

July - September 2004

Nº: 17 - 3/2004



5th Anniversary



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

NEWSPAPER POST

Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR
BIEX TIXTRI
JEW TIBNI
DAREK**

BOV Homelink
success



Aghżel
int u nnota
d-differenza!

BOV Notice Account

306090



BOV TeenSaver Account

It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-tfal tieghek

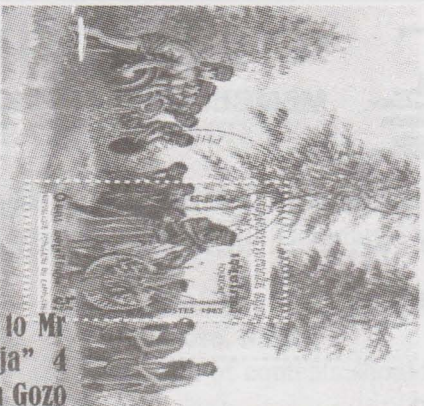


BOV Savings Plan

Il-pjan ta' tfaddil b'bonus!

BOV

www.bov.com e-mail: customercare@bov.com

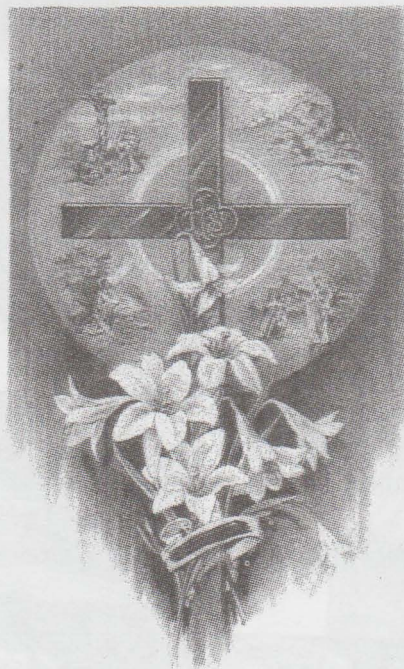


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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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 (17)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

June/July 2004: Special cards were prepared (as usual by Anthony Grech) for the Comino chapel stamp and for the Wistin Camilleri, Nadur and Sannat handstamps. Presentations were made to the relevant archpriests etc.

June 2004: Sub-committee discusses regulations for our 5th Exhibition.

31st July 2004: Committee finalizes Exhibition regulations to be distributed, with application forms to members.

August 2004: Sub-committee decides about special 5th Anniversary issue of our Newsletter.

September 2004: Our Exhibition included in September-October issue of “coming cultural events in Gozo”.

3rd September 2004: Commemorative card was prepared on the 5th Anniversary of our foundation. Besides, a free card was given to each member. Additional copies are available for sale.

28th September 2004: Secretary meets Times journalist Steve Mallia for a feature about the 5th Exhibition.

September 2004: School visits begin again.

2nd October 2004: Closing date for applications to participate in the Exhibition. Committee meets to finalize Exhibition preparations.

Please note that the German periodical mentioned in Diary 16 is in fact named “die Melita”.

Please note that members can contact the Secretary (or directly, Archivist - Librarian Mr John Muscat on Tel No 21553875) for free temporary loans of various philatelic publications.

You are all invited to contribute to this, our periodical.

On It's Fifth Anniversary

Anton V Said - President



It was September of five years ago when a group of philatelic enthusiasts met at *Dar il-Lunzjata* and set up a committee which later came to be the Gozo Philatelic Society with its first president Dr Michael Refalo LLD. Though still in its infancy it is with great pride that today on its fifth anniversary, one looks at the contribution and service it had rendered to the many keen philatelists who had enrolled since then.

Thanks to these few who had then decided to embark on the setting up of this society; today we can now boast of some two hundred members, something which one might not have envisaged to occur in such a short time. It is now the society's aim to consolidate in the years to come what we have already achieved. This can only be done by maintaining close and constant contact with our members especially in the juvenile sector as there is the tendency that enthusiasm in a new activity or hobby tends to whiter away after a short time. With this in mind and despite the lack of premises from where the society can operate properly, we are giving top priority to such a contact with our members.

Another important link in our society is the setting up of philatelic clubs. In fact we are more than satisfied with a particular one which was set up only recently. The fine work which is being done in this club augurs well for other such clubs to follow and also for the future of our society. □

An Anniversary

Dr Michael Refalo - Vice President

When a group of middle-aged gentlemen decide to form a society, one would tend to think that this is but the folly of that particular age when pension time beckons and ennui sets it. However, when “our” group of middle aged gentlemen met for the first time to constitute the Gozo Philatelic Society, nobody would have thought that the main beneficiaries of the initiative would be the young.

Since its inception and including the early period when each society faces those teething problems which solidify its bones and give it character, the GPS has directed its attention to the young. This has been done not only to further the interests of our particular hobby but also to educate. In an age when electronic games rule, the GPS has worked incessantly to enrol members both old and young. The former indulge in their favourite pastime and at the same devote their attention to the latter. The young ones have become the most enthusiastic members of the Society, thanks to the efforts, initiative, dedication and generosity of their elders.

