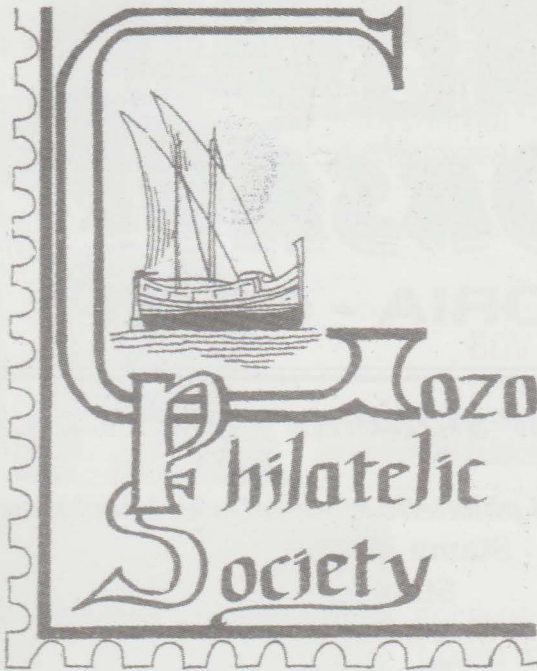


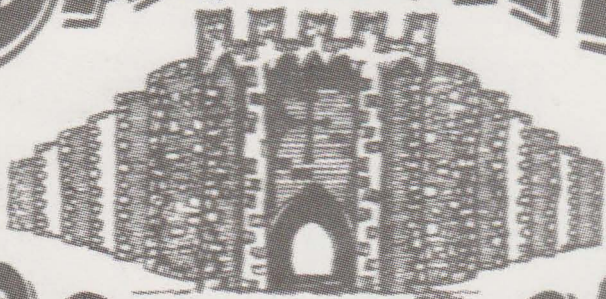
No.12 April - June 2003 - 2/2003

# NEWSLETTER



*NEWSPAPER POST*

# BARGATE



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# 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 (12)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

**9th February 2003:** Members Meeting at Munxar Parish Centre.

**25th March 2003:** Members Meeting (including exchange and other help) at *Dar il-Lunzjata*, followed by our annual Mass by Chaplain Cannon George Farrugia at Lunzjata Chapel.

**23rd April 2003:** Anthony Grech prepared various special covers for the St George Paintings set, issued through the GPS's initiative. (He will also have others for a projected July 20th handstamp). Demand for these stamps was extraordinary; post offices overflowing for long hours! Unusually, Maltapost even sent an officer with supplies two days later during an International Symposium at St George's Parish Centre. Moreover their Mobile Shop was on hand in St George's Square on that Sunday.

**28th April 2003:** In recognition for his help towards the realisation of this idea and for his cooperation in the preparation of our productions, a specially illuminated cover by Anthony Grech was presented to St George Archpriest Mgr Joseph Farrugia in the presence of the GPS President and Secretary.

**2nd May 2003:** With the cooperation of Assistant Head Fr Gerald Buhagiar (a keen member), a "philatelic" outing to Malta was organized for students at the Seminary Boys Secondary School where a strong Stamp Club has been set up. Committee members have been visiting various schools (including also Laura Vicuna and St Francis Primaries) to meet interested students; thus many Junior members have been added so that we are now over three hundred!

Another local periodical, "*ta' l-Istilla*", has begun a regular philatelic column (through the Secretary). And "*Madonna ta' Pinu*" is actually introducing a pull-out to build up into a multicoloured **Marian Stamps Album!** We would be happy to accept any possibility of this sort of publicity to our hobby. The various Community Radios are also being used.

**A UK member is offering to exchange Malta postmarks (most localities and types). Those interested are encouraged to contact the GPS Secretary.**

## EUROPEAN UNION STAMPS

*Emanuel Vella*

Stamps generally reflect political aspirations, dreams and realities. Stamps with EUROPA inscription, show this reality. The idea of a joint issue of stamps was advanced as early as 1949 by the Council of Europe. Then in 1956 six nations signed the Treaty of Rome and simultaneously issued the first 13 Europa stamps. The signatories were France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. These six agreed to establish the Common Market or European Economic Community.

Then in 1959 the *Conference Europeanedes Administrations des Postes des Telecommunications* (CEPT) was established. This bureau has guided the issues of stamps of the Europa theme every year.

