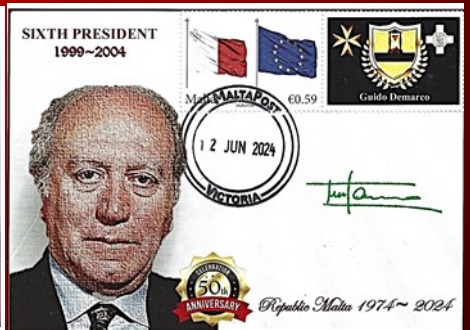


The Presidents Series



Like us on 

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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 page;

**CARDS FROM THE SERIES TO CELEBRATE
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**

PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF CANBERRA



Large Silver Medal awarded
to the Gozo Philatelic
Society Magazine

GPS Magazine — Official Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on 12 February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini — Designer Anthony Grech

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

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

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**Gozo Philatelic Society Patron His Excellency
Dr George Vella President Emeritus of Malta**

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To commemorate the 50th. anniversary of the Republic of Malta, the Gozo Philatelic Society is issuing, in a limited edition of 100, a series of 14 cards showing those holding the post of President. The cards are being issued periodically throughout 2024. Each card costs €3.00, postage free to Malta and Gozo.

For more information please contact Anthony Grech on e mail
tonigrech@gmail.com or call 21553338.

G.P.S. Diary

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546 secretary@stamps-gozo.org



April-June 2024 issue of *L-Anzjani Llum* continues our colour series of Stamp Errors.

4 April Acting Paul Xuereb is fifth Presidents issue.

9 April Il-Ħaġar display changed to an assortment of GB used in Malta from the Juncker collection.

16 April Sixth Presidents issue for the Republic’s Golden Jubilee: Vincent “Ċensinu” Tabone

2 May Funeral of Anton Said, a member in our first committee.

7 May Issue of seventh Presidents card: Ugo Mifsud Bonnici

13 May Donation of stamps and catalogues collected by VP Anthony Grech. (see page 7)

18 May Anthony Grech prepares cover for the 250th anniversary of Għarb’s collegiate chapter

12 June 8th Presidential issue Guido Demaarco

6 July Committee continues to discuss the November Exhibition and the catalogue updating.

10 July Anthony Grech again takes an Oratorju summer school group.

15 July E Fenech Adami is 9th card in the President series.

22 July Anthony Grech prepares cover for Dun Ġużepp Diacono death centenary handstamp



Who sits in a corner and does nothing all day but travels the world???

A POSTAGE STAMP

DIED TO DELIVER THE MAIL

MARY GRACE XERRI

In February 1831, a Scottish mailcoach travelling from Dumfries to Edinburgh got caught in a fierce blizzard. Both driver and guard decided to abandon the coach and set off on foot through the snow to try and deliver the mail and make it to safety. However they were eventually overcome by the elements and died of exposure. The alarm was raised when the horses somehow reached a nearby farm.



A century later, a roadside stone was erected in their memory: driver John Goodfellow and guard James McGeorge. They had been laid to rest in the churchyard in nearby Moffat, a historic spa town in Annandale Valley.



Remembering Anton's humorous vein:



In Memory of Anton Said

It is with deepest sorrow that we inform our members of the passing away of a friend and one of the founding members of the Gozo Philatelic Society who went to rest in the loving Arms of his Creator on 29 April 2024, aged 91.

Loved and never forgotten by his sons and daughters and their families, relatives and friends and by the President, committee and members of The Gozo Philatelic Society.

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him
O Lord**



THANK YOU

For your donation

**THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE OF THE
GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY,
WISH TO THANK....**

**MR MARC LEMMING and
MR ANTON KROPMAN**

For the huge donation of a vast range of philatelic material to our society, including a complete set of Stanly Gibbons All World stamp catalogue, other different stamp catalogues, philatelic apparatus, Republic of South Africa stamps, first day covers, maximum cards etc

MS. CHRISTINE MUSCAT AZZOPPARDI

For her generous donation of a good amount of Malta philatelic items to our Society.

Items include Malta First day covers, covers with commemorative postmarks, postal cards etc.

MR. ALFRED CONSIGLIO

For his donation of a variety of philatelic items to
The Gozo Philatelic Society.

Items include Malta, Russia and other foreign stamps and covers

All members are invited to visit our Office and have a look at these items. Some items are to be kept as property of the GPS and can be used as reference material. Other items can be given to members who are interested in acquiring them for a small donation. Our Office in *Triq Taht Putirjal* is open every Saturday from 9.15 am onwards

GOZO MAIL BUS

Joseph Mercieca



Transporting mail from Gozo to Malta

In 1947 a special bus service was introduced between the Central Post Office in Valletta’s Merchants Street and the Gozo Ferry Terminal at Marfa. The prime role of this service was to carry the mail in both directions but passengers were allowed, against payment of one shilling for a one-way ticket. Along the route, the bus travelled non-stop since the driver was not allowed to pick anyone up or let them dismount. Gozitan passengers to Valletta used to rush out of the ferry to get a seat on this bus which allowed them to arrive in less time! Older Gozitans surely still remember with nostalgia the *Xarabank tal-Posta*, particularly “*Kunduttur Rafel*” with his docile character. He had to keep up with jokes and teasing from his



Gozo Mail Bus, plate no. 8808 at Porta Reale Bus Station Valletta.

passengers - but he always made sure that all paid their share. Although the Gozo Mail Bus never visited Gozo, Gozitans considered it as their own.

The contract to run this service was for a period of ten years. The bus was to be painted all red – similar to the red Post Office livery - with a

white band. The seating capacity was not to exceed 36 and the mail had to be stored within the luggage compartments under the floor along the sides of the bus. A conductor had to be present not only to collect the fees but also to help the driver to handle the mail sacks.

