



Mr. Anthony Fenech

Vice-President Malta Philatelic Society
Member of The Royal Philatelic Society London

Tributes to **Anthony (Tony) Fenech**

*Obituary appearing in the:
(Malta) Times, Monday, October 2, 2006.*

A. Bonnici
President,
Malta Philatelic Society

Tony, as we all fondly called him, passed peacefully away in London on September 23, comforted by the rites of Holy Church while attending Stampex 2006.

Tony was first of all very much of a family man, endowing his family with love and devotion, ensuring their well-being. He was indeed a beloved husband and father. He was an extremely intelligent, humble man, without any airs and graces, quiet, calm, serene, with a unique sense of humour, always having a good word for everybody.

A first-class educator, with a passion for meticulous detail, very much sought after as a mathematics teacher, his students obtaining the highest grades in O and A level mathematics, instrumental in reforming the mathematics curriculum in Malta, serving, as an indefatigable and scrupulous teacher at St Theresa Grammar School and the Junior Lyceum. He later became head of the Prof. Ġużè Galea Secondary School Qormi, standing no nonsense from any quarter, firm but humane in his approach to students and teachers under his jurisdiction, which, coupled with a smile and a twinkle in his eye, immediately disarmed the most hardened individual. He was loved and held in very high esteem by his students, teachers and the Ministry of Education.

I have known Tony since we were 12-14 years old, meeting at Santon's, the stamp dealer in Old Bakery Street, where from that early age he collected Great Britain stamps used in Malta. Over the years his knowledge of philately became profound, developing a special love for Maltese postal history. After the demise of John Mercieca, he replaced him on the Stamp Advisory Board, where his postal knowledge, constant advice and attention to detail was sought, greatly welcomed and appreciated.

He was one of the founder members of the Malta Philatelic Society which was inaugurated in April 1966, contributing regularly to our journal (Postal Diary) and other researched philatelic articles. He was nominated to represent us at the Federation Internationale de Philatelie, winning several large vermeil medals for his exhibits both in Malta and at FIP exhibitions abroad, becoming one of the pillars of our Philatelic Society.

The yearly philatelic exhibition, Maltex, started in 1959, was his idea and remained under his constant direction, always seeking new ideas, and ways how to improve on previous exhibitions. He was held in very high esteem in philatelic circles both in Malta and overseas and in 2002, was elected member of “The Royal Philatelic Society of London”.

Before leaving for London on the 21st, he had sent me the final draft of the Maltex 2006 programme, informing me that he had finalised all the negotiations with all parties concerned.

In spite of his demise, Maltex 2006 will be held this year in his honour, because he had given it birth, worked very hard for it, and had it very much at heart. The Malta Philatelic Society committee was convinced that he would want us to go ahead. On behalf of the Malta Philatelic Society, I would like to convey to his wife Gemma, to his children and their families our most profound condolences.

May God grant him eternal rest.

Dying in His Boots

Mr Joseph Abdilla
Mqabba

Letter in the:
(Malta) Sunday Times, October 1, 2006

I missed the obituary notices in The Sunday Times of September 24, but at 9 o'clock a telephone call alerted me to the disturbing news: Tony Fenech had passed away while in London!

I was speechless: I had talked to Tony a few days earlier when he was just back from a philately exhibition in Italy.

I came to know Tony at Gużè Galea Secondary School in Qormi: he was its first headteacher in the early 1990s. We worked very closely together and I still treasure the memories and the experience learned.

Malta has lost a very humane and humble maths teacher of long experience, an able administrator and a prudent and expert philatelist. May his legacy live on.

United in prayer, I salute his dear family and relatives.



In loving memory
of
Anthony Fenech
who passed away
on the 23rd September 2006
to meet the Risen Lord.

A beloved husband and father to;
Gemma,
Joe and his wife Vicky
and daughter Charmaine,
Eve,
Pierre,
other relatives and friends.

