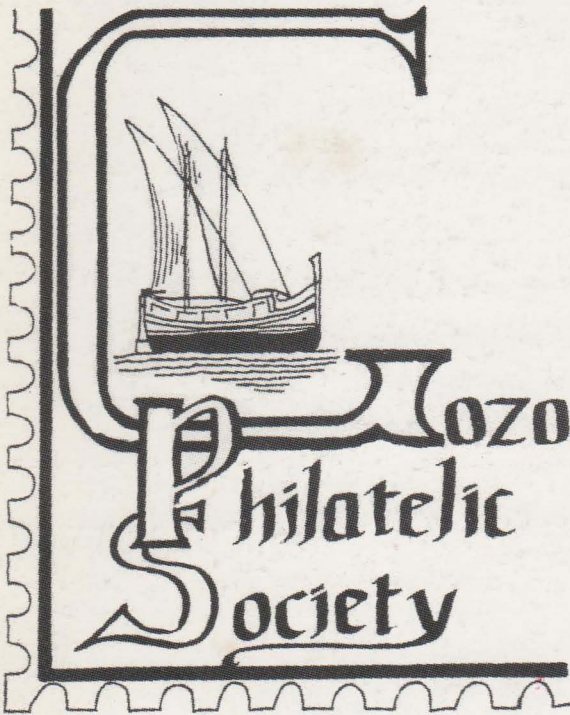
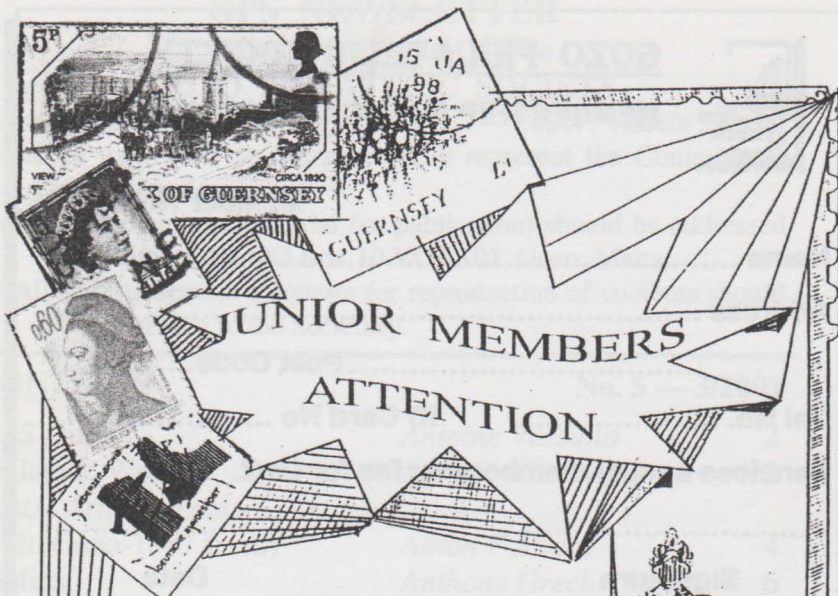


Newsletter

Nº: 5 • July - September 2001



3/2001



**JUNIOR MEMBERS
ATTENTION**

*Introduce a new member to the
Gozo Philatelic Society
and you both receive
a pack of 50 stamps.*



**MEMBERSHIP FEE: Only Lm1.00 yearly for Junior Members
Lm2.00 yearly for Senior Members**

ENROLL NOW!



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

..... Post Code.....

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

**Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 for Junior membership
(Date of Birth.....)**

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

**An official receipt and membership card will be issued
later.**

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date



GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ Of The
GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 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: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10 VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

Postal address: PO Box 10 VCT 101 Gozo Malta.

GPS DIARY (5)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 9th May 2001** - Special Papal Visit cards prepared by Anthony Grech for distribution to members.
- 15th May 2001** - Issue of Newsletter No 4, with a record of 32 pages.
- 20th May 2001** - Mr George Scicluna nominated as Honorary Life Member of the GPS because of the long years given by him to philately.
- 22nd May 2001** - Mr Anthony Fenech accepts the official designation of Philatelic Consultant and Advisor to the GPS.
- 5th June 2001** - We are involved, through our PRO George Vella, in the initiative to commemorate philatelically the 1551 events.
- 11th June 2001** - Following the formation of an *ad hoc* sub-committee, the dates of our Second Philatelic Exhibition are announced.
- 11th June 2001** - Official contacts with the education authorities and individual schools initiated, following the choice of Anton Said Micallef for the responsibility in this area.
- 19th June 2001** - Successful first social activity; Pasta Night at Palazzo Margherita with distribution of stamp packets and philatelic items to all children and other participants.
- 22nd June 2001** - First information visit organized in a school (St Francis) with the immediate result of many new stamp collectors.
- 25th June 2001** - Received thanks for our help towards the compilation of an updated specialized guide to Postmen's Personal Handstamps. Members who have any in their possession are asked to contact Anthony Grech (or myself) so that details can be collated.

