

January-March 2016

No. 63– 2016

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

TO ALL MEMBERS
PLEASE ENCOURAGE A FRIEND OR A
RELATIVE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

E-mail address _____ Tel. No. _____

I enclose €5.00 membership fee. (Overseas €12, including Newsletter)

(Fee for Junior membership, under 16 years, is €2.00.

Date of birth _____)

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Introduced by _____ Member No. _____

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 63 (1/2016)

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

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

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

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Sorry!

Unfortunately a further error appeared in the Cancellations instalment in issue 62 (p 17): the correct numbers are *Milied f'Għawdex* #69, *L-Imsallab* #70 and *Ta' Pinu* #71. So the series will obviously be continuing with #72.

On page 20 one of the captions dropped off: Alexandria 1899.

A stranger slip occurred on page 27: this is obviously a further instalment in the **Philatelic What & Where** series, with the first items having been missed out previously.

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

Antoine Vassallo

Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary VO/0546



2 December 2015 Committee confirms prizes and prepares for AGM

10 December Meeting at Cremona Boys Secondary about Christmas stamps, led by Saviour and Anthony Grech.

12 December GPS Showcase installed at *Il-Haġar*, inaugurated with a “Christmas Philately” display

December Cheque received from Gozo Ministry in NGO scheme, contributing towards upgrading our Exhibition stands

December Last of the series by GPS secretary Antoine Vassallo featuring stamps with Gozitan connections appears in Diocesan periodical *Il-Hajja f'Għawdex*.

9 January 2016 Anthony Grech prepares personalized stamp and handstamp for “international” double card

9 January AGM (see page 10 and 12)

9 January second exhibit in *Il-Haġar* showcase (see 30)

13 January Committee agrees officers for 2016.

15 January Gozo NGOs Association AGM: committee member (School Coordinator) Saviour Grech, nominated by GPS, enters Council - and later becomes President.

8January Visit by MaltaPost Museum curator

19 January “The Voice of the Maltese” first features the Migrants handstamp

1 Feb GPS represented at MaltaPost event (see page 21)

5 Feb Committee continues to plan for 2016 events.

7 Feb Monthly meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ



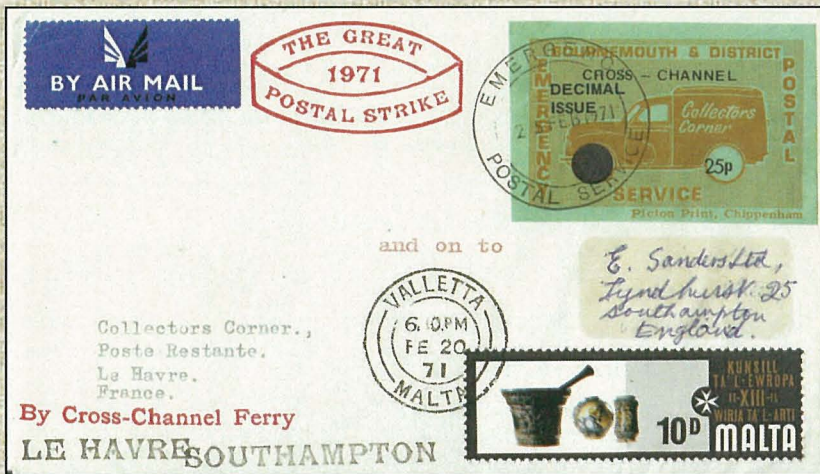
MORE ITEMS FROM THE JUNCKER COLLECTION

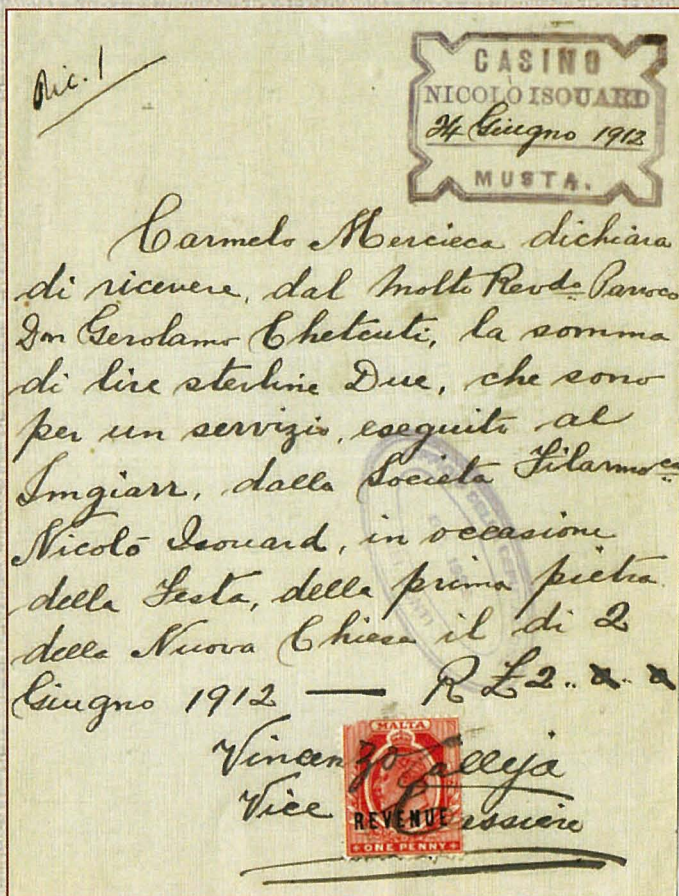
Donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society by
Wolfgang and Christa Juncker.

