



April — June  
No. 68 — 2017  
[www.stamps-gozo.org](http://www.stamps-gozo.org)



Like us on

facebook



The advertisement features a central illustration of a red mailbox with the 'easipik' logo and a hand icon. Above it, a cardboard box labeled 'SENDON TO MALTA' is suspended in the air, with a string attached to it. Below the mailbox, another cardboard box on wheels is shown, also labeled 'SENDON TO MALTA'. The background includes silhouettes of various international landmarks: Big Ben, the Statue of Liberty, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and a traditional Chinese gate. The 'malta post' logo is visible on the mailbox and in the bottom right corner. The text 'www.maltapost.com/easipik' is written vertically on the side of the mailbox.

**SendOn!** **easipik**

A flexible solution to shop from Europe, USA and China, particularly from stores that do not ship to Malta.

**malta post**

[www.maltapost.com/sendon](http://www.maltapost.com/sendon)

Founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby,  
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

Front cover  
Commemorative Postcard and Postmark; Nadur Gozo Parish Church  
150th. Anniversary Dedication and 50th. Anniversary Basilica

# TO ALL MEMBERS

## PLEASE ENCOURAGE A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

### GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP PER ANNUM for local Senior Members €5.00  
For overseas membership €15, including News Letter. (per annum)  
Fee for Junior membership under 16 years, is €2.00 per annum.

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_



**GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of  
The Gozo Philatelic Society**

*First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 68 (2/2017)*

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

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

*The Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.*

© All rights reserved. Requests for reproduction of contents should be addressed to the Secretary. *e-mail address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org*

**CONTENTS.**

G.P.S Diary .....	Antoine Vassallo	5
Celebrity Philatelists (9) " <i>Stamps catch the Nazi</i> ". .....	Antoine Vassallo	6
Proofing and Designing.....	J. A. Mizzi	7
Issue no 67 Errata .....	The Editor	7
Stamps—Poem .....	Max Reif	8
Sealing Wax .....	Anthony Grech	10
Promoting Gozo. The Dominican Charism extends to Gozo .	Antoine Vassallo	12
Is it really true that... ..	Antoine Vassallo	14
Spot the Difference.....	Lara Grech	16
Stamp No. 1.....	Anthony Grech	18
E & O Not E (45) .....	Antoine Vassallo	20
Malta Overseas. From a Matrice to a Cathedral .....	Charles R. Cassar	22
WHO'S (&Was) WHO on Malta Stamps (66).....	Antoine Vassallo	26
Philatelic Centennials.....	Antoine Vassallo	28
Vatican City Stamps.....	Joseph C. Camilleri	30

If you are shopping in Valletta, why not pop into the newly launched Postal Museum? Our latest heritage attraction is situated at 135, Archbishop Street adjacent to the Grandmaster's Palace and explores centuries of postal history. The Museum promises an enjoyable experience for all the family together with *Peppi Pustier*, our museum mascot.

Christmas at the museum includes an interactive treasure-hunt, letter writing to Santa, personalised stamps and weekend decoupage workshops with our specially trained team.

**MALTA POSTAL MUSEUM OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday: 10.00hrs - 16.30hrs

(Last recommended entry 15.00hrs)

Saturday: 10.00hrs - 14.30hrs

(Last recommended entry 13.00hrs)

[www.maltapostalmuseum.com](http://www.maltapostalmuseum.com)



**(65) G.P.S. Diary**

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary ;  
VO/0546



**17 March 2017** Committee continues work on school contacts, specifically Qala, San Lawrenz and Sannat, also through visits and info sessions.

**2 April** Longtime GPS member John Vassallo wins an International Gold in Australia for his 8-frame Malta exhibit

**April** issue of the MPS Journal includes a list of Gozo cancellations, developed from the series we run in our Newsletter.

**4 May** *Il-Ħaġar* showcase changed to Pre-Adhesives, mostly from the Juncker collection.

**5 May** Committee confirms Exhibition Commission's proposals for regulation changes to make participation - and the event itself - still more interesting. The main points include:

**Besides the Junior section, there will be no fixed classes but all exhibitors can decide their own class (Traditional, Thematic, Postal History, Social Philately, FDCs etc).**

**Non-Juniors who apply for more than two entries will have these additional entries accepted according to remaining space but may be asked to provide their own display table.**

**The jury will be provided with detailed criteria to grade all exhibits but the only positional result will be to identify the winner of the George Vella Trophy (and the MaltaPost main prize).**

**This year's edition will open on 3 November, with the title**

## **A to Zed STAMPS.**

**8 May** Anthony Grech produces a Card for the Nadur anniversaries handstamp.

**9 May** Anthony Grech produces Card for the Gourgion Tower stamp

## CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS (9)

*Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors*

### Stamps catch the Nazi!



*Simon Wiesenthal*

Nazi hunter *par excellence* Simon Wiesenthal (1908 – 2005) is probably most famous because of his involvement in the discovery – and eventual “kidnapping” to Israel of Adolf Eichmann. As Wiesenthal himself described it, it all depended on philately!

He was advised by his doctor to take up a hobby to combat insomnia: he chose stamp collecting to calm his nerves.

