MALTA HEARSAY

    Since the grant of Independence on 21st September 1964 the stamps of Malta have received a tremendous push ~~push~~ right into the core of the Philatelic World.   The demand for these stamps is increasing daily to such an extent that certain sets issued two years ago are fetching prices of six to seven times their face value.

    The reason for this sudden rise in popularity may be attributed to a marked increase in the very attractive designs shown; or simply to "one of those things" that happen occasionally to stamps of certain countries.   A few years back it was the United Nations; recently, the Vatican and now Malta is at its peak.

    The 10th Malta Trade Fair was recently commemorated by a set of three stamps bearing an unusual design by Chev Cremona.   To the artistically-minded, the set is far from "enigmatic" it portrays an "ultra-modern sketch" forceful and impressive.   It will be recalled that the 2s 6d value was cornered within 24 hours of its date of issue on 16th June 1966.   A lot of controversy arose as a result of this action and, as usual, the Postal Authorities were blamed by dealers or philatelists who remained empty-handed. When the real story behind the scenes is studied, however, the blame is borne by that section of the philatelic market speculating on the whole affair.

    A few varieties associated with the set are confined to slight retouches for the present

      (Acknowledgements to Emm Said and Stamp Collecting
               September 16th, 1966)

MORE MALTA HEARSAY (Ack to Emm Said and Stamp Collecting)
             9thDecember 1966

    Congratulations to the Malta Postal Authorities for solving the problem of 'cornering'   In brief this was done by first limiting the sale of stamps to 'so much' per person as the occasion arose, and secondly by increasing consider- ably the number printed.   Thus, up to the time of writing (approximately six weeks after its issue on October 7th) the 1966 Christmas set can still be obtained from all postal offices.   It is suggested that such a commendable move be repeated for all future issues of commemoratives