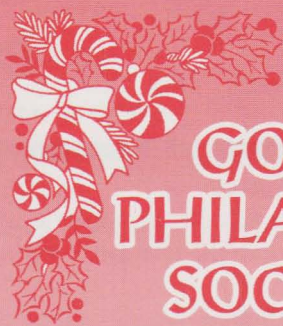
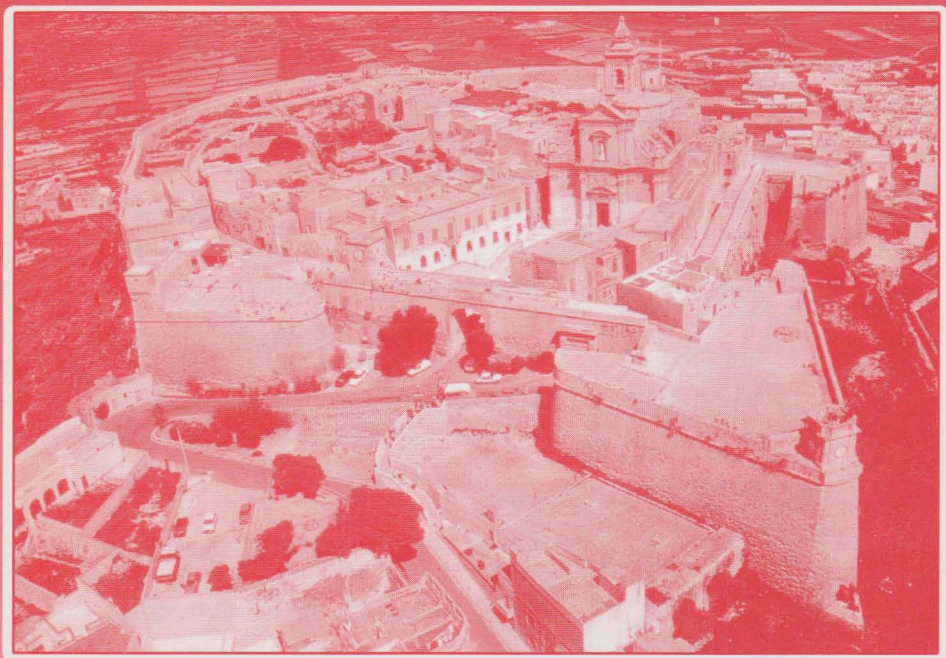


October - December 2006

Nº: 26 - 4/2006



**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

*Newsletter*

# Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR  
BIEX TIXTRI  
JEW TIBNI  
DAREK**

**BOV Homelink**  
success



**Aghżel**  
int u nnota  
d-differenza!

**BOV Notice Account**

**306090**



**BOV TeenSaver Account**

It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-fal tieghek



**BOV Savings Plan**

**Il-pjan ta' tfaddil b'bonus!**

**BOV**

[www.bov.com](http://www.bov.com) e-mail: [customercare@bov.com](mailto:customercare@bov.com)

## Front Cover:

- The Citedal in Victoria also known as “Gran Castello” dates back to the late medieval era.
- 6c Stamp which marks the 300th Anniversary of the Gozo Cathedral was issued on the 10th July 1997. This was designed by the design section—Maltapost.

## CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

I have the pleasure to invite you to our

### **SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held at the Scouts Headquarters  
Santa Dminka Street Victoria Gozo

on

**SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2007 at 10.00 a.m. with this  
AGENDA:**

1. **Minutes of the sixth AGM.**
2. **Treasurer's Statement**
3. **Secretary's Report**
4. **President's Address**
5. **Election of Members for Committee**
6. **Motions**
7. **Other Matters**

I thus invite paid up members to:

- A. nominate themselves or others to the new **Committee** and
  - B. Submit notice of **Motions** (regarding amendments to our statute - copies of which are available from the Secretary - or otherwise).
- A **Members' Meeting** begins at **9.00 a.m.** (exchanging, buying & selling stamps etc.)
  - The **7th GPS Exhibition Prize-giving Ceremony** takes place at the conclusion of the AGM,

All members - Juniors and Seniors - are heartily encouraged to attend.

*Antoine Vassallo*  
*Secretary*



## GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Member No. ....

Name .....

Address .....

..... Post Code.....

Tel No. .... ID Card No .....

I enclose annual membership fee for Lm2.

.....

Signature

Date

Being under 16, I enclose Lm1 for Junior membership  
(Date of Birth.....)

.....

Signature

Date

Introduced by..... Member No .....

I acknowledge receipt of membership application from

.....

with relative fee of .....

An official receipt and membership card will be issued  
later.

.....

(signed obo Gozo Philatelic Society)

Date





Oct - Dec 2006

**GPS NEWSLETTER**  
**Quarterly Organ**  
**of**  
**THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

*First issued on 12th February 2000*

*Editor: Austin Masini*

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

Correspondence (and material for publication) should be addressed to: Editor, GPS, PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.

