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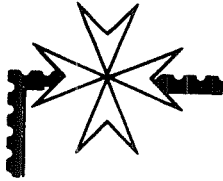
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ARCHPRIEST CASSAR – PART TWO

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Correction:

The correct name of Dr. Pisani LLD is Dr. Paul. G. Pisani LLD and should appear as Dr. P. G. Pisani LLD, in page 10 and references (16) page 38 (vol. 28/3)

**LETTERS BY ARCHPRIEST S. CASSAR TO HIS
VILLAGE COMMANDERS DURING THE
FRENCH OCCUPATION OF GOZO
PART TWO**

6th September 1798 – 30th October 1798

by Dr. A. Bonnici. KM., MD.

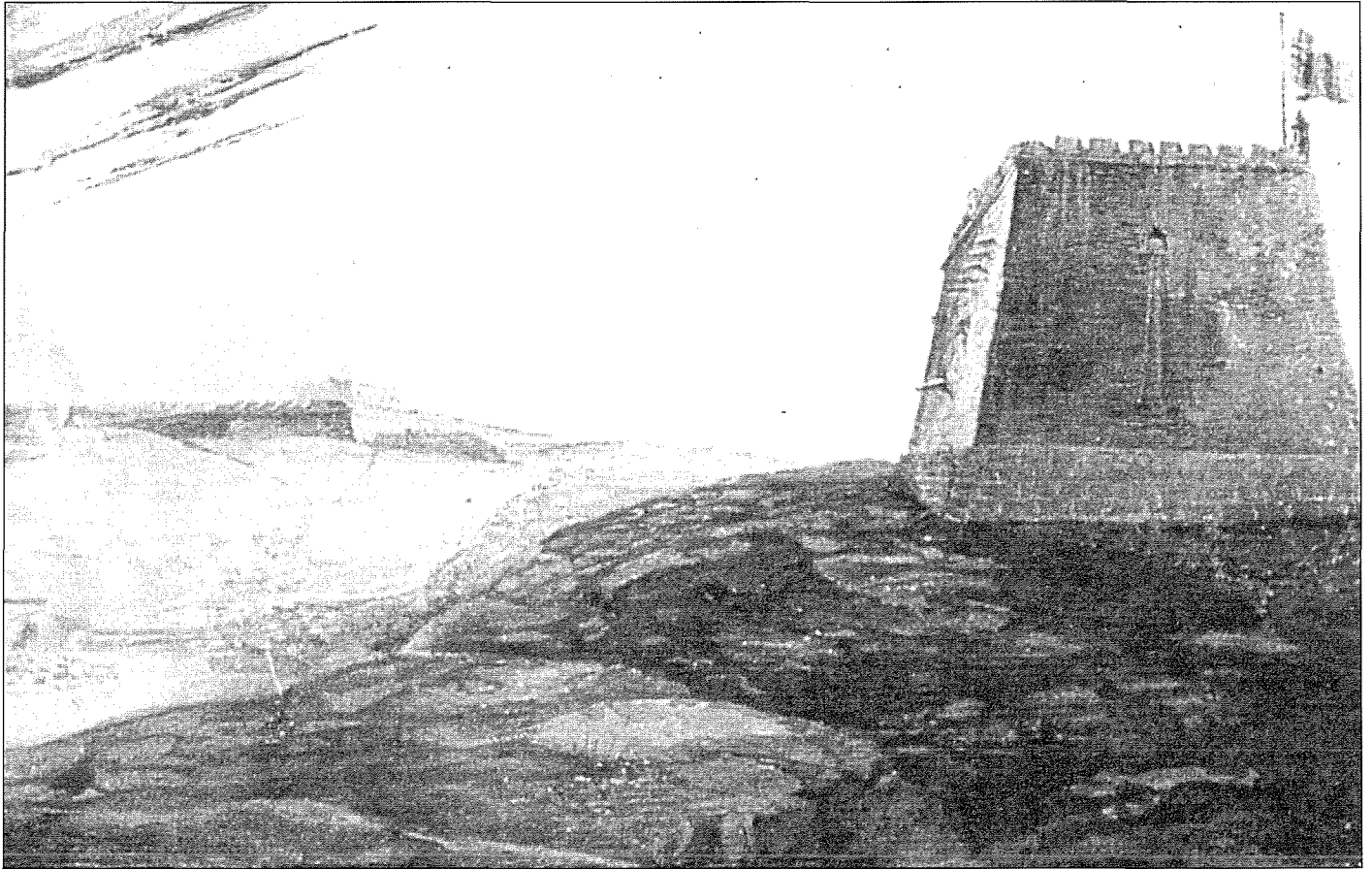


*Archpriest Saverio Cassar
(Photo J. Cremona)*

Sig. Capo Mastro
Torre nella Brigione della Volta Torre i Tre Canonici
che il Sig. Arciprete vi manda Custoditi, e di questi siete
responsabile in ogni caso.
M. Comand. D. Pace
Francesco Pace

In this letter Dr Francesao Pace Commander of Rabat, informs the Capo Mastro (Head) of Garzes Tower, about the intention of Archpriest Cassar to arrest the "tre Canonici" who will be sent to him to be kept under close watch in Garzes Tower".

We do not know the names of the "Three Canons" or were they "TWO", because in the next letter written by Archpriest Cassar to Liberato Grech he refers to "Two Canons".



