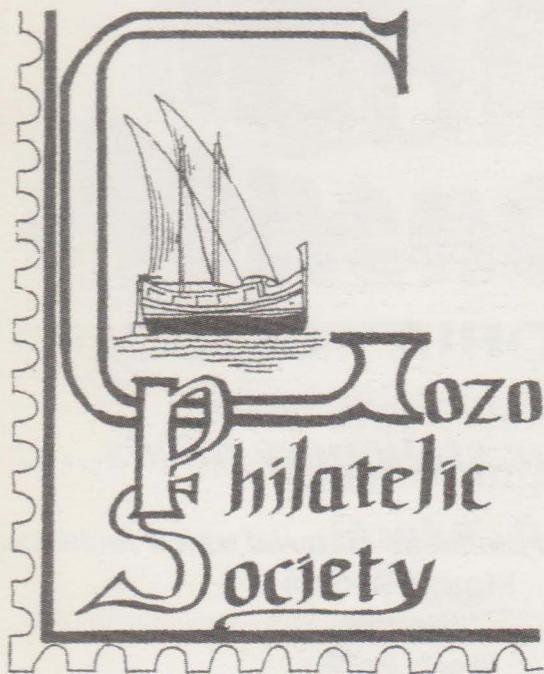


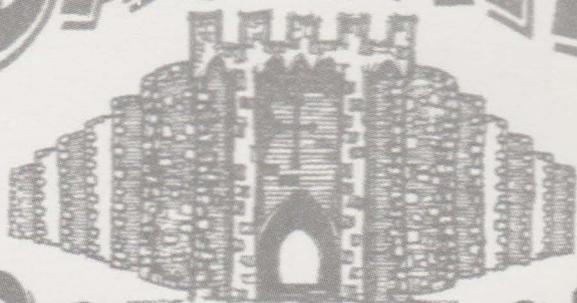
No. 8 APRIL - JUNE 2002 - 2/2002

NEWSLETTER



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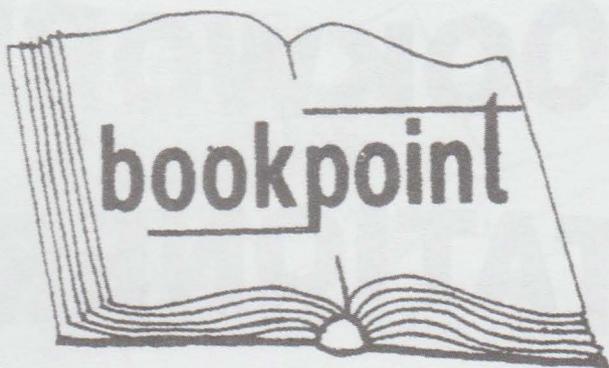
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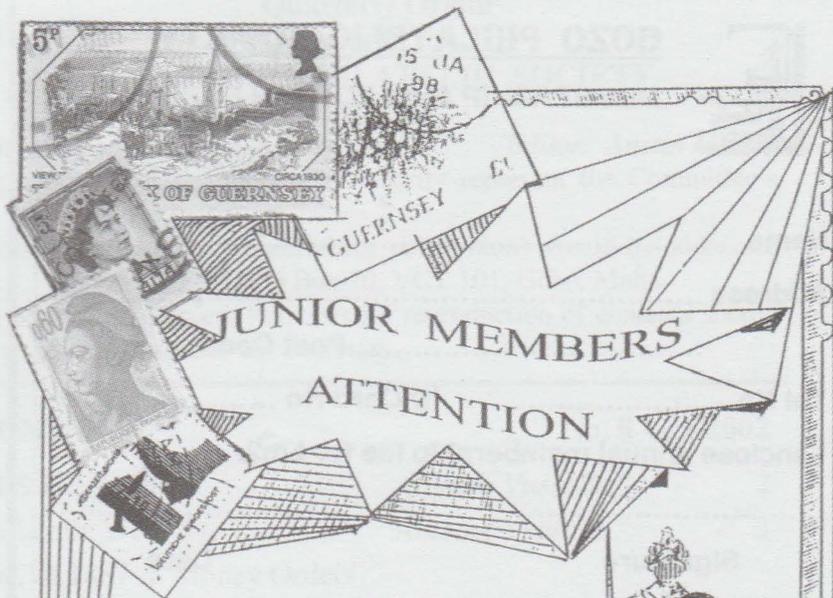
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- **What Not !**



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and you both receive
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MEMBERSHIP FEE: Only Lm1.00 yearly for Junior Members
Lm2.00 yearly for Senior Members

ENROLL NOW!



