

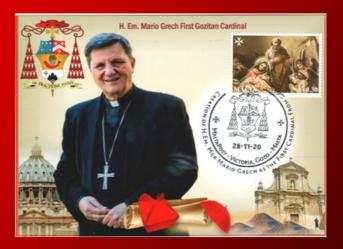


One Ory Awakened the World



One Birth Changed History

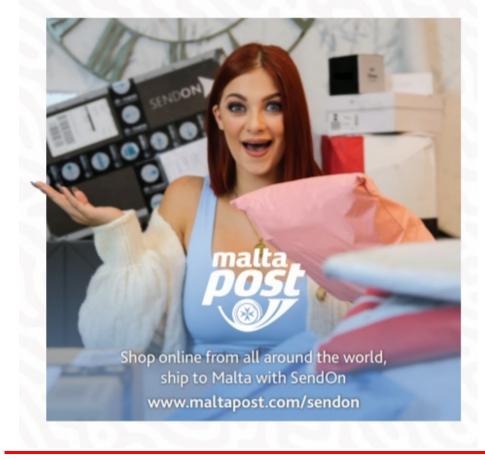
One Life Made All the Difference



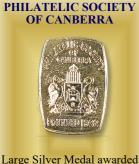


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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby, the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.



Large Silver Medal awarded to the Gozo Philatelic Society Magazine. CANBERRA STAMP SHOW—2016

GPS Magazine —Official Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 Editor: Austin Masini—Designer Anthony Grech

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: *The Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.*

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G030 Philatelic Society Patron His Excellency Dr George Vella President of the Republic of Malta

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THE YEAR IS ALMOST UP!

Please send your Membership fee. THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

(75) G.P.S. Diary

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary ; VO/0546

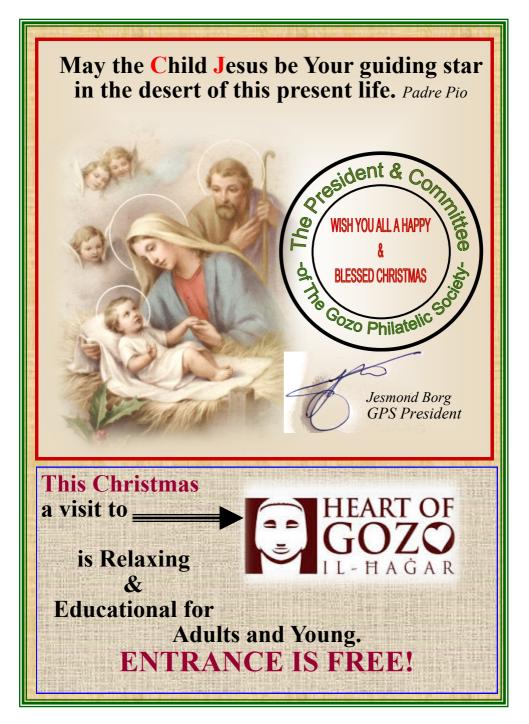
4 Aug. 2020	Anthony Grech produces Cover for San Lawrenz statue	
9	commemorative postmark	
8 August	Committee meets again after Covid break	
21 August	Anthony Grech produces, in conjunction with the Curia, Cover	
8	for Bishop Anton Teuma Ordination commemorative postmark	
25 August	Antoine Vassallo, GPS Secretary, awarded the Pro Ecclesia et	
	Pontifice decoration from the Holy See	
2 September	longtime member John Vassallo – who lives in Australia - nomi nated to the Council for Maltese Living Abroad	
17 Sept	Committee decides about the annual Exhibition	
11 October	Fourth installment of the thematic series (prepared by the GPS Secretary) featuring Saints on Malta stamps in the national Sunday newspaper <i>Il-Leħen</i> .	
17 October	Committee concludes preparation for Exhibition and discusses	
	website future.	
27 October	Exhibition setting-up begun	
30 October	Anthony Grech produces Cover for Exhibition personalized stamp	
	with commemorative postmark.	
30 October	First day of the Exhibition	
	Exhibition judging	
	Exhibition dismantling	
8 November	Fifth installment of the thematic series in the national Sunday newspaper in Maltese <i>Il-Leħen</i> .	
12 Nov	Anthony Grech produces Cover for postmark commemorating the birth century of Gozitan Carmela Buhagiar née Mejlak, Malta's first female professional photographer	
18 Nov	Anthony Grech sets up a new display in the GPS showcase on level -1 at Il-Haġar Museum and Cultural Centre (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria): Juletide Philately.	

