

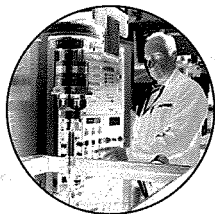
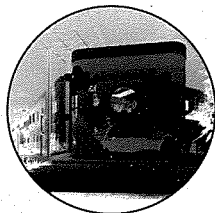
**THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY (Malta)**

**THE PSM JOURNAL**

Vol. 29/2

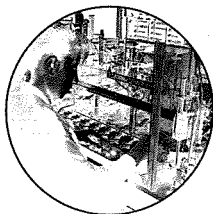
**MILLENNIUM ISSUE  
ARCHPRIEST CASSAR – PART THREE**

August, 2000



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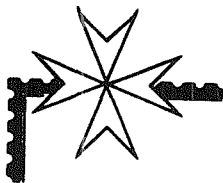
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# THE PSM JOURNAL

Silver-Bronze ESPANA '84 & AUSIPEX '84  
Silver-Bronze ISRAPHIL '85 & PHILTEMA '85  
Silver STOCKHOLMIA '86  
Editor: Dr A Bonnici, K.M., M.D.  
Casa Bonnici, Sir Augustus Bartolo Street,  
Ta' Xbiex, Malta.  
Tel: 338437 Fax: 339338

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ARCHPRIEST CASSAR – PART THREE

August, 2000

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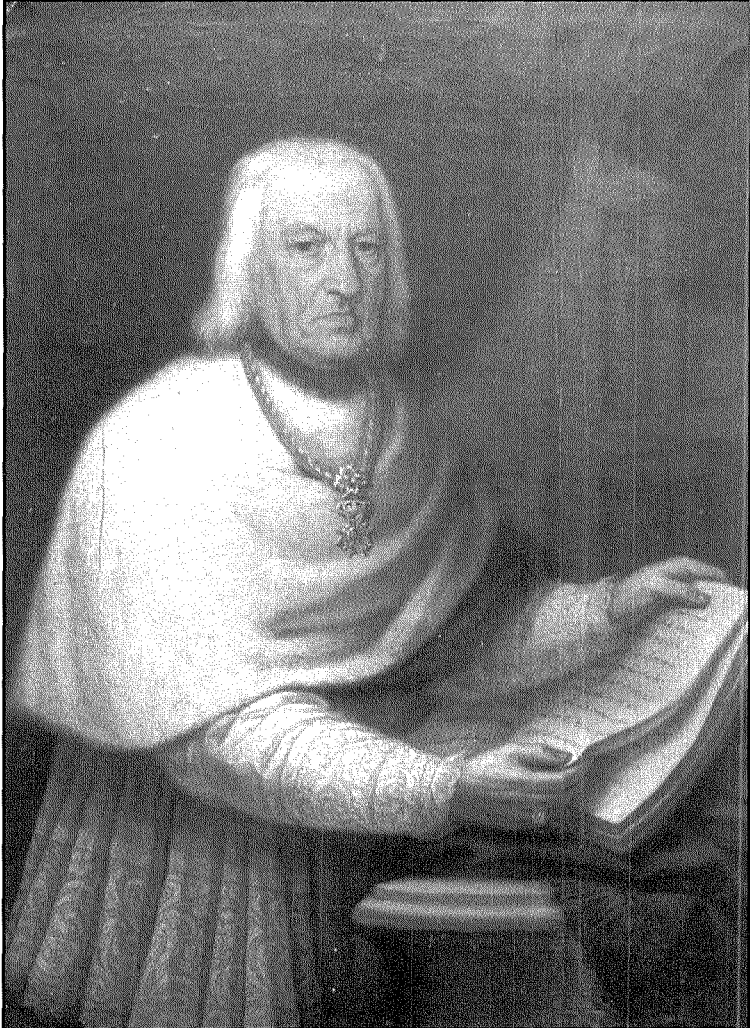
## LAST CALL

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1998 & 1999/2000 SUBSCRIPTION  
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TO MR. J. BUTTIGIEG**

**LETTERS BY ARCHPRIEST S. CASSAR TO  
HIS VILLAGE COMMANDERS DURING THE  
FRENCH OCCUPATION OF GOZO  
PART THREE**

**6th September 1798 – 30th October 1798**

**by Dr. A. Bonnici. KM., MD.**



*Archpriest Saverio Cassar  
(Photo J. Cremona)*



Archpriest Cassar's Name appearing as Street Name in Victoria Gozo, and house where he lived.

# Archpriest Saverio Cassar's letters to his Gozitan Village Commanders.

*(continued Part Three)*

This issue will conclude the publication of Archpriest Saverio Cassar's letters to his village commanders in Gozo, during the Gozitan insurrection against the French occupation forces during the period 6th September - 30th October, 1798.

*From these letters we have learned about*

- The difficulties Archpriest Saverio Cassar had to encounter, in organising the civil Gozitan population, into a fighting disciplined resistance, against Napoleon's mighty French occupying forces under Lieutenant - Colonel Lockey.
- The difficulties he faced in providing provisions - wheat, and its distribution to the civil population.
- The intrigue he had to deal with from Gozitan francophiles, especially espionage.

In this issue we will see him meeting Admiral Lord Nelson on board his flagship the 'Vanguard' to draft jointly the *capitulation document*.

He was indeed a remarkable man, a man of stature-fortitude-perseverance.

He was the first to demand for Gozo a separate Diocese from Malta, and between 1800 - 1805 he worked hard to obtain this, but was unsuccessful.

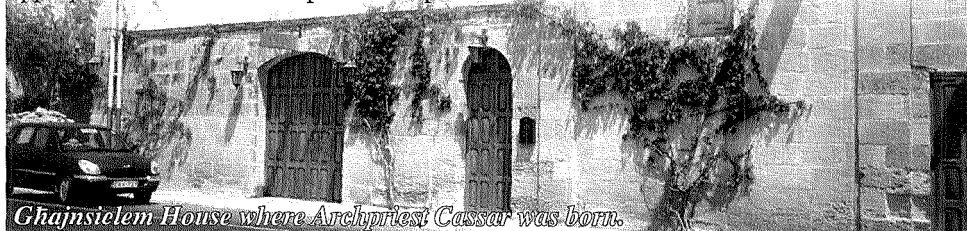
Because of his loyalty to King Ferdinand of the Two Sicilies, he did not consolidate a good relationship with Sir Alexander John Ball, and Charles Cameron, whose loyalties were obviously towards His Britanic Majesty.

He was ignored, side stepped and Notary Emanuel Vitale on 20th August, 1801 was appointed as Governor of Gozo by Commissioner Charles Cameron.

This was indeed painful for his ego and he died on the 16th December, 1805 a very disappointed man.

Although Archpriest Saverio Cassar's name appear as a street name and a marble plaque appears on the wall where he lived in Victoria, Gozo, I do not feel that he is properly commemorated in Gozo - *nobody is a profit in his own land*.

The time has arrived that we pay homage to this great son of Gozo, and an appropriate monument in a prominent position in Gozo be erected.



*Ghajnsielem House where Archpriest Cassar was born.*



Capt. Alexander John Ball, appointed by Rear. Admiral Sir H. Nelson K.B. to conduct the blockade of Malta, and who signed the French Capitulation document with Lieutenant Colonel Lockey, Commander of the French Troops, in the Castle of Gozo on the 28th October 1798.

Scritt. Sig. Comand.

Per l'affare degli scartucci ho parlato  
col Sig. Arcip. quali mi disse, che devo  
trattenersi qui al Rubbato. Se vi manca  
poi polvere, per fare degli scartucci, mi  
dico la quantità, che desidero, per essere  
subito servita. Fa prego di mandarmi  
altra volta le chiavi del Sig. Mallica,  
avendo ancor ivi in sua casa delle carte  
contro Michele Xicluna. Del qual povero  
la ringrazio anticipatamente, mentre  
spero che mi sarà fatto. Ed offerendomi  
pronto a' suoi comandi, pieno di stima,

mi dice

Di V. Serv. Gio: B. 23 Oct. 1798. Sin. P.  
Car. Tom. Sacchi

Al Scritt. del Sig. Comand.  
Sig. Liberato Grech Comand  
di Casal

Caccia  
P?

