



January – March 2007

Nº: 27 - 1/2007



**GOZO**  
**PHILATELIC**  
**SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*

# Għal Kull Servizz Bankarju



**AKTAR VALUR  
BIEX TIXTRI  
JEW TIBNI  
DAREK**

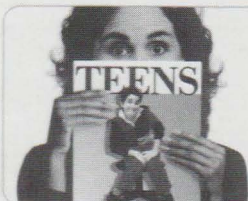
**BOV Homelink**  
SUCCESS



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

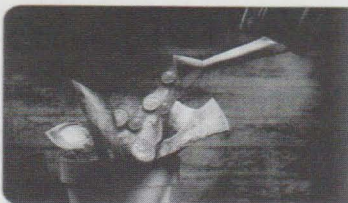
**BOV Notice Account**

**306090**



**BOV TeenSaver Account**

**It-tfaddil li jikber malajr daqs it-tfal tieghek**



**BOV Savings Plan**

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



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## Front Cover:

- A bird's eye view of Victoria Gozo with St George's Basilica dominating.
- 5c Stamp which is one of a four-value set which marks the European Architectural Heritage Year. It was issued on the 16th Sept 1975 and designed by Profs. Architect Richard England.





Citadel Video Communications  
By the Bastion Road,  
Victoria, Gozo VCT108

Contact: Mr Alvin Scicluna

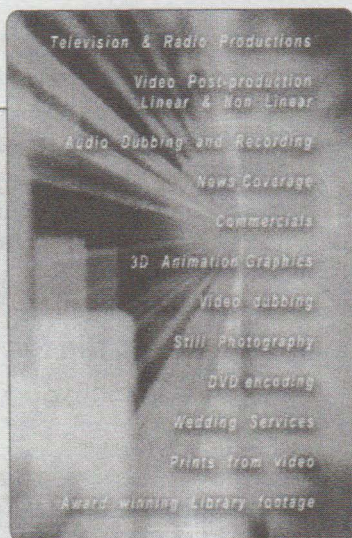
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Delivery: No



#### SPECIALITIES:

- TV productions
- Corporate videos
- TV/radio publicity clips
- Wedding in video and prints

Unfortunately some items for **Gozo on Malta's Stamps** (pages 22 - 23 in issue 26) went AWOL! These will be shown in the future. In the meantime, readers will be interested to know that we are preparing what should be an attractive and useful publication with the - suitably updated - material in this series.

#### **Reminder to young members**

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



## **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



**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 1000, 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 1000, Gozo, Malta.*

## GPS DIARY (27)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- 22nd November 2006:** GPS represented at information meeting with the intention of setting up an EU Leader approach Local Action Group in Gozo.
- 25th November 2006:** Opening of “Xewkija Day” Exhibition organized by Xewkija Local Council in which GPS was invited to set up a Philatelic section, concentrating on the village and its patron St John the Baptist.
- 26th November 2006:** Monthly Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 29th November 2006:** Visit to the Laura Vicuna Primary School.
- 2nd December 2006:** Council meeting confirms 7th GPS Philatelic Exhibition prizes and prepares for AGM.
- December 2006:** Issue 35/3 of the Malta Philatelic Society Journal features our special card issued in memory of Tony Fenech, together with the article by President Anton Said which had originally appeared in GPS Newsletter 25.
- 31st December 2006:** Monthly Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 12th January 2007:** GPS Secretary Antoine Vassallo gets the biggest number of votes in the election for the Gozo NGOs Association Council at the Association’s 3rd AGM, during which Minister G. Debono distributed cheques to NGOs (including the GPS) in the Gozo Ministry Grants Scheme.
- 14th January 2007:** Our 7th AGM was held at the Victoria Scouts HQ as part of a Members’ Meeting and was followed by the 7th GPS Philatelic Exhibition prize giving ceremony. (see pages 3 to 6).
- 17th January 2007:** Antoine Vassallo confirmed as President of the Gozo NGOs Association, of which the Gozo Philatelic Society was founder-member.
- 25th January 2007:** As the first meeting of the new Committee returned from the AGM, officers were confirmed in their posts. Balls were also set rolling to launch a GPS Website. We also discussed a decision by Maltapost prohibiting the use of postage stamps on postal packets - we agreed that the secretary should write a public letter (see page 7).
- 28th January 2007:** Monthly Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 31st January 2007:** Official booking made for 8th GPS Philatelic Exhibition (9-18 November 2007).
- 25th February 2007:** Monthly Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.
- 2nd March 2007:** Mass for the repose of the son of GPS President Anton Said at Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary.

SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
(14.01.2007)  
*SECRETARY'S REPORT*

I intend giving a straightforward bird's eye view of the twelve months since our last Annual General Meeting.

The members returned from the 6th AGM formed this Committee at our first committee meeting: Rev Dr Gerald Buhagiar (Chaplain), Anthony Grech (Membership Secretary), Anton Said (President), Antoine Vassallo (Secretary-Treasurer), Emanuel Vella (Exchange Packets), Mary Grace Xerri (Public Relations Officer) and Lina Gauci, George Micallef and John Muscat (members). Austin Masini remained Newsletter Editor, the Board being composed also of Anton Said and Lina Gauci. Seven further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

As can be expected, the 6th Exhibition in November consumed a big proportion of our efforts. New Gozo Bishop Mgr Mario Grech accepted our invitation to bless it on the inauguration night. Because of Anthony Fenech's demise, Tony Camilleri joined Joseph Buttigieg to form the Judging panel. Prizes and participation certificates are being distributed this morning.

The programme for the Exhibition week also included a Bid/Buy Sale and the Prize-giving ceremony for the Poetry Competition, organized jointly with the "*Ghaqda Poeti Maltin*".

We also set up two special Exhibitions. One was at the Archives section of the *Vajringa* Public Library on the occasion of the Jubilee visit by the Malta Study Circle. The other formed part of Xewkija Day activities, on the request of Xewkija Local Council.

Anthony Grech continued preparing covers for stamps or handstamps with Gozo connections: Bishop Grech's



consecration, *Mnara*, Penitential service, Cathedral statue, Xewkija bells, Comino tower, St Anthony's church, *sempreviva* and Exhibition (Christmas issue, designed by GPS founder-member George Vella). A further, sombre, occasion was the Mass at Ta' Pinu Sanctuary for the repose of our dear friend Anthony Fenech's soul: a card was printed with Mr Anton F Attard's memorial sonnet. Both the Library and the 7th Exhibition had been dedicated to his memory.

We have finally succeeded in organizing regular Members' Meetings on the last Sunday of each month. This is only possible with the cooperation of the Victoria Scout Group administration, whose HQ we use.

School visits have continued. Support was offered to the newly-installed Senior Management Team at the Seminary. Committee members also led stamp-collecting sessions, including at a Summer Club.

A social activity consisting of a Pasta night was held at Marsalforn.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter. More junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters, comments and articles. This year we began a series "promoting Gozo through Philately", supported financially by the Gozo Ministry.

We continue to participate on community radios and other media. I also mention that various foreign publications (as far away as Australia!) featured our society. Gratefully, local media gave quite a lot of attention to the GPS Exhibition and our other activities.

Various members donate stamps and periodicals. We do have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan. I recommend the incoming committee to organize this on a sustainably practical basis.

*Antoine Vassallo*



## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 2006** (Updated to 10th January 2007)

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>LM</b>
Subscriptions & other receipts* from members	276.89
Sale of stamps and other philatelic material	377.96
Other Income (inc sponsorship & grant)	258.17
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>913.02</b>
Opening Balance (14.01.06)	526.59
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>1439.61</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	
Printing of 4 issues of Newsletters	280.00
Production of Cards & purchase of philatelic Material	227.75
Exhibition vouchers and other expenses	195.90
Postage and secretarial expenses	48.80
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>752.45</u></b>
<b>Balance as on 10th January 2007</b>	<b><u>687.16</u></b>

The Society has no pending liabilities but possesses these further assets:

- Exhibition stands and other equipment
- Publications (for reference and for issue on loan)
- Stamps & other philatelic material (for sale & as gifts)

*(\*various donations in kind were also received from members)*

## **7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The seventh Annual General Meeting of the Gozo Philatelic Society was held at the Victoria Scouts Group Headquarters (thanks to their administration's cooperation) in St Dminka Street Victoria Gozo on Sunday 14th January 2007. It formed part of a Members' Meeting as advertised in Newsletter 26. Quite a few members - young and old - participated.

