



October - December 2009

No.38 - 4/2009

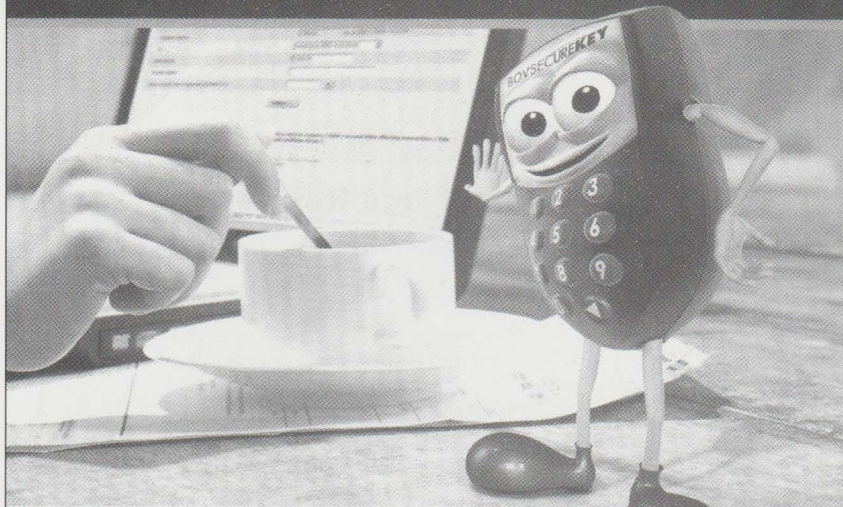
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**GOZO  
PHILATELIC  
SOCIETY**

*Newsletter*

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# BOV

Bank of Valletta

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### Front Cover:

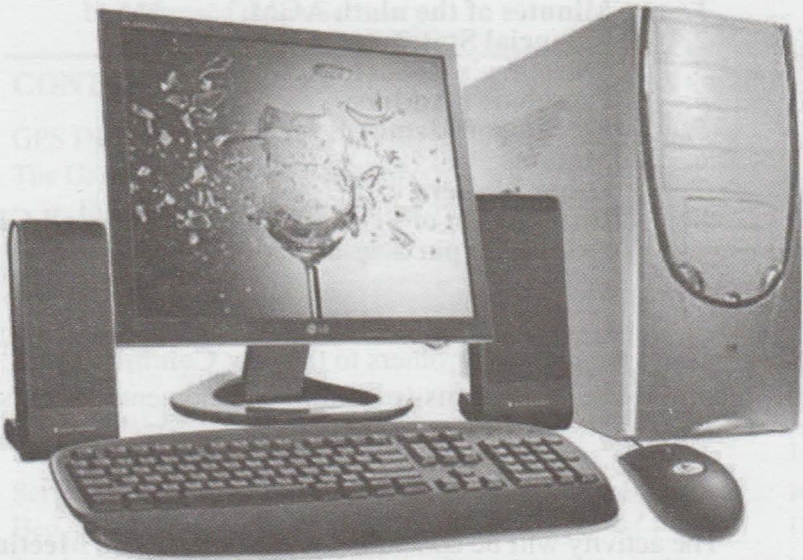
- View of Munxar Village.
- 22c stamp depicting the King George Letterbox at Munxar. This stamp is part from a set of five stamps featuring various Letterboxes, issued on the 2004.



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## CIRCULAR TO ALL GPS MEMBERS

I have the pleasure to invite you to our

### **TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

on

**SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2010 at 9.30 a.m. with this AGENDA:**

1. **Minutes of the ninth AGM.**
2. **Financial Statement**
3. **Secretary's Report**
4. **President's Address**
5. **Election of Members for Committee**
6. **Motions**
7. **Other Matters**
8. **Distribution of Prizes & Certificates to all GPS  
Exhibition participants**

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 or otherwise).

The activity will be concluded with a **Member's Meeting**  
(acquire additions and information etc.)

Junior exhibitors can invite their family too.

Members are encouraged to offer themselves for nomination to the  
committee.

All members can propose Statute amendments or other Motions.