This letter is a follow up of the previous letter in which Commander F. Pace of Rabat, informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia that "With regard to the matter of the cartridges I have spoken with the Rev Archpriest, who instructs me that the cartridges are to remain in Rabat. If on the other hand you are short of powder for the cartridges, tell me the quantity you require, so that I will soon supply you".

"I ask you to send me next time the key of the house of Sig Mallia, as there are still in his house some papers against Michele Scicluna".

Commander A. Mallia was relieved of his post, and put under house arrest, as will be seen in letters of the 23rd October.

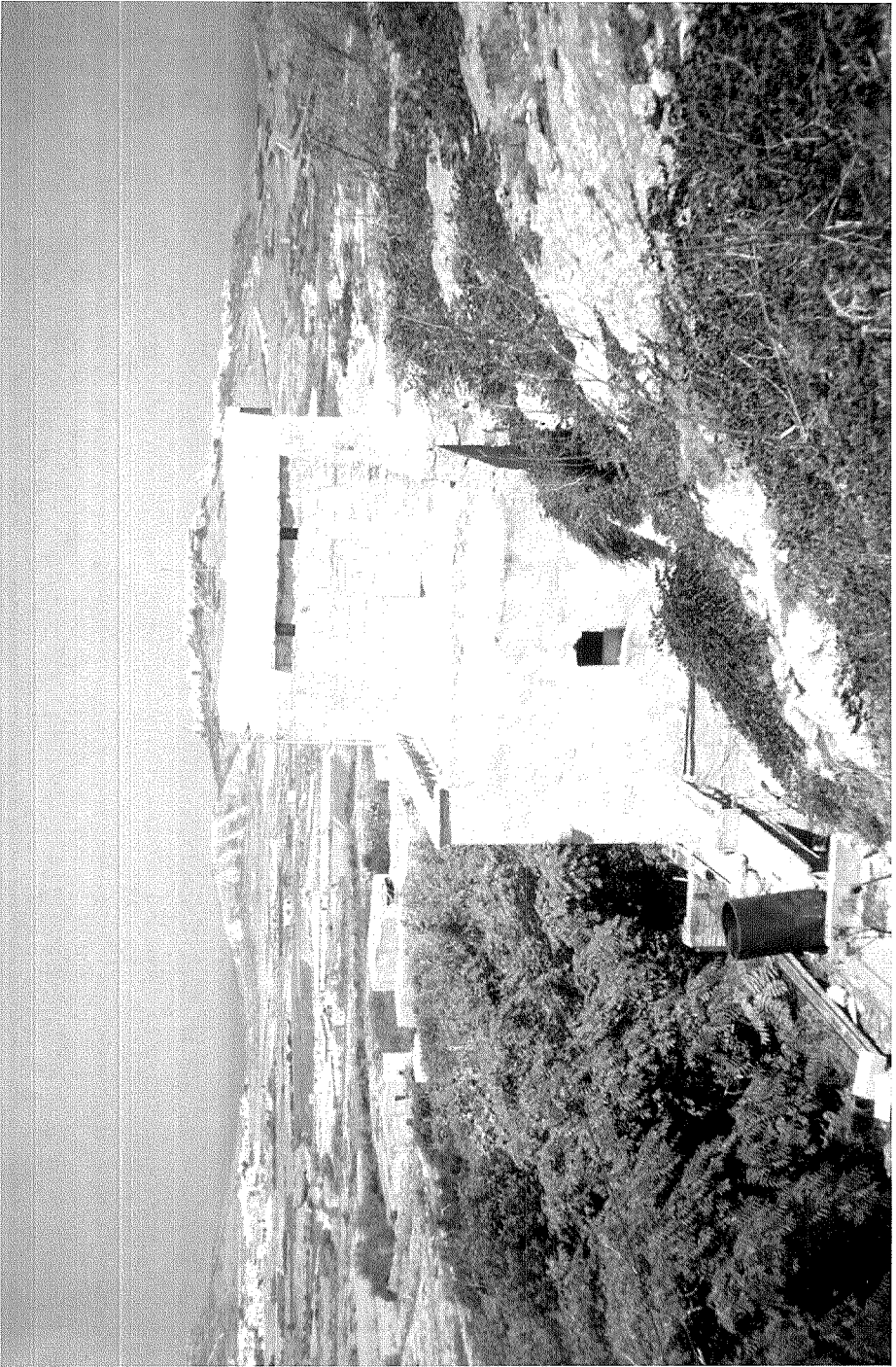
23rd October 1798, Bondi No 52

Sig<sup>to</sup> Comandant Liberato Grech

Che il Sig<sup>to</sup> Antonio Mallia si contenti nella sua famiglia o no, - ma che vada in locale Scicli non può essere, mentre si sa, che il Popolo di quel Casale, e dell'altro vicino sanno la posta vostra, e in conseguenza potrebbero suscitare qualche cosa, che ci farei intorbidare; onde scelga il Sig<sup>to</sup> Mallia Casale che gli piaccia, richiami in quello la sua famiglia, purchè non savano li detti Casali Scicli e Sannat; E poi bisogna procurare, che in quel dato Casale da lui scelto s'intenda carente, e un posto uscire fuori dal suo distretto. Secondo. che un popolo frammischiarsi in affari del Sovrano, e terzo, che un popolo per adito camionato venuto ve unirsi con gente armata. E questo mia lettera vorrei, che si palesasse al Popolo delli due Casali



Head Quarters of Archpriest Cassar on Mount Ghelmus(front entrance).



Head Quarters of Archpriest Cassar on mount Ghelmus.

Caccia, e Nadur in libertà delli quali per fine  
lascio questo delicato affare;  
Inquanto al danaro dell'oro del Santo già li  
spedito un tero per il Comandante arrestato  
di postolo al momento il danaro. Long.  
li 20. 8. 1908.

Al Sig-Comandante  
Liberato Grech  
Caccia.

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar gives specific instructions to Liberato Grech, Commander of Caccia, how to deal with Antonio Mallia who was under house arrest: saying "that Sig Mallia influences his family is all right, but that he should go to the village of Xewkija is not permissible, as it is known that the people of that village, and nearby Sannat, like him too much, and in consequence may organise a resistance, which could give us trouble. Mr Mallia should choose any other village which pleases him, taking with him his family, as long as it is neither Xewkija nor Sannat".

"It is also necessary to instruct him, that in the village he chooses, he should consider himself prisoner, and that he will not be able to go out of the district. Secondly that he will not be involved in Government affairs, and thirdly that he will not carry arms for the time being, or join other armed men. This letter to be communicated to the people of the villages of Caccia and Nadur, and leave it to them to deal with this delicate matter."

"Re the money for the barley for Gharbo, I have given my advice to the Commander advising him that he is to keep the money for the moment".

Perill. di Sig. Comand. di Casal Accia

Prendo parte alle S. L. Perill. che il sig. Antonio Malla mi fece sentire che voleva Egli passare a coabitare con sua famiglia nel Casal Accia, Io non arbitro di dare tale permesso, Perciò la prego di farmi sentire il loro sentimento, prendendoli d'aver dato anche parte al Dno Sig. Scrip. dal quale attendo l'Oracolo; Ed offrendomi ai loro ordini, e con parziale stima mi dico.

Del S. L. Perill.

Casal Accia 23. Ottobre 1798

In risposta della vostra stimatissima da parte del Popolo si lascia in mano del Sig. Antiprete come fare  
 lui, Francesco Attard Comand. del Popolo.

D. S. L. vero  
 Liberato Grech

Alli Revill. Sig. Comandanti  
 Del Casale  
 Nadur

In this letter Commander Liberato Grech, Commander of Casal Caccia, informs the Commander of Nadur that: "Mr Antonio Mallia had informed him that he would like to proceed and live together with his family in the village of Xewkija". Grech says that "he cannot decide and give such permission" and therefore asks the Nadur Commander to let him know what he thinks about this.

"I have informed them, that I have informed the Archpriest about this, and will let them know the reply."

"In reply to your esteemed letter re the involvement of the people I suggest that this is left in the hands of the Archpriest, as F. Attard Commander of Nadur has done".

