Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

The Melite Post

Edited by Mr. Sean Chircop,
Chairperson of *Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun*

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CONTENTS

Kelmet l-Editur	p. 2
British Monarchs on Maltese Stamps	p. 3
Kompetizzjoni	p. 4
L-Arazzi ta' Perellos	p. 5
St. Peter & St. Paul –1950 years	p. 6
Iż-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol	p. 8
Id-Dama Frances Grima	p. 8
Santa Marija	p. 9
Preparations for 2017 Exhibition	p. 10
London Penny Post	p. 11

Il-gazzetta uffiċjali ta'

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun

Kelmet l-Editur

Il-Ġawhra Maltija

minn **Sean Chircop**

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun din is-sena, għall-15-il sena anniversarju, qed jieħu ħsieb li jtella' l-wirja **'Il-Ġawhra Maltija: Mixja tul Valletta'.** Il-wirja se tiftaħ uffiċjalment illum, 21 ta' Settembru, (Jum l-Indipendenza), fil-11:00 a.m. f'Sala Ġużeppina Curmi, taħt l-Istitut Ġesù Nazzarenu, Triq l-Isqof Emmanuele Galea, iż-Żejtun. Il-wirja se tibqa' miftuħa sa nhar il-Ħadd 24 ta' Settembru, f'nofsinhar, għal waqt l-avveniment kollu ta' Żejt iż-Żejtun. Din se tkun il-ħames sena li qed norganizzaw il-wirja f'Settembru u waqt Żejt iż-Żejtun.

Normalment meta niġu biex infittxu u niskopru dwar l-istorja ta' belt jew pajjiż partikolari mill-ewwel immorru għall-kotba jew għal diversi siti fuq l-internet. F'xi wirja li tirrakkonta mumenti speċjali li għaddiet minnhom xi belt, normalment insibu artifatti primarji jew xi dokumenti u ritratti mill-imgħoddi biex juru biċ-ċar x'seħħ lill-ġenerazzjonijiet ta' wara. F'din il-wirja permezz tal-bolol se nkunu qed nagħtu ħarsa lejn wirt imprezzabli u mumenti importanti mill-istorja ta' Malta, li nsibu u seħħew fil-Belt Valletta. Il-bolol u materjal filateliku ieħor se jeħduna fi żminijiet differenti matul l-istorja ta' ġensna biex ifakkru u juru l-importanza, l-istorja rikka u s-sbuħija tal-Belt Valletta, il-ġawhra Maltija. Dan hekk kif is-sena li ġejja, fl-2018, il-Belt Valletta se tkun qed titqies bħala l-Belt Ewropea tal-Kultura.

Fil-kollezzjoni Maltija tal-filatelija nsibu diversi settijiet filateliċi li jitkellmu dwar l-iżvilupp li għaddiet minnu Malta mill-1860 lil hawn. Iżda matul din il-wirja se nagħtu ħarsa lejn dawk il-bolol, 'il fuq minn mija, li jagħtu ħarsa diretta lejn il-Belt Valletta u l-Beltin. Minn ġrajjiet importanti li seħħew fuq il-peniżola ta' Xagħret Mewwija u l-għolja Sceberras, bħall-Assedju l-Kbir, it-tqegħid tal-ewwel ġebla tal-Belt, ir-rewwixta tas-Sette Giugno, u d-dikjarazzjoni ta' Malta Repubblika, sa personalitajiet li ħarġu mill-Belt, bħall-Beatu Nazju Falzon, Ġan Franġisk Abela u l-kompożitur Carmelo Pace. Se nkunu qed nagħtu ħarsa wkoll lejn bini importanti li nsibu tul din il-mixja kulturali; bħall-Kon-Katidral ta' San Ġwann, il-Berġa ta' Kastilja, is-Sagra Infermerija, il-Forti Sant' Iermu, u l-Pro-Katidral Anglikan. Kif ukoll se nħarsu lejn l-artifatti li nsibu f'dawn il-binjiet; il-pitturi ta' Caravaggio u Mattia Preti, l-armerija u l-Arazzi tal-Kon-Katidral u tal-Palazz. Ma nistgħux ninsew ukoll ċertu avvenimenti li seħħew fil-Belt, bħaż-żjara tal-Papa, tar-Reġina Eliżabetta II u ċertu kungressi internazzjonali. Kif ukoll il-festi u ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet Beltin, bħall-Karnival.

