



Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

# The Melite Post

*Edited by MR. SEAN CHIRCOP,  
Chairperson of Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun*

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## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

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Il-gazzetta ufficjali ta'

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

**Kelmet l-Editor**

# Tislima lis-Sindku

minn **Sean Chircop**

Normalment Novembru hu ż-żmien fejn nibdew inhejju għall-festa tal-Milied, festa mimlija ferħ u ċelebrazzjonijiet. Il-filatelisti jibdew jistennu x'bolla se tkun qed toħroġ f'dak it-tali pajjiż għaž-żminijiet tal-Milied u l-Ewwel tas-Sena. Fejn f'din il-ħarġa se nkunu qed inħarsu lejn dan. Iżda, ma nistax nibda dan l-editorjal bla ma nagħti tislima lis-Sur Joseph N. Attard, is-Sindku taż-Żejtun. Is-Sur Attard nistgħu ngħidu li kien il-mutur ewlieni, flimkien ma' wħud mill-membri fundaturi tal-għaqda, biex ta l-bidu tal-**Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun** fl-2002.

Fejn kienet tidħol il-kultura, kull tip ta' kultura, lis-Sindku minn dejjem kont isibu fuq quddiem biex jagħti l-kontribut tiegħu u ma setgħax jonqos li ra kif se jgħin fil-qasam tal-filateliya wkoll; meta ra li fiż-Żejtun hemm numru ta' persuni interessati f'din in-namra. Is-Sur Attard, kif ħafna kienu jsibuh, dejjem ħadem favur kull pass 'il quddiem li jagħmel il-Grupp tagħna. Hu kien jinteressa ruħu ħafna dwar kull sett ta' bolol personalizzati li noħroġu. Din is-sena wera interess kbir ukoll fil-ħarġa mill-ġdid ta' **The Melite Post**. Fejn għadni niftakru f'Ottubru li għadda jgħidli "*Interessanti qed ikunu daww I-artikli... kompli għaddejjin hekk!*". Ir-risposta tiegħi kienet, "*Issa għal Dicembru tiktbilna l-editorjal int?*", fejn wieġeb fl-affermattiv. Iżda dan ma setgħax ikun realtà minħabba li saħħtu naqset drastikament minn dak in-nhar l' hawn. Għadni niftakru li kien qed iħares lejn ir-ritratt tad-Dama Grima fil-ħarġa li għaddiet, li kienet mart l-eks-President tal-Għaqda Banda Żejtun. Mur għidli li fil-ħarġa li jmiss se nkunu qed nagħtu tislima lilu. Iżda aħna ninsabu hawn biex wara 15-il sena li din il-ħolma saret realtà, inkompli biex il-Grupp ikompli jagħti l-frott u l-kontribut tiegħu fil-qasam filateliku f'Malta.

F'din il-ħarġa nixtieq niringrazzja lill-membri tal-għaqda, li għal darb' oħra reġgħu tellgħu wirja interessanti mimlija oġġetti filatelici u kurzitajiet. Din is-sena t-tema tal-Belt Valletta qajmet kurzità kbira fost il-mijiet ta' persuni li żaru l-wirja, fejn kien hemm kliem ta' tifhir u l-interess fil-Grupp tagħna kompli jikber fost il-filatelisti. Ħasra li l-Ħadd filgħodu kellu jifhassar kollox minħabba l-maltemp, jiddispjaċini li l-hidma tal-membri ma setgħatx titkompla titgawda. Iżda l-istess materjal filateliku qed nieħdu ħsieb biex joħroġ 'il barra miż-Żejtun u jkun jista' jerga' jitgawda minn aktar vizitaturi.