Undated ? 24th October 1798 Bondi No 43

Sig. Comandante Liberato Grech  
 Rispondo alla sua: e l'edico, che nel  
 passato maj: e maj just qwer, che  
 si potti il Sig. Mallia, perche' serano  
 brengimi li uomeati? dell' quito che  
 goderi qlla geata, qweri aruni a  
 conto tale soggetto; Oude o l'efti doue

Si trova, o andare al Nadur, o al Zebbug  
o al Gharb, e un altro luogo.

off. l. c.  
Avv. S. Cassar

Al Sig. Comandante  
Lorenzo Grech  
Cassar.

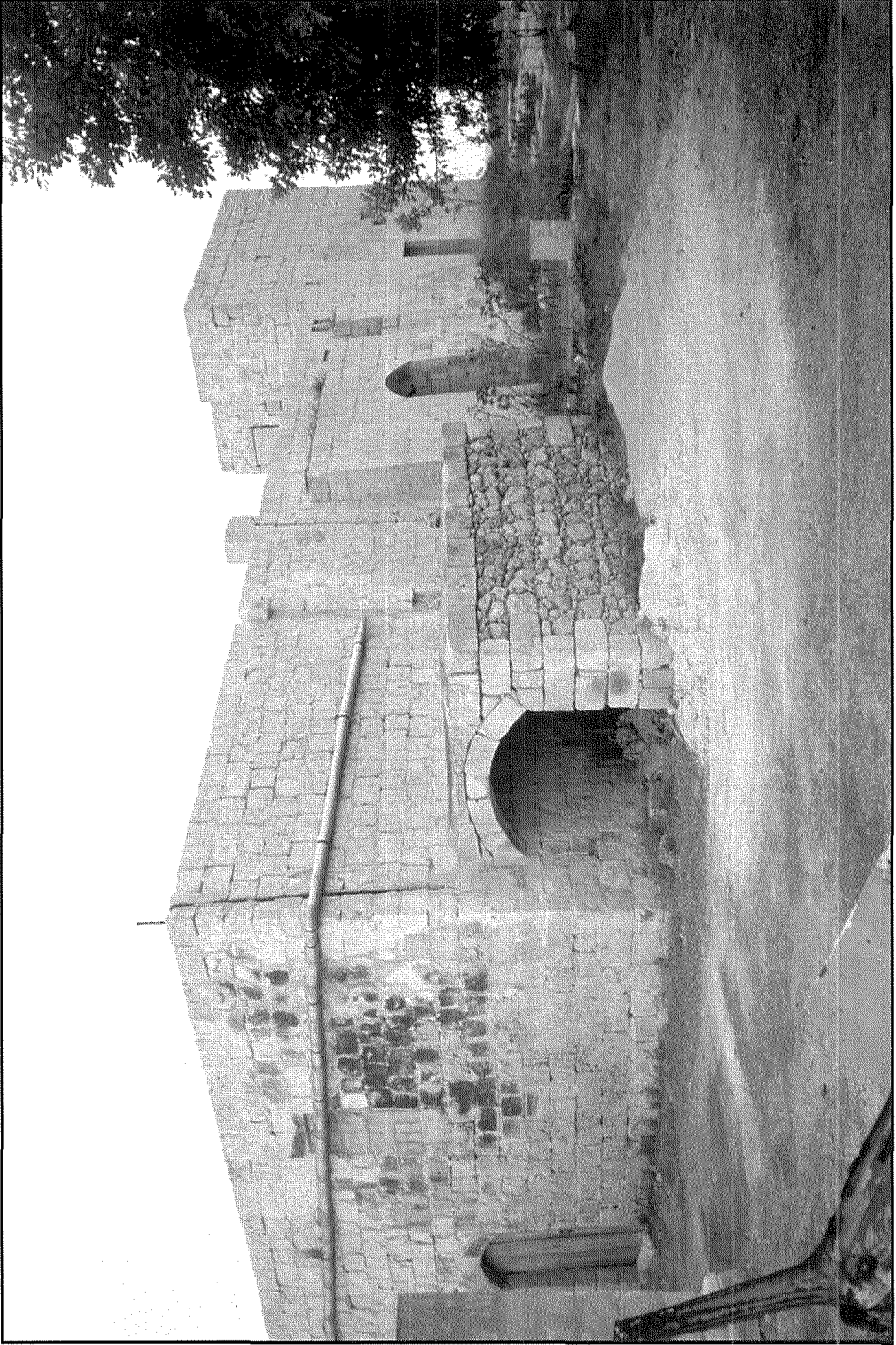
This letter is a follow up of the previous two about where A Mallia and his family should live; Archpriest S. Cassar instructs Commander L. Grech as follows "In reply to your letter, I would advise you that NEVER AND NEVER, should Mr Mallia be brought to Rabat, as the peace enjoyed there at the moment will be short lived if he goes there. Therefore he should either stay where he is, or go to Nadur, or Zebbug, or Gharb and nowhere else".

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar was more specific, as in the previous communication he only indicated that Mallia was not to go to Xewkija and Sannat. He did not mention Rabat, which he did now.

23rd October 1798, NAG Grima paper. Pass words for the period 23rd-28th October 1798

Nota del Santo per tutti li Porti, e Fortificazioni  
Dei incamminamenti dalli 23. 8bre 1798.

23. Martedì. S. Giovanni
24. Mercoledì. S. Francesco.
25. Giovedì. S. Pietro



Farm House in Caccia used by Commander Liberato Grech as a Command Post. (front)



Another view of the farmhouse in Caccia used by Commander Liberato Grech as a Command Post.



che sino adesso non ha potuto mandare l'  
Ufficiale che presto mandera, desiderando in:  
finitamente vedere la sua Isola libera  
e in tutta la sua liberta, e in servirla  
avra sempre il suo grande piacere

Li. 23: 8ore 1798:

Agno Lt.  
Arif. V. Cassar

Al Sig: Comandante  
Liberato Grech

Cassar

Archpriest S. Cassar received the following note from Admiral Niza, which he passed on to Commander L. Grech.

"The Marquis de Niza pays many compliments to the Rev Archpriest, and informs him that up to now he has been unable to send the Officer (that he had promised to send on the 20th or 21st, as per letter of the 19th October, Archpriest S. Cassar to Liberato Grech), but will soon send him, the Officer, as it is my greatest wish to see your Island free in all its liberties, and serving you is my greatest pleasure".

Archpriest S. Cassar had gone on board the Portuguese ship on the 18th October, and was promised that the next day or the day after a Portuguese Officer was to come to the Cittadella (The Castle) to discuss surrender terms with the French.

As the days passed by, and nothing happened, Archpriest Cassar was wondering why this was not done. The reason being that Admiral Nelson was going to be soon in Maltese waters, and the Portuguese Admiral and Capt Ball wanted to consult him, and so were waiting for him before they proceeded further.

Al Signor Comandante

Questa sera bisogna tenere la Vost. gente pronta e  
 ben armata, mentre abbiamo un bastimento nell  
 parte di Wied el Asri, che ha dato motivi  
 forti di sospetto e pare, che abbia qualche  
 corrispondenza colli Francesi, anzi che il capitano  
 di essa veduto verso l'ave mania un soldato Fran  
 ceso sulla spiaggia di Wied el Asri, che stava  
 l'impetto a d. bastimento; La gente del Castell  
 andrea sulla marina. Neglatini. e smef.  
 Di 24. Ottobre 1798.

Al Signor Comandante del  
 Rabato

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar informed Dr F. Pace Commander of Rabat that "that evening it was necessary to have his men ready and well armed, as at that moment there was a ship in Wied il Asri which had given strong reason for suspicion, and seems to have some connection with the French. He had a report that about the Ave Maria (7pm) a French soldier was seen on the beach of Wied il Ghasri and went alongside the ship".

The information contained in this letter is open to question.

1. How come the English and Portuguese ships patrolling Maltese waters did not investigate the presence of this ship? Maybe they did, and we are unaware of it.

2. How did the French soldier, reported to be seen on the beach of Wied il Ghassi, go alongside the ship, and be able to do this under the watchful eyes of the Gozitans? How did this French soldier get out and come back to the Cittadella, without being captured?

24th October 1798, NAG Grima papers - Copy of Draft Capitulation document

Il retro Ammiraglio il Cavaliere Horazio Nelson. Capitano dell'Ordine del Bagno Comandante della flotta di S. M. Britannica. nel Mediterraneo domandava la Lega del Capello del gozo a condizione che il Soprintendente generale di detta Isola del gozo Avvisprete Laverio Casar con tre Comandanti femmino li Articoli seguenti.

