

October – December 2013

No. 54– 2013

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**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter



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Postcard Front Cover:

- Two cards and personalized stamps from a series of Cards commemorating Malta's Prime Ministers.
- *Issued by the Gozo Philatelic society.*

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. _____

COLLECT MALTA STAMPS

COLLECT MALTA STAMPS

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MATTIA PRETI - 24 FEBRUARY 1613



SILVER REPLICA STAMP

MaltaPost is issuing a Limited Edition Silver Replica Stamp depicting Mattia Preti's portrait. It is struck in 999.0 Silver.

Each stamp is individually numbered and the issue is limited to 2,000 pieces.



COMMEMORATIVE FOLDER No. 7

MaltaPost is issuing a numbered Commemorative Folder (limited to 3,000) which includes a miniature sheet of the 400th Anniversary of the birth of Mattia Preti - 24 February 1613.



Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c.,
305, Triq Hal Qormi, Marsa MTP 1001

T: (+356) 2596 1740 F: (+356) 2124 2764
E: info@maltaphilately.com W: maltaphilately.com

On 7 November 2013

MaltaPost issued TWO Special Handstamps from Gozo.
350th. ANNIVERSARY of 'FRATELLANZA TA' L-IMMAKULATA'
from the Victoria Branch Post Office.
'FTUH MILL-GDID TAL-MUŻEW-DAR KARMNI GRIMA'
from the Gharb Sub Post Office.

GPS NEWSLETTER
Quarterly Organ
of
THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

First issued on 12 February 2000

Editor: Austin Masini

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

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

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CONTENTS

No. 54 - 4/2013

GPS Diary (53)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	2
14th Annual Exhibition Report	<i>Anton V Said</i>	3
GB's 2009 Christmas Stamps	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	5
Philatelic Centennials (10)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	7
<i>Tal-Ghonella</i>	<i>Andrea Borg</i>	8
E & O not E (32)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	9
The Wolfgang Juncker Collection	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	10
Promoting Gozo Through Philately	<i>Anton F Attard</i>	13
Booklets....	<i>Anthony Grech</i>	20
Not Just Paper (6)	<i>Antoine Vassallo</i>	21
Stamp Terms (40)	<i>Emanuel Vella</i>	23
Exhibition Results		26

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3 September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

"the provision of a point of reference" and "co-ordination"

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

email address: secretary@stamps-gozo.org

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

Antoine Vassallo
Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
VO/0546



2 September 2013 Second issue of the set of “Prime Minister” personalized stamps designed by Anthony Grech - appearing monthly on the first Monday

11 September Committee meeting for Exhibition preparations

6 October Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

7 October Third issue of the set of “Prime Minister” personalized stamps designed by Anthony Grech

14 October Setting-up of Exhibition begins

18 October Judging of the exhibits takes place

21 October As has become the practice, MaltaPost issue a commemorative handstamp for our Exhibition and Anthony Grech produced a personalized stamp and relative Card.

21 October Members of the Malta Study Circle and of the Malta Philatelic Society visit the Exhibition.

21-27 October Exhibition (see ?)

31 October Committee meeting to finalize Exhibition prizes

3 November Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

4 November 4th issue of the set of “Prime Minister” personalized stamps designed by Anthony Grech

22 November Anthony Grech produces Cover for Gharb band handstamp

1 December Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ

2 December 5th issue of the set of “Prime Minister” personalized stamps designed by Anthony Grech

Please note that “ISLE OF JOY”, the full colour A4 book with that innovative viewpoint of Gozo produced through the support of the Eco-Gozo NGO scheme, is still available: write to secretary@stamps-gozo.org.

REPORT ON THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S 14TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION.



This year's exhibition was held from 21 to 27 October. The reason behind this event's change in date was to coincide close to the Maltex Exhibition. Since a group of members of the U.K. Based, 'Malta Study Circle' were to attend Maltex 2113 and intending to visit Gozo, together with members of the Malta Philatelic Society we felt that it was appropriate to hold our exhibition earlier than usual as to offer our esteemed philatelist friends an exhibition also in Gozo. In my opinion the result was a success. From the feedback we received, they were much satisfied and favourable comments were passed to the quality and presentation of the material exhibited. Members of the group even

expressed their wish to enrol with our society. As a thank you token we presented each member the latest issue of our news letter together with a commemorative postcard issued for the GPS 14th. Annual Exhibition.

One of the main aims behind this exhibition is precisely to attract new members. In fact an encouraging senior number, especially from Malta and a few juniors enrolled during the exhibition. Attendance by philatelists from Malta is on the increase each

year, both as visitors and as participants. This is quite encouraging, yet we have much more ground to cover especially regarding the junior section. After all they are the future of the Gozo Philatelic Society and of any society.

We are very pleased to note that this year the Education authorities in Gozo helped to give publicity to this event. A word of thanks goes to Mr. Victor Galea the new principal of the Gozo Collage who took the initiative of mailing a circular issued by the G.P.S. to all schools in Gozo to organise class visits, but the response fell much below expectations.

To encourage more involvement by students in this yearly event it has been decided that special prizes will be awarded to participants from schools. These will be given during their local prize giving ceremonies in their respective schools. These prizes will be besides those to be given during the G.P.S. Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday 12 January 2014.

