

October— December 2015

No. 62— 2015

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Greetings from the
Gozo Philatelic Society



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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 62 (4/2015)

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

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These inexactitudes unfortunately slipped through in issue 60's WHO'S (& Was) WHO:

131 Vincenzo **Ciappara** (1890-1979) Maltese composer **1990** CHS

135 St **Clare** of Assisi (1194-1253) Poor Clares co-foundress **1993** CHS

144 Ninu **Cremona** (1880-1972) Gozitan linguist and author **2012** CHS

145 Mgr Paul **Cremona** (1946-) Archbishop of Malta **2007** consecration CHS

148 **Daniel** Old Testament prophet **1990** CHS

160 **de la Ferte**'> Joubert

Moreover Proofing & Designing should have been numbered 8, not 7. A numerical error occurred in issue 61's WHO'S (& Was) WHO: a "195" intruded into the Wenzu Dyer entry, thus disrupting the numbering. In fact the seven later entries should have been shown as 195-201 (Edward VII to Elizabeth the Queen Mother respectively).

Further numerical errors (could it be that computers are not quite numerate?) occurred in the Issues 51-60 Index. Our readers probably noticed that the items at the beginning of page 29 should have been numbered from 11 to 17, continuing from the bottom of the previous page. Moreover the C list had a "1" intrusion so that the twenty-three items became 24! There are also a couple of other "slips of the pen" which however - hopefully - still leave this list easy to follow.

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

Antoine Vassallo
Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary VO/057



September 2015 issue of the Italian periodical *Filatelìa Religiosa Flash* (number 66), by the Turin-based *Gruppo di Filatelìa Religiosa "Don Pietro Ceresa"*, again refers to our productions

4 September Anthony Grech produces cover for Bishop Bugeja ordination handstamp

6 September Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

18 September The Gozo Philatelic Society accepted the invitation to participate in the Qala International Folk Festival through various stamp exhibits within the folklore theme.

4 October Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

9 October Committee discusses collateral events with Exhibition

21 October Committee continues preparing for Exhibition

28 October Sub-committee finalizes details of Exhibition Events and prepares for Auction

1 November Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

6 November Anthony Grech produces Exhibition Cover for the personalized stamps he designed

6 November Exhibition Opening (see page 7)

7 November Judging of exhibits at Exhibition (list on page 9)

8 November Lecture by Dr Michael Refalo (see p10)

14 November Last year's innovation of sending a Christmas Card designed by Anthony Grech to all members is continued

15 November Lecture by Mr Godwin Vella

21 November "Auction" at Exhibition

22 November Special Members' Meeting at Exhibition

27 November Exhibition closing

5 December Anthony Grech produces cover for second *Milied f'Ghawdex* handstamp which he himself was asked to design.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP

NOSTALGIC CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS

From the 1920's to the 60's

Anthony Grech





CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

I have pleasure to invite you to our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at IL-HAĠĠAR - HEART OF GOZO (*Pjazza San Ġorġ*)
on Saturday 9th January 2016 at 4.30 pm with this AGENDA:

- 1= Minutes of previous AGM
- 2= Financial Statement
- 3= Secretary's Report
- 4= President's Address
- 5= Election of Members for Committee
- 6= Motions
- 7= Other Matters

I thus invite paid-up members to: nominate themselves (or others) for the new **Committee** and submit notice of **Motions**.

è The AGM continues with
the **Distribution** of Certificates and Prizes
(including those sponsored by MaltaPost plc)
to all **GPS Exhibition** participants (Open Classes and Juniors)
and the inauguration of an Exhibit related to the
“New Caledonia” migrants in the new permanent showcase
set up to house temporary philatelic exhibitions*.

Junior exhibitors can invite their family too
Members are encouraged to offer themselves for nomination to the Committee
Members can propose Statute amendments (copies of which are available from
the Secretary) or other Motions.

The Committee is presenting two Motions (to amend #3.1 and #9).

*** Orders will be accepted for the international double card to be issued jointly with Canberra PS. Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary**



Gozo Philatelic Society

16th. Annual Exhibition

Antoine Vassallo

3 whole weeks - a very special Philatelic Exhibition!



The 2015 GPS Exhibition (again with MaltaPost as main sponsor) was surely special, not least because of its length. In fact the Opening was on Friday 6 November and the exhibits were dismantled on Friday 27. With the full support of officers and employees, we used the main Hall at the Gozo Ministry complex and used up all available space.



Quite a few accepted our

invitation on 6 November, President Louis Bonello and Secretary Antoine Vassallo giving short messages before the Gozo Minister’s Secretary declared the Exhibition open. A highlight was the video presentation prepared by John Luke Debrincat showing Malta stamps with Gozitan connections. The occasion continued with a reception.



The next morning the Judging panels made up of Mr Antoine Vassallo, Mr. Samuel Parnis and Mr Carmel Navarro, for the Junior class and the Open classes respectively, graded the numerous competing exhibits. Concurrently the Exhibition was open to the general public - and so continued for twenty more days. The success can be confirmed through the positive comments received both verbally and, especially,

written down in the Visiting Book. (even in Chinese). All this would obviously

not have been possible without the participation of the GPS committee members who lent a hand from Monday 2 when the hall began being prepared.

