



Jan – March 2006

Nº: 23 - 1/2006



**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

*Newsletter*

# Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR  
BIEX TIXTRI  
JEW TIBNI  
DAREK**

**BOV Homelink**  
SUCCESS



**Agħżel**  
int u nnota  
d-differenza!

**BOV Notice Account**

**306090**



**BOV TeenSaver Account**

**It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-tfal tiegħek**



**BOV Savings Plan**

**Il-pjan ta' tfaddil b'bonus!**

**BOV**

[www.bov.com](http://www.bov.com) e-mail: [customercare@bov.com](mailto:customercare@bov.com)

## Front Cover:

- Ggantija Megalitic Temples dating back to 5000 B.C.
- 8c Stamp depicting Ggantija Temples which was issued on 5th May 1983.. This was designed by Mr Tony Bugeja.

## **CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS**

The Gozo Philatelic Society and the *Ghaqda Poeti Maltin*

have the pleasure to launch a **Poetry Competition**

in English or Maltese

for students in Years V and VI (Primary)

and Forms I and II (Secondary)

in State and Church Schools in Gozo.

They are free to use any style but the general theme is

### **OUR HERITAGE**

(history, folklore, environment, towns and villages (etc)

as shown on our stamps.

All participants can present up to three (3) poems,

Typed or printed in three copies.

It is important to include

name, age, address, telephone, school and class.

There will be three prizes each for Primary and Secondary candidates,  
together with a Diploma.

There is a maximum of one prize for any person.

All will also receive a philatelic memento.

Closing date is 10th June 2006.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Il-Gozo Philatelic Society* u l-Ghaqda Poeti Maltin

Iniedu **Konkors ta' Poezija**

Bil-Malti jew bl-Ingiliz

ghat-tfal fil-Hames u s-Sitt Klassi (Primarja)

u fil-Form I u II (Sekondarja)

Fl-iskejjel statali u tal-knisja f'Ghawdex.

Hemm liberta' fl-ghazla ta' stil ta' poezija

Izda trid tittratta t-tema generali ta'

### **IL-WIRT TA' PAJJIZNA**

(Storja, folklor, ambjent, bliet u rhula, ecc)

kif muri bil-bolli taghna.

Kull student jista' jibghat sa tliet (3) poeziji,

Ittajpjati (jew stampate bil-kompjuter) fi tliet kopji.

Importanti li fuq il-karta jkun hemm ukoll

isem, l-eta, l-indirizz, telefon, l-iskola u l-klassi.

Jinghataw tliet premijiet ghall-Primarja u tlieta ghas-Sekondarja,

Flimkien ma' Diploma.

Hadd ma jista' jirbah iktar minn premju wiehed.

Il-partecipanti kollha jircievu tifikira filatelika.

Id-data tal-ghelug hi l-10 ta' Gunju 2006.





# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No. ....

Name .....

Address .....

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

Tel No. .... ID Card No .....

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 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 101, Gozo, Malta.

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**CONTENTS**

**No. 23 — 1/2006**

GPS Diary (23)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	2
6th AGM - President's Report	<i>Anton V Said</i>	3
6th AGM - Secretary's Report	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	5
Financial Statement for Year 2005		7
Consecration of Gozo New Bishop	<i>Anton V Said</i>	8
Where in the World?! (14)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	10
Stamp Terms (14)	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	14
Script by Script (14)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	16
Promoting Gozo through Philately	<i>Anton V Said</i>	12
E & O not E (9)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	17
Australian Malta (8)	<i>John Vassallo</i>	18
Great Britain Stamps	<i>Lina Gauci</i>	19
The Maltese Cross Postmark	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	20
Why I collect stamps	<i>Brenden Buttigieg</i>	22
Malta's Rel. Evidenced Philatelically	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	23

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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 101, Gozo, Malta.*