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

..... Post Code.....

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 for Junior membership
(Date of Birth.....)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

An official receipt and membership card will be issued
later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date



GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For “the promotion of the hobby”

“the provision of a point of reference” and “co-ordination”

Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

GPS DIARY (8)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

10th February 2002 - We naturally believe we should try to promote philatelic commemorations with Gozitan connotations. So a letter was sent to the local printed media stating "...the Personalities set announced for October is eagerly awaited. Since hardly any Gozitan has been depicted on our stamps... it is hoped that this opportunity is not missed!" A Maltapost reply referred to a portrait uncertainty which made it difficult for Archpriest Cassar to be included in this particular set.

14th March 2002 - The British Guild of Saint Garbriel sent us application forms. It offers a quarterly Bulletin (and auctions) for collectors of postal material of religious interest.

6th April 2002 - During a committee meeting, we were informed of the welcome news that a local shop has been convinced to stock philatelic accessories regularly. An October 2003 slot has been booked for our Exhibition and we provisionally agreed on the competitive theme for the October 2002 one: the environment (including nature, animals etc), besides the regular postal history.

13th April 2002 - Many young members attended the Meeting at *Dar il-Lunzjata* to exchange and acquire additions for their collections. We concluded with our annual Mass celebrated by our Chaplain Canon George Farrugia at Lunzjata Chapel with the kind co-operation of rector Mgr J. Azzopardi.

19th April 2002 - Another Pasta Night was held at *Palazzo Margherita* as an opportunity for members and friends to meet socially. Moreover many of those present succeeded in winning philatelic items!

20th April 2002 - We acquired a good range of Maltese First Day Covers going back to the early sixties which can be offered to our members at very interesting prices.

The GPS was included among the organizations listed in the *Malta Year Book* and we also sent details to be added to the Gozo Ministry website. Members have continued to promote our hobby through participation on printed (including e.g. a bilingual quality quarterly) and sound media (e.g. community radios). Of course, our Newsletter - which is now a registered newspaper is becoming widely distributed. Moreover the schedule of school visits has continued during this period.

PHILATELIC WEB (5)

Antoine Vassallo

Here are another ten Internet sites, hopefully interesting and useful — but again in no particular order! You are invited to recommend others.

www.swisspost.ch
www.maltaphilately.org
www.gibraltar-stamps.com
www.cricketstamp.com
www.princelystates.com
www.hawaiianstamps.com
www.philately.post.be
www.gbmachins.co.uk
www.stampsfiji.com
www.gov.im/stamps

Stamps from Switzerland
Malta Philatelic Society
Obviously-named!!
illustrates all cricket stamps
Indian States
“Best Phil Website 2001”
Belgium’s Philatelic Bureau
for collectors of Machines
exotic Pacific Islands
Stamps for the Isle of Man
(corrected from issue No 7)

A few stamp terms for your attention !!!

DEFINITIVES - These are stamps issued by the postal authorities for daily use. Definitives are printed in large quantities.

COMMEMORATIVE - These are stamps issued on special occasions to commemorate an event or in memory of a person. These stamps are printed in limited numbers and are usually available from the philatelic counters in the Post Office.

TETE-BECHE - A pair of stamps arranged such that one is printed upside down in relation to the other. They have to be collected in pairs to retain their value. Separated, they are like any other stamps. This can be intentional or sometimes due to errors.

ARRANGEMENTS OF 1887 REGARDING MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS

(Anton F Attard)

The following documents tell the story of how Money Orders and Postal Orders were acquired and encashed in Gozo in the last years of the Nineteenth Century. Transactions were still carried out in coin as paper money did not exist. The coins received used to be sent over to the Head Office in a sealed envelope and in like manner money for the encashment of Money Orders and Postal Orders had to be received in Gozo in a sealed envelope from the Head Office! Such envelopes had to be treated as Registered Letters.

Another document tells us that Postal Orders issued in Malta and Gozo were payable only in the U.K. and British Post Office at Constantinople.

Our last document gives us the date when Gozitan Mail started to be sent over to Malta in sealed mail bags. Prior to that date, Gozitan Mail travelled in an unsealed pouch.