The volume of work involved was substantial also because of parallel events, in addition to the “usual” card and personalized stamp prepared by Anthony Grech.



During our exhibition, on 14 November, MaltaPost issued its Christmas set of stamps. For the second year we took the opportunity to send our Christmas greetings by mail using an attractive postcard franked with one of the stamps and cancelled with the First Day of Issue postmark. This postcard was sent free to all our members.

Attentive audiences followed the most interesting and high-quality illustrated lectures offered by Michael Refalo and Godwin Vella on Sunday 8 and 15. Dr Refalo (the first GPS President and now a “full-time” researcher) discussed “Not the Great Siege - just a trivial Turco-Maltese postal dispute” (see pages 10 to 15) while Mr Vella talked about “Gozo’s *Gran Castello* - an overview of its defensive role and assemblage” - a subject in which he is a recognized expert.

The final weekend included an “Auction” (run by our secretary) as well as an exceptional “Members’ Meeting”.

Together with the members exhibits, a small selection from the ‘Krista and Wolfgang Collection’ was on display. As usual this was much appreciated, not just by philatelists but also by tourists and the general public.



Michael Refalo and Godwin Vella delivering their talks; “Not the Great Siege but a trivial Turco-Maltese postal dispute” and “The Gran Castello” respectively.



A Special Group of Visitors.

Mary Grace Xerri

A group of young adults Chinese artists with special needs forming The Beijing Soul Inspiring Arte Troupe visited our exhibition on 7 November. The group was under the care of the ex minister Reno Calleja, president of ‘Għaqda ta’ Hbiberija bejn Malta u ċ-Ċina’. The group included two famous Chinese singers who use a wheelchair Kung Linzagen and Chang Xinan. Judging from the interest shown, the pictures taken and the comments left on the visitors book, even some in Chinese, all members enjoyed seeing the exhibits

7.11.15	C. KRISTEN	VANETTA	VERY nice show very interesting
7.11.15	Brian Pabbarone	Diana	Very interesting keep it up
7.11.15	John Dine	Chloe	Very nice show very interesting
7.11.15	(unreadable)	(unreadable)	(unreadable)



Official Result Gozo Philatelic Society 16th. Annual Exhibition 2015



TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

- 1st Anthony Grech
- 2nd Jesmond Borg
- 3rd Antoine Debrincat
- 4th John Vassallo
- 5th Mario Casingena
- 6th Vincent Micallef

SOCIAL PHILATELY

- 1st Anthony Grech
- 2nd Mary Grace Xerri
- 3rd Mary Grace Xerri
- 4th Mario Casingena

POSTAL HISTORY

- 1st Anthony Grech
- 2nd Jesmond Borg
- 3rd John Vassallo

BEST ITEM ON SHOW

WINNER OF THE GEORGE VELLA CHALANE CUP
POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBIT
ANTHONY GRECH

JUNIORS

- 1st Zachary Borg
- 2nd Rebecca Xerri
- 3rd Lara Grech

Runners up

(alphabetical order)

- Ellyn Debrincat
- John Luke Debrincat
- Joseph Galea
- Felix Mercieca
- Jonathan Portelli
- Nicolai Vella

NON COMPETING

ITEMS FROM
THE KRISTA & WOLFGANG
COLLECTION

MALTAPOST PLC

MARY GRACE XERRI

EDWARD FLANAGAN

Congratulations to all
and thanks for participating

Louis Bonello Gozo Philatelic Society President



Not the Great Siege;



just a trivial Turco-Maltese postal dispute © Michael Refalo

This

talk deals with a small, maybe trivial, aspect within a wider scenario. within a wider scenario. Its main protagonists are the Turkish Empire, but more specifically its postal officials, of the one part; and the British Empire, but, again more specifically the Colonial Office in London and the postal authorities (and, of course, the Governor) at Malta, of the other. The relevant years are 1912-13, just two years before the start of the Great War, and immediately after the Italian occupation of the Turkish territory of Cyrenaica (today Libya).



Before I actually deal with the incident itself, some background is pertinent. I will deal briefly with the international political situation and then with the state of the Turkish postal administration.

First of all, the Turkish (or Ottoman) Empire was on its last legs. It had aptly been called the ‘Sick Man of Europe’ because by the second half of the 19th century it had not only been riven by internal corruption and revolts within the palace but also – and mainly – because its multi-ethnicity made it impossible for the Sublime Porte to retain control over its territories. Greeks, Serbs, Croats, Albanians, Rumanians, Bulgars and others had been infected with the virus of nationalism sweeping western Europe during the early and middle years of that century. At the same time, other powers were covetously waiting for the dismemberment of the empire so that they might nibble at Turkish territory. Thus, Italy – a country which came late in the so-called ‘Scramble for Africa’ – seized Cyrenaica in 1911, having failed in its attempts to secure Tunisia (where many Italian migrants had settled). However, the country most anxious to enter the fray was Russia, a large country without a port on the Mediterranean. Access to the Middle Sea through the Black Sea and

the Bosphorus would enhance its power and its status.