Anthony Grech



SPECIAL COURIER MAIL 1971 GREAT POSTAL STRIKE





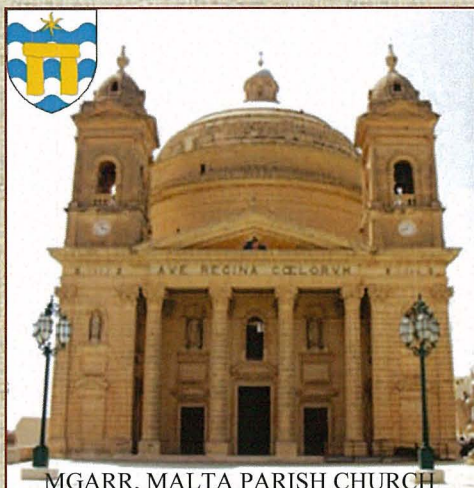
MGARR (MALTA) NEW CHURCH

Carmelo Mercieca declares that he received from the Rev. Parish Priest Gerolamo Chetcuti the sum of £2. 2s for service rendered at Mgarr by the Philharmonic Society Nicolo' Isourad on the occasion of the laying of the first stone of the new church of Mgarr.

2 June 1912.

(signed)

Vincenzo Calleja
Vice Treasurer.



MGARR, MALTA PARISH CHURCH



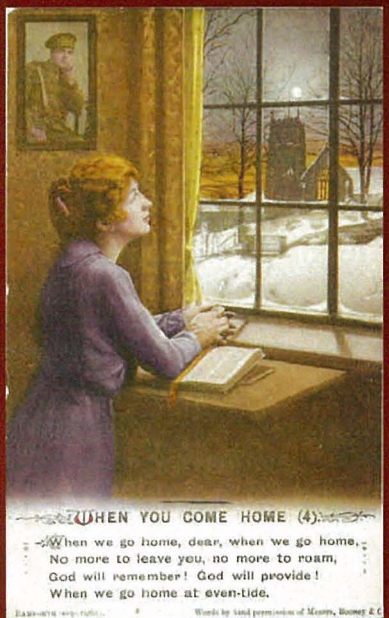
Lovers' Postcards from the Great War. 28 July 1914—11 November 1919



Mary Grace Xerri



“When You Come Home”





Lines Written on the First Day of the Penny Postage

Hail joyous day! The Postage Bill
Brings blessings great and many:
And best of all, say what we will,
It only costs a penny.

From John o' Groats ¹ to England's
End ²,

From Norfolk to Kilkenny,
A letter now may reach a friend,
And it only costs a penny.

(Anonymous)



Postal Stamp History

The postal stamp started in England (1840)
And was destined to spread around the world.
It would soon reach as far as Brazil,
As the momentum continued to swirl.
It reached the United States of America
In the year of eighteen-forty five.
And a winner throughout the centuries
The postal stamp is very much alive.

The price of the first stamp was one cent.
But today, it would cost forty-four
And with so many rate hikes in between,
I am very sure that there will be more.
And as long as there is mail to send,
The postal stamp, it will never end.

Walterrean Salley (self-described as "an American poet, songwriter and visual artist who appreciates and finds beauty in and loves to share poetic verses".)



Antoine Vassallo

life's simplest things

The Uniform Penny Post was introduced on 10 January 1840: though the new 1d stamp was not issued until May 1840, crowds jammed the London post office on the first day of the penny rate - amid a festive atmosphere. By day's end, that office had accepted 112,000 letters - three times the usual number.

¹ a village in the far north of Scotland

² a "Land's End to John o' Groats" traditionally refers to the whole length of Great Britain

16th AGM (9/1/2016) - 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 15th AGM, posts were agreed, including those of President, Secretary and Treasurer filled by Louis Bonello, Antoine Vassallo and Antoine Debrincat respectively. Ten further formal meetings were held to prepare our various

activities and discuss plans, especially the innovative international double card being launched now.