*Fort Garzes, with Fort Chambray as viewed during the French occupation, 1798.
Water-colour by C. Busuttill. Courtesy, Museum Department Gozo.*

Sig. Comandante Liberto Pouch

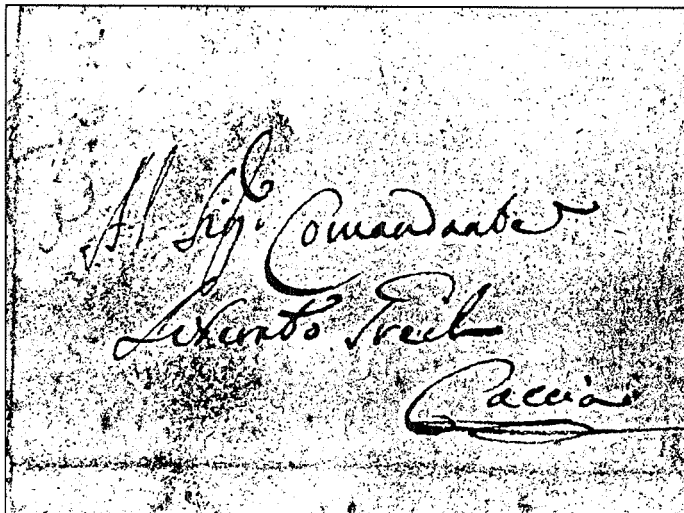
Scuto dalla vostra lettera ciò tutto, che si ac-
caddo jeri a notte. Da vi ringrazio dell'attenzione
e protezione nelle mie dimore. Ho fatto met-
te li due Canonieri si persuasero di andarsi carcerati
nella detta Scambra, e sono già spediti, e
portanto il Corpo di gente per niuna necessi-
tà per l'occupazione dello Catturati, e giacchè per
due sono al sicuro, e non possono praticare
genti un potremo cattivato.

Mi dispiace di ciò che si fece al nob. Pouch;
Io già scrissi alli Madurini di lasciarlo in via
piena; mentre il mio rispetto fondato e contra
li suoi figli; L'ant. Luigi, e Daniele, che
amano il piacere di ammettere.

scritto con mia sorpresa, che la Figlia d'itella
del nostro Paes è stata in tante Caccie
condotta, e poi rimandata ignuda, e spiuma-
tissima, dove questi cose si danno alle scelle,
non solamente alle Sacrate, ma anche
alle Bonche, e in molte cose, che se anche
che fanno le Sacrate, e altri Detti, dovute
al Popolo, che un faccio simili eccessi, per
sari abbandonati da Dio, e dalla protezione
delle Potenze anora; Incuriamo, che il Popolo
non gita l'indole si diparte da vero cristiano,
e non lascera nessuno di qualche barbara
pura faccia di Francesi, che hanno corrotto
l'odio di tutto il mondo.

● Vor altri faccio bene di guardare per
soccorrer il Rabbito al... che ho
fatto di qua, ma gup... non
a pi niente: Inf.

li 13. Giove 1708

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The text reads "Al. Sig. Comandante" on the first line, "Liberato Grech" on the second line, and "Caccia" on the third line. The signature is written in dark ink on a light, textured background.

This is another letter from Archpriest S. Cassar to Liberato Grech Commander of Caccia expressing concern about Gozitan Francophiles, even arresting 'Rev.Canons'.

"I learn from your letter everything that happened yesterday night. I thank you for your prompt attention to my task. This morning the two Canons (not three as indicated in the previous letters) were persuaded to be imprisoned in Chambray City, and they have already been sent there, and consequently I no longer need the men to effect their arrest, and as these two are in a secure place and cannot communicate with people, they will not be able to win them over.

"I regret what has been done to Notary Pace. I have already written to the men in Nadur to leave him in peace, whilst my well founded suspicion is against his sons, advocate Luigi and Daniele, whom it would give me pleasure to arrest. I am surprised to hear that the unmarried daughter of Notary Pace has been taken to Casal Caccia and then sent back naked, rest assured that such a thing offends the eyes not only of the local population, but of foreigners as well, and these are things that are done not even by "Turks", or other heretics: warn the people not to do such excesses, because they will be abandoned by God and they will also lose the protection of the Powers. Let us ensure that in this revolution the People behave like true Christians, and will not leave a record of any barbarity like the French, who have attracted the hate of all the world.

"You did well to rush to the aid of Rabat at the noise of shots, but thank Heaven nothing happened".

From this letter it is obvious that Archpriest S. Cassar was displeased at the treatment received by the daughter of Notary Pace, and exercised leadership in preaching restraint. He was fully aware that Gozo was being very closely observed by the Portuguese and British. In fact the first conditions that Nelson later on, demanded of Archpriest Cassar, on the 24th October, when the French were thinking of surrendering, was "*that the Maltese should not offer them the slightest insult or maltreatment*".

Sig. Comandante Liberto ~~Edes~~

Non ho potuto farle di fucili mandate più
di duecento per mancanza di materiali di punto,
e mi scusi.

Li 15. Ottobre 1798.

aff. her. tal.

Avv. S. C. G. G.

P. S.

Non si continui l'idea della mina per questo dia-
metri. gli. che si offerono di fatto; l'idea
della bomba mi piace, ma non per il rispetto
del rispetto dell'armato, che si aspetta una perfino
avida, mentre ne anche l'anno in molto, e non
più scarsi di più.

Risponde alla sua, che mi giunge in questo momento, e
le dico, che il vostro operaio nel momento di
darsi mi piace, ed io lo considero come se fosse
già nelle loro quando applicati in servizio del
pubblico; In quanto all'armi fusteglie in questo
momento darò ricambio.

In this letter Archpriest Cassar informs Liberato Grech "that he could not send him more than two hundred musket balls, because of shortage of gunshot".

