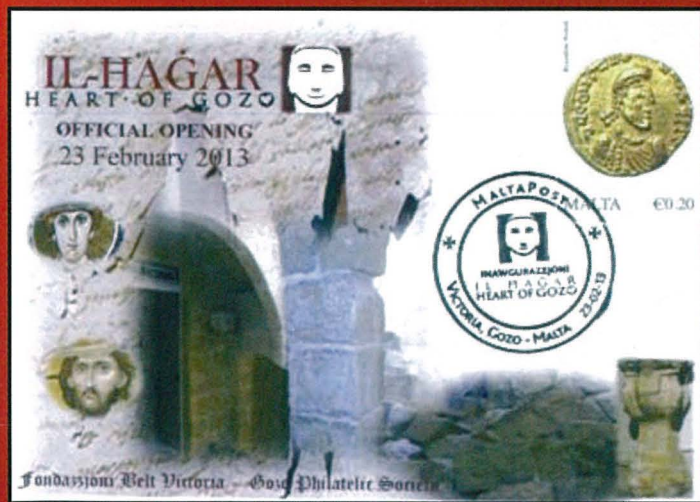




January – March 2013

No. 51– 2013

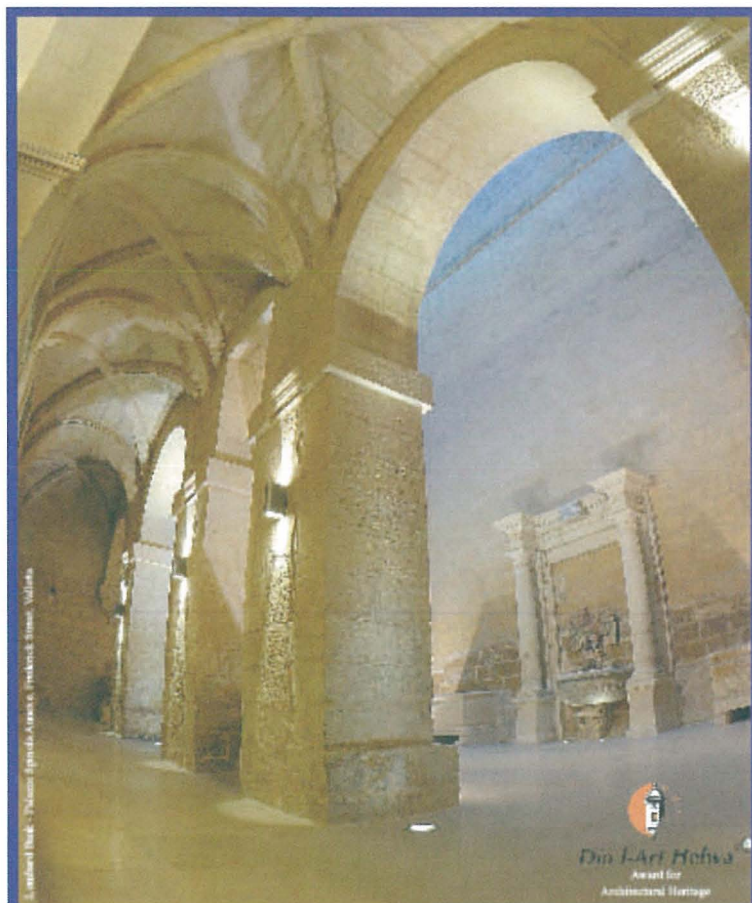
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**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

NEWSPAPER POST



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Members' Meetings

are held on the first Sunday of the month

March - 3

April - 7

May - 5

Break for the Summer Months

From 9 to 11 am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (triq Santa Dminka).

Exchange, purchase, information etc

Entrance Free!

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400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MATTIA PRETI - 24 FEBRUARY 1613



SILVER REPLICA STAMP

MaltaPost is issuing a Limited Edition Silver Replica Stamp depicting Mattia Preti's portrait. It is struck in 999.0 Silver.

Each stamp is individually numbered and the issue is limited to 2,000 pieces.



COMMEMORATIVE FOLDER No. 7

MaltaPost is issuing a numbered Commemorative Folder (limited to 3,000) which includes a miniature sheet of the 400th Anniversary of the birth of Mattia Preti - 24 February 1613.



Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.,
305, Triq l-Fal Qormi, Marsa MTP 1001

T: (+356) 2596 1740 F: (+356) 2124 2764

E: info@maltaphilately.com W: maltaphilately.com

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.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

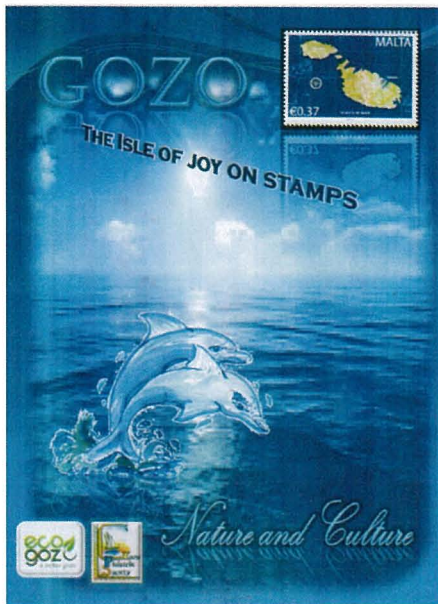
Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

email address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org

GPS DIARY (49)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 13 January 2013:** AGM (and Exhibition prize giving) at Victoria Scouts HQ - see pages from 8 to 11 and 16 to 17.
- 23 January 2013:** First meeting for new Committee returned from AGM.
- 3 February 2013:** Members' Meeting on first Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 23 February 2013:** Anthony Grech produces Card for "IL-HAĠĠAR" handstamp (which he helped design)
- 3 March 2013:** Members' Meeting on first Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ
- 7 March 2013:** Committee begins preparing for the Exhibition and other activities



Please note that "ISLE OF JOY", the full colour A4 book with that innovative viewpoint of Gozo produced through the support of the Eco-Gozo NGO scheme, is still available: write to secretary@stamps-gozo.org. It has even been referenced in the specialized website "Shipstamps": <http://www.shipstamps.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?13153&hilit=Malta#p13153>

WHO'S (& Was) WHO on Malta's Stamps

An (in-progress) alphabetical list of those connected
with Maltese Philately,
asking for your help to fill gaps -
do suggest additions (and corrections!)

85. Domenico Cachia (1700-90) Maltese architect **LM1**
Castles **2006**
86. St Cajetan (1480 – 1547) **1996** CHS
87. Giuseppe Cali' (1846-1930) Maltese
artist **1996** 4-value set
88. Joseph Calleia (1897-1975) Maltese
actor **6c 22c** Anniv **1997**
89. Dr Ġużeppi “Mattew” Callus (16th
century) Maltese patriot **20c**
Personalities **2005**
90. Denys Calvaert (1540-1619) Flemish
painter **37c** Xmas **2012**
91. Brenda Camenzuli (child
designer) **€1.19** Europa **2011**
92. Chev Agostino “Wistin”
Camilleri (1885-1979)
Gozitan artist - Christmas
2005
93. Antoine Camilleri (1922-
2005) Maltese artist, with first
stamp design in 1978
94. Nazareno Camilleri (1921-
2001) Maltese artist, with first
stamp design in 1976
95. Fr Nazzareno Camilleri SDB
(1906-1973) Professor and
Dean at Rome's Gregorian



- University **14c Welfare 1996**
96. Chev Paul **Camilleri Cauchi** (1940-) Gozitan artist (and stamp designer) **MS Salesians 2004**
97. Romano **Carapecchia** (1668-1738) architect of Pilar Church **19c Buildings 1992**
98. Michelangelo Merisi da **Caravaggio** (1573-1610) Italian painter - 4th Centenary **2007**
99. Pawl **Carbonaro** (1948-) Maltese artist **10c Europa 1993**
100. Pietru Pawl **Caruana** (1793-1852) Maltese painter **1954 Kuncizzjoni**
101. Rafel **Caruana** (1826-??) artist **8c 20c Christmas 1984**
102. Richard J **Caruana** (1946-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1981
103. Roxana **Caruana** **6c Children's paintings 2000**
104. Debbie **Caruana Dingli** (1962-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1996
105. Chev Edward **Caruana Dingli** OBE (1876-1950) Maltese painter (and first stamp design in 1922) 5-value set **2001**
106. Gordon **Caruana Dingli** stamp designer, with first in 2009
107. Robert **Caruana Dingli** (1882-1940) Maltese painter **16c Europa 2003**
108. Alfred **Caruana Ruggier** (1941-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 2004
109. Joseph **Casha** (1939-) Maltese sculptor, with first stamp design in 1970
110. Louis **Casha** (1946-) Maltese painter, with first stamp design in 1989
111. **Caspar** > Magi
112. Charles **Cassar** (1944-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1983



