



January—March 2015

No. 59—2015

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GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY

Newsletter



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Front Cover:

Last two postcards and personalized stamps from a series of cards commemorating Malta's Prime Ministers. *Issued by the Gozo Philatelic Society.*

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 59 (1/2015)

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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CONTENTS

GPS Diary (57)	Antoine Vassallo	4
Our New President	Antoine Vassallo	5
Some Comments	Nicolai Vella	6
Interesting Vintage Item –Old Passport.....	Anthony Grech	7
15 th AGM Secretary's Report	Antoine Vassallo	8
The 15 th Annual General Meeting	Antoine Vassallo	10
Philatelic Centennials Australia N. Pacific (13)	Antoine Vassallo	12
Proofing and Designing (6)	John A . Mizzi	14
E & O Not E (37)	Antoine Vassallo	15
Celebrity Philatelists (3) Mark Cuban	Antoine Vassallo	16
Promoting Gozo Through Philately-Gozo Bishops.....	Antoine Vassallo	18
Philatelic What and Where.....	Antoine Vassallo	20
Malta Overseas (20)	Antoine Vassallo	22
More Items from 'The Juncker Collection'	Anthony Grech	23
Not Just Paper (11).....	Antoine Vassallo	26
Firsts and Earliest in Postal History(1).....	Anthony Grech	28
Can You Tell Us Why?	Anthony Grech	30

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

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

Antoine Vassallo
Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary VO/057



5 December 2014 GPS founder George Vella (co-nominated by GPS) awarded a posthumous *Ġieh Ghawdex* award by *Circolo Gozitano*

7 December Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

10 December Copies of "Isle of Joy" distributed to all students in two classes at the Conservatory Primary as a reward for the best participating school during the 15th GPS Exhibition

December issue of *Filateria Religiosa*, published by the Turin-based *Gruppo Don Pietro Ceresa*, again features the Gozo Philatelic Society - this time focussing on the Diocese sesquicentenary personalized stamps.

4 January 2015 AGM and Exhibition prize distribution (see pages 8-9-10&11)

8 January GPS Committee member Jesmond Borg, in his professional role as lecturing chef, receives the Best Tourism Worker of the Year Award.

9 January First meeting of the Committee returned from the AGM, with allocation of posts. President is now Louis Bonello and Antoine Debrincat Treasurer; Antoine Vassallo remains Secretary.

13 January Donation of book for Conservatory school library (see page 5)

31 January Anthony Grech begins fortnightly ERRC stampcollecting sessions.

January issue of *Il-Hajja f'Ghawdex* begins a series by GPS Secretary featuring Gozo on stamps

1 February Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

6 February Committee meeting agrees about NGO funding application

5 April Easter Sunday Free stamps for all juniors participating in the Monthly Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ (including items donated by J Camilleri)

Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary – it can also be downloaded from our Website, www.stamps-gozo.org

Our New President



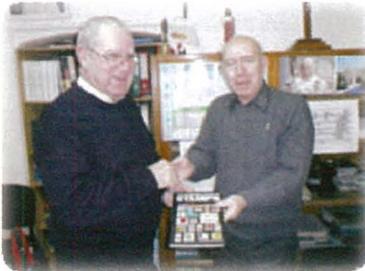
Following Anton Said's resignation, the GPS Committee had to choose a new President (also meetings Chair). After a little prodding, **Louis Bonello** (who is quite a new face in our Commiiee) accepted to become only our third incumbent.

Asked for a basic pen-portait, he began by giving his date of birth (19th September 1946) and stating that he got his secondary education at the Hamrun Lyceum. His first job was as croupier at the Dragonara Palace Casino, later emigrating to Holland where

he worked in three different casinos – as Chef de Baccarat and Private Circle manager. In the late 1980s he retired in Gozo; since he “ could not stay doing nothing”, he opened a winebar/restaurant in Mgarr.

Having become a stampcollector at fourteen, he remains a keen collector of

Malta stamps – proud of various interesting items. He recollects that it was Mr Anton V. Said himself who introduced him to the GPS. We wish him a similarly long term!



Louis had his first “official appointment” on 12 January 2014 at the Conservatory Primary School. We had promised schools who participated in the GPS Exhibition books for their library (besides gifts to the individual students). Accompanied by Anthony Grech, he met head Fr Carmel Gauci in his office to

introduce himself and hand over a beautiful and informative volume ‘The Guinness Book of Stamps’

We are thus using productively the donation received from our German members and friends, *ex-Arge!*

An other activity by our president was a meeting with Mr. Joseph Camilleri of Attard Malta. Mr. Camilleri made a very interesting donation of philatelic material to be distributed to our young members.

An other donation of several Malta stamps came from Mr. Angelo Agius of Gudja, Malta. A BIG THANK YOU ALL!!

Antoine Vassallo



Some

comments

Nicolai Vella

by visitors to the Gozo Philatelic Society 15th Annual Exhibition.

'Very detailed exhibition' Joyce Debono Nadur-Gozo.

'Fantastic Exhibition' Agnes Attard Nadur-Gozo

'I had a lot of fun learning' Glen Muscat Xlendi-Gozo.

'Very interesting and nice' Anton Formosa San Ġwann-Malta.

'A great exhibition' Andrew Formosa Sliema-Malta.

