



April – June 2007

Nº: 28 - 2/2007



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR
BIEX TIXTRI
JEW TIBNI
DAREK**

BOV Homelink
success



Aghzel
int u nnota
d-differenza!

BOV Notice Account

306090



BOV TeenSaver Account

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Front Cover:

- The baroque facade of the Gharb Parish Church which began to be built around 1699 by Maltese architect Joseph Azzopardi.
- The 10d + 2d stamp is one of a three-value christmas set which depicts the baroque façade in the background.. It was issued on the 7th November 1970 and designed by Chev. EV Cremona.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

are held regularly on the last Sunday of the month:

25 June, 29 July; 26 August; 30 September; 28 October

From 9.00am to 11.00am

at Victoria Scouts Headquarters

Sta Dminka Street Victoria Gozo

Exchange, purchase, information etc.

Entrance Free

Reminder to young members

A token of free stamps will be given to those who would renew their membership for year 2007.



Citadel Video Communications
By the Bastion Road,
Victoria, Gozo VCT108

Contact: Mr Alvin Scicluna

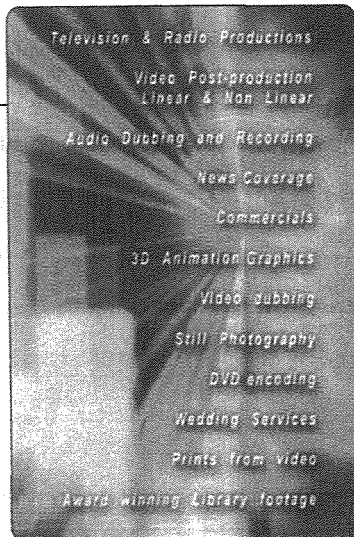
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SPECIALITIES:

- TV productions
- Corporate videos
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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No.

Name

Address

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

Tel No. ID Card No

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2. (E4.66)

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 (E2.33) for Junior membership. (Date of Birth.....)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of

An official receipt and membership card will be issued later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date



GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12th February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For “the promotion of the hobby”

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

Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 1000, Gozo, Malta.

GPS DIARY (28)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

- 14th March 2007:** Committee Meeting which discussed, among other points, our projected website to complement the GPS Newsletter.
- 25th March 2007:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for Nadur EU 50th anniversary celebrations handstamp
- 25th March 2007:** Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 13th April 2007:** Anthony Grech exhibits a selection of Envin Cremona stamps to accompany a public lecture (organized by Heritage Malta) at the Gozo Ministry Hall about Cremona's religious art.
- 26th April 2007:** Committee meeting discusses future activities and finalizes the "Gozo on Malta stamps" special album.
- 28th April 2007:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for Balconies stamps.
- 29th April 2007:** Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 17th May 2007 :** June issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly includes a letter by the GPS Secretary clarifying an entry about Malta stamps in a previous issue.
- 20th May 2007:** We accept invitation to be one of the "Attractions" at the special "*Lejlet Lapsi - Notte Gozitana*" annual Spring Fair organized by Ninu Cremona Lyceum Complex. Our stall attracted the attention of many visitors, including Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi.
- 27th May 2007:** Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

Postal Arrangements on Gozo in 1888

(Michael Refalo)

The smaller sister of the Maltese archipelago was always considered a backwater. Until well into the twentieth century, the economy of Gozo was prevalently agricultural, and the population mostly illiterate. Commercial and cultural opportunities lay across the channel separating the two islands, particularly in Valletta, the Three Citiesⁱ and their immediate environs. If a trader wanted to expand his business – in lace or agricultural produce (the mainstays of the local economy) – he had to cross over, possibly move his residence to Valletta or the Cottonera and from there siphon off whatever profits could be made on the smaller island.

Communication between the two islands was by boat or through the post. And it is with the latter that this paper is concerned. In particular, it will deal with perceptions of the then current situation and the potentialities and limitations which the island (or more precisely its postal arrangements) could provide.

I

A report by Postmaster Ferdinando Inglott concerning the postal arrangements of Gozo throws some light on a number of interesting subjects of local concern, not least of which social issues. That reportⁱⁱ originally addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government is in a file that also contains the views and observations of a number of other officials to whom it had been circulated. We are thus afforded an opportunity to see through the eyes of Maltese bureaucrats, what the perceived requirements of the smaller island were.

