



April – June 2013

No. 52– 2013

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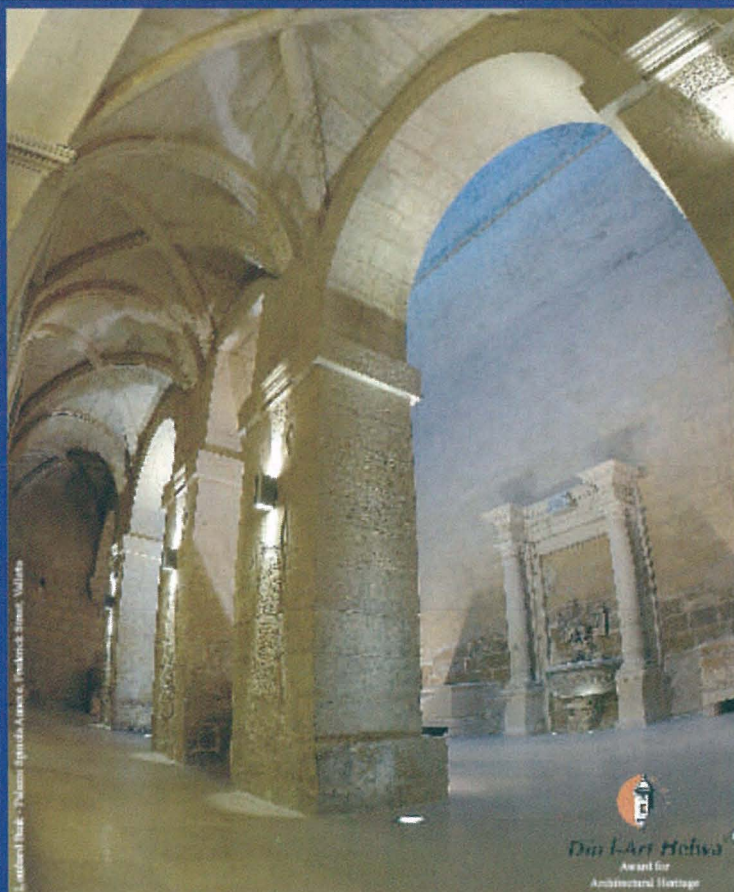


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Newsletter




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1. 150th Anniversary of Leone Philharmonic Society - 1863-2013
2. 100th Anniversary from the birth of H.R. Dr Vincent Tabone



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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.



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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.

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(50) *G.P.S. Diary*

Antoine Vassallo
Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
VO/056



30 March 2013 Anthony Grech produces Card for Ċensu Tabone centenary handstamp. (See News Letter cover)

7 April Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

13 April. The *Banca Giuratale* was the location for a new type of activity which the committee had long been discussing.

Founder-President Notary Dr Michael Refalo readily accepted to deliver a lecture expounding on his research about problems concerning carriage to and from Malta during the late 19th century. There was no doubt about the quality of his material, having already tasted it in past Newsletter articles. The attentive audience, possibly attracted by the catchy "Is there money in the mail?" title, were suitably rewarded by Michael's light-hearted style of presentation. As often happens on such occasions, the discussion continued after its formal conclusion.

This successful first will surely not be a last!

Readers will be pleased to note that we intend publish the lecture, suitably illustrated, hopefully in the next issue.

Thanks are due to the cooperative support of officers from the Gozo Ministry's Culture section.

25 April Besides deciding Exhibition date and "Traditional" subject, Committee finalizes plans for exclusive series of personalized stamps.

29 April Anthony Grech produces Card for LEONE handstamp (see News Letter cover)

5 May Members' Meeting on first Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ

2 June Members' Meeting on first Sunday of the month at Victoria Scouts HQ.

Please note that unfortunately a few tabulation and other errors slipped through in the Consolidated list of contents published in the last issue. We trust usefulness remains!