Primo = Che l' Ammiraglio sudd. deve avere la disposizione delli prigionieri francesi nel gozo e che non devono essere maltrattati in nessuna maniera dagli abitanti, ma devono essere considerati sotto la protezione di S. M. Ammiraglio dal tempo che si rendono.

Secondo = Tutte le Armi e munizioni di guerra trovate nel Capello devono essere alla disposizione del sudd. Ammiraglio, che dirigerà una parte d'esse mandata all' ajuto de' maltesi.

Terzo = Che li abitanti del gozo devono alzare la bandiera Napoletana a quel tempo che il sudd. Ammiraglio determinerà con un' esigenza d'essere sotto la protezione del Re di Napoli.

L' Ammiraglio non pretende intramessersi nelle regolazioni interne dell' Isola, ma accorderà tutta la sua protezione alli sudd. abitanti. A bordo della Saverantiquaria li 24. 8mo 1798

Horazio Nelson

Archpriest Cassar went on board Admiral Nelson's ship on the 24th to negotiate this draft copy of the capitulation document which was signed by Admiral Nelson.

Archpriest S. Cassar went on board Admiral Nelson's ship (as per receipt book NLM Ms 1053 f.53) (A, **Franco Buttigieg per aver portato colla sua barca l'Arcip a bordo di Nelson - 7:6**) to negotiate terms for the French surrender, and Nelson demanded from Archpriest S. Cassar the following three conditions, as stipulated in the capitulation document.

This document in the national Archive Gozo, reproduced above is a copy of the original, and so the signature appearing on this copy is not Nelson's signature. Where is the original document???

However the document in the National Archives Gozo is a genuine copy, as Commander Ball reproduced its text in his despatch to Nelson on the 30th October, 1798 which was published in "The Sun" of the 26th December, 1798, under Naval news.

"Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, Knight of the Order of the Bath, Commander of His Britannic Majesty's fleet in the Mediterranean, demands the surrender of the Gozo Castle on condition that the General Superintendent Archpriest Cassar together with three Commanders sign the following articles.

1. That the Admiral will be handed all the French prisoners in Gozo, who are not to be maltreated in any manner by the inhabitants, but to be considered to be under the protection of the said Admiral as soon as they surrender.
2. All the arms and ammunition found in the Castle will be at the Admiral's disposition, part of which will be sent to the Maltese.
3. That the inhabitants of Gozo will raise the Neapolitan flag, at a time that the said Admiral will decide, as a recognition that they are under the protection of the King of Naples.

The Admiral does not expect to interfere in the affairs of the Island, but will leave this in the hands of the inhabitants.

On board the ship Vanguard the 24th October 1798. signed Horatio Nelson."

26th October 1798, NLM Ms 1053 f10

*Sig. Comandante*  
Oggi alle 9. di matt. v'aspetto per comunicare  
vicini i sentimenti dell'arcivescovo Inglese, e  
non mancate, preteso di affari brutti di subito  
Cassar - S. Cassar.  
Li 26. 8bre 1798.  
Arch. S. Cassar

Al Sig. Comandante  
Dr. Francesco Pace  
Rattato

In this note Archpriest S. Cassar informs Dr F. Pace requesting him that: "today at 9am he wants to talk to him as he wants to inform him about the English Admiral's ideas".

The *ideas* referred to, is the draft Capitulation document which Nelson and Archpriest Cassar formulated on the 24th September.

28th September 1798, Bondi unnumbered

Perill. S. S.

Sono molto tenuto alla Parbatezza di P. S. e  
la ringrazio quanto mai so e posso della pro-  
tezza, colla quale si è compiaciuto favorirmi.  
In risposta poi della Sua le dico, che il povero  
primier si porta in mia casa per osservare la  
qualità suo in quanto alla cottura e bianchezza.  
Simandi sono dal Catapano, per essere imbotta-  
to, trovandoli il vero peso stabilito dalla anti-  
che nostre leggi Pragmaticali. Queste sono  
le regole, che d'ora si osservino qui al  
Rattato. Ed offerendomi a suoi comandi, pieno  
di verace stima mi rassegni.

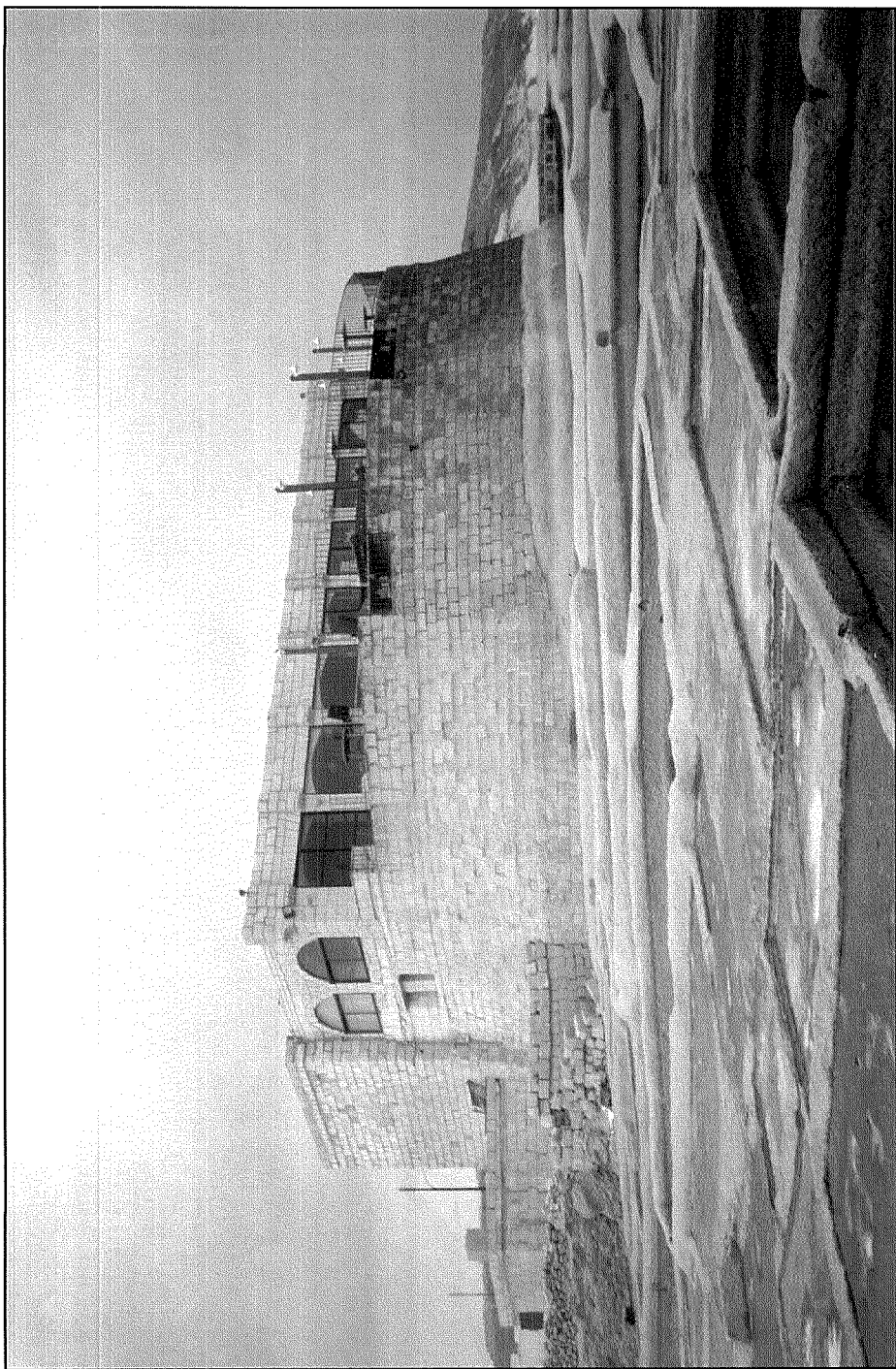
Di R. S.

Rabb. 18. 97. 11729.

