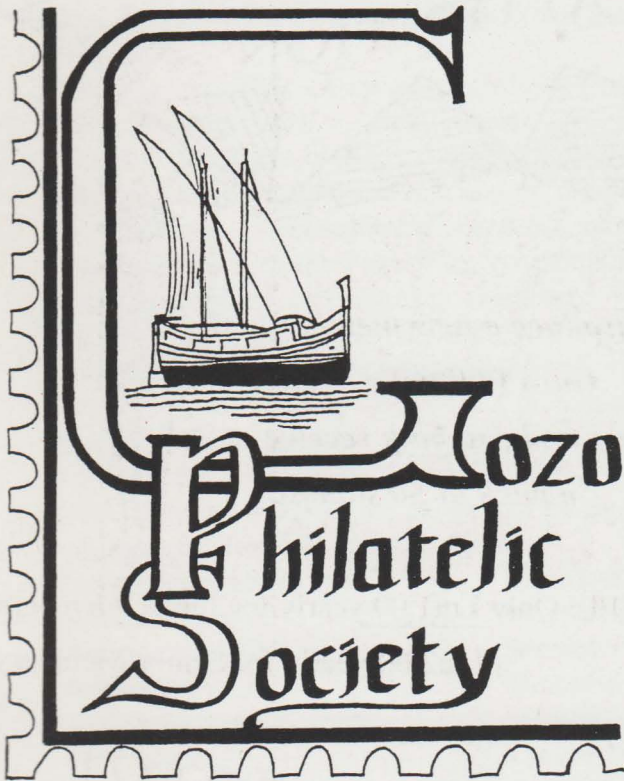
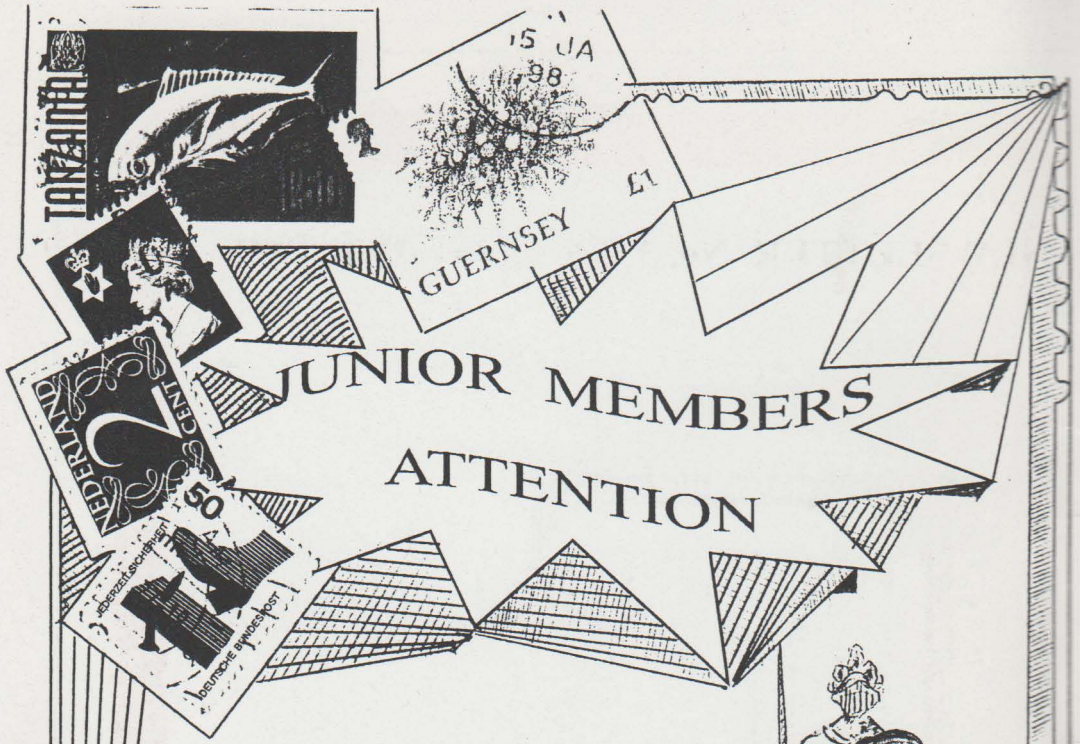