Eco-Gozo – A Better Gozo

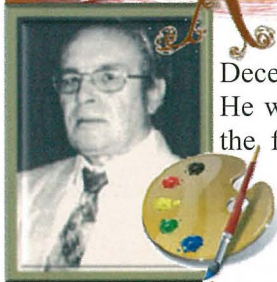
Action Plan 2010 - 2012

Project part-financed by the Ministry for Gozo

www.eco-gozo.com

AN ARTIST WHO PAINTED GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS. ALFRED CARUANA RUGGIER.

by Anthony Grech



Alfred Caruana Ruggier was born on 6 December 1941 in Hamrun where he still lives. He was married to Margeret nee' Bonnici and is the father of two sons, John and Robert. His art studies started at the Valletta School of Arts, followed at Yorkshire and at the Accademia di Belle Arte, Perugia. From the University of Malta he obtained a diplo-

loma in educational administration and management. For 40 years he was an Art teacher in various art schools. Alfred Caruana Ruggier also designed the Stations of the Way of The Cross for St. Peter and Paul's church at Goldenrod in Florida (U.S.A.)

He has illustrated several books and produced paintings both in watercolour and oils. Since 1965 he has shown his works in several exhibitions. He is also a dedicated poet, author and a keen philatelist. In 2002 Mr. Caruana Ruggier was described as 'The Artist who painted Malta' by the International Dictionary of Arts. Today we can also call him 'The Artist who painted Gozo on Malta stamps.'

This artist has in fact given us 5 stamps from 3 different sets of Malta stamps with Gozo connections. The famous Letter Boxes set of 5 stamps, which was issued by MaltaPost on 12 March 2004, contains two stamps showing Post Boxes found in Gozo. The Lm.0.22c value shows the wall box found at Munxar, while the Lm.0.37c value shows the Pillar Post Box found in St. Francis Square, with the former 'Victoria Hospital' in the background. Here he managed to capture the place so professionally that for any Gozitan it is quite easy to guess which post box is depicted.





A set of five 'Wayside Chapels', issued on 16 June 2004, also designed by Caruana Ruggier contains an other stamp with Gozo connections. The Ta' Santa Marija Chapel, found on the Island of Comino. This little island forms part of Gozitan jurisdiction both for ecclesiastical and civil purposes.

On 25 January 2004 a set of 4 stamps was issued having 'Old Maps of Malta' as a subject. Here too, two of the stamps show Gozo. The 1c value shows an old map of Malta and Gozo.



The Lm1.02 value shows the 1747 map of Gozo and



Comino. Included in the 25 February 2006 'Ceramics', set we have the 28c.value which shows a Medieval period lamp holder. In my opinion Caruana Ruggier showed his full artistic talent in the design

of the 28 April 2007 Maltese Balconies set of 5 stamps. Here too the artist gave us two examples found in Gozo. The €0.51 value shows an old highly decorated balcony found in Għarb, while the €0.69 value shows the timber balcony found in an alley in Victoria. On all of these occasions the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a commemorative postcard. Concluding this small tribute to this artist and gentleman I add that it is an honour to have his name among the Gozo Philatelic Society members list.





Not just PAPER (4)

examples of unusual stamp production

Liechtenstein's ambitious Energy Strategy includes the aim of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions substantially, to be achieved also by increasing the share of renewable energy such as hydropower and solar and geothermal energy. In 2010 stamps began appearing highlighting these various options.



The first “Renewable Energy” series consisted of three stamps featuring respectively Hydropower (1F), Wood (1.40) and Near-Surface Geothermal Energy (2.80).

A distinctive feature of these stamps, designed by Vito Noto and printed on special paper, is the use of heat-sensitive ink. Imprinted on each is a pictogram representing the particular recoverable energy. This symbol is hidden by black thermal ink which becomes transparent when a finger is pressed on it, to reveal the coloured pictogram. This philatelic novelty thus symbolizes the flow of energy.



As always, readers are invited to send comments or even contributions. - Antoine Vassallo



POST HASTE (19)

*continuing an irregular series about
the interesting story of the Post
(Antoine Vassallo)*

Home of the Caribs? (B)

Even for official dispatches, the British government relied on casual ships until the eighteenth century: In 1702 Edmund

Dummer instituted a private packet service under contract. The boats left England monthly, serving Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis and St Kitts. The round voyage took up to four months and was suspended after less than ten years.