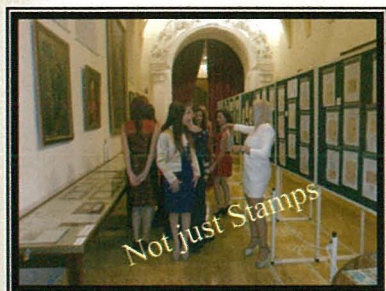
In my opinion and from comments received, the standard of this year's exhibition was again a success. An exhibit in particular in the Postal Section sector deserves special mention. I am referring to some of the Malta items (from a larger collection) that Mr & Mrs Wolfgang Juncker generously donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society. Mr Juncker is a keen philatelist from Germany. He has been a



member of the Gozo Philatelic Society almost from its beginning. Mr Juncker is also the President and Editor of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Malta Ev. The collection of Mr & Mrs Juncker are to be kept in the Gozo Philatelic Society possession according to his wish. The GPS intends to exhibit some of the items every year and maybe in the future we will hold an exhibition of all the items.

Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Juncker for your support and for the superb collection that you so generously donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society. God Bless you both and may He grant you what you need.

Anton V. Said - President Gozo Philatelic Society.



Some of the exhibits, including a small part from The Wolfgang Juncker Collection.



GB's 2009 Christmas stamps; 'Personalities of Advent'
from stained-glass windows

What is the message of these stamps
For the year two thousand nine
The meaning of the message
That comes at Christmas Time?



The cheapest stamp - the Second Class

Depicts a heavenly Angel fair
With lute and wings and speckled stars



The First Class stamp depicts a Maid
A Baby seated at her side
She is the Virgin Mary - and
Jesus Christ her little child.



Although Mary was a human
Her baby Jesus was divine
Immanuel - The Son of God
The Angels gave the sign!



The Air mail stamp depicts a Man
Joseph a man who worked with wood
He was The Virgin Mary's Husband
A holy, pious Man and good.

God gave these two the solemn task
To raise His Son - the Holy Child
Provide for Him a loving home
A refuge pure and undefiled.



A Wise Man on the 90p
Bearing Jesus gifts most rare
The purest gold and pure incense
Frankincense and fragrant myrrh.



Gold depicted Majesty
Frankincense His Holy Life
Myrrh depicted suffering
Combating Satan's evil strife.



A Shepherd carrying a Lamb
Depicts two aspects of the Lord
Descriptions given by Himself

I AM the Lamb of God - He said
To bear the curse of sin away
I also am the Shepherd Good

These stamps will travel through the World
A precious message they will bring
Good will on Earth and peace to men

HARK! The herald Angels sing! *John*



1950's Christmas Card

Gozo Philatelic Society.
The President,
Committee and Editor
wish You and Your
Families a Blessed
Christmas and a Happy
New Year

PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

10 - The "SG" dies (1913)

For stamp collectors worldwide, the name

Stanley Gibbons is synonymous

with philately - at the forefront as a stamp dealer and philatelic publisher.

The story began on 21 June 1840, when Edward Stanley Gibbons was born at his father's chemist shop in Plymouth - seemingly fatefully, in the same year as the Penny Black!

While attending Halloran's Collegiate School, the young Edward developed his passion for philately: his boyhood stamp album is said to have included the 1d. black



Edward Stanley Gibbons

Western Australia and a 1d. Sydney View.

Like many boys at the time, Edward left school at 15. He worked for a short time at the Naval Bank in Plymouth before joining his father's business as a shop assistant in 1856, following the death of his eldest brother.

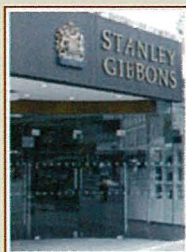
Young Edward was apparently a sharp operator with good commercial instincts, and these were encouraged by his father who allowed him to set up a stamp stall using a counter in their chemist shop: positioned next to a side window, so Edward could expose his stamps and begin his first stamp shop.

Then, one day in 1863, luck came knocking when two sailors offered him a sack full of Cape of Good Hope stamps: the first-ever triangular stamps. Edward gave the men £5 (at that time, a respectable month's salary) and set about selling the stamps to interested parties, mainly other dealers.

He made a lot of contacts abroad and steadily built up a large stamp stock. Eventually, Edward's father died, and he took over the chemist's shop. But the stamp business was good: Edward had his own office on the first floor and was able to employ a shop assistant. So, he sold his late father's business to concentrate solely on philately.

He used the name ES Gibbons, later changed to E Stanley Gibbons. In 1865, Gibbons edited his first price list in the form of a magazine, with prices for used and unused stamps from various colonies and other countries. With it, the famous Gibbons Catalogue was born, with Edward designing the albums himself.





In 1872, Gibbons moved to a bigger shop in Plymouth, before taking the plunge and relocating to London in 1874. In 1890, after 34 years of dealing in stamps, Gibbons - by now aged 50 - decided to retire. He sold his business for £25,000 - equal to millions today - and embarked on a new life.

