

April—June 2014

No. 56— 2014

www.stamps-goza.org



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter



2004—2014



NEWSPAPER POST

ISLAND TECH

Choosing the Best

Call **Manuel Grech**

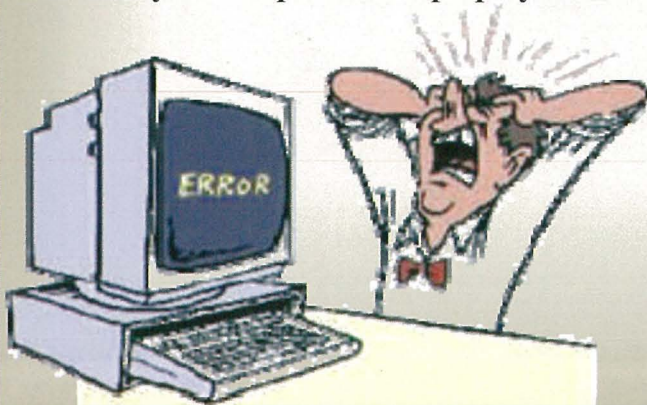
Tel. 21566777

Mob.99206525

TRIQ IL-MUNICIPJU RUMAN
VICTORIA
GOZO.



We offer: Network & Accessories.
Cartridge and toner refill
& a variety of Computer & Laptop Systems



Computer
problems?
Don't worry.
We will find
a solution.



You are invited



You are invited

for an interesting talk

'Philately and the 4 National Anniversaries'

by the expert philatelist and historian

H.E. Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici KM, MD, B.Pharm.,
Cert(GAM.UK), FRSM, F.R.S.H., F.R.A.E.S., U.O.M.

Speaker Emeritus and

President of the Malta Philatelic Society

organized by the

Gozo Philatelic Society

at IL-HAĠAR – HEART OF GOZO

(Pjazza San Ġorġ – Victoria)

on Saturday 21 June @ 10am.

Entrance free

Your friends are also invited.

Front Cover:

Two postcards and personalized stamps from a series of cards commemorating
Malta's Prime Ministers. *Issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society.*

50TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE OF MALTA



BANK ĊENTRALI TA' MALTA
EL-BORGHESINA
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA



This year marks the 50th anniversary since Malta became an independent state.

The Central Bank of Malta and MaltaPost are commemorating this milestone by the issue of a silver coin and a silver stamp ingot set.

Available from the Central Bank of Malta and all MaltaPost Offices

For more information contact:

MCDC, Central Bank of Malta, Castille Place, Valletta VLT 1060, Malta
(+356) 2550 0000 | mcdc@centralbankmalta.org | www.centralbankmalta.org

Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c., 305, Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001, Malta
(+356) 2596 1740 | info@maltaphilately.com | www.maltaphilately.com

The subject chosen for this year's
Annual Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition is
MALTESE ANNIVERSARIES & CELEBRATIONS

GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on the 12th February 2000. Editor: Austin Masini

Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the Committee's official policy.
 Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to:

The Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

© All rights reserved. Requests for reproduction of contents should be addressed to the Secretary. *e-mail address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org*

CONTENTS

GPS Diary (54)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	6
Philatelic Centennials.....	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	7
O.A.T. Cancellation.....	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	8
A Philatelist King.....	<i>A.E. Fiecchi/trans. by Donald Theuma Xerri.</i>	12
Proofing & Designing.....	<i>J.A. Mizzi</i>	14
Stamp terms used in philately.....	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	16
Promoting Gozo through philately.....	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	18
A & O Not E.(33).....	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	20
Announcing	<i>Anthony Grech.</i>	21
Malta Overseas.....	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	22
More items from 'The Juncker Collection'	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	24
Not just paper.....	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	26
The Great 1971 Great Britain postal strike.....	<i>John Luke Debrincat</i>	27
Appreciation—George Vella.....	<i>Anton F. Attard</i>	28

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby,
 the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

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

Antoine Vassallo
Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
VO/057



GPS DIARY (54)

Antoine Vassallo *GPS Secretary*
VO/0546

Please note that last issue's Diary should have been shown as number 53

5 April 2014 Funeral of GPS co-founder (and stamp, handstamp and card designer) George Vella - see pages 28 & 29.

6 April Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

7 April 9th "Prime Minister" personalized stamp and card issued.

11 April Anthony Grech prepares Cover for Xaghra Good Friday procession centenary Handstamp. (see below)

23 April Anthony Grech prepares Cover for St George statue anniversary Handstamp (which he designed). {see below}

30 April Committee discusses possible activities before the November Exhibition.

3 May Last Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ before Summer break.

4 May 10th "Prime Minister" personalized stamp and card issued.

2 June 11th "Prime Minister" personalized stamp and card issued.

GPS productions again featured in *FILATELIA RELIGIOSA*, a periodical in Italian issued by

Gruppo Don Pietro Ceresa of Turin:
this time it is issue 60
(March 2014).





PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

11 - GB Dues (1914)

“Invented” in the mid-nineteenth century on the continent (France in 1859), postage due stamps only appeared in Great Britain in 1914.

For well over fifty years, George William Eve’s Art Nouveau rendering of the heraldic flowers of the United Kingdom remained current. Of course, there were changes: different printers and watermarks, colours and values. Additionally, “Postage Due” was changed to “To Pay” for higher values. This latter nomenclature became the rule for all postage dues, come decimalization and completely new designs.