The Gozo Philatelic Society shows that the passion for simple (albeit sometimes expensive) things can not only survive but also flourish and render a service to society in general. It has been an honour for me to have served as the First President of the Society: it is still an honour for me to have been chosen as its Vice-President. I am sure that the Society will grow, and its growth will not be a senseless search for the self-aggrandizement of its elder members but rather a genuine effort to promote a hobby which has aptly been described as regal - this for the benefit of its young members who are the future of our country. □

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Anthony Fenech - GPS Advisor



A red letter day in the annals of the Gozo Philatelic Society is 3rd September 1999, when a group of seven enthusiastic philatelists convened at *Dar il-Lunzjata* to found the Gozo Philatelic Society which like the Biblical “Mustard Seed” flourished in five years, embracing in its folds “a handsome number of some two hundred members, the majority of which are young students”. The founder members were the pioneers of the Gozo Philatelic Society and from my short column I salute them.

The first humble twelve page Newsletter was soon issued after the first committee had been elected with different posts allocated. Through the dedication of those who have had the Society’s interests at heart, the enthusiastic committee has organized each year a Philatelic Exhibition, which year after year the level has been impressive. Last year it was very high, auguring a very bright future for Philately in Gozo. The organizing committee deserves a pat on the back for its resourcefulness.

May the Gozo Philatelic Society march forward even stronger and stronger to arrive at still greater and more important anniversaries in the years to come.

Long live THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY!

When sending by post, please do not send cash money, but use only cheques (or Money Orders) or Mint current Malta stamps in order to pay your subscription or acquire items shown.

THE GOZO BOAT - “ID-DGHAJSA TAL-LATINI”

(Joseph Caruana)

*Minn gewwa d-dahla tal-Imgarr Kennija
kontu tohorgu wahda wahda wara l-ohra,
bl-ghajat tal-bdot u tal-bahrin zaghzugha
mal-arbli mxabbta,*

*Jifthu ghar-rih tal-majjistral mill-poppa
tirkett fuq l-arblu ta' quddiem, majjistra
wara, u l-qlugh iz-zghir tal-pollakkun
barra mill-pruwa,*

*U erhilkom tiggerrew ghal hdejn Kemmuna,
bil-pika ma' xulxin min jasal l-ewwel
il-Port il-Kbir, u hemmhekk thottu l-ghejjel
ta' l-art Ghawdxija.*

When going back down memory lane, I remember a group of old sea dogs at my father's boat building shed at Mgarr, always narrating their adventures at sea, but I recall that the most prominent subject was their years spent on the Gozo boat with all the hardship prevailing at that time. However, they were proud that they sailed on these boats particularly the *patruni*, skippers.

The correct technical name for the Gozo boat is the *dghajsa tal-latini*. *Dghajsa*, is the Maltese generic term for small open boat and the suffix *tal-Latini* simply defines it further as latten-rigged. In Malta these boats were more popularly known as '*dghajsa t'Ghawdex*' and on Gozo itself they were known as '*dghajsa tal-pass*'. This variety in nomenclature came about because the boats were built in Malta; Mgarr was their home port and they always carried passengers.

The *dghajsa tal-latini* evolved from the *xprunara*. Indeed they both had the same type of hull construction. The difference is that while the *xprunara* retained the beak-like appendage to the stem-post reminiscent of those associated with earlier galleys, this was not carried over the Gozo boat. The dimensions of a Gozo boat were from 40 to 50 feet in length and with a length-to-width ratio of around 3:1, with a tonnage of 20 to 35 tons. The boat had a bowed sheer line rising harmoniously at the bows and somewhat less at the stern. They were double ended boats with vertical stem and stern post with the stem post being higher. Throughout, the Gozo boat remained an essential open, cargo vessel with a large central hold and small fore and aft decks. The stern small deck (*tamburett*) had a small hatch which was occupied by the *patrun* (skipper) when handling the tiller in rough weather. A steep outward facing water-way called a *kurtun*, ran along the sides of the boat between the bulwarks and the coamings, allowing water to run out through holes, *burdnari*, in the lower edges of the bulwarks. Removable washboards, or *falki*, were fitted above the gunwales to afford protection from the elements. These boats were built with a greenheart keel and had an oak keelson, stem and sternpost, clamps, beams and gunwales. The ribs were also of oak and the planking was of red deal and galvanized fixings were used throughout. Two benches (thwarts) strengthened the sides and the middle one was provided with a mast-clamp.

The spectacle of the small fleet of Gozo boats at their moorings at Mgarr set under a blue Mediterranean sky against a backdrop of the shimmering azure sea must have been enchanting indeed. They were all painted in bright primary colours according to local tradition, including shades of green, blue, red and yellow. When a moustache, (*mustacc*) was painted black it denoted mourning for a dead owner or a member of the owner's family. The fore *mustacc* was always decorated with the 'eye' of Horus.

The *tal-latini* boat as its name implies was lateen-rigged and carried two masts with three adjustable shrouds either side of each. Its sails, the *majjistra* (main) and *tirkett* (fore) were bent on yards which are known as *lasti* (antennae). A flying jib or *pollakkun*, was also set tacked to the end of a bowsprit lashed to the lower part of the foremast. The Gozo boat also carried a small storm sail known as *cillikka*. Oars were always carried and were used on calm weather or when manoeuvring to a berth. By 1919 engines were introduced, but still some boats also continued to carry sails well into the 1950's.