The government began a packet service in 1755 and postmasters in the main colonies were issued with hand stamps. In spite of hazards created by war, piracy and mutiny, a twice-monthly service was maintained. A system of inter-island schooners acted as mail distributors and collectors. In 1820 all the postal services in the West Indies were overhauled. Islands which the 1815 Congress of Vienna had made definitively French continued to be served.

Post offices, postal agencies or packet agencies were set up wherever British consulates existed.

British packet agents collected prepaid postage on all letters dispatched to foreign destinations, using "crowned circle" hand and date stamps.

In 1840 the British packets were contracted out to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, with the main depot transferred two years later from Barbados to the Danish West Indies (St Thomas).

The use of British adhesives were authorized from 1858, even in certain agencies on foreign soil; cancellations can help identification. Slowly the individual colonies began acquiring their own stamps and by 1881 most of the area had joined the UPU.



House flag of the
Royal Mail Steam
Packet Company.



with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas

proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by **John A Mizzi MQR**

(3) Door Knockers 5 III 2008

(designed by Frank X Ancilleri)



Design studies for Door Knockers stamp set.



With deepest regret we announce that veteran journalist **Mr. John A Mizzi M.Q.R.** passed away on Tuesday 5th February 2013, aged 86. While sending our condolences to his family, we honour his memory by continuing this series.

Special Handstamp Cancellations

Related To, and Stamped In Gozo. Part 9

George Vella

This is a continuation of Parts 1 to 8 of special handstamp cancellations, (now called Special Hand Postmarks), which were stamped in Gozo to commemorate special events in connection with the island of Gozo. These were issued by MaltaPost since 1969.

B.P.O. = Branch Post Office. T.B.P.O. = Temporary Branch Post Office.

[No.] = JB 2004 Stamp Catalogue, page 143.

P.S. POSTMARKS REPRODUCED FROM MALTAPOST ORIGINAL DESIGNS ..



43. [757] 26-3-2011

100th Anniversary of Fontana Parish, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by Mario Abela, 31x42 mm



44. [759] 7-4-2011

100th Anniversary of the Birth of Guze' Aquilina, at Victoria B.P.O. Gozo.

Designed by Anthony Grech, 31x50 mm



45. [760] 14-4-2011

50th Anniversary of Kunsill Ċiviku ta' Ghawdex, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by George Vella, 39 mm dia.



46. [767] 13-8-2011

Blessing of New Bells, Ghajnsielem Gozo, at Ghajnsielem B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by Mario Abela, 38x39 mm



47. [...] 11-11-2011
Gozo Philatelic Society, 12th Exhibition,
at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.
Designed by Anthony Grech, 39 mm dia.



48. [...] 4-1-2012
40th Anniversary of the Death of Ninu
Cremona, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.
Designed by George Vella, 39mm dia.



49. [...] 31-10-2012
300th Anniversary of Birth of G.P.F. Agius
De Soldanis, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.
Designed by Anthony Grech, 39 mm dia.



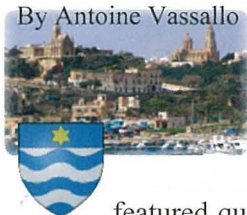
50. [...] 10-11-2012
Gozo Philatelic Society, 13th Exhibition,
at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.
Designed by Anthony Grech, 38 mm dia.



51. [...] 23-2-2013
Inauguration of Il-Hagar - Heart Of Gozo, at
Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.
Designed by Anthony Grech, 38 mm dia

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

By Antoine Vassallo



“the other Ghajnsielem Parish”

The village of Ghajnsielem in fact covers an impressively wide territory: besides the core around the old and new parish churches, it also includes the island of Comino and the environs of Mgarr harbour. Thus it has

featured quite a few times on

Malta's stamps.

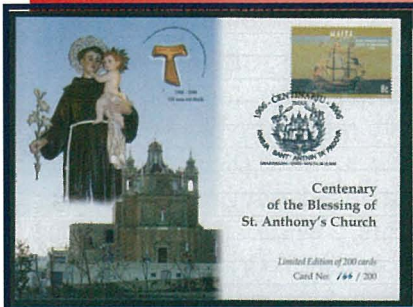
A further one was included in the 2012 set reproducing landscapes by foreign painters: the 37c shows the Franciscan church in Mgarr overlooking the sea. The church and convent offer quite a good range of pastoral and liturgical services, easily leading to a (basically incorrect) description as “the other Ghajnsielem Parish”.

