



July—September  
No. 73— 2018  
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The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999 for the promotion of the hobby, the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.  
*Front cover; Our latest cards issued.*

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## GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

*First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 73 (3/2018)*

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.*

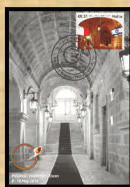
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**ERRATA CORRIGE—We would like to thank all members who trough writing, e-mail or by word of mouth showed their appreciation for our News Letter 72 and especially the Malta Stamp Catalogue Section.**

**However please note that some numbers of the Occasion cards are incorrect and should read as follows; (Anthony Grech)**



No 36



No 37



No 38



No 39

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

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary ;  
VO/0546



**April 2018** Issue 126 of *Hbieb il-Presepju* quarterly carries an article by the GPS Secretary about Cribs on Malta stamps.

**25 April** Il-Ħaġar exhibit changed to vintage letters to/from North Africa.

**3 May** Louis Bonello and Anthony Grech collected entries (in English and Maltese) from San Lawrenz Primary students.

**25 May** after preliminary discussions, GPS Secretatry invited to a meeting with 2 senior Gozo Curia officers with a view to cooperation in the setting up of a philatelic shop

**31 May** Committee discusses relationship with Gozo Curia

**2 June** Il-Ħaġar exhibit changed to items connected with St George.

**8 June** Committee members who volunteered make first inspection of material acquired for philatelic shop

**June** Anthony Grech surveys philatelic connections with Xewkija and St John Baptist for number 60 of the Xewkija feast magazine *Gourgion*.

**June** Issue 72 carries a provisional 2014-2017 “catalogue” update, which receives numerous immediate thanks and positive comments.

**18 July** Death of author Anton F Attard who provided numerous articles for our periodical (see p27)

**Summer** Anthony Grech leads stampcollecting sessions at Don Bosco Summer Club

**27 July** Anthony Grech produces 3 separate covers for the three “spectacular” Gozo views in the Sepac set

**9 August** Il-Ħaġar exhibit changed to a donated collection of early 20th century decorated postcards

**14 August** Anthony Grech produces cover for Nadur titular statue stamp

**September** More GPS covers featured in issue 78 of *Filatelìa Religiosa Flash* issued in Turin

**5 September** Committee prepares for post-summer resumption.

**The Gozo Philatelic Society 19th Philatelic Exhibition Application and Rules & Regulations Form is sent separately with his issue.**



## PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

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

*Antoine Vassallo*

### **21 - First Scheduled Air (1918)**



Almost certainly the first regularly scheduled airmail service was established by the Austro-Hungarian army in March 1918. Since it didn't last the year because the Empire was on its deathbed, most authorities tend however to ignore it!

The (limited) service carried mostly military and official mail - but civilians were not excluded from all flights. German-built Hansa-Brandenburg biplanes linked Vienna with Krakau (now Krakow or Cracow in Poland) and with - now in Ukraine - Lemberg (Lvov or Lviv) and Kiev.

Three 1916 definitives showing the Arms of Austria (originally designed by R Junk) were printed in new colours and overprinted "FLUGPOST" (= Airmail) or even additionally surcharged. Two printings are known, in greyish paper followed by white paper. Perforation varieties of the 2.50 (on 3 kronen) stamps exist. Presentation sets provide still more differences.

An official reprint in changed colours (in the form of a souvenir sheet not valid for postage) was issued with entrance tickets for the *IFA Wien 1968* Airmail stamp Exhibition.



# E & O not E (47)

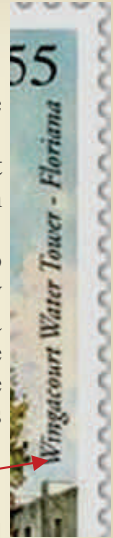
Antoine Vassallo

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

I stay local today, looking at three instances of - quite minute - spelling errors on Malta stamps.



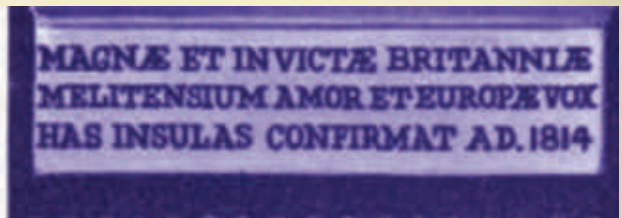
The **2015** Treasures set commemorated the fourth centenary of the Wignacourt aqueduct. This substantial construction project aimed at bringing water to Valletta from natural springs in the neighbourhood of Mdina, the old capital. Artist Cedric Galea Pirota was commissioned to prepare the two designs, depicting respectively the Fleur-de-Lys section (42c) and the Floriana water tower (€1.55). Unfortunately a mistake slipped through in the caption on the latter, the Grandmaster's surname being shown as Wingacourt.



A more complicated error had appeared on the 8d value in the Cremona **1965** definitives - without philatelic responsibility! What is possibly the most iconic marker of the period was chosen to represent British Rule: the Latin inscription on the portico of the Main Guard, facing the Palace in Valletta in St George's Square (variously, *Misraħ il-Palazz*).

This central building served as a station for the personal guards of the Grand Masters and then, under the British, of the Governor.

To emphasize the new Maltese-British relationship, Governor Sir Thomas Maitland added the epigram which basically means: "The love of the Maltese and the voice of Europe assigned these Islands to great and unconquered Britain AD 1814". The composer remains anonymous but Luigi Rigord (1737-1823), the most renowned Latinist of his time, has been proposed. So a grammatical error would be surprising! However, there being

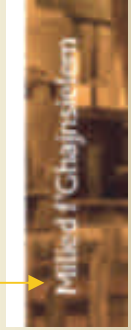


two subjects (the love of the Maltese and the voice of Europe), a plural verb is required: *confirmant* and not *confirmat*.

