

The Presidents Series



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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;

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

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA



Large Silver Medal awarded
to the Gozo Philatelic
Society Magazine

GPS Magazine —Official Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

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

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

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**BE LIKE A POSTAGE STAMP.
STICK TO ONE THING UNTIL YOU GET THERE.**

John Billings

G.P.S. Diary

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546 secretary@stamps-gozo.org



- 13 November 2024** Setting up of Exhibition
14 November Penultimate cover in the Presidents series produced by Anthony Grech featuring current Head of State M Spiteri Debono.
14 November Anthony Grech prepares Exhibition covers with MaltaPost-sponsored personalized stamps.
14 November Mass in suffrage of dead members by Rev Guardian Etienne Gilson OFM Conv in the Seminary Chapel.
14 November Opening of 25th Exhibition (see p26)
15 November Judging of Exhibits (see p27)
17 November Closing down of Exhibition.
30 November Committee decides about AGM.
9 December Anthony Grech posts Christmas Card to members, using the *Milied f'Ghawdex* cancellor
12 December Final card in the Presidents series of personalized stamps on cards. (see front page)
15 December Successful low-key return of the GPS lunch
16 January 2025 Death of past President Louis Bonello (see p 9)
18 January Committee makes final preparations for AGM
26 January Selection of cards featured in the GPS showcase on level -1 at Il-Haġar museum, within the *Inhobbok* Gozo Ministry initiative.
26 January AGM at Il-Haġar (see p 10-12)
3 February Distribution of certificates and gifts to Exhibition participants among Seminary students (see p 31)
6 March Il-Haġar showcase changed to “Lent to Easter” Bophuthatswana stamps.
14-18 March GPS participates in Maltex at the Malta Postal Museum through the Malta Presidents cards.
22 March Secretary Antoine Vassallo participated in the Malta Study Circle’s online AGM.



Food & Thought

Beautiful Quotes on Gibraltar stamps

ERROR or NOT

The Dag Hammarskjöld invert

Anthony Grech



Dag Hammarskjöld



Error stamp



J. Edward Day



This 4 cent postage stamp error was issued on 23 October 1962 by the US Post Office Department, a year after the death of Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in an airplane crash. The stamp shows the yellow background inverted relative to the image and text. When the error was discovered, Postmaster General J. Edward Day ordered the intentional reprinting of the yellow invert commenting: "The Post Office Department is not running a jackpot operation." This was done to avoid a rarity. Forty million of the inverted stamps were printed so there would be no rarity factor in the inverted stamp and to prevent people profiting from the Postal Service's mistake. The reprints were issued to the public on 16 November and described as a *Special Printing*. The black, brown and yellow commemorative stamp with yellow background correctly printed has a Scott catalogue number of 1203 but the inverted error is numbered 1204. The catalogue value of the invert is worth little more than the normal. Since many original invert stamps were produced it is almost impossible to tell a reprint from an original unless it has an early date. However an invert error on a first day cover, stamp was from printing and not proving that the original could fetch as much as \$3,000 and more.



No Error stamp

CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors

King and “peace king”



I note today two philatelists who died in 2024

We had the death from blood cancer of Arthur Vinson “Vince” King, born in 1952 in McKinney, Texas. After majoring in mechanical engineering at university, he had a successful career as an entrepreneur with his company Entech Design (manufacturing and installing his patented sonar system for coal fired power plants and industrial sonar equipment for water and wastewater treatment facilities).

Vince was known for his love of history, creative aptitude, eye for detail and a voracious appetite for projects and adventure. His love of stamp collecting should be noted among his numerous hobbies - including genealogy, woodworking and travel.

He was a highly regarded philatelist and internationally known for his innate ability to research, collect and exhibit. He had quite a few successes, such as the 2022 Multifram Champion of Champions for what was described as a “ground-breaking exhibit on the evolution of stamp collecting”.



Mr King was also a generous contributor to numerous philatelic organizations and events, including the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and Monacophil.

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From the US we go to the Netherlands. Anton van Deutekom, born in 1951, had a passion for Thematic Philately because it requires expertise and a “constant drive to improve”. His remarkable exhibit “The League of Nations: No Guarantee for Peace” was awarded three Large Gold medals – and an informal title of “peace king”! Passionate about his work, he donated his collection to the Library of the Peace Palace in the Hague. A special part contains all kinds of images and posters, representing peace or anti-war sentiments. This Peace Palace Library continually expands its philatelic collection, also through the internet.

The G.P.S. Mascot.....Paulu l-Pustier Paul the Postman

Lara Grech



In 2024 we celebrated our Silver Anniversary. Twenty five years ago the Gozo Philatelic Society launched its logo designed by Anthony Grech, my granddad. The Logo shows an allegory of a Gozo Boat representing the Society’s way forward ‘For the promotion of the hobby, the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination to philatelists’. However the G.P.S Committee felt that something was missing, a mascot. As a member of the GPS, I was asked to create this hand-made amigurumi crochet mascot for the society.. It was officially introduced as a surprise to our members during the Annual General Meeting held at Il-Haġar Museum on 26 January 2025. The mascot was liked very much and welcomed with a smile by all present.

