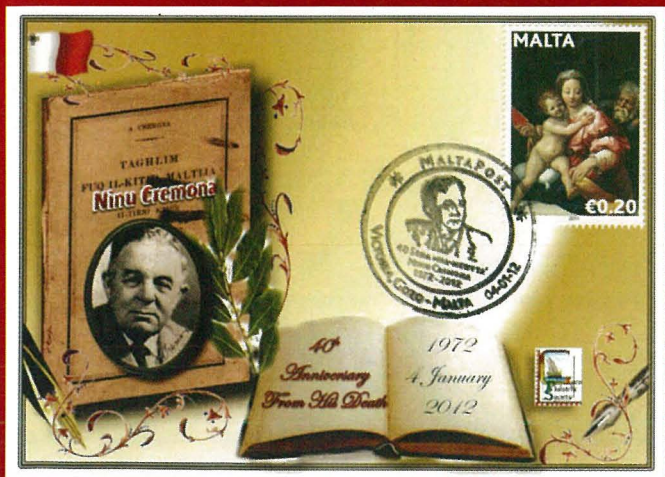
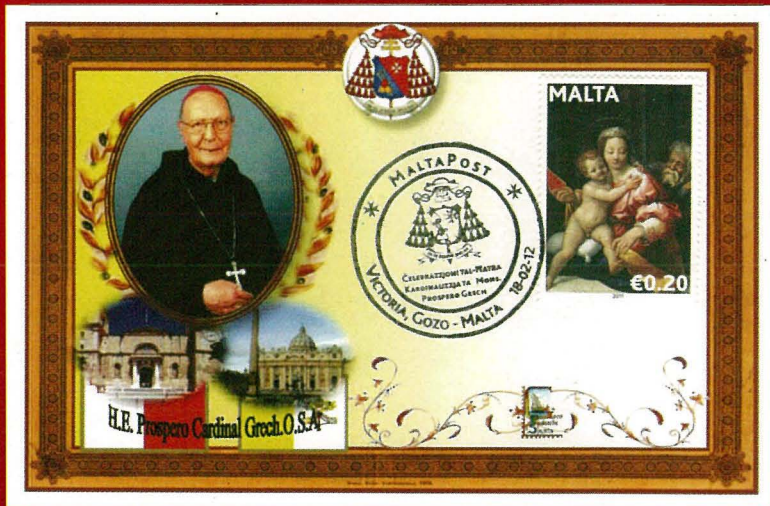


January – March 2012

No. 47– 1/2012

www.stamps-gozo.org



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

NEWSPAPER POST

Lombard Bank - Palazzo Apostolico, Grand Staircase, Valletta

Din L-Art Mhwa
Award for
Architectural Heritage


LOMBARD
Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.

Head Office: 87 Republic Street, Valletta Malta • PO Box 384 Valletta VLT 2000 Malta
Tel: +356 23381117 • Fax: +356 23381171 • e-mail: mail@lombardmalta.com • www.lombardmalta.com • SWIFT Code: LOMBMTMT
Licensed to conduct Investment Services Business by the Malta Financial Services Authority
Regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority & listed on the Malta Stock Exchange

Front Cover:

GPS Commemorative Cards - Latest Issues

Call MANWEL Tel: 21566777; Mob: 99206525



ISLANDTECH

Triq il-Municipju Ruman,
corner with Rabat Road, Victoria, Gozo.

THE BEST ON THE ISLAND FOR



E-mail: mangrech@maltanet.net

WE OFFER A VARIETY OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND LAPTOPS



NETWORK & ACCESSORIES



CARTRIDGE & TONER REFILL.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS???

DON'T WORRY, WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION.



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

E-mail address _____ Tel. No. _____

I enclose €5.00 membership fee. (Overseas €12, including Newsletter)
(Fee for Junior membership, under 16 years, is €2.00.
Date of birth _____)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by _____ Member No. _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

E-mail address _____ Tel. No. _____

Date _____ Member No. _____

GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12 February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini

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

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

© All rights reserved. Requests for reproduction of contents should be addressed to the Secretary.