As said before the first Europa stamps were issued in 1956 by six countries. Then in 1960 Great Britain issued the first CEPT stamps. It was then followed in 1961 by San Marino. In 1962 Cyprus joined the other countries in issuing the CEPT stamps. It was followed by Ireland in 1964, Portugal in 1965 and Andorra (French) in 1967.

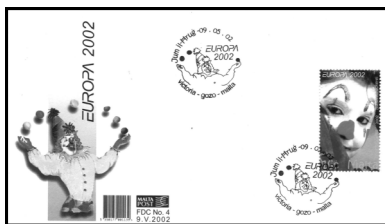


Malta issued its first EUROPA stamps in 1971. This set consisted of three stamps 2d, 5d, 1/6d. These stamps were common for most countries of Europe. These were designed by MH Halfidason from Iceland and adopted locally by Chev. E.V. Cremona. The colours were: 2d - yellow, mustard and black; 5d - red, yellow and black; 1/6 - yellow, slate and black. The design was common for all the stamps and also for all of Europe.

Since 1971, Malta has issued an Europa set every year. These sets sometimes have common design and more often they have also a common theme. When I said common design, I mean a design for most of the countries of Europe. Till 1973 Malta adopted the common design but afterwards only the theme was adopted. To give an example; in year 2001 the theme was Pond Life while in 2002 the Circus was the theme adopted. This 16c stamp for the Europa series was issued on 9th May 2002 and was chosen as the Best Europa Stamp Design for 2002 from among 44 designs entered !!



*Pond Life issued in year 2001*



*Circus issued in year 2002*

The latest Maltese set in the Europa Series was issued this year on the 9th of May with the theme “Contemporary Postal Art In Malta” The 16c stamp is a Cisk Beer Poster which was designed by Robert Caruana Dingli (1882 - 1940) and the 46c stamp is a Carnival Poster which was designed by Tuse Busuttill from Zejtun (1912 - 1994). This set is reproduced hereunder.





## A “Philatelic” Outing To Malta for the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary Students - Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

It was Friday, the 2nd day of May, when a group of around twenty pupils, went for a day trip to Malta organized by the Gozo Philatelic Society.

It was a sunny but rather chilly morning. I picked my friend Joe from home and my father drove us down to Mgarr harbour where we boarded the half past seven ferry together with Fr Gerald Buhagiar, Mr Anthony Grech, Mr Felix Cutajar and Mr Anton Said Cremona. The sun rising on the calm blue sea, and the picturesque panorama of Mgarr harbour are still vivid in my memories. Even the fresh air I breathed and our gossiping during the half hour trip are something that I would not forget.

As we arrived at Cirkewwa, we found a luxurious coach waiting for us. Everyone took a seat, mine was next to the window, and we headed for our first destination - The Sliema Stamp Shop. It is rather a small shop and twenty pupils were enough to overcrowd it. The owner - Mr Joe Buttigieg was very helpful and managed to help everyone promptly. When everyone bought what he desired and were on our way out of the shop, Mr Buttigieg gave each one of us an envelope filled with stamps as a memento of our visit to the Sliema Stamp Shop.

Our next stop was Valletta. In Valletta, we went straight to the upper barrakka from where we could enjoy ourselves with the breath taking view of the Grand Harbour and let our imagination to wander through the realms of old times when the Turks invaded our forts and shores. There we bought some snacks to satisfy our appetite and left for the open-air market in Merchants Street. As always the market place was crowded, but still I managed to purchase some tokens from the stalls.

*(continued on page 8)*

## **THE POSTMAN PERSONAL HANDSTAMP**

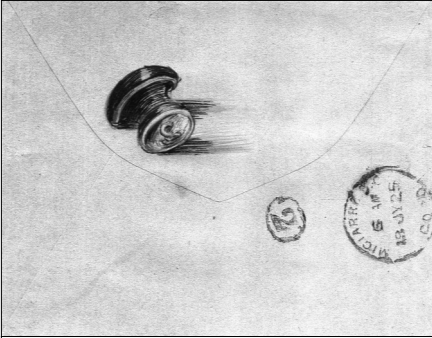
*Anthony Grech*

The Postman Personal handstamp or “Bollo Personale” as it was known, was a small handstamp used personally by every postman. It consisted of a generally oval frame with a number inside. The J.B. Stamp Catalogue lists seven (7) types and seventy five (75) numbers. Almost all numbers are found in two or more different types. It was not used exclusively in Malta and Gozo. In fact it was used in more than ten countries before being introduced to our islands. The use of the P.H.S. was a security measure...” to deter tampering with mail and to readily identify the individual who might commit a misdelivery”.

