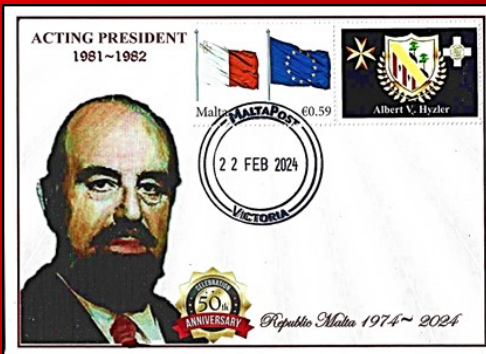


# The Presidents Series



Like us on

facebook



# 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;

**FIRST CARDS FROM THE SERIES TO CELEBRATE  
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**

PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF CANBERRA



Large Silver Medal awarded  
to the Gozo Philatelic  
Society Magazine

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

*First issued on 12 February 2000*

*Editor: Austin Masini — Designer Anthony Grech*

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

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

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

*e-mail address: [secretary@stamps-gozo.org](mailto:secretary@stamps-gozo.org)*

© All rights reserved. Requests for reproduction of contents  
should be addressed to the Secretary.

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

### CONTENTS.

G.P.S. Diary	Antoine Vassallo	3
Fort Manoel	Vincent Zammit	4
French Art Bicentenaries	Antoine Vassallo	9
Philatelic Centennials: 2 Doubts! (2023?)	Antoine Vassallo	10
In Memory of John Attard	Jesmond Borg	13
Celebrity philatelists King Carol II	Antoine Vassallo	14
Gozo on Malta Stamps (series)	Anthony Grech	15
Xewkija Windmill stamp exhibition	Rachel Debattista	19
E & O <u>not</u> E	Antoine Vassallo	20
2nd artist designed 1000 stamps	Antoine Vassallo	24
Numismatic Special (6) Ghana	Antoine Vassallo	25
Welldone Boys (Gozo Seminary students)	Anthony Grech	26
Newsletters 81 - 90 list of contents	Antoine Vassallo	27
Secretary's 2023 Report	Antoine Vassallo	29
GPS Annual General Meeting 2024	Jesmond Borg	31

To commemorate the 50th. anniversary of the Republic of Malta, the Gozo Philatelic Society is issuing, in a limited edition of 100, a series of 14 cards showing those holding the post of President. The cards are being issued periodically throughout 2024. Each card costs €3.00, postage free to Malta and Gozo.

For more information please contact Anthony Grech on e mail  
[tonigrech@gmail.com](mailto:tonigrech@gmail.com) or call 21553338.

*G.P.S. Diary*

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

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



**9 December 2023** Committee makes postmortem of the Exhibition and agrees on two Statute changes. AGM and EGM date decided.

**15 December** Newsletter 90 announces Presidents project.

**25 January 2024** First Presidents issue for the Republic’s Golden Jubilee.

**26 January** GPS showcase at Il-Haġar set up with AirMalta first flights from Juncker collection

**27 January** Secretary shared GPS news during MSC virtual meeting

**28 January** EGM, followed by AGM (see?)

**29 January** GPS President Jesmond Borg takes up the additional post of Malta Philatelic Society Vice-president

**2 February** Anton Buttigieg is second Presidents issue.

**2 February** Opening of GPS exhibition at Xewkija Windmill

**17 February** New Committee formed at first meeting after AGM:

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

**22 February** Acting Albert Hyzler is third Presidents issue

**29 February** GPS showcase at Il-Haġar set up with “Lent to Easter” items, in the Gozo Ministry’s *Ghid* initiative.

**29 February** GPS back on Facebook: new group Stamps - Gozo Philatelic Society

**4 March** Agata Barbara is fourth Presidents issue

**16 Mar** Committee decides about a proposed new Malta Encyclopedic Stamp Catalogue and various events.  
Special AGM

**Never upset your postman.  
He knows where you live.**

Liv Gardener



# FORT MANOEL HISTORY CORNER



*Vincent Zammit*



Throughout their long stay in Malta, the Knights of the Order of St John were preoccupied with making sure that the islands would be well protected. This led to various building projects associated with defence. Towers, coastal batteries, lines of fortifications, forts and cities were built. The style of military architecture was to change as well. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Order was favouring the French style, and thus what was built during this century carries that military imprint.

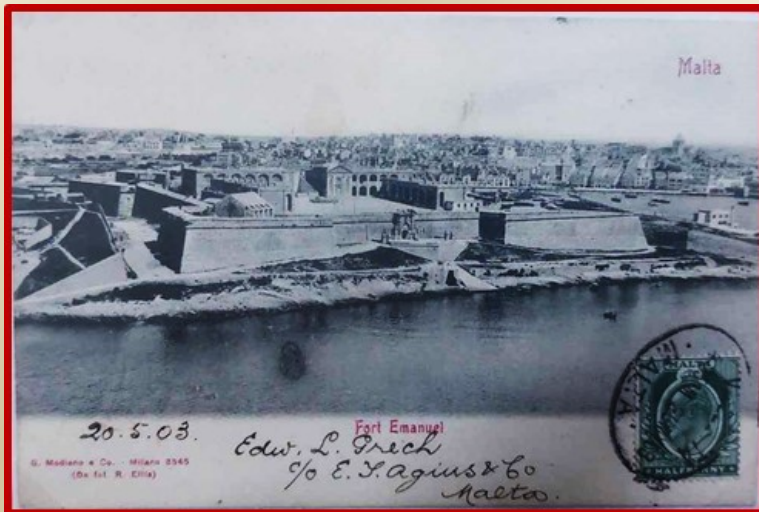
The 18th century saw the building of Fort Manoel, on the small island at Marsamxett Harbour. There had been various suggestions for the building of some kind of fortification on this island, especially after the building of Valletta. Yet, due to various other important projects, nothing was ever done with these suggestions. During the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, the Order had acquired the island from the Bishop's Curia, in exchange for other land, in order to build a quarantine hospital.