He wants to "drop the idea of the mine, because those that were going to construct it have become discouraged". He "likes the idea of the bombs, but before this can be done, the army needs to be reorganised".

"Re the money you mentioned in your letter I like the idea, and assume that it has been deposited in the "Cassa Publica" to be used for the benefit of the people".

17th October 1798, NAG Grima papers.

Sig. Comandante

Vi partecipo, che quest'oggi a notte mi fu
spedito dalli due Generali Portogheze, ed
Ingleze ordine di notificare al Comandante Francese
di evacuare dal castello col suo guarnigione
prendendo seco nella Città Vellella le loro sot-
tanze, eccettuati le armi, e per fare il viaggio
gli si dovranno le sole barile, che saranno remi-
gate de loro stessi; ed altrimenti verranno li
stessi Generali ad attaccarlo senza alcun peso-
no; Quest'ordine già mi trovo averlo eseguito
mediante la lettera, che ho fatto, e inviata

al S. Comandante Francesco de' ceci attendo la
risposta; che e quanto, e n. diog.
Li 14. 86vd 1798.

aff. l'oro Lett.

Alli Sig. Comandanti
N. Giuseppe Grima, e Martino Hasciac
Zebbug

On the 6th October 1798, Capt Alexander John Ball left Naples in the Alexander for Malta, as instructed by Lord Nelson, accompanied by the frigate Terpsichore - Capt Gage; the sloop Bonne Citoyenne - Capt Nisbet; and fireship Incendiary - Capt Barker. (23)

They joined the Portuguese Squadron in the blockade of Malta and Gozo.

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commanders Giuseppe Grima and Martino Hasciac of Zebbug that "he had received an order from the Portuguese and British Generals to notify the French Commander to evacuate the Castle, together with his garrison, taking with him to the city of Valletta their possessions, except arms, and in order to make the voyage, they are to be given only boats, to be rowed by themselves, failing which, the said Generals will attack him without allowing him any quarter. This order I have already carried out by means of a letter to the French Commander, and am waiting the reply".

Perill. sig. Comandante

Partecipo a V. Perill., che in questa notte
 mancherà la guardia di dietro li bastioni, che
 devono fare li Zebugiani, poiché questi nella
 maggior parte sono in questo momento per sup-
 plire i soliti luoghi delle guardie avendo
 seco presso il sig. Soprintend. ^{la} buona porzione
 della sua gente nel viaggio, e la restante
 piccola porzione è stata trattenuta dal Comandante
 per suo uso nel Canale; questi e quanto le
 devo per suo regolamento, e mi prego di essere
 Mi V. Perill.

P. I.

(li 17. 8. 1798)

Perill. sig. Comandante
 aut. scritto per il sig. Soprintend.

Al Genl. Sig. Sig. Lud. Almi
Il Sig. A.º Francisco Pace
Dij. Comandante del Rabat

Secretary Fortunato Spiteri in this letter informs Avvocato F. Pace Commander of Rabat that: "the guard at the back of the bastions which used to be guarded by the "Zebugin" will be missing, as they had accompanied in their majority the Superintendent to Migiarro, and the remaining few have been kept in the village by their Commander. He was passing on this information so that he could regularise matters".

The Superintendent Archpriest S. Cassar went to Migiarro to go on board the Portuguese/British ships, to convey the message he had received from the French Commander, re capitulation as the letter of the 18th October from Secretary F. Spiteri to Commander F. Pace confirms.

18th October 1798, NLM Ms 1053 f 7.

Genl.º Sig.º Comandante

Non mancherà di invigilare per la provisione dei me-
chianti. Il Sig. abate Pasqua venne nel Rab-
bato dal Sig. Magagnino al suo ritorno e
parlarli, e mi dico al Milit.º

Di V. Punito

Li 18. 8bre 1798.

Al Sig. Comandante
D. Francesco Pace
Rabat

Secretary Dr F. Spiteri in this letter informs F. Pace Commander of Rabat, that "he was sending a sample of the wheat mixture, and that he was to have a word with Mr Albert Tabone on his return, who, after visiting the storekeeper, went to Rabat.

It is obvious from this letter, that there were complaints about the mixture of the flour to make bread.— Another administrative headache.

18th October 1798, NLM Msc 1053 f 6.

Perill. Sig. Comandante.

Il nostro Sig. Soprintendente si lasciò ieri
visti un ora per portarsi in bordo della nave a
complimentare i due Comandanti Portoghesi, ed
Inglese, e per presentargli la risposta scritta dal
Comandante francese. Sappiamo inoltre, che parlo
su altri affari riguardanti il buon governo, e un
altro so presentando di quanto mi licenza per
suggerire, e nell'Officina per sempre unirsi
che non si opera

Di V. Perill.
li 18. Ottobre 1798.

Al Dint. Sig. Sig. Ferd. Colonna
Il Sig. M. Francesco Pace
Cap. Comand. del Rabato.

In this letter Secretary Dr F. Spiteri, informs Commander F. Pace of Rabat, that the "Superintendent yesterday towards one o'clock left to visit and pay his respects to the Portuguese and British Commanders, and to convey to them the reply received from the French Commander".

We do not know what the reply of the French Commander was, but by now the French were seriously considering capitulation, and Archpriest Cassar went to discuss this with the Portuguese and British Commanders.

Undated ? 18th October 1798, Bondi No 55.