But one shouldn't forget that epigraphical Latin offered the possibility (for space reasons) of a diacritical sign over the last vowel to stand for the missing *n*: *confirmāt* (or similiar. The macron may have been "forgotten" when the inscription had to be renewed in 1851. In fact, further errors crept in during a second regeneration in 2009!



I noticed another type of inexactitude in the 2014 Christmas set. The subject chosen for the Daniel Cilia photos was "Betlem (or Bethlehem) f'Għajnsielem", the ever-expanding yearly production on the outskirts of this village. However the stamps were captioned *Milied f'Għajnsielem*, possibly through a "logical" connection with the Gozo Ministry initiative *Milied f'Għawdex*.



**INTERESTING PIECE OF POSTAL STATIONARY**

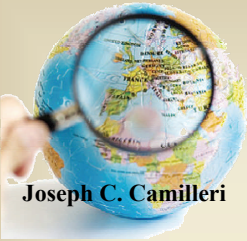
*Anthony Grech*  
Queen Victoria Pre-paid News Paper Wrapper cancelled with Oval Non Duplex 'A25' Postmark.

Personal hand stamped in purple ink of Alfonso Maria Galea, dated 7 March 1889. Sent to Francois Galea, in Constantinople .

**Alfons Maria Maria Galea** was born 23 April. 1861 and Died 30 July 1941.



He was a Philanthropist, Labour Party Senator and Author. At the age of 8 received his first education at the Jesuits Collage in Gozo and later at the Frères College Marseille.



## The 2017 PostEurop stamps

The cooperation between the European postal administrations is now a long-standing tradition. Philatelists expect to find a set entitled PostEurop in the annual philatelic programmes of European countries. Malta is not an exception.

The first joint Europa stamps appeared back in 1956. Europa stamps have the official logo on them and are designed to show how the various postal authorities throughout Europe cooperate to promote philately. The main purpose of these stamps has also been to help to build awareness, among peoples of Europe, of the common roots, culture and history.

Nowadays, PostEurop, which is a trade organisation, tries to unite all the European public postal operators. This organisation has been responsible for coordinating Europa stamps since 1993. Each year a theme is chosen and for 2017, the topic was Castles.

I have selected some postal authorities so that we will be able to see how they have tackled this theme.

**Aland** postal authority featured its only castle – the Kastelholm. The stamp, which was issued on 9<sup>th</sup> May, was based on a photograph by Nicolas Novdlund.



**Croatia's** stamps were based on photographs taken by Boris Kastinic. Dean Roksandic did the artworks. The stamps featured Veliki Tabor, the residence of the Rattkay family and Trakoscan, the residence of the Draskovic family. The stamps were issued on 9<sup>th</sup> May.



**Cyprus' stamps** depicted the castles of Lamaka and Pafos. The artwork was carried out by Manolis Emmanouil and they were issued on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Greece's** stamps illustrated two seaside castles: Palamidi and Methoni. These stamps were printed on two types of sheets – singles and both values joined together (se-tenant). They were available at the postal counters on 17<sup>th</sup> May.



The Republic of **Ireland** issued its stamps on 4<sup>th</sup> May and these featured Dublin and King John's castles. These two stamps were designed by Kelvin Gillmor.

**Liechtenstein's** contribution consisted of illustrations of Vaduz Castle and Gutenberg



Castle. The set was issued on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Angelo Boog, an artist from Wallisellen, designed the stamps.

**Luxembourg** decided to depict two castles which are now embassies:





Dommeldange Castle is the Chinese Embassy while Beggen Castle is the Russian. Ben Carter has done the artwork. The stamps were issued on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Portugal** runs three postal authorities – Acores, Madeira and the continental. Each postal authority issued one 80c stamp, featuring a castle.



**Slovenia** produced two castles on its stamps: Reichenburg and Sevnica. These stamps, issued on 26th May, were based on photographs taken by Edi Berk.



The **Vatican City** post issued two stamps, on 4<sup>th</sup> May. These stamps featured the papal palace in Castel Gandolfo and Belvedere Palace. Unfortunately, one of the Vatican stamps did not feature a castle. This is considered a defect, which could have been avoided if both stamps featured Castel Gandolfo.

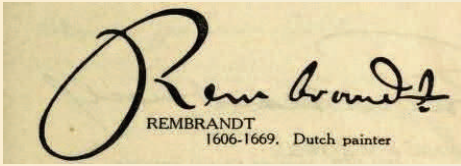
**Malta** seems to have decided to change the theme since the stamps featured two towers. The first stamp featured St Agatha Tower. This tower is also known as the Red Tower.



The other stamp featured the Gourgion Tower. This was demolished in 1943 to make way for the Gozo airfield, which the Allied powers considered necessary for the invasion of Sicily. This tower was never re-erected. The stamps featured designs by Cedric Galea Pirotta, issued on 9<sup>th</sup> May - Europe Day.

Europa stamp issues are among the most collected and popular stamps in the world, appeal being mostly among Europe's heritage lovers.





**REMBRANDT'S ARTISTIC PHILATELY** towards the 350th death anniversary (3) Antoine Vassallo



France issued its first Rembrandt in 1957 (only some half dozen countries had been earlier), as part of a “famous men” set. The design was adapted from a Self-Portrait etched in 1639. It actually exists in two states: the first housed at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne and the other is at Haarlem’s Teylers Museum.

The full original (207 x 164 mm) shows the artist leaning on a stone sill, taking on the guise of what would have been associated with a poet. He seems to be actually emulating a pose used by Titian for Ludovico Ariosto! Rembrandt presents himself in a sumptuous cape and beret. But, what is more important, we can appreciate how he uses the etching tool in a variety of ways, yet with exceptional economy - pursuing the effect of bright daylight to produce a vivid impression of a flourishing career.