Ironically 1914 was also the year of death of the artist, well known especially as a designer of book plates, currency and seals. But he was also an author (concentrating on heraldry, interesting enough to be currently in print).

All postage due stamp use ceased in 2000, as has happened in various other countries (including Malta): most make do with a handstamp or other mark on the cover to show that the sender paid insufficient postage, expected from the addressee - with a substantial additional charge.

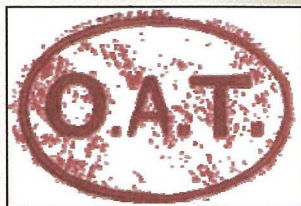
Numerous pictorials have in the meantime been offered by issuers who “need” further excuses to add to the choices available for stamp collectors!

Antoine Vassallo



O.A.T. CANCELLATION.

By Anthony Grech

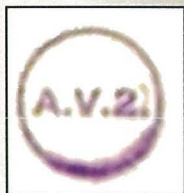


Lately Mr. Wolfgang Juncker, our German friend and honorary member donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society many more Malta items to be added to the “*Mr. & Mrs Juncker Collection.*” These included covers cancelled with the O.A.T. Handstamp. Many were the members who wanted more information about this cancellation and its use.



When a letter is cancelled by an **O.A.T.** marking, it means that the letter arrived at a transit point and had to be forwarded by air to its intended destination.

It appears on airmail letters of certain countries between the 1940's to 1960's. During and after the war, many countries tried to avoid the war zones routes and resulted in longer route requiring transits. It is then applied on a letter on top of the bundle in the transit point, thus explaining the relative rarity of such postmarks. These markings are often associated with 'AV2' markings, but the latter topic is outside the scope of this article.



In an article published in the ‘American Philatelist’ of September 1962, Mr. Donald Smythe attempt to do some classification of **O.A.T.** markings. Then others have added to it or even published their own systems too. Mr. Kristian Hopballe published two detailed articles on Icelandic and Faroese **O.A.T.** markings and used the Smythe's s classification. The Smythe system is the most popular basis for listing them, and as such has become the de facto standard. Mr. Murray Heifitz did an excellent and important research on these markings, which he published in December 1992 in an article in the ‘Airpost Journal’ of the ‘American Airmail Society’. According

to him, the **O.A.T.** marking was used in London, Prestwick, Tangiers, Hong Kong and Amman from 1940 to 1945. He listed 15 different types of **O.A.T.** marks, based on about 500 letters he himself examined.

O.A.T. can also stand for Onward Air Travel (probably English, while Transmission sounds more American!). It is thought that an **O.A.T.** cachet was applied to the top letter of a tied bundle of up to 60 letters. These bundles always travelled in open mail bags to a single intermediate or final destination, but **O.A.T.** can also stand for Onward Air Travel (probably English, while Transmission sounds more American!). It is thought that an **O.A.T.** cachet was applied to the top letter of a tied bundle of up to 60 letters. These bundles always



Air Mail letter sent from Sliema, Malta to New York USA
on 17 March 1945.

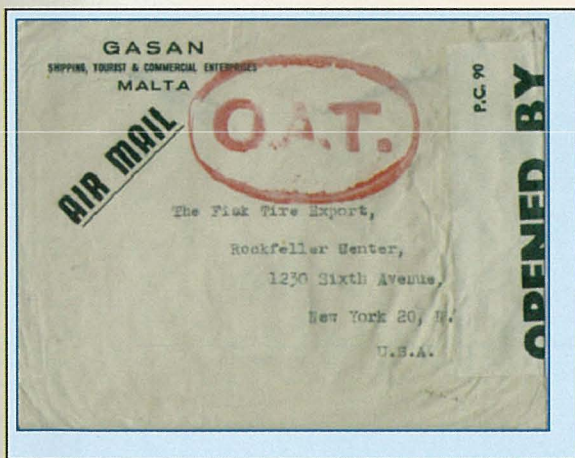
(From Mr. & Mrs Juncker Collection donated to
The Gozo Philatelic Society)

travelled in open mail bags to a single intermediate or final destination, but where the quantity of mail was insufficient to warrant a closed bag. Closed mail bags did not attract **O.A.T.** markings, as the whole bag was sealed and all letters went to the one destination as marked on the outside of the bag. Open mail bags were resorted en route as required and bundles replaced into

other bags for the next section of their journey. One should point out, that the use of **O.A.T.** markings was discretionary. Methods and routes of mail conveyance were always changing during the war, due to the military situation. The bulk of **O.A.T.** markings were applied in the *Foreign Section* of the London Post Office during and after WWII.

This meant that all this mail was being routed through London for censorship (most of them) and forwarding. Censorship also provided considerable intelligence for the Allied war effort. Lisbon was the main staging post for the London mail run from Africa, USA or further east, especially during the colder months. Gibraltar was also used from late 1943, once the Mediterranean area was cleared of the German and Italian forces.

Until 1952, a letter could be paid part of the way by air and part by sea. After 1952 airmail rates applied for the whole journey only. Thus the purpose of the **O.A.T.** marking was to denote onward air travel, even if the rate paid was for sea mail or partly paid airmail. For obvious reasons, during the war, mail handling was simplified as much as possible, so that it permitted it to get through at all. Optional part way by air often was an unwanted complication for the postal authorities.