'Well done especially the new website' Carmel Navarro Żurrieq-Malta.

'Proset talli żżommu l-istorja ħajja' Angele M. Haber Victoria-Gozo.

'Excellent. Greatly appreciated' Anthony Bezzina Munxar-Gozo.

'Excellent !!' Edwin Lowe Xagħra-Gozo.

'Very well done. Keep it up' John Debattista Mosta-Malta.

'Excellent.' Chev. Dr. Alfred Bonnici MD Ta' Xbiex-Malta.

'I appreciate the effort of all participants' Vincent Grech Żabbar-Malta.

'Nice Job!!' Year 6 class Bishop's Conservatory Gozo.

'Excellent. Definitely the best. Made my day' H. Wood Sliema-Malta.

'Excellent Exhibition as always' Carmel Bonello St Julian's-Malta.

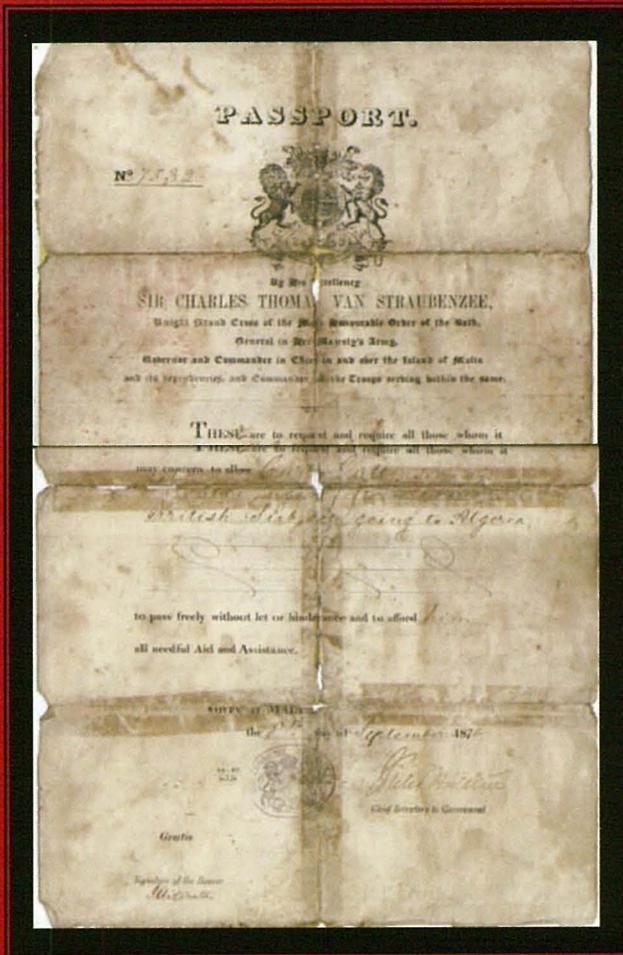
'Wonderful' John Attard Victoria-Gozo.

'Proset ħafna' Mario Casingena Swieqi-Malta.

And our comment.....

Thank you all for your support.

See you next year.



**INTERESTING
 VINTAGE ITEMS
 FROM OUR
 MEMBERS
 COLLECTIONS.**

Anthony Grech

**A Malta one page
 Passport issued by
 Sir Charles
 Thomas Van
 Straubenzee
 Governor and
 Commander in
 Chief in and over
 the Island of
 Malta and its
 Dependencies and
 Commander of the
 Troops serving
 within the same.**

**Issued on 8 September 1876 in favour of Carmelo Gatt
 (illiterate) son of Salvatore, aged 15 years, British Subject
 going to Algeria.**

Members are invited to send a copy from their collection
 of any item that is rare, vintage or of a particular interest.

15th AGM (4/1/2015) - Secretary's Report

Antoine Vassallo, Secretary

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last AGM:

At the first Committee meeting following the 14th AGM, posts were agreed, including the confirmation of President Anton V. Said, Secretary Antoine Vassallo and Treasurer Dr Michael Refalo MD. Seven further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

The 15th Exhibition was held in November with a formal Opening on the 14th. Prizes (including most impressive ones), trophies and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

Anthony Grech designed a personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, again offered by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, he prepared covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose: Xaghra statues and procession, St George statue and relic, Plague, Gozo Cathedral, St Ursula, St Coronatus and *Milied f'Ghawdex* commemorative handstamps. Additionally he designed a Christmas Card sent to all members and supporters for the *Betlehem f'Ghajnsielem* MaltaPost set.



But the main event of the year was surely the set of ten personalized stamps and covers for the Gozo Diocese sesquicentenary, immediately following the conclusion of the Prime Ministers set: two ventures which really grabbed attention!



We again organized a public talk: Chev. Alfred Bonnici reminisced about the constitutional developments commemorated in 2014.

Il-Ħaġar hosted us - the beginning of a hopefully long relationship. Besides being prominently involved in the "Gozo in Philatelic Art" exhibition, we are holding our

AGM here: unfortunately the inauguration planned for this morning of a permanent showcase for temporary philatelic mini exhibitions has had to be postponed.

A delegation accepted MaltaPost's invitation to participate in the Israel joint issue event.



Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter which is certainly a most impressive periodical in its own right. Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles.

