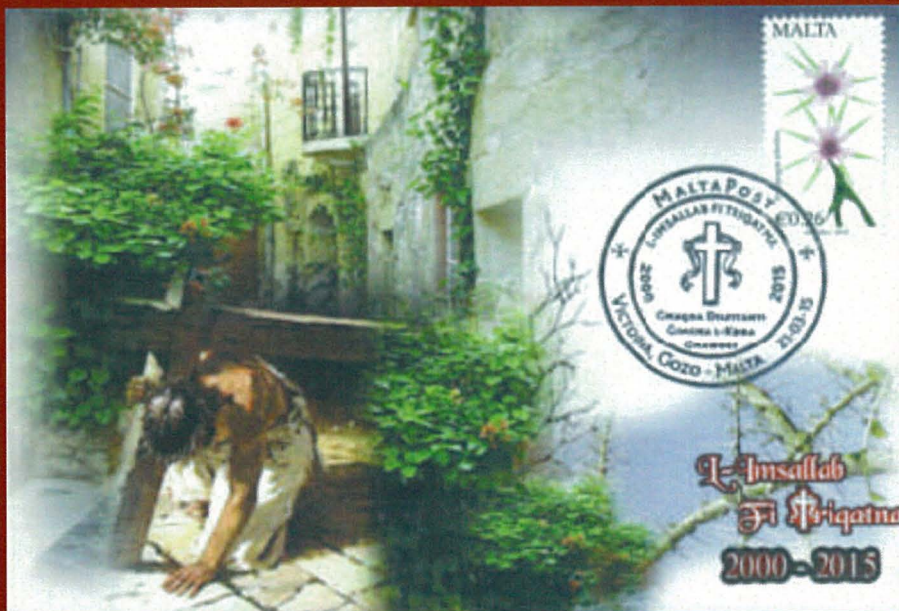




Apri — June 2015

No. 60– 2015

www.stamps-gozo.org



Members Monthly Meeting Sunday 6 May 2015



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter



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Front Cover:

*Our latest card issued on the occasion 5th. Anniversary of the
Gozo annual Holy Week event 'L-Imsallab fi Triqatna'*

Members Monthly Meeting Sunday 6 May 2015

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 60 (2/2015)

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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In the last issue, the first illustration on page 22 had originally been left out from page 7 in issue 57.

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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

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

Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary
Antoine Vassallo GPS Secretary VO/057



- 1 March 2015** Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ
6 March Special Committee meeting to discuss with John Vassallo collaboration with Canberra PS.
21 March Anthony Grech produces cover for *L-imsallab fi triqatna* anniversary handstamp
5 April Free stamps for all juniors participating in the "Easter" Monthly Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ (including items donated through J Camilleri)
3 May Very successful Monthly Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ
14 May Committee discusses possible changes to November Exhibition and decides that the Members' Meetings are continuing in the summer months.

You are all invited to the
Members' Meetings
on the first Sunday of the month
- continuing during the Summer -
at the Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka - Victoria):
an ideal opportunity to acquire and exchange
material, information and knowledge.

There is no entrance fee:
all visitors and participants get FREE stamps.
7 June - 5 July - 2 August - 6 September - 4 October
From 9:00 to 11:00 am
You are all welcome!!!

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

Please note that members can contact the Secretary for free temporary loan of various philatelic publications - listed on www.stamps-gozo.org



INTERESTING ITEMS FROM OUR MEMBERS' COLLECTIONS.

Anthony Grech

The Malta 1946 Clothing Book was distributed to Maltese and Gozitan families because of World War II to acquire rationed clothing. It contained 120 large (1) and 48 smaller (½) coupons. Letters from A to V were printed on 84 of the coupons. The stamps or coupons were printed in 8 different colours. As stated clearly it was important not to lose this booklet as it could not be replaced. It was illegal to possess more than one book, to buy or sell coupons, to use coupons which were not issued for yourself, to cut coupons other than by the retailer and to buy rationed clothes without surrendering the correct coupons.

150th. Anniversary of the First Malta Stamp.

THE HALF PENNY YELLOW

Hand painted First Day Cover showing Jean Ferdinand Joubert de le Ferte' and containing a Queen Victoria half penny coin and a ½d used Yellow Stamp.

Signed by Joseph Said and Joseph Gafa',
Chairman & CEO respectively of
MaltaPost plc





Another “Philatelic” Saint?

By Antoine Vassallo

In issue 57 (page 6) I featured a saint who is practically unknown among us. Today I go to the other extreme:

St Anthony of Padua.

Especially in the Spanish world, his devotees consider him as the “protector” of important letters. His intercession is sought for something more than simply that the letter does not get lost; they pray that it may achieve the required effect, with a positive reply.

This originates from an early eighteenth century miracle. Having written numerous times unsuccessfully to her husband Antonio who had left for Peru on business, a Spanish woman decided that her only remaining hope was our saint. She thus visited the Franciscan church in Oviedo and, praying with profound zeal, left a further letter on the hand of the statue of St Anthony there.

Returning on the morrow, she noticed that this letter had been replaced with a reply from her husband. She snatched it up and a clutch of gold coins fell from the statue’s sleeve. In his letter, Antonio in fact informed her that he was enclosing enough funds for her livelihood until his return soon. He added that he had not received news from her until the letter brought by the Franciscan friar - who kindly accepted to take the reply too!

