

Philatelic items relevant to the Order of Saint Lazarus

Elizabeth Cassar

Abstract

Philately serves to document the history of a country or in the case of *cinderella* stamp issues of an institution or organization. Philatelic issues released, often as *cinderella* issues by the Order of Saint Lazarus serve to document historical events and honouring distinguished persons who gave some contribution to the Order.

Keywords

Order of St. Lazarus, philately, cinderella stamps, commemorations.

Introduction

The concept of adhesive postage stamps was introduced in England by Rowland Hill, later knighted, in 1837 after he published the pamphlet entitled *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability*. In this pamphlet, Hill proposed that inland letters should be subject to a prepaid postage indicated ‘...by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp and covered at the back with a glutinous wash...’.²⁰ The results of this reform were that on 6th May 1840 small pieces of paper with gum on one side and an effigy of the Queen Victoria on the other – the penny blacks and two-penny blues – were sold as prepayment of postage at post office counters for the very first time. The sale received a very favourable public reaction. Pre-paid postage stamps were subsequently introduced in other countries after



²⁰ Rowland Hill, *Post Office Reform: Its importance and practicality* (London: Charles Knight, 1837).

Great Britain including Brazil [1843], U.S.A. [1845] and Bavaria [1849]. Within the next twenty years, the majority of civilised countries had followed example.²¹

THE MONTHLY ADVERTISER.										
No. 1.	DECEMBER 15, 1862.	Price 1d.								
TO OUR READERS.										
<p>POSTAGE STAMP collectors and dealers have long felt the want of a publication which should devote itself entirely to their interests, and serve as a medium for their advertisements. To supply this want in some measure has been our aim in publishing the <i>MONTHLY ADVERTISER</i>, and we hope to be favored with the support of all whom it is designed to benefit. We shall be happy to receive original articles on the subject of Postage Stamps, and early information of rare varieties or new issues, not to be found in existing Catalogues, which shall be inserted in our following numbers. We shall also be glad to afford any assistance in our power to Collectors through the column devoted to Correspondents, though we cannot undertake to answer enquiries through the post.</p> <p>Advertisements will be inserted at the following moderate charges:</p> <table> <tr><td>Under 40 words.....</td><td>1s. 6d.</td></tr> <tr><td>" 60 "</td><td>2s. 3d.</td></tr> <tr><td>" 80 "</td><td>3s. 6d.</td></tr> <tr><td>" 120 "</td><td>4s. 6d.</td></tr> </table> <p>Orders for which, as well as all other communications, should be sent before 7th instant, addressed to</p> <p>MESSES. EDWARD MOORE & CO. DEALERS IN FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS, LIVERPOOL.</p>			Under 40 words.....	1s. 6d.	" 60 "	2s. 3d.	" 80 "	3s. 6d.	" 120 "	4s. 6d.
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" 120 "	4s. 6d.									
<p>THE COLLECTION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.</p> <p>BY FRED. BOOTY.</p> <p>IT is curious to see how much public opinion has been modified lately upon the subject of stamp collecting. Some two or three years ago, when collectors were to be numbered by units, (they are now numbered by hundreds) they were looked upon as hopelessly, but harmlessly, insane on the subject; and their friends and acquaintances were willing to gratify their mania, for after all they only asked for "old postage stamps," of no possible use to any one excepting themselves. If those same snobs could now see the really beautiful books which the more tasteful, fortunate, and persevering collectors possess, they would be obliged to acknowledge that there is a latent beauty even in a disfigured postage stamp. The books themselves in their gay, album like bindings, which are now to be obtained of almost every stationer, are no unpleasing objects; but when ornamented on the left-hand page, as I have seen them, with gay illuminated borders which surround the arms, flags, crown, and cockade of the respective countries, with the appropriate stamps on the right side (which is also surrounded with a light illum-</p>										

Charges linked to the delivery of mail remained purely the domain of national governments which provided the postal office service within their realm and beyond. The increasing variety of printed stamps created a nucleus of stamp collectors who thus initiated the hobby of *philatélie*, a term coined by Georges Herpin in 1864. The first purely stamp collectors association was founded in the U.S.A. in 1866 and in Germany in 1869. The first stamp magazine *The Monthly Advertiser* appear in December 1862 in Liverpool. This was in 1863 renamed *The Stamp Collectors' Review and Monthly Advertiser*.²² The increasing demand for stamp varieties

from stamp collectors stimulated governments to initiate regular publication of different stamp issues to generate revenue. These special issues commemorated specific occasions often of historical note.