APPENDIX E

The Detached Post Officers are to receive any sum, in British Coin, which may be tendered to them by the Public to be exchanged for the equivalent in “Money Orders” or “Postal Orders”, charging the established Commission for the same.

The money thus received is to be remitted, by the first mail, to the Deputy Postmaster General, enclosed in an Official Envelope, and treated as Registered, accompanied with a List of Money Orders or the Postal Orders required.

The Deputy Postmaster General will supply, by return of ➤

Post, the Money Orders or Postal Orders as per List received, for delivery to the applicants.

The Detached Post Officers are also authorised to receive Money Orders or Postal Orders as per List received, for delivery to the applicants.

The Detached Post Officers are also authorised to receive Money Orders and Post Orders from the Public, for transmission to the General Post Office to be cashed.

The Money Orders and Postal Orders thus received will be similarly treated as Registered Letters, and addressed to the Deputy Postmaster General, who will forward, by first Mail to the Detached Officers, their equivalent in coin, to be handed over to the payees.

Repealed by notice (Depl.) of March 1893.

ARRANGEMENTS OF 1892 AND 1893

No. 47. MEMO

General Post Office

13th December 1892.

Money Orders may be paid to the Public by the Detached Officers in Gozo according to the following directions:-

The person in whose favour the Money Order has been issued is to sign it immediately under the words “Received the above”, and, if unable to write, to have his or her mark witnessed by some one not connected with the Office, in the presence of the Detached Officer. The witness must be known to the Detached Officer. The Detached Officer is then to initial the Order at the back of it. The Order to be then sent to the General Post Office and the amount will be remitted to him by return of Post.

Frcó Mamo
Postmaster General



For the information of the Assistant Secretary for Gozo.
F.M.

Detached Post Officer - Victoria

Carry out. Keep a copy for Office record and pass on to Detached Officer at Migiarro with the same instructions. This paper is to be returned to me.

A 26. 12 92

The Assistant Secretary to Govt. Gozo

I have accordingly kept a copy of the foregoing Memo for my guidance and passed the same to the Det. Post Officer at Migiarro with the above stated instructio

Henry Faldarino
27. 12. 92

Seen

**Nicola Zammit,
Det. Post Officer
At Migiarro.**

28 Dec 1892.

**POSTAL ORDERS
- Important Notice -**

Postal Orders issued in Malta are payable only in the United Kingdom or at the British Post Office, Constantinople, and only such Postal Orders as have been issued in the United Kingdom or at the British Post office, Constantinople, are payable in Malta. ➤

Postal Orders are not exchangeable within the limits of these islands.

General Post Office
Malta, March, 1893

SEALING OF MAIL BAGS

No. 141 Memo

18th October 1894

On and after Monday 22nd instant, the mail bags between Malta and Gozo are to be sealed in the same manner as the Mail Bag addressed to the Assistant Secretary to Government in that Island.



The pouch at present used between Victoria and Migiarrow is to be substituted by a canvas Bag to be sealed in the same way.



The necessary seals of which an impression is shown on the margin are to be supplied from this Department. □

Seals used to seal mail bags

(Sgd) F.Mamo
Postmaster General

The Detached Post Officers, Gozo.

AIR MAIL STAMPS

(Emanuel Vella)



Some philatelists collect Airmail Stamps and other philatelic material connected with Air Travel. Aero-Philately, as this subject is called consists of Airmail stamps, Aerogrammes, Zeppelin stamps, letters flown by balloon and other special post marks connected with air travel.

The carriage of mail by air travel dates back a long time. In fact the first government sponsored airmail flight was operated on 17th August 1859 in the United States. At that time professor John Wise's Balloon, Jupiter, took mail to be carried from Lafayette to New York. The intended destination was never reached because of contrary winds which forced the balloon to descend at Crowfordsville. The centenary of this flight was marked by a commemorative American stamp. But this was an isolated flight.

A service by balloon which was carried over a period of some time with some degree of regularity was arranged during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Paris was besieged by the Prussians and the Parisians used balloons to carry letters and messages. The letters had "Par Ballon Monte" marked on them and these letters are greatly prized by collectors.

Letters appear to have been carried by aircraft for the first time in 1908 from Paris to St Nazaire France. The first British flight was by Claude Graham White from Blackpool to Southport in 1910. The first regular government sponsored ➤

airmail flight in England was the “Coronation Airmail”. At that time some 130,000 letters and postcards, postmarked “First United Kingdom Aerial Post” were carried between London and Windsor in September 1910.