This story offers a good enough “excuse” to present a few stamps featuring St Anthony of Padua or *il Santo*, as he is simply known throughout Italy (not only in Padova itself). And I begin with its seven stamps on the seventh centenary of his death (in 1931). As was the practice then, the set was also overprinted



(in changed colours) for five colonies: the Aegean, Cyraica, Eritrea, Somalia and Tripolitana.

Portugal celebrated too; obviously, since the saint was actually born there - as Fernando Martins de Bulhões - and thus known as *Santo Antonio de Lisboa*. The six designs include his birthplace, Coimbra and Lisbon Cathedrals and the Padua tomb.

It had been more “voluminous” in 1895 for the seventh birth centenary: all of fifteen stamps, though in just four designs. They had a Latin prayer on the back -



and were overprinted for the Azores too.

In more modern times, Portugal produced an assorted set for the eighth centenary: three stamps together with a miniature sheet. Brazil chose one of these designs, Italy two - thus a somewhat unusual joint issue.



Other countries on this occasion included the Vatican (a statue) and Croatia (part of a polyptych). The Sovereign Military Order of Malta produced a miniature sheet showing an *ex-voto* (together

with two further stamps with a section of this painting).



In the meantime the country of his birth had also commemorated the 750th death anniversary in 1981 with two stamps designed by Jorde Vidal.

Sometimes the image of St Anthony has been used to celebrate occasions which are not directly connected to him. I mention two countries only. Bolivia's 1939 set for the second National Eucharistic Congress included two stamps, later surcharged with new values.



Cont on page 8

Within Sierra Leone's 1990 Christmas offering we find a painting by Filippino Lippi, an Italian fifteenth century artist, which has two Franciscan friars (one being St Anthony) in the corner. This tempera is now in Budapest's Szépművészeti Museum.



The "Anthonian" theme can surely encompass churches dedicated to the saint. Limiting myself to ten examples, I begin with a poster for the thirtieth Padua Fair which included the *Basilica del Santo* in a rather unusual angle. The relative Italy stamp was also overprinted for Trieste. In 1986 Italy featured a Donatello sculpture from this church for Christmas.



In 1970 Venezuela issued a set showing colonial architectural examples, two of which featured churches dedicated to our saint (in Clarines and Maturin respectively, the latter additionally as an imperf miniature sheet).

In 2004 Sri Lanka commemorated the sesquicentenary of his college in Kandy.



The Vatican has a tradition of showing the Pope's travels the previous year: in 2010 St Anthony's church in Luanda

was chosen to represent the visit to Angola and Cameroon.

We finally got a Maltese - or Gozitan - contribution in 2012: the Franciscan church dedicated to him at Mġarr (captioned "Għajnsielem"). A Bosnian definitive in 2014 shows St Anthony's church in Bihać. One could obviously extend this theme substantially but I am disregarding other places so named, as well as the numerous personalities called Anthony or similar. To conclude this short survey, I revert to the story at the beginning by showing five "cinderellas" which are affixed to envelopes to seek St Anthony's protection.



Special Handstamp Cancellations by the Malta postal authorities.



Anthony Grech

Related to and stamped in Gozo by Malta postal authorities. (14)

Previous parts (originally compiled by the late George Vella) appeared in issues 17, 18, 19, 25, 30, 36, 38, 44, 52, 55 and 58 (as “Special Handstamp Cancellations related to Gozo”) and in 29 and 32 (as “Gozitan Machine Cancellations”). Anthony Grech is the present compiler.



65. 21. 10. 2014

SANT'ORSLA—1614-2014

400th Anniversary of the donation of the Bust of Saint Ursula to the Gozo Cathedral.

Given from Victoria Branch Post Office

Designed by Paul Falzon

Size 31mm x 42mm



66. 8. 11. 2014

250 SENA RELIKWI TA' SAN KORONATU FIN-NADUR

250th Anniversary of Relics of Saint Coronatus in Nadur

Given from Nadur Sub Post Office

Designed by Anthony Grech

Size 31mm x 42mm



67. 14. 11. 2014

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY—15TH EXHIBITION

Given from Victoria Branch Post Office

Designed by Anthony Grech.

Size 31mm x 42mm



68. 05. 12. 2014

MILIED F'GHAWDEX

Christmas in Gozo.

Given from Victoria Branch Post Office.

Designed by Anthony Grech.

Size 31mm x 42mm



Promoting Gozo Through Philately

Gozo Pretis

Charles Cassar

Of the St George paintings offered by Maltapost in 2003 to commemorate the 17th centenary of his martyrdom only one is displayed in Gozo: the main altarpiece in Victoria's homonymous basilica shown on the 14c value.

Commissioned by Governor Francesco de Cordoba, it dates from 1678.



Mattia Preti had changed his palette from the exuberance of his early years, his paintings becoming more sober and meditative. It is interesting to note that the main figure was copied by Preti himself as St Michael in a painting for his hometown of Taverna a few months later.



St George's basilica also houses another Preti: that in the left transept dedicated to the Virgin and the Holy Souls. Being later (dated 1686-88), it includes sections where the substantial help from his *bottega* is evident. Eminent art historian John Spike, a Preti expert, has described these two paintings as the most important "Gozitan" artistic works.

