

# FINE ARTS ON MALTA STAMPS

## PART IV

by LOIS L. CORBIN

### FINE ARTS

SCOTT		SAID
331	<i>Dante</i> . Detail of fresco by Raphael "The Disputa" in the Stanza della Segnatura, Vatican. All values (2d., 6d., 2/-) issued 7th July 1965 to mark "VII Centenary of Birth of Dante Alighieri".	331
334	<i>Turkish Encampment and Fort St. Michael</i> . Adapted from paintings by Matteo d'Alleccio (1547-1600) on commission from Grand Master Aloph de Wignacourt a half century after the events of the Great Siege of 1565, from the fresco frieze in the Hall of St. Michael and St. George of the Grand Masters' Palace, Valetta. 2d. stamp of the set to commemorate the "IV Century of the Great Siege", issued 1st September 1965.	334
335	<i>Knights and Turks in Battle</i> (same as 334). 3d. stamp.	335
337	<i>Arrival of Small Relieving Force from Sicily</i> . Same as 334. 8d. stamp of the same issue.	337
338	<i>Trophy</i> , arms of the Grand Master Jean de la Valette decorative relief of his tomb in the crypt of St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta (see 289, Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 12). 1/- value of the above issue.	338
339	<i>Allegory of Victory</i> , mural by Calabrese from St. John's Co-Cathedral, in the large lunette over the main entrance, adapted. Mattia Preti (1613-1699), known as Il Cavaliere Calabrese or Il Calabrese, Italian painter; his works include frescoes in the Church of Sant'Andrea delle Valle in Rome and 'Job Visited by his Friends', Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels. Il Calabrese was himself a Knight of the Order and modified the original plans for St. John' Co-Cathedral by G. Cassar, the church was completed in 1578. The ceiling of the Cathedral is embellished with the frescoes of Mattia Preti. 1/6 value.	339
340	<i>Great Siege Victory Medal</i> : Jean de la Valette on obverse, David slaying Goliath on reverse, as told in the Old Testament; both sides of the medal shown on stamp. Medal struck 400 years ago after famous victory over the Turks. 2/6 value.	340
344	<i>Winston Churchill</i> , by amateur artist. All values (2d., 3d., 1/-, 1/6) of set issued in memory of Sir Winston Churchill on 24th January 1966.	344

- 348- *Valletta City*. Valletta was founded in 1566, named after Grand 348-  
 352 Master Jean Parisot de la Valette (on 2d. stamp). Construction 352  
 begun after the lifting of the Great Siege; designs of the new city  
 made by Francesco Laparelli (1/- stamp), architect to the Pope and  
 Michelangelo's assistant, assisted by Maltese architect Girolomo  
 Cassar (2/6 stamp). After the siege the defences of the Island were  
 in a very poor state; members of the Order fearing another Turkish  
 attack were in favour of evacuating the Island. La Valette convinced  
 the Order should not leave, requested the help of Christian princes  
 and Pope Pius IV (3d. stamp) to assist him in building a new city.  
 The funds made available were not enough, but members of the  
 Order were persuaded to help and the local population submitted  
 to a new tax on imported wheat and wine, providing the needed  
 money. On March 28 1566 the foundation stone was laid. City  
 designed (6d. stamp) with parallel roads crossing each other at  
 right angles, running across the centre ridge of the main promo-  
 notory, and the grid form of the whole plan is one of the earliest  
 examples of modern town planning. All values of issue of 28th  
 March 1966 to mark "IV Centenary of the Foundation of Valletta".
- 353 *John F. Kennedy Memorial*: one of the newest examples of modern 353  
 Maltese architecture, set in a grove at Salina; the memorial pavillion  
 is shown as background. (Architect?) 3d. and 1/6 values in memory  
 of President John F. Kennedy, issued 28th May 1966.
- 367 *St. Catherine of Siena*, c. 1667 marble group by Melchiorre Gafà 367  
 (1635-1667). Born in Malta, Gafà studied in Rome; considered one  
 of the most accomplished exponents of Roman baroque art. Bernini  
 said to have regarded him as the only artist who could surpass him.  
 Among his best known work are the marble groups of St. Catherine  
 of Siena and St. Thomas of Villanova in Rome, and St. Rose of  
 Lima, in Peru; the bronze bust of Alexander VII in Washington,  
 and the St. Paul processional statue in Valletta. "The Glory of St.  
 Catherine of Siena" is in the apse of the Church of Santa Caterina  
 in Magnanapoli, Rome. 2d. stamp issued 1st August 1967 to mark  
 the "III Centenary of the Death of Melchiorre Gafà".
- 368 *St. Thomas from Villanova*, by Gafà, the bozzetto for the colossal 368  
 marble group of St. Thomas of Villanova is in the transept of the  
 Church of St. Augustine in Rome. A 1661 terracotta copy of this  
 bozzetto shown on the stamp is in the National Museum of Fine  
 Arts, Valletta. 4d. value of above issue.

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369 *Christ's Baptism*, the 1667 bronze group representing the "Baptism of Christ", adapted from Gafà's original clay model in the Sacristy of the old Parish Church of St. Gregory in Żejtun, Malta. 1/6 value. 369  
(Editor's note: The bozzetto of the above statue is in fact at the Museum attached to the Parish Church dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria, Żejtun).

370 *St. John the Baptist*, from the same group "Baptism of Christ". 370  
This work caused Gafà's death (in Rome), as he was knocked down by a large lump of clay while modelling the huge figure of this group in the Belvedere Foundry at the Vatican. 2/6 value.

Editorial Request: The author of this series of articles would appreciate any corrections in the descriptions and details given. Readers are kindly requested to forward same to: Lois L. Corbin, 501 East Seminole, Apt. 7, Lake Wales, Florida 33853, USA.