## GPS DIARY (23)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- 16th December 2005:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for Archpriest Cassar handstamp.
- December 2005:** Newsletter 22 includes announcement of AGM.
- 2nd January 2006:** Meeting with Malta Study Circle representative about their Jubilee visit in October.
- 10th January 2006:** Hall booked for November Exhibition.
- 13th January 2006:** GPS represented at Gozo NGO's Association AGM.
- 15th January 2006:** GPS AGM at Scouts Headquarters (see pages 3 to 6) preceded by Members' Meeting and followed by Prize-Giving ceremonies.
- 22nd January 2006:** Special cover for new Gozo Bishop.
- 28th January 2006:** First meeting of new Committee returned from AGM. Anton Said, Anthony Grech, Emanuel Vella, Mary Grace Xerri and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar were confirmed as President, Membership Secretary, Packets Organizer, PRO and Chaplain respectively. Antoine Vassallo becomes Secretary-Treasurer. An Editorial Board has been created for our Newsletter (and possibly other publications), made up of Lina Gauci, Anton Said and Austin Masini (Editor). The other committee members are George Micallef and John Muscat.
- 29th January 2006:** Presentation of scroll to Bishop Grech by GPS representatives (see pages 8 & 9 ).

Membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so that for overseas members is LM5 (Euro 12) - they can use Money Orders or currency notes.

## SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Gozo Philatelic Society was held at the Scouts Headquarters in Victoria on Sunday 15th January 2006.

The premises were opened at 9.00 am allowing one hour for the members to buy and exchange stamps, ask for information and seek advice about problems which they encounter in this hobby. Then the actual meeting started with the reading of the minutes of last year's general meeting followed by the treasurer and secretary's statements respectively. Speaking of the president's address this focussed on the need for more activities for members especially the young ones to keep up their interest in the hobby, as in some cases the tendency is that they lose certain contacts with the society and this more often than not, results in dropping out. Another important factor in keeping these groups of young philatelists enthusiastic in their hobby is the presence of a co-ordinator to work with them in the schools we visit. There is still a lot to be done regarding this matter. An appeal was also made for the members to renew their membership for year 2006.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of members for the new committee for year 2006. As there were just the required number of nominations, there was no need for an election. A vote of thanks was passed unanimously to the outgoing committee for their sterling work rendered during the year 2005, not forgetting Dr Michael Refalo who owing to pressure of work cannot be with us on the committee this year. A new face taking his place is Mrs Lina Gauci. Congratulations!

The meeting ended with the exhibition's prize giving ceremony together with that for the essay competition organized jointly with the Royal British Legion. We were very pleased to note that for the annual exhibition there were some twenty nine entries and about thirty one for the essay competition from various schools. Well done! In both cases besides prizes awarded for the top six and eight places respectively, consolation philatelic prizes were given to all participants.

A word of thanks goes to Mr Joe Hamilton, representative of the Royal British Legion for being instrumental in providing book tokens for the eight top places in the essay competition and also for being present during the meeting to distribute the prizes himself.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am. ☐

*Anton V Said*

- Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary.
- An Italian philatelic periodical is inviting articles about a religious theme (even if originally in English) - anyone interested can contact the Secretary
- 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.
- When sending by post, use only cheques drawn on Maltese banks (or Money Order) or mint current Malta stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown.



SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
(15.01.2006)  
*SECRETARY'S REPORT*

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the twelve months since our last Annual General Meeting.

The members returned from the 5th AGM formed this Committee at our first committee meeting: Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), George Micallef (Advertising Manager), John Muscat (Librarian), Notary Dr Michael Refalo (Treasurer), Anton Said (President), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Emanuel Vella (Exchange Packets) and Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer). Austin Masini remained Newsletter Editor. Eight further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As can be expected, the 6th Exhibition in its new November date ate up a big proportion of our efforts. The media gave it quite a lot of attention, especially because of the display of the restored Cremona painting from Ta' Pinu. Minister Debono officially inaugurated it, while the Judging panel was again made up of expert philatelists Joseph Buttigieg and Anthony Fenech. Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

We experimented with a Philatelic Auction Sale on the first Sunday during the Exhibition. We got the full support of Mr John Cremona and others at the Gozo Ministry, whose Halls we use.

We also set up a special Exhibition entitled "EU and Europa" at the *Banca Giuratale* in May on the occasion of the first anniversary of Malta's accession.

Anthony Grech prepared a most attractive cover for the Ta' Pinu Christmas issue, using a specially-produced

personalized stamp. He also prepared others for the De Soldanis map and for Fontana church centenary, Mary Mejlak, *Wirja* and Archpriest Cassar handstamps.