Once the Turkish Empire could not defend itself, others were not willing to see those territories falling into antagonistic hands.



The British in particular assumed the role of defenders of the Turkish Empire (but saw no reason why they should not profit thereby; thus taking Cyprus in 1878 in the wake the Russo-Turkish War). British interests were not merely altruistic. There were various reasons why the Turkish Empire should be protected: it was one of the major importers of British goods, but more importantly, loss of territory by Turkey could potentially endanger British interests in the Far East, more particularly their line of communication with their ‘jewel’ – India.

Now a few words about the Post Office in the Turkish Empire, and British interests there.

There was no Ottoman postal service until 1841. Austria had been given the right to operate a regular postal service between its embassy in Istanbul and Vienna and a year later the same right was granted to Russia. Communications were carried out by Ottoman postal messengers under special guard. In 1729 British and American merchants residing in Turkey had acquired the right to use their agents to carry and guard their own mail and the Austrian and the Russians followed suit. By the 19th century other European nations secured the same right: France in 1812, Britain in 1832, Greece in 1834, Germany in 1870, Egypt in 1873 and Italy in 1908. While these were supposed to carry mail only between Istanbul and their own countries, they were soon receiving mail deposited at their consulates within the empire, and not only for Europe but also for Istanbul and Izmir themselves.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Turkish authorities found it difficult to establish their own postal service. Only in 1863, when postage stamps were introduced instead of seals affixed at post offices, did the local service start to make some progress. In time, the Turkish postal service expanded considerably. In 1904, it handled 24.38 million packages. Such progress was also being made because of attempts to stamp out recourse to the

postal services of the foreign powers. Thus, by 1881 Turkey was already operating its own foreign services sending mail by sea to Marseilles, Brindisi, and



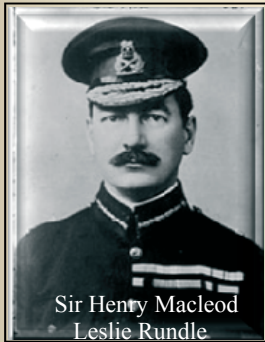
Varna and then overland by rail. The Turkish government also attempted to stop the foreign post offices by refusing them permission to send their own mail sacks into the empire, but pressure from the ambassadors in Istanbul undermined the effort.

With the beginning of the 20th century, the Ottoman post office started to compete with the foreign service through better service. When the First World War started all foreign post offices outside Istanbul and Izmir were taken over. The British – protectors of the Turkish Empire – had at least eight post offices in Turkey, using British or overprinted British stamps. The last to close its doors was that of Izmir on 30 September 1922.

On 26 May 1906 the Convention of Rome concerning the Universal Postal Union was signed. Both Great Britain and the Turkey were signatories. This provided, among other things, that postal articles between two countries separated by sea or land could be transferred, subject to transit charges. So it came about that the postal authorities at Istanbul and those in Malta came into dispute. The dispute, as is to be expected, concerned money. Following the course of the dispute enables us to appreciate two main aspects, namely: the attitude of the Colonial Office in London towards Malta and the importance which Malta and Maltese Packets had in the conveyance of mail throughout the Mediterranean. This is proof of the strong ties that existed between the island colony and the Ottoman Empire where many Maltese had settled.

On 9 September 1911, the Turkish authorities wrote to the Maltese postal authorities claiming that they were owed the sum of 12,658.22 francs being expenses for transit of mail. The British Postmaster General, to whom the matter had been referred, replied on 21 October of the same year, acknowledging the debt but pointing out that the Ottoman posts themselves owed 25,849.32 francs to the Malta Post Office, this being the charge due for carriage by Maltese Packet of Ottoman mail to Syracuse during the years 1908 to 1910. It was proposed by the British authorities that the amount of 12,658.22 be set off against

the larger amount and that the balance – 13,191.10 francs be paid by the Turkish Postal Authorities as soon as possible, thus closing the account. This, he added, was perfectly in line with the provisions of the Convention of Rome. By Note Verbale dated 26 June 1912, the Turkish Ambassador in London informed the Foreign Office that the delays happened because accounts were not brought up to date. In any case, it was said, the amount claimed was not in line with the Rome Convention. A letter to this effect had been sent directly to the Maltese authorities. In this last letter it was claimed that among the mail carried on the Maltese Packet, there was also mail originating from the overseas post offices in Turkish centres.



The Malta Governor, Leslie Rundle, notified the Colonial Office on 23 August 1912 of the Ottoman response and included also in his Despatch a copy of the letter which the Maltese Acting Postmaster General, Henry W. Engerer, had sent to the Director General of the Turkish Postal Administration. The Maltese official pointed out no correct information had been forwarded to Malta enabling them to distinguish between genuine Ottoman mail and that originating from overseas post offices. In any case, there was a period of six months within which one could object to the payment, and this had long passed. Henry Engerer added that, “the special statistics taken between the 3rd and the 30th September 1911, were most carefully kept and that *all* mails shown in the Statement furnished by this Office originated in the Ottoman Postal Service ... None of those mails emanated from any of the Foreign Post Offices in Turkey.”

