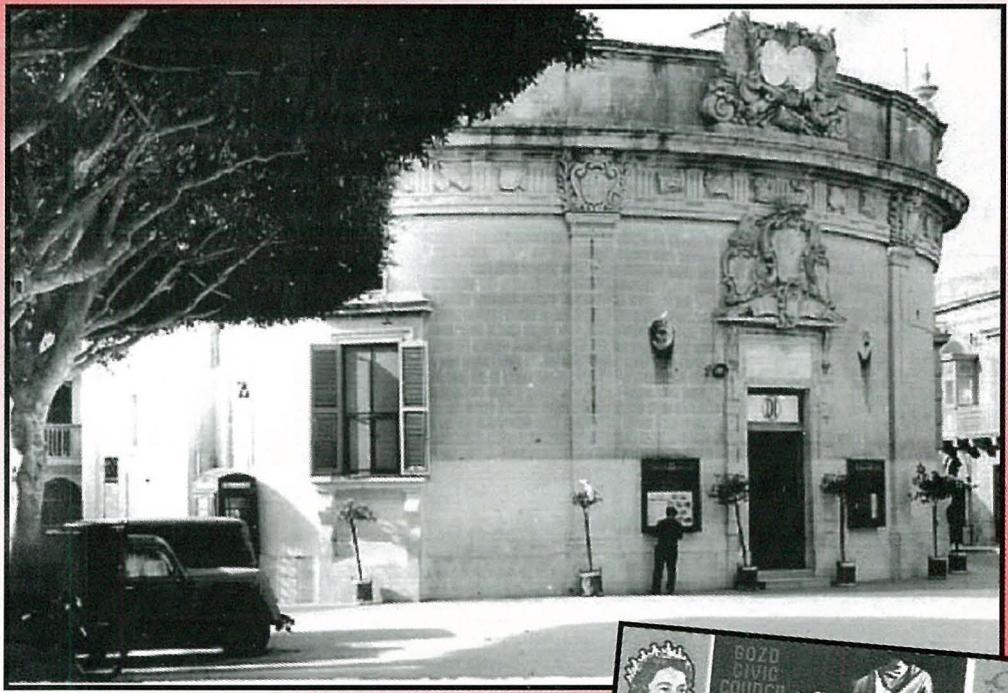




October - December 2010

No.42 - 4/2010

[www.stamps-gozo.org](http://www.stamps-gozo.org)



**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**



*Newsletter*

# BOV Internet Banking



## ħallas il-kontijiet mid-dar jew mix-xogħol

- ħ ittrasferixxi flus minn kont għal iehor
- ħ hallas il-kont tal-kredit kards
- ħ ara l-bilanċi 24 siegħa kuljum
- ħ ara l-kopji taċ-ċekkijiet imsarrfa
- ħ haddem l-investimenti tiegħek

ħ żur is-sit [www.bov.com](http://www.bov.com)

Midwarras Bank of Valletta Ltd. 100, Tantiemwara, Valletta 2011. Malta

**BOV**

Bank of Valletta

*Impenn lejn is-Success tiegħek*

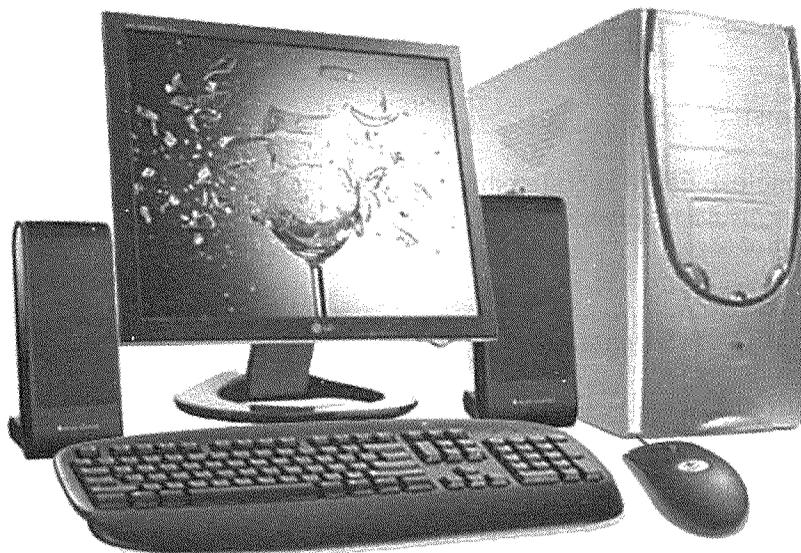
### **Front Cover:**

- Banca Giuratale in Victoria Gozo. *Photo by George Vella.*
- 2/- stamp - showing Banca Giuratale in the background. This stamp is part of a definitive set issued on January 7, 1965.