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**GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

***Founded on 3rd September 1999***

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

*Postal address: PO Box 10, VCT 101, Gozo, Malta.*

---

*Happy New Year*

**1**





## GPS DIARY (26)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- 22nd August 2006:** Meeting of GPS Secretary with Malta Study Circle Secretary to discuss the special October Exhibition.
- 18th September 2006:** First of a further series of twelve slots on *Lehen il-Belt Victoria* community radio, covering philately in general and featuring our exhibitions.
- 20th September 2006:** Committee meeting to finalize arrangements for October Exhibition and confirm regulations for November Exhibition and Bid-Sale.
- 24th September 2006:** Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 25th September 2006:** October Exhibition begins being set up at Library.
- 29th September 2006:** Anthony Grech prepares a cover for the Comino tower stamp.
- 30th September 2006:** GPS represented at Anthony Fenech's funeral, also with a bouquet.
- 2nd October 2006:** Special Exhibition begins being visited, with special dedication to Tony Fenech.
- 4th October 2006:** Exhibition visited by TV crew.
- 9th October 2006:** Official opening of special Exhibition at the Gozo Archives hall (Gozo Reference Library) with speeches by Chev Dr Alfred Bonnici (MPS President), John Lander (MSC President), Anton V Said (GPS President) and Prof Mgr Joseph Bezzina (Archivist and historian) (see pages 20, 21 and 24)
- 11th October 2006:** First visit of the new scholastic year to the Seminary Stamp Club, meeting the new school administration.
- 17th October 2006:** Committee finalizes arrangements for November Exhibition.
- 19th October 2006:** Anthony Grech prepares card (No 23) for reissue of 1c *sempreviva* definitive.
- 23rd October 2006:** Dismantling begun of Library Exhibition.
- 28th October 2006:** Anthony Grech produces card for handstamp (designed by him) commemorating the centenary of Mgarr's St Anthony Church.
- 29th October 2006:** Members' Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ,
- 31st October 2006:** Setting up begun of Exhibition.
- 3rd November 2006:** Official opening of 7th GPS Philatelic Exhibition blessed by Bishop Mario Grech (see page 4).
- 5th November 2006:** Bid-Buy session as part of the Exhibition activities.
- 6th November 2006:** Anthony Grech prepares cover for Christmas stamps (which were designed by GPS founder-member George Vella).
- 11th November 2006:** Mass in memory of Anthony Fenech at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary. Special memorial card produced by Anthony Grech.
- 12th November 2006:** Poetry Competition prize giving. (next issue)
- 13th November 2006:** Exhibition dismantled.





## MALTA'S CHRISTMAS STAMPS 2006

*(George Vella)*

Back in May of this year I was contacted by my good friend, the late Mr Anthony Fenech, to see if I could handle the design for this year's Christmas stamps. Tony, as we all knew him, had trust in me because of other works in philatelic cards and special hand stamps that I had designed before. So I said yes only on one condition, that I would handle the subject and make a good presentation.

So Maltapost asked me officially to design the Christmas stamps and gave me the intended subject to be included in the stamps. To my great surprise this subject was rather unusual for Christmas stamps and difficult to execute in such a small figure the size of a stamp. The stamps were each to include a Christmas scene and a Maltese composer. Apart from that the composer W.A. Mozart had to be included also as this year happens to be the 250 anniversary of his birth, and stamps were being issued around the world.

The great difficulty arose here, just to find the right composers to feature on the stamps. It was suggested that the composers chosen had to have an anniversary this year. Four met the requirement and then I had to make a research to see if all of them had composed Christmas music to have a relation to the stamps and be included on the respective stamp. I was lucky, all had composed Christmas music. As to Mozart I suggested that this stamp should be different and the idea of a miniature sheet was welcomed. Yet this also had to be related to Christmas.

*(Cont on page 18)*





## THE ANNUAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 2006

*(Anton V Said)*

This year's Philatelic Exhibition took place as usual in the exhibition hall at the Gozo Ministry.

It was inaugurated by His Lordship Mons. Mario Grech on Friday 3rd November at 7.00pm. Also present was Mr Tony Borg, the Minister for Gozo representative, Mr Jack Theuma, manager of the BOV Gozo, as this institution is the sole sponsor of this activity, and other personalities. Later, on Sunday 5th the Hon Mr Anton Tabone Speaker of the House of Representatives visited the exhibition.

This year's occasion was with a marked difference though, as absent from among the usual group of members, friends and collaborators was Mr Tony Fenech, the society's great friend and benefactor, who had passed away quite unexpectedly.

To remember him on this particular evening, Mr Anton F Attard writer and a well known Gozitan poet gave tribute to him by this beautiful sonnet which aptly summed up Tony's exceptional qualities.

**LIL TONY FENECH  
MINN HAL BALZAN  
ESPERT TAL-FILATELIJA  
LI HALLIENA  
FIT-23 TA' SETTEMBRU, 2006,  
MIBKI MINN NIESU, QRABATU  
U HBIEBU KOLLHA**

Missier, ghalliem, gentlom,. Ragel minn taghna,  
Qalbu f'idejh u ghelm il-hbieberija,  
Ma jafx jghid le, bis-sabar kien jismaghna  
U jghin b'dik it-tbissima ferrehija.