The Colonial Office duly transmitted Malta’s copy to the Foreign Office with a note saying that there was absolutely no reason why the Turkish authorities should not pay the amount claimed.

The matter spilled over December 1912. However, by October of that year the Turks were no longer claiming that ‘foreign’ mail had been debited to them. What they now were saying was that they had been overcharged: part of the mail carried had been newspapers and these should have been charged at a

lower rate than letters and postcards. To the Maltese and British authorities it seemed as if the dispute would never be settled. Malta would remain without its money. One official in London felt that the Maltese should not quibble over amounts due. He noted:

I hope Malta will have the sense to take what they can get – if anything.

However, the Maltese authorities kept insisting for payment of the full amount. Leslie Rundle explained the matter to the Colonial Office:

For the years 1910 and 1911 Malta owed Turkey £871.4.2 but the Ottoman authorities owed £1,282.4.2 for the period 1908 – 30 September 1911 (the latter date being that of the suspension of the mail due to the outbreak of the Italo-Turkish War).

Thus, Grant noted in his April 1913 letter, the amount of £411 was due to Malta – and there was no wish to forgo it!

The Ottoman authorities, in the meantime, seemed reluctant to accept the Maltese demands and accordingly made a fresh proposal. The Turkish mail carried on Maltese Packets should be calculated as to having consisted half in letters and half “other articles”. Rundle, no doubt losing his patience, seemed inclined to accept this compromise. However, he insisted that such an arrangement should cover also the mail originating from Malta and directed to the Levant. This calculation completely inverted the accounts. Now, it was the



Maltese authorities who owed money to their Turkish counterparts: a debit of £144.12.6 instead of a credit of £411. The Colonial Office official was indeed right in noting that, “Probably the Turks will be delighted.”

On 25 September 1913, the Malta Governor informed London that the Turks had accepted the proposal. Consequently, he added “the balance of £144.12.6 ... will be remitted to the Ottoman Administration in due course.”

Thus came to an end a dispute lasting two years in which the Maltese postal administration had started off by claiming £411 as balance due to it and ended by them having to pay £144. At the same time, it cannot be discounted

that the Maltese Postal Authorities had saved money by stealth. It is reasonable to assume that much more than half of the mail originating from Malta should have been charged at the higher rate; now, however, only half would be so charged.

This incident may seem trivial when compared to what was happening in Europe, and more specifically in the Mediterranean, during the period. The Italians had invaded Cyrenaica and snatched it from the Turkish Empire; the British were in competition with the Germans over the size of their respective navies and the Agadir Crisis which involved France and Germany over Morocco was still fresh in people's memory; the Russian Empire was on the verge of revolution and the Austro-Hungarian one was riven by nationalistic strife, with trouble brewing over Serbia ... the winds of war were blowing, it was a cold wind that would erupt in a storm two years later. A storm that would carry with it millions of lives.

This incident, inconsequential as it might be, demonstrates that postal communication between the Near East, particularly Turkey, and the rest of Europe was going strong; that the Turkish Posts, despite a late start and competition from foreign post offices, were picking up strength. True enough, they seemed not to have been very careful about either record keeping or time limits for protests. However, persistent they were and in the end their persistence paid.

Finally, the incident is proof, a small one indeed, but still a proof, that Britain did not want to pick up quarrels with the Sublime Porte ... they too must have felt the cold winds of war in their bones.

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5 reasons why children should collect stamps. *Antoine Vassallo*

1. Patience and focus

Sorting through stamps and building a collection requires "a very different kind of attention" than video games or television do, (declares Miranda Goodman-Wilson, assistant professor of psychology at Eckerd College). TV shows "make very rapid demands on children's attention", while "stamp collecting requires more sustained focus." The intricacies of a tiny image printed on a piece of paper - and the story of why that particular image was printed on a stamp - slows their racing minds. "When you're looking at stamps, you spend a little more time than in our instant-gratification activities," (according to Gretchen Moody, director of education at the American Philatelic Society).

2. Expertise

Child development research has shown that children have an impressive capacity for classifying objects and remembering details if given the opportunity (says Julia Heberle, associate professor of psychology at Albright College). "Children, even young children, can accumulate a lot of organized, detailed expert knowledge." Professor Goodman-Wilson: "Stamp collecting helps even very young kids build categorizing and counting skills and geographic awareness. It can serve as a natural learning opportunity".

3. Artwork and design

Stamps were once both useful and beautiful. Today, many remain beautiful and offer a lesson in expressing what's important and celebrated in a given culture on the tiniest of canvases. Kids can try sketching some of the stamps they've collected or seen in photos. Lisa Dembowski (of the Postal History Foundation), suggests decorating an envelope related to a given stamp and then mailing the creation to friends or relatives.