The Aerogramme is the official airletter sheet of the Universal Postal Union. The first example was issued by Iraq in early July 1933. During the last World War it was extensively used by soldiers and this led to its introduction all over the world.

But before the aerogramme, we had the Zeppelin Stamps. These airmail stamps were franked by mail actually airborne by the German “Graf Zeppelin” and other rigid airships. These air voyages emanated from Germany between the years 1928 and 1934. Several countries have these Zeppelin stamps including Italy, Greece, USA, Russia and Paraguay.

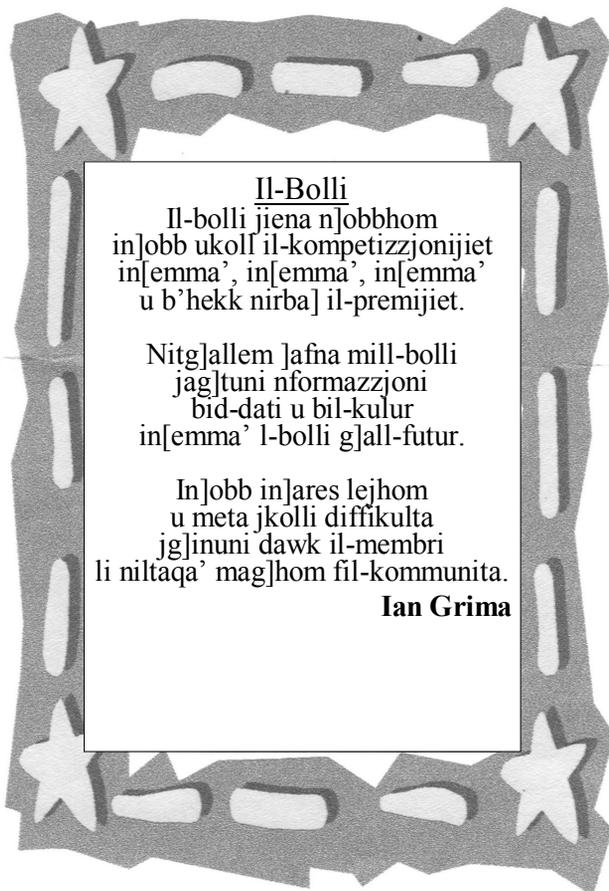
Today most mail is carried by air although it is more costly than surface mail. Many countries issue air stamps and other aero-philatelic material. The Italians issued the first air stamps which was an Express Issue overprinted in 1917 for an experimental service between Rome and Turin.



Malta issued its first Airmail stamp on the 1st April 1928. The 6d stamp of the 1926 definitive issue inscribed “Postage” was overprinted “AIR MAIL”. Nearly fifty years had to pass before we had another Air Mail issue. In fact on the 30th March 1974 a set of seven Air Mail definitives were issued. Since then, two more sets were issued - One on 3rd October 1978 and another on 26th January 1984. □



Hereunder is a poem written in Maltese by **Master Ian Grima** who is one of our Junior Members.



Il-Bolli

Il-bolli jiena n]obbhom
in]obb ukoll il-kompetizzjonijiet
in[emma', in[emma', in[emma'
u b'hekk nirba] il-premijiet.

Nitg]allem jafna mill-bolli
jag]tuni nformazzjoni
bid-dati u bil-kulur
in[emma' l-bolli g]all-futur.

In]obb in]ares lejhom
u meta jkolli diffikulta
jg]jinuni dawk il-membri
li niltaqa' mag]hom fil-kommunita.

Ian Grima

CONGRATULATIONS AND KEEP IT UP !!!

Please note that copies of various philatelic publications are available for free temporary loan to members by contacting the Secretary.

THE EGYPTIAN POST MUSEUM

Austin Masini



This museum is a major national museum that chronicles the development of postal services in Egypt since ancient times. It was established in February 1934 and opened for the public in January 1940. The Post Authority developed and expanded the museum into a vivid record of the development of postal service in Egypt over the years. The museum is located at Al-Aataba Square in Central Cairo. Its area is 543 square metres and it has more than 1254 exhibits in its ten different sections which are: A historical section, a section for postal equipment, a third for stamps, a fourth for postal buildings, fifth for transport, sixth for costumes, seventh for maps and statistics, eighth for air mail, ninth for conferences and tenth for foreign mail.

