



Journal of

THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Vol 1/1

Spring 1967

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF MALTA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1967

Volume 1 No 1

Address all Correspondence to:

The Editor,
P. S .M.(Newsletter)
c/o Catholic Institute,
Floriana,
Malta G.C.

EDITORIAL

First of all “A Happy New Year” to all members and “Good Collecting” during the year.

This is the first of the real Newsletters, I hope you have noticed the cover designed by Chev. E. Cremona. and I hope you will also notice that the Newsletter is still free — this is due to a decision of the Committee to allow advertisements to cover the cost of production it is hoped that private members will also assist in this matter of adverts - if you have wants or sales let any Committee member have the details and as soon as possible this will be printed.

The popularity of Malta and its stamps is becoming more and more obvious, books and albums are being produced by all the firms of note.

The membership of the Society still seems to be on the increase — but please try to remember the target, EVERY member introduce a new member.

There is still a requirement for members to be prepared to display their stamps - please if you have a worthwhile collection - offer your services.

I was gratified to have such a pleasant response to our first efforts and sincerely hope this is — just as acceptable, the tone is a little more serious this time, as befits a Society approaching its first birthday, contributors are still required but please keep your articles short and sharp.- unless you are prepared to have them serialised,

All from me — read on and lets hope there's something that may interest everyone.

The Editor

WANTED MORE SOCIETY MEMBERS – 1d BLACKS FOR 1d

SOCIETY NEWS

In the time since the last newsletter was produced the Society has gone from strength to strength, at the last count there were 77 members, an increase of over 25.

The season began with a Film Slide show - First steps in Stamp Collecting - which was of interest to new and old philatelists alike. This was followed by a display of Early Malta issues by Mr Edwin England San Fournier - the nature of this display left many of us dissatisfied with our own collections although at this stage I've not heard of any attempted suicides.

The November meeting began with a new innovation — an auction — this was'nt a great success, as it had been launched at fairly short notice and there were'nt many lots. This was followed by a display of King George VI prepared and shown by Mr Paul Pace.

In December we should have had a display of Malta Varieties by Mr Tony Plumb - unfortunately he was unable to oblige and Mr Louis Frank valiantly stood in at a few hours notice and showed us some Earl Malta issues and other interesting items. This was followed by an auction, into which Mr Whelpdale had put a lot of time and trouble to produce a catalogue - once again this had a disappointing result not enough members are contributing items for offer — this is a good chance to get rid of some of your early attempts— pass them to Mr Whelpdale, with an indication of the value and leave the rest to him.

FIRST DAY COVERS

Is it not time that the General Post Office did away with the use of string to tie up the daily deliveries of post - in this way perhaps we philatelists could obtain a First Day COVER that was'nt buckled at the edges. Perhaps the Society should approach the Postmaster General about this matter. After all stamps are business, and if one pays in some cases some three shillings for a 2d service the least one should be able to expect is an envelope that is NOT tattered and torn.

Future Displays and Activities

Will any member who have collections which lend themselves to display purposes please notify the Committee if they are willing to put on an exhibition or display.

Programme for Spring 1967

February 1967	Q.E. II Mint and Thematic Sidelines by Mr David A.V. Browning
March 1967	World Wide By Mr Boris Darmanin
April 1967	Film "The Bible on Stamps" and display of Religion on Stamps by Mrs Susan Frank.
May 1967	to be arranged
June 1967	to be arranged

Items for Newsletter

The editor is grateful to those members who have kindly either produced their own articles or sought out articles of interest for this edition of the Newsletter. It is preferable if the articles are not more than 300 words unless it is intended that the article be serialised.

Malta Philately

The increasing interest in Malta as a country to specialise in, is obvious by the number of firms that are producing single country albums for Malta — some kind of comparison is hoped for in the next edition — I have sent off a number of letters to firms for details but to date have had no reply.

Advertisements in the Newsletter

Any member wishing to bring the attention of other members to his wants or sales may use the columns of the newsletter on the payment of a small charge of 3d per word, or if printed in BLOCK CAPITALS 6d per word, details and payments to be given to any committee member.