Daqs hutu jew uliedu kien jistmana,  
Pariri siewja jaghti bla hzunija,  
Ghalih l-gherf l-aqwa gid u l-akbar Ghana  
Li ma' kulhadd kien jaqsmu bla stennija.

Hasra hassejna meta hbaru smajna,  
Li Tony l-habib taghna kien halliena,  
Ghax telfa kbira bhalha ftit wisq rajna.

U tilef Ghawdex, tilfet l-art Maltija  
U tilfu wkoll dawk kollha llum soghbiena,  
'ma tilfet l-izjed il...Filatelija!

31.10.06

ANTON F ATTARD

In this year's exhibition besides the junior section there were three other sections for adults, namely; Postal History, Traditional Philately and Social Philately. There were more than thirty entrants not including those which were in the 'non competing' section.

All the items entered were of a very high standard, in fact a very good coverage was given by the media and will be aired by Channel 22 in the near future.

Last Sunday, November 12th which was the last day of this exhibition a prize giving ceremony was held for some fifteen students who entered for a poetry writing competition sponsored by '*L-Ghaqda Poeti Maltin*'. Mr Charles Magro Secretary of this association, and GPS officials presented the prizes and certificates to all participants. The GPS is much grateful to '*L-Ghaqda Poeti Maltin*' and to Mr Charles Magro for their kind gesture.

A word of thanks goes to all those who contributed for this exhibition to be a success; namely the Gozo Ministry, sponsors, judges, organisers and participants alike.

It was really a collective effort by all those concerned. □





## COMPETITION RESULTS OF THE 7TH GPS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The range and quality of exhibits have again been very impressive and all participants should be congratulated. The following orders of merit were decided, based on the criteria of Presentation, Content and Philatelic Knowledge. This year's level was high and this augurs well for the future of philately in Gozo.

- **ADULT SECTION:**

### **1. TRADITIONAL PHILATELY (SPORTS AND GAMES)**

- 1st Rev Fr Gerald Buhagiar
- 2nd Mr Anthony Grech
- 3rd Mr Emanuel Vela
- 4th Mr Vincent Grech



### **2. SOCIAL PHILATELY**

- 1st Mr Anthony Grech
- 2nd Mr Anthony Grech
- 3rd Dr Paul G Pisani

### **3. POSTAL HISTORY**

- 1st Mr Jesmond Borg
- 2nd Mr Anthony Grech
- 3rd Mr Jesmond Borg





- **JUNIORS:**

<b>1st</b> Luke Masini; <b>2nd</b> Frankie Meilak; <b>3rd</b> Garret Vella;	<b>4th</b> Elaine Marie Borg; <b>5th</b> Amie Camilleri Debono; <b>6th</b> Margherita Borg.
---	---
  
- **The remaining participants are in alphabetical order**

Attard Rachel Azzopardi Georgianne Borg Andrea Borg John Cardona Matthew Caruana Debbie Cassar Corenne Formosa Yelenia	Grech Christian Grech John Paul Grech Marie Masini Samuel Piscopo Daniel Portelli George Vella Marie
---	--
  
- **NON COMPETING - JUNIOR SECTION**

Said Miriana	Said Natalia
--------------	--------------
  
- **NON COMPETING - ADULT SECTION**

Grech Anthony Vella George Xerri Mary Grace	Vella Emanuel Wood Hadrian
---	-------------------------------
  
- **BANK OF VALLETTA CHALLENGE CUP**  
**for the best item on show**  
  
 Mr Jesmond Borg

**CONGRATULATIONS !!!**





## A MEMORABLE DAY

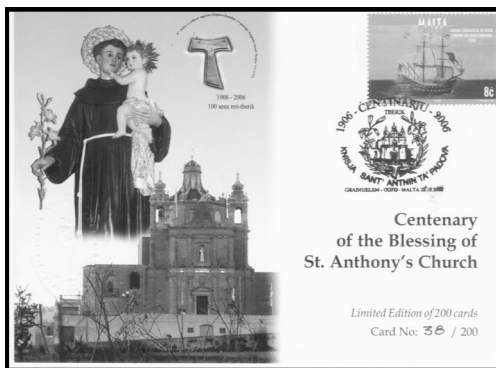
To commemorate the Centenary of the Blessing of St Anthony's Church Ghajnsielem Gozo, Maltapost plc issued a special handstamp from the Ghajnsielem Post Office. The postmark was designed by Mr Anthony Grech who is also a member of the Gozo Philatelic Society. Moreover the Franciscan Community in collaboration with the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of 200 Commemorative Cards.

### ***Brief History of the Church:***

On the 22nd November 1899, the Franciscans (Ta' Giezu), came to Gozo to settle in a house called "Ta' Gliex" at Ghajnsielem in the road "Via Nadur" that from Mgarr leads to the villages of Nadur and Qala. Today the road accordingly bears the name of Saint Anthony.