The presence of Franciscan friars in Gozo goes back to the fifteenth century - quite possibly before the bigger island! In the mid-nineteenth, the Friars Minor were thinking of increasing their “branches”. The Capuchin and Conventual Franciscans being well-established in Victoria, a project gathered speed - spurred by Provincial Anton Cesal - to choose Ghajnsielem as the location. With the support of Gozo Bishop GM Camilleri, a “temporary” house was leased (in then *Strada Nadur, Migiarro*) towards the end of 1899.

Fr Cesal turned to his patron saint (Anthony of Padua) for help to acquire more suitable premises with really meagre financial resources - and succeeded in getting a substantial spread of land from the non-Gozitan Borg family (made up of Canon John , siblings and other relatives) at a nil price! In fact the donors were satisfied with sung Masses - and related spiritual benefits. In the contract, they expressly state their love for the “*glorioso taumaturgo S Antonio di Padova*”; reasonably enough, both convent and eventual church were so dedicated.



British artist Henry Mayo Bateman & the 2012 stamp.



Commemorative card issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society with the collaboration of St. Anthony's Friary on the occasion of the 100 anniversary of the church

From the 1901 agreement signed with master mason Toni (another Anthony!) Vella, developments were quite numerous - with the support of various professionals, often *pro bono* - but only a few will be highlighted here.

A provisional chapel, blessed in 1902, had three altars - dedicated, respectively, to St Anthony, the Virgin Mary in Her Immaculate Conception and Archangel Gabriel.

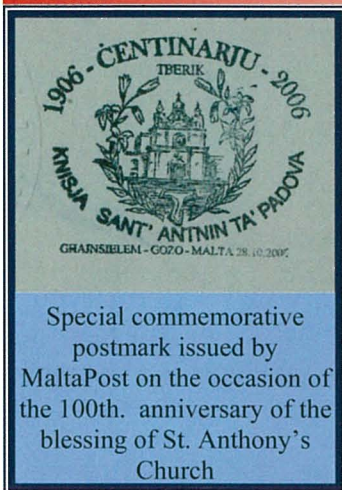
Canon Borg convinced a Nadur businessman to build the new church from his own funds, on designs created by Xaghra archpriest Joseph Diacono (usually described as the introducer and creator of "Gozo lace" - and founder of the Franciscan Sisters "of Malta").

Lazzaro Pisani (a Maltese artist especially well known for a vast number of works in some fifty churches) is represented here with the - very successful - main altarpiece, among other paintings. But quite a few artists are represented here, including Italian Fortunato Venuti, Joseph Briffa, Gozitan Wistin Camilleri and Pawlu Camilleri Cauchi (the former's son). Marble constructors included Mariano Spina and Vincenzo Testa.



Besides images - not unexpectedly - of Franciscan saints, we also find (to limit the list) Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St Joseph and Popes. Statues, not solely of the titular saint, abound around church and convent.

Interestingly, the set of bells had originally been ordered for a Valletta church but were considered unsuitably big - and given to this new church in 1905. The quality organ was acquired during World War II



The war period offered particular opportunities for service to two completely different types of refugees. The *Istitut ta' Fra Diegu* community (Hamrun) found refuge here for over four years, while the miraculous *Kurçifiss ta' Ġiezu* (Valletta) was hung in the church for a similar period.

The original idea was to use the convent as a college. Along the years, it has in fact been used as a novitiate but it is now - with the help of further building and adaptations - a popular retreat centre for groups and individuals (even residential) "*Dar*

Padova".

The titular feast is celebrated - not without the folkloristic *fešta* characteristics - near the liturgically-fixed 13 June.

Concluding on a "philatelic" note, a 2006 handstamp commemorated the centennial of the Blessing of St Anthony's church - which stands not very far from the site where a branch post office existed for some forty years.



With acknowledgements to Ġ Aquilina: Il-Frangiskani f'Ghawdex, you can also refer to the *EcoGozo-supported book* published by the Gozo Philatelic Society: "*The Isle of Joy*"!