Postal services flourished in Egypt since the Pharaonic Old and Middle kingdoms and have been a paradigm of precision. Pharaonic inscriptions on monuments indicate that there were kings and rulers of neighbouring countries with whom Egypt maintained political and trade relations. The first document indicating the use of post dates back to 2000 years B.C. It is a will sent by a scribe to his son emphasising the importance of writing and the bright future of a scribe in government posts. Most probably, mail during Pharaonic ages was distributed by pedestrian postmen who travelled along the banks of the Nile and followed the paths of caravans and armies when conveying messages abroad. ►

ROMAN AND PTOLEMIC POST

Historians agree that Persians were the first to adopt a postal system in their country. That system was developed by the Ptolemies who had two categories:

- i) **Express Post**: which carried the letters of kings, ministers and top officials by men on horseback.
- ii) **Ordinary Post**: for carrying letters of government employees and ordinary people by pedestrian postmen and beasts of burden.

This system was adopted in Egypt through the Roman era and the early days of the Islamic era.

Postal Services from the Arab conquest till the modern age The Caliphate Mo'awia Bin Abi Sufian is said to be the first to introduce a postal system during Islamic rule. Messages were carried by horses which were changed at designated stops equally apart. This was called "Express Post". Ordinary post was carried by camels through the same stops where there were government servants whose job was to prepare fresh animals for the next leg. The most important mail line in Egypt was the one linking Lower Egypt to Syria. When Egypt became independent from the Caliphate rule, the new rulers abolished the postal system of the Calipha and established a special system in which pedestrian postmen carried mail.

Postal services were carried out by the tax collecting office and the person change was called "Al Dowidar" or the "Prince of the Mail". He had an assistant called "Katib Al Sir" who distributed the mail personally. The postmen carried a brass badge about the size of one's palm engraved on one side, "There is no god but Allah and Mohammed is His Prophet". The other side of the badge had these words: His Majesty the Sultan, King of the World, Sultan of Islam and Muslims, The Son of the Martyr Sultan." This brass badge was attached to a scarf round the postman's neck to distinguish him as such. ➤

Khedive Ismail (1863-1879), the ruler of Egypt, was convinced that the postal service is a public utility that should be carried out only by the government. Thus he negotiated the purchase of the private European post company which he bought on October 29th, 1864. The government started work at this new administration on 1st January 1865 which is the birth date of the Egyptian Post Department. All foreign seals were replaced by others bearing the Egyptian Postal Department name. The department continued to have its headquarters in the city of Alexandria because of the city's trade activities. In January 1866 the first group of Egyptian stamps were printed in seven categories in Genoa, Italy, for the Egyptian government.

The Post Department was affiliated to the Ministry of Finance in 1865. In 1875 it was transferred to the Ministry of Justice and a special building was established for it in 1882 in Alexandria. In 1865, due to the expansion of trade between Egypt and the world, a navigation line (The Khedive Company) was established to transport goods and correspondence to the Mediterranean and the Red Sea ports. Khedive Ismail opened post offices to handle merchants' transactions. In fact Egyptian Post Offices were opened in countries east of the Mediterranean Sea, countries bordering the Red Sea and in Sudan.

In 1919, a new administration for communications was established during King Fouad's reign (1917-1935) comprising railways, telephone, telegram and postal services in addition to roads and bridges. In 1931 the Postal Department was transferred to Cairo at its present location at Al-Ataba Square, which is one of the oldest in Cairo. □

Source: http://www.us.sis.gov.eg/egyptinf/culture/html/post_001.htm

STAMP CLINIC

Zaru Vella

During our annual meeting of the 27th January 2002, I couldn't help admiring several of our younger members busy swapping stamps with such fervour, often being advised by a senior member to be careful in handling their bartered stamps.

One of the cardinal rules of any hobby especially of philately is to treat it with the utmost care.

The following are a few basic guidelines when handling stamps:

★When removing stamps off envelopes, always use a pair of scissors to cleanly cut around the stamp. Never try to tear around it with your bare hands as you may accidentally tear the stamp.

★To separate stamps from their backing paper always soak them in lukewarm water for a few minutes. Some stamps may prove to be more stubborn than others to separate, so leave them to soak longer; don't try to peel them off as they can be very easily damaged when wet.

