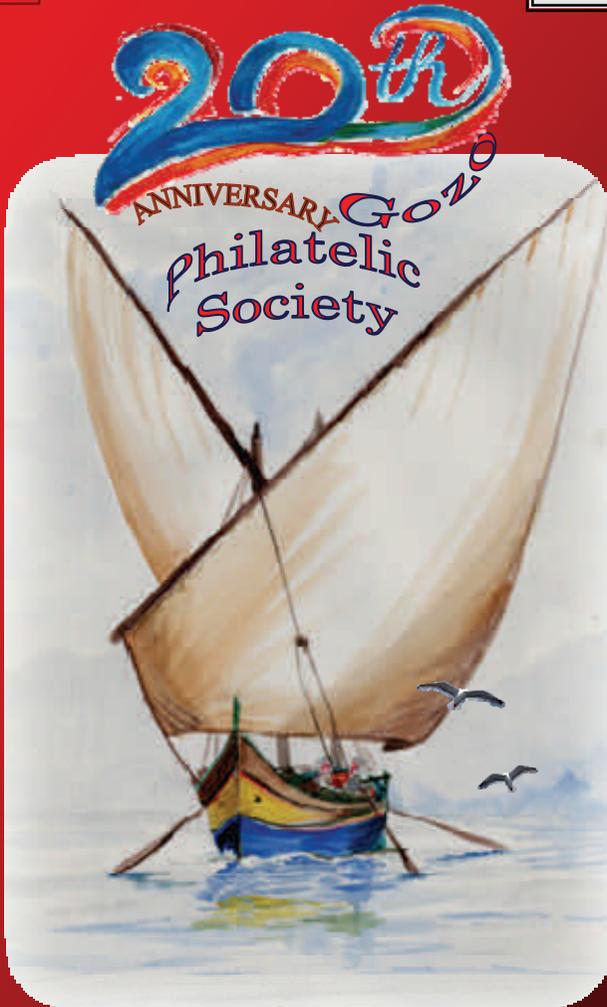


July—September
No. 77—2019
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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999
for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

[Front cover](#)

Special 20th anniversary logo

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 77 (3/2019)

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to:

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When in Gozo You are invited to VISIT



MUSEUM

St George Square, Victoria



Its Educational, Cultural and
FREE.

And Yes there is always a small
philatelic Exhibition

(71) G.P.S. Diary

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary



28 May 2019 *Il-Ħaġar* GPS showcase changed to Victorian numismatic and philatelic items.

29 May Committee continues discussing anniversary events.

June Newsletter 76 announces – on the front cover - HE G Vella's patronage.

2 June Long-time GPS member John Vassallo is enrolled as a Knight of Malta. Though residing in Australia, John has participated various times – with success – in the GPS Exhibition and used to contribute regularly to our Newsletter.

22 June Anthony Grech produces a cover for Ta' Pinu painting quatercentenary handstamp (which he designed).

July Gibbons Stamp Monthly includes a letter from the GPS Secretary correcting an item about a Malta stamp.

10 July Anthony Grech begins Oratory Summer Club sessions.

10 July Committee begins preparing for the November Exhibition.

19 July Anthony Grech produces a cover for St George statue handstamp (which he designed).

10 August Anthony Grech produces a cover for Bishop Cefai handstamp (which he designed).

14 August Anthony Grech produces a cover for Xewkija statue stamp.

Please note that our publications are included in Malta University's External Research Collection and can be assessed on

<https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/24814>

proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR

(14) Andersen Birth Bicentenary

3 III 2005

(designed by Mette & Eric Hourier – joint issue with Denmark)





500th ANIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF LEONARDO DA VINCI *Antoine Vassallo*

The second day of May 2019 marked the fifth centenary of the universal genius Leonardo da Vinci. Leonardo was born out of wedlock in the village of Vinci to a notary Piero and a peasant woman named Caterina. This self-taught genius is famous not just for painting but also for his prodigious contributions in sculpture, science, engineering, mathematics, astronomy and anatomy. Popes Alexander VI and Leo X commissioned works from him, but he also accepted lay patrons. In fact he produced everything with an eye for detail and perfection. He constantly tried to make things better in all his works, being designing or painting, religious or profane, anatomical or mechanical. His drawings, sketches and paintings have been reproduced a million times — in books as well as on postage stamps!

