



January - March 2005

Nº: 19 - 1/2005



# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

*Newsletter*

# 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](http://www.bov.com) e-mail: [customercare@bov.com](mailto:customercare@bov.com)

**MEMBERS ATTENTION!!!  
FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- **Members Meeting and Holy Mass**

Venue: Dar *il-Lunzjata*

Wednesday 30th March 2005

from 3.00 pm onwards

*(Exchange, buying and selling of postage stamps)*

- **EUROPA & EU STAMP EXHIBITION**

Venue: Banca Giuratale

Independence Square, Victoria Gozo

From 29th April to 12th May 2005

**All members and friends  
are invited to attend  
for these activities.**



# 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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**CONTENTS**

**No. 19 — 1/2005**

GPS Diary (19)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	2
President's Report	<i>Anton V Said</i>	3
Secretary's Report	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	4
Financial Statement	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	7
Special Handstamp Cancellations	<i>George Vella</i>	8
Not Just For Beginners (10)		
Where in the World?	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	10
Stamp Terms	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	12
Script by Script	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	14
Quiz Competition & Previous Results		15
E & O not E (5)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	16
Australian Malta (4)	<i>John Vassallo</i>	17
Famous Stamps	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	18
The Swarovski Crystal Stamps	<i>Hans Katzensteiner</i>	21
Malta's Rel. evidenced philatelically	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	22

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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 (19)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

**12th December 2004:** Anthony Grech prepares a special card for Temporary Post Office at Munxar Gozo.

**December 2004:** Issue No 18 distributed.

**16th January 2005:** Victoria Scouts HQ again hosts a Members' Meeting, our 5th AGM (see reports on pages 3 to 7) and Exhibition Prize-Giving.

**19th January 2005:** Anthony Grech prepares a special card for Fontana centenary handstamp.

**29th January 2005:** New committee formed during first meeting after AGM: Anton V Said (President), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Notary Dr Michael Refalo (Treasurer), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), Mary Grace Xerri (PRO), Emanuel Vella (Exchange Packets); John Muscat (Librarian), George Micallef (Advertising Manager), and Rev Dr Gerry Buhagiar (Chaplain). Austin Masini remains Newsletter Editor.

**Motion approved during AGM (16.01.05):** This AGM thanks members Mr Joe Buttigieg and Mr Anthony Fenech for giving unremunerated service annually to form the Exhibition Panel and for the further advice and other help since the foundation of our Society.

Members can acquire a copy of the new Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary.

### **ERRATA:**

(issue 15 )

**Page 7** "entrance fee" = net bank interest.

(Issue 17)

**Page 20** (2nd line 2nd paragraph) "indication" = indicating.  
(2nd line 3rd paragraph) PC.

**Page 24** (last word should obviously have been "ounce"!)

There were unfortunately some other (probably not misleading) printing errors.

A German member is interested in exchanging **Europa** stamps. Details from the Secretary.

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
(16.01.2005)

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

This year's general meeting was attended by quite an encouraging number of members both adults and young. This annual activity amongst other things serves as a get together meeting where members can exchange views about this hobby and bring up some of the difficulties they encounter to be solved.

Another main aim of this meeting is for the secretary to give a thorough account of the society's activities during the previous year and also a financial report is presented.

A word of thanks was then passed to the outgoing members of the committee for their full commitment to the society during year 2004.

The vice president then gave a brief account of the main amendments of the society's statute which later was passed unanimously by all those present. A word of thanks should go to Dr Michael Refalo, vice president and Mr Antoine Vassallo Secretary/Treasurer who were instrumental in the new statute as amended.

The new committee was then set up. This was followed by the Prize giving Ceremony for members who took part in the Philatelic Exhibition 2004. Certificates of participation and vouchers sponsored by the Bank of Valletta were presented to the adult participants, while the young members were all presented with certificates and other philatelic material handsomely prepared by Mr Anthony Grech and Mr Austin Masini.

