

October—December 2019

No. 78

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Christmas greetings from the Gozo Philatelic Society



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LOMBARD

malta post

## *Collect Malta Postage Stamps*

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.

## GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

*First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 78 (4/2019)*

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

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**THE YEAR IS ALMOST UP!**

Please send your Membership fee.

**THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEEDS YOU**

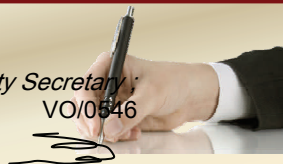
Visit Our Office at Triq PutIrjal-Victoria.

Second floor in top of PLAYPAN

**OPEN EVERY SATURDAY FROM 9.30 AM**

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

*Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary*  
VO/0546



- 8 August 2019** Committee continues preparing for the November Exhibition  
**23 September** Anthony Grech produces a cover for GPS 20th anniversary personalized stamp.  
**28 September** Mass at Ta' Pinu sanctuary, celebrating the 20th anniversary  
**3 October** Committee continues preparing for Exhibition  
**21-24 October** Various members exhibit at Maltex  
**28 October** Gozo NGOs Association informs member organizations about GPS Exhibition  
**29 October** setting up of Exhibition begins  
**October** *Hajja f'Ghawdex* carries a philatelic article by the GPS secretary  
**2 November** Anthony Grech produces a cover for GPS 20th Exhibition personalized stamp, designed by him as usual  
**2 November** President Dr Vella opens Exhibition (Report on 8)  
**12 November** Exhibition dismantled  
**13 November** Committee confirms Exhibition prizes and decides AGM date.  
**16 November** GPS Committee member Saviour Grech (and Gozo NGOs Association President) elected to national Voluntary Sector Council

Issue 77 defects

*Please note that the article about Leonardo on pp 6-7 was in fact by Anthony Grech, not Antoine Vassallo.*

*The item on page 27 was to have been actually titled: A striking – "inverted" – card*

**Please note that our publications are included in Malta University's External Research Collection and can be assessed on**  
<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/24814>

*We welcome letters asking for help regarding stamp identification etc.*

*Anything published will merit a philatelic gift! And Juniors will receive a memento in any case!*



# proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR

## (15) Christmas - Composers

6 IX 2006

(designed by George Vella)

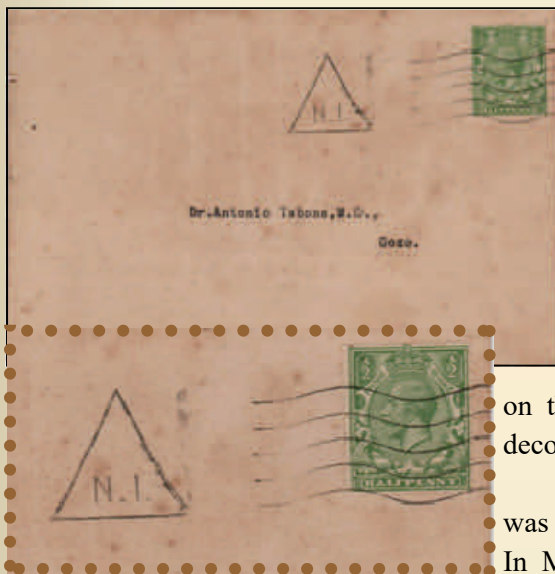




**Dr Antonio Tabone M.D.** (16/01/1898-11/02/1972)  
and a curious item from my collection *Anthony Grech*

A curious item in my collection is a medicine advert in the form of a folding unsealed letter-envelope. It is undated and there is no indication on the outside of the identity of the sender. The stamp affixed - a British King George V halfpenny pale green (1924?) – give some idea of the date of use. It is machine cancelled through a triangular postmark with the letters N.I. accompanied by 5 unbroken wavy lines. Several British covers such as this one exist, as well

as window envelopes with an embossed George V green ½d. stamp and an undated triangular cancellation with letters inside the triangle. These kinds of postmark with different letters or numbers could very well be the predecessor of the second class mail in Britain. I haven't found yet what the initials N.I.



on this item stands for. Any help in decoding this will be most appreciated.

The inland printed paper rate was introduced on 21 February 1848. In May 1892 the British Post Office introduced a halfpenny rate for printed circulars for either inland or overseas use. In 1893 “imitation typewriting” addresses were allowed but had to be sent in unsealed envelopes or wrappers and handed in at a post office in batches of more than 20. These were cancelled in a distinctive manner using a brass triangular handstamp supplied to every post office of any importance. Due to its popularity, other printed items were permitted in the system, such as invoices and receipts in unsealed envelopes, postcards, and some overseas newspaper wrappers.

**CHILDHOOD & REGULAR BOWEL HABITS**

*Rx Petrolagar  
(Bene Label) 3 VIII  
Sig 3rd Morning & Night*

SAFE and dependable prescription, containing no cathartic drugs, for promoting regular bowel movements in growing children.

'Petrolagar' will assist in providing normal consistency of the bowel contents and in the formation of a definite "habit time" of bowel movement.

For adults 'Petrolagar' is equally beneficial. Dosage, One or two table-spoonfuls night and morning, or after meals.

**Petrolagar**  
(Regd. Trade Mark)

*Distributors in Malta and Gozo:*  
THE MALTA WHOLESALE DRUG CO., LTD.,  
14, STRADA ZACCARIA, VALLETTA, MALTA.