Our revamped website was relaunched during the Exhibition opening by new webmaster (and much more) John Luke Debrincat who works constantly to keep everyone *au courant*. May other juniors be as active and productive as him! This year also saw the birth of our Facebook page, regularly updated by Anthony.

Various local and foreign publications featured our society (including the Italian *Filatelìa Religiosa*).

As secretary, I was interviewed on an Australian community radio.



We have begun contacts with the Canberra Philatelic Society: this aspect surely offers positive possibilities - one of various ideas which the incoming committee can develop.

Unfortunately sorrowful news was not missing, including the deaths of Emmanuel and George Vella and Krista Juncker. And our long-time president Anton Said decided to resign for family reasons - he surely merits a sign of thanks!

Mixed feelings resulted from the demise of the German Malta Philately Organization *Arge* which published *Il-Maltija*. They remained friends to the end by donating their remaining funds to support our efforts with juniors.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals but a special note of thanks is surely due to Wolfgang Juncker, as regularly explained in the Newsletter.



We have an increasing range of philatelic publications, listed on the website, for free perusal and loan. May I repeat that any member can ask to borrow during the monthly meetings which are only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use.



THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting was held at IL-HAGAR in Pjazza San Ġorġ Victoria on Sunday 4th January 2015, chaired by President Anton Said.

Secretary Antoine Vassallo read out the Minutes of the 14th AGM and Treasurer Dr Michael Refalo MD explained the financial position (showing a closing balance of €8869). It was then again the turn of the Secretary with his report about developments and events during 2014 (see pages 8 & 9).

Anton Said confirmed that, for personal reasons, he is relinquishing his post after so many years. After referring to various positive aspects of his experience, he argued that the GPS will continue with its successful story. A motion thanking him for his services

was carried by acclamation. He accepted the offer of an Honorary Life Presidentship and then Anthony Grech presented him with a silver memento.



Besides a unanimous motion from the floor thanking the outgoing Committee for its constant efforts, a few suggestions were proferred for the new one. In fact various members offered their nomination, including two new ones.

Anton V. Said then distributed Certificates and Prizes to all participants in the Fifteenth Exhibition, as listed in issue 58. MaltaPost are the main sponsors, with support from Sliema Stamp Club.

There being no further business, the AGM adjourned with a group photo.





PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

glances – and longer looks – at events from a hundred years ago

Antoine Vassallo

13 - What has Australia to do with the North West Pacific?! (1915)

Early stamps of Australia (showing the King with symbols or a Kangaroo on map) exist overprinted N. W. PACIFIC ISLANDS. These began appearing in 1915 - on 15 March, to be exact - for

the former German New Guinea occupied by Australian forces. As also referred to in the article on page 12 of issue 57, GRI surcharges had previously been used for some months.

New Guinea is a big island to the north of Australia, bringing to mind some sort of animal as shown in maps and atlases. In 1828 the Netherlands declared the western part a possession (included among the Dutch East Indies); following convulted events, this area is accepted as being within Indonesia. Britain and Germany established protectorates over the eastern half in 1884. British New Guinea (in the area nearest to Australia) was later renamed Papua.

It was not until 1925 that specific stamps began appearing for the Territory of New Guinea, administered by Australia under League of Nations trusteeship. After the end of Japanese occupation, plain Australian stamps were used from 1945 until the combined Papua & New Guinea in 1952.

There are quite a few of these overprints and do merit close study because of varieties in the lettering and a change in watermark. Moreover OS perforated officals were produced too. It is finally worthwhile to mention that these overprints were used in other ex-German islands too, including Nauru (which got its separate stamps eighteen months later). So postmark hunting is possible!

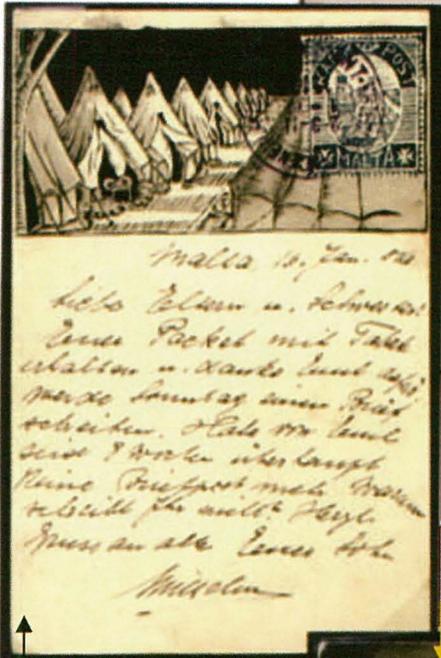


Australian MALTA (25)

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

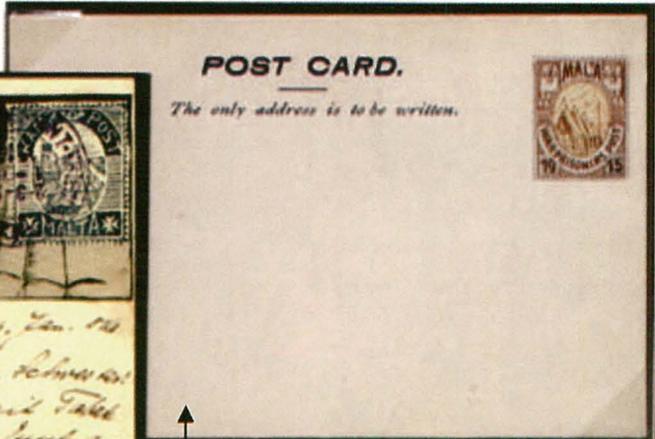
CARDS PRODUCED AT CAMP

Some philatelically minded prisoner appear to have decided to make their own impressed stationery and Greeting Cards. Kriegsgefangenenlager is often printed on the card meaning Prisoner of War



