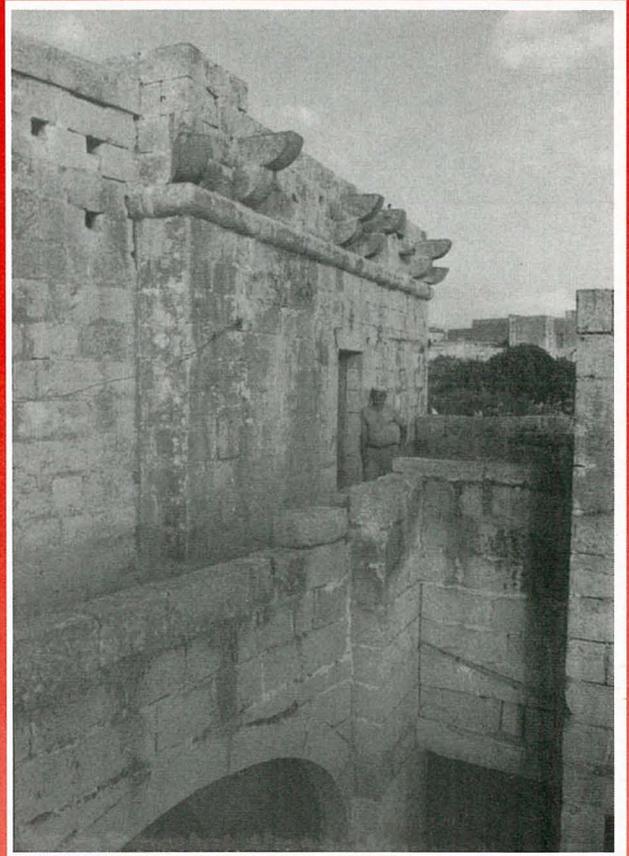




July - September 2007

Nº: 29 - 3/2007



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR
BIEX TIXTRI
JEW TIBNI
DAREK**

BOV Homelink
SUCCESS



Aghżel
int u nnota
d-differenza!

BOV Notice Account

306090



BOV TeenSaver Account

It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-tfal tieghek



BOV Savings Plan

Il-pjan ta' tfaddil b'bonus!

BOV

www.bov.com e-mail: customercare@bov.com

Front Cover:

- St Theodora Tower which is in Xewkija Gozo where the oldest sundial is found.
- The 25c (E0.58) stamp is one of a set of four stamps featuring Maltese clocks which depicts the old Xewkija sundial. It was issued on 5th October 1995 and designed by Mr Frank Ancilleri.

CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

The 8th GPS Philatelic Exhibition

is going to be held at the Ministry Exhibition Halls

9th - 18th November 2007.

the sections will be:

- **Junior** (Not yet 17 by 31.12.07)
(each exhibitor will receive a philatelic memento)
- **Traditional Philately “Work & Society”**
 - **Social Philately**
 - **Postal History**

Jury will award section competition prizes:
trophies and vouchers.

All exhibitors receive Certificates.

* * * * *

This issue of our Newsletter includes a copy of the Regulations for the 8th GPS Philatelic Exhibition together with the relative Application Form. The Committee hopes ever more members will decide to fill it in (and return it by the closing date). Remember that Juniors and Non-Competitors are in fact free in the theme they can choose (and are not charged any fee).

Even if you decide not to exhibit, during its ten days you are heartily invited to visit it (more than once!) and to encourage others.



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

..... Post Code.....

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2. (E4.66)

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 (E2.33) for Junior membership. (Date of Birth.....)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

An official receipt and membership card will be issued later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date

GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12th February 2000 *Editor: Austin Masini*

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

"the provision of a point of reference" and "co-ordination"

Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

GPS DIARY (29)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 17th- 20th May 2007: GPS participates in the Gozo NGOs Association stand at *the Fiera tal-Volontarjat* on the Naxxar Trade Fair Grounds. *(left out from Diary 28)*
- 15th June 2007: Committee Meeting decides on November Exhibition regulations. (copy enclosed)
- 24th June 2007: Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 11th July 2007: Anthony Grech prepares cover for Toys set.
- 6th July 2007: Anton Said and Anthony Grech begin taking two stamp collecting sessions on Fridays at the Don Bosco Oratory Summer Club.
- 29th July 2007: Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 17th August 2007: Committee Meeting discusses the launch of our website.
- 26th August 2007: Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

Please note that:

Junior Exhibits are to be **A4 size**

We hope to be able to launch our WEBSITE soon –members will be able to advertise both Wants and items for Sale.

Errata: the article “What stamps to buy and where to buy them from” issued in Newsletter No 28 on page 22 was written by Emanuel Vella and not George Vella.

