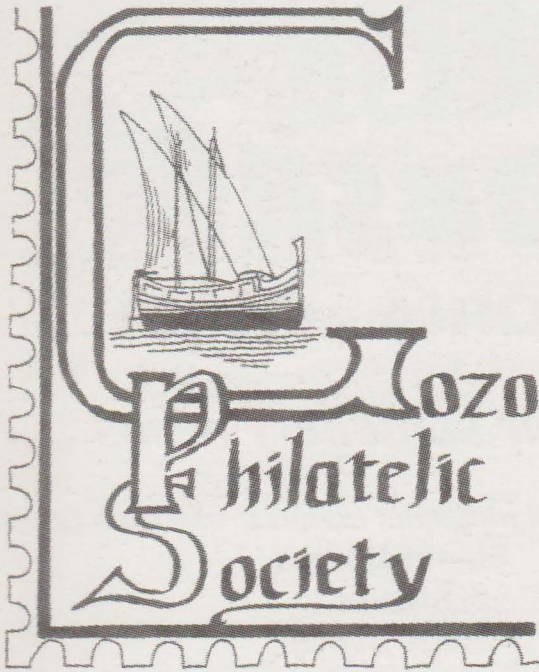
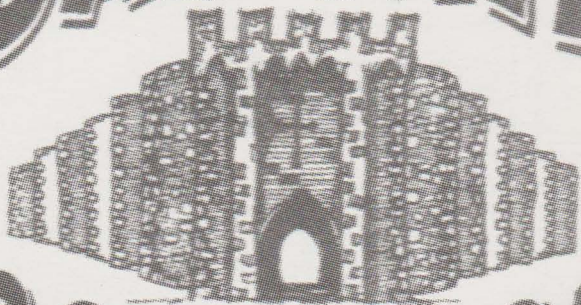


No. 9 JULY - SEPT 2002 - 3/2002

NEWSLETTER



BARGATE



BOOKSHOP

VICTORIA - GOZO

For all your stationery needs.....

We stock also all philatelic material which includes:

Stamp Albums

Stamps

Stock Books

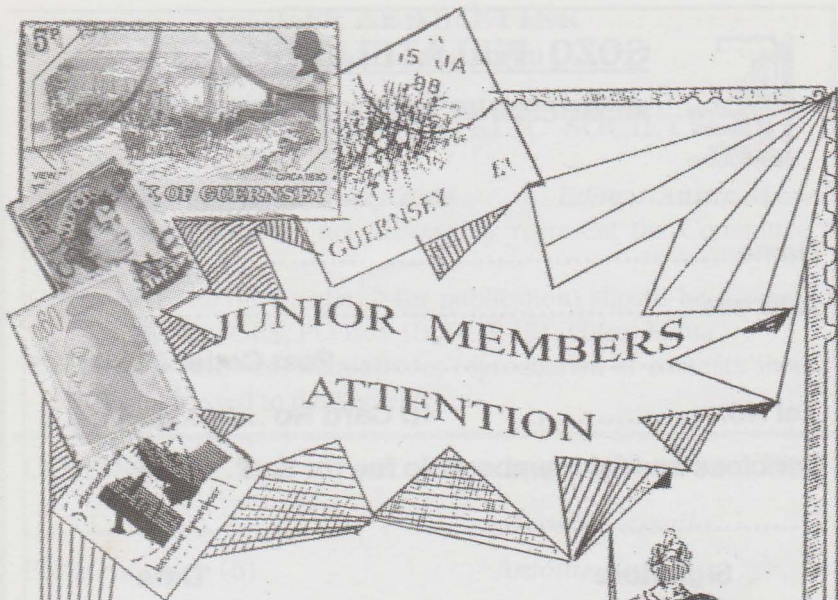
Hinges

Self Adhesive Strips etc.

G. Borg Olivier Street, Victoria Gozo

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Mob: 99447625



**JUNIOR MEMBERS
ATTENTION**

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



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

ENROLL NOW!



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 101, Gozo, Malta.

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GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded on 3rd September 1999

For "the promotion of the hobby"

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

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

GPS DIARY (9)

Antoine Vassallo (Secretary)

27th - 31st May 2002 - Some of us passed long hours at the Agius De Soldanis Girls Secondary School Complex during a special week organized there to promote pastimes and extra-curricular activities. Samples were displayed and practical suggestions were offered during visits to individual classes. A high level of interest was shown. Thus practically all Gozitan schools have been visited. A fuller programme will be launched for scholastic year 2002-3

27th July 2002 - Sub-Committee discusses regulations for Third GPS Philatelic Exhibition.