Kif qed taraw l-ideat u l-ġrajjiet ma jintemmu qatt, b'hekk f'din il-wirja minħabba l-limitu tal-ispazju ma stajniex inqiegħdu kollox, b'hekk matul il-wirja ħejjejna preżentazzjoni diġitali li turi dawn il-bolol kollha wkoll.

Peress li din il-gazzetta din id-darba qed tasal aktar għand in-nies tajjeb li nfakkru ftit dwar il-grupp tagħna. Il-laqgħat għall-membri tal-Grupp isiru fl-aħħar Tlieta ta' kull xahar, fis-7:00 p.m. Il-laqgħat isiru fil-binja tal-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun, fi Triq Sant' Anġlu, u għal kull laqgħa jattendu mistiedna speċjali li jitkellmu fuq l-aspetti storiċi. Dawk kollha li tinteressahom il-filatelija u l-kollezzjoni tal-bolol, kemm miż-Żejtun u anki minn lokalitajiet oħra, jistgħu jingħaqdu fil-Grupp bla ħlas.

British Monarchs on Maltese Stamps

by **Carmel Bonnici**

(… continues from the 2nd and 3rd edition)

Definitive 1956 and 1957

Historic buildings of Malta were depicted in the issued definitive set of 1956 and 1957. These were of different value from ¼d to £1. Values from ¼d to 2/- were designed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., while the other values were designed by Waterlow and Sons.

Independence 1964 –1974

On 13th November 1967 three stamps were issued to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Visit to Malta as head of Commonwealth. The stamps were designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona. The 2d stamp showed Queen Elizabeth as the Queen of Malta and the Coat of Arms of Malta. The 4d showed the Queen in robes of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, while the 3/- showed an outline of Malta.

Century of Post Office (1885-1985)

On 2nd January, the Malta Post Office celebrated 100 years from its formation. To commemorate the occasion it issued four stamps designed by Norbert Attard. The 3c stamp showed the QV ½d, the 8c stamp showed the QV 1d red, the 12c showed the QV 2½d blue and the 20c showed the QV 4d brown of the 1885 issue. For this occasion issued also a miniature sheet of 43c.

(...continues on page 4)

(... continues from page 3)

Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Jubilee (1953-2003)

On 3rd June 2003, the Malta Post Office issued four stamps and a miniature sheet to commemorate the Queen's Coronation Jubilee. The stamps and miniature sheet, designed by Harry Borg, show the Queen in scenes of previous visits to Malta. The 12c stamp showed the Queen talking to Carmela Agius, who is wearing a faldetta, while the Queen was a naval wife in Malta. The 15c stamp showed the Queen touring Gozo, while rhe 60c stamp showed Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier welcoming Her Majesty.

L-Arti u r-Ritratt Tiegħek fuq Bolla

Il-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun qed jorganizza kompetizzjoni dwar il-filatelija, fejn it-tpinġija u r-ritratt rebbieħ se jkun qed joħorġu bħala bolla personalizzata mill-Grupp tagħna. F'dawn l-aħħar ħriġna bolol personalizzati li kellhom x'jaqsmu mal-istorja taż-Żejtun; fosthom l-Aħħar Ħbit fl-2014, u l-400 sena Matriċi fl-2016. Għall-2018, biex inressqu aktar il-filatelija lejn it-tfal, iż-żgħażagħ u l-pubbliku inġenerali, qed norganizzaw kompetizzjoni f'żewġ kategoriji. Il-kategorija tal-arti hi miftuħa għat-tfal u ż-żgħażagħ li għandhom bejn 5 sa 16-il sena. Filwaqt li l-kategorija tal-fotografija hi miftuħa għal kulħadd, minn tfal sa anzjani. L-aqwa li t-tpinġija jew ir-ritratt juri bini t'interess, xenarju, u/jew aspett kulturali u/jew tradizzjonali li għandu x'jaqsam maż-Żejtun. Ir-ritratt jew it-tpinġija jistgħu jkunu saru anki żmien ilu, l-aqwa li huma oriġinali u huma tiegħek.