Inspired by the stamps from all over the world that had fascinated him since he was a boy, Gibbons apparently became a great Edwardian globetrotter. He visited Monte Carlo, Ceylon, Burma, Japan, Hawaii and the United States on his travels. His passion for stamps wouldn't abate, and in

many countries he continued to buy stamps for his old company. Upon retiring, Edward Stanley Gibbons sold his affairs to Mr Charles J Phillips who became managing director, with Gibbons as Chairman. He began to publish a monthly magazine, a precursor to today's famous Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

The business continued to expand even after Edward's death on 17 February 1913 - with ups and downs. The company is now also very active in rare stamp investment, a most popular alternative investment. Philately continues to thrive as a global hobby and investment, with some 48m collectors worldwide.

This article can also be considered as the first in a new series: Celebrity Philatelists.



The 'Ghonnella'

Andrea Borg.



The *Ghonnella* or *Faldetta* was a female headdress usually made of black silk. Different lengths of material were stitched together to form a decorative selvage. Two stripes of cardboard, shaped by damping to form an elegant arch were inserted between the top and under layer of silk. Three small whale bone rods were stitched along the vertical edge to give flexibility to this part of

the *ghonnella*. Only skilful seamstresses were able to produce this garment. The *ghonnella* came in different sizes and also right and left handed. Another version of the *ghonnella* was the *Stamina*. This was made of cheaper material, usually cotton and had no whale bones. This was for daily use and was carried on the arms. It was almost specifically worn when going to church. The beginning of the twentieth century saw the decline of the *ghonnella*, although in some places women kept wearing it till the middle of the same century. One of the last woman to wear the *ghonnella* in Gozo was *Dolora* of the now folkloristic duo '*Fonzu u Dolora*.' But probably the last two women wearing it were *Censa tal-Fekrun* and a member of the M.U.S.E.U.M. who lived in an ally in St. Mary Street Victoria.



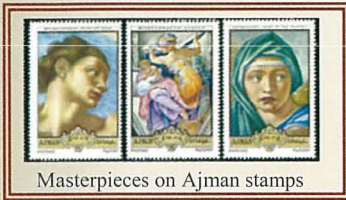
E & O not E (32)

glances at stamps with design or printing mistakes.

Probably the simplest way to design a stamp is just to reproduce an existing painting. In spite of the change in format, size and - quite often - proportion, I suspect there is no existing country which has not succumbed to the temptation of using this “shortcut” towards the construction of attractive sets!

A region which has provided a “deluge” of such material is surely that

which is often described as Gulf states, most of which are now incorporated within the United Arab Emirates. One of these was Ajman - which even “created” a dependency: Manama. There was a period in the late 60s to early 70s when its “Old Master” stamps were so numerous that it’s not always easy to distinguish and identify - and where



Masterpieces on Ajman stamps

there remain uncertainties regarding the exact issue date (and on whose authority).

I now highlight a particular stamp, just one among eleven. It is inscribed “Thadais Helbing W Mozart”; however this mid-eighteenth century portrait owned by Salzburg’s Mozarteum is in fact one of the most commonly misattributed: the boy is actually Karl Firmian, a childhood friend of Wolfgang Mozart.



The young count was the son of baron Franz Alphons, born in 1718. He studied in various central European cities, including the Benedictine university of Salzburg, and later lived quite a few years in Italy, even declaring that Naples offered the best years of his life (he died in 1782, following varied experiences of an administrative and political nature).

Firmian was a lifelong collector and supporter of the arts. Unsurprisingly, he was among those who came under the influence of Mozart’s genius and hosted him in Milan; he was moreover instrumental for Mozartian operas getting produced there when only fifteen or sixteen.



The real Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on Austria stamp



Wolfgang Juncker
Leinwaden, Münsterland a. D.

04424 440009/4400
Leinwaden 47
Tel./Fax 00491-44363
e-mail: juncker@t-online.de

den 23. Oktober 2013

I, the undersigned Wolfgang Juncker,
wish to donate this philatelic material
to the Gozo Philatelic Society, not to
be sold but to be kept in Society's possession

Ich, der Unterzeichner Wolfgang Juncker,
lehene diese philatelistischen Belege der
Gozo Philatelic Society, nicht zu Verkaufszwecken,
sondern zur Bewahrung als Eigentum
der Vereinigung.

Wolfgang Juncker



THE WOLFGANG JUNCKER COLLECTION.



On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society we thank Mr. & Mrs. Wolfgang Juncker of Germany for the superb Malta Collection of Postal History items donated to our Society.

During the Committee meeting of the 31 October 2013, it was unanimously decided that Mr. Wolfgang Juncker be declared a
**LIFE HONORARY MEMBER
OF THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

Anton V. Said President. Antoine Vassallo Secretary.



We are proud to present to our members some of the interesting items from the

WOLFGANG JUNCKER COLLECTION

donated to the Gozo Philatelic Society by Mr. & Mrs Wolfgang Juncker of Germany.

by Anthony Grech



King George V 1/2d. Mint pair, J.B Catalogue number 75, issued on 12 January 1922, designed by Sir Bertram MacKenna and overprinted at the Government Printing Office.

Wrong spelling Self Government on second stamp.

SELF GCVERNMENT.

King George V 2 1/2d. Mint pair, J.B Catalogue number 76, issued on 12 January 1922, designed by Sir Bertram MacKenna and overprinted at the Government Printing Office.

Raised 'T' on both stamps.



