


January—March
No. 75—2019
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Collect Malta Postage Stamps

The Gozo Philatelic Society was founded on 3 September 1999
for the promotion of the hobby,
the provision of a point of reference and co-ordination.

Front cover

LOGO OF THE 20th. ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY

GPS NEWSLETTER—Quarterly Organ of The Gozo Philatelic Society

First issued on the 12th February 2000 — Editor: Austin Masini — Issue No. 75 (1/2019)

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

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We need

YOU!



The Year is almost up
Please remember to
pay your membership
fee.

Your Society needs
you

(70) *G.P.S. Diary*

Antoine Vassallo Gozo Philatelic Society Secretary

VO/0546



19 December 2018 Committee nominates Saviour Grech for the MCESD Gozo Regional Committee; he was later also confirmed in the Gozo NGOs Association Council.

20 January 2019 AGM with Exhibition prize distribution (see p. 5 & 26)

20 January Malta Marian stamps theme in *Il-Ħaġar* showcase, as part of major Marian Year Exhibition

30 January Formation of new Committee returned from AGM:

- **President: Louis Bonello;**
- **VicePresident: Jesmond Borg;**
- **Secretary: Antoine Vassallo;**
- **Treasurer: Felix Grech;**
- **Membership secretary and Premises and Production manager:**

Anthony Grech;

- **PRO: Mary Grace Xerri;**
- **Media Board: Jesmond Borg (Chair), Anthony Grech and**

Saviour Grech (secretary);

- **Events sub-committee: Saviour Grech, Vince Vella and Frankie Vella**

- **Premises helpers: Lina Gauci and Mary Grace Xerri.**

9 February Anthony Grech produces a cover – in conjunction with the Victoria Capuchin community - for *Fra Baskal* handstamp

- A virus cropped into page 30 in last issue!!!

The four pictures at the top should be added with the second item (Europa: Integration). Only the miniature sheet refers to the 50th Anniversary commemoration, though both are 2016 issues.

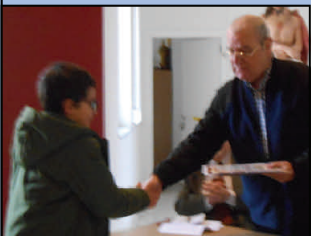
Please note that our publications are included in Malta University's

External Research Collection and can be assessed on <https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/24814> (see p.16)



PRIZE WINNERS OF THE GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY 19TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Mary Grace Xerri



The Gozo Boat on Cards & Special Handstamps



(Dgħajsa tal-Latini)

Gozo Philatelic Society



The Gozo Philatelic Society is a Non-Governmental organization, established in September 1999. Some members suggested the usual, three hills, but the society wanted a philatelic connection. The 4½d stamp issued in 1898 as part of the first Malta pictorial set depicted the Gozo Boat and subsequently it was only fit for the Society to adopt the Gozo Boat as part of their logo. The logo was designed by Mr. Anthony Grech, a founder member of the Gozo Philatelic Society.

Since its inception the GPS has regularly produced a substantial amount of covers and commemorative cards with a Gozitan connection, and in all of which the GPS logo was included. Furthermore the Gozo Boat has been used to decorate several of these covers, and has been featured in a good number of personalised stamps and hand stamps designed especially for the Gozo Philatelic annual exhibition organized by GPS.

2002

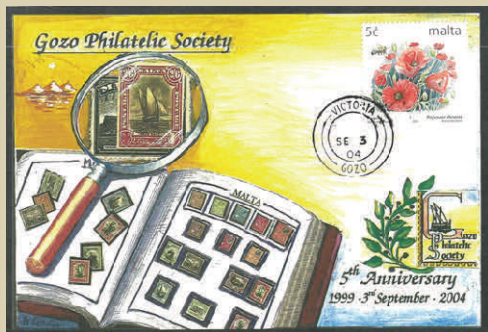
The Special Cover (no. B4) issued on the 18th October for the 3rd Gozo Philatelic Society Annual Exhibition designed by Anthony Grech was the first cover to be issued featuring an illustration of the Gozo Boat.

2003

In 2003, an illustration of Gozo Boat was featured on a commemorative card (no. 3) issued on the 3rd June on the occasion of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II visit to Gozo. The card was also designed by Anthony Grech

2004

On the 3rd September, the 5th Anniversary since the founding of the GPS issued a commemorative card (no.11) was issued, illustrating the 1926, 2s6d stamp depicting the Gozo Boat. The card was also designed by Anthony Grech



The same cover design was over-printed for the GPS 5th Annual Exhibition card (No. 12) and post-marked 15th October.

2006

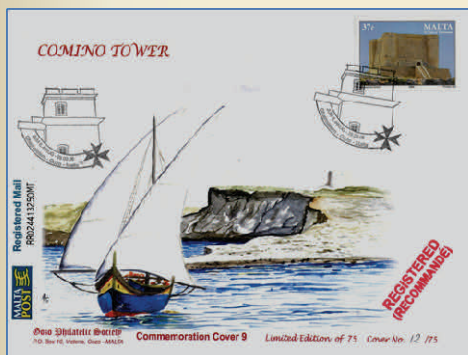
A stamp depicting the Comino tower was issued on 25th February and the GPS produced a commemorative cover (No. 9), designed by Anthony Grech featuring the Gozo Boat.