The 14inch mascot shows a modern postman with the GPS monogram on his basket. The members there agreed that it should be named PAWLU L-PUSTIER as a tribute to all dedicated postal workers.

IN MEMORY OF



JOSETTE VASSALLO O.V.

It is with deepest sorrow that the President and committee of the Gozo Philatelic Society inform our members of the passing away of Ms. Josette Vassallo the beloved sister of Antoine, Secretary to the Gozo Philatelic Society.

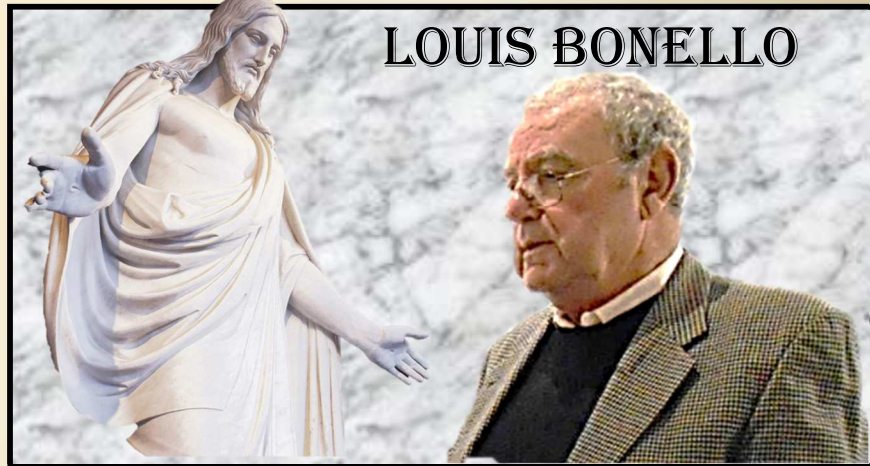
She went to rest in the loving Arms of her Creator on 20th December 2024, aged 72 years, after a long illness, which she faced with grace and acceptance of God's will, inspiring all who knew her. Josette was a familiar and cherished figure in St. George's Basilica in Victoria, as the Secretary of the Parish Office, where she served the community and greeted everyone with a warm smile. Josette was consecrated in the Order of Virgins, dedicating her life entirely to Christ and His Church.

She leaves to mourn her brothers Antoine and John, her sisters Betty, Alda and Ina, their spouses, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends.

Anthony Grech

IN MEMORY OF

LOUIS BONELLO



It is with deepest sorrow that the President and Committee Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society inform our members of the passing away of a friend, and ex-President, (2015 - 2019) of the Gozo Philatelic Society,

Mr. Louis Bonello

who went to rest in the loving Arms of his Creator
on 16 January 2025 aged 78.

He leaves to mourn his loss his sons Marcus and Miguel, their wives Christine and Annabelle, his beloved grandchildren, Jasmin, Leah, Louis, Emma and Andrew, his sisters Marlene and Angele and his brother Michael, their respective families, other relatives and friends.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him O Lord.



25th AGM—2025

Our twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 26 January at Il-Haġar.

Proceedings went very smoothly, chaired by President Jesmond Borg.

Reports were read by secretary Antoine Vassallo and treasurer John Attard.

Benefactors and supporters were acknowledged, especially two recently deceased, as well as the strengthening relationship with both the Malta Study Circle and the Malta Philatelic Society.

Pawlu l-Pustier was launched as a mascot – produced in crochet by a member.(see page 7)

A small banner was also inaugurated, celebrating our Silver Jubilee.

As usual Exhibition participants received their certificates, medals and gifts. Innumerable photos were taken, not excluding for the distribution of mementos to founder-members.

Secretary's Annual Report



I have the pleasant duty to report about 2024, during which we celebrated our Silver Jubilee.

Committee posts were agreed as Jesmond Borg - President & Funding coordinator; Anthony Grech - Vice President & Production manager; Antoine Vassallo – Secretary; John Attard - Treasurer; Saviour Grech - Procedures coordinator; Mary Grace Xerri - School liaison manager; Fr Joseph Attard - Chaplain & Members contacts coordinator; Rachel Debattista and Mark Poulton - Joint Librarians & Archivists; Frank Vella - Exhibition coordinator.

A total of seven formal committee meetings were held, during which discussions were held to prepare activities and make decisions.

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The main Jubilee initiative was a series of 14 covers featuring Malta's Presidents on the Republic's Golden Jubilee. Another is to have overseas representatives.