The mind behind this project was that of the Provincial Custodian Fr. Anton M. Cesal OFM, who eventually was helped by some other friars. The plans for this project were made by Fr Joseph Diacono. Before that, the same friars had acquired the land from their benefactor Fr John Borg, canon of the church of St Paul Shipwreck in Valletta. The work commenced immediately and eventually the first part of the convent was completed in January 1902. On the 7th September 1902, the Gozitan Bishop Giovanni Maria Camilleri, placed the first stone of the new church dedicated to St Anthony. All the construction of the church was in the hands of Master Builder Mr Wigi Vella from Zebbug and paid by Mr Joseph Sultana, a businessman from Nadur. It took four years to finish the work and on Sunday 28th October 1906, Bishop Camilleri blessed the church. The same Bishop then consecrated it on the 4th November 1912.

The feast of St Anthony comes early in the season of the summer feasts in the island of Gozo. □





**B**iex T fakkar  
 ic Centinarju  
 tat Tberik  
 tal-Knisja ta'  
 Sant'Antnin ta'  
 Padova Ghajnsielem  
 Ghawdex,  
 il-Maltapost plc. harget  
 Timbru speċjali minn  
 Ghajnsielem Sub Post Office  
 il-lum is-Sibt 28 ta' Ottubru 2006

Moghtriya bgieh u rispett mill-Gozo Philatelic Society  
 lil- W.R. Patri Gwardjan Raymond Camilleri ofm  
 u l-Komunita Frangiskana.

*Antoine Vassallo Segretarju*  
 Gozo Philatelic Society

*Anton Said* President  
 Gozo Philatelic Society

The Scroll which was presented to Rev. Fr Raymond Camilleri OFM and all the Franciscan Community.





## Where in the World ?! (17)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**French POs in Turkish Empire:** (inscriptions include *Levant, Beyrouth, Cavalle, Dedeagh, Port-Lagos, Ile Rouad* and *Vathy*) 1885-1923.

**French POs in Zanzibar:** 1894-1904.

**French Somali Coast (*Cote des Somalis*):** This eastern African territory was called Djibouti till 1902 and renamed Afars and Issas in 1967.

**French Southern & Antarctic Territories (*Terres Australes et Antartiques*):** issues from 1955.

**French Sudan (*Soudan*):** Separate stamps from 1894 until 1959 when began using French West Africa (now Mali).

**French Territory of the Afars & Issas:** Stamps from 1967 (had been Somali Coast) until 1977 (because the independent west African country Djibouti).

**French West Africa (*Afrique Occidentale*):** Stamps from 1944 (included Dahomey, French Guinea, French Sudan, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta) until 1959 (split into the independent Dahomey, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Upper Volta).





**French Zone:** Allied occupation issues of Germany: general 1945-46 (*Zone Francaise*) and separately for each of four Lander (1947-9).

**Fujeira:** state in Persian Gulf with stamps 1964-72; now part of United Arab Emirates.

**FUKUI:** Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1991.

**FUKUOKA:** Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1990.

**FUKUSHIMA:** Separate stamps for this Japanese prefecture were issued from 1990.

**Funchal:** Portuguese Atlantic island with stamps 1892-1905.

**Funafuti:** This island of Tuvalu had separate issues 1984-8.

**Futuna:** see Wallis & Futuna.

*(to be continued)*

---

***Bold italic*** = Inscriptions;

**BOLD CAPITALS** = Current Issuers;

**Bold** = Former Issuers.

*(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!)*





## PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

(Lina Gauci)

### *The Gozo Citadel*



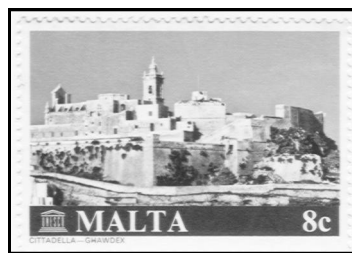
One of Gozo's best known landmarks is surely the citadel in Victoria.

The Citadel, also known as "Gran Castello" owes its origin, to the late medieval era. It stands at a most important strategic point on a hill in the centre of the island, offering a magnificent view.

In July 1551, the Citadel was besieged by the Turks and on the 27th July, approximately 6,000 Gozitans were taken to slavery, 300 of whom managed to escape.

Under the rule of Grand Master Juan D'Omedes (1536-1553), it had been decided to restrict the area of the fortification and build stronger ones, and to help with this, a tax on wine and oil was imposed on the locals.

On the 15th February 1980, an 8 cents stamp depicting the Citadel in Gozo, was issued. *(a copy of which appears on the right)*







## The Gozo Cathedral

The Cathedral in Victoria is dedicated to the *Assumption of Our lady*. The foundation stone of this Cathedral was laid



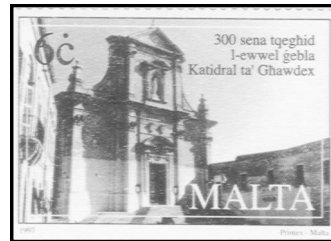
on the 21st September 1697 and it was consecrated by Bishop Giacomo Canaves on the 11th October 1716. It was declared the Cathedral of Gozo and Comino on 16th September, 1864 by Pope Pius IX.