In 1722 there was elected the Portuguese Knight, Don Antonio Manoel de Vilhena as the Grand Master of the Order. A year later, The Grand Master commissioned the Order's resident military engineer, Charles Francois Mondion, to plan a fort on the island. Mondion made use of another plan, devised by his former mentor, Brigadier Rene Jacob de Tigne, and elaborated on it. The first stone of the new fort was laid with great pomp on 14 September 1723. This fort could be built through the generosity of the Grand Master, and it was fitting that it was named Fort Manoel. The date on the main entrance is 1726, although it is known that the fort was not completed by this date. Besides the barracks, and the quarters for the officers, the fort had a beautiful church dedicated to St Anthony of Padova. The main gate

faces Valletta, and it was protected by a *couvre porte*, offering the necessary protection to the entrance of the Fort.

In the 1730s a bronze monument depicting Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena was commissioned by a Knight and placed in the centre of the *piazza d'armi*. This statue was cast in bronze by the Order's founder, Aloisio Bouchut, and it is attributed to have been designed by the Maltese Pietro Paolo Troisi.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Fort was used by the British forces, several structural changes were carried out. During the later years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one of the two gunpowder magazines that were located on St Helen Bastion and St Andrew Bastion, was demolished to have a gun emplacement and its underground magazine. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there were a number of alterations due to the fact that the artillery pieces continued to be changed according to the new needs. In 1941 the 10<sup>th</sup> Submarine Flotilla, made up with British and Polish submarines, was based at Fort Manoel. The Fort received a number of this during the various aerial attacks during World War Two, and one of the casualties was the church of St Anthony. After it was abandoned by the British forces, the Fort suffered a lot of damage through vandalism. Today MIDI Consortium has started its restoration and rehabilitation.



The postcard

The postcard that we have is interesting for the various details that it provides us with. The postcard was sent on 20 May 1903. Next to the written date, there is the name of the printer, G. Modiano, who was a printer stationed in Milan (Bonello, 2010, pp. xiii-xxvii). One notices that the Fort is called Emanuel, and this name has been noticed on various other postcards of the period.

The view of the Fort indicates some of the changes that occurred during the British period. The bronze statue of Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena is missing from the centre of the parade ground. The church dedicated to St Anthony of Padua can clearly be seen. The gunpowder magazine on St Helen's Bastion is still standing, while the other one, on St Anthony's Bastion, is missing from this postcard, since the British authorities wanted to have better firepower to defend the entrance of Marsamxett Harbour. The dominating dome of Stella Maris church, Sliema, can be seen on the right-hand side of the photo.

**A postcard with interesting historical details.**

Various were the military engineers who had suggested the defence of this island, as early as the time when Valletta was being built. Scipione Campi was amongst the first. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, other military engineers in Malta suggested the defence of the island, and some of them provided detailed plans for such fortifications (Zammit, 1999, pp. 104-106).

Grand Master Antonio Manoel de Vilhena reigned between 1722 and 1736. His monument is to be found in the Chapel of St James, which belonged to the Langue of Castile, Leon and Portugal, at St John's Co Cathedral, Valletta.

Charles Francois de Mondion (1683-1733) arrive din Malta in 1715 and was to remain working here as the resident engineer of the Order. Mondion died on 25 december 1733 and he was buried in the crypt of the Chruuch of St Anthony of Padove, located at Fort Manoel.

St Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal, and that is why the



Portuguese Grand Master built a church dedicated to this saint. The church was well endowed with all necessary furnishings, and it had 5 altars. This used to be a small defensive work, which offered protection to the main entrance of a fortification.

This was a large open parade ground, usually surrounded by barracks and other important buildings.

Aloisio Bouchut was a master founder of the Order’s foundry (today known as Palazzo Ferreria), located in Valletta. His uncles were the Menville brothers, both of whom were also founders working for the Order. Aloisio Bouchut is credited with having cast a number of bells for churches around the Maltese Islands (Debono, 2005, pp. 288-294).

Pietro Paolo Troisi (1686-1750) was a prolific baroque artist. He was also the master of the Mint of the Order of St John. He is credited with having produced busts of Grand Masters, designs for triumphal arches, coins and medals, amongst other works.

Spiteri, 1991.



The statue of Grand Master de Vilhena was transferred to Valletta in 1858. It was placed in present day Republic Square. Eventually it was moved to Floriana, to make way for the monument to queen Victoria.

**Bibliography.**

Briffa, J. A., 2009. *Pietro Paolo Troisi (1686-1750): A Maltese Baroque Artist*. Malta: International Institute for Baroque Studies.

Debono, J., 2005. *Art and Artisans in St John's and other Churches in the Maltese Islands ca 1650-1800 - stone carving, marble, bells, clocks and organs*. Malta: s.n.

Spiteri, S. C., 1991. *The British Fortifications*. Valletta: s.n.

Zammit, V., 1999. *Is-Swar u l-Fortifikazzjonijiet*. Malta: PIN Pubblikazzjonijiet Indipendenza.