PHILATELIC WEB (2)

Antoine Vassallo

Here are another ten Internet sites, hopefully interesting and useful — but again in no particular order!

www.scvs.com

www.linns.com

www.pmk.posti.fi

www.stamp-one.com

www.values.ch

www.stamponhistory.com

www.kristull.com

www.bird-stamps.org

www.canadapost.ca

www.stamps.gl

help for stamp identification
from the weekly “Stamp News”

Finland Stamps.

Introduction to our hobby

Art on stamps

Personalities on stamps

Dog stamps

Stamps showing birds

Canadian stamps

Greenland stamps

**I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE OUR
SECOND PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
FOR OCTOBER 2001 (13TH TO 28TH).
REGULATIONS WILL BE CIRCULATED LATER
BUT YOU ARE INVITED TO BEGIN PREPARING YOUR
EXHIBITS
(BOTH COMPETITION ENTRIES AND NOT !!)**

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GOZO 1887

(Part Three)

Anton F Attard

We shall introduce this part of our article by a very interesting note: Newspapers were delivered free of charge in 1887! However, one has to bear in mind that very few newspapers were published at that time and the readership was very low indeed especially in this Island. I opine that it was even considered as a social service. The Detached Post Officers mentioned in the second part of this article were the Branch Postmasters of that time. Letter Carriers were the Postmen. Another important point to note is that persons receiving registered letters on behalf of third parties had to be authorised in writing by the addressee concerned.

Newspapers

For any place to which the Post extends.....Free.
A Newspaper if posted in a cover must have such cover open at both ends, so as to admit of the paper being easily drawn out for examination.

The cover must not bear anything besides the title of the Newspaper and the name and address of the sender and of the addressee.

In order that no failure may occur in the delivery of Newspapers, through the covers becoming detached, it is recommended that the addresses be written on the exposed parts of the Newspapers themselves as well as on the covers.

Newspapers must not contain any enclosure except the relative Supplement or Supplements, and no Newspaper must bear on any part of it words of the nature of a letter. If this rule be infringed, the Newspaper will be treated as a letter and charged for accordingly.

Extract from Ordinance No 11 of 1884, and from the Regulations of the General Post Office. ➡

Duties and Instructions of the Detached Post Officers

1. The Detached Post Officers are to receive and despatch the mails which important duty they themselves must perform and not delegate the same; upon any pretence whatsoever to any of their subordinates.
2. All letters received are to be examined and checked with the Letter Bill accompanying the same and immediately stamped, taking particular care that the stamp be correctly dated and bearing the proper "Index Letter".
3. Registered Letters are to be sent out by Letter Carriers along with the ordinary correspondence by first delivery after being received at the Branch Office. The Letter Carrier shall give a receipt to the Detached Officer for each registered letter thus handed over to him in a book supplied for this purpose and in which a full description of each letter is to be inserted. The Detached Officer shall in his turn also give a receipt in the Letter Carrier's Charge Book for any undelivered registered letter returned to him. On delivering the letter to the addressee the Letter Carrier shall affix his initials at the lower left hand corner of the given delivery receipt, thereby assuming entire responsibility as to its proper disposal. The receipt to be date-stamped on the completion of the delivery and dealt with as prescribed at paragraph 4 under this rule. If after three successive attempts, the Letter Carrier has been unable to find the addressee, or a person authorised by him, in writing, to receive his correspondence, the registered letter or letters should be notified to him by means of the usual printed form and retained at the Branch Office to be called for. If unclaimed, they should be returned to the General Post Office with a reason for non-delivery, at the expiration of one month.

(continued on page 19)

PERFINS

Anthony Grech

At one time or another, all philatelists have come across some stamps which were not just postmarked but also punched to form a letter or more or even a motif. These stamps are called Perfins.