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# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose €5.00 membership fee. (Overseas €12, including Newsletter)

*(Fee for Junior membership, under 16 years, is €2.00.*

*Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_)*

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

I enclose € 5 (Junior € 2 / Overseas € 12) to renew my membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

**GPS NEWSLETTER**  
**Quarterly Organ**  
of  
**THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*First issued on February 12, 2000*      *Editor: Austin Masini*

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

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

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**GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY***Founded on September 3, 1999*

For "the promotion of the hobby"

"the provision of a point of reference" and "co-ordination"

*Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.**email address: editor@stamps-gozo.org*

## GPS DIARY (41)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

*secretary@satmps-gozo.org*

- October 3, 2010:** First Sunday monthly Members' meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ (triq Santa Dminka).
- October 4, 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares Cover for "Hbieb tal-Presejju" anniversary handstamp (see page 9).
- October 4, 2010:** GPS founder-member George Vella lectures about Malta's Christmas stamps (at the main Lending Library).
- October 19, 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares two covers for Natural Treasures set, showing Azure Window and Ta' Cenc.
- October 20, 2010:** Committee meeting continues preparing for Exhibition.
- October 26, 2010** Visit by MaltaPost Philately officials to discuss Exhibition participation.
- November 9, 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares Cards for the two "Gozo" designs in the Christmas set.
- November 10, 2010:** Setting up of Exhibition begun.
- November 13, 2010:** First day of Exhibition; Judging takes place.
- November 13, 2010:** MaltaPost issues handstamp for 11<sup>th</sup> GPS Exhibition; Anthony Grech prepares commemorative card, using another five personalized stamps.
- November 21, 2010:** Last day of Exhibition
- December 3, 2010:** Committee finalizes Exhibition prizes and discusses AGM.

### **Errata**

A rather obvious mistake escaped our attention in issue 40 (page 5): the last five items at the bottom are repeated erroneously from the top. Other slips unfortunately also appeared in issue 41, including a "Luly" on the cover and "April-June" in the header.



## Non-Avian Fauna on Malta's Stamps (1899-2007)

(Antoine Vassallo)

chronological list (\* = not the main subject of design)  
(cont from Newsletter No 41)

### 2005 Insects

- 16c seven-spotted ladybird
- 16c lacewing
- 16c honey bee
- 16c darter
- 16c emperor dragonfly
- 16c glow-worm
- 16c gourd ladybird
- 16c earwig
- 16c praying mantis
- 16c wasp
- 16c longhorn beetle
- 16c cricket
- 16c carpenter bee
- 16c cicada
- 16c grasshopper
- 16c rhinoceros beetle

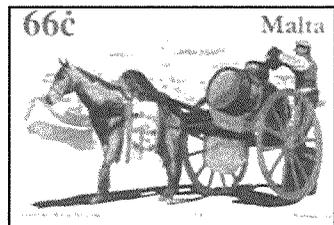


### 2005 Europa

- 51c rabbit\*

### 2005 Equines

- 11c horses
- 15c mule
- 62c mule
- 66c horse



### 2005 Christmas

- 50c sheep\*, donkey



**2006 CEPT**

5c butterflies

**2006 Pets**

7c pony

7c chihuahua

7c goldfish

7c siamese cat

7c fighting fish

7c ferret

7c terrapin

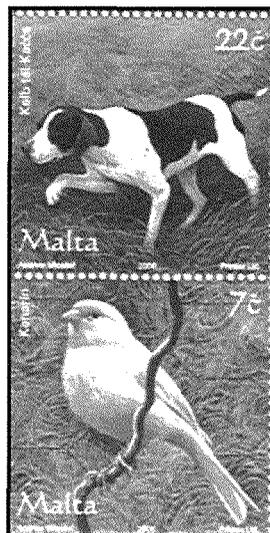
22c chinchilla

22c rabbit

22c pointer

22c guineapig

22c domestic cat



**2006 Christmas**

16c camels

27c lambs\*

**2007 Prehistoric Sculpture**

29c (uncertain – mammals)

**2007 Toys**

2c Horse\*

**2007 Occasions**

8c Bears

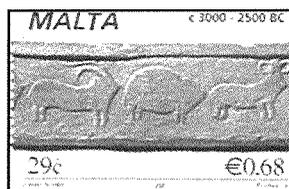
**2007 End of Lira**

MS dolphins\*, crab, weasel,  
bee and dolphin-fish

*Do suggest corrections or  
additions.*

*[editor@stamps-gozo.org](mailto:editor@stamps-gozo.org)*

*The previous parts offered in Nos  
33 to 35 and 40.*

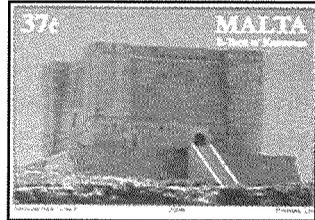


## COMINO TOWER

(Mary Grace Xerri)

One of the main things that preoccupied the Order of St John when it took over the Maltese Islands was that these islands had no adequate defence system. In order to fortify the islands against corsair raids and invasions, watch towers and fortresses were built along the coastline.

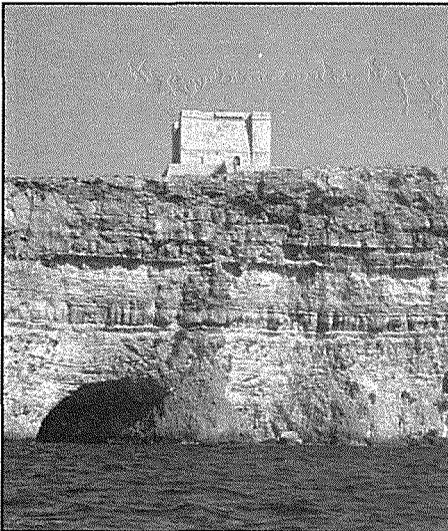
On September 29, 2006 Maltapost issued a set of five stamps depicting castles and towers around the Maltese islands. The 37c value represents the tower situated on the island of Comino.