Hand painted first day cover. 300th. Anniversary Foundation of Fort Manoel 1723 ~2023. Issued 14 September 2023





**Gericault**

## PHILATELIC ARTISTS (3)

### French Bicentenaries



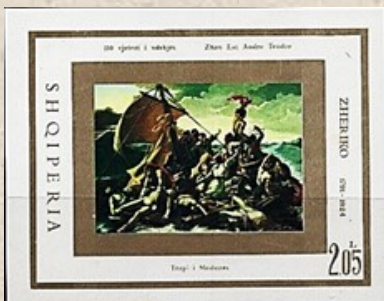
**Boudin**

*Antoine Vassallo looks randomly at Art on Stamps*

Two bicentenaries of French artists can be celebrated during 2024.

Painter and lithographer Theodore (more fully, Jean-Louis André Théodore) **Gericault** was born in 1794 and died in 1824. Despite such a short life he succeeded in having an important influence on the Romantic movement.

Probably his best-known painting is *Le radeau de la Méduse* (originally, *Scène de Naufrage* but better known internationally as “The Raft of the Medusa”), featured on an Albania miniature sheet as part of a 1974 set celebrating his 150th death anniversary (Zheriko is the Albanian version of the surname). This huge oil (about 5 by 7 metres), now at the Louvre, was quite controversial at the time because it showed so vividly a real-life tragedy.



An “Imperial House Guard” was included in 1962 within the interminable examples of artworks issued by France.

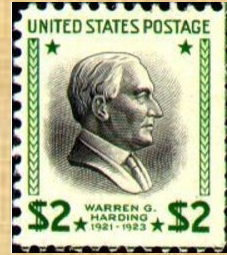


Born in 1824, Eugène Louis **Boudin** (who died in 1898) has

remained known mainly as a marine and landscape painter. Numerous personalities praised his impressionist style to high heavens.

This sheet of four typical examples was issued (possibly unofficially!) by the Solomons in 2013. The first shows the lighthouse at Honfleur, with some fashionable people visiting the beach on the second. Dieppe harbour is shown on the third, while the final painting features a windmill at Cayeux.





## PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

*presented by Antoine Vassallo*

### **2 Doubts! (2023?)**

The United States Posts commemorated President Harding in 1923 soon after his demise.

Warren Gamaliel Harding - born in 1865 - was the 29th president, serving from 1921 until his death (through a sudden heart attack) on 2 August 1923. Harding's unexpected death prompted the issue of a black 2 cents stamp, unofficially referred to as the Harding Memorial issue.

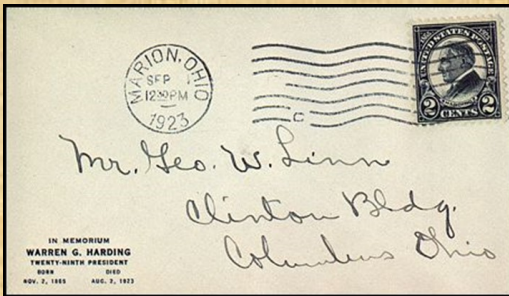


Clair (also known as Charles) Aubrey Huston managed to design it in just one day! He was chief postage stamp designer at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and often adapted existing pictures. In this case his engraving was modelled after a copperplate etching of the late president. He also adjusted slightly the borders of the current definitives (“Fourth Bureau issue”). All this permitted these stamps – which included different shades and perforations – to be issued within weeks in millions. This short gap remains a US record!

Even though he now tends to be given a negative valuation by historians, Warren Harding appeared in a number of later American stamps. In 1925 he was added to the definitives after simply changing face value and colour; a new portrait was issued in 1930. He returned in 1938 and 1986. And there is really no point in mentioning that other countries have found some

excuse to feature him!

But why am I treating this subject in this series? Simply because stamps



exist with September 1st 1923 cancellation on envelopes with printed commemorative inscriptions (actual illustrations were to appear later). This first cacheted FDC can be considered as the start of FDC collecting. That was surely George W

Linn's intention when producing these covers!

First Day Covers obviously exist from the beginning of stamps and philately, in the sense that lucky collectors can possess examples with clear dates which are the same as the official record of particular stamps. But we are speaking of intentional markings.

Interestingly it was only in 1922 that the United States decided that



“henceforth every new stamp issued will have a designated first day of issue.” The first stamp issued under this new policy was the 10 cents Special Delivery stamp – on 12 July.

Then, for the first time in US history, an issue occurred on an announced date and in an announced city. It was a definitives addition,



showing President Rutherford Birchard Hayes. As 1922 marked the centenary of his birth, the Posts wanted to issue the stamp on his birthday in his hometown – with a small ceremony on 4 October in Fremont, Ohio.

So it is debatable whether 1922 or 1923 was the beginning!

And uncertainty exists too about this other centennial – but on the European continent. The year 1923 saw the introduction by a small issuer of a new idea, philatelic rather than postal.



Luxembourg marked the 22 December 1922 birth of Princess Elisabeth with a single stamp on 3 January within broad margins. The green stamp – and thus, *Grènge Block* – carried a view of the capital, engraved by Parisian artist Henri-Lucien Cheffer.

This 2023 centenary was in fact celebrated with a reissue, bearing a €5 value instead of the original 10 francs.



The same design (seen from the park in front of Fort Thüngen) had been reissued in black as a normal stamp in March 1923.



