

October—December
No. 74— 2018
www.stamps-gozo.org



*From the President and Committee
Gozo Philatelic Society*



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The advertisement is framed by a double red border. At the top, a black-bordered box contains the text 'Shop from Sicily with SendOn' in a mix of black, yellow, and red fonts. Below this, a red Malta Post truck is shown driving on a red road that curves around a yellow map of Sicily. The truck's side features the 'malta post' logo.

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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999
for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.
Front cover; GPS 19 ANNUAL EXHIBITION COMMEMORATIVE CARD

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 74 (4/2018)

Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the Committee’s official policy.

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The Year is almost up
Please remember to
pay your membership
fee.
Your Society needs
you

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

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
VO/0546



21 September 2018 Invited by the Qala Local Council, GPS sets up exhibit during their annual International Folklore Festival.

6 October Anthony Grech prepares Card for handstamp on *Il-Ħajja f'Għawdex*'s thousandth number (in collaboration with its administration).

12 October Four Committee members have meeting with high Curia administrative officers about the way forward for the philatelic venture.

17 October Committee makes final preparations for Exhibition and discusses philatelic relationship with GDH.

22-25 October GPS (and individual members) participate in Maltex in Valletta.

October (#241) issue of "MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER – Journal of the Maltese Diaspora" published in Australia features the GPS Exhibition and Covers.

30 October setting-up of Exhibition begun

2 November Anthony Grech produces Exhibition Card, using handstamp issued by MaltaPost

2 November Exhibition opening

3 November Exhibition judging

9 November Exhibition dismantling

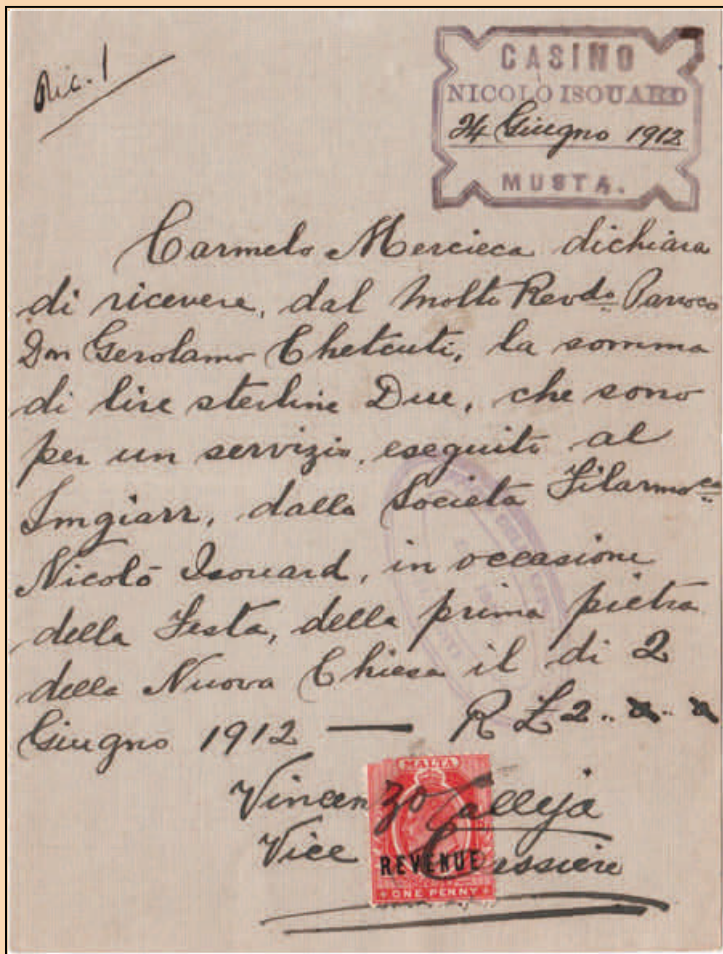
14 November Committee confirms exhibition results and discusses use of new Main Gate Street HQ.

16 November Anthony Grech prepares Card for Xagħra *Bambin* stamp

19 November Il-Ħaġar exhibit changed to a Christmas theme (in the Gozo Ministry *Milied f'Għawdex* scheme).

1 December Anthony Grech uses *Milied f'Għawdex* handstamp for a Christmas Card sent free to all GPS members, as has become a welcomed custom





First Stone
of Mgarr
Malta Parish
Church
HISTORIC
FISCAL
RECIPT

Anthony Grech

The people of Mgarr, Malta had for a long time requesting that their small church should become a parish. This wish was granted in 1898. In 1912 the

first stone of a new church was laid. When the new church which was built around the old one was completed the old one was dismantled. The first stone for the new church was laid on 2 June 1912. Nicolo Isourad Band of Mosta was invited to take part in the festivities organised for the occasion.

From a fiscal receipt dated 25 June 1912 Carmelo Mercieca on the band's behalf received £2.0.0 for its services from the parish priest of Mgarr, Don Gerolomo Chetcuti. The receipt was signed by Vincenzo Calleja, vice treasurer of the band.

This is one from a fine collection of receipts in connection with the building of the 'new' parish church of Mgarr, Malta, donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society by Mr. Wolfgang Junker of Germany. Other receipts are for material, objects and services rendered.