NEWSLETTER No. 3 ❖ Jan - Mar 2001



1/2001



JUNIOR MEMBERS ATTENTION

*Introduce a new member to the
Gozo Philatelic Society
and you both receive
a pack of 50 stamps.*



MEMBERSHIP FEE: Only Lm1.00 yearly for Junior Members
Lm2.00 yearly for Senior Members

ENROLL NOW!

GPS Diary (3)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

1st November 2000 - Launch of Essay Competition for students (in separate Primary and Secondary School sections) in collaboration with the British Legion.

1st December 2000 - Issue of second GPS Newsletter with Quiz Competition for Junior members.

4th January 2001 - First New Year Stamp Fair at *Banca Giuratale*.

13th January 2001 - Last meeting of first Committee.

20th January 2001 - First Annual General Meeting at NGO Centre. The PRO opened the meeting, introducing the British Legion's representative who announced the winners of the Essay Competitions. The President handed out the stockbook prizes to the participants in the Newsletter competition. Amendments to Statute proposed by outgoing committee were carried. The Secretary gave his Report, the Treasurer the Financial Statement and the President his Address, all carried in this issue. There being just ten nominations for the Committee, all were declared elected without the need for voting. Members were invited to contribute material (in Maltese or English) for the Newsletter.

27th January 2001 - First meeting of the new committee, during which posts were distributed as follows:

Notary Michael Refalo	President
Frank Masini	Vice President
Antoine Vassallo	Secretary
Anthony Grech	Membership Secretary (responsible for activities)
John Muscat	Treasurer
Anton Said	Auditor
George Vella	Public Relations Officer
Austin Masini	Newsletter Editor
Can. George Farrugia	Chaplain
Emanuel Vella	Member

AGM 2000

President's Report

15 months have passed since a few of us met for the first time in an attempt to constitute the Gozo Philatelic Society and this is the first opportunity that I have to address the AGM. I am pleased to say that those 6 or 7 of us who met for the first time at Dar il-Lunzjata have not only succeeded in constituting the Society but their hard work accompanied by the hard work of our increasing membership has led to the present membership count of 76.

Your Committee has met regularly during the past year and has, in my opinion, succeeded admirably on two fronts, namely the organisation of activities and production of GPS philatelic material. In spite of the difficulties which every new society encounters in its first and formative years, we have managed not only to attract a good number of members but also to organise regular activities both for members as well as for non-members. We have also managed to establish contact with overseas Philatelic Societies and, I am sure, we will benefit from their experience in order to increase an awareness of the benefits of stamp collecting on Gozo.

It is now time to consolidate on our activities and work of the past 15 months in order to work more intensively on the attainment of the aims of our Society. If we have done very well in some aspects of our activities there is still more to be

done in order to fulfill one of the main aims for which the Society has been constituted, namely that taking this hobby to the young. This can be done only if two conditions are fulfilled:

- that we manage to reach agreements with schools in order to enable us to explain to students the benefits and joys of stamp collecting; and
- that we present stamp collecting not necessarily as an alternative to more “modern” hobbies especially those connected with technology. In this connection, it is my firm belief that philately and the use of the computer can go hand in hand.

It is not my intention to elaborate today on these points but I am sure that the newly elected Committee will tackle this matter and find ways and means in order to achieve what is perhaps the most important aim for which our Society has been constituted.

Your outgoing committee has shown great dedication and enthusiasm in the task which it has taken upon itself. One should keep in mind that none of them do this in consideration of any remuneration. Their remuneration is to see the Gozo Philatelic Society succeed in its aims and expand its membership.