Postman Personal Handstamp was almost, always applied on the back of the letter. Letter Carriers were obliged to hand stamp all the mail to be delivered before leaving to do their beat, but this was not always done. It is almost impossible to calculate correctly the percentages for handstamped and unhandstamped mail. In my collection I have both. These letters and postcards were delivered in the same month and addressed to the same person. On the other hand some mail was handstamped by two different Postman Handstamps, for example PHS 1 and PHS2 or PHS 2 and PHS 8. It is interesting to know that the number on the handstamp correspond with the number that was fixed to the collar of the letter carrier’s uniform.



*A Postman’s uniform jacket  
with the number 2 fixed to the  
collar together with the cipher G.P.O.*

*The Postman Personal Handstamp No 2*

*13th July 1925: A letter addressed to Xewkija Gozo. Handstamped with PHS No 2 together with the Migiarro BO Postmark.*

*The Handstamp is an artistic impression of the PHS.*

This PHS was used both in Malta and Gozo. I am not in any way an expert in this field, but I am in a position to comment on the use of this PHS in Gozo. In my collection I have several letters and postcards that carry this number. With the exception of a couple of years I owe at least one cover for the years from 1923 to 1948. These covers are all addressed to

the same address on Strada San Giovanni Xeuchia, Gozo. (St John Street Xewkija). The probability is that the Letter Carrier who was in charge of this PHS was a certain Mr Paul Zerafa. I remember Paul in my younger days. His nickname was "Tal-Posta" (of the Post). He was a happy chap always with a smile and a joke. I remember him mouth whistling while pushing his black bike doing his beat.

I wish to end this small article with an appeal. At present a British friend and philatelist is doing an extensive study of the postman's handstamps used in our islands. To build up a complete study on this subject one will need as much information as possible. So please, if you have any covers with any Postman handstamp do a photocopy and kindly send it to this gentleman. I am sure he will be very grateful and will appreciate your help. I am also sure that the result of his study

will be of great interest and benefit, especially to philatelists that collect Malta stamps. If you have more than one, or wish to contact this philatelist his name and address read the following: **Mr B.D. Patrick, 24, Rowan Gardens, Brockiworth, Glos, United Kingdom, GL3 4DU** or if you prefer, you can pass your information to the Gozo Philatelic Society's Secretary - **Mr Antoine Vassallo, PO Box 10 Victoria Gozo Malta.** □

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*References:-*

*The JB Catalogue 2002 published by the Sliema Stamp Shop, Malta.*

*Malta Postal History and Postage Stamps. 1576-1960 published by the Malta Study Circle. Editor R.E. Martin*

*Fourth Report of the Post Office 1889.*

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*(from page 5)*

Our last stop was at the fishing village of Marsaxlokk - a beautiful bay with colourful boats cuddled together and the fishermen mending their nets in the shade of the tall palm trees. We also visited the open-air market. It was one o'clock when it was time to leave for Cirkewwa to catch the three o'clock ferry to Gozo.

We soon arrived exhausted but happy because it was an outing I will never forget.

CARL SCERRI  
Form 1

## *not just for BEGINNERS*

Originating from various requests and comments, this regular section aims at offering help to both juniors and adults. Regular features will include explanations of philatelic terms and details of stamp issuers; but we do invite members to send questions and enquiries (e.g. about identification uncertainties). Moreover you are encouraged to offer your own contributions, even short items or tips.

### Where in the World ?! (3)

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

#### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**Ankara** (see Angora)

