



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

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IL-GRUPP FILATELĠKU TAŻ-ŻEJTUN

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SANCTUS IOSEPHUS

F'dan ir-ritratt naraw il-vara ta' San Ġużepp taż-Żejtun li nħadmet mid-ditta Ghezzi f'Milan fl-1906. San Ġużepp li hu l-Missier Putattiv ta' Ġesù, l-aktar li jissemma' fiż-żminijiet tal-Milied, barra minn hekk is-sena l-2020 se tfakkar il-150 sena anniversarju minn meta San Ġużepp ġie ddikjarat bħala l-Patrun tal-Knisja Universali. Din il-vara żżanznet fl-1908 u ħalsu għall-ispejjeż tagħha l-mastrudaxxi Żwieten peress li l-istess qaddis hu l-Patrun tal-Mastrudaxxi. Wara ġie ndurat bid-deheb minn Salvatore Brincat fil-Belt Valletta. Il-ġilju tal-fidda nħadmet minn Pawlu Pace.



RECENT STAMPS

Restricting stamp collection is surely a must for it is so much of a vast subject that it is impossible to cope with world wide issues. However, many... See the article on page 6 >



CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles John Huffam Dickens was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by ... See page 4 >

KURŻITÀ

L-eqdem uffiċċju postali li għadu jopera jinsab f'Sanquhar f'Dumfriesshire, ir-Renju Unit. Dan l-uffiċċju ilu jopera fl-istess binja sa mill-1712. It-tieni l-eqdem uffiċċju postali jinsab f'Stokkolma, l-Iżvezja, li ilu jopera sa mill-1720. Filwaqt li t-tielet l-eqdem jinsab fl-Amerika t'Isfel fil-belt ta' Santiago, iċ-Ċili, li jmur lura għall-1772.

1712

Għaddiet sena ...

MILL-EDITUR

SEAN CHIRCOP



Iż-żmien igerbeeb u ma jistenna lil hadd, ergajna wasalna għall-aħħar tas-sena fejn matul dan ix-xahar niftakru f'dak kollu li seħħ matul is-sena li għaddiet u x'se tkun qed tipprovdilna s-sena l-ġdida. Wieħed mill-akbar avveniment li jorganizza l-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun bla dubju hu l-wirja annwali tal-filatelija li tiġi organizzata waqt Żejt iż-Żejtun. Din is-sena hallejna s-sugġett tal-wirja miftuħ biex kull filatelista ikun jista' jesebixxi l-aqwa xogħol filateliku li jkun wettaq riċerka dwaru fis-sena li għaddiet. Din it-teknika dehret li hadmet hafna tajjeb, peress li l-vizitaturi jkunu jistgħu jaraw sugġetti varji li jistgħu jinteressawhom. B'hekk qed nara li s-sena li ġejja għandna nerġgħu nteleggħu l-wirja bl-istess mod. Min hawn inhegġegħ lil kull wieħed minnkombiex tibdew taraw x'sugġett tixtiequ tiskopru aktar dwaru u f'Settembru li ġej tkunu tistgħu turu r-riċerka tagħkom lill-mijiet ta' vizitaturi.

Matul il-ħarġiet tas-sena 2020 se nkomplu nwasslu lill-qarrejja l-informazzjoni rikka li l-membri tagħna sabu u skoprew għall-wirja tal-filatelija li giet organizzata din is-sena. Dan qed isir biex dak li jkun ikun jista' jaqra dik l-informazzjoni ddettaljata fil-kumdità ta' daru. Dawn l-artikli diġà bdew fil-ħarġa ta' Settembru li għadda.

Matul din is-sena giet ukoll fi tmiemha s-sensiela ta' 25 bolla u kartolina postali li titratta l-istatwi u n-niċeċ fi triqat iż-Żejtun. Din is-sensiela qajmet ferm interess mhux biss fost il-filatelisti, iżda fost il-poplu Żejtuni b'mod ingenerali. Infatti wara li ntemmet dik is-sensiela l-kumdità ta' Wirt iż-Żejtun kien talabni biex jara jekk mhux imħajjar li l-istess ritratti u informazzjoni toħroġ bħala ktieb, barra li kienet saret mixja madwar dawn in-niċeċ. B'hekk fl-ewwel ġimgħat tas-sena 2020 se jkun qed joħroġ il-ktieb 'Statwi u Niċeċ fi Triqatna' kitba tiegħi u pubblikazzjoni ta' Wirt iż-Żejtun. Il-ktieb qed jitqassam b'xejn lill-membri ta' Wirt iż-Żejtun u għal dawk mhux membri qed jinbiegħ 10 ewro.