**All members are heartily encouraged to attend.**

*Antoine Vassallo - Secretary*



**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.

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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.*

*email address: editor@stamps-gozo.org*

*Happy New Year*



## GPS DIARY (37)

*Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)*

- 28 April 2009:** Anthony Grech produces cover for Gozo mailboat stamp.
- 6 May 2009:** Anthony Grech produces cover for Gorg Pisani handstamp (which he himself designed) issued on the initiative of the GPS.
- 23 May 2009:** GPS Participation in *Lejlet Lapsi* weekend through an exhibition of our special covers in the foyer of Sir Arturo Mercieca School.
- 10 June 2009:** Committee meeting discusses 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.
- 25 June 2009:** Committee decides contents of special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of Newsletter.
- 3 July 2009:** Delegation from MaltaPost (made up of Mr John Mercieca, Mr Fabio Agius and Ms Mary Grace Simpson) meets GPS committee members Anton Said, Anthony Grech and Antoine Vassallo to discuss cooperation between us.
- 8 July 2009:** Anthony Grech starts again stampcollecting sessions at the Don Bosco Summer Club.
- 8 July 2009:** Finalization of special Newsletter issue.
- 15 July 2009 :** Anthony Grech produces cover for Xlendi liner stamp
- 5 August 2009:** A second visit by MaltaPost delegation to discuss their cooperation in GPS activities.



- August 2009:** Special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary number 37 of the GPS Newsletter.
- 19 August 2009:** Committee meeting makes final arrangements for anniversary handstamp.

*(continued on page 17)*





## The Games of the Small States of Europe in Maltese philately

(Joseph Fenech)

The thirteenth edition of the Games of the Small States of Europe was held between 1 and 6 June 2009 in Cyprus.

The idea of organizing the Games for the Small States of Europe was first raised by officials of the Malta Olympic Committee during the general assembly of the European National Olympic Committees (AENOC) held in Athens in May 1981, and later, in that same year during the International Olympic Congress held in Baden-Baden, Germany. However, it was not before the Los Angeles Olympiad in 1984 that the proposals for these games were approved, with the International Olympic Committee giving its full patronage and financial backing. The proposal was to organize Games between small European states whose population was less than a million, with each state having to be an autonomous member of the International Olympic Movement. It was decided that these Games be held every two years. Up till now, eight nations have participated in these Games, namely, Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino. During the Cyprus 2009 Games, Montenegro was accepted as the ninth nation to participate in the Games; Montenegro is expected to make its first showing in the 2011 Games.

The first ever edition of the Games of the Small States of Europe was held between 23 and 26 May 1985 in San Marino. Here Malta participated in five different sports, winning a bronze medal in basketball (men's team). In the 1987 Games in Monaco, Malta won its first gold medal, in the women's tennis doubles. The third and fourth editions of the Games were held in Cyprus (1989) and Andorra (1991) respectively.

The fifth edition of the Games was assigned to Malta, which hosted the Games between 25 and 29 May 1993. During these Games, Malta managed to win a total of 27 medals, including 4 gold, 7 silver and 16 bronze. There was a distinctly Gozitan flavour to the start of this edition of the Games, because the torch/flame for these Games was lit on the eve of the Games in the unique setting of the megalithic temples of Ġgantija in Gozo. After being taken around Gozo in relays, the following morning the torch was carried over to Malta where, after being carried through several towns and villages, it was taken to the Ta' Qali National Stadium in time for the opening ceremony of the Games.

On 4 May 1993, the Maltese postal authorities issued a set of stamps to mark the holding of this V edition of the Games of





the Small States of Europe in Malta. The set, which was designed by Richard J Caruana and printed by Printex Limited, was made up of four stamps and a miniature sheet. The 3c stamp showed Zepp, the official mascot of the Games, holding the torch, the 4c stamp depicted Zepp as a cyclist, the 10c stamp portrayed Zepp as a tennis player, while the 35c stamp showed Zepp taking part in swimming and yachting events. [Fig. 1] The miniature sheet included the four stamps of the set. [Fig. 2]

The stamps were 38mm x 20mm in size, while the miniature sheet was 120mm x 80mm in size. On the same date, Emmanuel Said Ltd. issued a maximum card (marked 3/1993) to commemorate the same event. [Fig. 3]

Subsequent editions of the Games were held in Luxembourg (1995), Iceland (1997), Liechtenstein (1999) and San Marino (2001). The tenth edition of the Games was again held in Malta, and took place between 2 and 7 June 2003. This edition saw Malta obtaining its best results so far in these Games, with Maltese athletes collecting 44 medals in all (including 11 gold, 18 silver and 15 bronze medals).

On 26 May 2003, the Maltese postal authorities issued a set of stamps to mark the holding of the X edition of the Games of the Small States of Europe in Malta. The set, which was designed by



Richard J Caruana (just like in 1993) and printed by German printers Bundesdruckerei GmbH, was made up of four stamps. The 25c stamp showed Elmo, the official mascot of the Games, holding the javelin at the Marsa athletics stadium, the 50c stamp depicted Elmo at the Bidnija shooting range, the 75c stamp portrayed Elmo at the Corradino Sports Complex volleyball court, while the Lm3 stamp showed Elmo at the Tal-Qroqq swimming pool complex. [Fig. 4] The stamps were 43mm x 25.5mm in size.







