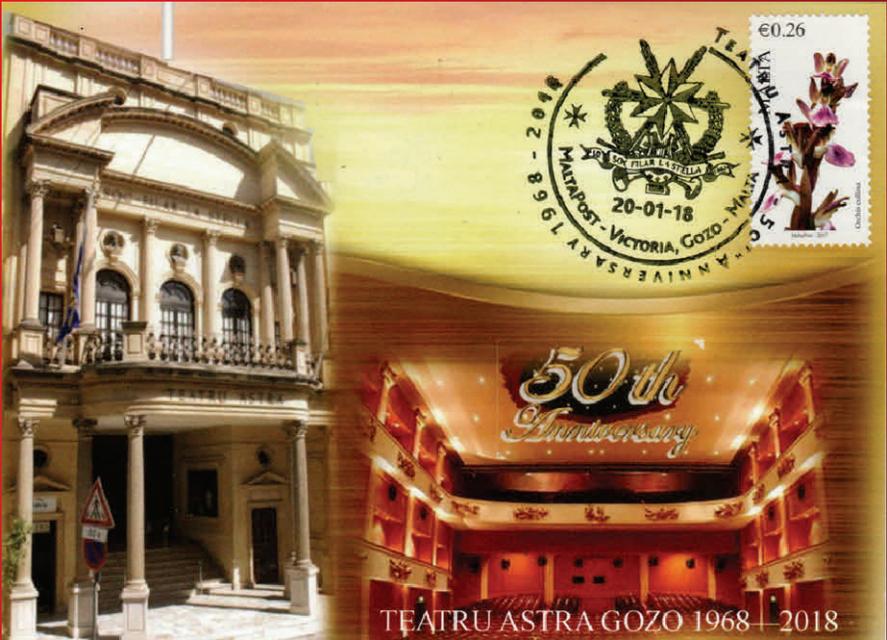




January—March
No. 71—2018
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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999
for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.
Front cover—**First commemorative Postcard for 2018.**
50th. Anniversary Teatru Astra

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PLEASE ENCOURAGE A FRIEND OR A
RELATIVE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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Date of birth _____)

Signature

Date

Introduced by _____ Member No. _____

**GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of
The Gozo Philatelic Society**

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 71 (1/2018)

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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The Secretary, Gozo Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 10 Victoria, Gozo.**

(67) G.P.S. Diary

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
VO/0546



28 November 2017 Anthony Grech prepares Card for Għarb Basilica 50th anniversary commemorative postmark.(see picture below)

November The GPS Newsletter begins being hosted on Malta University’s Open Access Repository OAR@UM.

December *Filatelìa religiosa flash* features 3 GPS Cards

1 December Exhibit at Il-Ħaġar changed to Vintage Christmas Cards, within the *Milied f’Għawdex* Gozo Ministry initiative

2 December Anthony Grech prepares Card for *Milied f’Għawdex* postmark. (See picture below)

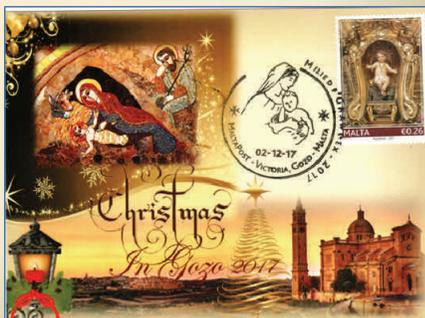
December Newsletter 70 includes a first supplement to our Cover catalogue

20 January 2018 Anthony Grech prepares Card for Astra handstamp. (See front page)

21 January AGM (see pages 17,24&25)

21 January Exhibit at Il-Ħaġar changed to “Philatelic” bands

25 January First Committee meeting confirms duties and begins preparing for the year’s activities



GOZO CHURCHES ON MALTA STAMPS.

Mark Anthony Poulton.
as displayed at the
2017 GPS Exhibition



The influence of the Catholic religion on Maltese society is evident from the churches and chapels in all the villages and towns across the Islands. In the two separate dioceses I count 359 churches: 313 in Malta and 46 in Gozo.

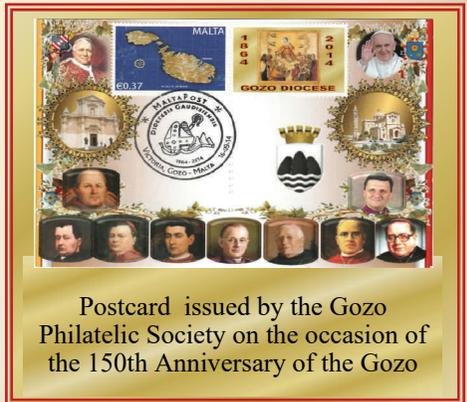
One can't help but notice the Baroque churches dominate the skyline, with their domes painted red or silver. One can usually locate the centre of any town or village by driving towards the parish church - the heart of Maltese social and cultural life!

