

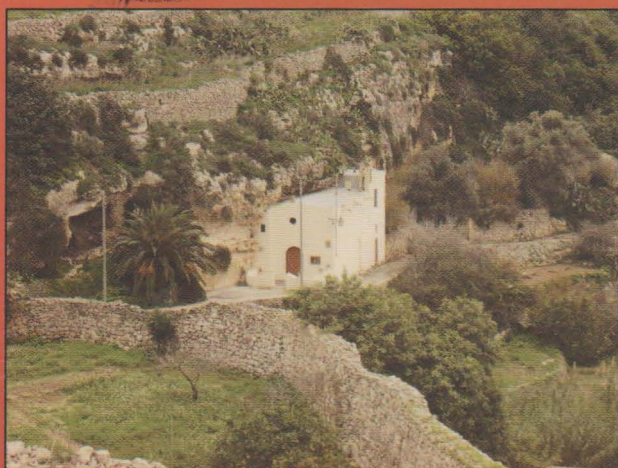
10TH ANNIVERSARY



July - Sept 2009

No. 37 - 3/2009

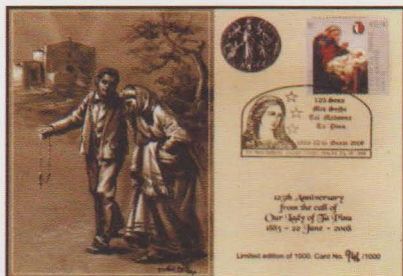
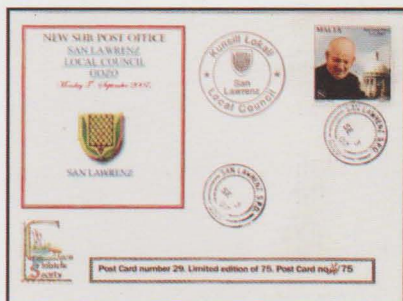
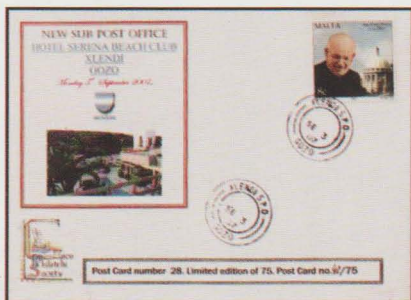
e-mail address: editor@stamps.gozo.org.



**GOZO
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

Newsletter

NEWSPAPER POST



Front Cover:

- Photo: GPS Founder Members.
- Left to Right: John Muscat, Anthony Grech, Anton Said Cremona, Antoine Vassallo, Saviour Grech, Antoine Sciberras, M'Antonia Sciberras, Michael Refalo, Frankie Masini, Donald Theuma Xerri, George Vella.
- View of Lunzjata Vallley.

Lunzjata Valley



We consider ourselves lucky and honoured that the GPS was born in such a picturesque location: the beautiful Lunzjata Valley on the outskirts of Victoria. This is a popular place with those who want to break away from

today's hectic life - a veritable "Garden of Eden", once called *"il-Gardin tar-Rabat"*.

The well-managed fields strike your eyes as soon as you approach it. With all this beauty around you, your footsteps are guided down the lane that leads to the natural spring - a vital source of water. The sweet sound of water flowing through the rocks - and helped by numerous small aqueducts and gutters - has inspired many poets. Typical of the fertile valley are carob and olive trees on the slope and terraced fields supported by the rubble walls. Fig trees are numerous in the depth of the valley. The soil is mostly clay and farmers enrich it by applying manure and fertilizer. This accounts for the soil's rich, dark colour. Summer crops are lettuce, celery, parsley and pumpkins, while potatoes, cabbages, garlic and turnips are among the most popular in winter.

Since L'Isle Adam, this valley attracted the Grand Masters for their hunting pastime - a habit which we locals inherited. The entrance to Lunzjata Valley is a thick limestone archway, dating

From the first president.....Dr Michael Refalo

It is a pleasure for me to write a few words to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Gozo Philatelic Society. I served as its first president and later also served on the committee, having been one of the founder members of the Society.