**Annam & Tonkin** Issued overprinted stamps in 1888.  
Now in Vietnam.

**Annobon** This Atlantic Island now form part of Equatorial Guinea but see Elobey.

**ANTIGUA** This island in the West Indies had its first stamps in 1862 but sometimes used those of the Leeward Islands.

**Antioquia** This department of the South American republic of Colombia had its own stamps between 1868 and 1904.

**A.O.F.** (= French West Africa)

**A payer te betalen** (= Belgium)

**Arabie Saudite** (= Saudi Arabia)

**Arad** While part of Hungary, this Rumanian area had overprinted stamps in 1919 during the French occupation.

**Arbe** Overprinted stamps were issued in 1920 for what is now the Croatian island of Rab.

**A receber** (= Portugal)

**Arequipa** (Peru provisionals)



- ARGENTINA** This South American republic issued its first general stamps in 1858.
- ARMENIA** First stamps were issued in 1919 but stopped in 1923. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this republic in South West Asia again has its own stamps from 1992.
- ARUBA** This Caribbean Island was formerly part of the Netherlands Antilles but since 1986 is autonomous with its own stamps.
- ASCENSION** This island in the South Atlantic has its own stamps since 1922.
- Asch** (surcharges issued in 1938 for the Sudeten District)  
**Atts** (= Siam)
- Aunus** Overprinted stamps were issued in 1919 during the Finnish occupation of what is now the Russian town of Olonets.
- Aur** (= Iceland)
- AUSTRALIA** Stamps were first issued in 1913 since the states previously had their own separate ones
- AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY**  
Distinctive stamps have been issued since 1957 for this area administered by Australia.
- AUSTRIA** (*Osterreich*) This Central European republic has its stamps since 1850 when still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Austrian Italy** Overprinted stamps were issued in 1918 and 1919 for the Italian territories acquired from Austria (including Trentino, Dalmatia, Trieste and Venezia Giulia).
- Austro-Hungarian Occupation** Separate stamps were issued for Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lombardy & Venetia, other parts of Italy, Montenegro, Rumania and Serbia.
- Austro-Hungarian POs** Separate stamps were issued beginning in 1867 for POs in the Turkish Empire as well as for Crete from 1903; use ending in 1914.
- 
- (to be continued)*

***Bold italic*** = Former Issuers;

**BOLD CAPITALS** = CURRENT ISSUERS

**Bold** = Inscriptions

*Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!*

**stamp terms used in PHILATELY (3)**

(Emanuel Vella)

***Benzine:*** Colourless volatile liquid used to clarify and render legible the watermark on stamps.

***Bicentennial:*** 200 anniversary.

***Bi-colour Stamps:*** Stamps printed in two colours. The frame is usually printed in one colour and the centre of the stamp in another.

***Bicycle Mail:*** Several local posts which made use of bicycles are on record. The first appears to have been established in 1894, one in Australia and the other in America. They both issued local stamps.

***Bilingual Pair:*** Two stamps joined together which are identical except that the inscription on one stamp is in one language while the second is in another. Eg. Stamps of South Africa.

***Bisect:*** A stamp cut in two parts - diagonally, vertically or horizontally - each part paying postage to the amount of half the face value of the complete stamp. Only authorised bisects are of any value and they should be collected preferably on complete cover to prove their authenticity or at least on piece with tied postmark.

***Block:*** Four or more stamps together. But four stamps in a row are known as a strip. If two by two they form a block. A block is best collected from the corner with numbers or coloured dots. ➔

**Bogus:** A bogus stamp is a complete imposter, a fraudulent production made only to deceive collectors. It has never existed in genuine form. For example stamps of non existing countries.

**Booklets:** Luxemburg was the first country to adopt the practice of selling stamps in handy booklets in 1895. This idea was soon taken up by other countries. In Malta the first booklet appeared in 1970.

**Boy Scouts Issues:** The periodic international Jamboree of the Boy Scout Association is often commemorated by a special set of the country giving hospitality. So Romania 1936, Netherlands 1937, Lithuania 1938, France 1947, Australia 1948/49 are some of the countries which issued stamps.

**Brilliant Mint:** Term used to describe a stamp in immaculate unused condition, exactly by the post office - unmarked, unfaded and undamaged. It is applied to older issues where mint condition may be sometimes less than perfect.

**Bull's Eyes:** Nickname given to the first issues of Brazil in 1843.

**CA:** Initials appearing in the watermark of British Colonial stamps. It was introduced in 1882 as a single watermark. The letters stand for Crown Agents for overseas Governments and Administration.

**CC:** *Crown Colonies:* Generally used in conjunction with, or over a crown.



*script by script (3)*

This space in each issue features stamps without any identifiable name in our normal alphabet or providing some similar difficulty.

Russia used to offer problems until transcription in the Latin alphabet began being added: (third stamp, from the present Russian Federation, includes “Rossija” besides the name in Cyrillic). The middle stamp is from the former USSR (“СССР” which actually represents SSSR). The first stamp is earlier still but the eagle is a good clue as symbolic of the Russian Empire - the words can be translated as “postage stamp”.