Eminent Maltese philatelist Anthony Fenech, in an article entitled "The evolution of the Maltese Stamp", states: "One fifth of stamps issued by various postal administrations along the years in Malta have a religious theme, featuring cathedrals, churches, shrines, statues and paintings of saints[and].. since 1964 Malta has made an annual issue of Christmas stamps"



It is inevitable that a substantial number of Maltese churches is represented on local stamps. Though the postal authorities have only produced one set completely and specifically assigned to chapels, a great number of stamps do depict local churches. Furthermore, with church domes and bell towers dominating the Maltese landscape, it was quite understandable that many churches can be seen depicted in the background of stamps.

One can note that designers kept as much as possible characteristics and architectural details, thus helping the enthusiast identify the churches depicted.



I. Cathedral of the Assumption – Victoria



The Cathedral of the Assumption is located in the Victoria Citadel, often referred to as Ċittadella. It was designed by the Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafà, the foundation stone laid on 21 September 1697. It was inaugurated on 14 August 1771 and dedicated on 11 October 1716. It was elevated to a cathedral when it was chosen as the Bishop's seat in the newly separated Catholic Diocese of Gozo.² It is worthwhile to note here that there are no churches in Gozo belonging to any other denomination.

With the accession of King George VI to the throne, a new definitive set of stamps designed by Waterloo & Sons was issued on 17 February 1938. A panoramic view of the Ċittadella can be seen on the 2d blue black stamp with the Cathedral clearly identifiable. New colours of the 1938 designs were issued on 8 March 1943: the 2d was now in scarlet.

In 1974, a new constitution was implemented and internal self-government in Malta was re-established. On 25 November 1948 all concurrent pictorial definitive stamps were overprinted "SELF-GOVERNMENT 1947", the 2d scarlet in black. Some of the lower denominations of this series were re-issued in new colours. On 8 January 1953 the 2d stamp appeared in yellow-ochre. Thus this design exists on four different stamps.

In 1978, Malta made its historical sites eligible for inclusion on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization funded interventions towards the preservation of the Ċittadella, though not yet included in the list, as part of the project for the restoration of

Maltese monuments. The 8c stamp, based on photographs by the DOI and JA Vella depict the Ċittadella - and thus the Cathedral.



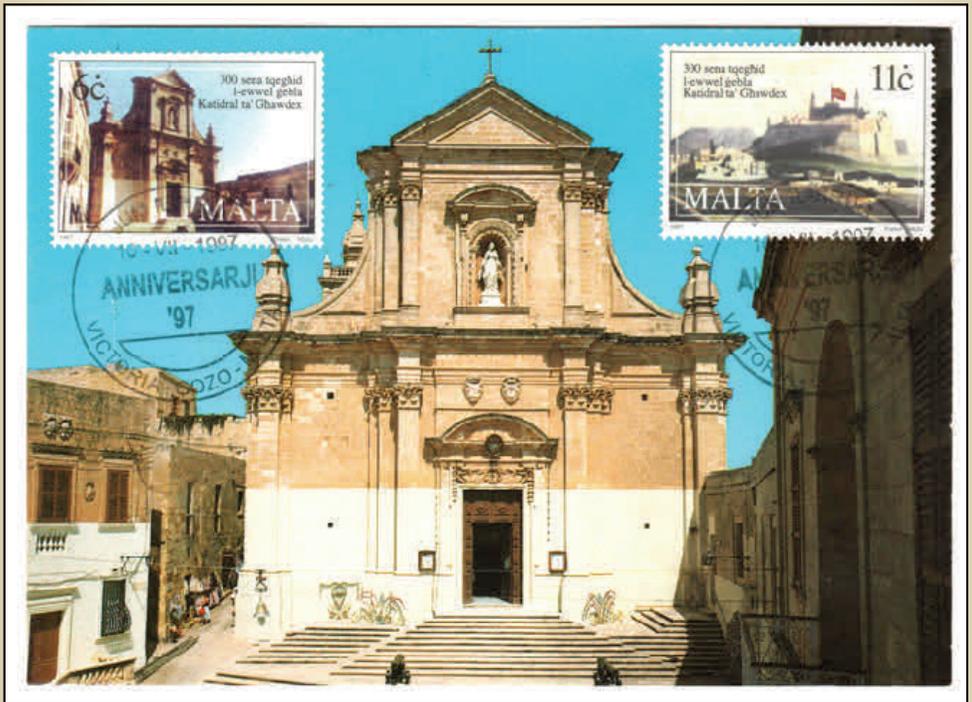
GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The Postal Authorities issued a set of 4 stamps dedicated to the World Wide Fund for Nature on 3 October 1991. On one of the 10c stamps, illustrating a Lesser Kestrel, designer Harry Borg includes the Ċittadella with the Cathedral. We can see Mdina Cathedral on a 4c.



Designed by the Posta Ltd Design section, two stamps were issued on 10 July 1997 to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Gozo Cathedral. The 6c stamp has a modern photo of the façade and the 11c an older panoramic view with the Cathedral visible against the skyline.