113



114

113. Gerolamo **Cassar** (1520-86) Maltese architect **1c3 Personalities 1974**
114. Archpriest Saverio **Cassar** DD (1746 -1805) was the Gozitans' leader against the French **35c Personalities 2002**
115. Vittorio **Cassar** (1550-1607) Maltese engineer **7c Towers 2006**
116. Jean l'Evesque de la **Cassiere** (French Grand Master 1572-81) built St John's **4c Buildings 1992**
117. Valerio **Castello** (1624-59) Italian painter **19c Christmas 2010**
118. St **Catherine (of Alexandria)** (4th century) - set of 4 stamps **2005**
119. St **Catherine of Siena** (1347 -1380) - **2d Gafa' 1967**
- 120.. Carolina **Cauchi** (1824-1907) Gozitan philanthropist and foundress **86c Personalities 2007**
121. Catherine **Cavallo** (1963-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1996
122. Pietru **Caxaru** (15th century) author of first known poem in Maltese **12c Celebrities 1985**
123. **Ceres** Roman goddess of agriculture **4d FAO 1968**
124. Francois **Chambray** **69c Gates 2012**
125. **Charles V** (1500-58) Holy Roman Emperor - **2000 CHS**
126. Sir Robert "Bobby" **Charlton** (1937 -) English footballer **7c World Cup 2006**



POST HASTE (18)

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

Home of the Caribs?

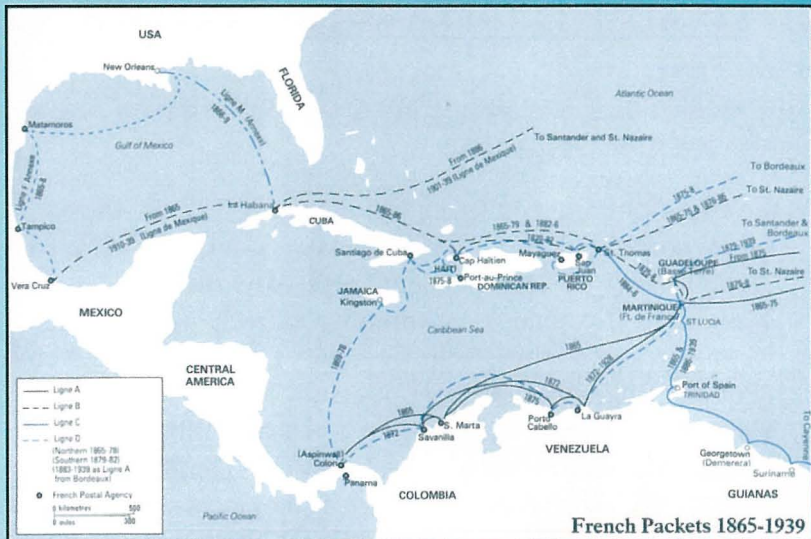
By the beginning of the sixteenth century the Caribbean had already attracted colonists from Spain and, due to the bitter rivalry with Elizabeth I's England, the area soon teemed with pirates and privateers: the West Indian islands became "pawns". The first British settlers came towards 1620 from the North American mainland.

The earliest communications were obviously with the "mother" countries, respectively Britain, France and Spain (and also Denmark and Holland).

Early in the sixteenth century the posts in the Spanish Indies were farmed out to the Galindes de Carvajal family. Mail went mainly by casual ship until after the mid eighteenth. Havana was one of the approved ports-of-call for merchantmen. A monthly packet, interrupted in times of war, started in 1767 between Corunna and Havana.

In 1865 the French set up postal packet agencies in connection with packet boats of *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique* between Saint-Nazaire and Mexico or Panama (which served Martinique and Guadeloupe.)

French stamps are known used from Caribbean agencies between 1862 and 1881. They can rarely be identified off cover: instead of through named octagonal handstamps, they were usually cancelled by an anchor (in a lozenge of dots) - with the datestamp put alongside.



with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas

for your ATTENTION !!