The Cathedral is a fine baroque structure, built entirely of local limestone in the form of a Latin cross. It was raised between 1697 and 1711 on a plan by the Maltese architect *Lorenzo Gafa*.

On the left on entering the Cathedral one comes across a marvellous artistic statue dedicated to the *Assumption of Our Lady*. This was made in Rome in 1897. The silver pedestal on which the statue stands, shows the figures of *St Gregory The Great, St Ambrose, St John Chrysostom and St Augustine*.

Besides the statue of Our Lady, other famous works of art are worth mentioning. One of these is the Cathedral's dome from the inside which is a "*trompe l'oeil*" by Antonio Manuele of Messina painted in 1739 and considered to be a masterpiece.

To mark the 300th Anniversary of the Gozo Cathedral a 6c stamp was issued on the 10th July 1997. (*a copy of which appears on the right*).



The Cathedral is the visitor's chief attraction in Victoria. □





## *stamp terms used in PHILATELY (17)*

(Emanuel Vella)

**Land-Post:** Land-post/Porto marke', rural post stamps of Baden 1862. Three values printed black on yellow, perf. 10 were affixed by postal officials on mail on which extra charges were payable in respect of rates, outstanding accounts, etc. on behalf of local authorities, the stamps are sometimes listed as postage due although they are not strictly so.

**Landstormen:** O/P on 1916-18 issues of Sweden. These stamps carried a surcharge levied to provide uniforms for men in army service.

**Late fee stamps:** Stamps issued by a number of postal authorities in prepaid extra charges for mail posted after normal hours.

**Latvija Aizsargi:** Latvian stamps of 1931 so overprinted. These stamps carried a surcharge to raise funds for new weapons for the army.

**Lawinenopfer 1954:** These are overprints of Austrian landscape stamps. These stamps carried a surcharge in aid of avalanche victims in the Austrian Tyrol.

**League of Nations:** Swiss current issues were o/p "Societe des Nations"; "Service de la Societe des Nations", and "Courrier De La Societe Des Nations" 1923-44 for the use of the League at the Geneva Headquarters.

**Lecocq Machine:** This ingenious French machine printed the embossed and other issues of Peru in a continuous strip or





ribbon, the stamps being either cut up or issued in lengths after being rouletted or pierced by three cuts between each pair of stamps.

**Ledger Dispatch:** A Brooklyn, USA local delivery service established in New York by Edwin Pidgeon in 1882.

**Lemnos:** Aegean Island. Formerly Turkish, was occupied by the Greeks in 1912 and stamps of Greece were o/p in 1912-13. Now this island uses stamps of Greece. (Area 186 sq m population in 1952 was 23,842).

**Leon: (or De Leon):** Province of Ecuador. A control overprint was applied there to local stock in 1902 following the theft of large quantities of stamps during a fire at Guayaquil. Leon is also the name of a Mexican province with revolutionary overprints “Gob-Const” in 1914.

**Leopards:** The 1934 and 1938 Nyasaland Protectorate designs are thus known to collectors.

**Lepta:** Was a Greek unit of money.

**Lesbos or Mytiline, Mitilini or Metelin:** These are Aegean Islands which for short periods issued their own stamps.

**Letadlem(Czech) By air:** Airborne mails.

**Letter Express:** Inscribed on the local issues by Henry Wells to frank mail carried between Western NY, Chicago, Detroit and Duluth in 1844.

(to be continued)





## Script by Script (17)

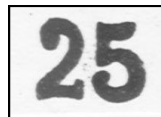
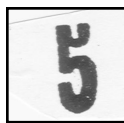
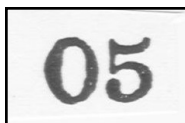
(Antoine Vassallo)

This regular space features stamps without any identifiable name in “latin” script or providing some similar difficulty.

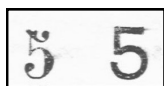
Today I carry on from the last issue by looking at some more surcharges which change the issuing territory without specifying its name.

From 1859 stamps began appearing (some practically identical to normal French ones) for use in French colonies without their own. But there were also occasions when they were overprinted before some particular territory designed its own.

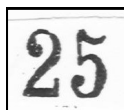
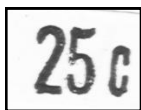
For example the island of Madagascar overprinted different “Commerce” stamps with numerals until they type-set theirs in 1891. There are quite a few variations in the digits as can be seen from these examples.



Another African colony, Senegal, did the same from 1887 but its overprints had still more variations. Identification is rather complicated and “advanced” catalogues are necessary.



I finally mention Nossi Be, an island off Madagascar which offers further examples. Moreover it also surcharged the “Peace & Commerce” design.





## **E & O not E (12)** {No 8 issued twice}

(Antoine Vassallo)

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

Sometimes you cannot be sure whether mistakes that appear on stamps are the result of defective research by the designer or slipshod work by the engraver or printer.

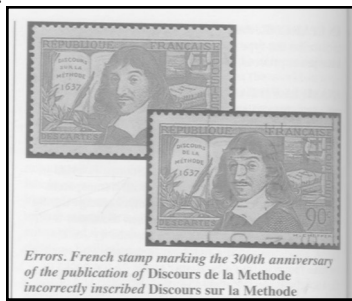
One of the designs in the King George VI definitive set produced by Harrison & Sons in 1950 for **North Borneo** showed the clock tower at Jesselton.