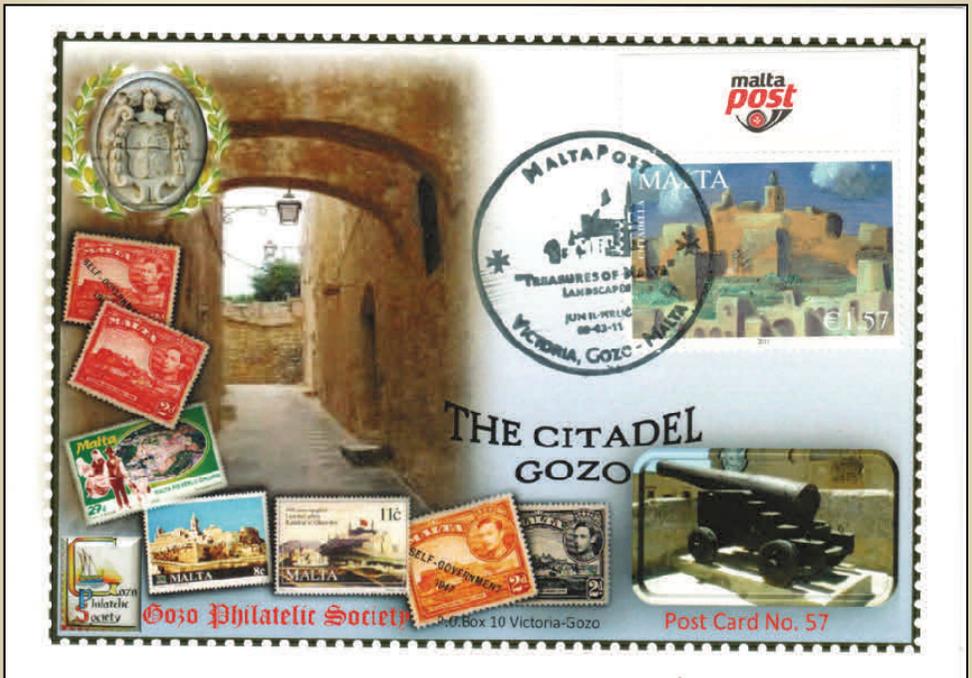
On 10 December 1999, the postal authorities issued a set of 5 stamps designed by Richard J Caruana to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Malta. After achieving Independence from the



United Kingdom on 21 September 1964, Malta declared itself a Republic on 13 December 1974. The 19c stamp, dedicated to Local Councils, clearly depicts the Ċittadella Cathedral.



To commemorate the beginning of the 20th century, the postal administration on 7 March 2000 issued a set of stamps giving visual meaning to the changes brought on the Maltese landscape and culture during the previous 100 years. Designed by Frank X Ancilleri, the 27c stamp depicts a woman doing lace work and a shepherd with a goat - with the Gozo Cathedral dominating the picturesque Ċittadella in the background.



The 9 March 2011 issue of “Treasures of Malta” was focused on landscapes, designed by local artist Edward Said. The €1.57 stamp featured the Ċittadella with the Cathedral clearly showing against the skyline.

“Seasons” was the theme of a SEPAC set designed by Tony Calleja issued on 21 June 2016. The 26c stamp illustrates “Spring” with a woman in Maltese folk costume against a panoramic view of fields with the Ċittadella and the Cathedral belltower against the skyline.



A joint issue by MaltaPost and Poste San Marino appeared on 18 October 2016, designed by Sean Cini and based on works of Cedric Galea Pirotta. The miniature sheet depicts fortifications in the two respective states. In the 59c stamp depicting the Ċittadella, the artist exposed the features of the Cathedral, keeping architectural details. This church has really been a popular stamp subject!



II. BASILICAS

Basilica and Collegiate Parish Church of Saint George Martyr – Victoria

This historic Baroque church in the middle of Victoria is also popularly simply known as *San Gorg* in Maltese. The parish seems to have originated in Byzantine times during the rule of Emperor Theodosius I in the 4th Century. The church was rebuilt numerous times during the Middle Ages due to the inhabitants’ needs. The present church, commissioned by Grandmaster Alof de Wigncourt in 1603, was rebuilt by Vittorio Cassar with funds provided from the

Holy See. This first church in Gozo in the form of a Latin Cross³ was built between 1672 and 1678.

On 16 September 1975 a set of 4 stamps was issued for the European Heritage Architectural Year, designed by Richard England, representing aspects from our Architectural Heritage. The 5c stamp shows Victoria's skyline dominated by the dome of Saint George's.