The boats maintained a vital link between Malta and Gozo for more than a century. They were mostly used to transport agricultural products, cattle and poultry to Malta returning with foodstuffs, animal fodder, timber, fuel and other necessities. They also carried passengers, hence the term *dghajsa tal-pass*. For a time the boats were also used for carrying sand from various beaches on the islands to dockyard building sites, and for the manufacture of floor tiles.

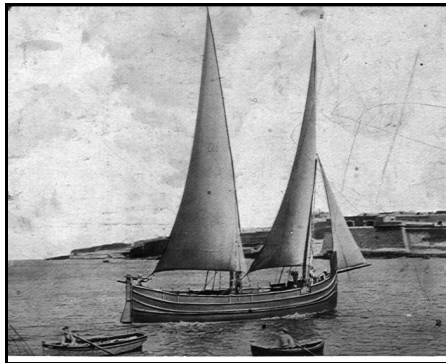
During World War II some Gozo boats were requisitioned by the British Admiralty for use at Alexandria, where one was unfortunately lost. The last two Gozo boats were built in Kalkara, Malta by the brothers Joseph and Eugenio Caruana. The **Sacra Famiglia G32** and the **Stella Maris G5**, were built in 1934 and 1938 respectively. Unfortunately the *Stella Maris* was destroyed during war time bombing, while the *Sacra Famiglia* is still at Mgarr undergoing restoration. The Gozo boat used to bore a name, most often a religious registration number which was painted on the bulwarks at the bows and also marked on the sails. Among the old folk of Mgarr they were known either by a nickname or by their number. On Palm Sunday a sprig of blessed olive branch was tied to the masthead to bring good fortune. At least once or twice a year a boat was hauled ashore for maintenance, cleaning and painting.

With the introduction of a good ferry service between Malta and Gozo the boat lost its importance after many years of good service. More people started to travel between the two islands and even the cargo increased in quantity and variety which was no more possible to be carried on a Gozo boat. Thus the Gozo Boat was no longer suitable to the fast changing social and economic conditions. There have been a lot of craft indigenous to the Maltese islands, but only a handful remains. Of these, the Gozo boat is perhaps one of the most significant and it was wise to name one of the streets of the sea village of Ghajnsielem *Triq il-Latini*. Fortunately, the Gozo boat can still be appreciated in many paintings and models in private collections for future generations to enjoy and remember of.

*Ja dghajjes tal-latini, darba ghal dejjem
Ghebtu minn Ghawdex, sew bhal qatgha gawwi
Li taru 'l bogh'd 'il bogh'd fibhra xemxija
U nsew il-bejta.*

*Li darba bejtu fil-gherien tal-fliegu!
U fuq gwenhajhom bojod is-Sbuhija,
Tad-dahla ta' l-Imgarr helwa Sultana,
Taret...ghal dejjem!...*

(N.B. An excerpt from the poem Id-Dghajjes tal-Latini by Anton Buttigieg.)



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 ?! (8)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

BURUNDI East African Republic, formerly part of Ruanda-Urundi, own issues from 1962 on independence.

Bushire Persian port with British occupation stamps in 1915.

Bussahir Indian state with own stamps 1895-1901.

C = Cyrillic “s”.

Cabo Juby = Cape Juby.

Cabo Verde = Cape Verde.

Caicos Islands Although part of Turks & Caicos, separate stamps were issued 1981 - 1985.

Calino Italian issues 1912 - 1932 for the Aegean island of Kalymnos.

Cambodia (*Cambodge*) South East Asian state with issues from 1951 (called Khmer and Kampuchea 1970-89); also overprinted stamps for Indian Forces.

CAMEROON Western African republic independent in 1960; German colony (*Kamerun*) issues 1897-1914; British (*C.E.F.*) and French occupation issues 1915-21; French Mandate (*Cameroun*) issues 1921-60; British (*Cameroons UKTT*) issues 1960.

- Campione** Italian enclave in Switzerland with separate issues 1944-52.
- CANADA** Issues from 1851.
- Canal Maritime*** Suez Canal Company stamps 1868.
- Canal Zone** Territory in Panama leased to USA, with issues 1904-79.
- CANOUAN** One of the Grenadines of St Vincent which had additional separate stamps in 1997.
- Canton** French PO in China 1901-1922.
- Cape Juby** Spanish colony in West Africa, which was later included in Spanish Sahara - issues 1916-1948.
- Cape of Good Hope** Territory in South Africa, with issues from 1853 to 1910 (when it became part of the Union of South Africa).
- CAPE VERDE** Portuguese Atlantic islands with first issue in 1877, independent in 1975.
- Carchi*** = Karki.
- Carinthia** see Karnten and K.G.C.A.
- Caroline Islands** German colony (*Karolinen*) with issues from 1899 to 1920; since 1945 US territory.
- Carriacou & Petite Martinique*** Inscription for Grenadines of Grenada from 1999.
- Caso*** = Kasos.
- Castellorizo and Castelrosso*** = Kastelorizon.
- Cauca** State in Colombia with issues 1879-1903.
- Cavalle*** = Kavalla
- Cayes of Belize** A chain of small islands off Belize with issues 1984-5. *(to be continued)*

Bold italic = Inscriptions;

BOLD CAPITALS = Current Issuers;

Bold = Former Issuers.