There had to be two trips from Valletta, with an additional one in summer months. The bus was allowed to park by the side of



A more modern version of the Gozo Mail Bus with plate no. 6512 parked at Merchant Street, Valletta close to the Central Post Office.

the *Auburge de Castille*, close to the then Central Post Office main entrance.

The first contractor to operate this service was Joseph Gasan, the Ford dealer in Malta, who also ran the Gozo Ferry at the same time. The first bus was a Sliema route bus with licence number 2658. In 1953 a newly built bus joined the Sliema bus fleet as 2658 and the previous Ford V8 bus was licenced to run as 8808, continuing till the end of the first contract.

The second contract for 1957 to 1967 was won by Eucharist Zammit. This included the Ford V8 bus but with a new registration number 6512. Unfortunately it was damaged beyond repair when it fell over the *Għajn Raħana* Bridge on Burmarred Road in December 1959. Until a new one could be built, Private bus 2846 was used. But this had to be

stopped after a few days due to protests from the Mellieħa bus owners who raised the point that Private buses were not allowed to collect any money from passengers since they were licenced to be hired only. Thus the Commissioner of Police granted permission for a Mellieħa route bus to be used which was not on duty on that day.

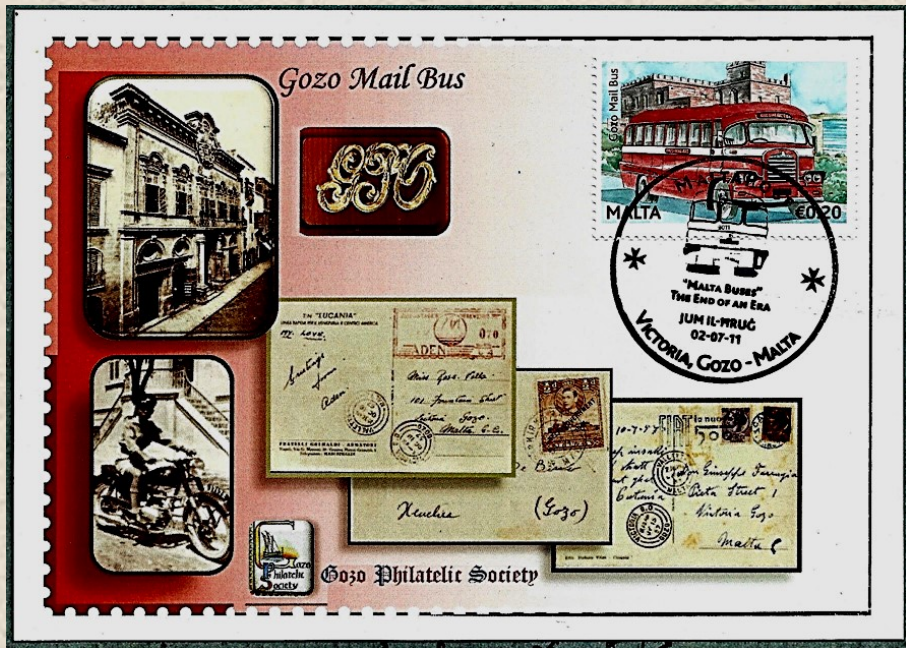


A new bus was built by Michael Debono of Zebbuġ and it passed its initial test in January 1960, entering service in February 1960. This newly built Bedford bus, painted all red, continued the day to day service until the contract expired. Since this was not renewed, the bus was stored for a couple of years. In the late 1970s the body of this mail bus was sold to the owner of Rabat route bus 3495 as his old vehicle was withdrawn as not fit for the road. It entered service as a normal route bus after it received the pale green livery, remaining on the road till July 2011 when the Arriva Company took over Malta's Public Transport. In summary, this bus carried these registration numbers: 6512 (1960 -1967), A3495 (1980), Y1495 (1982), Y0784 (1985) and FBY784 (1996 -2011).

After its final withdrawal from service the owner sold it to Francis Galea *tal-Honey* from Mellieħa who restored it, changing back to the original red livery and number plate (6512). Today it is part of the *tal-Honey* collection.



As is well known, MaltaPost issued a set of twenty stamps on 2 July 2011 for the “end of an era” when all public buses were withdrawn and Arriva took over Public Transport in Malta. The stamps were designed by Cedric Galea Pirota and printed by Printex Ltd in two sheetlets with ten different buses each. One of these stamps depicts this Gozo Mail



Bus with its original livery on its way to Marfa with, in the background, *Torri Sghajtar* or “Marfa Palace” built by Grand Master De Redin in 1657.

As usual, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued an attractive card on the first day of issue in a limited edition.

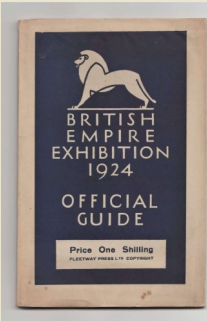
PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

Antoine Vassallo

First UK Commems (1924)

As is well known, adhesive stamps were “invented” by Great Britain in 1840. Hundreds of different definitive stamps followed but the first commemorative set only appeared in 1924. After the two values were reissued in 1925, collectors had to wait for four more years until the next set. No “excessive” issues in those days!