I will conclude by thanking your outgoing for all the work which it has done and propose a vote of thanks to each and every one of them individually.

Thank you.

Michael Refalo

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(20.01.2001)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

These have been very eventful months and I am sure the promoters (led by George and Frank) never expected that so many activities would be held so successfully nor membership to exceed 70 so soon (including from overseas! - resulting in English being our official language).

Our Foundation meeting was held on September 3rd 1999 at Dar il-Lunzjata and this has remained the usual location for our normal activities; but the long-term aim has to be to acquire somewhere to serve as a regular meeting-place and where to keep publications and other material for reference. More immediately we should try to increase contacts with schools and others; although we obviously grasped the opportunity to receive visits or meet a wide range of philatelists etc. We have also registered with the NGO Centre and others.

I will not bore you with the details which are listed as a chronological Diary in our Newsletter (pages 3 and 1 respectively in the first two numbers) but I must surely mention the effective way the Committee functioned. However I personally feel that my Assistant Anthony Grech merits a special accolade, going well beyond his designated nomenclature! For example he has taken responsibility to circuit stockbooks (a practical way to increase one's collection) and for contacts and incentives for the young (including free stamps).

The first committee meeting was on 23rd October when the members elected on the 9th allocated the posts as follows: Cannon George Farrugia Chaplain; Anthony Grech Asst Secretary; Ronnie Grech Assistant Treasurer; Frank Masini Vice President; John Muscat Treasurer; Notary Dr Michael Refalo President; Anton Said Auditor; Antoine Vassallo Secretary and George Vella PRO. Saviour Grech was coopted to edit the Newsletter, followed by Austin Masini from the second issue.

Sixteen official meetings were held, together with various informal and *ad hoc* ones to prepare particular events - often meaning long unsung hours! Besides the two Newsletters (which will hopefully become a regular quarterly), numerous circulars were distributed announcing developments and activities.

Among these special pride of place is due to our First Philatelic Exhibition (for which we received good comments), which had an excellent participation and with prizes sponsored by Bank of Valletta and Sliema Stamp Shop. We obviously also took part in Maltex. Smaller occasions (mostly aimed especially at Juniors) were held at the Cathedral Parish Public Library, Xaghra Local Council, *Banca Giuratale* and *Tigrija Palazz* (for our official launch on 12th February 2000). An unusual activity was Mass and Religious Stamp Display at *Lunzjata*.

Our initiative led to the opening of the *Banca* on 1st May for a special postmark (which our George Vella was invited to design) commemorating the Centenary of Gozo's first Branch Post Office there; and we used this occasion to issue our first Cover.

Previously we had prepared sets of "Millenium" Cards postmarked at the last time of business on yearend 1999 at Gozo's five Branch Offices and 3 Sub Postoffices. Both items have been well received. A further card was postmarked on the conclusion of our first year.

A quiz competition was included in the latest Newsletter, following an essay competition (in conjunction with the British Legion) for students.

I conclude by thanking my colleagues, officials of organization who offered their cooperation and collaboration (including the Cultural Council, Gozo Ministry, Cathedral Parish and Maltapost) and the Media who covered us. Among these last there are most of the locals (both printed and sound), various Internet sites, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, the Malta Study Circle's "Melita" and (most recently) the Philatelic Society of Malta Journal.

Antoine Vassallo

MEMBERS ATTENTION!!!

FORTHCOMING EVENT

SATURDAY 24th March 2001
at *Dar il-Lunzjata*

Please see full programme of events on page 25.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2000*(prepared by John Muscat and audited by Anton Said)***INCOME:**

	Lm	
Membership fees	120	
Exhibition entry fees	8	
Sales percentage	70	
Donations received	55	
Exhibition sponsorship	120	
Newsletter adverts	28	
Sale of cards and stamps	150	<u>551</u>

EXPENDITURE:

Refunded to Secretary, PRO and Treasurer	70	
Other postage	31	
Photocopies	28	
Printing (including stationery, cards, Newsletter)	153	
Board with logo	20	
Catering	63	
Exhibition Prizes	110	<u>475</u>

Balance at Bank on 31st December 2000

Lm76

CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS

Emanuel Vella

Postmarks or cancellations have been in existence for much longer than postage stamps. In fact postmarks have been associated with postal services long before even envelopes were invented.