We held our traditional *Lunzjata* mass, said by our new Chaplain, together with a Members' meeting. Unfortunately we have not found it possible yet to organize regular Members' meetings.

School visits continued and support offered to the Seminary Club who held a Malta visit, lectures, and even their own exhibition. For the second time, we organized an English competition for school children jointly with the Royal British Legion (in particular its Mr Joe Hamilton) - all participants will be receiving mementos within a few minutes. The incoming committee will decide about holding one in Maltese. Our president represented the GPS in a visit to Germany as hosts of the *Academie Klausenhof*, organized by the Gozo NGOs Association with the Gozo Ministry. We also participated in the "Gozo Day" concluding the Commonwealth Peoples Forum.

These months have also seen the loss of honorary member George Scicluna who quite a few years ago used to publish the "Malta & Gozo Courier".

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter. More junior and new contributors are ardently invited.

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. I also mention (quite proudly!) that at least three foreign publications featured our society.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals. Since we also exchange copies with foreign issuers, we do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan. □

*Antoine Vassallo*

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2005**  
**(Updated to 14th January 2006)**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>LM</b>
Opening Balance (15.01.05)	425.42
Subscriptions & other receipts* from members	275.11
Sale of stamps and other philatelic material	198.88
BOV sponsorship, Exhibition applications, Auction Commission, Newsletter Adverts etc.	189.00
Bank Interest	5.19
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>1093.60</u></b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Printing of 4 issues of Newsletters	280.00
Production of Cards & purchase of philatelic Material	142.29
Exhibition vouchers and other expenses	105.90
Postage and secretarial expenses	38.82
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>567.01</u></b>
Bank Balance	490.49
Cash	36.10
<b>Balance as on 14th January 2006</b>	<b><u>526.59</u></b>

The Society has no pending liabilities but possesses these further assets:

- Exhibition stands and other equipment
- Publications (for reference and for issue on loan)
- Stamps & other philatelic material (for sale & as gifts)

*(\*various donations in kind were also received from members)*

## CONSECRATION OF GOZO NEW BISHOP



Maltapost PLC has issued a special handstamp to mark the consecration of Gozo's new bishop Mgr Mario Grech.

The Gozo Curia, in collaboration with the

Gozo Philatelic Society has issued a commemorative card featuring the handstamp designed by society member Anthony Grech. The card shows the consecration of St Publius as bishop by St Paul. It was designed by Gozitan artist Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi.

On Sunday, January 29, during the *Festa Familja (Family Feast)* at the Sports Complex in Victoria, Gozo Philatelic Society president and Mr Anthony Grech, presented Bishop Grech with a hand-painted scroll featuring the handstamp and a card. □





**T**iskira tal-Monsagrazzjoni  
u l-Ingress Solenni ta'  
l-E.T. Mons. Mario Grech  
Isqof ta' Għawdex.  
Mogħtija b'rispett u  
mħabba mill-Grozo Philatelic  
Society

The Scroll which was presented to Bishop Mgr Mario Grech

## Where in the World ?! (14)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**EHIME:** Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1989.

**Eire** = Republic of Ireland.

**EL SALVADOR:** Central American Republic with stamps from 1867.

**Ellas** = Greece.

**Ellice Islands** see Gilbert & Ellice Is.

**Elobey, Annobon & Corsico:** Spanish territories in the Gulf of Guinea with stamps 1903-9, when became part of Spanish Guinea.

**Elsass** = German occupation of Alsace.

**Empire Francais** = French Empire.

**Empire Ottoman** = Turkey.

**ENGLAND:** Separate issues ("Country" or "Regional" stamps) for this component of Great Britain first appeared in 2001.

**Epirus (*Ipeiros*):** Revolutionary issues in northern Epirus 1914-5; now again uses Greek stamps.

**Episkopi:** The Aegean island of Piscopi or Telos with own stamps 1912-32; since 1947 uses Greek stamps.

**Equatorial Africa = French Equatorial Africa.**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA:** West African republic (previously Spanish Guinea) created in 1968 comprising Rio Muni and the island of Fernando Poo.

**ERITREA:** stamps as Italian colony were issued 1893-1938, then used those of Italian East Africa and British Administration issues 1941-52 until absorbed in Ethiopia; separate stamps again appeared in 1991, officially independent in 1993.