A card sent to Basel by a Prisoner of War at St Clement's Camp in January 1916. The card has a hand painted view of the Camp in black with an impressed stamp in blue with a surround inscription KAMP/POST/MALTA, a post horn and two Maltese Crosses. The oval centre shows tent and watch tower. Similar design to Handbook item POW-U1.

On the back there is Cachet No: POW71 in purple



A postcard with an impressed stamp with a view of the tents with inscription 'MALTA / WAR PRISONERS CAMP/ 1915' in ochre on thick card. Similar design to Handbook item POW-U8.

A hand drawn card sent to Switzerland from Valletta Barracks. January 1717. Similar to Handbook item PWO-S3
Cachet No: POW6 in red on other side.

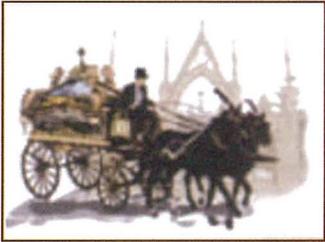


proofing & designing

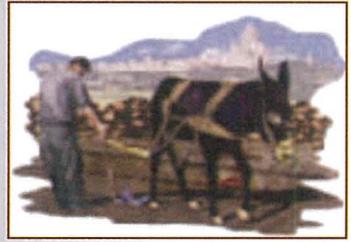
looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR

(6) Equids 19 VIII 2005

(designed by Damian Borg Nicolas)



Artist Damian Borg Nicolas submitted five designs for the 2005 Equines in the Maltese environment. However only 4 stamps were issued. His set was issued on 19



August 2005 and was printed by Printex (Malta) Ltd.



The design that was not issued as a stamp

E & O not E (37)

glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes.

(well-known or obscure)

Antoine Vassallo



On 23 January 2014, the Irish Republic's An Post issued this press release:

"An Post has deferred the issue of a stamp commemorating the Irish Citizen Army due to the emergence of new information regarding an image on the stamp. The stamp, scheduled to issue today, features a photograph of a man believed to be Captain Jack White, a former British Army

Officer who volunteered to train the new Irish Citizen Army. This image, which was researched and verified, has been widely used over the years in academic journals and other publications. However a number of historians have disputed the veracity of the image saying the man depicted is not Jack White."

And that says it all: the stamp honouring the Irish Citizen Army's centenary - already distributed - had to be withdrawn. According to press reports, printing the 136,000 copies had cost some €4000.

Designer Ger Garland was not really responsible for the error, noticed at the last moment by White biographer Leo Keohane who stated: "I have become familiar with various images of White; I can categorically state that the man portrayed on the stamp is not Jack White. It is obvious from his place in the photograph that the man is a junior officer. White, as the overall Commandant, would never have stood in such a position."

The man pictured on the stamp may be Vincent Poole, as confirmed by the National Postal Museum of Ireland which had supplied the photo from which "White" had been highlighted. Poole (and his brother) was surely part of the Irish Citizens Army, formed by a small group of trained trade union volunteers to help defend workers in clashes with police during the 1913 strike in Dublin.

A revised version, eliminating the incorrect photo but still showing the ICA at Croydon Park, was finally issued in April. But copies of the original have got into collectors' hands and even actually slipped through the mail!



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors (4)

“Stampcollecting helped me through college”



Mark Cuban is an American businessman, investor, author, TV personality, chairman of a cable network and owner of the Dallas Mavericks (a prominent team in the National Basketball Association which is widely considered to be the premier professional basketball league in the world), Landmark Theatres and Magnolia Pictures. Born in 1958, he is married to Tiffany Stewart and has three children.



He once remarked on an episode of TV series “Shark Tank” (a reality competition where he is a “shark” investor) that stamp collecting helped him put himself through college. When he was 16 years old, Cuban became a regular at stamp shows, buying stamps for 50 cents and selling them for \$5! Mark - presently possibly the most famous entrepreneur in America - is participating prominently in efforts to make our hobby more interesting and “cool”; this campaign is organized by the Stamp Education Alliance (with USPS Community Connection, Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Society).



Let’s leave him to it!

“I first became interested in stamps when I was about 12 years old. Mum had an album of old foreign stamps that she started collecting when she was young – I still have that album today! I was intrigued by the history represented; I saw images of foreign countries that made me want to learn more about them.

A big advantage for a kid who collected stamps was that they weren’t very expensive. I went to the post office; I went to stamp stores; I bought packages of stamps from vendors I found in magazines. I spent hours sorting through the stamps and it was a really fun way to learn history. I remember being fascinated by the idea that I could find stamps from the 1800’s that I could afford! It was incredible to me that I could hold something that was so old, yet could be bought on a kid’s allowance. I liked to find the rarest stamps that I could afford, even if they weren’t particularly old. You never know what piece of history you will discover in stamps! I think every stamp collector is in search of the undiscovered gem. That is one of the

beauties of collecting. I loved searching for stamps. It's the hunt. It's the reward of discovery!