The 16th Exhibition was held in November with a formal Opening on the 14th and dismantling on the 26th - a special three-week edition! Two public lectures and an Auction of duplicate Juncker covers served as attractive parallel events. Our display stands are now being upgraded with the financial help of the Gozo Ministry NGO grant scheme. Prizes (including those sponsored by MaltaPost), trophies and participation certificates are being distributed today.

Anthony Grech designed the usual personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, again offered by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, he prepared covers (or even the handstamp itself) whenever the opportunity arose: the St George Culture stamp and *I-Imballab fi Triqatna*, Ta' Pinu, Bishop Bugeja and *Milied f'Għawdex* commemorative handstamps. For the second year running, he designed a Christmas Card sent to members and supporters. A further cover commemorated the change in the Victoria BPO location.

Il-Haġar is hosting us - our relationship has been consolidated with the installation of a permanent showcase for temporary philatelic mini exhibitions, inaugurated with a Nativity theme last month and now replaced with items featuring the Australian Migrants centennial - a direct result of contacts with the Canberra Philatelic Society.

On the initiative of a Mr. Jesmond Borg, Committee member, in September we exhibited during the Qala International Folk Festival.

Committee members led stamp collecting sessions in schools and other institutions.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter, a

most impressive periodical in its own right. Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. Our Website and Facebook page offer coverage too.

The *Hajja f'Ghawdex* diocesan periodical carried a series during 2015 showing Gozo on stamps and arrangements are being made with a national magazine for another philatelic series. Various local and foreign publications featured our society (including the Italian *Filatelia Religiosa*).

We receive donations - not exclusively from members - of stamps and periodicals. A special note of thanks of course remains due to Wolfgang Juncker!

We have an increasing range of philatelic publications, listed on the website, for free perusal and loan. May I repeat that any member can ask to borrow during the monthly meetings (on first Sundays) which are only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration whose HQ we use.

Antoine Vassallo - Secretary

Easter is round the corner

Give your kids a memorable visit and yourself a voyage down memory lane.

"POMSKILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS"

10 Ġnien Xibla Street Xaghra

Gozo, Enjoy a wide collection of toys from the main producing countries as early as from 1790's to 1950's.



sueandedwin@gmail.com

Tel21562489

*"Keeping yesterday
for you
to enjoy today"*



16th AGM (9/1/2016) - President's Report

Our sixteenth AGM was again held at *IL-HAĠĠAR* in Pjazza San Ġorġ Victoria: on Saturday 9th January 2016. This was my first experience and I am happy that there was a good participation and thus the occasion was a success.

Antoine Vassallo's Report led to quite a few comments and suggestions connected with increasing membership; in fact a motion was passed suggesting to the incoming Committee to write to MaltaPost recommending commonly used values for new issues.



I appealed to parents to encourage their children to take up stampcollecting and expressed my wish to see new faces in the committee.

Two motions proposed by the outgoing Committee led to small Statute changes.

MaltaPost Chair Joseph Said honoured us with his presence and, the company being our main sponsor for our Exhibition, we distributed together prizes and certificates for

the special edition in November 2015. Anthony Grech, whose exhibit was chosen as the Best Item on Show by the Jury, received the George Vella Challenge Trophy.

The AGM was the occasion for the inauguration of a second display in our showcase at *Il-Haġar*, this time connected with the Migrant Incident whose centennial GPS is commemorating through a double card with our Canberra counterparts - stamped that same morning.

I am duty-bound to reiterate heartfelt thanks to:

the Gozo Ministry for all the help during the Exhibition;

MaltaPost plc for their sponsorship;

Anthony Grech for his Card production;

the *Il-Haġar* management;

the Vassallo family for hosting Committee meetings, as well as the archives/library;

the Gozo Scouts for hosting our monthly meetings,

JB Sliema Stamp Shop and Island Tech computer services for their support
the outgoing committee for their support in my first year leading the GPS and finally

all those who participate in our ventures.

Louis Bonello GPS President

Highlights

From the Annual General Meeting and the Prize and Certificate giving ceremony

Photos by Charles Spiteri—Sunday Times of Malta



MALTA OVERSEAS

local connections on foreign stamps (22)

Antoine Vassallo

Belgium issued a self-adhesive booklet early in 2014 showing ten different dog breeds, including a “Maltese”. **OVI**



There are possibly four dog types which we think of as “Maltese”: the Pharaoh hound (which I intend treating in the future), the Chihuahua, the “*tal-Kaċċa*” and the terrier. However the first two are not really so considered internationally, while the third has only recently been DNA-proven to be an identifiable endemic breed; this means that we can still recognize the fourth as the real “Maltese” (shown on Malta’s 2001 19c).

