



October—December  
No. 66—2016  
[www.stamps-gozo.org](http://www.stamps-gozo.org)



Like us on

facebook





## Start Your Malta Stamp Collection Now

Year packs are an easy way to collect the year's complete issue of stamps. They are presented in an attractive folder with a protective cover and include all technical details related to the year's stamp issues.



**Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.,**  
305, Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001, Malta

[www.maltaphilately.com](http://www.maltaphilately.com) | [info@maltaphilately.com](mailto:info@maltaphilately.com) | (+356) 2596 1740

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

**TO ALL MEMBERS  
PLEASE ENCOURAGE A FRIEND OR A  
RELATIVE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY**

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP PER ANNUM for local Senior Members €5.00  
For overseas membership €15, including News Letter. (per annum)  
Fee for Junior membership under 16 years, is €2.00 per annum.

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_)

Signature

Date

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

---

**GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of  
The Gozo Philatelic Society**

*First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 66 (4/2016)*

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.*

© All rights reserved. Requests for reproduction of contents should be addressed to the Secretary. *e-mail address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org*

---

**CONTENTS.**

G.P.S Diary .....	Antoine Vassallo	5
The Perfins of Malta.....	Peter C. Hansen	6
Gran Castello Redux .....	Antoine Vassallo	14
Stamp Number 1.....	Anthony Grech	16
GPS –Annual General Meeting .....	Louis Bonello	18
Our Post offices are probably better.....	Louis Bonello	19
A Postal Museum and more .....	Louis Bonello	20
Collecting a country that no longer exists-The Canal Zone ...	Anthony Grech	22
Watermarks on Malta Stamps .....	Anthony Grech	23
GPS Annual Exhibition 2016 Cards.....	Mary Grace Xerri	24
Visit to our Website .....	John Luke Debrincat	25
Gozo Philatelic Society 17 Annual Exhibition.....	Louis Bonello	26
Highlights of the Exhibition in Pictures .....	Mary Grace Xerri	27
E & O Not E (43) .....	Antoine Vassallo	30

If you are shopping in Valletta, why not pop into the newly launched Postal Museum? Our latest heritage attraction is situated at 135, Archbishop Street adjacent to the Grandmaster's Palace and explores centuries of postal history. The Museum promises an enjoyable experience for all the family together with *Peppi Pustier*, our museum mascot.

Christmas at the museum includes an interactive treasure-hunt, letter writing to Santa, personalised stamps and weekend decoupage workshops with our specially trained team.

**MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday: 10.00hrs - 16.30hrs  
(Last recommended entry 15.00hrs)

Saturday: 10.00hrs - 14.30hrs  
(Last recommended entry 13.00hrs)

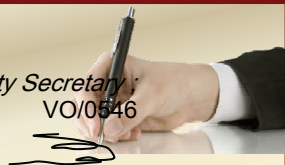
[www.maltapostalmuseum.com](http://www.maltapostalmuseum.com)



## (63) *G.P.S. Diary*

*Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary*

VO/0546

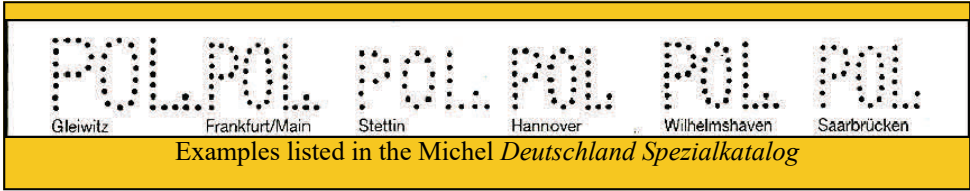


- 9 August 2016** a promotional leaflet, printed in full colour, begins being distributed - you may be interested to get copies to give to friends etc as prospective members
- 29 August** Times of Malta features prominently Il-Ħaġar Citadel exhibit
- September** issue (#70) of the Italian philatelic periodical *Filatelia Religiosa Flash* - issued by the Turin-based *Gruppo di Filatelia Religiosa "Don Pietro Ceresa"* - again features GPS productions
- 2 September** Informal Committee meeting discusses pending matters
- 9 September** Committee meeting discusses school contacts
- 14 September** New exhibit at *IL-HAĠAR*: QV GB used from Malta, featured among others in issue 138 of the (Australian) Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
- 16-18 September** Stamp Exhibition during 11th Qala International Folk Festival
- 24 September** Anthony Grech prepares Cover for Ġharb Altar handstamp
- 2 October** Monthly meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ
- 15 October** Anthony Grech prepares Cover for Ġhajnsielem corbel stamp
- 28 October** Committee makes final preparations for Exhibition
- 4 November** Anthony Grech prepares Cover for Seminary handstamp
- 6 November** Monthly meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ
- 8 November** Setting up of Exhibition begun
- 11 November** MaltaPost issues Exhibition handstamp and Anthony Grech produces 5 Exhibition personalized stamps on 5 Cards
- 11 November** Official opening of 2016 GPS Exhibition (page 27)
- 12 November** Exhibit judging
- 18 November** Last day of Exhibition
- 18 November** Anthony Grech prepares Christmas Cover
- November** Australia's "Maltese Newsletter" refers to our Australian venture this year.
- 22 November** New vintage Christmas Card display in the GPS Il-Ħaġar showcase
- 30 November** Anthony Grech prepares Cover for Gozo Scout centenary handstamp
- 2 December** Committee confirms Exhibition prizes and decides AGM date
- 3 December** Anthony Grech prepares Covers for Bishop Cauchi monument and *Milied f'Għawdex* handstamps

