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PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

**Newsletter**

**NEWSPAPER POST**



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# GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

.....  
Signature

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**GPS NEWSLETTER**  
**Quarterly Organ**  
**of**  
**THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*First issued on February 12, 2000*

*Editor: Austin Masini*

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

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**GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

***Founded on September 3, 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.*

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## GPS DIARY (42)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- December 5, 2010:** First Sunday monthly Members' meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- December 21, 2010:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for St. George's Altar handstamp.
- January 2, 2011:** First Sunday monthly Members' meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- January 9, 2011:** AGM – with Exhibition prizegiving (see pages from 3 to 6)
- January 15, 2011:** At the first meeting of the new Committee returned from the AGM, posts were agreed: President – Anton Said, Vice President and Treasurer – Dr Michael Refalo M.D., Secretary – Antoine Vassallo, Membership Secretary and PRO – Mary Grace Xerri, Philatelic Productions Manager – Anthony Grech, Librarian – Emmanuel Vella, Website Manager - Lina Gauci, Newsletter Editor – Austin Masini (the Editorial Board also includes Anton Said, Anthony Grech and Antoine Vassallo), Equipment Manager – George Micallef, Chaplain - Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar, Louis Attard; Jesmond Borg, Daniel Calleja, Joyce DeBono, Frankie Vella and Nicholas Zammit are members.
- January 20, 2011:** First meeting of Newsletter Editorial Board to discuss improvements.
- January 25, 2011:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for new metal Victoria handstamp.
- January 29, 2011:** Committee members meet with John Vassallo, on a visit from Australia.
- February 12, 2011:** Definite decision to turn the Newsletter into a full-colour publication.
- February 15, 2011:** The (Australian) Maltese Herald features prominently the Exhibition Prize-giving.

The MALTA STUDY CIRCLE is inviting articles for its periodical "Melita". Anyone having something of interest to say can contact us.

## 11th Annual General Meeting on 09.01.2011

*(Secretary's Report)*

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the 12 months since our last AGM.

At the first Committee meeting following the 10<sup>th</sup> AGM, posts were confirmed: Anton Said (President), Dr Michael Refalo MD (Vice-President and Treasurer), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer), Austin Masini (Newsletter Editor), Emmanuel Vella (Librarian), George Micallef (Equipment Manager), and Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain). The other committee members were Louis Attard, Lina Gauci and Frankie Vella. Seven further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As usual, the 11<sup>th</sup> Exhibition (13-21 November) consumed substantial efforts – another successful edition! Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

Following the solid relationship created with MaltaPost's Philatelic Division last year, they have again supported us. Anthony Grech continued preparing covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose: St Paul, Kercem SPO, Blue Lagoon stamp, Ta' Pinu Golden Rose, *Hbieb tal-Presejju*, the two "Gozitan" Christmas stamps and St George's altar, together with the usual one for our Exhibition. This year, following the 10th anniversary popular experiment, he also designed a further five personalized stamps.

The Website has finally been revamped with Samuel Masini's essential help but it is still not fully updated.

The GPS participated in the *Lejlet Lapsi* events, accepting the Natural History Museum's invitation to set up a thematic

exhibition which was so popular that the period was extended.

The regular Members' Meetings, only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use, continue on the first Sunday of the month.

Contacts with schools have continued and we have again participated in the Don Bosco Summer Club.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter (and the Website should be covering most too). The Newsletter regularly attracts positive comments but junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles.

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. I also mention that various foreign publications featured our society (including the German *Il-Maltija* and the Maltese Herald in Australia). Gratefully, the GPS Exhibition and our other activities received quite a lot of attention locally. Our President was featured in *il-Hajja f'Ghawdex*.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals. We do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan but a sustainably practical system has not yet been identified.

*Antoine Vassallo*



## **11th Annual General Meeting on 09.01.2011**

This year's AGM was held as in previous years, at the Scouts Headquarters on Sunday January 9. A considerable number of members from the Gozo Philatelic Society together with parents were present.

The Society's Secretary Mr Antoine Vassallo gave a thorough account of the society's activities during the outgoing year. This was followed by a detailed financial statement of the society's accounts by the treasurer Dr M Refalo,.