²¹ Basil D. Reed, Philately and the teaching of modern history. *History*, New Series, 7, 28 (1923), 266-273.

²² *The Stamp Collectors' Review and Monthly and Monthly Advertiser* (Liverpool: Edward Moor, 1862 et seq.), available (10/12/2022) at:
<https://archive.org/details/stampcollectorsr12pemb/page/n29/mode/2up>

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, considered a sovereign institution by the United Nations, joined the bandwagon of postal production in 1950 with a set of *cinderella* letter seals²³ featuring a cross-section of the Order's history reflecting its foundation and seats in Rhodes, Tripoli, Malta and Rome depicting locations and people associated with the Order, and they were sold for 1 Italian lira. These were designed by E. Pizzi and printed by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dell a Stato of Rome. In philately, a *cinderella* stamp is 'virtually anything resembling a postage stamp, but not issued for postal purposes by a government postal administration'²⁴ but rather printed for promotional use by businesses, churches, political or non-profit groups. In 1966, the SMOM *Poste Magistrali* was instituted by decree of the Grand Master, and regular postage stamp issues have been released since.²⁵



SMOM 1966 stamp

Unlike SMOM, the Order of Saint Lazarus is not considered a sovereign institution and thus does not have the legal onus or right of issuing legally usable postage stamps. Its jurisdictions have however undertaken to release *cinderella* stamps dedicated to the Order either to commemorate important events or as fund-raising initiatives. Some dedicated issues relevant to the Order were further released as legal-tender stamps by national post-offices.

²³ A *cinderella* stamp is virtually anything resembling a postage stamp, but not issued for postal purposes by a government postal administration.

²⁴ James Mackay, *Philatelic Terms Illustrated* (London: Stanley Gibbons, 2003, 4th edition), 27.

²⁵ Carmel G. Bonavia, SMOM and Malta issues. *Journal of the Malta Philatelic Society*, 44, 1 (2015), 27-35.

Commemorating the Order

The earliest identified commemorative stamp of the Order of Saint Lazarus identified dates to 1998. This was issued through the initiative of the jurisdiction representing the Malta Obedience in the Czech Republic on the occasion of the 900-year existence of the Order. This 3.5x2.5 cm monochrome green-on-white stamp was a legal-tender 4.60 Czech Koruna stamp showing in relief the raising of Lazarus by Jesus.

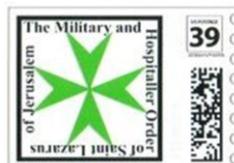


Czech Republic, 1998

Other stamp releases depicted the arms of the Order. The Austrian postal office, sometime after 2002, issued a legal-tender €0.55 commemorative stamp depicting the arms of the Order over a light-yellow background. The jurisdiction representing the United States of America also issued a *cinderella* stamp depicting the green eight-pointed cross of the Order on a white background.



Austria, undated after 2002



U.S.A., undated

Other jurisdictional *cinderella* stamp issues depicting the arms of Order were released as fund-raising initiatives. In 1977-78, the Grand Priory of Finland issued a fund-raising 6.5x4.0 cm stamp edition showing a Lazarite knight on horseback and the green eight-pointed cross in support of its philanthropic activities. This was sold in sheets of twenty-one stamps twice a year at €10 per sheet. Several thousand sheets were printed. The French jurisdiction in 2012 issued the ‘CORSE’ stamp edition, sold in sheets of six, to support its fund-raising initiatives.



Finland, 1978-78



France, 2012

The Hospitallers of Saint-Lazarus [Paris Obedience] had in 2003 released *cinderella* vignette stamp issues depicting Lazarite knights in prayer ‘pour un hospital en Armenie’ as a fund-raising initiative in order to raise funds to provide a medical structure in Armenia. The stamp design was by Didier Gabrielli-Dees. A re-issue in sheets of six stamps was made in 2006. These were sold at €5.00 per sheet.