Historians think and consider that the oldest known postmark originated in Venice in the 14th century. It had a circular shape and in the centre bore the coat of arms of the Count of Milan, Francesco Alessandro Sforza surrounded with the text "Mediolarum Cursores", which means Milanese Couriers. This postmarks bore no date but scholars believe that these cancellations were done in 1499. The oldest dated postal cancellation known bears the date 1661.

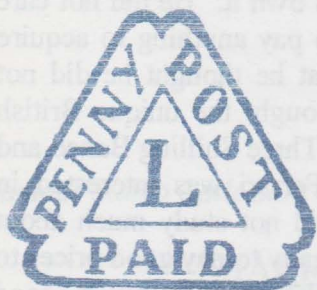
This does not mean that postal cancellation since that century have shown the year, month and day of the postal administration. As can be seen from letters before stamps, postmarks and cancellations have undergone years of development before they came to resemble cancellations, as we know them today.

Those cancellations which bore no letters or numbers are called "DUMB" cancellations. These cancellations were of various types. The first "MUTE" cancellations were in the shape of an ornamental Maltese cross. During the 18th and 19th century letters usually bore postmark denoting the place of posting and date.

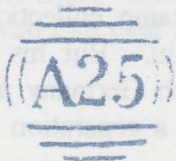
Development Postal Cancellation in Britain

In 1680 William Dockura and his partner, Robert Murray, leased the operation of the London Post. Then they transformed

it into their famous London Penny Post, since postage for the London Post was One Penny. Dockura devised a triangular hand-struck mark with inscribed Penny Post Paid. In the centre there was a letter which denoted individual city offices. Letters from this period also had a simple heart-shaped design that bore a numeral with the abbreviation “Mor” (morning) or “Af” (afternoon) above it. The cancellation was struck on the letter by the delivery postman.



1840 saw the beginning of Postage Stamps. On May 6, 1840 the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue became valid for postage. The Penny Black was used for letters throughout Britain. Because Malta at that time was a British colony this should interest us because some Penny Blacks were also used in Malta. □



*Famous Stamp Collectors***PHILIPPE LA RENOTIERE VON FERRARI***Anthony Grech*

One of the most famous stamp collectors was Phillippe la Renotiere von Ferrari. Born in Austria, he lived the greater part of his life as a French subject. Ferrari did not have to worry about money because he had inherited a large sum from his mother. Ferrari had no children to look after. He spent all his life travelling all over the world buying stamps. The more the rare the stamp, the more he wanted to own it. He did not care about the price. Ferrari was ready to pay anything to acquire not only the rarest but any stamp that he thought he did not have in his collection. The Baron bought the unique British Guiana, the few Mauritian issues, the Three Shilling Banco and thousands of other rarities. Von Ferrari was interested in stamps of the whole world, but he did not study much about them. Furthermore, because he was ready to pay good prices to acquire stamps and more stamps, his sellers saw a good opportunity of how to get rich at his expense. Thus many "curious" and "specialities" were invented, and Ferrari bought them. In fact in his collection, apart from genuine and expensive stamps, he had a lot of forgeries and fakes. But, up to 1917, when he died, Ferrari was the only man who could boast that he was the only one to own a complete collection of all the world stamps. Even up to this day, nobody can claim such a thing.

When Ferrari died, although he was a French subject for many years, he wished that his vast stamp collection goes to the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin. But his wish was not fulfilled. France was at war with Germany and the French decided to sell his collection as a reparation payment from Germany.