Nixtieq inħabbar li matul l-2020 il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun se jkun qed joħroġ żewġ bolol personalizzati oħra. F'Marzu se tkun lesta mir-restawr in-Niċċa ta' San Ġużepp li tinsab fi Triq Marsaxlokk, b'hekk hu tajjeb li nagħlqu s-sett tan-niċeċ b'din in-niċċa hekk kif is-sena li ġejja se jkun qed jifakkur il-150 anniversarju minn meta San Ġużepp gie ddikjarat bħala Patron tal-Knisja Universali. Barra minn hekk fl-2020 iż-Żejtun se jkun qed jingħata t-titlu prestiġjuż mill-Unjoni Ewropea bħala d-Destinazzjoni Ewropea ta' Eċċellenza, li matul is-sena li ġejja se noħroġu bolla wkoll bil-logo ta' din l-okkażjoni. Fejn f'din il-gazzetta se nkunu qed nagħtu ħarsa lejn l-importanza ta' dan it-titlu.

Minn hawn nawgura l-Milied it-Tajjeb u s-Sena t-Tajba lill-qarrejja kollha.

Il-Parteċipanti fil-Wirja 2019

Minn hawn nixtieq niringrazzja lill-11-il membru li ħadu sehem fil-Wirja tal-2019: 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. *In absentia mir-ritratt insibu lis-Sur Joseph Carabott, is-Sur Albert Gatt, u s-Sur Paul Żammit.*



A Christmas Carol

BY

MARK-ANTHONY POULTON

Charles John Huffam Dickens was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime, and by the 20th century scholars recognised him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories are still widely read today.

Dickens is probably one of few writers that crossed borders into other countries" stamp repertoire. In 1962 a portrait of Dickens appeared on a Soviet stamp. In 1970 there was a flurry of Dickensian stamps, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Dickens death. Britain and other Commonwealth countries issued commemorative sets featuring Dickens various characters from his novels.



A Christmas Carol recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who on Christmas eve is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning a changed man. He spends the afternoon with his nephew Fred's family. For Christmas dinner he anonymously sends a large turkey to his underpaid clerk Cratchit, and the following day he gives Cratchit an increase in pay and becomes a father figure to Tiny Tim. From then on Scrooge begins to treat everyone with kindness, generosity and compassion, embodying the spirit of Christmas.

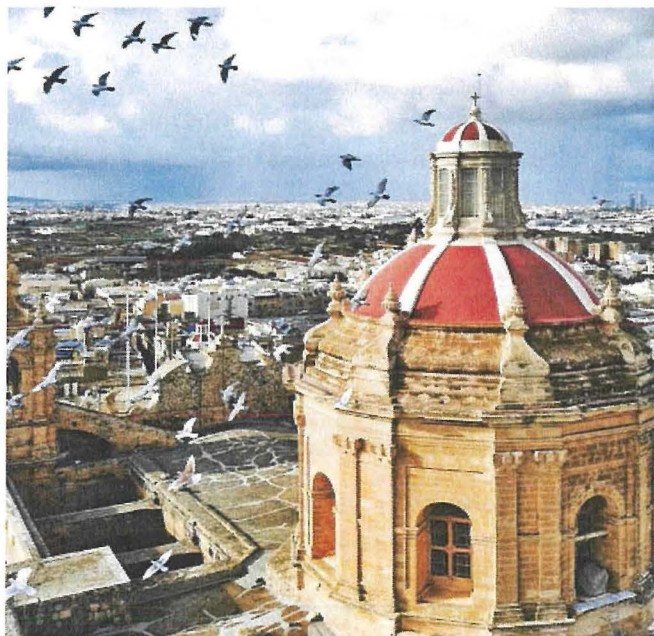


The 1993 Christmas issue, coinciding with the 150th Anniversary of Publication of A Christmas Carol was commemorated with a set of 5 stamps illustrating episodes from the story.

