



July - September 2010

No.41 - 3/2010

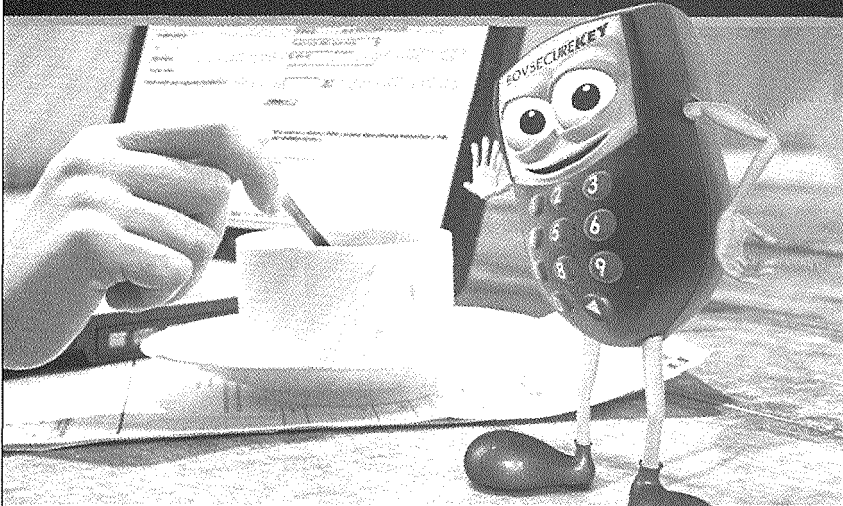
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**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

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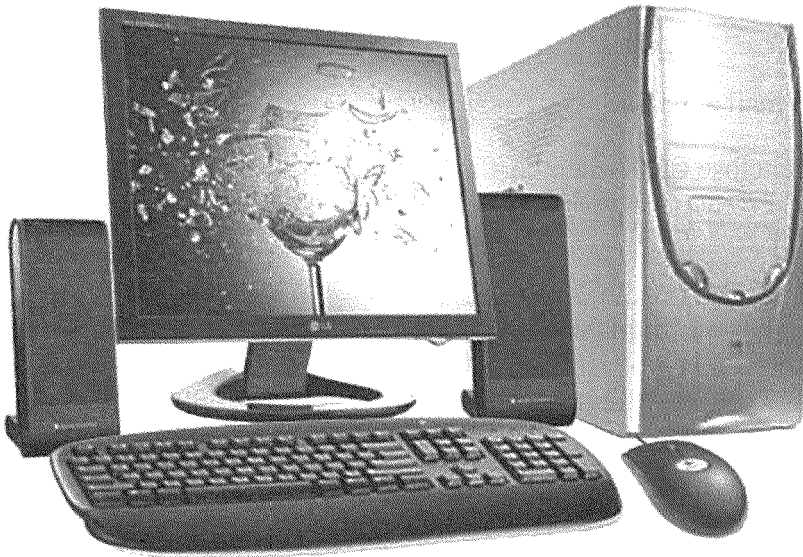
Front Cover:

- Xwejni salt pans within the Marsalforn area.
- £0.37c stamp depicting part Xwejni Salt pans. This stamp was included in a Scenery set issued on September 16, 2009.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Signature

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I enclose € 5 (Junior € 2 / Overseas € 12) to renew my membership.

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Date _____ Member No. _____

GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on February 12, 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 September 3, 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.

email address: editor@stamps,gozo.org

GPS DIARY (40)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

July-August 2010: Anthony Grech led philately sessions at the Don Bosco Oratory *Skola Sajf* summer club.

August-September 2010: issue of *il-Hajja f'Ghawdex* features an article by President Anton Said about philately and the GPS as the first in a series on hobbies.

September 2, 2010: Committee meeting finalizes Exhibition regulations.

September 5, 2010: Members' Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ resume after the summer break.

September 17, 2010: Committee meeting discussed Exhibition arrangements and Website updating.

Members' Meetings

are held on the first Sunday of the month:

(resuming after the summer)

3rd October 7th November 5th December

9-11 am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).

Exchange, purchase, information etc

Entrance Free!