In the absence of President Anton Said, Emanuel Vella chaired. He began by informing the AGM of the demise of Anton Said's son and led prayers for the repose of his soul. The minutes of the sixth AGM were read out (by Secretary Antoine Vassallo) and, there being no comments or objections, signed. Antoine Vassallo (as Secretary-Treasurer) then read the Financial Statement (which showed a 10th January 2007 balance of LM687.16c) and the Secretary's Report (included in this issue too). In the President's absence, the Address was not made.

Nominations for the Committee were invited and accepted. Since the Statute allows a maximum of 9, there was no need for any voting and so Emanuel Vella declared David Calleja, Lina Gauci, Anthony Grech, George Micallef, Anton Said, Antoine Vassallo, Emanuel and Frankie Vella and Mary Grace Xerri (in alphabetical order) elected. Since Fr Dr Gerald Buhagiar and Austin Masini had expressed their willingness to continue serving as Chaplain and Editor respectively, they were confirmed in these positions.

Antoine Vassallo then distributed the Exhibition prizes and Certificates, prepared as usual by Anthony Grech and Austin Masini respectively.

*Following a discussion about Maltapost's announced decision to prohibit the use of postage stamps on postal parcels, during its 25th January meeting the GPS Committee instructed the secretary to issue an open letter (in both English and Maltese) to the media. In fact various papers featured it in the letters page or as editorial material.*

## **OPEN LETTER TO MALTAPOST**

The Committee of the Gozo Philatelic Society would like to express publicly its serious doubts about Maltapost's decision to ban postage stamps from use on postal parcels.

Besides uncertainties regarding the legality of restricting unilaterally the declared usability of stamps already bought, there is the obvious danger of Maltese stamps becoming less popular through limited visibility. Of course stamp collectors like to use an assortment on their postal items, especially to each other.

We would strongly recommend this choice to remain possible, as happens in so many countries who have introduced labels. Philatelists - an important source of revenue for Maltapost - would be appreciative, just as we look positively at the return of watermarked paper and the range of attractive cards. The only point in favour of this ban is that there would be no more excuse for ridiculously-high face values!

While thanking the relative committee for the issue of stamps (and postmarks) with a Gozo theme, we take this opportunity to express our hope that no occasions are missed in the future. We remain available to provide advice regarding themes and designs. □

## POST HASTE (2)

*continuing an irregular series about  
the interesting story of the Post*

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

### **Towards a German Postal Service**

The Counts of Thurn and Taxis operated a postal service throughout the Holy Roman Empire (and its successor states) from the sixteenth century, actually beginning in the Tyrol in 1460. Later they became princes and were made “Hereditary Postmasters of the Empire”. They entered into postal conventions with the independent German states, allowing this service to be maintained until the Napoleonic Wars.

T&T succeeded in re-establishing control of the German area after the Congress of Vienna (1815). The first postal stationery was issued in Wurttemberg in 1846 but their wide service began to fall into disuse because of the further developments noted below. Moreover the new independent states began issuing their separate stamps. Early in 1851 T&T issued their first adhesive stamps for the rest of Germany. In fact there were two different series since two currencies were in use: the stamps for the northern states were denominated in *silbergroschen* (30 of which made a *thaler*), while those for the southern were in *kreuzer* (60 making a *gulden*).

The then count finally sold his postal service (with its three hundred post offices) to the Prussian administration for the sum of three million thaler. The Counts however retained a franking privilege under the German Empire until 1918, using a special handstamp (*Franco Taxis*) on their letters.

One should note that, due to successive wars over the centuries, postal services were massively disrupted and



consisted mainly of transit posts without handstamps. Napoleon formed the Confederation of the Rhine in 1806. A couple of years later Northern Germany too was incorporated into the French postal service using numerous numbered handstamps.

The ports on the northern coast ("Hanseatic League") were additionally centres of mail transmission from Scandinavia and Britain. But the League lost most of its importance before the end of the eighteenth century, though Hamburg remained a "free port" till 1888.