*Sole Proprietors:*  
PETROLAGAR LABORATORIES, LTD., IRAYDON ROAD, LONDON.  
M. H. 20

## THE ITEM

Although the medicine advertised was produced in England, the advert was printed for Malta (and Gozo) as it indicates the name of the distributors as Drug Co. Ltd., of Valletta. The item is typewritten, addressed simply to Dr. Antonio Tabone M.D., Gozo. The only script writing is the prescription for this medicine on the inner part of the advert. But who was this medical doctor?

Dr Antonio Tabone was an eminent Gozitan family doctor who, apart from being among the founding group of the now defunct Gozo Civic Council, had a distinguished role as physician, philanthropist and politician. He was popularly known as *It-Tabib Anton* or *il-Principal* as he served for several years as the old Victoria Hospital's principal officer or

Superintendent.

Dr Anton was the brother of renowned ophthalmologist Dr Censu Tabone who served as Minister and the fourth President of the Republic of Malta. *Il-Principal* was also the father of the first Minister for Gozo, and later Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Anton Tabone.

A street in the *Taċ-Ċawla* area is named after him and



a monument was erected in his honour near the "new" Gozo General Hospital on Victoria's outskirts.



The Old Victoria Hospital  
Now the Ministry for Gozo



## 20TH EXHIBITION:

### President Vella encourages stamp collecting

*Mary Grace Xerri*

On 2 November His Excellency Dr George Vella officially opened the 20th Philatelic Exhibition organized annually by the Gozo Philatelic Society at the Gozo Ministry halls. He emphasized the positive aspects of this hobby for young and old. Expressing himself most impressed, Dr Vella extended substantially his stay to well over an hour since he inspected knowledgeably all the exhibits and offered words of praise and encouragement. He even suggested he might be participating himself in the future!

GPS President Louis Bonello being indisposed, Secretary Antoine Vassallo gave thanks and proffered an album containing a range of Gozo-themed covers – designed by Anthony Grech - being issued by the society while Mrs Vella was presented with a *bouquet de fleurs* by little Martina Grech. The inauguration exceptionally on Saturday morning had been chosen to permit His Excellency's presence; he had accepted immediately when invited – as a fellow philatelist!

Two Committee members welcomed Dr and Mrs Vella: Vince Vella, a Żejtun schoolmate of George Vella's, and the Gozo NGOs Association President Saviour Grech. An interesting assortment of members and friends were present; local and Maltese visitors – not excluding children and schoolclasses - streamed in during the ten days till 12 November.

In spite of some restriction due to a dearth of available showcases, the Exhibition covered a range of classes and topics, including some presented by juniors. An exhibit even arrived from Australia, awarded a large Vermeil at the Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo, with Malta Stationery beginning from the Victorian period. We received numerous positive comments – with some comparisons which could make the organizers blushing boastful! The judging panel noted great difficulty to identify at Best Exhibit – by Samuel Parnis and Carmel Navarro



Certificates and prizes, with MaltaPost still main sponsor, will be distributed - as is the custom - during the AGM.



## CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors (16)

*Politics may be politically incorrect!*



**Mihai Tudose**, born in 1967, was Prime Minister of Romania for a few turbulent months until forced to resign in January 2018.

This Romanian politician, with other ministerial experience, can be considered as quite a polemical figure. In fact he even had to renounce to showing his doctorate nomenclature because of strong claims that he had plagiarised his work at *Universitatea Dimitrie Cantemir*, itself with dubious accreditation!

Tudose’s party, the *Partidul Social Democrat*, is the major social-democratic party in Romania: founded by Ion Iliescu, it became the most influential political force in the country.

Mihai Tudose has a place in this series, featuring “positive” and “negative” personalities, since it is known that his philatelic collection was valued as much as thirty thousand euro in his declaration of assets.



Turning to someone who is probably better known, **Carlo Amedeo Giovanardi** was - after graduating in jurisprudence - quite a controversial politician in Italy. He was born in 1950 and has three children.

He entered politics in 1969, being elected to Parliament in 1992 but he had held local posts. His roles include that of Minister and president of parliamentary commissions.



What especially merits him inclusion here is the fact that Giovanardi was President of the Italian group of parliamentarian “Friends of Philately” – and was also enrolled in the *Albo d'oro della filatelia italiana*, Italian Philately’s Hall of Fame.





# The First Christmas postmarks. Anthony Grech

Christmas Mail was very popular in the 1980's but no specific postmarked was used. The only mail with Christmas connection during this period was the common postmark dated 25 December.



Way back in good old days of more than a 100 years ago, especially in the United Kingdom, it was customary for people to mail their greetings on Christmas Eve to be delivered on Christmas Day. This created a huge problem for the post office due to the huge increase in postal items during this period. Extra 'delivery boys' were employed together with extra delivery vehicles, overtime etc. And still the volume of mail kept on increasing. To ease



this problem the postal administration came up with the idea of encouraging people to post early. For the first time in Rochdale, Lancashire a postmark was created in 1902 for this purpose. Mail to be delivered on Christmas Day, no matter when it was posted, was not to be posted in a letter box but was to be handed over the counter at the post office to be postmarked with an oval shaped postmark with the wording 'POSTED IN ADVANCE FOR DELIVERY ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1902'. This postmark did not show the name of the post office. Black ink was used on

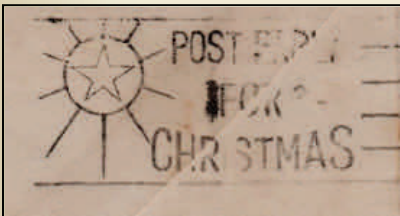
'penny' mail and red ink on 'half penny' mail. The closing day for this service was 22 December. This gave birth to the first Christmas Postmark. Due to the success, the following year this imitative was extended to other towns using larger and different designed postmarks and different wording. By 1909 these



type of postmarks were abolished. Naturally these postmarks are very rare to find today. However other Christmas Postmarks were introduced such as the "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS" slogan first seen in 1925 and other slogans in the UK.