During this period the Society has managed to establish itself on the island and to maintain contacts with overseas collectors and has also managed to issue a regular publication for the delight of its members young and old. Furthermore, its yearly exhibition has become a landmark in the local cultural background, attracting enthusiastic visitors and avid collectors, but not only. It is, indeed, one of the benefits of philately that it has the capacity to fascinate anyone with a modicum of interest in the history, the geography and the culture of a country. Those little bits of coloured papers are, in reality, windows through which we are enabled to look at past, present and future, and thereby to appreciate all that which a country has to offer. Stamp collecting is also an ideal pedagogical tool: it is a means whereby the younger collectors - and often also older ones - can learn without the need of pouring over boring texts and arid school books.

When the society was established there was, perhaps unconsciously, the fear that this hobby could not compete with contemporary amusements. The computer, video games, the cinema and a multitude of other pastimes are clearly favourites with today's young. And yet the enthusiasm of those few who set up the GPS ten years ago managed to attract a substantial number of youngsters to philately. The unending efforts of some members who regularly visit schools, giving

talks, explaining, helping out - and giving out gifts - has paid rich dividends. This was all done without any hope of remuneration, financial or otherwise. Not only that. The tiny annual contribution made by members goes some way in keeping up the enthusiasm of all members through regular meetings and publications. Of these, perhaps, the special cards designed by one of the founder members have become a sought-for-philatelic item which surely must rank as the topmost achievement of our Society.

In a wider perspective, the Gozo Philatelic Society deserves the recognition of civil society. When one remembers that the attractions of laziness outweigh its consequences, it is appropriate that those who instill such a hobby in the young and constantly endeavour to fuel it, then, one reaches the conclusion that it is these members of society who should be encouraged in one way or another to keep up the good work. The Gozo Philatelic Society today is more than a mere association of collectors; it can be considered as a valuable member of society.

Of course, philately remains an expensive hobby. And yet, the 'hobby of kings and the king of hobbies' can remain attractive to all. Tailoring one's ambitions to one's pocket may not be easy, but the efforts of the GPS can help anyone to channel one's attention and his finances - however limited these might be - without thereby prejudicing the value of one's collection.

Ten years, in this quickly changing world may be a long time indeed. However, the unflagging enthusiasm of the few has ensured the success of our Society. My heartfelt congratulations to the Society and to its members is also an augury that it will remain a relevant feature in our tiny island.

From the chairperson Anton V Said

Ten years had passed like a dream, as it was precisely on September 3, 1999 that the Gozo Philatelic Society was set up. The enthusiasm, dedication and good work of its members made it what it is to-day. It is through them, that it has flourished and established itself both with local philatelists and foreign enthusiasts as a well reputed society. One cannot deny the fact that through these years it had offered sterling services regarding information and especially advice to all those who sought its help regarding this hobby.

As one may know the approach to stamp collecting today is quite different from the traditional one, something which is not often realized especially by the younger generation. So it is one of the society's main aims to put to-day's philatelists on the right track when embarking on this interesting hobby, by helping them to make the right decision - what subject or country they are to choose for their stamp collection, thus avoiding waste of time and energy which quite often may lead to failure and disappointment resulting in lack of interest and hence dropping out. This is done by issuing guide lines in this regard in our quarterly newsletter, in the monthly members meetings and when delivering talks to students in schools. This has given the society great satisfaction as members of all ages are taking this hobby more seriously and with greater enthusiasm than they used to do in past days.

Another aim is to help its members widen in certain aspects, their philatelic interests. This is done by issuing cards and first day covers commemorating local events and personalities. These have become quite popular with our members.

The introduction of these cards has also given a different and quite a positive identity to our society especially with foreign philatelists, as it did the introduction of "Promoting Gozo through Philately" in our magazine - a series of articles by different contributors about topics, related to Gozo, with a philatelic connection. This also contributes greatly towards a healthy publicity of our island.

We feel sure that the society's good work is widely appreciated, though we think that our efforts should be acknowledged more by other philatelic authorities by giving us more support. The meeting which GPS officials had with Maltapost administrative officers recently, is a very good step forward and greatly augurs a better future to the GPS.



Wirja ta' Filatelija Marjana

Intelligha mill-'Gozo Philatelic Society'

*Miftuha għall-pubbliku mill-Ġimgħa 5
sal-Hadd 7 ta' Novembru 2004 sa nofs in-nhar*

Ser ikunu esibiti l-ewwel set ta' Bolli li ġie stampat bix-xbieha tal-Vergni Marija, u settijiet ta' bolli li hargu minn diversi pajjizi fis-sena 1954 biex ifakkru l-ewwel Ċentinarju tad-Domma ta' l-Immakulata.