F'din il-ħarġa speċjali tal-Milied, se nkun qed nagħtu ħarsa lejn diversi aspetti filatelici li għandhom x'jaqsmu ma' dawn iż-żminijiet tal-Milied, mhux f'pajjiżna biss. Minn din il-ħarġa se nibdew nagħtu ħarsa wkoll lejn kurzitajiet fil-filateliya minn madwar id-dinja. Dan għalkemm il-filateliya kull ma tmur qed tonqos fil-popolarità, xorta f'diversi pajjiżi għadna nsibu novità fil-bolol; minn bolol bir-riħa, oħrajn bil-ġilda tal-ħut u oħrajn li jwasslu għal ħolqa fuq l-internet. Nistieden lill-qarrejja kollha biex jibqgħu jagħtu s-sehem tagħhom fl-artikli ta' dan il-ġurnal.

Minn hawn nixtieq nawgura lis-Sindku l-ġdid taż-Żejtun, lis-Sinjura Maria Dolores Abela, li żgur se tkompli tagħti appoġġ lill-Għaqda tagħna. Minn hawn nixtieq nawgura wkoll il-Milied u s-Sena t-Tajba lill-membri kollha u l-familji tagħhom; sena mimlija sliem u hena lil kulħadd.

# MELITA

by **Mario Casingena**

Allegory by definition is a metaphor whose object may be a character, place or event, representative of a real world, issues and occurrences. Allegory has been used widely throughout history in all forms of art, it can illustrate or convey ideas and concepts in ways that are understandable or striking to its viewers, readers or listeners. To arrive to a possible interpretation of what the artist sought to convey on particular work, at a particular time in history. Therefore under this parameter, it leads to the interpretation on the number of stamp issues with the theme, Melita over the years from Malta. What Melita is for Malta, there is Italia Turrita for Italy, Marianne for France, Britannia for England, Germania for Germany and Hispania for Spain.

The first stamp under review is that particular "Melita". 2/6 stamp of 1889-1901 followed by the definitive issue 1919/1920. Then the same stamp design, overprinted self government on 12 January 1922. Artist is unknown, the first issue, Malta a Crown Colony since the year 1813. The stamp has a central female figure, with a warrior's headdress that deliberately suggests that this is representing the Nation. On either side there are two flags, the right being that of the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem that had occupied the Island for 268 years; while the other there is the Malta flag without the George Cross, which award was given on 15 April 1942. Also the left hand she is holding a shield with the print of the eight pointed cross. The figure is holding a sword, that here is introducing the idea of a " semi-sovereign state" with a self-government from 1921 , even though a colony of the British Empire. The border follows a symmetrical pattern. The stamp introduced the idea of Malta the mother land that had been occupied by the Knights of Saint John. An occupation that shaped up the Island, with the magnificent architectural, and art heritage. Therein a sharp contrast to the British rule, which time was more highlighted war time, ferro concrete structures as shelters or equipping for war time weapons.

**1922 - 1926 MELITA** - A work of art by Edward Caruana Dingli, is an impressive stamp. The well built female figure with a warriors headdress/helmet, a breast shield with the added eight pointed cross, is wearing a flowing long dress and feet in sandals in representation of the Maltese Nation. The backdrop shows Fort Saint Elmo, that had played an important part in the Great Siege, and on the other side across the sea is the *Dgħajsa tal-Latini* that then made the Gozo channel crossings. The rudder represents the opportunities ahead to stir the Nation through progress by the Colony self government concept introduced a year before, the restricted powers that had been vested in the people's representatives. The dynamic figure, a foot step forward, is holding the rudder shows the determination in the country's leaders, to work for the benefit of the entire population. The either lower corners carry a crowned badge one the Union Jack, as the power of the British Empire, while the other the Maltese flag with the addition of the eight pointed cross. Here the mentioned eight pointed cross prominently on the breast shield and the lower crowned badge, is setting right to whom the whole set up belongs, that is to the nation. The significance and importance would have been lost otherwise. Here it stood as a symbol of future prosperity. (stamps on page 4...)