A new site had to be identified for our annual Exhibition, due to the unavailability of both Il-Hagar and the Ministry

Hall. The Seminary Hall in fact turned out to be ideal: 14-17 November with a Mass in the chapel just before the opening. Prizes, certificates and medals are being distributed today – with MaltaPost still the main sponsor.

We were obviously disappointed that MaltaPost did not issue a stamp for our anniversary! However we produced a celebratory card on 23 September. Anthony again designed a personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, offered as usual by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, Anthony prepares covers - or even the handstamp itself - whenever the opportunity arises (sometimes in collaboration with other bodies). During 2024 these occasions were two Sepac and three *Festa* stamps and *Dun Ġużepp Diacono*, Oratory and *Milied f'Għawdex* commemorative handstamps (the last as a Christmas Card sent to members, continuing this tradition). Unfortunately there was too short a notice for the *brilli* stamp.

Our *Il-Hagar* showcase has seen regular replacements of the temporary mini exhibitions, even with visitors crossing over purposely.

We used the Xewkija windmill twice for themed exhibitions in February and August.

Anthony ran an *Oratorju* Summer School group. School contacts continue and exhibition junior participants received their mementos at their respective schools.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our Newsletter, for which Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. Unfortunately it was only possible to have three numbers in 2024. We have a new, very active, FB page – run by Rachel. Mark is working

towards modernizing our website to make it more user-friendly. He has updated the email list of members.

The idea to produce a completely new Malta catalogue has not yet materialized.

We grasp all opportunities to thematically publicize stampcollecting. For example *l-Anzjani Llum* periodical carries our stamp errors series. The daily Times and other local and foreign publications featured our society and productions. Attractive fliers remain available for distribution as publicity for our society.

We again received publications and philatelic material as donations.

Besides serving our Committee, the room at the top of Main Gate Street houses the registered and catalogued Juncker collection, as well as our expanding library. Anthony tries to keep this *Putirjal* office open on Saturday mornings for enquiries and library dips – and quite a few do visit.

Thank

you

Mr Alfred Consiglio of Qormi,
Malta, a long time member of the
Gozo Philatelic Society

And

Mr Michael Clifton for their
donations of philatelic material.

Members interested in obtaining any items from these
donations are invited to visit us at our office. We are open
every Saturday from 9.15 am to 10.30am

GOZITAN PERSONALITIES ON OUR CARDS.

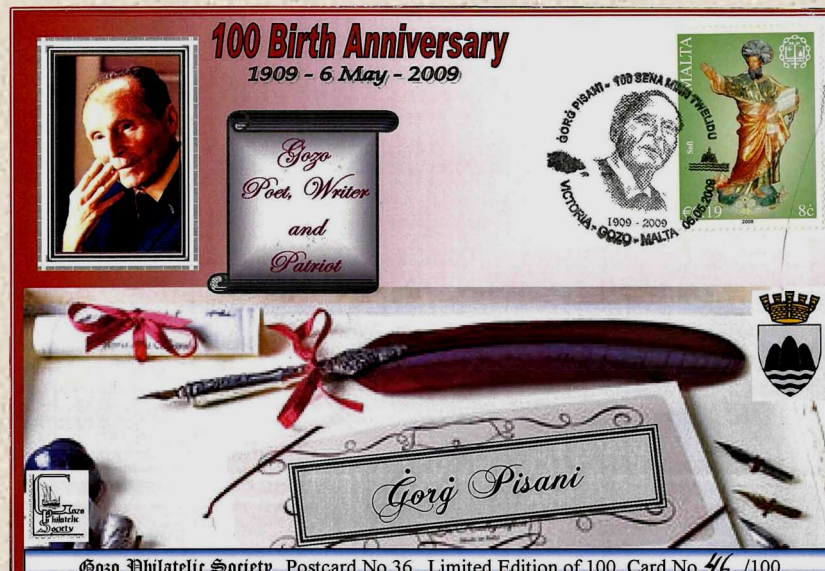
Rachel Debattista

ĠORĠ PISANI

Date of issue: 06-05-2009—100th Birth Anniversary

Ġorġ Pisani was born in Victoria, Gozo in May 1909 to Paolo and Teresa nee' Calleja. The Gozitan poet writer and patriot is considered a giant in the field of Maltese literature, especially in poetry. Pisani began his novitiate with the Franciscan Capuchin Friars during which time he furthered his studies in classical literature and theology. By this time Pisani had already written poetry, but it was during this period, that he started experimenting with writing poems in Maltese. When Pisani left the convent, he began his career as a teacher and collaborated with the Department of Education to produce the '*Ġabra ta' Ward*', a Maltese teaching book. During his educational career, he held several posts in the department and was a major promoter of Maltese language teaching. His long publication list includes poetry, drama, novels, history, folklore, essays and short stories. He was also a regular contributor to several magazines and newspapers and featured in national TV station programmes. Pisani remains best known for the exposure he gives Gozo and its history in his poetry. Ġorġ Pisani died in February 1999 at the age of ninety after a long life full of activity in Gozo cultural life.