2008

The same illustration of cover (No. 9) was re-used on commemorative card (No. 31) postmarked 1st November and issued for the GPS 9th Annual Exhibition. Card designed by Anthony Grech

2009

A commemorative card (No.33) designed by Anthony Grech was issued on the 11th February commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Gozo Tourism Authority. The card features an illustrated map of Gozo with two Gozo Boats.



On the 28th April a commemorative cover (No. 16) was issued in conjunction with the issue of a stamp depicting the loading of mail in Mġarr, Gozo. The cover features a photo of Mġarr harbour with several Gozo boats. The cover was designed by Joseph Xuereb. The stamp depicts mail being loaded by a postman on board the *Bancinu*, under the supervision

of a Mail officer, the Ship's Captain and the duty Policeman at Mġarr Harbour, Gozo.

2009

On the Occasion of the GPS 10th Anniversary the GPS presented all its members with a certificate (Card No. 38). On the right and left hand side the certificate illustrates the 1898 brown 4½d stamp and the 1921 orange yellow 4½d stamp

respectively, each depicting the Gozo Boat. The certificate was designed by Anthony Grech.





A further commemorative card (No. 39) was issued for the GPS 10th Anniversary, and postmarked 3rd September. Card designed by Anthony Grech.

Furthermore 2009 saw the first postmark featuring the Gozo Boat. Designed by Anthony Grech specifically for the Gozo Philatelic Society 10th anniversary, the postmark was issued by MaltaPost for the occasion. and used on both the certificate (Card No. 38) and the commemorative card (No. 39).

For the GPS 10th Annual Exhibition, a sheet (No. 1) of personalised stamps was issued depicting different images. Apart from the logo which is depicted on the top stamp, two other stamps feature the Gozo Boat (above), the 1898 brown 4½d stamp is depicted on one of the images and the other an illustration of the Gozo Boat (below). Personalised stamps were designed by Anthony Grech.

A set of 5 Cards (all no. 43) with a common design but with the different 2009 personalised stamps was issued for the GPS 10th Annual Exhibition designed by Anthony Grech.

2010

GPS issued another personalised stamps sheet (No. 2) designed by Anthony Grech in November for the GPS 11th Annual Exhibition, one of the stamps featuring the 1926, 2s6d stamp depicting the Gozo Boat.



A commemorative postmark was issued by MaltaPost and designed by Anthony Grech specifically for the occasion was used during the exhibition.

A set of 5 Cards (all No. 55) with a common design but with different 2010 personalised stamps was issued for the GPS 11th Annual Exhibition and cancelled with the commemorative postmark. Cards were de-

signed by Anthony Grech.

2011

On the 15th September for the joint issue with Iceland, MaltaPost issued a miniature sheet depicting Mġarr Harbour. The GPS issued a commemorative card (No. 65) with a sidepanel illustrating a Gozo boat sailing out of Mġarr Harbour Card was designed by Anthony Grech

GPS issued another personalised stamps sheet (No. 3) designed by Anthony Grech in November for the GPS 12th Annual Exhibition, one of the stamps fea-

turing the theme of the exhibition entitled ‘Nature and Nurture’ and which stamp included the Gozo Boat.

A set of 5 Cards (all no. 66) with a common design but with different 2011 personalised stamps was issued for the GPS 12th Annual Exhibition and cancelled with a commemorative postmark. Cards were designed by Anthony Grech.



2012

MaltaPost issued a stamp depicting Comino and the GPS marked this issue by releasing a commemorative card (No. 71) on the 3rd



April with an illustration of a Gozo Boat. The card was designed by Anthony Grech.

For the occasion of the 13th Gozo Philatelic Society Exhibition, MaltaPost issued a special hand postmark designed by Anthony Grech. The hand postmark was used on GPS commemorative cards (No. 76-80) issued during the exhibition.

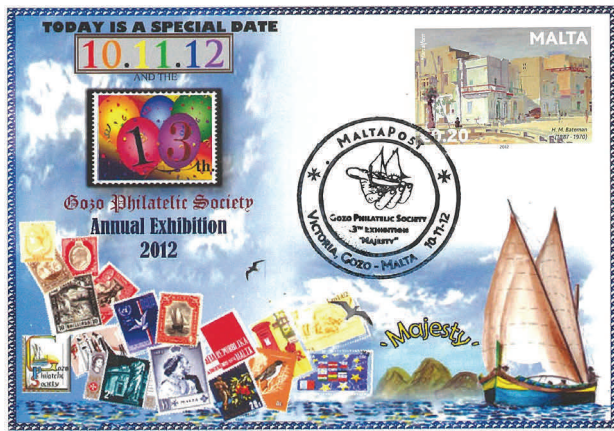
The GPS produced a special post card (No. B8) for the opening of the 13th annual exhibition, which happened to be the 10th of November. Using the traditional British (non-American) date notation, the numerical progression the date offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and furthermore it being the 13th annual exhibition it made it unique. The card featured the 1898 brown 4½d stamp and the 1926, 2s6d stamp both depicting the Gozo Boat and an illustration of a Gozo Boat on the right hand side.



2013

GPS issued a personalised stamp designed by Anthony Grech in November for the GPS 14th Annual Exhibition, featuring an illustration of a Gozo Boat inscribed with the theme of the exhibition entitled ‘Time & Themes’.