The Gozo Boat on Malta Stamps

(*Dgħajsa tal-Latini*)

Mark Anthony Poulton



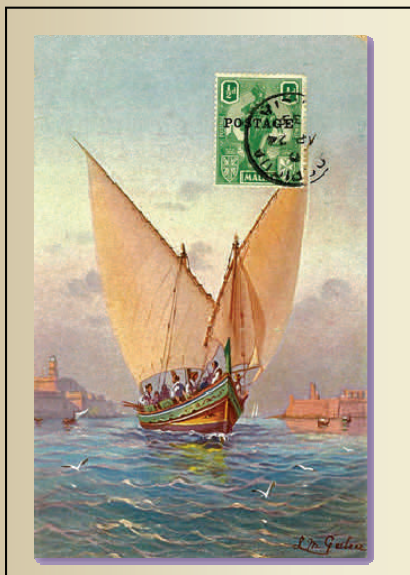
The Gozo boat was also known as *tal-latini*, *dgħajsa tat-tagħbija* or *tal-pass*, but the earliest references, refer to it as *tal-madia* or *tal-moghħdija*. During the 18th century its name was *speronara del Gozo* or *barca del Gozo*. Up to the 1880s, when the boat retained the sail arrangement of a *xprunara* and carried a *xprun* at the bows, it was denoted as such; when it changed into a lateen rig it was called *tal-Latini*. Strictly speaking that was a misnomer as the sails were a settee rig and not a proper lateen rig.

The construction of the Gozo boat followed the Maltese type of boat building techniques. No plans were required and the Caruana brothers of Kalkara worked from

family moulds with the last Caruana boat builders moving to Mġarr, Gozo in 1940. Occasionally, such boats were laid on green heart keels with most of the framework in oak and planking in red deal. They were strongly built and were expected to last a lifetime.

The Gozo boat was painted in the traditional colours including shades of green, blue, red and yellow. As with most boats, the fore *mustaċċ* was decorated with the 'eye' of Horus. A Gozo Boat painted in black was kept for the conveyance of corpses between the two islands. When a *mustaċċ* was painted black it denoted mourning for a dead *padrun*; this was normally retained for a year.

These boats maintained a vital link between Malta and Gozo. There was a regular movement of agricultural products and manufactured goods between the two islands. Boatloads of fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs and poultry were much in demand in Malta, and Gozo depended on these exports. These boats also provided a shuttle service for sea passenger between the Marfa area and Mġarr, Gozo, occasionally carrying passengers from Mġarr, Gozo, to St. Paul's Bay. With the introduction of a regular



Mr. L.M. Galea's Painting Series of Post Cards. Entitled *Gozo Boat, Malta* (Post card no. 11). Published by Germano Galea, Valletta Malta

daily service between the islands employing larger boats the service of the *tal-Latini* became redundant.



Mr. L.M. Galea's Painting Series of Post Cards. Entitled 'Moon light view of Fort St. Elmo' Malta (Post card no. 6). Published by John Critien, Valletta Malta



Queen Victoria

Pre-paid postage stamps on mail became compulsory in 1858, and Great Britain stamps were used up until 1860. In December 1860, Malta had its first stamp issued depicting the image of Queen Victoria in yellow, with a face value of half a penny.



It took nearly another forty years until the first Maltese related images were engraved on stamps. In 1899 four pictorial stamps were issued and the 4½d stamp depicted the Gozo boat.

The 4½d stamp is said to have been designed by a patriotic post office clerk. In March 1898 the design was approved by the Malta Government and 120,000 stamps were printed at De La Rue.

This issue printed on the Single Crown CA paper was issued on 4th February 1899, and is known in two shades – grey-brown and black brown, with perforation gauge 14 x 13¼. The 4½d stamps were printed in sheets of 120 stamps made up of two panes, each of sixty stamps. Being a vertical design, each pane was in 10 horizontal rows of 6 stamps per pane, the panes being side by side.



Registered cover 21 November 1901 Sent from Malta to Catania, franked by 4½d stamp tied by A25 Duplex (GPO Valletta) Handstamped with oval 'R' and an oval date registration postmark.



King Edward VII

The stamp was re-issued as part of King Edward VII definitive set on 27th February 1905 printed in brown, on Multiple Crown CA paper and with perforation gauge 14 x 13¾.



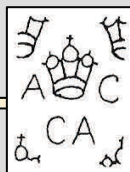
The same image was again used on a stamp issued during 1911 this time printed in yellow-orange, still on Multiple Crown CA paper but with perforation gauge 14. Though said to be issued in 1911 the earliest documented date of use is 2nd August 1921 ("Stamp Collecting", 19th February 1921).



Registered cover 1916 (Sept. 22nd). Malta (Sliema) to Morocco (Rabat) via France, franked by 4½d (1911) stamp, tied with "Sliema B.O. - Malta" cds..... Hand stamped PASSED BY CENSOR No- 4175 in red. Registration label Sliema (Malta) No. 634. With wax sealed OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW label.



Verso stamped with:
REGISTERED - LONDON
 E.C.
 28 SP 16 ;
REGISTERED - BRITISH P.O. TAN-
GER 9 OC 16 ;
BRITISH POST OFFICE RABAT
 11 OC 16.