CONTENTS

No. 47 - 1/2012

GPS Diary (46)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	2
AGM	<i>Anton V Said</i>	3
Secretary's Report	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	5
Treasurer's Statement	<i>Dr Michael Refalo</i>	7
The Annual Phil Exhibition	<i>Anton V Said</i>	8
Exhibition Participants - Year 2011		9
Promoting Gozo through Philately	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	11
Stamp Terms (37)	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	14
Maltese Lizards	<i>Nathaniel Refalo</i>	16
E & O not E (27)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	21
Philatelic Centennials	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	22

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

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

email address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org

GPS DIARY (46)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 6 November 2011:** Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
7 November 2011: Exhibition setting-up begins.
11 November 2011: Exhibition judging.
11 November 2011: Official opening of 12th Exhibition .
11 November 2011: Launch of "Isle of Joy On Stamps" Eco-Gozo co-funded and published by GPS.
14 November 2011: Government Department of Information Press Release about Isle of Joy.
20 November 2011: Stanley Gibbons e-newsletter features Isle of Joy.
30 November 2011: Committee confirms Exhibition prizewinners and prepares for GIVE participation.
4 December 2011: Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
6-7 December 2011 : Participation in 2nd GIVE.
December: Philatelic items were included in the annual Crib Exhibition.
20 December 2011: Minister Giovanna Debono distributes cheques in EcoGoGo NGOs scheme. (in the case of GPS for the "Isle of Joy" book).
28 December 2011 : Final meeting of the outgoing Committee finalizes preparations for the AGM.
28 December 2011: Letter of congratulations sent to Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici (GPS member and MPS President) on his becoming an Officer in the National Order of Merit.
3 January 2012: Anton Said and Anthony Grech visit Bishop Mario Grech to give him a copy of "Isle of Joy", in which he is among the personalities featured.
4 January 2012: Anthony Grech prepares cover for Ninu Cremona handstamp.
15 January 2012: AGM and Exhibition prizegiving (see p3).
21 January 2012: First meeting of the committee returned from AGM chooses officers and sub-committees.
5 February 2012: Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
18 February 2012: Anthony Grech prepares cover for Cardinal Prospero Grech handstamp.
29 February 2012: Committee discusses next activities.
4 March 2012: Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta eV's periodical (#19) carries a review about our book and, as usual, features GPS productions (as well as covers by founder-member George Vella). "Isle of Joy" is also featured in the Malta Study Circle's Melita (Winter 2011).

We have often had occasion to express thanks for donations; today it is the turn of Mr Duke from Chester who offered numerous GB FDCs.

12th Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting this year was held on Sunday 15 January 2012.



Members met at the Victoria Scouts Headquarters and after being briefed by the secretary, Mr A Vassallo about the society's activities and events of the outgoing year.

Dr Michael Refalo, then gave a detailed account of the society's finances.

This was followed by the president's address explaining briefly the aims behind the annual meeting; that of electing a new committee for year 2012, emphasizing the importance of new faces to join in, also to reward participants in the last philatelic exhibition. The renewal of membership was also stressed and was suggested that efforts should be made that

this year the target of 150 members should be reached; the present number of paid mem-



bers is in the region of 130.

The society's publication 'Gozo the Isle of Joy on Stamps'



was also mentioned. The speaker congratulated and thanked all who had contributed for this project to be a success not forgetting

Mr Anthony Grech who was responsible for the illustrations and Mr A Vassallo who also helped in the lay out.

Mr A Grech then encouraged young members to contribute in our quarterly magazine by writing short articles choosing a favourite topic. This was greatly appreciated when in past years, juniors had their own column in our periodical.

The president then thanked the members of the outgoing committee for their good work, including the sponsors particularly the Lombard Bank who



this year was the main sponsor for our exhibition, the Ministry for Gozo, the Victoria Scouts group and Mr A Vassallo and family for their help.

A token of appreciation was then presented to Mr A Grech for his sterling work rendered to the society throughout the years.