The president of the society then addressed the meeting. He emphasized the need to make use of our website more, now that it has been updated, so that to keep a better contact with our members. He also encouraged the members present to renew the membership and do their best to persuade others to join.

He went on to explain how beneficial the monthly meetings are for those who attend regularly, and we are pleased to note that the attendance is quite encouraging.

Regarding last November's exhibition it was remarked that the judges had brought forward suggestions how the member participants could improve the presentation of their exhibits, although he added, that improvement in this regard is quite evident each year. In fact it was decided that a number of entries (from the junior section) are to be given coverage in our quarterly magazine, presuming that this would be the first contribution towards the participation by our young members in preparing articles in our periodical.

The president then appealed for new faces to come forward to be members on the new committee. This appeal did not fall on deaf ears, in fact three new members joined.

Suggestions from the floor how to make a better use of our website were noted.

The president then thanked the members of the outgoing committee for their sterling work in their various sections and to all those who contributed towards the society's success, including the sponsors.

The prize giving ceremony was the last item on the agenda. Apart from the usual prizes distributed to all participants, there were also trophies for the first three places in the Junior Section, and the usual BOV trophy for the best item on show.

*Anton Said - President*

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## TREASURER REPORT

During the Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer Dr Michael Refalo informed those present that a positive surplus of **€471.76** resulted from the various transactions during the year. Thus the balance of **€1763.23** on 10/1/2010 became **€2234.99** by the end of the year.



Leslie Sutton U.K. member *writes about*.....

## Maltese Postal History - 1st Malta Stamp

December 1, 2010 marked the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the issue of Malta's first postage stamp.

This stamp was used for prepayment of mail charges for both inland and overseas up to January 1, 1885 when a new definitive set was brought into use.

Printed by Messrs De La Rue and Co using a die by J F Joubert De La Ferte in panels of 240, the first printing was of 24000 stamps on unwatermarked paper perforated 14 comb.

The same pattern was used on subsequent printings with variations paper quality and the use of watermarks Crown over block CC 1863 to 1879, Crown over Block CA 1882 to 1884.

When village handstamp cancellations were introduced in Malta in 1886, one of the earliest to be taken into use was Rabato - Gozo, renamed Victoria to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.



## PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

### 1 - airpost

The first official post by **aeroplane** was organised as part of an exhibition in India in February 1911, held in the city of Allahabad. Mail flown on this special, one-off, flight bore a special postmark. Some 5,000 to 6,500 items are said to have been flown including a few large-size specially printed signed postcards.

The exhibition opened on December 1, 1910. It had been agreed early in the planning stage that an aviation meeting should be part of the exhibition, largely with the aim of educating people to this new development in transport. Captain Walter George Windham, R.N. arranged to take six aeroplanes, and two flyers – Henri Péquet and Edward Keith Davies – together with two mechanics, Billon French and Haffkin English. Captain Windham shipped the aeroplanes to Bombay in large crates, and they were then sent on by rail in special trucks to Allahabad.

There were two biplanes and four monoplanes, all made under licence by the Coventry-based motor firm Humber. The aeroplanes were put on view in the sheds to the South of the grandstand, admission charge being one rupee. The flyers were contracted to fly 30 hours each in the three months of the exhibition, spending the time on daily flights, normally starting at 4pm. By January 1911, large crowds gathered each day to watch the flying, and many visitors examined the aeroplanes at close quarters.

The idea for an “airmail” arose informally. The Rev. W.E.S. Holland, Chaplain of the Holy Trinity Church in Allahabad, was also Warden of a hostel for Indian students. He asked Captain Windham if he could help to raise funds for the new hostel which was being built. It occurred to Windham that this could be done by arranging an aerial post. It was also said that another purpose of such a flight would be to demonstrate the possibilities of an aerial service for a beleaguered town. Windham approached the Postmaster General of the United Provinces – Geoffrey Rothe Clarke – and he (with the approval of the Director-General of the Post Office in India) soon gave permission. Arrangements went ahead rapidly. Windham appointed the Chaplain as Postmaster of the mail.