King George V The Melita Issue 1922-26

In 1922 a new set of definite stamps was designed by Maltese artist Edward Caruana Dingli. The pound and pence values in this set feature "Melita" - a helmeted emblematic figure of Malta supporting a rudder with her right hand. In the seascape background, the artist depicted the lighthouse of St. Elmo and a small image of the Gozo boat (Dghajsa tal Latini). A Union Jack shield occupies the right hand bottom corner with a Maltese Cross shield on the opposite

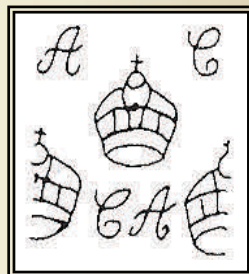
side.

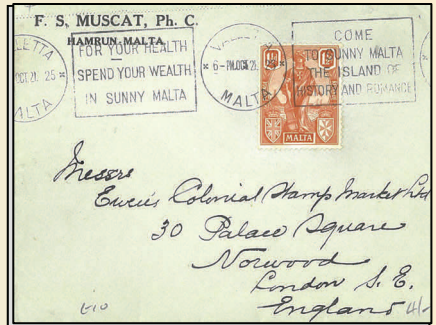
The printing of these stamps was done in typography, by De La Rue on chalk surfaced paper with Multiple Crown and Script CA watermark. The pence values have sideways watermarks, while the £1 can be found with both sideways and upright watermarks. The ¼d to 6d values were printed in sheets of 160 consisting of two panes of 8 rows of ten, while the £1 was printed in one pane of 4 rows of 10. Each stamp measures 30mm by 25mm, with perforation 14.2 horizontally, and 14 vertically



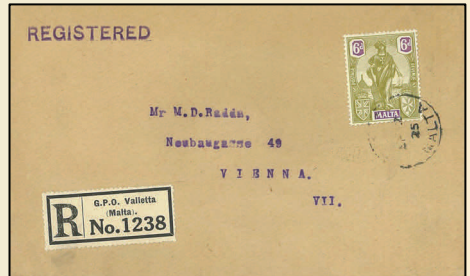
Value	Colour	Date of issue
¼d	brown	22/8/22
¼d	chocolate brown	25/4/24
½d	green	1/8/22
1d	orange & purple	1/8/22
1d	bright violet	25/4/24
1½d	brown red	1/10/23
2d	bistre brown & turquoise	28/8/22
2½d	ultramarine	16/2/26
3d	cobalt	28/8/22
3d	bright ultramarine	16/2/26
3d	black & yellow	28/8/22
4d	yellow & bright blue	25/4/24
6d	olive green & violet	1/8/22
£1	black & carmine red	28/8/22
£1	black & bright carmine	14/5/25

The 'Melita' stamps were issued on different dates, according to the need, with multiple prints of the smaller values, thus the variation in colour shades.



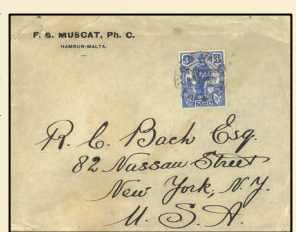
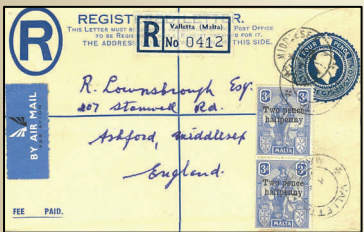


'MELITA'
Stamps used
on letters
registered mail
and postal card.



Overprinted "Two Pence Half Penny"

Due to the reduction of the foreign letter rate, the 3d stamp was overprinted "Two pence Halfpenny" (in two lines). This surcharge was overprinted in black by the Malta Government Printing Office. These stamps were issued two times, on the 3rd December 1925 on the co-balt version and on the 23rd December 1925 on the ultramarine version. The stamps were withdrawn on the 13th February 1926.



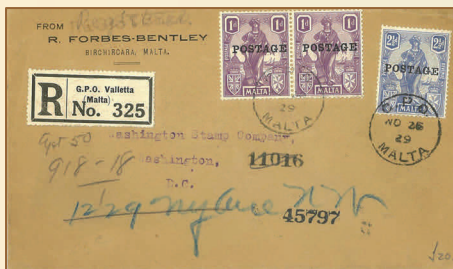
Overprinted "POSTAGE"

In 1926 it was decided that separate revenue stamps should be issued and the Melita Set inscribed 'Postage-Revenue' was defaced with the word "POSTAGE" making the stamps valid for postal use only.

The overprinted stamps were issued on the 1st April. The printing was done using typeface serif capitals in black at the Malta Government Printing Office. These stamps were believed to be only for sale for a week and most of them were bought by collectors and dealers, with some of the values sold out within hours. The exact amount overprinted is not known and there are a lot of varieties in the overprinting of these stamps. This issue's unpopularity can be seen in letters published in the local press and in the philatelic press.



Covers franked with different 'Melita' over printed 'POSTAGE' stamps



Inverted overprinting 'POSTAGE' - Error or not?



One of the most well-known varieties of Malta stamps is the inverted overprinting 'POSTAGE' on the 3d 'Melita' stamp. Though nothing was proven, there is a possibility that this so called 'Error' might have been done for speculation purpose.