10
16



A SOCIETY IS BORN : 3-9-1999

GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY FIRST COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Notary Dr Michael Refalo LL.D
VICE PRESIDENT:	Mr Frank Masini
SECRETARY:	Mr Antoine Vassallo B.A (Econ.)
ASS SECRETARY:	Mr Anthony Grech
TREASURER:	Mr John Muscat
ASS TREASURER:	Mr Ronnie Grech
PRO:	Mr Goerge Vella
MEMBERS:	Rev. Fr. George Farrugia & Mr Anton Said Cremona



A SOCIETY IS BORN : 3-9-1999

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILATELIC SOCIETY IN GOZO

DATE AS POSTMARK



We are pleased to announce that some persons interested in PHILATELY had come together and are holding a meeting to establish a philatelic society in Gozo.

Any person interested in the subject is invited to attend the first FOUNDER MEMBERS MEETING.

DATE : Friday 3rd September 1999

PLACE : Dar Il-Lunzjata , Lunzjata Valley , Limits Of Victoria

TIME : 6.00 p.m.

SIGNITURES OF FOUNDER MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE FIRST MEETING :

Antoine Sciberras
J. Horta
M. Assunt Sabuncu

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILATELIC SOCIETY

FOUNDER MEMBERS MEETING

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING

PLACE: DAR IL-LUNZJATA, LUNZJATA VALLEY, LIMITS OF VICTORIA

DATE: 3RD SEPTEMBER 1999

TIME: 6.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Grech, Saviour Grech, John Muscat, Frank Masini, Michael Refalo, Anton Said, Antoine Sciberras, Maria Assunta Sciberras, Donald Theuma Scerri, Antoine Vassallo and George Vella.

The members present agreed that Mr. Frank Masini shall act as Chairman and Mr. George Vella shall act as Secretary to the initial meetings until a Committee is elected.

Mr. George Vella opened the meeting by saying that Mr. Frank Masini and other members present had been working for some time to make this Founder Members Meeting possible. He also said that a press release was issued and was well published in the local newspapers. This was intended to advertise this first meeting to all those interested in the subject.

Mr. Frank Masini continued by explaining why a philatelic society is needed in Gozo and touched about the various aspects of this hobby.

The members present agreed that such a society shall especially cater for the younger generation to promote both the educational and cultural aspects. Notary Dr. Michael Refalo explained that it will be without scope for a person not to share or not to communicate this hobby with others. It was also agreed that a set of rules to govern the society shall be drafted by Mr. George Vella and to be revised by Notary Dr. Michael Refalo. These should be on the agenda of next meeting to be amended and approved by the Founder Members.

It was agreed that the society shall seek to establish ties with local and foreign societies. In next meeting a logo for the society is to be discussed and the agenda shall include the election of the Committee. Members present may invite other persons to attend next meeting.

For the occasion a set of sixteen envelopes with a letter to call this meeting were printed and both post-marked at Victoria with the date of 1st September 1999. Twelve of these were autographed by the eleven members present. Every member present got one each for 50 cents, the twelfth will belong to the society. The remaining four which are not autographed will also be the property of the society.

The meeting finished at 7.20 p.m. and it was agreed that it will convene as soon as possible with an agenda.

Temporary Chairman

Temporary Secretary



P.O. BOX 10, VICTORIA VCT 101, GOZO, MALTA

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS

1ST February 2000

OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

As you may know our Society is still very young. In fact the first meeting of the Founders Members was held on the 3rd September 1999 at Dar Il-Lunzjata. We are pleased to inform you that for this reason the Committee has decided to launch the Society for the general public.

The event will take place on the 12th February 2000 at the Function Room of the Tignja Palazz at 6.30 p.m., and will be under the patronage of the Minister for Gozo, the Hon. Mrs. Giovanna Debono.

The President and Committee would like to invite you for this special occasion. Your presence is vital in launching our new Society. An invitation card will be sent later.

George Vella, P.R.O.

Antoine Vassallo, Secretary

IL-FILATELIJA

(*Tig'migh tal-Bolli*)

(Fl-okkażjoni tal-Għaxar Anniversarju
tal-Għaqda Filatelika Għawdxija
(03-09-1999 – 03-09-2009))

- *Sunett* -

Minn meta Rowland Hill¹ holoq il-bolla
Inholoq passatemp ta' ġmilijiet,
Hekk kif kull art li hawn mad-dinja kollha
Toħroġ ukoll il-bolol tagħha bdiet.