**Please note that the article beginning on page 18 in the last issue was in fact the seventh in the series while that on page 24 was the eleventh in its.**

# The Perfins of Malta.....Peter Christian Hansen

A rather unknown chapter of Maltese philately is that concerning perfins, i.e.the perforating of postage (and revenue) stamps with symbols or characters. The internationally used word itself originates from PERforated Initials. The producers of these perforations were mostly private companies. But a few are “official”, such as Australian “OS“, “E“ of Bavarian Railway or “POL“ used by the German Police departments.



These perforations were used by companies and official authorities as protection against theft or other misuse of stamps. Alternative security measures included overprinting but this was soon strictly prohibited by the Postmaster. In 1858 Joseph Sloper in England got the patent on a machine for perforating



bank forms or cheques with signs or characters – this was extended to stamps too. After a long struggle with the authorities, he finally succeeded in convincing not only banks and businesses but also the British Postmaster General: approval for the perforating of

postage stamps arrived in 1867. The same procedure remains in use:

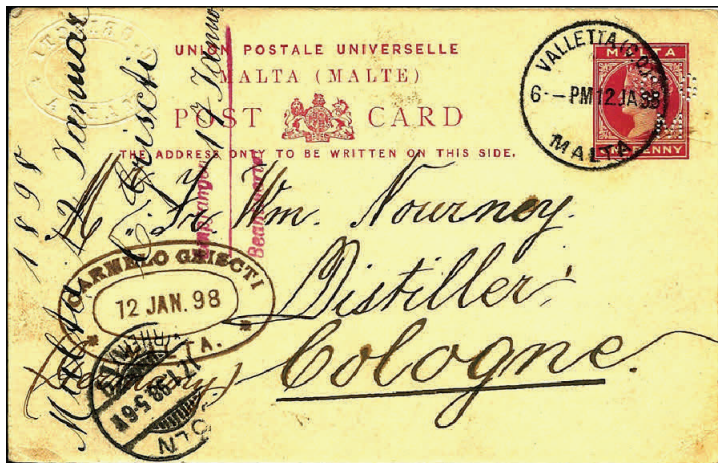
Good ideas spread quickly and so we find perfins in many countries by the last decade of the 19th century.

And in Malta?

This philatelic field is rather unexplored. I found a few notes and short articles in the Malta Study Circle newsletter between 1961 and 1985. However these do not offer valuable clues if British perfins were used in Malta before issuing its own: in fact you can find a limited number of perfins on Queen Victoria stamps but not an attestable dating whether they were first used before 1900.

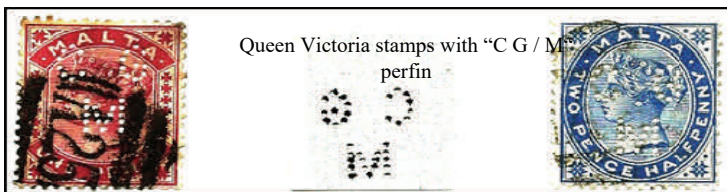
Unfortunately I have not been able to find a copy of “The World Perfins Catalogue – European Section“ by Robert Schwerdt (The Perfins Club – 1994). It would probably include information about early perfins in Malta. Any information is highly welcome!

In my own collection I have just two different perfins on 1885 QV: “G B / & C“ and “C G / M“, the latter one also on QV 1d postal stationery - an extremely rare item.



1898  
Queen Victoria  
1d Postcard with  
Perfin.

This is the only Maltese stationery perfin and one of the great pieces of Maltese Philately, documenting the use of perfins in Malta in 1898!



Queen Victoria stamps with “C G / M“  
perfin

More frequent but also rather scarce are perfins on King Edward VII stamps from 1903 onwards to the first King George V issue in 1914. Here you will mostly find “C B / & C“ and “J W“ perfins.



King  
Edward VII  
stamps with  
“C B / M“  
Perfin



J W. Perfin on King Edward VII and King George V Malta Stamps

The “A M / B” perfins period starts at the beginning of the 1920s. This perfin is found on all King George V issues from 1914, followed by the 1926 Melita series – on pence and shilling values. These initials stand for Anglo-Maltese Bank: its high quantity of mail explains the relative frequency of “A M / B”.

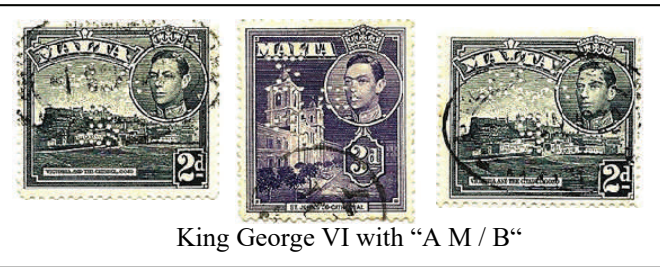
The Anglo-Maltese Bank obviously mostly used lower values for franking commercial mail but also as revenue stamps on receipts and other bank documents. The high values were needed for things such as contracts. Here is a selection.