Preparations started a year before and when the time arrived, philatelists from all over the world arrived in Paris. These included millionaires, sovereigns' agents and normal collectors. In the end, ex Ferrari stamps found their place into thousands of unknown collections scattered all over the globe.

Philippe la Renotiere von Ferrari loved stamps, but although he could claim that he had the only complete all world collection, he never really studied them, and that is what makes the true philatelist.

* * * * *

Famous Stamp Collectors

MAURICE BURRUS

Maurice Burrus was a wealthy tobacco businessman. When he retired, he moved to Switzerland where he devoted all his time to the only hobby he had, Philately. Unlike Ferrari, Burrus knew that it was an impossible task to try to acquire all the world stamps. Although he was extremely rich and a multi millionaire he never bought a stamp without thoroughly examining it. He was no fool and he knew his stamps. When he died his collection was auctioned and stamps from his collection were named ex-Burrus. In 1964 H.R.Harmer's auctions sold the most valuable of the ex-Burrus stamps, the missionary Hawaii two cent for more than two million sterling pounds.

* * * * *

Interesting facts about

POSTMEN OF THE KHAN 1275

Anthony Grech



Kublai Khan

Marco Polo the great venetian explorer of China left us in writing a very vivid chapter about the postal service of the Great Khan, Lord of Lords, named Kublai. *Marco wrote...*

"At every three miles are erected villages of about forty houses inhabited by foot-runners employed to carry the Khan's letters. They wear large girdles set round with bells, which are heard at great distance. Receiving a letter or packet, one runs full speed to the next village, when his approach being announced by bells another is ready to start and proceed to the next, and so on. By these foot-messengers the Khan receives the news in one day and night from places ten days journey distant: in two days from those twenty off, and in ten from those one hundred days journey distant. Thus he sends his messengers through all his kingdom and provinces to know if any of his subjects have had their crops injured through bad weather, and if any such injury has happened, he does not exact from them any tribute for the season— nay, he gives them corn out of his own stores to live on." □



A 15th-century French manuscript illumination shows Kublai Khan, Yuan dynasty emperor of China,

presenting his golden seal to the Polos. The famous account by Marco Polo of his career in the service of Kublai Khan was the first substantial Western record of any contact between China and Christian Europe.

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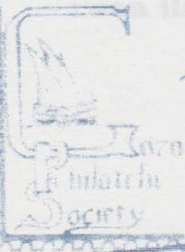
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First Annual General Meeting - 27 Jan. 2001
N.G.O. Centre.



STAMP ISSUE PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 2001



<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>DATE OF ISSUE</u>
1. Malta Carnival	February
2. Lighthouses in Malta	March
3. Caruana Dingli's Folklore	April
4. Europa 2001	May
5. Birds of Malta (Miniature Sheet)	June
6. Old Maltese Musical Instruments	August
7. Definitive Part III	September
8. Dogs	October
9. Christmas 2001	November

(Most probably another set will be issued in May in order to commemorate the Pope's visit to Malta in connection with the beatification of Dun Ġorġ Preca.)

COMPETITION

Open to Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

- i) Name the month and subject of the first set of stamps which Maltapost is issuing for the year 2001.
- ii) Who wrote an interesting fact about the Postmen of the Khan in 1275?
- iii) Where did the oldest known postmark originate?
- iv) Whose coat of arms did it bear?

Please send your answers on a separate paper, together with your name and address by not later than 31st March 2001 to:

The Secretary
Gozo Philatelic Society
P.O. Box 10, Victoria, Gozo. VCT 101.

Prize to be won:

Stockbook with some stamps..



PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION

Answers of above captioned competition which was published in GPS Newsletter No 2 are as follows:

- i) Greetings 2000, Christmas ii) 9.02.2000, 18.11.2000
- iii) Ten Sets, iv) Issued on 18.10.00 and designed by Bettina Paris, Chiara Borg, Roxana Caruana, Jean Paul Zammit.