Ix-xogħol għandu jasal il-Kunsill Lokali taż-Żejtun sa **30 ta' Novembru, 2017**. Għal aktar dettalji ċempel 21 663 866.

L-Arazzi ta’ Perellos

minn Glen Chircop

L-Arazzi li jinsabu fil-Kon-Katidral ta’ San Ġwann kienu ġew mgħotija bħala rigal lill-Kon-Katidral stess mill-Gran Mastru Ramon Perellos y Roccaful fl-1697, meta ġie elett bħala gran mastru. Dawn l-arazzi, tal-ħarir u s-suf, huma l-akbar sett komplut fid-dinja fejn jikkonsisti minn 29 biċċa xogħol ta’ tapizzerija, 14-il waħda kbar 6 metri, 14-il arazz ftit żgħar u arazz minnhom juri lil Perellos innifsu. Matul il-ħames snin li dawn l-arazzi damu jsiru, infatti waslu Malta fl-1702, jingħad li l-industriji kollha tal-insiġ ta’ Brussell kienu waqfu kollha biex jaħdmu fuq dawn l-arazzi biss. Hekk kif dan jitqies bħala wieħed mill-akbar patrimonji storiċi tal-Ordni ta’ San Ġwann f’Malta, dan l-aħħar kien għaddej minn intervent ta’ restawr fil-laboratorji De Witt fil-Belġju. Is-sena li ġejja l-Mużew tal-Kon-Katidral se jkollu sala apposta biex il-viżitaturi jkunu jistgħu japprezzaw is-sbuħija tal-arazzi.

L-arazzi juru t-Trijonf tal-Ewkaristija u xeni mill-ħajja ta’ Kristu. Infatti l-arazzi tat-Trijonf tal-Ewkaristija huma ispirati minn disinji tal-artist Fjamming Peter Paul Rubens. Filwaqt li tal-ħajja ta’ Kristu huma ispirati minn xogħlijiet ta’ Rubens u Poussin. Mill-1977 sal-1980 ħarġu erba’ sensiliet tal-arazzi li juru t-Trijonf tal-Ewkaristija u fl-1980 ħarġet *miniature sheet* li turi l-arazza bil-Gran Mastru Perellos.

St. Peter & St. Paul - 1950 years

by Mario Casingena

Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul liturgical feast in honour of martyrdom in Rome of the holy apostles, observed on 29 June. The feast celebration has ancient origin, date selected not necessarily at death. Notable philatelic issues from Vatican City and Malta, years 1960, 1967 and 2017 have been used.

The year 2017 marks the 1950 anniversary of the martyrdom of the apostles. Particular reference to Saint Paul within the origin of Pauline cult.

Saint Peter

Saint Peter was the first to lead the followers of Christ. Peter was crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero Augustus Caesar in A.D. 64-68. He was crucified upside down at his own request; age of death 68 years.

Tradition holds that he was crucified at the site of the Clementine Chapel. His remains are said to be contained in the underground Confessio of St. Peter's Basilica, within the walls of the Vatican City. Every 29th June since 1736, a statue of Saint Peter in the Basilica is adorned with papal tiara, ring of the fisherman, and papal vestments, as part of the celebration of the feast of the saints.