4. Minimal screen time

Some kids do hunt for stamps online, and there are collecting apps for Android and Apple devices. But hours spent sifting through a collection of paper stamps connects kids to the physical world. International collecting is exciting (Ms Moody says) because "they're holding something from another part of the world in their hands." Children also can attend stamp Exhibitions with their families - and ask neighbours and local businesses for any stamped envelopes they receive and don't need.

5. Personalization

"This hobby has no rules. (Dembowski continues). You can collect whatever you want. So you can focus on one specific topic, like horses" or another subject that a child loves. "Even though ground mail has decreased, the number of stamp options has not," Ms Moody says. New stamps depicting everything from flowers and snowflakes to pop singers, athletes and actors are issued. Kids also might visit the prospective MaltaPost Museum in Valletta - and become members of the Gozo Philatelic Society!

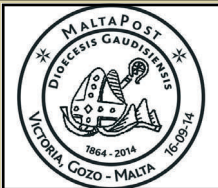




Special Handstamp Cancellations.

Related to and stamped in Gozo.

This is a continuation of Special Handstamp Cancellations or Hand Postmarks, which are stamped in Gozo to commemorate special events in connection with Our Island



Number 65 16. 09. 2014
 DIOCESIS GAUDISIENSIS 1864-2014
150th. Anniversary of the Gozo Diocese.
Given from the Victoria Branch Post Office
Designed by Anthony Grech.

We apologise that the ‘DIOCESIS GAUDISIENSIS Postmark was not included in our list of ‘Special Handstamp Cancellation’ (14) in the News Letter No 60. This postmark was supposed to be number 65. Therefore all following postmarks numbers should be changed as follows.



66—21. 10. 2014
 SANT'ORSLA
 1614-2014



67- 8. 11. 2014
 250 SENA RELIKWI TA'
 SAN KORONATU
 FIN-NADUR



68—14. 11. 2014
 GOZO PHILATELIC
 SOCIETY
 15TH EXHIBITION



68. 05. 12. 2014
 MILIED
 F'GHAWDEX

For detailed information about these Special Commemorative Postmarks please refer to News Letter No. 60.



69. 21. 03. 2015
 L-IMSALLAB FI TRIQATNA.
The Crucified in Our Streets. (An annual Good Friday Pageant in the streets of Victoria)
 Given from the Victoria Branch Post office.
 Designed by Anthony Grech



70. 20. 06. 2025
 80 ANNIVERSARJU INKURUNAZZJONI
 KWADRU MADONNA TA' PINU.
80th Anniversary Crowning of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu Altarpiece.
 Given from the Victoria Branch Post Office.
 Designed by Anthony Grech

CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors



Colonial administrator connected with forgers?!

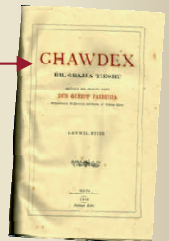
Sir Harry Luke (surname changed by deed poll from Lukàch) was a typical colonial officer who found himself governing Malta because the two governors he served under were often abroad. Luke was Lieutenant Governor of Malta between 1930 and 1938, the crowning of a lifetime serving the British Empire.

Malta then was in the throes of a national controversy between those who wanted to preserve Malta's link with Italy and the Italian culture and those who wanted to replace that with the English language and culture. As a result of the national controversy, the Maltese Constitution was suspended in 1933 and the Legislature dissolved. It was thus almost by stealth that Maltese was added as an official language to Italian and English on 16 August 1934.



Mgarr Harbour before the building of the first breakwater.

Sir Harry Luke loved going to Gozo (where he stayed in a friend's Xlendi villa) and was influential in the building of the Mgarr (original) breakwater. He had De Soldanis' *Gozo* translated and also restored various buildings within the Cittadella.



Unfortunately there is some evidence that the telephones of Italian sympathisers were tapped, possibly resulting to their later exile. Sir Harry was intensely hated by them - and their paper *Malta* rejoiced when he was appointed Fiji Governor, even attacking him for his Jewish blood! He did visit Malta and Gozo later but died in Cyprus in 1969. Promoted Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1939, he also was an Oxford DLitt and a Malta honorary LLD. He published over fifty books, mainly about



the places in which he served (including “Malta, an account and an appreciation”). While on Fiji duty, he got embroiled in a philatelic intervention. The set issued by Fiji from 1938 is notorious for three design peculiarities. The 1½d showed a canoe in the middle of a lagoon without anyone sailing it; the 2d and 6d omitted the '180°



which should have appeared by the relevant longitude meridian and the 5d featured sugar cane plants in a strange shade of blue. As a keen philatelist, he was responsible - at least in part - for the quite rapid corrections. A man appeared in the canoe, the '180° was added on both and the cane got a more appropriate green colour. Thus four scarce stamps were created for collectors to hunt!



Actually his various experiences were generally found useful in the furthering of his philatelic interests. It is argued that he was the force behind both the Cyprus and Malta definitives in 1938. In Fiji, he insisted for the Postage Dues in 1940 - as well as those for Gilbert & Ellice and Solomons.