Little is known about King George VI perfins; most collectors have not seen any. But I can show use through three examples in my collection:



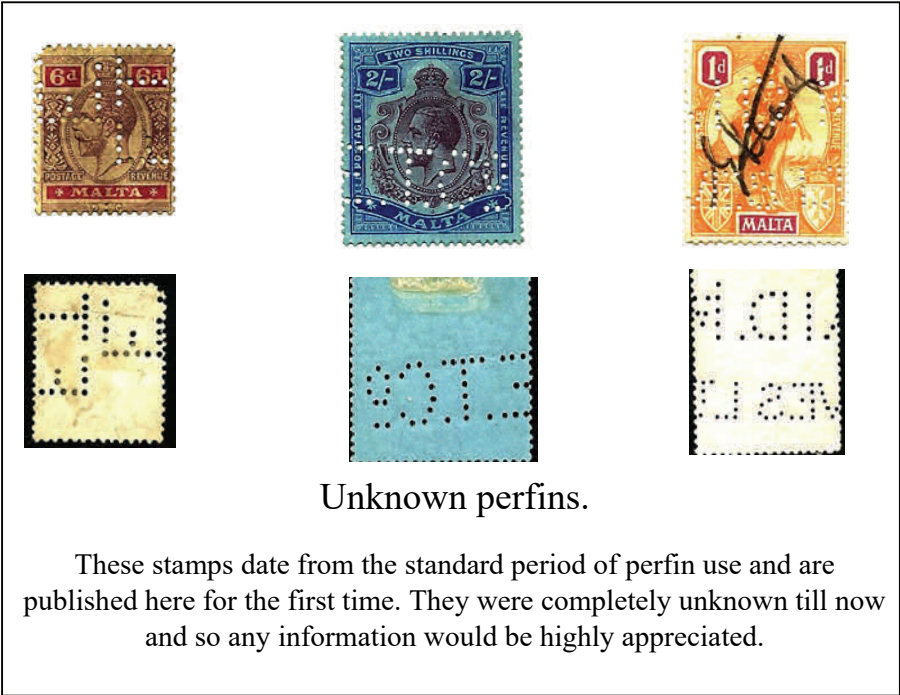
King George VI with “A M / B”

It seems that after World War II no more stamps with perfins were used. From time to time some new ones pop up but it is impossible to identify them without the corresponding documents or covers.

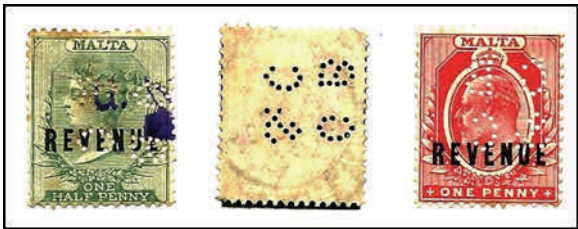


The above stamps are perforated in a manner that suggests a fiscal purpose, maybe cancellation of custom documents, but not strictly a perfins.

The stamps below date from the standard period of perfin use and are published here for the first time. They were completely unknown till now and so any information would be highly appreciated.



Not just postage stamps were perforated (used for postal or fiscal purposes) but also revenue stamps. Strangely enough, these latter are very hard to find - little rarities. Here are two examples:



Revenues with "C B / & C" perfins  
 Queen Victoria                  King Edward VII

The stamps pictured in this article are in different positions: upright, sideways, or inverted – and all positions reversed. Are these rarities? No, that is only the result of the manner of production. Since most perforating machines had just one needle field, the sheets were folded numerous times both horizontally and vertically.



Of course entires are highlights of a Malta perfin collection. Easier to find are pages of rent books, simple receipts and cheques. Very difficult to discover are high value bank receipts, legal documents, contracts and postally used on cover.



1901 End of a will with signatures and Queen Victoria revenue stamps

**THE ANGLO MALTESE BANK**

1922

Coupons of Bonds held by the Anglo Maltese Bank

under discount  
custody R. No.  
collateral security

*Montesa Olga Sant Luminer*

Malta, **14 FEB 1922** 192 - deceased -

DESCRIPTION	COUPONS DUE	NO. OF COUPONS	VALUE OF EACH COUPON	£	s.	d.
<i>Princ 4 1/2%</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>1500</i>		10		
	<i>Diary</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>2040</i>		2	1
<i>to in 4/2 1/2</i>				£	9	17.11

For THE ANGLO MALTESE BANK  
*Stam*  
Savings Dept.

N. B. We reserve to ourselves the right to reclaim at any period the amount of any Coupons returned to us unpaid by our correspondents.

The Anglo Maltese Bank 1922 pay slip for dividend on Brazilian loan stock

**ANGLO - MALTESE BANK**

Mod. 5.