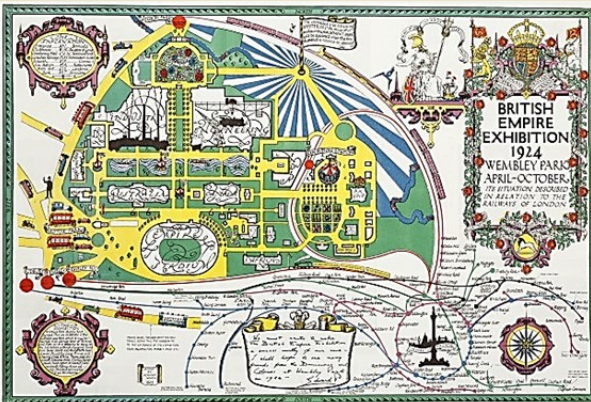


The reason for introducing commems was more than acceptable: the British Empire Exhibition which was opened on 23 April 1924 - St George’s Day - by George V (the Patron) and Queen Mary at the Empire Stadium.

The idea for an exhibition of industry across the Empire was studied for quite a few years, interrupted by one crisis or other. After World War I, Prime Ministers and High Commissioners agreed on a proposed date of 1921. The British Government became joint guarantor, funding more than a million pounds needed to stage the exhibition. The

future Edward VII presided the organizing board. The location was Wembley Park, regarded as one of the most easily accessible areas of London – and a vast infrastructural project was undertaken. The area covered exceeded two hundred acres, visited by twenty million!

The exhibition was open for six months in 1924 and reopened in 1925, closing definitely in October. It was accompanied by a cultural programme and a series of conferences – with impressive pavilions.



One of the objectives was to foster interaction between the different cultures and peoples comprising the Empire. Unsurprisingly, Malta was there too – with a pavilion entrusted to architect Joseph Cachia Caruana (1894-1981), consisting of three large halls: respectively, for Malta’s prehistory, for the Knights, and for

contemporary industry, trade and art. London’s Raphael Tuck published a set of 12 cards, detailing it. At least two others, Fleetway Press and Wildt &

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Kray (even including an identical photo), did likewise. The Maltese government commissioned Edward Caruana Dingli for the artwork of two postcards as souvenirs, printed in Naples.

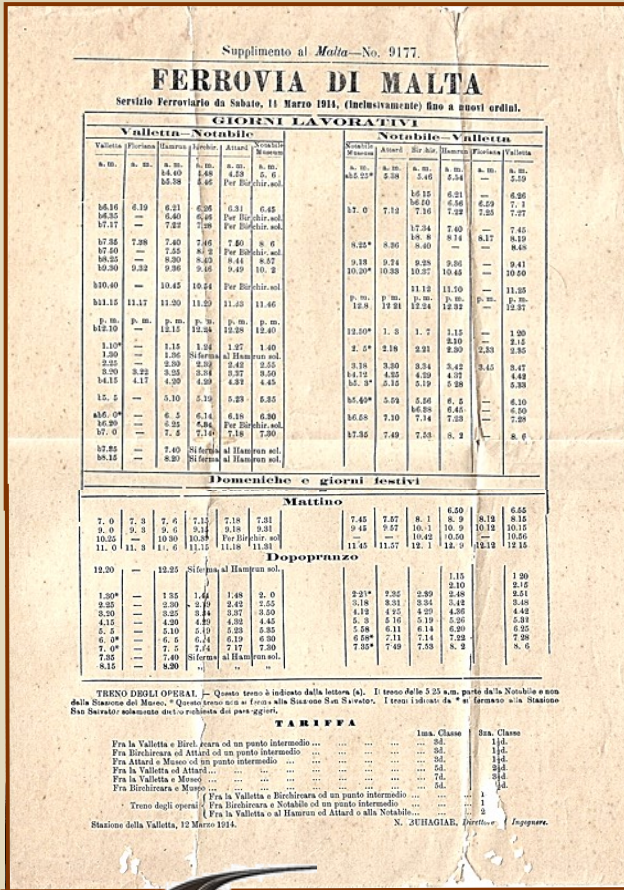
On this occasion the Malta Post Office issued its first-ever commemorative handstamp: a circular cachet with a lion (from the exhibition logo) and "British Empire Exhibition 1924". Used from 1923 in Valletta, Sliema and Cospicua (according to researcher Judge Giovanni Bonello), examples on cover are quite expensive!



Reverting to the British Post Office, the first idea was to mark the exhibition through commemorative stamped envelopes and postcards – then extended to an adhesive stamp. These were added to the responsibilities of the committee advising about coins, medals, and decorations. The King's suggestion that the stamps be sold at a premium for the Hospital Fund was refused.

Eight artists were invited to submit drawings: the design was to be symbolic of the British Empire, with space for the King's portrait and the inscription. The two stamps (1d and 1½d) were to use the same colours as the existing ones. Designs were only received from five: J Batten, N Rooke, E Tristram, E Gill, and H Nelson. After consulting with printers Waterlow, the committee opted for efforts by the last two but King George chose a Harold Nelson design for both values. Besides the actual stamps, stationery items were produced too: envelopes, letter cards, and stout postcards.