#80 OOPS

=Malta Overseas (Page 22) is a duplicate (from issue 79)

=Bahamas item on page 8 should have read:

This Architectural Heritage stamp – designed by Gordon Drummond - shows the 1940 hermitage built by Monsignor John Cyril Hawes at the top of Mount Alvernia on Cat Island. The first day postmark was given in Nassau, the capital. The cover design shows a collection of distinctive Bahamas buildings.





E & O <u>not</u> **E** (53)



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



This "Christmas" appointment features numerous mistakes in Great Britain stamps in chronological order. It introduced its annual set in 1966, using children's design competition winners. The 3d featured a "King of the Orient" by Tasveer Shernza. However the child's initial was omitted on a few copies. 1

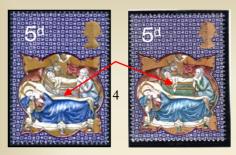


It was the turn of classic juvenile games in 1968, the 9d showing a girl playing with her doll's house (designed by Rosalind Dease). This copy had missing yellow.2



In the 1969 set F Wegner referred to well-known carols, the top (1/6 value depicting the Three Kings. This example has gold missing and thus has no Queen's head – the effect extending to the scroll-work. The other has blue missing.3

Sally Stiff was chosen the next year (the last in sterling) and she based her designs on the fourteenth-century Robert de Lisle Psalter. The 5d shows a manger scene, here with missing emerald.4



The Clarke-Clements-Hughes design team were commissioned to base the first decimal Christmas set on stained-glass windows at Canterbury Cathedral. Such multicolour printing easily results in missing colours. The 3p is known with gold (the Queen's head) and – much less obvious - yellow (or lemon) missing. The top $(7\frac{1}{2}p)$ value is here shown missing the green (or emerald) **5-6**







Musical angels appeared in 1972, designed by Sally Stiff. This 3p example is without the redbrown. 7





I conclude this bumper edition with the 1973 set featuring a most popular carol Good King Wenceslas, designed by David Gentleman. Being printed in a total of nine colours (according to Gibbons,



salmon-pink, grey-black, red-brown, blue, turquoisegreen, rose-red, mauve, lavander-grey and gold), the (top) 3¹/₂p offers a good range of missing ones.

I begin by blue which is very obvious – but exceeded by the other (with mauve AWOL too)! The other has a "changed" regal robe, without the rose-red. 8

An FDC from each Issuer

assorted postmarks and designs on the specially commissioned covers in the "Stamps of all Countries / *Les Timbres des tous les Pays*" Collection Victor Gusman





The stamp design – by Martha Poppe – shows Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959). The first day postmark was given in Rio de Janeiro, the former capital. The cover design shows the composer at his piano.





This stamp – designed by W Rueter from a portrait of Captain James Cook by Nathaniel Dance – commemorated the bicentenary of Cook's third voyage. The illustrated first day postmark was given in Ottawa, the capital. The cover design shows a stylized Cook in front of a background with a typical ship and a Vancouver Island corner.





This stamp for the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the city of Coyhaique – designed by Alberto Matthey Dupeyron - shows a view of what look like the Laveredo peaks (in Italy), even though the inscription refers to Cerro Castillo (in the eponymous Chilean National Reserve). The first day postmark shows the city's coat of

arms. The cover design shows the zamacueca, a colonial dance from the area.

www.stamps-gozo.org

GPS NEWS LETTER NO 81-3/2020







This stamp was included in a set of four – designed by Wan Weisheng – depicting the Great Wall of China in the different seasons. The illustrated first day postmark was given on 25 June 1979. The cover design shows the legendary horse which was followed by the builders to decide the direction of this World Wonder.

Christmas Island 🛛

This was the low value in the first set – designed by L Curtis - highlighting the Phosphate industry in this island, so called because it was sighted by Captain Cook on Christmas Day. The design represents surveying, while that on the cover shows heavy equipment used in mining this mineral. Its stamps

now state clearly that this small Indian Ocean island is administered by Australia.





Cocus Islands



This stamp – designed by Marg Towt – commemorated the inauguration of an independent postal service for these islands (whose issues now state clearly their Australian administration). The design shows a map and flag, besides other items; that on the cover shows a boat going through the surf and commonly used sailing boats.

Colombia

This stamp, representing the culture of the pre-Columbian Muisca indians, shows a statue of a human figure crafted in gold. The illustrated first day postmark was given in Bogotá, the capital, on 12 September 1978. The cover design shows a scene representing Spanish *conquistadores* in their contacts with natives.