Anton V Said

12th Annual General Meeting (15.01.2012)

Secretary's Report

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last AGM:

At the first Committee meeting following the 11th AGM 2011, post were confirmed: Anton Said (President), Dr Michael Refalo MD (Vice-President and Treasurer), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Anthony Grech (Productions Manager), Mary Grace Xerri (Membership Secretary & Public Relations Officer), Austin Masini (Newsletter Editor), Emmanuel Vella (Librarian), George Micallef (Equipment Manager), Lina Gauci (Website Manager) and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain). The other committee members were Louis Attard, Jesmond Borg, Daniel Calleja, Joyce DeBono, Frankie Vella and Nicholas Zammit. Ten further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As usual, the 12th Exhibition (12-19 November) consumed substantial efforts – another successful edition! There was an additional separate Jury for Junior exhibits. Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

The Exhibition opening on 11 November was used for the official launch of "Isle of Joy", published with the substantial financial support of the EcoGozo NGO scheme. Thanks are surely due to the ad hoc subcommittee and all others who contributed for such a successful book - but especially to designer Anthony Grech.

He also continued preparing covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose: Victoria metal

cancellor, *Cittadella*, Fontana handstamp, Gozo Civic Council handstamp, buses (two), *Ta' Pinu*, Mgarr MS and *is-Sur Nin* handstamp. We continued with the new annual "tradition" of five personalized stamps, this time accompanied with five different Exhibition covers.

We have enrolled as a Voluntary Organization (VO/0546), besides obviously retaining membership with the Gozo NGOs Association.

We have registered with the Malta Qualifications Council as an Informal Learning provider (for the school leaving certificate).

We are still looking for a way to keep the Website completely updated immediately.

The GPS participated in the *Lejlet Lapsi* events, accepting the Folklore Museum's invitation to set up a thematic exhibition which was so popular that the period was extended.

We took part in Nadur "Mayfair" and set up a small stand at GIVE II.

We have again participated in the Don Bosco Summer Club.

The regular Members' Meetings, only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use, continue on the first Sunday of the month.

We were represented at a MaltaPost meeting for Maltese philatelic societies and in fact receive their invites regularly.

Members took part in the John Paul II and Crib Exhibitions and Anthony Grech participated in Maltex.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter (and the Website is covering most too). The Newsletter regularly attracts positive comments, especially in its new full-colour format; but junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles.

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. I also mention that various foreign publications featured our society (including the German *Il-Maltija*, Malta Study Circle's *Melita* and the Maltese Herald in Australia). Gratefully, the GPS Exhibition and our other activities received quite a lot of attention locally.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals. We do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan but a sustainably practical system has not yet been identified.

Antoine Vassallo

0

Treasurer's Statement

Dr Michael Refalo (Vice President & Treasurer)

1 January 2011	opening balance	€2234.99
	net transactions during 2011	€ <u>574.92</u>
31 December 2011	closing balance	€2809.91

The Annual Philatelic Exhibition

(Anton V Said)

The annual philatelic exhibition was held during the second and third weeks in November at the Exhibition Hall of the Gozo Ministry.



The theme chosen for this year was “Nature and Nurture”, as each year a different subject is chosen giving a more interesting aspect of the items displayed.

During this year’s exhibition a publication on the Society’s initiative was launched in connection with the Eco Gozo Project. Hence the greater part of the expenses were provided by the Ministry for Gozo from the said project funds.

‘Gozo the Isle of Joy on Stamps’ dealt with the important places of each village and hamlets, from the geographical, historical and cultural point of view. The traditional every day life, folklore and legends were also dealt with.

But as the title so aptly implies, it gives a thorough description of the philatelic aspect of important occasions and events of every village.

The illustrations of this publication were the work of the society’s designer Mr Anthony Grech, while the ad hoc sub-committee was also made up of Anton V Said and Antoine Vassallo.

The society received quite a favourable feedback about this publication.



Speaking of the exhibition, this year weather conditions did not favour us so much with regards to attendance, especially of school children and

other students.

Apart from this, the public in general, including quite a good number of tourists and philatelic enthusiasts from the sister island passed quite encouraging remarks about this annual event.