PRIZE WINNERS

- 1) GPS Winner of a large stockbook with stamps goes to: Iona Masini.
- 2) GPS Winners of small stockbooks with stamps go to: Christabel Galea, Joseph Saliba, Cynthia Saliba, Joseph Vella.

(It is worth noting that the committee decided that all participants will be awarded a prize in order to encourage all Junior members to participate in future competitions.)

CONGRATULATIONS !!



Photograph shows the winners who were presented with these prizes on Saturday 20th January 2001 before the Extraordinary Annual General Meeting.

FIRST ESSAY COMPETITION RESULTS

George Vella P.R.O.

Last December our Society had launched its first essay competition in collaboration with the Royal British Legion, (Malta Branch). The subject was the hobby of philately. This was aimed at students in the primary and secondary schools and was divided in two categories respectively. Non-members were invited to take part.

The students in the primary schools were asked to choose from one of the following subjects:

- 1) Getting to know foreign stamps
- 2) Story of a letter
- 3) Adventures in stamps

While students in the secondary schools were asked to choose from one of the following subjects:

- 1) Philately, the "Royal" Hobby
- 2) Malta's culture and history on stamps
- 3) Stamp collecting, why?

The winners in both categories are:

Primary Schools: 1st Mark Portelli of Victoria Year 5
2nd Christabel Galea of Xewkija Year 6
3rd Daniel Cardona of Fontana Year 6

Secondary Schools: 1st Ennio Farrugia of Xewkija Form 5
2nd Graziella Vella of Victoria Form 3
3rd Joseph Vella of Nadur Form 2

Prize presentation will be held on Saturday, 24th March, at Dar il-Lunzjata.

In this publication we are going to publish the first winning essays in every category. Please note that both essays are printed as submitted with no correction. □

A STORY OF A LETTER

Mark Portelli

John and Mark were good penfriends. John lived in England and Mark lived in Gozo. I am a letter that John wrote to his friend Mark.

One day John wrote his message upon me to Mark., Then, he put me in an envelope and with me he put some used postage stamps because John knew that Mark liked philately. On the front of the envelope he wrote Mark's address and fixed a postage stamp. The stamp had a picture of a railway train and an image of Queen Elizabeth II. The value of the stamp was 25 pence.

The next day John put me in a pillar mail box. There were other letters in the box and we began to tell each other of our destination. Then the door suddenly opened and a postman took us to the post office. He stamped us with the post office postmark and also stuck an airmail label. He put us in different bags and another man took us to the airport in a van. Our bag was put on an aeroplane bound to Malta. When we arrived at Malta I was stamped again and I was taken to Gozo by a ferry boat with other letters. We were taken to the Victoria Post Office. There I was stamped again for the last time. A postman delivered me to Mark's home letter box. Mark received the envelope, he opened it and read the message I carried. When he saw the stamps he jumped with joy.

I am very proud that I am a letter because letters like me, are very important, as we can help people communicate with each other. □

PHILATELY THE ROYAL HOBBY

Ennio Farrugia

I have been fortunate enough to have discovered for myself the many historical and cultural events which have shaped our nation and those of others. This personal experience has been acquired through stamp collecting.

This hobby which I have been passionate about since the tender age of six, has taught me that through communication a certain event, a country can pass on its history and from generation to generation. The First-Day covers and communication do not only help to provide an important source of revenue for post-offices, but to recall interesting or important events that occurred in the past. Stamps make the population aware of any brave and heroic deeds performed by famous people and thus gain our healthy respect for their unfailing courage or suffering especially during wars. These people can teach us not to seek our own self-interest but of being ready to live the precept of serving others when the need arises.