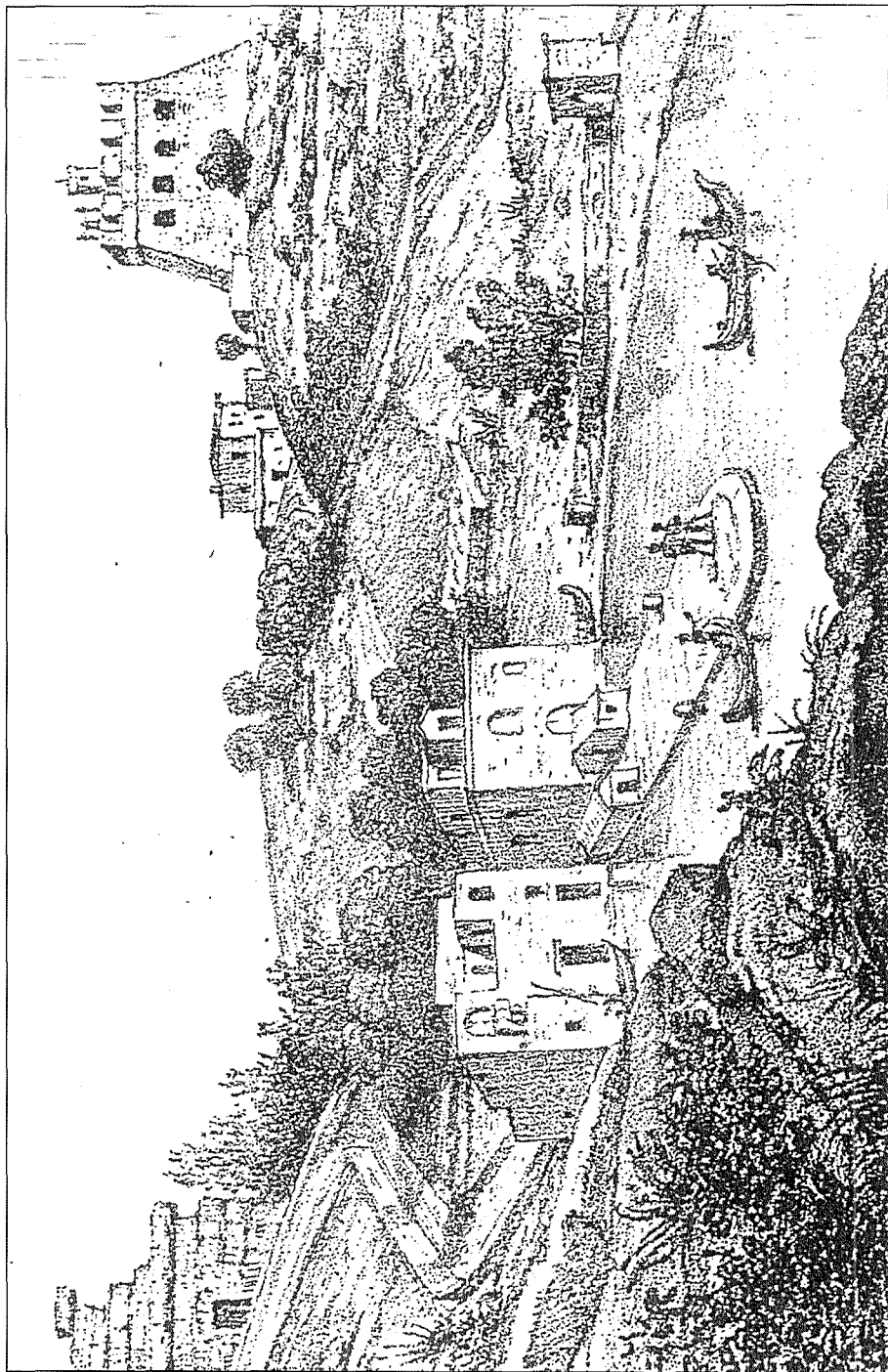
Amil. ed Ol. S. S. S.  
Francesco Pace



Colla I-Bajda Fort viewed from the front.



Colla I-Bajda Fort viewed from the sea.



Fort Garzes as it appears from an old print.

*Al Signor Comandante Grech  
Grech in Casal*

*Caccia*

This is a follow up letter of the 18th and 19th October on the bread problem, from Dr F. Pace Commander of Rabat to L. Grech Commander of Caccia, explaining the procedure to be followed in the checking of bread, re baking-whiteness-packing-weight, in accordance with the law.

**30th October 1798. The Sun 26th December 1798 Naval News**

Alexander off Malta October 30th, 1798

*Admiralty-Office, December 25, 1798.*

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Earl of St. Vincent, K. B. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on Board Le Souverain, Gibraltar, November 27, 1798.*

Herewith you will receive the copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson, inclosing one from Captain Ball, of His Majesty's Ship Alexander, with the Capitulation of the Island of Goza.

*Vanguard, at Sea, Nov. 1, 1798.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to transmit you a Letter received from Captain Ball, dated October 30, together with the Capitulation of the Castle of Goza, and a list of Ordnance, &c. found in it; the prisoners are now embarked in the Vanguard and Minotaur till I can get a vessel to send them to France. Captain Ball, with three Sail of the Line, a Frigate, and Fireship, is entrusted with the Blockade of Malta, in which are two Sail of the Line and three Frigates ready for sea; and from the experience I have had of Captain Ball's zeal, activity, and ability, I have no doubt but that in due time I shall have the honour of sending you a good account of the French in the Town of Valetti.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

HORATIO NELSON.

*Admiral Earl of St. Vincent.*

*Alexander, off Malta, October 30, 1798.*

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that the Commandant of the French Troops in the Castle of Goza, signed the Capitulation the 28th inst. which you had approved. I ordered Captain Creswell, of the Marines, to take possession of it in the name of His Britannic Majesty, and His Majesty's Colours were hoisted. The next day the place was delivered up in form to the Deputies of the Island, His Sicilian Majesty's Colours hoisted, and he acknowledged their lawful Sovereign.

I embarked yesterday all the French Officers and Men who were on the Island of Goza, amounting to two hundred and seventeen.

I inclose the Articles of Capitulation, and an Inventory of the Arms and Ammunition found in the Castle, part of which I directed to be sent to the assistance of the Maltese, who are in arms against the French. There were three thousand two hundred sacks of corn in the Castle, which will be a great relief to the inhabitants, who are much in want of that article.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. JOHN BALL

*Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson.*

#### ARTICLES OF CAPITULATION

*Between Alexander John Ball, Esq. Captain of His Britannic Majesty's Ship Alexander, appointed to conduct the Blockade of Malta, under Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. on the Part of Great Britain, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lochey, Auf. de Batt. Commander of the French Troops in the Castle of Goza.*

I. The French Troops shall march out of the Castle of Goza, with the Honours of War, and shall lay down their Arms as they get out of the Gate.

II. The Castle of Goza, with all the Military Implements and Stores, shall be delivered up to the British Officer appointed to take charge of them.

III. The French Officers and Troops shall be protected in their persons and effects, and the Officers allowed to retain their Side-Arms; they shall be embarked immediately on board His Britannic Majesty's Ships, and sent to France in Transports, at the expence of the French Government. They are not to serve against His Britannic Majesty, or his Allies, during the War, until regularly exchanged.

Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. has entered into Articles with the Inhabitants of Goza, that if the French surrender to the British, they shall be considered as under their protection, and they will not offer them the smallest insult or

<p> <b>18</b> Eighteen-pounder Gun, good, and 200 Shot.  <b>2</b> Twelve-pounder Gun, good, and 900 Shot.  <b>4</b> Six-pounder Gun, good, and 2985 Shot.  <b>400</b> Hand Granades, filled.  <b>90</b> Pikes and 90 Halberds.  <b>3200</b> Sacks of Corn.  <b>N: B.</b> No small Arms, except those laid down by the French Troops. </p>
---

Ball informed Nelson on the 30th that the French had surrendered on the 28th, and had signed the Capitulation "**which you had approved**". In the last part of the Articles of Capitulation there is the following:

Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson K.B., has *ENTERED INTO ARTICLES WITH THE INHABITANTS OF GOZO* THAT IF THE FRENCH SURRENDER TO THE BRITISH, THEY SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS UNDER THEIR PROTECTION, AND THEY WILL NOT OFFER THEM THE SMALLEST INSULT OR MALTREATMENT.