Postal Arrangements on Gozo in 1888

(Michael Refalo)

(Continued from previous number)

IV

The problem of letterboxes cropped up again some years later when the 'enlightening effect' of schoolmasters and mistresses was supposed to have alleviated the problem of illiteracy. In 1904 a petition by the inhabitants of Zebbug had asked for a letterbox in their village. But the opportunity had been lost immediately after the 1888 report. No letterbox was placed in that village, certainly up to 1909 when the mistress in charge of the girls' school in the village had complained to the Department of Public Instruction that the 1904 petition had been refused "on account of insufficiency of correspondence." Now, however, the schoolmistress objected, correspondence had increased, and "should a letter box not be granted it is very hard for me, who am residing here ... to walk to Victoria & back in order to post official correspondence. Shall I be paid travelling expenses in that case, please?"^{xxii}

The headmistress pursued the matter further. On the 1st October she entered a note in the School Log Book copying an extract from a letter which she received about the matter and where she was informed that the Postmaster was being asked whether he "would arrange, as a special case, for the postman to call and see if you have letters to post." That note also ironically stated, "No, travelling expenses shall be paid."^{xxiii}

Apart from the case of the Zebbug letterbox, Ferdinando Inglott's 1888 report provides interesting insights into the postal intricacies, but more importantly into Gozitan society in the late nineteenth century.

Not only are the Gozitan villages, or at least the smaller of them, revealed as rural enclaves where the population was mostly illiterate, but even Victoria, the main town of the island, with its notary who looks after postal business, but closes at eleven in the morning for his afternoon nap, is portrayed as a quiet place where business (postal business but by extension also other business) was slow and life leisurely. The possibility of increase in business was, however, also envisaged. Most of all, however, it showed that the Postmaster was not only interested in the welfare of his employees but he was also concerned with the image which his department projected. Being an anglophile, Inglott wanted the post office to speak English; the fact that its clients were few and that business in general was slow was immaterial.

The report also highlights the importance of a garrison for the island. Whereas soldiers and sailors were a fact of life on the larger island, their presence on Gozo was occasional and sporadic. Business in general, and wine shops in particular, looked forward to the occasional stationing of soldiers at Fort Chambray. Indeed, a correspondent writing in 1885 was full of praise for the “charming little Island” whose “only fault ... is its dullness.” He praised the initiative of the Governor for stationing, albeit temporarily, the Dorset Regiment there and said that “the people are full of gratitude” for the initiative.^{xxiv} Again in 1910, “owing to the impoverished state of Gozo, His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief has given orders for the 2nd Batt. P.A. Somersetshire Light Infantry to be stationed on the Sister Island for several months.”^{xxv}

Life in Gozo remained a backwater with limited commercial opportunities until well into the twentieth century. The more enterprising of Gozitans sought expansion of their business ventures by transferring their activities to Malta. The limited

postal activities and the potential revealed by Inglott were but a reflection of life on the island.

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Postal Arrangements in the Island of Gozo, 1887 (bound, handwritten report filed by F. Inglott, at the time Postmaster) with attachments and letters going down to October 1894 and signed by F. Mamo, then Postmaster General. The Report (but not the attachments) is a copy of NAM CSG01/5132/1887.

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Ó The Author

ⁱCospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa (collectively known as Cottonera, or The Three Cities, were, after Valletta the most populous centres of the Maltese Islands. Like Valletta, these port towns hosted a great number of sailors and soldiers.

ⁱⁱN[ational] A[rchives of] M[alta] CSG01/1888/053 dated 29th September 1888

ⁱⁱⁱH. Frendo, *Party Politics in a Fortress Colony: The Maltese Experience* (Malta, 1991) 35

^{iv}Rob. Mifsud Bonnici, *Dizzjunarju Bijo-Biblijografiku Nazzjonali* (Malta, 1960), 289

^vQuoted in G.A. Pirota, *The Maltese Public Service 1800-1940: The Administrative Politics of a Micro-State* (Msida, 1996) 264 viibid 275

^{vii}Annual Report on the Postal Department of Malta, 1890' N.A.M. CSG01/5046/1890

^{viii}ibid 82

^{ix}2 from Zebbug, Kercem and Sannat which formed part of the Victoria District and 6 from Ghainsielem and Migiarrro which formed part of the Migiarrro District.

^xIn his 'Postal Arrangement in the Island of Gozo – 1887' (Unpublished, handwritten document at Gozo Library), Inglott had said that the postal districts of Gozo were two: the Victoria District comprising Victoria itself, Zebbug, Kercem, Garb and Sannat; and the Mgar [sic] District comprising Fort Chambray, Nadur, Kala, Xagra [sic], Xeuchia and the island of Comino.