The tower is forty feet high. Its walls are five metres thick and rises 230 feet above sea level. It dominates the channel crossing between Malta and Gozo.

Two hundred men were detailed in this tower to stop enemy attempts to land on these islands and to report any enemy movements. The Maltese resistance movement used this tower following the French invasion in 1798. Later the tower was used by the British and subsequently by the Armed Forces of Malta. Today the tower is restored to its original state thanks to “*Din l-Art Helwa*” and is open for visits by appointment.

Photo: George Vella



## Malta Christmas Stamps 2010

*(George Vella)*

On November 9 Maltapost p.l.c. issued a set of three Christmas stamps. This is the 47th consecutive set of Christmas stamps issued in Malta since 1964. Two of these stamps depict old paintings to be found in Gozo.

The €0.19 stamp depicts 'The Adoration Of The Magi', which is to be found at the Lombard Bank, Malta. This painting is by Valerio Castello, 1624-1659. This Italian artist was very active in Genoa during his short life. His works are regarded as combining the style of Veronese with the fire of Tintoretto.

The €0.37 stamp depicts 'The Flight into Egypt', which is to be found at St. Mary's Cathedral Museum at the Cittadella, Victoria, Gozo. Formerly it used to be the titular painting at the old St. Joseph chapel at the Cittadella.

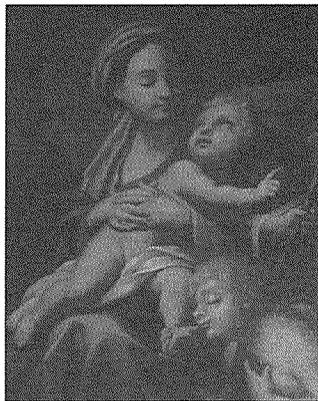


This painting was attributed to Filippo Paladini, 1544-1614, who was a painter originally from Tuscany. Like Caravaggio he took refuge in Malta between 1590 and 1595 during the Grand Mastership of Verdala, and later in Sicily, for problems with justice. His works are to be found in churches in many cities in Sicily: Palermo, Modica, Caltanissetta, Catania, Licata, Acireale, Vizzini, Mineo, Caltagirone and Mazzarino and of



course also in Malta. Yet now this painting is attributed to an unknown Northern European artist.

The €0.63 stamp depicts the ‘Madonna Di Maggio’, which is to be found at St. George’s Basilica, Victoria, Gozo. This painting hangs under the titular painting of St. George and the Dragon by Mattia Preti. This painting is attributed to a not so well known artist Pierre Guillemin and painted in 1732.



**You are all invited to contribute to this, our periodical**

Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, the language should preferably be English; but a summary could be added to an item in Maltese - in any case the editorial board can translate.

We also 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!

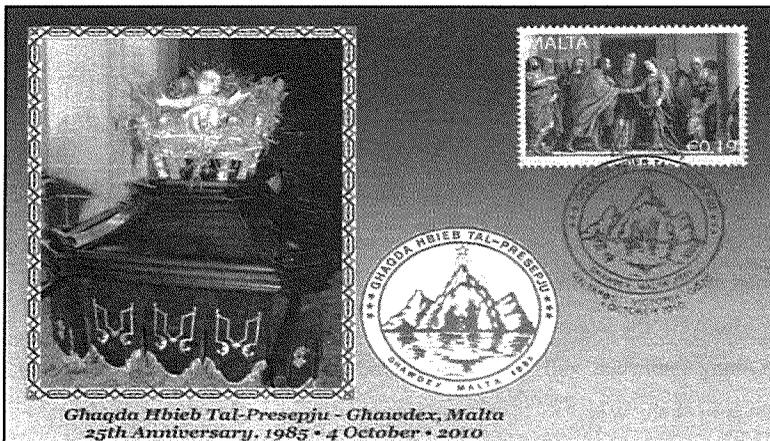


## CHRISTMAS CRIB FRIENDS

*(Antoine Vassallo)*



Various Gozo Philatelic Society members participated in a public lecture about Christmas in Philately and particularly Malta's stamps (delivered by founder-member George Vella) at the main Lending Library on the occasion of the 25th



anniversary of the *Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presejju* (“Friends of the Crib”). Mr Vella had designed a handstamp for the auspicious day and we obviously produced a Cover! (below)

Spiritual Director Canon Michael Borg encouraged families to instil this interest in their children and PRO Chev Joe M Attard issued a commemorative poem. The foundation took place in the village of San Lawrenz in 1985 and efforts were begun immediately to acquire membership in the *Universalis Foederatio Praeseptica* (the international federation of such organizations). Thus this Gozitan NGO represents the whole of Malta!