His most popular religious painting is without doubt ‘The Last Supper’ while



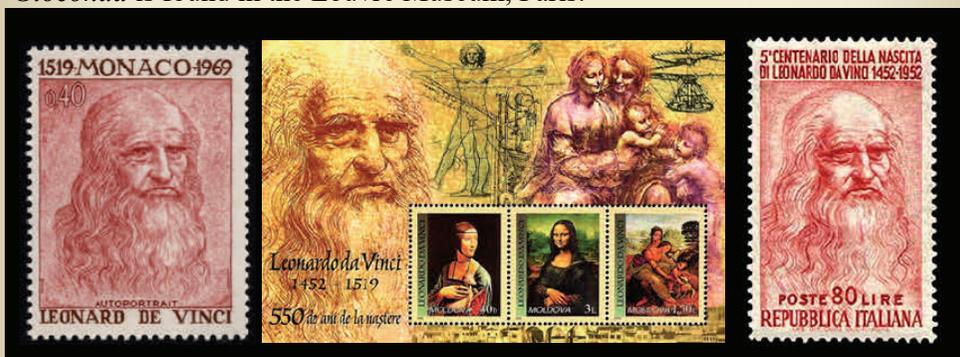
the most famous of the profane is the “Mona Lisa”. These two are the most



studied and described of his works and among the best known and most shown



in absolute. The Last Supper was painted on one of the walls of the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. The Mona Lisa or *La Gioconda* is found in the Louvre Museum, Paris.



Unfortunately many of Leonardo’s works of art are now lost. Recently a painting of his - ‘*Salvator Mundi*’ (Saviour of the World) - reappeared. Actually for a long time it was attributed to a disciple of Leonardo. Over the years, it changed hands numerous times. In 1958 it was sold for £45. In 2005, after restorations, studies and tests at New York University, it was authenticated as the “lost” original work by Leonardo da Vinci. Though still not universally acknowledged, in 2017 the *Salvator Mundi* was sold at auction for 450 million dollars, the highest price ever paid for a work of art. It was bought by Prince Badr bin Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. It was announced that the

painting is to be placed at the new Louvre Abu Dhabi museum as the centre-piece.

I suggest that the subject ‘**LEONARDO DA VINCI AND HIS WORK**’ would make a great thematic collection!



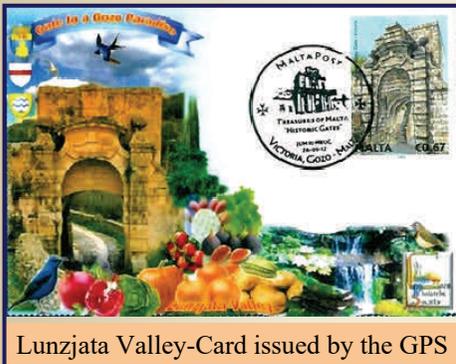
BIRTH OF A SOCIETY & ITS PROGRESS

*by one of the founders,
Anthony Grech*



On 1 September 1999 four philately enthusiasts met casually in one of the main squares of Victoria. Naturally their discussion was about the latest stamp set issued six days before, very attractive ‘Fauna of the Mediterranean’ stamps. One of the small group Frankie Masini came up

with the idea of a philatelic club in Gozo. All four immediately agreed and decided to hold a meeting on 3 September at 6pm at *Dar Il-Lunzjata* in Lunzjata Valley, open to all philatelists; a circular was issued to this effect.



Eleven stamp lovers turned up: Anthony Grech, Saviour Grech, Frankie Masini, John Muscat (RIP), Notary Michael Angelo Refalo, Anton Said Cremona, Maria Assunta and Antoine Sciberras, Donald Theuma Xerri, Antoine Vassallo and George Vella (RIP). It was agreed that Frankie Masini act as chairman and George Vella as secretary until the

election of a committee. Mr Vella gave some information about the work already done by the small group. Mr Masini explained why a philatelic society was needed in Gozo while Dr Refalo emphasized that it is only natural to want to share one’s hobby with others. It was decided that a set of rules to govern the society were to be drafted by George Vella and professionally fine-tuned by the “in-house” notary: an official Gozo Philatelic Society Statute.

The first Committee Meeting took place at the same locality on Saturday 23 September 1999 at 4pm to elect a committee and to decide on official name and logo. This latter - still in use today - was prepared by me, consisting of the name and a Gozo Boat set on the corner of a stamp. The Gozo boat was of course the first image with a Gozitan connection on Malta stamps.

The first committee consisted of Michael Angelo Refalo, President; Frankie Masini, Vice President; Antoine Vassallo, Secretary; Anthony Grech, Assistant Secretary; John Muscat, Treasurer; Ronnie Grech, Assistant Treasurer; Anton Said Cremona, Auditor; George Vella, PRO; Saviour Grech, Newsletter Editor, and Canon George Farrugia, Chaplain.

During these 20 years the GPS has had 3 presidents, Michael Refalo (who remains a legal adviser), Anton V Said (who represented the Society at a meeting in Germany with the Dingden Philatelic Society and also welcomed the Malta Study Circle in Gozo) and the current Louis Bonello. However the longest serving official in the same appointment is Antoine Vassallo, Secretary since the Society's birth.