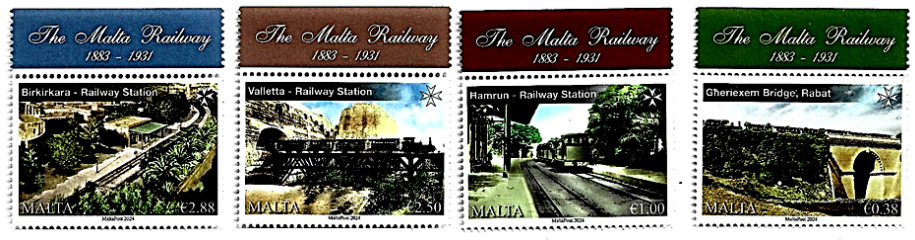


An item from my collection
in case you missed the Malta Train here is the time table and tariffs.
 Anthony Grech

On 21 March 2024 MaltaPost issued a set of four attractive stamps featuring original photos of the train at different important locations. The photos taken between 1883 and 1931, originally in monochrome, were ably coloured digitally by Edgar Vella. Photos (and much more) are found at the Malta



Railway Foundation Museum at Birkirkara which is open for visitors Tuesdays from 9.30am to 3.00pm.
 Wednesdays from 4.00pm to 7.30pm.
 For group visits appointments kindly phone [9947 0885](tel:99470885)



GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS

Issued by Malta Postal Administrations through the years
continued from issue no 91

Anthony Grech



Christmas 2006

Issued 6 November 2006

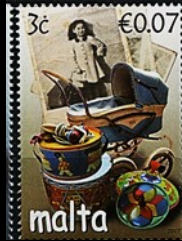
Face Value; 8c. 16c. 22c. 27c Multicolour.
Set designed by GPS member George Vella.

Maltese Crosses
Printers; Printex Ltd.

Designer; George Vella
Founding member
Of The Gozo Philatelic Society



**MALTESE
BALCONIES**
 Face Value; 22c./€0.51
 29c / €0.69.Multicolour
 Stone balcony, Għarb
 Corner balcony, Victoria
 Issued 28 April 2007
 Watermark Maltese Crosses.
 Printers; Printex Ltd
 Designer;
 Alfred Caruana Ruggier



TOYS
 Issued 11 July 2007
 Face Value; 2c/€0.05. 3c/
 €0.07. 16c/€0.37. 22c/
 €0.51. 50c/€1.16
 Multicolour.
 Toys from
 Pomskezillious Toys
 museum in Xaghra, Gozo
 Watermark
 Maltese Crosses
 Printers; Printex Ltd.
 Designer Richard .
 Caruana.





MALTESE SCENARY / GOZO

Face Values; 46c. / €1.07 and 76c. / €1.77.

Multicolour

Mgarr Harbour and Xlendi Bay

Issued 1 October 2007

Watermark.Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Designer; John Martin Borg



ANNUS PAULINUS 2008—2009

Face Value; 8c. / €0.19

Multicolour

St Paul Titular statue of Munxar Parish, Gozo

Issued 28 June 2008

Watermark.Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Designer Paul Psaila



**VINTAGE POSTAL
TRANSPORTATION**

Face Value; €3.00. Brown shades

Transporting Mail from Gozo to Malta by boat

Issued 28 April 2009

Watermark. Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Designer; Photos from MaltaPost Archives.



MARITIME: CRUISE LINERS

Face Values; €0.37

Multicolour

MS Seabourn Pride at Xlendi Bay Gozo.

Issued 12 July 2009

Watermark Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Designer; Fabio Agius



SCENERY

Face Value; €0.02. €0.37. €1.02

Multicolour

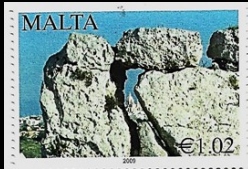
Marsalforn, Qbajjar Salt pans, Ggantija

Issued 16 September 2009

Watermark. Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Photos by Stefan Attard



DEFINITIVE ISSUE HISTORY OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS



Face Value; €0.02. €0.50

Ggantija Temples, Xaghra

Angovin Tombstone Victoria

Issued 29 December 2009

Watermark. Maltese Crosses.

Printers; Printex Ltd

Photos by Edward Pirota and Paul Psaila

POSTMEN & LETTERBOXES ON THE SPREE CARNIVAL – 1898

Hee! Hey! Ho!
You all know
We come from
The G.P.O.

We've been working all the year
In fine weather and in clear;
We've been serving Duke and Tailor,
Marquis, Baron, Soldier, Sailor,
Cobbler, Coster, Broker, Jobber,
Merchant, Banker, Lawyer, Robber,
Printer, Agent, Judge and Doctor,
Barber, Teacher, and House Proctor,
Bishop, Cardinal and Priest,
Human creature and Wild Beast.
Though for this work we are hired
Yet we are so beastly tired
That we shall not work to day
Though they give us double pay.



Ha! Hey! Hee!
Don't you see
That we are
Out on a spree.

And the letter boxes too
Know a story? 'Course'ey do!
They contain such funny letters
Of poor fools in woman's fetters,
And all that relates to Cupid
(Does not rhyme with else but stupid),
And such letters full of bliss
From a lover to his Miss,
And such notes in writing shaken
From the girl who's been foresaken.
But nobody'll post to day
For the boxes are away
Arm in arm with postmen bold
Away from you they are rolled.



N.N.

**Hee! Hay! Ha!
Boys Ta! Ta!
Cheer us off
Hip!Hip!
Hurrah!**

An example of a "sunett" exhibited in a specialized event organized by the National Library (Malta and Gozo) in 2022-23. These traditional flyers have long been prepared for village feasts and other occasions. *No attempt has been made to "correct"*. Antoine Vassallo

E & O not E

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

Since this issue can be considered an Olympic special, I present five sport stamps.

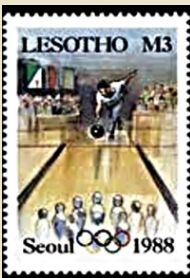


1= **Dick Fosbury**, an American born in 1947, gave his surname to a high jump style. He did not actually invent the Fosbury Flop but he was essential in its development, such that it became so popular that it has long been the “normal” jump: on the back in the style of a flop. It surely helped that he won the gold medal at the 1966 Olympics – and that landing mattresses were becoming ever safer. Unfortunately this St Vincent stamp bearing his name features a completely different sport: pole vaulting which obviously results in much higher jumps!