— 0 —

EXHIBITION 2011

Juniors

Sciberras Peter
Zammit Nicholas
Borg Zach
Xaghra Scouts Group
Grech Lara
Xerri Rebecca
Dingli Erika
Said Miriana
Galea Jolene
Zammit Marlon
Said Natalia
Curmi Albert
Debrincat J Luke
Dingli Mark
Vella Joseph
Galea Celine
Vella Marie

EXHIBITION 2011 *(cont)* **Open**

Postal History

Borg Jesmond
Borg Jesmond
Xerri M'Grace
Grech Anthony
Vella Emanuel
Cini Paul

Traditional Philately - 'Nature & Nurture'

Grech Anthony
Grixti Gabriel
Grixti Izaac
Grech Anthony

Social Philately

Said Cremona Anton
Borg Jesmond
Borg Jesmond
Micallef Vincent

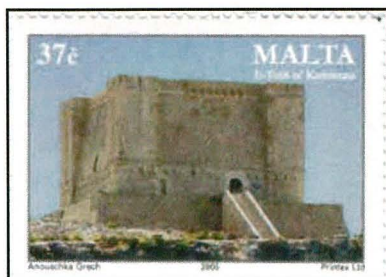
Winner of Best Item On Show

Anthony Grech

Jesmond Borg kept the BOV Challenge Cup as he was the participant who won it most in the past editions.

In return he donated a handsome new Challenge Cup for the Best Item on Show.

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY Comino's Fortifications



As discussed in issue 43, this tiny island may bear few marks of civilization; but it is not completely deprived of buildings with historical interest. The most prominent is certainly *Santa Marija* Tower - a landmark for miles around

and featured on the **2006** Castles **37c**. It is visible all over the island and from some distance out at sea. Perched on the edge of Comino's high cliffs, it offers a most dramatic subject for photography enthusiasts!

Back in the early fifteenth century, the Gozitans petitioned the Viceroy of Sicily to have Comino defended; King Alfonso V of Aragon gave permission for a tower to be built and money was raised by the *Universitas*, the local government, through duty on imported wine. Unfortunately the money was used to fund Alfonso's military exploits instead! Immediately after the arrival of the Knights of St. John in Malta, a Florentine engineer was commissioned to prepare designs for a tower on Comino; he was however called to draw a bastion in what is today Valletta - and a Comino Tower had to wait again. It had to be French Grandmaster Alof de Wignacourt who finally financed (with the help of the sale of brushwood and from the profits made by the farmers attracted by the new security provided) and built *it-Torri ta' Santa Marija* tower in 1618 to guard the Gozo-Malta channel and deter enemy





shipping from finding shelter in the caves of Comino. It actually formed part of a chain of defensive towers located at vantage points along the coastline of the Maltese Islands, thus also improving

communications. The designs were possibly drawn by Maltese military engineer Vittorio Cassar. The site chosen was at *Ras l-Irġieqa*, on the southwestern side of the island (roughly in the centre of the southern coast), at a height of some eighty metres above sea level. This step was so important that very soon the new fortification was included on navigational maps.

The fortress, with its eighteen-foot thick walls, is 65 feet above the ground. It housed ten heavy and eight light guns and could seemingly take a compliment of over a hundred, expected to oppose landing parties. There is even a place where a number of horses could be sheltered. The square tower with four corner turrets (crowned with a battlement top) rests on a plinth that is 110 feet square and 25 feet high. Other defensive facets were the scarp musketry gallery at the base of the walls, the *fausse braye* (second rampart, below the main one) and the *glacis* (artificial slope of earth). It is surrounded by a thick rubble wall of loose stones, giving the impression that a ditch surrounds the tower. Signallers on the roof kept in continuous communication with Mellieha's *it-Torri l-Ahmar* (on the Malta side) and Mgarr's Garzes Tower or Fort Chambrai (Gozo) on matters of a defensive nature, such as enemy movements. Documents lead one to think that not all components in the detachment were necessarily in

prime condition: we know, for example, of an octogenarian Commander! During periods of relative peace, it became a sort of summer residence – accompanied with hare hunting.

However sometimes errant Knights of the Order were imprisoned in St Mary's Tower or rather sentenced to the dangerous task of manning it – an excellent place for contemplating one's misdeeds! It was later used by the Maltese resistance against the French in 1798 (and its cannons transferred to Malta to bombard the besieged enemy's positions) and then the British found it ideal as a prisoner of war camp for "undesirables". When the military abandoned it in the mid-nineteenth century, it was considered to be property of the local civil authorities, with assorted uses: even (the lower chamber) as a wintering pen for farm animals. The internal fabric was obviously significantly changed. *It-Torrita' Kemmuna* again saw active service during both World War I and World War II. In 1982 it was given to the Armed Forces of Malta, serving as a lookout and staging post against both contraband and illegal bird hunting at sea. It is obviously a tourist destination too. And in 2002 it was used to represent the prison *Chateau d'If* in the movie "The Count of Monte Cristo" starring Jim Caviezel.