People wishing to have items flown were asked to send them addressed and stamped at the appropriate postage rate, to the Chaplain of the Holy Trinity Church before February 16, 1911. The Post Office wouldn't sanction a charge over and above the normal postage rate, but a nominal sum of six annas (or sixpence) was asked for as a donation to the new church hostel buildings. Only letters or cards under one ounce in weight were accepted. Special rates were available for those wishing to send large consignments of mail, such as clubs and regiments.

A special postmark was authorised. Windham drew an outline representing a bi-plane in flight over the mountains of Asia. The die for this was cast at the postal workshops at Aligarh, and the Postmaster-General announced that it would be destroyed on the day after the carriage of the first aerial mail. The postmark, 4 cm in diameter, was applied in a magenta colour on public mail, but in black on privileged items.

*(To page 22)*

## Where in the World ?! (33)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**Ljubljanska** = German occupation of Slovenia.

**L.Mc.L.** = Trinidad.

**Lombardia-Veneto** = Austrian Italy.

**Long Island:** British issue in 1916 for this Aegean island.

**Lorraine (Lothringen):** German occupation (1940).

**Lourenzo Marques:** town in Portuguese East Africa with stamps 1894-5, now part of Mozambique.

**Lubbenau:** German local town issue 1946.

**Lubeck:** German town with own stamps 1859-68.

**LUXEMBOURG:** Central European duchy with stamps from 1852; German occupation issues 1940-2.

**Lyao-Tung:** This eastern Chinese province had own overprinted stamps 1946-50.

**Lydenburg:** South African town with British occupation surcharged stamps in 1900.

**MACAO (Macau):** Former Portuguese territory in China with stamps from 1884.

**MACEDONIA:** German occupation of this Balkan region (*Makedonya*) 1944 until became part of Yugoslavia; independent from 1991.

**Madagascar:** Island off Africa with stamps from 1889 (also “Madagascar & Dependencies”) – became Malagasy Republic in 1958; British mail 1884-95.

**MADEIRA:** Portuguese Atlantic islands with own stamps 1868-1929 and from 1980.

**Mafeking:** Bechuanaland town with stamps during siege in 1900.

**Mafia:** Island off coast of German East Africa with stamps in 1915 by British forces.

*Magyar* = Hungary.

**Mahra:** Southern Arabian sultanate (now in Yemen) with stamps in 1967.

*Mahrish-Ostrau* = Moravska Ostrava.

**Majunga** Madagascar port with special issue in 1895.

*Makedonya* = Macedonia.

**Malacca** = Melaka.

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***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!)*

*(to be continued)*

## PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY COMINO

(*Antoine Vassallo*)



As one can confirm through the numerous stamps showing maps of the Maltese archipelago (eg the 37c value in the 2010 Occasions set), Comino sits right between the two bigger islands - to the south east of Gozo and the north west of Malta. But in fact it

is administratively part of Gozo, thus presently under the responsibility of Ghajnsielem Local Council. Etymologically its name probably refers to the cumin seed which long flourished there – but its general shape could also have been an influence.

Although *Kemmuna* is described as almost uninhabited, the “permanent” population is increased considerably by the stream of visitors who come to taste its natural beauty. One of the most attractive sites (already included during the Postal Labels “experiment” in 2002) was featured on one of the 19c stamps in the same set mentioned.

The Blue Lagoon on the western side (“*Bejn il-Kmiemen*” – literally “between the Cominos”, due to its location between Comino proper and the adjacent 400-metre islet of Cominotto or *Kemmunett*) offers one of the most spectacular views in the Maltese islands with its clear waters. Frequented by large numbers of tourists and tour boats daily, the Blue Lagoon is a



much-photographed picturesque bay, with a brilliant white, sandy base and a rich marine life that make it popular with divers, snorkelers and swimmers. The Blue Lagoon is also a paradise for sunbathing and relaxing, offering something for everyone, whether an experienced scuba diver (exploring the depths and the underwater caves) or a child (in the safety of warm, shallow waters).

Comino, just some 2km long by 1.7km wide, is obviously ideal for a range of sea sports, including windsurfing. Other beaches on Comino include the sandy beaches of St. Mary Bay (*Ramla ta' Santa Marija*) and St. Nicholas Bay (*Bajja San Niklaw*). The former is located on the North side of Comino and is also popular for picnics and swimming; Santa Marija Cave is a diving attraction too which can also be reached



through a tunnel. San Niklaw Bay, located near the Blue Lagoon, is the access point for the hotel ferry (bungalows above St Mary are also owned by this only establishment – dating from the 1960s - which also has its own small beaches). Divers also recommend the coral

reef near Cominotto.