Ferdinando Inglott (1820-1893) was a model high-level civil servant. He had started life as government employee originally at the dockyard naval service. Subsequently he was

sent to England to train as a teacherⁱⁱⁱ. This was followed by an ascent to high profile appointments: Controller of Charitable Institutions (1849) and Head of the Customs Department (1870) before being appointed Postmaster in 1886^{iv}. Francis Rowsell, who had been sent to Malta to report on the Taxation and Expenditure of Malta in 1877, had a very high opinion of him. Inglott was, Rowsell believed, “undoubtedly the best administrative officer in Malta.”^v Further praise was forthcoming from another Commissioner, Sir Penrose Julyan, sent to report on the Maltese Civil Establishments. Julyan considered the Customs Department under Inglott as the most efficient and well-organized of all Government departments. In 1876, the Maltese Chamber of Commerce had also praised Inglott “for the improvements he had introduced.”^{vi} The praise was not idle. His dedication to the job, and his professional attitude clearly emerge from the periodic reports on the postal department that he submitted to the government. Furthermore he was strongly attached to his employees. In one annual report^{vii} Inglott wrote in glowing terms about the postal employees, and requested an increase in staff to allow for “vacation leave ... for the benefit of health.” He had also pleaded for an increase in their salary, in such a way as “will induce them to be attached to their work and dissuade them from endeavouring to leave it for the sake of enjoying the same leisure as their colleagues serving in other Departments of Government, instead of being obliged to attend to duty at irregular, inconvenient and long hours on all days, for a remuneration quite inadequate for the hardships to be endured.”^{viii} Gerald Strickland, then Chief Secretary to the Government, diplomatically refused this request on the basis of financial constraints, but Inglott rejoined. He believed that “no discipline, however perfect, will yield results equal to those which are derived from the hearty zeal and co-operation

of officials ‘strong in health and contended in spirit.’” He seems to have captured the ethos of the nineteenth Maltese civil service when he observed that,

“Long experience has convinced me that the efficiency of the Public Service does not depend so much on high mental qualifications, as on the two all-powerful springs of every human action: adequate remuneration for the work done and just consideration of the interests and personal comforts of those engaged in it.”

The same principles seem also to underlay the report on the postal arrangements of 1888.

II

Inglott laments that the poor ‘Letter-Carrier’ daily goes around the various villages of the island trying to identify the addresses: “this often provokes them [the postmen] to anger and exhausts their patience.” Indeed, it is well known to this day that there do exist ephemeral door numbers in most of Gozo’s villages. Furthermore, the village inhabitants are reluctant to buy postage stamps from the postmen. They prefer, he says, buying them from the Victoria post office rather than from the postman on the beat, whose supply was considered as fake.

One other problem encountered by postmen was that of finding no one at home. In a succinct portrayal of the Gozitan village inhabitants, Inglott observes,

In Gozo life is still patriarchal. The roof is only sought to sleep under, and that for a very short time. Very early in the morning the whole family, very often including the baby, leave the house to proceed to their daily work in the fields.

Letter writing was definitely not one of the priorities of the village people. During the three months from June 1888, only eight letters had been collected from five villages.^{ix} This was disproportionate to the daily rounds performed by postmen. In the larger villages, the situation was slightly better. In Garbo, Nadur, Xeuchia and Xaghra, for example, a total of 322 letters and 6 newspapers had been collected during the same period.^x

Lack of postal business in particular localities was not peculiar to the Gozitan villages. Elsewhere, Inglott complains that notwithstanding the opening, on 1st July 1890, of a Branch Post Office 'for the whole of the Cottonera District including the suburb of Calcara – a population greater than Valletta ... the opulent inhabitants of the Three Cities' seem not to have "appreciated the convenience offered to them."^{xi}

Inglott thought that improvements introduced to the postal system of Gozo were far in advance of the actual requirements of the island. The clock must be turned back, he says, at least "until the Schoolmasters' enlightening influence shall have made the requisite progress, and shall be more sensibly felt by the Villagers." In line with this proposal, he suggested that the 'Posting-boxes' in the five villages mentioned earlier 'be withdrawn' and only those of Garbo, Nadur, Xeuchia and Xaghra be retained. By their lack of use, the inhabitants of the smaller villages had shown that they did not require the service. It was useless to invest money in retaining them; money was better spent in "raising the remuneration of the Letter-Carriers."

In a country so situated – he declared – one must be sparing and prudent in introducing innovations; as, to supply, when demand does not exist, would be incurring positive loss

In any case, Inglott continued, the local population seemed satisfied with the service provided. There had never been any official complaints since his appointment to the office of Postmaster “and one solitary instance of delay in delivery of a letter, and that by a foreigner, has been brought to my notice since that date.”