The following editions of the Games were organized in Andorra (2005) and Monaco (2007), with Cyprus hosting this year's competitions. Liechtenstein has already been awarded the right to host the

Games of the Small States of Europe in 2011, followed by Luxembourg in 2013.

On 1 June 2009, MaltaPost issued a set of five stamps to commemorate the thirteenth edition of the Games. The set, which was designed by Daniel Mangani and printed by Printex Limited, depicts various sports disciplines from the Games. The €0.10 stamp depicts sailing, the €0.19 stamp judo, the €0.37 stamp shooting, the €0.67 stamp swimming and the €1.77 stamp athletics. All the stamps include a coloured strip on the side, representing the colours of the continents as they appear in the official Olympic logo. The logo of the Cyprus 2009 Games is also included in the design. This logo, which is a graphic representation of the Kyrenia Ship, a national symbol for Cyprus, was designed by Pericles Christoforides, who also designed Tefkros, the official mascot of the Games. The stamps are 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm in size. [Fig. 5]

The local philatelic items related to the Games of the Small States of Europe are admittedly quite limited. However, if one were to collect the related philatelic material issued by the different postal administrations in the states hosting these Games, he could compile a sizeable and most interesting collection.

### References:

*"The Games of the Small States of Europe – From San Marino to Malta"* – Lewis Portelli

*The Malta Stamp (Malta Philatelic Bureau) No 125 – May 1993*

*The Malta Stamp (Philatelic Bureau Bulletin) No 208 – May 2003*

*Official website of the Malta Olympic Committee –*

<http://www.nocmalta.org/>

*Sportiv – No. 26 (May 2009)*

*The MaltaPost Stamp Bulletin No 275 – June 2009*



Special Handstamp Cancellations  
Related To, And Stamped In Gozo (Part 7)

George Vella

This is a continuation of Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of special handstamp cancellations which were stamped in Gozo to commemorate special events connected with the island of Gozo. These were issued by Maltapost since 1969.

B.P.O. = Branch Post Office.  
T.B.P.O. = Temporary Branch Post Office  
[No.] = JB 2004 Stamp Catalogue, page 143.

*HANDSTAMPS ARE TO SCALE & SCANNED FROM  
ORIGINALS.*



34. [...] 22-11-2008  
5th Anniversary of the Għaqda  
Mużikali Viżitazzjoni, Għarb B.P.O.,  
Gozo.

Designed by Maltapost.  
35 mm dia.



35. [...] 11-2-2009  
10th Anniversary of the founding of  
the Gozo Tourism Association, at  
Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by George Vella.  
42x24 mm.







36. [...] 1-4-2009  
75th Anniversary of St. John Bosco & Opening of the First Oratory in Gozo, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by George Vella, logo by John Grima.

31x46 mm.



37. [...] 6-5-2009  
100th Anniversary of the Birth of Ġorġ Pisani, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by Anthony Grech.  
37 mm dia.



38. [...] 3-9-2009  
10th Anniversary of the Gozo Philatelic Society, at Victoria B. P. O., Gozo.

Designed by Anthony Grech.  
34 mm dia.



E & O not E (22)

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

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

The **Dominican Republic** commemorated the Mexico Olympic Games through a set of five stamps on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1968 showing wrestling, running (or track athletics), boxing, weightlifting and pistol-shooting. I would suspect these particular sports were chosen because they represented the country's best possibilities for medal-winning!



The Tabacalera printers may have also been responsible for the designs since they are not attractive enough to appear to have been the work of someone specialized in painting such small items – stamps with these subjects are usually much more interesting. In any case, for some unknown reason, a good proportion of the area simply reproduces the logo – and here we have a prominent mistake. The Games of the XIXth Olympiad were in fact the XVIth Olympic Games; however they are stated to be the "XIXth Olympic Games". Strictly speaking, an Olympiad refers to a period beginning January 1 of a year in which the Summer Olympics are due to occur - and lasting four years: thus the period between games. The term is still often used to indicate erroneously the games themselves and so the Dominican postal authorities may claim as a defence that this wrong idea is widely-held.

This country had however already made an earlier "Olympic" mistake: the rings have been placed upside-down on a set of eight (also issued as two se-tenant miniature sheets) showing famous athletes in 1957. Moreover the postmark describes the Games of the XVIth Olympiad as the non-existing "XVIth International Olympic Games".



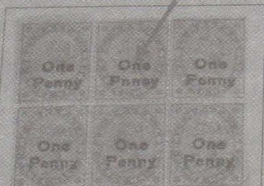


## Australian MALTA (15)

*another glimpse at the prize-winning collection  
built up by John Vassallo, GPS member in Australia*

### The "One Penny" error

This error occurs on stamp 50 (i.e. Row 9 Number 2) in each pane of 60 stamps. Therefore a total of 12,000 errors were produced. It is believed that the error was made on instruction of the PMG who extracted key blocks of six from most of the sheets for his own profit. His resignation followed a committee of investigation into the matter.