This was quite correct as resulting from the document Nelson negotiated and initialled with Archpriest Cassar on board the Vanguard on the 24th October, 1798.

The above together with the receipts found in Manuscript 1053 f.52 proves definitely that Archpriest Cassar had gone on board Nelson's Vanguard and negotiated and initialled the Capitulation draft, a copy of which has been reproduced on page 20

**Ball's letter to Admiral Nelson informing him of the Capitulation.  
Alexander off Malta, October 30, 1798**

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that the Commandant of the French Troops in the Castle of Gozo, signed the Capitulation the 28th inst. which you had approved. I ordered Captain Creswell, of the Marines, to take possession of it in the name of His Britannic Majesty, and His Majesty's Colours were hoisted. The next day the place was delivered up in form to the Deputies of the Island, His Sicilian Majesty's Colours hoisted, and he acknowledged their lawful Sovereign.

I embarked yesterday all the French Officers and Men who were on the Island of Gozo, amounting to two hundred and seventeen.

I enclose the Articles of Capitulation, and an Inventory of the Arms and Ammunition found in the Castle, part of which I directed to be sent to the assistance of the Maltese, who are in arms against the French. There were three thousand two hundred sacks of corn in the Castle, which will be a great relief to the inhabitants, who are much in want of that article.

I have the honour to be, etc.  
(Signed) ALEX. JOHN BALL.  
Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson

Articles of Capitulation

Between Alexander John Ball, Esq. Captain of His Britannic Majesty's Ship Alexander, appointed to conduct the Blockade of Malta, under Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K.B.

on the Part of Great Britain, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lochey, Auj de Batt. Commander of the French Troops in the Castle of Gozo.

1. The French Troops shall march out of the Castle of Gozo, with the Honours of War, and shall lay down their Arms as they get out of the Gate.
2. The Castle of Gozo, with all the Military Implements and Stores, shall be delivered up to the British Officer appointed to take charge of them.
3. The French Officers and Troops shall be protected in their persons and effects, and the Officers allowed to retain their Side-Arms; they shall be embarked immediately on board His Britannic Majesty's Ships, and sent to France in Transports, at the expense of the French Government. They are not to serve against His Britannic Majesty, or his Allies, during the War, until regularly exchanged.

Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K.B. has entered into Articles with the Inhabitants of Gozo, that if the French surrender to the British, they shall be considered as under their protection, and they will not offer them the smallest insult or maltreatment.

- 18 Eighteen-pounder guns, good, and 200 shot
- 2 Twelve-pounder guns, good and 900 shot
- 4 Six-pounder guns, good and 2985 shot
- 400 Hand granade, filled
- 90 Pikes and 90 halberts
- 3200 Sacks of Corn

N.B. No small arms except those laid down by the French Troops

---

**Manuscript. 1053. f.52.**

1. A Michele Grech per cavalcatura che porta l' Archiprete nel Migiaro 1--
- A Pasquale Debrincat per aver portato l'Archip. colla sua barca a bordo de Portughezi 10--
- fol.53
2. A Michele Grech cavalcatura che porta l' Archip. in Casal Caccia 1--
3. A Franco Buttigieg per aver portato colla sua barca l'Archip. a bordo di Nelson 7- 6-
4. A Michele Grech che portò con cavalcatura l' Archip. nel Migiaro 1--
5. A Michele Cassar che portò colla sua speronara i francesi a Bordo degli l'inglesi 2- 6-
6. Altra Barca che portò avvizo del Command Ball al suo Vascello 2--
7. A Salvatore Vella per cavalcatura che hanno portato gli Inglesi e Francesi dal Rabato nel Migiaro 13- 6-

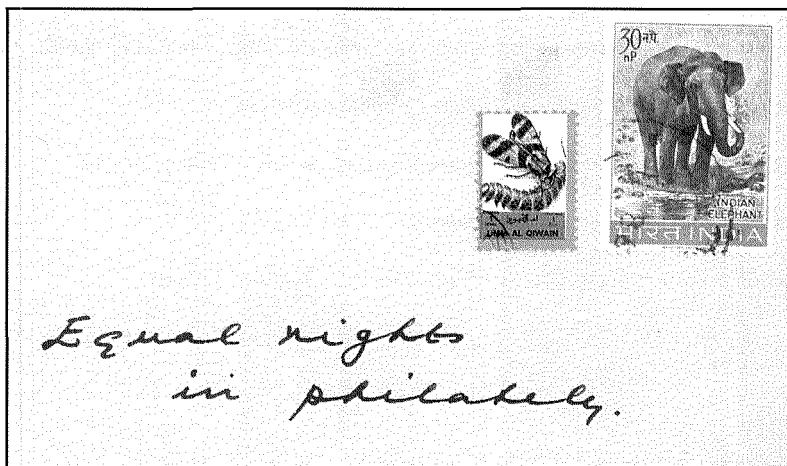
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- 2 L-Ghid ta' l-Assunta, 33 Aug 1998 p5
- 3 Alexander Bonnici OFM Conv. Il-Petizzjoni ta' l-Arcipriet S. Cassar ghat-twaqqif tad-Djocesi ta' Ghawdex
- 4 Ghawdex taht il-Francizi, Dr J. Debono, p.17
- 5 ibid p.21
- 6 Dr A. Bonnici, PSM Journal. Hompesch Part Three, Vol 28/1, p.27
- 7 Ghawdex taht il-Francizi, Dr J. Debono, p.17
- 8 Dr J. Debono, Sunday Times, Feb 14, 1999
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- 18 ibid, p.126
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- 20 ibid
- 21 ibid
- 22 Malta Study Circle Handbook, p.19
- 23 Hardman, p.130
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## ANOTHER BAR FROM THE SYMPHONY IN STAMPS

By Chev. Peter Paul Vassallo, SMOSJJ



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in philately.*

# POSTAL – DIARY (1999)

by *Anthony Fenech*

**02 January** - A special handstamp was used at Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta, inscribed as follows: "Mattia Preti - 3 January 1699/Valletta-Malta/2 January 1999/III Centenary of His Death". Special commemorative covers were prepared by the Committee responsible for the festivities marking the III Centenary of Mattia Preti's Death.



**13 January** - Due to the shortage of 6c stamps, the 6c value in the commemorative Anniversaries 1998 set - Anniversary of UN Declaration on Human Rights - was reprinted today.

**20 January** - Maltapost plc has issued the eleventh in the series of Year Packs containing stamps issued in 1998. The pack features a view of Dwejra Gozo and marine life on the outer cover.

Postcard No.4 featuring the 6c Treasures of Malta - Maltese Costumes Stamp has been issued with the Year Pack. The postcard can also be purchased separately for 10c (VAT included) from the philatelic Window at the Valletta Counter.

**27 January** - Zebbug B.P.O. in Sciortino Street is temporarily closed with effect from today for structural alterations. Maltapost plc said that postal services in Zebbug were available as follows:

Counter services at the Local Council Office in Bishop Caruana Street and Postmen and Mail Room services at the Zebbug Police Station.

**29 January** - Mr Anthony Pavia, Permanent Secretary at The Ministry of Transport and Communications has been appointed Acting Postmaster General with effect from 1st January 1999.

**01 February** - Maltapost plc informed the public that from today Monday, 1st February, new metal handstamps have been put in use at:

- (i) Balzan B.P.O. (Mail Room) and
- (ii) Sliema B.P.O. (Counter)

**22 February** - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading "Better Shots make/ Better conservationists/25th Anniversary - 1973-1998/Federation for Hunting & Conservation" was used at the Central Mail Room, Marsa, from Monday February 22 to Saturday February 27th 1999.

**26 February** - A new postage stamp set was issued today commemorating the 900th Anniversary of The Foundation of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M.).

Stamp values 2c, 6c, 16c, 27c were designed by Frank X. Ancilleri.

The stamps were printed in sheets of ten stamps on unwatermarked paper at Bundesdruckerei GmbH (Germany) who have taken over from Printex Ltd. in the printing of Malta stamps in the future.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



**08 March** - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "Fourth Maltese Medical School/Conference/10-13 March 1999" was used at the Central Mail Room, Marsa, from the 8th to the 13th March 1999.

**20 March** - A special handstamp was used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Castille Place, Valletta to commemorate Maltapost plc participation, through its sole agent Georg Roll stamps GmbH in the "Australia '99" World Stamp Exhibition, held in Melbourne, between the 19th and 24th March 1999.