Sig. Comandante

Il nostro Sig. Soprintendente non è ancor ritornato,
e giunto la Commissione prima di partire lasciatami
apri la lettera sua a cui per adesso soltanto
posso rispondere, che il sentimento del Sig. So:
prietendente sia di non far uso niguna Forza
di bandiere alcuna sino il ritorno della nave
Spedita a Napoli; che io stimo di aver posto

quasi molto lontano. Di tre altri anni
la risposta al ritorno dello stesso sig. Spiteri
a cui presenterò la sua lettera. Io vi prego
di vivere da parte mia il sig. Bondi, e li
de lui sig. Vigi, e un partito di guerra

Il sig. Spiteri
suo ser.
F. Spiteri al sig. Spiteri

Al sig. Comandante
Liberato Grech

Cassar

Secretary Dr F. Spiteri informs Liberato Grech, that "The Superintendent had not yet returned from his mission, but before leaving he gave him permission to open his letters, and so, would like to inform him, that at the moment the Superintendent, Archpriest Cassar, did not want any flag to be hoisted on any forts, until the return of the boat sent to Naples, which probably was not far away".

Commander Archpriest Cassar, wanted specific orders from King Ferdinand of the two Sicilies about this, and was expecting any moment the King's reply.

Sig. Comandante.

Ritornaj contento dal bordo delle navi. Per far uscir dal Castello li Francesi deve venire fra domani, e doppo domani un Vefte Portogheze d'Inchiera Egli stesso, e concludere le Capitulationi. Onde Vi prego di far sentire al Popolo di stare quieto, che rispetto a d. Vefte, e che non faccia alcuna cosa, che potra irritare l'animo di questi forestieri, senza de quale possiamo dire d'aver perdute.

Questo mattina ho ricevuto una lettera da Licata del Barone Frangipani assai compita; Egli stesso si esibisce di compiarci ogni genere di provisioni, scrive d'aver spedito un sero a Palermo, ed e sicuro di ottenere dal Vicario l'imbarco libero delle vivande; non ricevendo il mandato di processa fatto nelle debite forme occorrendo poter si

uomo della Popolazione del Foggo trattare le
Compre, e per fatto veder 6415. che
fanno orzo 1200. di buona moneta, Io stimo,
che un personaggio come è Il Barone potrà
molto vantaggiare il Popolo in quest' affare di
provisione, Intanto con ista Compendio per
Raccolto una Computata somma di man-
dato a D. Duca, ed io vi prego, che se
mai avete o potete avere qualche somma
di unita di danaro della Capla Comune per
il sudd. effetto, sono in attesazione della vostra
Risposta (relativamente al danaro, e un diez
Li 19. Feb. 1798.)

Vostro fedel. serv.
Avv. S. Capra

Al Sig. Comandante
Liberato Grech
Caccia.

Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia that "he had returned satisfied from on board the ships, and in order to force the French to come out of the castle, a Portuguese Officer was to come the next day, or the day after, in order that he may negotiate, and conclude the capitulation himself".

He points out that "the people have to understand that they have to be quiet, to be respectful towards the Officers, and that they should not do anything which might bring about hostility of these foreigners, without whom they could not win".

He also says that "that morning he had received a letter from Licata from Baron Frangipani" informing him that he was prepared to purchase for them all kinds of provisions, and that he had already sent his man to Palermo to confirm that he would be able to obtain from the Viceroy permission for free loading of the provisions. He had asked for a warrant of authority to act in the name of the people of Gozo, for the purchases, which will be sent to him in due course.

For these purchases he was asking 6415 Scudi. He goes on to say: "I consider that a personage like the Baron, could be of great benefit to the people in supplying us with provisions. I am therefore starting to collect an adequate sum and send it to the Baron, and so I would like to know from you what sum of money can be made use of from the Cassa Commune".

19th October 1798, Bondi No 42.

Sig. Comandante
Domani penso di arraggiare il danaro, che
tengo per mandato in Sicilia, onde pot.

mattino' pube en persona sicco' ch'andamo
A' d'arar, de' ho p' unido. che e' quant
e un' singol.

li 19. Octob 1798.

M. S. P. Comandante
Liberto Grech
Cassio.

Archpriest S. Cassar informs L. Grech that: "he was making arrangements to send money in his possession to Sicily tomorrow with a reliable person".

This money was to be sent to Baron Frangipani in Licata, as per Archpriest S. Cassar's letter to L. Grech of the 19th October.

19th October 1798, Bondi unnumbered.

Scritt. Sig. Com. S.
Quest' oggi ho ricevuto una polizza per dare
il Merchiato a' parattioni del Distretto vostro
avendo voi altri del' ovvio, potreste esenta
ci: mentre non abbiamo per fornire il Sabbato

Questo è quanto devo per suo regolamento
ed offerendomi a' vostri cenni pieno di sti-
ma mi dico.

Rab^{to}. 1998. 1398.

Vostro Serv. ed Am.^o Ver.
Francesco Pace

Al Sig. Comand. Liberato
Grech in Castel.

Caccia

In this letter Commander F. Pace informs Liberato Grech that "he had received a delivery order to give flour to the bakers of his district, but regret that he cannot give them any as they did not even have enough for Rabat".

Sig. Comandante Alberto Biondi

Per togliere di mezzo ogni dubbio di tradimento, e
pericoli; la radunanza si farà nel vostro locale
Caccia alle ore 4. dopo mezzogiorno; Conservate
dunque la lettera spedita alli Comandanti del
Padre, alli quali farrete arrivare l'acclusa,
che contiene lo stesso avviso; E sono sempre
Vostro.

li 20. Ottobre, 1798.

P. S.

Trattando la pred. lettera si il padre
spedita.