**Escuelas:** Inscription on Tax stamps of Venezuela which were valid for postage.

**E.S.F.S.R.:** = Transcaucasian Federation.

**Espana:** = Spain.

**Estland:** = Estonia.

**ESTONIA (Eesti):** Baltic state with own stamps 1918-40 and from 1991 German occupation stamps (**Estland**) 1941-2; annexed by USSR 1945.

**Etablissements Francais dans l'Inde:** = French India.

**Etablissements Francais de l'Oceanie:** = French Polynesia.

**Etat Camorien:** = Comoros.

**ETHIOPIA:** East African state formerly known as Abyssinia with stamps from 1894; gap of Italian occupation 1936-41.

**Eupen:** Belgian occupation of this German territory 1920-1.

**FALKLAND ISLANDS:** British possessions in the South Atlantic with stamps from 1878.

**Falkland Islands Dependencies:** After Falkland stamps were separately overprinted in 1944 for Graham Land, South Georgia, South Orkneys and South Shetlands, general issues were issued from 1946 to 1963 - when stamps inscribed **South Georgia** appeared. From 1980 the inscription was again **Falkland Islands Dependencies**. Following a constitutional change, stamps for **South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands** replaced these in 1985.

**Far Eastern Republic:** Buffer state between the Russian and Japanese authorities in 1920 until annexed to the USSR in 1922. *(to be continued)*

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***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 V Said)*

It is of great interest to note that Gozo has been featured in the Malta stamps since the late nineteenth century with the well known sepia (dark reddish brown) 4½d stamp depicting the Gozo boat (14x13.75) perforation printed in 1899, designed probably by a Malta Post Office official.

Other well known topics that followed in the Maltese philately were those about local commemorations, monuments, architecture and historical places amongst many others.

Speaking of an architectural monument is the Ggantija prehistoric complex dating back to 5000 B.C. This was first portrayed in Maltese philately in September 1975 on the occasion of the European Architectural Heritage year 1975; proclaimed as such by the Council of Europe. The principal aim behind it, was to awaken the interest and pride of the European people in their common architectural heritage thus drawing attention to the dangers which threatens it and to secure the action needed for its preservation.



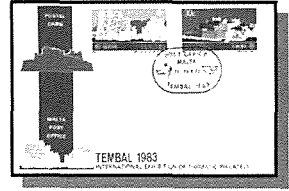
The 1c3m denomination of this issue, shows the plan of the complex at Ggantija; despite the typical floor plan of these structure. This was designed by Richard England together with another three in a set of four. The size of the stamp is 5x 24.5 mm, perforation 14x14; printed on Maltese Cross watermarked paper by Printex Limited Malta.



Another time when Ggantija Temples again were on the Malta Stamps was on May 5, 1983. The subject was "Europa 1983", a set of two stamps. The 8c denomination depicts the Ggantija



Megalithic Temples at Xaghra, the earliest free standing stone monuments in the world. The designer of this 8c stamp is Tony Bugeja. This size is 47x29 mm with 14x14 perforation, printed with the Maltese Cross as watermark by Printex Limited. A postal card was also issued with this stamp on the occasion of Malta's participation in "Tembal 1983" International Philatelic Exhibition which was held in Basle Switzerland. □



(Ref. *Official Bulletin of the Malta Phil Bureau 1975; 1983.*)

Speaking of the actions taken from time to time to preserve these world renowned monuments, at present this is being done on a large scale by the Ministry for Gozo from the procurement of EU funds. The rebuilding of the south western external wall together with the consolidation of an area of collapse of these temples were also financed by such funds. Other series of rehabilitation works at the Temples consisted of the removal of alien shrubbery from the place early in 2005, together with the restoration of the rubble wall chain along the southern cliff and the general cleaning of the site and its surrounds. Other funds came from the Vodafone Malta Foundation. □



**stamp terms used in PHILATELY (14)**

(Emanuel Vella)

***Irregular Perf:*** Where the holes vary in their relation one to another on any side of the stamps.

***Ivory head:*** A variety of the Great Britain 1d red and 2d blue of 1841-57. Electro-chemical action between the constituents of the ink used and the paper content caused eventual and variable bluing of the paper. Owing to the comparatively little ink upon the portrait of the queen, the local staining was practically non-existent and (viewed from the back) the head often appears almost white upon a blued ground.