Designed by Quentin Blake and photogravure printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd on Gum PVA Dextrin paper, the stamps have perforations 15 x 14.

Iż-Żejtun Belt Turistika

Ftit gimgħat ilu, fl-aħħar ta' Novembru, kien mument importanti għaż-Żejtun hekk kif ġejna infurmati li matul l-2020 iż-Żejtun se jkun qed jitqies bħala d-Destinazzjoni Ewropea ta' Eċċellenza, fejn se jingħata rikonoxximent u promozzjoni madwar l-Ewropa kollha. Tajjeb li naraw eżatt xi jfisser dan it-titlu ta' destinazzjoni EDEN. Sa mill-2006 minn meta twaqqaf għall-ewwel darba din it-titlu mill-Kumissjoni Ewropea, f'Malta ħadu dan it-titlu 7 lokalitajiet biss, 4 f'Għawdex u 3 f'Malta. L-għan ta' dan it-titlu hu biex jippromovu l-iżvilupp turistiku b'mod sostenibbli lil dawk id-destinazzjonijiet li jaħdmu favur il-valuri tagħhom u jippromovu d-diversità b'diversi modi. Kif ukoll fuq il-ħidma soċjali, kulturali, ambjentali u sportiva ta' dawk l-ibliet mhux daqshekk magħrufa fid-dinja turistika biex jaħdmu fuq turiżmu sostenibbli u ta' kwalità. B'hekk bħala komunità waħda, kull għaqda, għandha tisfrutta dan it-titlu. Dan it-titlu fis-snin passati ħaduh bliet bħal Delphi u Marathon fil-Greċja u Specchia, fl-Italja. B'hekk minn hawn biex nagħtu merħba lis-sena 2020 nistieden lill-għaqdiet, il-parroċċa u lill kull individwu biex fl-1 ta' Jannar, intellgħu l-bandiera taż-Żejtun, bajda bis-salib aħdar żebbuġi, fuq il-bjut biex nagħtu merħba lis-sena 2020 u merħba liż-żewġ okkażjonijiet importanti li iż-Żejtun se jiċċelebra matulha. Hekk kif fl-2020 il-Parroċċa se tkun qed tfakkar ukoll it-300 sena mit-tlestija u t-tberik tal-Katidral tal-Lvant.



ABBONA

Din il-ħarġa se toħroġ erba' (4) darbiet fis-sena. Il-ħarġa li jmiss se toħroġ lejn l-aħħar ta' **Marzu 2020**. 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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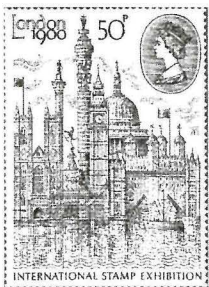
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Recent Stamp Issues

BY

MARIO CASINGENA



Restricting stamp collection is surely a must for it is so much of a vast subject that it is impossible to cope with world wide issues. However, many a time there is that particular stamp which though does not fall within the collector's interests, hits one for the artistic or rather the originality. Example of such stamps 1980 London, herewith enclosed, at a glance the stamp says it all, the main standing historical buildings at the City on the International Stamp Exhibition stamp. All this on a well sized stamp of perforation 14 x 14.5 measuring 43mm x 59mm, a size unaccustomed to on the local philately. Designed by Jeffrey Matthews, a postage stamp designer and who got involved in the Machin definitive issues. Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd. Worth noting the perfect margin running around, the theme of the stamp and the occasion title of the issue at the bottom lower line.