Additionally, four oval paintings featuring Fathers of the Church executed by Preti's workshop assistants (using cartoons previously employed by the master) are now exhibited in St George's museum *Il-Ħaġar*.

A third Preti is found in the nearby St Augustine's church where the main altarpiece dates from his last years. Unsurprisingly, authorities tend to state that this painting thus seems to be mostly attributable to one of his assistants (Gioacchino Loretta).



Born in Calabria in 1613, Preti had followed his brother



Gregorio to Rome (then an invigorating art centre). By 1640, he had become a well-known artist, receiving numerous commissions. But, maybe pushed by the intense competition, he went to Naples. Luckily for Malta's art history, Grand Master Martin de Redin asked the Order's procurator in Naples to recommend an artist for some work he wanted for the Aragonese chapel in St John's in Valletta.

This first contact having been made, Preti came to Malta in 1659 - a stay which, after a break, eventually lasted until his death forty years later. And he continued his progress up the Order's ladder!

Fame brought more work—and the need for employees (and apprentices) in his own *bottega* (“workshop”). In general one can say that, as Preti grew older he tended to rely more and more on the *bottega*: experts suggest that he was often happy to just oversee work.

Formally, only these three paintings can be described as “Pretis” in Gozo; but the influence of one of the most outstanding international artists hosted by our nation can be seen elsewhere too.



The Nadur main painting seems to have been based on a Preti cartoon (or preliminary design) for one in the Jesuits’ Church in Valletta.

A Giuseppe d’Arena at the Gozo

Cathedral looks remarkably similar to one in Valletta’s *Porto Salvo* church. Moreover, according to an extant legend, Mattia Preti seems to have painted a titular altarpiece for Xewkija but Bishop Molina liked it so much he took it with him when appointed to Spain!

MaltaPost commemorated Mattia Preti’s quatercentenary in 2013 with a two-stamp miniature sheet but other paintings of his had previously been featured - as far back as 1964.





PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

Antoine Vassallo

14 - First World War Tax (1915)

Various countries imposed a War Tax to raise revenue towards the massive cost of the First World War. This was obviously not the first - nor last - war which led to increased taxes!

In this case, **Canada** led the way: the War Revenue Act of 1915 imposed a levy of one cent on all mail and it was estimated that this would raise \$8million. Three stamps (the 5, 20 and 50 cent) were released on 12 February



1915, overprinted diagonally. They had been intended for tax purposes, rather than for postage; but the ambiguity in the official circular resulted in the belief, for some time, that they were valid for postal

purposes. So a clear “Inland Revenue” wording was added.

Then, the 1 cent and 2 cents definitive stamps portraying King George V in an admiral’s uniform were re-engraved with the words “WAR TAX” superimposed.



These were followed on New Year’s Day 1916 by the 2 cents definitive design re-drawn to include the inscription 1T¢, thus combining 2 cents postage with the 1 cent tax, the stamp being sold



for 3 cents. Further changes continued until the use of the War Tax stamps was discontinued in July 1918; remaining stocks were used for ordinary postage, as the letter rate was increased from 2 to 3 cents.



To mention another country, New Zealand imposed a halfpenny tax on all letters, parcels and packets in 1915. The current halfpenny stamp was overprinted and placed on sale on 24 September 1915. The stamp could be used both for paying the tax surcharge and for normal postage purposes.

Malta’s two were not issued before 1917-8.



Australian MALTA (26)

another glimpse at the prize-winning collection built up by John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia

OFFICIAL 'PRISONERS OF WAR' STATIONERY.

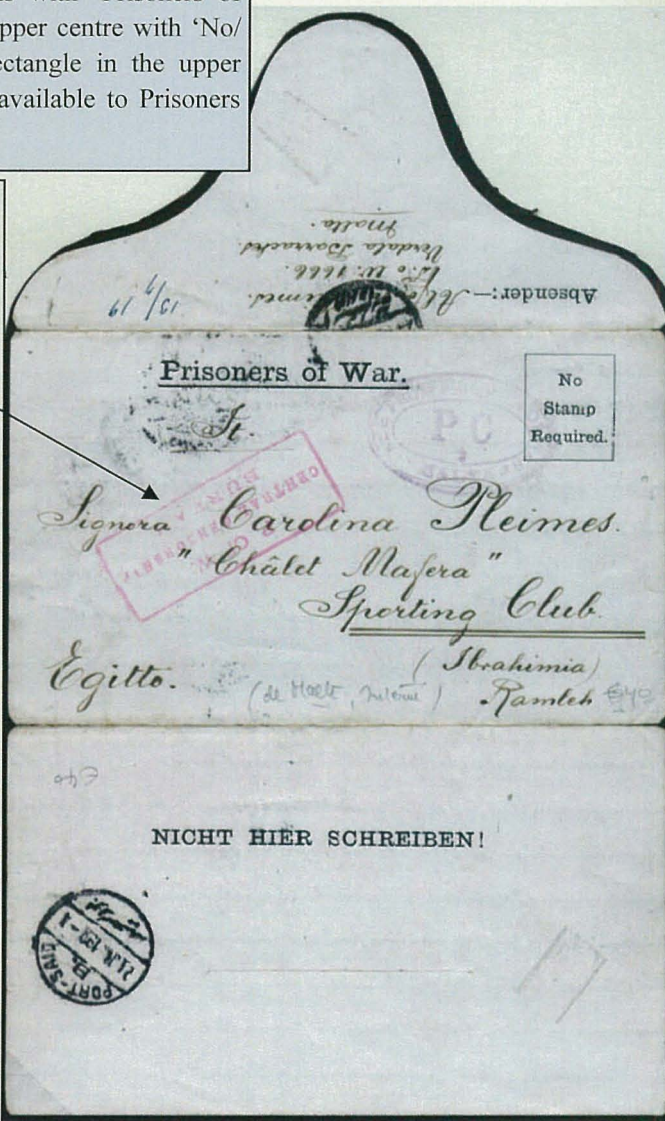
Envelope and lettersheets with 'Prisoners of War' underlined in the upper centre with 'No/Stamp/Required' in a rectangle in the upper right corner were made available to Prisoners of War in Malta