All Juniors will receive a gift of free stamps

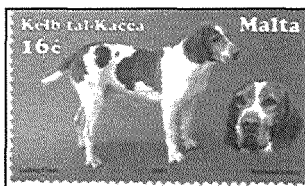
Non-Avian Fauna on Malta's Stamps (1899-2007)

(Antoine Vassallo)

chronological list (* = not the main subject of design)

(cont from Newsletter No 40)

- 2001 Dogs** **6c** pharaoh hound
 16c hunting dog
 19c Maltese dog
 35c pocket dog



2002 Seahorses

- 6c hippocampus hippocampus*
6c hippocampus guttulatus
16c hippocampus hippocampus
16c hippocampus guttulatus



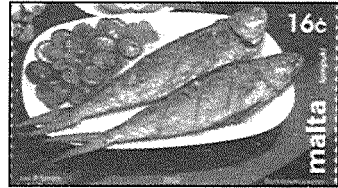
2002 Moths & Butterflies

- 6c bahrija tat-tenghud*
6c sbejha
6c bahrija tar-rummien
6c rubin
6c farfett tax-xewk
6c farfett ta' l-anglu
6c farfett taz-ziju
6c farfett tal-hurrieq
6c qejjies
6c habbara
6c bahrija tal-ballut



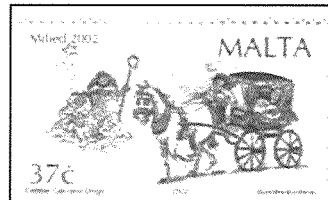
6c elokata
 6c kannella
 6c farfett tal-kabocci
 6c farfett tal-fejgel
 6c farfett ta' danaws

2002 Cuisine 16c lampuka
 75c rabbit*



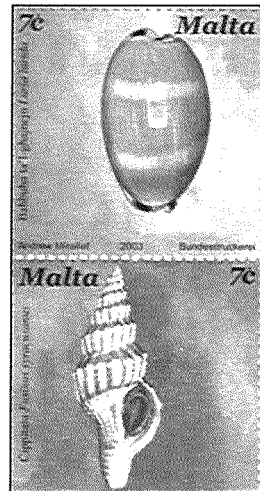
2002 Christmas 7c donkey
 16c sheep*
 37c sheep*, horse
 75c camel, donkey,
 ox*

2003 St George 3c horse
 7c horse
 14c horse
 27c horse



2003 Seashells

7c *chlamys pesfelis*
 7c *gyroscala lamellosa*
 7c *phalium granalatum*
 7c *fusiturris similis*
 7c *luria lurida*
 7c *bolinus brandaris*
 7c *charonia tritonis variegata*
 7c *clanculus corallinus*
 7c *fusinus syracusanus*
 7c *pinna nobilis*
 7c *acanthocardiatuberculata*
 7c *aporrhais pespelecani*
 7c *haliotis tuberculata lamellosa*
 7c *tonna galea*



7c spondylus gaederopus

7c mitra zonata

2004 Cats 7c

27c

28c

50c

60c

2004 Indigenous Fauna

16c pipistrelle

16c bat

16c weasel

16c hedgehog

16c chameleon

16c shrew

16c skink

16c wall lizard

16c moorish gecko

16c turkish gecko

16c leopard snake

16c whip snake

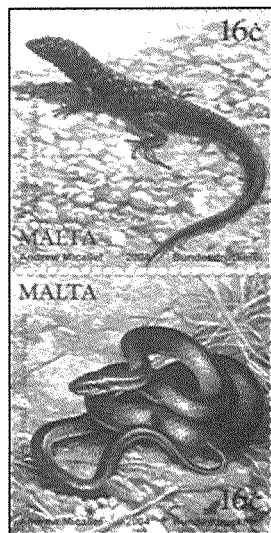
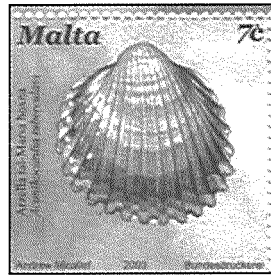
16c common dolphin