Shortly after stocks were exhausted, it was rumoured that the error was being forged and the PMG instructed that a Red Tick was to be applied to the Top Left corner of all remaining stock of the unsurcharged stock prior to sale.



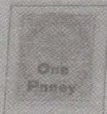
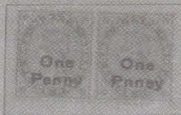
The error surcharge was applied to all shades of the basic stamp including a printing from a so far unidentified plate cracked in the key error position.



Uncracked Plate

Cracked Plate

Early state



Cobalt

Blue

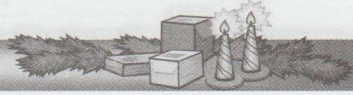
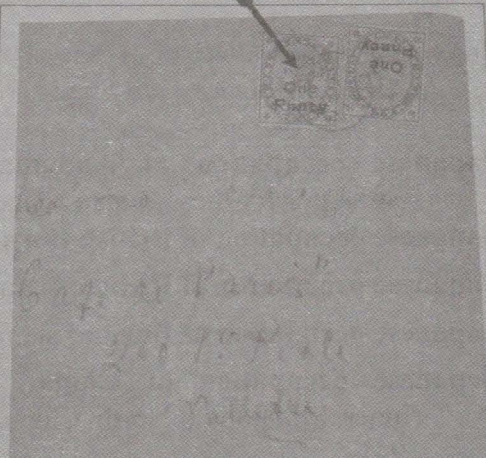
1902 cover to Valletta mailed from Casal Lia - a very small village and the Post Office was only opened in 1900 for 20 odd years. Only 10 other envelopes are known existing with this cancel. This has 2 of the 'Penny' error stamps, the left one being of the variety cracked Plate advanced state.



Casal Lia  
Cancellation



Cracked Plate  
Advanced State



## Where in the World ?! (28)

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

### Stamp Issuers Past and Present

**JAPAN:** East Asian islands with stamps from 1871; British occupation. Additionally, stamps were issued from 1989 for the 47 prefectures, valid throughout Japan: Aichi, Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Ehime, Fukui, Fukuoka, Fukushima, Gifu, Gunma, Hiroshima, Hokkaido, Hyogo, Ibaraki, Ishikawa, Iwate, Kagawa, Kagoshima, Kanagawa, Kochi, Kumamoto, Kyoto, Mie, Miyagi, Miyazaki, Nagano, Nagasaki, Nara, Niigata, Oita, Okayama, Okinawa, Osaka, Saga, Saitama, Shiga, Shimane, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Tokushima, Tokyo, Tottori, Toyama, Wakayama, Yamagata, Yamaguchi and Yamanashi.

**Japanese administration of Korea:** stamps 1905.

**Japanese Naval Control Area:** stamps 1942-3 for Borneo, Celebes, Moluccas and Sunda (Netherlands Indies).

**Japanese occupation of Andaman & Nicobar:** local surcharges for these Indian islands 1942-5.

**Japanese occupation of British Borneo:** stamps 1942-5.

**Japanese occupation of Brunei:** stamps 1942-4.

**Japanese occupation of Burma:** stamps 1942-4.

**Japanese occupation of China:** Kwantung, Mengkiang (Inner Mongolia), North China, Nanking and Shangai 1941-5.

**Japanese occupation of Formosa (Taiwan):** stamps in 1945.





- Japanese occupation of Hong Kong:** stamps in 1945.  
**Japanese occupation of Java:** stamps 1943-4.  
**Japanese occupation of Kelantan (Malaya):** stamps 1942-3.  
**Japanese occupation of Malaya:** stamps 1942-5.  
**Japanese occupation of Netherlands Indies (Java & Sumatra):** stamps 1943-4.  
**Japanese occupation of North Borneo:** stamps 1942-5.  
**Japanese occupation of Philippines:** stamps 1942-5.  
**Japanese occupation of Sarawak:** stamps in 1942.  
**Japanese occupation of Sumatra:** stamps 1943-4.  
**Japanese Post Offices in China:** issues 1900-22.  
**Japanese Post Offices in Korea:** issues 1900-1.  
**Japanese Taiwan** see Taiwan.  
**Jasden:** Indian state with own stamps in 1942.  
**Java:** Japanese occupation issues 1943-4.  
**Java & Madura:** local issues until stamps of Indonesia appeared in 1950.  
**Jend** = Jind.

**JERSEY:** Part of the Channel Islands with own postal administration from 1969; previously regional issues of Great Britain (with no inscription but with symbols) from 1958; German occupation issues 1941-4.