appeared on 19 November 1953

Malta postmark/Slogan with the wording "POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS"



Malta issued its first Christmas set of stamps on its first year of Independence- 1964. No special postmark was issued. The common metal dater was used to cancel the first day of issue. On 8 November 1969 a 'FIRST DAY OF ISSUE—

'L-EWWEL JUM TAL HRUĠ' postmark was



used, with no Christmas reference. These type of postmarks continued until 1972. On 10 November 1973 a pictorial design was introduced with Christmas related images but no Christmas mention. It was only in 1987 that this system was



changed. The postmark used for the 1987 Christmas stamps included for the first time the word *MILIED* (Christmas in Maltse) and this continued up to today.

## And Gozo?

On 4 October 2010 (feast of St. Francis of Assisi), MaltaPost issued from its Victoria post office a special commemorative postmark to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Gozitan 'Għaqda Hbieb tal—Presepju —Għawdex—Malta'



This organisation was set up at the small village of San Lawrenz, Gozo with the initiative of Rev Michael Borg, Mr George Borg and Mr Joseph Galea. This postmark shows the organisation logo which incorporate in it the Nativity Scene in the middle of the three hills of Gozo. This postmark is the first special handstamp to commemorate a Christmas related event. The 'Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju Għawdex Malta' was the first organisation of its kind that was set up in our Island. The organisation members give practical lectures on the building of cribs throughout the year. It also organises a very popular annual Crib Exhibition at the Gozo Ministry



Halls during the Christmas period. For the 25th. anniversary the GPS too issued a postcard.

In 2014 the Gozo Ministry for the first time,organised the *'Milied F'Ghawdex'*(Christmas in Gozo ) a full month festival. On the initiative of Fr. Gerad Buhagiar, member of the organising committee and of the Gozo Philatelic Society, MataPost issued a special postmark to commemorate this event. This custom was repeated every year until now.

These kind of postmarks will make a Christmas Thematic Collection more interesting and complete.

*Suggested reading;-*

*Probably the most famous Christmas postmarks in the world are those issued from Kristkindl, Austria. More information about these postmarks and its history can be found in our news letter number 6 (4/2001) in an article by Hans Katzensteiner*

***'Milied f'Ghawdex'***

Commemorative postmarks.  
2014 given from Victoria P.O.  
2015 given from Gharb P.O.

***'Christmas in Gozo'***

2016 given from Xaghra P.O  
2017 given from Victoria P.O.  
2018 given from Ghajnsielem P.O.







# E & O not E (51)

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



This can be considered the Newsletter’s Christmas number and so I refer to a few errors on seasonal stamps.

To begin with anachronisms, I refer to the fact that Islam was founded centuries after the Christmas events. So one cannot really imagine how minarets could have existed on the skyline at the time! This architectural element is prominent on numerous stamps but I show two examples issued only months apart, Ghana and Solomon Islands being the culprits. Both feature the Magi on the way to Betlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem or wherever, with visible minarets! And they both include “modern” candles too!

Ghana’s set in 1974 used two designers, this particular stamp being the work of A Medina. The individual stamps were issued both in normal sheets as well as grouped in a miniature sheet with different face values; the original 7p becoming 30.



Gyula László Vásárhelyi designed the 1975 three-stamp Solomon set, this being the top value.



Jennifer Toombs designed the delightful set issued by St Vincent in 1977 focussed on one of the most popular Christmas carols “While Shepherds Watched”. Unfortunately not enough attention was given to the actual words: as can be clearly read, the shepherds are supposed to be all seated on the ground - whereas none are!

Issuers may of course decide to simply reproduce an existing painting but errors may intrude in such cases too. Actually, I consider mistaken a quite common practice of considering any image of Jesus

– even including his Passion and Resurrection - as suitable to celebrate Christmas (which refers, of course, to his Birth). Grenada’s 1998 offering can well be established as a standard in this respect: none of the four designs (including the 90c Crucifixion), though “religious”, are relevant – except, possibly, in a theological sense!



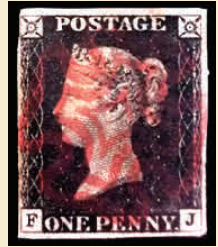


Norman Rockwell designer of US Stamps-1994

## The evolution of Stamps design

*Anthony Grech*

The first stamp issued, the Penny Black, was born out of necessity; yet it is still considered regarded by many as a ‘classic’ in design. Even before it came into being, it attracted several arguments. What is ethical that the portrait of the queen was to be obliterated by a postmark? What if the stamp was placed upside down? Wouldn’t that be an act of high treason? Incredibly, after the



classic Penny Black, British stamps design seems to have degenerated. A committee was set up in 1884 to examine stamp designs. However the ‘Jubilee’ issue that followed was not better than the previous stamps.

### First Stamps of different countries in one approved colour



Malta 1860



Bermuda 1865



Brazil 1843



France 1849



Greece 1861

All over the world, stamps were then issued in one approved colour. This was due mainly to the restricted printing machinery available. These stamps were usually printed through line engraving or recess printing. The design was engraved at stamp size but the engraver was rarely credited for his work. This method of printing was used to print banknotes: stamps were classified in the same category both for security and monetary reasons.

For years many countries applied the same idea of the Penny Black design, that is featuring the portrait of their ruling monarch. Colombia, Finland, Germany and many others opted to feature their Coat of arms instead.