The **Gambia** has, as usual, been quite prolific in its reproductions of Rembrandt’s works: I choose the top value in a set for 1992 Easter. It is a cropped-down “Descent from the Cross”, a 90 x 65 cm oil on canvas from about 1633 which is now in Munich’s *Alte Pinakothek*.



Documents show that Rembrandt received a commission from the court - through the secretary to the Prince of Orange - for five paintings connected with Christ’s Passion. He was specifically asked to create small versions of famous altarpieces by Rubens. It seems that the artist inserted himself into the composition of this particular one, originally intended to be part

of a triptych.

The German Democratic Republic (usually referred to as **East Germany**) was the third country to dedicate a stamp to this genius: within a 1955 first set showing paintings at Dresden’s *Gemäldegalerie*. “Rembrandt and Saskia in the Scene of the Prodigal Son in the Tavern” was adapted into a monochromatic design, losing details which exist in the 161 x 131 cm Oil on canvas painted in about 1635. Saskia van Uylenburgh was often his model, besides marrying him. This unique double portrait seems to offer an ironic and reflective gaze at his life. Saskia sits on the lap of a foppishly dressed Rembrandt, who gaily holds up a flagon of ale as he twists to offer a silly grin. The suggestion of future repentance (from the Prodigal Son analogy) sounds a note of self-criticism. Saskia was the subject in a painting shown on a stamp issued by reunited

**Germany** in 2006 to commemorate the quatercentenary of Rembrandt's birth. She is shown in "pompous dress" in an Oil on wood (100 x 79 cm), now at Kassel's *Staatliche Museen*.

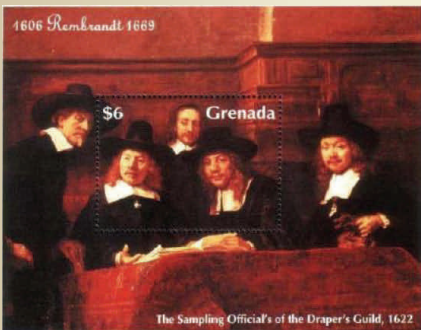
It was painted in about 1634, when they were married. Being the daughter of the burgomaster of Leeuwarden, she brought a substantial dowry. All this represented a substantial climb in social status for our artist. Saskia is the subject of the largest number of single portraits, in mythological dress and in formal attire; but he also delighted in showing her in spontaneous domestic drawings.

Interestingly, this German stamp was reprinted with differences by the Netherlands as a joint issue.



In 1993 **Grenada** issued "2 sets in 1", honouring Rembrandt as well as Matisse (the twentieth century French artist). A Miniature sheet (with a small spelling error) showed "Sampling Officials of the Drapers' Guild", an Oil on canvas (192 x 279 cm) from 1662 - exhibited at Amsterdam's *Rijksmuseum*. This painting, popularly called The Syndics, offers an ideal solution to painting a portrait group. Equal importance has been given to each of the five officials - their servant, wearing a skull cap, is in the centre yet the whole is ingeniously united. The subtle composition, the glowing colours, and the sympathetic interpretation and grasp of the men's personalities make this Rembrandt's greatest group portrait: delicately adjusted harmony and tranquillity. While this style of composition is similar to the relief-like manner of grouping favoured by artists in the classical tradition, there is an increased effect of space and atmosphere by Rembrandt's use of both chiaroscuro and colour.

The traditional interpretation of the painting is that the men were shown seated on a platform, before the assembly of the Drapers' Guild and that they are giving to the unseen assembly an account of the year's business. One is in fact making the standard gesture with his right hand employed by orators demonstrating evidence.



## MALTA CATALOGUE SPECIAL FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARKS 2014—2017

Since there is currently no locally-published catalogue, the GPS Committee decided to offer an update as a service to our readers and collectors in general.

*Anthony Grech*



Treasures of Malta  
Series II  
Fountains  
3 January 2014



Israel Malta  
Joint Issue  
28 January 2014



Maritime Malta  
Series II  
'Commemorations'  
18 March 2014



Canonisation of  
Pope John XXIII &  
Pope John Paul II  
26 April 2014



10th. Anniversary from  
Malta's Accession to the  
European Union  
30 April 2014



Europa 2014 National  
Musical Instruments  
9 May 2014



50th. Anniversary of  
Independence  
40th. Anniversary of the  
Republic  
15 May 2014



2014 FIFA  
World Cup—Brazil  
12 June 2014



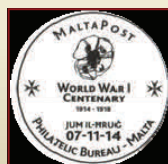
Maltese  
Flora  
27 June 2014



Euromed Postal  
The Mediterranean Sea  
9 July 2014



The Grandmasters  
1530—1798  
30 September 2014



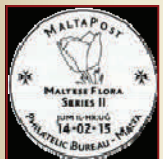
World War I Centenary  
1914-1818  
7 November 2014



Christmas-Milied  
2014  
17 November 2014



70th Anniversary Yalta  
Conference  
4 February 2015



Maltese Flora  
Series II  
14 February 2015



Treasures of Malta  
Series III  
21 April 2015



ANZAC  
Centenary  
25 April 2015



175th Anniversary of  
World's First Postage  
Stamp  
2 May 2015



Europa 2015  
Old Toys  
9 May 2015



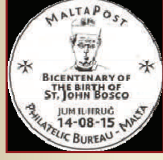
SEPAC Series  
'Culture'  
16 June 2015



Euromed Postal  
Boats of the  
Mediterranean  
9 July 2015



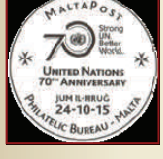
Maritime Malta  
ExVoto Paintings  
29 July 2015