2= **Bobsleighing** (also called bobsledding in North America) is among the more dangerous sports at the Winter Olympics and this stamp was issued for the 1968 edition in Grenoble - by Yemen, which I doubt how at home they are with ice and snow! In fact the design “invented” a new sport since a team of three is shown, not the normal two or four. I could also suggest that a member from a team of four fell off!



3= The African country of **Lesotho** celebrated the 1988 Games in Korea through a set of six but one of the designs does not even show an Olympic sport. It is of course true that ten-pin bowling has been proposed as an addition – and the Special Olympics do include something connected.

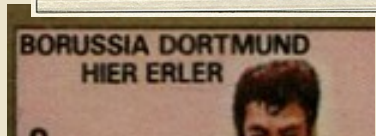


Moreover a non-sporting error cropped up in the stamp too: the flag in the background is outdated by over ten years.

4= **The Gambia** is another African state which has often issued stamps with a sporting theme: even the 2004 European Football Championship (in Portugal) was commemorated. Here we have the Italian Angelo Domenghini who won various honours, especially as part of the Inter team. He is shown wearing the 1965-6 gear but the photograph is reversed, confirmed by the *scudetto* being on the wrong side.



5= I continue - and conclude - with soccer: an overprint from Paraguay to congratulate Stuttgart for winning the German championship in 1984. A set originally issued in 1973 in preparation for the World Cup in Germany was thus recycled, even though this seems to mix up national and club teams. However my intention here is to bring attention to a strange linguistic error in the top corner describing the player in yellow: Borussia Dortmund's Dietmar Erler. The "hier" simply means "here", evidently an instruction to the designer or printer showing where Erler is to be shown. In fact the other player is shown with just his surname.



I finally inform you that this is practically a translation of one of the series featuring philatelic mistakes the GPS is presenting in the *L-Anzjani Llum* quarterly.

G.P.S.



Invitation

We invite all philatelists and stamp collectors to join our page by following a few simple steps:

- 1. Go to your personal Facebook account
- 2. Click on 'Menu' from the top right (9 dots icon)
 - 3. Type the name of the group,
 - Stamps - Gozo Philatelic Society
- 4. Click on 'Join'

After your membership is approved by our administrator, you can start following our posts and contribute your posts to the GPS Facebook page. This way, we can all share news about our hobby together. We also encourage our members to invite other stamp collectors to join the GPS Facebook group.



The Key is in your hand



Rachel Debatista

PART
1 of 2

Rachel Debattista

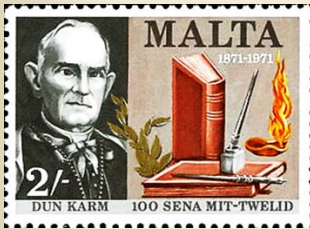


Maltese philately has fascinated many collectors ever since the first stamp was issued in 1860. Its stamps portray Malta in all aspects, from the history of the nation, to the flora and fauna of the Islands. Over the last century, Maltese philately has issued a large variety of postage stamps with depictions covering the span of Maltese history from the arrival of primitive man in Malta to contemporary events.

Some of Malta’s most acclaimed authors and their works have made it on Malta stamps!

Dun Karm was born in the village of Haż-Żebbuġ and was educated at the Seminary in Floriana between the years 1885 and 1894. After furthering his studies in philosophy and theology at the University of Malta. He was ordained priest in 1894 and started teaching various subjects at the seminary, including Italian, Latin, English, arithmetic, geography, cosmography, ecclesiastical history and Christian archaeology. In 1921 he was appointed assistant librarian at the National Library of Malta, and as a director of circulating libraries, a post he held till his retirement in 1936. Dun Karm Psaila is considered by many to be Malta’s foremost Romantic poet and he was

instrumental in the development and recognition of



Maltese as an official language. At the beginning of his career as a writer, Psaila wrote in Italian. Dun Karm was also one of the founding members of the *Għaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti* (founded in 1921). Apart from a good number of popular religious hymns in Maltese, he authored the national anthem, *L-Innu Malti* (1922) . At the time, Malta was passing through a national

awakening and was on the road towards independence. His first poem in Maltese, *Quddiem Xbieha tal-Madonna* appeared in the first issue of the Maltese periodical *Il-Habib* in 1912, published by Pawl Galea and Ġużè Muscat Azzopardi.

His best-known poems include *Il-Musbieh tal-Mużew* (1920).





Anton Buttigieg was born in Qala, Gozo. He was a Maltese Lawyer and a politician, also one of the founder members of the University Students Organizations, the “Society for the Maltese Language” (1931), and a Member of the “Academy of the Maltese Language”. His political career started in 1955 when he was elected to the House of Representatives with the Labour Party. He served as the second president of Malta from 1976 until 1981 until his demise. He was highly interested in the Maltese language and started writing poetry in 1929 and his poems were featured in the *Pronostku Malti*. He is one of the most distinguished poets of the 20th century and is nicknamed “*Il-Poeta tan-Natura*” - the poet of nature - because he glorified and personified nature in many of his literary work. One of his most famous poems, was *Il-Kebbies tal Fanal*.