Quoting from his autobiographical musings, “I must admit that the new hobby really diverted me and put my mind at rest. I bought some catalogues, magnifying glasses, a pair of tweezers etc. and spent my evenings bent over the stamps

which caught increasingly my imagination. It made me forget the events of the preceding day. It became a passion with me.”

Wiesenthal’s circle of philatelic friends rapidly expanded: soon he was corresponding with all parts of the world. In 1953, while holidaying in the Tyrol, he learned that an elderly Austrian nobleman wished to sell part of his collection. He contacted the baron, who invited him to his villa near Innsbruck. The talk turned from stamps to their wartime experiences and to Nazi war crimes in general. The baron mentioned that he had recently received a letter from a philatelist in Argentina, a former army colleague. As the baron thought the letter might be of some interest to Wiesenthal, he passed it across for him to read. Wiesenthal’s eyes lighted on a declaration that Eichmann lived “near Buenos Aires and works for a water company.”



He did not allow the baron to notice his excitement; he made his apologies and left - and immediately passed the information on to the Israeli Secret Service. The machinery was thus set in motion that was to track Eichmann down and positively identify him.

One of the great dramas of the twentieth century was closed through the essential step of a doctor trying to steady his patient’s nerves!

*NB: the previous instalment (#65) was in fact the 8th in the series.*

## proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR  
(11) Scenery - Sepac 1 X 2007  
(designed by John Martin Borg)



### Issue 67 Errata

The article on p18 was actually #8 in the series.

Due to a technical problem, no Tientsin examples were shown on p 25.



### **This paragraph was left out at the end of the article on p30:**

Garry Emmanuel Shandling will be remembered as an American stand-up comedian, actor, director, writer, producer, voice artist, and comedian - and not really as a philatelist! During his three-decade career, he was nominated for Primetime Emmy and Golden Globe Awards, along with many other awards and nominations; he also served as Grammys and Emmies host.





My favorite one, from Italy, showed a woman with a whole, walled city atop her head.



Then there were the triangles: Finnish bicycle racers, Angolan cheetahs with gleaming eyes, Croatian birds — how I loved to whisper that word, 'Croatia'!



The Russians, too, had bike racers, leaning intensely forward, and many men with long, white beards.



I learned strange words like 'Magyar' and 'Norge', same as the brand of refrigerators Dad sold at his store,



and *Espana*, the lovely name of a place whose stamps were mostly filled up with the big head of a man named Franco, of which I had red, orange, brown and violet versions, some cancelled, some brand new.



And Hitler. Grandpa made me cross his picture out in all the stamps of him with *Deutsches-Reich* at the bottom, but not the small, square ones of grey, round-faced general von Hindenburg.





Stamps were an absolute democracy, the tiny republic of San Marino equal to the great United States.

And the Cape of Good Hope, the Cape of Good Hope! I learned of it from a stamp, and still hope to round it some day.

Once, a distant cousin in the diplomatic corps wrote to us from Tanganyika. Mother helped me steam the orange stamp off after she'd read the note.. I felt I'd been given a piece of the land itself.

I wrote the President of Pakistan, asking whether the capital was Lahore or Rawalpindi, and I swear, he wrote me back in his own hand, 'Rawalpindi',

and Kwame Nkruma, father of the new country, Ghana, I wrote him too, feeling indignant when he never replied.

The world seemed simpler then. Oh God, I want that world!

*Max Reif*





## SEALING WAX

*Anthony Grech*

Sealing wax was used to seal letters from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Interestingly, the Romans used bitumen.

When heated the wax melts and can then be applied onto the letter, envelope or document. In the short time before it hardens again, a sealer can be applied to leave an impression. Once hardened it forms a bond which is impossible to remove without noticeable tampering. In this way the letter is secure. Seals can be used on several types of material, such as paper, parchment, cloth, wood, metal and glass. The sealer shows the identity of the sender. It usually consists of a signet ring or a purposely made sealer bearing the crest or coat of arms.

Besides this, seals are used to decorate and give a document a more official look. Several vintage letters, especially those sent before the envelope and pre-

adhesive postage stamp were introduced, carry a wax seal. The most common seal wax was red, but black, green, white and even gold - and other colours - were used. On old documents which needed larger seals such as British Crown Public Seals, bee's wax was used.



Seal wax was also used to seal wine and fruit preserve bottles. The compound to produce seal wax varied according to the period and colour needed. In the 1880s seal wax was also perfumed by musk and other scents.