A letter sent to Egypt dated 13 July 1919 from a Prisoner of War at Verdala Barracks, Malta.

An additional censor marking in red reads; 'P.O.W./CENTRAL CENSERSHIP/BURFAN' in rectangle. This was not done in Malta.

Lettersheet sent to Switzerland dated August 1919 from a Prisoner of War from St Clements Camp, Malta.

A colourful Red Cross label of the Geneva Convention (22/8/1864) on treatment of Prisoners of War was also affixed.



proofing & designing

looking at the material donated by J A Mizzi MQR

(7) Naval Vessels 18 VIII 2006

(designed by Francis X Ancilleri)

Suggested designs



**The set as issued on
18 August 2006**

Printer's proof

E & O not E (38)

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

Antoine Vassallo

Doesn't Egypt recognize its own Canal?!



A three-stamp strip was issued in August 2014 to coincide with the government's announcement of plans to build a new Canal next to the existing Suez, now nearing its sesquicentenary. Unfortunately, the middle stamp seems to be based on a photo of the Panama canal: the entrance to the Miraflores locks! In fact,

being a sea-level canal, the Suez does not need locks (the chamber system used to raise and lower ships between bodies of water that are at different depths - or heights). The next month a new strip was issued, safely correct. Moreover, *Cairo Post* reported that the Minister of Communications "ordered an investigation into who was responsible."



Interestingly, this world-famous natural artefact had already been shown in 1956 (on its

nationalization) with a gross geographical error: it does not really connect or link up with Lake Manzala.



Ferdinand de Lesseps, developer of the Suez Canal



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

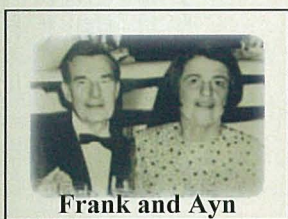
Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors (5)

“A stamp album is a miraculous brain-restorer.”

For author and philosopher **Ayn Rand**, a stamp was never merely a stamp. In a long article published in 1971 in the Minkus Stamp Journal “Why I Like Stamp Collecting”, Rand revealed the reasons she loved collecting. Among them, “Those bright little pieces of paper will carry your words across oceans, over mountains, over deserts, and over savage frontiers. It is the voices of individual men that stamps carry around the globe; it is individual men that need a postal service; rulers do not work by mail. In this sense, stamps are the world's ambassadors of good will”.

One of the 20th century's most influential thinkers, Rand was a fierce defender of the individual. She was born in St. Petersburg (Russia) in 1905. At age six she taught herself to read and at the age of nine she decided to make fiction writing her career.

When introduced to American history in her last year of school, she immediately took America as her model of what a nation of free men could be. After graduating in philosophy and history at the University of Petrograd in 1924, she obtained permission to leave Soviet Russia for a visit to relatives in the United States. Cecil B. DeMille gave her a job, first as an extra, then as a script reader. She married actor Frank O'Connor in 1929: the marriage ended on his



Frank and Ayn

death fifty years later.

Ayn sold her first screenplay in 1932 and saw her first stage play produced in Hollywood and then on Broadway. Her first novel “*We the Living*” (based on her years under Soviet tyranny) was published in 1936. “*The Fountainhead*”, published in 1943, gained her lasting recognition as a champion of individualism. Published in 1957, “*Atlas Shrugged*” was arguably her greatest achievement and last work of fiction. In this novel she dramatized her unique philosophy in an intellectual mystery story that integrated various disciplines. She realized that, in order to create heroic fictional characters, she had to identify the philosophical principles which make such individuals possible.

Thereafter, Ayn Rand wrote and lectured on philosophy and published and edited periodicals. She died in 1982, in her New York City apartment. Copies sold of her books exceed twenty five million, new volumes having also been published posthumously. Yet such an intellectual was a stampcollector too.



By 1974, she possessed some 45,000 stamps - all memorized, so that she did not have to worry how to get rid of duplicates! Here are further quotes from the 1971 article (which also included a page - obviously in monochrome - showing some favourites).



"I started collecting stamps when I was ten years old, but had to give up by the time I was twelve. I was unable to throw away an interesting looking stamp. So, I kept saving odd stamps, all these years; I put them into random envelopes. Once I started sorting out the stamps I had accumulated, I was hooked. It was an astonishing experience to find my enthusiasm returning after more than fifty years, as if there has been no interruption.

Only now the feeling had the eagerness of childhood combined with the full awareness, confidence and freedom of age. Now, if I feel tired after a whole day of writing, I spend an hour with my stamp albums and it makes me able to resume my writing for the rest of the evening.

Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people - because, in patterns, it has the essential elements of a career, but transposed to a clearly delimited, intensely private world. Yet they need relaxation and rest from their constant, single-tracked drive. Stamp collecting fulfills that need.

In collecting, every new stamp is an event, a pleasure in itself and, simultaneously, a step toward the growth of one's collection. In collecting, there is no such thing as too many stamps: the more one gets, the more one wants.

In stamp collecting, one experiences the rare pleasure of independent action without irrelevant burdens or impositions. Nobody can interfere with one's collection, nobody need to be considered or questioned or worried about. When one deals with people as a stamp collector, it is on a cheerful, benevolent basis. There is a sense of "brotherhood" among stamp collectors.

The pursuit of the unique, the unusual, the different, the rare is the motive power of stamp collecting. It endows the hobby with the suspense and excitement of a treasure hunt - even on the more modest level of collecting, where the treasure may be simply an unexpected gift from a friend, which fills the one blank spot, completing a set.

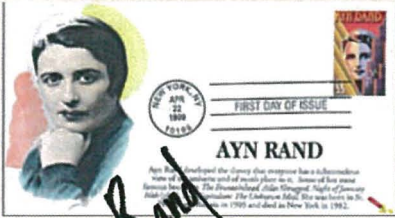
There is a constant change in the world of stamps, and constant motion, and a brilliant flow of colour, and a spectacular display of human imagination. When I hear in the news the name of some country that I discovered only through my stamp album, I feel a touch of personal recognition.

Cont on page 18

A stamp album is like a world tour, with the advantage of focusing selectively on the best aspects of various cultures.

I should like to mention the enormous amount of talent displayed on stamps - more than one can find in art galleries."

Jeff Britting (archives curator at the Ayn Rand Institute) adds: "In light of her philosophy, acquiring things that are valuable and interesting to an individual is a virtuous thing."



Rand didn't collect for investment and never intended to sell her vast collection. One of her doctors — a stamp lover, too — acquired it: a testament to the joy and satisfaction Ayn found in the world of stamp collecting (called by her "an empire dedicated to human enjoyment").



Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla,

In 1999, the United States Postal Service devoted the 16th stamp in its Literary Arts series to Ayn Rand — a fitting tribute to a writer and stampcollector. Nicholas Gaetano, the designer, seems to have continued with the art deco style he has employed on the covers of recent editions of

her novels. He appropriately shows her alongside the Manhattan skyline, which she considered an alluring symbol of human achievement.



In Memory of Mr. Anton Farrugia a long standing member of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Who went to meet his Lord on 19 May 2015 at the age of 88 years.

Our Condolences to his Wife Ursula, his children and all his family members and friends.

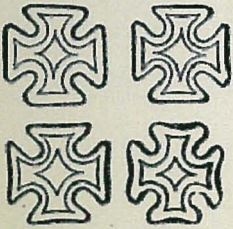
May the Lord grant him eternal peace.



Anthony Grech



Postal markings have been used since 3,000 BC. A stamp killer or obliterator is usually a heavy type of handstamp consisting of heavy bars, or other crude devices used to cancel postage stamps. Killers were often used in the early days of stamps as the postal authorities wished to ensure that stamps could not be re-used. Although there is no exact definition of what is - and is not - a killer cancel, the term is often used to apply to any heavy cancellation.



The first markings of this type were issued in May 1840, with the first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black.

Known as the Maltese Cross postmark it was only used to 'kill' the stamp so as not to be re-used.

No details of where and when the letter was posted were included on this postmark. At first this obliterator was applied in red ink, but soon it was discovered that this ink could be

easily washed away and the stamp could be re-used. In 1841 more permanent black ink was used. Even the colour of the stamp was changed to red-brown and to blue so that the cancellation showed clearly. Britain abandoned the Maltese cross postmark and in 1844

began to use cancellations displaying numbers which referred to the location of mailing. A

similar scheme was used for British stamps used abroad in its colonies and foreign postal services, with locations being given a specific letter followed by a number, such as A25 for Malta, A01 used in Kingston, Jamaica, and D22 for Venezuela.



Pen
Cancellation



CORK CANCELLATION

Where handstamps were not available, stamps often were cancelled by marking over the stamp with pen. These cancellations were commonly used in the United States until the 1880s, and in some cases even today when some postal officer notes that a stamp which has escaped cancellation marks it with a ball point pen, and this not just in the USA, but also in Malta. Afghanistan tried another method of 'killer' - tearing off one corner of the stamp. This method definitely prevented reuse!



Philatelic What & Where (3)

current stamp issuing entities are listed in block capitals

Antoine Vassallo

Readers are invited to suggest additions.

cont from issue 59

Reconstruction = plating.

Recorded Delivery - mail with a receipt given to the sender.

Recut - unhardened printing plate that has been retouched.



Red Cross Message - scheme operated out of Switzerland for the exchange of mail between persons living on opposing sides during WW2.

Red Cross Stamps - commemorate the Red Cross and/or bear a premium in its aid.

Redonda - Dependency of Antigua with own stamps 1979-91

Redrawn - a design with a difference in some detail from a previous stamp.

Reel-fed - printed by presses using continuous reels of paper.

Re-engrave - remake all or a portion of a printing plate or die by making additions or corrections without significantly changing it.