May he rest in peace
Amen



*Dear Tony,
Dear Dad,*

*Thank you for your endless help
Thank you for your advices
over the years.
Thank you for your kindness
and support.
Above all, Thank you for your
constant love and devotions
you gave us.
We always loved you and keep
on loving you.
Thank you Jesus, for giving him
to us.*

*Press Release details from Malta Post
Appreciation to Anthony Fenech
6/10/2006*

Joseph Gafà
Chief Executive Officer
Maltapost plc

The unexpected demise of philatelist Anthony Fenech some days ago leaves a gap in both local and international philatelic circles, which will not easily be filled.

Mr Fenech's death will be felt primarily by his family, to whom he was totally devoted, but it will also be felt by all his colleagues at Maltapost, particularly in the Philatelic Bureau, by his fellow members on the Stamp Design Advisory Board, and by his fellow committee members of the Philatelic Society.

I have absolutely no hesitation in describing Anthony Fenech as a point of reference in philatelic circles, both locally and abroad. His meticulous research, for which he was justifiably renowned, was always greatly appreciated in international fora. In what I can only describe as a distinguished philatelic career, Anthony Fenech was frequently called upon to contribute to local and international philatelic gatherings.

As far as Maltapost is concerned, I can state without hesitation that Anthony Fenech was always on hand to offer assistance and suggestions on our philatelic activities, and his advice helped in no small way for the Malta stamp to be sought after and appreciated both locally and in International philatelic circles. His detailed essay entitled **STAMPING OUR MARK ON THE WORLD**, meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated, for the Maltapost Accession Album, contains a wealth of philatelic and postal information about the Maltese Islands.

Also worthy of mention are his regular articles in **THE PSM JOURNAL**, the quarterly magazine of the Philatelic Society. Anthony Fenech was also one of the hard-working members of the Society who gave his best to ensure the success of the annual **MALTEX** philatelic exhibition.

Anthony Fenech passed away in London whilst attending **STAMPEX**, an annual appointment which he never missed.

Malta, Maltapost and the philatelic community mourn the demise of a philatelist, a colleague, and above all, a true gentleman. Not many can step into his shoes.

Anthony Fenech

JOSEPH GAFÀ

Chief Executive Officer

Maltapost pla

Apprezzament:

Fil-Mument – il-Hadd, 22 ta' Ottubru, 2006

Il-mewt għall-għarrieda tal-filatelista magħruf is-Sur Anthony Fenech f'it granet ilu se thalli vojt f'oqsma filatelici, kemm lokali kif ukoll internazzjonali, li mhux faċli jimtela malajr.

In-nuqqas tas-Sur Fenech se jinhass primarjament mill-familja tieghu, imma daqstant iehor se jinhass lokalment mill-hbieb kollha fil-Maltapost, partikolarment fil-*Bureau* Filateliku, mill-kollegi tieghu membri ta' l-*Stamp Design Advisory Board*, u mill-kollegi l-ohrajn membri tal-kumitat tas-Socjetà Filatelika ta' Malta.

Ma niddejjaqx niddekrivi lil Anthony Fenech bhala 'ggant' f'oqsma filatelici, kemm lokalment kif ukoll barra minn Malta. Ir-ricerka metikoluza li kien magħruf għaliha dejjem intlaqghet tajjeb f'fora internazzjonali u tul karriera distinta f'dan il-qasam, kemm-il darba kien mistieden biex jagħti kontribut tieghu f'diversi pajjiżi.

Fir-rigward tal-*Maltapost*, ngħid bla tlaqliq li dejjem sibna fih għajnuna bla limitu u l-pariri siewja tieghu swew hafna biex il-bolla Maltija tkun fuq quddiem nett fost filatelisti sew Maltin u barranin. Anthony Fenech kien dejjem lest biex jghin, basta jara l-filatelija ġejja 'l quddiem. Ma ninsew qatt l-artiklu eċċezzjonali tieghu *Stamping Our Mark on the World* għall-*Maltapost Accession Album*, tagħrif dwar l-istorja filatelika u postali tal-Gżejjer Maltin li għadu jissemma sa llum.

U xi ngħidu għall-artikoli regolari tieghu fir-rivista *The PSM Journal*, li tohrog is-Socjetà Filatelika? Kien jirsisti wkoll biex ta' kull sena tittella' l-wirja annwali tas-Socjetà.