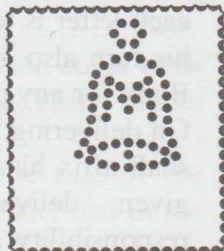
Perfins were provided by companies or organisations punched with letters or motifs that indicated the name of the particular company. Company perfins also prevented its personnel to use stamps on their private mail. A classic example were the perfins issued by the German Police. They used to punch their stamps with the letters POL.



So called POL perfin
used by German police.

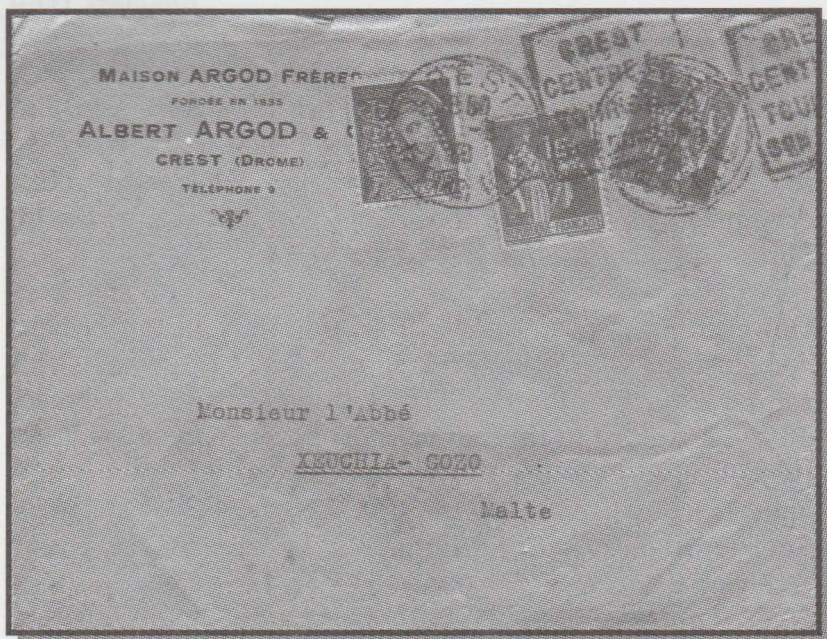


Company perfin to prevent unauthorized use of
stamps by company personnel.

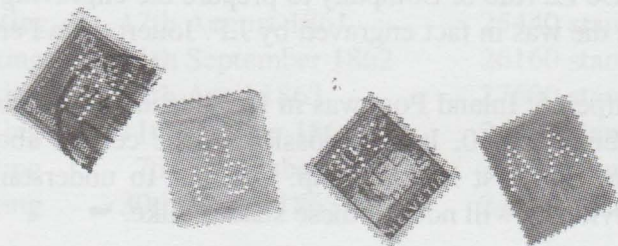


Collecting perfins has become a very interesting branch of our hobby. It could be also very challenging especially if the collector tries to identify the letters or motifs punched. A good advice would be that one should never remove a perfin or perfins from their covers or envelope, especially if on the said envelope is printed the name of the corresponding company. They should be collected as they are, like the one shown ➡

below which was sent to Xewkija Gozo in 1939 by the French Company “Alfred Argod” with its perfins punched by the letters A A.



Perfins, collected as indicated above, make one of the most interesting and attractive pages in your album. □



THE QUEEN VICTORIA HALFPENNY YELLOW STAMP

Emanuel Vella

The first postage stamp was issued in Great Britain in 1840. Because Malta was under the British rule her stamps were also used in Malta by British Forces. The Penny Black was used for internal mail in Great Britain, while the other denominations were used for heavier post and also by British Forces abroad or for overseas post

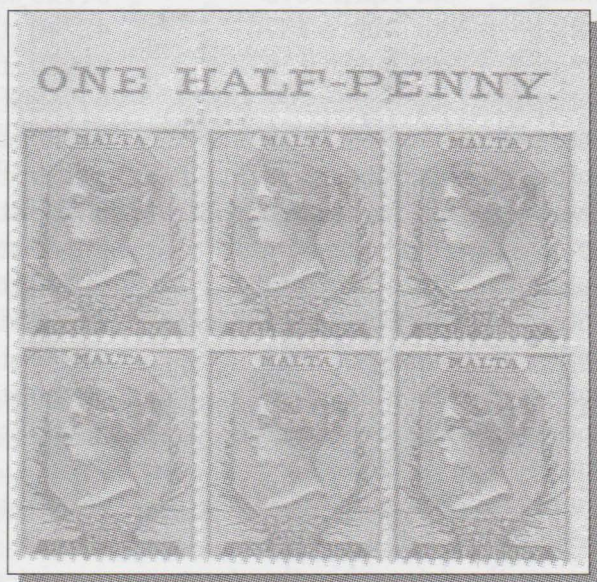
However it was not before 1st March 1858 that it became compulsory for outgoing mail from Malta to be prepaid. This can be seen from the Post Office Notice dated 1st February 1858—it was up to the individual to fix stamps, pre-paid for the delivery of the letter or let the receiver pay for the mail delivered. But even then Malta did not have her own stamps. So internal post was either prepaid or paid by the person receiving the letter.

