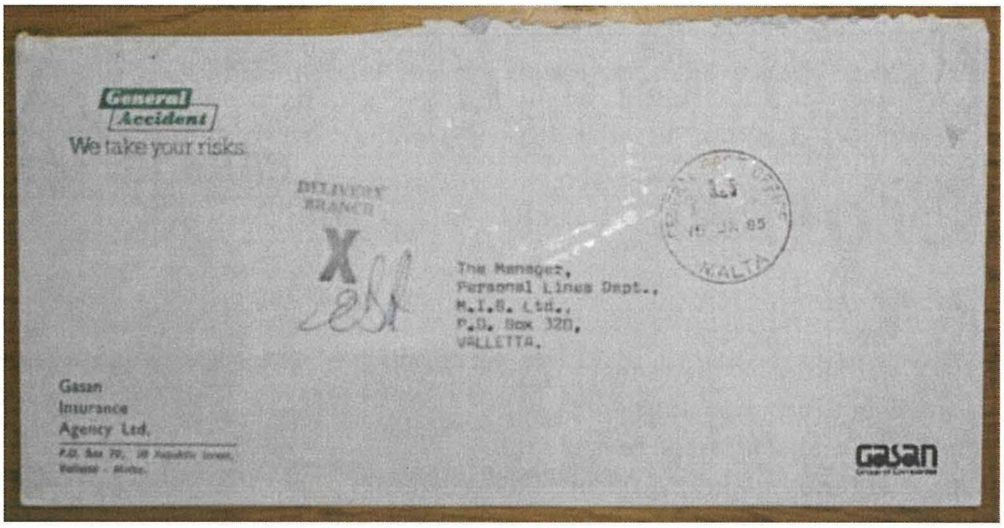
The first step was that all postal objects addressed to persons, or classes of persons perceived to be 'at risk', were vetted for explosives and certified harmless before delivery. These included all medical doctors and surgeons, politicians and the civil and religious authorities.

The early clearance certificate consisted in a manuscript 'X' on the cover signed or initialled by one or more postal officials.

Then, on October 5, 1984, new postal regulations (No. 832) were published in the Government Gazette, to the effect that, in so far as internal mail was concerned, only postcards and normal envelopes clearly containing letters could be posted in mail boxes.

All other bulky items had to be handed in unsealed at a Post Office – Sub-Post Offices excluded – where the sender had to fill in a detailed form and produce his or her identity card. Articles not in accordance with these regulations were returned to sender, or otherwise disposed of as the Postmaster General direction.

All post offices were, meanwhile, provided with special handstamp, representing an X (St. Andrew's cross) with the name of the post office over the 'X'. Some post offices supplied with the 'X' handstamp were: Birkirkara, Cospicua, Gżira, Ħamrun, Luqa, Mosta, Msida, Paola, Qormi, Rabat, Sliema, Valletta, Żabbar, Żejtun, Żurrieq, Mġarr-Gozo and Victoria-Gozo.



The practice of handling in bulky envelopes at Post Office counters, gradually fell into disuse and has, for some years now, been discontinued. Not so the verification of letters addressed to certain persons. The 'X' certification is still to be found on correspondence addressed to Ministers and other classes of professionals in the public eye. This is still sporadically current today.

Besides to the Post Offices, other 'X' handstamps were issued to certify inspection and safety. These were: C.M.R. (Central Mail Room), Delivery Branch, D.L.O. (Dead Letter Office), Govt. Depts., G.P.O. Counter (General Post Office), Parcel Post, and R.L.B. (Registered Letter Branch).

The Karen Grech crosses very considerably in size and thickness. Some (e.g. Żejtun) have been in violet ink; others (e.g. C.M.R.) are occasionally red, even when the postal object is not registered.

As can be imagined, handling in every bulky letter at the Post Offices caused great inconveniances. Occasionally it took hours to fill in the forms, queue up at a counter, assist at the examination of the contents and obtain the 'X' cross before the letter could be inserted in the postal stream.

Karin Maria Grech was the daughter of Professor Edwin Grech, then head of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Luke's Hospital, Malta. In 1977, aged 15, she was killed by a letterbomb addressed to her father. In the presence of her brother Kevin, she opened the package, which she thought to be a present since it was covered in wrapping paper. The bomb exploded, and she died half an hour later at St. Luke's Hospital, due to severe burns on various parts of her body. At her funeral Mass, Archbishop Mikiel Gonzi called the murder of Karin Grech "the first terrorist act in the country".