King George V

1926-27 - Inscribed "POSTAGE"

A set of 17 definitive stamps inscribed "POSTAGE" was issued between 1926-27 depicting a mixture of portraits and pictures. The stamps were designed by John Harrison and printed by Waterlow & Sons, on arabic gummed, Multiple Crown Script CA watermarked paper. The 1/- stamp depicts the Gozo boat in the grand harbour, Valletta, with the bastions of Senglea in the background. The Gozo boat in full sail can be seen in the 2/6 stamp with the words "GOZO BOAT" inscribed at the bottom. Both stamps were printed in sheets of 80. The horizontal 1s stamp was printed in 10 rows of 8, while the 2/6 portrait stamp was printed in 8 rows of 10, and in both cases perforated with gauge 12.5 (line).



1928 Overprinted "POSTAGE & REVENUE"

After the reversal of the 1926 decision of the government to have separate stamps for postage and revenues in 1928, it was decided

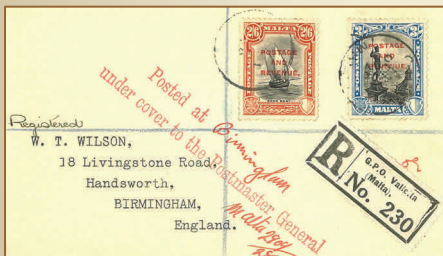


to stop printing revenue stamps and to allow postage stamps to be used on revenue documents. This decision necessitated the overprinting of all the existing supplies of definitive postage stamps with "POSTAGE AND REVENUE". Subsequently the 1926, 2/6 stamp and the 1s stamp were



overprinted. The overprinting was done at the Government Printing Office, Valletta, on three

lines, in red ink, using 'Sans serified capitals'. Even though both stamps have no variation in shades throughout this series, as in past overprinted issues, there are a lot of overprinting varieties.





1930 - Inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE"



On the 20th October 1930 the new set Inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE" was put on sale. The motif on both the 1/- and 2/6 stamps, remained the same, but the left hand side 'POSTAGE' was substituted with 'REVENUE'

2002 - Christmas issue

A set of five stamps designed by Debbie Caruana Dingli was issued on the 20th of November for Christmas. The 75c stamp being the higher denomination of the set features an illustration of characters from the nativity on board a Gozo Boat.



2011 - 90th anniversary of the Malta Senate and the Legislative Assembly

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Malta Senate and the Legislative Assembly, Maltapost issued a miniature sheet designed by Joseph Said on the 2nd December 2011. The image on the €4.16 stamp is a reproduction of the 1922, £1 Melita stamp. An early 20th century picture of the Grandmasters' Palace was used by the designer as background to this stamp.



GPS Exhibition 2-9 November 2018

Mary Grace Xerri

At the official opening of this year's Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition at the Gozo Ministry Halls, various developments were announced. Those present were so interested that they continued to comment during the reception. Unfortunately Gozo Minister Justyne Caruana had an accident a few hours earlier and so could not lead the ceremony.

The Society has finally acquired its own premises: this will allow members to more easily peruse its library. Besides offering comfortable space for the committee, the new location (in Victoria's Main Gate Street) will become the home of the Melitensia collection donated by Wolfgang Juncker.

Two other interesting news items for stampcollectors - through the collaboration between the GPS and GDH - were work on an updated Malta stamp catalogue and preparations for a stampshop in Gozo. In the meantime, a vast range of local and foreign stamps and covers, philatelic accessories (albums, leaves, strips and catalogues), viewcards and telecards are available at bargain prices.

The Exhibition as usual offered the opportunity for young and old to display a range of exhibits in the Traditional, Social Philately and Postal History classes. The variety of items on show included rare old and modern stamps, both Maltese and foreign, hand painted first day covers, vintage postal history, old mailed Gozitan newspapers, Gozo's villages and related stamps, last year's set of Santa Marija stamps (with the signatures of the ten parish priests and the relative parish office handstamps) and a detailed philatelic look at the Gozo Boat. The GPS editorial board decided to publish this last item in two parts (part 1 is on page 6) due to its accurate and researched information.

The total exceeded twenty but the George Vella Trophy was awarded to Jesmond Borg. However all exhibitors will be getting certificates and gifts, thanks to MaltaPost's sponsorship, at our AGM. One of those who signed the Visitor's Book, drawn by lot, will also receive a prize then.

This Exhibition was surely a success, even as regards the level of exhibits – including the Juniors who offered interesting material. According to comments received, this was “one of the best”!

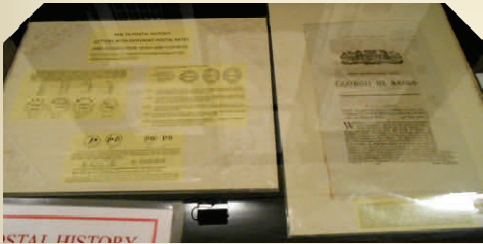
Thanks are due to all those who helped, including Samuel Parnis and Carmel Navarro who formed the Jury: they awarded marks (on Saturday morning) according to schemes introduced positively at last year's exhibition. I feel I should mention the support received from Minister Justyne Caruana and the Exhibition Hall personnel – but our President Louis Bonello and the setters-up Anthony Grech and Frankie Vella cannot be ignored! Moreover no exhibition can exist without exhibitors and visitors – we are obviously grateful to those too.