Hospital for Armenia issues – 2003/2006

Other philatelic-related items include letter-sealing stickers depicting the arms of the Order to use on envelopes produced by various jurisdictions.



Letter-sealing stickers – International Grand Bailiwick, 1996

Commemorating individual members

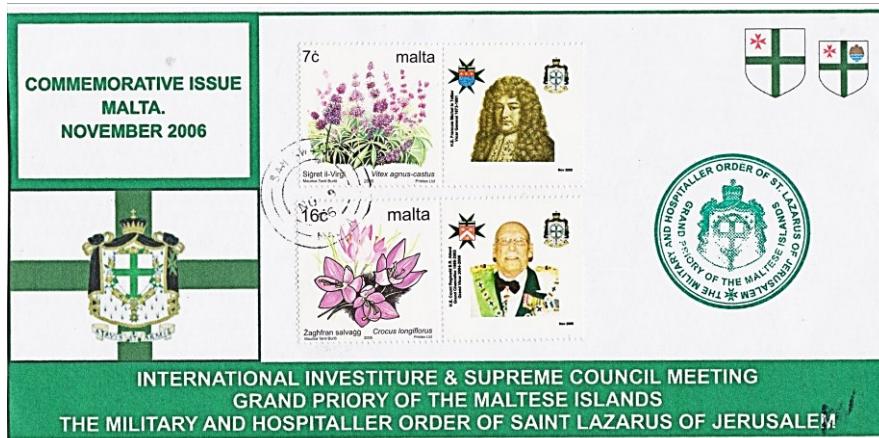
A number of legal-tender and *cinderella* stamps commemorate the administrators of the Order throughout its history. In 2008, the Portuguese postal service released a 5.5x4.0 cm full colour €3 priced stamp depicting the 1702 portrait of the 40th grand master of the Order Philippe de Courcillon in all his 18th century regalia [artist: Hyacinthe Rigaud] now held in the Chateau de Versailles, France. De Courcillon was appointed grand master to the Order in 1693 and served until his death in 1720.



Portugal, 2008

The Maltese jurisdiction of the order commissioned a series of private-issue 3.5x3.5 cm commemorative *cinderella* stamps from MaltaPost Ltd based on designs by Chev. C. Savona-Ventura. These issues were sold in sets of five stamps each linked to legal-tender €0.07 and €0.16 stamps. The first in this series was released in November 2006 to commemorate the International Investiture & Supreme Council Meeting held in Malta. The two stamps depict H.E. Michel le Tellier who served as vicar general with grand magisterial privileges during 1673-1691 and H.E. Chev. Reginald Saviour Richard Attard who served as Grand Vicar and President of the Supreme Council of the splinter group of the Malta Obedience during 2004-2006. The second in the series from MaltaPost Ltd

linked with legal-tender €0.19 stamps was issued to commemorate the September 2008 Chapter General Meeting and the Installation of the 49th Grandmaster held in Manchester. The two dedicated stamps depict 48th and 49th Grandmasters of the Order – H.H. Francesco de Paula de Borbon y Escasany [serving during 1996-2008] and H.E. Carlos Gereda de Borbon [serving during 2008-2017].



In 2010, the Maltese jurisdiction issued a private *cinderella* set of stamps to commemorate the visit made by the Spiritual Protector of the Order His Beatitude Gregory Laham III on the occasion of Pope Benedict XVI to Malta on the occasion of the 1950 years anniversary of the Shipwreck of St Paul on the Islands.



Malta, 2010

In 2018, the Spanish jurisdiction issued a stamp commemorating the appointment of the 50th grand master of the Order Don Francisco de Borbon von Hardenberg.



Spain, 2018

Cinderella stamps were issued by the French jurisdiction to commemorate notable individual members of the Order. In 2005, the jurisdiction released a stamp commemorating Chevalier Nicolas Roze b.25.09.1675; d.02.09.1733. Nicolas Roze was born in a family who owned land from Sollies, Var. His descendants involved themselves in naval

matters, particularly as carpenters to build galleys. In 1695, Roze became a ship owner. During the same year, he married Claire Amiel and they had 3 children. In 1702, Roze participated in the War of Spanish Succession leading a military unit that he had founded, and fought in the defence of Alicante against the Bavarians and in the Battle of Almanza. Wounded and taken prisoner, he returned to Marseille in 1707 when King Louis XIV declared him a Knight in the Order of St Lazarus. In 2010, the Priory of Provence in France released, through zazzle.com, issued a US 44¢ priced stamp commemorating Chev. Santon.