***J.P.S.:*** Junior Philatelic Society.

***Jeens, Charles Henry (1827 - 78):*** He was an engraver to Perkins, Bacon & Co. He engraved Chile's Christopher Columbus first issue; 1860 "cents" issue for Canada; designs for Newfoundland and for the 1860 set of USA.

***Johnson & Co City Despatch Post:*** Mail service operated by Ezebiel C Johnson at Baltimore USA for which local stamps were issued in 1848.

***James City Express:*** A mail service established by George C Jones at Brooklyn, NY, USA for which local stamps were issued in 1845.

***Journal Stamps:*** Low value postage stamps which were specially designed and produced to prepay postage on

newspapers, periodicals, magazines, journals and general printed material by many countries. The term is also applied to the taxation stamps levied upon the publication of certain newspapers in the past and which in most cases incorporated the postal charges also.

***Jubilee:*** Strictly a fiftieth anniversary. In philately usually refers to the 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V. At that time an omnibus service of stamps was issued for all the territories of the British Commonwealth. The silver (25th anniversary) golden (50th) and diamond (60th) jubilees of a ruler's reign or a country's independence are favourite subject for commemorative stamps.

***Jubilee line:*** the inked printer's rule, frame or line surround, enclosing a pane of stamps. It was first introduced into sheets of Great Britain in 1887.

***“Jump” pair: (USA):*** Misaligned coil stamps; one stamp higher or lower than the next one in the coil or strip. This is due to a slight progressive deviation of the transfer roll.

***Junior Philatelic Society:*** This is one of the leading British philatelic organisation. It was founded in 1899. The Society publishes its own magazine “The stamp lovers” every 2 months. The term junior has nothing to do with the age of the members. It indicates only that it was founded later than the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

*(to be continued)*

## Script by Script (14)

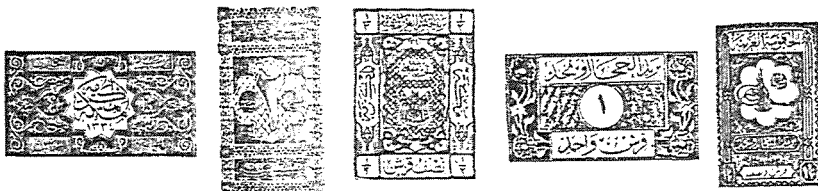
(Antoine Vassallo)

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

The Arab world offers quite a few early stamps where the country name is hardly evident! Today I highlight two neighbours.

The Kingdom of **Hejaz** came into existence in 1916 with the help of "Lawrence of Arabia". Besides numerous overprints, stamps mainly showed calligraphy (obviously because of the Koran's prohibition of the representation of the human figure). Most designs seem to be from ornaments in Egyptian mosques or other buildings, adapted by Agami Effendi Ali. In fact they were printed in Cairo.

Even ten years later, under Ibn Saud, the combined Hejaz and Nejd continued to offer "difficult" issues. There is also the danger of mistaking the issuer for Turkey! The first "english" name only appeared in 1929 with a new currency. This state of course was renamed **Saudi Arabia** in 1934.



**Yemen's** first stamps (for internam postage) were issued in 1926. The paper used was watermarked "Best Dutch" but the design itself was composed of Arabic script only - referring to God's will and to the current Imam's name.



## E & O not E (8)

(Antoine Vassallo)

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

*I have not yet featured Malta in this series.*

Various missing colours can be found on the 1965 "Historical" Definitives. An attractive one appeared on the 4d highlighting the period of the rule of the Knights of St John - who thus became the "Knights of Malta"!

Chev. Envin Cremona experimented with various colour schemes, including the quite revolutionary use of gold and silver. Here there were two separate plates with the latter. This is the reason why the country name is present while the "subject" inscription is not, despite both being in silver.



*Normal*

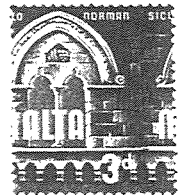


*Error*

Other instances occurred on the 1d ("Punic") where there was unusually a white plate, 2½d (gold "Saracenic") and 3d (silver "Malta").