As usual the GPS issued a commemorative postcard in a limited edition of 100, franked with a personalized stamp and postmarked with the special handstamp issued by Malta-Post from the Victoria Post Office. Postmark, card and personalised stamp were all designed by our Anthony Grech.

The postmark includes the GPS logo which was designed by Anthony Grech himself, way back in 1999 when the society was born. The personalized stamp shows a litho-



graph of Mgarr Harbour as it looked in the 30's, while the post-card depicts a water colour painting of a Gozo fishing boat arriving after a day at sea.



Small selection of items on show





REMBRANDT'S ARTISTIC PHILATELY towards the 350th death anniversary (4) Antoine Vassallo

A similar set to that mentioned as the last item (in #73) was issued concurrently by the **Grenadines of Grenada**, with a stamp reproducing one of Rembrandt's best-known works: "Aristotle with a Bust of Homer". This 1653 Oil on canvas (144 x 137 cm), now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, was painted for his only foreign patron - who had asked for a portrait of a philosopher. Don Antonio Ruffo, a wealthy Sicilian nobleman, received the imaginary portrait and paid 500 gulden.

Rather than choose a single figure, the inventive artist found a way to present three of the great men of antiquity: Aristotle, Homer, and Alexander the Great. Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher of the fourth century BC, is shown in his library dressed in the robes of a Renaissance humanist, resting his hand on a bust of Homer and wearing a chain with an Alexander the Great medallion. This last leader had been Aristotle's pupil.

The figure of Homer was based on one of the Hellenistic busts owned by Rembrandt but Aristotle reminds us of his portraits of the Amsterdam Jews in his biblical paintings. The solemn stillness of the study, the eloquence of the fingers resting on the bust of the blind poet, and the brooding mystery in his face surely communicate an image of deep thought.

The dubious issues by **Guinea** include a 2014 miniature sheet celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg), with a stamp showing part of a 1634 painting. "Saskia as Flora" is a 125 x 101 cm Oil on canvas (but transferred to a new canvas) with the probable model being Rembrandt's brand-new bride, Saskia van Uylenburgh. She portrays a charming Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, springtime and fertility - here crowned with flowers and dressed in a costly gown (which seems oriental). Saskia's floral finery includes a red tulip, costly and popular then.

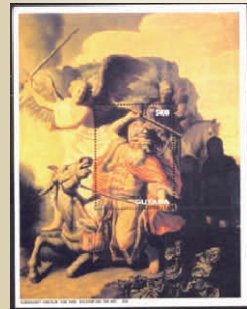


One of the miniature sheets in a 2004 issue by **Guyana** honouring Rembrandt showed "Balaam's Ass" from the *Musée Cognacq-Jay* in Paris. This 1626 - and thus early - Oil on panel, 63 x 47 cm in size, is obviously derived from a similar work by Pieter Lastman (under whom he studied). The biblical story represented here can be found in chapter 22 of the Book of Numbers. The king of Moab, alarmed by the arrival of the Israelites in the Jordan valley, sent for Balaam to pronounce a curse on them. An angel barred the way, causing his ass to turn aside and resulting in an altercation between the man and his beast in which the animal acquired the gift of speech. The vision of the angel finally led to four oracles by



Balaam which are, in fact, blessings.

A set of assorted paintings issued by **Haiti** in 1971 included a reproduction of “Man in Oriental Costume”. This 72 x 55 cm Oil on panel dating from 1635 is at Amsterdam’s *Rijksmuseum*.



The **Ivory Coast** issued four reproductions of Rembrandt paintings (also as a se-tenant block within a miniature sheet) in a 2003 celebration of “Middle Ages Art”. One showed Lucretia, the wife of Lucius Tarquinius Collatinus, committing suicide as related by Livy.

In this 1666 Oil on canvas (105 x 93 cm) from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Rembrandt robed her to the neck in fine clothes, like the noblewoman she was. She has already driven the dagger in and pulled it out - blood seeps through her dress. Although her body remains upright, she lurches sideways and her face has the pallour of approaching death.

The People’s Democratic Republic of **Korea** (more simply, North Korea) issued its first Rembrandt stamps in 1981 - for his 375th birth anniversary. These portraits included “Young Girl Leaning on the Windowsill”, a 1645 Oil on canvas (82 x 66 cm) from London’s Dulwich Picture Gallery.



This painting of Rembrandt's maid exhibits a freedom from tension quite rare in his works. This is Rembrandt, in mid-career, revealing himself at his most relaxed and beguiling: in a moment of ease, he shows fresh-faced girlhood. The figure is as richly modelled as any in the artist's earlier work, but the handling is now broader and the treatment as a whole more atmospheric.



E & O not E (48)

*glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes
(well-known or obscure)*

Antoine Vassallo

I present this time a small assortment of USA Christmas stamps with missing colours. Such errors occur quite frequently on multicoloured stamps when huge numbers are printed; however I am not claiming that I do possess these (sometimes rare) examples! Not being a specialist, I will not refer to any specific shade.