The Society was officially launched to the general public on 12 February 2000 at the Tigrja Palazz Function Room under the patronage of Gozo Minister Giovanna Debono.

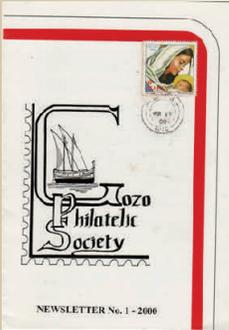


The first Newsletter was issued in March 2000, sent free to all members. From a humble eight-pager, it has become a full colour 32-page quarterly. We even got a Large Silver at the 2016 Canberra Stampshow. We are also honoured that it is archived on the Malta University Research Collection. Less spectacularly, we have a webpage and Facebook page. I must note that cooperation has not been lacking from the media; thus we can act too as a pressure

group for collectors.

Another publication which the Gozo Philatelic Society is understandably proud of was the 60-page A4 ‘Gozo: the Isle of Joy on Stamps’, with material contibuted by twenty members. It offers colour aspects connected to everywhere on Gozo, obviously emphasising related philatelic material. All this was made possible through the EcoGozo support scheme.

One of the first decisions was for me to design and produce a cover whenever a stamp or handstamp have Gozitan connections: to date over 150 have been issued, some of which were joint issues with other entities. Highlights were the Prime Ministers and Gozo Bishops sets, together with the double – with the Canberra Philatelic Society – for the Australia Migrants centenary

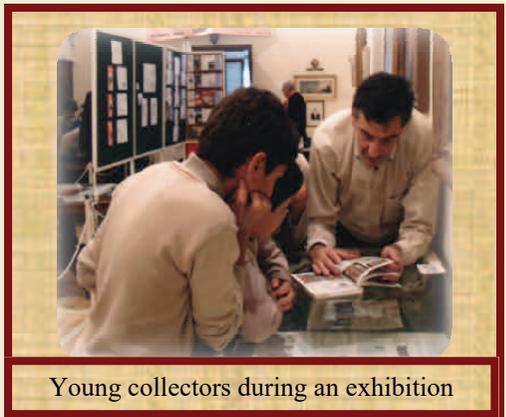


For some time the committee meetings continued at *Dar il-Lunzjata* but this was not always adequate. Luckily enough, Maria Vassallo (RIP) offered us unconditionally the use of a spacious room in her home in Vajringa Street, Victoria: for several years this was also the location for the GPS library and archives. Other locations sometimes used

were the headquarters of the Victoria Scout Group and the Catholic Action Movement. Finally, this year we signed a rent agreement with the Gozo Curia for a suitable office in Main Gate Street (where I am also setting up the Juncker Melitensia Collection). This can be considered as a *quid pro quo* for our help to GCH for the creation of a welcome stamp shop. AGMs are lately being held at *Il-Haġar*, which hosts our showcase with mini-exhibitions.

Probably the Society’s most important activity – certainly that which consumes most effort - is the Exhibition held at the Gozo Ministry Exhibition Halls each November, presently sponsored by MaltaPost plc. Space is offered to Juniors too, guaranteeing a future to our hobby; we thus also undertake school visits and hold sessions at the Oratory Summer Club.

Today the Gozo Philatelic Society has members from Australia, Germany, Great Britain and the USA, besides Gozo and Malta. The newly elected President of the Republic

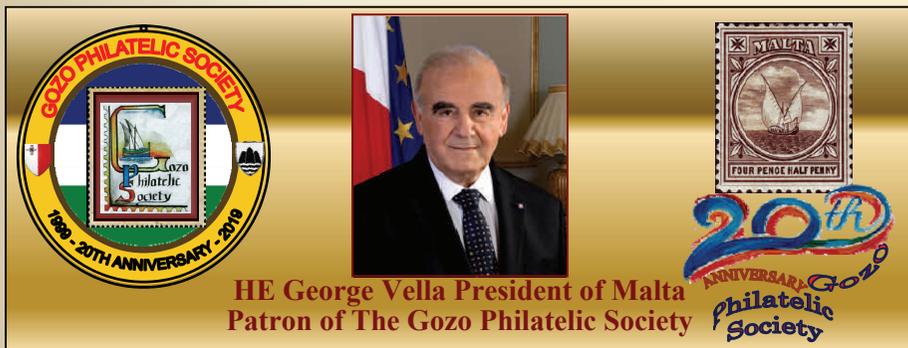


Young collectors during an exhibition

HE Dr George Vella, a keen philatelist himself, has now honoured us with his patronage.