Malta, **31 JUL 1921** 192

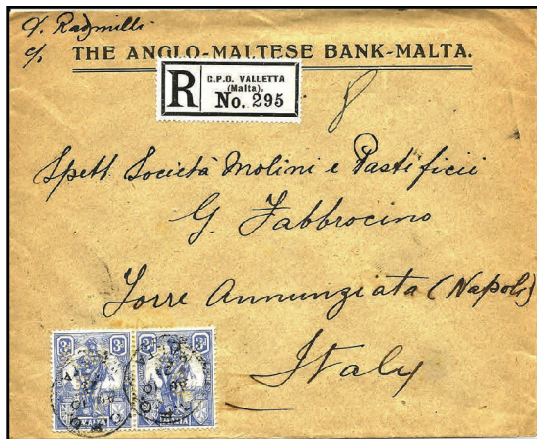
*Chas Sant Luminer Esq*

<i>Cost of</i>						
<i>1000</i>	<i>1000 Italian 5% Bonds</i>					
	<i>@ 76.60%</i>	<i>766.00</i>				
	<i>Charges ahead</i>	<i>4.25</i>				
		<i>770.25</i>				
	<i>Comm</i>		<i>2</i>			
	<i>Goods reg. duty 1/6 2/3</i>		<i>3</i>			
			<i>4</i>			

For THE ANGLO MALTESE BANK  
*Stam*  
Savings Dept.

1921  
Receipt for purchase of Italian Government stocks

To discover a cover with a perfin stamp properly postally used you need sharp eyes, a fine nose and plenty of luck!



High value shilling perfins are in most cases cancelled to order: they should bear parcel post marks.

Registered to Naples with pair of “A M / B” perfins

Formerly, perfinned stamps were considered faulty and not worth collecting. Well, perfins would have no place in a traditional stamp collection. However, in a postal history collection they are essential!

I conclude this short essay with an up-to-date survey of known Maltese perfins:

<u>Initials</u>	<u>user</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
A M / B	Anglo-Maltese Bank	the commonest
C G / M	Carmelo Griscti Malta	scarce
E T / A	E. T. Agius	rare
F E / F	(user unknown)	rare
G B / & C	Galea Brothers & Co.	scarce
J W	(user unknown)	very rare

Both information about newly discovered Maltese perfins and questions would be highly welcome.

References

Malta Study Circle Newsletter

MSC Handbook Supplement 1985

[www.klassische-philatelie.ch/intro/intro\\_perfins.html](http://www.klassische-philatelie.ch/intro/intro_perfins.html)

<http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/>

Promoting Gozo through Philately. *Antoinr Vassallo*

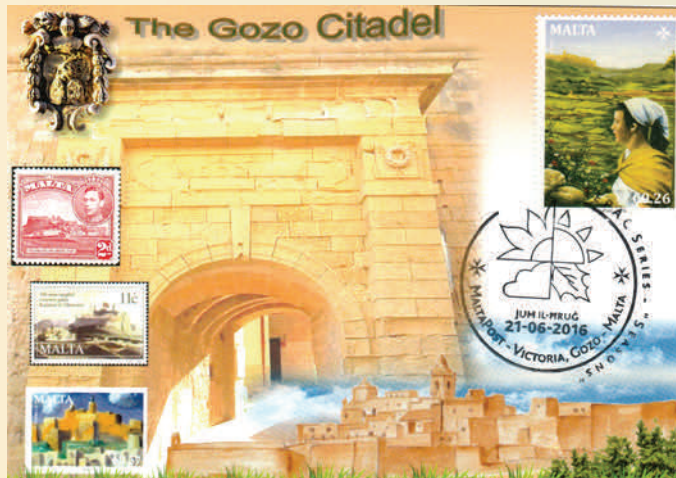
*Gran Castello Redux*



ince the Victoria Citadel first appeared on a Malta stamp in 1938, numerous others have featured this landmark. In the Sepac Seasons set earlier this year, it serves as a background on the “spring” 26c stamp.

And it was very suitable: these months saw the conclusion of a wide programme of restoration and development - within and outside it - encompassed within projects, spread over a number of years, financed through European Union and national funds.

Though other actions had taken place previously (including a digital survey), it is probably correct to consider the multi-volume Cittadella



Masterplan as the essential first step. Financed through the EEA, this was a policy document for the protection and management of the site. The European Economic Area was, of course, created by means of a 1992 agreement between the EU and member countries of the European



Free Trade Association: only Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein maintain their participation.



So we have finally seen the implementation of the key actions identified in it!

Much effort centred around the consolidation and stabilisation of the rock outcrops beneath the fortifications and the restoration of the one kilometre of fortification walls forming what is now formally called the Ċittadella: earlier names were *Gran Castello* and the (English) Citadel. Built at a strategically perfect vantage point, it dominates the skyline - as intended by military architects. The north side dates back to the Aragonese period, while the south flank (which overlooks Victoria) was re-constructed under the Knights of St. John by the beginning of the seventeenth century.

There was also the restoration of facades of historic buildings, the rehabilitation of the ditch and the reconstruction of paths and squares. Media interest was shown in the conversion of two unused water reservoirs into an interactive visitors' centre just outside; visitors will appreciate stair lifts and lifting platforms to increase accessibility. An energy-efficient lighting system was installed and the Folklore Museum converted into a period house. Thus the site was offered new life, while preserving and highlighting its unique characteristics. In fact numerous changes to the plans were deemed necessary because of interesting finds, delaying targeted dates. Actually there had been uncertainty in the previous administration whether to include these works in the 2007-13 programming period (which requires final documentation by 2016) or postpone to the "safer" 2014-20.

The successful conclusion was celebrated through a series of cultural events which offered good opportunities for everyone to participate and thus to appreciate efforts made.