STORY OF A CLASSIC STAMP THE CAMEL POSTMAN OF SUDAN

Anthony Grech

Sudan is the 10th largest country in the world with a population of circa 40 million people, with history dating back to the Kingdoms of Nubia, it is one of the oldest civilization in the world. Yet it issued less than 1000 different stamps, its first in 1897. The first stamp was the classic "Camel Postman". This design, sometimes modified, was used several times in the next some 100 years. The stamp and especially its design has its own interesting story to tell.

Sudan was under Egyptian rule and Egyptian stamps were used at first inscribed 'Sudan'. In 1882 the British invaded and conquered Sudan, thus became part of the British Empire. But the ruling Government of Sudan became totally corrupt. This led to a revolt and several years of battles. The British forces interfered and establish themselves in Sudan under the iron leadership of Sir Herbert Kitchener in 1896. Sir Herbert wanted new postage stamps that would be specific for Sudan. At first an artist suggested a design of the Rock temple at Abu Simbel but this was to be too expensive (£26.5s). So a distinguished Army designer and illustrator, was given the order to prepare a design in 5 days. This was Captain

E.A. Stanton, a s Army, his services at all. At first have no idea what design, until he livered to the means of a camel filled with straw



1898



1948



a member of the would be at no cost Stanton seemed to to include on the saw mail being de-army camp by and his rider. Sacks replaced the mailbags

for the artist to do the sketch. Sir Herbert gave the go ahead to the design. In March 1898, The stamps printed by De la Rue of England, with Stanton's illustration were issued for the first time.

MALTA OVERSEAS

Antoine Vassallo**local connections on foreign stamps (15)**

Malta's flag has not been completely absent from foreign stamps - and this series has already featured a couple of examples. Today I would like to mention four others, issued for the **European Small Nations Games**.

San Marino commemorated the first edition in 1985 with a set of 5 designed by G Macina, printed by Rome's IPZS. All five designs had the flags of the competing countries at the top. This Italian enclave issued eight stamps for the ninth Games in 2001, printed



by Cartor and designed by Pradal and Dotta. This time the flags (as "incorrect" triangular pennants) are on the borders of the sheet containing the block.

The same idea of flags on the sheet sides was repeated by the French Posts of Andorra for the eleventh edition in 2005. Continuing in the French area, Monaco

Designed by Joan Xandri, they were printed by ITVF Boulazac.



issued just one stamp for the twelfth Games in 2007 - printed by Philaposte. Robert Pratt included the flags quite prominently!

You are invited to send write-ups (or even just suggestions) about other foreign stamps with themes or designs related to Malta.



SOME VERY RARE STAMPS

Andrea Borg



GREAT BRITAIN

The 1847, 1d Red missing letter stamp was supposed to have a letter in each corner of the design like those issued previously in 1841. It so happened that on one printing plate one of the letters was not printed on one of the lower corners. More than 20 examples exist with the letter 'A' missing.

Issued in 1867/80, on each 6d stamp a small number from 5 to 10, in white colour is present in the lower corners. Only stamps with the number 10 is very rare.



In 1910 new stamps of King Edward VII were printed and issued. The 2d Tyrian plum was due for sale in May 1910, but the king died on 6 May, so the stamps were withheld. The Royal Collection has the only one used stamp but other mint stamps exist.

The 1/- Government Parcels Inverted Overprint was issued in 1900. For many years this stamp was considered to be a fake and a forgery, until 1950 when it was proved to be genuine. Only a few examples of this stamp exist.



Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



SAINT VINCENT 1948

In 1949 the whole supply of the St. Vincent £1 Silver Wedding were probably stolen. The authorities ordered a new supply, but in purple. As far as it is known only 8 stamps in black survived. The Royal Collection contains a block of four.

DOMINICA 1866

In 1866 Dominica ran short of its low value stamps. It was decided to overprint the 6d stamps 'HALF PENNY' and the 1/- stamps 'ONE PENNY'. By mistake some 6d stamps were overprinted 'ONE PENNY', making them a rarity.



INDIA 1852

India's first regular post was organised in 1852. The first stamps were issued embossed in scarlet, white and blue at a face value of Half Anna. The stamps were produced one at a time and were so brittle that they had to be withdrawn from sale. Because only a few were sold they are today very rare indeed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1879

In 1879 these stamps were supposed to be printed in yellow, but by mistake they were printed in mauve. A dealer who ordered some of these stamps realised that they were of the wrong colour. The Post Office sent him a letter of apology but the dealer was not sorry at all!



Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



BRAZIL 1843

This is the famous Brazil BULL'S EYE, so called because of its design shape. Brazil was the second country to introduce postage stamps, after Great Britain.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1874

This stamp was supposed to be surcharged 3 pence. Usually the 4 pence stamps were purple. Some were blue and had 3 pence printed on them for sale as 3 Pence stamps. By mistake a sheet or two had the 3 pence surcharge omitted, making it a rare stamp indeed.



NIGER COAST 1093

Nigeria ran out of its high value stamps. Some of the existing low value stamps were overprinted '20/-' in black, red or violet. Although all are a rarity, the black overprint are the most rare. It is said that only 3 are in existence. They are so rare that in many catalogues these stamps are un-priced.

FRANCE 1849.

Early French stamps were printed as *Tete Beche* (in pairs) with one stamp upside down.



FRANCE 1869.

France high value stamps were printed in two operations, first the design and then the value. By mistake the value was not added on some stamps.

Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



REUNION 1852

These were the first French Colonial Stamps. They were printed in Reunion on un-gummed paper. So glue had to be used to stick them on letters

LAGOS 1893

Running out of half penny stamps, the Postmaster of Lagos ordered that the 4d stamps be overprinted as 'Half Penny' stamps. However a sheet or more of the 2d stamps were overprinted in this way. Only about 2 such stamps are known to exist up to today



JAMAICA 1919/1921

Some people are really lucky. A man bought some 1/- stamps and realised that all had their frames upside down. He rushed to the post office and bought all the other 1/- stamps, thus making a good profit from someone's mistake.

BAVARIA 1849

The first stamp of Bavaria (Bayern) was printed in black like the famous first stamp of Great Britain and the world.-The Penny Black



SPAIN 1851

Stamps with a value of 2r were red while the 6r. value were blue. However by mistake the value 2r. appeared on some 6r stamps. A dealer bought a block of the mistaken stamps and cut them to singles before noticing the mistake.

Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



ZURICH 1843

Zurich in Switzerland was the first to issue postage stamps on the European Continent. These stamps were of 2 values, 4 and 6 Rappen.

GIBRALTAR 1889

A businessman bought five, 10 centims stamps and discovered that the value on the stamps was missing. He quickly ordered more such stamps, but the error had been discovered and all the stamps were withdrawn.



AUSTRIA 1867

These stamps were printed in red, the colour of the 5 kr., instead of green. Less than 10 of these stamps have survived.

LABUAN 1901

In 1908, a dealer bought a quantity of Labuan stamps and sold them in packets for 6 pence each. A young collector discovered that one of the stamps had its frame inverted



Philatelists rushed to buy these packets to find a stamp with the inverted frame. Some actually did and it is believed that even today there are still some, which are yet undiscovered.



FALKLAND ISLANDS 1928

Due to lack of 2½d stamps, 1179 of the 2d. value were overprinted 2½d. Only a few were actually used. The majority were bought by collectors.

Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



PHILIPPINE ISLANDS 1854

These are the first stamps of the Islands, then a Spanish colony. They were crudely printed with a libellous image of Queen Isabella II.

VIRGIN ISLANDS 1867

St Ursula is the patron Saint of the Virgin Islands. She was supposed to appear in the middle of the stamps in black. On some of the stamps the saint's image was not printed.



TRANSVAAL 1905

Printing paper intended for the Cape of Good Hope was mistakenly used for this Transvaal stamp. This paper was unwatermarked, but Transvaal stamps were supposed to be watermarked with an anchor.

MOUNT LEBANON 1861

Having the stamp supply cut off during the American Civil War, the confederates printed their own. These stamps were so crude and primitive that the wording reads backwards.



BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA –1907

The 2d. and 4d. stamp of British Central Africa (Nyasaland) with the then new Multiple Crown CA watermark were never officially issued, but this is one of them.

Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams



ROMAN STATES 1852

Called the 'Cardinals' Stamp this top value 1 Scudo was believed to have been used only by the Cardinals during the Conclave. This however is just a story. This stamp is more difficult to find used than mint

SIERRA LEONE 1939

Normally the 1d King George VI stamp of Sierra Leon is a common stamp. What makes the stamps in the picture extremely rare is the fact that this pair are not perforated between each other. It is believed that less than 10 of these pairs exist.



MALTA 1919

This 10/- stamp is the most expensive stamp of Malta. Its face value and the limited number printed makes it very rare.

It is referred to as the Queen of the Malta Collection. It is more rare postal used than in mint condition. This stamp was mainly used by Notaries as revenue stamps.

Issued 1919
Watermark



MALTA 1860

The first Malta stamp was issued in 1860. This was the Halfpenny yellow Queen Victoria stamp. There were several later printings of this stamp in different yellow hues. The first stamps were printed on bluish un-watermarked paper.



*Reference 'Twinings Rare Stamps' information by L.N. & M. Williams./
JB Sliema Malta Stamp Catalogue*

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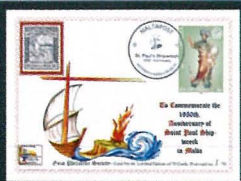
Card No.11.
'Gozo Philatelic
Society 5th.
Anniversary.'
3 September
2004.



Card No.12.
'Gozo Philatelic
Society
5th. Annual
Exhibition 2004.'
October 2004.



Card No.5.
'Ta' Kola Windmill'.
29 October 2003.
Limited edition of 200.



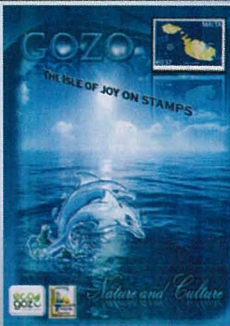
Card No.46.
'1950th. Anniversary
St Paul's Shipwreck
in Malta.'
5 February 2010.
Limited edition of 70.



Card No.60.
'50th. Anniversary
Gozo Civic
Council.'
14 April 2011.
Limited edition of



Card No.56.
'50th. Anniv.
St. George Basilica
Main Altar.'
21 December 2010.
Limited edition of 80.



GOZO THE ISLE OF JOY ON STAMPS

is a 60 page A4 book published in 2011. This book is packed with over 500 colour illustrations and photos, information on each village and town of Gozo, together with information about stamps and postmarks depicting Gozo and commemorating its personalities.

Price €5.00



**ANNOUNCING
THIS YEAR'S
PHILATELIC
EXHIBITION TITLE**



TIMES & THEMES.

Exhibition to be held at the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Halls, St. Francis Square, Victoria, from 21 to 27 October. As usual the Exhibition will consist of 4 sections:-

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY with the subject 'TIMES & THEMES' POSTAL HISTORY.

SOCIAL PHILATELY.

JUNIOR SECTION (any subject)

Application form and more information will be given in the next News Letter issue.

Start preparing Now!!

Member Mr. Paul Cini have for sale Malta Sets, First day Covers Miniature Sheets at very good prices. First Day Covers from 1980. Mint sets from 1960. Those interested can contact Mr. Cini either by Telephone, Post or by email.

Telephone number 21434896

Postal address :- Mr Paul Cini, 23 Baskal Buħaġiar Street, Mosta. MST 2130. Malta

E MAIL; p cini@maltanet.net



E & O not E (30)

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

Antoine Vassallo

Brazil has been one of the good number of countries which issued stamps specifically to denote the special rate of postage on newspapers and periodicals, often listed separately in catalogues. The first Newspaper set from this South American giant - appropriately inscribed

JORNAES - appeared in 1889, lithographed by the American Bank Note Company of New York. These stamps were soon superseded and, in 1898, were surcharged to make them available for normal postage.



As often happens in such cases, various errors cropped up. These include inverted and double surcharges, as well as wrong colours.

An attractive error is illustrated here: the 700reis was intended to transform the 500r but someone at the National Printing Works in Rio de Janeiro messed it up. In fact the surcharge was used on a 700r sheet (which was supposed to become 1000r). This is quite rare and expensive - thus an attraction for counterfeiters. For your information, this particular stamp is guaranteed genuine, certified by specialist Brian Moorhouse!