Anthony Fenech halliena waqt li kien qed jattendi għall-wirja filatelika *Stampex* f'Londra, appuntament li qatt ma kien jitlef.

Malta, il-*Maltapost* u d-dinja filatelika tilfu filatelist, kollega u, fuq kollox, bniedem gentlom. Ma tantx se nsibu bhalu.

More than a Headmaster

Ms M.D. Baldacchino

and all former colleagues,

Ġużè Galea Boys' Secondary School,
Qormi

Letter in the:

(Malta) Sunday Times, October 22

It took me some time to write because, even though I have lost special family members, the short text message on a quiet Saturday morning left me grief-stricken.

For Mr Anthony Fenech was more than a professional headmaster. As one of his teaching staff for six years, there was so much in him to be admired. All those who knew him when he was entrusted with running Ġużè Galea Boys Secondary School in Qormi (St George) appreciate the excellent job he carried out in transforming the school from a trade to a secondary for boys. It was sheer dedication! He was to be found on the premises as early as 7 a.m. and left much later than tea-time!

What struck me most about this wonderful man was his humane attitude towards all those around him, whether staff, students or parents. We used to go to him for advice like children go to their father - and he was always there for all, wise and kind.

So much can be said about Mr Fenech and memories will surely remain with us who still work at Qormi. His continuous advice of "*hobbuhom l-istudenti*" (love your students) and "*Żommu l-istaff magħqud*" (keep the staff united) is looked upon as a legacy he left to the school he loved and worked so dearly for.

Rest, dear headmaster and friend. We believe you are reaping the abundant fruit of a life which was very much based on His teachings. Our heartfelt condolences to the family he loved so much.

Anthony Fenech

Letter in the:

(Malta) The Sunday Times, October 1, 2006

MR RAY VELLA, headmaster of Maria Assunta Girls Secondary School, writes:

DEATH is a subject that ordinarily makes one introspective rather than be moved into writing, but I am obliged to publicly salute Anthony Fenech, a great stalwart in the teaching profession who has passed away suddenly while abroad, and to acknowledge his contributions to the education system.

To a lot of students now in adulthood, Mr Fenech will be remembered for his fine mathematical abilities and for imparting the subject with zest and dedication. He was an outstanding reference person at St Theresa Grammar School and later, Junior Lyceum. He was indefatigable and scrupulous in all he put his mind to.

I was privileged to work closely with him in administration, where I knew him to be strong in headship, a firm hand but with a great heart for the students at Ġużè Galea Boys Secondary in Qormi, where he was greatly respected and loved. I have seen the school move from strength to strength under his leadership.

He was a meticulous time-tabler and loved the challenge of planning the school schedule as a paper and pencil exercise to the detail. Today's computerised version was substantially created from his copious notations. When it was time to leave the service he found it difficult to leave all behind, knowing that he would miss it all.

Many would also know Anthony Fenech in the world of philately where he was an acknowledged international authority. I would leave this to someone else, more knowledgeable than I, who can elaborate on his contribution to postal history and stamp collecting.

One can only take heart from carrying the good example of a dear mentor and from plenty of fond memories in having set goals together and worked towards them as a team.

To his wife Gemma, to his children, my deepest condolences. He will be remembered fondly as an educator and a gentleman.

Tribute to Philately Expert

A. Pavia
Tarxien

Letter in the:
(Malta) Sunday Times, October 15

Mr Anthony Pavia on behalf of the Stamp Design Advisory Board.

Much has already been written about Anthony Fenech, who died so unexpectedly in London while attending the Stampex Exhibition, and the members of the Stamp Design Advisory Board also wish to pay tribute to their colleague.

Tony was an authority on philately in general and on Maltese philately in particular, a veritable walking encyclopedia on all aspects of stamp design. His advice and comments during our deliberations were authoritative and treasured by us all. He was cheerful and a pleasure to know, always ready to share his experiences and to contribute to our discussions which, as a result, have helped to produce Malta sets of such high merit.

He was also well known overseas and a true ambassador of Malta among the international stamp dealers and collectors at the various exhibitions that he attended.

