



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

# The Melite Post

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Il-gazzetta ufficjali ta'

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

# L-Arti u l-Filatelija

minn **Sean Chircop**

Hekk kif għadha kemm għaddiet il-festa ta' Santa Katarina ta' Lixandra, il-patrona taż-Żejtun, nistgħu ngħidu li dhalna fl-istaġun tal-festi. Il-festi Maltin huma wirt intanġibbli prezzjuż fejn għalkemm id-dinja għaddejja minn progress kbir, xorta dawn it-tradizzjonijiet u l-użanzi antiki fl-irhula tagħna għadhom qed jissafju u jissodaw. Fil-festa kull belt u raħal jilbes il-lisba rikka bl-armor ta' barra u ta' ġewwa l-knisja. Armor u arti li warajhom hemm numru ta' artisti kbar u storja rikka ta' mijiet u għexieren ta' snin. Ħafna drabi matul is-sena n-nies ma tantx jagħtu importanza l-arti li għandhom fil-knisja, iżda meta fil-festa l-knejjes jiżzejnu bħala mużew mimlija dehbi, fided u kristalli n-nies jitpaxxew aktar bl-arti li bih hi mzejna l-knisja ta' belthom jew raħalhom.

Ħafna mill-isbaħ artifatti imprezzabli ta' Malta jkunu moħbija f'xi mużew jew f'xi kappella li ma tantx tinfetaħ għall-pubbliku. Jekk mhux ukoll in-numru kbir ta' kollezzjonijiet privati li nsibu fid-djar magħluqin minn għajnejn il-pubbliku. Iżda l-bolla kienet mezz biex dawn l-artifatti jkunu jistgħu jitgawdew mill-pubbliku. Fejn l-arti qed tinfetaħ għall-Maltin u l-barranin li tiġi f'idejhom bolla Maltija. B'hekk il-bolla tista' sservi bħala reklam tal-wirt rikki li għandna madwarna. Ħasra li illum il-ġurnata fil-maġġoranza ta' ittri u pakketti li jaslulna fil-kaxxa tal-ittri kull ma jkun hemm timbru jew *barcode*. Hemm bżonn li l-bolla terġa' tiegħu spinta u anki dak li jidher fil-bolla, biex il-filatelija tkompli tkattar u tgħallim dwar l-istorja, it-tradizzjonijiet, il-valuri u l-arti li għandna f'pajjiżna.

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun meta kien wasal iż-żmien tal-1700 sena ċentinarju mill-martirju ta' Santa Katarina kien strumentali biex ifakkar din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni għall-ammiraturi ta' Santa Katarina permezz ta' xogħol filateliku. Infatti fl-2005 il-Posta ħarġet sett ta' 4 bolol u kartolini biex ifakkar dan l-anniversarju għal qalb iż-Żwieten u ż-Żrieraq permezz ta' pitturi li nsibu fiż-żewġ parroċċi. L-istess seħħ fl-2003 biex jifakkar l-1700 sena ċentinarju tal-martirju ta' San Ġorġ, inħareġ sett ta' 5 bolol permezz ta' pitturi li nsibu fil-knejjes varji, fosthom ta' Ħal Qormi u r-Rabat, Għawdex.

Uħud mill-isbaħ bolol li personalment nara infatti huma l-bolol li juri l-arti li għandna mdawwra mal-gzejjer Maltin. Fejn il-filatelija qed tilhaq anki lil dawk in-nies li mhumiex mgħarrfa dwar il-filatelija, biex huma wkoll jixru u jgħemmgħu l-bolla. L-aktar li tispikka l-pitturi fil-bolol Maltin hi fi żmien il-Milied.

Hekk kif bħalissa qed noqorbu lejn l-2018 meta l-Belt Valletta se tkun il-Belt Kapitali Ewropea tal-Kultura fl-istorja tal-bolol Maltin naraw diversi bolol li juru aspetti differenti mir-rikezza kulturali u artistika li nsibu fil-knejjes, bereġ, palazzi u ġonna li jsebbħu l-belt kapitali ta' pajjiżna. Infatti fil-wirja filatelika annwali ta' din is-sena se nkunu qed niffukkaw fuq il-wirt tal-Belt Valletta li jidher fuq il-bolol.