9

A 100 YEARS OLD LETTER BY ENRICO MIZZI

hear

This letter on official Government letterhead dated Malta 30 December 1920, was hand written and signed by Enrico Mizzi in response to a request of a constituent (Fr Luciano Debono?) for changing of name of two streets at Xewkija, Gozo. Dr. Mizzi is informing his constituent that his request was accepted and the decision and new names were already published on the Government Gazzette of 24 December 1920. The streets in question were Strada Facchin (Porter Strret) and Strada Hanzira. (Sow Street), not very nice names that one will be happy to write on his home address. The names were changed to more decent titles; Strada Facchin became Strada Santa Croce (Holy Cross Street) or *Triq is-Salib Imqaddes* and Strada Hanzira became Strada Sant' Andrea (St Andrew Street) or *Trig Sant Andrija*.

In 1950 Dr Enrico Mizzi was appointed Prime Minister in a hung parliament. He died in Valletta just three months later, on 20 December. To date, he is the only Maltese prime minister to have died in office.



PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS glances – and longer looks – at events from a hundred years ago (26)

Antoine Vassallo

Anonymous Pilgrims (1920)

It is usually assumed that "anonymous" stamps are the result of mistakes. It could well be so since we know that, except for specifically local issues and similar, only Great Britain is officially allowed to foreogo the name of the country on its stamps.

One of the culprits is the United States postal service, whose first issue with



inexistent designation appeared in 1920 to celebrate the third centenary of the landing of the Pilgrims. Probably they considered that the issuer is obvious from

the prominent heading since 1620 is such an important date in Amrican history and everyone knows all details of this story, legendary "facts" included!

Just over hundred travellers, looking for religious liberty as devout Christians, crossed the Atlantic on the "Mayflower" bound for Virginia; they actually arrived at Cape Cod in Massachusetts, finally finishing at Plymouth Harbour, and founded the Plymouth Plantation.

The ship is shown on the 1 cent stamp and the landing is represented on the 2 cents (after a White drawing). The Compact referred to in the high value was signed by the males, binding themselves to follow the laws they would set in their new community "for the good of the colony."

A more colourful stamp appeared in 1970, designed by

HED THE LADDING OF THE FULGHDAS

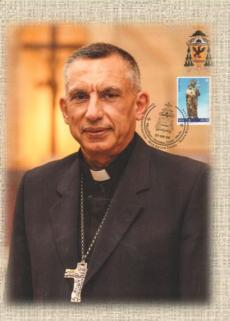
English. This exists with two of the colours missing – at a price substantially higher than its face value!

I refer also to a stamped envelope – again monocolour - issued in 1986, at a quite unusual eight and a half cents (as discounted for non-profit organizations).



M.

In honour of Bishop Anton



Antoine Vassallo

New Gozo bishop Anthony Teuma has St Anthony the Abbot as his patron saint. Before the building of the present Basilica, the Xaghra parish (where *Dun Anton* was born and his family still lives) was dedicated to this Egyptian fourth century "monasticism father". In Mgr Teuma's honour, we present two Christmas stamps featuring this hermit said to have become a centenarian – and more. A good occasion for an *Ad Multos Annos*!

In evident preparation for the fourth centennial of Mattia Preti's death, Malta's 1998 set had reproductions of four of his paintings. One is the main altarpiece of the chapel at Verdala Palace. Since it is dedicated to St Anthony, he is included in the design (with the Madonna and Child, as well as the Order's Patron St John the Baptist).

This is actually considered as one of the better works produced in Malta by this important Calabrian.

The same four saintly figures (with the difference that St John is still a child, playing with Jesus) are in the painting used by São Tomé & Príncipe in 1988 to celebrate Titian's five hundredth birth anniversary. *La Madonna delle Rose* is an Oil at Florence's Galleria degli Uffizi. Tiziano Vecelli (or Vecellio) was one of the most versatile of Italian painters, serving as a great influence for centuries.





12



found

in



MALTA RABBIT HUNTING DOG *IL-KELB TAL-FENEK*

In 2002 the Malta postal administration issued a set of 4 dog stamps. The lowest value 6c stamp, the local mail postage at that time, depicted the 'Kelb tal-

Fenek' depicted the well loved 'Kelb tal-Fenek' so everyone in the Maltese Islands had the chance to see this handsome species at least in an illustration.



Again in 2018, MaltaPost issued a set of 16 stamps of dogs in Malta and again the '*Kelb tal-Fenek*' was among those depicted. This dog also found its place on a £m1 coin medal issued in 1977 by the Central Bank of Malta.