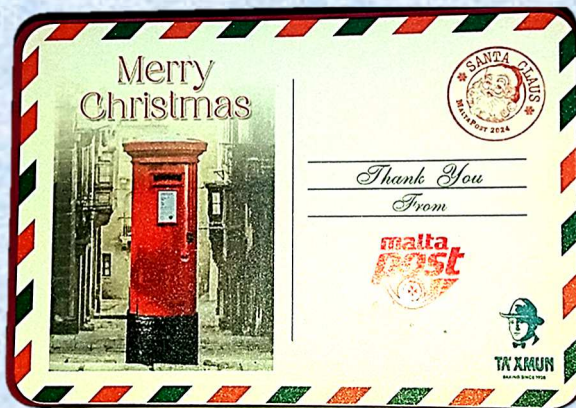
Card Number 36. Limited edition of 100. Number 36. Special postmark and card designed by Anthony Grech



TWO ITEMS FROM MY COLLECTION *Anthony Grech*



**LICENSED TO SELL
POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE STAMPS**
weathered notice painted on a zinc plate measuring 27.5cm by 20.5cm
(used to be displayed on the outside of shops
that were permitted to sell stamps)



A Merry Christmas
thank you token given
by MaltaPost to its
workers.

The tin measuring
13cm by 19cm by
4.5cm was filled with
delicious cookies
produced by
“TA’ XMUN
PASTICERIA.”

GOZO ON MALTA STAMPS

Issued by Malta Postal Administrations through the years

continued from issue no 93

Anthony Grech



FOUNTAINS

Face Value; €1.25.

Multicolour

Wied il-Lunzjata fountain

Issued 3 January 2014

Watermark Maltese Crosses

Printers: Printex Ltd

Designer Cedric Galea Pirotta



EUROMED POSTAL

Face Values; €1.85

Multicolour

Map of Maltese islands

Issued 9 July 2014

Watermark Maltese Crosses

Printers: Printex Ltd

Designer: Amany Ahmed Ali









CHRISTMAS 2014.
 Face Value; €0.26, €0.59
 €0.63, €1.16.
 Multicolour
Betlem f' Ghajnsielem
 Ghajnsielem live crib
 Issued 17 November 2014
 Maltese Crosses.
 Photos by Daniel Cilia





TRADITIONAL FEASTS OF MALTA.
 Face Value; €0.26, Multicolour
 Saint George Feast Victoria, Gozo.
 Issued 16 June 2015
 Maltese Crosses.
 Photo by Daniel Cilia.

200 BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JOHN BOSCO
 Face Values; €2.00
 Multicolour
 Issued 14 August 2015
 Watermark Maltese .
 Printers; Printex Ltd,
 Artist: Austin Camilleri



EUROPA.

Face Value; €2.19

Multicolour

Xaghra Windmill.

Issued 9 May 2016

Maltese Crosses

Designers Doxias Sergidou & Sean Cini



S.E.P.A.C. SERIES

Face Value; €0.26

Multicolour

Gozo Citadel.

Issued 12 June 2016

Maltese Crosses.

Designer Tony Calleja

BALCONY CORBELS

Face Value; €0.26

Balcony corbels Multicolour

Ghajnsielem Balcony Corbel

Issued 15 October 2016

Maltese Crosses.

Designer Cedric Galea Pirotta



EUROPA

Face Values; €2.19

Multicolour

Gourgion Tower, Xewkija.

Issued 9 May 2017

Watermark Maltese Crosses.

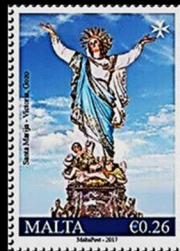
Printers; Printex Ltd,

Designer; Cedric Galea Pirotta



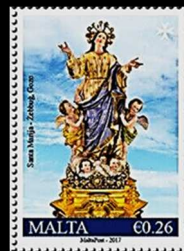
S.E.P.A.C. SERIES

Face Values; €0.26
Anton Cordina, Sannat. €0.59 Ganni
Xuereb, Xewkija. €1 Mody Velle Ghasri
Multicolour
Issued 28 June 2017
Watermark Maltese .
Printers; Printex Ltd,
Designer; Tony Calleja



MALTESE FESTA SERIES I

Face Value; €0.26
Multicolour
St Mary Processional Statue
Gozo Cathedral &
Żebbuġ Parish
Issued 14 August 2017
Maltese Crosses.
Mark Micallef Perconte

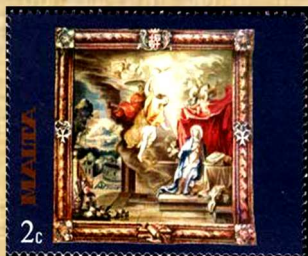


CHRISTMAS 2017

Face Value; €0.59
Multicolour
Baby Jesus figurine, Nadur Basilica
Issued 17 November 2017
Maltese Crosses.
Photo by Mark Micallef Perconte

The Annunciation in Maltese Philately

One of the most common aspects of thematic philately in Malta is that of the Marian Religion subject. Rachel Debattista



The Flemish Tapestries 1977

Four sets were issued between 1977 and 1980 depicting the Flemish Tapestries found at Saint John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta. These tapestries were woven at the end of the

17th Century, specifically commissioned by Grand Master Ramon Perellos as a 'Gozja' (gift) on his election in 1697.