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

Special Handstamp Cancellations Related To, And Stamped In Gozo

Part 1

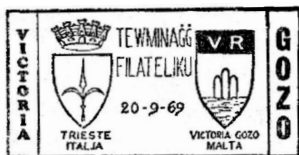
(George Vella)

The following is a list of special handstamp cancellations which were stamped in Gozo to commemorate special events connected with the island of Gozo. These were issued by Maltapost since 1969. We strongly recommend that these should be collected.

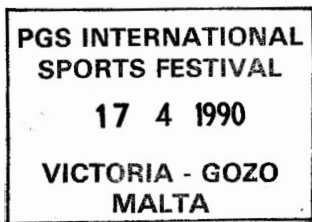
B.P.O. = Branch Post Office.

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

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



1. [10] 20-9-1969 Philatelic Twinning between Victoria [Gozo] and Trieste, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo. Designed by Maltapost, 40x20mm.



2. [270] 17-4-1990 GPS International Sports Festival, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo. Designed by Maltapost, 49x35 mm.



3. [278] 26-5-1990 Pope's visit to Malta incorporating Ta' Pinu Sanctuary, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo. Designed by Maltapost, 30 mm diameter. ↪



4. [303] 1-8-1991 Merħba 91, at B.P.O. Mgarr, Gozo.
Designed by Maltapost, 33 mm diameter.



5. [350] 10-7-1993 Inkurunazzjoni tal-Kwadru Titulari Fontana, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by Maltapost, 35 mm diameter.



6. [357] 9-10-1993 U.P.U. 1993-World Post Day-2nd Philatelic Exhibition, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by Maltapost, 35 mm diameter.



7. [408] 25/26-4-1996 Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, at T.B.P.O. Mgarr Hotel, Gozo.
Designed by Maltapost, 35 mm diameter.

(continued on page 23)

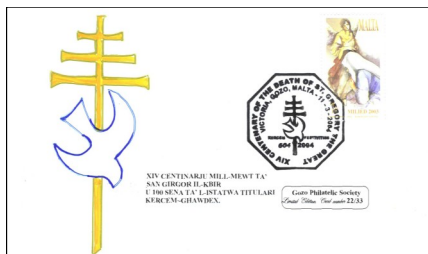
Some of the cards which were issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society on Special Gozitan Occasions



Centenary Feasts - St George's Basilica. Issued 20.07.2003



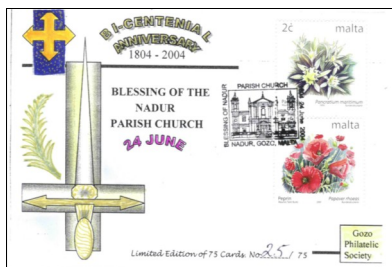
St Mary's Cathedral New Bells Issued 31.12. 2003



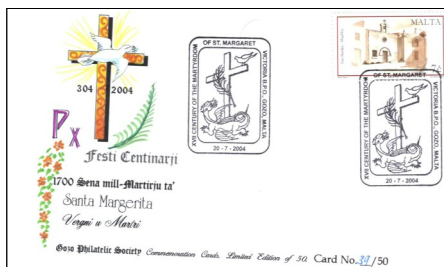
XIV Centenary from the Death of St Gregory the Great - Issued 11.03.04



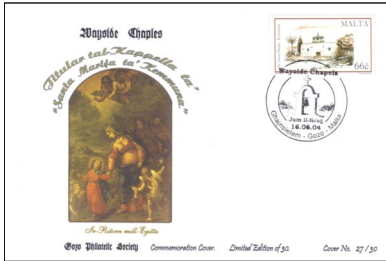
100 years from the Consecration of Qala Parish Church - Issued 8.05.04



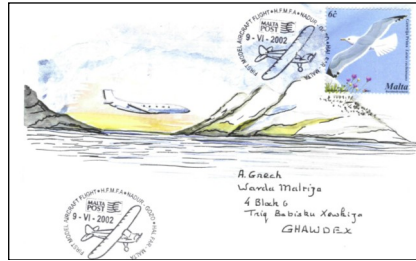
Bi Centennial Anniversary from the Blessing of Nadur Parish Church. Issued 24.06.04



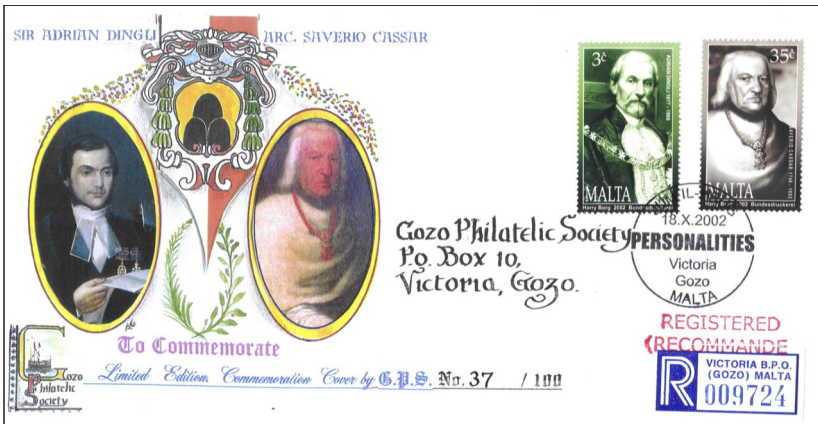
1700 years from the Martyrdom of St Margaret. Issued 20.07.04