16c striped dolphin

16c monk seal

16c turtle

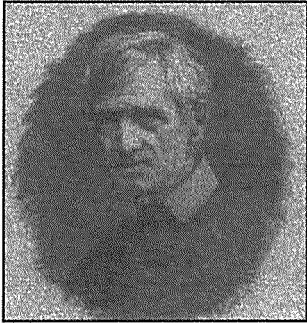
2004 Art MS horse*



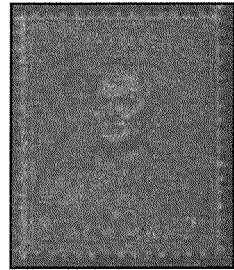
A CARDINAL THAT VISITED MALTA

(Anthony Grech)

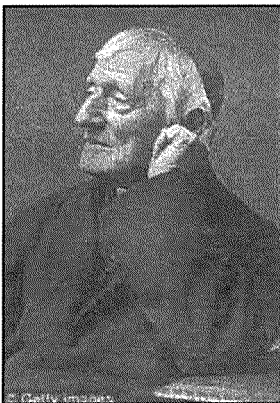
'The remains of Cardinal John Henry Newman are to be moved from a rural cemetery to a grand urban church'



This was a great news especially for English Roman Catholics. It took months of arguing and petitioning over a law of the 19 century which forbids the transfer of bodies from graves to a church tomb. After the Cardinal's death,

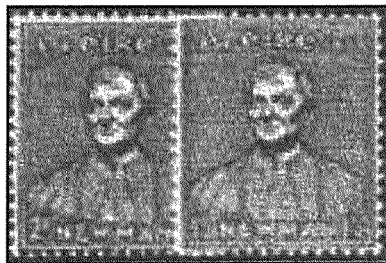


exactly 118 years ago, permission was granted by the British Ministry of Justice to let undertakers move his remains from a cemetery in Rednal to a special resting place of honour at Birmingham Oratory. The Vatican wanted Cardinal Newman's remains moved to a place where he can be better venerated. This was in view of the fact that a first miracle was attributed to his intercession and so he was beatified recently by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit in the UK.



Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman was born on February 21, 1801 and died in August 11, 1890. He was an Anglican who was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1845. He was later consecrated a cardinal and in 1991 was proclaimed Venerable. In early life he was a major figure in the Oxford Movement to bring the Church of England back to its

Catholic roots. Eventually his studies in history persuaded him to become a Roman Catholic. Both before and after becoming a Roman Catholic he wrote a number of influential books, including *Via Media, Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine, Apologia Pro Vita Sua* and the *Grammar of Assent*. Due to his ill health, in December 1932, Newman made a tour to Southern Europe. He stopped also in Malta and it is believed that his stay here, helped him decide on his conversion to Roman Catholic.



Set of two stamps issued by Ireland in 1954

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!

MALTESE BALCONIES

(Mary Grace Xerri)



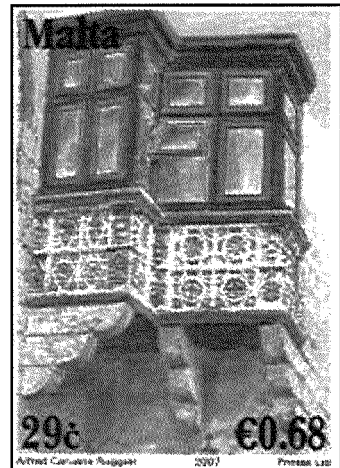
Ever since man inhabited these islands he showed great ability in craftsmanship. He invented early tools, clothes, places to live in and many other things to help him survive. Apart from basic needs he also created figurines out of stone or clay, metal costume jewellery and painted walls where he lived in. This tells us that man had always wanted to give a better look to his surroundings. As man evolved through the years so did his crafting ability. We inherited great architecture representing different stages in the development of our country.

In fact the set of stamps depicting Maltese Balconies issued on April 28, 2007 gives tribute to the craftsmanship

of our ancestors. The 22c/€0.51 stamp value shows an open stone balcony found at 113 Church Street Gharb Gozo and the 29c/€0.68 stamp value shows a timber and stone balcony found at St Mary Street Victoria Gozo. As one can observe the two balconies are very rich in ornamentation and carry very detailed designs. When looking



at these balconies one has to keep in mind that every detail was hand created without machinery. The design was done in the mason's mind and then transformed skillfully into a balcony. These types of balconies fascinate many tourists who visit our country and we should do our best to protect this heritage. It is also a positive thing that the postal authorities chose to feature such subject on stamps.



Stamps travel the world all round and thus show the unique characteristics of the Maltese Islands and its inhabitants.

