

# FINE ARTS ON MALTA STAMPS

## PART II

by LOIS L. CORBIN

SCOTT		SAID
263/5	<i>GEORGE CROSS</i> , plain silver cross with medallion, created in 1940 by Percy Metcalfe, showing St. George and the dragon in centre. Words "For Gallantry" appear around the medallion, royal cipher in angle of each link of the cross. George Cross Island, Malta is so called from the award of the G.C. to the Island by George VI in April 1942. It is the civilian award equivalent to the Victoria Cross. All values (1½d, 3d and 1/-) issued 15th April 1957 to mark the XV Anniversary of the Award.	263/5
266/8	<i>Symbols of Architecture</i> . All values (1½d, 3d and 1/-) designed by Chev. Emvin Cremona to promote Technical Education.	266/8
275	<i>ST. PAUL'S SHIPWRECK</i> , 1902 painting in Church of St. Paul Shipwrecked, Valletta, Malta, by Italian Artist ATTILIO PALOMBI (c. 1860-1912). Shows Paul aiding the rescue of the shipwrecked sailors. Ceiling painting 3d issued 9th February 1960 to commemorate the 19th Centenary of St. Paul's Shipwreck.	275
276	<i>Consecration of St. Publius</i> , based on painting from the church of St. Paul Shipwrecked by CHEV. EMVIN CREMONA and adapted by him for this issue. 6d stamp as in above.	276
277	<i>Statue of St. Paul</i> , St. Paul's Grotto, Rabat (Mdina). Under Sanctuary adjoining St. Paul's Church is the ancient Grotto of St Paul where, tradition holds, St. Paul lived; present structure is a rebuilding of an enlargement to the original done in 1692 by Lorenzo Gafà (?). Statue is the 1746 marble carving of an unknown 17th century sculptor, presented by Grand Master di Pinto. 8d stamp as above.	277
287	<i>Madonna Damascena</i> , Byzantine style icon, which appeared in the sea near the coast of Rhodes in 1475 and since then a sacred possession of the Order of Knights of St. John; it relates to a prototype and traditionally dates to St. John Damascene. Following the Great Siege of 1565, Grand Master La Valette paid homage for the victory over the Turks in the Greek Church of Vittoriosa where the picture was kept. In 1578, it was transported to the Greek Church in Valletta built in its honour. 2d stamp of set issued 7 September 1962 to commemorate the Great Siege.	287

- 288 *Great Siege Monument*, bronze, by ANTONIO SCIORTINO (1879-1947); the figures represent Religion, Fortitude and European Civilization. Sciortino was born in Żebbuġ, Malta; studied engineering and architecture; director of British Academy of Arts in Rome and inspector of Fine Arts at the National Museum, Malta; submitted winning entry for Cenotaph Memorial in London, model preserved in National Museum, Malta. His works include busts of Poet Shevchenko, Tchekov, Bolivar and Carmen Sylva. 6d stamp as above. 288
- 289 *Grand Master Jean Parisot de La Valette*, 1494-1568. French born, Grand Master of the Knights of Malta from 1557-1568; adapted from bronze tomb slab on his grave in crypt, St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta; defended Malta brilliantly against Turkish assaults and siege of 1565; built new city and capital, named Valletta in his honour. 6d stamp as above. 288
- 290 *Defence of Fort St. Elmo*, from an old engraving, by ANTON FRANCESCO LUCINI published 1630 in Bologna; it is after a fresco by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio (1547-1600), in Hall of St. Michael and St. George, Grand Master's Palace, Valletta. 1/- stamp as above issue. 290
- 299 *David Bruce and Themistocles Zammit*. Zammit owed a vote of thanks by fine arts bluffs and archeologists, responsible for most of the important archeological excavations during the early 20th century. Theorized that mysterious double tracks surviving near Naxxar Gap used to haul soil to form terraces on the stony slopes. 2d stamp issued 14 April 1964 to mark the Anti-Brucellosis Congress, Valletta. 296
- 300 *Nicolas Cottoner* (c. 1610-1680) Attending Sick Man and Congress Emblem. 18th Grand Master (1663-1680) of the Knights of St. John, preceded by his brother Rafael. Name is that of notable Spanish Family, usually "Cotoner"; both patrons of art, responsible for the interior adornment of the Co-Cathedral of St. John; statue of G.M. Cottoner (Scott 259/Said 259) one of the most imposing monuments in the famous cathedral. 2d issued 5 September 1964 to mark the First European Congress of Catholic Doctors. 298
- 301 *St. Luke and St. Luke's Hospital*. St. Luke travelled with St. Paul extensively, and apparently was with him in Malta. The Maltese remember him with St. Luke's Hospital, Valletta; in front is the statue of Luke in Co-Cathedral of St. John. The hospital of the Order built in Birgu was removed to Valletta 299

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in 1575, where it occupied an irregularly shaped block between Merchants' Street and St. Lazzarus curtain overlooking the entrance to the Grand Harbour. It was always a rather utilitarian building, and it does not compare, architecturally, with other hospitals of the period elsewhere in Europe. The influence of architect Girolomo Cassar (1560-1586) is discernible, though the architect is unknown, he was perhaps a student of Cassar's. The courtyard and the buildings around it, were added under Perellos in 1662. The same Grand Master also created a medical library for the hospital. The Cotoner brothers, too, appear to have been active in improving it, creating a school of anatomy and surgery, and one for infectious diseases. 6d stamp issued as above.

302      *Sacra Inefrmeria, Valletta* (Hospital of Knights of Malta) 1/6  
issued as above.

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