*(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

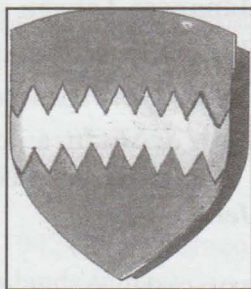
### MUNXAR: THE VILLAGE

*Alfred Grech*



On scorching summer days with thermometers edging up to fanciful temperatures, Gozo swarms with tourists. A brisk ten-minute walk south-east of the capital Victoria – a daring endeavour in the blistering heat – brings a day tripper to the outskirts of the tiny village of Munxar, which has not however been neglected philatelically. In fact one of the 2004 Letterboxes (22c) includes a wall specimen (number 515 in Maltapost's records) at St Paul's Street.

Wedged between the sloping sides of two parallel valleys, Munxar is a closely-knit village community; a characteristic suggested by its motto, *parvulus set minutus* - small but secure. The word "munxar" is Maltese for bucksaw, a saw set in an adjustable H-shaped frame used for sawing firewood on a buck. The imagery is evoked by the promontory that runs from behind the village church sawing into two the surrounding area, creating Ghancija valley on the Munxar side and Xlendi valley on the Fontana Side.



Coat of arms

Throughout the years Munxar has always retained exclusive features and traditions. In the last decades however, young people have been inclined to abandon their parents' ploughshare, herd and household chores in favour of books and a more rewarding job. An eminent place among the natives of Munxar is undoubtedly that reserved for Professor Joseph Aquilina, a name synonymous with the Maltese





language. Among his numerous works in this field, mention must be made of his monumental opus: the Maltese-English Dictionary which was published a few years before his demise.

Besides the Parish Church, a temple wrought from typical Maltese milk-white stone, Munxar prides itself with a multi-purpose Parish Centre which in time has become the hub of practically all major social, educational, cultural and recreational activities of the village. The jewel in the crown is the recent addition of a five-a-side synthetic-turf pitch.

Elsewhere the old police station besides the church has been shut down – for years now. It has been replaced by a new police-office housed in a building further up the road, which also accommodates a clinic and the administration block of the Munxar Local Council. A telephone box is situated at the mouth of the village square. On the other side the George V letter box, manufactured by London's Allen & Co, reminds us of bygone colonial days and is interesting enough to have featured on a stamp.

Since its inception Munxar Local Council has done its level best to improve community life and services. Successive mayors have given their contribution towards the setting up of a playing field, for which there has been a general craving. Hopefully the project on which the Council has embarked recently, after treading a torturous path, will soon bring about the realisation of this dream. An official primary school has never been established in Munxar, in spite of a post-war effort in this respect. Nonetheless a Summer School, run by local teachers on voluntary basis and university students, has been an appreciable initiative for almost two decades now. With the full support of the parish and the backing of the Local Council, the Summer School convenes at the Parish Centre and summons children of all ages.

*(continued on page 24)*



*stamp terms used in PHILATELY (28)*

(Emanuel Vella)

**Mixed Perforations:** Stamps with horizontal and vertical perforations not the same. One can also have stamps where the horizontal or vertical perforations are not the same.

**Mixed Postage:** Covers franked with stamps of two or more postal administrations or countries; or different regimes of the same country; or with originating country's postage stamps and with country of destination's postage due stamps.

**Mobile:** City and seaport in Alabama where two confederate Postmasters' provisionals were issued in the Civil War.

**Mobile Post Offices:** This term is usually applied to a mechanically propelled vehicle fitted out to serve as a temporary Post Office to deal with emergency mail, visit isolated places regularly or for some special occasion or event. These are used in many countries. Both Switzerland and China have depicted them on stamps. The USA had tramcars fitted out as mobiles to travel certain cities at stated times to collect and sort mail. The Highway Post Office service was inaugurated in 1941. The first was from Washington D.C. to Harrisonburg, Virginia. Many mobile offices use distinctive postmarks which are eagerly sought by specialist collectors.





**Money:** Stamps used as money. The black printed stamps of Russia 1915-17, are strictly speaking money vouchers or paper currency, although many were used as postage stamps. Stamps of G.B. (and on the European continent) were in use as small change during the 1914-18 War. In the American Civil War and later in Europe, stamps were often provided with small circular transparent cases, known as 'Jetons', which often bore advertising. The stamps of Rhodesia were also authorised to be used as cash during an emergency, 1898-1900, and were stuck on cards and circulated as money.

**Mong-Tseu:Mongseu or Mongtze** These are stamps of Indo-China overprinted by France, when it was given a concession for a Post Office in China.