Under the modern postal system, wax seals are for decoration rather than for security purposes. A new style of wax seals are nowadays

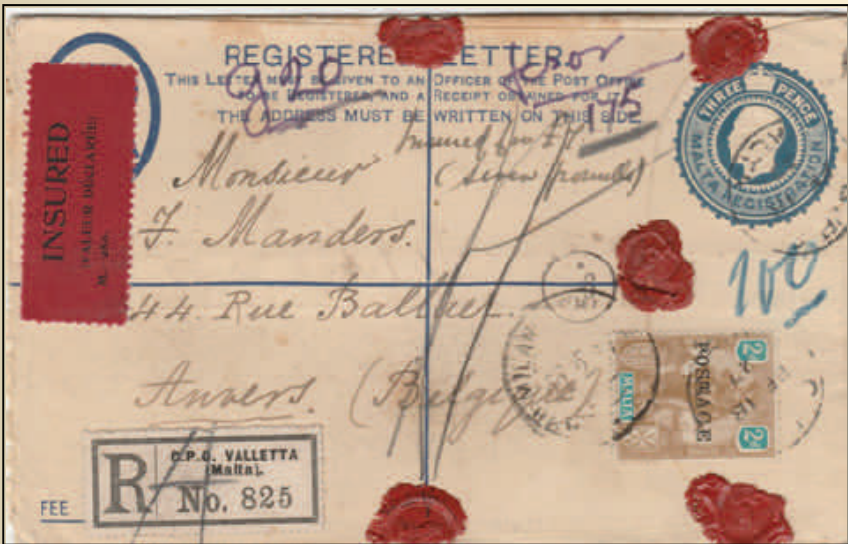
**Wax Sealed letter sent from Malta to London—1822**



used, made from a more flexible material for mailing purposes. Nowadays seals are still applied on certain official documents, such as diplomas and certificates. We also see them on ballot boxes!



*King George V “modern” Red wax Seal registered letter from Valletta to Platz, Switzerland. Sent on 26/05/1922 and received on 31/05/1922*



*King George V “modern” multiple Red wax Seals registered and Insured letter from Malta to Belgium. Postmarked on the back with SIRCUSA, AMB ROMA, FIRENZE, & MILANO. 1927*



## Promoting Gozo

Antoine Vassallo

### The Dominican Charism extends to Gozo



In spite of the island's limited size, its inhabitants have been very active along the centuries - sometimes actually becoming quite proactive!

Among these innovations, one can note the foundation of religious congregations for women.

The 2007 Personalities set included a stamp commemorating the death centennial of Carolina Cauchi who, though actually Maltese-born, was quite influential in certain Gozitan social aspects.



She was the only daughter of Notary Nicolò Cauchi and his wife Tereza who “emigrated” to Gozo. Since childhood Carolina nurtured a desire to dedicate her whole life to God, strengthened through cousin Fortunata Spiteri (an only child too). The Spiteri family (originally Gozitan) had been residing in Valletta - within the parish in the hands of the Dominican friars. Carolina tried unsuccessfully to become a Dominican contemplative in Italy but in 1889 did get a group of females to live together in the spirit of St Dominic.

Mainly indirectly through Fortunata, she had come in contact with the charism of the Order of Preachers (founded by this twelfth-century learned and pious Spanish) through the Dominican priests already established in Malta - Gozitans have been prominent members though they are not present on Gozo itself.

The convent in Victoria (included in the stamp design) is dedicated to the Annunciation (*Lunzjata*); however, since the main altarpiece of the attached church is a “copy” of that at Pompeii (“Our Lady of the Rosary”), that is how this reality is usually referred to: the reason for *Triq Pompej*, the street opposite.

The necessary funds were provided by Carolina who is also considered as a benefactor of Xlendi church. A cave in this popular beach still carries her name (“*l-Ghar ta' Karolina*”). She was surely not attached to material goods! In fact the Church also benefited from her resources towards the recognition of a separate Diocese. Both cousins were inspired by the spirit of poverty and the virtue of compassion. I understand that Carolina actually passed her last years at

home, not wanting to distract her “daughters” from prayer and their apostolate. Though languishing in elderly sickness, a smile always adorned her face!

The formal agreement for the foundation was signed in front of Bishop Peter Pace (consulted for some time earlier) in 1872. It was exactly on 21 September, the liturgical feast of St Matthew whose Gospel was most dear to St Dominic.

The ceremony inaugurating the structural works took place in 1885.

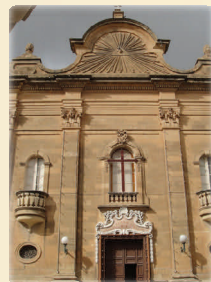
On 6 October 1889 the first community was formally recognized by the Church and so the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters was founded, accepted within the Order in August 1893.

Over the years since then, other communities were set up and a range of services offered. I just mention an attached home for the elderly. There are over a

hundred sisters scattered around our islands, as well as in Australia, England, Italy, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The “Dominican Sisters of Malta”’s commitment is to use all opportunities to preach the Word of

God, through their various activities: education of children and youth, care of the sick and elderly and accompaniment of victims of domestic violence.

A final note about the church: the only Ġanni Bonnici statue in Gozo had been installed, quite uniquely, on the summit of the dome but was taken down following a storm.



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE YET?**  
**If not please remember to pay as soon as possible.**

**Payments; Juniors Euro 2.00**  
**Seniors Euro 5.00. Overseas Euro 15.00**

**Payments through Money or Postal Orders, Personal Cheques on local banks**  
**(payable to the Gozo Philatelic Society) or Current Malta Mint Stamps.**

**To The Secretary Gozo Philatelic Society, P.O. BOX 10, Victoria, Gozo, Malta**

# Is it really true that... (8)



## NEIL ARMSTRONG CREATED A STAMP INSURANCE POLICY?!

*Antoine Vassallo*



When Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins boarded Apollo 11 on their way to the moon, everyone

appreciated that there was a good chance that it was going to be a one-way trip. President Richard Nixon in fact had a speech ready in case Aldrin and Armstrong were marooned on the moon.