The two values added in 1970 did not escape this "fate". Gold "Fortifications" is missing on the 5d, while the 10d can be found without the gold "Naval Arsenal". Like the rest of the horizontal designs, the latter in fact had two gold plates to accommodate the marginal framework - thus permitting a wide range of missing golds! Further interesting varieties in this series are the result of colour misplacement. I show also a perforation shift.



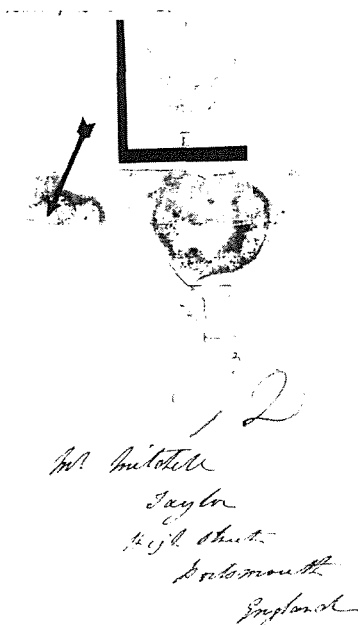
## Australian MALTA (8)

*John Vassallo, who lives in Australia, offers  
glimpses of his Malta Collection.*

I continue showing parts of my Postal History exhibits.

### 1813 - 1841 Government Packet Mail

Arriving Government Packet Letters were distinguished in UK by a c.d.s. showing origin and arrival date. At Falmouth this was struck in Green. Due to ink used this is invariably faded and usually blurred.



1827 - 18th September - Entire letter from HMS Ariadne at Corfu. Arrived Falmouth 27 November and Portsmouth 29th. Rated 3 shillings 2 pence comprising packet rate 2 shillings 3 pence plus 11 pence. UK inland rate 230 miles.

## Great Britain stamps with less than 1,000,000 issue

*Lina Gauci*

<u>SG</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Approx.Cat £</u> <u>(Unused)</u>
1-3	Penny black plate 11	168,000	6,000
20a	2d blue plate 5 small crown p16	960,000	4,500
27	2d blue plate 5 large crown p16	960,000	5,000
64	4d pale carmine on white paper	480,000	3,500
121	2/- brown	77,620	10,000
130	5s rose Large anchor	537,374	9,750
128	10/- Maltese cross	242,000	32,000
131	10/- Anchor	224,000	40,000
129	£1 Maltese cross	242,000	36,000
132	£1 anchor	112,000	48,000
137	£5 orange	246,826	7,000
	£5 telegraph	84,000	5,500
141	2½d plate 17	960,000	1,000
185	£1 brown-lilac imp crown	360,160	20,000
186	£1 brown-lilac three orbs	80,800	38,000
212	£1 green	701,760	3,250
266	EVII £1 green	804,880	2,000
438	PUC £1	61,000	1,000

## THE MALTESE CROSS POSTMARK OF GREAT BRITAIN

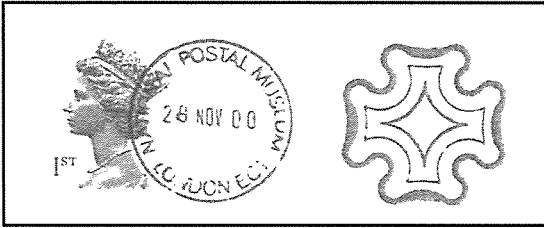
*An interesting postmark!!*

*(Anthony Grech)*

The “Penny Black” was the first adhesive postage stamp invented in Great Britain and in the world by Sir Rowland Hill in 1840. Immediately a postmark was needed to cancel the stamps so as not to be re-used. A design in the form of a cross was adopted. This design, named “The Maltese Cross”, in the philatelic world, became the first obliterator. This postmark was in use from 1840 to 1844. There are several variations in its details. The reason for this is that the postmarks were hand cut. Some of these oblates are so distinct from others that they can be easily allotted to particular post offices or towns. These postmarks are very popular with philatelists. Keenly sought are those used especially in Manchester, Norwich and Leeds. At first, red ink was used to obliterate the stamps. In February 1841, after some experiments, this was changed to black ink. However Maltese Crosses Postmarks in any other colour do exist but are very rare. There exists this type of design, but with a number (from 1 to 12) in the middle. These indicate that the stamp was postmarked at the London Chief office (1843– 1844).