III

Inglott’s report was not limited to highlighting limitations and suggesting curtailment of the postal service on Gozo. It aimed also at a general improvement of the service in particular the ‘re-founding’ of the two main post offices of the island: those of Victoria and Migiarrro. The problem with the post offices as then existing lay not only with the actual premises used but also with the individuals manning them.

The post office of Victoria was, in reality, the office of a notary. It was situated in a street off the main square and was hardly identifiable as a post office. That notary was given a small remuneration (£8 per annum) to look after postal business. This ran against Inglott’s grain of efficient civil service. The notary closed his office at eleven in the morning to reopen at two in the afternoon – a siesta being *de rigueur* for the professional. “[V]ery little may be expected from him,” says Inglott, he can speak no English, and in any case the remuneration is too small. The Assistant Secretary to the Government for Gozo concurred: that state of affairs should change. Curiously enough, in his report of the previous year Inglott had made no reference to this ‘problem’. There,^{xiii} he had merely said:

In each District there is a Post Office situated in the principal Town or central place of business.

The Post Office of the Victoria District is in the Victoria District, and that of Mjar [sic] at the Mjar.

On the other hand, the office at Migiarro was just ‘a nook’^{xiv} and the person in charge, though “attentive and trustworthy; was hardly educated at all, being just able to speak a few words of English.

The remedies were easily found. Inglott proposed the transfer of the Victoria post office to the Banca Giuratale, “at present the Hotel de Ville of the Island.” The function of postal employee should be taken away from the hands of the notary and handed over to a Mr. Calderone of the Police Department. The remuneration of £8 per annum, negligible to the notary, should be passed on to the new appointee; when added to his current salary, says Inglott, it would be a welcome increment. The office at Migiarro should also be manned by the Senior Police Officer of the locality,^{xvi} and the ‘nook’ be replaced by proper accommodation.

For Victoria, Inglott had already obtained the consent of the Superintendent of Police to hand over the postal duties to Mr. Calderone “on condition that the Government finds no objection to the proposal.”^{xvii} The site was ideal for the purpose; the office would remain open longer hours and the person in charge was able to speak English. A minute entered in the report by Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson confirmed that the move could go ahead.^{xviii}

The Migiarro case was slightly more problematic. New premises had to replace the ‘nook.’ Financially the burden was not enormous, thought Inglott: £200 had already been voted for the purpose in the Estimates for 1887-8 and this had subsequently been increased to £300. And yet there was no unanimity on the feasibility of the project. First of all the plan for the new building seemed to have disappeared: it was not at the Public Works Department^{xix} and Inglott himself wrote that,

“I regret that the plan was not left with me. It may be in the possession of the Perito serving in Gozo, but the Superintendent has already reported ‘that every Perito in his office repudiates the paternity of the Estimates, and *a fortiori* of the Project.’”^{xx}

The blow to Inglott’s project had been given two months earlier by the Superintendent of the Public Works Department. In a letter to Hely-Hutchinson, that official undermined the project going so far as to purposely misread Inglott’s handwriting. The word “Rural” in the term “Rural Post Office” used by Inglott in his report had not been deciphered,^{xxi} and the Public Works official had sarcastically referred to it as “*Rular* Hotel de Ville.” In any case, it was said, the paucity of postal business on Gozo makes it hardly worth the expense.

In his minute of the 28th November 1888, Inglott had detailed what the requirements at Migiarrò were:

The minimum accommodation, for the proper and efficient performance of rural postal duties, and for that degree of indispensable comfort and convenience which should be allowed to a Public Officer of the rank, say of Sub-Inspector, having charge also of the Port operations at Migiarrò were given by me ... [the building should consist] ... of a Duty-room, with a small covered space before it to shelter the public from the sun or rain while transacting business at the “Serving Window;” of an adjacent smaller room for the Letter Carriers’ duties, of a W.C. for the Post Officer, a W.C. for the Letter Carrier, and of sufficient accommodation for a very small family, as quarters for the Officer in charge.

If the Postmaster advised retrenchment for the villages, he was forward-looking in the case of Migiarrò and Ghainsielem. The two localities were set to increase both in size and in population, to say nothing of the garrison periodically resident at Fort Chambray, “and to provide for the Military is the wisest of measures, as their presence adds to the interests of Gozo.”

(to be continued)

Where in the World ?! (19)

(Antoine Vassallo)

Stamp Issuers Past and Present

German Occupation of Dalmatia: areas (Zara and Kotor)
formerly under Italian control 1943-4.

German Occupation of Estonia: 1941-2.

German Occupation of Latvia: 1941.

German Occupation of Macedonia: 1944.

German Occupation of Montenegro: 1943-4.