★When separated from their backing, make sure that all the gum on the back has been removed. If some still remains, try to remove it by first placing the stamp face down on a sheet of paper and then, using a small soft brush soaked in water, lightly brush the back until all the gum has gone. ➤

★To dry, don't simply leave your stamps on a table. This approach tends to cause the stamps to warp or curl especially in warm weather. The best way I have found is to lay them on a sheet of tissue paper (toilet paper is fine) and lightly dab with another sheet to remove the main amount of water on the stamps. They are then sandwiched between two new sheets of tissue paper and placed under a heavy book to help keep them flat whilst drying. The end result will be a perfectly flat, clean stamp ready for mounting into your album.

★In handling any stamps it is always advisable to use tweezers or tongs. Stamps tend to become soiled when constantly handled by hand thus becoming unsightly as well as depreciating in value.

★If possible, buy a good quality stamp album; the better the quality, the more your stamps will stand out and be admired when properly mounted. □

Happy Stamp Collecting!!!



Note:

All members who wish to exchange stamps can contact our committee member - Mr. Emanuel Vella of "Mandor" Grunju Str., Nadur, Gozo. Tel No. 21552252

THE GEORGE CROSS

(Antoine Vassallo)



In 2002 Malta commemorates the sixtieth anniversary of being awarded the George Cross on 15th April 1942 *“To honour her brave people...to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous”*. This honour had been instituted by King George VI two years previously to reward the performance of deeds of valour by civilians, ranking immediately after the Victoria Cross which is the highest British award for bravery. Both were featured in the Great Britain “Gallantry” set of 1990.

Malta’s postal authorities have often had occasion to laud this unique honour. In fact the first set issued after the War (“Victory” on 3rd December 1946) paired it with the Maltese Cross on the sides of the country name. This idea was repeated in



various later sets. The George Cross was also present on the 1956 definitives, with the 3d actually showing the King’s personally hand-written scroll.

The first set commemorating the award itself was issued on the 15th April 1957, followed by others in 1958, 1959, 1961, 1967 (silver jubilee) and 1992 (golden jubilee).



(Continued on page 24)

QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

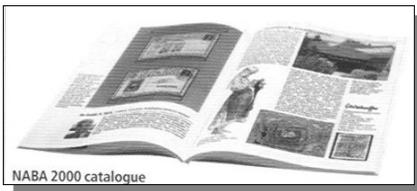
- i) When was the George Cross awarded to Malta and by whom ?
- ii) When did Malta issue its first Air Mail Stamp ?
- iii) In 1929 the Vatican issued its first stamp. What did it feature ?
- iv) When was the Egyptian Post Museum established and when did it open for the public ?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 31st July 2002 to:

*The Secretary
Gozo Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 10, Victoria Gozo VCT 101*

Prize

An attractive packet of different European Stamps generously donated by Mr Hans Katzensteiner.



PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULTS

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No. 7 are as follows:

- i) Beijing. 1896.
- ii) Green clothed angels.
- iii) Mr Anthony Grech.
- iv) Mailcoach.

PRIZE WINNER:

GPS Prize Winner of an attractive packet of different European stamps goes to Stefan Mintoff of Victoria Gozo (Member No.144)

(This packet was generously donated by Mr Hans Katzensteiner who is also one of our members.)



To all members,

Please note that when sending your annual subscription by post kindly use only cheques (or Money Orders) or unused Malta stamps.

THE VATICAN AND ITS STAMPS

George Vella



The Vatican has been an independent sovereignty under the Pope since 1929. Like other states, the Vatican issues its own stamps and money. The size of the Vatican is only about one square mile and the Pope had occupied this site since the 14th century after the return from Avignon. Since the mid 19th century the Pope ruled over many states of the Church, also known as Papal States, in central Italy. After long disputes between the two sides, in 1929 the concordat and the Vatican State were created. Thus the Vatican stamps started being issued as we know them today.

As a state, the Vatican issued its first stamp in 1929 and featured the Papal Tiara and St. Peter's keys. When one speaks of postage stamps, one has to remember that the pictures they portray have a long postal history. The Vatican stamps are fine examples; they portray symbols, popes, saints, papal visits, historical churches and buildings the world over. For example to commemorate the Pope's visit to Malta in May 1991 the Vatican issued a 1500c stamp featuring Pope Paul John II with Ta' Pinu Sanctuary in the background.