Then in 1859 it was decided that a Halfpenny stamp be printed for internal use. So on 30th April 1859, an order was sent to the Crown Agents for the colonies for supplies of Halfpenny postage stamps. The Crown Colonies in turn commissioned Messrs De La Rue & Company to prepare the engraving of the die. The die was in fact engraved by J.F. Jouert de la Ferte.

The Halfpenny Inland Post was in fact introduced in Malta on 1st December 1860. It is impossible to be certain about the shades of this first Malta stamp. One has to understand that two individuals will not see these shades alike. ➔

Besides there were about 30 printings with this die. 29 yellow and 1 green. The green printing being the 29th printing. At first, the stamps were printed on paper without watermark.

The plate consisted of 4 panes of stamps of 60 stamps each. The stamps were arranged in 10 horizontal rows of 6. In 1868 watermarked paper with Crown CC was introduced.



1st printing	21st July 1859	24000 stamps
2nd printing	17th August 1861	25440 stamps
3rd printing	11th September 1862	26160 stamps
4th printing	17th April 1863	27600 stamps
5th printing	11th January 1864	24720 stamps
6th printing	7th September 1864	25680 stamps
7th printing	30th March 1865	24480 stamps →

8th printing	20th December 1865	25440 stamps
9th printing	2nd October 1866	49200 stamps
10th printing	27th May 1868	48000 stamps
11th printing	9th December 1869	43680 stamps
12th printing	21st July 1870	47280 stamps
13th printing	18th October 1871	47520 stamps
14th printing	31st October 1872	51360 stamps
15th printing	23rd January 1874	48000 stamps
16th printing	6th April 1875	51120 stamps
17th printing	20th March 1876	42240 stamps
18th printing	12th January 1877	49920 stamps
19th printing	29th September 1877	47760 stamps
20th printing	18th May 1878	51360 stamps
21st printing	14th January 1879	51120 stamps
22nd printing	10th November 1879	50160 stamps
23rd printing	27th August 1880	50640 stamps
24th printing	28th March 1881	50160 stamps
25th printing	14th February 1881	48000 stamps
26th printing	6th April 1882	48240 stamps
27th printing	9th May 1883	48480 stamps
28th printing	29th January 1884	48000 stamps
29th printing	Green	
30th printing	27th August 1884	48000 stamps

The above are the dates when the stamps were printed. In all about 1,233,860 were printed between 1859 and 1884. In the fifteenth edition of the J.B. Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History, one finds 20 different listings of this stamp and when one remembers that there were 29 printings, it is no surprise.

Some other time we will take a look at their different watermarks, perforations and shades. □

Antoine Vassallo asks **Did you know that....?**

- * a signed letter by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 was sold at auction in 1991 for \$748000 and one by Ronald Reagan in 1981 for \$12500 *Expensive Presidents !*
- * Diane Sheer of London licked and stuck 225 stamps on envelopes in five minutes to capture a Guinness Record in 1997 *Fast !*
- * Norfolk Island has just issued a set (to celebrate the importance of perfume to the archipelago's economy) printed on jasmine-scented paper *Fragrant !*
- * although a good Penny Black is quite expensive, over 68 million of the world's earliest adhesive postage stamp were printed *First !*
- * in 1863 the Colombian state of Bolivar issued stamps measuring even less than a centimetre while in 1913 China issued an Express Letter stamp rouletted into five parts totalling 236 x 62 mm *Tiny and huge !*
- * the stamp available for postage with the highest denomination was a hundred pounder issued in 1925 by the administration of Kenya & Uganda although others (eg Germany and Hungary) have used huge figures - even billions - which, because of galloping inflation, represented only minute fractions of our mil *High and low !*
- * there are various stamps which can be described as the rarest (and so among the most expensive) since only one copy exists (sometimes as an error or proof) *Unique !*
- * five hundred million telegrams were sent in a single year in the USSR *Urgent !*
- * the USA probably has the highest letter rate per capita in the world and so the largest mail service *Commonest !*

(Continued on page 24)

GOZO'S OLDEST ? !!