Despite a major disagreement with the Postmaster General, he succeeded in having a 1940 Fiji 2½d surcharge. Luke himself claimed that the last stamp he was involved in was the 1942 British Solomon Islands 10/-, being especially proud of the colours he chose. On the other hand, he did not hide the fact that the 1938 Malta 6d was not so successful in this respect!



Sir Harry, while British Council head in Port of Spain, was also involved in the design of the criticized 1946 Jamaica New Constitution set. Without being officially credited, he most probably had a hand in numerous other West Indies issues - such as Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados and Montserrat. The 1940 Pitcairn definitives came under his jurisdiction



and, to raise revenue, he created their stamp booklets. Unfortunately, his philatelic interest may have led him into a serious error of judgement. In fact an Italian air raid destroyed the property he had left stored in Malta - including the library and substantial parts of his stamp collection. And he attempted replacement. Mint material was not difficult to acquire through the Crown Agents and other contacts (such as Governors). But he was interested in used stamps and a recent colonial directive emphasized that “obsolete” items could no longer be postmarked. There is strong

circumstantial evidence that Luke had relationships with quite a number of individuals who could “produce” philatelic devices, including overprints.

But such a short article cannot “do justice” to this playboy personality who even had a special yacht built to cater for his continuous travels after leaving Malta.

Anthony Grech



(2)

Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.
 Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.
 Ins.= Inscribed
 Prot=Protectorate

 <p>ALBANIA OWN ISSUES 1913</p>	 <p>ALBANIA ITALIAN OCCUPATION Op Italy Stamp 1939</p>	 <p>ALBANIA GERMAN OCCUPATION Op. Germany Stamp 1943</p>
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 <p>ALDERNEY 1983</p>	 <p>ALGERIA OWN ISSUES 1926</p>	 <p>ALGERIA Op. France Colonies Stamp 1924</p>	 <p>ALGERIA OWN ISSUES 1926</p>
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 <p>ALENSTEIN Op Germany Stamp 1920</p>	 <p>ALSACE & LORRAINE 1870</p>	 <p>ALWAR 1877</p>	 <p>ANDORRA Op. France Colonies Stamp 1931</p>
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 <p>ANDORRA OWN ISSUES 1932</p>	 <p>ANGOLA Inscribed Portugal Stamp. 1870</p>
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ANGOLA
OWN ISSUES
1948



ANGRA
Ins. Portugal
Stamp
1892



ANGUILLA
Op. St Kitts-Nevis



ANGUILLA
OWN ISSUES
1967



ANJOUAN
Ins. France
Colonies Stamp
1892



ANNAM & TONGKING
Op. France
Colonies Stamp
1888



ANTGUA
1862



ANTIOQUIA
1868



ARBE
Op. Fiume
Stamp
1920



ARGENTINA
1858



ARMENIA
Srg. Russia Stamp
1919



ARMENIA
OWN ISSUES
1921



ARUBA
1992



ASCENSION
1924



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Is it really true that... (4)

a Gibraltar stamp included over 2000 words?!

Antoine Vassallo

The Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, in close cooperation with Maverick Advertising & Design Ltd, issued a set of 5 stamps commemorating the 75th Anniversary in 2014 of the Evacuation of the civilian population of Gibraltar.

The £2 stamp set a new philatelic record for ‘most words on a postage stamp’ with a



total of 2,183 legible words! Thanks to an innovative micro printing technique, Gibraltar once again went a step forward in stamp production.

The words were fitted inside a 40 x 32mm stamp, explaining in detail the history of the evacuation during World War

II. There was a fear that, if Nazi Germany and its allies took Gibraltar and the strait, there would have been catastrophic consequences. Churchill himself described ‘Operation Torch’ (the attack on French North Africa) as the ‘Hinge of Fate’. And to accommodate the influx of military personnel required to reinforce the Rock, it was decided that 16,000 civilians who were not deemed essential to its defence, should be evacuated.

Within a matter of weeks over 70% of the total population of Gibraltar was evacuated to French Morocco. Gibraltar’s women, children, elderly and infirm, were torn apart from husbands, fathers, and sons in a time of intense danger. They accepted that hardship with immense courage and as an act of duty and loyalty to Britain - one of the few yet untold stories of the Second World War!



The stamps were designed by local artist Stephen Perera and featured historic photographs from the local archives. The world record breaking stamp showed the Gibraltar Evacuees Memorial sculpture (at Waterport Road).