Unfortunately the spelling was incorrect: two letters were transposed and the name appeared as “Jessleton”. It was decided that a corrected version should be prepared; this appeared two years later. This town is now Kota Kinabalu, the capital. Of course, even the state itself changed names - to Sabah, still part of Malaysia.



North Borneo stamp inscribed 'Clock Tower Jessleton', this was later corrected to 'Jesselton'

A more “serious” mistake was made by **France** in 1937. This was the third centenary from the publication of *Discours de la methode pour bien conduire sa raison et chercher la verite dans les sciences* by the famous philosopher Rene Descartes (known also in the latinized form of Cartesius). Reasonably enough, it was decided to show only the shortened form of this long title - the usual style in those days! Unfortunately *sur*, instead of *de*, was inscribed (engraved by H Cheffer). Although seemingly insignificant, this error created quite a stir (the work is very important - for example, it can claim to have founded co-ordinate or analytic geometry) and the corrected version was produced immediately. The portrait itself was adapted from a painting by the famous Dutch portraitist Frans Hals. □

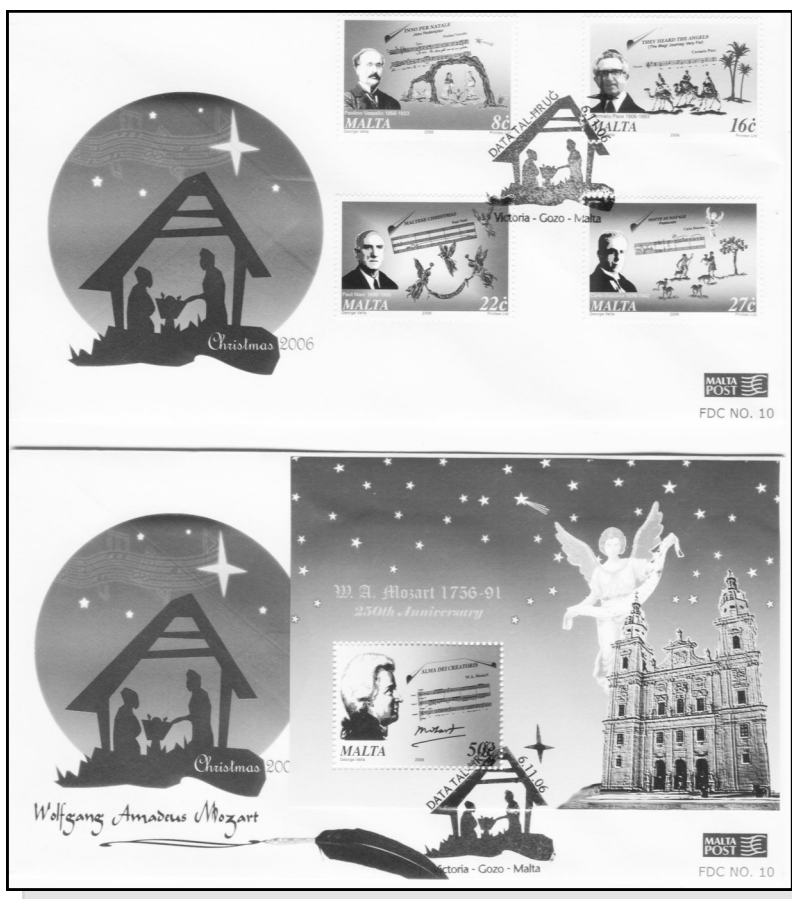


Errors. French stamp marking the 300th anniversary of the publication of *Discours de la Methode* incorrectly inscribed *Discours sur la Methode*





As all these obstacles were surpassed, what remained was how to set the stamps and what colours to use while at the same time leaving the overall outcome of the stamp readable and sharp. As to the Christmas scene I thought of using individual scenes from the local Christmas crib. While setting these stamps I was in constant contact for consultation with our late friend Tony who was a great help and showed me the right direction. □





## STORY OF A STAMP

I am four years old. I was born in Canada, in a very large printing press. My value is twenty cents. Well, I am a stamp!

The printers used recycled paper to make me so I can say I am eco-friendly. I was made for Christmas. On me I have a picture of Father Christmas himself with his sleigh full of presents. I am so colourful and lively. Everybody likes me especially the small ones who look at me with sparkling eyes. I had an adventurous journey till I reached home. You know the first master I had, simply threw me away on the pavement. He was so rude! Then thanks to my lucky stars Daniel found me. He is a ten-year-old boy and also a great stamp collector. He promptly cleaned me carefully and put me in a prominent place in a stamp album in the Christmas section.

He is so fond and proud of us stamps that whenever visitors come home he always shows them his stamp album. During the Christmas season he even puts us on show, on a round table near the Christmas tree.