Princess Elisabeth (eldest daughter of Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Felix) was the subject of a five value set on her fifth birthday.

This particular issuer continued with this “experiment”, soon imitated

by an expanding cohort. This first miniature sheet was quite simple but later decades offered increasingly complicated and “attractive” designs.



This 1946 example by Luxembourg itself is much more colourful, adapting a set of four stamps honouring heroes who worked bravely in the underground to help defeat the Nazi occupiers. The surtax was for the National Welfare Fund.

Miniature sheets from Malta were

introduced in three consecutive Christmas issues (1971 to 1973), always including the three stamps forming the set.

Quoting from James Mackay's *Philatelic Terms*, a miniature sheet is "a small sheet containing a single stamp, pair, block or set with wide, inscribed and/or decorative margins". He further notes that the stamps may "differ in colour, value or perforation from those issued in more conventional sheet form".

One must add that the terms "miniature sheet" and "souvenir sheet" are widely considered – even if probably not quite correctly – as synonyms. But the latter often covers "stamps" which are not actually valid for postage and thus more properly included within the class of cinderellas. In fact this grey area of unofficial – and non-formal – productions has resulted in uncertainties about which early "miniature sheets" should be given an MS number!



## In Memory of John Attard.

It is with deepest sorrow that we inform our members of the passing away of a friend and a long standing member of the Gozo Philatelic Society who went to rest in the loving Arms of his Creator on 20 January 2024, aged 81 years. Loved and never forgotten by his sons and all the family, relatives and friends and by the President, committee and members of The Gozo Philatelic Society.

## CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

*Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors.*

### KING CAROL II OF ROMANIA



Carol II (1893 to 1953) was the King of Romania between 1930 and 1940; he then abdicated and lived in exile until he died. But what really interests us is that – besides the fact that stamps were issued with his image - he was a legendary collector. His biographies tend to conclude that his only really serious interest was stampcollecting!

Probably the most important item in his collection was the famous 1857 Swedish Treskilling Yellow (between 1937 and 1950). He certainly added a splash of glamour and glitz to the world of stamps at the time, concentrating on classic stamps to 1870.

Carol II held many of the rarest stamps from his homeland, including the famous Moldavia “Bulls”. Though there are extensive records of the exact items, unfortunately many of them have vanished – possibly used as collateral to raise funds for a property in Mexico (the country where he first stayed in exile). He also owned the spectacular 1847 Mauritius “Post Office” 1d tied to an envelope by a rectangular “PAID”, known as the One Penny Ball Invitation Envelope. Another great rarity he possessed was the 1851 Spain 2 reales blue error of colour vertical pair. For unknown reasons, his Western Australia 1855 4d Inverted Swan didn’t resurface until the 1980’s. Interestingly, in 1937 he purchased a Bermuda 1856 Perot’s First Issue in red on blue paper, which mysteriously disappeared en route!

This legendary collector – or “Philatelic Exile” - brought to our hobby a dollop of intrigue, plenty of mystery and a castle full of cash.



1847 Mauritius “Post Office” 1d tied to an envelope



# GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS

Issued by Malta Postal Administrations through the years  
continued from issue no 90

Anthony Grech

## DOGS



Face Values; 16c Multicolour. *Kelb tal Kacca*  
Gozitan Hunting Dog.  
Issued, 20 October 2001. No Watermark  
Printers; Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Ludwig Flak.

## PERSONALITIES



Face Value; 3c Green.  
Sir Adrian Dingli,  
Face value 35c . Brown  
Archpriest Saverio Cassar  
Issued 18 October 2002  
No Watermark.  
Printers; Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Harry Borg.  
The 35c value was also  
issued with missing dot on  
the 'c' in the value tablet.



## SAINT GEORGE'S PAINTINGS

Face Value; 14c  
Multicolour  
Main Altarpiece  
St George's  
Basilica,  
Victoria  
23 April 2003  
No Watermark.  
Printers;  
Bundesdruckerei  
Designer;  
Joseph Mizzi



## QUEEN ELIZABETH II CORONATION JUBILEE

Face Values; 15c Brown and Black  
*Queen Elizabeth in Victoria.*  
Issued, 3.06 2003. No Watermark Printers;  
Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Harry Borg



## WINDMILLS

Face Value; 27c Grey  
Ta' Kola Windmill Xaghra Gozo  
Issued 29 October 2003  
No Watermark.  
Printers; Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Mark A. Vella



## LETTER BOXES

Face Value; 22c. 76c  
Multicolour  
KG V Wall letter Box at  
Munxar Gozo  
Queen Elizabeth II  
Victoria Gozo  
Issued 12 March 2004  
No Watermark.  
Printers; Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Alfred Caruana



## WAYSIDE CHAPELS

Face Values; 66c Multicolour  
**Ta' Santa Marija Comino.**  
Issued, 16 June 2004  
No Watermark.  
Printers; Bundesdruckerei  
Designer; Rene Sacco

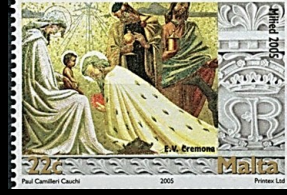




**OLD MAPS OF MALTA AND  
GOZO** Face Values; 1c, 37c and Lm 1.02.  
Multicolour. Gozo and Comino  
Issued 19 January 2005. Watermark: Maltese  
Crosses. Printers; Printex Ltd  
Designer; Alfred Caruana Ruggier.