The first series included the tapestry featuring the Annunciation of Mary by the Flemish Baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens. Rubens had started working on the painting in 1610 after his stay in Italy, where he had come under the influence of the great painters of the Renaissance.



Christmas 1980. Anton Inglott's triptych

The 1980 Christmas set is made up of four stamps. The stamps are based on a triptych painting by Anton Inglott, a Maltese promising young artist who died at the young age of 30. The original triptych forms part of the Malta National Museum of Arts (MUZA) collection and depicts the Annunciation, the Conception and the Nativity. The lower values depict the separate instances of the painting while the higher value shows the complete triptych.

Christmas 1983. Book of Hours

Among the treasures of the National Library is a 15th-century French illuminated manuscript of the Book of Hours, formerly part of a collection of Bailli de Breteuil, a French Knight of the Order of St John and ambassador of the Order to the Holy See.

One of the 1983 Christmas set depicts the Annunciation of Mary from a page found in the Book of Hours.



Tarxien Parish 400 Anniversary. 1992

Commemorative machine stamp cancelling slogan



On 29 May 1592, Bishop Gargallo proclaimed that the limits of the then Bir Miftuh Parish be divided into several new parishes. One of these was the Tarxien Parish under the patronage of the Annunciation of Our Lady. The year 1992 marked the 400th Anniversary. A machine stamp



cancelling slogan was worded "PARROĊĊA MARIJA ANNUNZJATA TARXIEN" - 1592-1992" together with the church emblem. It was used during the period of 25 to 30 May 1992 at the Central Mail Room.

Christmas

2023

The Christmas stamp set of four stamps featuring Nativity scenes is from a painting by artist Harry Borg. Apart from the Annunciation, the set featured the Holy Family, the Three Kings with gifts and the Shepherds.



Wayside Chapels 2004

The Annunciation Chapel of Ħal Millieri—Żurrieq



Ħal Millieri
Chapel of the
Annunciation
of Our Lady



The wayside chapels of the Maltese islands are particularly charming religious structures, noted for their simple, humble design and often secluded locations. They stand out among the many religious edifices on the islands, capturing a unique appeal.

The Chapel of Annunciation of Ħal Millieri, limits of Żurrieq, was consecrated around 1480 on the site of an earlier chapel built in the thirteenth century. It is a typical example of a

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Maltese medieval church. This set was designed by Renè Sacco.

Christmas 2005

Mosaics at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu



The mosaics at the National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu in Gozo give an account of the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, some based on paintings by Professor Emvin Cremona (1919- 1987). The



original paintings were restored and are now housed at the Basilica museum. The mosaic work was done by the Ferrari e Bacci of Pietra Santa, Italy.



The painting of the Annunciation is regarded as one of the most beautiful paintings by Cremona and is found on one of the sanctuary's lateral altars.



50th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Parish Church of the Annunciation, Balzan

Balzan was established as a separate parish in 1655; efforts led by local representatives and the parish priest culminated in the construction of the Church of the Annunciation of Balzan. The church's architecture has a Latin Cross layout designed by Lorenzo Gafà. On 14 August 2005, a special commemorative cover bearing a personalised stamp was issued by the Balzan Festivities Committee to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Balzan Parish. The handstamp is inscribed "F'gheluq it-350 sena mit-twaqqif



tal-Parroċċa ta' Hal Balzan - 1655- 14.08.2005 - Balzan-Malta". It was designed by Mark Scicluna from Balzan. The personalised stamp depicts the statue of the Annunciation of Balzan, the Parish Church and the old Chapel of the Annunciation. The special postmark was issued on the initiative of the late Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and member of the Gozo Philatelic Society.

50th Anniversary church of the Annunciation, Vittoriosa.