Emvin Cremona 100th

BY

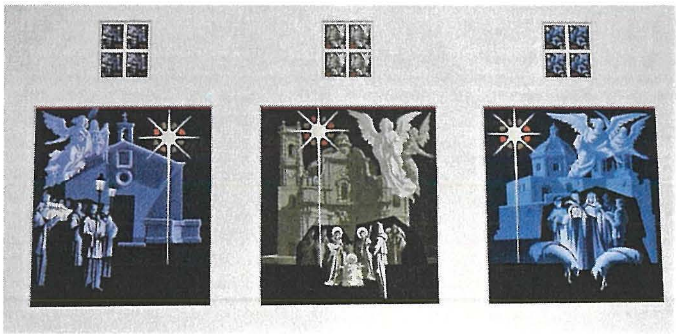
RAMYMOND AGIUS

Emvin Cremona (1919 – 1987) was a Maltese artist and stamp designer. Cremona was born in Valletta on 27th May, 1919, exactly 100 years ago. He is regarded as one of the best Maltese artists of the 20th century. Cremona is known for designing most of the Maltese stamps from 1957 to the 1970s including the stamp issue commemorting Malta's independence from Britian in 1964. He studied at Malta's School of Arts and the Regia Accademia delle Belle Arte in Rome. Some of his works can be found at the Parish Churches of Msida and Ħamrun, Ta' Pinu Sanctuary and the Chapel of the Malta International Airport.

Cremona was responsible for 62 sets of stamps comprising more than 170 different original designs and his involvement in the design of the Maltese postage stamps is considered as the 'Golden Era' of the Maltese philately.

The XV Anniversary of the George Cross Award, issued in 1957, launched Cremona's career as a designer of stamps. His designs for Christmas 1967 were of a huge innovation introducing a triptych format within a trapezoidal shape and with a hint of gold.

He died at Valletta on the 29th of January, 1987, at the age of 67 years.



ABBONA

Din il-ħarġa se toħroġ erba' (4) darbiet fis-sena. Il-ħarġa li jmiss se toħroġ lejn l-aħħar ta' **Diċembru 2019**. Din il-ħarġa hi b'xejn għall-membri kollha tal-għaqda, iżda dawk li mhux membri jridu jħallsu €0.50ċ. Biex tabbona jew tibgħat ittra lill-għaqda ibgħat fuq l-indirizz jew l-email t'hawnhekk.

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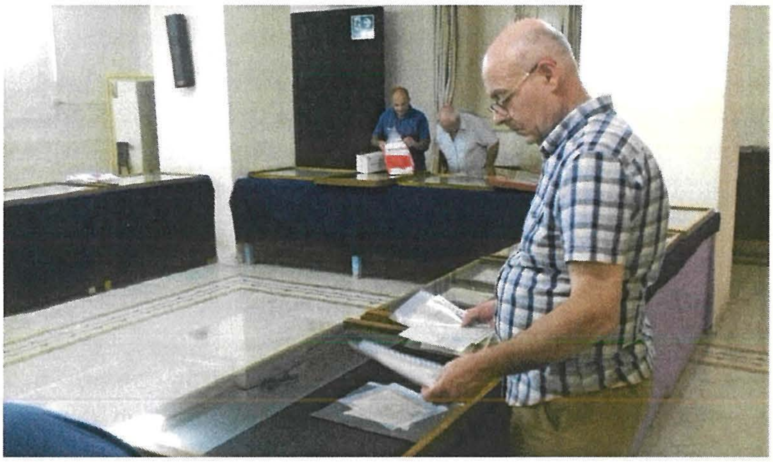

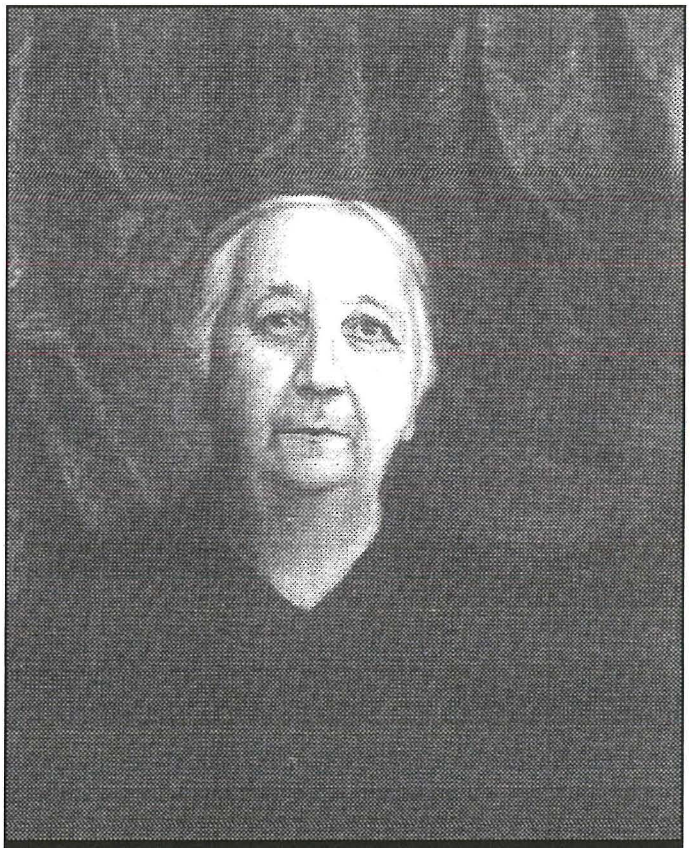

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