Another, beautiful stamp from Italy shows from where art stems, the simplicity and detail. Matera European Capital of Culture 2019 in sharp contrast with the recent 2018 Malta issue for the same title. The Matera stamp brings out a character of three dimensionality by the deliberate detailed shading and the neatly coloured title a sure fitting addition to the artistic enhancement. Measuring 29mm x 39mm. Lower left corner reads IPZS spa ROMA 2019, this refers to where the printing was undertaken ie Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca. Two and a half million of stamps have been printed. A sketch done by Centro Filatelico Della Direzione Officina Carte Valori e Produzioni Tradizionali. "B zona 1" which according to tariff is a value of €1.15. "Italia" takes an important position on the stamp. The style is claimed to be a technical term rotocalcography, on white paper, neutral patina, self adhesive and non florecent, and a noted clear and clean perforation indeed. However, it is one of those stamps that makes one ask for more delightful information, that is Matera and what it offers to those curious enough.



10 September, brought about the UPU 20 year anniversary of the Express Mail Service that was founded in Beijing in 1999. The developing of express delivery with a high quality, competitive EMS worldwide. The joint common stamp issue presented a contemporary expression of the world map. Each member state in turn introduced the National flag on the lower left corner. Needless to say Malta was embarrassingly invisible on the map, but made up for that by adding the eight pointed cross, on the upper left corner of the stamp.

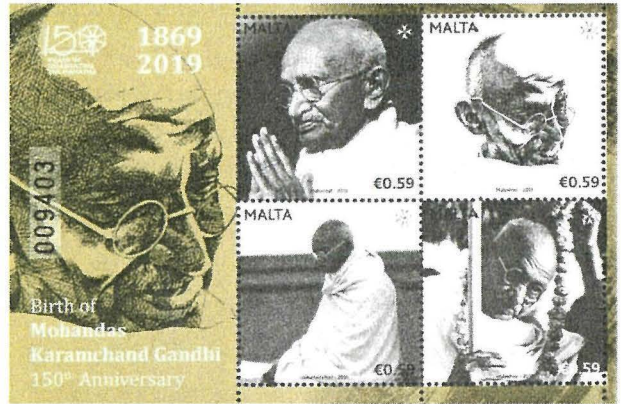
A much priced issue, by Mr Alex Manche' is a real bonus to philately. The original works were prominently on display at Maltex and the artist was also present on the opening night of the annual exhibition. The subject selected goes far beyond the characters that were popular entertainers. Such that they started performing in the difficult years of the second World War, and these gentlemen boosted up the moral of the nation. Charles Clews and Johnny Navarro were more of a household name for decades on end especially when the cumbersome television set became one of the unavoidable living room furniture item. However the type of humour does not in reality exist or fails to fit in the likes, with regret, of present society.



Now, the quality of the presentation is undoubtedly the very best and will surely welcome such level of contribution, to the local philately please. Such type of well known persons as Mr Manche should be encouraged for the artistic works.



02 October, 2019 brought about the issue to commemorate the 150 years from the birth of Gandhi. Denominated at € 0.59, photo type stamps provided by the authority in India. Stamps indeed neatly set up in a miniature sheet, with a clear contrasting colour background. In all fairness while acknowledging Gandhi contribution to world peace, fail at understanding this issue, although quite a number of countries celebrated this. Mind wracking to understand the meaning of the broken circle stamp cancellation, especially the style of 150 in the middle upper part. There had been more important local occasions which missed to be fittingly celebrated such as the centenary of the Eucharistic Congress of 1913 or recently the 1919 issue of St Pauls stamp. Stamp issues have become more erratic or selection with what looks like no fixed issue programme save for two ie the Festa issue on 14 August and Christmas issue.



14 October 2019 a Joint Stamp Issue Malta-Romania, with the theme Architecture Palaces. A good photo stamp and presentation although Verdala Palace is imposing and surely compares nicely with the Romanian palace. Could have slipped in another palace instead of Verdala as this had already featured in 2006.

A extremely beautiful issue, clear sharp photography by professionals. Neat and excellent sheet presentation, the backdrop aptly complementing the whole presentation. The theme, has been on a number of other postal administrations issues but particularly UK way back in 2015. The issue itself highlights apiculture and makes one get down to loads of questions on the subject matter. The issue makes it more interesting collecting sets of used stamps, once the increase in rates come in force!