**Titular of the Chapel of Comino.
 Issued 16.06.04**



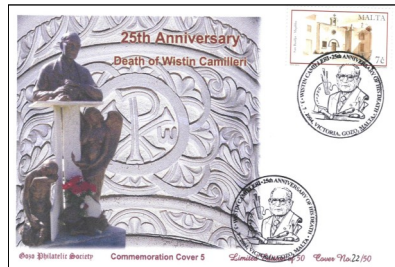
**First Model Aircraft Flight
 Issued 09.06.02**



**To commemorate two Gozitan Personalities namely Sir Adrian Dingli
 and Arch. Saverio Cassar. Issued 18.10.02**



**Queen Elizabeth II Pillar Box at
 St Francis Square Victoria Gozo
 Issued 12.03.04**



**25th Anniversary from the
 Death of Wistin Camilleri
 Issued 03.07.04**

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (8)

(Emanuel Vella)

- E.L.S.:*** Express Letter Service.
- E.U.:*** Abbreviation for Estados Unidos in Spanish which means United States.
- Elusive:*** Term used to denote a stamp which although is quite cheap is very hard to find. It may be scarcer than generally thought.
- Embossed:*** Raised, or in low relief. A process whereby the whole or part of the design is raised out of the surface of the paper. A lot of countries have embossed stamps such as G.B., the USA, Germany and Portugal.
- Entire:*** A complete folded letter sheet with the communication on the inside and name and address on the outside. Sometimes the meaning is extended to include covers of other kinds.
- Error:*** Any major mistake in the design or production of a stamp. Examples are stamps printed in the wrong colour, on the wrong paper or with the wrong water mark. Any mistake on a stamp can be considered an error. The more pronounced the mistake the more likely that the stamp will not be released. But in philately there are some famous mistakes. For instance Fiji has printed a stamp depicting a native canoe at sea with no one on board. There are a lot of spelling mistakes on stamps which have escaped detection after the stamps are released. Minor

variations in the actual printing are sometimes wrongly described as errors when they are in fact varieties.

Essay: Literally, an attempt; in philately a proposed stamp design submitted to the postal authorities but not accepted.

Expertising: A stamp or cover which has been recognised by an expert or expert committee as genuine.

Exploded: A stamp booklet or miniature sheet taken apart and displayed singly or page by page.

Express: Many countries issue stamps especially for payment of express or expedited, postal service. Some call them express while others call them “special delivery”.

F:

- a) Abbreviation for fiscal or forgery.
- b) On stamps of Colombia the capital letter indicates that the stamp is a consular overprint sold in France.
- c) French stamps thus overprinted in 1939 were supplied to Spanish Refugees who were allowed free postage.

F.D.C.: First Day Cover.

F.U.: Fine used.

(to be continued)

Script by Script (8)

(Antoine Vassallo)

This regular space features stamps without any identifiable name in “Latin” script or providing some similar difficulty.

The component states of Malaya (present Malaysia) sometimes showed their name in Arabic script only. These examples should aid identification.



Kelantan



Negri Sembilan



Pahang



Perak



Perlis



Selangor



Selangor



Trengganu

QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

- i) Where is the Royal Collection housed nowadays ?
- ii) How many albums has King George the V section ?
- iii) What is the correct technical name for the Gozo Boat ?
- iv) Where were the last two Gozo boats built ?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 30th November 2004 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.

PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULT

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No.16 are as follows:

- i) Errors and Omissions not Excluded.
- ii) 1840.
- iii) To convey a short message by the sender.
- iv) On Her/His Majesty Service.

PRIZE WINNER:

GPS Prize Winner of First Day Cover of Malta goes to Master Mario Mallia of 27 Assumption Square Zebbug Gozo (Member No.195)

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

E & O not E (3)*(Antoine Vassallo)*

Since it is my intention in this series to alternate between printing and design errors, today I show an unusual British rarity.

Like all stamps then, the 1870 1½d (inscribed three halfpence) had letters in the corners, indication the exact position in the sheet. The siderographist hammered them individually into the plate with a hand-held punch.

This stamp should have been inscribed CP in the upper corners (and Pc in the lower). He punched the top C inverted but decided it was best not to go through the lengthy procedure of erasing his mistake, then drilling the back of the metal plate and hammering the surface flush to begin again, thus risking damaging the design in the process. So he just turned the letter round and punched it in the right way up!

This value was intended to be issued in rosy mauve. It was then decided not to issue it - this decision was only reversed in 1870 and a further supply was printed in rose-red. The few examples known of the “OP-PC” error exist in both colours.