^{xi}N.A.M. CSG01/1890/5046, 101-2

^{xii}Research has, so far, failed to uncover who this notary was and the location of his office. In 1887 there were eight notaries practising on the island (vide Malta Government Gazette, No.17862; 6.1.2006 for list of Notaries). The Civil Establishment list published in the yearly Blue Book for the years 1885-7 merely record that a total remuneration of £13 was paid annually to "two detached Post Officers" without mentioning their name (vide e.g. Blue Books 1885, H26; 1886, H32 and 1887, B32).

^{xiii}F. Inglott, "Postal Arrangements in the Island of Gozo, 1887" (bound handwritten report with attachments at the Gozo Reference Library). This document is a duplicate of NAM CSG01/18875132/

^{xiv}Anthony Grech, "Promoting Gozo Through Philately" *Gozo Philatelic Society Newsletter* No. 24 (2:2006); 12-13& 19, says that the first Post Office in Migiarrro had been opened on 1 December 1885 and was located in Victory Street.

^{xv}According to a note in pencil in the margin of the report, Mr. Calderone was the keeper of the Gozo prison. Indeed, he is listed as such in the Civil Establishment List of 1887 (Blue Book 1887, H56)

^{xvi}To which, one of the bureaucrats examining the report had pencilled a query as to whether the “educational attainments of that officer were superior to those of the individual who is now performing the duties in the nook.”

^{xvii}Henry Calderone was still performing postal duties in December 1892 as a letter signed by him and attached to the bound copy of the “Postal Arrangements in the Island of Gozo, 1887” at the Gozo Public Library attests.

^{xviii}It did in fact go ahead: the Civil Establishment List (Blue Books 1888, H56) mentions Enrico (Henry) Calderone (who had entered into government service on 4th May 1872) as “Prison, Gozo Keeper” with an annual pay of £30 and an additional £10 per annum “for clerical duties in the Police Office”.

^{xix}Minute by Trapani dated 7.12.1888; and minute dated 22.12.1888 both attached to the report.

^{xx}Minute of the 27.12.1888

^{xxi}Hely-Hutchinson had placed a pencilled question mark against the word.

^{xxii}N[ational]A[archives of] G[ozo] SS.33.14 Log Book Zebbug Girls’ School 28.05.1903 - 02.12.1914

^{xxiii}On 14 October, the schoolmistress also entered into the Log Book a copy of a letter which was sent by the education authorities to the Postmaster and which stated: Dear Major Engerer, I desire to enlist your kind assistance on behalf of the Mistress of Zebbug (Gozo) School. 2. There is no letterbox at that village and the postman only calls when he has letters to deliver. When the mistress has official letters to post, she must either travel down to Victoria and up again - obviously a great hardship or entrust them to casual villagers. 3. I suggested the Mistress should ask the Postmaster at Victoria that, as a special case, the postman might call for letters for the post, but the Postmaster is evidently unable to assist her unless authorized. 4. Authority is therefore kindly solicited to sanction the above or some other suitable arrangement.

^{xxiv}*Malta Times and United Services Gazette* 10.10.1885

^{xxv}*The Daily Malta Chronicle*, 2.3.1910

POST HASTE (3)

*continuing an irregular series about
the interesting story of the Post*

(Antoine Vassallo)

Towards a French Postal Service

In the latter part of the fifteenth century, the diversion created by the Wars of the Roses in England (which had dominated France for a long time) helped Louis XI bring under his control many provinces, dukedoms and baronies whose fluid allegiances had prevented the formation of a united nation. This nucleus slowly strengthened the sense of national identity until Henry of Navarre definitely welded the parts into a single country in 1589. Although Richelieu and Mazarin succeeded in converting it into the strongest nation in Europe, civil wars (and others with neighbours) still continued to take place.

The first mail service was actually set up in 1464 - for the king and court only. In 1490 Thurn & Taxis established international couriers. As postal services developed, a novelty took place: a tax was introduced in 1576 for government letters but not directly for the court. This was expanded to the general public in 1603 (with Fouquet de Varennes as director). Royal letters patent in 1628 (initiated by Pierre d'Almeras) established the first public postal tariff (originally 2 or 3 *sous* according to destination). In 1644 rates for overseas destinations were approved too. After tariffs became in direct proportion to distance, in 1673 rates were revised to allow for the use of an envelope - previously just folded sheets were sent.

Letters were originally endorsed in manuscript but, from the start of the eighteenth century, the larger offices began using

straight-line marks such as *Port Paye* (= prepaid). By the end of the century, the postal network was extended to all over France, relationships with neighbouring countries were strengthened and French mail had access into the Thurn & Taxis imperial service.

The postal service was severely disrupted in the period from the 1789 Revolution. From 1800 changes began being introduced which also took into consideration the absorption of occupied territories during the Napoleonic Wars and the creation of satellite regimes. All *departements* were given numbers, included in the postmarks which began being dated. The Congress of Vienna reduced France to its original frontiers; the currency was reformed and the postal service consolidated. Stamps were finally issued in 1849.

with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas



Parisian post-box c 1818

Where in the World ?! (20)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

GIBRALTAR: British territory at the southern tip of Spain with issues from 1886.