Countries took a number of years to change to pictorial issues. Great Britain issued its first pictorial stamp in 1912, 72 years after the Penny Black; but an image of the reigning monarch still appears on every Great Britain stamp. Malta took 39 years





from the Half Penny yellow of 1860 to the Grand Harbour pictorial issue in 1899. One of the few that began immediately with pictorials was Australia which depicted the map of the country with an image of a kangaroo - but this was only in 1913.



As years passed by, postal administrations realized that stamps could be used to commemorate an event. The first country to do so was probably New South Wales with its 1888 issues inscribed 'One Hundred Years'. Malta issued its first commemorative set of stamps as part of an omnibus issue in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of King George V.



By this time other printing processes were invented, such as surface printing, but this did not change much of the intaglio printing which remained the most popular process. The most popular art styles of the period were 'art nouveau' and 'art deco', with a great effect on stamp design - but British stamps were rarely influenced. Generally stamps were often designed in the same way all over the world, with a strong border and with the name of the issuing country (excluding Great Britain), denominations and short messages like 'Postage' and 'Revenue'.

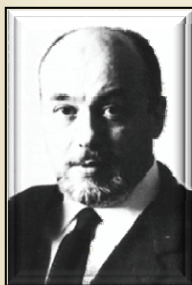
The introduction of photogravure offered the designer more freedom in that the stamps could be designed from sketches larger than the stamp. However Great Britain resisted this type of stamp printing mainly due to the belief that stamps are more artistic if produced in the old way.



The Classic two colour 1918 US error stamp of the "Inverted Jenny"

By the early 1950's, symbolism on stamps started to be introduced. The photogravure process made it possible that stamps could be printed in two different colours but this resulted in missing and misplaced colour varieties. By the late 1950's, almost all countries issued stamps in two colours. More experiments followed. Some countries even changed from the 'conservative' rectangular shape to the more 'modern' triangular and circular - or later self-adhesive stamps and even 'free form'. Now designers could work in full colour, instead of the antiquated shades of black; and in

sketches four times larger than the actual stamp. However some still preferred to work their design in stamp size, even in multicolour. Sometimes a number of artists were invited to compete by submitting a design for the same subject. It was then for the Stamp Advisory Board to decide which design was most suitable for printing. At other times a particular artist was commissioned directly. Naturally the artist had to work closely with the printers who might suggest changes and fine tuning.



Pre and post Malta Independence issues by Chev E V Cremona.

The Royal Mail always encouraged different artists to submit designs. On the other hand, the Malta Postal administration for a long period commissioned one particular well-established artist, Chev Emanuel Vincent Cremona. He designed sets from 1957 to 1980 and gave philatelists some of the most beautiful Malta stamps ever produced. Today he is recognized as the Father of Malta Modern Stamps. Some of Cremona's original stamp designs are on permanent show at MaltaPost Postal Museum, Valletta, a paradise for all Philatelists.

With the introduction of the computer a dramatic change in stamp design followed. Today quite rarely does a designer produce artwork for a stamp: designs can be created almost instantly on the computer. In this way designers can experiment more. On the other hand, almost gone are the days of miniature original artistic works of art. Some Postal Authorities are opting to just copy and paste a photograph and there you have it. The only thing to add is just a high value so the post can 'balance the books'.

The big number of new issues, together with high face values and limited artistry in designs are strong negative aspects. Moreover reduced use of actual stamps, with more convenient postage labels and 'Paid' postmark, may be slowly but surely killing the hobby once described as the 'king of hobbies and the hobby of kings.'



MALTA  
POSTAL  
MUSEUM

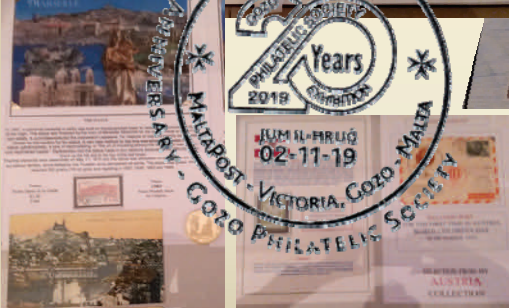
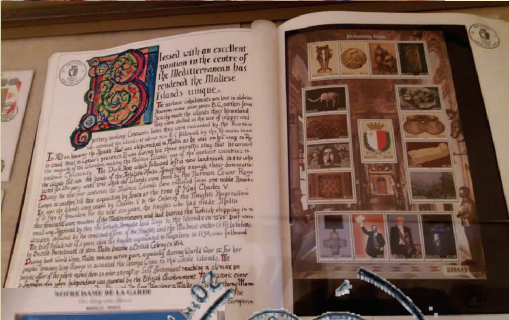
153 Arch-  
bishop  
Street  
Valletta.  
VLT 1444

# Participants in the 20th Annual Gozo Philatelic Exhibition November 2019

Antoine Vassallo

Exhibit 1-John Vassallo—Early Malta Postal Stationary.(2)Mario Casingena—Overprinted British Stamps—Levant.(3)George Galea—Maritime Malta.(4)Lara Grech—3 Famous Basilicas-Ta’ Pinu-Lourdes-De La Garde.(5)Zachary Borg— Austria Balloon Mail and FDC’s(6)MarkAnthony Poulton—Gozo Christmas Postmarks.(7)Mary Grace Xerri—Postman’s Personal Handstamps.(8)Jesmond Borg—The Half Penny Malta Yellows.(9)Rachel Debattista—Malta Medical Stamps.(10) Anthony Grech—Hand painted Malta FDC’S & Stamp Albums.(11)Angelo Agius—USA pictorial sheets.(12)Joseph Galea—The Valletta Waterfront and Santa Marija Convoy.