For obvious reasons, during the war, mail handling was simplified as much as possible, so that it permitted it to get through at all. Optional part way by air often was an unwanted complication. While the Universal Postal Union (UPU) convention of 1929 covered handling of airmail letters, postcards, etc, the use of **O.A.T.** markings was nowhere specified within their regulations – thus they were unauthorised. The increase of

airmail letters and the exigencies of war often required novel approaches to mail handling. This was no exception.

Air Mail letter sent from Sliema, Malta to New York USA on 2 March 1945.
(From Mr. & Mrs Juncker Collection donated to The Gozo Philatelic Society)

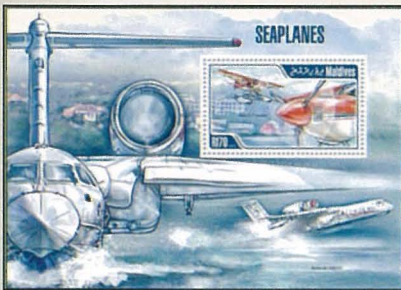
Most **O.A.T.** marks are found in a pale pink or red ink, which in itself may vary, due to fading and ageing, amount of ink used etc. Blue, violet and black inks are also known for some types of cachet. While different coloured cachets are noted, certainly during the war colours other than red are far harder to come by in practice.

As mentioned above, throughout the war, Lisbon was available to forward mail to the UK.

As Portugal was neutral during WWII, Pan-Am as well as BOAC and German airlines used it. Then after America's entry into the war, no mail from occupied Europe was forwarded by the Germans for transmission through Lisbon after April 1942. Vichy-France could send and receive letters until November 1942 invasion of French colonies in Africa and the Middle East by the Allies.

Most of the mail to the Americas went either via Pan-Am's Caribbean or South American routes from there, although, after 1942 mail went via Ireland and Greenland during the summer months. Seaplanes were used, landing in the Tagus river for Lisbon for instance until 1944, when longer range land based planes became available. Routes traversed Africa south of the war zone to connect with countries further east. Again flying boats were used initially, so water was required for landings. Mail from South African countries was carried by 'SAA' or 'Sabena' in land planes to Lagos, where it changed to flying boats.

Depending where the Allies or enemy fronts were, so routes were either cut or



became available, sometimes causing severe disruption to airmails. Thus mails, despite being marked **O.A.T.** could travel much of the way by sea, depending on their destination. Delays were also considerable, either waiting for planes or ships to be available. During the war, mail did not always have the highest priorities, because urgent war supplies or staff movements could take precedence.

A PHILATELIST KING

By A.E. Fiecchi. Translated from Italian by Donald Theuma Xerri. Published in *La Domenica Del Corriere* 1937 no.23



King George V of England initiated his collection when he was still a young boy. When he ascended to the throne, in 1910, he never abandoned his much-loved collection and on several occasions he showed it in competitions. The curator of the royal collection, Sir Edward Denny Bacon, Dean of the British



Sir Edward Denny Bacon

philatelists, had several times the task of showing and commenting in public meetings the various parts of the collection of his Majesty.

Lately, when the Duke of Kent wedded Princess Marina of Greece, several newspapers claimed that the king had given his own stamp collection to the bride. The news is false, however, it is true that long ago he donated specimens of considerable value to the Royal London Hospital for the treatment of ear diseases; stamps with many others, offered also by many other collectors, were sold at the auction and gave a more than substantial income.



Among the particular manifestations of sympathy shown by the August monarch to philatelists, it should not be forgotten that in May 1923, in occasion of the international stamp exhibition which was held in London, King George was delighted to invite a hundred philatelists to Buckingham palace. Among those present, along with distinguished personalities, there were an American senator and the Deputy Postmaster General of the United States. The guests were individually presented to the king by Sir E. D. Bacon and were invited to go into a magnificent gallery where on two large tables were exposed one hundred and forty-eight volumes of the royal collection. The king and Sir E. D. Bacon provided details and explanations, giving the exact feeling of the great and intelligent passion that the king had for his collection. The session lasted almost two hours.



The collection of the king is of extraordinary importance and has an enormous value. It is enclosed in 150 volumes, bounded in red leather and bearing the royal crest. It includes the postage stamps of Great Britain and the British

Empire, of which it studied every single-detail. The most important part of the collection and certainly unique as a whole, is that dedicated to the *artist's proofs, essays and tests for printing*: that is everything that is done before making the stamp itself. The collection includes the rarest pieces, but at times not the greatest. His Majesty has paid exceptionally high prices, but did not believe that some samples were actually hundreds of thousands of pounds. This shows also His high sense of intelligence and above all his true passion, and not his obsession. No one can say that there is anything in the collection which is more than necessary.



Of the famous Mauritius (how many stories, how many delightful and witty inventions on these two rare stamps ...)

King George has a used specimen on the cover of the 1 penny vermilion colour, and a copy of the new deep blue 2 pence. The latter was paid, in the era prior to 1910, 1450 pounds and today it has a value of about 100-120 thousand pounds. Among the other great rarities owned by the Sovereign there is a beautiful specimen of 4 d. Western Australia with inverted centre of which there are a total of ten copies. Another similar variety and also rare, of which the King has a good specimen, is the 4 annas of British India with the image upside down of Queen Victoria. Numerous varieties known in unique specimens are also part of the royal collection.