Set. uno
Avv. S. Caporali

Al S.^{to} Comandante
Liberato Grech
Caccia

Archpriest S. Cassar was also preoccupied with treason. In this letter to Liberato Grech of Caccia he says: "In order to remove any doubts of treason and peril the meeting will be held in your village of Caccia at 4 p.m. Therefore keep the letter sent to the Nadur Commander, and give him the enclosed which is the same as yours".

20th October 1798, Nlm Ms1053 f 8.

S.^{to} Comandante Pace

Il Congresso si trasferirà per domani, e si terrà in Casale Caccia alle ore 4. Dopo mezzo di; il che le sarà d'avviso, e mi dispiace.

Di U. C. no. 866 d. 1798.

Al S.^{to} Comandante
Liberato Grech
Caccia

Suo fed. vero
S.^{to} S. Cassar

Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander F. Pace, that "the congress had been adjourned to, tomorrow and will be held in the village of Caccia at 4 pm".

Al Sig. Comandante

Questo sera dopo l'Ave Maria vi aspetto
qui, dovendo radunarsi tutti i Comandanti
per un congresso su affari di grande importanza.
Da Puzos Sultan mi furono contati i soldi
truccati, e questa sera il vostro ve farei l'atto
della loro consegna in Cassa. Con voi girate
suo portante tutta la vostra gente armata,
come facevano quelli del Nadir. Sono.

Li 20. Ottobre 1798.

Off. Vostro L.^{to}
Avv. J. Capri

Al Sig. Comandante
Liberto Sobch
Cacciò?

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia, "that he will wait for him that evening after the Ave Maria (7pm), as all the Commanders are due to meet for a congress on affairs of great importance" (the next day the 21st, as per his letter to Commander F. Pace of the 20th). He tells him also that "from Giuseppi Sultana he had received three hundred scudi, and that evening, the Notary will draw up the deed, so that he can deposit them in the "Cassa Publica" and concludes his letter by saying: "with you bring all your men in arms, as the Commanders of Nadur will do".

What where the affairs of great importance he wanted to discuss with Congress? He wanted to inform Congress about the discussions he had had with the Portuguese and British Commanders on the 19th October.

22nd October 1798, Bondi No 46.

Al Sig. Comandante Liberato Grech

Con sommo mio piacere scato l'amore dello
schifaccio con orgio; La lettera è del Reame
Trangipani: assai obbligato; Io la prego di
farmi mandare dal più presto a Patm Venezia
per il parlato; e questo per piacere al
Cielo ci resteremo meglio - Semp.

Li 22. Ottobre 1798.

aff. suo sel.
Avv. S. Cassar

Al Sig. Comandante
Liberato Grech
Caccia

In this letter Archpriest Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia, that "he was pleased to know that a vessel had arrived from Baron Frangipani from Licata".

On the 19th October Archpriest S. Cassar had informed Commander L Grech that Baron Frangipani had agreed to send them food etc. So the vessel arriving in Gozo on the 22nd was very quick work indeed by Baron Frangipani.

22nd October 1798, Bondi No 48.

Sig. Comand.

Sono con questo à riverirvi molto, è nel nostro
di necessita per il nostro lazale un poco d'orgio per
il servizio del Popolo, come infatti avessi o detto
à Venzina che abbiamo bisogno per il nostro lazale,
è così questo matino mandai tutti li fornari
al migiattro per pigliare di la, e non anno trou-
to, di più Venzina rispose alle detti Fornari non-
tamente, e dell'orgio che anno portato li altri
Garchi abbiamo preso, è anche anno pigliato per il
vostro lazale, è così bisogna regolarci questo per
non lasciar tamenti nel nostro lazale, è aspettiamo
la risposta con il latore, è restiamo tutti noi à
salutarvi è offrendo:

Mader li 22. Stone 98.

Antonio Renard
Deputato
Francesco Altard:
Comand.

All^{to} Sig. Comandante
Liberato Prech
nella Casca Caccia -

The parallel pen marks indicated a road and the dashes a horse, meaning that this letter was to be dispatched by a mounted courier.

In this letter the Commissioner of Health Antonio Reynaud and Commander Francesco Attard of Nadur, express concern about wheat distribution saying: "This is to show our esteem to you, and to let you know that this morning I sent the bakers to Migiarro to pick up barley for our village which is in need of it, but they have not found any. Moreover Venzina was rude to them, re the barley, which arrived by boat on our shore.

There is therefore a great need to regulate distribution, in order to avoid complaints in our village".

22nd October 1798, Bondi No 49.

Sig. Comandante Liberato Prech

Lo vi prego di fare bene i conti del valore dell' orzo includendo il prezzo, ed ilnolo con tutte le spese, e non farlo vendere piu di quello che viene, perche la Casca non viene a fare perdita, niente importa se non fan guadagno, e sono sempre vostri

li 22. Ottobre 1798.

L'arresto, che dalla Sicilia è stato comprato per
11. 3. la salma, e che in ogni salma vi
sono quattro tumoli di grano

Atto-Verbo!
Arcipr. S. Cassar

Al Sig. Comandante
Liberato Grech
Luccia

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar directs Commander Liberato Grech to "work out the accounts well on the value of the barley, and to include in the price all the expences, but he was not to sell it at a higher price than that arrived at. Never mind if it does not make a profit, but neither a loss for the Cassa Publica". He also informs him in the postscript, that "he has bought other consignments from Sicily at 11 scudi 3 tari per "salma" and that in each "salma" there was 4 tumoli of barley."

22nd October 1798, Bondi No 50.

Sig. Comand.