King George V 3d. Mint pair, J.B Catalogue number 77, issued on 12 January 1922, designed by Sir Bertram MacKenna and overprinted at the Government Printing Office.

Broken letters on both stamps.

Check your collection. See if you have any like these. Its worth it. GOOD LUCK.

2013 Annual Exhibition.

Photos by Anthony Grech



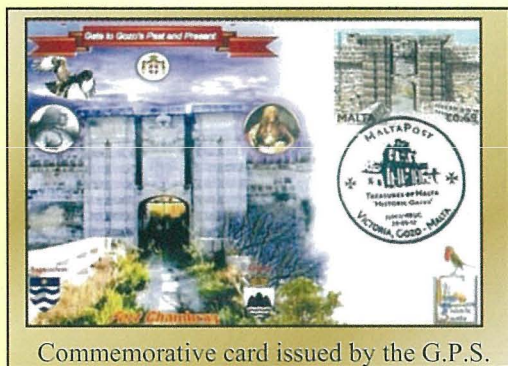
1898

Promoting Gozo through Philately

FORT CHAMBRAY

By Anton F. Attard

On 26th September 2012 Malta Post issued a set of stamps featuring Historic Gates of Malta and Gozo. The €0.69 stamp carried the illustration of the Main Gate of Fort Chambray, in Gozo, the last large fortress built by the Knights of St. John in these Islands. What do we know about this fortress? One thing this is certain. Fort Chambray was not built in one day.



Commemorative card issued by the G.P.S.

erection of a fortress on that site had been under consideration since the previous century: *Hecce Oppidum Gaulos Insulae praesidium instructum jamque e seculo excogitatum...*

The building of another combined fortress and town apart from the ancient Citadel in the heart of Gozo had been under consideration from the early years of the coming to Malta of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John. Following the disastrous siege of 1551 the urgency of such an undertaking became more acute and plans were already taken in hand to erect such fortress and town at Ġhajn Damma overlooking Marsalforn Bay. However, lack of funds and more important works in the island of Malta made the Order abandon the project. Had the Ġhajn Damma Fortress-Town materialized itself, the Order had the intention of demolishing the ancient Citadel. Then the attention was turned to Ras it-Tafal, the hill overlooking Mġarr Harbour. The project of a new fort on this hill had been under consideration since the 17th century.

Following the onset of the 18th century, matters resurfaced again, even though Turkish raids had dwindled to next to nothing. The plan of the new Fort was produced by Architect Louis Francois d'Aubigne' de Tigne' on





15th September 1716. This plan was approved by the Grandmaster Perellos and Council on 22nd March 1717. But works on the project could not be taken in hand unless funds became available. The great benefactor for this work was found when the gallant Norman Knight Jacques Francois de Chambray was prepared to advance 40,000 scudi for the benefit of Gozo.

The proposal of building a new town at Mgarr was backed by the following beneficial elements:

Good supply of water at Mgarr.

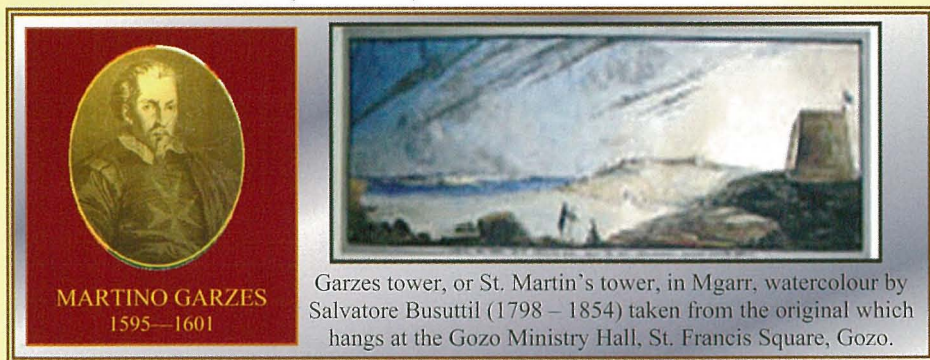
Mgarr was the only valuable harbour of Gozo.

Mgarr was the door to Gozo for all communication and commerce.

Travellers from Malta could find easy lodging within reach from the landing place.

Accommodation at Mgarr would make Gozo's commerce and population thrive and increase.

Mgarr was already defended by a huge Tower (Garzes) and a battery under the hill of Ras it-Tafal (Girandola).



With regard to a Fortified town at Ras it-Tafal:

This was going to be large enough so that, in case of siege, it could accommodate the whole population and the animals of the island.

In case of an invasion the enemy would have to conduct two sieges instead of one.

With a new Fort at Ras it-Tafal, people and livestock would be taken to the

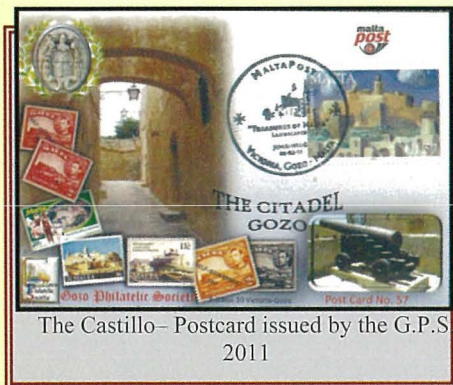
new Fort and the Castello would be left to serve a military purpose only.