Antoine Vassallo

At the age of 86, Mr George Scicluna is probably the oldest active Gozitan philatelist. Born in 1915, Mr Scicluna is our "eminent" member of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Through his son we asked him for some information which we think would interest our members, seniors and juniors alike.

Interest was instilled in him almost by chance, when as a boy, he picked up some stamps from the street while passing near Savina Church in Victoria, Gozo. As time went by, he continued to collect stamps on envelopes and later began replying to adverts in newspapers and magazines both local and foreign. He also began corresponding to get exchange partners, resulting in many overseas friends. Some of these even visited him in Gozo. This gave him satisfaction and even today, the hobby of stamp collecting offers him hours of pleasure looking through his numerous albums and packets.

For some years, Mr Scicluna also issued a periodical called "The Malta and Gozo Courier". In our last newsletter (No.4) we mentioned an advertisement he had (as "Xicluna" and as a member of the BPA) in the local paper "Ghawdex" of 1946. Here he offered a substantial sum of £10 for Malta's most expensive stamp: the 10/- Dore' St. Paul. Unfortunately, he did not acquire it.

Mr Xcicluna had lots of offers to sell his collections but in spite of this, he was never interested to part with his life-long treasure. His collections are still too close to his heart.

Recently the Gozo Philatelic Society Committee, unanimously offered life membership to Mr Scicluna which he happily accepted. **Congratulations !!** ☐

Tagħrif mill-Ġurnali ta' l-Imghoddi

Miġbur minn Anthony Grech

Ogġetti li jistgħu jintbagħtu bil-Posta. Edizzjoni Riveduta

Dwar il-pakketti mibgħutin b'rigal minn Malta, il-pubbliku hu mgharraf illi l-ogġetti msemija hawn taħt jistgħu jibqgħu jintbagħtu bil-posta minghajr liċenzja għall-esportazzjoni bil-patt li ebda pakkett waħdu ma jkun jiswa b'kollox aktar minn £5 u lanqas ikun fih hwejjeg ta' ikel, drappijiet jew hwejjeg ta' l-ilbies li m'humix imsemija hawn taħt.

Bizzilla ta' Malta, drapp minsuġ ta' Malta, xogħol tal-filigranu maħdum Malta, pipi ta' Malta, ingravati ta' Malta, cikkulata maħduma f'Malta (sa 2 libbri), ogġetti tat-twaletta (lżda li magħhom ma jkunx hemm aktar minn biċċtejn sapun), ogġetti tal-ġilda, basktijiet tan-nisa, kartieri, portmonijiet eċċ, ogġetti żgħar tal-ġawhar, ġarum (sa 2 libbri) u laring (sa 2 tuzzani) basta jingħata ċertifikat tal-Patologu.

*Mill-Ġurnal Ghawdex
Il-Hadd 17 ta' Frar 1946*

Bejgħ ta' Bolli

Matul Settembru id-Dipartiment lahaq l-ammont ta' £16,328 fil-bejgħ tal-bolli. Minn dawn £696 kienu bolli tal-"Compensation".

*Mill-Bullettin ta' tagħrif
Ministeru tal-Posta u Biedja
Ottubru 1955*

PONY EXPRESS

Austin Masini



Before the opening of the Panama Canal, ships could reach San Francisco from New York only by the way of Cape Horn. It was a voyage that was rough and took several months. In the meantime the states of the Atlantic seaboard, the Midwest and California saw a rapid industrial development and growth in population while the Great Plains still remained sparsely populated by Indian tribes and roamed by huge herds of buffalo. Communications overland by means of a team of horses or oxen were extremely slow and dangerous because of Indians and white outlaws alike. This situation could be improved only by railway but the construction was a lengthy project. Yet a solution had to be found immediately because the discovery of gold in California in the 1840's made more and more people shift from the eastern states and go west.

All these people wanted to communicate with their families, friends and companies back east. They also urgently required many things ranging from nails to guns. This need provided an impulse for the establishment of several express mail and freight companies whose wagons carried gold on their way back. Yet these wagons were too slow and deliveries took up to three months.

Therefore in 1860 the stagecoach and freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell established a special fast mail route operated by experienced express riders. The route linked St. Joseph, Missouri, where the railway ended, with Sacramento, California. Pony express riders covered the distance of 2000 miles (3200 km) in nine days and a letter ➤

posted in New York could reach San Francisco in 12 or 13 days in this way.