Kyrgyzstan issued on 28 October 2019, similar impressive stamps, a set of three in different denominations. What has struck me most in the promotion thereof, is a quote from Albert Einstein, "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left." These words carry weight and makes me think on the truth it carries after all.



Christmas Stamps 2019

The same subject has been for three consecutive years and need mention that there has been also 2004 issue. Going back by 55 years to 1964, there is a sharp difference in the quality in presentation in Christmas stamps, there must have been pride. Perhaps the € 0.63 stamp could be interesting, for it is most likely that it is made out of wax and could be carrying real hairs. The € 0.59 stamp has the subject in an off centre position. The first stamp is at € 0.28 when lately this denomination was unavailable, it was explained that there is going to be a rates increase, so have to add an additional 2c stamp?

Shakespeare

BY

 MARK-ANTHONY POULTON



A Midsummer Night's Dream

It portrays the events surrounding the marriage of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, to Hippolyta, the former queen of the Amazons. These include the adventures of four young Athenian lovers and a group of six amateur actors (the mechanicals) who are controlled and manipulated by the fairies inhabiting the forest in which most of the play is set.

Romeo and Juliet

The play is set in Verona, Italy, and recounts the love and death of two young lovers belonging to two feuding families, the Montagues and Capulets.

Twelfth Night

The play centres on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with the Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man.

The Tempest

It is set on a remote island, where the sorcerer Prospero, rightful Duke of Milan, plots to restore his daughter Miranda to her rightful place using illusion and skilful manipulation. He conjures up a storm, the eponymous tempest, to cause his usurping brother Antonio and the complicit King Alonso of Naples to believe they are shipwrecked and marooned on the island. There, his machinations bring about the revelation of Antonio's lowly nature, the redemption of the King, and the marriage of Miranda to Alonso's son, Ferdinand.

King Lear

Derived from the legend of Leir of Britain, a mythological pre-Roman Celtic king, the play depicts the gradual descent into madness of the title character, after he disposes of his kingdom by giving bequests to two of his three daughters egged on by their continual flattery, bringing tragic consequences for all.

Hamlet

Set in Denmark, the play dramatises the revenge Prince Hamlet is called to wreak upon his uncle, Claudius, by the ghost of Hamlet's father, King Hamlet. Claudius had murdered his own brother and seized the throne, also marrying his deceased brother's widow.

Henry V

It tells the story of King Henry V of England, focusing on events immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years' War.

Henry VI

Henry VI is a three part play recounting King Henry VI dealing with the loss of England's French territories and the political machinations leading up to the Wars of the Roses; the King's inability to quell the bickering of his nobles, and the inevitability of armed conflict; and Henry VI dealing with the horrors this conflict.



Macbeth

This tragedy is about a brave Scottish general named Macbeth who receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself. He is then wracked with guilt and paranoia. Forced to commit more and more murders to protect himself from enmity and suspicion, he soon becomes a tyrannical ruler. The bloodbath and consequent civil war swiftly take Macbeth and Lady Macbeth into the realms of madness and death.

Julius Caesar

This historical play and tragedy is based on true events from Roman history, the conspiracy to murder the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, his assassination and the aftermath.

As You Like It

This play recounts the story of the heroine Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle's court, accompanied by her cousin Celia to find safety and, eventually, love, in the Forest of Arden. In the forest, they encounter a variety of memorable characters, notably the melancholy traveller Jaques who speaks many of Shakespeare's most famous speeches.

Richard II

This historical play is based on the life of King Richard II of England. It recounts the King's use of power in the struggle for the crown; the murder of the Duke of Gloucester; the exile of Bolingbroke and Mowbray; the King's seizing of John of Gaunt's estates used to finance the war in Ireland against Bolingbroke; Richard's abdication and yielding of the crown to Bolingbroke; and Richard's murder at the hands of one of King Henry IV's followers.

Much Ado About Nothing

Benedick and Beatrice are tricked into confessing their love for each other, and Claudio is tricked into rejecting Hero at the altar on the erroneous belief that she has been unfaithful. At the end, Benedick and Beatrice join forces to set things right, and the others join in a dance celebrating the marriages of the two couples.