The titular statue of Saint George at the church main door is depicted on the €0.26 stamp issued as part of a set entitled “Maltese Culture” issued on 16 June 2015

Basilica and Collegiate Parish Church of the Visitation of Our Lady to Saint Elizabeth – Għarb

This baroque church, located in the centre of the village of Għarb, was consecrated on 28 September 1755. It became the second Collegiate of Gozo in 1774 and was elevated to the status of minor Basilica in 1967. With its elegantly decorated façade which has been compared with Francesco Borromini's church of Saint Agnes in Rome, it is considered as the most architecturally perfect church in Gozo.⁴



On 7 November 1970, the Postal authorities issued the annual Christmas set of stamps. Designed by Chev Emanuel Vincent (Emvin) Cremona, the stamps illustrate Christmas scenes against backgrounds of churches. A Nativity scene in front of this Basilica is illustrated on the 10d+2 stamp.

Basilica and National Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of “Ta’ Pinu” - Gharb

This shrine within the limits of Gharb, is situated at the edge of a cliff, enjoying beautiful countryside views. The exact origins are unknown but a 16th century document vouches for its existence. It survived bishop Duzina’s decree ordering the demolition of derelict chapels and Pinu Gauci - thus the ‘Ta’ Pinu’ - financed its restoration in 1611. In 1883 Karmni Grima, a woman from Gharb walking past the then run-down tiny church, heard a voice asking her to recite three Hail Marys. The voice was attributed to the extant titular painting. This episode flared up imagination and veneration. Over the following years miracles were attributed to the grace of Our Lady of The Assumption to whom the church was dedicated. It was decided that a new large temple be erected; works on the present monumental neo-romantic style church began in 1922 on the initiative of Monsignor Ġużeppi Portelli. It was consecrated in 1932.⁵

A set of 20 stamps entitled “Malta Buses – The End of an Era’ was issued on 2 July 2011 to mark the withdrawal from service of our iconic buses. They reproduce original artwork by local artist Cedric Galea Pirota, commissioned to

show the most popular buses covering the principal routes throughout Malta and Gozo. All Gozo route buses shared a common livery of grey, white and red and one is depicted on a 69c in front of the Ta’ Pinu Basilica.



III. OTHER CHURCHES **Parish church of Our Lady of Loreto – Ghajnsielem**

Construction of this neo-gothic church started in 1924 but, due to a number of interruptions, it took 54 years to complete. Four architects (Ugo Mallia, Ġuże D’Amato, Joseph Mizzi and Joe Ellul Vincenti) worked on it until the conclusion in 1978. It was finally blessed and consecrated in 1989⁶.

A set of five stamps depicting scenic aspects of Malta and Gozo was issued by MaltaPost on 1 October 2007, in the SEPAC series. They show artwork by watercolourist Martin Borg. The Gozo ferry leaving Mġarr Harbour can be seen on the 46c/€1.07 stamp, with Ghajnsielem parish church partly hiding behind the mist on the skyline.

Bethlehem f'Għajnsielem is a yearly production staged by the inhabitants. Seeking to replicate the atmosphere of Bethlehem in the Holy Land, this Christmas village features all aspects - including a live Nativity Scene. Issued on 17 November 2014 using photos by professional Daniel Cilia, the set includes a 63c with two shepherds close to a fire and the Parish Church in the background.



Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes Mgarr limits of Ghajnsielem



This chapel stands on a promontory overlooking Mgarr Harbour enjoying spectacular views of the Gozo Channel. Its origins go back to 1879 when a statue of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes sculpted by Antonio Busuttil was placed in a natural cavity beneath the promontory. Urged by Gozo Bishop Pietro Pace, devotees helped raise money for a chapel. It was designed in a Gothic style by Emmanuel Galizia and built between 1889 and 1893 by Wiġi Vella of Żebbuġ, being consecrated in 1949.⁷

1987 was chosen as the year to heighten awareness in European countries of the need for interest in the environment. This church is included in the 5c related stamp, issued on 18 August and designed by artist Antoine Camilleri.

On 9 December 1991 a new definitive set, entitled Natural and Artistic Heritage of the Maltese Islands, was issued designed by Frank Portelli. On the 14c stamp, the church is again depicted towering over Mgarr.

This church was also prominent on the 2007 “Scenery” 46c/€1.07 stamp noted earlier.



A joint “Fishing Villages” issue with Iceland Post appeared on 16 September 2011 by and MaltaPost depicting.





The Malta miniature sheet designed by Cedric Galea Pirotta includes this church looking over the fishing hamlet and harbour of Mġarr.

Church of Our Lady of Pompeii – Victoria

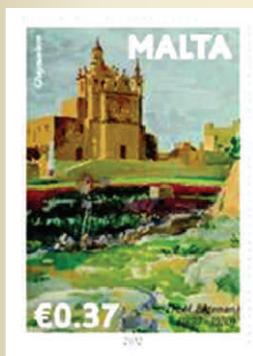
This church was built to serve the Dominican nuns living in the adjacent convent founded by Carolina Cauchi. Opened to the public on 25 July 1900, it was consecrated on 1 July 1923 by Malta Auxiliary Bishop Angelo Portelli.⁸

On 29 December 2007 a set was issued to commemorate Maltese and Gozitan personalities and anniversaries, designed by Harry Borg. The 86c/€2.00 depicts a portrait of foundress Carolina Cauchi and this church.