I wish I had every stamp I ever owned! But I bought, sold and traded so many that the experience taught me as much about business as any class I have ever taken. So while I miss them, it was well worth it.

Once a stamp collector, always a stamp collector; I love to bring out some of my albums and show my stamps to my kids. Encouraging kids to collect stamps allows them to visually experience in a stamp what might take them weeks to learn from a textbook. I just think stamp collecting is a timeless hobby that anyone of any age can have fun with. Stamps create a connection to history and to the world that you can touch and feel. Anyone can look something up but stamps create a tangible connection that elicits a more visceral response.

Stamps can introduce you to people in history who you may not have been aware of before. Sorting through a pile of stamps presents opportunities to learn and ask questions you wouldn't otherwise know to ask. I think stamps can teach so much, particularly in history and geography. Stamps illustrate important moments in history in any country in the world. Every single country announced its independence by issuing stamps. Nations everywhere declare on a stamp who and what in their history is momentous. By collecting stamps, you not only get to touch and feel and connect to other countries, you get a better understanding of how those countries see themselves.

As a kid, my little stamp albums taught me about kings, presidents, wars, battles, you name it. And just as important, this was something I could do on my own. I could find a stamp, do some investigating, and discover the entire story behind it. It was a connection to history that I don't think I would have been able to get excited about in any other way. Stamps can be used in classrooms to get kids excited about travelling and seeing the world. I think it makes perfect sense to include stamps whenever curriculum includes the study of history and geography.

Collecting stamps is an amazing way to start to understand business. Each stamp has its own level of scarcity, of demand, of price; as a collector you have to make decisions on when to keep a stamp, trade or sell it, and when to invest in a new stamp for your collection. I learned so much about business and the laws of supply and demand when I was still in middle school that business came easily to me when I got to college and beyond. If you think you can learn a lot about business from "Shark Tank", you can learn just as much from stamp collecting! I really hope my kids get into stamps. It teaches so many lessons. Learning how to collect stamps is easily one of the best introductions to business available to kids. Add to that all that can be learned from each stamp and you have a powerful combination, one that I certainly have and will continue to share with my family".



Promoting Gozo through
Philately

Antoine Vassallo

Celebrating
150
1864-2014
Years

OF GOZO BISHOPS

The creation of the Diocese of Gozo - or rather the separation of the islands of Gozo and Comino from the Malta See - was obviously an important step from an ecclesial point of view. I would argue that 1864 was a crucial year for the development of Gozitan society as a whole. It is true that there have been periods when Gozo had an element of autonomy from the bigger island but 1864 offered the opportunity of strengthening a clear identity. This is however not the time or place to discuss whether things could have been even better!

In any case, one of the Gozo Philatelic Society's aims is to use philately to highlight aspects of our island and so we could not let the sesquicentenary in 2014 pass by without our intervention. In view of the very positive experience with the Prime Ministers personalized stamp set and cards, the Committee

accepted wholeheartedly Anthony Grech's offer to create stamps and cards featuring 150 years of Gozo Bishops. The present incumbent's encouragement was immediately forthcoming, as well as the support of the relative diocesan committee. Anthony also succeeded in acquiring the historical consultancy of Mgr Dr Joseph Bezzina.



Blessed Pius IX can be looked at as the “father” of the diocese of Gozo because of his papal bull dated 16 September 1864 *Singulari Amore* (“with singular

love”); he made the official announcement during a Consistory on the 22nd, also identifying the first Ordinary. This was the fulfilment of long years of efforts by Gozitans (including Sir **Adrian Dingli**, commemorated by the Malta posts in 2002) and others.



Pope Blessed Pius IX bull dated 16 September 1864 *Singulari Amore* (“with singular love”)

Using paintings at the Bishop's Curia and the Gozo Cathedral, the set featured, in chronological order:



MF Buttigieg (first bishop). P Micallef (Apostolic Administrator during a two-year vacancy). A Grech Delicata Testaferrata (second bishop). P Pace (third bishop). ĠM Camilleri (fourth bishop) M Gonzi (fifth bishop). Ġ Pace (sixth bishop). N Ġ Cauchi (seventh bishop) and M Grech (eighth and current).

Since the set was issued as two se-tenant sheets of five, a further design was added: this reproduced one of the exhibits in the Cathedral Museum (part of the old altarpiece at the *Matrice*, chosen as the diocesan Cathedral).

The Cards give background information, together with illustrations showing - among others - the parish churches.

Anthony Grech also designed the handstamp used on 16 September 2014.

Philatelic What & Where (2)

current stamp issuing entities are listed in block capitals

Antoine Vassallo

Readers are invited to suggest additions.

cont from issue 58

Quetzal currency unit in Guatemala

Quickstamp acquired through Australian Automated Teller Machines

Quindar currency unit in Albania



QV = Queen Victoria

R 1 = Reprint. **2** = Registered. **3** = Rand, Rappen, Real, Reis, Rial, Riel, Ringgit, Riyal, Ruble, Rufiya or Rupee. **4** = Revenue. **5** = Railway. **6** overprint for Reunion on French stamps. **7** overprint for Panama on stamps of Colombia.