Gozo Philatelic Society

IMPORTANT REMINDER

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION YET?

Please do not hesitate.

For Local Adult Membership €5.00 per year. Juniors €2.00

proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR

(4) Prehistoric Sculptures 28 II 2007

(designed by Josian Bonello on images by Daniel Cilia)





The design chosen for the Prehistoric Set of Stamps. Designed by Josian Bonello, printed by Printex Ltd. (Malta) and issued by MaltaPost on 28 February 2007

Stamp terms used in **PHILATELY** (42) Emanuel Vella.

'P'; Overprinted on the SCADTA semi official airmails of Columbia. The capital letter 'P' indicates that the stamp is in consular overprint sold in Panama. When overprinted P accompanied by a star and a crescent on the 1878, 2cents brown stamp of the Straits Settlements, it stands for PERAH. Occasionally the letter 'P' is also used as an abbreviation for Pre-cancelled.



'Pa'; Para, the Turkish and Eastern European unit of currency.



P.C.C.P.; Russian Socialist Soviet Republic.



P.C.G.B.; Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.



'P.c.p.; Progressive colour proofs.



'PD'; French for 'Paye a' Destination'.



Paid to Destination.



'PE'; Overprinted on the SCADTA semi official airmails of Columbia. These letters indicate that the stamp is in consular overprint sold in Peru.



'Pg'; In some stamp auction catalogues means 'PART GUM'

'P.G.S.'; Parak Government Service.

'Pi'; Piastre. North African, Turkish and Eastern European unit of currency.



'P.I.'; Stands for Perforation initials. Used also to indicate 'POORLY INKED' postmarks.



'P.J. Of G.B.'; Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.



'P.K.W.N.'; *Polski Komitet Wolnosci Narodo.*
Polish National Liberation Committee

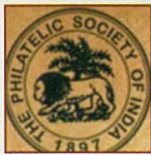


'P.M.'; *Posta Militare.*
Overprinted on Italian stamps used to frank mail from the armed forces in World War II, 1939-1945.



'PLL'; German. Perfins on German stamps used as Prussian Police 'officials'

'P.S.I.';
Philatelic Society of India.

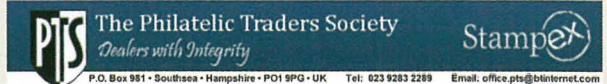


'P.T.M.';

Initials that appear as watermark on Malayan stamps introduced in November 1961

'P.T.S.';

Philatelic Traders Society.



In the United States these initials stand for 'Postal Transport Service', formerly the Railroad Mail Service. (R.M. 5)

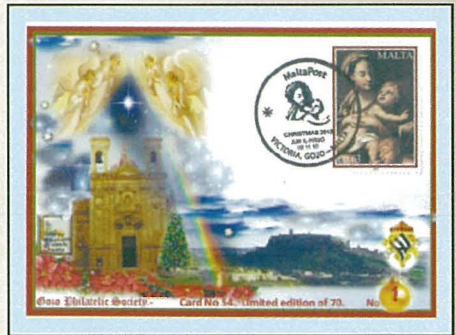
Promoting Gozo through Philately



Many Christmas issues take the “easy” way out by simply reproducing Madonna & Child paintings. Maltapost’s 2010 offering was a typical example. The 63 cents shows the central part of an early eighteenth century canvas whose usual place is right beneath the

titular altarpiece at St George’s Basilica in Victoria.

Very little is known about its provenance - or even about the painter himself (Pierre Guillemain). However it attracted a strong cult, especially during May - thus the popular name of *Madonna di Maggio*. In fact the painting used to be displayed upon the main altar in an impressive “golden” frame during the month. This practice had however to be suspended when this parish church was bestowed with the title of basilica, resulting in a new bronze canopy and other “infrastructure”.

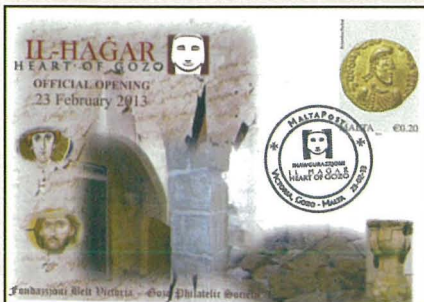


An unfortunate result was that this frame became “useless” - and stored away, quite disrespectfully! Not too long ago, it was brought out again, received some essential restoration and displayed in the new museum inaugurated in early 2013. This event was actually commemorated philatelically through the issue of a personalized stamp and the use of a special handstamp, with the Gozo Philatelic Society unsurprisingly producing its cover too.

Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo was projected and set up - and is run - by *Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria*, a Voluntary Organization founded for this specific purpose -

though numerous other cultural activities have also taken place during the years since its birth. This museum, adjacent to St George’s, received substantial financial support from the European Regional Development Fund, Eco-Gozo and other state schemes - as well as a number of sponsorships by firms and individuals.

Although any Centre such as this has to remain a “work in progress”, *Il-Ħaġar* has





established itself as the place to “enhance every Gozo visit”. Moreover numerous events have already confirmed these premises as an ideal location: seminars, lectures, book launches and recitals. A programme aims at one temporary exhibition each month - in a range of mediums.

The internal design (left in the hands of a small English firm of museum specialists) is based on the idea that the identity of the people of Gozo is rooted in the cultures and civilizations of the Mediterranean: moulded by the value systems and religious beliefs of those who visited us - often as conquerors. The museum is an illustration of how much religion, especially the Christian faith, has shaped the identity of the Gozitan people.