In 1844 the “Maltese Cross” design was superseded by a variety of other obliterator. Today the “Maltese Cross design is still used in Great Britain, on Philatelic occasions such as Stamp fairs but only from the National Postal Museum, London. The Malta stamp and postal history collector should include one of these postmarks to his collection. The original postmark is quite expensive and difficult to obtain. A postmark from the modern ones being used from the British National Museum will be just fine. □

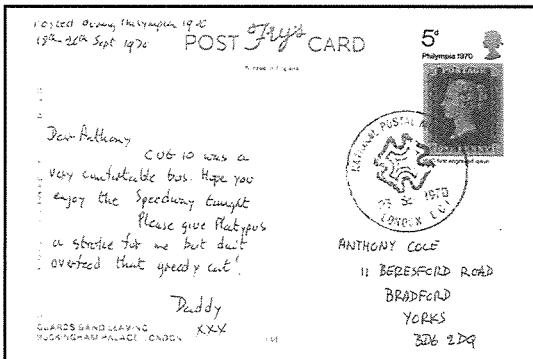




The Maltese Cross postmark as used today from the National Postal Museum London.

## THE MALTESE CROSS ON MALTESE POSTMARKS

Several Maltese Postmarks include a design of the Maltese Cross. A Lazaretto/Malta postmark incorporates it as spacer. It was used again as spacer, on the 30 mm double ring Valletta/Malta postmark. Other several examples followed. In fact there are enough different postmarks that show the Maltese Cross, to build up a very interesting collection. The Sliema Stamp Shop, who publishes the JB. Stamp Catalogue includes among other information a comprehensive and complete list of such postmarks composed by an expert in Philately. This authoritative list can be used as a reliable piece of information in building such a collection. □



A commemorative postcard issued during "Philympia 1970" Stamp Exhibition and postmarked with a replica of the "Maltese Cross Postmark"

References: *The J B Catalogue 17th Edition 2004.*  
*Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part one 2002 edition.*

## WHY I COLLECT STAMPS

*(Brenden Buttigieg Junior member)*

Stamp collecting is one of the most popular hobbies in the world. Stamp collecting has been called “the hobby of Kings” and the “King of Hobbies”. In fact, Kings have collected them.

I have been collecting stamps since I was a little boy. Mum used to collect when she was young too. She encouraged me to start collecting. She brought me an album and some stamps. She also taught me how to recognize one country from another. A year later I won a stamp album with mint stamps of Malta. I also participated in a stamp competition and I was overjoyed with the prize. Since then, I have never stopped collecting.

Many people around the world collect stamps - young, old, rich and poor. Millions of people collect them because they are interesting. I think that collecting stamps is fun and a means of relaxing. It also enables one to make new friends and meet people when exchanging stamps with each other. It is a hobby that one will never get bored with. I collect stamps from all over the world and I am crazy about the ones with birds and animals on them. I also have pen friends from Australia and Brazil who send me a lot of stamps. In return, I send them stamps of Malta.

I like collecting stamps because it does not require a lot of money, space or equipment. This is not only something I enjoy doing, but it is also beneficial to me because I can learn about other countries. □

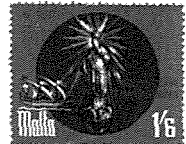
## MALTA'S RELIGIOSITY EVIDENCED PHILATELICALLY A CROSS-REFERENCED A - Z

(Antoine Vassallo)

(continued from Newsletter No 22)

### V is for the VIRGIN MARY (cont)

- *Damaxxena* Madonna - **2d** Siege **1962**.
- *Ta' Pinu* Madonna - **12c** Religious **1988**.
- *Tal-Mellieha* Madonna - 2-value set Coronation Centenary **1999**.
- Our Lady of Victories - **5d** and **1/6** Religious **1971**.
- Annunciation - **2c** Tapestries **1977**; **2c** and **12c** Christmas **1980**; **2c** Christmas **1983**; **7c** Christmas **2003**; **16c** Christmas **2005**.
- Nativity - **11c** Tapestries **1977**.
- Adoration of the Magi - **20c** Tapestries **1977** and various Christmas.
- Virgin and Child - **17c** Durer **1978** and **MS Art 2004**.
- Mary Help of Christians **MS Salesian Centenary 2004**.
- Visitation - **2c** Christmas **1984**; **2c** Christmas **1987**.
- Flight to Egypt - **6c** Christmas **1998**; **50c** Christmas **2005**.