Issued 31 March 1975

Rużar Briffa was born in Valletta in 1906. He is one of the most important romantic poets of Malta and a major figure in Maltese literature. In 1923 he started teaching in elementary schools and in 1924 began his studies in medicine at the University of Malta, completing his studies in London, specialising in skin diseases. He was known for his humility and his great heartedness in dealing with his patients, especially those suffering from leprosy. As a student, Briffa was active in pro-Maltese politics and co-founded the University Maltese Library Society (*Għaqda tal-Malti Università*), which remains active today. He also edited the society's journal, *Lehen il-Malti* and began publishing nationalistic poems; his very first known work in Maltese was



Lacrymae Rerum (1924). His best poems, include *L-Ghodwa ta' l-Imnikket*, *Il-Kotra u Jien*, *Nofs in-Nhar Saffi*, *Metamorphosis*. His writing was a blend of his daily experience and a basically negative intuition of life. Before his demise. in 1962 he wrote his final poem *Il-Ballatella tal-Funtana* but his first collection of poetry, *Poeżiji* was published in 1971 thanks to his second wife Louissette and his friend P. Valentin Barbara's constant encouragement.



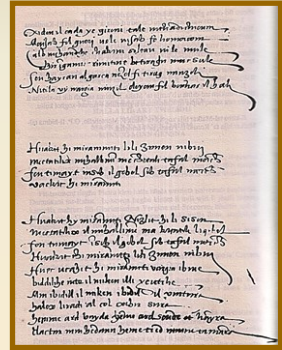
Issued 29 April 1980

Pietro Caxaro was a Maltese philosopher and poet born of a noble Mdina family and is recognised as Malta's first known philosopher. Caxaro undertook his studies in Malta and furthered his studies in Palermo. In 1438 he became a notary, and was



Issued 3 Oct 1985

appointed judge at the Courts. Sadly, only fragments of his works still exist, the most complete being the *Cantilena*, a poem, written in medieval Maltese discovered in 1966 by Dr Godfrey Wettinger and Rev Michael Fsadni. Pietro Caxaro died circa 1485 and was buried in the chapel, built at his own expense, in the Dominican church of Our Lady of the Grotto, Rabat.



Alfons Maria Galea, better known as Is-Sur Fons was born in Valletta and he was, a philanthropist, a senator and an author. At the age of 19, when his father retired, he took over the family business as a fabrics dealer until 1896. He began to distribute much of his property and wealth to charitable Institutes. Amongst these were the Salesians of Don Bosco to whom he gave land so that they could build the Salesian Institute in Sliema. Alfons Maria Galea was also a prolific writer and in 1899 he published the first book from a series of 150 books, *Kotba tal-Mogħdija taż-Żmien*.



Anastasio Cuschieri was born Valletta and is known as the poet of the Madonna because of his great devotion to Our Lady which was much reflected in his lyrics. Cuschieri studied philosophy and theology and after being ordained as a priest, and was appointed to the chair of philosophy at the University of Malta. Cuschieri contributed to papers on philosophy to the *Rivista di Filosofia Neo-Scolastica (Milan)* and wrote several poems in Latin and Italian which were published in *Malta Letteraria*. Amongst others, his poems include *Flos Carmeli*, *Nell'Annu della Vergine del Carmine*, *La Madonna di Lourdes*

and *Stella Maris*. Cuschieri's best-known poems in Maltese include *Qtigh il-Qalb*, *Ilsien Pajjizi* and *Fis-Santwarju tal-Madonna tal-Karmnu*, amongst others. Cuschieri was also engaged in party politics and was even elected to parliament on behalf of the then Nationalist Party as a representative of university graduates.



Pietru Pawl Saydon, born in Żurrieq is renowned as the translator of the Holy Scriptures in Maltese and a great linguist of Semitic languages. He studied Canon Law and was ordained priest in 1919, after which, he went to Rome to specialise in Biblical Studies where he achieved the Licentiate in Holy Scriptures from the Pontifical Biblical Institute. Saydon began his translation of the Bible from Hebrew to Maltese in 1929—and took him 30 years to complete, publishing the first version in 1959. Saydon also wrote a number of novels, including *Gmajru u l-Karozzi*, *L-Istedina tas-Sinjura Betta*, and *Bejn l-Erba' Hitan tad-Dar*, as well as a number of essays such as *Fuq il-Monti*, *Tiegħ f'Rahał* and *Fil-Hemda tal-Lejl*. Together with Gużè Aquilina, he published *Ward ta' Qari Malti* an anthology of prose and poetry in Maltese.

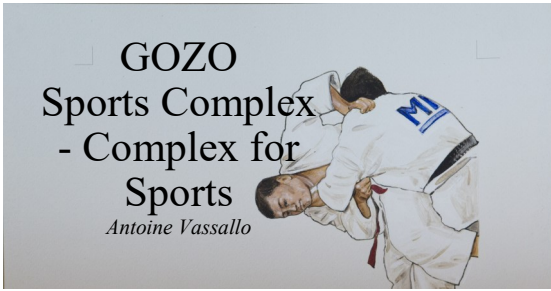


Temi Zammit was born in Valletta. Zammit was a Maltese archaeologist and historian, and a prolific writer, authoring several literary works. He served as the rector of the Royal University of Malta for some years. Zammit carried successful experiments on undulant fever (Malta fever). His interest to Maltese history led him to publish *Il-Gzejjer ta' Malta u l-Ġrajja Tagħhom* and also an indispensable insight into the archaeological finds and priceless clues to his excavation process, all collected in 17 notebooks. Zammit also made a great contribution to Maltese Literature. He wrote *Tagħlim fuq id-Dinja*, a geography book and *Il-Hobż*, a description of the bread-making process. In various articles he made use of folkloristic elements and he also wrote various short stories about the simple behaviour of Maltese country folk. His best-known stories include *Il-Hmar tas-Sienja*, *Ferħa bla Temma*, *Nies bla Sabar*, *Ċensa u Cine*, and *Il-Giddieb għomru qasir*.