Re-entry - doubling or thinning of portions of the design of a line-engraved stamp caused by the impression having been entered more than once on the plate



Refused mail - mail that is not accepted by the addressee and is returned to sender

Regional - stamp issued for only part of the territory under the authority of a postal administration (e.g. those - now officially called "Country" - issued by Great Britain for England, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)



Registered envelope - a form of postal stationery consisting of a strong envelope (distinguished by crossed blue lines) with an imprinted stamp used for sending registered mail.

Registered mail - mail with a numbered receipt that is signed by each postal employee as it is handled during processing

Register mark - any marking that is put on the sheet margin for the exact adjustment of the perforations of the sheet in the production process.



Registration label - numbered label that indicates the registration number and the office of origin for registered articles.

Registration stamps - stamps issued for the payment

of registration fees exclusively. →

Regular issue = definitives.

Regummed - stamp with artificial or fresh adhesive applied.



Reichenberg-Maffersdorf - two cities in Czechoslovakia with 1938 overprinted stamps to commemorate union with Germany.

Reichpost = Germany.



Reichsmark - currency unit in Germany (divided into 100 Reichpfennig).

Reinosa - city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War.

Reis - currency unit in Portuguese area .

Reissue - official reprinting of a discontinued stamp .

Release date - official date that the postal administration puts an item on sale

Relief Printing - from raised type (or letterpress).

Remailing - mail sent to another country with lower postage costs to be placed into international mail systems.

Remainders - stamps remaining on hand at postal administration after the issue has been discontinued, sometimes later sold at a reduced price (in cancelled condition).

Renecke - town in the Transvaal with local overprinted stamps in 1900 during South African war.

Repaired - corrected flaw in printing.

Repaired paper - paper from the beginning or end of rolls in rotary printing, joined together by overlapping.

Repaired cover / stamp - patched to enhance appearance .

Reperforated - stamp that has been perforated anew (to defraud collectors).

Replica - stamp reproduction made as space filler.

Reply coupon - see IRC.

Reply paid - envelopes and postcards inscribed to permit recipient to reply without paying postage.



Reply postcard - two postcards joined together, one for original message and the other for recipient's reply.

Repp Paper - has a fine ribbing on the surface.

Reprint - stamp printed from the original plate after the issue has become obsolete, often with some distinguishing feature.

Reproductions - stamps made from a new plate to imitate the original issue.

Republican - refers to stamps during the Spanish Civil War 1936-39



Requena—city with local stamps during Spanish Civil War.

Reserve - auction term meaning that the seller has the right to withhold the article from sale if the highest bid does not meet his estimate of what it should bring.

Resetting - new arrangement of clichés in a plate.

Resinised paper - made transparent by treatment with resin.

Restricted - stamps that can only be used for a particular service (eg airmail).



Is it really true that... A schoolboy discovered the world's most expensive stamp? (2)

Probably every stamp collector dreams of finding a stamp that turns out to be unique. In 1873 that dream became true for L. Vernon Vaughn, a 12-year-old Scottish schoolboy living with his family in the central American colony of British Guiana (now the independent Guyana).



Obverse



Reverse

Whilst rummaging through some family papers looking for stamps to add to his collection, he discovered an unusual stamp: what turned out to be the sole surviving British Guiana 1c Magenta. Unable to find any details for it in his stamp catalogue, he sold it a few weeks later to another collector for the “princely” sum of six shillings (less than a present-day euro). He surely didn’t suspect that, less than 150 years later, this “rarest” stamp would become the most valuable item by weight ever to be sold, realising almost ten million US dollars at a Sotheby’s 2014 auction in New York. The auctioneer noted that this made it “by size and weight, the most valuable single object”, even though hardly in pristine condition!

Count Philippe la Renotière von Ferrary, perhaps the greatest stamp collector in history, had acquired it shortly after it arrived in Europe in 1878. His collection, donated to Berlin’s Postmuseum, was seized as part of the war reparations due from Germany. Sold in 1922, this

stamp set the world record when Arthur Hind outbid the collector-King George V - paying over seven thousand pounds. It was last owned by the eccentric John Du Pont (heir to the DuPont chemical fortune) who had paid another record-breaking sum for a stamp in 1980: almost one million dollars; it was put up for sale after his death. The anonymous buyer agreed with the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum for permanent display there.

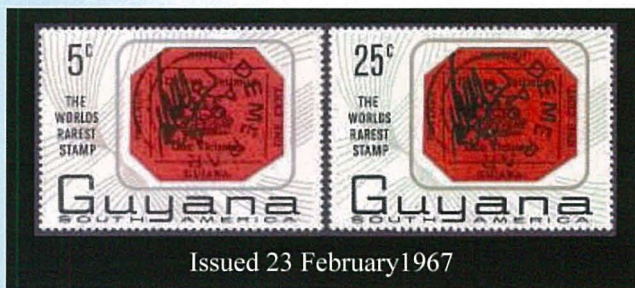
Even the story of how the stamp came to be is intriguing! Since storms had delayed the ships transporting the normal British Guiana stamps from London, in 1856 the postmaster commissioned a contingency supply type-set at the Official

Gazette by Georgetown's Baum & Dallas. Printed in black ink on magenta paper, it shows the image of a three-masted ship and the colony's motto in Latin. "*Damus Petimus Que Vicissim*" (We give and expect in return) Actually the four cent value was included too but is "commoner".