(... continues from page 3)



(continues in issue no. 6, March 2018)

## Il-Merluzz u l-Bolla



Martin Mörck fl-2016 iddisinnja bolla stramba għall-Posta tal-Gżejjer Faroe, li ħarġet fis-26 ta' Settembru, 2016. Il-valur ta' din il-bolla hu ta' 50.00 krona Daniża (€6.72c). Kif taraha din il-bolla ma jidher li m'hemm xejn stramb fiha, stampa ta' merluzz u l-forma tal-ġilda tiegħu. Iżda, fuq din il-bolla nsibu mwaħħla dirett fuq il-karta tal-bolla biċċa mill-ġilda tal-merluzz tal-Atlantiku. Il-ġilda hi maqtugħa f'forma kwadra. Il-merluzz issibu b'abundanza fil-Gżejjer Faroe, infatti l-ġilda tiegħu tintuża biex jiġu magħmula ż-żraben, il-basktijiet, il-portmonijiet u ċ-ċineg tal-arloġġi tal-idejn.

Għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja filatelika tad-dinja l-ġilda ta' ħuta sabet ruħha fuq bolla. Il-ġilda tal-ħut ġiet mgħotija mill-esportatur tal-ħut Nevið, f'Runavík, raħal fil-Gżejjer Faroe, u l-ġilda nħadmet l-Iżlanda, minn Atlantic Leather, filwaqt li l-bolol ġew stampati minn Cartor Security Printing, fi Franza.

Fl-istorja tal-filatelija illum il-ġurnata sirna nsibu diversi pajjiżi li qed joħoġu b'ideat strambi u rari għall-kolezzjonisti. Każ stramb ieħor kien meta fl-2010 l-Iżlanda ħarġu tlett bolol li kienu ġew stampati bl-irmied tal-vulkan li kien żbrofa f'Marzu tal-istess sena u ħoloq problemi kbar fit-traffiku tal-ajru madwar l-Ewropa.

## *Infakkru lil ...*

### **Is-Sindku Joe Attard**

Is-Sibt, 18 ta' Novembru, is-Sur Joseph N. Attard, is-Sindku taż-Żejtun, ħalla din id-dinja fl-età ta' 77 sena. Is-Sur Attard tweied fis-17 ta' Ottubru, 1940, iben Ġużeppi Attard u Anna Curmi. FI-1967 iżżewweġ lis-Sa. Jessie Ciangura, mir-Rabat, u kellhom żewġt ibniet Maria u Annabelle. FI-1968 hu gradwa fil-Baċellerat tal-Arti fil-Lingwa Inġliża mill-Università ta' Malta, fejn għamel żmien bħala għalliem.

Hu persuna li ħadem bis-sħiħ fil-qasam kulturali mhux biss fuq livell lokali, iżda wkoll fil-qasam nazzjonali u anki ppromova l-kultura Maltija barra minn xtutna. Għamel xi żmien jaħdem bħala direttur tal-kultura, fejn fost 'l oħrajn jibqa' jissemma' għall-Iljeli Mediterranji fil-Ġonna tal-Argotti. Wara serva wkoll bħala l-ewwel chairperson ta' One TV u Radio, dak iż-żmien Rainbow Productions. FI-1978 hu laħaq bħala l-President tal-Għaqda Banda Żejtun, fejn dam jokkupa



din il-kariga għal 39 sena sħaħ sa mewtu. Fi żmienu l-Għaqda Banda Żejtun kompliet tissaħħaħ u saret waħda mill-baned ewlenin ta' Malta. Hu kien ukoll protagonist biex il-festa esterna ta' Santa Katarina tiċċaqtaq mix-xitwa għax-xahar ta' Ġunju. FI-1994 hu ġie elett fl-ewwel Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun fejn dam iservi l-kariga ta' Kunsillier għal sentejn. Imbagħad fl-1996 laħaq is-Sindku taż-Żejtun, fejn kompli jservi din il-kariga għal 21 sena sħaħ sa mewtu. Fi żmienu kompli jgħolli l-isem taż-Żejtun u l-kultura tiegħu fuq f'livell nazzjonali, fejn kien il-moħħ għal diversi inizjattivi.