Australian MALTA (28)

another glimpse at the prize-winning collection built up by John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia

THE 5/- STAMP OF QUEEN VICTORIA

The Maltese Government requested that the high value stamp was to be a “distinctive design which should be larger than those already supplied, clearly exhibiting the Cross of Malta”



Die proof in Black on glazed card of 5/- stamp



SPECIMEN of the 5/- stamp Rose (Certificate at the back)



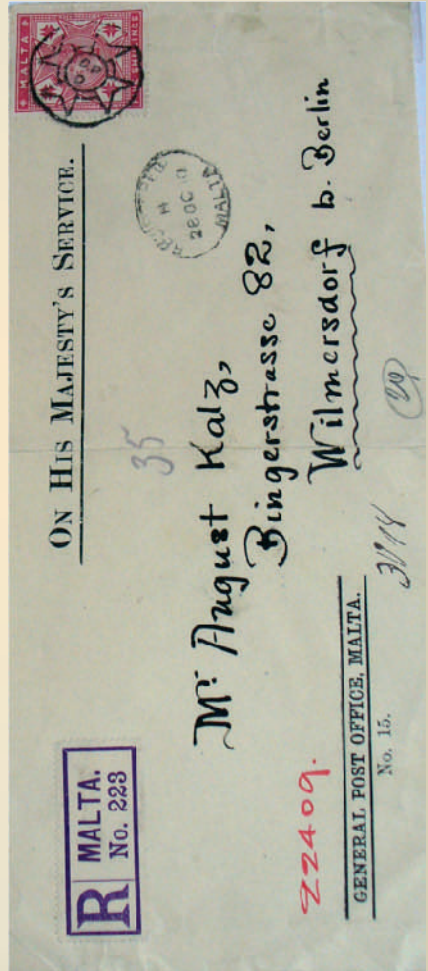
Pale Rose & Rose Carmine



1886

Watermark Crown CC
Perforation 14 (comb)

Sheets contained 10 rows of 12 stamps.
Two lots of 125 sheets were ordered (125 on 23/9/1885 and another 125 sheets on 22/4/86)



1910 registered ‘OHMS’ envelope franked 5/- adhesive tied with Malta Cross postmark.



MORE ITEMS FROM THE JUNCKER COLLECTION



Donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society by Mr & Mrs Wolfgang and Christa Juncker

INTERESTING ITEMS



MALTA

"MALTA / PAID" handstamps

Entire letter from Alex Webster at Malta dated 8th August, 1855 to Leghorn and apparently sent via Marseilles. The letter was postmarked in Malta with the 30 mm diameter "MALTA / PAID" double circle handstamp (type MPC-1b) of "AU 10 / 1855" and at Leghorn on 20th August, 1855. Alex Webster was apparently a ship's captain and his comments to the owners are blunt and to the point;

Messrs Pate & Sons

"Malta 8th Aug 1855

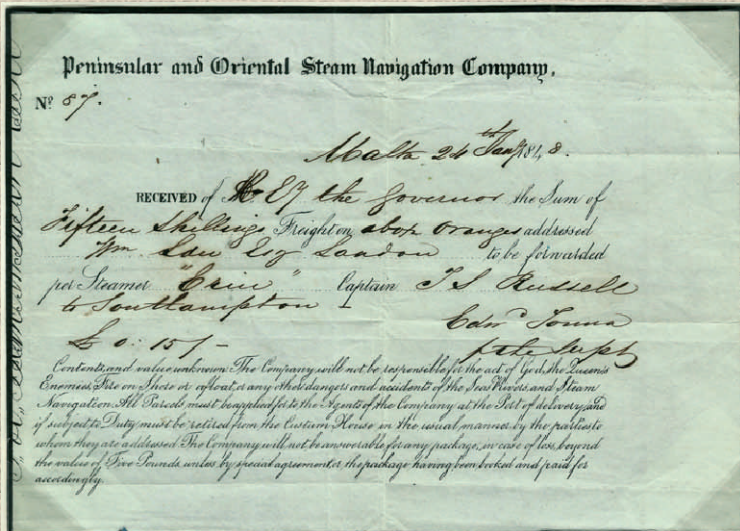
Gentlemen

I arrived here all well this morning, and have received yours with charter enclosed, I (-?) would do, but the Commission is more than customary, and the quantity of Firewood is ridiculous it being carried free, & the other ships had 1/2 freight paid in advance, and there is no penalty for none performance of agreement I thought you was more wide awake for the ships interest, being ship owners I hope to be able to leave here before the 20th Inst for your port. I commence to discharge in the morning will lose no time I am gentlemen your most obedt Hum Servant

Alex Webster"



Entire letter (from the Fitzgerald law correspondence) , sent from The Palace,, Valletta on 2 January 1848 to London, where it was postmarked twice on arrival 14, January 1848. The front was postmarked with the 'MALTA/PAID' handstamp type MPC 1a with the date shown in error as 'JY 4' (July 4) instead of 'JA 4' (January 4.)



A P&O receipt from the same correspondence given to the Governor of Malta for a box of oranges shipped to Southampton per steamer 'Erin', dated 24 January 1848.

WHO'S (& Was) WHO on Malta's Stamps

An (in-progress) alphabetic list of those connected with Maltese Philately, asking for your help to fill gaps - *do suggest additions (and corrections!)* usually under surname (except saints etc) but some cross-references.

Not to make this survey too heavy, only one example connected with the person involved (usually the first or most prominent) is listed.

Antoine Vassallo/ cont from issue 60

Retail booklets / sheetlets stamps packaged to be convenient places in addition to post offices



Retouch minor repair on the plate or cylinder



Retour à l'expéditeur “return to sender” in French

Return address details of sender written on upper left or back of letter so that it can be returned if undeliverable.