CHEVALIER E.V. CREMONA

Our members will remember that at the September meeting, the Society voted Chev Cremona as an Honorary Life Member of the Philatelic Society of Malta - this was intended to show the high regard felt for the Chevalier in Philatelic circles.

Following is a short history prepared by a member, Mr Joe Hamilton.

After finishing his studies in Malta, Chev Cremona attended courses at the Regia Academia di Belle Arti in Rome and was later admitted to the Slade School in London followed later by some time at the Ecole Superieure des Beaux Arts in Paris.

Chev. Cremona is a very gifted artist whose unusual talents in the absorption of new techniques have singled him out above other painters. He did several works including mural decorations for churches and secular edifices and exhibited at the 29th Biennale International Art Exhibition and at the Imperial Institute in London.

Chev Cremona has designed 15 sets of stamps of Malta comprising in all, over seventy stamps. His designs commend themselves to philatelists all over the world and it is no mean compliment to read about them as being amongst the most handsome and colourful British Commonwealth sets ever to be issued. Chev. Cremona has also been described as one of the most outstanding stamp designers in the World.

He was certainly most successful in depicting with his masterful touch, various subjects such as technical education, war scenes, religious scenes, and last but not least, Malta's history in a most attractive way in 19 multicoloured stamps which have been heralded as one of the finest looking and most closely reasoned philatelic histories of a country.

This definitive stamp issue representing 'Malta Through the Ages' was given great prominence in the foyer of the London Festival Hall in February 1965 in an exhibition

commemorating the centenary of the first Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. The September 1964 issue of the Crown Agents Stamp Bulletin carried a photograph and 3000 word biography of Chev. Cremona - the lengthiest article written on a modern artist,

It is now an acknowledged fact that Chev. Cremona is, among other things an extremely talented designer of stamps and the Malta Postal Authorities are indeed fortunate to be able to issue such pleasing stamps which have placed our Island in the forefront of world philatelic circles.

Philatelic Literature

Mr Boris Darmanin (The Society's Librarian) has stated that such literature as the Society has in its possession is available for perusal at 12/25 Strait Street most days between 4 and 6 p.m. Any member wishing to dispose of back copies of any Stamp Magazines is requested to pass them to the same address.

Specialised Catalogue of Malta Postage Stamps

Mr C.J. Whelpdale and Surg. Capt J.H. Mercieca have agreed to coordinate efforts to ultimately produce a catalogue of Malta Postage Stamps. This will be undertaken in the following way - any member having any item of postal history or early issues on cover or that they feel is worthy of note please pass details to any of the committee and in due course a paper will be circulated to these members asking for details of their discoveries, this will be passed to any member who can add anything to the article and finally the coordinators will grade the articles in time order and this will eventually become the basis for the catalogue.

List of Society Members

A new list of members is being produced, but due to lack of details this will still not contain all members interests. It is requested that all members complete the questionnaire and return to the editor as soon as possible after receipt of list and questionnaire.

IF YOU ARE SELLING

STANLEY GIBBONS offer a valuation and immediate cash for stamps to replenish their vast stock — their needs range from superb classic to modern issues. Or a private treaty can be arranged.

For further details please write to:

STANLEY GIBBONS LTD. 391 STRAND, LONDON W.C.2

STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS offer all the services of a first class auctioneer specialising in selling fine stamps. Efficiently lotted and described, catalogued and illustrated, then publicised internationally — all this ensures that interested purchasers everywhere will have an opportunity to bid for your stamps.

For further details please write to

STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS LTD, DRURY HOUSE, RUSSELL STREET LONDON W.C. 2

PEN FRIENDS

The list following is those people who have written to the Society in order to establish contacts in Malta, will any member so desirous, please write direct to them..