**ROTARIANS**  
Face Value; 27c. Multicolour  
Map of Gozo and Comino  
Issued 23 February 2005  
Maltese Crosses.  
Printers; Printex Ltd  
Designer; Martin Bonavia



Watermark.Maltese Crosses.  
Printers; Printex Ltd

**CHRISTMAS 2005**  
Face Values; 7c. 16c. 22c. and 50c. Multicolour  
Mosaics from Our Lady of Ta Pinu National Sanctuary  
Issued 12 October 2005 Designer; Alfred Camilleri Cauchi



**HOLY WEEK TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS**  
Face Values; 22c. Multicolour  
The Burial of Christ  
Designed by Gozitan artist Wistin Camilleri  
  
Issued 12 April 2006  
Watermark. Maltese Crosses Printers; Printex Ltd  
Photos by Joe P. Smith

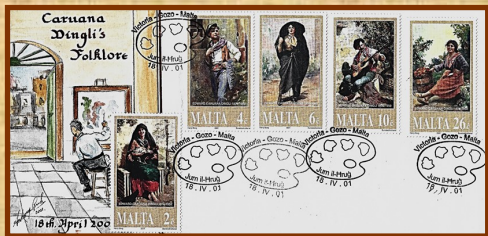


## Xewkija Windmill Stamp Exhibition

Rachel Debattista

As part of its 25th Anniversary events the Gozo Philatelic Society launched an exhibition entitled 'Folklore of Malta; in stamps & postcards'. The exhibition was held in the Xewkija Windmill, also known as the 'Eight Corner' windmill, situated at the entrance to the village of Xewkija.

The unique and exclusive exhibition delved into Malta's rich folklore through the fascinating medium of philately, as stamps and postcards give insight into the cultural practices and norms of days gone by. Exhibits included; a vast array of early 20th century Malta postcards depicting the traditional *ghonnella* and a good selection of unique hand painted First Day Covers. Another two exhibits documented Windmills and milling featured on Malta stamps and Xewkija featured on Malta stamps. The event was organized in collaboration with the Culture Heritage Directorate and the exhibition was open during February and March 2024.



Apart from the usual exhibitions held in its showcase at Il-Haġar Museum, the Gozo Philatelic Society will host another during August at the Xewkija Windmill.



# E & O not E

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

## Jenny coincidences

*Antoine Vassallo*

The possibility of airmail delivery had been debated and dismissed for nearly a decade in the United States of America; but suddenly in 1918 – during World War I - Postmaster General Burleson announced that service would begin between New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. He entered into an agreement with the War Department - who later notified the Army Air Service - to provide planes and pilots (who would thus have flight training).



Postmaster General Burleson

Reuben Fleet

Lieutenant Torrey Webb

Major Reuben Fleet, an Army executive officer in charge of planning instruction placed in charge of making the necessary arrangements, faced a shortage of planes, pilots, airfields, and mechanics. He reported that the best plane available was the Curtiss JN-4D Jenny but its “maximum range is 88 miles at a cruising speed of 66 miles per hour”.

The Postal Department originally denied that a special stamp would be issued for airmail letters since normal ones were acceptable. However no available

stamp had the 24 cent denomination, “arbitrarily” decided as fee for Special Delivery airmail transportation. At eight times the regular first class rate, the cost actually seemed outrageous to many!

Finally a decision was made to produce a “patriotic” red, white, and blue stamp to inaugurate the revolutionary new service and lift war-weary spirits. The formal request for the new stamp reached the Bureau of Engraving and Printing less than two weeks before the first flight, scheduled to leave Washington on 15 May.

Working around the clock was necessary to design, engrave, and print the first bi-coloured U.S. stamp since 1901. Using a War Department photo, experienced Bureau employee Clair Aubrey Huston designed a blue vignette featuring the Curtiss *Jenny* JN-4 surrounded by a red frame. The tight deadline was met: the 24c airmails were placed on sale in the late afternoon of 13 May, a Monday. (In the next months, the rate was diminished twice, requiring the issue of 16 and 6 cents monocoloured stamps).



Meanwhile, Fleet was securing airplanes, selecting pilots, and untangling a host of other details, such as the flight plan. Two planes were to leave New York and Washington respectively, meeting in Philadelphia to exchange mailbags and refuel before returning.

On 15 May several hundreds – including President Woodrow Wilson - gathered at Washington’s Polo Grounds to witness history. Lieutenant George Boyle climbed inside the *Jenny* which carried bags containing 5500 letters. But the engine wouldn’t start: the plane was out of fuel and mechanics had to siphon it quickly out of nearby planes. Boyle flew off 45 minutes late, barely clearing nearby trees. And more problems awaited!

Instructed to follow the train tracks north, Boyle became disoriented and used a southeastern branch of the track – and crashed, luckily escaping injury. The mailbags aboard the upside down *Jenny* No. 38262 were quietly brought back to Washington to be flown the following day.