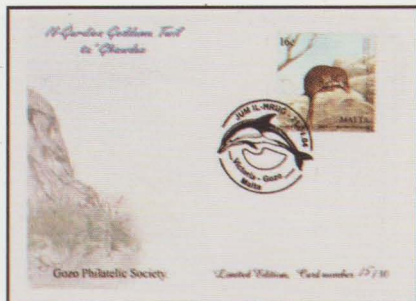
U biex dal-passatemp 'il fuq jitgholla
Il-bolli jgħemmgħu bdew anki r-rejiet:
Tikketti żgħar bl-istampi u bi f'it kolla
Li minnhom niehdu bosta tagħrifiet.

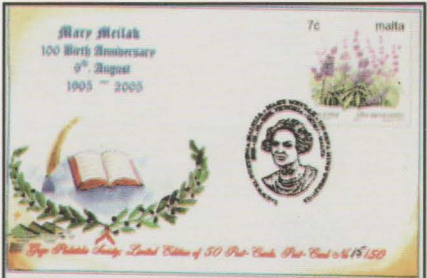
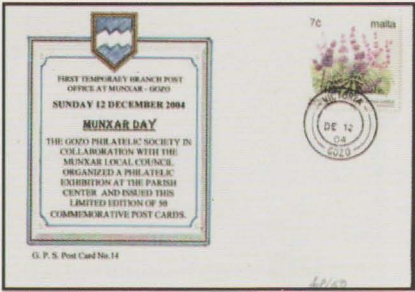
U f'Għawdex tagħna wkoll għaxar snin ilu
Twaqqfet hawn l-għaqda tal-Filatelija
Biex tgħin u tgħallem lil kull min iġemma¹.

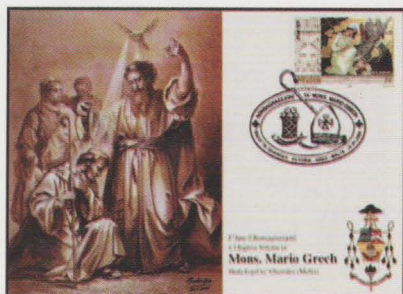
Bi dritt kull membru wkoll jingħata lilu
Għajjnuna u privileġġi tas-shubija,
Biex jibda kollezzjoni jew itemmha!

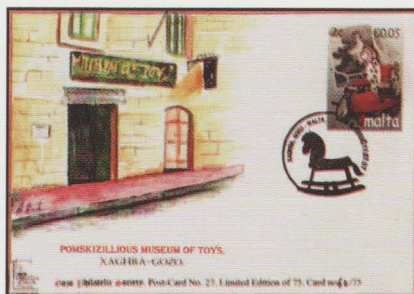
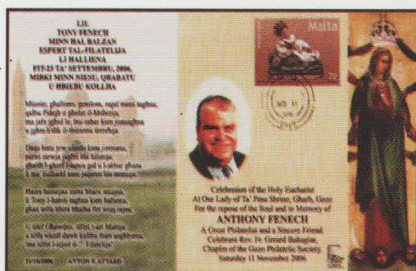
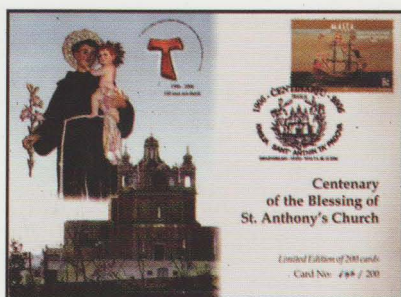
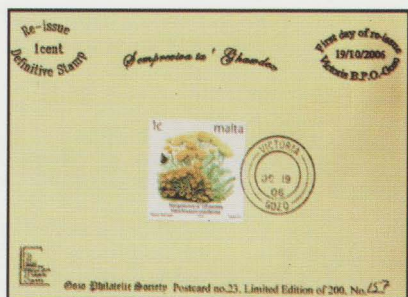
28/06/2009 **ANTON F. ATTARD**

¹ The idea for the adhesive postage stamp was first suggested by the English schoolmaster and civil servant Rowland Hill as one of the many postal reforms in Britain in 1837. Hill's conception, for which he was later knighted, was derived from similar labels that had been issued almost a century earlier in many parts of Europe as a way of collecting a tax on newspapers. In a treatise on post office reform, Hill also suggested that mail be prepaid, that charges be based on weight instead of the number of pages being sent, and that the rates be low enough to allow ordinary citizens to mail letters.