**Monster:** Dutch and Afrikaans word, found on stamps of the Netherland and Transvaal, indicating Specimen.

**Montenegrin Government in Exile:** A set of stamps was prepared in Rome in 1920-1 in anticipation of a revival of the monarchy, but the death of King Nicholas (whose laureated head they bear) rendered them abortive. They were never officially issued or used, but can be found in mint condition perf 11x11½, with or without overprint in red or in blue (Slabodna Sherna Gora)- a free Montenegro - in Cyrillic.

(to be continued)



## *Script by Script* (28)

(Antoine Vassallo)

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

### IDENTIFY THE ISSUER

#### Competition

In the last issue, you were invited to identify the part of what stamp collectors call "Great Britain" to which these two stamps refer.



They were issued on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1948 to commemorate the third anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands (from Nazi occupation) and depicted seaweed gathering ("vraicking"), an important local industry. The designs were the work of JRR Stobie and E Blampied and the printers were Harrison & Sons. Photographic essays exist in an unaccepted design and with a different crown above King George VI. The scarlet 1d also exists in a rose-red shade while the 2½d is known with flaws. They were not available generally from postoffices all over Great Britain but mainly in the islands of Alderney, Guernsey, Jersey and Sark. The last day of sale was 30<sup>th</sup> September, four months later: over 5 million of each were sold. In fact they created substantial interest since British pictorial stamps had been very limited till then. That of course changed from the sixties – and especially in later decades!





This Channel Islands “experiment” was a one-off: it was only in 1958 that regional stamps began being issued for United Kingdom’s “components”. As noted earlier in this Newsletter series, all GB stamps are “anonymous”, identifiable from the sovereign’s bust or profile.

As for the Channel Islands themselves, independent postal administrations took over in 1969 – and began normal own issues.

*Due to limited participation in this competition, it is being suspended but “Script by Script” will continue in its original form.*

---

*(GPS Diary continued from Page 2)*

**3 September 2009:** Tenth anniversary Handstamp and Cover (both designed by Anthony Grech).

**6 September 2009:** Members’ Meetings resume on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at Victoria Scouts HQ.

**16 September 2009:** Anthony Grech produces three covers for Scenery set (Qbajjar, salt pans and Ggantija).

**16 September 2009:** Another meeting with MaltaPost officers.

**1 October 2009:** Committee meeting begins preparations for Exhibition.

**4 October 2009:** Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.

**21 October 2009:** Meeting with MaltaPost to finalize details of collaboration in Exhibition.

**28 October 2009:** Committee meeting finalizes preparations for Exhibition.

**1 November 2009:** Members’ Meeting at Victoria Scouts HQ.



## BEGINNERS section

### *The Hobby of Stamp Collecting*

*(Anton V Said)*

#### Disposing of the Duplicates

There is not much difference between acquiring stamps for a thematic collection or for the traditional general collection, because in both cases the most sensible and convenient way of doing so is primarily by exchange. If you try to sell a small general collection in order to buy other stamps, the results are likely to be disappointing.



Though the exchange system is the cheapest way of acquiring new stamps for your collection, one must keep in mind that

exchanging with other collectors in your neighbourhood will probably do a little towards your aim, so by far the best long-term policy is "to join a club". In this way you will find it easy to get full value for the stamps you no longer want, and to get the new ones that you do.

Besides the 'exchange system' another way by which one can dispose of duplicate stamps is by creating booklets, mounting in them an assortment of such stamps and write under each one the price one would be asking. Such booklets are given to other interested members of the club for them to choose from

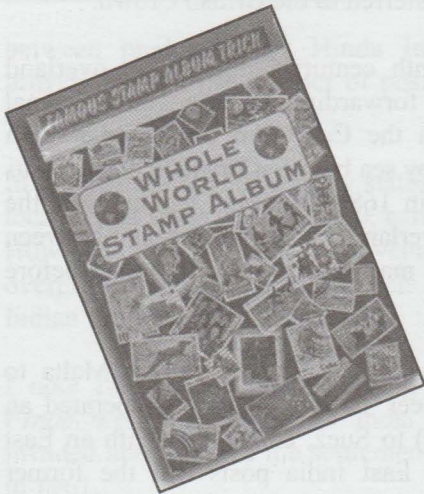




and buy. This system again, works better if the stamp collector is a member of a philatelic club and when meetings for fellow members are held, I am sure the members would be interested. When one applies this ~”choose



and buy system” he should keep in mind not to be too greedy and should keep the prices down otherwise he would be disappointed. To make such booklets attractive for the buyers it would be a very good idea if some rare stamps or high face value stamps be mounted with others which are rather more common to get. This system is beneficial both for the buyer and for the person who wants to find a place for the duplicate stamps in his stock book.