The Committee participates regularly in overseas events and organizes activities locally to encourage interest and support the crafts necessary for crib-building. It distributes an illustrated periodical and has published a multi-lingual “Story of Cribs and Pasturi in the Maltese Islands”. A permanent exhibition can be visited at the premises under the Bishop’s Curia (in Victoria’s Republic Street)



## Where in the World ?! (32)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**LATVIA** (*Latvija*): Nordic state with stamps 1918-40 (when became part of USSR) and again from 1991; Russian occupation, German occupation (*Ostland*).

**League of Nations:** Swiss stamps (*Societe des Nations* or *SdN*) for the Geneva offices 1922-46.

**LEBANON** (*Liban*): Formerly part of the Turkish Empire, French Mandate stamps were issued from 1924 and independence proclaimed in 1941; British, French and German PO.

**Leeward Islands:** General issues for the West Indian islands of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St Christopher and Virgin Islands were issued from 1890 to 1956.

**Lemnos:** Overprinted stamps for Aegean island occupied by Greece in 1912 and united in 1913.

**Leon:** overprinted stamps were issued here in 1914 during the Mexican Civil War.

**Leros:** Italian occupation overprinted stamps for this Aegean island were issued from 1912.

**Lesbos:** Overprinted stamps for Aegean island occupied by Greece in 1912 and united in 1913.

**LESOTHO:** Southern Africa state became independent in 1966 – formerly Basutoland.

**Levant:** various foreign POs (from 1885) in Turkish Eastern Mediterranean, including British, French and Italian.

*Liban* = Lebanon.



**LIBERIA:** West African state with stamps from 1860.

*Libia* = Libya.

**LIBYA:** North African country which became independent (amalgamating Cyrenaica, Fezzan, Ghadames and Tripolitania) in 1951; Italian colonial issues from 1912.

**LIECHTENSTEIN:** Principality near Switzerland with own stamps from 1912.

*Lietuva* = Lithuania.

**Lima:** Peru local issues 1871-3.

**Limnos:** see Lemnos.

**Lipsos:** Italian occupation overprinted stamps for this Aegean island were issued from 1912.

**LITHUANIA:** (*Lietuva*) Baltic state with stamps from 1918 to 1940 (when incorporated in USSR); independent again from 1990; stamps were issued in 1919 during Russian occupation; Poland issued stamps 1920-2 during occupation of Central Lithuania; German occupation stamps were issued in 1941.

*Litwa* = Lithuania.

**Litzmannstadt:** stamp issued in Lodz (Poland) in 1944.

---

***Bold italic*** = Inscriptions;

**BOLD CAPITALS** = Current Issuers;

**Bold** = Former Issuers.

*(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!)*

*(to be continued)*



## PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY THE GOZO BANCA GIURATALE

(Anton F Attard)

The Gozo Banca Giuratale knows its origins to the establishment of the Gozo Commune or Universitas Gaudisii around the year 1350 when Malta and Gozo were under the domination of the Aragonese rulers. On October 7 of that year our islands were returned to the royal demanium at the request of the inhabitants themselves and most probably it was also in that year that the Gozitan Local Government was set up; so much so that the Gozo Commune is first referred to in a document of 1373 with regard to the approval of Petrus de Trapano as Notary Public for Gozo.

The Universitas was headed by a captain, officially known as Captain of the Rod (*Capitano della Verga*), since he carried a rod as a symbol of his authority, who was appointed annually by the King. The people referred to him as *Il-Hakem*. He was assisted by four jurats. The Gozo Universitas was independent from that of Malta.

With the establishment of the Gozo Commune, the old town of Gozo situated on the fortified hill in the centre of the island became to be known as *Terra Gaudisii*.

### The First Banca Giuratale

The building where the Universitas met was called the Banca Giuratale. The first Banca Giuratale was situated within the old fortified town on the hill. Dr Joseph Bezzina thinks that most probably it was situated on the same spot where later on the Palace of the Gozo Courts was built, now in Cathedral Square. However, it is to be pointed out that in 1409, the jurats were still looking for adequate premises as they requested a hall in the old *Castrum Gaudisii* or fortified tower within the same town; thus probably was sited where the Norman House is now to be found



in Melite Bernardo Street. At that time the jurats' request was turned down, most probably because lack of space. We also know that by 1442 this old Castrum was almost in ruins. So the jurats might as well by that time had acquired a hall or two in the same building but at the side of the Governor's Palace, in Zanca Street. This is only the opinion of the present writer and has still to be verified by further research work.



Definitive Set issued on 07/01/1965 shows the Banca Giuratale in the background

In 1551 the position of Captain of the Rod for the Gozo Commune was abolished and instead the Order started to appoint a Governor for Gozo who was always a knight. The first one was Galacian de Sesse', under whose ill-fated governorship Gozo suffered its disastrous siege.

The jurats continued to function from the town up to 1661 when they occupied a 'new' Banca Giuratale at It-Tokk, in Rabat, that is at the main square, which was of the town's suburb.

### The Banca Giuratale at Rabat.

Now at the western side of the main square there was an arcade, a type of a roofed passageway that served both as a sheltered marketplace and a meeting spot. In view of its threatening to collapse, Grand Master Martin de Redin (1657-60) ordered its restoration but nothing of the sort took place. So Grand Masters Annet Clermont de Chattes Gessan (1660) and Raphael Cotoner (1661-1663) had to issue similar orders. The necessary works were at last carried out in 1661 during the time of the Governor of Gozo Joseph del Vaso y Agreda of the Priory of Navarra. These works consisted of the restructuring of the passageway and the raising of some rooms upon it to serve as offices of the *Universitas*.