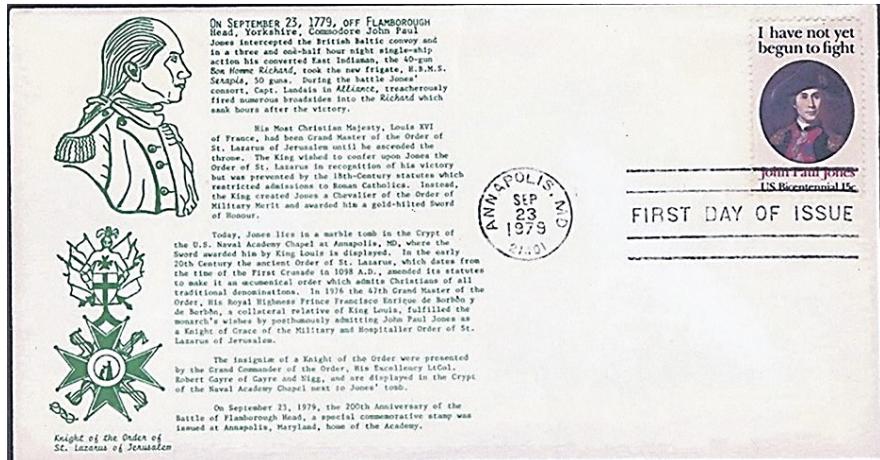
Chev. Roze issue – 2005



Chev. Santon, 2010

Other historically important individuals of the Order have been commemorated in philately. The U.S.A. postal office at Annapolis, Maryland in 1979 issued a commemorative 15¢ 4.0x2.5 cm bicentennial stamp depicting Commodore John Paul Jones who in 1779 successfully fought the British Baltic convoy. King Louis XVI of France wished to confer the Order of St. Lazarus on Commodore Jones but was restricted from doing so by the prevalent 18th century statutes of the Order. Cmd. Jones was admitted a Knight of Grace of the Order posthumously by the 47th Grand Master H.R.H. Francisco Enrique de Borbon y de Borbon in 1976. Cmd. Jones had previously, in 1936, been commemorated in a 1¢ stamp issued by the United States Post Office as one of series of postage stamps released between December 1936 and May 1937 to honour the Navy and Army. The green 1¢ Navy stamp features portraits of Revolutionary War naval heroes John Paul Jones and John Barry. Under each man's portrait is the name of a famous ship that he commanded: Jones's ship the

Bonhomme Richard and Barry's brigantine the Lexington, respectively. The stamp also depicts three vessels of the Continental Navy. Another earlier stamp commemorating Cmd. Jones was the 10¢ U.S. Naval Reserve Stamp – John Paul Jones Training School released circa 1900.



First-day cover issue – 1979

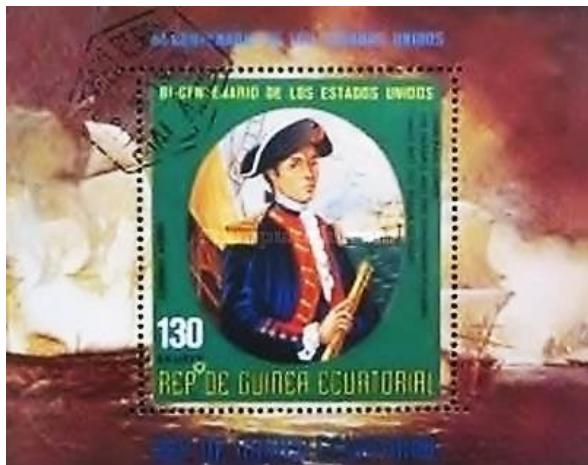


U.S.A., 1937 issue



U.S.A., c.1900

Commodore Jones has also been commemorated in a 1975 stamp issued by Equatorial Guinea as part of its American bicentenary series.