Sadly today the population of this noble dog has decreased. One place where one can surely admire this dog

Gozo, is the annual agriculture exhibition better known as '*Il-Wirja ta' Santa Marija*' held at Villa Rundle Gardens in mid August—but unfortunately not in 2020.



This 'Rabbit Hunting dog' is Malta's National dog. It is highly prized by hunters and farmers as it is great for hunting and also a good guard dog. Its origin is rather uncertain. It has been suggested that it originated in Egypt and was introduced in Malta by the Phoenicians. Others are of the opinion that it evolved indigenously on the Maltese Islands. However, there are similar breeds in other countries

such as the Balearic Islands and Sicily. All these breeds are descendants of the Egyptian Tesem.

It is worldwide known incorrectly as Pharaoh Hound though there is a great similarity between the Egyptian Pharaoh Hound and the Maltese *Kelb tal-Fenek*. Images of the Pharaoh Hound are very common in Egyptian Neolithic sites because it was believed that it protected the dead. The most famous statue of this dog was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter in King Tutankamum Tomb. It represents the Egyptian god Annubis in a splendid pose.



Many countries issued stamps of this dog. Collecting such stamps will make an attractive and interesting thematic collection.



tail note;-On 1 January 2008, Malta became a member of the Eurozone but the 'Kelb tal-Fenek' was not chosen as an image for the 'national side' of the Maltese Euro Coins.

> Ref; Treasures of Malta Vol X No 28 2003





















THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 21st ANNUAL EXHIBITION **Arts & Crafts**

31 October—6 November 2020

EXCEPIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE STRONG ENTHUSIASM!

Mary Grace Xerri

We are very happy – and proud – that, despite the current restrictions, the Committee still decided not to cancel this annual occasion, though without an official inauguration ceremony.

Anthony Grech began setting it up on Tuesday 27 October – with the help of members of the GPS Committee and the constant support of the staff at the Gozo Ministry Halls, especially Mr Saviour Grech and Mr Godwin Curmi – to whom thanks are, as usual, due.



Commemorative card with personalized stamp and special postmark issued for the occasion

The exhibition was advertised as being open to the general public as from Friday 30th – and this obviously was the date for the commemorative handstamp, again offered by MaltaPost who remain our main sponsors. Anthony was designer and producer of the Cards carrying the relative personalised stamps.

We had decided to only use the glass showcases but the contents covered a

wide range of interests, as evidenced by the video available on the GPS face book page. It is important to note that the volume of visitors was satisfactory in the circumstances; actually some had to wait their turn due to the social distancing regulations!



It is worthwhile to quote from the Judging Panel's comments.

The exhibit awarded first prize "shows a very interesting collection of personal First Day Covers: beautifully painted, artistic, inserted coins, matching occasions." Three other exhibits were considered positively.

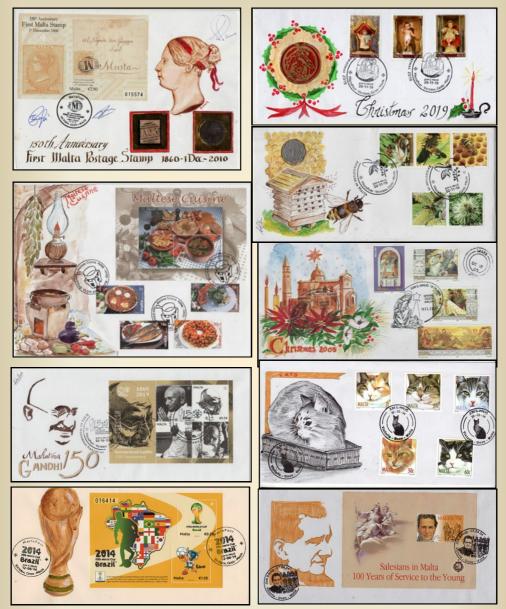
Two focused on Maltese postal history during the British era: both "very well explained and researched".

The "unusual" one treating life in a Nazi concentration camp was also "well-

researched, showing some rare postal history items". Thus encouraged, we will be aiming to return with a bang in 2021!



GPS NEWS LETTER NO 81-3/2020



A selection from the exhibit entitled 'ARTS & CRAFT PRODUCING YOUR PERSONAL FIRST DAY COVERS' Hand made and painted by Anthony Grech



'THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS—LETTERS AND CARDS SENT BY PRISONERS' By Chev John Micallef OSJ



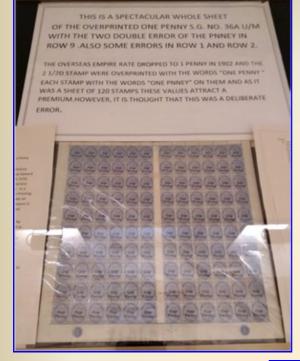
Mary Grace Xerri

19

FEE PAID.