GIFU: Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1990.

Gilbert & Ellice Islands: British Pacific colony with stamps from 1911; separated in 1975; now Kiribati and Tuvalu.

Gilbert Islands: British Pacific colony with stamps from 1976; became independent as Kiribati in 1979.

Glauchau: local German issue 1945.

Gold Coast: British colony in West Africa with issues from 1875 until renamed Ghana in 1957.

Golfo de Guinea = Spanish Guinea

Gora = Montenegro.

Gorlitz: local German issue 1945.

Gorny Slask = Upper Silesia 1920-2.

Graham Land: own issues 1944-6 when one of the Falkland Islands Dependencies; now part of the British Antarctic Territory.

Granada Confederation: issues from 1859; now Colombia.

Grande Comore = Great Comoro.

Grand-Liban = Lebanon under Mandate with stamps 1924-7.

GREAT BRITAIN: (British Isles) which now includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales (all four also with additional individual issues) and other islands (including Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey with separate postal administrations) - first stamps in 1840 (some of which were also used overseas in colonies etc)

Great Comoro: Indian Ocean island with own stamps 1897-1912; now part of Comoros.

Greater Lebanon: French Middle East Mandate with stamps (*Grand Liban*) from 1924 until 1926 when became Lebanese Republic.

GREECE (*Hellas*): Southern European state with stamps from 1861.

Greek Administration of Eastern Thrace: 1920; now part of Turkey.

(to be continued)

Bold italic = Inscriptions;

BOLD CAPITALS = Current Issuers;

Bold = Former Issuers.

(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!)

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

(Anton F Attard)

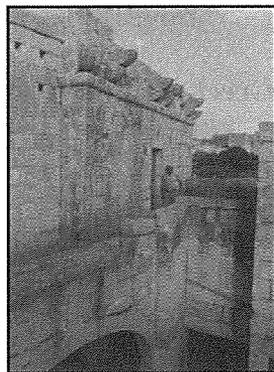
The Sundials of Gozo

The practice of showing time by means of the sun goes back to thousands of years ago as attested by one of the inscriptions on the cenotaph of the Egyptian Pharaoh Seti I (ca 1300 B.C.). Later on, in the second century A.D., Ptolemy developed the mathematical theory of the sundial in his work *On the analemma*.

Although clock making in the Maltese Islands goes back to the first half of the twelfth century, yet it is not known when the telling of time by means of a sundial was first introduced in Malta and Gozo. Gozo happens to possess the oldest extant sundial in the Maltese Archipelago, and most probably the newest one as well. The oldest sundial in Malta and Gozo can be seen at Xewkija adorning the wall facing south of St. Theodora's Tower situated in a lane bearing the same name. This sundial is a vertical one having the hour converging lines engraved with the caption or motto ENCHOR (Latin for



'Behold the Time') and the date 10th April 1546. Unfortunately it is damaged and the gnomon or shadow marker is missing. It has been replaced by an old rusty nail but it is out of alignment. Its elegant dial is rectangular in shape and has the following dimensions: 0.43m x 0.35m. It still exhibits thirteen well defined equally spaced lines radiating from its centre. The slanting lines mark each of the six hours



St Theodora Tower

before and after mid-day and the vertical line marks twelve noon. As has already been indicated its orientation is towards south. Its designer's name is unknown.

The next two Gozitan vertical sundials are found at Rabat or Victoria, one at the terrace of St. Augustine's Priory and the other (an analemma) was constructed at the left hand side of the Capuchins' Convent in Marsalforn Road.

The sundial at St. Augustine's Priory until recently was deteriorating and its features were fading through the decay of the stone but now it has been carefully restored in November 2001 to bring it back to its original elegance. Its shape is rectangular having the following dimensions: 2.3m x 1.55m. Although its construction is only ca 170 years old, yet its designer's name remains unknown.

The sundial at the Capuchins' Convent is of a meridian type and is an analemma to show the months of the year. It has an alidade (a rod with an eyelet to serve as a marker) which is fixed at the top of the sundial. The projection of the alidade's eyelet crosses the meridian line which is the noon mark. The orientation of this vertical sundial is towards the south and has the following dimensions: 3.07m x 0.23m. The top noon mark is indicated by an inscribed figure of 12 while the bottom noon mark is shown by the Roman numeral XII. Its motto can be read at the bottom of the vertical line. It says: SOL TEMPORA SIGNAT which means: The sun demonstrates the times. Although not quite sure but most probably its designer is Father Calcedonius Gulia, O.F.M. Cap.