Quite naturally, it was also decided to feature this theme in the GPS showcase on level -1 at Il-Ħaġar: "*Gran Castello Redux - 75 years of Citadel Philately*".

Anthony Grech



(2)

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



**CASTELROSSO**  
ITALIAN  
OCCUPATION.  
Op. "CASTELROSSO"  
ON ITALY STAMPS  
1922



**CASTELROSSO**  
ITALIAN  
OCCUPATION.  
OWN ISSUES  
1923



**CAUCA**  
1902



**CAVALLA**  
Op. "CAVALLE" ON FRANCE  
COLONIES STAMPS  
1893



**CAYMAN ISLANDS**  
1900



**CARIBEAN NETHERLANDS**  
1886



**CAYES OF BELIZE**  
1984



**CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE**  
Op. "EMPIRE CENTRAFRICAIN"  
AFRICAN REPUBLIC STAMPS  
1977



**CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE**  
NATIONAL ISSUES  
1977



**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**  
1959



**CENTRAL LITHUANIA**  
1920



**CEPHALONIA AND ITHACA**  
ITALIAN OCCUPATION.  
OP.  
"OCCUPAZIONE MILITARE ITALIANA ISOLE CEPHALONIA E ITHACA" 1941





**CEYLON**  
1857



**CHAD**  
Op. "TCHAD" FRENCH  
REPUBLIC MIDDLE CON-  
GO STAMPS  
1922



**CHAD**  
**OWN**  
**ISSUES**  
1977



**CHAMBA**  
Op. "CHAMBA  
STATE" ON STAMPS  
OF INDIA  
1886



**CHARKARI**  
1894



**CHILI**  
1853



**CINA**  
**CHINESE EM-  
PIRE**  
1878



**CHINA**  
**MANCHURIA**  
Op. IN CHINESE  
CARECTHERS CHINA  
STAMPS  
1927



**CHINA**  
**CHINESE REPUBLIC**  
Op. IN CHINESE CARECTHERS  
ON CHINA STAMPS  
1912



**CHINA**  
**REPUBLIC**  
Op. IN CHINESE CAREC-  
THERS ON CHINA STAMPS  
1913



**CHINESE**  
**PROVINCE OF**  
**MANCHUKUO**  
1977



**CHINESE**  
**NORTH**  
**EASTERN**  
**PROVINCES**  
Op. IN CHINESE ON  
CHINA STAMP  
1946



**CHINA**  
**NORTH**  
1946



**CHINA**  
**PORT**  
**ARTHUR**  
**& DAI-  
REN.**  
Op. IN CHINERE ON  
MANCURIA & JAPAN  
STAMPS  
1941

**CIRCULAR TO ALL MEMBERS**

I have the pleasure to invite you to our

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

at IL-HAGAR MUSEUM St. George Square, VICTORIA.

On Saturday 14 January 2017 at 4.30pm.

Agenda; Minutes of the last AGM

Financial Statement

Secretary's and President's address.

Election of members for the new committee.

Motions and other matters.

Distribution of Certificates and awards to the

Philatelic Exhibition 2016 participants.

Junior members can invite their family to attend.

Members are encouraged to offer themselves for nomination to the New Committee. NEW BLOOD IS MOST WELCOME.

Members can propose Statute amendments.

**ALL MEMBERS ARE HEARTLIY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

*Lois Bonello GPS President*

and while in Gozo.....

You are invited to visit the magnificent Museum

**IL-HAGAR,**

**situated at**

**THE HEART OF GOZO,**

**next to the Basilica of St. George)**

The Gozo Philatelic Society has a showcase on level -1. We change the items on show periodically, making sure that the exhibits are of interest to both philatelists and to the general public.

Items on show for this festive season;

**VINTAGE AND HAND COLOURED CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS**

**Opening hours: 9am to 5pm 7 days a week**

**No entrance fee is charged!**



HEART OF  
GOZO  
IL-HAGAR

# Our post offices are probably better!!!

Louis Bonella



Inle (or Inlay) also known as Inle Sap is a huge highland freshwater lake in Myanmar (state in South East Asia better known philatelically as Burma).

It is about 22 km by 10, inhabited by numerous ethnic nationals living on separate islands.

Most constructions are built on stilts, exemplified by this postoffice at Nga Phe Chaung.

*we thank Toni Farrugia for THE Post Office photos from far away*





# A Postal Museum – and more!

*Louis Bonello*

GPS Committee members were very pleased to be able to participate at the inauguration (by HE President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca) of the Malta Postal Museum on 17 June 2016. We had in fact offered various suggestions and individual officers had accepted to give important support. Group visits are being planned.

This new heritage attraction is housed in a restored townhouse at 135 Archbishop Street, Valletta, open from 10 am to 4 pm (Monday to Friday) and to 2 pm (Saturdays). More information is available on 2596 1740 - or through [info@maltapostalmuseum.com](mailto:info@maltapostalmuseum.com).

Rare items of postal history are displayed among documents and artifacts. Through the display of objects, narration of stories and interactive experiences, the museum portants role played by the and professionally dis- story of Malta's experienc- trade, love and politics.

Malta's postal service trac- teenth century as the coun- called for an efficient be it in times of prosperity MaltaPost is committed to benefit the community conservation and presenta- material.

This investment, ensures that the museum is comprehensive, informa- experience - a worthy ad- heritage with which Malta blessed.