Church of Saint Anthony of Padua Mġarr limits of Ghajnsielem

This 19th century church, located on the outskirts of Ghajnsielem (known as *Ta' Gliex*) on the road from Mġarr to Nadur and Qala, serves the Franciscan Friar Minors (“*Ta’ Ġiežu*”). On the 22 November 1899 the Franciscans came to settle in Gozo and on 1 August 1901 were donated land to build their own convent. A Nadur businessman, Joseph Sultana, financed the construction of the church near it. The plans were made by Fr Joseph Diacono and the builder was mastermason Wiġi Vella. The project was started in 1902 and completed in 1906, when it was blessed - consecration came in 1912.⁹

A set was issued on 23 March 2012 to commemorate two internationally renowned artists who painted scenes of Malta and Gozo. One of them was The 37c depicts this church as painted by Henry Mayo Bateman (1887-1970).



Sanctuary of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady Qala

This is possibly the earliest Marian Shrine in Gozo, dating back to 1575.¹⁰ Before the Nadur church built, this served as the Parish Church for the area.

It featured on the 26c in the 2012 series above, also based on a Bateman original.

Church of the Return of the Holy Family from Egypt Comino Island limits of Ghajnsielem



Popularly known as *Santa Marija ta' Kemmuna*, this tiny chapel is located above Santa Marija Bay on the island of Comino (which administratively forms part of Ghajnsielem). It is mentioned on a map of Comino dating back to 1296, but the present building was first constructed in 1618; it was enlarged and re-enlarged, consecrated and re-consecrated more than once during the ages. Its simple façade and its particular belltower may remind us of a Mexican building.

The postal authorities issued a set of “Wayside Chapels” designed by René Sacco on 16 June 2004 featuring medieval chapels forming Malta’s heritage. The 66c depicts this church.



Ref; (1) Malta this Month-Oct 2003 (2) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Assumption,_Gozo. (3) /St George’s%27s Basilica Malta.(4) Basilica of the VisitationG% C4A7arb. (5)Ta%27 Pinu. (6)Our Lady of Loreto Parish Church. (7)where to go in gozo/churches-and-chpels/lady-lourdes-chapel. (8)Our Lady of Pompei Church Victoria Gozo.(9) where to go in gozo/churches-and-chpels/church-st-anthony-padova. (10) Qala Malta (11) Comino Chapel.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGM



Pictures by
Mary Grace Xerri



Rembrandt's Artistic Philately towards the 350th death anniversary

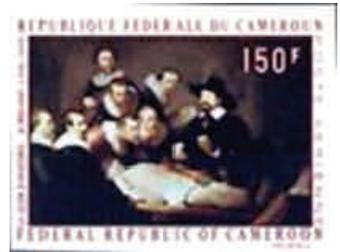


(2) Antoine Vassallo

In 1970 the Federal Republic of **Cameroon** issued two Rembrandts, one of them being the famous "The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp".

This 1632 oil on canvas - over 2 metres wide - is housed at the *Mauritshuis* (the Hague). Since Rembrandt had only begun as a professional portraitist a few months before, this shows how quickly he developed a style different from the fashionable smooth technique. This group portrait of Dr Tulp (appointed *praelector anatomiae* of Amsterdam's surgeon guild a couple of years previously) - with other members - established his reputation immediately, surely impressing with the new vitality and pictorial richness.

The corpse (whose forearm is being dissected) is the focus of the composition, by its intense brightness. But the eye of the spectator is then led to the illuminated heads of the listeners, showing different degrees of attention, and thence to Tulp's face and hands - a most convincing representation of an absorbed scholar. Anyone will surely be impressed with the vivid characterization as well as by the artist's power in dramatizing the moment coherently. With the strong *chiaroscuro* and sculptural and atmospheric qualities, one feels the intense excitement of an extraordinary event.



This painting marked a turning point both in Rembrandt's stylistic development and in the evolution of the guild - or Dutch corporation - portrait. Innovatively, the figures were unified not merely by token gestures but by their common interest in the event taking place.

Grenada's **Carriacou & Petit Martinique** islands commemorated in 2001 the 2000 bicentenary of the *Rijksmuseum* through stamps which also included a detail from "the Music Party", a 1626 oil on wood. Rembrandt produced it when he was just twenty and signed with an RH monogram (a reference to his two Christian names: Rembrandt Harmensz). Led by a young woman, a group of people are playing music in a room. She is reading the music from the sheet, singing and beating time. A young man accompanies her on the harp, an older one on a *viola da gamba*. Another woman is reading over the girl's shoulder, listening attentively with her hand on her chin. The foreground of the full painting is quite busy, including a violin, a lute and a pile of books.