#### **Żejtun Philatelic Group Meetings for 2018**

**Tuesday, 30th January**

**Tuesday, 31st July**

**Tuesday, 27th February**

**Tuesday, 28th August**

**Tuesday, 27th March**

**Tuesday, 25th September (Exhibition)**

**Tuesday, 24th April**

**Tuesday, 30th October**

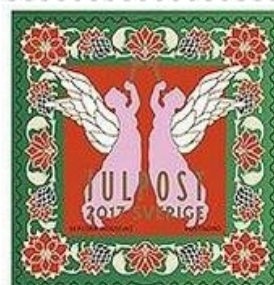
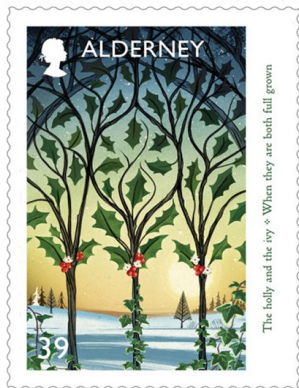
**Tuesday, 29th May**

**Tuesday, 27th November**

**Tuesday, 26th June**

**The Żejtun Annual Philatelic Exhibition for 2018 will be held between Thursday 27th and Sunday 30th September. The theme for next Philatelic Exhibition is Religious Heritage and Culture on Philatelic material.**

# European Christmas Stamps 2017



# Christmas Stamps' History

According to an article of Yule Log, a philatelic journal, a Christmas stamp is a stamp issued expressly for the holiday and pictures a holiday-related motif. Nowadays many countries produce Christmas stamps, by the 1990s already, more than 160 postal administrators were issuing stamps for this festive period. Some tropical islands issue Christmas stamps with the intention to attract new stamp collectors from around the globe, but for the rest of the world these stamps are normal working stamps to send greeting cards and postcards.

There is still an ongoing debate on which was the first Christmas stamp in the world. The first stamp which showed the word Xmas on it was the Canadian stamp of 1899, but was issued to commemorate the introduction of imperial penny postage on Christmas Day 1898, and not to commemorate Christmas. In fact the first Canadian postage stamps for Christmas were issued in 1964.



According to the opinion of William Wylie the first stamps issued for use on Christmas and New Year greeting cards were the Rose and Signs of the Zodiac stamps of Austria in 1937. But these stamps were used for birthday letters and according to Austrians they issued the first Christmas stamp in 1953.



Some of the first stamps which featured Christmas related themes were the semi-postal stamps of Brazil, in 1939. Then in 1943, in Hungary, depicted the Nativity on stamps. Then, next Christmas stamps did not appear until 1951, when Cuba issued designs with poinsettias and bells.

Then followed this idea in Haiti (1954), Luxembourg and Spain (1955), Australia, Korea, and Liechtenstein (1957). Many more nations took up the practice during the 1960s, including the United States (1962) and United Kingdom (1966). In Malta issued the first three Christmas stamps in 1964 which depicted the Nativity by Chev. E. V. Cremona.

In 1969 formed also the Christmas Philatelic Club by Christmas stamp collectors.



## Iż-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol ...



Il-Maltapost fit-18 ta' Novembru, 2013 ħarġet sett ta' tlett bolol u *commemorative sheet* bħala s-sett tal-bolol tal-Milied ta' dik is-sena partikolari. Dawn il-bolol kollha kienu juru xeni differenti mill-Presepju Mekkaniku taż-Żejtun.