It is interesting also to mention that the 1873 2½d rosy-mauve provides an “LH-FL” error produced because an F was used instead of an H. □



The 1½d ‘OP - PC’ error

(With acknowledgments to “Rare Stamps” by LN & M Williams)

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC COLLECTION

(Anthony Grech)

When as a boy the later King George V, started collecting stamps, little did he imagined that it was to grow into a multi-million philatelic collection. Today the Royal Philatelic collection is the most famous and one of the most worth collections in the world. The Collection is personally owned by Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who is also a keen



KING GEORGE V

philatelist. After inheriting his uncle's collection the King who was a sailor had acquired so many stamps that the collection was almost complete on his accession to the British Throne. This did not stop the King from continuing his hobby. In fact during his reign he continued to acquire more stamps and postal history. King George V was such a keen and clever philatelist that he tried to spend at least three afternoons a week with his collection. As King of a vast empire he received several gifts of philatelic material, stamps, blocks, proofs etc., from all over the Commonwealth countries including Malta.

The present Royal Philatelic Collection consists of three main sections. The King George V section consists of 328 albums. These are leather-bound in red. His successor, the present Queen's father George VI continued to collect and so does Queen Elizabeth II. The stamps issued during King George VI reign are mounted in Blue Albums while those collected by the present Queen are bound in Green Albums. ➔



Mr Charles
Goodwyn

Today the Royal Philatelic Collection is housed in St James Palace, besides Buckingham Palace in London. It is looked after by a team of expert philatelists under the guidance of the chief keeper Mr Charles Goodwyn. Not long ago no part of this collection was allowed to go out of the palace, but nowadays after permission being sought and given by Her Majesty and after lots of preparations, part of the collection is allowed to be displayed in some of the world's most important exhibitions.

Apart from a superb collection of the British commonwealth's first issues, the Royal Collection includes a fantastic United Kingdom's first issues, proofs, errors and even Sir Rowland Hill's (the inventor of the postage stamp) drawing of the Penny Black and Two Pence Blue together with the largest block in existence of this first stamp. □



Buckingham Palace

(from page No. 13)



8. [419] 31-1-1997 Dun Pawl Micallef-Gozitan Philanthropist 1897-1997, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by Maltapost, 35 mm diameter.



9. [453] 28-10-1998 200th Anniversary of the Capitulation of the French Forces in Gozo, at B.P.O. Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by George Vella, 40 mm diameter.



10. [480] 1-5-2000 100th Anniversary of the Victoria Branch Post Office, T.B.P.O. Banca Giuratale, Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by George Vella, 37x40 mm.



11. [495] 21/22-10-2000 Maltex Philatelic Exhibition, at T.B.P.O. Exhibition hall, Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, Gozo.
Designed by Malta Philatelic Society 33 mm diameter

(Ref: Mr Anthony Fenech, JB 2004 Catalogue, page 143)

(to be continued).

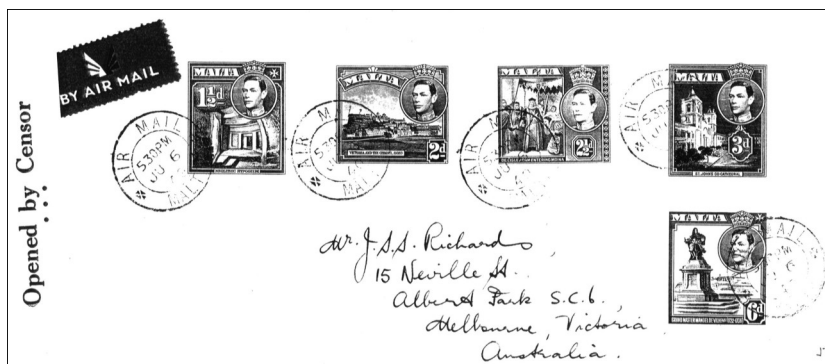
Australian MALTA (2)

John Vassallo, who lives in Australia, offers glimpses of his Malta Collection.

After having acquired all basic stamps, I expanded to other items (such as “Specimens”, postal history, postmarks and related markings with Malta connections).

Below is a sheet from one of my exhibition entries.

EARLY WAR SERVICES - 1939/1940 Closure of the Empire Air Mail Service



This cover from the Valletta branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) was posted there at 5.30p, on Thursday 6th June 1940. Because of Italy’s anticipated entry into the War, the flying-boats started to be re-routed via North Africa and Malta to avoid having to pass through Rome. By 8th June all flights were sent this way, so that when Italy did declare War on the 10th June, not one boat was caught in Rome. This cover travelled on either the second last or last through service on the Emp[ire Route, arriving in Darwin around the 15th June. It was flown to Adelaide by Guinea Airways, then to Melbourne by Australian National Airlines, where it was censored on arrival.

The air mail rate was 1s3d per ½ ounce. □

MALTA'S RELIGIOSITY EVIDENCED PHILATELICALLY A CROSS-REFERENCED A - Z

(Antoine Vassallo)

(continued from Newsletter No 16)

F is for FOLKLORE & FESTAS

- The *Regatta* (corrupted from *Regata*) originated as Grand Harbour boat races on the feast of Our Lady of Victories (8th September). **7c5 Defs 1973** and **2-value Europa 1998**.
- Please note that *Mnarja* was also represented on **LM1 Festivals 2004**.
- *Lapsi* (the Ascension) has traditionally been considered as the beginning of the summer season. **5c Festivals 2004**.
- *On San Girkor's day* votive penitential processions have been held for centuries, after which the crowd went to feast and make the season's first swim **27c Festivals 2004**.
- Wayside niches (with holy images or statues) are still common. **5c Nature 1995**.
See LY



G is for GOD'S MESSENGERS

This is the etymological meaning of "Angels". They have been represented quite widely on our stamps, especially in Christmas issues. Angels were prominent in **1967-1973, 1978, 1989, 1994** and **1996**.