The 1968 Christmas included three values “Adoration of the Child” There are actually two oil on this year with the same one, now at London’s some experts think it was student or *bottega* member. The popular subject is almost domestic scene. This inclusion of women and



set of the **Cayman Islands** reproducing the “Shepherds” from 1646. canvas Rembrandts from subject: this is the smaller National Gallery. In fact actually a copy by a



expressed as a quiet, effect is enhanced by the children amongst the bystanders. Small pockets of light give an impression of intimacy; the light coming from the Child is far more powerful than the light from the lantern and thus draws our attention to Him at the centre. St Joseph stands behind the Blessed Virgin. Two shepherds kneel before the crib, hands raised in gestures of prayer and amazement; two women hold up a small child to be able to see Jesus. In the shadows on the right stand a group of five other figures, among them a boy playing with a dog. Although the level of light is low, it is possible to make out a number of details and secondary figures which add interest to the scene. There is even a “secret” item: the cross formed by the beams in the rafters.

The **Central African Republic** commemorated Rembrandt’s 375th birth anniversary with an air set including “Tobit Accusing Anna of Stealing the Kid”, an oil on panel (at Amsterdam’s *Rijksmuseum*). This painting dates from 1626 - hardly a year after he set up as an independent artist in Leiden. The subject is taken from the Old Testament Book of Tobit, a God-fearing Jew. Hearing the bleating of a kid which his wife Anna had received as charity, he mistakenly assumed it had been stolen. She then upbraids him for his self-righteousness which brought them to their plight - the scene represented. The story concludes with the couple's return to good fortune with the help of Raphael (the Archangel in human form).



We find here masterfully depicted the psychological tension between the two protagonists: suspicion and despair on Tobit’s side, bafflement at his mistrust on Anna’s. The confined space is packed with domestic detail: onions hanging up by the

window, a basket on the wall and cooking utensils on the shelves, together with sewing apparatus between the two figures; in the foreground we note Tobit's stick, his dog and a modest fire. Such meticulously painted still-life detail (a characteristic of much art since the fifteenth century) gives maximum reality to the story.

The 1974 Christmas set from the **Cook Islands** was reissued seven weeks later as separate miniature sheets, including this “Holy Family with Angels” from 1645.

Representations of the childhood of Christ occur frequently in Rembrandt's art during the 1640s, joy and domestic intimacy being the dominating mood. This oil on canvas, now at St. Petersburg's Hermitage, glows with human warmth. Small details contribute to the effect. A burst of divine light accompanies the angels who invade the chamber to witness the “everyday” scene. The tenderness of the young mother's movement is accompanied with the warm colours, the red of her skirt being the strongest.



Croatia celebrated our artist's fourth birth centenary with a reproduction of a self-portrait “in a velvet cap with plume” from 1638. The original etching in slate, now at Teylers Museum in Haarlem, was prepared for the stamp by J Biffel.

Czechoslovakia included Rembrandt in a 1982 Music Engravings set prepared by Bedrich Housa. “The Wandering Musicians” dates from about 1635, later also called *Speelders an der deur* (= Players at the door).

This etching shows an old man playing the hurdy-gurdy (a type of hand organ) and a bagpiper with a dog performing for alms at the door of a house, where a man, woman and child listen to the music. It is a traditional subject that was also portrayed by other artists - and in fact Rembrandt drew it on several occasions, including the detail of the dog tied to his master's belt.

Djibouti celebrated artists' anniversaries in 1981, including Rembrandt's



375th birth anniversary. This Air stamp reproduces a 1633 portrait: a man in oriental or Arab clothes, described “with a turban”. This 86 x 64 cm Oil on wood is now at Munich's *Alte Pinakothek*.

Dominica commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the World Health organization through four “old masters”, including a New Testament subject which is





probably not actually by Rembrandt himself. Various alternatives have been suggested: many tend to favour Aert de Gelder (during the period as his student). “Pilate Washing His Hands” is an Oil on canvas (130 x 167 cm), possibly from 1660 or 1662, can be admired at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



The nnumerable issues produced by **Equatorial Guinea** included ten stamps printed individually as miniature sheets in 2008. From these Rembrandts, I choose “Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee” since it was among the thirteen works by world-renowned artists stolen in 1990 from Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum by a pair of thieves disguised as police officers. This remains the biggest-ever unsolved art theft, in spite of the motion detectors recording their movements.

This is our artist’s only seascape, dated to 1633 - shortly after he moved to Amsterdam from his native Leiden. The detailed rendering of the scene, the figures' varied expressions, the relatively polished brushwork, and the bright colouring are characteristic of Rembrandt's early style.

This oil on canvas is recorded as being 160 x 128 cm.