Hikers (and photography enthusiasts) can find plenty of paths to follow on Comino, around the edge of the island's cliffs and enjoying the views while picking up the scent of wild thyme and other herbs. The best time for a hike is definitely spring time, when everything is in bloom – and without the heat of summer. Comino's granite goes down to a depth of about two hundred and eighty feet; towards the south there is widespread erosion caused by the wind and the incessant pounding of the waves, resulting in large chunks having fallen down into the sea.

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**stamp terms used in PHILATELY (33)**

(Emanuel Vella)

**Ned. Antillea:** Netherland Antillen. These group of islands are listed under Curacao up to 1948.

**Ned. India:** Netherland (or Dutch) East Indies.

**Nederland:** Holland

**Negri Sembilan:** One of the Malajan States, a sultanate, since 1895 incorporating Sungei Ujong. Stamps first issued 1891. From 1900 to 1935 Negri Sembilan used the stamps of Federated Malay States, but since the latter date has again had its own stamps. During the Japanese `occupation, 1942-5, stamps of Negri Sembilan were overprinted by the occupying power.

**Nejd:** Saudi Arabia.

**Netherland New Guinea:** The Western part of the Island of New Guinea, formerly part of the Netherland East Indies which was under Dutch control. In 1960 it was ceded to Indonesia.

**Nevis:** One of the Leeward Islands group in the British West Indies. It had its own stamps from 1861 to 1890, when they were replaced by general issues for the Leeward Island. Earlier from 1858 to 1860, British stamps with the 'A 09' cancellation were used on overseas mail. From 1903 stamps inscribed St Kitts - Nevis were issued for use in both St Christopher and Nevis. Since 1952 stamps inscribed St Christopher,

Nevis and Auguilla have been in use.

**New Brunsurck:** This is an Eastern province of Canada. It began issuing stamps in 1851. Its first diamond-square series of 1860 set contained the famous suppressed portrait of the Hon. Charles Connel (q.v.). In 1868 the stamps of Canada superseded.

**New Caledonia:** This is a South-West Pacific island group, and a French penal settlement (1864–95). Its first issue was 10 centime value bearing the head of Napoleon III and drawn by a Sgt. Trequerat. It was superseded in 1862 by French general colonials which were over printed and surcharged in 1881. Tablet keytypes followed in 1892. First distinctive definitives appeared in 1905.

**New Constitution:** To signify the granting of wider political freedom and responsibilities, various British Colonies have been so inscribed or overprinted. e.g. Jamaica 1945-6, Domenica, Malta, etc.

**Newfoundland:** British Island Dominion off the eastern coast of Canada and including Labrador on the mainland in its administration. Its first set was issued in 1857 and contains some of the rarer classics. Since March 30, 1949 it has been using the stamps of Canada. Newfoundland is known as the land of Fogs, Dogs and Cod.

**New Granada:** (South America) Former name of the country now known as Colombia. The 1861 issue was inscribed *Estados Unidos de Nueva Granada*.

*(to be continued)*

## MALTA OVERSEAS

### *local connections on foreign stamps (10)*

Last year saw another MaltaPost joint issue; February 19 was **Gibraltar**'s turn. Both territories produced a miniature sheet (printed by Printex) with a block of four stamps (designed by Stephen Perera and John Batchelor) showing two scenes from each, the subject being the "100-ton guns". These RML 17.72 inch rifled muzzle-loading guns (made by Elswick Ordnance Company in the United Kingdom) were mounted on two battleships, and also in fortifications at Gibraltar and Malta.

The rapid progress of gun technology around 1870 in French and other European industries led the Royal Navy to ask for an 80-ton gun – Armstrong (the main British artillery producer) began a project for an even larger weapon, proposed to but rejected by the RN because it was considered too heavy and costly. So Armstrong sold to Italy which, on reunification, had begun an innovative programme to field the best battleships.