Bicentenary of the  
Birth of St John Bscò  
14 August 2015



450th Anniversary of  
the Great Siege  
17 September 2015



United Nations 70th.  
Anniversary  
24 October 2015



CHOGM  
Malta 2015  
27 November 2015



Maltese Flora Series III  
23 January 2016



450 Anniversary  
Foundation of Valletta  
28 March 2016



‘WWF’  
Endangered Species  
15 April 2016



Malta-Russia  
Joint Issue  
25 May 2016



SEPAC  
‘Seasons’  
17 June 2016



Euromed Postal  
Fish of the  
Mediterranean



Olympic  
Games 2016  
5 August 2016



100th Anniversary of  
the Birth of  
Dominic Mintoff  
6 August 2016



Maritime Malta  
Series IV  
HMS Hastings  
15 September 2016



Balcony  
Corbels  
13 October 2016



Malta San Marino  
Joint Issue  
18 October 2016



Christmas  
Milied 2016  
18 November 2016



Maltese Presidency of  
the Council of the  
European Union  
12 January 2017



Maltese Flora  
Series IV  
24 February 2017



Balcony  
Corbels  
30 March 2017



75th Anniversary of the  
Award of the George  
Cross to Malta  
15 April 2017



Postal  
Uniforms  
31 May 2017



SEPAC  
Traditional Handcrafts  
28 June 2017



Euromed Postal  
Trees of the  
Mediterranean  
10 July 2017



75th Anniversary  
'Operation Pedestal'  
1942-2017  
10 August 2017



Maltese Festa Series I  
The Assumption of  
Our Lady  
14 August 2017



350th Anniversary Death  
of Melchiorre Gafal'  
1942-2017  
4 September 2017



Maritime Malta  
Series V  
Vessels of the Order  
29 September 2017



Christmas  
Milied  
2017  
17 November 2017



Traditional  
Tiles  
12 December 2017

**SPECIAL POSTMARKS FOR MALTEX. 2014-2017**



Maltex Philatelic  
Exhibition 2014  
Hotel Phoenicia  
Floriana  
17-19 October 2014



Maltex Philatelic  
Exhibition 2015  
Hotel Phoenicia  
Floriana  
23-25 October 2015



Maltex Philatelic  
Exhibition 2016  
Catholic Institute  
Floriana  
21-23 October 2016



Maltex Philatelic  
Exhibition & Collectors  
Fair 2017  
Casino Maltese  
Philatelic Bureau  
10-12 October 2017



## MALTA CATALOGUE –SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS 2014-2017

Since there is currently no locally-published catalogue, the GPS Committee decided to offer an update (from 2014 to 2017) as a service to our readers and collectors in general.

The Editorial Board and hopes it is found useful. *Anthony Grech*

	<p>100 Sena Vari tal-Gimgha l-Kbira. Xagħra- Gozo. Victoria P.O. 28 February 2014</p>		<p>50th Anniversary First Council Meeting of the Malta Priory Castille Sqr. P.O. Valletta 8 March 2014</p>
	<p>Malta National Audit Office 200 years of state auditing Philatelic Burea 25 March 2014</p>		<p>100 Sena Purcissjoni tal-Gimgha l-Kbira Xagħra Xagħra PO 11 April 2014</p>
	<p>175 Anniv San Ġorġ, L- ewwel Statwa Titulari ta' Ghawdex Victoria P.O. 23 April 2014</p>		<p>200 Years Malta Police Force Castille Sqr. P.O. Valletta. 12 July 2014</p>
	<p>Relikwa Insinji ta' Driegħ San Ġorġ Martri Victoria P.O. 19 July 2014</p>		<p>200 Anniversary Xagħra Bubonic Plague Xagħra P.O. 20 July 2014</p>
	<p>150 Sena Katidral Victoria P.O. 11 August 2014</p>		<p>50 Sena Malta Indipendenti Castille Sqr P.O. Valletta 20 September 2014</p>
	<p>400 Anniversary Sant Ursula Victoria P.O. 21 October 2014</p>		<p>Gozo Philatelic Society 15th Annual Exhibition Victoria P.O. 14 November 2014</p>



	250 Anniversary Relikwa ta' San Koronatu Fin-Nadur Nadur P.O. 8 November 2014		Gozo Philatelic Society 15th Exhibition Victoria P.O. 14 November 2014
	50th Anniv. Malta Independence/ 10th Anniv. Malta's EU Member Castille Sqr P.O.Valletta. 1 Decmber 2014		Milied f'Ghawdex Victoria P.O. 5 Decmber 2014
	L-Imsallab fi Triqatna. Victoria P.O. 21 March 2015		50th Anniv. Malta in the Council of Europe Castille Sqr. PO Valletta 23 April 2015
	100 Anniversary Alf Mizzi & Sons Ltd Philatelic Bureau 10 June 2015		80 Anniv Inkoronazzjoni Madonna Ta' Pinu Għarb P.O. 28 June 2015
	100 Anniversary Alf Mizzi & Sons Ltd Marsa P.O. 19 June 2015		50 Anniversary Din l-Art Helwa Castille Sqr P.O. Valletta 9 July 2015
	Consecration of Bishop George Bugeja OFM Victoria P.O. 4 September 2015		50 Sena Dar Tal-Providenza Castille Sqr P.O. Valletta 12 September 2015
	Gozo Philatelic Society 16th Annual Exhibitin 6 November 2015		100 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. the Maltese Emigrants' incident Victoria P.O. 9 January 2016
	Milied f'Ghawdex Għarb P.O. 5 December 2015		450 Sena mit-Twelid ta' S. Marija Maddalena de Pazzi Philatelic Bureau 2 April 2016