St. Mary's Tower has been exposed to the elements for centuries and the stone work has deteriorated; the roof waterproofing has cracked in many places and crudely "mended" to stop leakage. Vegetation took root in the crevices and roof, further dislodging stone blocks. Moreover vandalism has taken
(continued on inside back cover)

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (36)

(Emanuel Vella)

Nossi-Be or Noss Be: Island in Passondava Bay, Madagascar for which French key types were overprinted and surcharged or inscribed from 1889-96.

Not for Use: About 1910, a Natal 1d King's Head multiple CA watermark, Stanley Gibbons 147, appeared printed in black with the words "NOT FOR USE" in three boxes within a design covering nearly the whole stamp. It is from the last pane of Natal's booklet, issued in 1909 or 1910. This booklet contained 2s5d postage stamps and was sold for 2s6d; the additional penny being for the cost of the booklet. The entire booklet pane, showing the blacked out stamp, is a choice piece.

Notopfer/2 Berlin/Steuermarke: Inscription of German compulsory tax stamp on internal mail without post-validity, in use in Western Germany since 1948, to raise funds for the rebuilding of Berlin.



Nouvelle-Caledonie: New Caledonia.

Nouvelle-Hebrides: New Hebrides.



Nova Scotia: Former British Colony on the eastern coast of North America, now part of Canada. Its first issue of 1851, consisted of beautiful Perkins, Bacon engravings in square and diamond formats. Nova Scotia joined the Canadian Confederation in 1867 and in the

following year its stamps were replaced by those of Canada. At a later date numerous remainders were sold to the stamp trade.

Novocherkassk: South Russia.

Nyasaland: Former British Protectorate, originally known as British Central Africa and now Malawi. Stamps for British Central Africa were first issued in 1891. The name of Nyasaland first appeared in 1908. In 1953 until 1963 stamps were issued bearing the name of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The name of Malawi first appeared on the country stamps in July 1964.



Nyasland Key Type: Name given to the King Edward VII design first adopted for Nyasaland in 1908 and afterwards used for other colonies. Later, with change of portrait it was used during the reign of King George V.

Nyassa: Portuguese East Africa, formerly administered by the Nyassa Company. First issued in 1897 were colonial key types of Mozambique overprinted. In 1901 the Company issued a striking set designed by Sir Robert Edgcumbe for Waterlow's, depicting camels, giraffe and zebras accompanied by elaborate triangular postage dues - an obvious speculative issue to attract collectors. In 1929 it was absorbed into Mozambique, whose stamps are now in use.



(to be continued)

MALTESE LIZARDS

(Nathaniel Refalo - sixth form student)

Continued from last issue

***Podarcis filfolensis* Maltese Wall Lizard Gremxula, Dorbi**



This organism is one of the largest lizards in the Maltese Islands, growing up to twenty-eight centimetres long in some cases. Over the years, this species has evolved into several subspecies due to geographic speciation on the different islands of this part of the Mediterranean.

Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis

Living on Filfla, this lizard is blackish with blue or pale blue spots on its back. It is the largest of the four subspecies found in the Maltese Islands. Since it is able to detach its tail and grow a new one, until recently, it was believed that it could grow two tails, but this mistaken belief most likely rose from sightings of lizards with incompletely



detached tails. It is endemic to the Maltese Islands. Like other lizards, it generally feeds on most invertebrates, including arthropods. While other lizards are able to hibernate during times of low temperatures, this lizard does not seem to be able to do so, but overcomes this, through other behavioural means of thermoregulation.

Podarcis filfolensis melitensis

Lives on Malta, Gozo and Comino. This lizard is the

most widely found of the four, and it is generally greenish. It is also endemic to the Maltese islands. Females and young of this subspecies are generally smaller, and their coloration is brownish and light.