As one enters through the modern “medieval” iron and wood door, the first feature is a column-like stack emblazoned with words, mosaics and symbols: the museum “spine” going through all levels as an invitation to converse with the civilizations and events that have made us. The blocks of stone (of all types), stacked unevenly but cogently upon each other, speak of the geology of the island, its Ġgantija civilisation, Punic past, Roman rule, Byzantine transformation, the arrival of the Vandals followed by the Moslems, the Jewish presence, the “European” powers, the rule of the Knights of Malta, the turbulent months of revolutionary French occupation, the British period and contemporary history. This is done with the help of artefacts in showcases, miniature versions of those on floors and walls around the halls.

The foyer is dedicated to temporary exhibitions; the other four levels are themed (called respectively Truth & Aesthetics, Splendour, Matter & Form and Figures), holding paintings, sculptures, statues, documents, coins and vestments - including unearthed items found nearby. Items of socio-historical interest include Pope Francis’s last Cardinal’s cassock, Benedict XVI’s last papal skullcap (*karlotta*) and a range of hierarchical mementoes. A philatelic section is among ideas in the pipeline. Other rooms are audiovisual in nature: offering videos or a great range of surround-sound music.

with acknowledgmet to www.heartofgozo.org.mt

E & O not E (33)

glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes.

(well-known or obscure)

Antoine Vassallo



A top contender for the most beautiful US stamp is surely the 1898 \$1 *Cattle in Storm*, part of the Trans-Mississippi set of nine commemoratives issued to mark the 1898 Exposition held in Omaha, Nebraska. This was only the third stamp with such a face value.

Unfortunately, the breed of cattle meant to represent the ruggedness of the American West actually derive from far away! In fact the design was based on a James McWhirter painting depicting cattle in a winter storm in the West Highlands of Scotland. This had been copied - without the permission of the owner - by an American cattle company as some sort of trademark.

"The Vanguard" was actually painted in a small farmhouse near the Scottish highland town of Calendar - and did not depict an event west of the Mississippi. But few really cared about this detail!

The image caught the attention of the Post Office Department (and Raymond Ostrander Smith, staff designer of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing) and was adopted for the \$1 design. A full apology was later issued to the



owner of the painting (Archibald Campbell, 1st Baron Blythswood).

Interestingly the Trans-Mississippi series were originally to be bi-coloured; but the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, its resources overtaxed by the needs of the Spanish-American War, simplified the printing process and the stamps appeared in single colours only - this one in black! The original colour scheme was used in a re-issue for the Exhibition centenary.

Though an influential writer or two did not think much of the designs (one

describing them as "poorly conceived"), pristine copies of these Cattle can sell for tens of thousands of dollars - possibly because of the rather limited volume sold.



Announcing...

Anthony Grech

after the huge success with the Prime Minister personalized stamps and Cards, the

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

is proud to present with the encouragement of the present incumbent

HL Mario Grech Bishop of Gozo

and the ongoing support of the sesquicentennial committee - a set of ten personalized stamps and cards, cancelled with a special commemorative postmark (issued by MaltaPost plc.) in a limited edition, showing the

BISHOPS OF GOZO

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE DIOCESE

comprising Gozo & Comino (1864 - 2014).

Anthony Grech is the designer of the stamps, covers and Postmark, with historical consultancy by Mgr Dr Joseph Bezzina.

The set will be available in two *se-tenant* sheets of five each or/and on ten Cards
on 16 September 2014

However it is recommended that pre-orders are made immediately! An order form with prices is sent to you with this News Letter. Please note that the number of cards and stamps is going to be strictly limited. So do not be disappointed, make your order now.

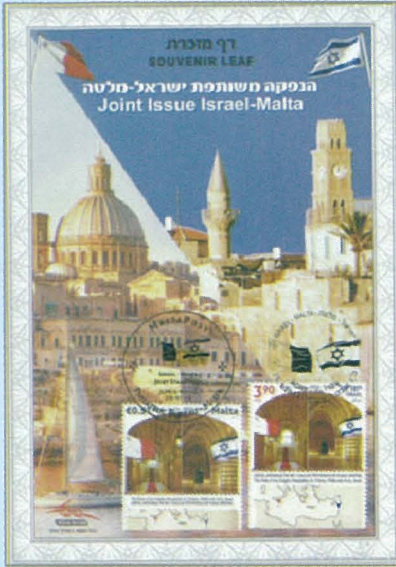
All Gozitan Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society must acquire the latest 'Malta Philatelic Society's 'Journal no. Vol 43/1 of April 2014. It is full of professional articles about Gozo Postal history and historic letters from the time of the French occupation of Gozo. All these treasures which should interest, not only philatelists but also Gozo history lovers, are professionally presented by the President of the Malta Philatelic Society Chev Dr. Alfred Bonnici. And YES why not subscribe as members in the Malta Philatelic Society? Membership fee for local members is €8 for adults and €2.33 for Juniors. Receiving by post this Journal is worth every penny of it and much more. For more information and/or subscription write to the Secretary of the M.P.S. Mr. John A. Cardona, 56, St. Mary Street, Tarxien, Malta. Or by email johnacardona@gmail.com