10th August 2002 - Committee finalizes exhibition details for publicity through our Newsletter.

Members have continued to promote our hobby through participation on a range of different printed and sound media.

In fact Newsletter No 8, with its additional pages advertising useful goods and services, confirms our increasingly wider distribution.

3rd GPS PHILATELIC EXHIBITION (19 - 31 October 2002)

(Exhibition Hall St. Francis Square Victoria)

Application forms (both competitive & non-competitive) are to reach the GPS Secretary by not later than Wednesday 25th September 2002.

All Junior participants (those under 17 on Dec. 31st 2002) will receive a philatelic memento.

There are two competitive themes:

- i) Postal History (Adults) and
- ii) Nature & the Environment (Adults & Juniors)

Please vide Full Regulations on Page 23 of this Newsletter.

PHILATELIC WEB (6)

Antoine Vassallo

We offer a further ten Internet sites, hopefully interesting and useful — but again in no particular order! Members are invited to send comments and recommend others.

www.opt.nc

New Caledonia

www.stamp-museum.com

Interesting Information

www.posten.se/stamps

Sweden

www.bathpostalmuseum.org

The history of the post

www.pwz.li

Tiny Liechtenstein

www.gibbonsstampmonthly.com

News and articles

www.stamps.gov.nf

Issues from Norfolk Island

www.gbps.org.uk

Great Britain Philatelic Society

www.nzstamps.co.nz

New Zealand

www.stampsites.com

A great source !

*(Please note that the eighth item in the last issue referred to **Machins!**)*

A few stamp terms for your attention !!!

ESSAY - In Philately means a rejected or unused design for a stamp.

CACHET - A printed, embossed or hand stamped inscription or device impressed on a cover to denote special circumstances in which it has been posted.

CANCELLATION - Is the defacement of any kind applied to a postal stationery to prevent it being used again.

WATERMARKS - A design on the stamp paper visible when held against light. This is usually used to prevent forgery and produced during the making of the paper itself.

THE GOZO VILLAGES POST MARKS

Emanuel Vella



Before the first local stamps were introduced - that is the half-penny yellow - the government experimented with free postal service.

From the 31st of March 1853 until 1860 a free local post was established to cater for letters sent in Malta. At that time only few large villages in Malta and Victoria in Gozo had branch post offices. Before this time letters were carried by mail contractors' boys and the police although there is little evidence or records for this period.

British stamps were used in Malta for international mail since 1841. Then in 1853 the Council of Government decided to establish a daily local post to serve all the towns and villages in Malta and Gozo. At first the service was experimental and free, that is no postage was required for the transit of letters between one locality and another on the island. The letters would be despatched to the police stations of the various localities, where they would be held and displayed in glass-fronted boxes and handed over when claimed.

On the 10th June 1853 the Inland post was inaugurated. Letters and newspapers could be dispatched between local towns and villages everyday except Sundays and Public Holidays. At that time no postage was charged.

The letters were carried to the various localities by a mail contractor, who hired a number of boys to carry letters to and from the police stations. The letters and newspapers for delivery were displayed underneath glass frames.

It is difficult to know exactly when the first letters were sent or how many Gozitan villages' police stations operated as Post Offices. But from the datestamp we can deduct that these villages had some sort of postal service.

- 1) CACCIA (Xaghra) had a round postmark of 23mm in diameter. The postmark had CACCIA on top and GOZO underneath.
- 2) GARBO (Gharb) had a postmark with the same diameter of Xaghra, that is 23mm. The postmark had GARBO at the top, date and GOZO underneath.
- 3) GHAJNSIELEM too had a postmark. Its diameter was 23mm and had Ghajnsielem written on top and Gozo at the bottom.
- 4) Another village who used a postmark was NADUR. The letters were collected from the police station at 9.00 am. The postmark was 23mm diameter and had Nadur on top with Gozo at the bottom.
- 5) SANNAT and XEUCHIA (Xewkija) each had a postmark of 23mm with the name of the village at the top and Gozo at the bottom.