The Pony Express has entered the annals of postal history as one of the most dangerous routes of all times. For a weekly pay of US \$25 the firm offered employment to young men seeking adventure. Their job was to carry four saddle bags with 10 - 15 kgs of mail and to ride as fast as possible to the next relay station. The stations were spaced some 10 - 15 miles apart and provided the riders with fresh horses. The rider had only to resaddle and hurry on; company rules stipulated that changing a saddle should not take more than two minutes.

One of the most famous riders of the Pony Express service was William Cody who had started his colourful career as a horseman at the tender age of fifteen . During the Civil War he served as a scout for the Union troops, then he was hired by the railroad company as a buffalo hunter to supply fresh meat to construction workers laying the transcontinental railway and that is where he won his famous nickname, Buffalo Bill. The Pony Express service remained in business for about 18 months and carried some 35,000 articles during that period. The postage was quite high: the basic fee for a half-ounce (i.e. 14.17g) letter was 5 dollars, with a dollar extra for each additional half-ounce.

The Pony Express ultimately became such a legend that in 1940 the U.S. Mails honoured it with a commemorative issue depicting a Pony Express rider. Besides the Pony Express, there were also other services of this kind like the Mustang Express, Hanford's Pony Express, etc. Between them, these services delivered hundreds of thousands of letters. ➤

Although most have not survived, collectors even today may come across specimens that travelled the hard and dangerous overland journey in the box of a slow-moving stagecoach or in a saddlebag of a galloping Pony Express. □

* * * * *

HOTEL POSTS

The first private posts of alpine hotels and chalets in Austria and Switzerland originated at the end of the 19th century. Hotel posts were also later established in other countries with a large tourist trade. In contrast to private urban posts that sprang up approximately at the same time in many European cities, state postal authorities recognized hotel posts as their partners and helpers rather than competitors. The problem was that state posts often could not guarantee delivery to every remote hotel or chalet high in the mountains and therefore considered its duty fulfilled if the mail was dropped in the hotel box at the local office. When somebody from the hotel came down into town he picked up the mail and took it back. Large hotels in mountain resorts therefore established private hotel posts with messengers who walked during summer and used skis in the winter. The messengers took care of the communications between the individual hotels in the area and also provided the link with the state post. Hotel posts levied small fees for their services and the payment was certified by private labels.

Since hotel posts provided contacts with the state-run post, there are letters bearing hotel stamps as well as state issues. The construction of alpine roads, cableways and utilization of modern means of transportation by postal services gradually rendered hotel posts superfluous. □

QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

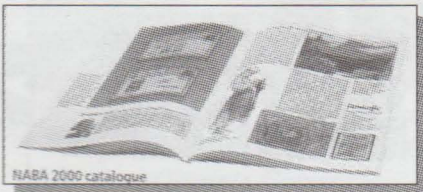
- i) When was the Halfpenny Inland Post introduced in Malta? How many printings were there?
- ii) Maltapost issued a set of stamps to commemorate the 2nd Papal visit to Malta. When was it issued?
- iii) What are Perfins?
- iv) Name one of the most famous Pony Express riders. What was he nicknamed?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 31st October 2001 to:

*The Secretary
Gozo Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 10, Victoria Gozo VCT 101*

Prize

A set of six Mint German Postal Cards generously donated by Mr Wolfgang Junker who is also one of our members.



PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULTS

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No 4 are as follows:

- i) Universal Postal Union. Malta is a member of the U.P.U.
- ii) 21st March 2001.
- iii) Ġordan Lighthouse.
- iv) 16107 stamps.

PRIZE WINNERS:

G.P.S. Prize Winner of a stockbook with stamps goes to **Cynthia Saliba** (Member No 73)

All other participants were given a consolation prize.

CONGRATULATIONS !!



(continued from page 5)

No registered letter must be delivered without a receipt being obtained from the addressee or his representative, at the time of delivery.

Unpaid correspondence is likewise to be delivered by Letter Carriers who should be charged with the amount thereof.

The money collected on unpaid letters is to be handed over to the Detached Officers immediately on completion of each delivery, credit being taken for such taxed correspondence as could not be disposed of.

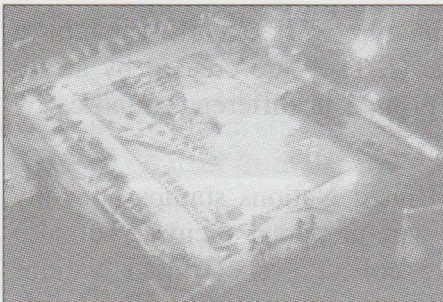
No taxed letter or packet is to be delivered unless previously paid for.