Prussian influence led to unification into a single German empire. In fact the *Zollverein* (customs union) was created in 1818. This led quite swiftly to ease the transfer of goods and inevitably towards a postal union between Prussia and Austria in 1850. Following the defeat of Austria in 1866, the Northern German Confederation was established and individual stamps of the states were withdrawn soon after. Confederation stamps were substituted from 1872 on merging with the Imperial German service, covering almost the whole of Germany - though still in two separate currencies. In 1875 the Empire currency became the familiar *mark* consisting of 100 *pfenning*.

*With acknowledgements to Rossiter  
& Flower's Stamp Atlas.*

**Please note that membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so that for overseas members is Lm5 (Euro 12) - they can use Money Orders or currency notes.**

## Where in the World ?! (18)

(Antoine Vassallo)

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**GABON:** Independent republic 1960; formerly part of French Congo and (from 1910) of French Equatorial Africa.

**Galapagos:** Pacific islands belonging to Ecuador, with own stamps 1957-73.

**GAMBIA:** Independent republic (*The Gambia*) on the west coast of Africa; formerly a British colony with stamps from 1869.

**Gaza strip:** part of Palestine occupied by Egypt with stamps in 1948; stamp in 1965 for Indian UN Forces contingent.

**Gdansk** = Danzig.

**G.E.A.** = British Occupation of German East Africa.

**Generalgouvernement** = German occupation of Poland from 1940.

**Geneve:** local Swiss city and canton issues from 1843 until federal stamps in 1850.

**GEORGIA:** own issues 1919 - 23, then part of USSR; again independent from 1991.

**German Army occupation of France:** stamps 1870.

**German Cameroons:** see Cameroon.

**German Democratic Republic:** see Germany.

**German Eastern Command:** stamps for occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1916 (*Postgebeit Ob Ost*) and 1941-3 (*Ostland*).

**German East Africa:** stamps (*Deutsch-Ostafrika*) 1893-1920; Belgian occupation 1916; British occupation 1917-22.

**German Federal Republic:** see Germany.

**German Levant:** see German PO's in the Turkish Empire.

**German New Guinea:** stamps (*Deutsch-New-Guinea*) 1898-1919.

**German Occupation of Albania:** 1943-4.

**German Occupation of Alsace & Lorraine:** stamps in 1870 and 1940.

**German Occupation of Belgium:** stamps 1914-18 (*Belgien*).

(to be continued)

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***Bold italic*** = Inscriptions;

**BOLD CAPITALS** = Current Issuers;

**Bold** = Former Issuers.

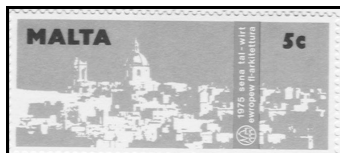
(Since it is obviously impossible to be completely exhaustive, you are encouraged to bring any gaps to my notice!)

## PROMOTING GOZO THROUGH PHILATELY

(Antoine Vassallo)

### VICTORIA

Professor Richard England, probably Malta's foremost architect, designed a four-value set for the 1975 European Architectural Heritage Year. The 5c gave a view of Victoria as a typical village clustered around its parish church which dominates the skyline.



It is said that, in Gozo, all roads lead to Victoria (whose Citadel and Cathedral have already been treated in the previous issue of this Newsletter). The capital of Gozo was so renamed in 1887 by the British colonial government on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the town also being raised to the status of a city (it had already been a municipal city in the Roman period - mid-second century AD).

It is however often still referred to by its old name of Rabat. This word actually has no relationship with the verb "*rabat*" (to tie or bind); its etymological derivation is possibly either Arabic (suburb - as Mdina's Rabat) or Berber (urbanised fields). This name was documented as Rabbatum in a notarial deed as early as the mid-fifteenth century. Victoria's motto is *a magna maxima* (from great supreme). The coat-of-arms has an azure background and portrays a shield with three hills (which also refer to the whole island) and the letters VR (*Victoria Regina*) on top of the shield.



Victoria is not just the geographic heart of Gozo; archeologists and historians tell us the area has been settled since prehistoric times, with remains dating from about 2500



BC. It is the centre of everyday activity, managing to combine the bustle of its market and shops with a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Visitors count it as a great place to watch the Islanders go about their day, especially when the main market square - *It-Tokk* (officially *Pjazza Indipendenza*) - comes to life. The square is dominated by the *Banca Giuratale*, built between 1733 and 1738, formerly the seat of the municipal government of Gozo and presently of the Victoria Local Council.