The last and newest Gozitan sundial is found on the wall facing south at the rear of St. Margaret's Parish at Sannat in the same place which once housed the old clock face before the front belfries were built. It was engraved in marble by Raymond Bonello of Xaghra on the design of Mr George Vella from Victoria. It was designed on the same principles of the Xewkija sundial and embellished with St. Margaret's emblem captioned by the date 304 – 20 JULII – 2004, to mark the 17th century of the martyrdom of this village Patron Saint.

(continued on page 18)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (20)

(Emanuel Vella)

Locomotive Express Post: A U.S.A. local stamp of 1854 bears this inscription.

Loja: A province of Ecuador, with the authorised control overprint 'Loja Franca' in 1902.

Lokalbref: Sweden local letter. A Stockholm 'Local' 1856-85.

Lokoja: One of the Niger Coast and River post offices with a dated canceller in use on stamps of G.B. from 1899-1900 by the Royal Niger Company.

Long Island: Turkish island of Uzun, in the Aegean Sea, dominating the outer harbour of Smyrna (now Ismir) so temporarily named and occupied by the British from 7th to 26th May 1916. The British overprinted Turkish fiscals "G.R.I./Postage" and later typewritten provisionals, using various coloured ribbons and carbons.

Loose Letter: Mail arriving at an office of delivery or for forwarding, without cancel or mark of origin, and usually from an incoming ship, was formerly marked in this manner.

Losen: Postage due, Sweden.

Los Rios: (Span, the Rivers). Province of Ecuador with an authorised control overprinted in 1902.

Lotnicza: (Polish) Airborne post.

Lubeck: Former German Hanseatic port on the Baltic. A stamp-issuing free state from 1859 to 1867.

Luchtpost: Dutch. Air (borne) Post.

Luftpost: German. Air (borne) Post.

Lugpos: Afrik. Air (borne) Post.

Luftfeldpost: German, Airborne Military mail. A blue stamp so inscribed, picturing an areoplane in flight was issued as a forces priority stamp to German troops in 1941-2, especially for use by personnel cut off from their bases and for isolated garrisons.

Lundy: Privately owned island in the British Channel, England.

Lydenburg: South African Republic (Transvaal) 1895 penny red stamp was overprinted "V.R.I." and surcharged in this former Boer township in September-October 1900 and other Transvaal issues were similarly treated.

Lynchburg: Virginia U. S.A. It had a "Postmasters" issue at the time of the American Civil War.

Luzons: Luzon is the main island of the Philippines, provides this alternative name for the group.

(to be continued)

*Script by Script (20)**(Antoine Vassallo)*

This regular space features stamps without any identifiable name in "latin" script or providing some similar difficulty.

Today I continue looking at another couple of "difficult" Indian states.

Alwar (or Alwur), in north-west India, now forms part of Rajasthan. It was founded by Rajput chieftain Pratap Singh in 1771 and joined the British against Marathas in 1803. Its capital city, which carries the same name, has several palaces and temples and is surrounded by a wall and moat.

Alwar first issued stamps in 1877, using a design which remained basically the same until they became obsolete in mid-1902. There are just two values but quite a few differences (for example in shades and perforations).



Datia (or Duttia) too was incorporated into another state: it is part of the central Madhya Pradesh. It came under British administration by treaty in the early nineteenth century. Again, its capital (well-known for a seventeenth century Hindu palace) has the same name.

It issued its own stamps between 1893 and 1920, always handstamped with an impression of what was probably the seal of Maharaja Sir Bhawani Singh (inscribed in Devanagari). Designs (mostly with a clear indication of the state's name) include a representation of Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu deity with a variously-spelt name. This son of Shiva and Parvati is considered as the patron of prosperity and learning, invoked as a remover of obstacles.



E & O not E (15)*(Antoine Vassallo)**Glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes
(well-known or obscure)*

It does happen that errors crop up during the printing stage, through serious or quite simple mishaps. An example could be an unnoticed extraneous scrap of paper or some other material obstructing part of the colour. Today I feature a “frame omitted” (listed) error, valued at thousands of pounds.



From 1913, stamps of the Union of **South Africa** replaced those of the various provinces. From 1926, most issues were inscribed in English and Afrikaans *se-tenant* alternately within the sheet. New recess-printed definitive

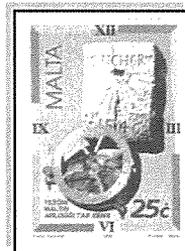
pictorial designs began appearing the next year, the 1/- (one shilling) showing wildebeest - also called gnu. This large African grazing antelope exists in two varieties: black (actually dark brown) and blue (light-coloured), respectively “white-tailed gnu” and “brindled gnu”.

Rotogravure printings with new shades (and other differences) began being issued from 1930 and in screened rotogravure from 1947. The 1939 1/- frame is described as chalky blue, instead of deep or greenish blue. This block (the top pair obviously being the “normals”) is from this printing.