The handstamp was used from the 19th to the 24th March in Australia, and on Saturday 20th March and between Monday 22nd and Wednesday 24th in Valletta. The inscription on the handstamp read: "Melbourne/World Stamp Expo/19-24 March 1999".

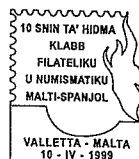


**30 March** - Maltapost plc notified that the postal service to and from Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia and Yugoslavia has been suspended until further notice because of hostilities in the area.

**06 April** - Two new postage stamp sets were issued today, one commemorating the setting up of the Council of Europe, fifty years ago in May 1949, and the other set "Europa 1999". The theme for this year's Europa stamps was "Nature Reserves". Both sets were designed by Richard J. Caruana. Only one special handstamp inscribed "Jum il-Hrug - 6.IV.1999/Kunsill ta' l-Ewropa/Riservi Naturali/Valletta - Malta" was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



**10 April** - A special hand-postmark was used at Dar Annona Counter Hall to mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of The Philatelic-Numismatic Club of The Spanish Maltese Circle. The postmark was inscribed "10 Snin ta' Hidma/Klabb/Filateliku/u Numismatiku/Malti-Spanjol/Valletta-Malta/10-IV-1999". Special commemorative covers were prepared by the Maltese-Spanish philatelic and Numismatic Club for the occasion.



**12 April** - The Bugibba Sub-Post Office had been closed until April 24th. During this period, customers could avail themselves of the postal services offered at St.Paul's Bay Branch Post Office in Main Street.

**19 April** - The Sub-Post Office at 6, Jubilee Esplanade, Mgarr, was going to be closed to the public from Saturday 24th April until the following Saturday, reopening on Monday 3rd May. During this time, the public was invited to use the Mosta Branch Post Office in Constitution Street.

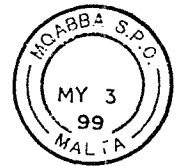
**27 April** - Maltapost plc notified that a special hand postmark "IBRA '99" was to be used at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Valletta from Tuesday 27th till Friday 30th April and on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th May 1999.

The hand postmark is inscribed: "IBRA/World philatelic Exhibition/27.4-4.5.1999". A similar hand postmark was also used by Maltapost plc sole agent Georg Roll Stamps GmbH in the "IBRA '99 World Stamp Exhibition which took place in Nuremburg, Germany, between the 27th April and the 4th May 1999.



**03 May** - A new Sub-Post Office was opened at 117, Parish Street, Imqabba, on Monday, May 3, 1999. The postal services offered at the new S.P.O. included:

- Sale of stamps and postal stationery;
- Sale and encashment of local and foreign Money and Postal Orders;
- Registration of postal articles;
- Posting of Parcels;
- Encashment of postcheques;
- Payment of telephone Bills and
- Sale of Telecards.



A metal 27mm double-ring date stamp inscribed "Mqabba S.P.O. - Malta" was used to cancel out stamps etc and to perform counter duties. The telephone number at this Sub-Post Office is 683292.

**20 May** - Maltapost plc notified that:

- (i) Mail to Libya is once again being dispatched **by Air**;
- (ii) Mail to Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia is being dispatched **via Athens**;

**01 June** - The P.O. Boxes Section was transferred from Castille Place to 46, West Street, Valletta (on the side of The Auberge d' Aragon) as from 1st June.

Bulk posting services were also transferred from Castille Place but to the Valletta Maltapost Branch at 75, Old Bakery Street as from 1st June 1999.

**02 June** - A postage stamp set of five se-tenant stamps commemorating the setting up of The Universal Postal Union, 125 years ago, was issued today. The set was designed by Ansgar Spratte, a foreign stamp designer. A special hand postmark was used for cancelling philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



**16 June** - Maltapost plc issued yet another set of postage stamps - a set of five 'comic' stamps to boost up Tourism in Malta. The stamps are designed by Gorg Mallia.

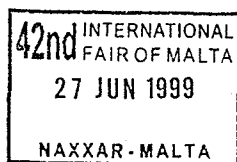
A special hand postmark was used on all philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



**19 June** - Zebbug Local Council Office and The Branch Post Office, at present located in the building, will be closed today, Saturday.

**27 June** - A Temporary Branch Post Office was opened at the 42nd International Fair of Malta, Naxxar, from Sunday June 27th to Sunday July 11th. The postal services available at the T.P.O. on the Maltapost Stand N60 at The International Fair included:

- Sale of Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery;
- Mailing of letters and letter packets;
- Registration of letters;
- Mailing of parcels;
- Sale and encashment of Money & Postal Orders;
- Encashment of Postcheques;
- Philatelic sales and Telecards;
- E.M.S. Datapost.



Postal articles posted at this T.P.O. were postmarked by a special hand datestamp.

**01 July** - Maltapost plc notified that a Stamp Design Competition was being held for the selection of a set of five postage stamps on the theme "25th Anniversary - Republic of Malta". The competition was open to Maltese citizens and designs were to be submitted not later than 1.00 pm on Saturday, August 7, 1999:

**02 July** - A special handpostmark "Philexfrance '99" was used at The Counter Hall (Dar Annona), Valletta from Friday 2nd to Saturday 10th July 1999 excepting Sunday 4th July. The handstamp was also in use at the "Philexfrance '99 World Stamp Exhibition between the 2nd and the 11th July 1999 by the Agent for Maltapost plc at the Paris Show.



**06 July** - The Mgarr (Malta) Sub Post Office will be temporarily closed between July 6 and July 13 both days inclusive.

**14 July** - As from to-day, mail will be delivered earlier, following an agreement reached between Maltapost plc and the G.W.U. Postmen will start delivering mail at 9.30 am rather than at 11.00 am, until the end of August.

**29 July** - A special hand postmark commemorating the Centenary of the death of Dr Nikola Zammit was in use at the Counter Hall, Valletta, on Thursday 29th July 1999.



**31 July** - The Sub-Post Office at "Best Mark" Rokku Buhagiar Street, Qrendi was to be closed temporarily from 31 July until August 7. The nearest Post Office is at 8, St.Catherine's Street, Zurrieq.

**07 August** - The Sub-Post Office at Old Trafford Stationery, Arznell Street, Marsaxlokk was to be closed temporarily between August 7 - 14, both dates inclusive. The nearest Post Office is that in St.Lucian Street, Zejtun.

**09 August** - It was notified that the following three Sub-Post Offices were to be closed temporarily as follows:

- Tarxien Sub-Post Office at "Forex" 16, Market Square, Tarxien from Monday, August 9 to Saturday August 21; The nearest Post Office is that in Paola Square, Paola.
- Kalkara Sub-Post Office at 68, Bishop Gonzi Square, Kalkara, from Monday, August 9 to Saturday August 21; The nearest Post Office is the Cospicua Branch Post Office in St. Paul's Church Area'
- Ta' Xbiex Sub-Post Office at Fleet Stationery, Testaferrata Street, Msida, from Monday 16th to Saturday 21st August; During this period, customers could avail themselves of services at Msida Branch Post Office in Gwardamangia Hill.

**16 August** - Maltapost plc informed the public that the Zebbug Branch Post Office in Sciortino Street, Zebbug, had reopened for business as from today, following structural alterations.

**17 August** - Ghaxaq Sub-Post Office at 166, St.Mary Street, Ghaxaq was to close temporarily from Tuesday 17th to Monday 30th August. During this period the public might avail itself of postal services offered at Zejtun Branch Post Office in St.Lucian Street.

**21 August** - Postal Card (No 20) was issued on the occasion of the participation of Maltapost plc, through its agent, at the China '99 World Philatelic Exhibition from 21 to 30 August 1999. The card has imprinted thereon the two stamps of the Europa 1999 postage stamp set and the logo of the exhibition. The postal Card could be sold mint or used at the Philatelic Counter of the GPO as well as at the Maltapost plc agent's stand at Beijing "China '99".



A special hand postmark commemorating this event was also available at the Counter Hall, Valletta, on Saturday 21st, between Monday 23rd and Saturday 28th, and on Monday 30th August 1999.

A similar hand postmark was also used by the representative of Maltapost plc at China '99 between August 21 - 30, 1999.