Mr Louis Attard - a GPS member would like to buy First Day Covers dating back before 1964 i.e. *before Independence*. Anyone interested can contact the above mentioned directly on Mobile No 79055012



Eco-Gozo – A Better Gozo
 Action Plan 2010 - 2012
 Project part-financed by the Ministry for Gozo
www.eco-gozo.com

13th AGM (13/1/2013) - 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 12th AGM, posts were confirmed: Anton Said (President), Dr Michael Refalo MD (Vice-President and Treasurer), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Anthony Grech (Productions Manager and Membership Secretary), Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer), Austin Masini (Newsletter Editor), Dr Daniel Calleja (Archivist and Librarian) Lina Gauci (Website Manager) and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain). The other committee members were Louis Attard, Louis Bonello, Emmanuel Vella and Frankie Vella. Six further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans. Sub-committees and the Editorial Board met too.

The 13th Exhibition (10-16 November) consumed substantial efforts, with participation even extending overseas! It again received support from Lombard Bank and Sliema Stamp Shop. But an important fillip was MaltaPost's strong sponsorship, actually offered for three years by Chair Joseph Said! Prizes (including most impressive ones), trophies and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

Anthony Grech designed the now traditional five personalized stamps, accompanied with five different Exhibition covers. The handstamp was also used on an additional cover, based on the uncommon 10-11-12-13 progression. As our resident designer, he prepared covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose:

Cardinal Grech handstamp, Landscape Paintings (2), Comino (Occasions), Ghasri SPO, Gates (2) and De Soldanis handstamp. I feel I should note that this last was not the only occasion which was important enough to merit commemoration.

We were involved in the George Cross anniversary Exhibition set up by the English-speaking Residents.

The regular Members' Meetings, only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use, continued on the first Sunday of the month. We are now helping them out to commemorate their 50th anniversary.

We organized a Mass at Ta' Pinu in suffrage of the wife of Sliema Stamp Shop's Joe Buttigieg who has always been a supporter.

John Mizzi has donated interesting philatelic material which is being reproduced in the Newsletter.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter which has arrived at the 50 milestone. Issue 49 consisted of a full catalogue of our productions. Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles.

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

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. Moreover various foreign publications featured our society (including the German *Il-Maltija*, Malta Study Circle's *Melita* and the Maltese Herald in Australia).

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.

I conclude by mentioning that interest continues in the book “Isle of Joy” published late in 2011 through the EcoGozo NGO scheme.

Antoine Vassallo - Secretary

PHOTOS OF
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
2013



*Photos by Mr
Charles Spiteri*

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 2013
(Dr Michael Refalo MD)

Balance for year ending 2011 as follows:

Savings Account Lombard Bank	€2701.42
Current Account Lombard Bank	€ 20.00
Petty Cash	€ 99.33
Total Balance	€2820.75

Balance for year ending 2012 as follows:

Savings Account Lombard Bank	€2884.32
Current Account Lombard Bank	€ 20.00
Cash in Hand	€ 58.60
Total Balance	€2962.92

Positive Balance € 142.17



PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY FONTANA

(Antoine Vassallo)



The 2012 MaltaPost set reproducing landscapes by foreign painters included a painting from the National Museum of Fine Arts titled *Gran Fontana* (Edward Lear) as the highest value: 97 cents.

Fontana is a small village on the road to Xlendi from Victoria. Its local name is “*Triq tal-Għajn*” which can be rendered as “the way to the spring”. In fact the locality is very well known for springs and valleys, the main road running along the east bank of the Wied il-Lunzjata watercourse. The

motto (Latin) is *Inundatione Ferax*, translatable as “Fertile through Inundation”. The general area was also rich in game.

Actually Fontana (first recorded in the 14th century) owes its name to the “Għajn il-Kbira” (the Great Fountain), a spring at the lower part of the road. An ornate stone shelter was built in 1698 (with three medieval coats of arms: those of Sicily’s King Charles III, Grand Master Carafa and Gozo’s Universitas – which has become that of Gozo itself). People went there not only for water but also to do their washing (a sort of manual launderette), a custom which has not become completely extinct – even cars can sometimes be seen getting a refreshing all-over!