Registered and "Unpaid Letters" are to be kept under lock and key until called for by the addressee, who is to be notified to do so by the "Letter Carrier".

Receipts for Registered Letters are to be stamped and returned to the General Post office by the next mail. (to be continued)

* * * * *

WORLD'S LARGEST STAMP



In fact it is now confirmed that Beijing will be hosting the 2008 Olympic Games.

A huge stamp is being displayed in China's Guangzhou in order to promote Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games. The stamp measures 39.04 metres in length and 29 metres in width and weighs three tonnes. It is claimed to be the world's largest stamp.

ABOUT UNITED NATIONS STAMPS

(Source: UNPA)

George Vella

Human rights, the environment, endangered species and peace are all subjects of universal concern to the peoples of the world. They are also subjects which the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has promoted on its stamps.



Because United Nations stamps reflect the work of the world Organization, the stamps extend beyond the boundaries of philately to draw attention to significant world problems and to serve as a reminder of the UN's commitment to its goals.

The United Nations is the only organization in the world which is neither a country nor a territory that is permitted to issue postage stamps. It is also the only postal authority to issue stamps in three different currencies, namely US dollars, Swiss francs and Austrian schillings.

United Nations stamps are miniature works of art, which have won international design awards. They are created by artists from around the world, and printed in different countries by the finest security printers.

Stamp collectors appreciate United Nations stamps not only for their innovative designs and universal themes, but also because it is still possible to collect every United Nations stamp ever issued. Since its creation in 1951, UNPA has issued over one thousand stamps. ➔

UNIVERSAL THEMES

UN stamps have illustrated the aims and achievements of the United Nations and its family of organizations.

Some of the stamps celebrate a goal achieved, as exemplified in the 1991 **Namibia: A New Nation - A Trust Fulfilled** stamp issue. Such issues are a sober reminder of global problems that continue to afflict people everywhere. The stamps also commemorate significant events in the life of the international Organization, such as the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in 1995.

Recent issues have been concerned with our environment, world peace and the promise of a better world. As the environment has become increasingly threatened, nations of the world have realized that the problems, as well as the solutions, are global. Thus the United Nations, through many of its subsidiary bodies, has made protection of the environment a priority. The current **Endangered Species** stamp series, with their beautiful illustrations of 12 endangered species each year, call attention to this plight.

STAMPS

United Nations stamps are issued simultaneously at UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Each issue carries a related design theme, with different denominations for each office. The stamps are available from UNPA offices in person or by mail, and from stamp dealers. They are valid for postage when used on mail from the UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Under its guidelines, the United Nations Postal Administration is confined to selling mint stamps and postal stationery. Usually six new commemorative issues are released each year and remain on sale for 12 months only. After that date, any remaining stocks are destroyed. Commemorative stamps ➡

are so named because they commemorate a certain theme. They are never reprinted, even if they are sold out before the end of the 12-month sale period. Definitive stamps have an indefinite sale period and carry denominations necessary for general postal needs. Definitive stamps can be reprinted as necessary.

UN stamps are printed all over the world by security printers, both government printing offices and private security printing firms. UN stamps are produced under the same security controls used for the printing of bank notes. Collectors appreciate the high quality of the stamps, which undergo many quality controls and are screened by UNPA for any flaws. This makes the UN one of the highest quality producers of stamps among postal administrations.

Not only do United Nations stamps artistically promote the aims of the international Organization, but they provide income for the Organization as well. This income derives almost exclusively from sales of stamps to collectors. The majority of United Nations postage stamps - approximately 85 per cent - are collected by philatelists. The value of all UN stamps used for mailing purposes is reimbursed to the US Postal Service, the Swiss PTT or the Austrian PTT, as appropriate.

AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS

The works of the world's great artists, such as Marc Chagall (France), Friedensreich Hundertwasser (Austria), Hans Erni (Switzerland), Vincent Van Cogh (Netherlands), Paul Klee (Germany) and Peter Max (USA), not only are on display in the great museums of the world, but are also depicted on United Nations stamps.

In recording the activities of the United Nations, the stamps have displayed an enormous variety of styles and designs. ➔

From straightforward graphic depiction to illustrations that carry emotional impact, the stamps have represented hope and despair, sadness and joy, or, more simply, commemoration, observance and reflection.