- 6) RABATO (Rabat) had a postal branch which opened in 1885. It had a single circle datestamp 21 mm in diameter with Rabato at the top and Gozo at the bottom.



- 7) A branch post office was opened at Mgarr, Gozo on 1st December 1885. The datestamp had a single circle of 21 mm diameter with MIGIARRO at the top and Gozo at the bottom.



An envelope showing the datestamp of Migiarro and the postman's handstamp - "No 2"

As we can see these were the Gozitan villages which had a datestamp.

Source: *MALTA - The Postal History and Postage Stamps.*

THE STAMP DETECTIVE

Zaru Vella

Stamp collecting is perhaps the only hobby, which places a premium on imperfection, whereas in all other fields, any item bearing any faults or errors would have its value toned down considerably.

Stamp imperfections usually come under two types, namely; errors and varieties and these are what make philately all the more absorbing. But what exactly are they, and how do they differ?

Broadly speaking errors and varieties are anything that deviates from the normal and what usually sets them apart may be only by a small degree.

A colour shift may be due to a faulty alignment of the printing plate or cylinder and the result would be classed as a variety. However if a colour was omitted or printed twice by mistake then this would be regarded as an error. The importance or gravity of the mistake is usually what makes the difference. Normally, stamps bearing any faults are destroyed by security checkers at the printing works, but occasionally a few escape detection and since there are so few of them, they would be much sought after; many fetching very handsome prices indeed.

The aspiring philatelist soon realizes that there is more to a stamp than just a pretty picture, as it also provides vital clues as to its origin, so he begins to delve deeper into his hobby by

inspecting features such as the type of paper, perforations, watermarks and printing processes employed in producing the finished article - he has become a stamp detective !

The basic tools of trade may be acquired at a minimal expense and comprise the following:-

Magnifying glass - the main tool required for inspecting stamps close up.

Tweezers or tongs - always handle stamps with tweezers to prevent soiling.

Perforation gauge - this is usually a small plastic or aluminium ruler with numbered rows of different sized dots corresponding to their number of stamp perforations or “perfs” within a spacing of 2 cm. In use, the stamp is placed alongside the dotted rows until the perfs coincide with the identical dots and the reading is taken. If, for example, it reads 10 on the gauge, this means that there are 10 perfs per 2 cm length.

Watermark tray - normally of black plastic. The stamp is placed face down and if the watermark still proves hard to see then a few drops of watermark fluid are placed on the back to highlight it.

Philatelic literature - books or catalogues that may be borrowed from local libraries. Even the Internet, could prove useful in broadening one’s knowledge.

Once you have everything at hand, all that is left is to have a small pile of stamps and you are ready to begin an illusive and perhaps fruitful quest.

Using your tweezers, pick up a stamp and view it under the magnifying glass. Carefully inspect the design and see if it looks 'normal', if not, then having duplicate will help to verify the matter. If you are lucky enough to have a catalogue in hand, this can help to check other features such as perfs, date of printing, etc. If it still appears 'odd' then set it aside for further investigation - it could be a variety or better still an error !

Many spectacular finds have been made by philatelists spending a little of their time sorting through stamp lots, and who knows how many more stamps still adhering to their old envelopes are out there safely tucked away in some old drawer just waiting to be discovered by someone - it could be you !



GOOD LUCK SHERLOCK !

Please note that copies of various philatelic publications are available for free temporary loan to members by contacting the Secretary.

GOZO on Malta's Stamps

(continued from Issue No. 7)

Antoine Vassallo

The Gozo Philatelic Society Logo was designed by Mr Anthony Grech on the first pictorial Maltese stamp. So it is appropriate to glance at Gozo on Malta's stamps.

A first attempt at a checklist (2)

Please note that numbers 8 to 13 (in Newsletter 7) were issued in 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1971 respectively.

14. 1975 Republic

25c includes Qala-born Dr Anton Buttigieg (poet and future President)



15. 1975 Architecture

15.1 1c3 Plan of Ggantija prehistoric complex.



15.2
typical village around its

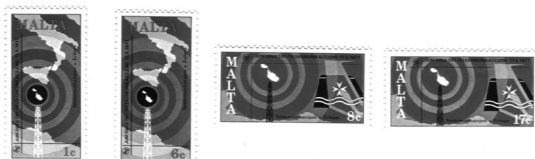
5c0 Victoria as a parish church.