La vostra Seneca è venuta a giudicare gli
scartucci, che esistevano in casa del Sig.

Mallia. Mi giurava essere ciò contro l'inten-
zione del Sig. Arcipr. S. Cassar, mentre il Reb-

buto non deve essere spedito della munizio-
ne; essendo qui il Nemico. Non manco
per altro di partecipare il mio avviso
della mia condotta. Et offerendomi a
avostri cenni pieno di stima mi dico

Rabat. M. Dec. 1798.

Vostro fed. ed Amico
Francesco Pace Comd.

Al Sig. Comand. Liberto
Grech a Larat
Pace

In this letter Commander F. Pace of Rabat informs Commander L. Grech, that "his men had come to take possession of the cartridges which were to be found in the house of Sig Mallia".

He points out that this "seemed to him to be against the orders of the Archpriest as Rabat was not to remain without munitions, being so close to the enemy" and "was going to inform the Archpriest about this".

Sig^a - Comandante

Le accedo vostro del Santo giornale, che servirà
per tutti li posti. Inquanto poi al debito
mio Ello farà ciò, che vederà conveniente
avere il pagamento. Sinf.

li 22^a d'Oct. 1798.

Al Sig^a - Comand^{te} - Liberto Grech

Cassar.

In this note Archpriest Cassar says "that he was sending to the commanders (a Holy Journal) probably meaning a Bible, which was to serve all the posts." He also informs Liberto Grech that he was to act as he thought fit to regain payment from a debtor.

(to be continued)

MALTA — DIARY

(January - December 1998)

by Anthony Fenech

02.01 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that all postal services normally provided at Valletta Post Office Counters, The Parcel Post Office and Central Mail Room at Marsa, Malta International Airport and Branch Post Offices in Malta and Gozo, will not be provided on Friday 2nd January 1998. All postal services will return to normal on Saturday 3rd January 1998.

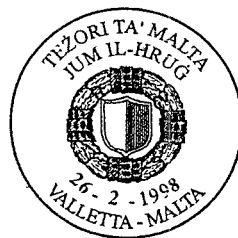
06.01 The public is advised that the Sub-Post Office at 77,3 G. Borg Olivier Street, Mellieha SPB 14 will be closed until Friday 16th January. The public is also advised to avail itself of the services offered by the Branch Post Office in Main Street, St.Paul's Bay.

20.01 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that the selection of the two designs of The EUROPA 1998 stamp issue will be made after a call for a public competition.

Theme: The 8th September National Regatta Festival

The successful artist would later on be required to prepare designs or layouts for a Postal Card, First Day Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

26.02 A new set of four stamps was issued to-day, featuring Maltese Costumes. Two of the stamps valued 6c, 16c feature costumes which were on display during an exhibition by The Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti between March and April 1998. The other two stamps (also valued 6c and 16c) depict paintings by Antoine de Favray (1706-1798). A souvenir sheet to commemorate The Choice of Valletta as European City of Culture was also issued to-day. The stamp perforated into the sheet is valued at 26c. The stamps and Miniature Sheet were both designed by Frank Ancilleri and printed by Printex Ltd. Two commemorative covers were issued by The Post Office but only one special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



04.03 The Office of The Postmaster General notified that a stamp design for the three stamps and a miniature sheet incorporating the three stamps on the occasion of the 1998 Football World Cup Competition Stamp Issue. Theme: France '98 F.I.F.A. Competition. The successful artist will later be required to prepare designs or layouts for a First Day

Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

14.03 The last day that the Post Office Counters have provided services at Auberge d'Italie. The move will be made to-day when Counter services will be provided only up to 1 p.m.

16.03 Valletta General Post Office counters have moved to Dar 1-Annona at Castille Square with effect from to-day. All services previously provided at the Auberge d'Italie will now be available at Dar 1-Annona.

16.03 The Sub-Post Office at Marsascala (Wied il-Ghajj S.P.O.) will be closed between Monday 16th and Monday 30th March. The public may avail itself of services at Zabbar Branch Post Office.

23.03 A Temporary Branch Post Office will be in operation at the Mediterranean Conference Centre for the duration of The World Telecommunications Development Conference, from today Monday 23rd March to Wednesday 1st April. Members of the public are not allowed entry so philatelists are asked to leave philatelic material at the Philatelic Bureau, for transmission. A special hand postmark was used worded as follows: "World Telecommunication Development Conference 98/Date/MAL-TACOM/Med. Conference Centre Valletta"



23.03 The public is advised that the Sub-Post Office at Bugibba (Bugibba S.P.O.) will be closed between Monday 23rd March and Saturday 4th April. The public may avail itself of services at St. Paul's Bay Branch Post Office.

28.03 The Historic Commemorations set was issued today. The set consists of two se-tenant pairs issued to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the departure of the Knights of St. John from Malta and the arrival of the French. Stamp values: a pair of 6c stamps and a pair of 16c stamps were designed by Joseph Mizzi and printed by Printex Ltd. on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of



issue. One of the set of special hand postmarks was prepared purposely for the T.P.O. operating at The Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta to cancel First Day Covers posted at the temporary post office.

17.04 The Acting Postmaster General notified that the selection of the five designs of the ANNIVERSARIES Stamp Issue would be made after a call for a public competition.

Themes: 50th Anniversary UN Declaration on Human Rights;
50th Anniversary General Retailers and Traders Union (GRTU);
150th Anniversary Foundation Chamber of Commerce;
50th Anniversary International Maritime Authority;
25th Anniversary Air Malta

not later than 1.00 pm on Tuesday 12th May 1998.