For art and culture lovers, the museum holds two galleries which showcase temporary exhibitions. The museum promises to be an enjoyable experience for all the family. The dedicated kids' area on the upper floor welcomes children to 'play' the postman, watch an educational audio visual or design artwork for their own stamps. And educational programmes are being added.

The museum includes a shop with specifically designed merchandise, inspired by the rich legacy of the post and the museum's own collection. Moreover the post office housed there offers selected postal services such as standard and



seeks to relate the im- Post. Selectively collected played, the objects tell the es of war, governance,

es its origins to the six- try's strategic location means of communication or decline, peace or war. promote initiatives that through the acquisition, tion of related historical

supported by EU funding, equipped to offer visitors a tive and enjoyable dition to the rich cultural and Gozo have been



registered post (local and foreign) and Money and Postal Orders; philatelic items include new issues cancellations.

with acknowledgments to [www.maltapost.com](http://www.maltapost.com)



***“It is philately’s diversity and intellectual depth which has made it the leading hobby in the world for so many generations.”***

Robert E. Lamb Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society.  
Gibbons Stamp Magazine 2005

**The Committee and Newsletter Board**  
express a sincere expression of  
sympathy to the family of the  
GPS's first President Dr Michael Refalo  
on the loss of his father  
**Vincent.**  
**May God grant him peace and eternal rest**



# COLLECTING A 'COUNTRY' THAT NO LONGER EXISTS - CANAL ZONE



The French began work on *Anthony Grech* the Panama Canal in 1881 but had to stop due to engineering problems and a high worker mortality rate.

In 1903 the Republic of Panama leased a stretch of its land to the United States of America Military Engineers. Across this land, the Americans were to construct a 77 kilometres long canal or waterway for the passing of ships connecting the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The construction works which started in 1904, were fraught with great problems and difficulties. Locks at each end were built to lift the ships and an artificial lake had to be built to minimize the amount of excavation work due to the 26meters above sea level of parts of the canal. After 10 years of hard work the canal was completed on 15 August 1914.



Several administrations which took over the responsibility of the Canal Zone issued postage stamps. At first in 1904, Panama stamps overprinted 'Canal Zone' were issued. These stamps are very rare to find and very expensive to buy, some reaching the 3 and even 4 figure price.



Due to their high price many forgeries were produced. In 1906 stamps of the Canal Zone were overprinted and even surcharged. Twenty years after the Panama overprints, for the first time in 1924, United States of America postage and postage due stamps were overprinted and used. Four years later in 1928 the first definitive



Canal Zone own stamps were issued. One of these stamps features the construction of the canal, while the others are portraits of personalities in connection with the canal or the government of the Canal Zone.

In 1979 the Canal Zone ceased to issue its stamps and from then onwards stamps of the Republic of Panama are used.

If it is hard to collect all the Canal Zone stamps, due to the high prices of the early stamps, I suggest that a section of the USA collection is dedicated to this 'Country' that is no more.



Reference 'Stamp Lover' April 1986

# Watermarks on Malta Stamps.

Anthony Grech



The first postage stamps of Malta, 1860 – 1863, Queen Victoria Yellows ½d, Stanly Gbbons nos. 1 to 4. were unwatermarked, with the first stamp printed on blued paper.



Fig 1

The first watermark on Malta stamps which consisted of a Crown over block letters CC (fig.1) appeared on the next issues of the ½d yellow stamps in 1863, S.G no 5. up to the 1879 issues, S.G. no 17. This was followed by another type of watermark which consisted of the same Crown but over block letters CA. (fig 2) This type appeared on stamps issued from 1882 up to 1904, S.G. no 18 up to no 44, the only exception being SG no30, 34 and 35 which still bore the old Crown over block CC. From the late King Edward VII to King George V issues, the watermark was changed from a single Crown to a multiple same Crown over multiple block CA (fig 3).



Fig 2

In 1922 a multiple different Crown over CA in script (fig 4) appeared. At first this type appeared together with the previous watermark, ultimately replacing it. From 1958 (Technical Education set) to 1964 (Anti Brucellosis set) the design again was changed to the Edwardian Crown over CA. and was reverted to the block type (fig 5).



Fig 3

On 5 September 1964 Malta issued its last set of stamps (1<sup>st</sup>. European Congress of Catholic Doctors) under British Rule. With this set the design of Malta Stamps watermark was definitely and totally changed. The Maltese Cross took over the Imperial Crown, making Malta Philately the first to enjoy the state of independence, even before Malta was officially declared independent on 21 September 1964. Two layouts exist of this design, one with vertical ( fig 6) and another with horizontal Maltese Crosses (fig7).

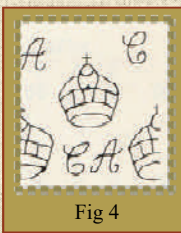


Fig 4

In 1999 Budesdruckerei Printers of Germany were awarded a contract to print Malta stamps. From then (26 February 1999 Military Order of Malta SMOM Set) to 14 July 2004 (Trams Set) all Malta stamps were printed

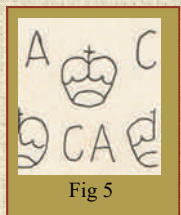


Fig 5

without any watermark. When in 2004 the printing of Mata Stamps was again carried out by Printex Malta Ltd., the Maltese cross watermark reappeared again and remained in use up to date.