16. 1977 Telecommunications

- 16.1 1c0** outline map.
- 16.2 6c0** same design.
- 16.3 8c0** outline map of the Maltese Islands.
- 16.4 17c** same design.





17. 1980 Monuments 8c0 Victoria's Citadel.



18. 1983 Commonwealth 8c0 Outline Map



19. 1983 Europa 8c0 Ggantija Temples.



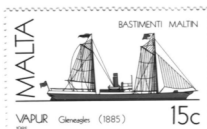
20. 1984 Republic Anniv. 3c0 Outline Map.



21. 1985 VII Giugno 3c0 Gozitan among victims.



22. 1985 Ships 15c "Gleneagles" (ship on Gozo service).



23. 1987 Ships 13c “Ghawdex” (Gozo Ferry).



24. 1988 Religious Comm 12c Ta’ Pinu Chapel altarpiece.



25. 1989 Summit 10c Outline map.



26. 1990 Events 20c Map.



27. 1991 Definitives
 27.1 14c Mgarr Harbour.
 27.2 50c Gozo Channel.



28. 1993 Local Councils
 28.1 to
 28.4 5c Coats Of Arms of the 14 Gozitan Councils included.
 28.5 5c x 4 Miniature sheet containing above.



29. 1994 Aviation

5c Map.



30. 1995 Commemorations

5c Outline Map.



31. 1995 Conservation

5c Gozitan Wayside Niche.



32. 1996 Prehistoric Art

14c Carving from Xaghra.



33. 1996 Olympics

2c Gozo Sports Complex.



Members are invited to contribute by giving suggestions.

(to be continued)

INDIA POSTAL HISTORY

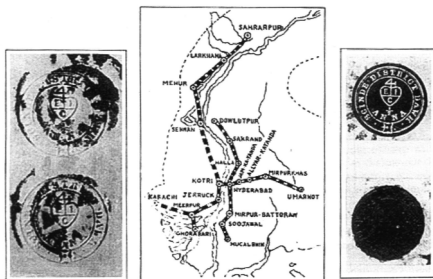
Research by *Austin Masini*

In India a system of carrying messages was in existence during the reign of Allauddin Khilji in 1296. It was Sher Shah Suri, who during his five year reign built the 2000 mile long road from Bengal to Peshawar for the use of his postal services. He built 1700 “serais”, relay posts where horses were changed. He died on 22nd May 1545. His postal system was later improved by other Indian rulers.



The East India Company established post offices in Mumbai (Bombay), Chennai (Madras) and Calcutta in 1766. Warren Hastings made the postal service available to the general public. The common man could send a letter a distance of 100 miles for a 2 annas. Copper tokens were minted for this end, and could be used for posting a letter. The letter was hand stamped “post paid” if it was paid for, else it was stamped “post unpaid” or “bearing”.

Bartie Ferere, the Commissioner of Sind, introduced paper stamps in token of prepayment of postage in 1852. These were the first stamps in Asia and are called “Scinde Dawks”. The stamps bore the East India Company mark. These stamps were printed on brittle paper in Red which were later replaced by White on White and later still in Blue.



Scinde Dawks and their mail routes: The Mulkee Tuppal lines in 1851

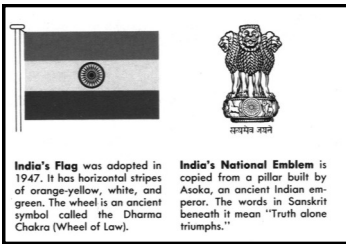
After the Scinde Dawk, Colonel Forbes of Calcutta Mint came up with an essay for a postage stamp. It showed a Lion and Palm tree. This stamp was never printed, as the colonel could not ensure an adequate supply with the limited machinery he had in hand.

After Colonel Forbes failed, Captain HL Thuillier, Deputy Surveyor General of Survey office, Calcutta, took up the task of printing stamps. He came up with a half anna blue coloured stamp having Queen Victoria's head on it. This first all India stamp issued in October 1854 is shown in the stamp which was issued during Inpex 1982.

In 1873 the General Postal Union was formed to strengthen postal relations between nations. The membership grew so quickly that in a period of three years its name was changed to Universal Postal Union (UPU). This was in 1878. It is worth noting that India became a member of UPU in 1876.