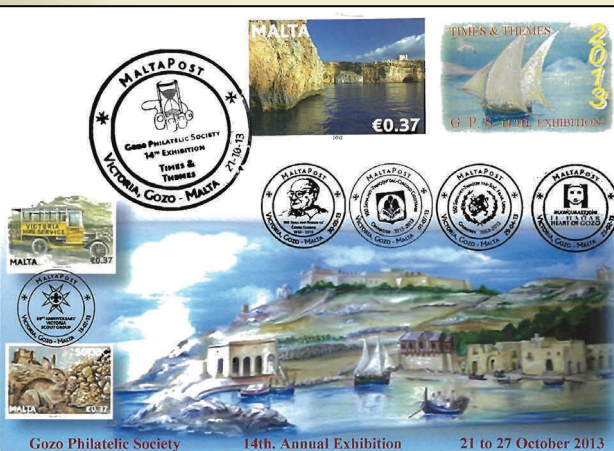
The personalised stamp was used on the commemorative card (No. 86) also issued for the GPS 14th Annual Exhibition issued on 21st October, depicting an illustration of Mgarr Harbour with a Gozo Boat. Stamp and card were designed by Anthony Grech.



2014

GPS issued a personalised stamp designed by Anthony Grech in November for the GPS 15th Annual Exhibition, featuring an illustration of a Gozo Boat inscribed with the theme of the exhibition entitled ‘Anniversaries and commemorations’.

For the occasion of the Gozo Philatelic Society 15th Exhibition, MaltaPost in collaboration with GPS issued a special hand postmark designed by Anthony Grech which was used on Friday 14 at the Victoria Post Office.



Gozo Philatelic Society 14th. Annual Exhibition 21 to 27 October 2013



2015

For the GPS 16th Annual Exhibition a commemorative card (No. 103) was released on 6th November. It depicted an illustration of the 1898 brown 4½ d depicting the Gozo Boat. The card was designed by Anthony Grech. For the Exhibition the GPS also released a set of 5 Cards two of which (Nos. 114 & 115) depict Gozo Boats. Cards were designed by Anthony Grech.



2016

For the GPS 17th Annual Exhibition a personalised stamps sheet was released by the society, one of the personalised stamps depicting a Gozo Boat and inscribed with the theme of the exhibition 'Sportmen & Not'. Personalised stamps were designed by Anthony Grech. MaltaPost in collaboration with GPS issued a special hand postmark designed by Anthony Grech illustrating

a Gozo Boat. The hand postmark was encircled with the words '17TH GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION – 'SPORTMEN & NOT' – 11-18 NOV 2016'

For the Exhibition the GPS also released a set of 5 Cards two of which (Nos. 114 & 115) depict Gozo Boats. Cards were designed by Anthony Grech.

2017

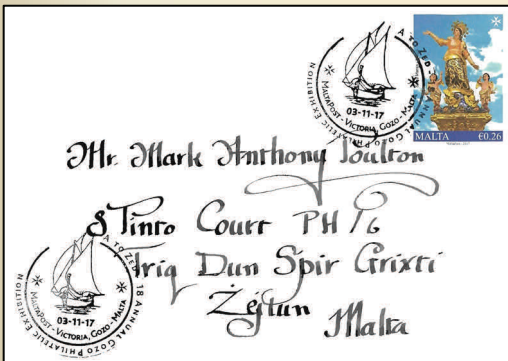
MaltaPost issued a special hand postmark in collaboration with the GPS for the occasion of the 18th GPS Annual exhibition entitled 'A to Zed'



GOZO PHILATELIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Hand postmark was used on Friday 3 November at the Post Office of Victoria Gozo.



2018

MaltaPost issued a special hand postmark in collaboration with the GPS for the occasion of the 19th GPS Annual exhibition. The handstamp was given from the Victoria Post Office on the first day of the exhibition, Friday 2 Novem-





ber 2018. The postmark depicts the Society's logo, while the commemorative postcard issued

by the GPS for the occasion was franked with a personalised stamp showing a pen and ink design of Mgarr Harbour as it looked in the 30's with the Gozo Bout arriving in port. The card, postmark and personalised stamp were designed by Anthony Grech.

2019



This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Gozo Philatelic Society. For this occasion a commemorative logo was designed by Anthony Grech, depicting the official GPS logo in the form of a stamp, on a background of the 3 bars representing the Gozo colours and encircled with the Society's name, the Malta Flag colours in the form of a shield, the coat of arms of Gozo and the words **1999-20TH. ANNIVERSARY- 2019.**

Bibliography;-

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Promoting Gozo through Philately

Gozo's Rotunda

One of the most prominent landmarks in Gozo is of course the monumental parish church in Xewkija: it can be seen from miles around - and its dome (with its 27 metre internal diameter, 85 metre circumference and 75 metre height) is considered as being in the world top three, or so, as far as size is concerned.

So it is not really surprising that it was included in the “Spectacular” Sepac set in 2018. And Camille Cassar should be congratulated

*St John the Baptist Rotunda
Xewkija*



Santa Maria della Salute, Venice



for such an impressive photo, among the winners in a national competition!

Xewkija has been a parish since 1678 (actually the first outside the capital) but this church is not that old. In fact it was built

to replace a, too small, one whose level of architecture can still be appreciated in the adjoining “Sculpture Museum”. This hall also hosts a lift to the dome, thus offering impressive views all around.