This guide to the Russian alphabet (taken from Chambers

Dictionary) should be quite useful also for stamps of other countries in this area.

А а	= ä	as in far	С с	= s
Б б	= b		Т т	= t
В в	= v		У у	= u—oō as in fool
Г г	= g	as in good	Ф ф	= f
Д д	= d		Х х	= kh—hh as in loch
Е е	= e—ye	as in yet	Ц ц	= ts
Ё ё	= yo	as in yawn	Ч ч	= ch
Ж ж	= zh		Ш ш	= sh
З з	= z		Щ щ	= shch
И и	= i—ee	as in feed		(pronounced rather as sh followed by consonantal y)
Й й	(consonantal y sound; only used as the second letter of a diphthong)		Ъ	(sign used to separate in pronunciation a following palatalised vowel from a preceding consonant either palatalised or unpalatalised)
К к	= k		Ы ы	= i as in bit
Л л	= l		Ь	(sign used after a consonant to indicate palatalisation, a sound like consonantal y)
М м	= m		Э э	= e as in get
Н н	= n		Ю ю	= u—yoō as in universe
О о	= o	ō as in law	Я я	= yä as in yard
П п	= p			
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## **QUIZ COMPETITION**

*Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society*

- i) Name three important factors that help to preserve stamps?
- ii) In what year were the 1st Europe stamps issued in Malta and how many stamps had this set?
- iii) When did India issued its first stamps?
- iv) What was Mr Paul Zerafa's job and what was he nicknamed?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 30th June 2003 to:

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

### **Prize**

First Day Cover of Malta or Mint Set of Malta Stamps generously donated by Mr Jesmond Borg.

**\*Please note that members can contact the Archivist - Mr John Muscat for free temporary loans of various philatelic publications.  
Tel. 21553875.**

**\*When sending by post, please do not send cash money, but use only cheques (or Money Orders) or Mint current Malta stamps.**

## **PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULT**

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No.11 are as follows:

- i) COMB and LINE.
- ii) Two Sets.
- iii) Allahabad to Naini and back. 27 minutes.
- iv) 18.02.1911

### **PRIZE WINNER:**

GPS Prize Winner of First Day Cover of Malta goes to Ian Grima of Plot 8 Triq il-Bennejja Xewkija Gozo, VCT 111. (Member No. 176 )

*This prize was generously donated by  
Mr Jesmond Borg  
who is also one of our members.*

## **CONGRATULATIONS !!!**



## HISTORY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

*Austin Masini*

The first stamp in the world, “The penny Black” was issued by Great Britain on the 6th May 1841. Today it costs about £153. Rowland Hill is the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp. Issuing of stamps and the pursuit of the hobby of stamp collecting almost started simultaneously. As the story goes, the first stamp collector recorded was a



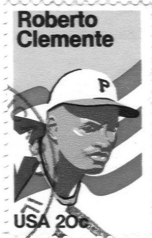
lady in the Isle of Wight (UK) who started collecting stamps in 1841, to paper the walls of her room! Once she received a parcel of used stamps which got torn while in transit. This resulted in a police enquiry which ended with terming her to be a “harmless lunatic”.

The history of philately is as old as the history of the postage stamp itself. Dr John Edward Gray of the British Museum became the first collector by purchasing the first postage stamp on the date of its issue - 1st May 1840 - and preserving it as a memento.

Initial stamps, called “Definitives”, depicted portraits of rulers or denominations and were used only as



receipts of postage. These were soon supplemented by “Commemoratives” - stamps that were used to



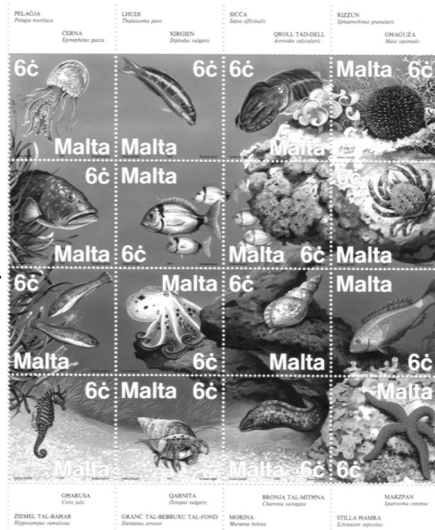
commemorate an event or phenomena, or even personalities. One of the first commemoratives was the New Brunswick set of pictorial stamps



depicting a locomotive, issued in 1860 on the occasion of the completion of the North American Railway.