This is a small breed ("small long-haired dog") in the Toy Group, probably orig-

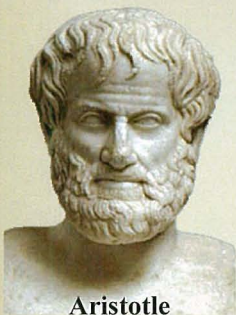


inating in the central Mediterranean area - in fact it is sometimes argued that the name does not really refer to our island but to one in the Adriatic or even to a Sicilian district. This ancient breed was *Canis Melitaeus* in Latin (“*Melitaie*” on an Etruscan amphora) and, in past centuries, the “ancient dog of

Malta” in English - with the “Maltese Lion Dog” not unknown!

Were this a non-philatelic periodical there would have been much more to recount, including the numerous ancient references. I could mention Aristotle

(and his *Melitaei Catelli*) and Pliny, to remain in the Roman world. And from later centuries I could quote *Insulae Melitae Descriptio* by Grand Master L'Isle-Adam's Jean Quintin d'Autun ("Quintinus").



Aristotle

After some breeders decided to "improve" the breed by making it smaller still, it nearly disappeared and had to be crossbred with other small dogs.

Characteristics now include slightly rounded skulls, with a finger-wide dome, a black button nose and brown eyes. The coat is long and silky - and

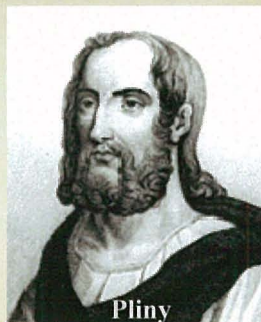
pure white (though a yellowish hue is accepted in some countries). The Maltese does not shed and some owners prefer to have the coat short.

These cuddly companion dogs are extremely lively and playful, also faring well in apartments and townhouses: a prized pet for urban dwellers. Unfortunately Maltese tend to have tooth problems resulting in cavities.

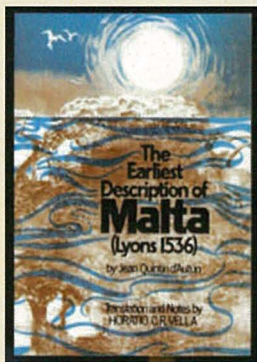
These six further examples
(from, respectively,)

**Antigua, Cuba, N Korea,
Yugoslavia, Poland
and Venda**

seem to be healthy enough!



Pliny



**The Earliest
Description of Malta
(Lyons 1536)**

Jean Quintin d'Autun:
trans. and notes by
Horatio C R Vella
Published by
DeBono Enterprises,
Malta (1980)



E & O not E (40)

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

Antoine Vassallo

The origins of the Asian Pacific Postal Union date back to a meeting held in Manila (the Philippines) in 1961 which drew up the Asian-Oceanic Postal Convention. What is now APPU was born in 1962 “to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between the member countries and promote cooperation in the field of postal services”. It was based in Manila for the first years in recognition of the role played by the Philippines Government in its establishment. In 2002 APPU moved to Thailand, the Director being elected by the member countries.

The **Philippines** commemorated the fifteenth anniversary in 1977 through



1



2



3



stamps showing the flags of the then fourteen member countries. The example here is “valueless” because of a missing colour! 1

The obsolete flag of Laos was mistakenly shown: it had been replaced some months previously (the Kingdom of Laos became the Lao People's Democratic Republic in December 1975). 2 & 3

It may be interesting to note that Thailand used the correct flag for the same occasion. 4



4



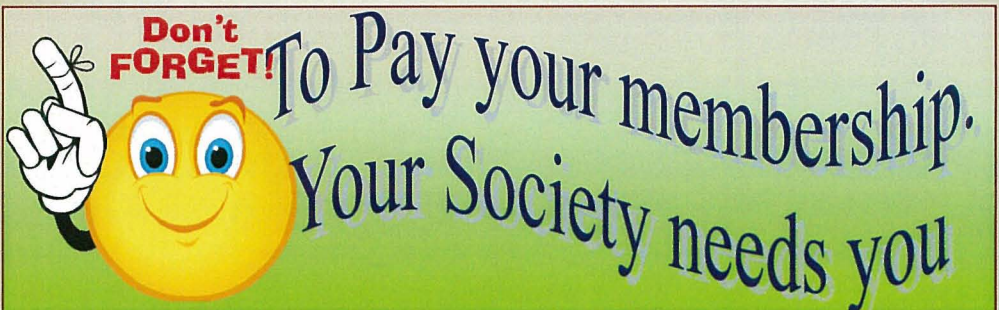
5

I note also that the 50th anniversary in 2012, while being exact in representing the thirty two members, obviously still included the error in the 'stamp on stamp'.⁵