Progress over these twenty years would not have been achieved without teamwork and the encouragement of many. Reference is especially due to expert Anthony Fenech (RIP) and the President of the Malta Philatelic Society Dr Alfred Bonnici. Special thanks to our two past Presidents Notary Michael Refalo and Mr Anton V. Said and to the present President Mr Louis Bonello. I consider it a duty and honour to also thank specifically the Junckers for their exceptional donation and Gozo Bishop Mario Grech, Gozo Curia Administrator Victor Gusman, Mr Benny Bartolo and all Gozo Ministers for their support. And then thanks are due to MaltaPost: Gozo staff, Philatelic Bureau Head Mary Grace Simpson and Chairman Joseph Said.

Noticing how many of those mentioned are now dead, I must express thanks to God for giving us the strength to carry on!



By now all members have received the Circular together with the Regulations and Application form regarding this year special exhibition.

We encourage you to participate but do note that only **ONE EXHIBIT** is being allowed to each member
There is a definite a closing date.

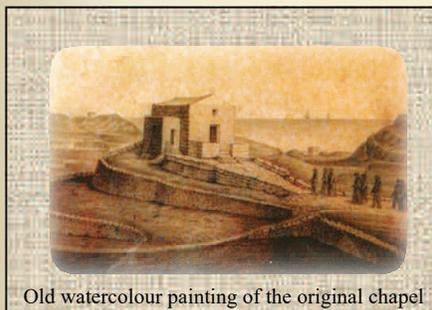
Promoting Gozo through Philately

Ta' Pinu and Marian Devotion

Antoine Vassallo



GOZO is celebrating a Marian Year on the fourth centenary of the titular painting of the old Ta' Pinu chapel at Ghammar – and thus of the present sanctuary basilica in the limits of Għarb. Past issues of this periodical have already treated various aspects and so I thought it would be interesting to give something of the general background, adapting nuggets gleaned from the 1983 publication (edited for the Historical Society by Mgr Prof Vincent Borg) connected with the 9th International Mariological Congress held on the occasion of the Ta' Pinu centenary.



Old watercolour painting of the original chapel

The 1619 painting (shown on a 1988 stamp) depicts the Assumption of Our Lady, probably the most widespread

Marian devotion in these islands. This is evidenced by the 2017 sheet of ten stamps showing different statues with this title. In fact it is often referred to simply as *Santa Marija* - or Saint Mary.

Researchers have identified about a hundred different churches, tiny (some now destroyed) and majestic, with this just Gozo, the list (*San Dimitri* and *Santu Xini*, Qala, Sannat (*il-Għajn Xejba*), Xewkija there are some “old” Qabbieža and Qasam tal-concerned, I notice Wied (with possibly the oldest museum – with later



dedication. Limiting myself to includes Dbiegi, Dwejra, Għarb (*Pietru*), Marsalforn, Mġarr ix-*Qortin*), Wied il-Mielah, Xagħra (*tal-Hamrija*) and Żebbuġ. Then locations: Għajn Meddew, Għeżien. As far as the capital is Sara and of course the *Matrice* extant depiction, now in its added panels).

Obviously numerous other churches cropped up down the centuries (reliable documentation goes back to the fourteenth) honouring *il-Madonna* under some title or other. Moreover there are cases where, while remaining Marian, the exact devotion was changed. An example is the small church – depicted in



2004 - on the island of Comino: from the Assumption, it became dedicated to the (unusual and idiosyncratic) Return from Egypt. Another is the old Qala sanctuary



(seen in 2012).

I have to “ignore” the impressive number of street niches – some of a substantially high artistic level – which are dotted all over Gozo: a big proportion are Marian in character. Neither can I survey house names shown in plain or decorative plaques fixed to facades.

Of the present fifteen Gozitan parishes, these are “Marian” or jointly so: Ghajnsielem (OL of Loreto), Gharb (Visit to Elizabeth), Kerċem (OL of Succour - or Help), Qala (OL in her Immaculate Conception), Xagħra (OL in her Birth), Żebbuġ and the Cathedral. These last two have the same dedication: OL in her Assumption, *l-Assunta*.

This miraculous conclusion of Our Lady’s presence on earth strongly entered Christian devotion from very early times (originally called “Dormition”, as still in the Eastern churches) but only became an official tenet of faith for Catholics



in the middle of the twentieth century.

Its pivotal character was – in essentially agricultural communities such as Malta’s - also social and commercial; being a mid-August celebration, it marked the period when farmers paid their ground rents (*ċnus* or *qbiela*) and entered into new contracts. Unsurprising, non-religious aspects were also introduced such as free meals, horse – and donkey - races and the annual Agriculture Show.