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (18) Antoine Vassallo

local connections on foreign stamps



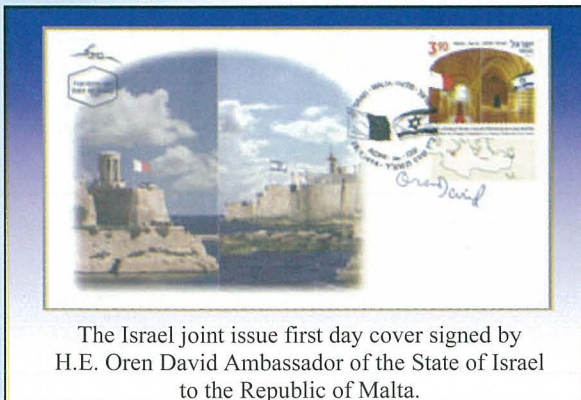
Joint issues usually offer a good opportunity to feature foreign sites; this has happened in our latest, with Israel in January 2014.

The single design, by Ronen Goldberg, includes photographs of two halls. Both originally created by the Knights Hospitaliers (“The Order of Malta”), they can still be considered as tourist attractions. That in Israel is their gothic-style dining room in Acre, while Malta’s is now the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta - overlooking the Grand Harbour.

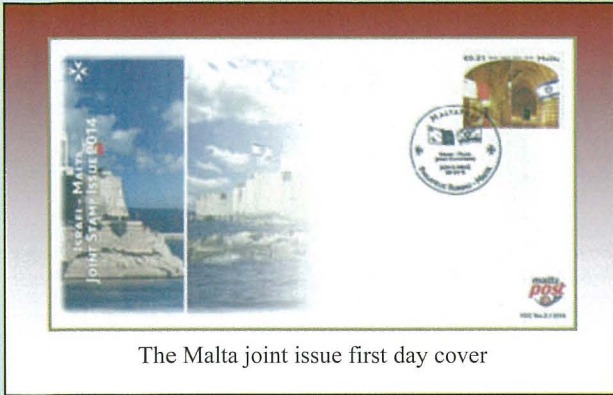
The MCC was constructed in the late sixteenth century (under Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere) as the Order’s

Sacra Infirmaria or main hospital. As is well known, taking care of sick and wounded was a major objective of the Knights - their sacred duty. They acquired excellent medical skills, including complex surgical

techniques. They also gave importance to hygiene, even using silver utensils. In fact this was a state-of-the-art hospital with a capacity of over 600 beds and women, s l a v e s a n d non-Catholics were treated non-discriminatorily - quite unusually for the then current social norms everywhere!



The Israel joint issue first day cover signed by H.E. Oren David Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Malta.



The Malta joint issue first day cover

This state-owned imposing building has obviously seen many changes over the years but the “Great Ward”, measuring over one hundred fifty metres in length, was among the very largest in Europe and described as “one of the grandest interiors in the world”. It obviously repre-

sented an architectural feat and remains so impressive that it is now regularly used for exhibitions and as a high-class banqueting hall, easily seating well over a thousand.

You are invited to send write-ups (or even just suggestions)

about other foreign stamps with themes or designs related to Malta.

The presentation of this joint issue took place on Wednesday 5 February 2014 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta. A splendid lecture ‘The Medieval Jewish Heritage of the Maltese Island’ was delivered by Charles Dalli M.P.hil (Canta 6).



The Sacra Infermeria or The Knights Hall, Valletta.



The Apostle Luke patron Saint of Doctors on a background of St. Luke's Hospital.



A Knight attending the sick.

The last Postage Stamp set of Colonial Malta, designed by Chev Emanuel Vincent Cremona on 5 September 1964.

MORE ITEMS FROM THE JUNCKER COLLECTION.

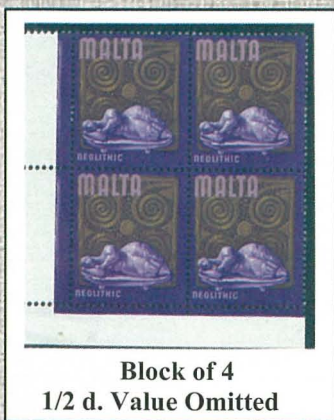
Donated to
The Gozo Philatelic Society

**Mr. Wolfgang
&
Mrs. Krista
JUNCKER.**

**ERRORS & VARIETIES
ON MALTA STAMPS**
By Anthony Grech



'MALTA' Omitted on all stamps



**Block of 4
1/2 d. Value Omitted**

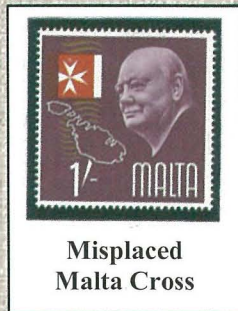
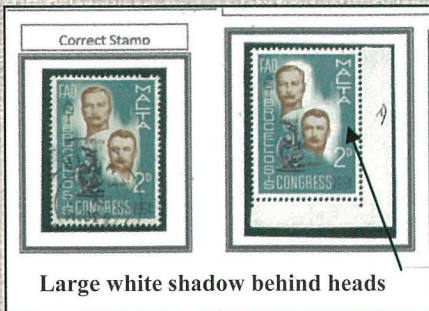
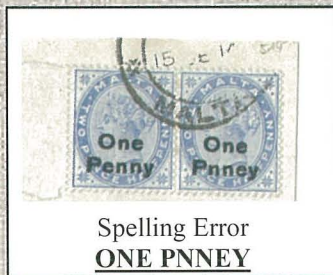