Il-bolla ta' €0.26c, fuq disinn tal-Maltapost stess kienet turi it-Twelid ta' Ġesù Tarbija. Il-bolla ta' €0.37c, turi t-Thabbira tal-Anġlu Gabriel lil Marija li se jkollha Tarbija. Filwaqt li l-bolla ta' €0.63c turi l-Prezentazzjoni ta' Ġesù Tarbija fit-Tempju. Il-*Commemorative sheet* kienet turi wieħed mit-tlett stadji tal-Presepju Mekkaniku, fejn tidher il-Grotta b'Ġesù Tarbija u s-Slaten Maġi. Il-*Commemorative sheet* kienet maqsuma f'żewġ bolol ta' €1.00 il-waħda.



Iżda dawn il-bolol kienu qalgħu diversi kritika mill-pubbliku minħabba ċ-ċokon tagħhom.



Fil-Milied ta' 70 sena ilu, fl-1947, fuq l-idea tal-Isqof Emmanuele Galea ġie inawgurat il-presepju mekkaniku taż-Żejtun fl-Istitut Ġesù Nazzarenu. Il-presepju kien inbena bl-għajnuna tal-parruċċani fejn dawn ipprovdew lill-Isqof dak li kellhom, minn gazzetti, kolla, bibien tal-injam u biċċiet oħra tal-injam. L-Isqof Galea kien ħalla x-xogħol tal-makkinarju f'idejn in-neputi tiegħu Pawlu Pavia, fejn dawn ġew imħaddma bi xliet marbut ma' taljoli u ktajjen tar-roti. Uħud minnhom jaħdmu wkoll b'roti żgħar li kienu jdawwru l-magna taċ-ċinema. Filwaqt li l-ilbies tal-pasturi sar mis-sorijiet tal-istess Istitut.

Ix-xeni ta' dan il-presepju meraviljuż, li kull sena jibqa' joħloq nostalgija f'dawk il-mijiet li jżuruh, jirrapprezentaw il-ħames Misteri tal-Ferħ tar-Rużarju. Fejn fit-tieqa tax-xellug insibu t-Thabbira tal-Anġlu Gabriel lil Marija li se ssir Omm u wara din ix-xena nsibu ż-Żjara li l-Madonna għamlet lil kuġinitha Santa Eliżabetta. Fl-arkata tan-nofs naraw il-grotta ta' Betlehem b'Ġesù Tarbija bir-rgħajja jaduraw lil Bin Alla u nsibu wkoll il-miġja tat-Tlett Slaten Maġi. Fit-tieqa tax-xellug imbagħad nistgħu nammiraw il-Prezentazzjoni ta' Ġesù Tarbija fit-Tempju ta' Ġerusalem. U wara din ix-xena, fl-istess tieqa, naraw il-Ħarba lejn l-Eġittu fuq il-ħmara.



# A Stamp of a Cupcake or a Cupcake Stamp?

by **Mario Casingena**

I happened to open my emails and came across this rather interesting original idea of a Christmas Stamp from Gibraltar, glorious "cup cakes". Who does not love cupcakes after all? Which question is in itself a winning statement. The comment by the "Piece of Cake" CEO Sharon Garcia reads; *"When designing these cupcakes we wanted to apply a local theme to a Christmas design. We had to create something unique to Gibraltar. Our Christmas tree had to be adapted to our Rock of Gibraltar. Our rock ape also had to feature a Christmas hat. The snowman reflects our national football team colours and emblem on his hat, symbolic of our new prominence in the football world. We also feature our beloved Pan Dulce-a cake typically enjoyed by Gibraltarians over Christmas. This set of 6 Christmas cupcakes represents Gibraltar's heritage, our love for the season and our particular love for all things sweet!"*

Clearly sifted simple description for a stamp on "cup cakes". I can feel the artistic effort, and the ability pastry presentation thus these combined give an automatic tasty smell at sight (there have been stamp issues with a smell like for example coffee) to "The Christmas Gibraltar stamps". And the neat cancellation stamp (to the broken circle of local cancellation stamp), slightly touching the stamps at lower corner, needs mentioning or better still highlighting.