Interestingly, in 2013 a "special" 1795 silver dollar became the most expensive coin at nine million dollars.



Stamps issued to honour the Unique British Guiana 1c Stamp of 1856.



Issued 23 February 1967



Issued: 30.5.1979



Miniature sheets honouring the auction of the unique British Guiana 1cent Magenta when it was sold on 17 June 2014 for a record-breaking \$9.5 million, making it the most expensive item in the world by weight

As for other series, readers are invited to submit their own articles or even suggestions.



MORE ITEMS FROM THE JUNCKER COLLECTION

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



BRITISH STAMPS USED IN MALTA

Entire folded letter sent
by A Gatt to
Mr Carmelo Caruana of New York
on 26 May 1876 via Italy.
Franked with British 2d Queen
Victoria
and ½d Queen Victoria pink
stamps.

Double cancelled by
'A25' Circular duplex postmark.



Entire 1871 mourning letter
bearing
a 1868 1d rose red (plate
119)
and a 1867 3d rose (plate 5)
British stamps neatly tied by
B MALTA FE 14 (18)71
A25 Circular
duplex postmark.

Letter was sent to
Cittavecchia on 14/02/1871,
arriving on 18/02/1871.





Postmarks at the back

Entire letter sent from Malta to Genoa on 26/09/1857, arriving on 2/10/1857.

Franked with a strip of 3 Queen Victoria 1d Red Brown British stamps.

Cancelled with 'M' Postmarks;

also script mark in black, 'P' in oval ring and a 3 line hand stamp in red ink
'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI'



These are just a few items from the vast 'Juncker Collection'
All members are invited to view this impressive collection. If you wish to have a look please inform the Secretary for an appointment.

WHO'S (& Was) WHO on Malta's Stamps

An (in-progress) alphabetic list of those connected with Maltese Philately, asking for your help to fill gaps

do suggest additions (and corrections!)

usually under surname (except saints etc) but some cross-references

Where adhesives are not available, cancellations, handstamps and slogans (excluding First Day cancellations) are shown CHS.

cont from issue 51

Antoine Vassallo

127. Alfred **Chircop** (1933-) Maltese artist **35€ Europa 1993**



128. **Christ** > Jesus Christ



129. St **Christopher** (Christ-bearer) legendary saint - **7€ Christmas 1976**



130. Sir Winston **Churchill** (1874-1965) British Prime Minister centenary set **1966**



131. Vincenzo **Ciappara** (1890-1979) Maltese composer **1990**

132. Daniel **Cilia** (1963-) Gozitan photographer – Prehist **2007**



133. Adelaide **Cini** (1838-85) Maltese foundress - **3€ Philanthropists 1986**

134. Sean **Cini** stamp designer, with first in **2010**



135. St **Clare** of Assisi (1194-1253) Poor Clares co-foundress **1993**



136. Samuel Taylor **Coleridge** (1772-1834) English poet **4€ Authors 1990**

137. Christopher **Columbus** (1451-1506) Italian "discoverer" of the American continent **35€ Europa 1992.**



138. Nicolas **Cotoner** (1663-80) Spanish Grand Master of the Order **2d Doctors 1964**



139. Raphael **Cotoner** (1660-3) Spanish Grand Master of the Order **6€ Sedans 1997**



140. Jean-Paul **Cousin** (1942-) French contest winner - Europa **2000**



141. Jacques Cousteau (1910-97) French explorer **16c Ocean 1998**

142. Chev EV Cremona (1919-87) Maltese artist (designer of innumerable stamps from 1957).



143. Marco Cremona (1951-) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in **1988**



144. Ninu Cremona (1880-1972) Gozitan linguist and author **2012**.



145. Mgr Paul Cremona (1946-) Archbishop of Malta **2007** consecration



146. Patri Anastasju Cuschieri (1876-1962) Maltese poet **10c Personalities 1988**



147. St Cyril "San Ċir" (Rabat church) **39c Chapels 2004**

D

148. Daniel Old Testament prophet **1990**

149. Dante Alighieri (c1265–1321) Italian poet - Centenary **1965**



150. Daphne Greek mythological figure **37c Ceramics 2006**

151. Giuseppe D'Arena (1630-1719) Italian artist who settled in Malta - Christmas **1986**



152. Chev Corrado D'Arezzo (died 1782) **27c Sedans 1997**



153. Karlu Darmanin (1825-1909) Maltese statuary **15c Holy Week 2006**



154. David Old Testament king **10c Christmas 1992**



155. Godfrey de Bouillon (1060-1100) one of the First Crusade leaders **1/6 Art Exhib 1970**

156. Valentin de Boulogne (1591 –1632) French painter **5c Europa 1975**.



157. de Favray > Favray



148. de Fonseca > Pinto



149. Anthony De Giovanni, stamp designer, with first in 1975



150. de la Ferte > Joubert.

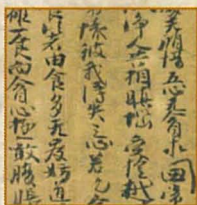
"FIRSTS"

& Earliest in Postal History

Anthony Grech



The First postal regulations on record were issued in the fourth century AD by the Roman Imperial postal system.



The First to use paper as writing material was by the Chinese in the second century BC.