This shocked the British authorities who had the Malta naval base to defend, probably their most important in the Mediterranean; they feared these ships would reach the Grand Harbour and destroy Malta's fortresses. Even though Italian politicians and ministers were describing the island as *Italia irredenta* ("unredeemed Italy"), it seems the London bureaucracy had not thought of forbidding this contract; it was finally decided to buy the same weapons for installation here: a land fortress generally has an advantage compared to a ship with the same calibre guns. Four guns were requested in March 1878 and construction started in August; when Gibraltar commanders heard, they asked for some and two of them were delivered there instead.

These new artillery pieces were enormous weapons for their time, even though the barrel was quite short. They were muzzle-loading guns, with rifled tube and rigid mount. The gun was 9.953 m long.

Its maximum diameter was 1.996 m, but it reduced to 735 mm at the muzzle. The construction method of an inner steel tube surrounded by multiple wrought iron coils was very complex, with several structures containing one another. The internal barrel was 20.5 calibre.

Firing was mechanical or electrical, with an optical system for aiming. Projectiles were of three types, all weighing 2,000 pounds: armour-piercing, high-explosive or shrapnel-shell. They could be fired only once every four minutes. The weight of the mount was: 103,888 kg (gun), 20,680 kg (mobile mounts with 18 wheels), 24,118 kg (platform) and 2,032 kg (base). The platform was sloped at 4 degrees to slow the recoil. Rotation was obtained with chains powered by hydraulic systems - another hydraulic system was used for elevation. Crew was 35, including 18 for ammunition depots.

HMS Stanley (a special cargo vessel adapted for the task) delivered two guns to Malta, placed at Forts Cambridge and Rinella. Both were mounted by early 1884, but the work to make these machines serviceable was so great that until 1885 there were no firing tests. Between 1887 and 1888 the activity was stopped to rework the hydraulic systems; nevertheless these guns were considered quite reliable, serving for more than 20 years. They were phased out in 1906, having fired their last shots a couple of years before. However these guns were claimed to have been ready for use during the First World War.

The gun at Rinella is still intact: too costly to demolish, it was left as junk until restored to an acceptable condition; a reddish paint was added recently. Fort Rinella (also referred to as Rinella Battery) is under the guardianship of Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna since 1991: a Victorian fortification, it stands above the shore east of the Grand Harbour's mouth within the locality of Kalkara. The fort is modest in size as it was designed to operate and protect the single large gun, associated crew and troop detachment; in fact it has no secondary armament.

After having been used as a film location, Fort Rinella is now a museum open to the public through costumed employees and volunteers; guided tours also include audio-visual presentations and re-enactments. Interestingly, on his 1889 visit, Jules Verne described the whole set-up as a marvel of the industrial age – maybe being reminded of his novel *De la Terre à la Lune* (where a man is fired from a large gun onto the moon).

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

*Antoine Vassallo*

## Gibraltar-Malta Joint Stamp issue 2010



Views of the RML 17.72 inch '100 Tcn' Gun in Gibraltar and Malta from 1880 and 2010

(from page 13)

Especially during the high season, numerous operators provide popular day trips (for both tourists and locals) to



Comino by boat, with various points of operation in both Gozo (Mgarr) and Malta. Boat trips around the caves surrounding the island offer an added opportunity of viewing the dramatic coastal cliffs with the navigable caverns beneath.

The island is known to have been inhabited by farmers during Roman Times; however for long periods since then it has been sparsely populated, often privately owned or even abandoned. Its rugged coastline is delineated by sheer limestone cliffs, and dotted with deep natural caves which were popular with pirates and marauders in the Middle Ages – and thus described as “mysterious” in many literary works. The caves and coves were frequently used as staging posts for raids on hapless boats crossing between Malta and Gozo – the “*fliegu*”.

In the late thirteenth century, this was the home of exiled prophetic cabbalist Abraham Abulafia: here he composed “the Book of the Sign” and “Words of Beauty” (his last work). He probably died here since nothing is known after about this important person who inspired much artistic and literary output (including one of Umberto Eco’s novels). According to Maltese folklore, the mystical hermit Kerrew (Saint Corrado) would occasionally cross from Malta and (later) Gozo on his cloak to discuss with him.