Equatorial Guinea, 1975 issue

Another member of the Order who has been repeatedly commemorated in postage stamps, especially those of the African continent nations, is the physician Albert Schweitzer who served as a medical missionary in Africa in the early decades of the twentieth century. He was admitted a knight of the Order in 1955. The majority of these commemorative stamps appeared in 1975 to mark his birth centenary.²⁶

²⁶ Your guide to stamps honouring philosopher and physician Albert Schweitzer. (U.K.: All About Stamps, 2018) – available (10/12/2022) at: <https://www.allaboutstamps.co.uk/stamp-guides/your-guide-to-stamps-honouring-philosopher-and-physician-albert-schwe/>



Gabonese Republic, 1975



Togo, 1975



Liberia, 1975



Germany, 1975



Hungary, 1975



Netherlands, 1975

Examples of stamps commemorating the birth centenary of Albert Schweitzer

Commemorative postal rubber stamps

Another facet of philately is the use of cancellation rubber stamps used to mark envelopes. In 1986-1987 the postal office in Luxembourg issued a special cancellation rubber stamps dedicated to the Order. Another rubber stamp was issued by the post-office at Noordwijk, Netherlands to commemorate the 1988 International Reunion Meeting of the Paris obedience. Similarly in 1999, a special postal rubber stamp was also used by the Austrian Postal Agency the Grand Magistral Council Meeting of the Malta Obedience held in St. Poelten, Austria. Two rubber stamps were used each distinguished by the numbers 1 and 2.



Luxembourg, 1986/1987



Noordwijk, 1988



Austria, 1999

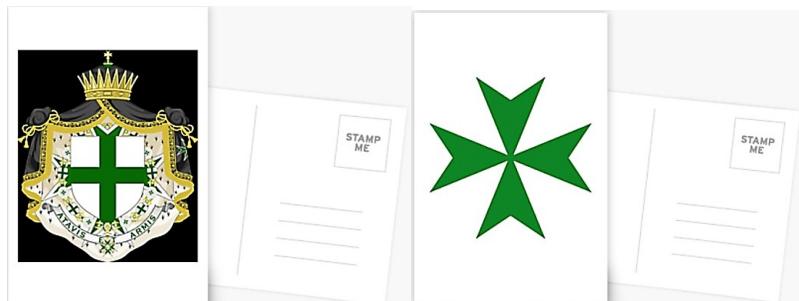
Postcards

A postcard refers to a typically rectangular piece of thin cardboard intended for writing a short message and mailing without an envelope. The opposite side generally is printed with a design or picture. An undated postcard issued in Capua, Italy. This features the old Church and Hospital of St. Lazarus, the statue of St. Lazarus and a depiction of a Lazarite knight with the salutation '*Saluti da Capua*'.



Postcard – Capua, Italy – undated

Several printers today, such as Redbubble of in Melbourne, Australia, provide postcards depicting the Arms of the order or the green eight-pointed cross of the Order.²⁷



Postcards marketed by Redbubble

²⁷ Redbubble website, Melbourne (Australia), available (10/12/2022) at: <https://www.redbubble.com/about>.

Conclusion

Philately often depicts the political and social history of a country by commemorating historical events and honouring distinguished persons who gave some contribution to their community. By documenting small details of very important events, philately becomes a part of the living history of a country or in the case of *cinderella* stamp issues of an institution or organization. The Order of Saint Lazarus has documented its modern history in various forms ranging from the issuing of commemorative medals²⁸ or jetons²⁹ to the use of philatelic items. This article serves as a primary attempt to catalogue the philatelic items relevant to the Order. The list is probably far from complete and the author would certainly welcome further information about the items detailed here or about new unrecorded items.³⁰

²⁸ Richard Payatt, Michael Ross and Charles Savona-Ventura. *The Handbook of the Order of Saint Lazarus - The Insignia, Decorations, Commemorative Medals, Uniforms, And Heraldry of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in the Twenty-First Century* (Malta: Sancti Lazari Ordinis Academia Internationalis, 2017, 2nd edition), 213-226.

²⁹ Elizabeth Cassar. A catalogue of 17-18th century Commemorative Medallions of the Ordre de S. Lazare. *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 3 (2019), 149-160; E. Cassar. Eighteenth century Commemorative Medallions of the Order of Saint Lazarus - Further additions. *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazari Ordinis*, 4 (2021), 81-88.

³⁰ The author can be contacted by email at ecassar33@gmail.com