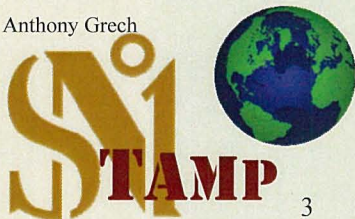
I show too a Pakistan cover for the 2015 meeting held in Islamabad: APPU has mysteriously become AAPU. ⁶



6



Anthony Grech



3

Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.
Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted. Ins.= Incribed.
Prot=Protectorate



AUSTRALIA
1913



AUSTRALIA
ANTARCTIC TERRITORY
1957



AUSTRIA
1850



TRENTINO

AUSTRIAN
TERRITORIES
ACQUIRED BY ITALY.
Op "REGNO D'ITALIA
TRENTINO / VENEZIA GIULIA

3 NOV 1918
On Austria Stamps



VENEZIA
GIULIA

AUSTRIAN HUNGARIAN MILITARY POST



OWN ISSUES
1915



Op."K.U.K. FELDPOST"
1915



ISSUES FOR ITALY
1915



ISSUES FOR
MONTENEGRO
1917



ISSUES FOR
RUMANIA
1917



ISSUES FOR
SERBIA
1916



ISSUES IN THE
TURKISH EMPIRE
1887



AZERBAIJAN
1919



AZORES
Op. "ACORES"
on Portugal
Stamps
1868



AZORES
OWN ISSUES
1980



BADEN
1851



BAGHDAD
Op. "BAGHDAD IN
BRITISH OCCUPATION"
1917



BAHAMAS
1859



BAHAWALPUR
Op. Arabic characters/Star &
Crescent on India Stamps.
1947



BAHAWALPUR
OWN ISSUES
1937



BAHRAIN
Op "BAHRAIN"
On India Stamps
1932



BAHRAIN
OWN ISSUES
1960



BAMRA
1888



BANGLA DESH
1971



BARBADOS
1915

proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR
(8) Death of Pope John Paul II 15 IV 2005
(designed in-house by Printex Ltd)

OPTION 1 =>



OPTION 2 =>



PROOF CMK

PRINTEX LIMITED

DATE

Please sign and return.
CUSTOMER

DATE

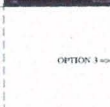
Suggested
designs



OPTION 1 =>



OPTION 2



OPTION 3 =>



OPTION 4



The end result
The stamp issued.
In Memoriam of
Pope John Paul II.
15 April 2005.
Designed in House.
Printed by Printex Ltd.

TWO BRONZE STAMPS

Louis Bonello



On 1 February 2016 Prime Minister Joseph Muscat unveiled a plaque in the Upper Barrakka Gardens, commemorating the Malta Conference of 1945 and the Malta Summit of 1989. The bronze plaque, commissioned by MaltaPost plc and sculpted by Joseph Chetcuti, features two stamp reproductions.

The Malta Conference was held from 30 January to 3 February 1945 between US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and UK Prime

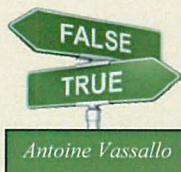
Minister Winston Churchill. The purpose of the conference was to plan before Yalta. The plaque shows a stamp from the 2015 set.

The Malta Summit between US President George H. W. Bush and USSR Premier Mikhail Gorbachev took place on 2-3 December 1989, just a few weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was during this meeting that these two leaders declared an end to the Cold War. The stamp issued then is the second one on the plaque.

In his short speech Prime Minister Muscat said the plaque would serve as a reminder of Malta's role in history and its continued contribution to international relations.

The Gozo Philatelic Society was represented by President Louis Bonello and Productions Manager Anthony Grech.





Is it really true that... (5)

A STAMP COLLECTION SAVED A FAMILY IN NAZI GERMANY

Born in February 1901 in Ribnitz, Max Lichenheim was 7 years old when his collector father gave him a cigar box filled with stamps. Just two years later, the youngster had more than 1,000 stamps from around the world and eventually inherited his father's extensive collection. Stamps would in fact save his family's life in their flight from Nazi Germany!

He studied law and in 1932 passed his bar examination. The next year he married Margaret Lindenberg. Six years his junior, she began cutting out every foreign stamp that crossed her desk as soon as they first met. They moved to the resort town of Brunsbaupten along the Baltic Sea coast. There the young attorney opened his practice and the newlyweds envisioned a full and happy life.