Gradually all countries saw the possibility →

of using stamps as the true ambassadors of their countries, representing all aspects of their life - history and culture, flora and fauna, science and technology, aspiration and achievements. Each stamp tells a story of the country of its origin. It usually mentions the name of the country, its denomination in local currency and also has a design relating to the country or mankind in general.



*Fauna of the Mediterranean Sea*

While countries have commemorated events and achievements of their own citizens, world events and celebrities have also been accorded equal significance in postage stamps. Several countries, for instance, have commemorated the historical event of man's landing on the moon and have also acknowledged the contributions and achievements of Mozart, Michaelangelo and Tolstoy through stamps.

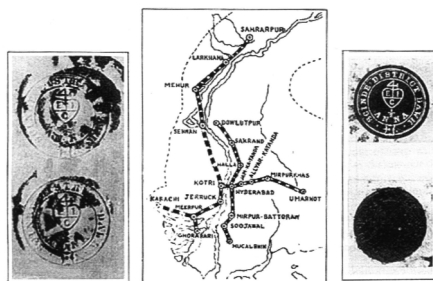


Postage stamps have been printed through numerous printing processes. The history of postage stamps has witnessed not only embossed and cyclostyled stamps, but even typewritten ones, which were first issued in Uganda and British Honduras in 1895.

Over the years the number of authorities issuing stamps reached over 240 in number. They issue an estimated 10,000 stamps in a year. Above all, starting with the so called ↗

“harmless lunatic” in the Isle of Wight, there have been many collectors. Some of them very famous: commoner to Royalty, humble school boys to the Presidents of Nations, Statesmen to Scientists, have all been avid stamp collectors.

The first stamps in India were issued on 1st July 1852 in the small province of Sind, now in Pakistan, in White, Blue and Red colours. The design of these “Scinde Dawks” was the merchant mark of the East India Company. They are the Aristocrats of Indian Philately. They were also among the first circular stamps in the world. The present value of Scinde Dawk Red (used) is approximately Rs. 2,00,000/- . □



Scinde Dawks and their mail routes: The Mulkee Tuppal lines in 1851

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Source: <http://www.maharashtrapost.org/history1.htm>

Note:

All members who wish to exchange stamps can contact our Exchange Organiser who is Mr Emanuel Vella of “Mandor” Grunju Street Nadur Gozo. Tel No. 21552252.

This is being done absolutely Free of Charge.

## **STAMP CLINIC**

Foxing - The Philatelist's Nightmare

*Zaru Vella*

In order that stamps remain in a state of preservation, there are three important factors, namely: **1.** Pure air, **2.** Temperature of 70 ° F, and **3.** Relative Humidity of 50%.

Unfortunately these ideal conditions cannot always be met and hence our stamps may begin to show stains which literally appear ghastly.

Foxing, also known as rust or tropical staining, is a brownish stain caused by a fungus which thrives at high temperatures and humidity and where there is little or no air circulation. If left unchecked for long periods, foxing can literally ruin an entire collection, thereby greatly reducing its value.

Although high temperatures and humidity are common here in Malta, we can still take measures to ensure that our stamps stay in peak condition.

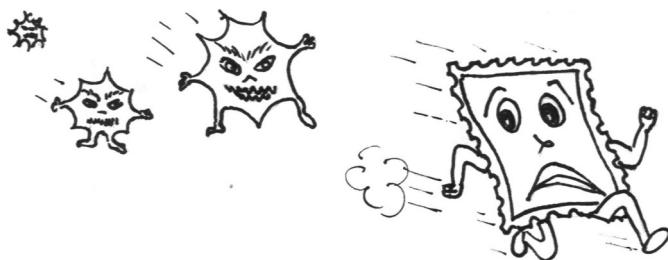
The following guidelines should prove to be helpful in combating the problem and even though certain points may sound rather far-fetched, they all play a role in keeping our collections in pristine condition.

- Store albums upright in an airy cupboard or bookcase and open each album page by page at least once a week (preferably when there is a northerly wind) to allow air to circulate freely.
- Store a desiccant such as silica gel close to your albums to help extract excess moisture.