275 Sena mill-wasla tal-Istatwa Titulari ta' San Gorg Martri F'Qormi .  
Qormi P.O.  
23 April 2016



Ghawdex Ifakar lil Dun Gorg.  
Victoria P.O.  
6 May 2016



Inauguration of the Malta Postal Museum  
Philatelic Bureau  
17 June 2016



40 Anniversarju L-ewwel Gebla Soċ. Fil. Victory, Xagħra.  
Xagħra P.O.  
8 August 2016



Canonisation of Mother Teresa of Calcutta  
Castille Sqr. P.O. Valletta  
5 September 2016



50 Years of Diplomatic Relations SMOM & Republic of Malta  
Philatelic Bureau  
15 September 2016



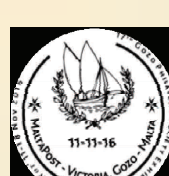
New Altar-Basilica at Għarb, Gozo  
Għarb P.O.  
24 September 2016



Notte Bianca Malta Postal Museum  
1 October 2016



150 Sena Seminarju tal-Qalb Ta' Gesu, Djocisi ta' Għawdex  
Victoria P.O.  
4 November 2016



Gozo Philatelic Society 17th. Annual Exhibition  
Victoria P.O.  
11 November 2016



Centenary of Scouting in Gozo  
Victoria P.O.  
30 November 2016



Milied f'Ghawdex  
Xagħra P.O.  
3 December 2016



Inawgurazzjoni Monument Isqof Nikol G. Cauchi  
Għarb P.O.  
3 December 2016



45 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Malta and China  
Philatelic Bureau  
31 January 2017



Inawgurazzjoni Zewg  
Linef Knisja San Publiju  
Floriana P.O.  
21 January 2017



Tifkira tal-25 sena tal-  
Grupp Prezenti tal-Armar  
tal-Festa  
Msida P.O.  
11 March 2017



50 Sena Parroċċa  
Marija Regina Marsa  
1967-2017  
Marsa P.O.  
1 February 2017



75h Anniversary Award of  
The George Cross to  
Malta.  
Philatelic Bureau  
15 April 2017



75th Anniversary of the  
Bombing of St. Publius  
Church  
Floriana P.O.  
28 April 2017



Kollegġja S.Pietru  
S. Pawl, Anniversarji  
Nadur P.O.  
12 May 2017



Victoria International  
Arts Festival 2017  
Victoria P.O.  
6 June 2017



Inawgurazzjoni tal-  
Muzajk Santwarju  
Madonna Ta' Pinu  
Għarb P.O.  
17 June 2017



Russian Grand Priory  
Malta - Order of S. John  
of Jerusalem - 1797-2017  
Castille Sqr. P.O. Valletta  
7 August 2017



Xaghra Hamsin sena  
Bazilika - 1967-2017  
Xaghra P.O.  
29 August 2017



Notte Bianca  
2017  
Malta Postal Museum  
7 October 2017



Gozo Philatelic Society  
18th Annual Exhibition  
Victoria P.O.  
3 November 2017



50 Anniversary Għarb  
Basilica  
Għarb P.O.  
28 November 2017



Milied  
f'Għawdex  
Victoria P.O.  
2 December 2017

# MALTAPOST PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION AND FAIRS POSTMARKS 2014-2017

Anthony Grech

MaltaPost participation in  
SPAIN  
TERREMILINOS PHILATELIC  
EXHIBITION  
27 February—2 March 2014



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY  
ESSEN PHILATELIC  
EXHIBITION  
8—10 May 2014



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY  
BÖRSE MÜNICHEN  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
5 -7 March 2015



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY  
ESSEN  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
5 -9 May 2015



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY ESSEN  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
12—14 May 2016



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY BÖRSE SINDEL-  
INGEN, MESSE  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
27—29 October 2016



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY  
ESSEN  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
11—13 May 2017



MaltaPost participation in  
GERMANY MESSE  
SINDELINGEN,  
PHILATELIC EXHIBITION  
27—28 November 2017



MaltaPost participation in  
ITALY  
VERONAFIL STAMP FAIR  
24—26 November 2017



**SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVERS BY MALTAPOST 2014-2017**



Commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Canonisation of  
St. Gorg Preca  
3 June 2017



Republic of Malta - Sovereign Military Hospitaller  
Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta  
1966 - 2016  
50 Years of Diplomatic Relations

To commemorate the 10th  
Canonisation anniversary of St. Gorg  
Preca. 3 June 2017

To commemorate 50 Years of  
diplomatic relations between The  
SMOM the Republic of Malta  
12 September 2016

**MALTAPOST PERSONALISED STAMPS 2014-2017**



7 June 2015



8 March 2017



30 May 2014

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

Antoine Vassallo

(CONTINUED FROM ISSUE NO 71.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE NOTE ON NEWS LETTER NO 71

473 Gianni Vella (1885-1977) Maltese artist, with first stamp design in 1922 (1)



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

474 Joseph A Vella (1927-) Maltese photographer, with first stamp design in 1980

475 Mark Anthony Vella, stamp designer, with first in 2003

476 Modesta "Moddy" Vella Rabat (Malta) weaver (originally from Ghasri, Gozo) €1 Handcrafts 2017

477 St Venera (early Christian martyr) - Councils 1993

478 Marcello Venusti (1510-79) Italian artist 20c Christmas 2011

479 Hugues Loubenx de Verdalle (1531 –1595) French Grand Master of the Order 26c Grand Masters 2014 (2)

480 Grand Commander Jean de Verdelin (17<sup>th</sup> century) French Knight of Malta 11c Armour 1977

481 René-Aubert Vertot (1655-1733) French historian 26c Grandmasters 2014  
Vialar > Emilie de Vialar

482 Queen Victoria (1819-1901) Queen and Empress - first Malta stamp 1860 (3)

483 Antonio Manoel de Vilhena (1663-1736) Portuguese Grand Master of the Order 6d Defs 1938 (4)

484 Virgin Mary > Mary

485 Emmanuele Vitale (5) (1759-1802) Maltese leader 50c Personalities 2002 (6)

486 Ferdinand von Hompesch > Hompesch (7)

487 Heinrich von Stephan (1831-97) German post director - UPU centenary set 1974



(6)