Sonnet 30

Sonnet 30 is one of the 154 sonnets written by William Shakespeare. The narrator spends time remembering and reflecting on sad memories of a dear friend. He grieves of his shortcomings and failures, but remembering happier moments helps him to recover allowing him to stop mourning.

Venus and Adonis

The poem tells the story of Venus, who is the goddess of Love, of her unrequited love, and of her attempted seduction of Adonis, an extremely handsome young man, who would rather go hunting. The poem is pastoral, and at times erotic, comic, and tragic. It contains discourses on the nature of love, and brilliantly described observations of nature.

William Shakespeare Stamps - Philatelic Details

1964 (April 23)

Designed by David Gentleman the stamps were photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd. and perforated 15 x 14. Each of the four low values depict a 16th-century set from one of Shakespeare's plays. In contrast, the 2s6d was the first commemorative since the £1 Postal Union Congress stamp of 1929 to be line-engraved. The stamps were designed by the brothers Robin and Christopher Ironside, recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson and with 11 x 12 perforations. This was the only stamp in the set to bear the name of the play.

1982 (April 28)

A set of four stamps was issued to commemorate British Theatre. The 26p stamp depicts Hamlet contemplating the skull of Yorick. The stamps were designed by Adrian George and photogravure-printed by Harrison & Sons on Gum PVA Dextrin paper and perforated 14 x 15.

1988 (June 21)

This set of four stamps was a joint issue with the Australian postal authorities issued to commemorate The Australian Bicentenary. The stamps were designed by Garry Emery and printed by The House of Questa on Gum PVA Dextrin paper and perforated 14.5 x 14.5.

1995 (March 21)

The UK Royal Mail issued a booklet of ten stamps and ten greetings entitled, 'Greetings in Art', with one of the stamps featuring an illustration by Eric Gill from Shakespeare's book 'All the Love Poems of Shakespeare'. Designed by Newell and Sorrell, the stamps were offset-lithograph printed by Walsall Security Printers on Gum PVA paper and finished with 15 x 14 perforations.

1995 (August 8)

The UK Royal Mail issued a set of 5 stamps featuring open theatre to mark the Reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. One of the 25p stamps features Shakespeare and characters from his plays. The stamps were designed by C. Walter Hodges, offset-lithograph printed by Walsall Security Printers on Gum PVA paper and perforated 14.5 x 14.

2006 (July 18)

The portrait of Shakespeare from the National Portrait Gallery was featured in one of the ten stamps designed by Peter Willberg. The stamps were gravure printed by De La Rue Security Print on Gum PVA paper and finished with 14 x 14 perforations

**2011 (April 12)**

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) stamps highlight six productions from the past five decades, reflecting the wide range of work produced by the company. The productions featured six of Shakespeare's plays. While a four-stamp miniature sheet features the RSC's theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon. The stamps and miniature sheet were designed by Hat-trick Design and gravure printed by Walsall Security Printers, on Gum PVA paper with 14.5 x 14.5 perforations.

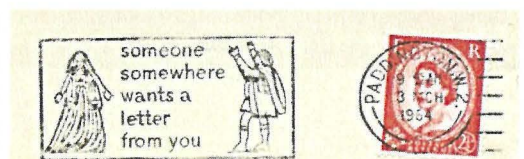
2016 (April 5)

This commemorative set depicts quotes from ten plays by Shakespeare. The stamps were lithograph printed by International Security Printers on Gum PVA paper with 14.5 x 14.5 perforations.

2018 (August 30)

This set of eight stamps was issued to commemorate the bicentenary of the Old Vic, one of the most important venues in the UK's performing history which played an important part in the development of modern British theatre, with many great actors making their names on its influential stage. Designed by Hat-Trick Design, the stamps were lithograph printed by International Security Printers on Gum PVA paper with 14.5 x 14 perforations

Shakespeare and his plays were featured in other various philatelic material, including First Day Covers, Presentation Pack covers, GB booklet covers, aerogrammes, special commemorative postmarks and even a nationwide slogan depicting Gentleman's images of Romeo and Juliet with the caption "Someone somewhere wants a letter from you".



Il-Ftuħ tal-Wirja

Historia Melitensis