**No 8 by Jesmond Borg THE HALF PENNY MALTA YELLOWS was declared as the BEST IEM ON SHOW**



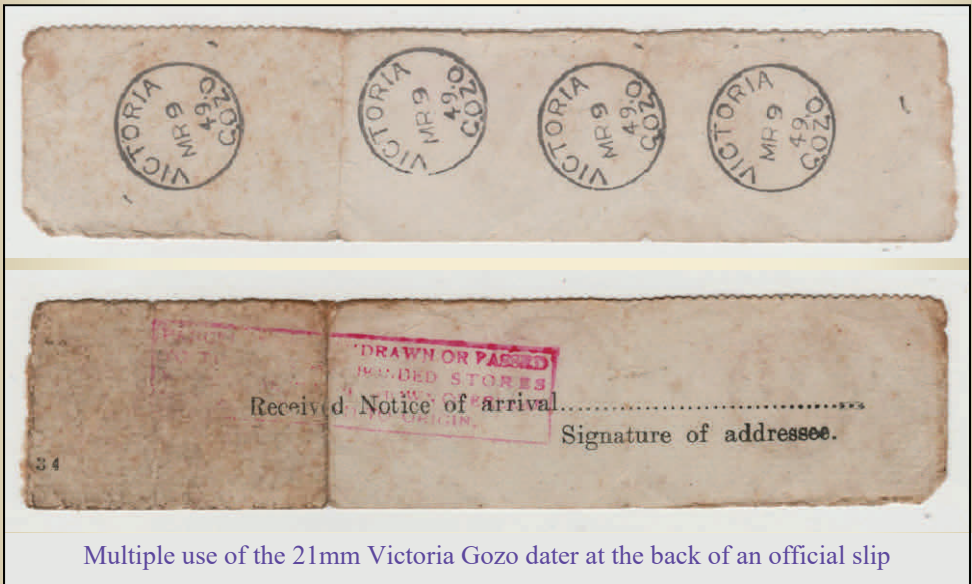
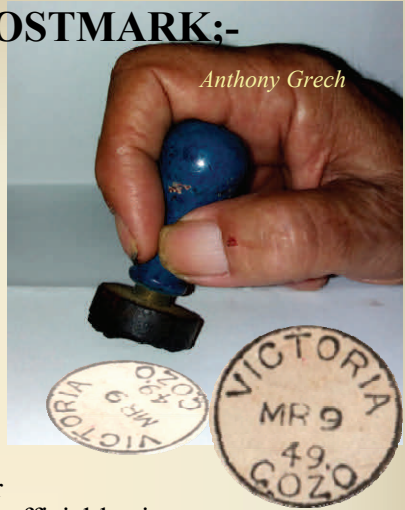


## THE LONGEST SERVING POSTMARK:- VICTORIA—GOZO

The first two Sub Post Offices in Gozo were opened on 1 December 1885; one at Migiarro (Mġarr) and the other at the capital Rabat. Both were supplied with an identical single ring dater and code letter metal handstamp. The Migiarro handstamp measured 21mm while the Rabato (Rabat) measured 22mm.

This latter ceased to be used in 1887 when Rabat's name was officially changed to Victoria on Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and. However Gozitans still refer to their capital as Ir-Rabat! "Victoria" is used only on official business or when speaking in English, especially with tourists.

In 1900 the capital's Sub Post Office became a Branch Post office and on 1 May that year started operating from the Banca Giuratale. On the occasion of



Multiple use of the 21mm Victoria Gozo dater at the back of an official slip

the 100th anniversary of this event the Postal Administration issued a special postmark, designed by George Vella. This postmark was given from the same Banca Giuratale which opened specifically for this event, even if it was a public holiday. The supervision duties were carried out by Mr Joseph Borg, Malta Post



Administrative Officer for Gozo, while Mr Ronnie Grech carried out the postal duties as counter officer.

The new metal handstamp, now changed to Victoria—Gozo, measured 21mm, single ring dater with code letters A,B,C,D,E,F and G. This postmark was in use from 1887 up to at least 1955. This make it the longest serving handstamp in the Maltese islands. This is true even though the Victoria Branch was also supplied in 1900 with another handstamp: 23mm with the wording VICTORIA

B.O., Time proper, date / GOZO.

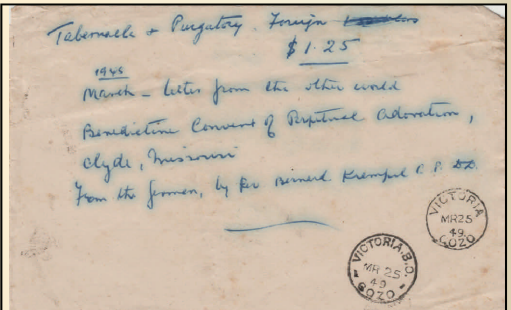
Form D, Metric D.

Entry for Postal Parcels containing dutiable goods the aggregate value of which exceeds £3  
 Dichiarazione per Pacchi Postali contenenti effetti soggetti a dazio di cui il valore complessivo eccede £3  
 (To be filled in by the addressee)  
 (Da essere fatto dall'indirizzato)

Name of addressee Nome dell'indirizzato	No. of parcels No. dei pacchi	Name of sender Nome del mittente & address of post office & ufficio del postale	Date of dispatch Data della spedizione	Contents of parcels Contenuto dei pacchi	Value Valore	Duty Dazio
M. van der Pauwe Casadei 1/2 Rue A. Soubis Victoria	2 5/11/20	Officer Boyington 34 Via Buzza Milano	15.1.20	Books —	£2.10.0	3.0.3

I declare the above to be true.  
 Dichiaro che i dati particolarmente sono veri.