HISTORY

The idea of the United Nations issuing its own stamps was first proposed by Argentina in 1947. An agreement with the United States postal authorities was reached in 1951 and it stipulated that the stamps be denominated in United States currency, and used only at UN Headquarters.

The first United Nations stamps were issued in US dollar denominations on United Nations Day, 24th October, in 1951. The stamps were an immediate success and sold out within days.

Similar postal agreements were reached with the Swiss and Austrian postal authorities. On 11th December 1968, an agreement between the United Nations and the Swiss Postal Telephone and Telegraph Enterprise enabled the Geneva office of UNPA to issue the first UN stamps in Swiss francs on 4th October 1969.

A similar agreement with the Austrian government on 28th June 1979 enabled the Vienna office of UNPA to issue the first UN stamps in Austrian schillings on 24th August 1979.

COLLECTORS

The beauty, uniqueness and special significance of UN stamps, combined with their individual, often intriguing histories and original configurations, continue to be a source of fascination and of great value to the collector.

Although philately is one of the most popular hobbies in the world, the average age of collectors is increasing, and the future of philately rests with today's youth. ➔

UNPA is encouraging children to enjoy the hobby of philately, with the introduction of collectors' packs and a special stamp album for children. The album features E.T., the extraterrestrial from the popular movie of the same name. Steven Spielberg, the internationally acclaimed director and creator of E.T. granted permission for the project and wrote a foreword to the album. In the album, E.T. leads children on a voyage of discovery about the United Nations and its work and encourages children to collect stamps that relate to each theme. □

* * * * *

Antoine Vassallo asks: ***Did you Know that*** ?

(Continued from page 11)

- * Raymond Cantwell of Oxford wrote 4000 letters and their envelopes during a fund-raising marathon of over 500 hours in 1978 writer's cramp!
- * Jacqueline Jones of Texas wrote a letter to her sister containing over one million words in 1976 while a Pasadena paper published a letter of more than 23000 words in 1979 loquacious!
- * the shortest correspondence on record was that between Victor Hugo and his publisher, who replied "!" to a "?" request for information about how the new novel *Les Miserables* was selling simple!
- * Mrs Darlington of England and Mrs Walker of South Australia were penfriends for 72 years durable!
- * the United States Postal Department reported in 1974 that baseball star Henry Aaron received almost a million letters when he broke the career home run record replied?!!
- * Werner Erhard of San Francisco sent 62824 personal Christmas Cards in 1975 different?!! □

ADVERTS

It is worth noting that one page in this newsletter is being reserved for adverts pertaining philately. Any advert will cost from Lm1.00c to LM2.00c respectively. However adverts pertaining to other matter will also be published on demand. Please contact the editor for prices of a quarter, half or full page.

ADVERT 1

The Gozo Philatelic Society has for sale a limited number of a set of 8 cards (out of 100), bearing the last postmarks of the 2nd Millennium taken in Gozo at all Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices. The price is at LM2.50c for members and LM4.00c for non-members. □

ADVERT 2

The Gozo Philatelic Society has also for sale a limited number of a set of 2 cards in colour (out of 250). These bear the special rubber-hand postmark, dated 28th October 1998 taken in Victoria Gozo, to commemorate the 2000 years since the French surrendered in Gozo after 141 days of occupation. The price is at LM1.00c for members and LM2.00c for non-members. □

ADVERT 3

Stockbooks with both local and foreign stamps are being circulated among members. Anyone interested to buy or just have a look at these stamps may contact Mr Anthony Grech. These are being sold at a relatively cheap price. □



The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

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FOR SALE

Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). (*Timbru speċjali tal-Kapitulazzjoni tal-Francizif'Ghawdex*) Lm1.00c

Packets of "Davo" hinges (1000). (*Pakketti tal-1000 hinges "Davo"*) Lm0.50c

Commemoration Cards of the First Anniversary of the GPS. (*Kartolini kummemorattivi tal-ewwel anniversarju Tal-GPS*) Lm0.25c

Large Stock Books. (*"Stock Books" Kbar*) Lm3.00c

Millenium hand stamped cards (8). (*Set ta' 8 kartolini ttimbrati bl-aħħar timbru tal-millenu waħda ghal kull posta f'Ghawdex*) Lm2.50c

Gordan Lighthouse hand painted. (*Cover impittra bl-idejn u ttimbrata fl-ewwel jum tal-ħruġ bil-bolla tal-fanal tal-Gordan ta' Ghawdex*) Lm1.00c

Those interested may contact Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No 553338.

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