German Occupation of Poland: 1915-8 and 1939-45.

German Occupation of Romania: 1917-8.

German Occupation of Russia: 1941.

German Occupation of Serbia: 1941-3.

German Occupation of Slovenia: 1943-5.

German Occupation of Zante (Ionian Islands): 1943-5

German Post Offices in China: (Amoy, Canton, Chefoo,
Chinkiang, Foochow, Hankow, Ichang, Nanking,
Peking, Swatow and Tientsin) stamps 1898-1919.

German Post offices in Morocco: stamps 1899-18
(*Marokko*)

German Post Offices in the Turkish Empire: (Beirut, Constantinople, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Smyrna) stamps 1884-1912.

German South-West Africa (Deutsch-Sudwest-Afrika): stamps 1897-1919.

German Western Command: stamps for occupation of Belgium and northern France 1916.

GERMANY: Unified issues from 1872 (*Deutsches Reich, Reichspost, Grossdeutsches Reich* etc); Allied Occupation - Anglo-American, French and Russian Zones - issues (*Deutsche Post*) 1945-9; separate issues for West Germany (German Federal Republic = *Deutsche Bundespost*), West **Berlin** and East Germany (German Democratic Republic = *Deutsche Demokratische Republic or DDR*); again unified from 1990 (*Deutschland*); Belgian occupation 1919-21

Gerusalemme = Italian PO at Jerusalem 1909

Ghadames = Fezzan 1949.

GHANA: The former British colony of the Gold Coast in West Africa, independent from 1957.

(to be continued)

Bold italic = Inscriptions;

BOLD CAPITALS = Current Issuers;

Bold = Former Issuers.

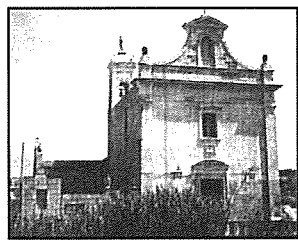
(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!)

PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

(George Micallef)

GHARB - from Arabic, meaning "West"

One of the first parishes in Gozo. Founded on 29th August 1679, by Bishop Michael G. Molina. The seat of the parish was initially the old church dedicated to the Visitation of Our Lady to Saint Elizabeth, popularly known as "*Taz-Zejt*", now within the parish cemetery.



*The old church known as
Taz-Zejt*

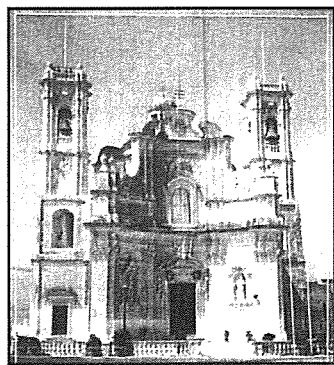
The new parish church began around 1699, designed by the Maltese architect Joseph Azzopardi. The first mason was Dionysius Carnemolla, from this same village. The church is of baroque style and similar to the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone, at *Piazza Navona* in Rome. The building of the church was halted, after fifteen years because of financial difficulties. A priest from Malta, Rev. Francis Mangion, canon of the Cathedral of Mdina, intervened with great interest and the building of the church was concluded by 1732. Can. Francis Mangion is considered as the major benefactor of this church.

The parish church is:

COLLEGIATE: with effect from 19th May 1774;

MOTHER CHURCH: with effect from 15 May 1893, when from the limits of Gharb was erected the new parish of St Lawrence; and

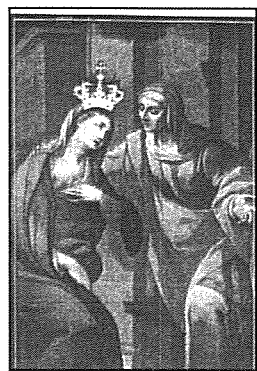
BASILICA: also united with the Basilica of "*Ta' Pinu*" with effect from the 28th November 1967.



*The baroque style
parish church*

The altarpiece representing the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elizabeth, was painted by the Maltese artist Fra Gian Nicola Buhagiar, and was donated to the church of Gharb by Grandmaster Antonio Manoel de Vilhena in 1773.

On the third centenary of the founding of the parish, on 15th May 1979, the figure of Our Lady of the Visitation, was crowned by Mgr. Nicholas G Cauchi, Bishop of Gozo who himself is from this same village.

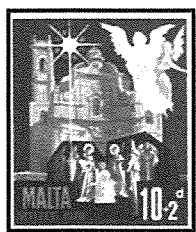


The altarpiece

The statue representing the Visitation made by the Maltese statuary Joseph Vella was blessed on the 21st June 1853 at the Archbishop's Palace in Valletta and was brought to Gharb on June 25th.