The “Knights of Malta” used this island for recreational purposes, mostly hunting. They were fiercely protective of the local game, which consisted of wild boar and hares (*fenek tal-grixti*): unbelievably, convicted poachers were liable to a penalty of three years as a galley slave. Comino also had an alternative use: a place of imprisonment or exile for errant knights. Additionally the early 17<sup>th</sup> century tower provided a

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## MALTA PASSPORT STAMPS

*(Hadrian Wood)*

A series of passport stamps in dark green with large values in black, printed on Multiple Script CA watermark paper, was first issued in 1933. They were to be affixed to passports as a receipt for the amount of fee paid to the Government for procuring such a document. These stamps replaced postage and/or revenue stamps which were being used for the same purpose.

The first issue comprised five values – 6d, 2/-, 3/- and 15/-



Three more stamps with values of 2/6, 7/6 and £1 were added to the series in 1952 and a final one, again of similar colour and design, was issued in the 1960s with a value of 30/-.



All stamps from this series were withdrawn in 1969 and replaced by two stamps in new colours with values of 20/- (orange and black) and 30/- (red and black). The new stamps, printed on Maltese Cross watermark paper, were also of a slightly different design to their predecessors; having the FEE PAID removed from under MALTA and replacing the word PASSPORT at the bottom.



The 20/- value appears to have only been used for the issue and renewal of passports to Maltese citizens living abroad, whereas the 30/- stamp has been seen on passports issued locally as well as those issued from the Maltese High Commissioner at Malta House in London.

Passport stamps were withdrawn from use at the close of business on May 15, 1972, the eve of Malta's change over to decimal currency, having become invalid after that date.

No passport stamps are known to have been issued in decimal currency, the most likely reason being that the affixing of stamps to passports as an indication of the amount of fee paid was no longer considered a requirement.

(from page 9)

The Committee responsible for the event announced in The Pioneer Mail and Indian Weekly News on February 17 that special postcards would be available bearing a picture of the biplane in which the mail would be carried. These cards, signed by Péquet, were cancelled with the special aerial postmark. The cost was one rupee and for this, the Chaplain sent a card to any address. A mere 40 to 50 of the cards were flown on the day.



The day before the flight a staff of four people from the Postal Department were continuously engaged at the hostel, which had been turned into a small post office, for the work of sorting. The mail flight was originally fixed for Monday



February 20, taking off at 4.30pm. In the event Péquet flew it on Saturday February 18, 1911. The take-off was watched by Sir John Hewett and Lady Hewitt, together with government staff and a huge crowd. The Humber biplane took off shortly after 5.30pm from the aviation ground, circled around twice and then flew across the River Jumna, South to Naini Junction, about two miles away, at a height of 130 feet. Its speed was about 40mph in the air and about 30mph when landing. Maini had been chosen as the place to

receive the mail as it was the nearest point on the main railway line from Calcutta to Bombay. A site enabling the plane to descend and take-off safely had been cleared at Naini by convicts from the nearby Central Jail. When Péquet descended after a flight of about 13 minutes, there were no crowds to meet him – in contrast to his departure from Allahabad – there was only one postal official there to whom he handed his bag before returning to Allahabad. The round trip lasted 27 minutes.

The Holy Trinity Church at Allahabad proposed to call the new hostel The Windham Hostel, but Captain Windham thought the name The Oxford and Cambridge Hostel was better, and this was adopted.

(from page 19)

certain security which encouraged agricultural use. The British also found it ideal as a prison for some time during the nineteenth century and thus *Kemmuna* was actually made out of bounds for all civilians - with sailors ordered to give the island a wide berth or face the consequences, including confiscation of the vessel.



A big proportion of the island is covered with garrigue (discontinuous bushy associations and soft-leaved scrubland quite typical around the Mediterranean). Luckily, this tranquil third member of the archipelago can still be described as substantially undisturbed: noises are very contained and traffic problems non-existent! Today, Comino is a bird sanctuary and nature reserve; it is very interesting for its rich flora and fauna - especially migratory birds. Bird hunting and trapping are prohibited all year round but ringing projects are held there regularly (with an annual average of well over two thousand birds ringed and released.