The scholar Cujacio derives the word "Posta" from "Apostolis", that is the habit to send "lettere apostoliche" from the Roman Curia and from the Pope. This term appears for the first time in the capitulations of Charlemagne and then in the third book of Law of Longobardi. Since remote times the Church had always made use of messengers called "cursores" to communicate with any part of the world. Well established abbeys and convents had a postal service with messengers on horseback, or the same monks did the job on foot or ➤

horseback. These beggaring monks also delivered private letters besides their own. One must not forget that at that time few persons knew how to read and write and few people travelled, so there was no need to send letters. Only through the flourishing of merchants and artists, a new rich and powerful class, the “bourgeoisie”, or middle class, created the need to communicate from a distance. Therefore, a postal system between merchants and learned men was born.



Some ambassadors asked the Pope to obtain permission to receive diplomatic correspondence through these couriers. This is how the establishment in Rome of the “Poste

Nazionale” began. The first was established in Spain under the authorization of Pope Alexander VI in 1499, and soon afterwards was followed by Naples and Milan. Pope Paul III established the postal system at Rome and Florence in 1536.

As most of us know, Sir Rowland Hill, an educator, hit with the invention of postage stamps as we know them today. After much hostile government and official opposition, the one penny black postage stamp was introduced for internal mail on the 6th May 1840. This was a sort of a prefixed postage charge of one penny regardless of distance. As this was the world’s first stamp there was no need to put the name of the issuing country on it. That is why Great Britain stamps, still to this date, have omitted the name of the country and include the sovereign’s head. Up to 1855, no such stamps were perforated but had to be separated with a scissors

Great Britain then was the only country to have stamps, but as the idea was realised to be good, other countries followed the new system. In 1843, Brazil picked up the



idea and later it was followed by parts of Switzerland. Then in 1847 the United States followed, and later also Belgium, France and Bavaria in 1849. Soon other countries followed suite.

In Italy, all the states introduced stamps and uniform tariffs between 1850 and 1852. The Pontifical State introduced the same postal service on 1st January 1852, which was considered of maximum importance and was very efficient. This depended on the Cardinal in Charge of the Holy Roman Church who proclaimed the relative laws to the services through adapted decrees and fixed the relative prices. Pope Pio IX, who discussed a lot the temporal power of the Popes, did not wish that he would be represented on stamps. He wanted that the symbol of the power of the Popes be represented, that is the crossed keys surmounted by the Papal Crown. For this reason, the series of Pontifical stamps are not appealing in their design, only with some difference in the frame. The first issue was printed at the printing press of the “Reverenda Camera Apostolica”, by means of four blocks of united stereotypes of 25. The first series was changed by another with values in cents in 1867 after the monetary reform. The next year, the next series was introduced, similar to the other issued before, but perforated, printed on a bright paper coloured in the middle and white on the sides.

Nevertheless, a great problem remained unsolved: the external postal tariff. The solution was found in 1874 with the creation of the Posts General Union. In practice, a unique convention was signed by 21 countries, almost all Europe, Egypt, Turkey and USA who made a territorial agreement to consider the postal traffic. They so agreed to fix uniform rules and tariffs to all adherent countries whatever how much they passed rapidly or not fully used. Even in this case the success was immediate. It was decided to adopt a new and more ►

suitable name: Universal Postal Union. In 1870, the revolution of the postal card, also exploded. It was the new and cheaper way to communicate with a reduced tariff. In 1900 the coloured postcards were introduced which were a noticeable success, thanks also to the increasing printing presses with more than one colour.

In the bases of article 2 of the Lateran Pact of 2nd June 1929, Italy recognized the Holy See as “the sovereignty in the international camp, as attributed inherent of its nature, in conformity to its tradition and to the needs of its mission to the world.” Consequently, the rights of the new state were recognized under any profile, that is to have the right of postal services. The Vatican state was admitted to the U.P.U. from 1st June 1929, and the Italian government was bound to furnish personnel and material to run the services.



On July 29th 1929 an agreement was concluded between the Vatican state and the Italian state for the execution of the postal services. This was according to the agreement of Stockholm of the 28th August 1924 and according to the fundamental law of the Vatican and that of the Source of Right, number 1 & 2 respectively, of 7th July 1929, which are of Pontifical origin. The start of the Vatican Postal Service was established by Rule VIII of 30th July 1929 and was to start on the 1st August.