The meeting ended with an appeal aimed at the young members to continue with this hobby. It was said that another meeting for all members is envisaged during the Easter holidays, the day, place and time is communicated in this issue front page. □

FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
(16.01.2005)

*SECRETARY'S REPORT*

I do not want to take too much of your time and so I will simply try to give a bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last Annual General Meeting.

The members returned from the 4th AGM formed this Committee at our first committee meeting: Fr Gerald Buhagiar - Asst PRO & Seminary Club President, Canon George Farrugia - Chaplain, Anthony Grech - Membership Secretary, Austin Masini - Newsletter Editor, George Micallef - Advertising Manager, John Muscat - Asst Treasurer & Archivist, Notary Dr Michael Refalo - Vice President & Legal Advisor, Anton Said - President & School Clubs Committee Chairman, Antoine Vassallo - Secretary/Treasurer, Emanuel Vella - Exchange Packets Organizer and Mary Grace Xerri - Public Relations officer. Six further meetings were held, besides informal discussions and preparatory contacts. Much thought went into the rationalization of our Statute, presented for approval at this AGM.

As can be expected the 5th Exhibition (15 to 24 October) ate up a big proportion of our efforts. We have now booked the Ministry Halls for November 2005 for the next annual exhibition.

We gladly accepted the organizers' invitation to set up a Marian exhibition during an international symposium at Ta' Pinu complex (and the exhibits were reproduced on their website). We are always open to this type of collaboration.

We also set up another one about St. Paul on the Malta stamps



for Munxar Day. The Local Council also managed to open a Temporary Post Office there, for which occasion we obviously also produced a Card.

We (or rather our Anthony Grech) produced Cards - now consecutively numbered - for all local connections, whether stamps or handstamps: Kercem, Victoria Postbox, Salesians, the Gozo Shrew, Comino Chapel, Wistin Camilleri, Nadur, Sannat and *Kuncizzjoni* (Immaculate Conception). I note that we even have standing orders for these items of philatelic (and artistic) interest. Moreover others were produced for our 5th anniversary (and distributed to all current members) and for our Exhibition. It is worthwhile to note that GPS members are among handstamp designers.

We held our traditional *Lunzjata* Mass, said by our Chaplain. School visits have been numerous but pride of place is surely due to the Seminary Club: they held a Malta visit, lectures and even their own exhibition. Members' meetings have not been held as often as planned. I venture to suggest this should form an urgent item on the incoming Council's agenda.

All this (and much more) is covered in our quarterly Newsletter, the four numbers this year sporting an attractive new presentation. The special colour one for our 5th Anniversary received many accolades. New series include E & O not E; Malta's Religiosity Evidenced Philatelically and Australian Malta. Material is not lacking but more junior and new authors are ardently invited.

Various members have donated stamps and periodicals. May I note that we do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan.

We have also participated on the media, especially community

radios. I thank journalist Steve Mallia for the good feature in Gozo Times, just in time for the Exhibition. *Die Melita* again covered us, thanks to a German member. In fact foreign members have been most supportive!

I will not bother you with details of correspondence, most of it routine. But I feel I should ask: "Why is Maltapost finding it so difficult to collaborate with us?" Our request for a commemorative handstamp was not accepted, the promised artwork was not provided for display during our Exhibition and (after last year's false spring) no items were offered to be used as gifts. We continue hoping! □

ANTOINE VASSALLO

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

**Lots of Stamps for Sale at a cheap price!!!**

**These include Poland, Canada, Germany, Czechoslovakia, etc.**

**Also available First Day Covers of Malta at ½ Catalogue price.**

**Those interested can contact Mr John Muscat on Tel No 21553875**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2004****(Updated to 15th January 2005)***prepared by Antoine Vassallo - Secretary Treasurer*

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>LM</b>
Membership Subscriptions	278.22
Exhibition applications	23.00
Donations*, NGO Grant & BOV Sponsorship	215.00
Newsletter Adverts	50.00
Sale of stamps and other philatelic material	239.30
Bank Net Interest	5.50
Opening Balance	<u>448.28</u>
	<b><u>1259.30</u></b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Printing of 4 Newsletters	388.00
Exhibition Vouchers and other expenses	108.00
Production of cards & purchase of other philatelic material	198.35
Postage and secretarial expenses	44.53
Exhibition stands extension	55.00
N/paper Licence, donation & NGO M/Ship	<u>40.00</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>833.88</u></b>
Bank Balance	416.70
Cash	<u>8.72</u>
<b>Balance as on 15th January 2005</b>	<b><u>425.42</u></b>

Other Society assets include:

- Exhibition stands.
- Publications (for reference and for issue on loan)
- Stamps & other philatelic material (for sale & as gifts)
- And a strong membership!