Where in the World ?! (31)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

KuK Feldpost, KuK Militarpost or **KuK Konigi Osterr Post** =
Austria.

KuK Militar-Vernaltung = Austrian occupation of
Montenegro.

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

Kunming = Yunnanfu.

Kupa see Fiume.

Kurland = German occupation of Latvia.

KUWAIT: State in the Arabian peninsula with issues from
1923.

Kwangehow = Kouang-Tcheau.

Kwantung: Chinese region under Japanese occupation 1942-5.

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

KYRGYZSTAN: The former Soviet Union republic of
Kirghizia became independent and issued its own
stamps from 1992.

La Aguera: Spanish African territory with stamps 1920-3;
now part of Morocco.

Labuan: British territory off Borneo with stamps 1879-1905;
now part of Malaysia.

La Canea = Crete.

Lagos: British African territory with stamps 1874-1905; now part of Nigeria.

La Guaira: Local Venezuela stamps.

Laibach = German occupation of Slovenia.

Lansa: This Colombian company (“Lineas Aereas Nacionales Sociedad Anonima”) issued stamps 1950-1 for air mail services.

LAOS: South East Asian state formerly part of French Indochina with stamps from 1951; stamps for Indian Forces in the International Commission in Indo-china issued 1954-68.

Las Bela: Indian state with own stamps 1897-1907; now part of Pakistan.

L A R = Libya.

Latakia (*Lattaquie*): Town in French Alaouites with stamps 1931-5; now Syrian Al Ladhiqyah.

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!)

(to be continued)

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY THE XWEJNI SALTPANS

(Carmel Axiac)

On September 16, 2009, MaltaPost issued a Scenery-themed set. It is most interesting that three out of the four stamps show Gozitan scenes. Furthermore, the €0.37 value was selected to form part of the SEPAC collection. This stamp shows the saltpans at Xwejni - and not the Qbajjar saltpans as erroneously stated.

Qbajjar Bay with its saltpans, desolate and abandoned, lies to the east of Xwejni; while the saltpans at Xwejni are still being cultivated. The saltpans are dug out in the soft limestone on a stretch of land between Xwejni Bay and *Ras ir-Reqqa* (Reqqa Point depicted on the €0.02 stamp of the same set). The salt harvested from the Xwejni saltpans is used in the production of Maltese bread and in other cottage industries such as the making of *gbejniet* (local cheese), and for preserving capers, olives and sun-dried tomatoes.

The local industry of producing salt goes back several centuries. It is believed that parts of the Xwejni saltpans date to the Roman period and are found on the tip of the promontory. These are naturally formed basins which could easily be filled with seawater when the waves roll in, especially with northern and north-eastern winds.

The first record of the saltpans is in the unique manuscript "*Il Gozo Antico e Moderno, Sacro e Profano*" written by "the first Gozitan historian" Gio Pietro Francesco Agius de Soldanis, the eighteenth-century personality honoured by the Maltese posts in 1971. He states that the saltpans and an adjacent cave belonged to him. Probably in his time further saltpans were dug out in addition to the older ones. This was a slow and laborious process which spanned over many decades. I remember my grandfather Rafel Axiac recounting how he himself formed the "newest" saltpans in the 1950's. These are found next to the scenic road and they are

easily distinguished from the other ones by their perfectly rectangular shapes, as shown on the €0.37 stamp.

To produce salt is not an expensive process, but it entails hard labour under the merciless sun. The popular perception that salt-making takes up some five or six months of the year is not true. During the other months, the salt-maker takes on the task of maintaining the saltpans. The basins are cleaned out of all the debris that sweeps in by the rough seas, and of the dust blown off the surrounding limestone cliffs. Sometimes a storm could cause havoc, and even the delicate boundary walls of the saltpans are destroyed. These have to be rebuilt before another salt-making season begins.

In a typical year, the first produce is collected in early June. The *salini* (saltpans) are duly filled with seawater and the sun does the rest. In a week's time the water is evaporated, leaving a layer of *melħ* or rough salt crystals. This is swept to form a mound of salt in each basin. Afterwards this is gathered in a *qoffa* (bamboo basket) and carried to be left to drain on a rocky plateau in the *salina*. After a couple of days the salt is ready to be placed in sacks or to be deposited in one of the nearby stores hewn out in the cliffs.