Our main activities include:

1. Monthly members' meeting (now usually held in the morning of the first Sunday of the month).
2. Annual GPS Philatelic Exhibition (usually held in November).
3. School visits.
4. Production of philatelic material (taking up the opportunity offered by stamps or events with Gozitan connections).
5. Support initiatives for Gozo-connected handstamps (including design).
6. Participation in local events.
7. Letters to Maltapost and to local and foreign press.

HIGHLIGHTS

Year 1999

- 3 September** - Foundation meeting at *Dar il-Lunzjata* (limits of Victoria).
- 9 October** - statute approved and members of first Committee elected.
- 28 December** - first public activity at Cathedral Public Library.
- 30-31 December** - sets of Millennium Cards (can be considered as the first of numerous philatelic productions).

Year 2000

- 12 February** - official launch at *Tigrija Palazz* (Victoria) and first issue of GPS Newsletter.
- 25 March** - Religious



25 April 2000

Stamp Exhibition at *Dar il-Mass* at *Lunzjata* together with

25 April - Exhibition at Xaghra local council.

1 May - postmark for centenary of first Gozo Branch Office (*Banca Giuratale*).



1 May 2000

27 May - opening of First Philatelic Exhibition by Minister G. Debono at St Francis Square - Gozo Ministry Halls.

21 - 22 October - participation in "Maltex" Philatelic Show.

1 November - launch of essay competition for schoolchildren, in collaboration with Royal British Legion.

Year 2001

4 January - New Year Stamp Fair at Banca Giuratale (Victoria).

20 January - 1st Annual General Meeting at NGO Centre, limits of Xewkija.



Saturday 20 January 2001

March - participation in special Lent Exhibition.

24 March - Members' Meeting at Lunzjata (followed by Mass)

11 June - first official contacts with Education authorities.

19 June - first social activity (Pasta Night).

22 June - first school information visit.

13 October - inauguration of 2nd GPS Philatelic Exhibition.

25 November - first use of Victoria Scouts HQ for Members' Meetings (with Exhibition prize-giving).

18 December - coordination of members' exhibits in first Christmas Exhibition at Gozo Lending Library.

December - participation in Christmas Exhibition at St Francis Square Ministry Halls.

Year 2002

27 January - first use of Victoria Scouts HQ for Annual General Meeting.

13 April - Members' Meeting (followed by Mass) and a lecture for Seminary Club members *Lunzjata Valley*.

19 April - Pasta Night.

27 - 31 May - participation in extra-curricular week at De Soldanis School.

15 September - Members' Meeting.

20 September - Pasta Night.

18 October - official opening of 3rd GPS Exhibition.

15 December - Members' Meeting (with Exhibition prize-giving)

Year 2003

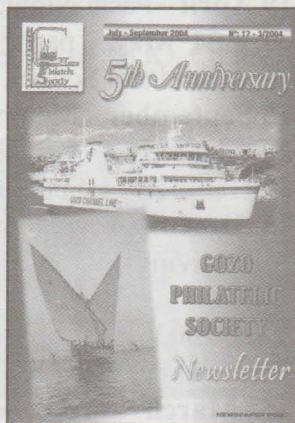
9 February - Members' Meeting at Munxar Parish Centre.

25 March - Members' Meeting (followed by Mass) at *Lunzjata*.

- 28 April** - to commemorate our first collaboration with a parish, GPS officers presented special illuminated cover to St. George's Archpriest (first of numerous similar occasions).
- 2 May** - outing to Malta for the Seminary School Club.
- 3 June** - Members' Meeting.
- 1 August** - the GPS secretary, authorized to represent GPS for foundation meeting of Gozo NGOs Association, is elected Association President.
- 6 October** - TV feature about the GPS (first of many).
- 18 October** - opening of 4th GPS Exhibition.
- December** - GPS highlighted in main Maltese student monthly (just one of various features about the GPS in local and foreign periodicals).

Year 2004

- 11 January** - 4th AGM (with Exhibition prize-giving).
- 25 March** - Lunzjata Mass.
- 27 March** - Malta visit by Seminary School Stamp Club.
- 7 April** - lecture for Seminary School Stamp Club.
- 12 April** - Members' Meeting.
- 13 May** - Seminary Club Exhibition.
- September** - series of series of programmes on *Lehen il-Belt Vittorja* - first of many participations on community radios.
- 12 October** - setting up of 5th GPS Exhibition.
- October** - special 5th anniversary GPS Newsletter (including full colour).