The astronauts themselves were worried too! They wanted to make sure that their families were provided for in case the worst happened, so they went out to buy life insurance. But they found that no one wanted to sell it to them. So they made their own, through philately.

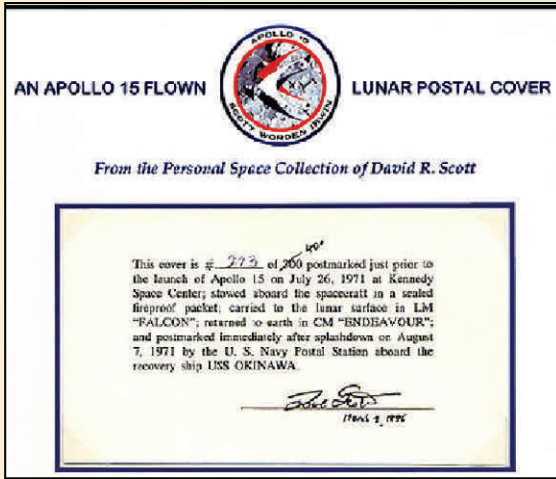


These envelopes or commemorative covers mark the first manned moon landing; looking carefully, you note that the stamp has a postmark dated 20 July 1969 - the day Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the moon. But the location of the cancellation isn't "Sea of Tranquility, Moon" but rather "Houston, Texas." This of course means that the cover never actually made it to the moon.

The astronauts had realized that they were famous -- and, regardless of the success of their mission, were likely going to be even more famous; thus their



signatures were valuable! This gave them the opportunity to provide for their families in case of disaster. Before leaving Earth, the three signed hundreds of these covers and asked a trusted friend to hold onto them and get them postmarked at the post office on both the day of the launch and the day the astronauts landed on the moon - and then distribute them to the astronauts' families. An envelope commemorative cover, signed by all three and cancelled on the date of the lunar landing (and postmarked around the block from mission control!), would surely be worth a good amount of money.



As is well known, the mission did not end in tragedy - and the families never needed to sell off the "insurance covers." Obviously they didn't throw them out! Collectors can still find them at auction, if willing to pay thousands.



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



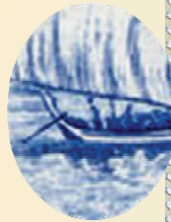
Lara Grech

Here we have stamps from two different Malay states in what seems like a common pictorial design. But are the two designs in fact the same? Can you spot the difference?

Both stamps show a Malay fishing craft in full sail. The first stamp includes three fisherman, with one of them in charge. He directs the boat by holding the helm while the two others are busy otherwise.

But what happened on the second stamp? Where is the man on the helm? Did he fall into the sea or was he thrown overboard?!

One can have a further doubt. Since the helm is usually placed at the back of any boat, does the design give the impression that this vessel is being driven backwards by the action of the wind?



Ofcourse these are not the only stamps without a helmsman . In 1939 Fiji issued a stamp with the same error. It shows an unmanned boat with full sails cruising along.(fig 1) When this error was discovered, the stamp was redesigned, this time with a man at the helm navigating his boat.(fig 2)



(fig 1)



(fig 2)

## Not just PAPER (15)

*examples of unusual stamp production*

*Antoine Vassallo*



In November last year, *La Poste* (France's postal service) issued a booklet of self-adhesive Christmas stamps - making them an enticing purchase.



In fact each stamp offered the chance to be the recipient of “a major award”. A scratch-off panel covered a code number to be entered into *La Poste*'s website. Keying in the proper code number offered the instant win of one of two thousand prizes being awarded once an hour till January 6. Most of prizes were electronic, ranging from batteries and earphones to cameras and tablets.

In February, the final ten prizes were awarded to contestants who had already entered: six high-definition televisions, three vacation trips for two, and a Renault worth 20,000 euro.

Over the years, other postal services have tried to boost the sale of their stamps with giveaways.

In particular, collectors of Japan are familiar with their New Year stamps bearing serial numbers. Lottery sheets of two stamps (unavailable for sale at post offices) are the smallest prizes, awarded to those whose stamps have the last two digits matching the winning numbers. You are the grand prize winner if your stamp has the exact drawn number.