This new church (usually accepted as a bigger adaptation of Venezia’s *Santa Maria della Salute*) was designed by Maltese architect Ġużè Damato. The intention to aim at hugeness is immediately apparent: the dome, supported by eight



*Sculpture from the old church, now at the
Sculpture Museum*

stone-covered concrete columns, weighs some forty five thousand tons. The interior has Carrara marble on the floor and Pawlu Camilleri Cauchi paintings (and other fine decorations) on the walls – and, since 2016, a high-grade organ.

The foundation stone was laid in 1952, the official consecration taking place on 17 June 1978. One should note also that this project depended on Archpriest Ġużeppi Grech who, however, had an unusual tragic accident on 1971.

The bell-tower was only finished twenty years after this: the four “old” bells were used at first; now two are accompanied by a 2006 UK set, the others transported to the belfry (which uses the original Mikelangè Sapiano clock).

Archpriest Grech



Interestingly, the Rotunda was built around the old church so that the faithful continuously had a place of worship. The patron, of course, remained Saint John the Baptist – and, because of this, the Knights of Malta have created here their normal “home” in Gozo.

Architect D’Amato



As can be expected, the main *fešta* climaxes on the Sunday closest to 24 June (the liturgical solemnity of the Baptist’s birth) but the feast of his beheading is also celebrated – on 29 August. The National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands assesses this building as having high value and includes this description:

The gigantic Rotunda is set on a circular plan. The façade can be divided into three bays: the central bay flanking the main portal. gigantic plinths which to full length, with these enormous columns edges of the façade while the centre of form the the entire façade there is a Differentiating from the bay has a heavy cornice with a large segmented keystone on top. Above the bays, one finds a statue of an angel in the left bay and in the right the figure of Zacchary. Resting on top of the Corinthian capitals, there is a large frieze surmounted by a cornice and a triangular pediment on the central bay. A characteristic of this church is the gargantuan sized dome which embellishes the transept. In front of the large dome, there is another smaller dome.



and two lateral bays The façade is raised on support columns, which rise Corinthian capitals. Two of are statically placed at the the other two are placed in central bay. Running along blank entablature. two lateral bays, the central on top of the entablature arch and a prominent entablature of the lateral

Concluding, I note that some more information about this village can be found in “Isle of Joy”, the EcoGozo-sponsored book published by the Gozo Philatelic Society, which can be acquired by contacting the secretary.



Antoine Vassallo



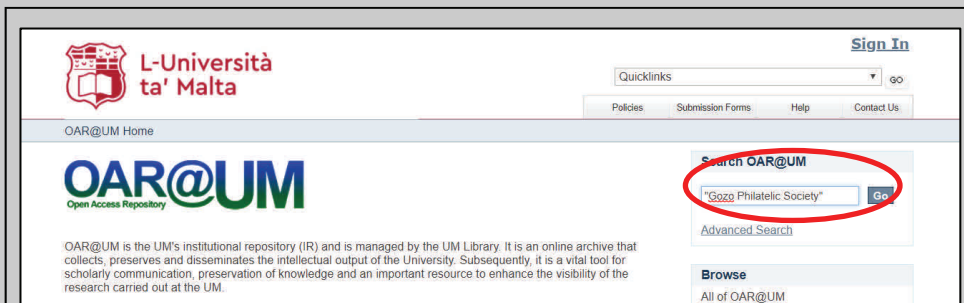
WE ARE
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The Gozo Philatelic Society is a Non-Governmental organization, founded on the 3rd September 1999 for ‘the promotion of hobby’, ‘the provision of a point of reference’, and ‘co-ordination’. Since 2000, the Gozo Philatelic Society has published a quarterly newsletter full of philatelic information and news.

OAR@UM is the Institutional Repository (IR) of the University of Malta managed by the Library. Serving as an online archive, OAR@UM has the aim of collecting, preserving and disseminating a variety of scholarly material produced under the auspices of the University of Malta. Furthermore, national intellectual output and cultural heritage are also being accepted for submission onto OAR@UM

The Gozo Philatelic Society has collaborated with the University of Malta's Library to place the GPS Newsletter on OAR@UM. This means that now the GPS through its Newsletter will be able to internationally showcase the research being done by the local philatelic community by enhancing visibility to this published material. Moreover access and discoverability of this research will result in the promotion of philately.

Both past and present GPS newsletters published, can be accessed through OAR@UM or through a simple Google search.



Searching on OAR@UM for specific issue

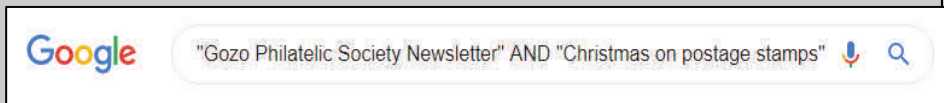
Access the OAR@UM portal though <https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/>
Make a search for the “Gozo Philatelic Society”

Searching for GPS Newsletter on Google

Searching on Google might be simpler but results may contain material not related to the GPS. Again NOTE that it is very important to place phrases in inverted commas (“ ”) when using search engines.



For more specific results use Boolean operator ‘AND’ together with subject required e.g. “Christmas on postage stamps”



Both searches will provide users with a list of items related to the GPS available on OAR@UM.

SEARCHING TIPS FOUND ON THE OAR@UM HELP INSTRUCTIONS PAGE CAN BE USED BOTH FOR OAR@UM AND FOR GOOGLE.