But Adolf Hitler became chancellor and head of the German government. Jewish-owned stores were boycotted; Jewish doctors, lawyers, and civil servants were forbidden to practice. Max's law sign was destroyed and he was forced to close his practice. Facing an uncertain future, they opened a small tobacco shop to make ends meet and lived in constant fear.

In November 1938, their lives were threatened. During the two-day *Kristallnacht* ("Night of Glass", a state-sanctioned violent attack against Jewish communities), stormtroopers ransacked thousands of Jewish-owned businesses and homes. They set fire to synagogues and deported thousands to concentration camps.

Max was picked up and taken into *Schutzhaft* ("protective custody") at Altstrelitz. Many incarcerated Jews were then sent to Dachau or Buchenwald but he was fortunate: imprisoned for nearly four months, he was permitted to write letters and Margaret was allowed to visit him once.

Nazi policy still encouraged Jewish emigration then: an aunt in Berlin procured his release by providing proof of passage on a ship out of Germany. Margaret showed the ticket and Max was released. He sold parts of his valuable foreign stamp collection to buy Margaret a companion ticket to the open port city of Shanghai. They packed under the eyes of the Gestapo, who tore open mattresses and smashed

all the glass. Max's stamp collection, reported as "valueless" by a Nazi connoisseur and friend, was sanctioned to leave Germany with him.

Carrying passports stamped with "J" for Jew, the Lichenheims visited Max's beloved aunt on April 18, 1939. They then travelled to Munich to board the train to Genoa, Italy. Margaret recalled: "We were free human beings; I remember eating ice cream!" After spending a restless night in a cheap room at the harbour, they joined hundreds of other Jewish refugees onboard the Italian liner *Guilio Cesare*. The "refugee ship of the East" sailed to Shanghai, a 25-day voyage, free from Nazi tyranny.



SS Guilio Cesare

Shanghai, with a population of three million, was home to a small affluent Jewish community that immigrated in the mid nineteenth century. By the late 1930s, the Chinese city was host to more than 22,000 Jewish refugees.

The new arrivals were put on trucks and taken to a primitive building with hundreds of bunk beds. Arriving penniless, they relied on Jewish organizations for food, housing and healthcare. Max sold more of his valued stamp collection and the couple rented a room.

Margaret found office work in a German-owned firm. Sent to the firm's office in Manchuria, the couple returned to Shanghai under Japanese occupation. Max sold cigars, taught German and practiced law. Later the couple worked for the U.S. Air Force and, in 1948, left for San Francisco and finally settled in Utah.



Margaret Lichenheim
with Donald V. Hague
emeritus director, Utah
Museum of Natural
History.
acknowledgments to
www.glenstephens.com

Until his death in 1982, Max's stamp business thrived in downtown Salt Lake City. He was esteemed by the country's top stamp collectors and, at the same time, had an impact on young people by talking not only about a stamp's catalogue value, but also explaining its history and origin. No wonder they got hooked!

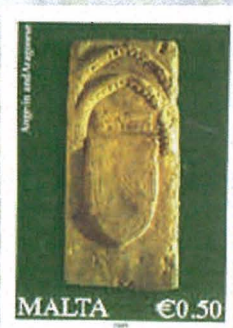
Margaret held various office jobs until her retirement in 1967 but remained active in voluntary organizations; she died in 2002, aged 94.



Promoting Gozo through Philately

Even a Cemetery can be French!

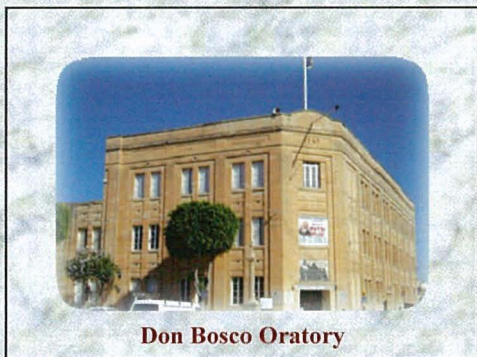
(Antoine Vassallo)



Representing the Angevin and Aragonese Period, the 50cent stamp in the 2009 Heritage definitives shows a stone tablet carved with a shield from Victoria's "French Cemetery".

Situated in St Augustine or Tomb Square, this site now houses the Don Bosco Oratory (with its football pitch) and the Gozo Headquarters of the Legion of Mary.