(7)



(8)

488 Wenlock Olympic mascot €2.11 Olympics 2012

489 Victor Whiteley (8) British artist, with first stamp design in 1963

**490** Adrien de Wignacourt (1618-1697) French Grand Master of the Order **26c** Grand Masters **2014** (9)



(11)



(12)



(13)

**491** Alof de Wig-

nacourt (1547 –1622) French Grand Master of the Order **7c** Armour **1977** (10)

**492** Dorothy Wilding (1893 - 1976) English photographer with first stamp design in 1949 (11)

**493** William Wyon (1795 –1851) English engraver **€1.21** Penny Black **2015** (12)

**494** Dun Mikiel Xerri (1737-99) Maltese patriot **6c** Bicentennial **1999** (13)

**495** Francisco Ximenes de Texada (1703-1775) Spanish Grand Master of the Order **26c** Grand Masters **2014**

**496** Ġanni Xuereb Xewkija (Gozo) maker of bamboo fish traps **59c** Handcrafts **2017** (14)

**497** Zabivaka



(14)



(15)



(17)

(FIFA World Cup mascot) **€3** World Cup **2018**

**498** Francesco Vincenzo Zahra (1710-73)

Maltese artist **45c** St Catherine **2005**

stamp designer, with

**499** Roberta Zahra (1974-) first design in 2002

**500** Trevor Zahra (1947- ) Maltese author, with first stamp design in 2001 (15)

**501** Astrid Zammit, stamp designer, with first in 2005

**502** Fra Giuseppe Zammit (1646-1740) first holder of the Chair of the School of

**503** Anatomy & Surgery **7c** Surgery **1976**

**504** Jean Paul Zammit **6c** Children's paintings **2000**

**505** Rosario Zammit (crib figurine maker) Christmas **1990**

**506** Dr Themistocles "Temi" Zammit (1964-1935) Maltese scientist and author **14c** Europa **1994**

**507** Benigno Zerafa (1726-1804) Maltese composer **20c** Art **2004**

**508** Dino Zoff (1942-) Italian footballer **76c** World Cup **2006** (16)

**509** Marcantonio Zondadari (1658-1722) Italian Grand Master of the Order **26c** Grand Masters **2014**

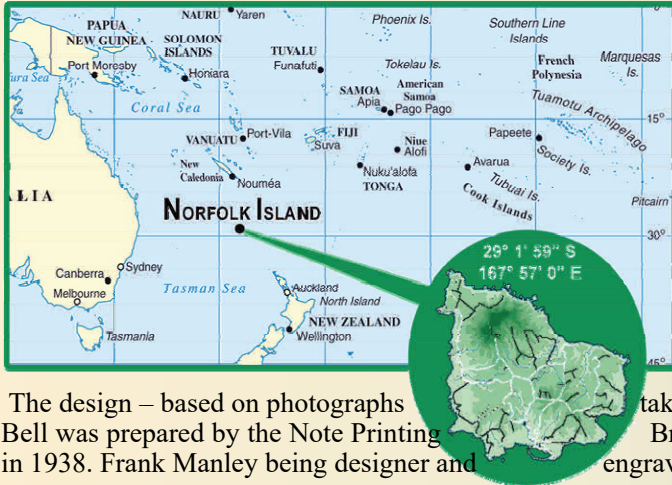
**510** Žugina (Maltese legendary personality) **35c** Europa **1997** (17)

**A future installment will cover updates (and errata): do provide suggestions!**

Is it really true that...  
**(11) Norfolk Island's first stamps took 10 years to appear?!**

*Antoine Vassallo*

Norfolk Island became part of the Australian postal system in 1914. In 1937 it was decided that a separate postal authority would be established, with the first issue being stamps featuring Ball Bay on Norfolk Island's coast.



The design – based on photographs taken by local resident Roy Bell was prepared by the Note Printing Branch in Melbourne early in 1938. Frank Manley being designer and engraver.

In those days, the stamp design had to be approved by the Prime Minister's Department. It took until April 1939 for production to receive the green light, and the engraving wasn't approved until January 1940. An announcement was immediately made that, since printing began in earnest, the stamps would be available in three months' time. Unfortunately World War II intervened and the Note Printing Branch was told to keep hold of their stamp stocks until administrative arrangements had been made in relation to the Norfolk Island postal authority. After things settled down post-War, it was decided in February 1946 that



The 3d 1940 blue colour unused. 3d brown 1947 and 3d green 1950 colour changed the stamps would finally be released. However the postal authority realised that the



colours used in 1940 no longer complied with the Universal Postal Union Colour Code. This refers to the list of standard colours then used by UPU members for certain stamp denominations commonly used in the international postal system. Moreover, the printed stamps had the old “John Ash” imprint as stamp printer in the sheet margins: this had become “By Authority”. To make the situation impossible, the denomination mix was no longer suitable.