The successful artist will later be required to prepare designs of layouts for a First Day Cover, hand datestamp, stamp bulletin and poster.

20.04 The Post Office is using a stamp cancellation slogan "The Malta Chamber of Commerce — 150th Anniversary (1848-1998)" from today Monday till Thursday 30th April (excluding April 26th) at the Central Mail Room, Marsa. The slogan reads: "The Malta/Chamber/of Commerce/1848-1998/150th Anniversary" and incorporates the logo of the Malta Chamber of Commerce.

22.04 The "EUROPA '98" postage stamp set of two stamps was issued today.

The theme for the Europa stamps was 'National Festivals'. The 16c stamp designed by Frank Ancilleri and the 35c designed by Richard J. Caruana show the 8th September Regatta. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. Date of withdrawal of this set of stamps will be 22nd April 1999.



06.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "International Nurses Day/12th May" will be used from today May 6th until May 12th excluding Sunday May 10th, at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.

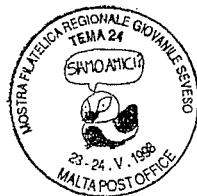
09.05 One of the Birkirkara B.P.O. Counter metal datestamps was replaced by a new one with effect from to-day, Saturday 9th May. Yesterday was the last day that the old metal

datestamp was put into use on the Counter.

13.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Institute of/Health Care/a decade of excellence" was used from May 13th to May 19th (excluding May 17th) at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.

20.05 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Nestle/75 years/in MALTA" was used from May 20th to May 26th 1998 at the Central Mail Room, Marsa.

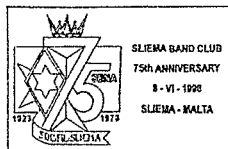
23.05 Maltapost plc notifies that a special hand postmark "TEMA 24" will be in use at the Counter Hall Valletta on the 23rd May 1998. The handstamp will also be in use by a representative of MALTAPOST plc at the "TEMA 24" philatelic exhibition being held at Sevezo, Italy between the 23rd and 24th May 1998.



27.05 New Postage Stamp set "International Year of the Oceans" was issued today. The stamps 2c, 6c, 16c, 27c were designed by Isabelle Borg and printed on watermarked paper (Maltese Crosses) by Printex Ltd. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



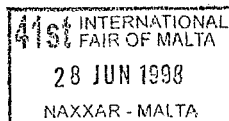
08.06 A special hand postmark was used at the Sliema Branch Post Office commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Sliema Band Club. The handstamp was inscribed as follows: logo of the club /Sliema Band Club/75th Anniversary/8-VI-1998/Sliema-Malta".



10.06 World Cup '98 set of stamps was issued today. The stamp values 6c, 16c, 22c and the Miniature Sheet incorporating the three stamps were designed by Richard J. Caruana. A special handstamp was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



26.06 Maltapost plc launched its new colours — yellow and blue instead of red.



28.06 A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the 41st

International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Sunday, June 28th to Sunday July 12th. The counter services available were those normally available at all Branch Post Offices and included also Parcel Post Service. Postal articles posted at this T.P.O. were postmarked by a special datestamp inscribed as follows: "41st International/Fair of Malta/date/Naxxar - Malta".

06.07 A counter service was introduced at the Central Mail Room Marsa as from to-day. The metal handstamp CENTRAL MAIL ROOM - MALTA - used is identical to those in use at the CMR presently.

27.07 Mgarr S.P.O. is closed temporarily as from to-day, until August 5th. Clients may use the Post Office Branch at Mosta.

30.07 The Ministry of Communication of The Republic of Korea has launched a competition for the design of two stamps to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union and the 108th Session of the International Olympic Committee. The competition is open to both Korean and overseas participants. Designs must be submitted to The Ministry of Korea by September 30th. Further information available from The Philatelic Executive, Maltapost plc, Marsa.



01.08 A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall (Dar Annona), Valletta, to-day, to mark the 25th Anniversary of The Italian Military Mission 1973-1998/logo/Valletta - 1.VIII.1998 - Malta".

10.08 It was notified that the following three Sub-Post Offices were to be closed temporarily as follows:

Tarxien Sub-Post Office between August 10 and 22. The public is advised to use instead, the Paola Branch Post Office at The Civic Centre in Paola Square;

The Ta' Xbiex S.P.O. between August 10 and 14. The public have been advised to use the Msida Branch Post Office during this period;

The Sub-Post Office in Kalkara between August 10 and 20. The public have been advised to use the Cospicua Branch Post Office during this period.



24.08 The Dingli Sub-Post Office will be closed between August 24

and 29. The public is advised to use the Rabat Branch Post Office during this period.

28.08 Maltapost plc used a special hand postmark inscribed “Riccione/ 28-29-30.VIII.1998/Maltapost plc” at the Counter Hall, Valletta on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th August 1998 during office hours. An identical handstamp was also available at the Sliema Stamp Shop Stand at Riccione, Italy, between August 28-30. Mr. Joe Buttigieg was appointed to represent Maltapost plc for the occasion.

02.09 Maltapost plc issued the latest posting dates for Christmas mail.



04.09 A special hand postmark “Portugal 1998” was used at the Counter Hall, Valletta from Friday 4th to Saturday 12th September 1998 (except on Sunday 6th and on Tuesday 8th) during office use. The handstamp was also in use at Portugal ‘98 International Philatelic Exhibition held at Lisbon, Portugal between Friday 4th and Sunday 13th September by the Agent for Maltapost plc at the Exhibition. The handstamp was inscribed: “Portugal 98/4-13.IX.1998/International Philatelic/Exhibition/Maltapost plc.”