*\*(various donations in kind were also received from members)*

## Special Handstamp Cancellations Related To, And Stamped In Gozo

### Part 3

(George Vella)

This is a continuation of Parts 1 & 2 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.



20. [...] 7.12.04. 150 years of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, at BPO Victoria, Gozo.  
Designed by George Vella,  
30 x 35mm.



21. [...] Sunday 12.12.2004. Jum il-Munxar, at Munxar only as extension of BPO Victoria, Gozo, for 2 hours only.  
Design: normal metal datestamp, 27mm dia.



22. [...] 29.1.2005. 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of Fontana Parish Church, at BPO Victoria, Gozo.  
Designed by Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi, 30 x 45mm.

..... *about cancellations*

In Parts 1 and 2 we covered up to 19 such cancellations till 20 July 2004. Since then another three had been issued. Here one is to note that two of them are specially designed for the event, like all the others, while one of them is the official normal metal datestamp of the Victoria Branch Post Office (No 21). This was issued on Sunday 12th December 2004 just for two hours at the Munxar Local Council only as an extension of the Victoria Branch Post Office and not as a temporary branch post office. Though it is the normal datestamp it is quite rare because, being a Sunday, it was the only cancellation in Malta and Gozo to bear that date. Hence this cancellation, issued to celebrate “Jum il-Munxar” is to be included with the Gozitan cancellations.

We strongly recommend that these cancellations, that pertain to Gozo, should be collected right away because they shall become rarer in the future. Up to now only twenty two had been issued and one would find it more difficult to collect them when more are to be issued in the future.

It is worth to note that the following are already quite difficult to acquire:

1. [10] 20.9.1969 Philatelic Twinnage between Victoria and Trieste.
2. [270] 17.4.1990 GPS International Sports Festival.
4. [303] 1.8.1991 Merhba 91.
5. [350] 10.7.1993 Inkurunazzjoni tal-Kwadru Titulari Fontana.

(Lately I found out that handstamp No 5 [350] was designed by Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi). □

*Ref: Mr Anthony Fenech*

## **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 ?! (10)**

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

#### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**Cochinchine:** French territory in Indochina with separate stamps 1886-92 (later absorbed into Vietnam)

**COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS:** Australian islands with issues from 1963.

**COLOMBIA:** South American republic with issues from 1886 (formerly **Granada**). Also separate State issues: Antioquia, Bolivar, Boyaca, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Panama, Santander and Tolima.

**Columbia:** see British Columbia.

**COMOROS:** Islands in the Indian Ocean: French (**Grande Comore 1897-1923 and Archipel des Comores 1950-76**) and independent republic from 1976 (**'Etat Comorien and Comores**).

**Companhia de Mocambique** = Mozambique Company.

**Confederate States:** General Issues (separate from those of the Federal Union) during the 1861-5 US Civil War (also local provisionals).

**Confoederatio Helvetica** = Switzerland. →

**CONGO:**

- a. ***Etat Independent du Congo:*** 1886-1908 became **Belgian Congo (*Congo Belge*)** and independent republic in 1960; renamed ***Zaire*** 1971-97.
- b. **French Congo:** (***Congo Francais*** 1891-1907 and ***Moyen Congo*** {= **Middle Congo**} 1907-37 when included in French Equatorial Africa) independent republic in 1960.
- c. **Portuguese Congo:** territory north of the Congo river with issues 1894-1920 (now Cabinda).

**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE:** stamps for the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (France).