**23 August** - Dingli SPO at Welcome Bazaar, Frenc Abela Square, Dingli was to

close temporarily from Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th August. During this period, the public could avail itself of postal services offered at Rabat Branch Post Office in Parish Square.

**25 August** - A postage stamp set 'Fauna of the Mediterranean Sea' was issued in the format of a Sheetlet of 16 different stamps all valued at 6c. The stamps are designed by Andrew Micallef. A special hand postmark was used on all philatelic mail on the first day of issue.



**27 August** - A special hand postmark marking Maltapost plc participation in The Riccione Fair was in use at The Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Valletta, on the 27th and 28th August 1999. A similar handstamp was used concurrently at Riccione on The Maltapost Stand. Maltapost plc was represented at Riccione by Mr Joseph Buttigieg of The Sliema Stamp Shop. The handstamp could be used at The Maltapost Stand at The Riccione Stamp Fair also on Sunday 29th August. Sliema Stamp Shop prepared a special Exhibition Card (Exhibition Card No.1) to be used on its Stand at Riccione.



**01 September** - Richard J. Caruana's stamp design, submitted with the nom-de-plume "Jubilo" has won the Design Competition for a set of stamps to mark the 25th Anniversary of The Republic. The second and third placed designs were those with noms-de-plume "Galaxy" and "Asparagus" by Tony & Joseph Bugeja and Joseph Cassar respectively.

**13 September** - Backstamping of mail is being re-introduced by Maltapost plc with effect from to-day. The practice of backstamping was suspended in July 1998. However, during the Christmas period, normally between December 9th and January 3rd, backstamping will be suspended again because the exceptionally high volume of mail makes it impractical.

**13 September** - A machine stamp canceling slogan reading: "90th Anniversary/St.John Ambulance/Brigade" was used from the 13th to the 18th September at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

**15 September** - Attard Sub-Post Office at 16A, The Globe Stationery, Main Street, Attard, would be closed between Wednesday 15th and Thursday 23rd September, both dates inclusive. During this period the public could avail itself of postal services offered at Balzan Branch Post Office in Main Street, Balzan.

**28 September** - A Valletta Counter double ring metal datestamp, without code letter, has been released today at the Counter Hall, Dar Annona, Valletta. No notice or press release in this respect has been released by Maltapost plc.

**30 September** - Bulk posting services in Valletta started to be effected as from this day from the Casa Annona Branch on Castille Square.

**06 October** - Two new postage stamp sets were issued to-day. The first consisted of 2 se-tenant pairs commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Maltese uprising against the French, while the second set consisted of a souvenir Sheet and a stamp commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Coronation of the Image of Our lady o<sup>z</sup> Mellieha. Both sets were designed by Joseph Mizzi.



A special handstamp was used to cancel both sets of stamps on the first day.

**09 October** - World Post Day. A special hand postmark was used at the Philatelic Window, Dar Annona, Valletta. The handstamp was inscribed "World Post Day/One World/One Postal Network/Valletta - 9.X.1999 - Malta".



**09 October** - A special hand postmark was used at the Counter Hall, Valletta, on October 9, 1999. The hand postmark was inscribed as follows: "9 - 10.X.99/XI/Trofeo Liguria/Spotorno/Maltapost Logo". The hand postmark was also used by Lorenzo Mantegna, the representative of Maltapost plc at the Spotorno (Liguria) Stamp Fair on the 9th and 10th October, 1999.



**20 October** - Part One of the new Definitive Set (Maltese Flora) was issued today. The values issued in this series are 2c, 4c, 6c, 16c, 25c, and 46c. The remaining 12 stamps in the new Definitive Set will be issued 6 stamps each year in 2000 and 2001. The stamps were designed by Maurice Tanti Burlo'. A special handstamp was prepared to cancel the new definitive stamps on the first day of issue.



**22 October** - Maltapost plc notified that a special handpostmark "Philatelia/Cologne/22-24,X.1999" was to be used at the Counter Hall, Valletta on October 22 and 23, 1999. The hand postmark was also used by the representative of Maltapost plc in Philatelia, Cologne Stamp Fair between Friday 22nd and Sunday 24th October 1999.



**08 November** - A machine stamp cancelling slogan reading: "10th Anniversary/The Malta Press Club/Founded November 1989" was used from November 8 - 13, 1999, at the Central Mail Room, Qormi Road, Marsa.

**27 November** - The "Christmas 1999" postage stamp set of four stamps was issued to-day. The stamps valued at 6c, 6c+3c, 16c+3c, 26c+3c were designed by Harry Borg. A special hand postmark was used for the cancelling of philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

Maltapost plc notified that the Post Office Counter at Maltapost Central Office in Marsa would be open to the public today, being the first day of issue for Christmas stamps. It had also notified that other postal service would also be available even though it was a Saturday, when normally the Post Office Counter would be closed.



**09 December** - In order to cope with the Christmas rush, Maltapost Branches in Malta and Gozo would also be open to the public between 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm between the 9th and 18th of December (except Sundays and Public Holidays) for normal Counter services.

**10 December** - A new postage stamp set of five stamps, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of The Republic of Malta was issued to-day. The stamps in the set (values - 6c, 11c, 16c, 19c, 26c) were designed by Richard J. Caruana.



A special hand postmark was used for cancelling philatelic mail on the first day of issue.

**11 December** - Maltapost plc reminds the public that:

- (i) the latest date for local pre-Christmas delivery is Saturday 18th December;
- (ii) the use of the Post Code is recommended;
- (iii) the profits from the surcharge on Christmas stamps are used to help children in need, so the public is urged to use Christmas stamps with the surcharge on them.

**19 December** - Maltapost plc notified the public that delivery of mail would also be carried out on Sunday 19th December.

**24 December** - Maltapost plc notified that the Valletta Counter at Dar Annona at Castille Square and the Branch at Malta International Airport would remain open until 12.45 pm on Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve.

**31 December** - Maltapost plc would like to notify the general public that Counter Services and distribution of mail would not be available on Friday 31st December. Sub-Post Offices in Malta and Gozo would be open during their normal business hours.

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Mr J. Buttigieg

Treasurer

“Miriam House” Zerafa Street, Marsa HMR 14, Malta

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Anniversary Card

Congratulations Card

Greeting Card

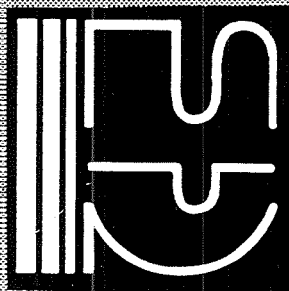


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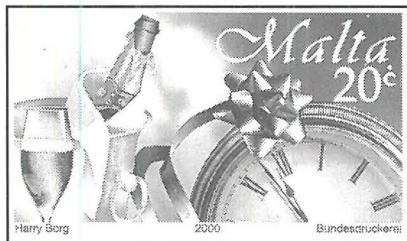
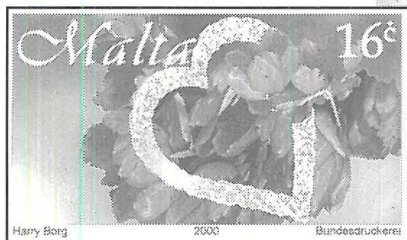
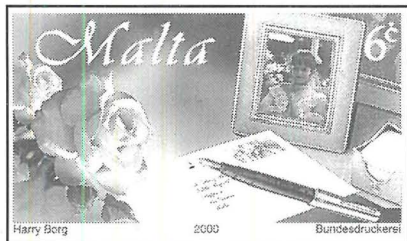
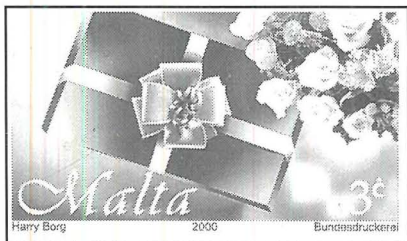
- AMSTERDAM (20) 624 6096 - 8 • ATHENS (1) 965 2322 • BENGHAZI (61) 908 0205 - 6 • BRUSSELS (2) 513 8608
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# Greetings 2000

Date of Issue:  
9th February 2000

Design:  
Harry Borg

Date of withdrawal:  
25th January 2001



Please send me details of your Philatelic Bureau Services

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Address



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