AN EXTENSIVE STUDY OF THE MAL-TA 'ONE PNNEY' ER-ROR STAMP Jesmond Borg

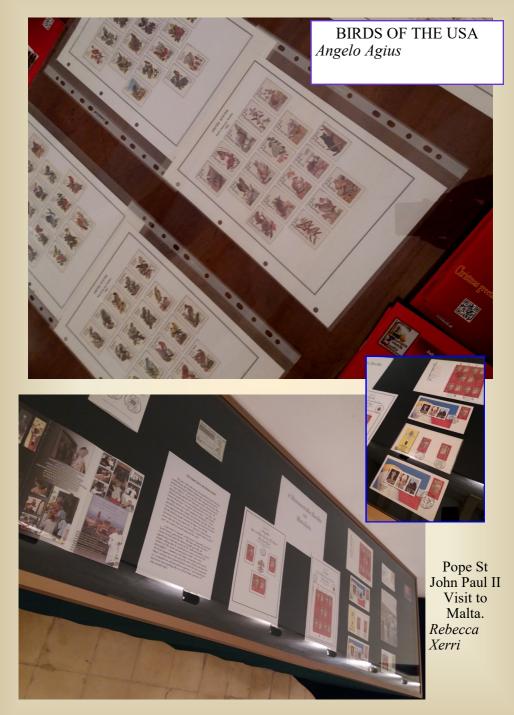








FOREIGN ATTRACTIVE FDCs by Martina Grech STAMPS EXPLAINED by Nina Xerri SPAIN ALBUM PAGES by Amy Borg



GPS NEWS LETTER NO 81-3/2020



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Is it **REALLY** True that....

A Trial Judge criticized postmarks?!

In 1857 22-year old Madeleine Smith, from an upper

middle-class Glasgow family, was accused of the murder of Pierre Emile L'Angelier. She had been using the postal service to keep a relationship with



him over many months – and he even began referring to her as his wife. Things had come to a head in January when her family approved a marriage proposal from a neighbour. Smith tried to end the affair and asked for the return of her letters In turn, Pierre Emile threatened to send the letters to her father and expose the affair if she did not marry him. Within weeks he was dead! The postmortem revealed that the death was

from arsenic poisoning. The Police uncovered evidence that she had purchased quantities of arsenic – and also discovered her letters at his home. Madeleine's trial for murder began in July 1857 at the High Court in Edinburgh (presided by the Lord Justice-

Clerk John Hope, assisted by Lords Ivory and Handyside). She was charged of causing L'Angelier's death through arsenic.

Much of the prosecution's case centred around the letters she had posted him. Since they were themselves undated, the chronology relied on the postmarks



stamped on the envelopes – most of which were clearly legible. However the date was completely unreadable on a letter which seemed to be particularly important. This attracted some particularly harsh comments from the judge! The criticism seems rather unfair since this experimental duplex, produced by Kirkwood and Sons for the Scottish Post Office, was being trialled successfully in Glasgow. The majority resulted in very clear impressions, as in this example. This type of postmark is still called by philatelists "Madeleine Smith". The postmark dates were finally actually irrelevant since it later came to light that, when the police discovered the letters, they were separate from their envelopes – and then hurriedly put in the first envelope that came to hand, without any attention to chronology.

After eight days the jury returned a verdict - uncommon outside Scotland – of *not proven", meaning that they were unconvinced of her innocence but the prosecution had produced insufficient evidence to prove her guilt.

The Madeleine Smith case has been the inspiration for numerous plays, novels and movies.

with acknowledgements to February 1858 Law Register.



IN MEMORY OF LORENZO MANTEGNA

It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform our members of the passing away of a friend and member of the Gozo Philatelic Society who went to rest in the loving arms of his Creator on 18 November 2020.

Rest In Peace

Jesmond Borg GPS President





Issues 71 to 80 simplified list of contents

for simplicity's sake, even in the case of longer articles, references are to the first page only - the first number being that of the issue

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LIST OF CONTRBUTORS

Joseph Bezzina.	Jesmond Borg	
Joseph C. Camiller	i. John Debattista	
Anthony Grech.	Lara Grech	
Victor Gusman. Robert Duncan Martin		
Raymond Megson.	JA Mizzi	
Mark A Poulton.	Robert W. Service	
Kathy Song.	Antoine Vassallo	
Mary Grace Xerri.		

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