(continued on pages 22, 23 & 24)



## stamp terms used in PHILATELY (32)

(Emanuel Vella)

**Nanking:** The southern capital of China, the seat of the Japanese sponsored “puppet” government prior to and during World War II. It issued a lot of sets of postage stamps.

**Naphthadog:** Great Britain Graphite Line issues were at first known by this name. This is a description of the substance used for the graphite line stamps.

**Napur:** Perforating Machine: This machine was constructed on the Archer’s principle at a cost of £400 each by Somerset House. First 1d stamps, perforated 16, coming from these machines, were issued on January 29, 1854. (a detailed check list appears on page 100 of Todd’s ‘History of British Postage Stamps’). They were made by David Napier & Sons in Lambert.

**Naples (Napoli):** It issued stamps from January 1, 1858 when it was a kingdom. In 1860 King Ferdinand was driven out by Garibaldi and his volunteers, union with Sardinia was followed by an issue for the Neopolitan Provinces, bearing the head of the king of Sardinia. There were numerous forgeries. Pemberton says that the genuine stamps have a tiny letter engraved under the value.

**Nashville:** Here Confederates Postmasters issued stamps during the Civil War.



**Natal:** Former British colony, now part of the republic of South Africa. Its first issues of 1857-58, were unique being embossed in plain relief of coloured papers. Stamps of Natal were superseded by those of South Africa in 1913.

**Nationalist China:** see Formosa.

**National Philatelic Society:** This is the name of the British Philatelic Society. Formerly it was the Junior Philatelic Society.

**Nations Unies Office Europeen:** O/P on modern stamps of Switzerland indicates use by the office of the United Nations in Europe.

**Nativas:** French Colonial keytypes design for postage dues showing two native heads, one on either side of the value panel.

**Nauranagar:** Former Indian Native State which issued its own internal stamps from 1875 to 1895.

**Naya Paisa:** Indian currency unit introduced in 1957. 100n.p is equal to 1 rupee.

**Neopolitan Provinces:** A transitory administration, absorbing Naples and being later (1862) incorporated into the kingdom of Italy. Stamps were issued bearing the embossed head of Victor Emanuele II; from February 1861 to March 1862.

(to be continued)



## POST HASTE (12)

*continuing an irregular series about the interesting  
Story of the Post*

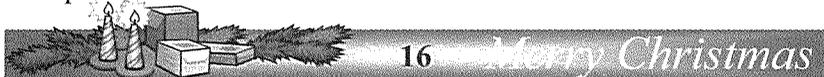
*(Antoine Vassallo)*

### Just Two of Australia's neighbours

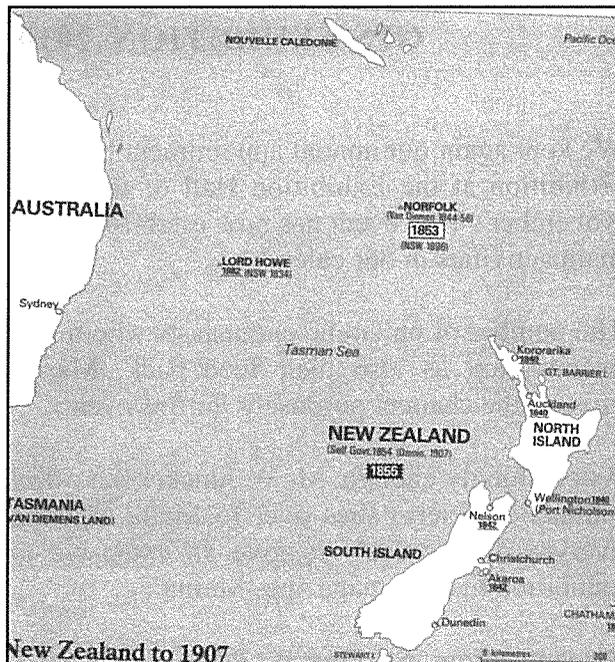
**Norfolk Island** was first settled in 1788 as part of New South Wales but was later abandoned, with the settlers being provided with land in what was later to become Tasmania. In 1826 it became a penal settlement; following further vicissitudes, it became part of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1914. The commandant's clerk had been acting as garrison postmaster in 1832 but eight years later a civil one was appointed and handstamps provided. In the second half of the century, mail was irregular and very few items have actually survived.

**New Zealand** comprises two main islands (simply called North and South), together with smaller territories. British settlers began appearing in the early nineteenth century. In 1839 the New Zealand Company was formed, acquiring land from the native Maoris. Though there was no official PO until 1840, regular communication had been established in 1831 with Sydney – which acted as the forwarding office for overseas mail in both directions. As letters had to be held for the first available ship, many delays occurred.

By 1843 the increase in the number of POs led to the decision that the Controlling Office be moved to Auckland. A series of overland routes were established - but the terrain and the difficult relations with the natives meant that the sea was deemed more reliable: going from Auckland to Wellington (via Sydney) could take three months! It was not until 1878 that the railway link between these two main towns was completed.