These stamps were issued on 28 June, 1967, to mark the 1900 years sine the martydrom of Saint Paul and Saint Peter. Here the artist, Chev. Emvin Cremona, opted to a one colour with a dark background elegantly coming up with a unique design. The 2d stamp showed the crucifixion of Saint Peter, painted in chestnut and venetian red colours. The 8d stamp showed the open Bible and Episcopal Emblems, painted in yellow-olive and gold, while the 3/- stamp showed the beheading of Saint Paul, painted in bluish green.

Tagħrif

Saint Paul

Saint Paul was on these sacred island on his way to Rome. It is here to digest what after all makes interesting of this apostle and what led him to Rome to meet his martyrdom. In A.D. 57, upon the end of this third missionary journey, Paul arrived in Jerusalem for his fifth and last visit with a collection of money for the local community. He was warmly received, however Paul was warned by James and the reverend elders that he was gaining a reputation for being against the Law, saying “they have been told that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs”.

Paul under went a purification ritual in order to give the Jews no ground to bring accusations against him. After seven days in Jerusalem, some ‘Jews from Asia’ accused Paul of defiling the temple by bringing Gentiles into it. He was seized and dragged out of the temple by an angry mob. He escaped being killed by surrendering to a group of Roman centurions, who arrested him, put him in chains and took him to the tribune. When a plot to kill Paul was discovered, he was taken to Caesarea Marittima and held prisoner for two years. In A.D. 59 a new governor reopened his case. Paul exercised his right as a Roman citizen to ‘appeal unto Cesare’. Finally Paul and his companions set sail for Rome, where Paul was to stand trail for his alleged crimes.

The Acts recounts that on the way to Rome for his appeal, Paul was shipwrecked on Melita, where the islanders welcomed him in ‘unusual kindness’. From Malta, he travelled to Rome. He arrived in Rome around A.D. 60, where he spent another two years under house arrest. San Paolo alle Tre Fontane is a church dedicated to St. Paul, at the presumed site of his martyrdom in A.D. 67, aged 61 or 62.

A stamp issued in 1961 by the Vatican Post. The stamp showed the voyage of Saint Paul to reach Rome.

The titular statues of St. Paul, of Safi, Rabat and Munxar (Gozo), issued on 28 June, 2008 for the Pauline Year.

Iż-Żejtun fuq il-Bolol ...

Il-Maltapost fit-2 ta' Lulju, 2011 ħarġet sett ta' 20 bolla biex ifakkar it-tmiem tal-era tal-karozzi tal-linja l-antiki f'Malta, hekk kif l-għada kienu se jieħdulhom posthom it-trakkijiet il-ġodda tal-Arriva li damu sal-2013.

Il-bolla ta' €0.20c, fuq disinn ta' Cedric Galea Pirotta kienet turi l-karozza tal-linja l-antika Żejtuni bil-lewn aħmar u l-faxxa ħadra. Dan hekk kif fit-1930ijiet il-karozzi tal-linja bdew jinżebgħu kuluri differenti skont ir-rotta li huma kienu jaħdmu fiha. Din l-użanza baqgħat sal-1975, meta l-karozzi tal-linja nżebgħu kollha lewn aħdar u wara fl-1995 saru sofor bil-faxxa oranġjo.

Infakkru lil ...

Id-Dama Frances Grima

Fl-aħħar xhur iż-Żejtun tilef waħda mill-akbar nisa li taw kontribut lis-soċjetà Maltija, id-Dama Frances Grima, li ħalliet din id-dinja fit-2 ta' Awwissu, fl-età ta' 102 sena.