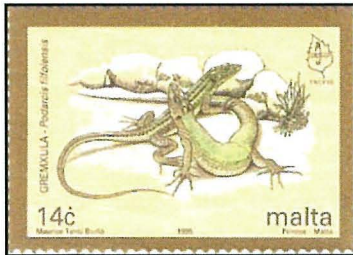


Podarcis filfolensis kieselbachi

Lizards of this subspecies are endemic to Selmunett, or as they are also known, St Paul's islands. They are much varied in colour, and individuals may range from brown to grey, with black spots. Ventrally, they are yellow.

Podarcis filfolensis generalensis

Individuals of this subspecies live on the Fungus Rock Dwejra, Gozo. They are generally reddish with several blue spots. Such individuals are endemic.



Recently, it has been reported that a newer subspecies has been discovered on Cominotto. Another subspecies,

laurentiimeulleri, exists in Linosa and Lampione.

Generally, *Podarcis filfolensis* has a brownish green back with a variable amount of dark, markings. Ventrally, it is bluish or yellowish white, also with a variety of black markings. However, coloration may differ among different subspecies, due to differences in melanism. One of the factors which have contributed to these differences is the fact that such lizards are ectothermic and therefore require an optimum temperature at which to function best. Lizards living in harsh environments may end up having darker colorations than

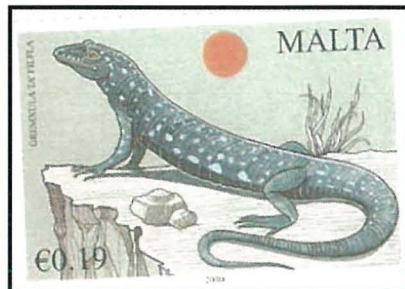
those living in better environments. One has to remember that a darker coloration will absorb more heat. Females and young are not as brightly coloured as adult males. Females, in fact, are generally brownish in colour.



Adult males show territorial behaviour, patrolling small patches of land and trying to fend off any approaching males. To do this, they puff themselves up, raise their neck to display the bright colours below their neck and tremble. If it is a female which approaches, the same threat display is used to attract her for eventual mating. It generally lives in crevices and cracks, which due to it being a reptile, must be exposed to the sun. When not hunting during the day, these lizards may be seen basking in the sun. These lizards also have the ability



to 'remember' their exact locations. This is useful, when after escaping a hungry predator, such lizards need to be able to remember where their territories are, in order to return to them. Like some other lizards, they are able to lose their tail, despite being quite agile. Predators of this organism may include snakes, skinks, chameleons, weasels, hedgehogs, small mammals,



some birds and the shore crab. However, being carnivorous, this animal has a wide range of prey as well, ranging from arthropods to molluscs and young lizards. It laps up water using its tongue. The eggs of this animal, laid in the middle of April in soil or under stones, are cartilaginous and hatch at around the end of July.

Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu Ocellated skink “Xahmet l-Art”

Being the largest lizard in the Maltese islands, this scaly reptile can grow up to thirty centimetres long. Its back is olive brown, with several ocular spots (which at first glance, resemble eyes) of white, dark brown and black colour. However, its colours may vary from light brown to an almost black colour. Often it has a light stripe present along its whole body length. Ventrally it is silvery white. Its head, when compared with that of other lizards, is robust, and it appears quite large compared to its small limbs. On smooth surfaces, these small limbs may appear clumsy, but in its natural habitat, this



animal can disappear completely within few seconds. Its skin is quite plastic and can stretch and coil. When moving, it crawls on its belly rendering it quite similar to a snake. Its speed earned its Maltese name: “*Xahmet l-Art*,” literally, *fat of the earth*. Upon being disturbed, it quickly retreats to some crevice. Its diet is quite varied, and it can feed on several insects, small molluscs and spiders, while also being able to survive for long periods without water. However, it is preyed

upon by most mammals, snakes and possibly even kestrels.

Unlike other reptiles, it is ovoviviparous, meaning that the eggs are not laid, but hatch within the female's body, and produces between four to ten young in the period from July to September.



Generally speaking, like other reptiles, some lizards suffer from severe persecution by ignorant humans, often being killed for no reason at all. Some reptiles, such as geckos, used to be thought to be harbingers of leprosy and other skin diseases, and were thus frequently killed for the sole offence of having ventured inside a human house. This fear still persists today, even if its origin has been forgotten. This ignorance, however, seems to be on the wane, since today, lizards are being more appreciated. This increasing appreciation is due to such creatures for their uniqueness and in the light of the benefits of a good relationship between man and the environment.