*As always, readers are invited to send comments or even contributions*



Japan Stamp, 2006 Year of Dog  
Lottery Sheet, Zodiac



# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Anthony Grech



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

**CROATIA  
Op.  
YUGOSLAVIA  
STAMPS  
1941**

**CROATIA  
OWN  
ISSUES  
1949**

**CUBA  
SPANISH  
OCCUPATION  
1855**

**CUBA  
Op.USA  
STAMPS  
1899**

**CUBA  
OWN ISSUES  
1907**

**CUNDINA-  
MARCA  
1870**

**CURACAO  
1873**

**CYPRUS  
Op.  
G.B.STAMPS  
1880**

**CYPRUS  
OWN  
ISSUES  
1958**

**CYRENAICA  
Op. STAMPS OF  
ITALY  
1923**

**CYRENAICA  
OWN ISSUES  
1926**

**CZECH REPUBLIC  
1983**

**CZECHOSLOVAK  
ARMY IN SERBIA  
1918**

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
1918**

**DAHOMEY  
Ins. FRANCE COL-  
ONIES STAMPS  
1899**

**DAHOMEY  
OWN ISSUES  
1940**



**DANISH  
WEST INDIES**  
1855



**DANZIG  
Ins. GERMAN  
STAMPS**  
1920



**DANZIG  
OWN ISSUES**  
1921



**DEDEAGATZ  
Op FRANCE STAMPS**  
1893



**DENMARK**  
1858



**DHAR**  
1897



**DIEGO-SUAREZ  
Op. STAMPS  
OF FRANCE**  
1890



**DIEGO-SUAREZ  
OWN ISSUES**  
1926



**DJIBOUTI  
Op. STAMPS OF  
FRENCH**  
1893



**DJIBOUTI  
OWN ISSUES**  
1977



**DODECANESE  
ISLANDS  
ITALIAN OC-  
CUPATION**  
Op. "EGEO" ON ITALY  
STAMPS  
1912



**DOMINICA**  
1874



**DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC**  
1865



**DUBAI**  
1963



**DUTTIA  
DATIA**  
1893



**EAST  
AFRICA**  
1964



**EAST SI-  
LESIA**  
Op. CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
STAMPS  
1920

# E & O not E (45)

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



In 1996, New Zealand Post produced a stamp issue in relation to Children's Health. The issue was supposed to be a standard surcharged issue, with a denomination of 40c and a surcharge of 5c.

The issue (designed by Helen Casey and printed by Enschede) focused on the safety of children and a baby -buckled into a child safety seat - with a teddy bear - in an adult seat belt - were shown.



First issue;  
Baby and Teddy

It was not until publicity material was sent out that it was noticed that the baby seat should actually be facing the other way and the arrangement portrayed in the stamp would be very dangerous for the pictured baby. From the stamp it is clear that the child and the Teddy bear are sitting in the back seat, facing the driving direction. This is in violation of New Zealand legislation which obligates that children under six months old must face the opposite direction as a security measure.



Second issue;  
Missing Teddy

The stamps and miniature sheets were recalled and new stamps were printed in the week before the issue date. The new stamps had the teddy bear missing so that the public would not be at risk of mounting baby car seats facing forward. All the copies of the original stamps were recalled by the New Zealand Post, with the error hopefully cancelled and obliterated!

The stamp was also printed as self-adhesive coil stamps in New Zealand, and possibly a thousand copies were distributed and sold over the counter before recal.

The Dutch security printer Johan Enschede also printed sheetlets with the CAPEX



overprint, meant for that exhibition in Canada. It was believed that all the sheetlets with the erroneous stamps were destroyed after they arrived in New Zealand and both were issued without the toy on the stamps.

However, one set of sheetlets, containing the recalled stamps, appeared at a European auction. An investigation, on behalf of the NZ post, revealed that the printer had unknowingly taken out a few copies and included them in Christmas presents for company employees.



I conclude by noting that other NZ errors have slipped through. They had to recall and reprint Royal Wedding presentation packs which stated that

Prince William was born on May 21 (his actual birthday being a month later: June 21).



Further to the **E & O not E** feature on page 30 of issue 66, this illustration (referred to in the 1967 paragraph) went AWOL!

while in Gozo.....

You are invited to visit the magnificent Museum

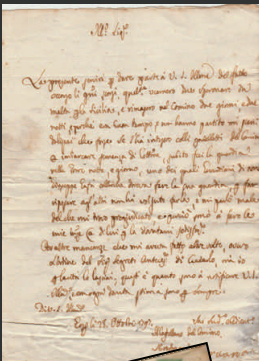
**IL-HAĠAR,**  
**situated at**

**THE HEART OF GOZO,**

**next to the Basilica of St. George.**

**The Gozo Philatelic Society has a showcase on level -1. We chane the items on show periodically, making sure that the exhibits are of interest to both philatelists and to the general public.**

**Items on show for this period;**



**MALTA VINTAGE PRE ADHESIVE LETTERS AND POSTMARKS**

**Opening hours:**  
**9am to 5pm 7 days a week**

**No entrance fee is charged!**



## MALTA OVERSEAS

### local connections on foreign stamps (25)

The joint Malta-San Marino issue in 2016 was, of course, hardly the first stamp to feature the Gozo Cathedral and its surroundings; however it offers the opportunity to write a few notes as a historical background. But, before going into that, it is surely interesting to note the very different way the two issuers treated Cedric Galea Pirotta’s design - with San Marino preferring to include it all in the actual stamps.



## from a *Matrice* to a Cathedral

the Church dedicated to the Assumption at the *Castello*

by Charles R Cassar

Little is certain about Gozo before the fifteenth century but we have numerous indications that there existed several churches inside the *Castello* (or walled citadel). Documentary evidence about the existence of a church, carrying the appellation of *Matrice* (which can possibly be translated as “mother-church”) dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin, exists - including a will drawn up on 12 October 1435. During this period there were other parishes in the *Borgo* (approximately the later Victoria): St James, St George and *Sta. Maria ta’ Savina*. These parishes served the needs of the people living outside the castle



walls, especially during the night when the doors of the *Castello* were closed for safety reasons.