Commemorative Handstamp 2010

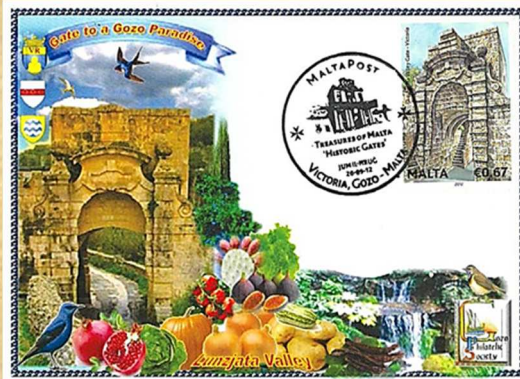
The Confraternity of the Annunciation of Mary in Vittoriosa was established in 1445. In 1528 the Church of the Annunciation and nearby house was handed to the Dominican Friars and served as the Parish Church till 1580 since the Knights used St. Lawrence Church as their Conventual Church. In 1636 the church was reconstructed, but during World War II it suffered extensive damage. In 1960 the necessary reconstruction works were completed and the new church was blessed and consecrated.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the blessing and consecration of the Annunciation Church in Vittoriosa, a commemorative handstamp was used at the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau on Friday, 20 August 2010. The handstamp is inscribed "50 SENA MILL-FTUH U L-KONSAGRAZZJONI TAL-KNISJA L-ĠDIDA TAL-LUNZJATA L-BIRGU (1960-2010)".

Furthermore, Maltapost together with the Dominican Friars issued a personalised stamp and a commemorative postcard.



Treasures of Malta 2012—Historic Gates *Lunzjata Valley Gate, Kerċem*



In 1695 Grand Master Adrian De Wignacourt established a game reserve for himself and his Knights here, on land owned by the church. In around 1698, during the reign of Grand Master Raymond Perellos, the reserve was walled and Lunzjata Gate was constructed. The plaque on top of the gate was placed for the official coat of arms, but this was never engraved. In 1993 the gate became public property as church land was transferred to the Government. Restoration on the site started in 1994 and it was officially inaugurated in 1995. One of the four stamps from the 'Treasures of Malta – Historic Gates Series' features the Lunzjata Valley Gate. The stamps are reproductions of original artworks by Maltese artist Cedric Galea Pirota. It is worth noting that just behind the Lunzjata Gate is a small building. In this building the Gozo Philatelic Society was born on 23 September 1999.

Treasures of Malta 2014—Fountains Series III *Fountain at Lunzjata Valley, Kerċem*

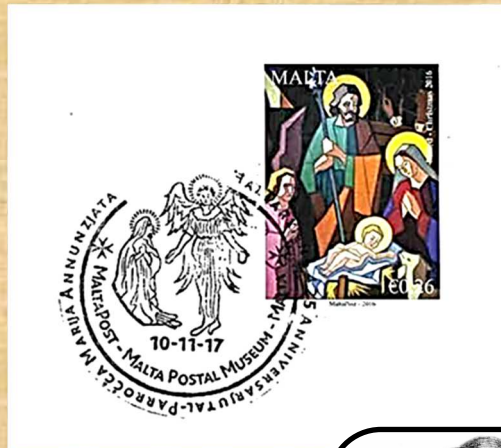


This fountain was built by Hercole Martino Testaferrata in 1698 who had been appointed by Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful, to create a niche. The fountain bears a Latin inscription and is decorated with the coats-of-arms of Grand Master Perellos and Hercole Testaferrata. The water for the fountain is drawn from the multiple fresh water springs running through the rocks of Lunzjata valley. The fountain was restored in 2007. One of the three stamps from the 'Treasures of Malta'

features the Lunzjata Valley Gate. The stamps feature original artworks by Maltese artist Cedric Galea Pirota.

Tarxien Parish 425th Anniversary Commemorative handstamp - 2017

The church was elevated to the status of parish on May 29, 1592 by Bishop Tomás Gargallo, making it one of the oldest parishes of Malta. The present parish church was built on the site of three small churches dedicated to St. Paul, St. Luke and St. Nicholas respectively and was dedicated to the Annunciation of Our Lady. The year 2017 marked the 425th Anniversary.



350th Anniversary Melchiorre Gafa's Death. 2017

***Wax relief of the
Annunciation by Melchiorre Cafà at the
Mdina Cathedral Museum***



Gafà, also known as Cafà, was a Maltese sculptor renowned for his Roman baroque style. Born in 1636 in Vittoriosa, Gafà was the elder brother of successful local sculptor, Lorenzo Gafà. His works are to be found in

many major international museums and collections. The wax reliefs, presumably created as studies or bozzetti, possibly for eventual full-size works, found their way back to Malta with the artist's belongings after his untimely death.

The wax works were displayed at the Mdina Cathedral Museum.

MaltaPost issued a set of five stamps depicting these wax works by Melchiorre Gafà.



Maltese Festa Series III—2019 ***Processional statue of the Annunciation, Balzan***

The processional statue of the Annunciation at the Parish Church of the Annunciation of Balzan was carved in wood in 1869 by Mastru Salv Dimech of Mosta and is thought to have arrived in Balzan on the 28th of March of 1869. In 1929, the statue was slightly modified by Emmanuele Buhagiar and was repainted and re-gilded by Francesco Coleiro of Valletta. Some alterations were made in 1930 under the direction of the sculptor Abraham Gatt and executed by the sculptor Manwel Manwel Buhagiar.