Numerous churches dot Victoria, the most prominent being St George's Basilica - as emphasized on the stamp. The present church was "offered" in 1676 by the Governor to the Patron for protecting the island from the plague. It continued being expanded and enriched and now houses a range of art treasures (and other important items) - the titular painting was included in the 2003 centennial set. Since 1969 it has a special relationship with Lateran Archbasilica and is widely known also for its liturgical celebrations. The narrow streets around this "Golden Church" are the capital's oldest parts.

The city (whose population of well over six thousand makes it the largest locality) has a thriving cultural life, with some surprising attractions ranging from opera (there are two opera houses a few metres from each other) to horse races (in the main street on *fešta* day!) Victoria also boasts of at least three football clubs and *Villa Rundle* public gardens (home of the century-old Gozo Agricultural Fair). □



## **stamp terms used in PHILATELY (18)**

(Emanuel Vella)

**Len:** A Romanian currency unit = 100 bani. Plural is lei.

**Leva:** Bulgarian currency unit = 100 stotinka.

**Levant (Fr.):** Towards the rising sun - the east. Name applied to the Eastern Mediterranean in general and the coastal areas of the former Ottoman (Turkish) Empire in particular. Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Romania and Russia have all issued stamps overprinted or inscribed for use in the many postal agencies in the area and both Egypt and Greece had offices. Most stamps used, can be identified by postmarks only. Under the Treaty of Lausanne all foreign post offices were closed down (circa) 1923. But there was a further Free French “Levant” series for use in Syria in 1942.

**Leban (Ger) Lavia:** O/P on German occupation stamps 1919.

**Life Insurance Stamps:** In philately, the official stamps issued for the postal use of New Zealand Government Insurance Department. These are often referred to as the “Lighthouses”, from their design.

**Lightly Cancelled:** Copies of used stamps lightly but legibly cancelled are the collector’s ideal; but where there is a disparity in value between a mint stamp compared with a used - with advantage in favour of the latter - the postmark must be unmistakably there, and

genuine. A legible mark showing date and place of origin is sometimes of more importance than a light cancellation; but normally a heavily cancelled or “killed” stamp is at a heavy disadvantage.

***Lignes Aeriennes (F.A.F.L.) Air Lines:*** Free French Forces in the Levant.

***Lima:*** Capital city and department of Peru. The name appears on the 1871 issue of Peru - often described as the world first commemorative stamp - which paid postage on mail carried by rail between Lima, Callao and Charrillos. In 1873 another stamp inscribed Lima was issued to cover the local rate within the city. The name appeared again on various locally overprinted issues of 1881 - 9, during and after the war against Chile.

***Limbagan:*** “Limbagan 1593-1943” o/p on stamps of the Philippine Island (under Japanese occupation) commemorating the 350th Anniversary of the introduction of the printing press.

***Line Block:*** An unscreened photo-mechanical printing block, normally of zinc, which is used as a “master” for the requisite number of electros, or stereotypes from which stamps are printed by the letterpress, typographic or surface method. For short runs, the original may be used, and both the original block and the copies may be steel, chromium or nickel faced to resist wear. It is also used (in the USA especially) to describe a block of stamps with either a vertical or horizontal line gap running between rows of stamps or an inserted guide line for colour registration, perforating or slitting.

*(to be continued)*

## Script by Script (18)

(Antoine Vassallo)

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

The Indian group includes a good number of issues by individual states, some of which (especially those produced locally in the earlier years) do not offer clear provenance indications. I glance at just three states today.

**Bhor's** first two stamps were issued in 1879 - half and one anna in the same reddish colour. It now forms part of Maharashtra but this is still the name of the former main town.



**Bundi's** first design (which appeared in 1894) offers a substantial area of specialist study, with various changes until a new series came out in 1914. This too had numerous paper and perforation developments, being in use for almost thirty years. The state was founded around the mid-fourteenth century but is now within Rajasthan. Again, however, the name continues in the town which was the capital.