The organ of this church of the Cavalli Firm Italy was brought in 1912 and the paintings of the ceiling, dome etc are of the renowned Gozitan artist Chev Paul Camilleri Cauchi.

Other churches in this parish include the "*Ta' Pinu's*" Basilica National Sanctuary, the former parish church known as "*Taz-Zejt*", St Publius and St Dimitrius churches respectively.



The late Chev. Envin Cremona, one of Malta's well known artist and designer of numerous stamp issues, in 1970 designed a three-value set for Christmas. The 10d + 2d stamp of this set depicts the baroque facade of this church in the background. This set was issued on the 7th November 1970.

stamp terms used in PHILATELY (19)

(Emanuel Vella)

Line Engraving: The early line-engraved stamps by the process invented by Jacob Perkins of the British firm of Perkins, Bacon & Petch consisted of hand engraving with a steel tool known as a burin on softened steel. The “mother” or original die was then hardened, and a softened steel roller passed over it under very great pressure to produce the “matrix” or secondary die. After hardening, this roller was used to produce multiple-impressioned plates from which the actual printing was done - the “tertiary” dies. The final plate bore the design in intaglio (recess). Printing was done by inking the plate, wiping the surplus surface ink, and applying pressure to an imposed sheet of dampened paper, the paper picking out the ink, from the incised design in the plate. Modern recess printing is done from a plate mechanically inked and wiped on specially designed high speed rotary presses.

Line-gap pair: A coloured line between a pair of USA, Canadian or other coils caused by the joint in the printing plate. A variety much sought after by specialists and pre-cancel collectors.

Line Perf: A single row of perforating punches, doing one line of perforations at one stroke. This is sometimes also called guillotine perforations.

Litho, Lithography: Plane surface printing method based upon the antipathy of oil (or grease) and water. A specially prepared limestone or soapstone was formerly

used. Upon this, the design was drawn in reverse direct, with a greasy ink; or transferred thereon by means of special transfers. In printing the stone is kept damp, and only the greasy ink image, with its affinity for the special ink used, transfers the design, the right way round on to the paper. In offset lithography, the image is first picked up by a rubber blanket, which in its turn transfers the design to the paper. In modern photo-lithography, the image is printed photographically on to an etched or grained zinc or aluminium foil or plate, which can then be attached to the cylinder of a rotary press. It will be seen therefore that the process is radically different from the recess (or intaglio) methods, and the relief (or typographic or surface) processes.

Locals: Local stamps are those, whether issued privately or officially, whose postal validity is restricted to a particular district, route or service and are not available for general national or international use. Stamps valid only within the borders of the state of issue (eg Indian native States) are occasionally referred to as locals, but this much wider definition (by which even the halfpenny yellow of Malta and the Penny Black of Britain would be a local stamp) is not generally accepted. Stamps of this kind are better described as internal issues. Locals are not generally catalogued by Gibbons since the turn of the last century, and for many years they were not favoured by collectors. They are, however, an interesting study and in recent years they have enjoyed a revival.

(to be continued)

*Script by Script (19)**(Antoine Vassallo)*

This regular space features stamps without any identifiable name in "latin" script or providing some similar difficulty.

The full name of the area usually called **Kashmir** is actually Jammu & Kashmir. After becoming part of the Mogul empire towards the end of the sixteenth century, it was later included in the Afghan empire and annexed to the Sikh kingdom until it was held as part of British India from 1846. Heavy fighting took place here on the creation of India and Pakistan as separate independent countries. With both claiming jurisdiction, the princely state remains partitioned. Jammu is the name of a city on the Tawi river which acts as the winter capital of the Indian state. The summer capital is Srinagar (also called Kashmir South) on the Jhelum river.

The first stamps for Jammu (which has also been written "Jummoo") appeared in 1866: strange-looking circular designs handstamped (in different "inks" including water colours!) on various types of paper, of which forgeries, reprints and imitations exist.



Concurrently rectangular stamps were also issued, separately for Kashmir and - later - Jammu. The Muslim year digits are interestingly included in the design.

*Kashmir**Jammu**Jammu & Kashmir*

From 1878 until 1894 (when Kashmiri stamps became obsolete) issues for Jammu and Kashmir together were used - again printed on an assortment of papers.