A police station is located between the holiday bungalows and the chapel, manned by an officer who commutes from Gozo to render services to residents, employees and visitors. The public showers and convenience are housed in what was a Marine Police Station erected in 1852 on the lagoon's vantage point to be on the lookout for smuggling and contraband activities, irregular fishing and the arrival of foreign vessels without health clearance.

Besides adding that the policeman on duty (from the Mgarr station) was responsible for distribution of letters, I finally note that Comino is a popular location for filmmakers; it is enough to mention just three recent movies *Troy*, *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Swept Away*. But it does merit further coverage in this series!

## FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2).  
Limited Edition of 500 cards. € 2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar.  
Limited Edition of 100 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 4.50
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Limited edition of 200 cards. € 2.50
- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp  
Limited Edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Special card issued on the occasion of the TOY STAMP issue. Cancelled on the first day of issue at Xaghra Post Office featuring the “POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS” found in Xaghra Gozo.  
Limited Edition of 75 cards. € 1.75
- 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 cards. € 1.75
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the re-printed 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006).  
Limited edition of 160 cards. € 0.50
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O.  
Limited edition of 75 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 2.50

## FOR SALE

- Cover issued on the occasion of the 2005 Christmas set stamp issue with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited Edition of 130 covers. € 2.50
- 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. € 2.50
- 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. Limited edition of 75 covers. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the GPS 8th Annual Exh. 2007 and the launching of the GPS website. Limited edition of 100 cards. € 1.50
- Set of two cards with first day of operation hand-stamp of the new Post Offices at Xlendi and St Lawrence. Limited edition of 75 cards each. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the 125 Anniv from the Call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni Grima and Frangisk Portelli. Each card is cancelled with a special handstamp issued by MaltaPost and stamped at the National shrine on Sunday 22 June 2008. The card has an embossed metal image of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Limited edition of 1000. **(Only 10 left)**. € 3.00
- Card commemorating 5th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition and 5th Anniversary of the GPS. Limited edition of 400 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Set of 2 registered covers commemorating Karolina Cauchi and Patri Manwel Magri (Gozo Benefactors). Limited edition of 30 covers. **(Less than 5 left)**. € 5.00
- Card commemorating the 9th GPC Exhibition. Limited edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Card commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Association. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.00

***NB: Each Card or Cover is individually numbered.***

- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

*Those interested may contact:*  
Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338



## **The Island of Comino (*see page 12*)**

### **Members' Meetings**

are held regularly on the **1st Sunday** of each month.

The next meeting will be held on

**April 3** followed by the one on **May 7**.

from 9.00am to 11 .00am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).

exchange, purchase, information about the hobby etc.

Entrance Free!

We will stop for the summer months

and will resume these meetings on

**September 4, October 2, November 6 and December 4**

*All Juniors will receive a gift of free stamps*

- Please note that members can contact the Secretary for free temporary loan of various philatelic publications - a list will be shown in a future issue.
- 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!



**The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps  
and Postal History**

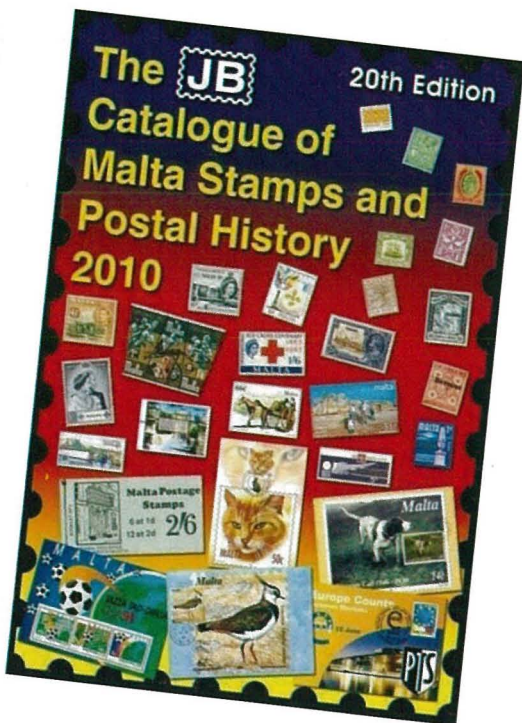
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