Registered First Day Cover of the full 12 stamps set of 1947

Thus, the entire issue had to be reprinted – over half a million stamps! It wasn't actually until 10 June 1947 that Norfolk Island established its own postal system and issued the Ball Bay stamps: a full series of twelve (in compliant colours), ranging from ½d to 2s. Perhaps because of the effort that went into their initial production, the design remained in circulation until 1963 (including various changes). Despite the official destruction of the original 1940 stamps, examples did appear later for sale. The theft was part of a broader holding of Australian stamps that contained faults of some kind and so were meant to be destroyed. Things like these are prized by collectors - even though not acquired regularly! Antoine Vassallo

#### FACTS ABOUT NORFOLK ISLAND



Capital City—Kinston  
 Largest City—Burnt Pine  
 Language—English, Norfolk  
 Area - 34.6 km<sup>2</sup> (13.4 sq mi)  
 Population (2016) 1,748  
 Ethnic groups—English, Pitcairn, Scottish, Irish



*as for other series, readers are invited to submit their own articles or even just suggestions*

## CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stamp collectors

### 11: Freddie when still Farrokh



Freddie Mercury (1946–1991) was the iconic frontman and songwriter of the “super” group Queen. When this singer with unique voice and flamboyant stage presence - a historic figure in rock - died, his family sold his childhood stamp album - disclosing quite an unknown fact about him! The 1993 purchaser was the British National Postal Museum: these philatelic pieces now form an unusual part of its archives - among the very few of his personal belongings that still exist in the public domain.

As pop memorabilia and for cultural reference, Freddie Mercury’s collection can probably be considered as priceless.

Its unusual black pages carry stamps from a wide range of countries across the world, including Britain, Eastern Europe and the British Empire. Those with particular philatelic interest - or monetary value - are from Zanzibar. Pages from his collection can be viewed at the British Postal Museum and Archive website. It notes that many of the stamps are arranged in interesting ways, whether by colour, format or size. On other pages balanced patterns are created, or letters from the alphabet formed.

Freddie had been born Farrokh Bulsara, into a family in Zanzibar. Freddie was his childhood nickname, Mercury being added round about the time when Queen was formed.

In line with his family’s religious beliefs (Zoroastrianism), all his belongings were burnt upon his death. Luckily his father decided to auction Freddie’s childhood stamp album, the proceeds went to set up a charity in Freddie’s memory. Himself interested in stamps, Bomi had originally inspired his son’s collecting: it’s believed that the album was built up between the ages of nine and twelve.

Stamps have long been thought as a way to express how a collector feels during a certain part of their life, or even a lens into their true character. It would seem that for the talented future Queen star the appeal of stamps was about their designs and the ways in which they could be displayed!

The Mail honoured Freddie Mercury in 1999 in the Entertainers’ Tale set within the Millennium Series - and numerous other issuers did likewise.

with acknowledgements to [www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)



A page from Freddie Mercury's stamp album.



Old-time GPS member Anton F Attard has died.

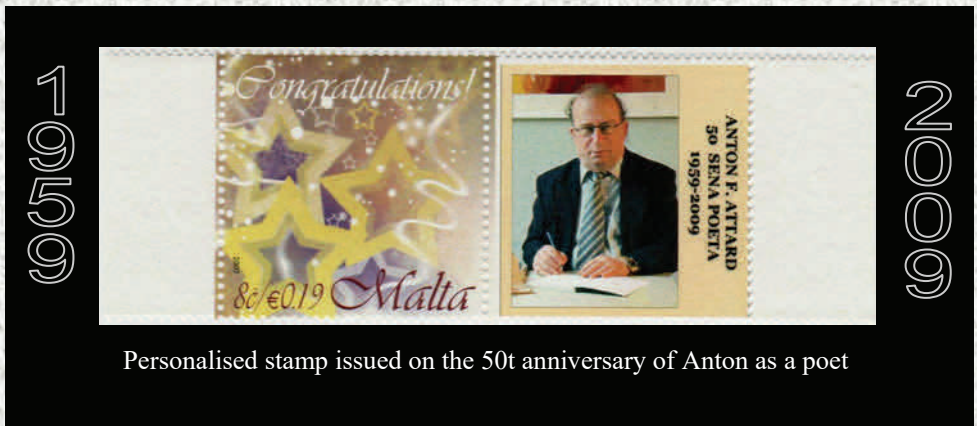
Though his health had lately become precarious, the announcement of his death on 19 July was quite unexpected.

Anton F Attard, born in 1943, was well known as an author and researcher - even writing poetry from his teens. Besides self-publishing numerous books, he was a regular contributor on various media. He translated a wide range of books and tended to specialize in Gozitan themes. Having occupied posts in the public sector, he was also active in the trade union and party political fields.

GPS honours him as a keen philatelist who provided substantial articles for our Newsletter: Nineteenth Century Postal Arrangements in Gozo (series) issues 2-9; Sundials #29; Hospitals #33; Gozo Public Library #36; *Il-Filatelija* (anniversary poem) #37; Gozo *Banca Giuratale* #42; Windmills #44 and 45; Door Knockers #48; Fort Chambray #54; George Vella (an appreciation) #56 and Bishop's Palace to Post Office #61 and a poem dedicated to the great Maltese expert philatelist Anthony Fenech (Special GPS card.31/10/2006)

Yes, we really owe Anton!