For a long period these waters were rationed out to farmers on a rotating basis. This irrigation was so essential that those whose turn was on Sunday had a special permission to work without committing a sin! Historian Rev. Dr. Joseph Bezzina (in his ‘Gozo a historical glimpse’) gives a list of five natural fountains originally found in this locality; namely *Għajn il-Kbira*, *l-Għajn tal-Bhejjem*, *l-Għajn tal-Wied*, *l-Għajn ta’ Bendu* and *l-Għajn tal-Loġoġ* - the one that used to appear on the old coat of arms of Fontana. The public slaughter-house was located opposite.

A little further up (in practically the village’s centre), one comes upon the Fontana parish church – dating from 1905 - dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The two statues on the front represent St. Peter and St. Paul, formerly in St. George’s. Among the more important artists who decorated the interior, one should note Cali, Camilleri Cauchi and Pisani.

Although seemingly not much more than a suburb, Fontana is a separate parish. Dun Ġużepp Hili (who was to become its first parish priest) was instrumental in this development, grasping the opportunity offered by a 1909 visit by Apostolic Visitor Cardinal La Fontaine.

Historically, the community started out as a fishermen's – and thus devoted to St Andrew, the patron saint of those who earn their living from the sea. They used to gather around a niche (*"in-niċċa tas-Salvatur"*) until they succeeded in building a fully-fledged church. The locals wished to have it dedicated to "their" St Andrew; however Bishop Camilleri was such a strong devotee of the Sacred Heart that he "amended" their alternative of the Saviour to this more



recent title of Jesus (also wishing to thus commemorate Pope Leo XIII's episcopal Golden Jubilee).

In any case, the November feast in honour of the fisher apostle remains an important highlight of the year, among quite a few regular religious appointments.

His statue (the work of Karlu Mallia) was acquired for the procession organized by the specially founded Andrean confraternity in 1906.

The most important week obviously remains mid-June with fireworks (road and sky), band marches, church liturgies and procession – which belie the limited number of inhabitants. All this is centred around the 1923 titular papier-machè statue (gilded in 1985) – a distinct example of Wistin Camilleri's skills.

Three special postmarks connected with this locality have been issued: on the solemn crowning of the titular painting (1993), on the church's centennial (2005) and on the centenary of the parish (2011).

A final philatelic note: there is a letterbox (MaltaPost's reference is L527) in Triq Tal-Għajn.

adapted from the Fontana chapter in the EcoGozo-supported book published by the Gozo Philatelic Society: "The Isle of Joy"

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (39)

(Emanuel Vella)

Opt: Generally means overprint.

Optd: generally means overprinted.

O.P.A.I.: Oriental Philatelic Association (of) London

O.P.D.A.: Ottoman Public Debts Administration o/p on low values first issue of Palestine stamps, under British mandate 1920 - 21. Although primarily fiscal issues, some were postally used.



O.P.S.O.: On Public Service Only. Diagonal o/p on New Zealand's 1892 - 1901 'officials'.

O.R.: (French) Origine Rurale—rural cancel on stamps of France.

O.S.: On Service, Public or Official service inferred. Found notably overprinted or punch-perforated on stamps of Australia and Australian States, on official stamps of Norway. The letters stand for offentthing or offentleg.

O.S.G.S.: On Sudan Government service. O/p on Sudanese 'officials' from 1902 to 1936.

O.T.: (Czech) Obchodni Tiskovina = commercial printed matter. O/p on newspaper stamps of 1934. Three values.



O.U.S.: Oxford Union Society. O/p or back-printed in red on 1858 - 79 issues of G.B. The privilege for o/p was

withdrawn in 1870.

O.W./Official: Office of Works/Official Stamps punch-perforated HM/OW appeared in August 1895; changed to crown over OW in October; and overprinted O.W./Official from March 1896 to 1902. Great Britain 'official' issues now obsolete



OXO: Postmark used on stamps. The 'Star between Ciphers' obliteration used on the Crimean War, 'used abroad' stamps of G.T.B. 1854 to 1857. The companion mark was 'Crown between Stars'.

Oaxaca: State of Mexico with Civil war issues of its own in 1914.

Ober Schertsien: Germany; Upper Silesia.

Obliteration: In philately this word has two distinct meanings.