Signature: *Car. Paul Casadei*  
 Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 1929.



Victoria/dater/Gozo-1929 on Postal Form D; "Entry for Postal Parcels containing dutiable goods the aggregate value of which exceeds £3"



The Victoria and Victoria BO postmarks jointly used on a note. Same date 25 Mar 1949



Ap.6 1899



My 3 1897



Victoria BO /dater/Gozo used as first day of issue—3 July 1958 . Queen Elizabeth Coronation





# Not just PAPER (20)

*Antoine Vassallo looks at unusual stamp production*



The Christmas theme provides the opportunity for “special” stamps: I limit myself to five examples.

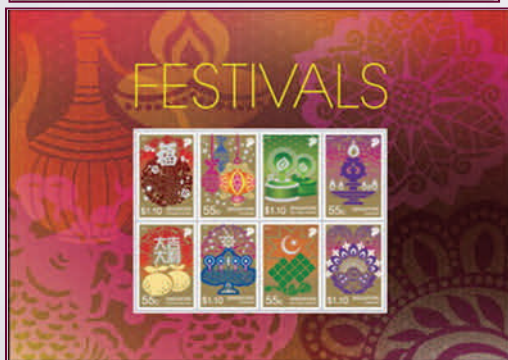
In 2004 Liechtenstein produced three stamps – designed by Marianne Siegl – with a laser-cut “lace” fringe. The traditional images show the Annunciation, the Nativity and the Magi.



For the 2014 festive season, Spain issued a miniature sheet made up of six stamps which form into a traditional Christmas tree, the whole becoming an illumina tu Navidad greeting card with (translatable into “light up your Christmas”). The use of thermal ink for the stars results in the appearance of white light when the stamps are simply heated, even through contact with the fingers!



New Zealand’s 2016 offering was a 160 x 110 mm advent calendar (which can be used to count down to 25 December). It shows quite a simple nativity scene by Donna McKenna, featuring the usual key characters. Self-adhesive stamps can be found behind pockets or “windows”.



subject; unfortunately someone slipped – minutely. The top one (from Rogier van der Weyden’s altarpiece for the church of St Columba in Cologne, now housed in Munich’s *Alte Pinakothek*) is correctly inscribed at the bottom “Adoration of the Magi”. However the bottom one does not refer to the Magi at all: it shows a detail from one of the plentiful “Adoration of the Shepherds” paintings by Guido Reni (this can be visited in London’s National Gallery).

That same year Austria delighted young and old alike with a comic “Jigsaw Puzzle” consisting of self-adhesive stamps by Dominik Gröstlinger.

Concluding with a more general theme, Singapore celebrated in 2010 its four major festivals: Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa (Muslims), Deepavali (Hindus and Sikhs) and Christmas itself. A souvenir sheet, grouping eight stamps in the series, is printed using a special foiling technique to give a 3-D holographic effect.

I finally show these two triptychs from the Aitutaki - one of the Cook Islands - Christmas set in 1975. Both these Old Masters are suited to the







The “philatelic” story on 6 of issue 76 led to the idea of preparing this new series.

In fact a big number of authors have included references to stamps in their works, though the degree of philatelic interest varies: in some central, more commonly only peripheral. A fully comprehensive list is not really within this periodical’s scope but a few instances should attract interest.

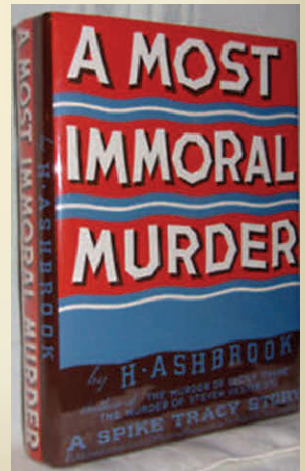


1= Morris **Ackerman**: *Multiplex Man and the One Penny Orange Mystery*. This 1997 novel begins on Mauritius where a rare stamp is discovered: a copy of the “Post Office Mauritius”. The owner returns to London, has the stamp expertized and then plans to personally deliver it to a Washington auction house. Those interested include “Stanley Roulette” (whose collection of the British area rivals the Queen’s) and “Andre Setenant” who collects errors. When the stamp is cleverly snatched from the auction, extraordinary computer skill is needed to solve the mystery.

1935 Spike Tracy mystery originally published in *Mystery Magazine* as “He Killed a Thousand Men”).



2= Harriette **Ashbrook**: *A Most Immoral Murder* (a 1935 Spike Tracy mystery originally published in *Mystery Magazine* as “He Killed a Thousand Men”).  
3= Claude **Aveline** (pen name of Evgen Avtsine): *L'abonné de la ligne U* (1964 mystery which includes the disappearance of a Paris stamp dealer, translated by Mervyn Savill as “The Passenger on the U”).



4 = David **Beasley**: *The Jenny*: A New York Library

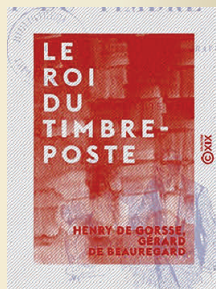


Detective Novel (Davus Publishing 1994). Based on the true case of a theft of over a hundred valuable US stamps stolen from the NYPL, the intricate plot involves the search for the mysteriously missing stamp display including an "Inverted Jenny".

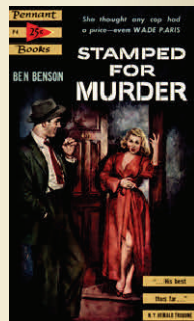
5= **de Beauregard and de Grosse: *Le Roi de Timbre Poste*** (1898 adventure, translated by Edith C. Phillips and published by Gibbons various times as "The Stamp King").