Gozo underwent a difficult period when the Turks overran the *Castello* in 1551; many buildings, including the Assumption church, were left abandoned. However, the Knights immediately began repairing the damage; it is known that the *Matrice* was already functioning by 1554. Since the remaining inhabitants were reluctant to take up residence outside the relative shelter of the *Gran Castello*, the concentration of the population inside the fortification gave the *Matrice* increased importance. In fact it took around a hundred years for the population of Gozo to return to same strength as that before 1551.

When Bishop Baldassare Cagliares made a pastoral visit to Gozo in 1623, he noted that several obligations (especially those pertaining to bequeathed benefices and legacies) were not being fulfilled owing to the restricted number of priests. As a solution, he made use of the powers invested upon him by the



Bishop Cagliares

Council of Trent and made the *Matrice* a Collegiate Church, combining the obligations, burdens, and pious legacies into one duty: the daily singing of the divine office by the members of the collegiate chapter. The bishop also bestowed the title of 'archpriest' on Don Salv Pontremoli, besides instituting five other priests as canons (ie members of the chapter). On 10 October



Alexander VII

1663, Pope Alexander VII issued his Bulla *Superna Dispositione* to confirm what Bishop Cagliares had created 40 years earlier. The number of canons continued to increase throughout the years.

In the meantime, after the Order began to erect fortifications on strategic points of the shoreline throughout the first half of the seventeenth century, the Gozitans began to feel relatively safe to venture out and settle in the countryside. This expansion away from the *Castello* led to the formation of new villages which, in turn, necessitated the building or enhancement of new and existing churches to cater for the spiritual needs of the villagers.

In 1678, Bishop Moli-of Xewkija, while in westerly village of parish. This trend continued as more villages were formed. Bishop David Cocco established four other parishes in 1688 - thus



na established the parish the following year the Gharb also became a parish. This trend continued as the population expanded; consequently Palmeri set up four other

Cont.. on next page



covering the different parts of Gozo. The last - fifteenth - parish was erected only in 1957.

On 30 December 1680, Pope Innocent XI appointed Don Carlo Magri as the new archpriest of the Collegiate Church. Magri saw the need for the building of a new church and his proposal received the bishop's approval. On 11 January 1693 a severe earthquake hit the islands, damaging the *Matrice*; the construction of a new church became an urgent necessity. Don Nicoló Natale Cassia Magri became the new archpriest and he immediately shouldered the responsibility to build the new church.

The first stone was laid The well-known (1638–1704) was supervise the building Baroque idiom, the architectural style then. the old medieval every building inside can be seen from though its dome, for was never built but left *Matrice* did acquire a the north-east side,



Lorenzo Gafa'

on 21 September 1697. architect Lorenzo Cafà chosen to design and of the new edifice in the predominant

This edifice on the site of church now towers above the *Gran Castello* and around the island - even some unknown reason, to the drum height. The towering *campanile* on away from the façade.

The church's external contour is quite different from the outline usually associated with Maltese churches; but the whole unique effect is agreeable to the eye. This pleasant impression is in fact reflected and reinforced on the inside.



Pope Pios IX Bull *Singulare Amore* that Made Gozo a separate Diocese from Malta

The people continued to increase in number and, especially throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, began to press their case for Gozo to become a diocese separate from Malta. Finally Pope Pius IX, by means of his Bull *Singulare Amore* on 16 September 1864, acceded to the repeated solicitations of the clergy and the people of Gozo and erected the island as an autonomous diocese. The Collegiate Church





H.H. Pope Pius IX

was declared to be the seat of the bishop of Gozo and thus elevated to Cathedral status. The pope also appointed the then archpriest, Michele Francesco Buttigieg, as the first bishop of Gozo. Bishop Buttigieg made his solemn entry into the Cathedral church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin on 23 October 1864.



Interior of the Gozo Cathedral



Two postcards from a set of 10 issued in a limited edition of 190 by The Gozo Philatelic Society, franked by a personalised stamp and cancelled with the MaltaPost special commemorative postmark on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Gozo Diocese. 1st. Postcard - H.L. Mgr Michael Francesco Buttigieg, first bishop of Gozo 2nd. Postcard—All bishops of Gozo that served the Diocese.



## WHO'S (&Was) WHO on Malta Stamps

Antoine Vassallo (No 66)

continued from issue no. 67

An (in-progress) alphabetical list of those connected with Maltese Philately.

asking for your help to fill gaps - do suggest additions (and corrections!)

usually under surname (except saints etc) but some cross-references >

Not to make this survey too heavy, only one example connected with the person involved (usually the first or most prominent) is listed. Where adhesives are not available, cancellations, handstamps and slogans (excluding First Day cancellations) are shown CHS.