This cycle is repeated over and over again during the months of June to October, weather permitting. It is still a very primitive labour using very few tools. A hard-fibre broom has replaced the *xkupa tal-qasab* (bamboo rake) to sweep the salt. A handheld spade is required to scoop the salt in bamboo baskets (nowadays plastic buckets are also in use), and a *menza* (yoke) to carry the salt across one's shoulders.

Nowadays salt is mostly sold in small plastic bags, but formerly a family used to buy *tomna melħ* which roughly equals to two large bucketfuls. This was adequate for a whole year of cooking and preserving foods. In the late 1960's and early 1970's a *tomna melħ* was sold for two shillings sixpence and today it sells for €5. The feasts of Sant' Anna (July 26) and San Lawrenz (August 10) were the traditional days when the people of Zebbug and nearby areas flocked to Xwejini to buy their *tomna melħ* and spend the day relaxing by the sea.

(Continued on page 16)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (31)

(Emanuel Vella)

Muscat: Independent sultanate of Arabia. Indian stamps were used from 1856. In 1944 British stamps were surcharged with various Indian currency. At various times Muscat stamps have also been employed at other Indian states, and also at Dubai and Qatar.

Mustang Express: A local mail service run by Jabez Fearey at Newark, USA in 1870.

Muster: (Ger) Specimen
Cyrillie
MAPKA - Marka - a stamp
MOCKBA - Maskva - Moscow
The letter 'M' in both Cyrillie and Greek is identical with English usage.

N.C.E.:(Fr.) Nouvelle Caledonia; New Caledonia.

N.E.L.: Netherland East Indies.

N.E.: Nyasa-Rhodesian Force. O/P on stamps of Nyasaland Protectorate for the temporary occupation of German East Africa in 1916.

NEF: Natal East Force. Hand-stamped on stamps of Great Britain used in South Africa during the Boer War. (1899-1902).

NGR: Punch perforation on stamps of Natal. Natal Government Railways.

- N.H.:** In an auction catalogue indicates never hinged.
- N.L.:** Netherlands. O/P with a plus sign and surcharge on 1953 stamps of Denmark. Surcharge as aid for flood victims in Holland.
- N.M.S. Post:** Parcel post stamp of the Norwegian Missionary Society in Madagascar (1894-99). It was intended for local and international parcels, and then were extended also to include local letters.
- N.P.B.:** Newspaper branch. A London cancel found on many early Great Britain stamps.
- N.S.D.A.P.:** National Socialist Workers Party. Special issue of German Stamps issued in 1938 and 1943 for use of officials of the Nazi Party.
- N.S.W:** New South Wales (Australia).
- N.W.:** Pacific Islands: Australian stamps with this overprint prepared on the outbreak of the first World War in readiness for the occupation of the German islands possessions in the Pacific. Japan, however occupied the islands first securing a mandate over them after the war. As a result the stamps were used in New Guinea, remaining in use with variations till 1925. They were also used in Nauro for a short period in 1915-16.
- Nandgaon (Rajnonngaon):** Former Indian native state which issued its own internal stamps from 1892-95.

(to be continued)

(from page 13)

The little bay at Xwejni provides a spectacular backdrop to the salt pans, dominated by the imposing *il-Qolla l-Bajda* (the white hillock). It is very fascinating how our forefathers



named every nook and cranny along the shore. So at Xwejni you can go fishing at *is-Swejda* (the little black one), dive off *il-Blata tal-Irgiel* (men's rock) or *il-Qabar* (the grave) and swim at *tas-Sorijiet* (nuns' place) or *Ta' Ġilardu* (Gilardu's place). You can also snorkel along *is-Sikka* (the reef), look for octopus near *il-Blata tal-Kwakki* (herons' rock) or take shelter from the sweltering sun at *l-Għar ta' Santa Marija* (Saint Mary's cave).

Xwejni got its name from the pirate ships that used the bay in days of old. When the tide is low, one can still see circles dug in the rock where the corsairs used to moor. A stretch of spiny rocks on the coastline is visibly flattened out to form *it-Triq tat-Torok* (the Turks' road). From here the pirates used to disembark to ransack crops and water from the nearby fields and valleys.