Probably no church in Gozo is bereft of any Marian altar or image! Referring to just one, St George’s basilica in the middle of Rabat offers some thirty – paintings, mosaics, marbles, bronzes and statues;



here the *Ġesù Marija* (Jesus and Mary) Confraternity was created three hundred years ago, with its own altar, painting and processional statue.



Along hundreds of years, numerous titles of Our Lady waxed and waned in devotees. Even eliminating those already mentioned, a complete list would be incredibly long – so I keep to just half a dozen.

The Annunciation (by the Archangel Gabriel of the divine motherhood) is now mainly represented through the popular *tal-Lunzjata* chapel at *tas-Saqqajja* on the limits between Victoria and Kerċem.

Devotion to Our Lady of Light – introduced through the Jesuits - was rather intense in the eighteenth century but soon declined. It was

originally centred in the *San Ġużepp tas-Suq* chapel, now demolished; the restored alterpiece can still be admired in the Il-Haġar museum (which houses a GPS showcase).



In 1789 Bishop Vincenzo Labini, quite uniquely, solemnly consecrated a chapel dedicated to the Patronage of Our Lady (*tal-Patroċinju*) in Wied il-Għasri. Raised to the honour of a basilica and associated with the Roman *Santa Maria Maggiore*, it still stands.

Numerous parishes boast of *ta' l-Erwieħ* (the Souls in Purgatory) altars, actually honouring Our Lady of Graces.

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows (*id-Duluri*) had already reached Gozo by the early seventeenth century but it took long years before it spread outside the capital; however now it could not really be much stronger, just before Holy

Week rather than – as in the universal calendar – in September!



Our Lady of the Rosary does not refer to any aspect of her life but rather to this Marian prayer itself, whose popularity blossomed especially after the Christian victory at Lepanto on 7 October 1571. Processions – often accompanying a specific statue - are still held around Gozo, usually on the first weekend of October.

I conclude this necessarily brief survey by mentioning given names. These are not limited to simple

Maria, Marija or Mary but can include most of the titles mentioned – and go further. Examples could be Vitorja (OL of Victories) and Karmena (referring to OL of Mount Carmel).

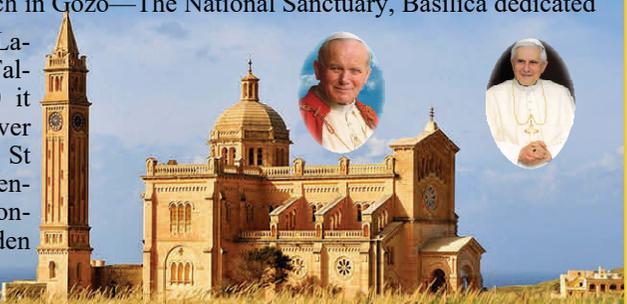


Many women are called Lourdes, in reference to the apparitions in this otherwise insignificant Pyrenee location. A small but impressive church dedicated to OL of Lourdes overlooks Mġarr Harbour and thus probably the first one visitors to Gozo set their eyes on. It was depicted on a 1991 stamp and on

a Malta-Iceland joint miniature sheet in 2011.

Marian names can be masculine too: though a Saint Mario does exist, present diocesan bishop Mario Grech surely has Our Lady as his christening patron! So we also find common Marian male names such as Vitor and Carmel (or Karmnu or even, incorrectly, Charlie). But a particular practice is dying down: the addition of Marija to one's name: eg John Mary / Ganmarija.

The most loved Marian Church in Gozo—The National Sanctuary, Basilica dedicated to The Assumption of Our Lady, popularly known as Tal-Madonna ta' Pinu. In 1990 it was visited by the first-ever Pope to visit our Islands, St John Paul II. In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI decorated the Madonna ta' Pinu with the Golden Rose, an honour



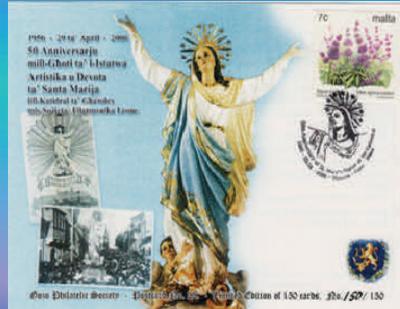
bestowed on the most important Marian Sanctuaries around the world.



Some postmarks related to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu and Her National Sanctuary

MARIAN POSTCARDS issued by the GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Anthony Grech



Not just PAPER (19)

examples of unusual stamp production

Antoine Vassallo

Several countries have produced “novelty” stamps, not always accepted as completely legitimate. One of the best known is surely Bhutan: as far back as 1973, this landlocked Kingdom in the Eastern Himalayas issued what were



advertised as “talking stamps” that also were vinyl records! Through the use of a turntable, you could hear a brief history (in English or Bhutanese), their national anthem or folksongs. The government actually formally announced that “this revolutionary innovation opens a new dimension”. To be completely exact, there was a spelling mistake: *revoltionary*.