R.,R.R.,R.R.R. degrees of rarity

Rab see Arbe

Rabat Maltese town with an office with own cancellor



Rabato; Old name of the city of Gozo (Victoria) as shown on cancellor 1885-7

Rafiyaa: Maldives currency

Rag Paper type of high quality long lasting paper



Rail cancel: postal cancellation applied in a railway post office aboard a train

Railway company stamps: local or semi-official stamps issued by railway firms to denote fees payable for mail carried

Railway letter office post office which received mail from or delivered to a railway station

Railway Parcel Stamps stamps issued by the railroad firms to prepay the freight charges on packages

Railway Post Office portable mail-handling equipment

for sorting mail while on transit on trains

Railway stamps issued to carry parcels or mail on trains (eg Belgium, from 1879), usually in addition to normal postage stamps



Rainbow proofs or trials 1840-41 British colour trials to test inks, cancellations and paper



Rajasthan Indian state with own stamps in 1949

Rajnandgaon = Nandgaon

Rajpipla Indian state with own stamps 1880-6

Rakischki = Rokiskis

Rand currency unit in Basutoland (Lesotho), Bechuanaland (Botswana), South Africa, South-West Africa

(Namibia), Swaziland and Tristan da Cunha

Rappen: currency unit in Liechtenstein and Switzerland.



RAROTONGA Chief island of the Cook Islands (South Pacific Ocean) with separate stamps from 2011 but some early Cook Islands stamps were so inscribed

Ras al Khaimah sheikdom in southeastern Arabia, now part of United Arab Emirates, with own stamps 1964-72



Raseiniai (Rossingen) city in central Lithuania with local stamps in 1919 and 1941.

Rate change cover cover posted on the first day of a new postage rate

Rawden, Wright, Hatch & Edson New York security printing firm during 19th century

R.B.S. = Riggsbank Skilling

RDP = Rol of Distinguished Philatelists

Readers Digest Coils Multi value strips of stamps produced by the British Post Office on behalf of Readers Digest to facilitate reply postage

Real Central and South American currency

Rebate stamps offering a reduction on the usual fee

Received marking: postmark applied to the back of a cover that denotes the receiving office, date and, sometimes, the time of arrival

Receiving mark postal marking applied by the receiving post office



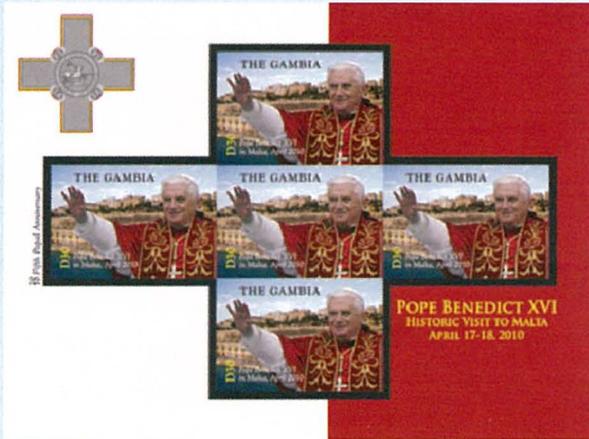
Recess printing process where the inked image is below the surface of the printing plate; so, recess-printed stamps have a raised image (or Line-engraved or intaglio).

Recommandè =
Registered.



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (20) Antoine Vassallo

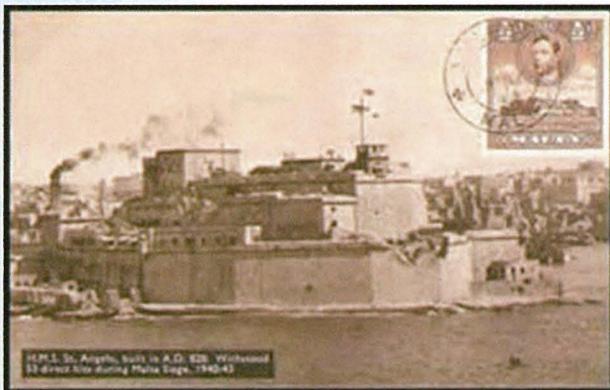


We again return to the SMOM - not unexpectedly, offering rich pickings!

2nd December 1991 saw a set of two stamps (printed by Malta's Printex) featuring Fort St Angelo, one of them showing St Anne's Church within its confines.

The tip of the Vittoriosa peninsula has been fortified since at least the 9th century and had also been the site of Roman and Phoenician temples. The Knights took over the medieval fort in 1530, strengthening it through substantial rebuilding. In fact Fort St Angelo served as the residence of the Grand Master until 1571 and also as Jean de Valette's headquarters during the 1565 Siege. Further defences were added - for example - in the late 17th century, led by engineer Don Carlos Grunenburgh.

The British took over the fort in the 19th century, using it for long years as the Mediterranean Fleet HQ (called HMS Egmont and - from 1933 - HMS St Angelo). During World War II, because of its position in the Grand Harbour



close to the dockyard, it was seriously damaged by enemy action: almost seventy direct hits were recorded. As can be expected, this military gem has been shown on Malta's stamps numerous times and also used on the cover of a pre-decimal booklet.