- Rooms where albums are kept should have a south facing wall in order to absorb as much warmth from the sun as possible, thereby reducing humidity levels.
- Albums should be of good quality as inferior types may contain acidic papers which could cause gradual stamp deterioration.
- Never store albums in kitchens or other places such as garages where the likelihood of fumes or vapours are present.
- Always handle stamps with tweezers - using our hands leaves traces of sweat which serve as a foundation for foxing to develop.

There are certain remedies for removing these stains but always exercise caution when using them. On used stamps, foxing may be removed by applying a solution called “Foxit” or if you are a do-it-yourselfer, you can make up a solution of 1 part household bleach to 10 parts tepid water. Immerse your stamps in the liquid for one minute after which they should be rinsed in fresh clean water and allowed to dry. The problem of removing any stains from mint stamps is that the gum on the back will unfortunately be lost, which brings us to that old adage, “Prevention is better than cure”.

Enjoy your hobby !!





## **SAINT GEORGE ON STAMPS**

*Antoine Vassallo*

This paintings set was originated on the initiative of the Gozo Philatelic Society (principally then PRO George Vella) since we consider it part of our duty to strive for philatelic commemoration of events connected with Gozo - exemplified by the 2000 Victoria BPO Centenary handstamp.

St George is “Patron of Victoria and Protector of the Gozitans”, as proclaimed by Bishop Camilleri in 1903 and confirmed officially again on the occasion of the 17th Centenary of his death. His Lordship Bishop Cauchi’s letter in this regard was instrumental towards acceptance of our suggestion. The issued set is actually wider than that but it does include (14c) the titular altarpiece (painted by Mattia Preti in 1678) at St George’s Collegiate Parish Basilica in Victoria, which church was shown on the 1975 Architecture 5c (described in Maltese on page 13 in Newsletter No 6).

This new stamp obviously means a further addition to the list of stamps with Gozitan connections which has been appearing in our Newsletter; thus I have moreover been inspired to prepare a new series surveying Religiosity on stamps (which hopefully should begin in the next issue) !



Actually this is not Malta's first "Georgian" set; that honour can go to the 4-stamp 1935 Silver Jubilee, well known as the original Commonwealth Omnibus (which has received detailed study for plate flaws). The design includes a miniature St George (the St Michael and St George Order decoration) under the royal portrait.



As many as 42 territories participated: Antigua, Ascension, Bahamas, Basutoland (present Lesotho), Bechuanaland (Botswana), Bermuda, Br Guiana (Guyana), Br Honduras (Belize), Cayman, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Cyprus, Dominica, Falklands, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, Gilber & Elice (now Kiribati and Tuvalu), Gold Coast (Ghana), Grenada, Hong Kong, Jamaica, KUT (now separate: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), Leeward (the individual islands are separate issuers), Mauritius, Montserrat, Newfoundland (now part of Canada), Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Nyasaland (Malawi), St Christopher-Nevis, St Helena, St Lucia, St Vincent, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomons, Somaliland (incorporated in Somalia), Straits Settlements (included Singapore and parts of present Malaysia), Swaziland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos and Virgin Islands. At four stamps each, this means a total of 172!

But the "St George" theme need not be limited to artistic depictions of him (often lancing the dragon): it can also easily incorporate people and places connected with his cult. This design provides examples of both: George V (the anniversary of whose accession was being celebrated) and Windsor Castle (which houses various related items).

However it is only possible to highlight here stamps →

actually depicting St George prominently. I will just mention the existence of

- i) many Georges (eg George Washington and other British and Greek kings).
- ii) issuing territories (eg South Georgia).
- iii) churches and other places named in his honour (eg Valletta's *Misra] San [or]* - 5s 1938 and 1948 defs) or whose contents include statues or other depictions.
- iv) postmarks (in Canada, USA, Central and South America, South Africa, Malaysia, Azores, Italy, Eastern Europe etc) and
- v) other items (eg the Order of St Michael and St George - see Malta's Royal Visit 4d).

A wide range of entities worldwide (including a couple of the above) have issued stamps within our theme:

**Andorra (French post):** 1984 Pre-Romanesque fresco in St Cerni Church 5 francs.

**Austria:** i) 1965 from engraving by Albrecht Altdorfer 1s8d.  
ii) 1969 statue in St Stephen's Cathedral (5th Century of Vienna Diocese 2 schilling.