Of particular interest to the philatelist are the examples of other issuers who have depicted the salt industry on their stamps. Possibly the most attractive is the 1938 King George VI set issued by Turks and Caicos Islands.

POST HASTE (11)

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

“Downunder” (B)

Remaining in the island-continent of Australia, I begin today by glancing at the postal history of Queensland where a first post office opened in 1834 (Brisbane). New South Wales handstruck markings and (later) stamps were used in this north-eastern sector of Australia until 1860 when it began issuing its own, by which year fifteen POs existed. It is worthwhile to note that the dependency of Thursday Island was the first port of call for vessels and shipping lines operating between SE Asia and Australasia, resulting in its postal numerals appearing on the stamps of numerous countries as a transit marking (or “posted on board”). As the main trading link with the neighbour continent, Queensland signed a postal treaty with Hong Kong – and their stamps can be found with reciprocal postmarks. Its stamps were also used in British New Guinea (for over six years to 1891).

The first PO in Victoria was opened in 1837 (Melbourne); by 1850 (when it issued its own stamps) their number neared fifty. At that time, it was still considered as a part of New South Wales and the stamps of both seem to have been valid provisionally in the whole area. Between 1858 and 1875, some post offices in southern NSW found it easier to send their mail for Britain overland to Melbourne rather than via Sydney; so they had available Victorian adhesives too.

A postmaster was appointed upon the foundation of the colony of South Australia in 1836. The service was expanded soon from Adelaide to other offices. Interestingly, mounted police

carried the first inland mails. From six in 1840, the number of POs increased to 146 by 1860 and the volume of letters a year more than trebled from forty thousand. This colony issued its own stamps in 1855.

In December 1829 the Freemantle harbourmaster was appointed to act as postmaster for the settlers in Western Australia. Being nearer the ocean, Freemantle remained the site of the main post office until 1835 (when Perth took over). In 1841 a monthly overland service was established with Albany. Until 1852, mail to and from overseas was carried by private ship. When postage stamps were issued in 1854 prepayment was compulsory. The number of POs (which in 1854 was sixteen) increased to 59 by 1880.

Tasmania (as Van Diemens Land) boasts of the earliest PO town markings in Australia but it was only in 1832 that a principal postmaster was appointed; weekly deliveries throughout the island were by mail-cart or stagecoach. Stamps with the new name appeared in 1858 – five years after the change!

The continent's vastness led to Travelling Post Offices on the railways and an early interest in airmail. Regarding the latter, cards were carried on a flight from Melbourne to Sydney in 1914 and further successful trial flights resulted in the development of regular internal services. Mail was first carried from Adelaide to London (via Karachi) at the end of 1929, with a regular Sydney-London service beginning five years later. Interesting postmarks resulted from Australian troops overseas – even though their mail was carried free of charge.

Australian MALTA (18)

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


**British Stamps used in Malta
 Cancelled "M"**

An entry of 20th February 1855 in the GPO Proof Books records a 'Wavy Line' canceller which has been found cancelling British stamps from April 1855 to September 1856. All recorded covers appear to support the suggestion that it was used by service personnel on their way in or from the Crimea or by naval personnel serving in the Black Sea Fleet during the Crimea War.


In a letter dated 3rd August 1857, the PMG acquainted the Pocket Agent in Malta that the use of British postage stamps on letters posted in Malta had been authorized and that these stamps had to be obliterated by special "M" cancellers - 12,000 1d stamps, 4,500 2d stamps and 3,000 6d stamps were initially supplied. 4d and 1s stamps are also known with this canceller. There are 3 similar cancellations found in the GPO Proof Books. These are distinguishable from the size of the M. Examples of these 3 known sizes are given here.

Up till now, local deliveries of letters resulted in the addressee being charged a local delivery fee from letters originating from abroad. But the use of GB stamps in the Colonies and UK became compulsory from 1st February 1855 making all letters sent by or received in Malta paid by the sender.