- PIETER TIETJENS 23 Kiel—HolkMan, Richthosfn str, 24
Western Germany (See last edition)
- JOHN ROWDEN Otaru 41 Terrace Road, Walton-on-
Thames Surrey, England (See last
Edition)
- ELBERT WERNER 40 Essen-Kray, Brunhildestrasse 55,
D.B.R.(See last edition)
- ALBERT V. WICKENS 38 Lentune Way, Lymington, Hants U.K.
- SAMUEL OLIVER 75 Pinkerton Ave., Rutherglen, Glasgow,
Scotland
- PATRICK TAYLOR 106 Prospect Street, Nutley, New Jersey
07110, U.S.A.
- ALAN HASELGROVE 11 Warren Close, Poynton, Cheshire,
U.K.
- A.F. WYATT M.B.E. 21 Mill road Avenue, Angmering,
Sussex, U.K. Exchange Malta & G.B.
and possibly other countries
- G.N. FLETCHER 23 Chudleigh Gardens, Chapel House
Estate, Newcastle upon Tyne 5,
England. Exchange Malta and U.K.
stamps – Particularly First Day Covers -
Has small stamp Business, sure some
agreement can be reached for. U.K.
Commems etc., or other stamps
- L. WILKINSON 22 Stanley St., Nedlands, Western
Australia (President of the Fremantle
P.S and Auctioneer for the Phil Soc of
West Aus) to exchange New Issues —
correspondence in English
- W. BROWN Dunbar, Domsey Lane, Waltham,
Chelmsford, Essex, England - wants
particulars of local stamp issues and
prices and where they can be obtained

Daughter of
Mr R.E. LANSLEY
LIE TJOAN LIANG

3 Devon House, Devonshire Road,
Forest Hill, London S.E. 23 U.K.
Djl. Mangga Besar VII/15, Djakarta VI/
Indonesia, requires mint Malta and
offers sets of Indonesian stamps. All
transactions by register Air.

All the above have written asking for exchange friends in Malta it is hoped that someone will write and offer their services. Please tell the committee if you decide to write as this will stop the necessity to reprint all the names each time.

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 ¼d denomination of 1901; this was repeated in 1964 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 ¼d 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 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 Roosevelt's Scrolls on the 3d and 41d 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 Infermeria.

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 designer for Malta. (Acknowledgements to Malta Today May 1965)

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

(Acknowledgements to Commonwealth Courier and Stamp Collecting)

MALTA HEARSAY

Since the grant of Independence on 21st September 1964 the stamps of Malta have received a tremendous 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

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 considerably 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.

(Ack. to Emm.Said and Stamp Collecting 9th December 1966)

MALTA STAMPS

A fine selection of Mint, Used, First Day Covers, Village Postmarks and Varieties is available at:

E. SAID

Members B.P.A., P.T.S.,
32 Britannia Street,
Valletta,
Malta G.C.

A handy descriptive price list is offered free on request.

Accessories such as Stockbooks, Albums, Tweezers, etc., plus literature about the Malta Postage Stamp, may also be obtained.

THE QUALITY OF STAMPS

LOUIS FRANK F.R.P.S.L.

This is a matter which is of great importance, perhaps never more important than it is today.

In times past, when the old pre-printed album was the only way of collecting stamps, many a collector cut off the wide margins and corner pieces of a stamp, in order to fit it into the space provided by the album. With the introduction of the loose leaf, however, all this has changed and nowadays 'the collectors are trying to get anything unusual on the stamps and the larger the margins the better.

Yet, not every stamp CAN have large margins, and what for one stamp type is a second class copy, is, by the issue of another series of a country, a superlative item. The intention of the writer is to make a collection, showing the possible space between stamps, issued by different countries: e.g. Norway No. 1 can have 3mm margins, while a stamp from Thurn & Taxis or Tuscany can only have half a millimetre margin.

If it is not cut into the frame of the stamp, a stamp of these last mentioned countries can be regarded as a first class copy. In general a stamp having half the space between the stamps on all sides is a first class stamp.

Stamps with more than these margins are "piece-de-luxe" or "superb" and are worth more than catalogue price. Also corner pieces, some with ornamental frames as the stamps of Hanover or stamps with watermark of the frame of the sheet showing, or numerals of the frame, or so-called "Supermargins" with the neighbouring stamps showing, all these are fetching high prices, many times more than the catalogue price.