**Dhar** began its short philatelic history with a five-value set, the basic type-set design having a few changes. This state (now part of Madhya Pradesh) was founded in the ninth century. The town so called is of great antiquity, was famous as the capital of the medieval Malwa dynasty and remains a cultural centre. □





## **E & O not E (13)**

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

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

Omnibus issues are stamps made by a number of countries simultaneously to commemorate the same event, often using a uniform design (or at least the same style). Portugal was the first with this idea (in 1898), followed by France.

The impressive British Crown Colony Windsor Castle design by Harold Fleury was produced for the 1935 Silver Jubilee of King George V - a concept followed for numerous “Royal” commemoratives since then. Some fifty territories participated, each with four values. The recess printing of three of the leading firms of the era has provided a subject for seemingly inexhaustible philatelic research. Worthwhile varieties exist on the separate frame plates but most interest has been concentrated on the centre.

Today I feature one of these on Malta’s set: the “extra flagstaff” variety, a most sought-after flaw (Bradbury Wilkinson). As can be seen, this is actually just a vertical line to the right of the Round Tower.



Arrow indicating the extra Flagstaff



Normal

*NB I have recently noted that number 8 was used twice - the numbering is now corrected.*

## **STORY OF A STAMP**

World War II was approaching the end, and Timmy, an Italian soldier, decided to write a letter to his wife and kids whom he hadn't seen for three years. Since he had no money to buy stamps, the lieutenant lent him one with the picture of Hitler on it. It was one of the few he had left.

The letter passed from a hand to another and unfortunately enough, when it arrived at Timmy's house, no one opened it, because they had left the house when the bombing started. A small boy playing around entered the house from a broken window and saw the envelope with the picture on it. He knew his father Paul was fond of Hitler and also a stamp collector; thus he picked it up and took it home with him. His father appreciated what his son had done for him, however, knowing that whoever sent the letter would be waiting for a reply, he did not remove the stamp. He brought a lens to check from whom and from where it had been sent since he didn't want to open the letter because it could have been holding something personal. He found a small signature on the stamp, which boosted his curiosity.

After doing lots of research, he managed to find the lieutenant, who had signed the stamp. The lieutenant unfortunately told him that Timmy had died in battle, but he knew where his wife was living then. Paul removed the stamp that he planned to keep and placed another one on the envelope. Returning home, he placed the stamp with the other stamps he collected. It was his favourite one because besides the fact that it showed Hitler's face, it also held a story.

To his great disappointment, some ten years later, someone burnt the house down, burning with it also his stamps. That was the end of the stamp's life; however Paul never stopped telling its story. □

***(Ritianne Buhagiar - Bishop's Conservatory School, Victoria Gozo).***

## **MALTA OVERSEAS - A POLISH STAMP WITH A MALTESE CONNECTION**

*(Joseph Fenech)*

*As noted in the series "Malta's religiosity evidenced philatelically", numerous countries have issued stamps with a direct and clear Maltese theme, whether in design or subject. This new series will be featuring examples in no particular order.*

*Members are invited to send articles or even simply suggest suitable items. In fact we begin with a new contributor.*

It is always a great pleasure for Maltese and Gozitan philatelists to come across and collect foreign stamps which in one way or another have a connection with the Maltese Islands.

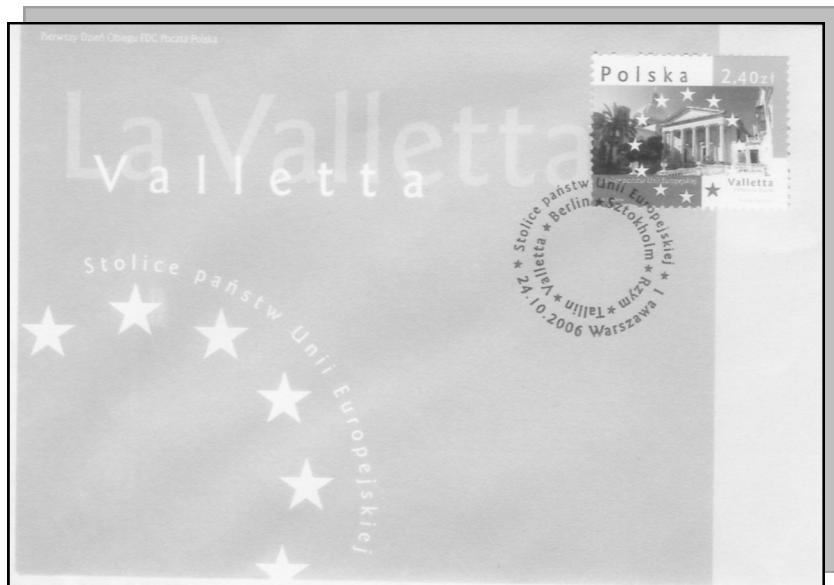
Another such stamp appeared on 24th October 2006, when the postal authorities of Poland issued the second in a series of sets of stamps featuring characteristic architectural structures of the capital cities of the Members of the European Union. In fact, one of these five stamps issued last October, which all have a face value of 2,40 zloty, depicts St Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Valletta. The other stamps in this set show the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, St. Alexander Newski Cathedral in Tallin and the Colosseum in Rome. Each stamp in this set was offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheetlets of 20 stamps, with each stamp measuring 39.5 x 31.25mm. A separate first day cover was prepared for each different stamp