Is-Sinjura Grima tul ħajjitha ħadmet ħafna mal-batut kemm fuq bażi lokali u nazzjonali l-aktar f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam fis-servizz tal-ewwel għajnuna b'mod volontarju. Għal dan il-għan fl-1998 kienet it-tieni persuna li ġiet onoratha b'Ġieħ iż-Żejtun. Hi baqgħat tipprova tferraħ lil dak li jkun u tirrakkonta ġrajjiet li għaddiet minnhom, fosthom it-traġedja tal-Gwerra taż-Żejtun li seħħet 75 sena u dak iż-żmien kienet toqgħod il-Pjazza, sa mewtha. Fl-2014 Kienet laqgħat it-talba tal-Grupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, fl-età ta' 99 sena, biex tingħaqad magħna bħala l-mistiedna speċjali. Għalkemm kellha problema ta' mobbiltà u kienet kbira fl-età ġiet tkellimna dwar missierha William Sestito, li kien wieħed mill-ewwel pustiera taż-Żejtun (ir-ritratt tiegħu deher fit-tieni ħarġa tagħna, ta' Marzu 2017). Li dak in-nhar kellmitna, flimkien ma' diversi eks-pustiera, wara s-servizz differenti tat-tqassim tal-ittri fl-imgħoddi, fejn kienu ħarġu diversi punti interessanti. Is-Sinjura Grima kienet tiġi wkoll mart il-mibki Karmenu Grima, trejdunjonista, u president tal-Għaqda Banda Żejtun u omm l-eks-Ministru u xandar Joe Grima.

Ritratt: Fiona Vella

Opinion

Santa Marija

by **Mario Casingena**

The 14 August 2017, eve of the festa of Santa Marija, Maltapost issued a fantastic set of twelve stamps with the main theme focused on the wonderful main statues works of art in the various parishes. The statues well photographed against the sky as background. The accompanying bulletin gives a short but otherwise to the point information such as parish, sculptor and date. I fail to digest the eight pointed cross on the upper right corner, and the broken circle of cancellation stamp, but still it seems to be the trade marking of Maltapost stamp issues.

The graceful statutes, represent years of tradition to an unexplained countless "devotees" at the inherited pagan side of religion. Now a general comment on the statues, these are presented in different flesh colour and what would fit in as Jewish in fact ? Tentatively I would say the statute at the Cathedral in Victoria Gozo as a close possibility. Then alas, the statutes average age would be mid-thirties, the age considered to be the prime years of womanhood. But, then the age should be not less to 51 years , and studies suggest that the Blessed was about sixty-one years old when she died. It could be argued that since the statute represented the mother of God, then she would be presented in a more fitting image to a wrinkled warn out face. One tradition mentions that She died in Jerusalem while another mentions Ephesus, Turkey. The tradition of Ephesus is based on the vision of Catherine Emmerich, an Augustinian nun. Now the site of the house were the Blessed lived, and died is an exploited religious site by Catholics and even Muslims alike. The Ephesus shrine was further endorsed by the visits of popes in quite recent years.

Maltapost seems to have embarked on statue issues, therefore I imagine that there would be included Saint Paul even though this has been on quite a number of issues spread on a relatively wide number of years. At a quick glance other main issues I would also imagine Marija Bambina, Saint Dominic, Irxoxt, however not all would be of the same number as the Santa Marija issue. It is a rather odd that Maltapost does not disclose what issues are to be expected as from the launch date, it is not a question of surprise issues with philatelist. Also, hope that such issues will be restricted to the 26c denomination.

Photography: Mark Micallef Perconte

Preparations for 2017 Exhibition

London Penny Post

by **Raymond Agius**

The London Penny Post was a premier postal system whose function was to deliver mail within London and its suburbs for the sum of one penny. The Penny Post was established in 1680 by William Dockwra. Dockwra was a merchant and was appointed a Customs Under-Searcher for the Port of London in 1663.