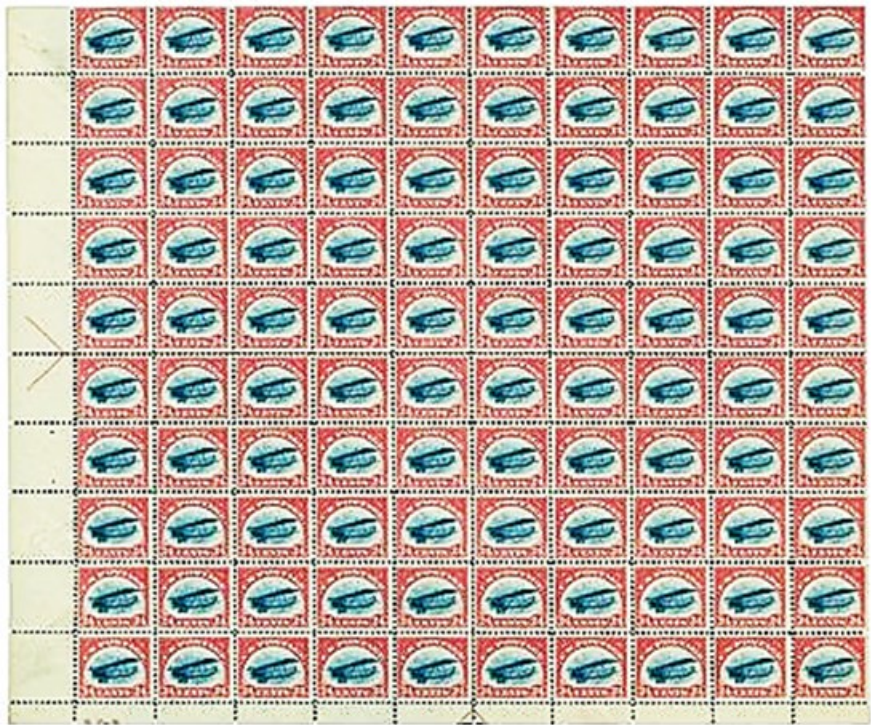
In the meantime, Lieutenant Torrey Webb left New York and arrived safely in Philadelphia. His mailbags were transferred to the waiting plane piloted by Lieutenant James Edgerton who arrived in Washington early that afternoon. Thus America’s first airmail service was established.

Looking at the design, one surely notes the clear number: 38262 – exactly the engine number on Lieutenant George Boyle’s actual biplane. This is quite mysterious since the engraving took place before it was decided which plane was going to be used!



On an international philatelic level, this first USA airstamp is widely known especially because of the “Inverted Jenny”. This does not refer to the fact that the inaugural flight ended with the plane finishing upside-down in a field!

Just a day after the stamp was issued, stamp collector William Robey visited Washington’s New York Avenue branch to buy a complete sheet and – as he described it - his “heart stood still” when he noticed that the planes were inverted on the stamps offered by the employee (who had never seen a



plane). Of course the technology then meant that the sheets, to be bi-coloured, had to pass through the presses twice; in fact other similar defective sheets had been discarded during production and destroyed.

Robey shared this information with a friend who tried to get some at the office. This alerted the postal authorities who stopped sales until stocks at all branches could be checked. The lucky William contacted stamp dealers until selling the sheet to Eugene Klein for \$15,000: a 62500% profit! Within days, Klein sold to Colonel Edward Green for five thousand dollars more. The sheet was broken up – except for the plate number block – and the stamps individually numbered.

It would take too long to detail the various philatelists and investors

who got involved along these hundred years. But it's not amiss to mention that in 2013 the United States Postal Service celebrated this famous stamp error through a miniature sheet containing six exact reproductions – but at a \$2 face. The design around them (selvage) shows the National Postal Museum, aviation pioneer Reuben H. Fleet, and a map of the first route. To generate more interest, the Postmaster General requested that the Postal Service create hundred additional sheets that showed the biplane upright - to be randomly distributed.





# IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT....

## a second artist has designed 1,000 stamps?



**Martin Mörck**, is the world's most productive living stamp designer and engraver: his thousandth stamp was issued on 11 August 2023. The stamp (in fact a miniature sheet) shows Emil Krause's 1933 painting titled "Returning from Fishing", reflecting the cultural identity of

the Faroe Islands - and not excluding the Faroese landscape. This 128 x 98 cm oil hangs on the dining room wall of another artist's home in Klaksvík: Edward Fuglø. The painting depicts three tired fishermen on the rugged Viðareiði shores. Danish painter Krause (1871-1945) is known to have visited the Faroes twice and his depictions surely help in understanding Faroese society.

Martin Mörck is the second stamp artist ever to complete 1000 stamps ~ the first was the late Czeslaw Slania. Actually Martin's



thousand designs and/or engravings have appeared on almost 1200 stamps by some thirty postal administrations, 40 of these productions issued by the Faroes (with a further 8 vending machine "franking labels"). Besides engraving the stamp, he also designed the FDC cancellation (depicting him while engraving his thousandth).

Slania held the record for the largest hand-engraved stamp (55 x 75 mm), but the Faroese Post Office has even beaten this: 62 x 82 mm! The

printers are France's La Poste.

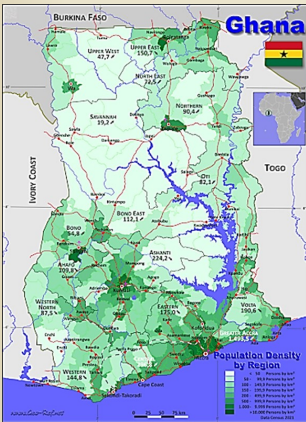


# NUMISMATIC Special (6)

*Antoine Vassallo*

After such a wide article in the previous instalment, I now concentrate very simply on just one African country.

**Ghana** (the former Gold Coast colony) celebrated its introduction of decimal currency in 1965, the denomination agreeing with the stamp value. This set was produced by Dutch security printers Enschedé. All four copper-nickel coins – by the Royal Mint (London) - show the then President (“Founder”) and a five-pointed star, so prominent on its flag. In fact Kwame Nkrumah, a former Prime Minister who became President in 1960, was deposed in 1966 – quite soon after his coin appearance!