Salesians in Malta  
100 Years of Service to the Young

See C E F I O U

## W is for WORLDWIDE

Quite a few countries have issued stamps with a Maltese religious connection. Since I have in mind a future survey of “Malta on foreign stamps”, I limit myself here to just mentioning:

- Jordan: **1966** 14-value set (and (MS) showing the Way of the Cross adapted from paintings by Prof GB Conti in Zabbar Our Lady of Graces Sanctuary.
- Vatican: **1991** Papal Visits **1500 lire** showing Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary and **2002 41c**
- The *Poste Magistrali* of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta have often featured local designs.

## X is for XMAS

Since the original Christmas set (depicting the Nativity) in **1964**, these annual stamps have often been the highlight of the year’s issues. Chev. E V Cremona was the chosen designer till 1979. It was only in 1993 that a non-religious subject first cropped up. Numerous issues have simply reproduced paintings while other designs have been purposely made, sometimes showing customs connected with this feast.

Related articles often appear in our Newsletter.



See B C F G I J L N O Q S V Y

*(to be continued)*

## FOR SALE

- **Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2).** Lm1.00c
- **A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:- Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar.** Lm2.00c
- **A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work.** Lm1.00c
- **Card to commemorate the 200th Anniversary Of The Blessing Of Nadur Parish Church. Cancelled with a Commemorative Special Hand Stamp at Nadur Gozo Sub Post Office. Individually hand coloured and limited edition of 75.** Lm0.25c
- **Card to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp used only at the Victoria Gozo BPO. Limited edition of 100.** Lm0.50c
- **Card to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of Fontana Parish Church cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp. Limited edition of 50.** Lm0.50c

*(continued overleaf)*



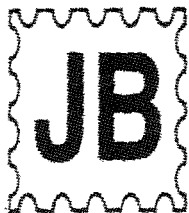
## FOR SALE

- Card to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of Gozitan poetess Mary Meylak  
Limited edition of 50. Lm0.50c
- Card to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Gozo Agricultural and Industrial Show.  
Limited edition of 100. Lm0.50c
- Card to commemorate the 200th Death Anniversary of Gozitan patriot Archpriest Saverio Cassar.  
Limited Edition of 50. Lm0.50c
- Registered cover with stamp and 5m coin to commemorate the issue of Mnara stamp which is found at the Gozo Museum.  
Limited Edition of 50. Lm1.00c
- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

*Those interested may contact:*

**Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338**





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**Published by Sliema Stamp Shop**

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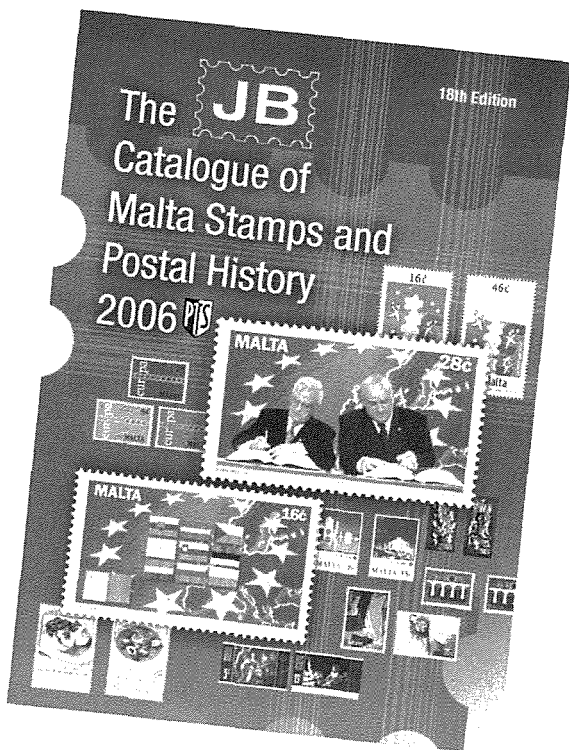
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