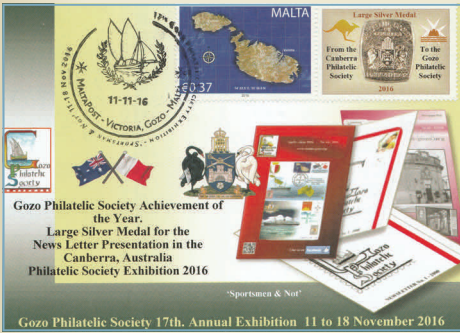


Fig 6



Fig 7

# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 17TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION *Mary Grace Xerri*



On the occasion of our 17th Annual Exhibition, MaltaPost issued a special commemorative postmark from its Victoria Branch Post Office on 11 November 2016. To mark this main event of our Society we issued a set of five attractive postcard. Each postcard was handstamped with the special postmark and franked with a different personalised stamp. This set was

issued in a limited edition of 100 sets, each individually numbered. Each set costs €10. Only 7 sets are left. So if you are interested please hurry and contact Anthony Grech on telephone no 21553338.





# VISITS TO OUR WEB SITE

<https://www.stamps-gozo.org/>

Eversince

John Luke Debrincat

MT 967
US 261
BR 208
CN 84
GB 56
IT 53
FR 41
DE 20
PH 19
CA 16
RU 15
MX 13
IN 12
AU 12
ES 12
AR 10
PT 10

IE 8
GR 8
TR 6
ID 5
AE 5
CZ 4
IL 4
PL 4
KR 4
MY 4
CO 4
CL 4
VN 3
VE 3
RO 3
SI 3
SA 3
EC 3
HU 3
NL 2

HR 2
CH 2
PR 2
TH 2
MZ 2
DO 2
SG 2
LT 2
UY 2
MK 2
HK 2
DZ 2
NG 1
SE 1
LU 1
UA 1
ZA 1
GD 1
SK 1

SK 1
BY 1
PG 1
SN 1
MN 1
GH 1
LY 1
IQ 1
UG 1
NZ 1
DK 1
EE 1
JP 1
AO 1
AL 1
HN 1
PK 1
EG 1
FI 1
SV 1

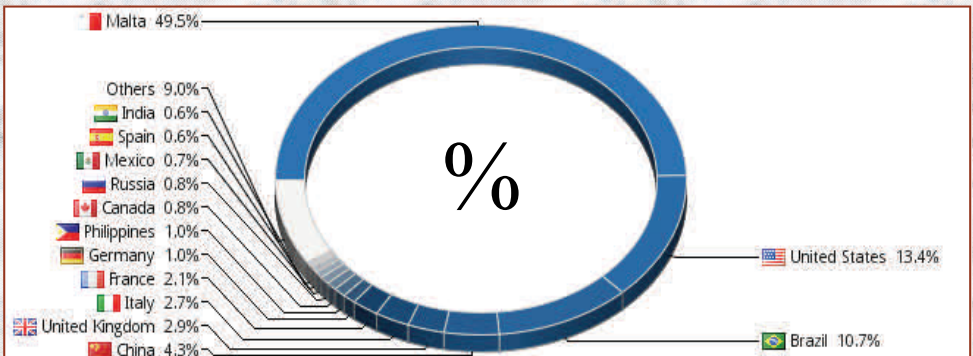
CR 1
AG 1
NO 1

we introduced our web site, we had to date 3,865 visits from 78 different countries. The latest visit from a foreign country was from Nigeria.

**And you, have you visited**

**YOUR**

**WEB SITE lately?**



## Gozo Philatelic Society 17th Annual Exhibition

Louis Bonello G.P.S.President



This year's Exhibition surely had an interesting highlight: participants hailed from Gozo and Malta, as well as France and Australia - a truly "international" event!

This edition included a couple of changes, not forgetting quite an "informal" opening ceremony which was well attended. This was on Friday evening, 11 November - and the Jury did its "duty" on Saturday. We were open on the Sunday (through the kind decision of the Ministry Permanent Secretary) and continued till Friday 18. We again used the main Hall at the Gozo Ministry but "restructured" the space available and used our newly upgraded vertical stands.

But the main adjustment was in the Classes. Besides the Junior and Non-competing items, participants offered a varied assortment in the three Open sections: Postal History & Social Philately (now joined), Traditional and Thematic - which, this being an Olympic year, was appropriately enough "Sportmen or not".



Centrally positioned was a small stand featuring the Large Silver won, as reported previously, at Canberra by the GPS Newsletter. The display included some related documentation.

I must publicly express thanks for their availability to the employees at the Ministry Hall which has become our "fixed" location. Thanks are also due to the committee members, Anthony Grech, Frankie Vella and Mary Grace Xerri who offered essential support and to all participants. Special thanks goes to Mr Carmel Navarro and Mr Samuel Parnis who crossed over from Malta specifically to serve as juries of the exhibition. Unfortunately I cannot thank the Education authorities or School administrations since no pupils were brought over for what would surely have been a truly useful half an hour!

Not wanting to end on a negative note, I express my hope that an incoming committee will be able to create again useful relationships in this sector.