In case of defeat, the Castello defenders would retreat to the new Fort instead of surrendering.

The new Fort would contribute in no small measure to the defence of the Malta-Gozo Channel.

Since the new Fort could have direct communication to Malta, defenders could easily receive reinforcements from Malta or in case of defeat, to withdraw.

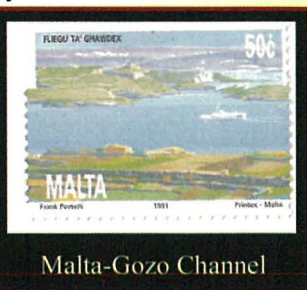
Ras it-Tafal was not dominated by threatening land features overlooking the hill.



The estimated cost of the new Fortified Town was around 160,000 Maltese scudi, an enormous amount of money for that time.

After de Chambray's offer to pay for the new project, on 15 September, 1749, Grandmaster Pinto authorized the erection of a strong new Fortress at Ras it-Tafal according to the plan devised by the "late Engineer de Tigne"

Work started on 4th October, 1749. It is worth noting that many building blocks were cut from the rocks of the same hill of Ras it-Tafal. In fact, it was only in this Fort that sandstone stoneblocks were used as building blocks, since normally such stoneblocks are not considered adequate and good enough for building purposes.



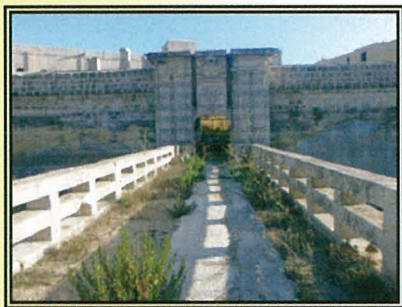
Preliminary work was completed by June 1752.

On June 23rd 1752, as a normal procedure, the project was approved by the Council of State. All members present widely praised Chambray for his undertaking to fulfil de Tigne's plan. Furthermore they ordered that

the construction of the Fortress should be proceeded with in accordance with de Tigne's original design.

However, in view of the lapse of time since the production of de Tigne's plans, it was advisable to have them revised. This exercise served nothing and when the fortifications were ready a rectilinear street plan was laid out and plots were offered for sale. But Gozitans thought it was inconvenient to live there, although secure and Fort Chambray never became a town.

Work on the fortifications proceeded steadily, in spite of technical difficulties and labour troubles, compelling the Grandmaster to intervene in both cases.



On 6th August, 1758, the Chapel of *La Madonna delle Grazie* was blessed by the Reverend Fr. Giuseppe Dou, delegate of Fra Giovanni Domenico Mainardi, Grand Prior of St. John's Conventual Church, in the presence of the Knight Carolus de Guast, Governor of Gozo.

In 1751 the Fort was armed with 24 guns of different calibres, but the Fort itself was not yet complete.

On 21st January 1760 approval had been given to construct the following works: a bridge in front of the main entrance, a windmill, a bomb-proof water cistern, two bomb-proof living quarters, a new hospital, a bomb-proof powder magazine in the south west bastion and wooden doors to the three side entrances.

The bastions of Fort Chambray were named as follows:

St. Anthony's Bastion, St. Paul's Bastion, Notre Dame de la Cala Bastion, St. Paul's Counterguard, St. Anthony's Demilune, Guardian Angel's Bastion (added in 1760), St. Cajetan's Bastion (added in 1760).

Construction work on the fortifications of Fort Chambray was almost completed by 1761.

When complete the Citadel Town was also supposed to contain:

The Governor's Palace with gardens within St. Paul's Bastion on the land front; the Parade Ground, the Parochial Church, the Castellania with the Jurats' Office, the three buildings 18, 21, 22 were to have an arched portico built along their front entrance walls, each building block was to have a large central yard. Due to lack of funds, many works were left undone.

The first Capo Mastro of Fort Chambray was Francesco Busuttill appointed on 1st August 1751 who also had instructions to demolish the Old Castello after Chambray had been fully completed. However, Busuttill died on July 13th, 1773 and was succeeded by Pasquale Scicluna under the same conditions.

The years rolled on and no one seemed inclined to start demolishing the Castello. The new formidable fortifications built during the Grandmastership of Aloff de Wignacourt (1601-1622) were too hard a nut to crack! Moreover the hard facts were that Gozitans preferred their ancient town on Citadel hill and its suburb, than Chambray, and as we have already said nobody went to live there.



On June 9th, 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte arrived off Malta, and by June 10th he occupied both Malta and Gozo. Fort Chambray stoutly defied Bonaparte's General Reynier. Four brave Gozitans lost their lives defending the Fort. These were the husbands of Giovanna Mizzi,

Maria Calleja, Maria Grima and Rosa Saliba who later on received a pension in view of the loss of their dear ones.

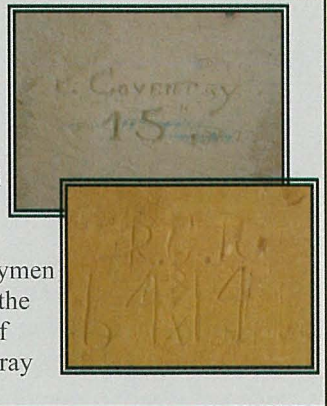
Later on the Fort was occupied by French troops but they were forced to evacuate it on 25th September 1798, and in 1805 some French soldiers were imprisoned within its walls.

