

The Gozo Philatelic Society

BY JESMOND BORG
ITS LECTURER

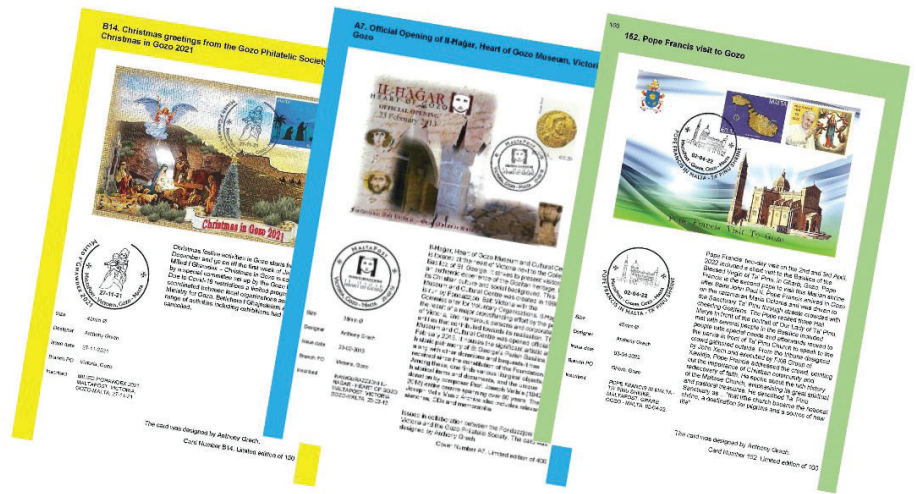
The Gozo Philatelic Society (GPS) was founded in 1999 by a group of avid local philatelists with the aim of promoting the hobby of stamp collecting, provide a point of reference for philatelists and co-ordinate philatelic events in Gozo.

The Gozo Philatelic Society issues commemorative cards whenever MaltaPost issues a Gozo related postage stamp and/or a special commemorative handstamp.

The GPS's first production goes back to the end of the Millennium, with a set of eight covers postmarked at the Post Offices in Gozo. These special cards designed by one of the founding members have helped members widen their philatelic interests and have given quite a positive identity to the Society especially with foreign philatelists. These commemorative cards have become a sought philatelic item, contributing greatly towards a healthy publicity to the island, and surely rank as the top achievement of the Society.

On the 12th February 2000 the Gozo Philatelic Society launched the first issue of the GPS Newsletter. The Newsletter developed in a quarterly full-colour publication, full of philatelic information and news. In 2016 the newsletter was awarded the Large Silver medal in its first international participation at the Canberra Stampshow. It is distributed to all its members and is also available full text on the University of Malta's Institutional Repository OAR@UM.

The annual Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition has found itself on the Gozo activities



On the day of the book launch the Catalogue will be available for a minimum donation of

15€

calendar and is sought out by both Maltese and foreigners. In 2007, the Gozo Philatelic Society launched its website, www.stamps-gozo.org, which has recently been upgraded and updated.

The Gozo Philatelic Society today is more than a mere association of collectors; it can be considered as a valuable representative of society.

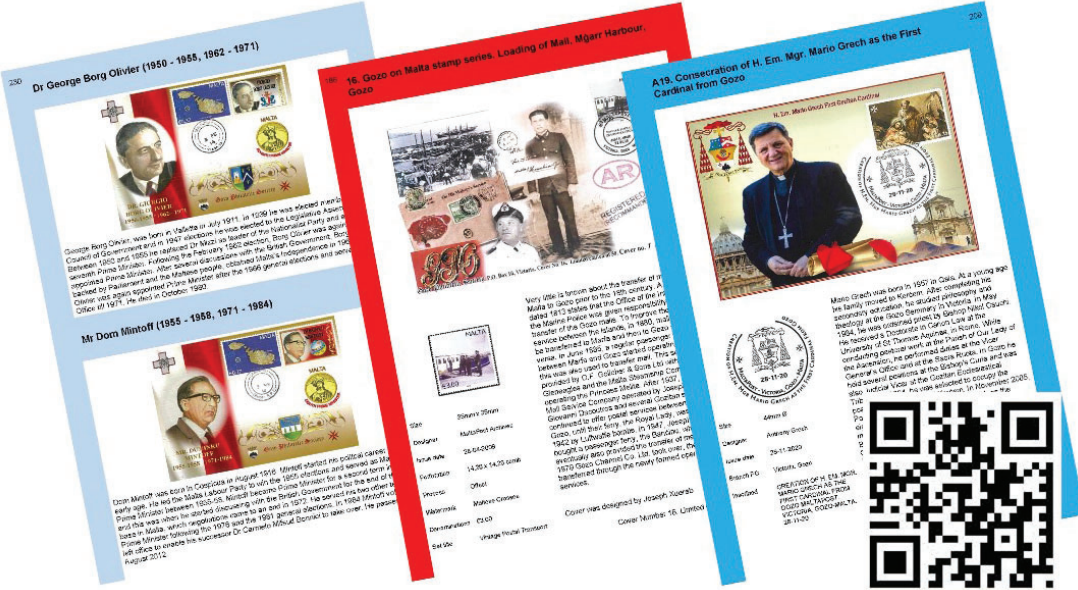
THE CATALOGUE

The primary aim of this publication was to create a comprehensive catalogue of the cards and covers to better equip philatelists with supporting technical details about the cards produced by the GPS featuring the stamps and handstamps issued related to

Gozo.

The cards and covers commemorate local events, history, art, culture, folklore and Gozo personalities, furthermore, special cards are issued for the annual GPS Exhibitions. Two notable series of cards produced along with personalized stamps feature Maltese Prime Ministers and Gozo Bishops. A further series of cards were produced in collaboration with local parishes and organisations to commemorate respective events and anniversaries.

The cards are issued in limited numbers and are very popular and sought out by collectors. In fact, we would not have been able to produce this catalogue without the



help of one of the founding members of the Society.

Furthermore, this publication is an excellent source of information about local heritage.

THE ARTIST

Anthony (“Toni”) Grech was born in the Għajnsielem and has for many years been interested in art.

Way back in 1999, Anthony was one of the founding members of the Gozo Philatelic Society. His suggested design for the GPS logo was immediately chosen and still current in use. His artistic talents were immediately evident in all events, from the

first meetings and into the launch of the GPS Newsletter at the beginning of the year 2000.

As a very active committee member, he immediately began proposing ideas; and tangibly brought into realization the first “production”; a set of eight covers bearing the last postmarks of 1999 given by Gozo’s eight postal offices. This success quite naturally inspired successors!

The committee unanimously decided to recommend issues to commemorate Gozo-connected developments; and to pick up these occasions to create covers, with Anthony as resident designer.

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The shipwreck off the coast of Xlendi and the Gozo Citadel on stamps in 2022.