Bibliography:

Sultana J. & Falzon V. (1996, reprint 2001). (eds.), *Wildlife of the Maltese Islands*.

Environment Protection Department (reprint: Birdlife Malta & Nature Trust).

<http://www.shadowservices.com/nature/Maltese/biology.htm>, (*Accessed on 12th February 2011*)

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100814/opinion/close-ups-of-maltese-nature-41> (*Accessed on 12th February 2011*)

If anyone has any additional information on these organisms, I would be very happy to learn more and include this information in further issues. Simply send an email to gpsmalteseorganisms@gmail.com

E & O not E (27)

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

Numerous collectors concentrate on “errors”, usually blemishes or other printing differences. Those with deeper pockets can advance to missing colours, which can give spectacular results! Today I feature an example from **Canada**, which can be described as a definitive.

The moose was issued (in sheets of four) in December 2003 as part of a high-denomination Mammals series which began appearing in 1997. Designer Steven Slipp adapted a drawing by wildlife artist David Preston-Smith, while the engraver was Jorge Peral. In view of the value, various security features were incorporated: a latent image, microtype and a sky pattern formed from hoof-prints of this largest member of the deer family (even 400 kilos!)

In spite of all this, an impressive slip did pass through. Besides the engraved moose itself going AWOL, missing features can be noticed in the background and even the margin.

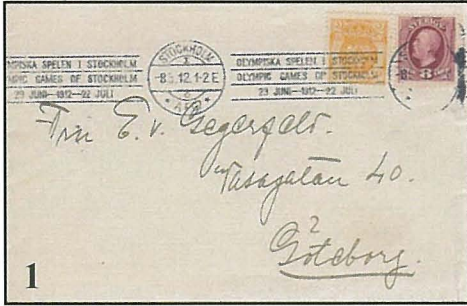
Obviously this is not a stamp we would hope to find in some kilo mixture: a copy is worth thousands of euro.



PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

glances – and longer looks – at
events from a hundred years ago

5 - Stockholm Olympics 1912



The Olympic Games have often offered occasions to shed light on the relative cities' postal systems. The 1912 Summer Games, for instance, revealed how Sweden's domestic bureaucracies

operated.

This edition of the Olympics at Stockholm has been called the "Swedish Masterpiece" because it was so well organized. It also benefited from electric timing devices and a public address system which were first used at these Games. The programme even included art contests.

Postal services accentuated participation. Two publicity slogans were used in Stockholm and Göteborg; mail-boxes were installed in the main arena (*Olympiastadion*) and around the Olympic pool; a special full-service post office sponsored by a book editor was operating during the Games, using a special manual canceller. Since 1912 there has always been a special post office at the Olympic Stadium.



This postmaster was quite conscientious; only one day after the Games he submitted his final sales report. In the period from 29 June to 23 July, just under twenty six thousand items were cancelled - including well over five thousand letters and almost twenty thousand postcards. Obviously most are lost and so any available are not cheap!

A couple are shown here. Cover 3, addressed to the secretary of the Russian Olympic Committee, is probably the most valuable.

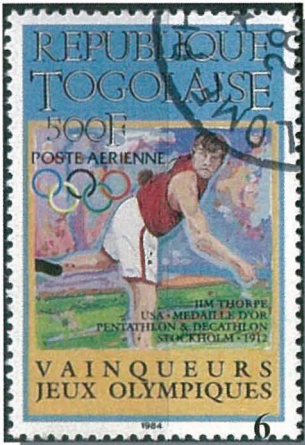


Though some 2500 athletes (representing 28 countries - from all five continents symbolized in the Olympic rings) participated, no special stamps were issued: we had not

yet reached the point where any international event automatically results in a plethora. In fact, after Greece commemorated the re-birth of the Olympics in 1896 (the first sports thematics) and also in 1906, it was not before the Antwerp edition in 1920 that the next set appeared.

Of course the Games of the V Olympiad received philatelic treatment later, featured in numerous sets of a historical or





retrospective nature. The same can be said of many personalities who participated in 1912. Possibly the athlete who made the biggest impression in Stockholm was Jim Thorpe. Thorpe, a “Red Indian”, amazingly won both the pentathlon and the decathlon; King Gustav told him: "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world."