Since I have enrolled in the "Philately Association" in my country, I have come to know the meaning of friendship and acquired the sense of belonging: a kindred spirit exists amongst members. Friendship is a plant of slow growth and this pastime has instilled a sense of undertaken by all the active members of the Association. This is continuously sustained by the personal efforts of each member. We have struggled to maintain a constant communication by writing, phoning and obviously by the use of the Internet to other members in foreign countries. Exchanging stamps through the various catalogues issued by all affiliated members provides a source of information about a nation's culture and history. Conforming to the rules set out by

Association indirectly lead to your becoming a disciplined person - you have to abide by them.

I must admit that stamps can be very expensive. Collectors however usually specialize in a particular theme, country or type of issue,. Thus narrowing down the expenses incurred. Normally I find it worthwhile, to find an alternative in begging friends for any used ones and vice versa. This need is nurtured by the link that binds all avid collectors. Rich or poor. Like any other pastime, it has been allowed to become commercialized in certain spheres and no longer enjoyed for pleasure. Many a rich collector has lost his investment when certain rare stamps have been stolen from his safe. No wonder these well-known collectors pay a hefty insurance loss of his coveted collection.

I too, am proud of my modest collection as I know that through this I can keep abreast of current events as well as receive invaluable advice on our present-day society and international affairs. Through stamps I can study the history of mankind whose mistakes retain their importance as much as successes. These make us strive to interpret the ups and downs of man in the past.

Today I can honestly say that philately is truly the Royal Hobby. I recommend to all; young and old, people of all classes. □



POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GOZO, 1887

Anton F Attard

In the year 1887, Mr F.V. Inglott, Post Master and Head of the Posts Department for Malta and Gozo, carried out an exercise for the reorganisation of the Postal Services for the two Islands. The following were the Postal Arrangements for the Island of Gozo and the other districts in Malta.

Districts

Gozo is divided into two Postal Districts designated "the Victoria District" and "the Mgar District".

The Victoria District comprises the Victoria City and the Villages of Zebbug, Kerchem, Garb and Sannat.

The Mgar District consists of Fort Chambray, and Villages of Gajn Sielem, Nadur, Kala, Xagra, Xeuchia and the Island of Comino.

District Limits

The limits or confines of each District are those established by the Parishes comprised therein.

Offices

In each District there is a Post Office situated in the principal Town or central place of business.

The Post Office of the Victoria District is in the Victoria City and that of the Mgar District at the Mgar.

Posting Boxes

In the Post Office and in the Police Station of every Village there Letter Boxes for the Posting of Letters and Newspapers, which are cleared daily, except on Sundays and other Holidays.

Post Officers

The Post Offices are in charge of Detached Post Officers who act under the direction of the General Post Office in Malta, receiving all instructions, however, through the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo.

Letter Carriers

Letter Carriers are attached to each Post Office who work under the immediate direction of the Detached Post Officers, to whom they are responsible for every detail of their duties.

Mails

Mails from and to Malta are received at, and despatched from the District Post Offices according to a Time Table varying at each season, as to number per day and to hours of arrival and departure.

The mails are received from and delivered to ship-board by a "Mail Messenger".

This officer is attached to the Post Office of the Victoria District, but attended also to the requirements of the Post Office of the Mgar District as regards the receipt and despatch of the mail and the conveyance of local correspondence from one Post Office to another.

(to be continued)



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ETC.....

MEMBERS' MEETING
SATURDAY 24th MARCH 2001
AT DAR IL-LUNZJATA

ALL MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
ATTEND OUR FIRST MEMBERS' MEETING.

2.00 p.m. Stamp Fair. There will be stamps and other philatelic material for sale at special prices. You are also encouraged to bring with you your surplus stamps to exchange or sell to other members.

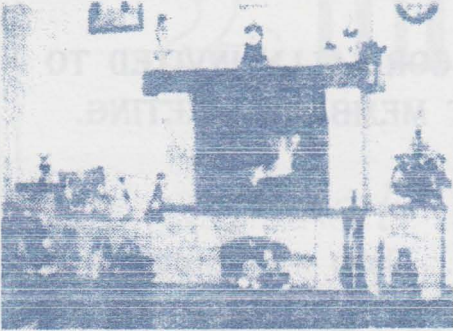
3.30 p.m. Presentation of prizes to the winners of the essay competition which was launched in collaboration with the British Legion.