I show here a first day cover as well as the other six separate values, ranging from 10 chetrum to 7 ngultrum (supposedly specifically for airmail).



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors (15)



Space pioneer **Sally Ride**, commemorated on a May 2018 United States forever stamp, was a stamp collector. In fact she is known to have started her

collection at nine and continued throughout her life, being especially interested in the themes of the Olympics and space exploration.



In 1983 Sally became the first American woman to go into space (on board space shuttle Challenger). Previously, she was the first woman to serve as a capsule communicator for Columbia's second flight in 1981. She was later a member of the first flight crew with two women. She co-authored six children's books about science

and was awarded posthumously the highest American civilian honour (the Presidential Medal of Freedom). She died of pancreatic cancer in 2012, aged 61 (having been born in 1951).

After the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee (appointed by the Postmaster General to oversee the choice of stamp subjects) approved the idea of honouring Ride, the USPS worked with NASA to research her career as an astronaut and looked through the photographs from her two space shuttle flights. But no one picture stood out as a suitable candidate.

USPS art director Ethel Kessler decided to involve Paul Salmon, a veteran illustrator chosen by NASA to document the early space shuttle programme; he already had experience of adapting aeronautic topics for stamps.

He possessed a photo of that shuttle crew, autographed to him –



obviously by Sally too. It depicts the astronauts who flew the STS-7 mission, including the smiling face on the stamp. "I worked from that photograph because I thought she looked very pleasant there," he said. But Ride's portrait alone did not sufficiently tell her story. Her characteristics seemed too 'sweet' for an astronaut!

It was decided to add gravitas by depicting her launch since the liftoff is probably the most dangerous time. "I wanted to show the braveness of the person who gets into the space shuttle and goes up - especially a woman!" The USPS sourced a photo showing the shuttle in profile as it lifted off the pad at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Salmon also added his own touches - like the looming clouds, embellished to increase the drama and sense of danger. The initial idea was a horizontal stamp, with Ride's portrait on one side and the launch on the other. But then the decision was made to go vertical; thus the launch did not have equal value as her head.



"We did Sally Ride justice" and she would be proud: a stampcollector on her own stamp!

Obviously her stamp depictions are not limited to her own country – but that aspect could merit another instalment.



LATEST COMMEMORATIVE CARDS ISSUED BY THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

(Anthony Grech)

125th Anniversary



On the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the **St George** demonstration statue, MaltaPost issued a special commemorative postmark on 19 July 2019 from the Victoria Post Office. The Gozo Philatelic Society issued this postcard in a limited edition of 100.

HE Bishop Giovanni Cefai MSSP



On the occasion of the first visit of the new Gozitan Bishop **Giovanni Cefai** MSSP to Gozo and his home town Iż-Żebbuġ, MaltaPost issued a special commemorative postmark on 10 August 2019 from the Victoria Post Office. The Gozo Philatelic Society issued this postcard in a limited edition of 100.

Looking for Varieties on Malta

Christmas 1964.
First stamp; Small white dot on St Joseph's garment



IV Centenary of The Great Siege 1965.
Misplace red colour on flag.



Definitive Issue 1965
Omitted 'MALTA' on both stamps



Definitive Issue 1965
Misplaced Black shading on 'Roman' geometric design



Definitive Issue 1965
Shifted Gold design on both sides



1902
The Classic spelling error on Malta Stamp.

← **Pnney**
(Second stamp)

PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

presented by Antoine Vassallo

24 - No, not the US state! (1919)



2005 Georgia stamp

I focus today on an obscure corner which formed part of the USSR.

Georgia is located in the south Caucasus region of Eurasia. Georgians, an ethnic group, have their own language. At the beginning of the 19th century, it was annexed within the Russian Empire. With its fall and the subsequent October Revolution, the provinces of the Caucasus region seceded and formed their own federal state called the Transcaucasian Federation. Due to bitter infighting between the regions, the union only lasted for 6 months and Georgia declared independence on 26 May 1918.

The Democratic Republic of Georgia (with a population exceeding two million and with Tbilisi – or Tiflis – as the capital) was created but the region remained in a state of chaos. The British, who occupied the port city of Batumi on the Black Sea, had an interest in halting the advance of the Communists in Russia and so aided Georgia in mediating some of the conflicts.



But this was only a temporary respite since by early 1921 the Red army crossed in and the Republic was dissolved.

However in the meantime a few interesting stamps – and banknotes - appeared.