Din tista' tkun xrara biex it-tfal u ż-żgħażaġħ jerġgħu jibdew jagħtu kas u japprezzaw il-filatelija. Fejn fl-istudju tal-istorja tuża l-bolol, sors sekondarju li jistgħu jmissu b'idejhom, biex jaraw u jitgħallmu dwar dan li għandna madwarna. Infatti fil-bolol personalizzati li noħorġu bħala grupp filateliku kemm-il darba ppruvajna nużaw l-arti biex inwasslu l-messaġġ tal-bolla, pereżempju l-bolol tal-Aħħar Ħbit tal-1614 u tal-400 sena Matrici.

# British Monarchs on Maltese Stamps

by Carmel Bonnici

*(... continues from the 2nd edition, March 2017)*

## King George V (1914 - 1936)

### The 1935 Silver Jubilee

In 1935 His Majesty the King approved an issue of special postage stamps throughout the Colonial Empire to commemorate the Silver Jubilee, single design. Malta issued a set of four stamps on 6th May 1935.



## King George VI (1937-1952)

### King George's Coronation, 1937

On 12th May 1937 the Malta Post Office issued three stamps to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI. The stamps had a common design of De La Rue.



### King George VI Definitives 1938

These stamps were designed by Waterlow & Sons, using medallion portrait of King George VI by Bertram Park. The issue date was 17th February 1938 on the 25th November 1948 the stamps were overprinted "Self-Government 1947" after Malta achieved the New Constitution.



*(continues on page 5 ...)*

## Memorji

# Żjara fil-Malta Postal Museum

Il-membri tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, is-Sibt 29 ta' April, 2017 żaru l-Malta Postal Museum li jinsab fi Triq l-Arcisqof, il-Belt Valletta. Dan il-mużew immexxi mill-MaltaPost plc., li fetaħ fl-2016 jagħti ħarsa lejn l-istorja postali ta' Malta li tmur lura għas-seklu 16. Il-membri li żaru dan il-mużew setgħu japprezzaw il-kollezzjoni tal-bolol kollha li ħarġu f'Malta sa mill-ewwel bolla l-One Half Penny tal-1860 sa bolol aktar riċenti. Barra minn hekk, setgħu jaraw kif kienet tkun armata fergħa postali f'Malta, bil-bank tradizzjonali u l-oġġetti relatati mal-filatelija. Dawn qajmu diversi nostalgija fost il-membri tagħna. Grazzi għas-Sur Samuel Parnis tal-informazzjoni dettaljata li tana dwar l-asperti varji li nsibu f'dan il-mużew il-membri setgħu jifhmu aktar fid-dettal dak li kienu qed jaraw. Fost l-oħrajn rajna wkoll wirja tal-pitturi originali tal-bolol kollha li ġew ddisinjati minn Evin Cremona. F'dan il-mużew kien hemm informazzjoni oħra interessanti eżempju dwar l-istorja postali fi żmien il-pesta u oħrajn. Waħda mill-oġġetti li qajmet interess kienet il-kaxxa postali ta' Kemmuna.



(... continues from page 3)

### Victory Commemoration 1946

Two stamps were issued on 3rd December to commemorate the Allies Victory in World War II. The stamps had a common design showing the House of Parliament in London with the King's portrait in around frame. The stamps were designed by De La Rue using the photography of King George VI by Dorothy Wilding.



### Royal Silver Wedding 1949

On 4th January 1949 the Malta Post Office issued two stamps, with values of 1d and £1 commemorating the Silver Wedding of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The stamps, designed by Bradbury Wilkinson, adapting a photograph by Dorothy Wilding.



### Princess Elizabeth to Malta

It was commemorated with three stamps of the same design of Princess Elizabeth the older daughter and heir to the the throne. The stamps were designed by Drabury, Wilkinson & Co.



### Queen Elizabeth II (1953 - 1964)

Malta Post Office on 3rd June 1953 issued a stamp to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen after the death of her father King George VI.