**Constantinopol:** (present Istanbul) Romanian PO 1919;

**Costantinipoli:** Italian PO 1908-23; other countries also had POs.

**Coo (*Cos*):** Aegean island with issues 1912-32 when occupied by Italy.

**COOK ISLANDS:** Pacific islands with issues from 1892.

**Cordoba:** Argentine local stamps 1858.

**Corfu:** Greek island in the Ionian with stamps in 1923 and (with Paxos) 1941 under Italian occupation.

**Corrientes:** Argentine local stamps 1856-8.

**Cos:** =Coo

**Costantinopoli:** Italian POs in Constantinople (now the Turkish capital Istanbul) 1909-10.

**COSTA RICA:** Central American republic with stamps from 1863. *(to be continued)*

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***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!)*

## *stamp terms used in PHILATELY (10)*

(Emanuel Vella)

**Frame:** That part of a stamp design that encloses the central portrait, vignette or motif.

**Front:** The address side of a postal letter.

**Fugitive Inks:** There are inks that are used for printing stamps to deter forgery and to make re-use impossible. They present a problem to the collector, for stamps thus printed have to be treated and stored with great care. Stamps with fugitive ink are easily damaged by rubbing and are also prone to fading. If allowed to become damp the colours run and ruin the stamp. Be watchful for coloured envelopes which have stamps on them. Most envelopes have fugitive inks, and if one is not careful he will ruin the stamps stuck on them.

**General Collection:** A collection that embraces stamps of many countries.

**Gibbons Stanley:** Stanley Gibbons Ltd of 391 Strand London, are the leading British stamp dealers and publishers. They have been dealing in stamps since 1856. The company is best known for its Stanley Gibbons catalogues, but it also publishes albums, books and magazines.

**Grease or Oil:** Grease or oil stains can often be removed by the use of a moderately warm domestic iron and white clean blotting paper. Benzine, petrol or carbon



tetracholoide are also grease and oil solvents and can be used, but not on photogravure printed stamps.

**Green Label:** Small, imperforated, white, oblong label printed in green with a diagonal cross (Saltire) use as a priority identification on mail from Great Britain to Malta for service personnel, during the 1941-42 siege. Each man was provided with one per week, to enclose letters, for use to identify replies from the U.K. There was also one for civilian use. (Phil. Advisor July 1947)

**Grill or Grille:** A symmetrical pattern of cross lines forming rectangles, squares or diamonds. The term has three philatelic applications and meanings;

- A. The faint pattern of squares printed on to an album page or sheet to assist symmetrical arrangements of the mounted stamps.
- B. The security embossing - cutting die employed by the U.S. Post Office on its issues of 1867-71.
- C. The diamond shaped (and continuous) cancellations used on the stamps of France 1849-51 and known as a “grille” canceller.  
Quadrille’ paper (q.v.) is sometimes known as grill paper on account of its characteristic pattern.

**Guide - dot or line:** Placed on a plate about to be engraved, or to which transfers are to be applied, to ensure the correct alignment. Normally they are removed after the plate is finished. When forgotten they form minor varieties.

*(to be continued)*

## *Script by Script (10)*

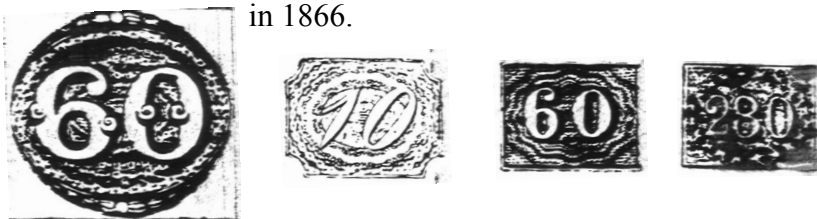
*(Antoine Vassallo)*

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

At first many issuers felt no need to inscribe their name on their stamps - they were really just receipts for paid postage!

Here are a couple of examples from South America:

- **Brazil** issued her first stamps in 1843; the famous “bull’s eyes”. The simple “design” was prepared by de Azevedo and de Faria; printing was at the Rio Mint. Further numeral designs (and without country identification) continued appearing until pictorials showing Emperor Dom Pedro II were issued in 1866.