During the 19th Century and up to 1928 Fort Chambray was occupied by several British regiments. It was used as a rest camp during the First Great War 1914-1918 and also as a place where the wounded were brought for

convalescence, particularly those who took part in the Gallipoli campaign. The Gozo Hospital for Mental Diseases was opened at Fort Chambray in 1934. About 150 patients were housed in the former two storey barracks of the Knights. From 1937 to 1936 what was formerly used as married quarters for the British regiments were transformed into a Leprosy Hospital.

In the Fort there were also two cemeteries one for Catholic and the other for Protestants where several British Soldiers and high civil service

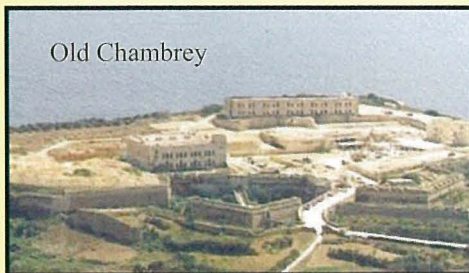
Graffiti
by
British
Militarymen
left on the
walls of
Chambray



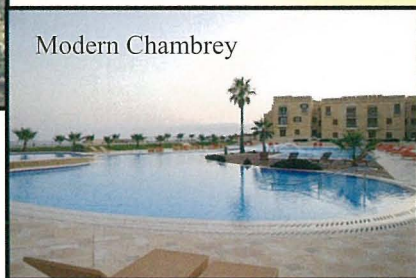
officials were buried. It is really a pity that they were desecrated and destroyed by “would be developers” with the authorities concerned not raising a finger to conserve Gozo’s historical patrimony.

In the sixties the Italian company Federici and Iglori had filed an application with the Government for the conversion of Fort Chambray into a first class hotel, but nothing materialised.

In 1986-87, several construction



Old Chambrey



Modern Chambrey

works were carried out by the Labour Government to develop Fort Chambray as a Tourist attraction, but following the change in Government, in 1992 this historic Fort was given on emphyteusis to Antimen, a company of Adv. Roberto Memmo registered at Monaco, against the payment of Lm10,000 per annum as ground rent. which later on that year changed its name to Antimen 2 and was registered in Rome. A consortium of local investors also had vested interest in the Chambray project.

At last, in 2005 the Government passed Fort Chambray over to the Fort Chambray Co. Ltd of Dr. Michael Caruana, LL.D. that started the real development and restoration of this historic Fort. This could be done as the said company acquired all shares of previous investors who *prima facie* wanted to earn money without making any effort to develop the Fort as a first class residential entity. What others could not do was superbly carried out and is still being done by Fort Chambray Co. Ltd.



Panoramic view from Fort Chambray. Photo by George Vella.

A BIG WELL DONE



Goes to our member Ms. Jacqueline Mary Curmi for her participation not only in our exhibition but also in the Malta Philatelic Society, MALTEX 2013 Philatelic Exhibition. Ms. Curmi created a **FIRST- EVER FEMALE PARTICIPATION** in the history of this prestigious exhibition.

REMEMBER.....



Members meeting
on first Sunday of
February 2014 at
the Victoria Scouts Head
Quarters,
St. Dminka Street, Victoria.



Come along, bring a friend.
Lots of items for sale at low prices.
Stamps, firstday covers and much
more.

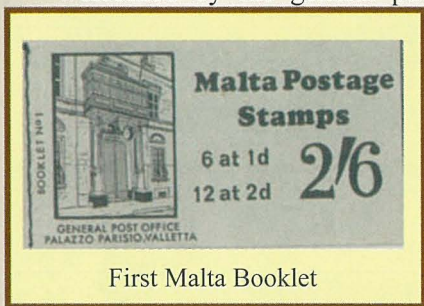
BOOKLETS... When did they start?

Anthony Grech.

Stamp booklets have a practical use. It is almost impossible to carry stamps in a wallet. Stamps tend to tear or even worse to stick to each other. The booklet offered a kind of protection and the idea was welcomed by the general public. The United States of America are

considered to be the pioneer of the stamp booklets. However long before the USA booklets arrived, the Western Union Telegraph Co. issued in 1861 booklets with stamps that could be exchanged for telegraphic use.

At first booklets were not popular with collectors. But then in the 1930's something happened and the great hunt



First Malta Booklet

for these items started. A few well to do collectors started to buy all the booklets they could lay their hands on. They visited dealers, attended auctions, looked for bargains and made a clean sweep of any booklet available. This was the first golden age of the booklet. Before that, booklets were sold for pennies, afterwards the price reached hundreds of sterling. The booklet popularity was so great that Booklet Societies were set up with thousands of members, catalogues published and crowds of collectors invaded the stamp dealers, but only a few booklets were still available.