His unique collection of stamps covered a wide range of subjects and reflected his great dedication and his vast knowledge of postal history. This was amply shown by his contribution to the recently published Maltapost publication *The Malta Stamp Collection 1964 - 2004* and his erudite contribution "Stamping our mark on the world" which introduced this publication.

The board will miss his advice and his friendly personality and will honour his memory.

*Opening of Maltex
2005:
Dr. A. Bonnici;
Mr. A. Pavia,
Mr. T. Fenech
and Mr. H. Wood.*



Anthony Fenech

CARMEL BEZZINA

Balzan

Letter in the:

Malta Independent, 11/10/2006

The unexpected passing away of Anthony Fenech, better known as Tony among friends and colleagues, bereft us of a true friend and a gentleman. We worked closely together as members of the editorial board of the bi-monthly publication *Hal Balzan* since its inception in the 1970s. This village publication, so rich in historical information about our native village, was an initiative of the then Balzan Civic Committee, which had its seat at the St Gabriel Band Club. Tony contributed to this publication and was very appreciative of the efforts and good work of his close collaborators.

I admired Tony for his enthusiasm and the way he gave his best in all that he undertook. He was a teacher by profession and dedicated his lifetime to education. Numerous students succeeded in making it in their 11+ exam in maths through his efforts and hard work. But Tony was not simply a mathematics teacher; he was also a mathematician. His hard work and professionalism, however, can be seen at their best in the way he pursued his life-long passion: philately.

A member of two commissions within the International Federation of Philately and the Malta Study Circle of London and Germany, Tony's collection of the Malta postal history earned him international renown.

He was an elected member of The Royal Philatelic Society of London and contributed in the prestigious *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and *Stamp Magazine*. Tony was proud of his native Balzan and of all that pertained to the village.

I can vividly remember the way he was enthused when I approached him about my idea of having a special postmark on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the setting up of the Balzan parish last year. He made the necessary contacts with Maltapost to set up a temporary branch near the old parish church of the Annunciation in Three Churches Street on the morning of 14 August 2005, the anniversary of the parish foundation, for the sale of the commemorative envelope.

I can also remember his satisfaction at having succeeded in seeing the Emvin Cremona painting of the Annunciation in the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary featured in the 16c stamp of the Christmas set of last year.

With his typical unpretentiousness, Tony accepted my request to contribute a short appreciation of last year's anniversary from a philatelic perspective to be included in the commemorative booklet which I edited.

May you rest in peace, dear Tony, and heartfelt condolences to your dear wife, children and relatives.

*Treasured and unfading memories
of*

Anthony Fenech

*a dear friend and colleague whose philatelic
knowledge and contribution will surely
be missed by the Philatelic Community
and by
the Management of the Philatelic Bureau
of Maltapost*

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Issued by the Philatelic Bureau of Malta Post

In Memory of a Dear Friend

Anton V Said - President Gozo Philatelic Society

Newsletter

July/September 2006, Issue No. 25, 3/2006.

On Monday 25th September ran wide the sad news that Anthony Fenech, better known to us Gozitan philatelists as Tony had passed away quite unexpectedly while he was on one of his usual visits in England to visit the Stampex.

This bitter news threw everyone who knew him and who worked with him especially in the philatelic sector in a shocking state of distress.

As for myself I have known Tony since 1957 when we were colleagues as student teachers at St Michael's Training College and later as fellow heads of schools when we used to meet during conferences and meetings held for heads.

Tony was well-known amongst his fellow colleagues in the education department as a man of principle, hardworking, conscientious and a very reliable person.

In the philatelic sector he was a real expert in the matter. He was our society's consultant and advisor since the first day of its existence.

He contributed in no small way by his expert advice and encouraging support for our society to move forward and develop.

Tony was one of the pillars of the Malta Philatelic Society and occupied the prestigious post as design consultant and advisor for new stamp issues with the Maltapost. He had left behind a legacy to all philatelic enthusiasts which will never die.

Tony you will always remain in our hearts. Our sincere condolences in this hour of deep sorrow go to your family and all you relatives and friends.