**'POSTAGE'
Printed upside
down**



**Block of 4
No Perforations**

**THIS IS A SMALL PART OF THE PRESTIGIOUS COLLECTION DONATED BY
MR. & MRS. WOLFGANG JUNCKER TO THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY.**

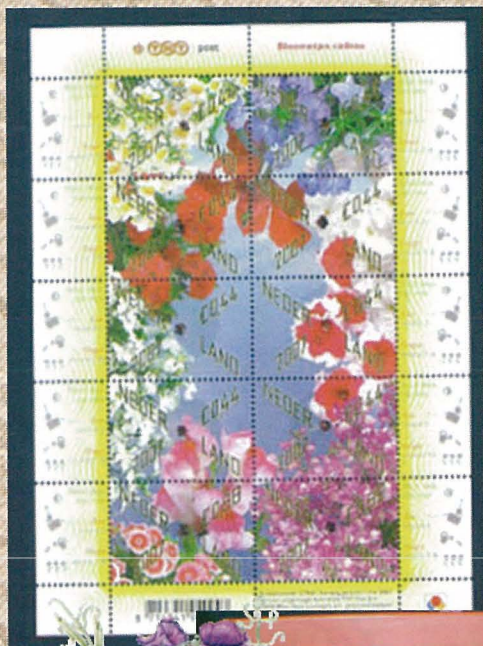


Not just PAPER (8)

examples of unusual stamp production

Antoine Vassallo

Flora has of course long been a common - and popular - theme in stamp designs.



The Netherlands is famous as a leading flower producer and in 2007 it tried to be philatelically innovative: by including seeds. The sheet consists of ten different stamps (eight with a face value of 44 cents, together with two 88s) forming an attractive composite design. Seeds were affixed centrally to each stamp during the printing process.

Especially for those readers who would not be able to distinguish them (!), the species depicted are: snapdragons, blue labella, red and white dianthus, red and white petunias, arabis, sweet peas and pink phlox.

These stamps were also available as set-tenant strips of two in a prestige booklet (titled "Gift of Flowers" on the cover) composed of five panes.

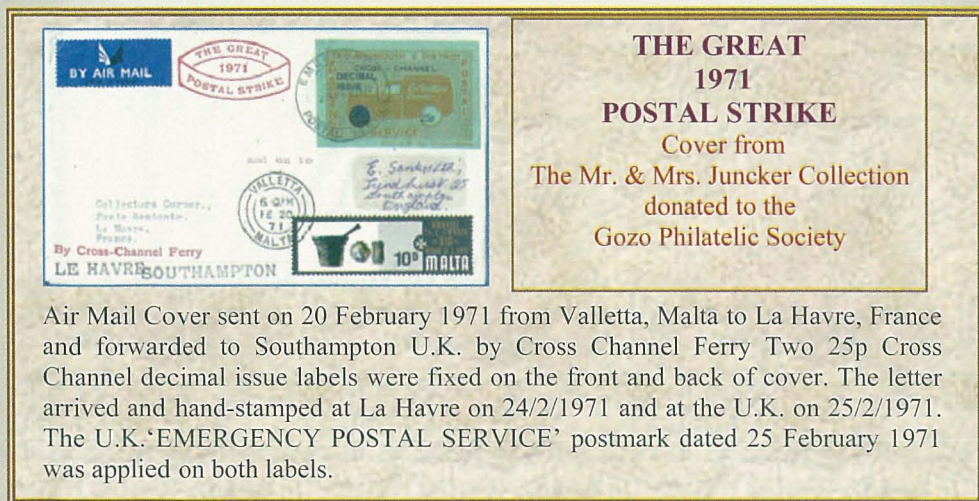


The Great 1971 United Kingdom postal workers' strike.

John Luke Debrincat

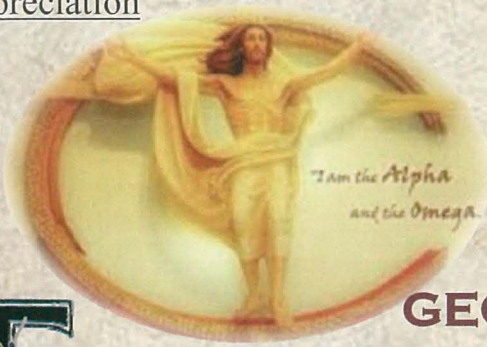
This strike was staged by postal workers between January and March 1971. The postal workers demanded a pay rise of between 15 and 20%, but the Post Office managers offered a much lower rise. This decision gave way for the postal workers to walk out, resulting in Britain's first national postal strike. The strike began on 20 January and lasted for seven weeks. Finally on 4 March an agreement was reached and the strike ended. After voting over the weekend, the strikers returned to work on Monday 8 March 1971. It took several days before the backlog was cleared. The 200,000 postmen and women are estimated to have lost about £150 each and the Post office lost some £25m in revenue. This strike coincided with the introduction of decimal currency in the U.K. Not all workers were happy with the agreement reached between their union and the postal administration. When in a rally, the post union general secretary, Mr. Tom Jackson urged the workers to accept the agreement many workers jeered, shouting "Hey, hey, Tommy J, how about our £3 pay?"