Other stamps include:

- **1s Shipwreck 1960**.
- **2s6d La Vallette 1968**.
- **6d Exhibition 1970**.
- **1/3 Defs 1965 (& 5c Surcharge 1972)**.
- **2d, 10d Religious 1971**.
- Tapestries sets.
- **Europa 1978**.



- **12c Religious 1988.**
- *Farfett ta' l-Anglu* **6c Butterflies 2002.**
- Archangel Gabriel **2c Tapestries 1977; 2c and 12c Christmas 1980; 2c Christmas 1983; 7c Christmas 2003.**
- Archangel Michael **1c and 10c Christmas 1976.**
- Archangel Raphael **16c Christmas 1998.**
See IMV



H is for HIS HOLINESS the HOLY FATHER

This is (obviously) the Pope.

Sets were issued for both Pope John Paul II's visits to Malta. In **1990**, two stamps were available both individually and *se-tenant* in a sheetlet with additional labels. The two stamps and miniature sheet in **2001** also commemorated our first Blessed.



The earliest stamp depicting a Pope was the **3d** in the **1966** Valletta quadricentennial set since St Pius V was instrumental towards the building of our capital city.



But the first Pope was of course St Peter; in **1967** we commemorated the nineteenth centenary of the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul, the **2d** giving a representation of his curcifixion. The **8d** shows various symbols, including the Tiara or three-crown headgear formerly worn by Popes.






Tiaras were featured also on two (**3d** and **1s6d**) of the **1964** Independence set, two (**2d** and **10d**) of the **1971** Religious set and on the **3s** **1965** Definitive.



See EIMNOQ



I is for IMAGERY & SYMBOLS

- The main symbol of Christianity is of course the Cross and many designs have included it in one form or another, not excluding the Maltese Cross and the George Cross. A stone cross used to be a prominent symbol and sign in most village squares, delineating holy ground or simple the boundary. **5m Defs 1973.**
- 
- **3/- Defs 1965** also includes symbolism of ties with Catholicism.
 - **3d, 1/6d Independence 1964** symbolise attachment to the Church.
 - The third Tapestries series (**1979**) showed 4 symbolic or allegorical paintings: the “Triumph” of the Catholic Church, Charity, Faith and Truth respectively. Another one was included in the fourth (**1980**): ”Destruction of Idolatry”. **8c.**
 - “Star of Bethlehem” **4-value Christmas 1974; 3-value Christmas 1993.**
 - St Martin or even the “Good Samaritan”, signifies voluntary services (mostly Christian-inspired) **10c Defs 1973.**
- 
- The virtue of chastity is symbolised in the “virgin bush”. **7c Trees 2003.**
 - The block of four **5c Councils 1993**, showing their coats-of-arms, includes much religious symbolism:
- 
- i) “Keys of Heaven” representing St Peter (Patron of Birzebbugia)
 - ii) St Michael (because of an etymological derivation for Iklin)
 - iii) Pelican, traditionally representing Christ (Pietal = piety or mercy but originally referred to Our Lady of Sorrows)

- iv) “Lamb of God”, in reference to St John the Baptist (San Gwann).
- v) Gridiron, traditionally associated with St Lawrence (San Lawrenz).
- vi) Sword and Snake, representing St Paul’s Shipwreck. (San Pawl il-Bahar).
- vii) various crosses
See HKU

J is for JESUS

Various episodes in the life of Jesus Christ have been shown on our stamps including:

- Birth (besides Christmas issues). **11c** Tapestries **1977**. 
- Adoration of the Magi (besides Christmas issues). **20c** Tapestries **1977**.
- Among the Elders in the Temple. **25c** Christmas **1992**. 
- Baptism **£1** Defs **1956**; **1/6d** Gafa’ **1967**.
- Entry into Jerusalem **2c** Tapestries **1978**.
- The Last Supper **7c** Tapestries **1978**.
- His betrayal by Judas is remembered in the *sigra ta’ Guda*. **37c** Trees **2003**.
- The Crucifixion. **11c** Tapestries **1978**.
- The Resurrection. **25c** Tapestries **1978**. 
- “Sacred Heart of Jesus” **2d**, **10d** Religious **1971**.
- Christ the King Monument (commemorating the 1913 Eucharistic Congress) **2/-** Defs **1956**; **14c** Religious **1988**.