Emanuel Benjamin Vella, also known as **E. B. Vella**, was a Maltese schoolteacher and writer. He was born in Mosta on 20 June 1898. As kids, we were all brought up to read about *Ġaħan* at school, in books like *Ġabra Ta' Ward* by E.B. Vella. *Ġaħan* is a predominant anti-hero in Maltese folk narrative, being the main character in all the folk stories published. He is the wise fool, popular with one and all in contemporary Malta and the epitome of Maltese verbal wisdom and humour. In other words, *Ġaħan* is considered as the archetypal 'village idiot' of Maltese folklore: best remembered for having so literally interpreted his mother's words - '*Igbed il-bieb warajk!*' - that he acted precisely as he was told, much to the amusement of the entire village, when he turned up at church with his front-door in tow!





Promoting Gozo through Philately

One of the Malta set for the 1996 Olympics featured Gozo’s Sports Complex, often referred to colloquially as *il-gimm* (“the gym”). Artist Luciano Micallef combined a photo of the main hall with a

judo scene. This latter is shown here, as included during the MaltaPost-supported Gozo in Philatelic Art exhibition at Il-Ħaġar museum in 2014.

The aim of the Gozo Sports Complex in Victoria – quite innovative then for the Maltese islands - was to offer suitable spaces on its two levels for some twenty – not necessarily “minority” – sports, surely encouraging lifestyles promoting quality of life. It also hosted exhibitions and international meetings – and got used by schools and educational institutions too.

The management did try its utmost to achieve the highest standards where sports activities in Gozo were concerned. Its stated commitment was to “serve all members of the community”, thus encouraging and strengthening sporting mentality. First-time visitors tended to be impressed by the equipment and facilities available – even quite specialized. And expansions and extentions were ongoing continually until it was decided to restructure it completely on an increased footprint. Unfortunately the opening was repeatedly postponed.

The original premises were the – natural - home of the Gozo Sports Board with its function to develop, promote, control and regulate sports throughout Gozo in the spirit of fair play. This obviously meant assistance in the organisation of sports competitions at all levels, as well as to control and exercise discipline - preventing improper practices in sport, protecting against abuse and punishing the guilty. Duties included dissemination of information, exploitation of audio-visual and other rights, and administration of sport facilities and property. An overriding principle quoted was “acting in accordance with the Laws of the Game, whichever it may be”.

To mention just four open-air sports, waterpolo, horse racing, running, and target shooting (in no particular order) have established roots. But football is by far the most popular in Gozo, both in practitioners and supporters – as well as in media coverage.



The Gozo Football Association was founded in 1936. The first three champions were Victoria Stars, Victoria City and Xagħra Blue Stars; after the war-years hiatus, the first winner was a third club from the capital, Victoria Athletics. The GFA

organizes several competitions for its member clubs, the most important of



which is of course the annual “Leagues” – with the participation of in excess of a dozen clubs. The Gozo Youth FA organizes the Under 18 and Under 15 Leagues as well as associated knockout competition. However foreign competitions probably attract more interest – with certain clubs attracting hundreds or even thousands of supporters, with organized visits abroad not missing!



Gozo’s climate does offer a varied haven for sports – and adventure in general. Understandably enough, the sea attracts locals and foreigners. With underwater caves and wrecks (sometimes purposely scuttled), diving remains an increasingly popular sport. Diving instructors and schools support beginners but then our colourful underwater world may unfortunately be too much of a magnet for those who are not prepared enough! Those who do not want to go deep, can just practice swimming in a wide range of sites (natural or not) – or even simply pass hours sunbathing. And then the availability of hire canoes and other craft is continually multiplying.



On dry land, walking and hiking are well-suited to the interesting landscape - ranging from off-road tracks to smooth flat roads. Biking has also become very popular, also due to environmental reasons! To mention a final sport, climbing – and abseiling - flourishes because of the varied sites, ideal for beginners upwards; and the Complex itself possessed a much-used wall.

Coming to a conclusion, it can be noted that the present author had opportunities to support – as the Gozo NGOs Association first President – numerous sporting organizations and was moreover directly involved in two important non-sporting uses.

Gozo’s Sports Complex hosted the 25 November concluding sessions (“Gozo Day”) of the People’s Forum on the occasion of the 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. For various years (during Mgr Cauchi’s episcopate) the varied diocesan ceremony on Christ the King Sunday used the main hall (as the biggest available internal area), with the well-nigh two thousand seats all taken. Then this was the site for a 2006 major “family celebration” in honour of new bishop Mario Grech; two GPS officers took the opportunity to offer him a philatelic memento.



Local connections on foreign stamps—Olympics

Antoine Vassallo



In view of the innumerable stamps issued by Sierra Leone, it is not altogether surprising that Maltese stamps are included in its designs! This sheet comes from last year's set of "Olympic stamps on stamps". The actual 135 leones stamp features Britain's 1948 set of four. The others are the 10 cents in the 1968 three-value Netherlands Antilles set and the \$3 in Samoa's 1992 four-value set.

Obviously our interest here is focused on just the three values in Malta's **1984** set! Designed by

Luciano Micallef, they were issued for the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The sports chosen were athletics, gymnastics and swimming.



Harry Alden had designed Malta's first Olympic stamps - for the 1976 edition held in Montreal. Waterpolo, sailing and athletics were featured.

Issues continued regularly for the later Olympic Games. Athletics, diving and basketball, designed by Ray Gauci, were shown in the **1988** set (Seoul). The XXV Olympiad – in Barcelona in **1992** – offered two different athletic events (running and high jumping) and swimming, as designed by Harry Borg.