The first stamps were issued on 26 May 1919, on the first anniversary of the declaration of independence. They featured Saint George on horse-

back with the name inscribed in French (*La Georgie*) and Georgian. St George is in fact the patron saint of Georgia and its coat of arms depicts him slaying the dragon as the primary feature.

Georgian art has of course evolved over millennia, effected by conquerors, merchants, and travellers of all kinds because the place can be correctly described as being on the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Thus artefacts show influences of a variety of styles. I may be mistaken, but the designer here was Dimitri Shevardnadze (1885 – 1937) - founder of the Georgian Artists Association who was among the intellectuals executed under Stalin for refusing to keep to the party line.

The stamps were issued both perforated and imperf in six denominations, the top value (1 rouble) using a similar design. One of the stamps (40 kopeck) exists tête-bêche and later printings of most can be distinguished through the shade – and even the paper and gum. Strange errors were seemingly created to recompense the engineer who repaired the machinery!



These – and later stamps – were overprinted, possibly in Italy, "Recognition of Independence 27-1-1921" (in Georgian) by exiled officials: they must have taken away sheets with them! Actually, the Soviet Georgia was not recognized by countries such as Belgium, Britain, France and Poland for over a decade.



“Georgian” stamps ended in 1923 but the country regained independence in 1991.

I finally note that the Georgian National Bank has issued a collector rectangular coin to mark this centenary. A sealed envelope and a stylised world map are on the reverse, while examples of the stamps are on the obverse side.



1993 First Anniversary of Admission to UN.
31 July
Design: P. Natsvlishvili

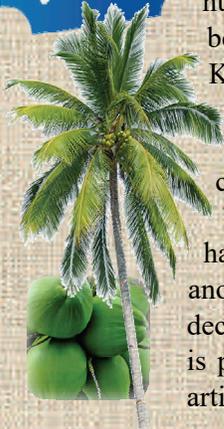


(14)



YOU CAN MAIL A FREE COCONUT TO ANYWHERE

Antoine Vassallo



This is actually a popular opportunity for tourists at the Hoolehua Post Office on the Hawaiian island of Molokai: coconut mailing is part their unique Post-a-Nut programme which began in 1991. Then postmaster – or postmistress - Margaret Keahi-Leary developed this idea as a way to send an unusual but authentic bit of the island to friends.

Every morning the postmaster stocks with freshly fallen coconuts, gathered from nearby palm groves – residents help out by also donating those they find on their land. She piles the haul in plastic United States Postal Service tubs and sets out another tub stocked with an assortment of permanent markers for decorating them. The coconuts are free: all customers have to do is pick one (or more!), decorate it – but the staff do offer their artistic skills! - and pay postage: usually between \$12 and \$20.

The USPS will take their decorated coconuts to addresses

around the world. The postmaster is an authorized Department of Agriculture inspector to examine the coconuts to make sure that they are safe to post: a hole could mean a bug inside; nor are sprouting growths permitted. Each coconut then receives an official USDA stamp. Vacationers are often tempted to send coconuts instead of postcards! The Post





Office mails out some three thousand coconuts each year. For the first years only US destinations were possible but this was expanded to anywhere; the only important exceptions are Australia and New Zealand who have strict regulations forbidding the importation of foreign produce.

as for other series, readers are invited to submit their own articles or even just suggestions



Saturday meetings

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Louis Bonello

The Gozo Philatelic Society is pleased to announce, in this twentieth year of existence, that it now has an office in Victoria: at 31 Main Gate Street (*Putirjal*). It is room 2 on the first floor (above Playpen).

It will be open regularly on Saturdays 9.30 to 11.15 am for stamp collectors to peruse and borrow publications, acquire and discuss philatelic material and even look at the Melitensia items in the Juncker Collection.

Visits by appointment on other days and time will be considered. Send email to Anthony Grech at linton3@maltanet.net.



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (31)

Antoine Vassallo

Connected to the card shown on page 17 in # 76, Germany issued this 2018 stamp to honour Elisabeth Mann-Borgese on the centenary of her



This daughter of Thomas Mann was an fighting for the preser-efforts culminated in tional Ocean Institute *Pacem in Maribus* known, our country ocean and its seabed as mankind’s common heritage.



Nobel Prize-winning expert on Maritime Law, vation of the oceans. These the founding of the Interna-in Malta, after the 1970 conference here. As is well “invented” the notion of the

The stamp highlights the motto of the "ambassador of the oceans": "We must save the oceans if we want to save ourselves" (*Wir müssen die Ozeane retten, wenn wir uns selbst retten wollen*). Elisabeth was also one of the founders of the Club of Rome: a group of scientists focusing on worldwide environmental problems.