- (i) As a synonym for cancellation and
- (ii) To define an o/p designed to render illegible or to deface any inscription, monarchical emblem, obsolete value, or other unwanted parts of a stamp's design.

In regard to (i) the official definition is 'a special postmark employed for defacing stamps is properly termed obliterating mark'. It is, therefore, also a canceller; but a dating stamp or other postmark, is not necessarily an 'obliteration'. This latter term implies an actual and physical defacement and is colloquially known to collectors as a 'Killer'.



(to be continued)

13th AGM (13/1/2013) - President's Report

The Annual General Meeting of our society has found its place in our calendar. For this year's meeting we had the pleasure and the honour to welcome Mr Joseph Said, chairperson of the Maltapost and Lombard Bank CEO, being the person in both institutions sponsoring our main activities. i.e. the annual philatelic exhibition and part of the expenses of the society's magazine publication.

The specific aims of this meeting is first to give a report of the



society's activities throughout the past year followed by a financial statement of the society. The president's address followed, in which he stressed that we should give more publicity to our society by using the modern means which the media can offer today, i.e. the website etc, though lately it has been noted an improvement in this regard. It was also pointed out that the school visits should resume in the near future though one must say that these are met with lack of interest. This address ended by encouraging members to renew their membership and thanking the outgoing committee for his co-operation and performance during year 2012. A word of

thanks went to the sponsors, the ministry for Gozo, not forgetting those who made their premises available for the society's meetings.

This was followed by the presentation of vouchers, certificates, trophies and other prizes to the participants. Mr Joseph Said presented fifteen vouchers for a one year free subscription in First Day Covers generously sponsored by Maltapost together with two stamp albums; the 1964-2004 stamp album for the best item on show and another one to the exhibitor with the greatest aggregate number of points obtained in the exhibition.

Trophies were also presented on behalf of sponsor 'Island Tech'.



The meeting ended by Mr Joseph Said addressing the participants and those present expressing his great satisfaction and admiration at the excellent work the society is performing, ensuring his full co-operation and support throughout the years to come.

Anton V Said

PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

(Antoine Vassallo)

8 - T joins T (1913)

The two British islands in the Caribbean Trinidad and Tobago began issuing their own stamps in 1851 and 1879 respectively; but then the former's stamps started being used in the latter too. This continued until the two islands were combined postally and the inscription had to be changed to "Trinidad & Tobago".

A first set (typographed by De La Rue) began appearing in 1913, showing a personification of Britannia. This was not really a new design, having been in use on Trinidad's since before the turn of the century.



The original set consisted of six values ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 4d, 6d and 1s), to which a 5 shilling and 1 pound in a bigger format were added the next year. A new design was introduced in 1922 - in the meantime there had been numerous changes in paper, colour and watermark, besides more values.

Trinidad & Tobago has proven to be an enthusiastic issuer, even before attaining independence in 1962.

GPS Newsletter 1-50 Cumulative Contents 1000+ pages - 50+ authors - 100s of items

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

A = Gozo Philatelic Society

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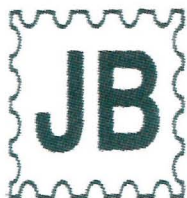
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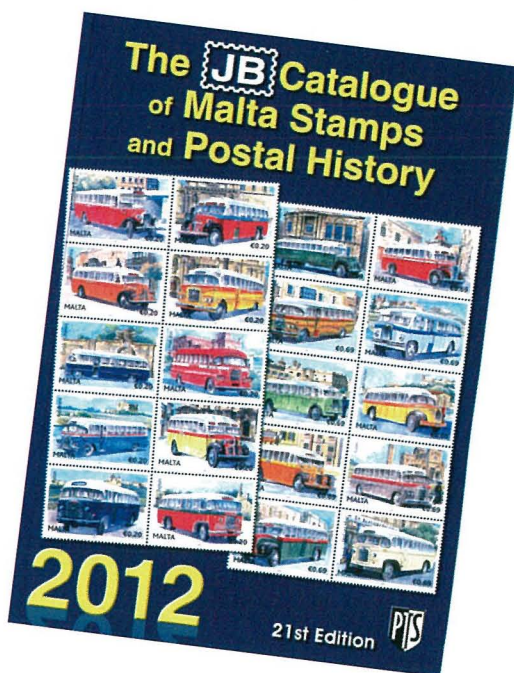
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