Stamps were first issued in 1855 and three years later the Post Office Act regularized rates throughout this colony. Various attempts were made by New Zealand to establish services with Britain: by 1930, mail was being



carried by sea to Karachi to connect with the London flight. The Trans-Tasman service began in 1934 and a little later NZ was included in the “Empire all-up” service.

Three final facts:

- During the two World Wars, troops serving in various countries had special postmarks and Field POs.
- The uninhabited Auckland Islands issued two unauthorized stamps in 1915: though without postal validity, some were accepted by the NZ post office.
- A pigeon post was established in 1897 for communication between Great Barrier Island and the mainland – and operated for over ten years.

*with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas*



## GPS EXHIBITION 2010

*(Anton Said)*

We kept again our annual appointment by organizing our GPS Exhibition at the Exhibition Hall of the Gozo Ministry, last November . This event has now established itself as one of our main activities in our calendar.

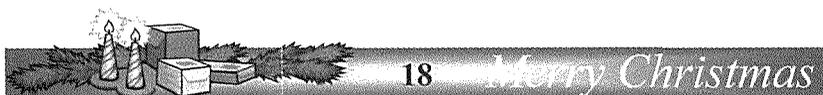
The number of philatelic enthusiasts who turned up was rather encouraging as also their feed back. Many of whom had crossed the channel purposely for this event.

Astonishingly enough, Mr W Juncker (an official of a German philatelic society) flies over to Malta together with his wife every year purposely to give an extensive coverage of our exhibition in their magazine 'Melita'.

Students from St Francis Primary School Victoria, Ninu Cremona Boys Secondary and the Seminary also were amongst the visitors. During the days in question i.e. November 13 to 21 a number of new members were enrolled.

This year's theme of the exhibition was 'People and Peoples' for the adults while the Juniors were let free to choose their own favourite subject. All the exhibits were remarkably of a high standard again this year..

A point of interest in the exhibition was the setup of a new system in our website which was displayed during the days in question. We are much grateful to Mr Samuel Masini who did all the work and to Mr Antoine Vassallo, our secretary, who did the updating in the system regarding the society's work and activities.



For this occasion, cards and personalized stamps were issued. thanks to Mr Anthony Grech our talented artist for the attractive designs and setup used.

A word of thanks goes to our main sponsors, the Bank of Valletta and Mr Joe Buttigieg of the Sliema Stamp Shop, also MaltaPost for their help and co-operation, not forgetting Mr Jesmond Borg, one of our members, for donating attractive stamp pockets as gifts to our young participants in the exhibition.

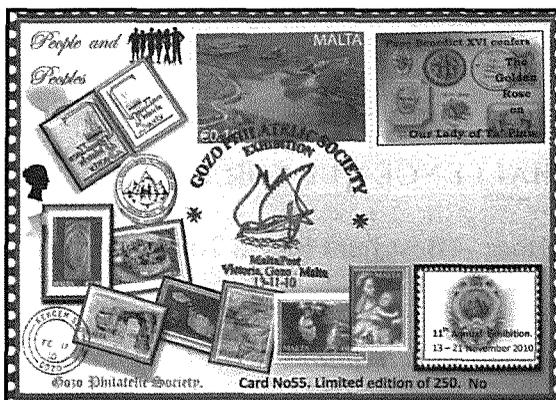
**Official results of the GPS Exhibition are as follows:-**

### JUNIOR SECTION

Zak Borg	1st
Joseph Vella	2nd
Erika Dingli	3rd

Amy Camilleri, \*Marie Vella, \*Miriana Said, Rebecca Xerri, Mathew Cardona, Maria Refalo, Nicholas Zammit, Nathaniel Refalo, Peter Sciberras, G Marlon Zammit, Albert Curmi, Mark Dingli, Natalia Said, Joelene Galea, Lara Grech and Celene Galea.

- *Marie Vella & Miriana Said - identical placing*



## OPRN CLASSES

### POSTAL HISTORY

Jesmond Borg	1st Prize
Anthony Grech	2nd Prize
Jesmond Borg	3rd Prize

### TRADITIONAL PHILATELY - PEOPLE AND PEOPLES

Anthony Grech	1st Prize
Jesmond Borg	2nd Prize
Emanuel Vella	3rd Prize
M'Grace Xerri	Runner Up
Anthony Said Cremona	Runner Up

### SOCIAL PHILATELY

Anthony Grech	1st Prize
Anthony Grech	2nd Prize
Corinne Borg	3rd Prize

## B.O.V. CHALLENGE CUP FOR BEST ITEM ON SHOW

Jesmond Borg - (Best Item was in The Postal History Class.)