The upper part of the castle (including the Magistral Palace and St Anne’s) is presently leased to the Order of St John, as evidenced by the half-stampsized label *se-tenant* with the stamps. This 15th century chapel (Grade 1 scheduled) was the Knights’ first place of worship on arrival in Malta. Probably the De Nava family had built it a century earlier but the Order’s historian at the end of the 16th century stated that the present building was on the same site as the previous one.



Its simple structure consists of an entrance, four vaulted bays forming a square central section, another vaulted bay aligned with the entrance and a final small space. Students suggest that this last may have supported a half dome. The central bays are supported by a syenite column (which may well have originally formed part of a pagan temple); this red coarse rock is similar to granite and so is often thus referred to.

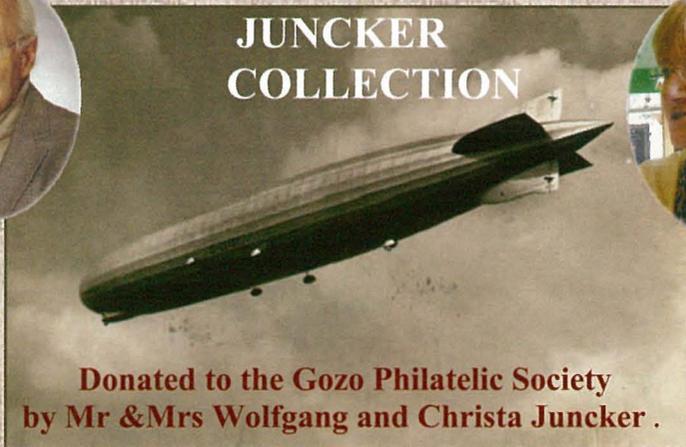
Both these stamps were overprinted in gold on 10th December 1993 for the second seminar to identify the Order’s strategies which took place on the 10th and 11th.

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



Please note that these two illustrations were left out in the Football Firsts article (issue 58)

MORE ITEMS FROM THE JUNCKER COLLECTION



Donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society
by Mr & Mrs Wolfgang and Christa Juncker .

Letters and Cards originating from Malta and flown by Zeppelin



UPU Malta Post Card to Brazil
flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1933



Post Card Malta to Brazil
flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1933



Registered Postcard Malta to Argentina
flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1934



Registered Letter Malta to Brazil
flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1933



Picture Post Card from Sliema, Malta to Brazil flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1933.



The Front



Registered Letter from Malta to Brazil flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin 1933.



The Back



Letter from Malta to Brazil flown by Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin. Left Malta on 1 June 1933 to Italy by Air Mail and postmarked 20/06/1933, at Friedrichshafen Bodensee on 1/07/1933, at Pernambuco Saccao on 4/07/1933 and Poste Restante (Peanambuco) on 8/07/1933.

Not just PAPER (11)

examples of unusual stamp production

Antoine Vassallo



Austria has offered numerous innovative stamps. Two good examples - crystal gems (issued in 2004) and embroidery (2005) - were featured in issues 19 and 21 respectively. I look today at a further half dozen interesting ideas.

A meteorite found in Morocco two years earlier was used in 2006: composed of olivine (a mineral chemically defined as magnesium iron silicate), it was crushed into a very fine dust embedded in the red ink of the meteor tail on the circular stamp designed by Michael Rosenfeld. The Vienna Natural History Museum displays the unused portion of the meteorite. The miniature sheet - titled "Post from another World" - was sold in a folder.

The numerous stamps to adequately celebrate EURO 2008 (the UEFA European Championship with its finals co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland) included one made



of the same original material as the ball used (the "Europass"): a synthetic mix with polyurethane.

This self-adhesive stamp was designed by adidas themselves and printed by serigraphy. The event merited a lenticular self-adhesive stamp offering the optical effect of a sequence of



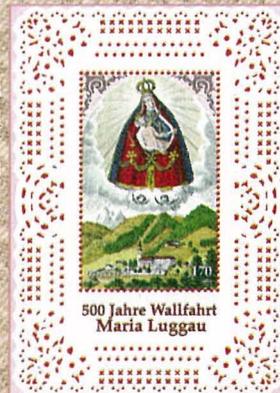
about three seconds showing Andreas Herzog's 1997 goal against Sweden that had resulted in Austria's World Cup qualification. The designers and printers were New Zealand's Outer Aspect Ltd. A few weeks later a miniature sheet designed by Rosenfeld too was issued in a folder since it included four "particularly





large" Swarovski crystals adorning the Henri Delaunay Trophy adorning the Henri Delaunay Trophy. The affixing was described as a “complex week-long production process”. This however was not the only Austria postage stamp issued with Swarosky crystals. In 2004 two other stamps in a miniature sheet were issued. Each stamp contained 6 Swarovsky crystals.

In 2013 the fifth centenary of the Luggau pilgrimage was commemorated with a miniature sheet designed by David Gruber, showing both the shrine (in the middle of its picturesque Carinthian valley) and the old unusual Marian image (described as a late Gothic Pietà). The margins of this sheet are pierced to imitate lace, resulting in an appropriately delicate finish.



As part of its Classic Trademark series honouring local products, an “unbreakable” self-adhesive porcelain stamp was issued in 2014 - surely another world first! The Viennese porcelain manufacturer Augarten (Europe’s second oldest) - the designer too - used screen printing. Though founded in 1718, its Vienna rose pattern shown was only introduced in 1924.

as always, readers are invited to send comments or even contributions.