The 5 pesewas was in a 12-notch scallop shape, with a smooth edge. Its weight was just over 4 grams, with a 22mm diameter.



The engraver was Cecil

Walter Thomas, British sculptor and medallist. The 10 pesewas was round, with a reeded edge, weighing more than 3 grams. Its diameter was 20 millimetres. Both the 25 and 50 pesewas were similar to the 10, with changed dimensions. The 25 had a weight of 8.65g and a 27.4mm diameter, while the final one weighed just under 14 grams and had a diameter of 32mm. All bear a prominent inscription or slogan: CIVITATIS GHANIENSIS CONDITOR.



This design was replaced in 1967, with numerous additional

denominations and a changed FREEDOM AND JUSTICE inscription to accompany the new “Food” theme.



The 2006 United Nations (New York office) stamp in the long “flag & coin” series - designed by creative director Rorie Katz and printed by Cartor - shows an example.



## WELL DONE, BOYS!



Sacred Heart Seminary School Headmaster Fr. Charles Sultana, GPS Secretary Antoine Vassallo and GPS Vice President Anthony Grech with students who participated in our 23rd Annual Exhibition showing their certificates and prizes sponsored by MaltaPost plc

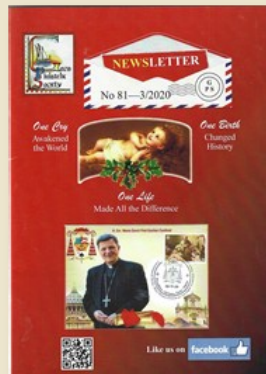
# 81 - 90

## simplified list of contents

*for simplicity's sake, even in the case of longer articles,  
references are to the first page only - the first number being that of the issue*

### A = Gozo Philatelic Society

1. GPS Diary: towards the front in all issues
2. issues 71-80 contents 81:30
3. errata 81:4; 84:11; 85:4; 87:4
4. AGM 84:20; 84:30; 85:16; 88:30
5. Exhibition 81:15; 88:9, 20; 90:11, 12, 30
6. Junior exhibitor 89:20
7. Christmas Greetings 81:5; 87:5
8. Office 85:31
9. Website live again 86:15
10. Il-Haġar showcase 86:25
11. Students send their first mail 89:14
12. GPS Postcards 90:7; Cards issued by the GPS (latest illustrated on most front covers)
13. Christmas Cards 90:14
14. Book launch and Exhibition 89:23, 28
15. RIP: Lorenzo Mantegna 81:17; Joseph Buttigieg 84:6; Joseph Mary Bajada 85:5; Marlene Borg 88:14; John Nicallef 89:31; Pat Patrick 90:9
16. Presidents series 90:19



### B = Series and multi-part articles

- 1 E & O not E: 81:6; 82:6; 83:6; 84:5; 85:22; 86:10; 87:22; 88:26; 89:26; 90:10
- 2 Promoting Gozo Through Philately: St Paul 83:10; Nadur Statuary 84:18; Wistin Camilleri 86:28; French Statuary 88:10; San Blas 89:30
- 3 Malta Overseas: Chess 82:18; Sant'Iermu 85:26; Siege Bell 87:10; Wine 89:24; FAO 90:22
- 4 Not Just Paper: 82:16; 86:11
- 5 Philatelic Centennials: Pilgrims 81:11; Slania 82:26; Yugoslavia 83:31; Melita 86:16; Top vals 87:19; Libya 90:8
- 6 Poems 82:5; 83:21; 84:31; 85:31; 87:26; 89:9
- 7 Celebrity Philatelists: 82:24; 85:18; 86:22; 88:22;

- 8 Is it really True? 81:26; 82:21; 83:24; 84:26; 85:20; 86:26; 90:24  
 9 Stamp No 1: 81:28; 82:28; 83:28  
 10 An FDC from each Issuer 81:8; 82:8; 83:8; 84:8; 85:8; 86:6; 87:6; 88:6  
 11 Numismatic Specials 82:22; 83:18; 85:24; 87:12; 89:10  
 12 Post Haste 82:30; 83:22; 84:29; 86:12  
 13 Misshapes on Malta stamps 82:11; 83:5  
 14 Why? 86:24; 87:30; 88:28; 89:19; 90:21  
 15 Gozo on Malta stamps (new colour series) 87:15; 88:15; 89:15; 90:15  
 16 Long Live the Monarch 87:27; 88:19  
 17 Philatelic Artists 88:13; 90:13  
 18 History Corner: Notre Dame Gate 89:6  
 19 Gozo in the Press: The Malta Mail 90:5

C = Other articles

- 1 Enrico Mizzi letter 81:10  
 2 Bishop Anton 81:12  
 3 *Kelb tal-Fenek* 81:13  
 4 SS Columbus 82:10  
 5 Thematic philately 82:12  
 6 Investing 82:15  
 7 House numbering 83:14  
 8 Did you know? 83:20  
 9 Maltese Judaica 84:12  
 10 Coin/medal FDCs 84:15  
 11 Emvin @ Il-Ħaġar 84:22  
 12 Dead Mail 84:24  
 13 Marc Chagall 85:6  
 14 Women in the British PO 85:10