WE ARE SO

SORRY

Due to unforeseen technical problems regarding the promised issue of our first postcard series, PRIME MINISTERS OF MALTA it was impossible for us to start the issue on the date given. We hope that these problems will be solved in the near future.

We take the opportunity to thank those members who pre-ordered the cards. We will keep you informed of any development regarding this matter.

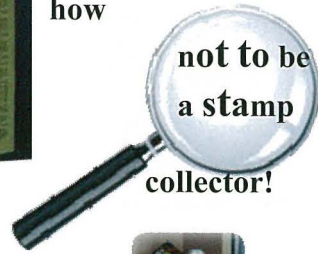
Anthony Grech/GPS

Stamp Collector



My worldly wealth I

**A humorous poem on
how**



hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.



I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold;
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.

They are my very life, for every night
over my catalogues I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.



Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starved myself a year;
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
Hitler made war that day - I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.

Look - my triangular Cape of Good Hope.
To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.



This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine . . .
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak they say), I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
poking among the stamp-bins of the quais;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should spy,
I think - God help me! I should faint and die. . .



Poor Monsieur Pns, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread,
But albums worth a million francs.
on them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven:
What did it profit in the end. . .
You can't take stamps to Heaven.

**Robert
William
Service
(1874 - 1958)**



“Philatelic” Union? *Antoine Vassallo*



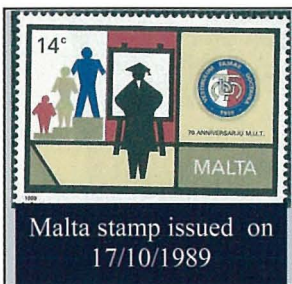
The Malta Union of Teachers is Malta's oldest extant trade union, with a 15 July 1945 date in the Registrar's list. It was founded through Antonio Galea's efforts, a thirty year old teacher coming from a family of teachers.

The first General Meeting (attracting over five hundred elementary school teachers, at whom it was originally aimed)

was held on 22 November 1919, the "official" birthday. The new organization reached Gozo on 21 April 1920, by when it had begun a relationship with the UK's National Union of Teachers - an affiliation which was only severed on Malta's Independence in 1964. The MUT now represents educators in all levels, a membership well in excess of seven thousand easily making it the third biggest.



Antonio Galea,
educator, founder
of the MUT and
philatelist



Malta stamp issued on
17/10/1989

In 1949 it became the twelfth member of the World Organization of the Teaching Profession and had an important influence towards the creation of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession.

The idea of grouping teachers together to strengthen demands for recognition of rights actually grew through Galea's hobby:

stampcollecting. He exchanged regularly with a teacher in England, an active NUT member. Their correspondence helped him decide to begin this initiative. However this relevant point was not noted in the stamp issued to commemorate the MUT's anniversary in 1989!

Even nowadays many teachers are philatelists and stamps are still used as a non-electronic educational tool. The GPS is always appealing for school support in recruitment of members and Committee members accept invitations to visit. One should also mention the strong Junior class at our annual Exhibition.



The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

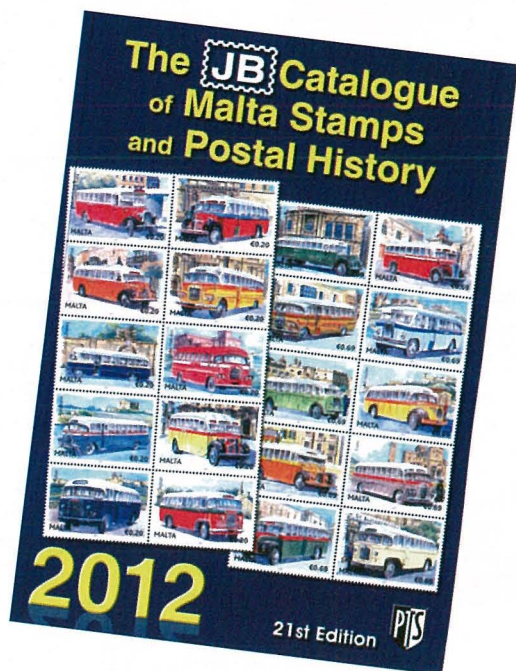
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