“FIRSTS” & Earliest in Postal History

Anthony Grech



The Earliest postal service reference is found in the Old Testament in Nehemiah 2; 7-9 c446BC “Moreover, I said unto the King, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king’s forests.....”

The First Postal Service on record in the world was established in China 4,000 BC. while the earliest surviving letters consist of baked, hardened clay tablets from Cappadocia (Asia Minor) dating from 3,000 to 1,500 BC.

The First Postal rely on record was organised by Cyrus Emperor of Persia in 539BC.



The First postal regulations on record were issued in the fourth century AD by the Roman Imperial postal system..

The First writing material on record was baked clay from 3,000BC. and **The First** to use paper as writing material was by the Chinese in the second century BC.

The First international posts in the Middle Ages was the Metzger Post organised by the Guild of Butchers in Germany, while **The First** international postal union was negotiated between Austria and a number of German States in 1850.

The First attempt to organise a world-wide postal union was made during the Paris Postal Conference in 1863.

The First international organisation to issue its own stamps was the League of



Nations in 1922.

The First posting boxes on record were the *tamburini* in Florence, Italy in the early years of the sixteenth century.

The First pillar boxes in the British Isles were erected on 23 November 1852 in St Helier, Jersey.



The First wall boxes were made by Smith Hunter of Birmingham in 1857-8.

The First pillar boxes painted in blue instead of the traditional red were erected in London to be used for air mail.



The First numbering of houses for postal purposes began in Paris in 1463.



The First bicycles in Britain to deliver mail were used in 1883.



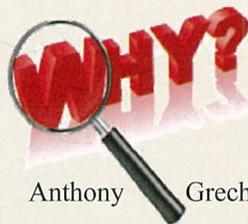
The First message on record delivered by a pigeon (Air Mail) was the one that carried an olive branch to Noah.

The First commercial pigeon service was established in 1855 during the Crimean War.



The First mail carried on railway occurred in 11 November 1830.

Can you tell us



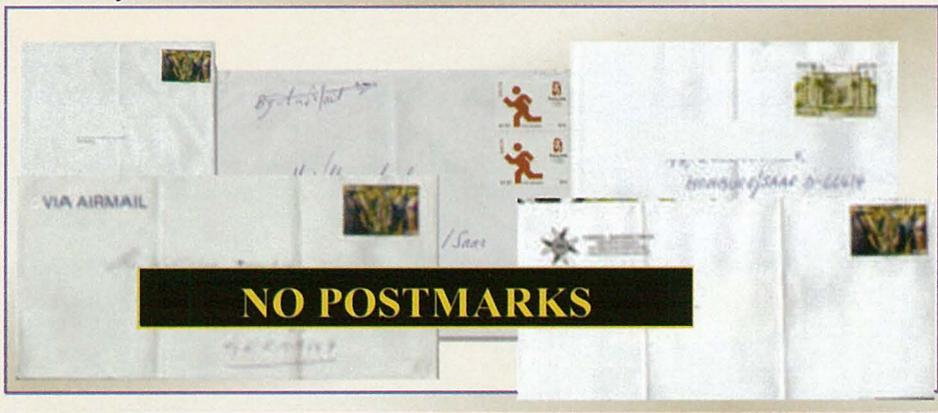
Anthony Grech

We are receiving enquiries from foreign members, especially from Germany, regarding the postmarking on mail from Malta: it actually seems that this mail is often not being postmarked at all! And this is not the first time that we received such information. In fact

one of our German members, a keen Melitensia collector, even sent us some covers which confirm that this is a reality - describing the situation as a "Philatelic Tragedy".

Such a practice will surely have a negative effect on our hobby: collectors of used stamps do require a good postmark! Many of our readers will surely have received covers (from numerous countries) with stamps which were left uncanceled or obliterated with squiggles in ink. Though circular datestamps are nowadays quite rare, except from philatelic offices, it is really disappointing!

We have also tried to get an answer from different sources but without any satisfactory outcome. Is MaltaPost aware of this situation?



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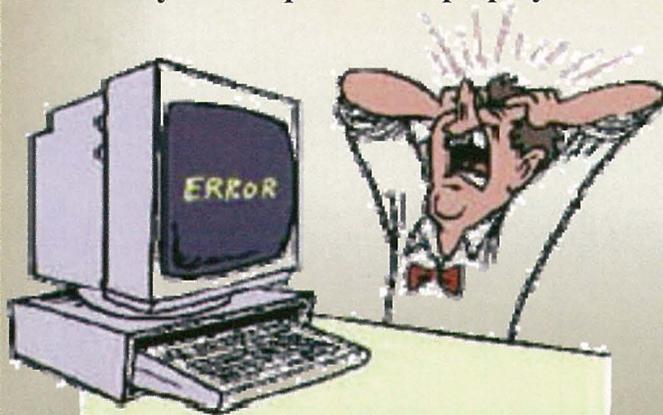
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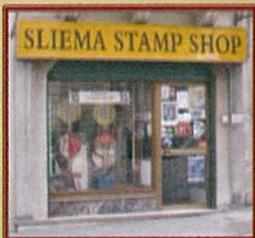
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