The 1968 issue, designed by RJ James, showed a detail (the Archangel Gabriel) from Jan Van Eyck's "Annunciation". This oil, from about 1435, is housed in Washington's National Gallery of Art (like all the "Old Masters" - bar one - I've chosen). Yellow is missing.



US Christmas stamps tend to alternate between "religious" and "holiday" themes; thus the next year offered a "Winter Sunday" (by an uncertain artist) which provided a number of missing colours.

The 1970 set included a reproduction of Lorenzo Lotto's 1523 "Nativity", an oil on wood.

Black was the missing colour this time.



1971 provided an impressive missing gold on a detail (by B Thompson) from "Adoration of the Shepherds" painted in oils by Giorgio Barbarelli (or Giorgio da Castelfranco and, popularly, Giorgione) in the first decade of the sixteenth century.



1971 provided an impressive missing gold on a detail (by B Thompson) from "Adoration of the Shepherds" painted in oils by Giorgio Barbarelli (or Giorgio da Castelfranco and, popularly, Giorgione) in the first decade of the sixteenth century.

A further exhibit was chosen in 1989, adapted (by a trio made up of B Thompson, T Hipschen and G Slaght) from





Annibale Carracci’s “Dream of Saint Catherine of Alexandria” - an oil from just before the beginning of the seventeenth century. Red is missing on this occasion. This set also included a “gifting” stamp designed by S Dohanos, which loses much through the missing red.



The 1991 set, priced at 29 cents, had no value indicated. The 1989 trio adapted a detail from Antoniazio Romano’s “Virgin and Child with Donor”. This tempera and gold from about 1480 is housed in Houston’s Museum of Fine Arts - the exception to my National Gallery “rule”). I show a spectacular black and red omission .



The final example is a 1995 “valueless” stamp because black went AWOL! It shows Giotto’s “Enthroned Madonna and Child”, a tempera from the first half of the fourteenth century.

Wishing All Our Members and Families A Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
From the Editor and Editorial Board

MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (28)

Antoine Vassallo

Following World War II, European decolonization led to the birth of new



nations throughout the world. Developing governments required aid also in the operation of the post and in the production, distribution, and marketing of postage stamps. The Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) was founded by Dr. Manfred Lehman, who recognized this need and sought to become a one-stop postal and philatelic agent to these emerging nations.

IGPC's first client was the west African Ghana in 1957 and a good reputation was rapidly built up - even though "unnecessary" issues are not lacking!. During the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's, new clients appeared. It now acts as postal consultant to over seventy postal administrations. Thus series are quite often offered jointly by different countries, having a common theme.

One of these was "First stamps of the United Nations Member States", in the form of se-tenant blocks within souvenir sheets. Of course the Halfpenny Yellow was not omitted! This is Malta's first stamp - and a famous one, at that - even though actually originally just a local since UK stamps continued to be used.



One should note that, besides Liberia, Grenada, Guyana and Micronesia were also included in this recent project.

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

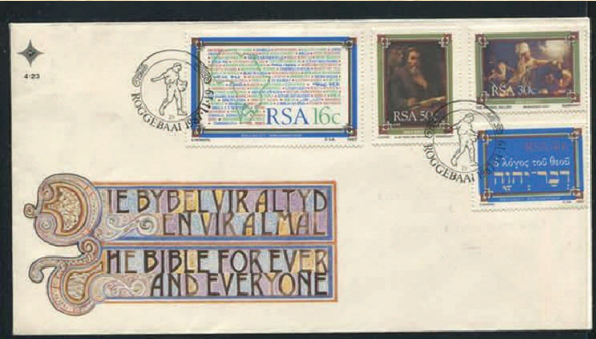
Is it really true that...a stamp was withdrawn because of the word

“God” ?!

TRUE
FALSE
(12)

Antoine Vassallo

On 19 November 1987, South Africa issued a three-stamp set (designed by Sheila Nowers) commemorating the Bible Society of South Africa, founded



in 1820. There were two reproductions of “classic” paintings by Rembrandt showing Biblical episodes (“Balthazzar’s Feast” and “St Matthew”), while the low value simply showed the words “the Bible” in some seventy languages.

But this was actually meant to be a four-stamp set. However, the 40¢ stamp contained two lines of script, one in Koine Greek (the language of the New Testament) and one in Hebrew (the language of the Old). The inscription meant “the Word of God”. As is well known, Orthodox Jews are very restrictive about the use of the word “God” – especially in a non-religious (or profane) setting.

The stamps had just been distributed to South African post offices when complaints began arriving! This development led the South African postal authorities to withdraw the stamp.

A limited number of the stamps were sold - and some are known to have been used for postage. The withdrawn stamp is omitted from most catalogues but is popular with those whose theme is religion on stamps, as well as Judaica collectors. They would be willing to pay a few hundreds of euro for a mint copy – and surely more for a rarer used.



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors Eponymous Fraudster

12:



Born in 1882 in Italy, Carlo (Charles) Ponzi became the infamous swindler who paid out returns with other investors' money: the original "Ponzi scheme".