Returned letter office where undelivered mail is returned

Returned letter stamp label affixed on undeliverable mail

Returned mail mail item returned to sender

Retymno = Russian POs in Crete



Reunion French island in the Indian Ocean with own stamps 1852-1974 (some just surcharged on France)

Reus city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Reuse Labels affixed on envelopes which have previously been used (usually gummed)

Rocket stamp 1 label to prepay charges to have mail sent by rocket

2 stamp showing a rocket or a connected theme

Roda city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Roda de Ter city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Rodi Italian issues for Aegean island of Rhodes 1912-35

Rokiskis (Rakischki) city in Lithuania with overprinted stamps by German military authorities in 1941



Roll a coil of stamps (US)

Rolled Gum applied to paper by a machine operated roller

Roller Cancel applied by rolling a device across the stamp

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists founded by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1920, with first signer King George V

Romagna Italian state with stamps 1859-60

Roman States parts of the Italian peninsula with own stamps 1852-70



ROMANIA European state with stamps (first as Moldavia and Moldo-Wallachia) from 1858; Austro-Hungarian occupation 1917-18; Bulgarian occupation 1916; German occupation 1917

Romanian occupation of Hungary 1919-20: separate issues (mostly overprints) for Banat Bacska, Debrecen and Temesvar (now Timisoara)

Romanian Post Offices in Ottoman Empire 1896

Romanian Post Office at Constantinople 1919

Roman type serifed printing fount

Romina = Romania

Ronda city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Ropit = Russian Company for Steam Shipping and Trade

Roquetes city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Roses city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

Roses de Llobregat city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War

ROSS Dependency in Antarctica with own stamps from 1957

Rossija = Russia

Rossyeny town in Lithuania with 1919 local provisional

Rostov city in Russia, with local surcharges 1871-91 and 1918-19

Rotary cancel cancellation die mounted on a revolving drum

Rotary perforation applied by perforating wheels that rotate on a central axle

Rotary press stamps printed from curved plates (as compared to stamps printed from flat plates on a flat bed press)

Rotogravure = photogravure

Rouad Mediterranean island (Arwad) off Syria with French PO in 1916

Roulette perforation consisting of short holes)

Roumania = Romania

Roumelia see Eastern Roumelia

Rovno city in the Ukraine, with local overprint 1993

Row the stamps running horizontally across the sheet

Royal Mail Postage Labels = Frama labels

used in UK 1984-85

Royal Philatelic Society London society founded in 1869 (formerly the Phila-

telic Society

Royalty stamp indicates that a royalty fee has been paid

RPF = Reichpfennig

RPK = Republic of Kampuchea.

RPO = Railway Post Office



The Royal Philatelic Society London



of how so darling precious I am
which is I why
I say proudly again:
I'm a stamp
no, I didn't say "I'm just a stamp",
or "I'm but a stamp"
(And what? Why do I repeat myself?
Well, there are thousands of copies
of one issue, aren't there?)
but I am a stamp in my own right, unique and proud
and I've created worlds all of my own
with pen pals and commerce
and industries and clubs round me;
and I'm not alone, you know,
well-supported by relatives
like prepaid postal envelopes, post cards,
letter cards, aerogrammes
all of us served loyally
by unquestioning Gurkha-style postmen and women;
and I've brought hearts and minds together
and I do it in a day or days and or weeks
and if I feel like it, I even arrive decades later!
and there's nothing you can do about it!
And oh yes, I can see, you're prone to neglecting me
you ungrateful scoundrels!
first replacing me with cold
Franking Machines
and cheap, unimpressive, unimaginative franking marks
and with postage meters
imprinting an indicia
and all of you now
deriding my world as snail pace
in your world of instant e mails
but I persist, and I still am of much use
for - listen carefully
and I say proudly again:
I'm a stamp
no, I didn't say "I'm just a stamp",
or "I'm but a stamp"
but I am a stamp in my own right, unique and
proud;
and if you, once in a while,
want to show me your loyalty
come to a local post office and lick my royal butt!



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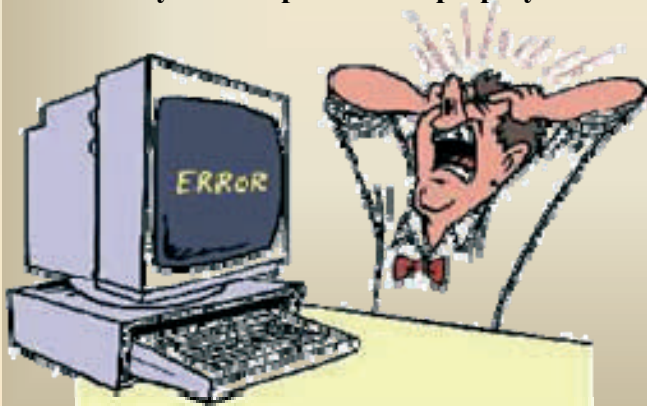
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