6= David **Benedictus: The Stamp Collector** (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1994). A man discovers the true riches, including stamps, within a horde of boxes and decides to try to complete the collection.

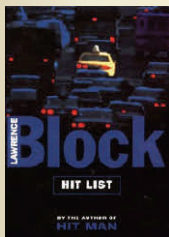


7= Ben **Benson: Stamped for Murder** (1952 novel describes how Detective Wade Paris solves the murder of stamp wholesaler Arnold Gregg).

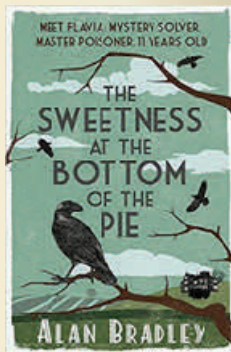


8= George Clinton **Bestor: The Postage Stamp Murder** (1935 detective novel about a series of murders in Tahiti).

9= Lawrence **Block: Hit List** (2000 thriller in a series about a stamp collector who is also the hired gun John Keller).



10= Alan **Bradley: The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (2009 award-winning first mystery about the eleven-year old stampcollector Flavia who solves a crime).





**INAUGURATION OF THE  
GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
20TH. EXHIBITION BY  
H.E DR GEORGE VELLA  
PRESIDENT OF MALTA**



Flowers for Mrs Vella ...



Photos by the Office of the President



And a memento for  
His Excellency

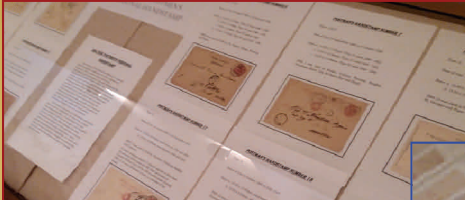






Photos  
by  
Charles  
Spiteri.

# Highlights from the Inauguration of the GPS 20th. Annual Exhibition by HE Dr George Vella President of Malta 2 November 2019



**MALTA OVERSEAS**

local connections on foreign stamps (32)

*Antoine Vassallo*



Grand Master Lascaris is documented in 1657 as having described a balcony as “an ornament to the city” of Valletta. *Gallariji* – in one form or other - have become a pervasive



traditional characteristic of our townscapes. A set was issued by MaltaPost in 2007 (treated by Mary Grace Xerri in #41), as well as two (in 2016 and 2017) showing examples of *saljaturi* or supporting corbels. One of the stamps in the 2017 **France** sheet referred to in #76 in fact featured wood-enclosed balconies.



And the problem was not just aesthetic. The previously open balconies, made in wood or metal railings and supported by

fragile stone brackets, were not designed to carry the additional heavy load of the wood and glass superstructure erections. The “solution” can still be seen today: the masons reduced the existing stone area of the floor of the balcony by truncating the ends of the old corbels, diminishing the depth of the balcony. This allowed the projecting stone to carry the new overload without breakage.

Obviously later designers and architects succeeded in integrating positively this development, creating the visually pleasing “typically Maltese” structures with which we all are so familiar. With the outbreak of Baroque, the Maltese balcony reached the zenith of its splendour: architects deliberately planned around splendid *gallariji*, with luxuriant and even eccentric stone corbelling. However - when the time came for the timber to be replaced - a plain wooden cage tended to replace the multi-surfaced original, the original stone floor underneath betraying the change.



Judge Bonello suggests that the precursor of all closed wooden balconies in Malta was the Palace balcony over Old Theatre Street (Valletta). A 1664 sketch of the façade shows an open balcony but a 1679 book states that “a glass-covered balcony joins all the rooms of this side of the building”. The author





notes that the Grandmaster (Nicholas Cottoner) strolls through it “without being seen”.

In the Treasures of Malta (vol 9 issue 2) study, Dr Bonello suggests why the Maltese word for balconies is derived from the Italian *galleria*, rather than from the more correct *balcone*. The Cottoner balcony was a true *galleria*: a windowed corridor linking all the rooms on that side. The imitations took the same word, incorrectly since they were not really consonant with the technical definition.

Though examples similar to our *galleriji* can be found in various countries, it does seem that only in Malta did the closed balcony become the overwhelming feature we know!

This rapidly expanding imitation was probably the result of a technological development: glass could now be manufactured in larger panes than those used for windows. In any case, balcony design often enough still allowed the use of the smaller dimensions.

The Maltese enclosed balcony also led to the creation of an exclusive piece of furniture: very high-legged chairs or stools which gave the sitters a – concealed - vantage view over the street.

This retired Judge of the European Court of Human Rights concludes his study with two contrasting comments about, respectively, the “abomination” of the use of aluminium and the excellence of *lavur* (engraved stone) enclosing so many balconies in Gozo.

*You are invited to send  
write-ups (or even just  
suggestions)  
about other foreign stamps  
with themes or designs  
related to Malta*



# Making collecting a family activity

Mary Grace Xerri



One good way to start getting the whole family involved is to use stamps to celebrate each

person's birthday. An excellent start is finding a stamp that was issued on the very day the individual

was born; but there are other possibilities.

For example, you can look for a stamp to represent an event that happened on the exact day and year of the birthdate. Alternatively, you can expand to include events happening on that day but in different years. (see example below)



You find what happened on the day you are interested in by looking through books and websites (eg history.com) that document historic events.

The next step is to find stamps that match or complement the events. Many foreign stamp catalogues include subject indexes – and online search engines exist too!

Once identified and acquired, the stamps can be mounted on a page and accompanied by a sentence or two explaining the event.