The Great Strike gave the opportunity to many officially licensed and unlicensed private posts to operate, offering their service and minimising the inconvenience created by the withdrawal of official postal services. Some of these commercial private postal agencies were genuine. They provided local, national and international services to their clients. Other agencies were invented by stamp collectors and dealers to produce philatelic material for collectors. Several different and attractive labels and hand-stamps were produced.



Air Mail Cover sent on 20 February 1971 from Valletta, Malta to La Havre, France and forwarded to Southampton U.K. by Cross Channel Ferry Two 25p Cross Channel decimal issue labels were fixed on the front and back of cover. The letter arrived and hand-stamped at La Havre on 24/2/1971 and at the U.K. on 25/2/1971. The U.K. 'EMERGENCY POSTAL SERVICE' postmark dated 25 February 1971 was applied on both labels.

Appreciation



GEORGE VELLA



The news of the passing away of someone is always bad news, because death means not only the ceasing of every human work and activity of the individual concerned, but also the suffering of cruel separation by persons of the same family, relations and friends of the deceased person. The bad news is even worse, when it comes unexpectedly.

In fact many were those persons who were taken by surprise on Thursday, 3rd April, when the news spread out at Rabat, Gozo, that our friend George Vella had passed away. Incidentally, a quite common name. However, George Vella was not that common person. George was an artistic person. In fact as a member of the *Circolo Gozitano*, for several years he was in charge of the Arts Subcommittee. For this same reason George was designer of the logo of the *Circolo Gozitano* and several other logos. He was a co-founder with others of the Gozo Philatelic Society. He had the knowhow in making beautiful designs of certificates to be given out to winners in competitions organized by the *Circolo* and the Philatelic Society. The Diploma of *Gieh Ghawdex* conferred annually by the *Circolo Gozitano* to several persons and associations was also designed by him.

As a Philatelist George Vella was quite known not only in Gozo but also by many other citizens hailing for the island of Malta for the beautiful philatelic cards which he used to design. Whenever the Post Office issued a set of stamps bearing some aspect of Gozo's history or of our island's traditional life, George used to take the initiative to design an artistic card to tally with the stamp concerned. He used to design also personalised stamps and sometimes also the



special postal rubber stamp that goes with them. Without any shadow of doubt now it can be said that George had left a real philatelic patrimony to be enjoyed also by future generations.

George had very much at heart the Gozitan National Patrimony and for some time he was entrusted by the Ministry for Gozo to take care the restoration of historical places both at the Citadel and in other parts of Gozo, with special mention of Ta' Kola Windmill in Xaghra.

He took real pleasure working with the subcommittee to commemorated prominent Gozitans such as the Gozitan Poet George Pisani and the Poetess Mary Meylak.



Archpriest Cassar
monument Victoria

For some time he also taught Gozitan Youth the art of pottery making at the Gozo School of Art. Also to his credit will remain his unstinting and disinterested help passed on to students who were preparing for their exams, their project, a paper or a thesis. His cooperation knew no bounds.

However, in my opinion the best piece of art he created for the benefit of Gozo's Patrimony was the design of the Monument in honour of Archpriest Cassar, which was later on erected in front of St. James's Church at It-Tokk or Independence Square. This monument was officially unveiled by His Excellency the President of Malta, Dr. Edward Fenech Adami on 3rd February 2006 and was blessed by His Lordship the Bishop of Gozo, Monsignor Nichols J. Cauchi.

As we have already said, this monument was designed by George Vella, the bust was sculptured by Michael Camilleri Cauchi, it was cast in bronze by Joe Chetcuti (Malta), the marble plinth was manufactured by the Gozitan Firm A. F. Ellis Ltd. of Victoria and the erection of the monument was entrusted to Raymond Bonello of Xaghra, a piece of beautiful artistic work which will be enjoyed for a long time by many generations to come. Now George Vella has gone forever, however we can say that he had wholly completed the mission assigned to him by the Creator for the benefit of the Gozitan Island. Therefore it is most fitting for us not to forget him, and we should always remember and commemorate what he has done for the honour and well being of our dear Island, Gozo.

Our condolences go to his wife Josephine and her family, his relatives and all his friends.

By Anton F. Azzard.



The last postmark
designed by George



MaltaPost 2013



MALTA





MALTA
2009

CENTENARY OF GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION
XAGHRA, GOZO PARISH— 1914-2014



Byzantine Period



75
ANNIVERSARY



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



FOR BEST PRICES

MALTA & FOREIGN STAMPS.
FIRST DAY COVERS.
ALBUMS.
STOCKBOOKS.
PHILATELIC LITERATURE.
POSTAL HISTORY ITEMS
STAMP CATALOGUES.
INCLUDING THE J.B. 2014
CATALOGUE.
COINS AND MUCH MORE

**TOGETHER WITH A
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHER**

2014

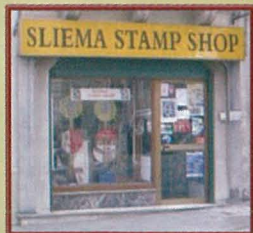
22nd Edition



The New Edition is now on sale.

Telephone; 21342189 / Fax; 21346069.

e-mail; sliemastampshop.com.mt www.sliemastampshop.com.mt.



91 Manwel Dimech St.,
Sliema, Malta.

The Philatelist's Paradise