- 15 Independent Ireland 85:28  
 16 Engraved Malta 85:30  
 17 Archer perforating 86:5  
 18 Beethoven Record 86:11  
 19 St Joan of Arc Cards 86:14  
 20 Cinderella Shakespeare 87:14  
 21 Fantastic St Paul 87:21  
 22 US Controversy 87:28  
 23 Error or Variety? 88:5  
 24 ZIP codes in USA 89:5  
 25 Giuseppe Despott 89:22  
 26 Ugolino Gatt OSA 90:4  
 27 1813 epidemic 90:26  
*issues also included advertisements*

**Authors:** Jesmond Borg, Zachary Borg, Georges Chapier, Nicholas Curmi, Rachel Debattista, Anthony Grech, Lara Grech, Victor Gusman, Marvelettes, Chev John Micallef, Anton Mifsud MD, Jasper Scott, Antoine Vassallo, Mary Grace Xerri, and Vincent Zammit.

## 24th AGM (28/1/2024) - Secretary's Report (VO 0456)

I have the pleasant duty to report about 2023, looking forward to our Silver Jubilee.

Committee posts were: Jesmond Borg - President & Funding coordinator; Anthony Grech - Vice President & Production manager; Antoine Vassallo – Secretary; Saviour Grech - Treasurer & Procedures coordinator; Mary Grace Xerri - School liaison manager; Fr Joseph Attard - Chaplain & Members contacts coordinator; Rachel Debattista and Mark Poulton - Joint Librarians & Archivists; Frank Vella - Exhibition coordinator.

A total of six formal committee meetings were held, during which discussions were held to prepare activities, especially the two major events.

An important initiative was the publication on Jesmond's initiative of an impressive book compiled by Mark covering our Cards; this received very positive feedback, helped a lot by the launch soiree at Il-Ħaġar highlighted by the Zammit talk. Besides the mini exhibition set up there showing a good cross-section, we also had a personalized stamp and cover. We were obviously disappointed that the hoped-for VO funding did not materialize.

The second event was of course our annual Exhibition, held in Il-Ħaġar's AV Room 1 and on levels -1 and 1 due to the unavailability of our usual Gozo Ministry Hall. This edition (12 to 25 November) was surely very successful, because of new visitors and the return of student participants. Prizes, certificates and medals are being distributed today – with MaltaPost still the main sponsor. On 15 November, we held a Mass – at the nearby St George's basilica.

Anthony Grech again designed a personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, offered as usual by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, Anthony prepares covers - or even the handstamp itself - whenever the opportunity arises (sometimes in collaboration with other bodies). During 2023 these occasions were *It-Tokk* Sepac and three Festa statue stamps and Card Catalogue, Xaġhra coronation anniversary, and *Milied f'Għawdex* commemorative handstamps (the last as a Christmas Card sent to members, continuing this tradition).

We have announced a Malta Presidents set to be issued over the 2024 jubilee

year. And we actually still hope that MaltaPost will celebrate our anniversary!

Our *Il-Haġar* showcase has seen regular replacements of the temporary mini exhibitions, even with visitors crossing over purposely.

Żebbuġ primary and the Seminary secondary schools were visited successfully. We also had an *Oratorju* Summer School group.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our Newsletter, for which Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. Unfortunately it was only possible to have three numbers in 2023. There seem to be unsurmountable problems with our Facebook page but info is also carried by the Website.

We are strengthening the relationship with both the Malta Philatelic Society and the Malta Study Circle, also participating in their events.

We grasp all opportunities to thematically publicize stampcollecting. For example *l-Anzjani Llum* periodical carries our stamp errors series. Quite a few local and foreign publications again featured our society and productions. Attractive leaflets remain available for distribution as publicity for our society.

Besides serving our Committee, the room at the top of Main Gate Street houses our library and the Juncker collection, now completely registered and catalogued. Anthony tries to keep this *Putirjal* office open on Saturday mornings for enquiries and library dips – and quite a few do visit. *Antoine Vassallo - Secretary*



## Gozo Philatelic Society

PO Box 10 VCT 1000 Gozo - MALTA

[www.stamps-goze.org](http://www.stamps-goze.org)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE 2024.**

**ADULTS €5.00. JUNIORS €2.00.**

Send your payment in Malta 20c stamps to

**Anthony Grech,**

**Warda Maltija 4 Triq Ibisku, Xewkija, Gozo**

## GPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024



The 2024 Annual General Meeting – held at Il-Ħaġar on 28 January - was rather exceptional since it was immediately preceded by a short Extraordinary General Meeting during which some changes to the GPS Statute were agreed without objection.

The AGM itself went smoothly as per agenda, concluding with the distribution of certificates, medals and prizes to the participants in the November Exhibition. School children from the Seminary Secondary and Żebbuġ Primary had already received their mementos at school.

A positive aspect is surely the fact that a further member offered his services – immediately accepted – within the Committee, which now has a three-year period of tenure to permit better programming. This I do augur, in this Silver Jubilee year.



Rev. Anton Schembri ,  
a regular exhibitor,  
receiving his certificate  
and prize



Our President and Secretary  
addressing the members



# SLIEMA STAMP SHOP

## THE BOOK AND STAMP SHOP IN GOZO

De Soldanis Street Victoria, Gozo.

The only proper stamp shop in Gozo and one of the best in the Maltese Islands with a vast collection of local postage and philatelic material for sale.



### The current opening hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.45 to 12.45

Saturday: 8.45 to 12.45.

Wednesday and Sunday CLOSED

Reception Telephone

**21551211**