- **Uruguay’s** first stamps (“Mail Coach”) were issued from 1856 for use on the service operated by Atanasio Lapido, also appointed Post Administrator. Later ones, though government issues, still did not state “Uruguay” but “Montevideo” - the capital. These are often called “Suns”, obviously because they show a chubby face surrounded by rays. Interestingly, at first the value was



## **QUIZ COMPETITION**

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

- i) Which post issued the first stamps with crystal gems embedded in them?
- ii) What was the date and how many stamps were issued?
- iii) Name the first adhesive stamp issued.
- iv) Who was the man behind all this?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 31st March 2005 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.

### **PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULT**

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No. 18 are as follows:

- i) 28.04.1976.
- ii) 21st Olympic Games; Waterpolo, Sailing & Athletics.
- iii) Garsten.
- iv) Garsten and Kristkindle.

### **PRIZE WINNER:**

GPS Prize Winner of First Day Cover of Malta:  
Mario Mallia of 27 Assumption Square,  
Zebbug Gozo GRB 103 (Member No. 195 )

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**

## **E & O not E (5)**

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

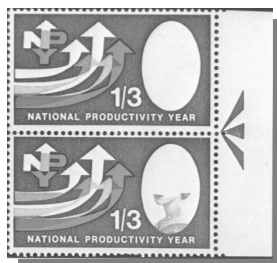
Since it is my intention in this series to alternate between printing and design errors, today I revert to Great Britain to treat “missing colours”.

Before 1960 all British commemoratives had been printed in single colours. And missing colours began cropping up immediately after!

A most spectacular error (“missing Queen”) occurred on the 3d of the 1962 National Productivity Year set. The sheet was printed in violet only and so the Queen’s portrait in light blue did not appear.

Something similar occurred in the 1s3d of the same set. A US serviceman at the Northolt airbase bought some at a Harrow post office and noticed that the corner pair were different. The light blue was again missing, leaving the stamp in just carmine and green. A few other examples were found a little later.

Obviously, I do not think I will ever include these in my collection: they are priced in four figures! □



*Our readers are encouraged to submit their own suggestions for future Newsletters.*

## Australian MALTA (4)

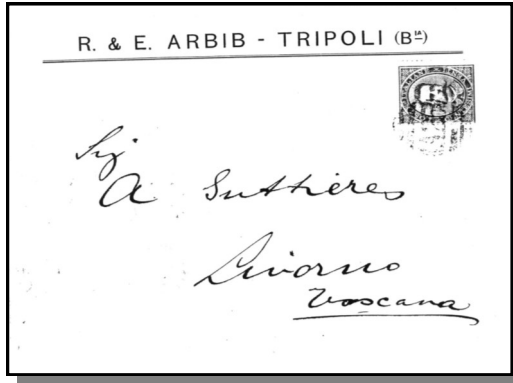
*John Vassallo, who lives in Australia, offers glimpses of his Malta Collection.*

Italian 20c stamp from 1879 used on a letter from Tripoli to Livorno in 1892 but cancelled in Malta. Also this interesting numerical mark is on the back.



Numerical  
Mark

This mark is similar to a postman's handstamp (presumably Italian since the date/type combination is incompatible with Maltese use).



The quarantine facilities available in Malta increased the importance of the port and by the middle of the nineteenth century several companies operating packet boats and many merchant ships carrying letters either posted at a previous port or on board called at the island. These vessels would have come from a number of countries around the Mediterranean and the letters they carried were franked with their stamps and cancelled with the "A25" obliterator. □

## FAMOUS STAMPS

*(Emanuel Vella)*



In issue No. 16, I wrote about the Penny Black which was the first adhesive postage stamp issued. But one may ask, how did Great Britain decide to issue this stamp ? Why did the world decide to adopt the idea of Rowland Hill to issue adhesive small pictures to fix on letters ?