PHILATELIC CENTENNIALS

glances – and longer looks – at events from a hundred years ago presented by Antoine Vassallo. (22)

Batum: what's that?! (1919)



Batum was the name of a Black Sea town (now, as Batumi, the capital of the Georgian autonomous republic Adjara). While under Russian rule, local unrest served as an excuse for Turkey to enter in April 1918; they were followed by British troops in December,

who then did not leave before July 1920.

Since the stock of Russian stamps started to run out (and handstamp use is recorded 1), the Town Council produced by lithography its own stamps in April 1919. These were imperforate (and unwatermarked) and depicted an aloe tree.

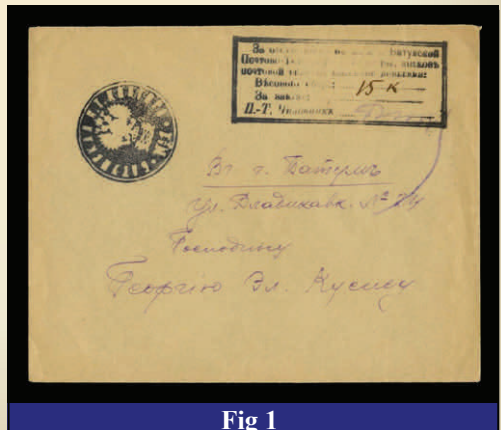


Fig 1



Fig 2

Fig 3

Fig 4

The inscription simply means "Batum Post". 2

Because of a strike by employees against the British military governor, the "civilian" postal service was placed under military control too. Six

different values were originally issued, from 5 kopeks to 5 roubles (with others added in the following months). Forgeries remain so numerous that they even reduce the value of genuines. 3



Fig 5

Fig 6



Fig 7

Forgeries also exist of the next stamps: surcharges on Russian stamps 4 (which are rarer) and the overprinted aloe design. 5

Overprinted revenues were produced too. 6

"Batum" stamps from the end of the twentieth century are considered to be spurious. 7

ERIN SARRACINO INGLOTT

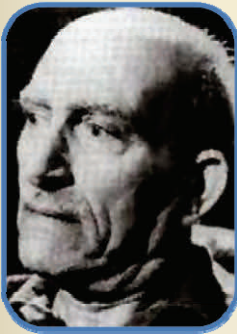
Anthony Grech

A Wedding invitation

A treasured item in the Gozo Philatelic Society's Collection is a complete with a gold seal 'NOZZE' wedding invitation of Erin Sarracino Inglott to Ms Leonilda Gatt that took place on 28 September 1933 in Cospicua, Malta. The invitation was sent to Maidstone Kent (UK). Postmarked with VALLETTA-MALTA / 5.30 PM/ SP 19/33. The Malta Study Circle registers this postmark as Type VAG-41a and was in use from 20/08/1931 to 15/11/1948.

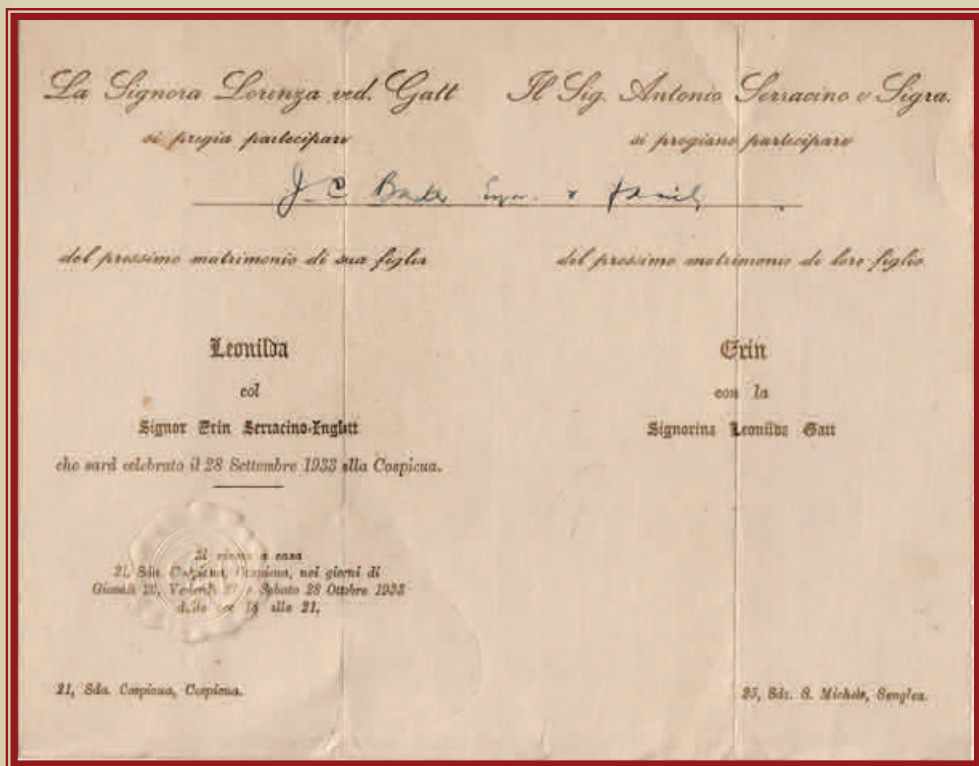


Erin was the son of Antonio and Pia Serracino Inglott.