According to the eighteenth century De Soldanis in his *Gozo Antico Moderno e Sacro Profano*, there were as many as ten chapels within its grounds. He refers to the buried as members of the nobility or having high ecclesiastical or military/civil status. He even supposes that they actually included saints. He continues that the big number of sculpted tombstones - though bereft of wording - have enough symbols to confirm this identification.



Don Bosco Oratory

Complaining strongly of the general disrepair, he accuses intruders of having stolen the majority of these precious slabs as building material!

This first historian of Gozo quotes some previous authors in reference to this cemetery, including the then Bishop of Malta Paul Alpheran de Bussan. After reflection, he then concludes that the dead were important Frenchmen such as Archbishops and Princes.

He continues by recounting the story of Saint King Louis IX who in 1270 embarked on a voyage to Tunis to combat the "Turks" (or Ottomans), accompanied by soldiers and priests. However illness and

the weather led to disaster, with the dead being buried in Sicily and Gozo (under the French realm in those hailed as martyrs, rapidly developed.

This important is now housed in the Vajringa Street a few descriptions of what He finally notes that an "Antoniol"), passing studying Eastern



manuscript (a copy of which Gozo Public Library sited in metres away) continues with remained in the canon's time. Englishman (a certain Mr through after years of monuments, informed him that he had seen similiar



tablets in numerous cities (for example Laryssa and neighbours of Athens and Ephesus).

The translator of the Maltese edition (published with the strong support of Sir Harry Luke after the Second World War), Mgr Farrugia Gioioso, adds a footnote that



the contemporary cemetery rector (Fr - later Mgr - John Grech, my mother's uncle) collected enough funds to be able to rebuild the boundary wall.

Unfortunately one can now see just a street name! However, to conclude on a positive note, a few of these tombstones are now "defended" in state institutions.



Museum of Archaeology
Victoria, Gozo.
Photos by A. Grech



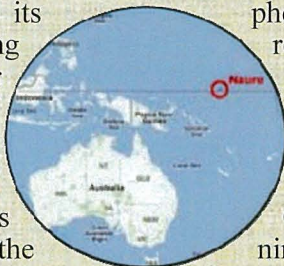


PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

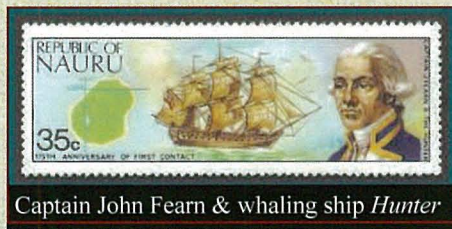
*glances – and longer looks – at
events from a hundred years ago*

15 - Gosh! Smaller than Gozo! (1916)

Nauru (also known as Pleasant Island) is an isolated Central Pacific island famous for its phosphate deposits. Unfortunately the remaining resources no longer seem economically viable for extraction, meaning that the Nauruans depend on substantial Australian financial aid.



Though discovered at the end of the eighteenth century by the Royal Navy's Captain Fearn, it was annexed by Germany late in the nineteenth and administered as part of the Marshall Islands. The first post office appeared in 1905 when *Marschall-Inseln* stamps were released.



It was captured in September 1914 by Australia (during WW1) and a temporary British mandate was granted. This development resulted in the first Nauru stamps: overprinted 1912 King George V definitives from October 1916.

On invasion, remaining stocks of German stamps had been sent to New Guinea for overprinting but the venture was not followed through and "North West Pacific Islands" Australia overprints were used temporarily.

In the meantime, this 21-square kilometre island became a League of Nations mandate administered by Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. However GB overprints remained in use until 1924 when a specific set was produced in Australia.



During World War II, Nauru was occupied by Japanese troops, who were bypassed by the Allied advance across the Pacific. After the war ended, what was to become the independent Republic of Nauru (in 1968) entered into UN trusteeship.



WHO'S (&Was) WHO on Malta Stamps

Antoine Vassallo

202 Sandra & George **Ellul Sullivan**, stamp designers, with first in 1974

203 St **Elmo Sant Iermu** (early fourth century martyr Erasmus of Formia) **12c Monuments 1980**

204 **Elton John** (born 1947 as Reginald Dwight) English entertainer **MS 2003**