### Royal Vist 1954

In 1954 Queen Elizabeth visited Malta and one stamp was issued for this occasion on 3rd May. Showing the St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta with a portrait of the Queen.



(continues and concluded in the 4th issue, September 2017 ...)

# In the beginning ...

by **Nick A. Cutajar**

I wonder how many of us, stamp collectors, philatelists or hoarders remember how they started collecting stamps. Do you remember the first stamp you had, whether it was given to you or found or attached to an envelope and kept it. I clearly remember my first set of stamps My father used to play the high horn for many (if not most of) the band clubs on the Island. Our mail then consisted mostly of a half foolscap in threefold, a farthing stamp sealing the overlaps on the sides. As the eldest I had the honour, or chore, of collecting the missive from the postman.

I was used to stamps as I used to answer the door for the postman during the summer term when school finished at noon and during holidays. So my first stamp was the farthing definitive stamp and later the half-penny orange stamp of Q.E, definitive set of 1956. When dad was finished with the notice, I would cut the stamps and wash them as one my teachers told me to do, drying them on the small blotting papers we used to buy for use at school.



But it was Monday, in 1957 halfway through April that I first ventured into philately. My father returned from work. He used to work as a civilian with the RAF base at Safi. After dinner, he asked mum whether I behaved during the day. She answered "Yes but he has not yet finished all his homework". I immediately defended myself claiming I had finished half of it and will finish it after the meal. In the meantime my 3 other brothers left the dinner table. My father went to the dresser and from on top brought down an envelope and gave it to me. He said: "They put this out today and a friend bought me one for you".

It was a first day cover of the first George Cross commemorative stamp issue. I was immediately struck by the design. It was so out of this world; nothing that I had ever seen in terms of a picture on a stamp. Suddenly stamps took a new meaning to me; they were not the drab monochrome pictures I was used to. The silver printing was fascinating me. How could a stamp have silver on it! Must be expensive!



My father bought me the subsequent four George Cross anniversary issues, which I kept and still have. By then I was half way through high school and concentrated in my studies of 10 plus subjects. I had little time for stamps with my studies and quite a few years more I simply hoarded any stamp that came by or purchased by saving a little of my pocket money to buy my own first day cover, unless it was too expensive, in which case, I'd mention it to my father who would help out, as fathers do.

My first club was the Hobbies Society, whose president was Mr. Pisani, of the Electrical Store in the High Street, Hamrun opposite the Parish Church. His shop was next to the auditorium San Remo and for a while he made arrangements for us to meet there on monthly on Sunday mornings.

## Personal Information

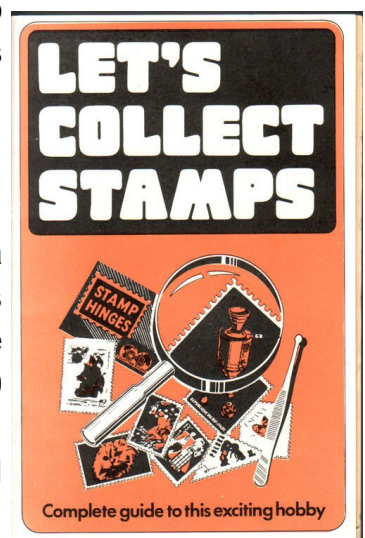
This enabled the society to hold annual Hobbies Exhibitions making use of the spacious hall. Eventually the 'club' moved to a tiny abode behind the church of three tiny little rooms. By then I was their editor and produced a little booklet four times a year. Stamp collectors made up just over 35% of the membership but all enjoyed the company of each other and helped each other out with each others' collecting interests. At the time I was also a member of Cactus and Succulents Society which in the first floor small hall of Vilhena Band Club at Floriana; I resigned when I then joined the Philatelic Society of Malta as it was then known.

So a childhood interest in stamps saw me maintaining interest into my adulthood and developing a real interest not only stamps, but also in their design, their designers and other countries that issued stamps. Suddenly, soon after I had some income from my work, I started venturing in the stamps of a few countries. I had bought a couple of small stamp albums and tried to build up my collection by asking friends to keep the stamps for me and gradually I amassed quite a good holding of stamps from many countries, mostly from Europe, the USA and Australia.