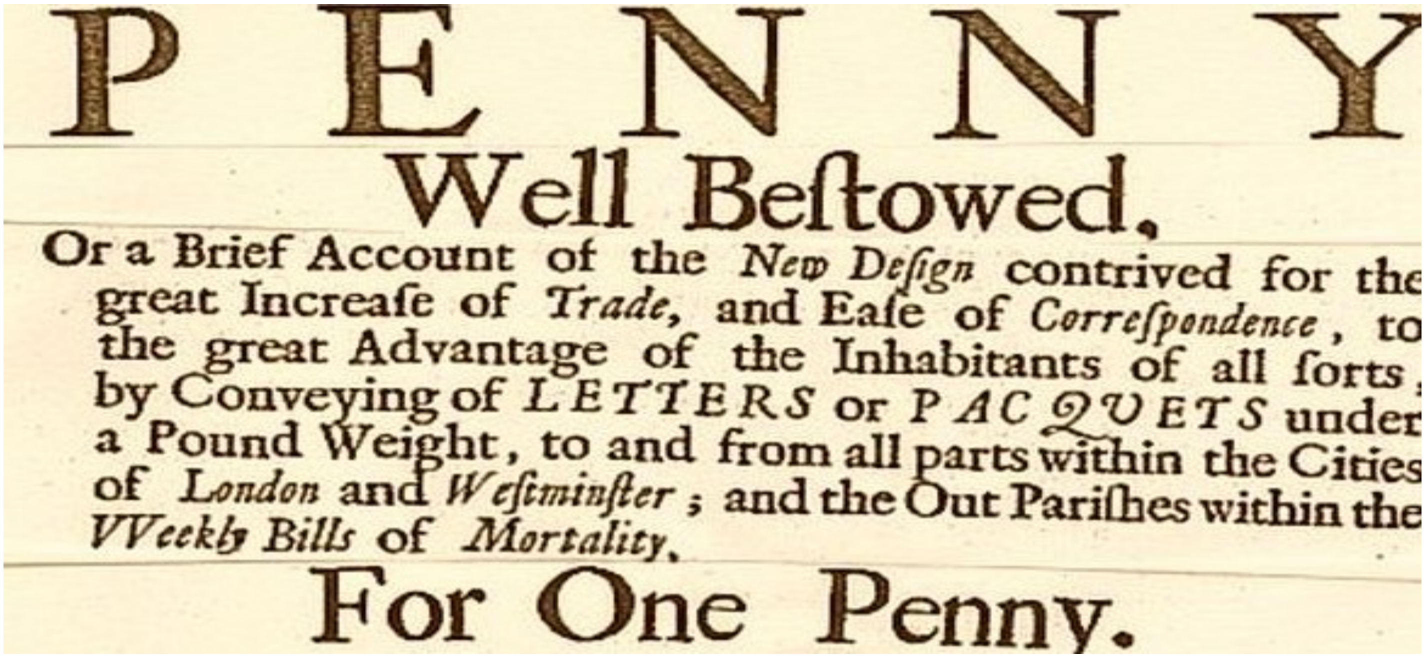
The London Penny Post mail service was launched with weeks of publicity preceding it on 27th March, 1680. The first payment of postage was introduced in London in 1680 by William Dockwra when founded the London Penny Post for the cost of 1p within London. 2p was for up to 10 miles from London.

Post Marks

When a mail was submitted for delivery by the Penny Post the rate of one penny was charged and a hand stamp postmark and time stamp were applied to the mailed item, confirming that the postage had been paid.

Four types of a triangular postmarks were used but nowadays most the few that survived are in museums archives. The triangular shaped postmark is considered by philatelists as the world's first postage stamp.

Fig. 1 – Examples of Dockwra's postmarks



PENNY

Well Beſtowed,

Or a Brief Account of the *New Deſign* contrived for the great Increaſe of *Trade*, and Eaſe of *Correſpondence*, to the great Advantage of the Inhabitants of all ſorts, by Conveying of *LETTERS* or *PACQUETS* under a Pound Weight, to and from all parts within the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; and the Out Pariſhes within the *VVeekly Bills* of *Mortality*.

For One Penny.

Il-wirja annwali tal-filatelija mill-Gupp Filateliku taż-Żejtun, *L-Istorja t'Artna u lil hinn Minnha*, fis-sena 2016 fis-Sala Ġużeppina Curmi

ABBONA

ma'

The Melite Post

Isem: ____________________

Indirizz: ___________________

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Tel./Mob.: _________________

E-mail: ____________________

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

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