These stamps can well be described as "suitable for adults only": they offer too many complications, besides being rather expensive! I need add only that Officials (in practically identical designs) were printed in black. □

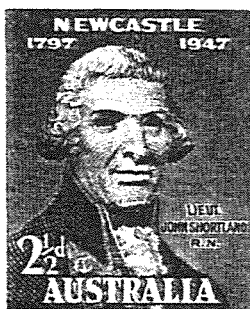
E & O not E (14)

(Antoine Vassallo)

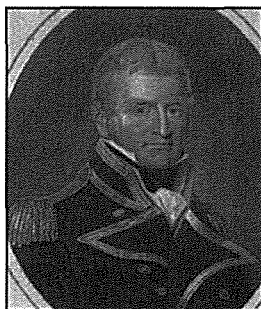
*Glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes
(well-known or obscure)*

In 1947 **Australia** issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the sesquicentenary (150th anniversary) of the New South Wales city of Newcastle. Formerly called King's Town, it stands at the mouth of the Hunter river on the Pacific. Founded at the beginning of the nineteenth century as a penal settlement, it now even boasts of a university. Coal, steel manufacturing, chemicals and shipbuilding are probably its most important economic sectors.

The lowest value (2½d) was supposed to show John Shortland (1769-1810) who had explored its site in 1797 - in fact his name is commemorated in one of its suburbs. Unfortunately - and not for the only time - he was confused with another, less famous, John Shortland: his father, whose portrait is actually depicted on the stamp.



The issued stamp



The “correct” John Shortland

(continued overleaf)

John Shortland snr (1739-1803) has been described as a fine seaman, a capable and experienced officer and an affectionate father. He helped his son secure his appointment as master's mate when the First Fleet sailed for Australia. In 1794 John jnr returned to Australia as first lieutenant with the new governor. On 9th September 1797, while on his way to Port Stephens in pursuit of some runaway convicts, he entered the estuary of the Hunter River. During his brief stay Shortland named the river after the governor (though it remained often referred to as the Coal River), made the first chart of the harbour and collected some samples of coal. In a letter to his father he predicted that his discovery would prove 'a great acquisition to the settlement'.

John Shortland was killed following a naval battle against the French, who actually collected his body. Skilful and devoted to his profession, the unmarried Shortland had also proved a dutiful son, an affectionate brother and a good master. Active, diligent and courageous, his career was an epitome of all the best in the naval officer of the period.

(with acknowledgements to the Australian Dictionary of Biography)

You are all invited to contribute to this, *our* periodical
Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, the language should preferably be English; but a summary could be added to an item in Maltese - In any case the editorial board can translate.
We also welcome letters asking for help regarding stamp identification etc. Anything published will merit a philatelic gift! And Juniors will receive a memento in any case!

MALTA overseas

(Antoine Vassallo)

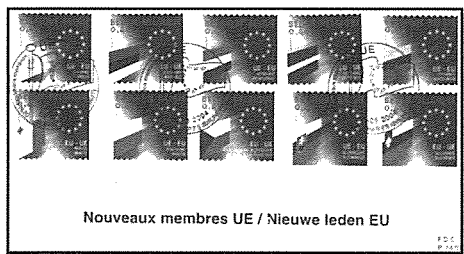
Local connections on foreign stamps

Numerous countries have issued stamps with a direct and clear Maltese theme, whether in design or subject. Depending on available space, we will be presenting examples in no particular order, actually quite haphazardly! Members are invited to send articles or even simply suggest suitable items.

Belgium issued two sets to commemorate the 2004 European Union enlargement. The first was a Miniature Sheet formed of four stamps, two of which (designed by Portuguese Acacio Santos) showed the flags of the ten new members. Malta's is of course included!



The second set (issued some weeks later) consisted of a booklet containing ten self-adhesive 44c stamps peeled directly from the cover. Each showed a different national flag, obviously not excluding ours. The designers were the same Myriam Voz and Thierry Martin who were responsible for the composition of the previous sheet. ☐



STORY OF A STAMP

I am quite a relic. You may also call me a historian and a traveller. I have been licked and glued on paper, squeezed inside a bottle, tossed upon oceans, glared at like some foreign body, squinted at with hope! You may wonder what I am talking about! You see, I am a stamp.

I was bought by a dashing cadet in the British navy from a haberdashery in Australia. He was on his way to the suicidal mission in the Dardanelles in 1915 and, before leaving, he wrote a letter to his young wife and baby son back home in Kent. He had just had a promotion and was eager to spill the beans to his family. Edward, for that was the name of the man who bought me for just 4p, was last to get on the large aircraft carrier and, with me in his inside pocket, we set sail for our doomed fate. My face shone bright and red on the blue letter and I was eager to fulfil my mission and take my news back to England. When we got to the Dardanelles, we were surprised by an air attack from the Turks. Our ship was torpedoed and sank within minutes. I remember Edward quickly taking out the letter and, thrusting it into an old bottle of ale, he tossed me with all his might into the wide, open sea. I had no idea what had become of Edward.