After attaining Independence, on 15th August 1947, India issued its first stamp. In fact there was a delay, and this

first stamp was issued on 21st November 1947.



Post in India was carried by various means. Harkaras or foot-runners carried post tied to a stick.

He was armed with a spear to protect himself from wild animals. The Harkaras still carry posts in the remote inaccessible parts of India! Bullock drawn carts carried mail between 1846 and 1904 in India. The last bullock route, between Ambaia and Simla, was closed in October, 1904. A mobile camel post office was started on October 27, 1977 at Mithariya in Bikaner district. The postmaster was given an allowance of Rs 80 per month to maintain the camel. □

THE OATH TAKEN BY LETTER CARRIERS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Research: *Anton F Attard*

I declare on oath that I will not willingly open or delay, or cause or suffer to be opened or delayed, contrary to my duty, any letter or any thing sent to the post, which shall come into my hands or custody, by reason of my employment in the Post Office, except by the consent of the person or persons to whom the same shall be directed, or by an express Warrant under the hand of the Head of the Government and the Seal of the Government, or except in such cases where the party or parties to whom such letter, or any thing sent by the post, shall be directed, and who is, or are, chargeable with the payment of any postage surcharged thereon, shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, and except such letters of any thing sent by the post, as shall be returned for want of true directions, or when the party or parties to whom the same shall be directed, cannot be found; and that I will not in any way embezzle any such letter or any thing sent by the post as aforesaid."

This Declaration was sworn before me, at
on the day of 188....



Copy of Armlet which used to be worn by Letter Carriers in Gozo Post Office No 2.

Vide article by Anton F Attard in Newsletter Letter No 7 page 19 para 4.

QUIZ COMPETITION

Open to all Junior Members of the Gozo Philatelic Society

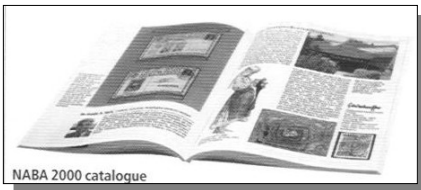
- i) What is an “ESSAY” in philately ?
- ii) What were the first stamps issued in Asia called ?
- iii) When did India issue its first stamp ?
- iv) When and where is this year’s GPS Philatelic Exhibition going to be held?

Please send your answers on a separate paper together with your name, address and membership number by not later than 30th September 2002 to:

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

Prize

An attractive packet of different European Stamps generously donated by Mr Hans Katzensteiner.



PREVIOUS QUIZ COMPETITION RESULTS

Answers to above captioned competition which was published in G.P.S. Newsletter No. 8 are as follows:

- i) 15.04.1942 by King George VI.
- ii) 1.04.1928.
- iii) The Papal Tiara and St. Peter's Keys.
- iv) February 1934; January 1940.

PRIZE WINNER:

GPS Prize Winner of an attractive packet of different European stamps goes to Anne-Marie Attard of Xewkija Gozo (Member No. 219)

*This packet was generously donated by
Mr Hans Katzensteiner
who is also one of our members.*

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



A REVIVED HOBBY

Felix Cutajar

After so long I had to start collecting the stamps once more. This was because my youngest son revived in me the interest for collecting stamps. It was last January that he told me that some of his school-mates were collecting these marvellous stamps. This made me feel nostalgic, remembering my childhood times, always searching in my albums, so without thinking twice I encouraged him to start collecting stamps like his friends. The first thing we did was to go and bought some packets of stamps from a stamp shop. At the beginning we did not know from where we could buy some valuable stamps. Then my son told me that there was a club for those who had the hobby of stamp collecting and that he wanted to be a member.

When he received his membership card and the newsletter, which was really interesting there were various addresses from where we could buy more stamps. In fact it was then that I got really interested because together with this newsletter there was a catalogue, which included all the stamps available here



in Malta. On going through this catalogue I realized that there were a lot of stamps, which I had never seen. I was so fascinated, that I decided to try everything possible to acquire those beautiful stamps

I kept reviewing this catalogue for hours and hours, studying carefully the material in it. I took great interest in the sets of stamps designed by the artist Chev. E.V. Cremona. I found that this artist had designed sixty-five sets of stamps, which are really impressing and contain a lot of details when carefully examined.