The first set of stamps in this series was issued on 24th October 2005 and it depicted the Equestrian Statue of King Stephen and Church of St Maciej in Budapest (1,30 zl), the

Cathedral of Vilnius (1,30 zł), Leinster House in Dublin (2,20 zł), a detail of the Monument to the Discoverers (Seafarers) in Lisbon (2,20 zł) and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris (2,80zł). These stamps are of the same size as those issued last October and were similarly offset printed on fluorescent paper in sheetlets of 20 stamps.

Both sets in this series of stamps were designed by Magdalena Blazkow.

Looking out for and gathering such foreign stamps with a Maltese or Gozitan connection would definitely make a lovely thematic collection in its own right. May we have more of these stamps in the future!



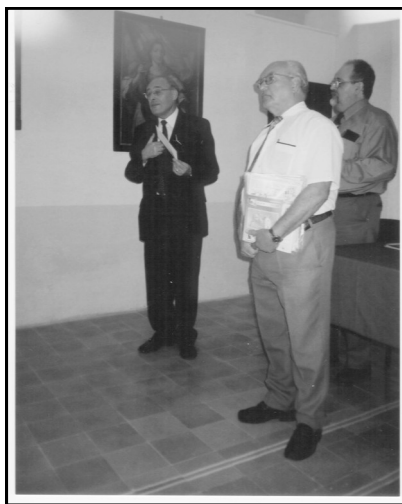


**You are all invited to contribute to this, *our* periodical**  
*Members are encouraged to send comments and suggestions, as well as other contributions for publication (about your collection and experience, about postal history and stamp subjects etc etc). Because of our numerous foreign members, 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!*

## JOINT POETRY COMPETITION

As noted in last issue's Diary, the last day of our 7th Philatelic Exhibition (12th November 2006) was highlighted with the prizegiving ceremony for the Poetry Competition - organized jointly with the *Ghaqda Poeti Maltin* - open to Gozo primary and secondary school students. We were lucky enough to be given permission to use the lateral "paintings hall" we usually use for our exhibition (this year's set up was in the main one).

*Ghaqda* Secretary Charles Magro read out the Jury's report and then distributed book prizes to the first three. These young poets were also invited to read out their work. All the participants received certificates and philatelic mementos (prepared by our usual Anthony Grech) from GPS President Anton Said).



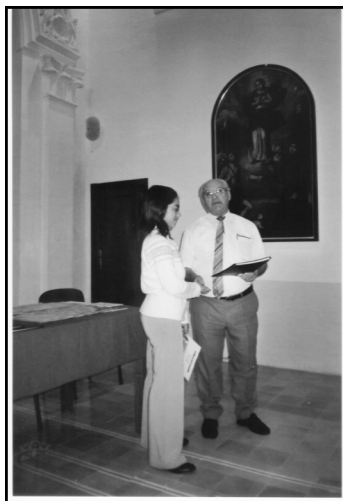
C. Magro, A. Said and A. Vassallo

A total of eighteen poems contributed by fourteen students from five schools (De Soldanis, Ninu Cremona, Sir Arturo Mercieca, St Francis and Anton Buttigieg) were received. The first three places were awarded by the Jury as follows:

- 1st:** *It-Torri tad-Dwejra* by Marija Cachia;
- 2nd:** *Il-Wirt ta' Pajjizna (Ambjent)* by Ian Xuereb and
- 3rd:** *Il-Wied tal-Lunzjata* by Marie Claire Bajada.