12 October 2004

5 November - opening of Marian Philatelic Exhibition at *Ta' Pinu* Complex.

23 & 24 November - "Philately Day" at Seminary Secondary School.

12 December - "Pauline" Stamp Exhibition at Munxar.

Year 2005

16 January - 5th AGM (with Exhibition prize-giving).

30 March - Members' Meeting (followed by Mass) at *Lunzjata*.

April - participation in Gozitan NGOs visit to Germany.

22 April - 2nd Stamp Day by Seminary Club.

29 April - opening of "Europa & EU Stamp Exhibition" at Banca Giuratale.



30 March 2005



April 2005



4 November 2006

1 July - visit to Malta by Seminary Club.

12 October - specially-ordered se-tenant Christmas stamps.

4 November - Official opening of the 6th GPS Exh.

6 November - Philatelic Auction during Exhibition.

25 November - GPS participates in Commonwealth Peoples' Forum Gozo Day at Gozo Sports Complex.

Year 2006

15 January - AGM
(including prize-giving).

29 January -
presentation of
special scroll to new
Bishop Mario Grech
at Gozo Sports
Complex.

29 & 30 March -
practical sessions for
Seminary School
students.

19 April - Pasta Night.

3 July - Stamp-collecting
sessions have begun at
Don Bosco Oratory
Summer Club.

30 July - Members'
Meeting (first regular
slot on the last Sunday
of the month).

October - Special
Exhibition at Gozo
Archives hall.

9 October - visit by Malta
Study Circle & Malta
Philatelic Society.



15 January 2006



29 January 2006



9 October 2006

Chev. Dr Alfred Bonnici

KM, MD, BPharm, Cert (GAM,UK), FRSM, FRSH, FRAcS

34, Casa Bonnici,

Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,

Ta' Xbiex MSD 11, Malta G.C.

Tel: (356) 2133 8437 (Mobile 9949-5066)

Fax: (356) 2133 9338

e.mail: abonnici@malta.net

14th Oct 2006.

Dear Mr. Grech.

Congratulations to the Gozo Philatelic Society for organising such a splendid exhibition, and on behalf of the Malta Philatelic Society, I would like to thank them for inviting and entertaining us together with the Malta Study Circle.

Congratulations to you for your special exhibit, which my wife and I enjoyed thoroughly.

Part of letter from Chev. Dr Alfred Bonnici re the visit by Malta Study Circle

28 October - participation in Exhibition (Mgarr Gozo).

3 November - Official opening of 7th GPS Exhibition.

5 November - Bid-Buy session during Exhibition.

11 November - Ta' Pinu Mass in memory of philatelist Anthony Fenech (GPS consultant).

12 November - Poetry

Competition prize-giving (organized with Ghaqda

Franciscan Centenary



11 November 2006

Poeti) during last day of Exhibition.

22 November - GPS represented at "Leader" LAG information meeting.

25 November - specialized philatelic exhibition during Xewkija Day by Xewkija council.

Year 2007

14 January – 7th AGM (including Prize-giving).

2 March - Ta' Pinu Mass for the repose of GPS President's son.

13 April - stamp display during public lecture about Emvin Cremona at Gozo Ministry Hall.

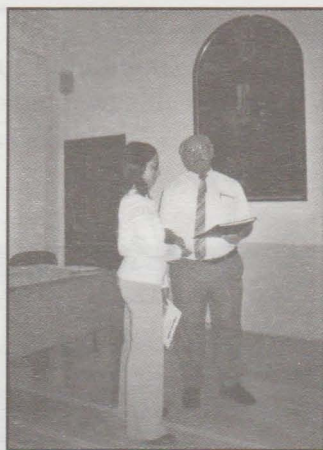
17 - 20 May - participation in Gozo NGOs Association stand at Naxxar *Fiera tal-Volontarjat*.

20 May - participation in Spring Fair at Cremona Lyceum Complex.

9 November - Website launched.

9 - 18 November - 8th GPS Philatelic Exhibition.

26 November - beginning of regular stamp collecting sessions at Ninu Cremona Lyceum Complex.



12 November 2006



9-18 November 2007

Year 2008

13 January - 8th AGM (including Exhibition Prize-giving).

4 May - GPS stand at Ninu Cremona Lyceum during GOZO 1234.

July - August - once-weekly philatelic sessions at the Don Bosco Summer Club.