MaltaPost issued the third series of the Maltese Festa Series, depicting ten titular statues in various parishes in Malta and Gozo. One of the stamps features the Annunciation of Our Lady in Balzan.

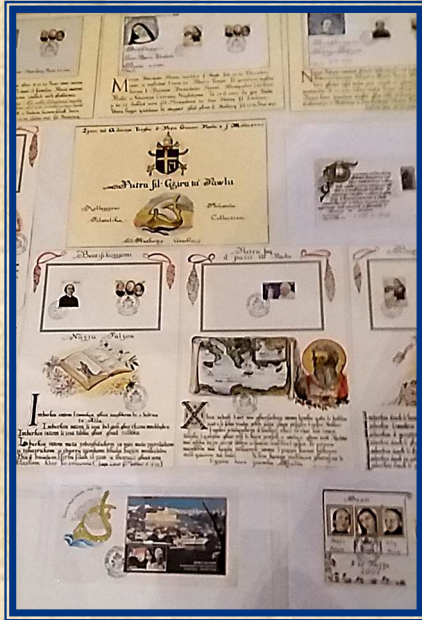
Maltese Festa Series VI—2022 ***Processional statue of the Annunciation, Tarxien***



The processional statue of the Annunciation at the Parish Church of the Annunciation of Tarxien was carved in wood by the sculptor Xandru Farrugia (aka Mastru Xand) from Żejtun. This statue was completed in 1829, though in 1885 some modifications were made by Paul Bugeja of Valletta under the direction of Giuseppe Cali. In 2003 it was re-gilded by John Orlando under the supervision of the sculptor Renzo Gauci. MaltaPost issued the sixth series of the Maltese Festa Series, depicting ten titular statues in various parishes in Malta and Gozo. One of the stamps features the Annunciation of Our Lady in Tarxien.

GPS annual Exhibition - 2024 edition

Jesmond Borg



The annual November Exhibition for our Silver Jubilee year can be described as a special edition since it opened on Thursday 14 November at the Seminary Hall in Victoria. Our usual location (the Gozo Ministry Hall) was still undergoing upgrading and Il-Ħaġar had no space. So we really appreciate the fact that the Seminary rector accepted our request – and their hall in fact turned out to be very suitable.

Through the constant support by main sponsors MaltaPost, Anthony Grech again designed and produced an attractive commemorative card – graced with a personalized stamp.



We began with Mass for the repose of dead members and supporters - as also in aid of the living! During the launch the current committee took a group photo and mementoes we given to two who have been officers all through these twenty five years: Anthony Grech and Antoine Vassallo.

The wide assortment of items on show, by both juniors (mostly

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secondary students at the Minor Seminary) and adults, included local and foreign stamps, books, and other postal material. One of the thematic exhibits treated the Gozo boat, featured on the GPS logo, through models, paintings and stamps. Another looked comprehensively at the

Annunciation and localities bearing this name (*il-Lunzjata*). Local Christmas stamps were quite plentiful. More specialized presentations offered philatelic material connected with older use, including quite rare classic covers and postmarks.



Hereunder is the list of exhibitors;

Chris Ciappara
Anthony Schembri
Mark Anthony Poulton
Vincent Grech
Jesmond Borg
Rachel Debattista
Anthony Grech
Lara Grech
Mary Grace Xerri
Angelo Agius
Antoine Vassallo
Elaine Borg
Joseph Pace
Ismael Saliba
Jacques Grech
Jorgan Mercieca

Nora Xerri
Francesco Borg
Luca James
Zachriel Farrugia
Beppe Azzopardi
Jaden Farrugia
Randy Portelli
Benjamin Caruana
Jean Abela
Liam Vella
Mickel Mercieca Muscat
Mark Camilleri
Gabriel Cutajar
Francesco Mercieca
Luke Camilleri
Aleksy Theuma