Well Rowland Hill was a man of exceptional ability. At the age of forty he became interested in postal affairs. His investigation into the working of the British postal system revealed that despite the growth of population and people moving more from place to place, its revenue showed no tendency to increase and he became convinced that the high postal rates had the effect of reducing correspondence to a minimum. In addition many letters passing through the post were not subject to postage; these letters were being franked by members of parliament and others who enjoyed the privilege of free postage. This privilege was widely abused, and it was normal for members of parliament to augment this income by agreeing to frank the correspondence of some commercial companies.

Rowland Hill began to study and research how much it cost the Post Office to carry letters. He took the example of carrying a letter from London to Edinburgh - Scotland. He computed that the daily charge for the mail coach was £5, and that the average mail each day was 6 cwt. (about 450 kilos). So if the average weight of a letter was one fourth ounce, the cost of transmitting a letter over four hundred miles was 1/36 of a

penny. Actually Rowland Hill calculations erred on the side of generosity - the cost was much less. Yet the charge for a single sheet letter from London to Edinburgh was over a shilling and double the amount if there were two sheets.

Rowland Hill showed that high postage gave rise to many negative attitudes. He urged that the rates should be reckoned by weight not distance. Also he advocated the abolition of the franking privilege.

In January 1837 he published a pamphlet called *Post Office Reform - Its Importance and Practicability*. Later other editions appeared. There were a lot of opposition to his scheme and bitter and long were the arguments until on 17th August 1839 the Royal Assent was given to the Penny Postage Bill.

This Bill gave power to the Lords of the Treasury to suspend or abolish the privilege of franking; to fix the rate of postage; to order that letters enclosed in stamped covers or having a stamp affixed should pass through the post free of postage and among other things to make regulations as to the provision of the stamps.

On 14th September 1839, Rowland Hill was appointed to the Treasury, and Henry Cole, who was an enthusiastic supporter of Hill became his assistant.

Although a competition was held for suggestions and designs of stamps the general outline of the design seemed to have been suggested by Hill. The finished product was the result of collaborative work between him, William Wyon, Henry Corbould, Charles and Frederick Heath, as well as Perkins, Bacon and Petch the printers. As early as 4th December 1839

he was authorised to communicate with artists with a view of submitting a design and also a die. Probably the head of Queen Victoria from the Guildhall Medal - embossed by Wyon - was used for the adhesive stamps.

The die was finished before the middle of January 1840. Charles Heath was responsible for the engraving but because of his failing eyesight his son Frederick did the actual engraving under his father's supervision. When printed the background was found to be too light and the head engraved not deep enough, so it was decided to make a new die.

By the end of January it was decided that the word "Postage" should appear at the top and the value in words at the foot. As an additional protection against forgery, it was suggested to incorporate small check letters in the design. The letters were all different in the sheet. Besides eleven different plates were used for the 1d stamp. Specimens from the different plates can be distinguished principally by the position of the check-letters, which of course, vary minutely on each plate. □

**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.**

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**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.**



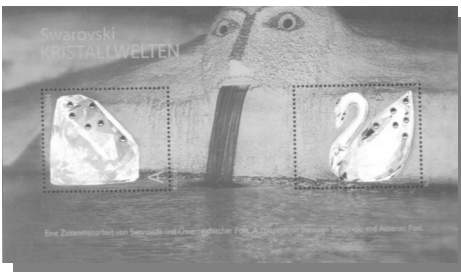
## THE SWAROVSKI-CRYSTAL STAMPS

*(Hans Katzensteiner)*

On the 20th September 2004, the Austrian Post A.G. in collaboration with the world famous Swarovski Kristal Co. of Austria produced and issued the first stamps with crystal gems embedded in them. This kind of stamps were the first ever produced and they had a great impact on philately the world over. The two stamps were issued as a miniature sheet with a simple design in tints of blue.

A group of twelve specialists were employed by the Austrian Government to undertake this ambitious task. In a limited time of six months these specialists had to glue 10 million Crystals prepared by Swarovski, on 800,000 blocks of stamps. All crystals were glued and pressed into the paper with the help of a template. This process was done at a temperature of 110 degrees Centigrade and at an exact time of 12 seconds per miniature sheet.