This sort of project can be widely expanded, adding stamps that illustrate the family member's interests and career.

Encourage the family to work on the project with you — they can offer their own ideas; and you might actually succeed in recruiting new collectors into the hobby!

This type of “work” can become more general by finding suitable stamps for each day of the year, increasing your interest in history – and vice versa.

You may even possess stamps whose cancels offer readable dates. You can keep a pocket calendar, crossing off acquired dates from family and friends.

Another suggestion towards involving family is to create a picture book based on, say, the favourite activity of a young member. The fun can be increased by developing it together – with the stamps not being provided solely by you.

MY PERSONAL STAMP ALBUM  
My name is Maria

I am from Xaghra – that is where the Ggantija megalithic temple complex is found.

Ggantija temples are older than the pyramids of Egypt. Their makers erected the two Ggantija temples during the Neolithic (c. 3600–2500 BC), which makes these temples more than 5500 years old





In Loving Memory  
of  
**Charles Zammit Moore**  
Member of the  
Gozo Philatelic Society  
who went to meet his Lord  
on 29 October 2019  
at the age of 69 years.  
Loved by his wife Alida their  
children and their families, relatives  
and friends and members of the  
Gozo Philatelic Society.  
**May He rest in Peace in the  
Loving Arms of his Creator**

**CIRCULAR TO ALL MEMBERS.**

I have the pleasure to invite you to our

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

at **IL-HAĠAR**

**HEART OF GOZO MUSEUM—Pjazza San Ġorg**

on Sunday 12 January 2020. at 9.30 am. With the following agenda

- 1=Minutes of previous AG
- 2=Financial Statement
- 3=Secretary Report
- 4=Addresses
- 5=Election of Committee Members
- 5=Motions & Other Matters.

The AGM continues with the distribution of Certificates and Prizes, **sponsored by MaltaPost plc** to all 2019 Exhibition participants.

Junior members can invite their families to attend.

**MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO OFFER THEMSELVES FOR NOMINATION TO THE COMMITTEE.**

**COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND WHO IS INTERESTED IN PHILATELY.**



# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Anthony Grech

# SNAMP



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.

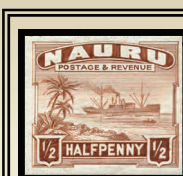
Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.

Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged

Prot=Protectorate



**NAURU  
Op. G B  
STAMPS**  
1916



**NAURU  
OWN ISSUES**  
1924



**NAWANAGAR**  
1877



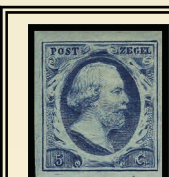
**NEAPOLITAN  
PROVINCES**  
1867



**NEGRI  
SEMBILAN**  
1891



**NEPAL**  
1881



**NETHERLANDS**  
1852



**NETHERLANDS  
INTERNATIONAL  
COURT OF  
JUSTICE**  
  
**Overprinted  
NETHERLANDS  
STAMPS**  
1934



**NETHERLANDS  
ANTILLAS**  
1949



**NETHERLANDS  
INDIES**  
1864



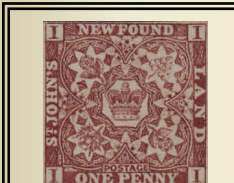
**NETHERLANDS  
NEW GUINEA**  
1950



**NEVIS**  
1861



**NEW  
BRUNSWICK**  
1851



**NEWFOUNDLAND**  
1857



**FRENCH  
EMPIRE**  
1861



**NEW CALEDONIA**  
  
**OWN ISSUES**  
1905



**NEW  
GUINEA  
GERMAN  
COLONY**  
  
**SURC.  
GERMANY STAMPS**  
1898



**NEW GUINEA  
BRITISH  
OCC. Op. GERMANY  
NEW GUINEA STAMPS**  
1914



**NEW GUINEA  
AUSTRALIAN  
ADMINI.**  
1925



**NEW  
HEBRIDES  
Op. FIJI  
STAMPS**  
1908

 <p><b>NEW HEBRIDES</b> OWN ISSUES 1911</p>	 <p><b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b> 1850</p>	 <p><b>NEW ZEALAND</b> 1855</p>	 <p><b>NICARAGUA</b> 1862</p>	 <p><b>NIGER</b> Op. UPPER SENEGAL &amp; NIGER STAMPS 1921</p>	
 <p><b>NIGER</b> OWN ISSUE 1926</p>	 <p><b>NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE</b> O/P. GB STAMPS- OIL RIVERS 1892</p>	 <p><b>NIGERIA</b> 1914</p>	 <p><b>NIUE</b> O/P NEW ZALAND STAMPS 1902</p>	 <p><b>NIUE</b> OWN ISSUES 1950</p>	
 <p><b>NORFOLK ISLAND</b> 1947</p>	 <p><b>NORTH BORNEO</b> 1883</p>	 <p><b>NORTH GERMAN FEDERATION</b> 1868</p>	 <p><b>RTH INGERMANLAND</b> 1920</p>		
 <p><b>NORTH WEST RUSSIA</b> 1919</p>	 <p><b>NORTHERN NIGERIA</b> 1900</p>	 <p><b>NORTHERN RHODESIA</b> 1925</p>	 <p><b>NORWAY</b> 1855</p>	 <p><b>NOSSI-BE</b> op. France stamps 1889</p>	 <p><b>NOVA SCOTIA</b> 1853</p>
 <p><b>NYASALAND</b> Protectorate o.p. Rhodesia stamps 1891</p>	 <p><b>NYASALAND</b> Own issue 1895</p>	 <p><b>NYASSA</b> Company 1898</p>			

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a solution.