The systems explained in this chapter work excellently well with young philatelists or newcomers.

One must be careful not to put up for sale or exchange, any damaged stamps or which are not in very good condition - ‘Honesty is the best policy’.

*Reference: Instructions to young stamp collectors by Robert Bateman*



## POST HASTE (8)

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

*(Antoine Vassallo)*

### **“The Subcontinent”**

The sea route to India via the Cape of Good Hope was pioneered at the very end of the fifteenth century by the Portuguese, who founded a colony at Goa. During the next decades they succeeded in settling much of the coast belonging to the subcontinent of the Moghul Empire; however almost all these possessions were lost to Dutch and British merchants.

Queen Elizabeth I gave a royal charter to the East India Company in 1600: during that century much land was purchased and cities founded. The Seven Years War (which ended in 1763) gave British mastery over both French and Dutch – and the Company extended its control to the innumerable large and small states until, in 1858, the government of India was transferred to the British Crown.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, though an overland route operated through consular forwarding agencies, the principal mails to India were carried via the Cape. An organized system regulating the carriage of letters by sea between England and various places in India was established in 1688. The next century saw the establishment of regular overland communication between numerous cities but hand-struck mail marks are not known before the 1770s.

When the British GPO extended its steam packet from Malta to Alexandria in 1835, postal pioneer Thomas Waghorn operated an overland mail service (by camel) to Suez, connecting with an East India Company's steamer. The East India posts and the former official King's Post were combined through the establishment of the Indian Post Office in 1837. Regular Bombay-Suez service was offered by the British India Steam Navigation Co and in 1842 the





Peninsular & Orient line took over the Egyptian overland mail and the Alexandria packet.



From 1839 European mail routes to Mediterranean ports had begun being used, improved because of the railway. In 1888 mail began passing through the Suez Canal without transshipment. 1914 saw the amalgamation of P&O and BISN. By then experimental airmail flights from England to India had begun. The challenge offered by the huge area of the subcontinent (partitioned in 1947

between predominantly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan) is proven through the number of postoffices: well over one hundred thousand!

In fact many native feudatory states (some with own currency) had local postal systems until 1950, carrying mail within the state only. However some signed a convention with British India to use overprinted Indian stamps (which were thus valid throughout the Indian Empire).

I note finally that the remaining *Établissements Français dans l'Inde* were transferred to India in 1954 while Indian troops invaded and annexed the settlements comprising *India Portugueza* in 1961.

with acknowledgements to Rossiter & Flower's Stamp Atlas





Being widely popular, many churches can boast of at least one of his works. This 1908 Nativity can be admired in Luqa's parish church dedicated to St Andrew – among some eight others of his. The composition can be described as quite original, giving a sweet and serene impression. Various generations of feminine figures surround the Child Jesus, together with the Virgin Mary; St Joseph, in the background, looks attentively at the comet.

It is interesting to note that this heralded a couple of more Vatican sets printed by the Maltese Printex Ltd in 2008.

*You are invited to send write-ups (or even just suggestions) about other foreign stamps with themes or designs related to Malta.*

**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!





MALTA OVERSEAS*local connections on foreign stamps (9)**(Antoine Vassallo)*

Nowadays many postal authorities produce issues jointly with



other countries. An example is the 2007 Christmas set by Malta and the **Vatican**. A painting by Giuseppe Cali' - one of Malta's most prominent and prolific artists who died in 1930 - was chosen, with details shown on the various stamps. He actually had

Italian origins (Neapolitan) and in fact studied at the *Accademia di Belle Arti* in this Campanian city (under the neo-classicist Giuseppe Mancinelli), coming under the influence of Domenico Morelli. His marriage to Perennia after his return resulted in ten offspring. His first major painting was "Dragut's Death" – now at Valletta's Museum of Fine Arts. Cali' had a strong personality, producing swiftly with great



versatility. With an output exceeding six hundred, accepting commissions everywhere, he was called "the devil of the brush" by a contemporary. His oeuvre includes sculpture and even political caricatures!



## FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). Limited Edition of 500 cards. € 2.50
- A commemorative Registered Cover from Victoria Gozo Post Office to commemorate two Gozitan Patriots namely:-Sir Adrian Dingli & Arch Saverio Cassar. Limited Edition of 100 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 4.50
- A Commemorative Card showing Guzeppi Grech known as Zeppu Kola, the last owner of the Xaghra Windmill doing maintenance work. Limited edition of 200 cards. € 2.50
- 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 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Special card issued on the occasion of the TOY STAMP issue. Cancelled on the first day of issue at Xaghra Post Office featuring the "POMSKIZILLIOUS MUSEUM OF TOYS" found in Xaghra Gozo. Limited Edition of 75 cards. € 1.75
- 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 cards. € 1.75
- Card in the form of a First Day Cover on the issue of the re-printed 1c stamp depicting the *Sempreviva* of Gozo. This stamp was officially issued in Gozo later than in Malta. (19.10.2006). Limited edition of 160 cards. € 0.50
- Registered cover commemorating the issue of the Comino Tower stamp. Postmarked with the First day of issue handstamp from Ghajnsielem S.P.O. Limited edition of 75 covers. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 2.50