He was born at Isla, 16 October 1904 and died on 22 August 1983. Erin was a playwright, poet, novelist, linguistic and philosopher. He studied at the Lyceum (1915-1920) and at the University of Malta and took Literature course (1921-1924). Since his youth was a book lover. He entered Civil Service (1927-1963) and served for a time as secretary of the University of Malta. When he got married the newly weds moved from Isla to Cospicua but During World War II the family moved for a time to Birkirkara. The Sarracino Inglott family had five children, three daughters and two sons. At Cospicua, Erin Serracino Inglott attended *The Literary and Debating Society*, which was completely cut off from political activities and whose

main purpose was to hold meetings on writing, literary movements and various other topics. Erin Sarracino Inglott could speak English, Italian, Latin, French, Spanish, German and Russian.



Erin Serracino Inglott had three main hobbies: language, chess and music. In Erin won many chess tournaments. In 1938 he went to Brighton to compete with the world champion. The game ended in a draw and this gave him courage to continue progressing on the road to success.

Although he spent many hours writing, he still found time for family, praying the rosary together, with family issues and also taking them swimming, provided what time he wants. It was nearing the end of writing the dictionary, *The Maltese Miklem*, when he died at the age of 78 years.



CELEBRITY PHILATELISTS

Antoine Vassallo highlights famous stampcollectors (13)

Stamps can act as temptations!

Born in 1911 in New Jersey, **John A. Fox** became interested in stamp dealing when just 12 and went on to become one of New York's most successful dealers during the 1950s and early 60s.

Unfortunately his defective character led to divorce, as well as tax problems. The result was the sale of his stock on behalf of his creditors (his debts neared two million dollars) on 3 January 1974 – which highlighted a considerable number of fraudulent covers!



Figure 1: Binghamton herringbone grid ties a genuine 1847 5¢ stamp but the markings and the address are fakes.

Creighton C. Hart, a specialist in United States stamps who participated in that sale, recorded specific details of nine of the very attractive 1847 covers offered. He noticed that stamps were perfect and postmarks and cancellations clearly struck. Hart purchased one (Figure 1) to submit to the Philatelic Foundation: their opinion stated that “all the postal markings are counterfeit”. Collectors and dealers decided this auction was too risky and prices realized were surprisingly low!

Fox had already been censured in 1966 by the American Stamp Dealers Association, of which he had even been president in 1952-53. He was expelled both from ASDA and from the American Philatelic Society (vaguely for “unethical conduct and conduct unbecoming a member”). However Fox continued to hold



Figure 2: Confederate cover with genuine stamps and address but the Alexandria (Louisiana) postmarks are fake.



Figure 3: Genuine 1857 10¢ stamp but markings are forgeries.

auctions of philatelic material until a few months before he died in June 1988 (in New York).

Details of the system used by this negative celebrity would make this article too technical and complicated. But I am showing additional examples of Fox’s “art”.



Figure 4: Two genuine stamps on a cover from Philadelphia to Virginia but both postmarks are forgeries.



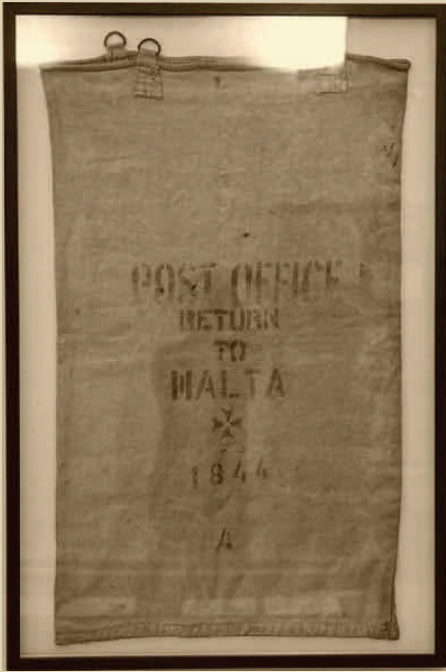
Figure 5: Confederate patriotic envelope on which a genuine 1857 stamp is tied by a forged datestamp.



Figure 6: Stunning cover with a pair of genuine 1847 5¢ stamps (probably with pen cancels removed) and forged markings.



Figure 7: A pen cancel was removed from the otherwise genuine 1847 10¢ stamp but markings and postmarks are forgeries.



1844 MALTA MAIL SACK

John De Battista

A curious exhibit during this year's Maltex Exhibition was a Post Office sack from 1844 which comes from the private collection of Mr Jesmond Borg. Visitors raised a number of questions about it and here I attempt to give a little background information to hopefully clear some of them.

In 1844, Inland and Foreign mail services were still two distinct setups from one another. The Island Post Office being run by Mr Vincenzo Mamo (1838-1849) was entrusted with the handling of local mail, while the Packet Agency which was under the direction of Mr Richard J. Bouchier (who was the Packet Agent from 1828 up to *circa* 1835) handled foreign mail.

The Packet Agency was located at what was previously the 'Banca Giuratale' at 197 Strada Mercanti (Merchant Street) Valletta. It had moved to these premises in 1841, from the 'Casino Maltese' located in Strade Reale (Republic Street) which incidentally is the place where 'Maltex 2018 Exhibition itself is held. The latter premises still remained the building from which the Island Post Offices operated from up to 1849. From that year even the Island Post Office moved to the ex Banca Giuratale building, when both post offices were amalgamated under the direction of H.M. Packet Agent.