The Mann family had left Germany after Hitler came to power, moving first to Switzerland and then - in 1938 - to the United States. The second part of Elisabeth’s surname comes from her 1939 marriage to Italian anti-fascist writer and literature professor Giuseppe Antonio; she had to raise their two children as a widow from 1952.

A Canadian citizen from 1983, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1988; the citation noted that “she has been involved with a number of global issues and has been a trusted spokesperson and defender of the rights of Third World countries”.

Actually she was interested in a wide range of fields – including translating Heinrich Schenker's *Harmony* into English. Among Mann-Borgese’s publications, I can mention a 1998 study about the Seas as a Global Resource and a few works of fiction.



She continued university teaching after her eightieth year but died in Switzerland through a lung infection during a skiing holiday.

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

A

INVERTED STRIKING

Louis Bonello



This postcard, sent from Portugal (Lisbon) to Austria (Vienna), is clearly dated 1899. It can obviously be described as “philatelic” in that it shows five stamps in two colours, with one printed incorrectly.

From left to right, these rare inverts - now valued at huge thousands – are:

1891 Brazil 100 reis, showing the head of Liberty;

1881 Guatemala 5 centavos, showing a quetzal (bird);

1865 Spain 12 céntimos, showing Queen Isabella II;

1869 United States 24 cents, showing an adaptation of John Trumbull’s painting depicting the presentation of the draft of the Declaration of Independence to Congress;

and finally a proof for the top value in the same series (90 cents), showing part of an Abraham Lincoln photograph.

E & O not E (50)

glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes (well-known or obscure)

Antoine Vassallo

This year numerous countries commemorated the 75th anniversary of D-Day: the invasion on 6 June 1944 of the beach at Normandy on the European mainland by Allied forces from Britain. Reasonably enough, Royal Mail got involved too!



Plans for a set of 11 stamps (in two styles) were announced towards the end of 2018, including this. Within hours it was determined that the black-and-white photograph actually shows the United States Coast Guard's landing on the beach at Sarmi, Netherlands New Guinea (now Indonesia) on 17 May 1944 - nearly three weeks earlier and an

entire continent away! The Royal Mail Group managing director immediately



expressed regrets for the mistake and gave reassurance that a correct image would be chosen. I add that they were lucky that, contrary to current practice, the designs were unveiled early enough for the actual issued stamps to appear unblemished: the only criticism possibly being the unnecessarily high number and cost!

And HM QUEEN VICTORIA.....

I take this opportunity to refer to what seems to be another photo slip, featuring a personality who was well-honoured this year too: Queen Victoria. In 2011 a miniature sheet had appeared for “The Age of the Hanoverians”, with the last stamp celebrating Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee in 1897. However the photo is earlier, taken by Alexander Bassano in 1882 and used officially for her Golden Jubilee. She actually appears quite older in Diamond portraits – expectedly so, at 78!



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Anthony Grech



MALAYSIA

1963



MALDIVE ISLANDS
Op. CYLON
STAMPS

1906



MALDIVE ISLANDS
OWN ISSUE

1909

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



MALI
1959



MALTA
1860



MANAMA
SURCHARGED
AJMAN STAMPS
1966



MANCHUKUO
1932



MARIANA ISL
O/p GERMANY
STAMPS
1899



**MARIEN-
WERDER**
1920



MARSHALL ISLANDS
Op. GERMANY
STAMPS
1897



MARSHALL ISLANDS
OWN ISSUE
1901



MARTINIQUE
SUR. FRANCE
COLONIES
STAMPS
1886



MARTINIQUE
OWN ISSUES
1908



MAURITANIA
INSCRIBED
FRANCE
STAMPS 1906



MAURITANIA
OWN ISSUES
1913



MOROCCO
AGENCIES
Op. GIBRALTAR
STAMPS
1898



MOROCCO
1956



MONTSERRAT
Op. ANTIGUA
STAMPS
1876



**MONTSERRAT
OWN ISSUES**
1903



**MOUNT
ATHOS**
2008



**MOSUL
SURC. TURKEY
FISCAL STAMPS**
1919



**MOZAMBIQUE
INS. PORTUGAL
STAMPS**
1876



**PORTUGAL
COLONY
OWN ISSUE**
1930



**COMPANY
Op. EMBOSSSED
STAMPS**
1892



**COMPANY
OWN
ISSUES**
1895



**OWN
ISSUES**
1951



**MUSCAT
Op. INDIA
STAMPS**
1944

MOZAMBIQUE



**MUSCAT
& OMAN**
1966



MUSTIQUE
1997



MYANMAR
1990



**NABHA
Op.
INDIA STAMPS**
1885



NAMIBIA
1990



NANDGAON
1892



NATAL
1857



**NAGORNO
KARABAKH**
1993



NAPLES
1858

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