# Highlights from the Exhibition

Mary Grace Xerri



President Louis Bonello and Secretary Antoine Vassallo inaugurating the exhibition



The Exhibition commemorative postmark issued by MaltaPost and designed by Anthony Grech



Beautifully arranged Christmas Stamps



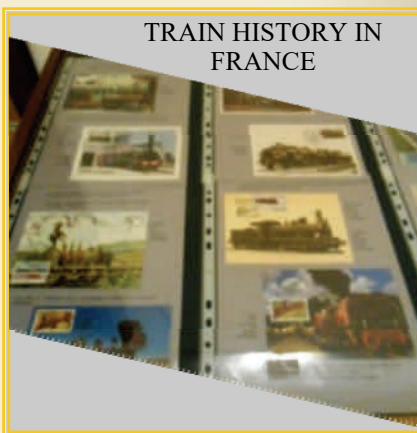
Junior Exhibit



Australia  
Olympic Gold Winners Special Sheetlets



UNDER THE SEA  
Junior Exhibit



TRAIN HISTORY IN  
FRANCE



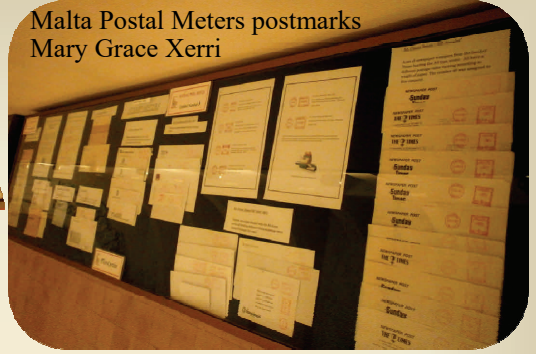
“LIFE & TIMES OF DOM MINTOFF”  
Social philately/postal history  
Best Item On Show.

Traditional Philately FIRST AND EARLY  
STAMPS

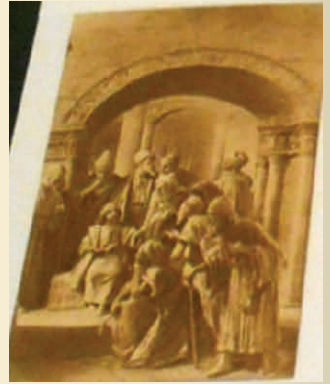




Hand written and illuminated  
Malta Stamp album



Malta Postal Meters postmarks  
Mary Grace Xerri



Complete set of cards by  
D. Mastroanni depicting  
THE LIFE OF CHRIST.  
Frankie Vella



## E & O not E (43)

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

*Antoine Vassallo*

Today I would like to present half a dozen early British Christmas printing errors.

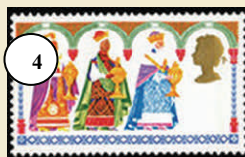


This regular annual issue began in 1966, reproducing the winning entries in a children's competition. J Berry's one shilling and six pence can be found with missing pink, making the hat more snow-like. 1



Classical paintings were chosen for 1967, a common choice for so many countries down the years. All three exist with missing gold, resulting in the disappearance of Queen's head (originally in a quite unusual position) and value. I show the 4d, featuring Murillo's "Madonna and Child", and the top value, showing Louis le Nain's "Adoration of the Shepherds". Regarding the latter, it's interesting to note that the Queen was originally in a quite unusual position; moreover it had been decided to write out the value in words instead of digits, transgressing international standards. 2 3

The set issued in 1969 was designed by F Wegner and, like practically all of these early multicoloured stamps, offers a wide range of missing colours. This example is the 1s6d without deep slate, leaving it "value-



less" (and other effects). 4



A less "spectacular" missing colour was new blue, effecting especially the cloak worn by one of the Magi. 5

The 1973 set, designed by David Gentleman, featured the famous carol "Good King Wenceslas". The missing black (or, rather, gray-black) on the 3½d results in missing value and inscription (and other details). 6

# ISLAND TECH

We offer:  
Network & Accessories.  
Cartridge and toner refill  
After sales services  
& a variety of Computer &  
Laptop Systems.



Call **Manuel Grech** Tel. 21566777  
Mob.99206525 E-mail: [mangrech@maltanet.net](mailto:mangrech@maltanet.net)  
**TRIQ IL-MUNICIPJU RUMAN VICTORIA GOZO.**



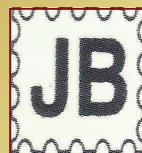
Computer problems?  
**Don't Smash it**  
and don't worry.  
We will find  
a solution.

# The **JB** Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History



# 2014

22nd Edition



**FOR BEST PRICES**

MALTA & FOREIGN STAMPS.  
FIRST DAY COVERS.  
ALBUMS.  
STOCKBOOKS.  
PHILATELIC LITERATURE.  
POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS  
STAMP CATALOGUES.  
INCLUDING THE J.B. 2014  
CATALOGUE.  
COINS AND MUCH MORE

**TOGETHER WITH A  
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHER**

Telephone; 21342189 /

Fax; 21346069.

e-mail;

[sliemastampshop.com.mt](http://sliemastampshop.com.mt) .

[www.sliemastampshop.com.mt](http://www.sliemastampshop.com.mt)

91 Manwel Dimech  
St., Sliema, Malta.

*The Philatelist's  
Paradise*