**Belgium:** 1944 (anti-TB fund, representing Hainaut) 1f+15c.

**Bermuda:** i) 1953 (Defs) arms of St George 2s.  
ii) 1984 town arms of St George \$1.

**Bosnia (Croat post):** 1997 (Europa) 2 kuna.

**Bulgaria:** i) 1968 painting from Rila Monastery 40 stotinki.  
ii) 1969 14th century painting 1s.  
iii) 1969 (FIP Congress) 40s.  
iv) 1988 Kurdzhali icon 8s.

**Cook Islands:** 1946 (Peace) overprint on New Zealand 8p.

**Crete - Provisional Government** - (of course this island now uses Greek stamps): 1900 5 drachma (overprinted in red or black, also reissued in 1901 without overprint). ➔

**Croatia:** i) 1992 (Obligatory Tax for anti-cancer league) 15 & 400 dinar (1993)

ii) 1994 (similar design) 50 lipa.

**Cyprus:** i) 1971 (defs) 19th century bas-relief 5 mils.

ii) 1974 (overprinted for Refugee Relief Obligatory Tax) 10m.

**Czechoslovakia:**

i) 1946 (Victory) adapted from Josef Manes painting 2 values (with labels) and MS.

ii) 1970 18th century Slovak icon 2 korun.

iii) 1972 enamel on glass 1k60.

iv) 1979 Vysoke Myto charter coat of arms 1k20

v) 1982 14th century statue from Prague castle 3k.

**Danzig:** (this is now the Polish city of Gdansk)

i) 1921 (TB week) set of 3: 30+30 pfennig, 60+60, 1.20+1.20 mark.

ii) 1937 (Winter Relief Fund) 40 + 25 pf.

**Etiopia:** 1971 17th century Ethiopian canvas painting 25c.

**Gambia:** 1990 (Rubens 350th death anniversary) 15 dalasy MS.

**Georgia:** 1919-21 (different shades and papers) 10, 40, 50, 60, 70 kopecks, 1 rouble (perf or imperf. also *tete-beche*)

**Germany:** 1943 (Goldsmiths' Institution anniversary) 6+4 and 12+88 pfennig.

**West Germany:** 1961 ("Pathfinders" German Scouts) 10 pf

**East Germany:** 1971-16 century medallion from Dresden's Green Vaults 30pf.

**Great Britain:** i) 1929 (UK's first commemorative set, for the 9th UPU Congress, included a one pound intricate design by Harold Nelson.

ii) 1951 (high values) design adapted from Benedetto Pistrucci's used on coinage 10s.

Interestingly, the first England "country" stamps were issued on 23rd April 2001. (*to be continued*)

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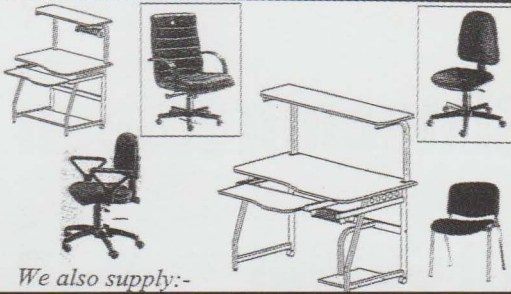
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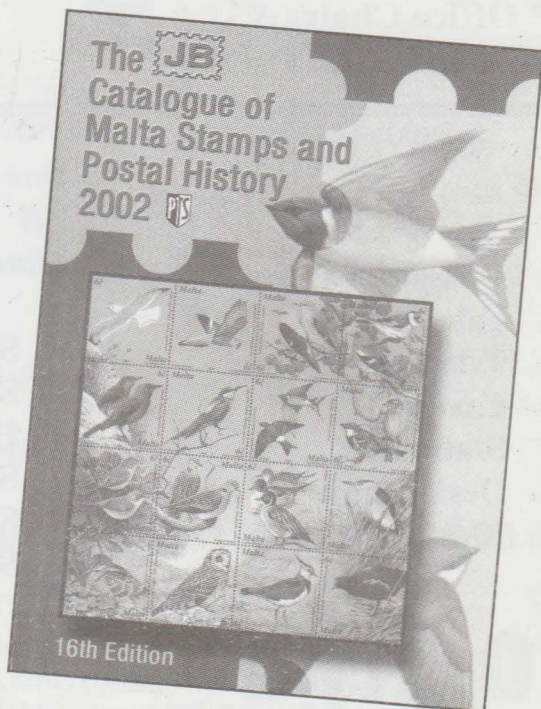
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