The result was something incredibly beautiful in appearance. It is impossible to describe in words or by just looking at a photograph. One has to see the real thing and to preferably hold the stamps to evaluate the work and beauty of this philatelic modern masterpiece.



“With this technology we have reached the technological Olymp,” was the statement given by Mr Erich Haas, the Philatelic Director of Austria. “The success of the first Crystal Stamps

means that we are investing more in new technology, and the next surprise for stamp collectors will be coming out soon!” he promised. □

*Source: Die Briefmarke Post und Philatelie Osterreich.*

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

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

*(continued from Newsletter No 18)*

**K is for KNIGHTS OF MALTA - Continued**

- Auberge de Castille **2½d** Defs **1956**; **3s** Architecture **1967**.
- Auberge de Provence **25c** Buildings **1992**.
- Verdala Palace **1d** (and changed colour) KG6 Defs **1938, 1943, 1948** and **1953**.
- De Redin tower **25c** Europa **1979**.
- The "Maltese Cross" (which is in fact the Order's symbol) has been included in innumerable designs, including the **1925-70** pre-decimal Dues and **2m** Coinage **1972**.



**GRAND MASTERS**

- Philippe Villiers de L'Isle Adam **2½d** (and changed colour) KG6 Defs **1938, 1943, 1948** and **1953**; **6c** SMOM **1999**.
- Jean Parisot de La Valette **6d** Siege **1962**; **2d** Valletta **1966**; Centenary set **1968**; **16c** SMOM **1999**.
- Nicolas Cotoner **2d** Doctors **1964**; **2c** Surgery School **1967**; Monument **2/6d** QE2 Defs **1956**; **7c** Europa **1978**.
- Ramon Perellos y Roccaful **50c** (MS) Tapestries **1980**; Monument **5/-** QE2 Defs **25c** Europa **1978**.
- Antonio Manoel de Vilhena **6d** KG6 Defs **1938** and **1948**; **75c** Letterboxes **2004**.



**1 9 5 6 ;**



- Manoel Pinto de Fonseca **2/- Commemorations 1969.**
- Ferdinand von Hompesch **MS Cities 1997; 6c Historic 1998.**  
see **C M N P W**

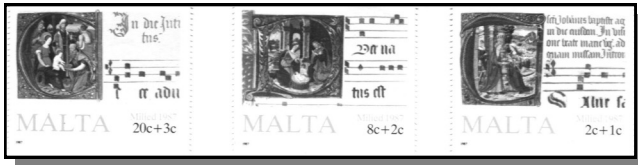
**L is for LITURGY**

Liturgy is of course organized public worship and so I can include here:

- 15th century Book of Hours - 3-value Christmas set **1983.**



- Illuminated Choral books - 3-value Christmas set **1987.**



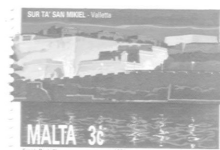
- Eucharistic Monstrance **5c Europa 1974.**
- *Corpus Christi* feast **2c Tapestries 1980.**
- Good Friday Pageants or Processions **10c Folklore 1976.**
- *Hadd in-Nies* (“the People’s Sunday”) is the occasion for a major penitential pilgrimage led by the Archbishop **15c Festivals 2004.**  
see **E F I J U Y**



**M is for MONUMENTS AND BUILDINGS**

Many buildings have a “religious” name without necessarily having a “religious” use!