The preface to the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843 confirmed the importance of Malta as a communication centre in the middle of the nineteenth century;-

"Since 1837, our paquebots from Levant have chosen the Island of Malta for the dividing line for the regions declared suspect by the sanitary rules and where navigation takes place under free licence. For its part England has carried on from the same point two lines of paquebots, one leaving every month also, from Falmouth and touching Gibraltar, the other leaving every month also, from Marseilles and Alexandria ad carrying correspondence from the East Indies passing through France. These different combinations make the Island very important from the point of view of postal relations in the Mediterranean waters"

There exists a likely possibility that use of these particular mail sacks

came into being as a consequence and following the signing of the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843 jus quoted.

One telltale that the sack belonged to the Packet Agency can be arrived at from visible information on the sack itself, as it records that it was the property of the Malta Post Office. The year 1844 is an outright proof that the sack could not have originally belonged to the recognized Post Office as in that year the two postal services were still not combined together under the direction of Mr Richard J. Bourchier. However, the possibility that the sacks were still in use post1849 following the amalgamation and reorganization of the Maltese postal services remains.


The fact that the sack is being requested to be returned to Malta is another pointer that they must have commissioned to be used to transport mail outside of these islands by the Packet Agency. This marking further clarifies that it was not intended as a single use transportation sack, but was to be recycled and made use as required between the Malta Post Office and foreign postal authorities.

The size and four-loop ‘hanging’ configuration of the mail sack shows that it was designed with the intention to enable easy use and handling during filling, weighing and transportation all the way from the Packet Agency, on board the steam transporting mail vessel and beyond in mind.

TECHNICAL DETAILS;-

Material	Sail cloth
Loop durability	Metal D-Rings
<u>PROTECTORS;</u>	
Length of Sack	96.00 cm
Breadth of Sack	57.00 cm
Tapered loop sizes	5.0x2.0 top 3.0 bottoms cms
<u>Distance between loops</u>	
27cms top	25cms bottom

LETTERING;-

POST OFFICE	7.5x3.5 cms
RETURN	4.0x16.0 cms
TO	3.5x5.0cms
MALTA	5.0x18.5cms
	5.0x5.0cms
1844	4.0x12.5cms
A	4.0x3.0cms

NOTE

The first time that this Sack was on show was at the Gozo Philatelic Society 2017 Exhibition. It is now on show at the Malta Postal Museum, Valletta.

19th AGM (20/1/2019) - Secretary's Report



Again, I have the happy duty to inform you about these 12 months since our last AGM:

At the first Committee meeting following the 18th AGM, posts were agreed. Five further formal meetings were held to prepare our various activities and discuss plans.

The 19th Annual GPS Exhibition was held in the Gozo Ministry Halls in November with a formal Opening on the 2nd and dismantling on the 9th. The level was high and the variety of exhibits made it most interesting. We continued with the “international” schemes introduced in the last edition. Prizes (including those sponsored by MaltaPost), certificates and medals are being distributed today. In spite of a sustained effort, school involvement is still unsatisfactory! However we are developing a relationship with San Lawrenz primary school.



Anthony Grech designed a personalized stamp for the Exhibition cover and handstamp, again offered by MaltaPost as part of our strong relationship. As our resident designer, he prepared covers - or even the handstamp itself - whenever the opportunity arose (sometimes in collaboration with other bodies): Sepac (three), Nadur titular statue and Xaghra *Bambin* stamps and Astra anniversary, Nuncio Alfred Xuereb, *Hajja f'Ghawdex* and *Milied f'Ghawdex* commemorative handstamps (the last as a Christmas Card sent to members).

Our *Il-Hagar* showcase has seen regular replacements of the temporary mini exhibitions (sometimes within Gozo Ministry initiatives) and has continually attracted positive comments. A new one (for the Diocesan Marian Year) is being formally inaugurated this morning. We also continued to

collaborate with other organizations, such as again exhibiting during the Qala International Folk Festival and running sessions at the Don Bosco Oratory Summer Club. The Society - and individual members – again took part in this year’s Maltex.

Details about all this (and much more) are given in our quarterly Newsletter, for which Junior and new contributors are ardently invited to send letters and articles. Anthony included two Malta catalogue updates this year. Our Facebook page offers some coverage too but we do need to identify individuals who can offer some time for updating the Website.

Besides the regular series of articles about saints on Malta stamps for the *Farag* national periodical, we grasp all similar opportunities to thematically publicize stampcollecting. I mention surveys in the *Xewkija* periodical and the *Crib Society* journal. Moreover, quite a few local and foreign publications again featured our society and productions. Attractive leaflets are available for distribution as publicity for our society.

Wolfgang Juncker continues to send more material and an expatriate donated a nice assortment of cards from the early 20th century. We are happy to receive donations of stamps and periodicals (not exclusively from members) - and actually have an increasing range of philatelic publications for free perusal and loan.

Regularly my report has referred to the monthly meetings hosted at Victoria Scout Group HQ, thanks to the administration’s cooperation. I must change this today! In fact, as announced at the Exhibition opening, we have our own HQ – within the collaboration between GPS and GDH, which also includes plans for a fully-fledged philatelic shop in Gozo. The room at the top of Main Gate Street will become increasingly useful for meetings and as the site for our library and the Juncker collection. I actually hope this convenient location will encourage other donations!

How could we have entered our twentieth year more encouragingly?! The incoming Committee will certainly have a lot to prepare and enact!