4.30 p.m. We will end this activity with a Mass which will be celebrated by our Chaplain - Rev Fr Can George Farrugia.

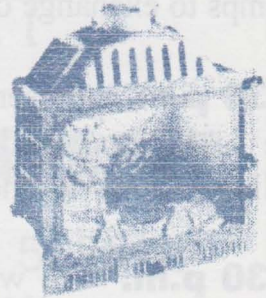
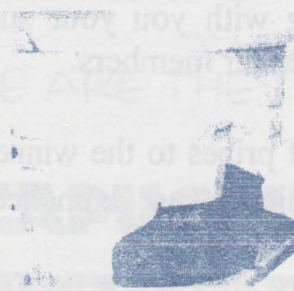




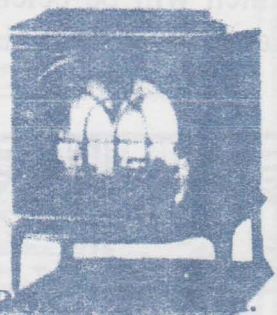
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The legend of the famous

1856 BRITISH GUIANA RED

Ilona Masini

As far as it is known there is only one specimen of this stamp in existence. This unattractive and damaged stamp an ex Ferrari always make head news when auctioned. It's price is always rockets sky high. Such a stamp has also it's history and legends. One of these legends goes that when a certain U.S. poor boy enlisted as a sailor apprentice, his best friend gave him an envelope full of old stamps as a parting gift. As a sailor he did not have time to dedicate to his hobby. Years had passed when he rediscovered his friends gift. He was astonished to find that one of the stamps in the envelope was a British Guiana Red. Being of a sharp mind he contacted Arthur Hind who had just bought the only known specimen. It is reported that they met secretly and alone. The legend goes that Hind offered a large sum of money to the young sailor who became speechless. After the deal was done it is said that Hind burned the newly acquired stamp because he could not risk the public learning that his specimen, which was photographed and declared unique so many times was not in fact the only one in existence.

Hind had bought the stamp from the ex Ferrari collection in an auction for 200,000 francs. After his death the stamp was bought ,in 1970, by a consortium of American businessman for U.S.\$280,000. □

ADVERTS

It is worth noting that one page in this newsletter is being reserved for adverts pertaining philately. Any advert will cost from LM1.00 to LM2.00 respectively. However adverts pertaining to other matter will also be published on demand. Please contact the editor for prices of a quarter, half or full page.

ADVERT 1

The Gozo Philatelic Society has for sale a limited number of a set of 8 cards (out of 100), bearing the last postmarks of the 2nd Millennium taken in Gozo at all Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices. The price is at LM2.50 for members and LM4.00 for non-members per set.

ADVERT 2

The Gozo Philatelic Society has also for sale a limited number of a set of 2 cards in colour (out of 250). These bear the special rubber hand postmark, dated 28th October 1998 taken in Victoria Gozo, to commemorate the 2000 years since the French surrendered in Gozo after 141 days of occupation. The price is at LM1.00 for members and LM2.00 for non-members.

ADVERT 3

Stockbooks with both local and foreign stamps are being circulated among members. Anyone interested to buy or just have a look at these stamps may contact Mr Anthony Grech. These are being sold at a relatively cheap price.

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SUNDAY BUFFET LUNCH



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PALAZZO MARGHERITA
DUN LUQA STREET, SANNAT

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HOME MADE SOUP*



- CHOOSE FROM A SELECTION OF
PASTA DISHES

- SPOIL YOURSELF FROM OUR
HOT BUFFET AND CARVERY TABLE



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SELECTION OF *GATEAUX* FROM THE
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