At this point I noticed that there was not much happening in Malta and Gozo with regards to the promotion of stamp collecting (let alone philately, which is different from stamp collecting). The established philatelic services offered little if any help to young stamp collectors starting into the hobby, while newspapers hardly made mention of stamps, except reproducing the text of a press release from the G.P.O. A casual meeting with Victor Aquilina, Head of Programmes, Rediffusion (wow that world sounds so old!) resulted in trial of the first ever radio programme completely for stamp collectors. At the time, not many people within the management knew what a great initiative it was. To start, no other radio or rediffusion station anywhere in Europe have ever had such a programme. Secondly, this was not a one-off or a short series. I emphasised with Mr. Aquilina, that this must be on-going. I remember he asked me "But for how long" and I replied " I tell you when I had enough". He stared at me and after a pause he replied " I'll give it go" and we shook hands.

So my next phase in the promotion of philately started. I had many concerns about the hobby especially during my time as a member of the Hobbies Society and later in the Philatelic Society of Malta. Young members were very few if any. I could understand the absence of young primary and high school students. In those early 70's years, young children and teenagers did travel much by bus, unless accompanied by adults. So the alternative young people getting to clubs was for philately to reach them through the cable radio which was popular and infiltrated every level Maltese society.

Following an audition or two at the Rediffusion, the program went on air, well through the copper wire on a fortnightly basis. Within a few months I received good reports about the number of listeners. Somehow they had a way to gauge the number of people tuned in at any one time. Contact was made with "The British Stamp Promotion Council" who had purchased the rights to a little booklet "Let's Collect Stamps". The first consignment of 250 copies was distributed within a week from the Guardamangia Head Office. Subsequent request for more copies totalled another 1000 copies, which all went within 6 weeks of the announcement.



## *Iż-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol ...*



Il-Maltapost fit-8 ta' Ġunju, 2005 ħarġet sett ta' erba' bolol biex ifakkar iċ-ċentinarju tal-1700 sena mill-martirju ta' Santa Katarina. Il-bolol juru pitturi li jinsabu fil-parroċċi taż-Żejtun u ż-Żurrieq.

Il-bolla ta' 28ċ, fuq disinn taż-Żejtuni Francis X. Ancilleri kienet turi l-Qtuġħ ir-Ras ta' Santa Katarina, xogħol artistiku ta' Cassarino li tinsab fil-mużew Parrokkjali taż-Żejtun.

Parti minn din l-istess pittura nħarġet bolla personalizzata mill-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun biex tfakkar tal-400 sena anniversarju mill-Aħħar Ħbit tat-Torok tal-1614. Hekk kif turi l-mappa tal-ħbit.

## *Id-Disinjatur tal-Bolol ...*

### **Frank Ancilleri**

L-artist Frank Ancilleri twieled Bormla fl-1952. Frank wera l-interess tiegħu fl-arti u d-disinn minn meta kien għadhu żgħir u beda jispeċjalizza fl-arti fl-età ta' 17-il sena. Nistgħu nqisuh bħala artist grafikali bi professjoni, fejn ħadem għal numru ta' snin ma' diversi studji lokali tad-disinn sa kemm stabbilixxa l-istudju tiegħu nnifsu.

Frank Ancilleri hu artist magħruf fid-disinn tal-bolla postali. Hu rebaħ diversi kompetizzjonijiet tad-disinn tal-bolla u ddisinja 'l fuq minn 15-il sett tal-bolol għal MaltaPost. Is-suġġetti favoriti għal Frank fil-pittura huma l-paesagġ Malti u x-xeni arkitettoniċi lokali, fejn biex ipitter juża ż-żejt u l-akriliku. Ħa sehem f'diversi wirjiet tal-arti u l-pitturi tiegħu jinsabu f'kollezzjonijiet privati Malta u anki barra minn xtutna.