## FOR SALE

- Cover issued on the occasion of the 2005 Christmas set stamp issue with a personalized stamp of Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi - the stamp set designer. These covers are individually signed by the artist himself. Limited Edition of 130 covers. € 2.50
- Card to commemorate the 50 years of Europe. Cancelled with the special handstamp issued for the occasion during the festivities held at Nadur Gozo. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.50
- Registered Hand Coloured cover to commemorate the issue of two stamps depicting Gozo Balconies (one at Victoria and the other at Gharb). The covers were hand stamped with the First Day of issue Post-Mark. Limited edition of 75 covers. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the GPS 8th Annual Exh. 2007 and the launching of the GPS website. Limited edition of 100 cards. € 1.50
- Set of two cards with first day of operation hand-stamp of the new Post Offices at Xlendi and St Lawrence. Limited edition of 75 cards each. € 2.50
- Card commemorating the 125 Anniv from the Call of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu to Karmni Grima and Frangisk Portelli. Each card is cancelled with a special handstamp issued by Maltapost and stamped at the National shrine on Sunday 22 June 2008. The card has an embossed metal image of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. Limited edition of 1000. **(Only 10 left)**. € 3.00
- Card commemorating 5th Gozo Philatelic Exhibition and 5th Anniversary of the GPS. Limited edition of 400 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Set of 2 registered covers commemorating Karolina Cauchi and Patri Manwel Magri (Gozo Benefactors). Limited edition of 30 covers. **(Less than 5 left)**. € 5.00
- Card commemorating the 9th GPC Exhibition. Limited edition of 100 cards. **(Less than 10 left)**. € 1.50
- Card commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Association. Limited edition of 75 cards. € 2.00

**NB: Each Card or Cover is individually numbered.**

- Malta stamps in mint condition are also available at 2/3 catalogue price.

*Those interested may contact:*  
Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

## Members' Meetings

are held regularly on the **1st Sunday** of the month:

**6 Dec    3 January    7 February    7 March**

from 9.00am to 11.00am

at Victoria Scouts HQ (Triq Santa Dminka).

exchange, purchase, information etc.

Entrance Free!

*All Juniors will receive a gift of free stamps*

- 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 Malta Euro stamps to pay your subscription or acquire items shown. Stamps with values in old currency are not accepted.
- Membership fees include Newsletter delivery and so for overseas members is €12 - they can use Money Orders or new currency notes.
- Members can acquire a copy of our Statute (approved during the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM) by contacting the Secretary - it can also be downloaded from our Website.
- Young members who will renew their membership for year 2010 will be given a token of free stamps. Now is the time to renew your membership.
- 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!





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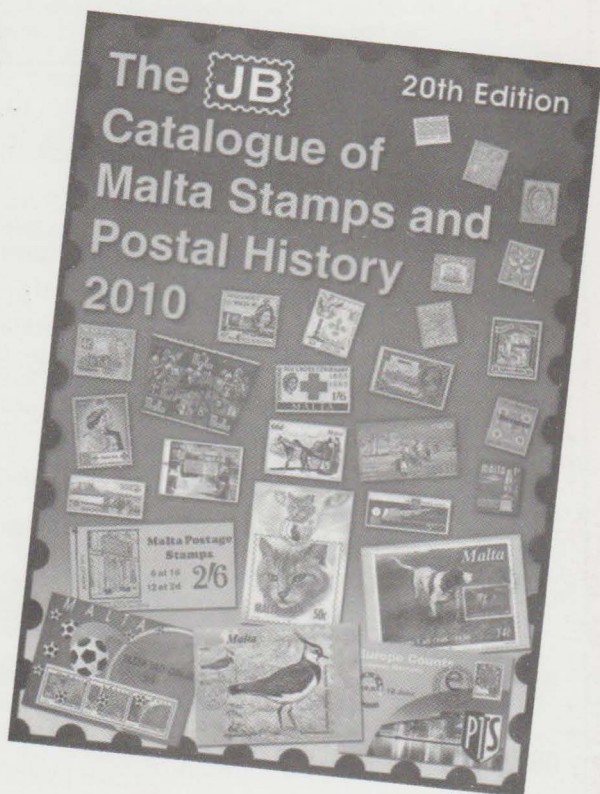
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