Years passed. The war was fought to a bitter end. The enemy was crushed. Our men got back home, disillusioned but walking six feet tall, pride etched over their faces. I was still safely tucked away at the bottom of the stout bottle which sheltered me from the freezing cold and hungry waves. Another war broke out twenty years later. I still roamed the waters, meeting other bottles who had similar stories to tell.

One unusually fine morning I felt the bottle in which I had nestled all these years being tucked and pulled with relentless might. With a desperate heave, we were plucked out of the water. I found myself being gently extracted from the bottom where I had lain for so many decades. The gently rays of the sun blinded me and I could hardly meet an inquisitive glance strongly levelled at me, so weak did I feel after years enveloped in darkness. I had lost my rosy colour, my edges were frayed, but I still clung with resilience to my blue paper. All at once, I heard a loud shriek and, being closely guarded as for dear life, I felt my carrier tearing his way across what must have been rocks, so bumpy was the ride. Finally, I found myself being caressed by a gentler pair of hands and tears suddenly fell on my face. I gasped for breath for I felt I would choke. Suddenly I felt someone kissing me and crying more tears of longing and quiet despair. I was bewildered. The letter was finally opened. Sarah, for that was the name of the woman who kissed me, started recounting a long story to her son, John, the young man who had collected me accidentally while fishing. This was the letter her husband Edward has sent home before losing his life to the hungry jaws of the ocean.

I was so happy that I had provided the missing link in such a poignant story. I know I had filled an emptiness in this family's heart. I am now framed in a lovely picture and hang proudly over the huge fireplace in the comfortable sitting room. I had come home.

*(Anthony Camilleri Year 6 - Bishop's Conservatory School,
Victoria Gozo)*

What stamps to buy and where to buy them from

(George Vella)

Buying stamps is an integral part of being a stamp collector. Unless you are fabulously wealthy, you will want to find the best deals. Every collector needs to know how to get maximum value for the money available for stamp collecting.

From where and how you should buy stamps depends on the type of collection you are building and how far along you are in the process. A general worldwide collector's needs are quite different from those of a specialist. A novice collector has vastly different needs than someone who has been spending time and money on a collection for years or decades.

Large mixed lots can be of great value for general collectors who are in the early, formative stages of their collecting activity. If you buy by mail rather than by a face-to-face transaction, you need to know for certain the meanings of the terms used to describe the stamps being sold.

Mixture is a general word. Unless it is further described, assume it will include heavy duplication (multiple copies of the same stamp) of worldwide stamps on paper. An on- paper mixture contains clippings from envelopes and packages with the stamps still attached to paper from the envelopes. You have to soak the stamps to remove the backing paper. Off-paper mixtures have had the soaking step completed for you. You will receive loose stamps ready to mount in an album or stock book.

Kiloware refers to stamps sold by weight. A kilogram is about 2.33 pounds. Some U.S. dealers sell kiloware by the pound or fraction thereof. Regardless of which measuring system is

used, kiloware means a stamp mixture that is sold by weight. Buying smaller lots is usually a good way to sample the stock before buying an entire kilo. Two-and-a-third pounds of stamps on paper require a lot of soaking, so start with a small quantity.

The term mission mixture originally means on-paper stamps collected by churches or other charitable organizations and sold in great bulk to dealers to raise money for charity. Such mixtures usually are heavy on definitive (regular-issue) stamps. Today, any on-paper mixture with heavy duplication and a preponderance of definitive stamps is often referred to as a mission mixture, regardless of the method or source of collection.

“Unsorted” means that the mixture is sold just as it was received from the source. The high values, commemoratives or other more desirable stamps have not been reaped from the mixture. It also means that obviously damaged stamps have not been culled out. Mixtures may be offered in single country lots or by region, such as Scandinavia or Africa. It is also possible to buy mixtures that contain only commemoratives. You should expect some duplication in all mixtures.

Packets and collections can offer excellent value for some collectors, but it is wise to read the descriptions to be certain what you are getting. Packets usually contain off-paper stamps. They may be mint, used, cancelled-to-order (stamps cancelled by postal authorities without doing postal service that are sold to dealers at a discount from face value) or a combination of all three. Packets may be sorted by country or region, or offered as a worldwide assortment. They are sold by stamp count rather than by weight and may contain duplicated material unless specifically advertised as all different stamps.