In Malta the first booklet appeared on 6 May 1970

(J.B. Stamp Catalogue no B1). It had a sewing machine slate grey cover, depicting the General post Office, Palazzo Pariso, Valletta. Priced at 2/6d it contained 6 stamps of 1d. (Definitive issue of 1965, JB no 311) and 12 of 2d. (Definitive issue of 1965, JB no 313). Information about postage rates was printed on the inside of the front cover, while the end cover had an advert for 'Cassar & Cooper' and for Emmanuel Said stamp dealers. This was the only booklet to carry an advert for a private company. Three other similar booklets were issued in different cover colours and with different views. On 2 November 1994 Posta Malta issued its first Air Mail Booklets. To day Maltapost issues a stamp booklet every year using the 'Europa' stamps. (Reference; Stamp Lover 1993 Vol.95)



Not just PAPER (6)

examples of unusual stamp production

Antoine Vassallo

Quite a few countries have experimented with the addition of other materials to the stamp paper. One of these is wood - maybe not very different chemically!



I highlight the 2005 sets commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar bicentennial issued by quite a few Commonwealth territories: an “omnibus”. This event was a decisive naval victory, probably best-known for Admiral Horatio Nelson’s death. He commanded the Royal Navy fleet which destroyed the combined

Spanish and French off Cape Trafalgar on the Spanish Coast.

Oak removed during the restoration of *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship, provided powder to be embedded into the particular design. I show Bermuda's example; the other three stamps were “normal”, showing *HMS Pickle* (constructed in Bermuda). Other issuers

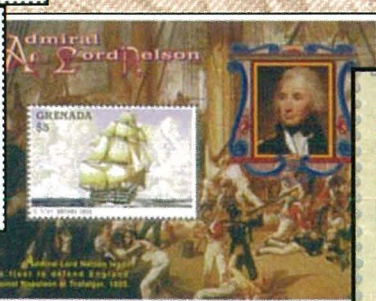
included Ascension, Bahamas, BIOT, British Virgin Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, St Helena, St. Lucia and Tristan da Cunha.



Boasting of numerous “Nelsonian” connections (he went ashore a couple of times and his body was landed there), Gibraltar issued a miniature sheet actually containing “a layer of *Victory* wood”.

This ship had in fact already been shown a substantial number of times, beginning (if I'm not mistaken) in 1932 - Antigua. I limit myself to a further two dozen!

as always, readers are invited to send comments or





Fun For Juniors only

AND WIN

By Katherine Borg



A	U	S	T	R	I	A	S	C	L	I	Z	A	R	B
T	U	N	I	M	A	S	H	H	J	L	A	E	Q	I
U	G	S	J	I	D	S	S	I	S	A	M	C	R	A
R	A	T	T	M	A	F	M	N	X	M	B	N	O	I
K	N	B	V	R	N	O	N	A	C	I	T	A	V	S
E	D	E	N	M	A	R	K	U	L	H	E	R	A	I
Y	A	L	F	K	C	L	N	Y	S	T	L	F	T	N
G	V	G	R	E	H	F	I	H	X	A	A	G	P	U
M	D	I	T	A	L	Y	L	A	B	S	K	E	D	T
M	B	U	L	G	A	R	I	A	S	U	L	G	O	E
A	T	M	Q	A	R	I	N	R	N	R	I	Y	U	C
M	F	I	N	L	A	N	D	O	G	P	B	P	R	E
R	S	A	N	A	R	F	I	K	F	Y	Y	T	E	E
E	H	R	U	S	S	I	A	B	U	C	A	D	P	R
G	E	R	A	N	Y	M	W	D	N	A	L	O	P	G

There are the names of 30 stamp issuing countries in this square. Mark each country. They are spelled forward, backward, up or down and even in diagonals. Can you find all 30 or at least 25? If you do, just write them on a piece of paper (do not tear the News Letter) together with your name and address and send them to;-

Anthony Grech, 'Warda Maltija' 4 Triq l-Ibisku, Xewkija
by not later than the **20 January 2014**. Members with correct answers will receive a stamp gift, or a First day cover.

Countries starting with letter;-

A=2. B=3. C=4. D=1 F=2. G=3. I=3. L=1.

M=2. P=2. R=1. T=2. U=2. V=1. Y=1.

Stamp terms used in **PHILATELY** (40) *Emanuel Vella.*



Onza; Spanish)
16 onzas = 1 libra.
Currency unit of
Spain 1854-5.

Opera Glass Cancel;

Twin circular date stamp devised by Pearson Hill and used for a short period in Great Britain—about 1848.



Oradea; (Nagyvard, Eastern Hungary). A special set of surcharged stamps of Hungary. Issued by the Russians in 1945 to commemorate its being handed back to Romania.



Orange Free State; Former independent Boer Republic in South Africa. Stamps were first issued in 1868. In the Anglo-Boer War the British occupation led to the appearance of V.R.I. Overprints on Orange Free State stamps, well known for their Orange Tree design were printed. The country was then renamed Orange River Colony.

Orange River Colony;

Former British colony in South Africa, previously known as Orange Free State. The first stamps then inscribed were overprint of Cape of Good Hope issues, 1900-02. Definitives followed in 1903. In 1910 the territory became a province of South Africa and since 1913, South African stamps have been used.





Orangebury Coil;

Scott's no 389 is the rarest known USA pre-cancel as only 500 coils were made for the Bell Chemical Co. of that town.