Lately, I acquired his biography. Emanuel Vincent Cremona who was born on the 27th May in the year 1919, was a man who really made a name for himself and for his country - Malta. He is known all over the world because doubtless the stamps that he designed had become popular worldwide. My favourite set of stamps is that which was published on the 9th of February 1960 marking the XIX century of Saint Paul's shipwreck in Malta. This is one of the most beautiful sets of stamps to admire and it was so appreciated that Emanuel Vincent Cremona was highly praised for his work. In the year

1965 Cremona was commissioned to design the set commemorating Malta's Independence in 1964. This set

Commemorating Malta's Independence

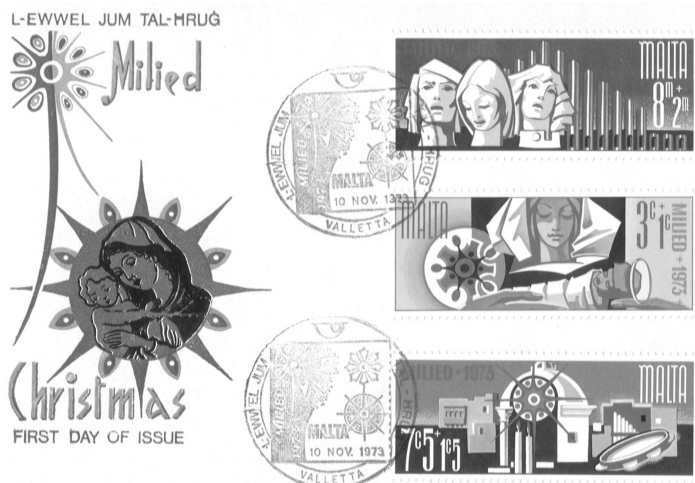
Issued: 7th January 1965

(On 1st August 1970 were issued the 5d and 10d stamps)



consisted of nineteen stamps starting from the denomination of a farthing up to one pound. This was one of the most colourful and artistically designed sets. It comprises designs spread onto four millennia of the history of Malta. Cremona had a great knowledge of art and culture, which correspond to various periods of time. The American Philatelic Association praised and declared this set as the most beautiful and artistic set of stamps in the philatelic world.

Emvin Cremona, as he was known, designed fifteen sets of Christmas stamps one more beautiful than the other, In the year 1984 Emvin fell seriously sick and in fact he could not move his right hand. In 1987 this great artist passed away leaving behind him numerous artistic treasures especially contemporary ones.



Thanks to my youngest son Malcolm Paul I feel like I am living my childhood once again and I really wish that other children will pick up this hobby which surely will keep them away from any ill doing and will give them great satisfaction in life. □

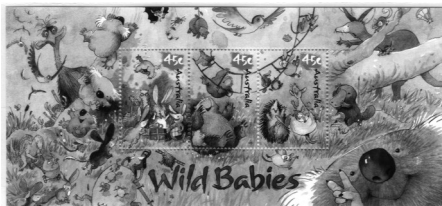
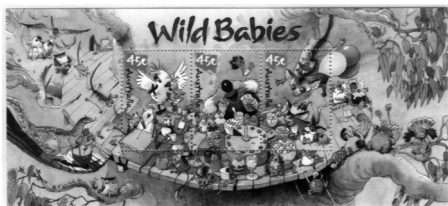
3rd G.P.S. PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
REGULATIONS

19th to 31st OCTOBER 2002

(Exhibition Hall St Francis Square Victoria Gozo)

1. Entries (mounted) are to be submitted to Committee members at the Exhibition Hall on Friday 18th October from 8.30 am to 12 noon.
2. The GPS reserves the right to refuse any exhibit, competing or not.
3. Although all reasonable steps will be taken, the GPS cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to exhibits. Exhibitors may discuss with the GPS special arrangements for items of great value. The decision of the Committee in such matters is binding.
4. Items are to be reclaimed on closure. The GPS will inform exhibitors of their respective unclaimed exhibits.
5. Certificates of Participation together with prizes will be distributed later on a separate occasion.
6. Only members can exhibit and so non-members must also fill in a membership application and pay the relative annual fee (which will also cover 2003). There is no additional charge for non-competitive participation.
7. Application forms are to reach the GPS Secretary by Wednesday 25th September 2002.