After having studied at Rome's La Sapienza University, Ponzi arrived in Boston in November 1903 aboard the S.S. Vancouver. He later told the New York Times that he gambled away most of his money on the voyage to America. "I landed in this country with \$2.50 in cash and a million in hopes." The young immigrant's charisma and confidence would help him pull off one of the greatest financial

schemes in history.

Ponzi started out working odd jobs, moving to Montreal in 1907. He got employed at Bank Zarossi, formed to cater to Italian immigrants charged high interest rates. However bad loans sent the bank into bankruptcy – and he was left penniless. He was even sentenced to three years in a Quebec prison after he was caught forging a cheque (telling his mother in Italy he was working there!) On release, Ponzi got involved in yet another criminal venture: smuggling Italian immigrants across the border into the United States. The result was two further years behind bars in Atlanta.

Back in Boston, he got married in 1918 and flitted between jobs, including at his father-in-law's grocery. It was during this time that Ponzi got the idea for the great scheme that would earn his name a place in history. He received a letter in the mail from Spain that contained an international reply coupon and reasoned that he could take advantage of a loophole in the IRC system. Now seemingly getting unpopular, these coupons (collectable in their own right) let a resident of a foreign country pay for return postage for a reply. Ponzi realized that a correspondent could send an IRC from where currency was depressed in an inflationary period - and cash it in for U.S. stamps of higher value, thereby making a small profit on the deal. But do it enough and one could make a big profit!

Ponzi's racket worked like this: he would send money to agents working for him in other countries, who would buy IRCs and send them back to the United States. Ponzi would then exchange the IRC for stamps worth more than he paid for them, and sell the stamps, reportedly making more than 400 percent on some of these sales.

Not satisfied with running the profitable scheme on his own, Ponzi began to seek investors to turn even higher profits. He promised investors outrageous returns of 50 percent in 45 days, or 100 percent in 90 days. Ponzi paid these investors using



money from other investors, rather than with actual profit – “pyramid trading”. This manipulation made him very rich, possibly making \$250,000 a day; it is known he even bought an impressive mansion.

Ponzi's scheme began to unravel in August 1920, when *The Boston Post* began to investigate his returns. This set off a run and investors tried to pull their money out. He was arrested in 1920, charged with 86 counts of mail fraud. Owing an estimated \$7 million, he pleaded guilty and subsequently spent 14 years in prison. He died penniless in 1949 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Charles was an avid stamp collector - he should have stuck with the hobby!



A small selection of International Reply Coupons (IRC) from the ‘JUNCKER’ Collection owned by the Gozo Philatelic Society

A Tribute to JOHN ARTHUR CUNLIFFE

Postman Pat's Creator

(Anthony Grech)

John Arthur Cunliffe was born 16 June 1933 in Lancashire but lived in Kendal, Westmorland. For many years Cunliffe worked as librarian and teacher, especially well known as the author of children's books and as a presenter who created the characters of Postman Pat and Rosie and Jim.



The small towns and villages of his area surely inspired him to create the much loved Postman Pat. This is the character of a British stop-motion animated children's television series. Aimed at pre-school children, it is about the adventures of Pat Clifton, a postman doing his beat in the idyllic fictional village of Greendale where everyone is nice to each other. It was first produced by Woodland Animations and aired by BBC Television in 1981. The first Postman Pat's adventures were such a success that a second series was produced in the 1990's

– where he had a family.

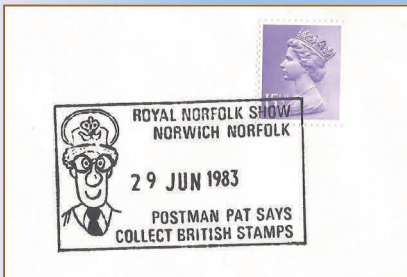
Royal Mail used the character of Postman Pat on several of its products including a 2014 set featuring Classic Children's TV shows. A booklet featuring this character on the front and with his label inside was issued on 21 March 2000. However that year Royal Mail stopped using the character of Postman Pat for their promotional and charity work, though the television programme continued to use the Royal Mail logo on his postal van PAT 1 for several years after.





The Isle of Man too has issued several items, including a set of 6 stamps featuring Postman Pat doing his rounds, a Christmas card, envelopes, postmarks, educational and informative sheetlets.

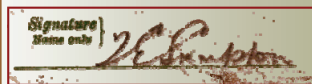
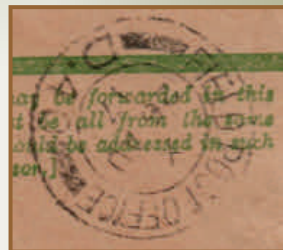
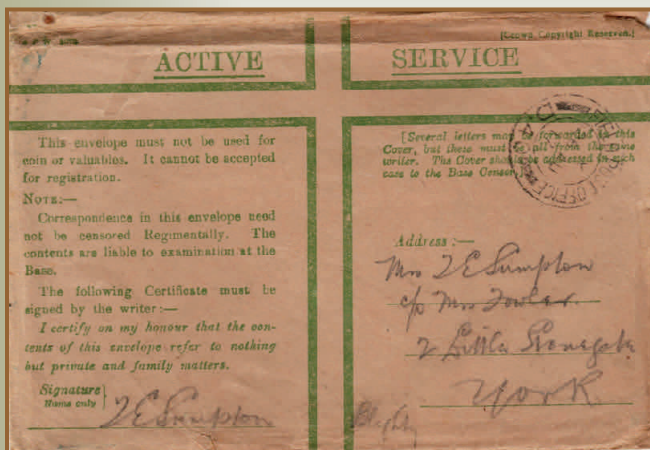
Following the success of Postman Pat, Cunliffe subsequently became something of a local celebrity, having a room dedicated to him at Kendal's Museum of Lakeland Life. John Cunliffe died, aged 85, on 20 September 2018. A local newspaper, *Ilkly Gazette*, announced that he "left his Ilkley home in a deluge of rain [...] never to return".