Orb;

The ball, cross-surmounted and the emblem of British Royalty, which was the basis of the watermark design used in Great Britain stamps of 1873



Orcbha;

Former Indian native state which issued its own internal stamps from 1913 to 1950. Stamps of India are now used



Orchid

The emblem on stamps of Manchuria, a Chinese province



Ordinaries;

United States of America, definitives, regular and general issues



Ore;

Scandinavian monetary unit. Used by Denmark and Greenland since 1875. Norway since 1876 and Sweden since 1858





MUSEUM

MaltaPost is proceeding with its project of creating a museum in Valletta that will be dedicated to all things postal...the history, the industry, the artworks, correspondence, stamps...etc.

Construction works are nearing completion and we have also engaged consultants who have the necessary expertise in the setting-up of museums and such 'experiences'.

As keen knowledgeable and dedicated enthusiasts on Malta-related philately we would welcome any ideas and suggestions that you may have regarding what could be included in the philatelic section of the museum. At this stage of the planning process, we are open to submissions on concepts, ideas and suggestions for example, on facilities, subject matter, story lines, themes etc. Please do bear in mind that the museum is primarily intended to relate the story of Malta's postal services / activity and to provide an 'experience' to the average visitor rather than to serve as a centre of research and study.

We look forward to learning whether the Gozo Philatelic Society would be interested in letting us have its ideas / feedback on this.

With thanks and best regards

Joseph Said

Chairman

MaltaPost plc

Marsa – Malta

www.maltapost.com



**OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE GOZO PHILATELIC
SOCIETY 14 ANNUAL EXHIBITION
HELD AT THE GOZO MINISTRY EXHIBITION HALLS**

21 TO 27 October 2013.

POSTAL HISTORY

First Prize;-Anthony Grech.
Second Prize;-Jacqueline Mary Curmi.
Third Prize;- Jesmond Borg.

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY.

First Prize;- Anthony Grech.
Second Prize;- Jesmond Borg.
Third Prize;-Jacqueline Mary Curmi.
Runners up;- Anton Said Cremona,
Mario Casingena & Vincent Grech

SOCIAL PHILATELY

First Prize;- Anthony Grech.
Second Prize;- Jesmond Borg.
Third Prize;- Jacqueline Mary Curmi.

**BEST ITEM ON SHOW;-ANTHONY GRECH.
AGGREGATE CUP;- JESMOND BORG**

JUNIOR SECTION.

First Prize; Natalia Said.
Second Prize;- Lara Grech.
Third Prize;- Matthew Cardona.
Runners up;- Zachary Borg, John Luke Debrincat,
Miriana Said, Ellyn Rose Debrincat, Nicolai Vella,
Rebecca Xerri, Martina Grech, Jonathan Paul Portelli,
Nicholas Zammit, Glenn Muscat.

Anton V. Said
President



Antoine Vassallo
Secretary

CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

I have pleasure to invite you to our fourteenth

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at Scouts HQ (*triq Santa Dminka* Victoria)
on Sunday 12th January 2013 at 9.30 am.

AGENDA:

- 1= Minutes of thirteenth AGM
- 2= Financial Statement
- 3= Secretary's Report
- 4= President's Address
- 5= Election of Members for Committee
- 6= Motions
- 7= Other Matters

I thus invite paid-up members to:

nominate themselves (or others) for the

New Committee

and submit notice of **Motions**.

The AGM concludes with the

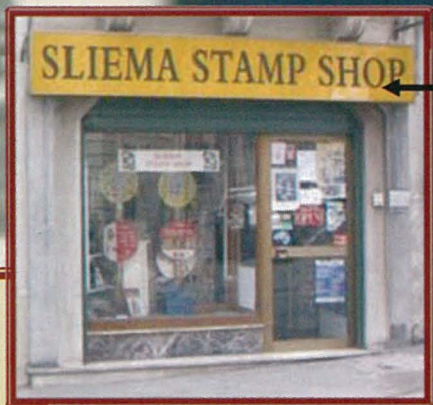
Distribution of Certificates and Prizes

(including, besides the usual SSS Vouchers, a copy of Malta Stamp Collection for Best Item in Show, a copy of the Historical Collection for best Aggregate and a total of fifteen subscriptions for a year 's issues of FDCs sponsored by **MaltaPost plc**

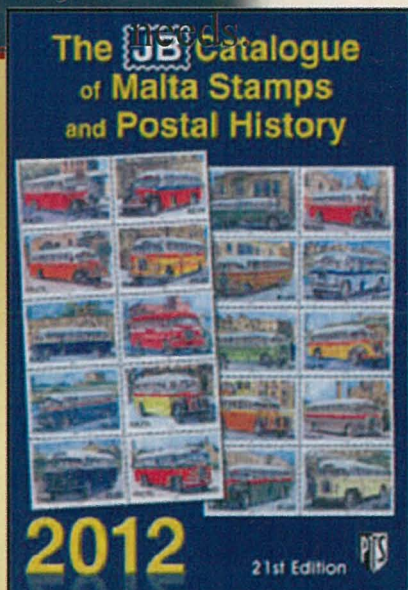
Junior exhibitors can invite their family too. Members are encouraged to offer themselves for nomination to the Committee Members can propose Statute amendments (copies of which are available from the Secretary) or other Motions.

All members are heartily encouraged to attend.

Antoine Vassallo Secretary GPS



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all your Philatelic



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Sliema,



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