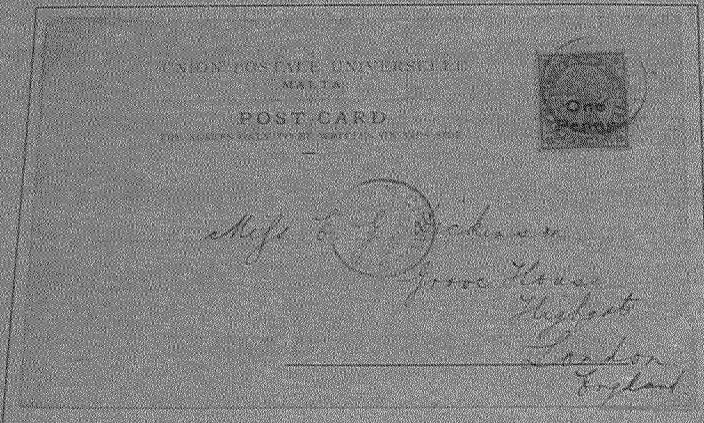
*Congratulations to all Exhibitors*



# Australian MALTA (19)

*another glimpse at the prize-winning collection  
built up by John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia*

## Use of 'One Penny' overprint and Some Minor Flaws



Undivided back Picture Postcard sent to England using the One Penny overprint dated October 1902. Postcard to Britain was 1d up to 1906 when it was then reduced to 1/2d.



Thin Top of 'n' in One  
Row 3 Number 4



Broken 'O' at bottom left  
Row 6 Number 4



Broken 'e' in Penny  
Row 7 Number 1



Short left leg of first 'n' of Penny  
Row 8 Number 6



Closed 'e' in One  
Not been reported - position unknown



(continued from page 13)

The following inscription commemorated the event:

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO  
SEMEL A REDIN PRAESIDE HUIUS INSVLAE IVSSVS  
PER CLERMONT ET COTONER IDEM VOCATVS  
VT SIC ILLOS NEMINE MAGIS DILIGEREM  
GAVLITANIS HOC QVASI PRAE OCVLIS COLLAPSVM  
RESTITVERE CVRAVI  
ANNO DOMINI MDCLXI  
REGNANTE  
FRATRE DOMINO RAPHAEL COTONER  
INSVLARVM MELITAE ET GAVLI PRINCIPE  
DIGNISSIME GVBERNATE VIRO COMMENDATORE  
FRATRE DOMINO JOSEPH DEL VASO Y AGREDA  
PRIORITATVS NAVARRAE

### The 'new' Banca Giuratale

It appears that this first *Banca Giuratale* at Rabat was not quite adequate for the needs of the Governor and the Jurats of the Gozo *Univeristas*. So after the elapse of eighty years they obtained the permission of Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena (1722-1736) and built another *Banca*, with a modern architectural baroque façade on the design of Francois de Mondion, Military engineer.

The new building had two floors, with two rooms at ground floor and two rooms at first floor that could be reached by a staircase. The new *Banca Giuratale* had a very ornamental façade surmounted by a huge stone octagonal cross of the Order of St. John. Mounted on the lower arm of the cross there were two marble escutcheons, the emblem of the Order of St. John on the left and the coat of arms of Grand



Master de Vilhena on the right. On each side of this emblem there were two other escutcheons, the coat of arms of Pablo Antonio de Viguier on the left and that of Despuig, the seneschal, on the right.

This imposing building was inaugurated by Pablo Antonio de Viguier, Governor of Gozo (1772-1774), in 1733, as attested by the following inscription:

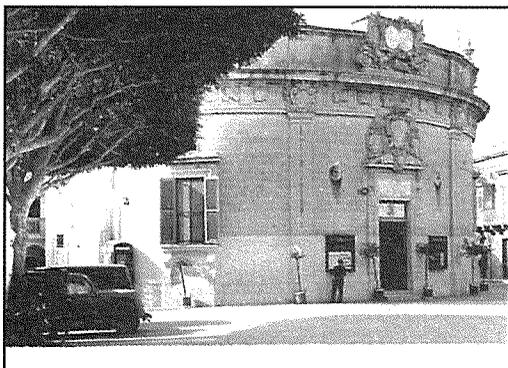
SUB AUSPICIIS  
 EMINENTISS[IM]I AC SERENISS[IM]I PRINCIPIS FRA  
 D. ANTONII  
 MANOEL DE VILHENA  
 EIUSQUE IUSSU  
 AD PATRUM AC CIVIUM COMMODITATEM ET  
 ORNAMENTU[M]  
 AEDES ISTAE  
 A FUNDAMENTIS ERECTAE SUNT AN.  
 SAL.MDCCXXXIII  
 ILL. D[OMI]NO  
 FR. PAULO ANTONIO DE VIGUIER  
 GAULITANAM INSULAM GUBERNANTE.

The Gozo *Universitas* continued to hold its meeting inside this building until 1818, when it was suppressed by the British Governor of Malta Sir Thomas Maitland.

### A Semicircular Addition

Under the British rule the building housed several Government Departmental Offices. Due to the limited space in 1875 it was enlarged by a semicircular addition designed by Architect Giovanni Bonello. The 1733 inscription was incorporated in the new façade over the main door and the





escutcheons were incorporated in the cornice of the new building.

Some of the Government Departments which at one time were housed in this building

included the following: the Notarial Archives, the Post Office, the Police Station, the Health Office, the First Telephone Exchange, the Department of Agriculture, the Information Department and currently the Culture Office.

From 1961 to 1973, the upper rooms housed the Gozo Civic Council and since 1994 it serves as premises of the Victoria Local Council.

#### REFERENCES FOR FURTHER READING:

Attard, Anton F., "Kastell u Gran Kastell", *Programm Festa Santa Marija 2010, Soċjeta' Filarmonika Leone, Victoria, Ghawdex*, issue No. 31, pp. 87-90.