- 344 Stephen **Mifsud** stamp designer, with first in 2009  
 345 Dom **Mintoff** (1916- 2012) Malta Prime Minister €3 Centenary 2016 (fig 1)  
 346 Giorgio **Mitrovich** (1795-1885) Maltese patriot 8¢ Celebrities 1985 (fig 2)  
 347 Jean Pierre **Mizzi**, stamp designer, with first in 2004  
 348 Joseph **Mizzi**, stamp designer, with first in 1993  
 349 Charles Francois de **Mondion** (1681–1733) French engineer 37¢ Treasures 2011  
 350 **Monte**> del Monte  
 351 Bernard Law "Monty" **Montgomery** (1887 – 1976) British WWII Field Marshal €1 Yalta 2015 (fig 3)  
 352 Mette & Eric **Mourier** Danish stamp designers, with first in 2005  
 353 Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart** (1756-91) Austrian musician MS Christmas 2006 (fig 4)  
 354 William **Mulready** (1786-1863) Irish artist MS Penny Black 2015 (fig 5)  
 355 Alexia **Muscat** €3.59 European Union Presidency 2017  
 356 Anton **Nani** (1842-1929) Maltese composer 1979 CHS



- 357 Paul **Nani** (1906-86) Maltese composer 27¢ Christmas 2006  
 358 **Napoleon Bonaparte** (1769-1821) French leader 16¢ Centenary 1998 (fig 6)  
 359 Lord Horatio **Nelson** (1758 - 1805) English naval commander 26¢ Convoy 2012



(fig7)

- 360 **Neptune** the Roman god of the sea 3/- Defs 1926 (fig 8)  
 361 St **Nicholas** of Bari (4<sup>th</sup> century) Bishop of Myra 16¢ Cities 1997 (fig 9)  
 362 Andries **Odendaal** South African designer 2.50 World Cup 2010 (fig 10)



- 363 Father Patrick **O'Grady** SDB (1860 - 1943) Irish rector **75¢** Salesian Centenary **2004**
- 364 Alexei **Pace** Maltese astronomy expert, with first stamp design in 2009
- 365 Carmelo **Pace** (1906-93) Maltese composer **22¢** Christmas **2006** (fig 11)
- 366 George M **Pace**, stamp designer, with first in 1972
- 367 Filippo **Paladini** (1544-1614) Italian artist **37¢** Christmas **2010**
- 368 Arvid **Pardo** (1914-99) Maltese diplomat **8¢** Seabed Resolution **1987** (fig 12)
- 369 Bettina **Paris** **6¢** Children's paintings **2000**
- 370 Bertram CP **Park** OBE (1883-1972) English portrait photographer, with first stamp design in 1938



- 371 Francesca Teresa **Parlar** (1842-1927) Maltese mystic and philanthropist - anniversary **1992** CHSs
- 372 **Pascal II** (died 1118) Pope **MS** Papal Bull **2013** (fig 13)
- 373 Louis **Pasteur** (1822-95) French scientist **25¢** Commems **1995** (fig 14)
- 374 St **Patrick's** (named after the fifth-century patron saint of Ireland) **14¢** Child Welfare **1996**



- 375 St **Paul** (1<sup>st</sup> century), as described in the Bible, brought the faith to Malta - 1889 First stamp in the World to depict this Saint. (fig 15)
- 376 **Paule** > de Paule
- 377 Paul **Pavia** (cribmaker) **MS** Christmas **2013**
- 378 **Pelè** (*Edson Arantes do Nascimento* 1940- ) Brazilian footballer **16¢** World Cup **2006** (fig 16)
- 379 **Pelletier** > Mary Euphrasia
- 380 Ramon **Perellos** y Roccaful Grand Master of the Order **50¢** (MS) Tapestries **1980**
- 381 **Perez d'Aleccio** > Aleccio
- 382 Amadeo **Perugino** 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian artist **12¢** Religious **1988**
- 383 St **Peter** (1<sup>st</sup> century) the first Pope **2d** martyrdom **1967** (fig 17)

# PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

*glances – and longer looks – at  
events from a hundred years ago  
presented by Antoine Vassallo  
18 - Famous “Noble” (1917)*



**Philip Ferrari de La Renotière** died in May 1917, having been born on 11 January 1850. I note this latter date simply because I was born exactly 101 years later!

Ferrary - as he is usually referred to - was a famous stamp collector, assembling what was probably the most complete worldwide collection ever. Amongst his extremely rare stamps were two unique items: the “Treskilling Yellow” (fig.1) of Sweden and the 1856 one cent magenta of British Guiana.(fig 2) (bought in 1878 for £150). He also owned the only unused copy of the 1851 “Hawaii Missionaries” Two Cents (for possession of which there had earlier even been a murder) and the only known cover featuring both values of the first Mauritius “Post Office” stamps. (fig 3)



1



2

He had been born in the sumptuous Hôtel Matignon in Paris (later the official residence of the Prime Minister of France), the son of a wealthy businessman who also possessed the titles of Duke and Prince. Upon the death of his father (legendarily, stuck in one of his immense safes!), the heir renounced all titles but was adopted by Count de La Renotière von Kriegsfeld - and adopted the latter’s nationality: Austrian.



3

The famous Bordeaux cover with Mauritius stamps

Ferrary started collecting in his youth, and then was lucky enough to inherit approximately 120 million French francs (£5 million) - which he dedicated to the purchase of rare stamps and coins! His collection is believed to have been the greatest ever assembled.

(bought in 1878 for £150). He purchased many important old collections, including those of Judge Frederick A.