Is-Sur Ancilleri l-aktar li ddisinja bolol mill-1994 sal-2008. Xi drabi kien ukoll il-mistieden speċjali tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun. Uħud mis-settijiet li ddisinja nsibu tal-kommodazzjonijiet 1994 u tat-Tazza tad-Dinja 1994, anniversarji 1995, teżori ta' Malta 1995 u 1998, Europa 1998, Malta fis-Seklu 20, Karnival 2001, u ta' Santa Katarina fl-2005.





# The Farnese Dynasty

by **Mario Casingena**

The regular monthly meeting of Tuesday 28 March 2017 was extremely interesting as presented no other than the learned Dr Alfred Bonnici. The topic was the Farnese, Dr Bonnici explained that the Farnese were more known as warriors then and God acts in strange ways to reach an end. Alessandro Farnese lived a dissolute life, with a mistress (Silvia Ruffini) fathered three sons and two daughters. Alessandro was trained as an apostolic notary, joined the Roman Curia in 1491 and two years later Pope Alexander VI appointed him Cardinal - deacon of Santi Cosma e Damiano. Farnese's sister, Giulia was reputedly a mistress of Alexander VI. Giulia was called "the Bride of Christ" while Alessandro as the "Borgia brother-in-law". Pope Clement VII elected Alessandro Cardinal Bishop of Ostia and dean of the College of Cardinals. On the death of Clement VII in 1534, Alessandro was elected as Pope Paul III. The new Pope sought to further the interests of the Farnese family and thus his son Pier Luigi Farnese he created as Duke of Parma, Piacenza and Castro, and the other son Ranuccio Farnese he elected as Cardinal. Pope Paul III became the first Pope to take active measures in reply to Protestantism.



## **Protestantism basically embraced:**

Henry VIII King of England from 21 April 1509 till his death on 28 January 1549. Henry VIII disagreement with the Pope on the issue for the annulment of his first marriage, initiated the English Reformation. Ironically, earlier in 1521 Henry VIII publication on the "Defence of the Seven Sacraments" earned him the title of "Defender of Faith".

Martin Luther 1483-1546, rejected several teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Questioned the view on indulgences, that freedom from God's punishment for sin could be purchased with money.

John Calvin 1509-1564, French theologian, pastor and reformer during the Protestant Reformation.

Pope Paul III convoked the Council of Trent, and he presided over the first eight sessions. The Council issued condemnations of what it defined to be heresies of the Protestantism. Key statements and clarifications of the Church's doctrine and teachings. Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish priest formed the Society of Jesus which in 1540 was approved by Pope Paul III. The Pope's grandson Alessandro Farnese was also elected Cardinal, and he was also a diplomat. Cardinal Alessandro Farnese held key positions within the Church and was a great collector and patron of the arts.

*(... continues on page 10)*

Further to this was mentioned the case of the Grandmaster La Cassiere and Romegas. Whereby much resentment had built within the General Covent against Jean de la Cassiere over a number of humiliations suffered by the Order. In 1581 this led to a mutiny and La Cassiere was placed in confinement in Fort St Angelo. Romegas was made a de facto Grandmaster. The Pope sent a special envoy, Gaspare Visconti, to investigate and administer the Order until the dispute was settled. La Cassiere and Romegas were both summoned to Rome to explain their conduct. La Cassiere arrived on 26 October 1581 and, on orders of Pope Gregory XIII, was treated with much ceremony. While Romegas was treated with extreme coldness. Romegas died on 4 November 1581. La Cassiere was acquitted of all charges brought against him and restored to the post of Grandmaster, he died in Rome on 21 December 1581.

This was the background to which Dr Bonnici presented a number of original letters written, or rather dictated and signed by a number of Grandmasters and others to the Pope.

Therefore, when it comes to postal history material, it is of equal importance delving in the understanding of what was happening at that particular age when any letter had been written as a better understanding the contents of the letter in question.

## Mourning Covers

by **Tony Sant**

Mourning covers may be defined as black-edged envelopes used in many countries all over the world including Malta during the 19th and early 20th centuries as harbingers of death and messengers of grief. However the first proven mourning was made in 1767 and there are still occasionally used in few countries, notably Austria and Germany.