Jan Vella
Kurt Mercieca
Luke Camilleri
Jan Sacco
Gian Luca Xerri
Mason Vella

JUDGES
Carmel Navarro
Samuel Parnis
John Debattista

JESMOND BORG
Winner of the Gorg
Vella Cup for Best
Item in show



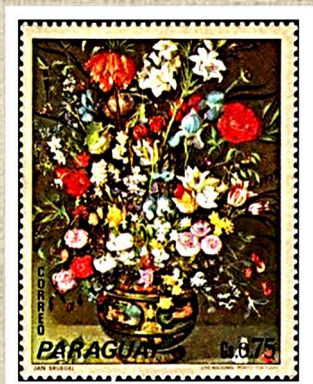
PHILATELIC ARTISTS

**Antoine Vassallo looks randomly at Art on Stamps
400!**

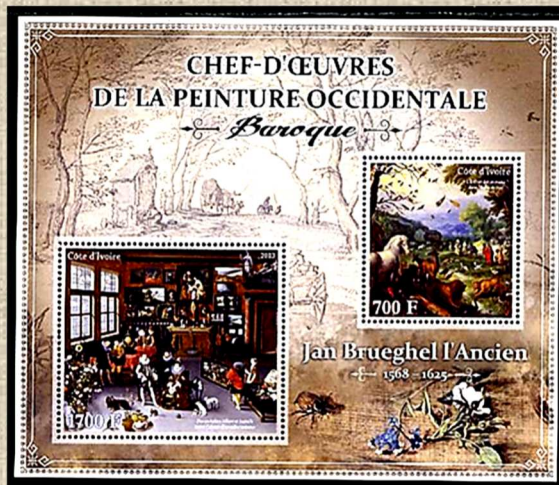
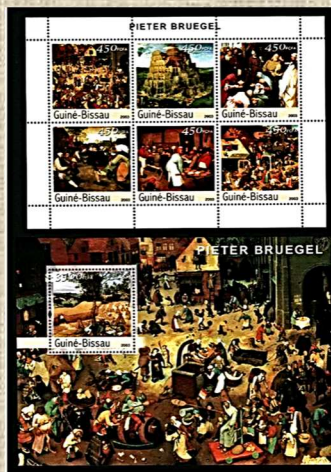


Jan Brueghel the Elder died on 13 January 1625; so his quatercentennial is celebrated in 2025.

This Flemish painter and draughtsman was the younger son of the Renaissance painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Among his vast production, mostly noted are small history paintings (sometimes on copper), floral still lifes, and allegorical and mythological scene. I show examples from Paraguay, Madagascar (or Malagasy Republic), Ivory Coast (or Côte d'Ivoire) and Guinea Bissau.



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I conclude with a stamp from Sierra Leone, which shows a multiple portrait painted with another colleague.



I further feature a female artist who also celebrates the fourth death centennial: from 16 November 1625. Italian **Sofonisba Anguissola** (or Sophonisba Anguisciola) was lucky in that Michelangelo recognized her talent – this surely helped her in getting chosen as official painter at the Spanish court. A 1570 portrait of King Philip II was adapted by Spain for the 1961 set celebrating the fourth centenary of Madrid as Spanish capital.



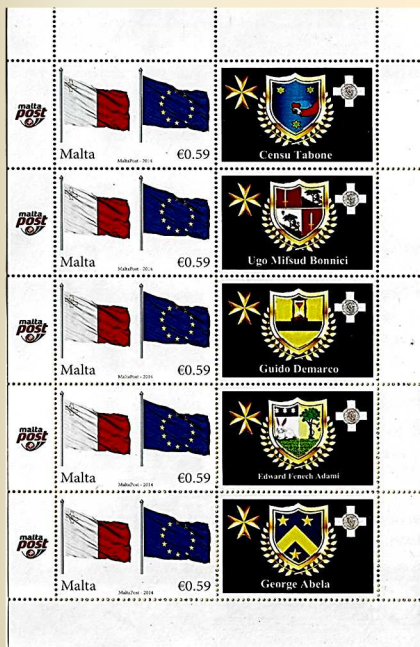
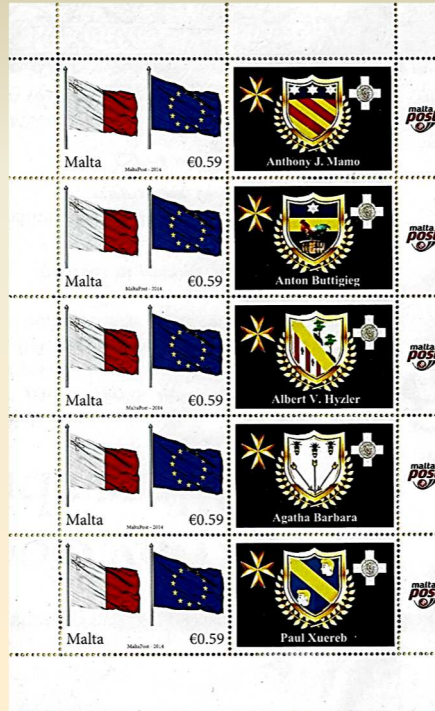
50th Anniversary of the Republic of Malta THE PRESIDENTS SERIES

This series that we issued on the occasion of Malta's 50th Anniversary was started on 3 January 2024 with HE Sir Anthony Mamo and ended on 12 December 2024 with the last card depicting all Presidents. We are most satisfied that this series was very popular with collectors so much so that cards are sold out.. However we still have for sale a limited number of sets of the personalized stamps which were used on the cards.

Each set of 3 different sheets (see picture) costs €15, (postage free)

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Anthony Grech



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FR
CHARLES
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THANK YOU

**TEACHER-
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MR PAUL
GALEA**



WELL DONE



BOYS



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The current opening hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.45 to 12.45

Saturday: 8.45 to 12.45.

Wednesday and Sunday CLOSED

Reception Telephone
21551211