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Farrugia, Mons. Dun Ġużepp, *Ghawdex bil-Ġrajja Tiegħu. L-Ewwel Ktieb, 1936* (Translation of *Gozo Antico-Moderno e Sacro-Profano* by Ġan Piet Franġisk Agius de Soldanis).

Galea, Victor J., "L-Użu tal-Kelma *Terra* meta jissemma Ghawdex", *L-Għid ta' l-Assunta* No. 37, 2002, pp. 4-7.



## FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Limited Edition of 500 cards. € 2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Limited Edition of 100 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 4.50
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Limited edition of 200 cards. € 2.50
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp Limited Edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Special card issued on the occasion of the TOY STAMP issue. Cancelled on the first day of issue at Xaghra Post Office featuring the “POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS” found in Xaghra Gozo. Limited Edition of 75 cards. € 1.75
- Special “In Memory” card hand stamped at Gharb Sub Post Office on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist held at Ta’ Pinu Shrine, for the repose of the soul and in memory of Mr Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and a sincere friend of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Limited edition of 160 cards. € 1.75
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the re-printed 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006). Limited edition of 160 cards. € 0.50
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O. Limited edition of 75 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 2.50

## FOR SALE

- Cover issued on the occasion of the 2005 Christmas set stamp issue with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited Edition of 130 covers. € 2.50
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.50
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark. Limited edition of 75 covers. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the GPS 8th Annual Exh. 2007 and the launching of the GPS website. Limited edition of 100 cards. € 1.50
- Set of two cards with first day of operation hand-stamp of the new Post Offices at Xlendi and St Lawrence. Limited edition of 75 cards each. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the 125 Anniv from the Call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni Grima and Frangisk Portelli. Each card is cancelled with a special handstamp issued by MaltaPost and stamped at the National shrine on Sunday 22 June 2008. The card has an embossed metal image of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Limited edition of 1000. **(Only 10 left)**. € 3.00
- Card commemorating 5th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition and 5th Anniversary of the GPS. Limited edition of 400 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Set of 2 registered covers commemorating Karolina Cauchi and Patri Manwel Magri (Gozo Benefactors). Limited edition of 30 covers. **(Less than 5 left)**. € 5.00
- Card commemorating the 9th GPC Exhibition. Limited edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Card commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Association. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.00

*NB: Each Card or Cover is individually numbered.*

- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

*Those interested may contact:*  
Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

## CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

I have pleasure to invite you to our eleventh

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at Scouts HQ (*trig Santa Dminka* Victoria) on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> **January** 2011 at **9.30 am** with this AGENDA:

1= Minutes of tenth AGM

2= Financial Statement

3= Secretary's Report

4= President's Address

5= Election of Members for Committee

6= Motions

7= Other Matters

I thus invite paid-up members to:

- a) nominate themselves (or others) for the new **Committee**
- b) and submit notice of **Motions** (regarding amendments to our statute - copies of which are available from the Secretary or otherwise.

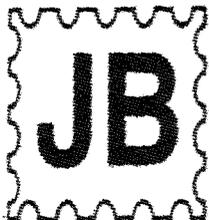
→ This is followed with the Distribution of Prizes and Certificates to all 11<sup>th</sup> **GPS Exhibition** participants.

→ A **Members' Meeting** continues after (acquire additions and information etc).

- Junior exhibitors can invite their family too.
- Members are encouraged to offer themselves for nomination on the Committee.
- Members can propose Statute amendments or other Motions.

*All members are heartily encouraged to attend.*

*Secretary*



## The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

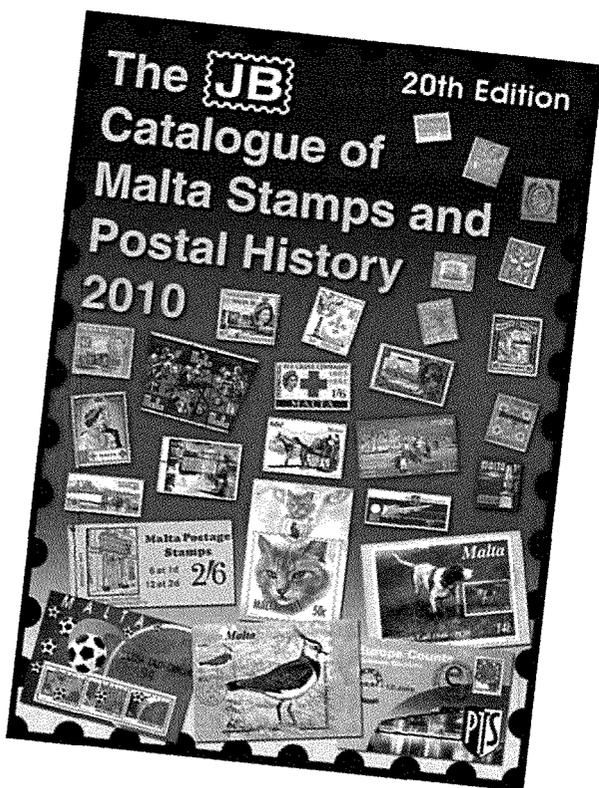
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