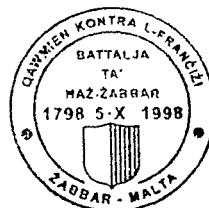
05.09 The Sliema Sub-Post Office (Tigne Sub-Post Office) in Tigne, Sliema, will be closed between September 5 and 7. The public are advised to use the Sliema Branch Post Office in the meantime.

17.09 The “Anniversaries 1998” postage stamp set was issued to-day. The stamps commemorated the following anniversaries:

- 1c - 50th Anniversary International Maritime Authority
- 6c - 50th Anniversary UN Declaration on Human Rights
- 11c - 50th Anniversary General Retailers and Traders Union (GRTU)
- 19c - 150th Anniversary Foundation Chamber of Commerce
- 26c - 25th Anniversary of Air Malta.



The stamps were designed, after a competition, by Harry Borg. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



01.10 A new metal datestamp was used at Zabbar and at San Gwann

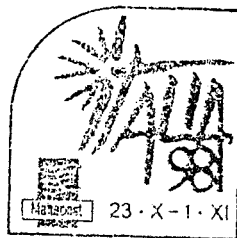
Branch Post Offices to-day. Consequently, Wednesday 30th September was the last day of use of the old worn out datestamps which were replaced by the new ones.

05.10 Maltapost plc notified that a special postmark to commemorate the Battle of Haz-Zabbar (1798-1998) was to be used at Zabbar Branch Post Office today, during the normal Branch opening hours. The postmark read as follows "Qawmien Kontra l-Francizi/Battalja ta' Haz-Zabbar/1798 5-X 1998/Zabbar-Malta."



09.10 A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall of The Post Office (Dar Annona) in Valletta, to-day, to mark U.P.U. Day. The handstamp was inscribed as follows: "World Post Day/U.P.U. Logo/One World - One Postal Network/Valletta - 9.X.1998 - Malta."

19.10 A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Middle Sea Race/Royal Yacht Club/R.O.R.C.-F.I.V./24th October '98" was used at the Central Mail Room, Marsa between Monday 19 and Saturday 31 October (excepting Sunday 25).



23.10 Postal Card (No.19) was issued on the occasion of the participation of Maltapost plc at the Italia '98 International Philatelic Exhibition which was held in Milan, Italy between 23 October and 1 November 1998. The Card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa '98 postage stamp set and the logo of the exhibition. Both mint and cancelled Postal cards were put on sale at the price of 51c each. The special postmark was used at the philatelic counter of the G.P.O. as well as at the Malta Post Office Stand at Italia '98 in Milan. The special hand postmark was inscribed as follows: "Italia '98/Maltapost/ 23.X - 1.XI."

23.10 Maltapost plc notified that a special postmark to commemorate Juan Bautista Azopardo, a Maltese from Senglea who reached the rank of Admiral in the Argentinian Navy, was used at the Counter Hall, Valletta. The handstamp was worded as follows: "Juan Bautista Azopardo/Valletta-Malta/1848 - 23.10-1998". Commemorative Cover No 12 designed by John Micallef was prepared by the Spanish/Maltese Circle to commemorate Juan Bautista Azopardo on this occasion.



28.10 A special postmark to commemorate the 200th Anniversary from the capitulation of The French Forces in Gozo was used at Victoria, Gozo Branch; Post Office on Wednesday 28th October 1998. The special hand postmark was inscribed as follows: "200 Sena mi l-Kapitulazzjoni/tal-Francizi f'Ghawdex/Victoria-Gozo - 28.X.1998 - Malta."



19.11 The "Christmas 1998" postage stamp set of four stamps was issued to-day. The stamps feature paintings by Mattia Preti (1613-1699). Three of the stamps included a small surcharge to be distributed to Child Welfare institutions and philanthropic organisations. The stamps valued 6c, 6c+2c, 16c+3c, and 26c+3c were designed by the graphic Section of Maltapost plc. A special hand postmark was used for the cancelling of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



05.12 A Temporary Branch Post Office was in operation at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta from Saturday 5th to Sunday 6th December 1998 during the 9th Centenary celebrations of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Since the public would not be allowed entry, philatelists were asked to leave philatelic material at the Philatelic Bureau, Marsa, for onward transmission to be postmarked by a special datestamp inscribed as follows: "S.M.O.M. 9th Centenary Celebrations/Malta Mediterranean/Conference Centre/Valletta/-5DEC 1998 or -6DEC 1998".



12.12 Maltapost plc informed the public that the latest posting date for local pre-Christmas delivery was Saturday 19th December. The public was urged to purchase Christmas stamps with surcharge as this would be used to help children in need. Maltapost recommended the use of the postcode on all letters for the safest and swiftest delivery.

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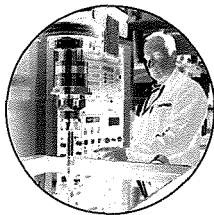
AMCOR
TECHCOOK
Caravell
MAGICLINE

G'Mangia
 St. Luke's Square,
 Tel: 237207

Zebbug
 Mdina Road,
 Tel: 465832

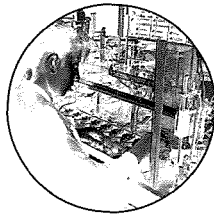
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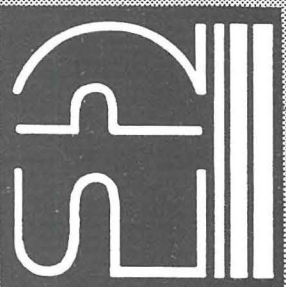
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