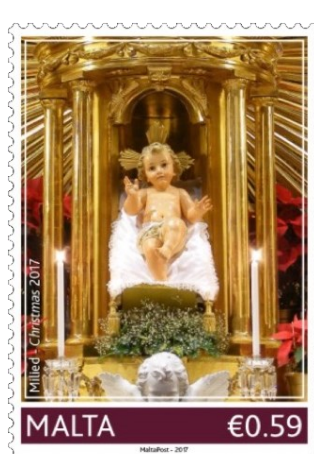
(...continues on pages 10 and 11)



IN-NAXXAR



BORMLA



IN-NADUR



HAŻ-ŻABBAR

On 17th November, 2017 Maltapost plc. Issued four stamps for Christmas 2017 with the theme of Baby Jesus statues (Bambini), showing four Bambini from four different parishes in Malta and Gozo. These photos photographed by Mark Micallef Perconte, the same photographer of the Assumption statues, issued in August 2017. For Christmas 2004 Maltapost issued four stamps with the same theme of Bambini. The 2004 stamps were designed by Richard J. Caruana.

## 2017 Żejtun Philatelic Exhibition



# What about Maltese Christmas Stamps?

It is precisely the artistic aspect (mostly a subjective interpretation) that I seek as relevant in a Christmas stamp and in sharp contrast to the aforementioned to Malta 2002 designs by Debbie Caruana Dingli. A set of five stamps adapting local means of transport, cart, bus, *luzzu*, *karozzin* and *dgħajsa tal-Latini*, for the Holy Family all this is called "art" and history in bad taste, I cannot figure out who would have a smile for such a work.



Equally insulting to Christmas philately is 2001 by Gattaldo (Gattaldo is a London based designer). These last makes one buy such issues not to break a stamp collection for these are not worth the price of the paper and print. I think that in these last years the Malta philatelist has had enough of the Holy Madonna and Child or the playful Child, photo stamps 2007 to 2012.



The year 2015 offered Albercht Durer works as very relevant, the presented work is similar to an Australia 1974 stamp, which I came across lately. In 2013, a tribute to the Żejtun mechanical crib all lost in a hasty confusion rather to opting keeping a part of the scenery in focus (featured in *iz-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol* section).



Then what made a Malta Christmas stamp issue relevant? The contribution to Christmas philately of 1964 to 1979 is avant garde (contemporary art for years still to come, excuse me for this but there is no better explanation for such contribution of an artist and undoubtedly philatelist). Other Christmas issues that are worth the efforts: The Crib by Għaqda Fbieb tal-Presejju 1990. Home Christmas decorations, Harry Borg 1993. The MUSEUM procession 1995 by Harry Borg. Għajnsielem live crib photos 2014.

The Bambini photos 2004, (reminds me of the sickening gifted young altar boy preaching on Christmas Eve and after which ceremony the boy would then be given a Bambin). Sure enough 2017, issue Bambini again. The unnatural pose of a Baby Jesus, with hands wide open. This time am missing out the eight pointed cross (hopefully for good on future issues). The set narrates that the statutes belong to history, but doubt what artistic value such hold. Way back some decade ago my mother in law gave me a winding up mechanism motion Baby Jesus, which full fills the criteria of vintage, artistic and above all pretty unusual piece. Then what could additionally be exploited in a Malta Christmas philately issues?

# Il-Milied u s-Sena t-Tajba



Il-Presejju Mekkaniku tal-Istitut Ġesù Nazzarenu taż-Żejtun li ta' kull sena f'Diċembru u Jannar ghadhom jigu jżuruh mijiet ta' nies.

## Iż-Żejtun 5.37

Triqat, Xbihat u Uljed iż-Żejtun



Akkwista l-programm interattiv 'iż-Żejtun 5.37' għal prezz ta' €5.00 mill-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun. Programm b'ritratti uniċi u informazzjoni dwar aktar minn 300 triq li jsawru liż-Żejtun, aktar minn 90 niċċa u ritratti ta' personalitajiet.

**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' Marzu 2018. 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.