Antoine Vassallo - Secretary



Anthony Grech



Based mainly on Stanley Gibbons Catalogues.
 Abbreviations; Op.=Overprint or Overprinted.
 Ins.= Inscribed, Sur.=Surcharged
 Prot=Protectorate

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF...				
 HONG KONG Op. JAPAN STAMPS 1975		 MALAYA Op. STRAIT SETTLEMENTS STAMPS 1942		 NORTH BORNEO Op. N. Borneo Stamps 1942
 PHILIPPINES Op. Philippines Stamps 1942		 SARAWAK Op. Sarawak Stamps 1942		 JAPANESE P. O. IN CHINA Op. Japan Stamps 1900
 JASDAN 1942		 JHALAWAR 1887		 JIND 1874
 JORDAN Op. Palestine Stamps 1920		 JORDAN OWN ISSUE 1927		 JOHORE Op. Strait Settlements Stamps 1876
 JORDANIAN Occupation of Palestine 1948		 JUBALAND O.P. Italy Stamps 1925		 JOHORE Own issue 1904
 KAMPUCHEA 1980				



KATANGA
O.P. Belgian
Congo Stamps
1960



KATANGA
Own issue
1961



**KAZA
KHESTAN**
1992



KEDAH
1912



KELANTAN
1911



KENYA
1963



**KENYA UGANDA
TANGANYIKA**
1903



**KHMER
REPUBLIC**
1971



KHOR FAKKAN
1965



KIAUTSCHOU
Ins.. Germany
Stamps
1901



KIONGA
Op. "REPUBLICA" & Srg
"KIONGA" On Portugal
Stamps
1916



**KING EDWARD
VII LAND**
Op N. Zealand
Stamps
1908



KIRIBATI
1979



KISHANGARH
1899



**KOREA
EMPIRE**
1884



KOREA SOUTH
SUR. JAPAN
STAMPS
1946



**KOREA
NORTH**
1946



KOUANG TCHEOU
Op. FRENCH INDO
CHINA STAMPS
1906



REMBRANDT'S ARTISTIC PHILATELY towards the 350th death anniversary (5) Antoine Vassallo



Liberia issued numerous stamps and miniature sheets in 2006 for Rembrandt's four hundredth birth anniversary. I highlight a self-portrait from 1634: an Oil on oak, sized 58 x 48 cm, at Berlin's *Staatliche Museen*. At twenty-eight, well established in Amsterdam, Rembrandt presents himself in rich, romantic attire. He had just married Saskia (well-born but not yet wealthy): his expression fuses resignation and expectation.

In 1949 **Liechtenstein** became the second country to reproduce a Rembrandt on its stamps. A set of nine paintings by famous artists, printed by Courvoisier, included this self-portrait (though certain experts are uncertain) in a plumed hat from 1635 or slightly later. This oil on wood (91 x 72 cm) is in a private collection in England.



The Democratic **Malagasy** Republic in 1986 showed some paintings housed in the Hermitage Museum (St Petersburg), including "David and Uriah" which Rembrandt produced in 1665. An Oil on canvas, its size is 127 x 117 cm.



Rembrandt's biblical canvases show a search for ways to present the time of the action through the means of painting. From wild Baroque gesticulation he gradually moves to focus on the main elements: composition, lighting, and colour. The bloody crimson cloak, together with flashes of light on the face and hands enable us to sense the approach of his dramatic end.

Most critics agree that the artist did intend portraying this well-known episode in chapter 11 of the second Book of Samuel; others prefer thinking of Haman (in the book of Esther).



The **Maldives** issued in 1994 numerous stamps and miniature sheets reproducing paintings by Rembrandt (together with others by Henri Matisse). This Oil on canvas (126 x 167 cm) is a Family Group from the last years of his life, exhibited in Brunswick's *Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museum*.

It is in his very bold late manner: the paint applied in broad strokes and the surface texture built up with both the brush and palette knife. However in the faces there is a more careful build-up of layers of paint, through the use of small brushes to describe the details of features. There is, as in many of his late works, a concentration upon essentials. Unfortunately the family featured has not been identified.



One of the Easter stamps issued by **Mali** in 1981 reproduces "Christ Resurrected" painted by Rembrandt in about 1661. This oil on canvas, incorrectly captioned "Ecce Homo", can be viewed in Munich (at the *Alte Pinakothek* of the *Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen*).

The Islamic Republic of **Mauritania** issued its first Rembrandt set in 1980, with the miniature sheet including "The Polish Rider" from about 1655. This Oil on canvas (115 x 135 cm) was only discovered in 1897 and bought soon after by steel magnate Henry Frick for the "Frick Collection" in New York.

The precise subject remains a matter of debate. It has been interpreted as an allegorical portrait of the Christian knight defending Christendom against the infidel; alternatively, it is a portrait of one of the young Polish aristocrats who studied at Dutch universities in the seventeenth century. The three-quarter length coat (buttoned from neck fitting red trousers and the with swords, bows and are quite consistent with Hungarian) horseman. The possibly made from bridle. The background is, broadly painted in dark of this picture was *Lisowczyk*, meaning a mercenary soldier under the command of Alexander Lisowski. Because of its late discovery, not everyone agrees with this attribution - but the imaginative power and bravura brushwork do point to a master!



to waist), the cap, the tight-calf-length boots, together arrows and war hammer, his being a Polish (or even horse itself has a *kutaz*, horsehair, attached to the on the other hand, very tones. The old Polish title

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