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Anthony Grech



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.
Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.
Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged
Prot.=Protectorate

 <p>FRENCH SOMALI COAST 1902</p>	 <p>FRENCH SUDAN Sgr. 1894</p>	 <p>FRENCH SUDAN OWN ISSUES 1931</p>		
 <p>FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS & ISSAS 1967</p>	 <p>FRENCH W. AFRICA MUTUAL AID & RED CROSS FUNDS AS OF CAMEROUN 1944</p>	 <p>FRENCH W. AFRICA OWN ISSUE 1945</p>	 <p>FUJEIRA 1964</p>	 <p>GABON Sgr. FRENCH COLONIES STAMPS 1886</p>
 <p>GABON NATIONAL ISSUES 1910</p>	 <p>GALAPAGOS ISLANDS 1957</p>	 <p>GAMBIA 1869</p>	 <p>GEORGIA 1919</p>	 <p>GERMAN EAST & WEST COMMAND 1916</p>
 <p>GERMAN EAST AFRICA Sgr. IN "PESA" ON GERMANY STAMPS 1893</p>	 <p>GERMAN NEW GUIN- EA Op. "DEUTCH NEW GUIN- EA" ON GERMANY STAMPS 1898</p>	 <p>GERMANY WEST FEDERAL REPUBLIC 1949</p>		

GERMAN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. OVERPRINTED STAMPS



ALSACE
1940



BELGIUM
1914



DALMATIA
1943



ESTONIA
1941



LATVIA
1941



LITHUANIA
1941



LORRAINE
1940



POLAND
1915



RUMANIA
1917



RUSSIA
1941



ZANTE
1943

GERMANY AND GERMAN POST OFFICES ABROAD



GERMANY
1872



CHINA
1898



MOROCCO
1889



TURKEY
1884



SOUTH WEST AFRICA
1897

GERMANY ALLIED OCCUPATION ZONES



BRITISH & AMERICAN
1945



BRITISH, AMERICAN & RUSSIAN
1946



FRANCE
1945



RUSSIAN
1948



GERMANY WEST BERLIN
Op "BERLIN ON GERMANY STAMPS"
1948



GERMANY WEST BERLIN OWN ISSUES
1949

18th AGM (21/1/2018) - Secretary's Report

Again, I have the happy duty to inform you about these 12 months since our last AGM:

At the first Committee meeting following the 17th AGM, posts were agreed. Six further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.



The 18th Annual GPS Exhibition was held in November with a formal Opening by Minister Justyne Caruana on the 3rd and dismantling on the 10th. The level of exhibits was very high, according to the “international” schemes introduced. Prizes (including those sponsored by MaltaPost), trophies, certificates and - for the first time - medals are being distributed today. In spite of a sustained effort, school involvement is still restricted - an obligatory target, may I suggest, for the incoming committee which has surely to seek new ideas!

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: Gourgion and 2 Assumption statues stamps and Nadur anniversaries, VIAF, Ta’ Pinu icons, Xaghra and Gharb basilicas and Miled f’Ghawdex commemorative handstamps. Continuing a new tradition, he designed a Christmas Card, using the Nadur Bambin stamp, sent to members and supporters.

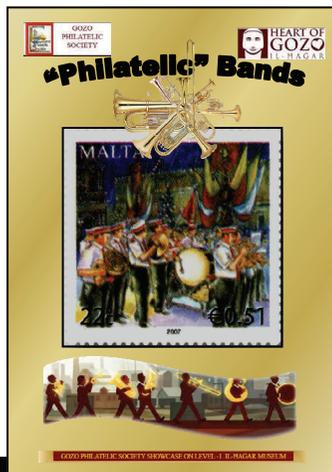
Our Il-Ħaġar showcase has seen regular replacements of the temporary mini exhibitions and has continually attracted positive comments. A new one is being formally inaugurated this morning. Committee members participated in a most interesting visit to the MaltaPost Museum organized by Il-Ħaġar. We also collaborated with other organizations, such as again exhibiting during the Qala International Folk Festival. The Society - and individual members - took part in this year’s Maltex, now organized by MaltaPost.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter, for which Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. Members will surely be pleased to be informed that our humble Newsletter is even being hosted on Malta University’s Open Access Repository. Our Facebook page offers some coverage too but we do need to identify individuals who can offer some time for updating the Website.

Besides the regular series of articles about saints on Malta stamps for the Farag national periodical, we grasp all similar opportunities to thematically publicize stampcollecting. In any case, quite a few local and foreign publications again featured our society and productions. Attractive leaflets are available for distribution as publicity for our society.

During the year, Wolfgang Juncker sent more material and an expatriate residing in Victoria donated a nice assortment of cards from the early 20th century. We are happy to receive donations of stamps and periodicals (not exclusively from members) - and actually have an increasing range of philatelic publications, preferably listed on the website, for free perusal and loan. Any member can ask to borrow during the monthly meetings (on most first Sundays) - only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use.

Antoine Vassallo - Secretary



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (27)

Antoine Vassallo

Installment 16 covered Cousteau’s “Calypso”; today I feature two stamps showing ships registered in Malta - making them “Maltese”!