*Louis Bonello President Gozo Philatelic Society*



Personalised stamp issued on the 50t anniversary of Anton as a poet

Anthony Grech



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.  
Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.  
Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged  
Prot=Protectorate

**GUATEMALA**  
1871

**GUINEA**  
Op. French  
West Africa  
stamps  
1959

**GUINEA**  
Own issue  
1959

**GUINEA**  
BASSAU  
Op. Portugal  
stamps  
1975

**GUINEA**  
BISSAU  
Own issue  
1974

**GUYANA**  
Op. British  
Guyana stamps  
1966

**GUYANA**  
Own issue  
1973

**GWALIOR**  
Op. INDIA  
STAMPS  
1885

**HAITI**  
1881

**HAMBURG**  
1859

**HANOVER**  
1850

**HATAY**  
Op. Syria stamp  
1938

**HATAY**  
Own issue  
1939

**HAWAII**  
1851

**HELIGOLAND**  
1867

**HOI-HAO**  
Op. France  
Indo China  
stamps  
1902

**HONDURAS**  
1866

**HONG**  
KONG  
1862

**HORTA**  
Ins. Portugal  
stamps  
1892

**HUNGARY**  
1871

 <p><b>HYDERABAD</b> 1869</p>	 <p><b>ICELAND</b> 1873</p>	 <p><b>IDAR</b> 1938</p>	 <p><b>IFNI O/P STAMPS OF SPAIN</b> 1941</p>	 <p><b>IFNI SPANISH TERRITORY</b> 1943</p>	 <p><b>IFNI Own issue</b> 1950</p>
 <p><b>INDIA</b> 1852</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN Custodian Forces in N. Korea</b> 1953</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN Expedition Forces</b> 1914</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN Forces in Indo China</b> 1954</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN Forces in Congo</b> 1962</p>	 <p><b>INDIAN Forces in Gaza</b> 1965</p>
 <p><b>INDO CHI- NA Op France stamps</b> 1889</p>	 <p><b>INDO CHI- NA FRENCH Own issue</b> 1904</p>	 <p><b>INDO CHINESE Post Office in China Op. France stamps</b> 1902</p>	 <p><b>INDONESIA Op Nether- lands stamps</b> 1948</p>	 <p><b>INDONESIA Own issue</b> 1949</p>	 <p><b>INDORE HOLKAR STATE</b> 1886</p>
 <p><b>INHAMBANE Op. Mozambique stamps</b> 1895</p>	 <p><b>ININI Op. French Guiana stamps</b> 1932</p>	 <p><b>IONIAN ISLANDS</b> 1859</p>	 <p><b>IONIAN ISLANDS Italian occupa- tion O.p. Italy stamps</b> 1941</p>	 <p><b>IONIAN ISLANDS German occupation O.p. Italy stamps</b> 1943</p>	 <p><b>IRAN</b> 1868</p>

Contributions by  
San Lawrenz  
Primary School

## Junior Thoughts

The school head cooperated with our proposal of inviting the students to write a small piece, based on “Imagine you are a stamp: describe yourself and write about your journey” or (in Maltese) “Immagina li inti bolla: ikteb dwarek u l-istorja tiegħek”. We are pleased to announce that **Lindsey Cassar, Luana Falzon, Nicole Falzon, Adem Formosa, Carl Grech, Henry Holland, Karla Meilak** and **Michael Xuereb** provided their contribution - and all merit further free stamps! We present just two examples.

++++ Hello my name is Stampy. I am a special stamp. I look really fine since I have a picture of the Mona Lisa printed on me.



I do not know how but I got lost and ended up in a cupboard for a few months. Then I heard that people were moving in. Thankfully, they found me while they were cleaning up. They wrote a letter to the Queen of England and it seemed very important. They decided to use me to stick on to the envelope. The journey was exciting; however for most of the time I was in a mailman’s bag.

When I got there the servants got mixed up and misplaced me. After a few hours the Queen found the envelope and she looked quite impressed with me. Her Highness opened and read the letter and began to write another letter straight away. I am currently still on the Queen’s desk waiting for my journey to continue.

++++ Hello, my name is Lindsey and I am a stamp. I am from Gozo, the sister island of Malta.

I have a really big family. They are stamps just like me; however they have different pictures printed on them. I also have many friends. My friends that come from other countries have different currencies printed on them.

The best part of being a stamp is that we get to travel to different parts of the world like Germany, Italy and France. Those are real adventures! I have been stuck to an envelope and then fortunately into a specialized collector’s book. Obviously, I was placed on a special page since I have the picture of Saint Lawrence printed on me and I am very proud of it.



I have really enjoyed telling you all about myself. Maybe you will see a stamp just like me in your letterbox soon!

## Poem: Stamp Collecting *Kathy Song*

The poorest countries  
have the prettiest stamps  
as if impracticality were a major export  
shipped with the bananas, t-shirts and coconuts.  
Take Tonga, where the tourists,  
expecting a dramatic waterfall replete with birdcalls,  
are taken to see the island's peculiar mystery:  
hanging bats with collapsible wings  
like black umbrellas swing upside down from fruit  
trees.

The Tongan stamp is a fruit.  
The banana stamp is scalloped like a butter-varnished seashell.  
The pineapple resembles a volcano, a spout of green on top,  
and the papaya, a tarnished goat skull.

They look impressive,  
these stamps of countries without a thing to sell  
except for what is scraped, uprooted and hulled  
from their mule-scratched hills.  
They believe in postcards,  
in portraits of progress: the new dam;  
a team of young native doctors  
wearing stethoscopes like exotic ornaments;  
the recently constructed "Facultad de Medicina,"  
a building as lack-lustre as an American motel.

The stamps of others are predictable.  
Lucky is the country that possesses indigenous beauty.  
Say a tiger or a queen.  
The Japanese can display to the world  
their blossoms: a spray of pink on green.  
Like pollen, they drift, airborne.  
But pity the country that is bleak and stark.  
Beauty and whimsy are discouraged as indiscreet.  
Unbreakable as their climate, a monument of ice,  
they issue serious statements, commemorating  
factories, tramways and aeroplanes;  
athletes marbled into statues.  
They turn their noses upon the world, these countries,  
and offer this: an unrelenting procession  
of a grim, historic profile.



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