Philbrick, Sir Daniel Cooper, and W. B. Thornhill. Stanley Gibbons stated that his expenditure with them averaged some three or four thousand pounds annually.

Ferrary employed a leading Paris stamp dealer, Pierre Mahé, as curator to examine and keep order in his collection from 1874 until the latter's death in 1913. Additionally, he had two secretaries, receiving large salaries to look after - respectively - postage stamps and other items (postcards, envelopes, and wrappers). He also assembled a large collection of rare coins.



This celebrated philatelist travelled frequently to meet dealers, often paying in gold on the spot! He was most impulsive, seemingly indifferent to price. The result was that certain dealers and counterfeiters took advantage of him.

As a citizen of Austria living in France, World War I put him at risk. Leaving his hundreds of albums in the Austrian embassy, he fled to Vienna early in 1915 and then to Switzerland (where he died soon afterwards). The French government confiscated Ferrary's collection, claiming war reparation. The massive assemblage was auctioned off between 1921 and 1926, realizing some 30 million francs. G.S.F. Napier compiled an index of the fourteen sales catalogs, sold in aid of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Many of the rarest stamps extant on the philatelic market today proudly bear an "ex-Ferrary" in their provenance, which tends to raise considerably their desirability and value.

Ferrary has of course been featured on stamps, beginning from Liechtenstein in 1968.







# Vatican City Stamps

Joseph C. Camilleri BA, DEAM, M.Ed(PI & Mgt)

The Vatican City stamps started when the ‘Conciliation’ issue was released on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1929. This first series which consisted of 13 stamps was overprinted several times – in 1931, 1934, 1937 and 1939. These overprints provide excellent grounds for the stamp collectors to specialize in.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1929 the ‘Lateran Treaty’ was signed. This meant the resolution of the ‘Roman Question’ which was created in 1870 when Rome fell to the forces of the Kingdom of Italy. The relationship between the King-Church was regulated by ‘teets’. This was approved by May 1871 but was not rec-to this treaty, the new creat-of the square and the Basili-buildings, the gardens and The three other Roman ba-Gandolfo and other build-of Rome became an Treaty also included the the Kingdom of Italy. Final-financial settlement which claims against Italy follow-papal states in 1871.



Kingdom of Italy. The rela-dom of Italy and the Catho-lic the so-called ‘Law of Guar-an-the Italian parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> ognized by the Pope. Thanks ed state obtained sovereignty ca of St Peter, the Vatican some neighbouring structures. silicas, the gardens at Castel ings and structures in the city ‘extraterritoriality. This Later- role of the catholic religion in ly, this treaty dealt also on a resolved the Holy See’s ing the takeover of the former

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1929, Vatican City officially came into being. Its postal service commenced just two days later. At first, Italian stamps were used from then until the first Vatican issue – the ‘Conciliation’ issue. This issue started a pictorial stamp tradition which continuous right up to the present day. What do we find on Vatican stamps?

Popes features strongly on these stamps. New issues are released every time a pope dies (known as *Sede vacante* – empty seat) and a new one is elect-ed.



Popes of the past have also been honoured on stamps such as Pope Leo the Great and Pope Pius IX.

Special airmail series were released to mark the travels of the ‘Pilgrim’ Pope.



Great religious art is another popular theme, depicting works which are housed in the St Peter’s Basilica and in the Vatican museum collections. The most popular artist is Michelangelo. His Pietà Madonna has been depicted several times such as in 1964 and again in 1973. Moreover, his Sistine

Chapel ceiling have been featured on stamps several times. Saints also feature on Vatican City stamps – St Rita of Cascia (1956), St Ignatius of Loyola (1956), Dimenico Savio (1957), St Dominic (1971) Padre Pio de Pietrelcina (1999).



Holy years are also features on Vatican Stamps. They started in 1933 and continued in 2015/16.

Christmas stamps started to be featured on stamps in 1959.

Easter is another philatelic theme and the first stamp was issued in 1969.



Malta has a special place on Vatican stamps. In 1961, the Vatican City issued a six stamp set to mark the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of St Paul in Rome. This set was issued on the 13th June, 1961. Two of the stamps featured a map of the Eastern Mediterranean showing the route taken by the apostle which led him to Rome.



Another stamp was issued on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1991. This set marked the Pilgrim Pope journeys for the year 1990. The 1500 L stamp featured Pope John Paul II visit to Malta. The stamp depicted the Pope together with the sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta’ Pinu. Moreover numerous Vatican sets have been printed in Malta.



# ISLAND TECH

We offer:  
Network & Accessories.  
Cartridge and toner refill  
After sales services  
& a variety of Computer &  
Laptop Systems.

## HIGH QUALITY DIGITAL PHOTO COPYING SERVICE

We provide Photocopying  
Service in Black and White  
and in Colour.

**At unbeatable  
low prices.**



Call **Manuel Grech** Tel. 21566777  
Mob.99206525 E-mail: [mangrech@maltanet.net](mailto:mangrech@maltanet.net)  
**TRIQ IL-MUNICIPJU RUMAN VICTORIA GOZO.**



Computer problems?  
**Don't Smash it**  
and don't worry.  
We will find  
a solution.