

Malta from the Magazines

The following items are re-printed from various stamp magazines and acknowledgement is made in each case

"VALLETTA - A PROMINENCE IN THE MALTA POSTAGE STAMPS"

Being the capital of the Island, ever since the introduction of the postal system, it is only fair that a big share of prominence (in the postal world) should be devoted to the 'City'.

In the early 20th century when the first pictorial stamps were issued, Valletta harbour featured proudly and beautifully engraved in the brown 1d denomination of 1901; this was repeated in 1904 and again in 1907. In 1914 the same scene but in a black and in a 4d value.

During the reign of George V three definitive sets were issued, in each of these sets there were scenes depicting Valletta. The 1s. is black with a Gozo boat entering the harbour, while the 3s shows roughly the same wharf but with the statue of Neptune in the foreground.

George VI issues were similar the 1d was our old friend of 1901 with slight alteration. The 3d depicted St John Co-Cathedral (afterwards issued in different colours) the 2s 6d bore the same as the Geo V 3s issue. The 5s showing the Palace Square. In 1947 these stamps had their life prolonged by the overprinting of "Self Government 1947"

/In May 1954

In May 1954 the visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth was marked by the issue of a 3d Commemorative stamp showing St Johns Co-Cathedral. The QE II definitives (1956) showed a number of Valletta landmarks again. These were on the 1d the Victory Church, the King's and Roosevelts Scrolls on the 3d and 4½d values, (both scrolls were then fixed to the front wall of the Palace) Les Gavroches on the 1/6d stamp and other works of art from St John's were featured on 2s 6d, 5s and £1 values.

The battle of E-Boats with St Elmo in the background was beautifully designed in the 3d George Cross Commemorative of 1958; while the assault on fort St Elmo from a contemporary painting by Alleccio was shown on the 1s of the Great Siege Commemorative set of 1962. In the same set the 3d value shows the monument from Great Siege Square

The Catholic Doctor's Congress 1s 6d portrays the Sacra Infermia.

Thus we come to the last of the stories, which rightly enough commemorated the 4th Centenary of the foundation of Valletta. This set of 5 values designed by Chev. E. Cremona represents episodes in the building and planning of the city.

Hence it can be seen, that a city built by Gentlemen for Gentlemen and bearing the name of its founder, has always attracted stamp designers for Malta.

(Acknowledgements to Malta Today May 1966)

MALTA SALES FIGURES

1965 Great Siege 2d 1486765, 3d 1547372
6d 555407, 8d 189480, 1s 340606, 1s 6d 206153
2s 6d 140053
Christmas Issue 1d 1587393, 4d 252841, 1s 3d 192584
1966 Churchill 2d 1097952 3d 1110375, 1s 337081
1s 6d 250155
Founding of Valletta 2d 1239761 3d 1225777
6d 620761, 1s 353153 2s 6d 189822
Kennedy Issue 3d 547064, 1s 6d 310013
Malta Trade Fair 2d 757847, 8d 189900, 2s 6d 189610.

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