- Pope John XXIII Peace Laboratory **8c** International Peace Year **1986**.
- St Luke's Hospital **6d** Doctors **1964**.
- San Anton Palace **5c** Child Welfare **1996**.
- Fort St Angelo  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (and changed colour) in the **1938**, **1943** and **1948** KGVI Defs; **25c** Architecture **1975**; **30c** Europa **1983**; **8c** Republic **1984**; **2c** SMOM **1999**; **16c** Architecture **2003**.
- Fort St Elmo (*Sant Jiermu*) - **pence values** Melita sets (background) **1922-6**; **1/-** Siege **1962**; **12c** Monuments **1980**; **1c** Architecture **2003**; **6c** Lighthouses **2001**.
- Fort St Michael **2d** Siege **1966**.
- St Michael's Bastion **3c** Defs **1991**.
- *Is-Sur ta' San Mikiel* (St Michael Bastion) **11c** Windmills **2003**.  
see **C K N Z Y**



### **N is for NON-ADHESIVES**

Innumerable productions (such as cards and covers) exist with a religious theme but I limit my reference to official items:

- Stamp Booklets** (covers have illustrations connected with our theme) e.g. **5/- (1971)** Fort St Angelo.



(to be continued)

# SWEET SENSATIONS

Confectionery

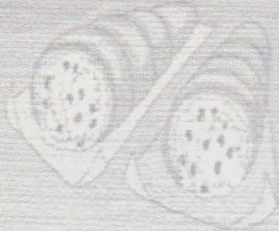
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Qala, Gozo.

Tel: 2156 5663

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*Jesmond & Maryanne Borg*



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We have for sale at very low prices the following items:

- **Malta and Great Britain Stamps.**
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*Anyone interested can contact*

**Mr Jesmond Borg**

**55 St Joseph Square Qala Gozo**

**Tel Nos: 21565663 and 21552277**

## **FOR SALE**

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

**Millenium hand stamped cards (8).** (*Set ta' 8  
kartolini ttimbrati bl-aħħar timbru tal-millenju  
waħda ghal kull posta f'Ghawdex*) **Lm2.00c**

A commemorative Registered Cover from  
Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two  
Gozitan Patriots namely:-  
Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. **Lm2.00c**

A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi  
Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of  
the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. **Lm1.00c**

Malta Stamp Album in 3 Volumes with spaces  
for every stamp to date. **Lm20.00c**

Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3  
catalogue price.

***Those interested may contact:***

**Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338**

## **FOR SALE**

- Card to commemorate the 200th Anniversary Of The Blessing Of Nadur Parish Church. Cancelled with a Commemorative Special Hand Stamp at Nadur Gozo Sub Post Office. Individually hand coloured and limited edition of 75. **Lm0.25c**
- Cover to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the death of the Gozitan Artist - Painter and Sculpturer Wistin Camilleri. This cover shows the tomb monument of the artist and a piece of his sculpture found at Ta' Pinu Church. Limited edition of 50. **Lm0.25c**
- Card to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp used only at the Victoria Gozo BPO. Limited edition of 100. **Lm0.50c**
- Card to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of Fontana Parish Church cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp. Limited edition of 50. **Lm0.50c**
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***Those interested may contact:***

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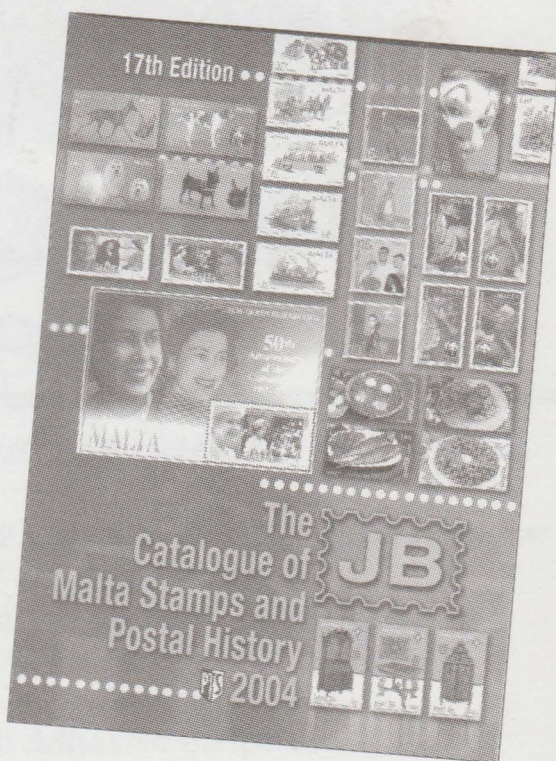
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