29 October - the GPS Secretary is nominated as a member of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

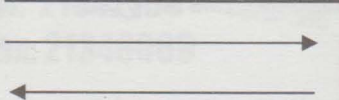
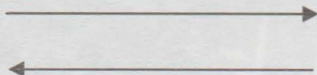
1 - 8 November - 9th GPS Philatelic Exhibition.

Year 2009

11 January - AGM (including Exhibition Prize-giving).

23 May - GPS participation in *Lejlet Lapsi* weekend through an exhibition of our special covers in the foyer of Sir Arturo Mercieca School Victoria.

3 July - visit by delegation from Maltapost.



The winners of the 9th GPS Exhibition from 1 to 18 November 2008

Die 8. Jahresausstellung der Gozo Philatelic Society



Einen vornehmeren Raum für eine philatelistische Ausstellung als die Exhibition Hall of the Ministry for Gozo am St Francis Square in Victoria läßt sich schwerlich aufzun. Geistliche wie weltliche Würdenträger blicken aus Ölgemälden des 19. Jahrhunderts auf das wunderliche Geschehen zu ihren Füßen, in Szene gesetzt von unseren gozitanischen Sammlerfreunden.

Die Jahresausstellung, bereits die achte, hält das von der letztjährigen angeschlagene gute Niveau, obwohl Rev. Gerald Buhagiar dieses Mal nicht vertreten war. Das Manko wog aber vor allem Anthony Grech mit seinen vielfältigen Exponaten auf.



Traditionell hatte die Gozo Philatelic Society den Wettbewerb auf drei Sektionen verteilt: Postal History, Traditional Philately (Work and Society) und Social Philately, doch blieben die Junioren, die Schüler, von einer solchen thematischen Zuordnung verschont. Die Jury bestand aus Joseph Buttigieg, Hadrian Wood und Andre Camilleri.

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As a 10th Anniversary **Special Offer** members can acquire the two thematic albums issued by Maltapost at the price of **one**. Write to the GPS Secretary for details.

We invite all members to provide us with their e-mail address (to secretary @ stamps-gozo.org)



The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

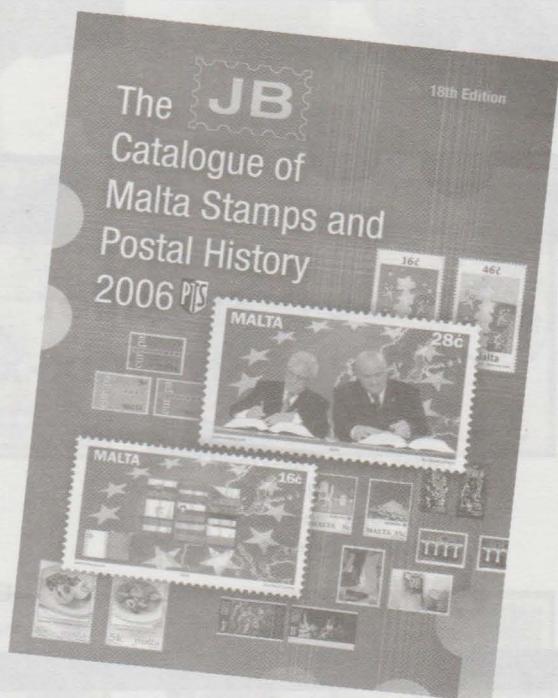
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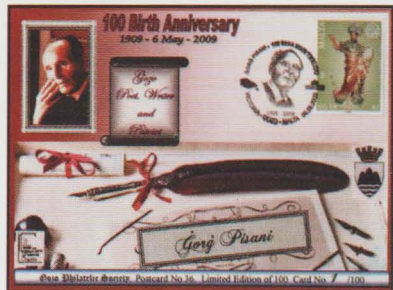
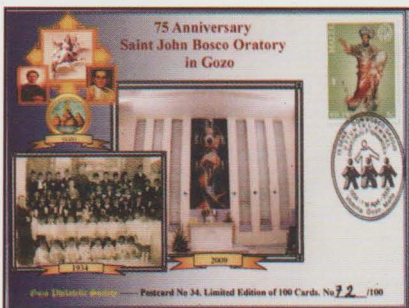
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1999-3 September-2009

Anniversary