(from page 13)

The motto is at the top and reads SOL AFFULGET MARGARITAM, which is the Latin for 'The Sun shines on St. Margaret'. It has a diameter of four feet or 1.22m and is the only sundial in Gozo to have a marble dial and the first vertical one on a church in this island. Its gnomon is at 54 degrees. It was blessed and inaugurated on Sunday, 17th October 2004.

On 5th October 1995 Maltapost plc. issued a set of four stamps featuring Maltese Clocks. This set was designed by Mr Frank Ancilleri and the fourth stamp, bearing the highest value of 25c (€0.58), depicted the old and elegant Xewkija Sundial being the most venerable example of its genre in the Maltese islands.



*You are all invited to contribute to this, **our** periodical*

Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc, etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, the language should preferably be English; but a summary could be added to an item in Maltese - in any case the editorial board can translate.

We also welcome letters asking for help regarding stamp identification etc. Anything published will merit a philatelic gift! And Juniors will receive a memento in any case!

Please note that members can contact the Secretary for free temporary loan of various philatelic publications - a list will be shown in a future issue.

MALTA overseas

(Antoine Vassallo)

Local connections on foreign stamps (3)



In 1966 **Jordan** issued a set of fourteen stamps (with a face value, respectively, of 1 to 14 fils expressed in Roman numerals), together with a 100f miniature sheet, showing the “Stations of the Cross” or devotional pictures of Christ’s Passion. The designer was officially Victor Whiteley but they are actually reproductions of Conti’s Way of the Cross in Zabbar’s Our Lady of Graces Sanctuary.

This church was built in the seventeenth century, replacing an old chapel which was very popular with devotees - especially during critical times (for example the Battle of Lepanto). Parish priest Joseph Zarb (through Mr Joe Galea) was responsible for acquiring the services of Professor Gian Battista Conti (1878 - 1971) who came from a Roman family of painters.

Besides the *Via Crucis*, the Sanctuary has another good work of his showing the Burial of Jesus. Unfortunately his series of paintings (begun in 1936) in the Annunciation church (Dominican friars) at Birgu were lost (except for a small remnant and his sketches) through a 1941 air raid. He is still represented through five paintings in the Rabat (OFM) church, interestingly produced in Gozo during what was probably his biggest commission (in stages) which begun in 1948 at the Victoria basilica of St George.

The dome, apses, lunettes and in fact all the top part of the Gozitan church are covered with innumerable paintings of his. As can be expected, some show the saint’s martyrdom and glorification; however others depict the Virgin Mary, apostles, saints, the Apocalypse and angels (for which subject he was and remains very well known).

You are invited to send write-ups (or even just suggestions) about other foreign stamps with themes or designs related to Malta.

Engy and Malty

Once upon a time, not so long ago, there lived a stamp called Engy. She was a very lonely stamp, with no one to talk to. Poor Engy !!!

Soon, she discovered that she was not in her beloved country, England. She was in an island which she didn't know its name. That was the reason why she didn't have friends and so lonely!

But one day, her wish of having company became a reality when it fell out of the drawer in which it was kept.

“Who are you?” asked Engy frightened, “Where do you come from?”

“I am Malty and I am Maltese, that is coming from Malta, the country we are in now.”

“So...So... we are in MMMalta?” muttered Engy.

“Yes!! Didn't you know?” said Maty bewildered.

“No, I didn't know! I am English” said Engy.

“Do you want to be my friend?” asked Malty.

“Yes!!! Of course I want to be your friend” replied happily Engy. At last she would not be lonely anymore.

And that was the beginning of a very long friendship between Engy and Malty.

(Joseph Masini Year 5 Sir Arturo Mercieca Primary School, Victoria Gozo).

A Philatelic Tribute to

The SCOUT Movement

Also because the Victoria Scout HQ is home for many of our activities, the August 2007 centenary of the Movement surely merits a feature in the GPS Quarterly!

(Antoine Vassallo)

During the 1900 Mafeking (Boer War) siege, stamps were produced to "amuse the garrison." Some showed the future founder (Colonel Robert, later Lord, Baden-Powell) and a member of the messenger cadet corps (Major Goodyear). After the end of the war, these were recognized as actual postage stamps: the first "scout" set, since the movement's grassroots originate from this Cape of Good Hope (or south African) episode in B-P's life.

The first officially-issued stamps honoring Scouting appeared in 1918. The Czech Sea Scouts provided mail service just after WWI while their new government was being organized in Prague. In fact the wording translates as: "Czech Scout Post, In the Service of the National Government".