Well all is well that ends well. I now live in a warm environment, I feel so happy at times I feel I can jump with joy. I cannot wait till next Christmas comes, so I will meet many of Daniel's friends. ☐

*(Daniel Aquilina - Junior Member who attends Bishop's Conservatory Victoria, Gozo).*





## THE MALTA STUDY CIRCLE IN GOZO

*(Anton V Said)*

On Monday 9th October members of the Malta Study Circle headed by Mr John Lander, president of the Society, paid a day's visit to Gozo.

It was suggested that an exhibition should be organized for this occasion by the Gozo Philatelic Society. The theme was to be 'Gozo in Philately' but owing to the unexpected passing away of our dear friend and colleague - Tony Fenech which took us by surprise it was most befitting that we should dedicate it to 'His Dear Memory'. Besides a friend, Tony was also our Society's point of reference and above all a benefactor of our Society.

Speaking of this exhibition it gave one just a glimpse of what Gozo has to offer in philately to visitors.

Interesting items on show were the numerous hand cancellations and covers artistically designed by one of our society members. These are issued on special events and occasions in Gozo. Another member of the society also exhibited his own cards and special covers. Another interesting section comprised the designs by Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi of last year's Christmas issues. These are reproductions of paintings in a freeze at the 'Ta' Pinu Sanctuary'.

But the focus of interest were the artistic albums of Mr Anthony Grech and the traditional counter equipment used in post offices in the good old days.







The archives and the Public library authorities in Gozo had generously lent us not only the premises for this event but also old documents, receipt books, catalogues and other interesting material. So a word of thanks goes to Profs. Rev. Fr. Joe Bezzina and to Mr George Borg assistant librarian and the person in charge of libraries in Gozo and their staff for their help and co-operation. Mr G Borg also made all the necessary contacts with the media to give a full coverage of this event.

I must not forget the members of our society for their exhibits especially Mr Anthony Grech who had the bulk of the exhibits and Mr George Vella, and the members of the Malta Study Circle who showed great interest in the exhibition, proof of this was the numerous pictures which they took of the exhibits. □

*(Points from the speech by Mr Lander are on page 24)*

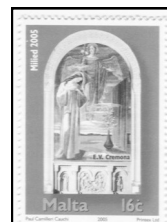




## ***GOZO on Malta's Stamps (6) - to update*** (Antoine Vassallo)

(the previous parts appeared in issues 7, 9, 10, 11 and 14)

46. **2004** Letter Boxes  
 46.1 **22c** box in Munxar.  
 46.2 **37c** box in Victoria.
47. **2004** Indigenous Animals sheet **16c**  
 "Gozitan" shrew.
48. **2004** United Europe **28c** Dr J Borg has a  
 Gozitan father.
49. **2004** Chapels **66c** Comino chapel
50. **2005** Maps  
 50.1 **1c** Map from Gozo Library.  
 50.2 **12c** Map of Maltese islands.  
 50.3 **Lm1.02c** "De Soldanis" Gozo  
 Map.
51. **2005** Rotarians **76c** Map.
52. **2005** X'Mas - paintings from Ta'  
 Pinu Sanctuary.
53. **2006** Ceramics **28c** Mnara from Victoria Museum.
54. **2006** Holy Week **22c** sculpture designed  
 by Gozitan Wistin Camilleri.
55. **2006** Sempreviva **1c** reissue.



*Members were invited to send further suggestions; so we have these additions:*

- 1922-6** Melita sets **penny values** Gozo boat  
 in background.
- 1970** Christmas **10d** Gharb church in the background.
- 2003** Queen **Lm1** Gozitan-born President Dr Censu  
 Tabone.

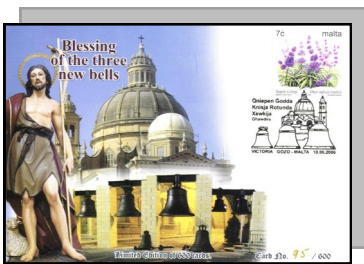




**Others:**

**Q**

- xv) Cathedral Bells (2003)
- xvi) Kercem's Gregorian Centenary (2004)
- xvii) Qala church centenary (2004)
- xviii) Nadur church bicentenary (2004)
- xix) Wistin Camilleri anniversary (2004)
- xx) Sannat's St Margaret Centenary (2004)
- xxi) Victoria *Kuncizzjoni* anniversary (2004)
- xxii) Fontana Church Centenary (2005)
- xxiii) First helicopter flight (2005)
- xxiv) Mary Mejlak centenary (2005)
- xxv) *Wirja* 150th anniversary (2005)
- xxvi) Archpriest Cassar (2005)
- xxvii) Bishop Grech consecration (2006)
- xxviii) Cathedral statue anniversary (2006)
- xxix) Xewkija church bells (2006)
- xxx) Mgarr Church centenary (2006)