The other students, in alphabetical order were Christabel Attard, Brendan Buttigieg, Adriana Camilleri, Michelle Camilleri, Ayrton Lorenz Cauchi, Jonathan-George Grima, Rebecca Portelli, Mary Spiteri, Ann Marie Vella (hers was the only one in English), Garrett Vella and Miryana Xerri.

In its Report, the Jury made up of the *Ghaqda Poeti Maltin* President (Alfred Massa) and Secretary - commented about the enthusiasm which flows out from these pieces and the love expressed for our homeland. They recommended students to read more good poetry, receiving their teachers' guidance. □



President A. Said distributing one of the prizes

- **Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5th AGM) by contacting the Secretary.**
- **Please note that members can contact the Secretary for free temporary loan of various philatelic publications - a list will be shown in a future issue.**
- **When sending by post, use only cheques drawn on Maltese banks (or money Orders) or mint current Malta stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown.**

## MALTESE CRAFTS ON STAMPS

08.01.2007

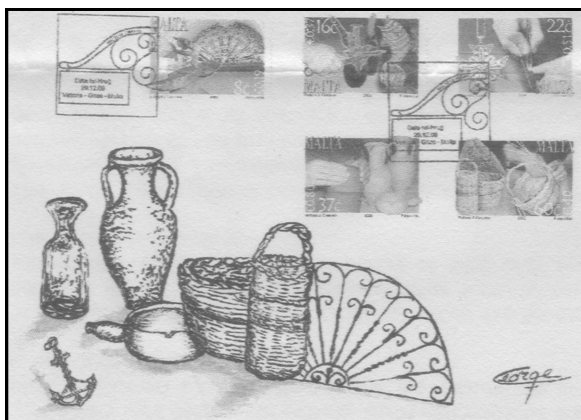
(George Vella)

The last issue of stamps by Maltapost for 2006 featured Maltese crafts. The set of five stamps is designed by Richard J. Caruana and is very nicely presented. The theme is new on Maltese stamps and such local subjects are to be encouraged. The first day of issue cancellation is simple with a very light design, yet striking. Such cancellations are most welcomed because they leave the picture on the stamp quite clean.

In this set both the public and philatelists could see for the first time the values both in Maltese decimal currency and Euros. This is to remain for a period of time until the changeover is complete.

The “Malta Stamp” official bulletin was always popular with philatelists and is a collectors’ item, the back numbers becoming very rare. The present issues are more interesting because they give a full description of the stamps, making them a very detailed catalogue of Maltese stamps. Here may we

congratulate **Anton F. Attard**, a member of our society, for the very brief but interesting write-up about the stamps. □





## 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**





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

**Published by Sliema Stamp Shop**

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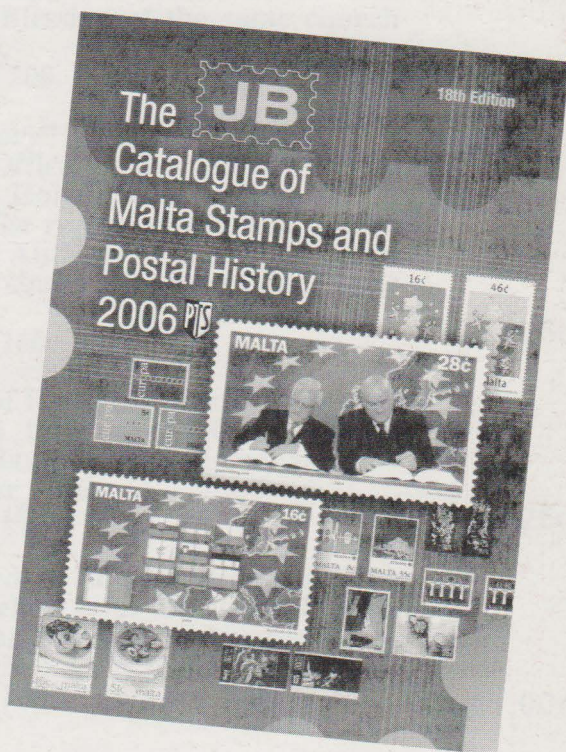
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