Four designs – again by Luciano Micallef – were included in the set for **1996**, back to the United States (Atlanta). The

1976



sports were shown in identified locations: Judo (Gozo Sports Complex), Athletics (Marsa Complex), Diving (Tal-Qroqq Pool) and Shooting (Bidnija Range).

1988

and judo, shooting and athletics. Maurice Tanti Burlò gave us three designs (described as more "artistic" or classical) for the XXVIII Olympiad in **2004** (Athens): discus, laurel wreath and javelin. Darren Duncan's three stylized designs for the Beijing edition in **2008** represented shooting, swimming and athletics.



1992



Hand painted FDCs

A miniature sheet designed by Sean Cini was issued in 2012 (London). The two stamps within reproduced the official logo and mascot, respectively. The 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games



brought us four big diamond-shaped stamps designed by Sean Cini again: shooting, swimming, weightlifting and relay running. Because of the Covid pandemic, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics were actually held in 2021. Without concentrating



2004



2008

on the athletes themselves in detail, Aidan Cassar kept to athletics in his three designs.

I need hardly add that these were not the only Malta stamps showing sports, most especially football!



2016



2020

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

PIGEON POST


REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Anthony Grech



International Stamp Exhibition: 1979 – DISA 79 took place from 30 March - 7 April at Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. This annual national exhibition and Congress of the Philatelic Federation was organised by Cape Society for Palestine Philately (CASPIP) in co-operation with the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town at The Good Hope Centre, Cape Town It was opened by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, FW de Klerk. Competitive: Exhibitors participated at two levels, International and National. About 300 exhibitors from 14 countries took part. For the occasion The Post Office issued a special 15c stamp on 30 March 1979 to commemorate 50 years of printing stamps by the Government Printers as well as an unannounced pair of 4c stamps “save fuel/bespaar brandstof” on 2 April 1979. Special post office facilities, a special canceller and commemorative covers were available. Some of the Pigeons released at the official opening carried pigeongrams that were later sent, marked “Pigeon post”, to collectors who had ordered in advance. The name of the exhibition. DISA was derived from the name of the classic first issue of Israel stamps, the Doar Ivri series (Doar Ivri Southern Africa), at the same time spelling the name of the beautiful flower and emblem of the Western Cape. At the opening between 5 000 and 9 000 pigeons were released. The scope of entries was limited to (a) Southern Africa: countries lying wholly south of latitude 15° S; (b) Israel, Palestine, Holy Land, and Judaica material. Participation at National Level was limited to residents of Southern Africa or members of societies affiliated to PFSA.

Cover donated to the GPS by **Marc Lemming / Anton Kropman**



DISA 79

Doar Ivri Southern Africa
INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
תַּשְׂרוּבַת בּוֹלִים בֵּין-לְאֻמִּית
INTERNATIONALE FILATELISTIESE TENTOONSTELLING
Doar Ivri Suider-Afrika
KAAPSTAD CAPE TOWN קייפֿטאָן

DUWEPPOS

PIGEON POST

דואר יונה

... he sent forth a dove from him
Gen. 8:8

... laat hy 'n duif van hom af wegvlieg
Gen. 8:8


PIGEONGRAM B No 116

CARRIED ON 30th MARCH 1979

TO: **AJ KROPMAN**
PO BOX 2736
CAPE TOWN
8000

GREETINGS FROM DISA-79

B No 116



RSA 25c
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

אֲדוּנִינָה מֵאֵת
בְּרֵאשִׁית הַחַדָּשׁ

CAPE P. & L. W. 8988





CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors

Janet Klug (1950-2023) - author honoree

Janet Klug's death in June 2023 was so described: "the stamp-collecting world lost one of its kindest and most enthusiastic voices". Janet once confessed: "I never met a stamp I didn't like". Her lifelong appreciation for all stamps in fact led Janet to immerse herself in our hobby, her accomplishments and service becoming legendary!

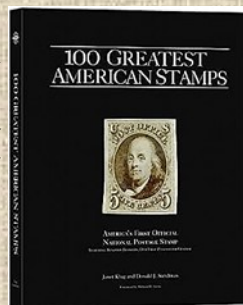
For example she was strongly involved in the National Postal Museum of the United States, joining the National Postal Museum Advisory Council while serving as the first woman president of the American Philatelic Society. Two important NPM posts were Vice Chair of the Council of Philatelists and chair of the New Initiatives Committee there, formed to educate the public on stamp collecting and thus encourage a new generation of collectors. The U.S. Department of Education is encouraged to promote stamps in the classroom as a way to teach and encourage curiosity in students; actually quite a few teachers use stamps in the classroom to make learning fun.

In 2010 Janet was appointed to the U.S. Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), becoming its chair in 2014. Janet was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. She richly deserved the Luff award in 2014 for outstanding service to the APS and the Smithsonian Philatelic Achievement Award in 2019.

She wrote columns for the "American Philatelist" magazine, and for "Linn's Stamp News" and "Scott Stamp Monthly". She also wrote books about stamps. In 2007 she co-authored "100 Greatest American Stamps", a fascinating look at stamps so many polled collectors, dealers, and historians chose as their favourites.

One of Janet's big passions was collecting the stamps and postal history of Tonga. Her first book was in fact "The Catalog of Tin Can Mail Cachets of the Tonga Islands" and was proud of her nickname "TongaJan". But her all-time favourite stamp was US 1869 3cent, the first single she acquired from a stamp dealer as an eight-year-old collector – it fitted her budget!

As a sort of merited obituary, Don Sundman called her "a collector for all seasons". Janet R. Klug (nee Gebing) was a philatelist since childhood, a keen author and columnist, distinguished collector and exhibitor, specialising in Tonga, Samoa, Malaya, and Japan under Australian occupation.



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