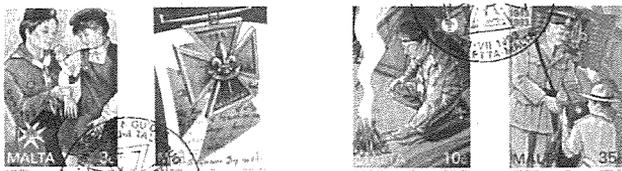
A visit by B-P to Siam (present Thailand) resulted in enthusiastic support by King Rama VI who became the first president of the Siamese Boy Scout Association. To help to cover the cost of Scouting, various stamps were overprinted in 1920, part of the payment going to the Scout movement. Known as the "Wild Tiger Corps", these overprints (in three

different types) show the heads of tigers and the wording in Siamese and English of "Scout's Fund".

The first stamp with an actual Boy Scout (a bugler) appeared in 1925 when Hungary issued a set of eight in aid of various Associations, including scouting - the other designs show sport action.

As the host country, Hungary also commemorated the 1933 World Jamboree held in Gödöllö - again a "first". But by this time the number of countries issuing "scout" stamps was expanding; and now the number is substantial.

A majority of countries have understandably produced Centenary stamps; Malta's is of course within the Europa theme - this set is especially interesting since it also provided our first distinguishable booklet stamp. But Malta had already issued a Scout set: the 1993 quartet for the 50th anniversary of the award of the Bronze Cross for the movement's War effort. This also means that various George Cross designs can be considered to be scout-related.

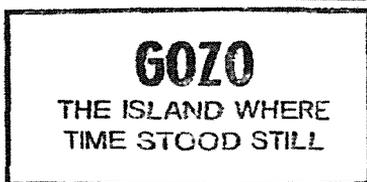


Actually the Scouting theme can be easily expanded through, for example, handstamps and non-adhesives. I finally note that the Victoria Group produced a card to commemorate Gozo's own anniversary, using the opportunity offered by this year's set.

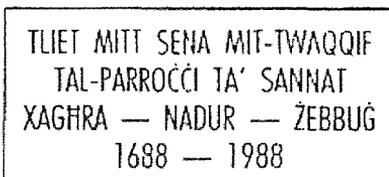
Gozitan Machine Cancellations

George Vella

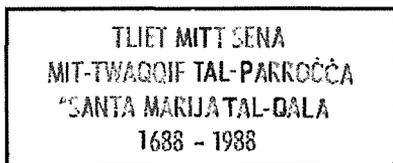
Like handstamps, machine cancellations are official Malta-post cancellations bearing a slogan and canceled by a machine for a week on outgoing envelopes. These are usually ordered by an individual against payment. Up to now ten have been issued that pertain to Gozo. Please note that images and sizes of cancellations are given approximately to scale due to smearing in the process of canceling.



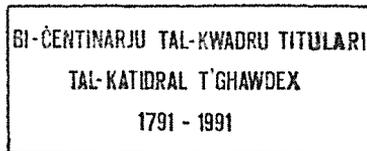
1. [218] GOZO THE ISLAND WHERE TIME STOOD STILL
Used from 19 July 1984, 86, 87, 88, 89, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, & 95
Size: 23x48 mm



2. [276] TLIET MITT SENA MIT-TWAQQIF TAL-PARROĊĠI TA' SANNAT XAGHRA-NADUR-ZEBBUĠ 1688-1988
Used from 25-28 Apr. 1988
Size: 21x50 mm



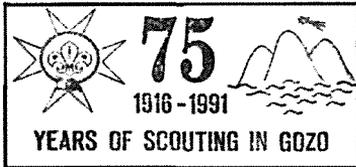
3. [278] TLIET MITT SENA MIT-TWAQQIF TAL PAROĊĊA SANTA MARIA TAL-QALA 1688-1988
Used from 4-7 May 88
Size: 21x50 mm



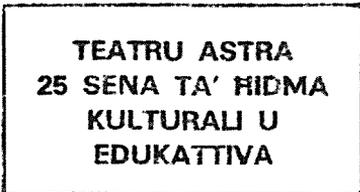
5. [365] BI-ĊENTINARJU TAL-KWADRU TITULARI TAL-KATIDRAL T'GHAWDEX 1791-1991
Used from 22-27 July 1991
Size: 20x48 mm



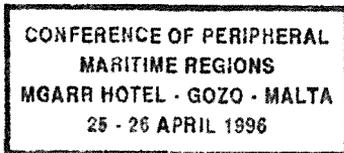
6. [366] NILTAQGHU MA' HUTNA L-EMIGRANTI MGARR GOZO 1 TA' AWISSU 1991
Used from ad-31 July & 1-3 Aug. 1991
Size: 22x48 mm



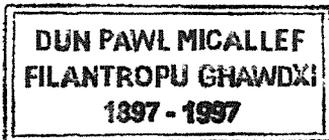
7. [373] 75 / 1916-1991 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN GOZO
Used from 4-8 Nov. 1991
Size: 22x46 mm



8. [397] TEATRU ASTRA 25 SENA TA' HIDMA KULTURALI U EDUKATTIVA
Used from 18-23 Jan.93
Size: 25x48 mm