These covers/envelopes did not come in common usage for mourning until the mid-1840, after the invention of the folding machines. Many mourning covers were used to mail death and/or funerals notice, but most commonly they were used to send a black-edged card or letter to extend sympathy or to express appreciation for the condolences received. These are similar to the cards or folders that now are routinely provided by funeral homes and mailed by the deceased's family.

Even more common was the used of mourning covers for social correspondence, especially by widows.



# George Cross - 75th Anniversary

by **Mario Casingena**

The George Cross was introduced and designed by King George VI on 24 September 1940. This is the civilian equivalent to the military Victoria Cross; although the George Cross could be equally awarded to the military for courageous acts. The King stated, "In order that they should be worthily and promptly recognised, I have decided to create, at once, a new mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life. I propose to give my name to this new distinction, which will consist of the George Cross, which will rank next to the Victoria Cross, and the George Medal (a second level recognition) for wider distribution." Thus this replaced the Empire Gallantry Medal.

An elegant neat occasional stamp issue, a complementary colour shade background to enhance the anniversary theme. I would however have removed the th of the 75, which in itself is that outdated proper British presentation and either settled to just 75 or entered the mentioned anniversary in roman numbering ie LXXV or lxxv. The outer margins look perfectly equal. The four inner corners have engraved VI, this particularly refers to King George VI. The George Cross was awarded to the Island of Malta, in a letter dated 15 April 1942 by King George VI to the Governor Sir William Dobbie - "To honour her brave people, I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history."

The George Cross Award has been the theme on the following stamp issues in particular: 1957 xv Anniversary by Chev E Cremona, 1958 xvi Anniversary by Chev E Cremona, 1959 xvii Anniversary by Chev E Cremona, (here it seems that it was intended to be an annual anniversary issue), 1961 xix Anniversary by Chev E Cremona, 1967 xxv Anniversary by Chev E Cremona, 1992 World War II Commemorations by Harry Borg, 2005 Battle of Malta by Richard J Caruana, and 2009 Definitive issue €0.68 stamp by Edward Pirota and Paul Psaila.

Maltapost had then found it more fitting to celebrate the 70 to the 75 anniversary, by an expensive miniature sheet? When otherwise it would have been a more appropriate reversed situation, to playing loosely with history after a lapse of 75 year anniversary in 2017. 2012 70 Anniversary by MaltaPost in house design.

2017 75 Anniversary a likely in house design closely replicating the 2012 FDC miniature stamp from a closer photo shot. However the eight pointed cross is only sported twice on the cancellation rubber stamp within the broken outer circle. What is unique, is that such issues are only available from the bureau, and it is useless asking the local post office personnel for they are not informed of such issues or rather are disinterested regrettably.





L-ewwel wirja tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun li saret waqt Żejt iż-Żejtun fiċ-Ċentru Arti u Artigjanat. Settembru 2013.

## IL-WIRJA ANNWALI

MILL-GRUPP FILATELIKU TAŻ-ŻEJTUN



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun



Ftuh tal-Wirja:

Il-Ħamis, 21 ta' Settembru, 2017  
tibqa' miftuħa  
sal-Ħadd 24 ta' Settembru

**MIFTUĦA WAQT ŻEJT IŻ-ŻEJTUN**

**ABBONA**

ma'

**The Melite Post**

Isem: \_\_\_\_\_

Indirizz: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel./Mob.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Din il-ħarġa toħroġ 4 darbiet fis-sena. Il-ħarġa li jmiss se toħroġ lejn l-aħħar ta' Settembru 2017. Din il-ħarġa hi b'xejn għall-membri kollha tal-għaqda, iżda dawk li mhux membri jridu jħallsu €0.50ċ.

*The Melite Post*, hi l-gazzetta uffiċjali tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, Dar iż-Żwieten, 28, Triq Sant' Anġlu, iż-Żejtun, biex issir membru tal-Għaqda tista' ċċempel lill-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun fuq 21 663 866. Il-membri tal-għaqda jiltaqgħu kull l-aħħar Tlieta tax-xahar fl-indirizz muri hawn fuq. Biex tabbona għall-ħarġiet futuri imla l-formola t'hawn fuq.