*Card issued
in memory of
Mr. T. Fenech
by Mr. A. Attard.*

LIL
TONY FENECH
MINN HAL BALZAN
ESPERT TAL-FILATELLIA
LI HALI BEN A
FTT-23 TA' SETTE FENBRI, 2006.
MIBKI MINN NIESI, QARABU
I HBIEBU KOLLHA

Missier, ghallem, gentom, raġel minn tagħna,
qalbu fidejji u għelm il-fibberja,
ma tati jgħid le, bis-sabar kien jsmagħna
u iġha w'ik it-tibissima ferreġja

Duqis hutu jew talledu kien jistmana,
pari saewja jagħti bla l-umja,
għali l-għerf f'ogħra gud u l-akbar għana
li ma' kulhadd kien jaqsmu bla stennja.

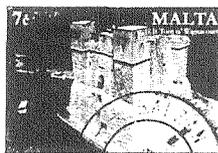
Hastra hassajna meta l-baru smajna,
li Tony l-habib tagħna kien halliena,
għax telta kbira bhalla fit wisq rajna.

U tilef Għawdex, tilet l-art Malta
u rifu wkoll daww kollha llum sogħbiena,
"ma tilet l-Eżjed ik... Filatela"

31/08/2006 ANTON V. SAID

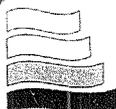


Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
At Our Lady of Ta' Pinn Shrine, Għarb, Gozo
For the repose of the Soul and in Memory of
ANTHONY FENECH
A Great Philatelist and a Sincere Friend.
Celebrant Rev. Fr. Gerard Buhagiar,
Chaplain of the Gozo Philatelic Society.
Saturday 11 November 2006



Anthony Fenech at Victoria, Gozo on 17-10-2003 with an Elizabethan pillar letterbox at St. Francis Square.

Anthony Fenech at Victoria, Gozo on 17/10/2003 with an Elizabethan pillar letterbox at St. Francis Square. Private card issued by Mr. George Vella.



STUDIO 4 GEORGE VELLA
56/53 REPUBLIC STR.,
VICTORIA VCT 103,
GOZO, MALTA.
TEL. [00356] 21552912

Anthony Fenech

STUDIO 4 CREATION cards would like to give tribute to a great Maltese Philatelist, who passed away in London on 23rd September 2006, wept by his dear family, friends and the Maltese, Gozitan and international circle of philatelists. Never forgotten for his services and sincere advice in philately, a great contributor to Maltese philately.

The funeral was held on Saturday 30th September 2006, at Ħa Balzan, Malta.

Photo, graphic & design by GEORGE VELLA

Lament

*Sorrowful news I got to know,
A dear friend I see no more,
A sole heart broken to the core,
That friendship now never to grow.*

*Pity me not for I am blank,
Herald out all my mournful rhyme,
That travel to the end of time,
The grief I bear departed friend.*

George Vella - dedicated to dear Tony

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Appreciation

Philatelic Exporter:

With deep regret we have to report the demise of our great friend Anthony Fenech better known as Tony, which happened in London during the last Autumn Stampex which is one of the various Exhibitions we used to attend together.

Mr. Fenech's death will be felt primarily by his family to whom he was totally devoted, but will also be felt by all his friends in the philatelic world. I have no hesitations in describing Anthony as point of reference in philatelic circles, both locally and abroad. His meticulous research, for which he was renowned, was always greatly appreciated by all.

The philatelic world especially in Malta is surely going to miss various contributions to philately. He was one of the founder members of the Malta Philatelic Society, which was founded in 1966 in which he was Vice President, member of the Maltapost Stamp Design Advisory Board, the Philatelic Society of London, the Malta Study Circle in U.K. and Germany and other various Societies.

The Malta Stamp Exhibition – Maltex-, which started to be held in Malta in 1999, was his idea and he used to contribute a lot in the organization of this Exhibition. Unfortunately he had to miss the 2006 Exhibition by a few days.

His various contributions in compiling the JB Catalogue of Malta Stamps and Postal History and to the Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society are surely going to be missed.

We would like to convey to his wife Gemma and her family our most profound condolences.

Joseph Buttigieg

John Curtin

*Mr. T. Fenech and
Mr. J. Buttigieg at
Stampex 2005*