The first, issued by Monaco in March 2017, was designed by Martin François Fiat, the “Yersin” metre yacht: it serves as and a platform for scientific exploration. It is powered by six diesel engines manufactured in Spain. The vessel’s steel makes it capable of navigating all of the world’s seas and oceans, including extreme conditions - even the polar regions. Accommodation is available for forty: half crew and half passengers. The yacht’s name pays tribute to Alexandre Yersin (1863–1943), a French doctor with the Messageries Maritimes shipping company, who discovered the bacillus responsible for bubonic plague in 1894. The Yersin was blessed by the Vicar General of



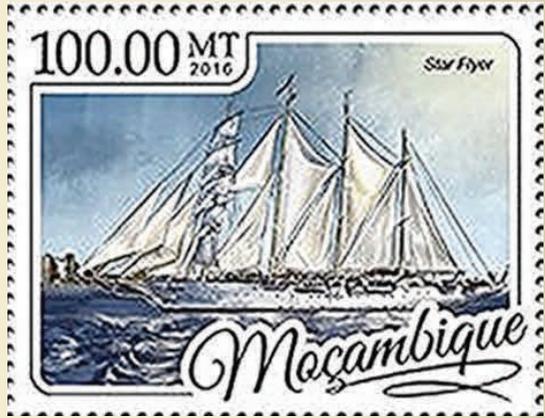
Monaco in March 2017, Mörck. Owned by is a just under eighty both a luxury cruiser and scientific exploration. It is gines manufactured in and aluminum hull navigating all of the cluding extreme conditions - Accommodation is crew and half passengers tribute to Alexandre Yersin (1863–1943), a French doctor with the Messageries Maritimes merchant discovered the bacillus of the Yersin General of



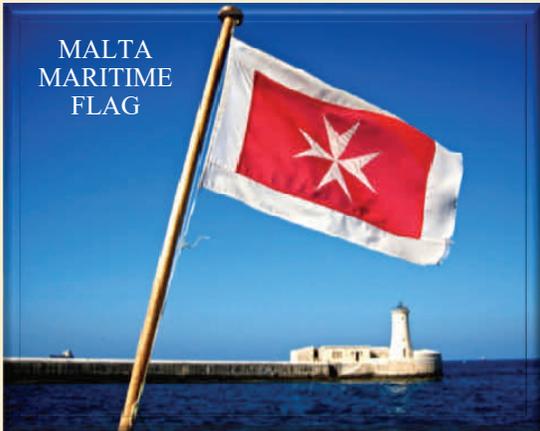
Monaco in June 2015 at a ceremony attended by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II. The yacht will also host children on board to raise their awareness of the need to protect the marine environment: the first such mission was carried out with HSH Princess Charlene.



Mozambique Flag



I go to Africa for the other: a 2016 set from Mozambique showing “tall ships”. The “Star Flyer” was originally built in Belgium as an auxiliary sailing cruise vessel (launched in 1991 as “Star Clipper”). Over seventy metres long, it is powered by one Caterpillar diesel and can carry 180 passengers in 85 cabins (together with a crew of seventy). Barquentine rigged, it is fitted with sixteen sails with a total area of 3365 square metres. Monaco-owned too, Malta registration was effected in 2010.



The Editor

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WHO'S (&Was) WHO on Malta Stamps

Antoine Vassallo (No 70)

continued from issue no. 69

An (in-progress) alphabetical list of those connected with Maltese Philately

Only one example connected with the person involved (usually the first or most prominent) is listed. Where adhesives are not available, cancellations, handstamps and slogans (excluding First Day cancellations) are shown **CHS**.



- 457 Maurice **Tanti Burlo** (1936-2014) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1981
 458 William **Tell** (legendary Swiss folk hero) 29¢ Ships 2006
 459 William Makepeace **Thackeray** (1811-63) English novelist 25¢ Authors 1990
 460 Gino **Theuma** Maltese photographer 16¢ Europa 2002
 461 St **Thomas of Villanova** (1488–1555) Spanish Archbishop 4d Gafa' 1967
 462 **Toninu** Maltese literary character 37¢ Europa 2010
 463 Fran **Trabalon** (wildlife photographer) WWF 2016



- 464 Francesco **Trevisani** (1656-1746) Italian artist 26¢ Christmas 2008
 465 **Vachon Belmont** > Belmont
 466 Jean de **Valette** or Jean Parisot de La Valette (1494-1568) French Grand Master of the Order 8d Centenary 1968
 467 Luís Mendes de **Vasconcellos** (c1542 –1623) Portuguese Grand Master of the Order 26¢ Grand Masters 2014
 468 Mikiel Anton **Vassalli** (1764-1829) Maltese patriot and intellectual 30¢ Europa 1980
 469 Gian Antonio **Vassallo** (1817-1968) Maltese poet and historian 62¢ Art 2004



- 470 Paolino **Vassallo** (1856-1923) Maltese composer 8¢ Christmas 2006
 471 Claude-Henri Belgrand de **Vaubois** (1748-1839) French general 16¢ Centenary 1999
 472 George **Vella** (1948-2014) Gozo Philatelic Society co-founder and artist, with first stamp design in 2006 11¢ Armour 1977

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