EMBROIDERY GREETING CARDS FROM WORLD WAR I

Lara Grech

Cards sent by **Tommy Sumpton** on World War I on Active Service in France to his wife Eva in York U.K. These are part of a collection donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society the by his granddaughter Barbara Stevenson
These cards were produced in French. Some are marked as issued by G.E.Vise', G.C. Vise', J.S., J.M.T. all of Paris.



One of the 'ACTIVE SERVICE' signed Envelopes in which the cards were mailed by Tommy Sumpton. The envelope was Handstamped with the 'FIELD POST OFFICE D40' on 26 August 1917





Anthony Grech



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.
Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.
Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged
Prot=Protectorate

 <p>INDONESIA o.p. Netherlands stamps 1948</p>	 <p>INDONESIA Own Issue 1949</p>	 <p>INDORE HOLKAR STATE 1886</p>
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 <p>INHAMBANE Op. Mozambique stamps 1895</p>	 <p>ININI o.p. Guiana FR stamps 1932</p>	 <p>IONIAN ISLANDS 1859</p>	 <p>IONIAN ISLANDS Italian Occupation 1941</p>	 <p>IONIAN ISLANDS German Occupation 1943</p>	 <p>IRAN 1868</p>
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 <p>IRAQ British Occupation Srg. Turkey stamps 1918</p>	 <p>IRAQ Own Issue 1923</p>	 <p>IRELAND Op. Great Britain stamps 1922</p>	 <p>IRELAND Own Issue 1922</p>	 <p>IRELAND REPUBLIC 1949</p>	 <p>ISRAEL 1948</p>
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 <p>ITALIAN EAST AFRICA 1938</p>	 <p>ITALIAN AUSTRIA Trentino Op. Austria stamps 1918</p>	 <p>ITALIAN AUSTRIA Venezia Giulia op. Austria stamps 1918</p>	 <p>ITALY COLONIES General Issue 1932</p>	 <p>ITALIAN Post Office in PECHINO 1917</p>	 <p>ITALIAN Post Office in CRETE 1900</p>
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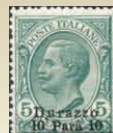
ITALIAN
Post Office in
GENERAL
LIVORNO
1874



ITALIAN
Post Office in
ALBANIA
1902



ITALIAN
Post Office in
CONSTANTINOPOLE
1908



ITALIAN
Post Office in
DURAZZO
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
JANIN
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
JERUSALEM
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
SALONICA
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
SCUTARIO
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
SMYRA
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
VALONA
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office
in
BENNGASI
1909



ITALIAN
Post Office in
TRIPOLI DI
BARBERIA
1909



ITALY
1862



**IVORY
COAST**
o.p. France
stamps
1892



**IVORY
COAST**
Own Issue
1913



JAIPUR
1904



JAMAICA
1860



**JAMMU
&
KASHMIR**
1866



JAPAN
1871



**JAPANESE
TAIWAN**
1909



BRUNEI
Japanese
Occupation
o.p. Japan
stamps
1942



BURMA
Japanese
Occupation
o.p. Burma
stamps
1942



CHINA
Japanese
Occupation
o.p. China
stamps
1942

proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR



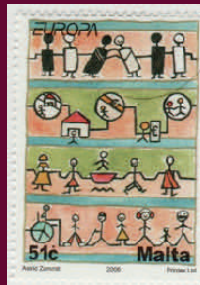
(14) 50th Anniversary of European Philatelic Cooperation 3/ I/ 2006
Suggested designs by **MARTIN BONAVIA**



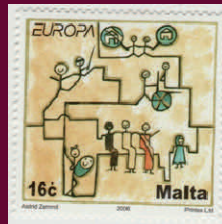
Miniature sheet issued on
3 January 2016
designed by
MARTIN BONAVIA

(15) Europa - Integration 9 V 2006 designed by **ASTRID ZAMMIT**

Design suggested



Stamps issued on
9/5/2006



Great Britain 1994 Christmas set

Children's Nativity Plays

Jesus - we practice every day -
 rehearsing for the Christmas play
 wherein with happy feelings we
 will act-out your Nativity.
 Jesus - you love us, we return
 such love to you with joys that burn.



Jesus - we learn our lines to say
 upon the long awaited day
 whereon your love will lift the earth
 to everlasting peace and mirth.
 Jesus - you love us, we return
 such love to you with joys that burn.

Jesus - with glowing gladness we
 are acting your Nativity
 because you have made every heart
 to one another now impart.
 Jesus - you love us, we return
 such love to you with joys that burn.



Robert Duncan Martin



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