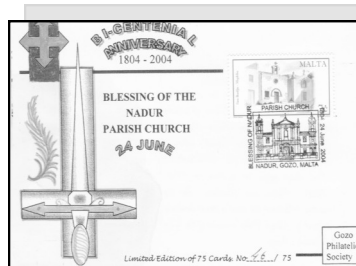
**Xewkija Church Bells**



**Cathedral Statue Anniversary**



**Wirja 150th Anniversary**



**Nadur Church Bicentenary**





## **Points from the speech by MALTA STUDY CIRCLE President Mr John Lander**

- I look upon Gozo as being a very special place - and special places are getting fewer! In 1955 I had visited Gozo to take photos of the police stations believed to have acted as postal agencies before 1921. I spent easter 1957 here and later led naval camping weekends.
- My earliest item of mail from Gozo is an 1833 letter. I always look out for Gozo postmarks on Maltese stamps - I suspect high values were used on consignments of lace going abroad.
- I appreciate that GPS members' interests are not confined to stamps of Malta.
- I quote President Emeritus Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (at Maltex 2006) who stressed the educational value of stamps and the importance of involving the young.

In a letter he sent on his return home, Mr Lander mentioned our research and said he was "impressed with the progress you have made. Your work with local schools is a real example of what philatelic societies should be doing world-wide".

We thank you for the kind words. □

**Please note that membership for overseas members is Lm5 (Euro 12) - they can use Money Orders or currency notes. This includes the Newsletter delivery.**



## FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Lm1.00c
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:- Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Lm2.00c
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Lm1.00c
- Card to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Cancelled with a Special Hand Stamp used only at the Victoria Gozo BPO. Limited edition of 100. Lm0.50c
- Card to commemorate the 200th Death Anniversary of Gozitan patriot Archpriest Saverio Cassar. Limited Edition of 50. Lm0.50c
- Card to commemorate Holy Week Traditional Celebrations. Limited Edition of 100. Lm0.50c
- Special card issued in collaboration with Xewkija Parish cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the blessing & inauguration of the Rotunda New Bells. Limited Edition of 600. (very few left) Lm1.00c
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of Comino Tower stamp. Cancelled at Ghajnsielem sub post office with the first day of issue hand stamp Limited Edition of 75. Lm0.75c

*continued overleaf* →

## FOR SALE

- Card to commemorate the 7th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition (3 to 12 November 2006) including the 8c Christmas stamp and cancelled with the Christmas First Day of Issue hand stamp  
Limited Edition of 130. Lm0.75c
- Special card issued in collaboration with the Franciscan community of St Anthony's Church, Ghajnsielem, Gozo cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the Centenary of the Blessing of the same church 1906 - 28/10 - 2006.  
Limited Edition of 200. (very few left) Lm1.00c
- Special "In Memory" card hand stamped at Gharb Sub Post Office on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist held at Ta' Pinu Shrine, for the repose of the soul and in memory of Mr Anthony Fenech, a great philatelist and a sincere friend of the Gozo Philatelic Society  
Limited edition of 160. Lm0.75c
- Card in the form of First Day of Issue of the reprinted 1c stamp from the 2004 Definitive Flowers set. This stamp was first issued in Gozo on the 19th October 2006.  
Limited edition of 183. Lm0.25c
- Special card issued in collaboration with the Gozo Curia cancelled with the special hand stamp, to commemorate the Consecration of Mgr Mario Grech New Bishop of Gozo.  
Limited edition of 1000. (Very few left) Lm1.00c
- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

*Those interested may contact:*

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

# Merry Christmas

You are all invited to  
contribute to this, our  
periodical

Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, the language should preferably be English; but a summary could be added to an item in Maltese - in any case the editorial board can translate.

We also welcome letters asking for help regarding stamp identification etc. Anything published will merit a philatelic gift! And Juniors will receive a memento in any case!.



## Reminder to young members

A token of free stamps will be given to those who would renew their membership for year 2007.



**The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History**

**Published by Sliema Stamp Shop**

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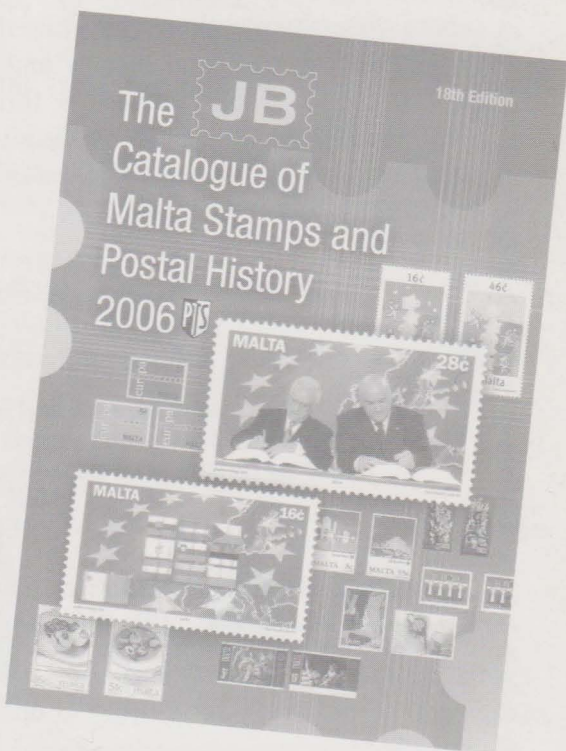
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