8. a) even if not competing, all junior participants (those under 17 by December 31st 2002) will receive a philatelic memento.
b) Each A4 sheet should have name, address and phone number on back, with date of birth in the front bottom right-hand corner.
c) Neatness and originality of presentation will be looked for and rewarded.
9. a) Competitors have to pay a Lm2 fee for each item exhibited (maximum of 2).
b) The maximum locked area which can be allotted to each participant is 3 feet by 2 feet. Other exhibits may consist of a maximum two A4 sheets, placed in transparent plastic jackets or folders.
c) Name, address and phone number must be written on the back or otherwise kept covered until prizes are awarded.
d) There are two competitive themes:
 i) Postal History (Adults) and
 ii) Nature & The Environment (Adults & Juniors)
e) Depending on standards achieved, the Jury appointed by the GPS will award prizes (a maximum of 3 for each class, making a total of 9) as soon as practicable after the opening. Indicators will be placed against the prize-winning entries.
f) Jury decisions are of course final and binding.



FOR SALE

- Capitulation of the French Special hand stamp cards (set of 2). (*Timbru speċjali tal-Kapitulazzjoni tal-Frañċiżi f'Għawdex*) Lm1.00c
- Packets of "Davo" hinges (1000). (*Pakketti tal-1000 hinges "Davo"*) Lm0.75c
- Commemoration Cards of the First Anniversary of the GPS. (*Kartolini kommemorattivi ta'ewwel anniversarju Tal-GPS*) Lm0.25c
- Davo Large Stock Books. ("*Stock Books*" Kbar - Davo) Lm12.50c
- Davo Small Stock Books. ("*StockBooks*" Żgħar - Davo) Lm7.50c
- Davo Stock Books with Maltese Coat of Arms. ("*Stock Books*" Davo b'arma ta' Malta) Lm9.75c
- Millenium hand stamped cards (8). (*Set ta' 8 kartolini ttimbrati b'ahħar timbru tal-millenu waha ghal kull posta f'Għawdex*) Lm2.50c

FOR SALE

- Gordan Lighthouse hand painted envelope.
(Cover impittra b'idejn u timbrata fl-ewwel jum tal-ħruġ bi-bolla tal-fanal tal-Gordan ta' Ġhawdex) Lm1.00c
- J.B. Catalogue - Year 1998 or 2000.
(Special Price) Lm1.00c
- J.B. Catalogue - Year 2001. Lm5.00c
- Malta Stamp Album in Two Volumes with space for every stamp from 1st issue (1860) to date. (2001) Lm12.00c
(A perfect gift for a birthday present both for Junior and Senior members. ORDER YOUR COPY NOW. LIMITED NUMBER !!!!)
- All World Stamp Album. (suitable for Junior members) Lm5.00c
- San Marino Mint Stamps. from 5c each
- Vatican Mint Stamps. from 15c each
- Malta Stamps in Mint Condition are also available.

Those interested may contact:

Mr Anthony Grech on Tel No. 21553338

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The JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History

Published by Sliema Stamp Shop

91 Manwel Dimech Street Sliema - Malta

Sixteenth Edition

in Colour

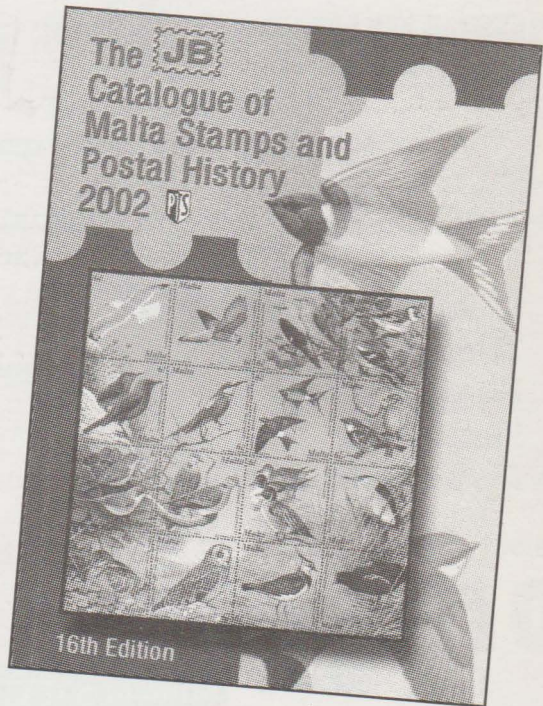
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