205 St **Emilie** de Vialar (1797-1856) French foundress **16c Education 1997**

206 Richard **England** (born 1937) Maltese architect, with first stamp design in 1975

207 Blessed Nazju **Falzon** (1813-65) Maltese catechist **2c Personalities 1988**

208 Xandru **Farrugia** (1791-1871) Maltese statuary **19c St Paul 2008**

209 Dr Philip **Farrugia Randon** MOM (1949-) Maltese author and artist **37c Europa 2010**

210 Antoine de **Favray** (1706-98) French painter who settled in Malta **£1 Festivals 2004**

211 Freddie **Fenech**, stamp designer, with first in 1988

212 George **Fenech** (1926-2011) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1977

213 Michelle **Fenech** **11c Children's paintings 1979**

214 Edward **Fenech Adami** (1934-) Malta Prime Minister and President **28c EU Accession 2004**

215 Ludwig **Flask**, stamp designer, with first in **2000**

216 Hugo **Fleury** (1893-1983) English artist, with first stamp design in 1935

217 Giovanni Battista **Foggini** (1652 –1725) Italian sculptor **7c Europa 1978**

218 Raoul **Follerau** (1903-77) French philanthropist **1987 CHS**



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollector

8: Top Australian

"Larger Than Life" really sums up Arthur Gray perfectly: a Philatelic Legend in every sense of that word. Always the life of any party - and the focus of attention in any stamp hall. Arthur left an indelible impression on all who ever met him - indeed his stamp research and exhibits touched thousands who never met him. When he died in 2015, aged 75, many dealers and collectors flew in to pay their last respects: the "best attended funeral in Australian philatelic history"!



The last twenty years of his life had stamps as a dominant and major factor - and he "lived the dream": travelling the world exhibiting, selling, buying and discussing stamps.

By 1999 Arthur had his successful business career largely behind him - and in very good hands. The children were all educated and independent and successful, and it was now the hour for his stamp collections to blossom onto the global stage.

Arthur began exhibiting very late and was aged 60 when he won his first serious level medal at "Australia 99". Since then he won over thirty Large Gold and Gold medals at world exhibitions for various Australian Commonwealth exhibits. This is surely an object lesson that starting later in life can be done well - and successfully.

He had very humble beginnings - and his father worked for the Post Office. Arthur had no airs and graces, with no time for fancy clothes or food; he never became interested in the trappings of success.

His sparring with dealers over prices was absolutely legendary: no matter how scarce or fine it was, Arthur would heap friendly scorn and derision on even a



major rarity to offer half the asking price!

His “Kangaroos” Collection was sold in New York in 2007 for \$A7.15 million - a world record price for a 20th Century collection of anything philatelic, indeed a world record price for a single stamp issue ever. The Harrison imprint block of £1 Brown & Blue Roos set a then world record \$A265,000. This occasion also offered what has been described as the “finest stamp auction catalogue ever”.

Arthur was that he was always very keen to share his material and knowledge: the details stored in his head (especially on his stamp areas) was encyclopaedic.

Arthur was a born leader and could have risen to a high rank very rapidly anywhere. He was popular with everyone - and knew just how to get his way in every situation.

Arthur was keen on stamps to the very end. He attended the Sydney Stamp Expo for several days (only a month before his death), despite being in less than perfect health. He was even still buying major pieces there! And he succeeded in

exhibiting - and winning - posthumously since he had already registered overseas!

with acknowledgments to www.glenstephens.com



The selvedge \$170,000

This stamp was hinged, had a crease and a toned perforation, but sold to vigorous bidding for \$US138,000 = \$A176,930 to an Australian dealer, buying for a client. The estimate was only \$US50,000-\$75,000.

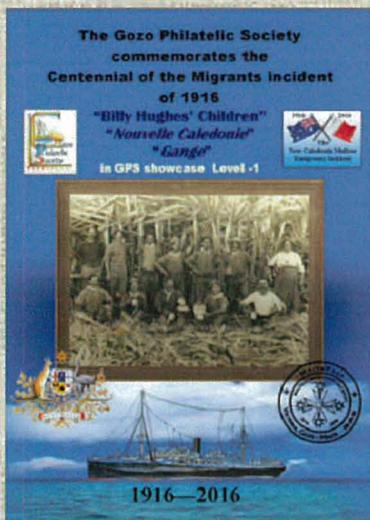




Second GPS Exhibit at



Louis Bonello



On the occasion of the AGM, a new exhibit was set up by Anthony Grech in the GPS showcase which became a permanent feature in December 2015 on level -1 of this museum.

This time the theme was the Centennial of the Migrant Incident which involved quite a few personalities in 1916, including PM Billy Hughes himself.

Besides various items cancelled with the commemorative postmark, pride of place was given to a photo showing some of the sugar cane workers - highlighted on the poster itself.

A nineteenth century passpori - even though not in perfect condition - attracted substantial interest too. A contemporary concertina photo album also received positive comments.

The then-current Malta King George V definitive set was included, also because of a double connection since the designer was Australian artist Sir Bertram Mackennal.

Two write-ups, respectively about the historical background (published by Fondazzjoni Ta' Klula) and the international card venture with Canberra PS (from our own Newsletter), filled up the rest of the space.



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