1856 1d Red
 Brown
 Wavy Large
 Crown
 Strip of 2




1855 2d Blue
 Wavy Large
 Crown

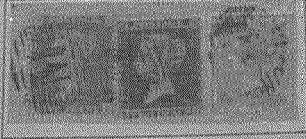


1857 4s Rose-Carnine
 Wavy Large
 Garter




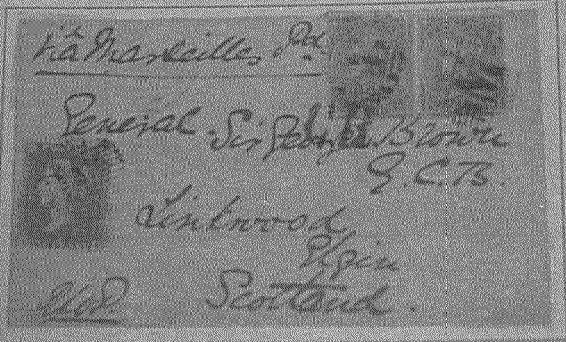
1856 6d Lilac
 Wavy Double
 Size of M:
 7.4mm x
 9.2mm
 In use 23/8/58
 to 12/2/59





1856 1s Green
 Wavy Double
 Size of M:
 6.7mm x
 9.7mm
 In use 23/8/58
 to 21/1/58





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

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(e) Poem 37:10
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M'Grace **Xerri** C18

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FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Limited Edition of 500 cards. € 2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Limited Edition of 100 covers. (Less than 10 left). € 4.50
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Limited edition of 200 cards. € 2,50
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- 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 cards. € 1.75
- 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 cards. € 1.75
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the re-printed 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006). Limited edition of 160 cards. € 0.50
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O. Limited edition of 75 covers. (Less than 10 left). € 2.50

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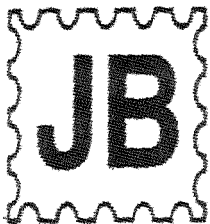
- Cover issued on the occasion of the 2005 Christmas set stamp issue with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited Edition of 130 covers. € 2.50
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.50
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- Set of two cards with first day of operation hand-stamp of the new Post Offices at Xlendi and St Lawrence. Limited edition of 75 cards each. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the 125 Anniv from the Call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni Grima and Frangisk Portelli. Each card is cancelled with a special handstamp issued by MaltaPost and stamped at the National shrine on Sunday 22 June 2008. The card has an embossed metal image of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Limited edition of 1000. **(Only 10 left)**. € 3.00
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- Card commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Association. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.00

NB: Each Card or Cover is individually numbered.

- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

Those interested may contact:
Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

- 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 Orders) or mint Malta Euro stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown. Stamps with values in old currency are not accepted.
- Membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so for overseas members is €12 - they can use Money Orders or new currency notes.
- Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary – it can also be downloaded from our Website.
- Young members who will renew their membership for year 2010 will be given a token of free stamps. Now is the time to renew your membership.
- 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!



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and Postal History**

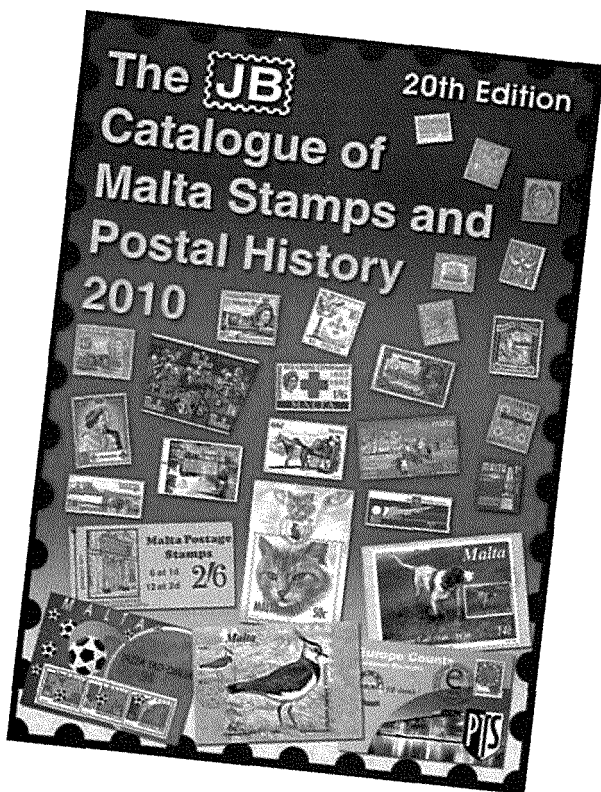
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