Some dealers refer to their packets as “collections”. Strictly speaking, a collection should be a grouping of stamps organized and formed into some sort of cohesive unit by a collector. Collections may be worldwide, by country or by topic. They may be offered in an album, on pages, in a stockbook or in glassines. It may contain mint stamps, used stamps or a combination including CTO stamps.

Buying a collection in an album or stock book has several distinct advantages. Because it is already organized, you can quickly determine the extent and general condition of the collection. Use some care in this evaluation. The collector who mounted the collection may have misidentified some of the stamps. If there are expensive stamps, make sure they are what they claim to be by checking genuineness, perforations and watermarks before purchasing.

Often such collections are in very serviceable albums or stock books. You may get a nice album with a lot of life left in it that you can use for your own collection or trade or sell to another collector. If you are thinking about beginning a single-country collection, buying another collector’s specialized album is often a smart move. In buying mixtures, collections or packets you will acquire duplicates to trade or sell that will help offset the expense of stamp purchases. □

Please note that membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so that for overseas members is Lm5 (Euro 12) - they can use Money Orders or currency notes.

FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2).

Lm1.00c
E2.33
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:- Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar.

Lm2.00c
E4.66
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work.

Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Card to commemorate the 200th Death Anniversary of Gozitan patriot Archpriest Saverio Cassar.
Limited Edition of 50.

Lm0.50c
E1.16
- Card to commemorate Holy Week Traditional Celebrations.
Limited Edition of 100.

Lm0.50c
E1.16
- Special card issued in collaboration with Xewkija Parish cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the blessing & inauguration of the Rotunda New Bells.
Limited Edition of 600. (very few left)

Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of Comino Tower stamp. Cancelled at Ghajnsielem sub post office with the first day of issue hand stamp
Limited Edition of 75.

Lm0.75c
E1.75
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Chirstmas First Day of Issue hand stamp
Limited Edition of 130.

Lm0.75c
E1.75

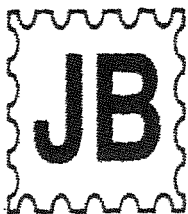


FOR SALE

- Special card issued in collaboration with the Franciscan community of St Anthony's Church, Ghajnsielem, Gozo cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the Centenary of the Blessing of the same church 1906 - 28/10 - 2006.
Lm1.00c
E2.33
Limited Edition of 200. (very few left)
- Special "In Memory" card hand stamped at Gharb Sub Post Office on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist held at Ta' Pinu Shrine, for the repose of the soul and in memory of Mr Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and a sincere friend of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Limited edition of 160.
Lm0.75c
E1.75
- Card in the form of First Day of Issue of the re-printed 1c stamp from the 2004 Definitive Flowers set. This stamp was first issued in Gozo on the 19th October 2006.
Lm0.25c
E0.58
Limited edition of 183.
- Special card issued in collaboration with the Gozo Curia cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the Consecration of Mgr Mario Grech New Bishop of Gozo.
Lm1.00c
E2.33
Limited edition of 1000. (Very few left)
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards.
Lm1.00c
E2.33
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark.
Lm1.00c
E2.33
Limited edition of 75 covers.
- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

Those interested may contact:

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338



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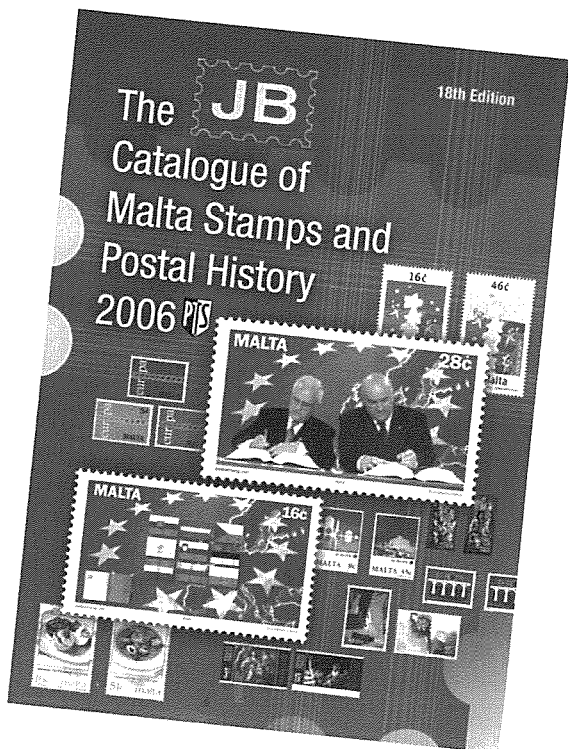
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