The First international post in the Middle Ages was the Metzger Post organised by the Guild of Butchers in Germany.

The First stamp vending machine attached to a pillar box was in Cannon Street Railway station London in 1885.



The First all mail train in the world was the London Bristol Special Mail on 1 February 1855.



The First horse drawn carts for parcel delivery were introduced in the UK in 1887.

The First horseless mail van was a steam driven vehicle in UK 1897



The First motor postbus was a 29 hp Daimler by the Bavarian post office on 1 June 1905.

The First carriage of mail by canal boat was in 1540 in Holland.

The First regular packet service was in 1633 linking Dover and Calais.

The First paddle steamship to carry mail was the Rob Roy in 1818.





The First steamboat to carry mail across the Atlantic was the SS Royal William in 1833.

The First time that mail was sorted aboard ship was on 1 October 1860.

The First government-operated air service took place in 1870 by means of 31 unmanned balloons during the siege of Metz.



The First Malta postage stamp was the Queen Victoria halfpenny, issued on 1 December 1960

The First postal image of Saint Paul appeared on the 10/- stamp of Malta issued in 1889.



The First Malta postage stamp with a Gozo connection, showing a Gozo Boat, was the 4½d Sepia issued in 1889. It shows a Gozo boat in full sail.



The First Gozo postmarks, Rabato and Migiarro were issued together on 1 December 1885.



The First Malta special Handstamp Cancellation was to commemorate the British Empire Exhibition of 1924.

The First Gozo Philatelic Society Newsletter was published on 25 March 2000. It consisted of 8 pages.



The First commemorative Card by the Gozo Philatelic Society was issued on 2 September 2000 for its first Anniversary.



The First Marian Year in British Territory was commemorated by Malta's set of 3 stamps issued in 1954, entitled Centenary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. (Malta Philateli Society News Letter June 2015)

The First President of the Gozo Philatelic Society was Notary Michael A. Refalo.

Acknowledgments-The Guinness Book of Stamps by James Mackay. & JB Stamp catalogue.

Not just PAPER (12)*Antoine Vassallo*

In 2013 the posts of Slovenia announced a world postal first: stamps with part of the design covered with real salt (from the Piranske Soline saltworks, harvested from the Secovlje Salina Nature Park on Slovenia's Adriatic coast using techniques dating from the 14th century).

This was another Fauna issue, this time showing four characteristic denizens of the Slovenian sea designed by Matjaž Učakar.



Damselfish (*Chromis chromis*) is an oval, laterally compressed fish with a small mouth and large eyes. It grows to a maximum length of 12 cm and is found in abundance throughout the Mediterranean. It lives in large groups and prefers rocky bottoms and shallow depths. In summer male fish prepare nests on hard or rocky bottoms and use fins to fan fresh water over the eggs. The damselfish feeds on small crustaceans and can also be successfully bred in an aquarium.



Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is a marine reptile with a shell divided into two sections: the upper is a red-brown colour, while the lower is yellow. The loggerhead sea turtle can live for more than 80 years, growing to a length of more than 100 cm and a weight of more than 200 kg! Like all sea turtles, it comes ashore every few years to lay between 80 and 150 eggs in warm, damp sand. The loggerhead is a carnivore, feeding on sponges, jellyfish, crabs, molluscs and fish. This is an endangered species because of tourism and pollution.



Common cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) belongs to the *Cephalopoda* class. It has ten tentacles on its head used to seize its prey and also (the shorter) for walking. Placed among the tentacles is the mouth, with a jaw reminiscent of a parrot's beak. In the case of danger, the cuttlefish squirts ink into the water and, in the resulting black cloud, hides from its enemies and swims away to safety.



Golden grey mullet (*Liza aurata*) - issued in miniature sheet - has a body which is laterally compressed, growing to a maximum length of approximately 45 cm.. It has a single gold spot on the gill plate and often a single smaller spot behind the eye. The flanks are silvery and the belly is white. It lives in coastal waters but is also found in estuaries and lagoons. This mullet has a high tolerance for salt water

and its meat is highly prized in winter. The stamps were printed using a very special thermography technique, by Cartor Security of France. The stamps were printed using a very special thermography technique, printed by Cartor Security of France.



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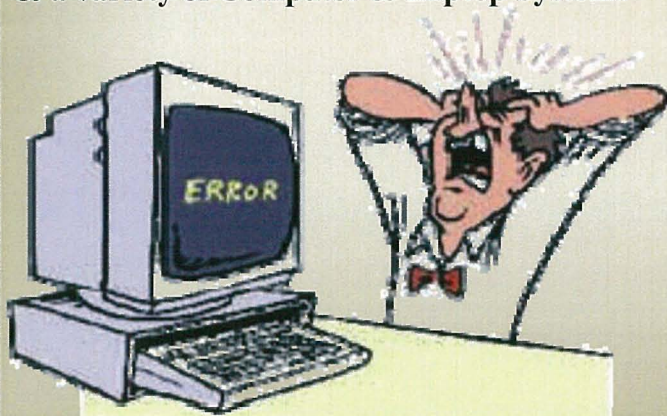
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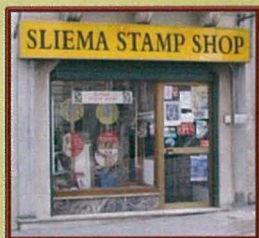
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