9. [427] CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS MGARR HOTEL - GOZO - MALTA 25-26 APRIL 1996
Used from 25-26 Apr. 1996
Size: 20x45 mm



10. [440] DUN PAWL MICALLEF FILANTROPU GHAWDXI
Used from 27 Jan. to 1 Feb 1997
Size: 19x43 mm

*Ref.: JB Catalogue Of Malta Stamps - 2006 page 172.
Numbers in brackets refer to catalogue numbers.*

FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Lm1.00c
E2.33
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:- Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Lm2.00c
E4.66
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Card to commemorate the 200th Death Anniversary of Gozitan patriot Archpriest Saverio Cassar. Lm0.50c
E1.16
Limited Edition of 50.
- Card to commemorate Holy Week Traditional Celebrations. Lm0.50c
E1.16
Limited Edition of 100.
- Special card issued to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The card is cancelled with the special handstamp issued from Victoria Gozo Post Office. Lm0.50c
E1.16
Limited Edition of 100. (very few left)
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of Comino Tower stamp. Cancelled at Ghajnsielem sub post office with the first day of issue hand stamp Lm0.75c
E1.75
Limited Edition of 75.
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp Lm0.75c
E1.75
Limited Edition of 130.



FOR SALE

- Special card issued on the occasion of the TOY STAMP issue. Cancelled on the first day of issue at Xaghra Post Office featuring the “POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS” found in Xaghra Gozo. Limited Edition of 75. Lm0.75c
E1.75
- Special “In Memory” card hand stamped at Gharb Sub Post Office on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist held at Ta’ Pinu Shrine, for the repose of the soul and in memory of Mr Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and a sincere friend of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Limited edition of 160. Lm0.75c
E1.75
- Card in the form of First Day of Issue of the reprinted 1c stamp from the 2004 Definitive Flowers set. This stamp was first issued in Gozo on the 19th October 2006. Limited edition of 183. Lm0.25c
E0.58
- Cover issued on the occasion of the Christmas set stamp issue (2005) with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited edition of 130. Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards. Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark. Limited edition of 75 covers. Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

Those interested may contact:

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

FREE OFFER TO JUNIOR MEMBERS

Mr Gordon M Wishart, one of the first members of the Gozo Philatelic Society from Coventry, U.K. is pleased to inform the Junior members of the G.P.S. that he is ready to send free philatelic material to Junior Members who correspond with him. This material consists of a First Day Cover of the Distribution of the Royal Maundy by the Queen at St. Nicholas' Cathedral Newcastle upon Tyne in 1990 and some Great Britain stamps. Whilst the G.P.S. thank Mr Wishart for his offer, all you have to do is to write to him at the following address:

Mr Gordon M. Wishart
72 Quinton Road,
Cheylesmore, Coventry, CV3 5FD
U.K.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

are held regularly every last Sunday of the month:

30 September; 28 October; 25 November; 30 December

From 9.00am to 11.00am

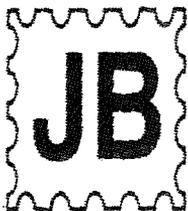
at Victoria Scouts Headquarters

St. Dminka Street Victoria Gozo

Exchange, purchase, information etc.

Reminder to young members

A token of free stamps will be given to those who would renew their membership for year 2007 and they would also have 2008 ready paid.



The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

Published by Sliema Stamp Shop

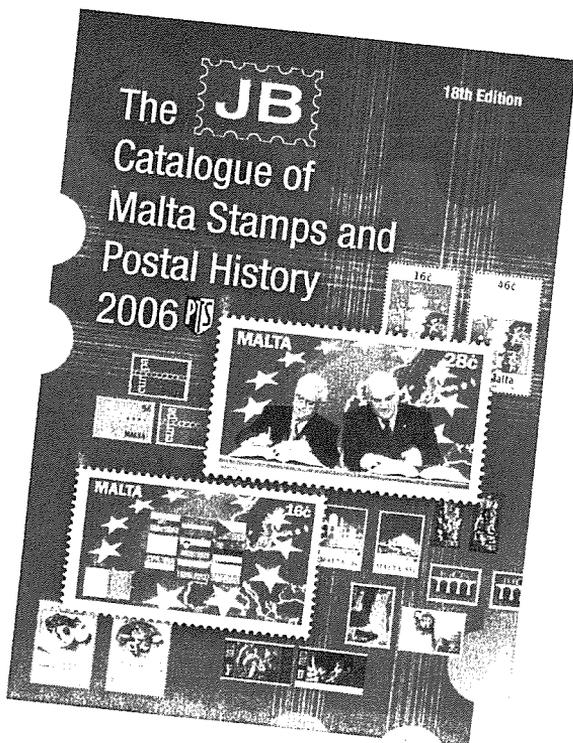
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