See CEVNW

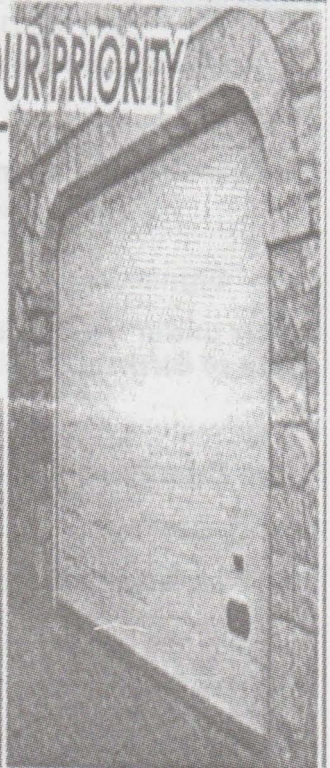
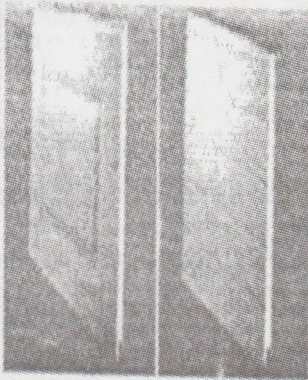
(to be continued)

I am sure not to have been completely exhaustive; so readers are invited to suggest additions which can be included in future issues.



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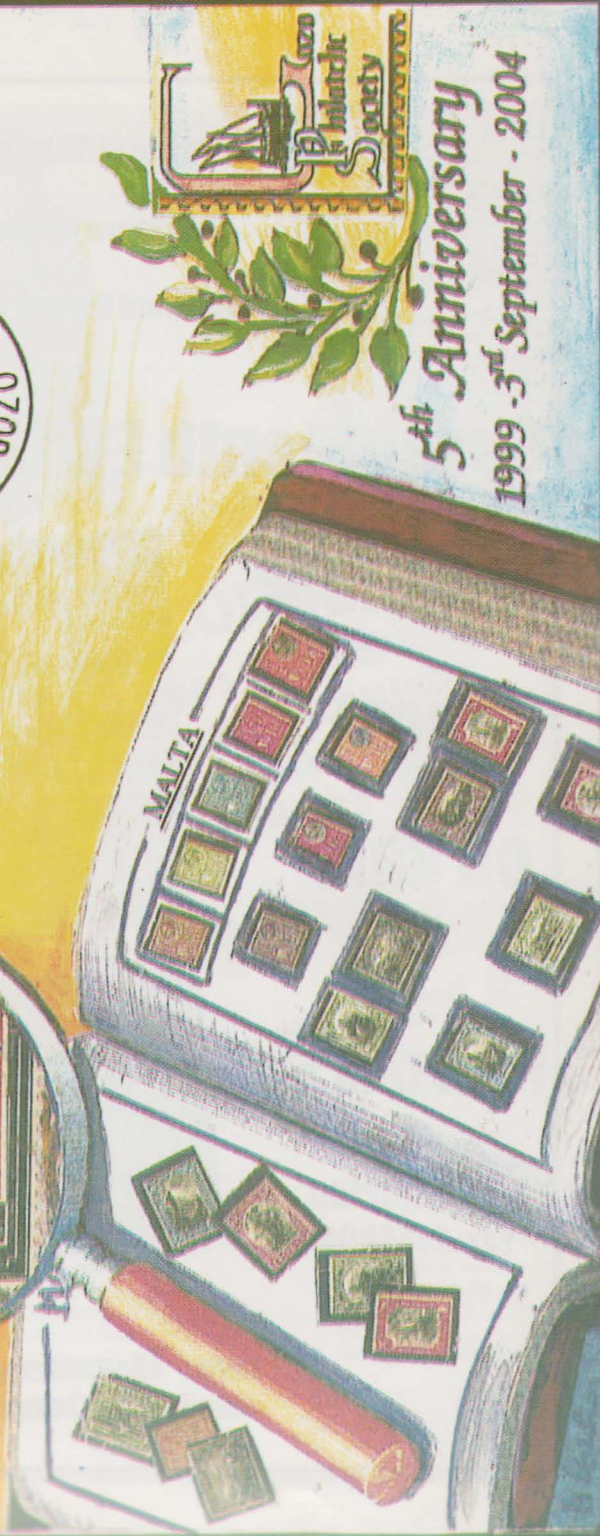
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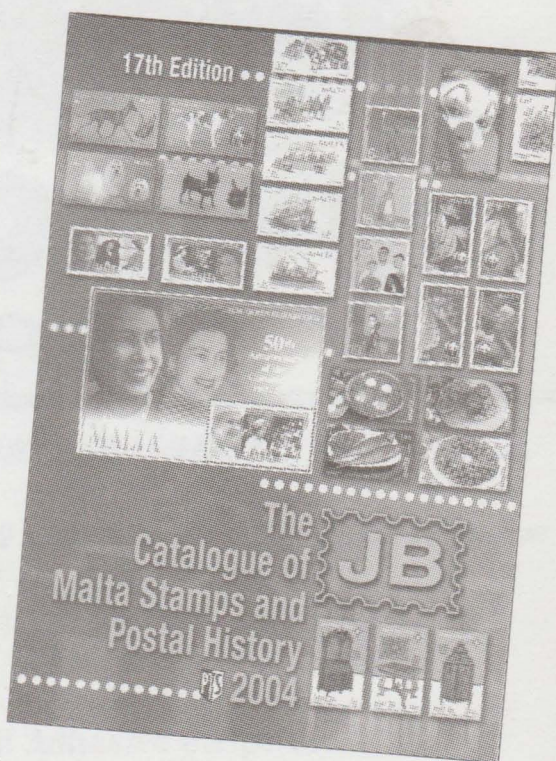
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