A final, quite obscure, detail: a display of glima (Icelandic wrestling) was included among the usual “internationnal” sports. The word can be translated as "Game of Joy". Brought to the island by Viking settlers, this folk custom is over one thousand years old. This sport (which got its world championships in 2008) was featured in a 1955 stamp, reissued with a new face value two years later.



Captions:

- 1 postal stationery with advertising cancellation postmark
- 2 Picture postcard with vignette
- 3 letter posted at Stadium PO
- 4 Vignettes of the Austrian National Olympic Committee 1912
- 5 MS commemorating 1912 Games
- 6 (Jim Thorpe)
- 7 (glima)

(Antoine Vassallo)

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
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp
Limited Edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- 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

FOR SALE

- 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
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark. Limited edition of 75 covers. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the GPS 8th Annual Exh. 2007 and the launching of the GPS website. Limited edition of 100 cards. € 1.50
- 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
- Card commemorating 5th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition and 5th Anniversary of the GPS. Limited edition of 400 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Set of 2 registered covers commemorating Karolina Cauchi and Patri Manwel Magri (Gozo Benefactors). Limited edition of 30 covers. **(Less than 5 left)**. € 5.00
- Card commemorating the 9th GPC Exhibition. Limited edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- 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

(from page 13)

its toll, with an almost complete absence of the roof parapet. Numerous large stone blocks were taken from the plinth wall for other uses. But restoration has been very successful in the last years. The Tower is now often open to the public, evidenced by the flying flag.

St Mary's Tower isn't the only fortification on the island: a century later St. Mary's Battery (or "*It-Trunciara*") was built, facing Marfa's *Wied Musa* Battery across the South Comino Channel. It is a semi-circular structure (designed by Philippe de Vendome) with a number of embrasures facing the sea. It still houses two 24-pound iron cannons and remained in a fair state of preservation, mainly due to its remote location and because it had also been used as a family home. Restoration began in 1996. St. Mary's Redoubt, an additional defensive structure, was also constructed in 1716 on the northern coast of Comino but subsequently demolished. The Knights also constructed army barracks, periodically used as an isolation hospital.

While promising a further article about the island, I finally refer to previous coverage in issue 42 and a related item in #2.

Members' Meetings

are held regularly on the **1st Sunday** of the month
(resuming after the summer)

1 April and 6 May

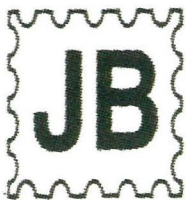
We stop during June, July and August

from 9.00am to 11.00am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).
exchange, purchase, information etc.

Entrance Free!

All Juniors will receive a gift of free stamps



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

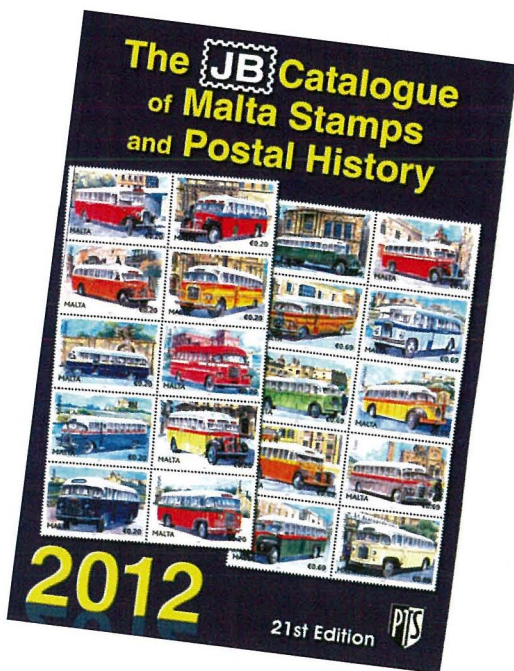
Published by Sliema Stamp Shop

91 Manwel Dimech Street Sliema - Malta

**21st Edition
in Colour
is now
on sale**

**Price
€16.00**

**Tel: 21342189
Fax: 21346069**



**www.sliemastampshop.com.mt
e-mail: sales@sliemastampshop.com.mt**