All the Vatican issues as rules are published on the official gazette, “Acta Apostolicae Sedis”. Both the rules and the gazette that are issued or stamped on the 1st day , are collector’s items and of philatelic interest. Later postcards and airmail were also authorized. ➤

The adventure of the letter continues today, even in the era of the computer and electronics. The written word also remains to narrate the marvellous history of human communication for the past thousand years. The story is composed of letters, postcards, stamps and other related material; a story that everyone of us can further use to enter in the immense hobby of stamp collecting or philately..... a word without boundaries. □

Reference: Ufficio Filatelico e Numismatico, Citta del Vaticano



WORLD'S FIRST POSTCARD

Britain claimed a postal first when a historian said the first picture postcard was mailed by a London man in 1840, more than 20 years before rival German, Austrian or US Claims. Postal historian Edward Proud discovered that Theodore Hook, a Victorian eccentric, drew and sent the caricature card to himself in the same year that Britain started the world's first prepaid postal system by issuing the "Penny Black" stamp. The postcard, estimated to be worth £20,000, was auctioned by the London Stamp Exchange on March 18.

Source: *The Times - Wednesday 20th February 2002*

(Continued from page 16)

The Cross was moreover featured prominently on six other stamps:

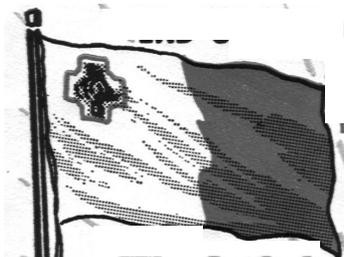
- i) two of the 1966 Churchill set.



- ii) 1c of the 1972 decimal coins set.



- iii) 1975 Republic Inauguration Set (as part of the National Flag).



In total, one can count some eighty Maltese stamps depicting the George Cross, at least as part of a decorative border. □

FOR SALE

Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). (*Timbru speċjali tal-Kapitulazzjoni tal-Frañċiżi f'Għawdex*) Lm1.00c

Packets of "Davo" hinges (1000). (*Pakketti tal-1000 hinges "Davo"*) Lm0.75c

Commemoration Cards of the First Anniversary of the GPS. (*Kartolini kommemorattivi tal-ewwel anniversarju Tal-GPS*) Lm0.25c

Davo Large Stock Books. (*"Stock Books" Kbar - Davo*) Lm12.50c

Davo Small Stock Books. (*"StockBooks" Żgħar - Davo*) Lm7.50c

Davo Stock Books with Maltese Coat of Arms. (*"Stock Books" Davo bl-arma ta' Malta*) Lm9.75c

Millenium hand stamped cards (8). (*Set ta' 8 kartolini ttimbrati bl-aħħar timbru tal-millenju waħda għal kull posta f'Għawdex*) Lm2.50c

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(Cover *impittra bħidejn u timbrata fl-ewwel jum tal-ħruġ bi-bolla tal-fanal tal-Ġordan ta' Ghawdex*) Lm1.00c
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(Special Price) Lm1.00c
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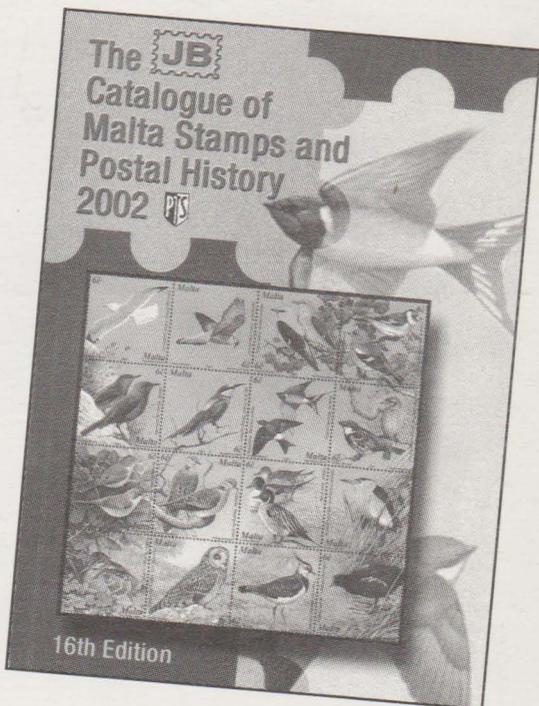
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