But not only are the margins of the stamps indications of the quality. There are other pointers:

- i Original Fresh Colour
- ii Original gum (for mint stamps)

- iii Cancellation
- iv Well Centred (perforated stamps)
- v Perforation (pulled perfs)

The following are factors for reducing value:

- i Thinned or other slight damage
- ii Repaired stamps.

Original Colours

Many stamps of the old issues are damaged through moisture or stains, also through oxidisation, etc., and have lost their original colour. Therefore, ONLY stamps which have their original colour and gum are to be classified as "Superb". Also, a used stamp which has not lost its colour through injudicious treatment by washing, can be classed "Superb" if it has the other characteristics.

Furthermore, for mint stamps, original gum is a MUST if they are to be classed as "Superb". If the stamp has some of the gum missing, or has been hinged a few times and the hinge has been left covering most of the back of the stamp - such a stamp can only be graded as "Unused" or "Without Gum". Only if the stamp is hinged for not more than 1/16th of an inch, is it accepted as "Mint" meaning: as it left the Post Office.

There is also the considered opinions of some, that it is better for the conservation of the stamp to take the gum off the stamp completely, and, it is perhaps advisable to do this in tropical countries. In these hot countries the gum becomes yellowish and gives the stamp an unfresh appearance. Nevertheless, only stamps with full original gum are regarded as "Mint" and are priced accordingly.

Cancellations

These also are important with regard to the quality of the stamps. It is not always that a heavy cancellation will reduce the quality and value of the stamp but only in it covering the wrong place.

For instance, a heavy and clear cancellation of

Sicily, if applied in the prescribed way, leaving the face of the king clearly visible, this will not reduce the value, similarly the first two issues of Belgium- as long as the face of the king is visible in the centre of the stamps.

Some stamps, with a heavy but clear postmark when the latter is a rarity, are even more valuable, as if the stamp was very lightly cancelled. In general, smudgy postmarks are always deteriorating so far as quality is concerned.

Centred Stamps

This applies to perforated stamps and means that the image of the stamp appears exactly in the centre of the paper and showing the same amount of margin on all sides. There are a few countries whose early issues were all "Off-Centre" for instance, Hungary and Sweden, with their first four issues. This was caused by a faulty perforating machine. It is therefore understandable that a well "Centred" stamp from any of those issues is a "Rarity" and will therefore demand a higher price and be much sought after.

Perforation

There are various kinds of perforation. You cannot expect to have all the perforation on the corners if a line, roulette or serpentine perforation has been used. Only a 'Comb Perforation' can give a perfect perforation.

Missing (pulled) teeth always reduce the value of a stamp. Stamps from Wurtenburg are catalogued at a certain price, but if all the perforations are complete, the value will increase by 50 to 100 percent.

Reducing Factors

Tinned or other damage. If a stamp is thinned, it reduces its value considerable, but if a rare stamp it is still worth being taken into a collection. Other damage such as tears and pinholes, etc., reduce the value and it all depends on the rarity of the stamp if such a "damaged" copy can still be tolerated in a collection. There are stamps of Hanover which are thinned by the washing off from the cover and because the structure of the used gum (mainly red gum) could not

be easily washed off because the gum was felted with the paper. This gun is called "Hanover Hell" and it seems that even if such a stamp is thinned, these are still regarded as "first quality" that is, if such a condition is not obvious on the front surface.

Repaired Stamps

On this question philatelists are at variance in opinion. With all other old objects, such as paintings, furniture, porcelain, etc., repairing is tolerated.

Perhaps in time to come - this will be acceptable to the world of philatelists. Nevertheless, where rare stamps are concerned I think that a repaired stamp is worthwhile to keep in your collection, and in all important auctions all over the world, these repaired stamps are auctioned, but an indication is given of the extent of the repair. An estimate of value depreciation due to repair is: four margins added 70% loss smaller repair approx 50% and a very small repair 25 to 30%. However for exhibition purposes — repaired stamps are best left out.

Summary

From the forgoing it will be noticed that a "First Quality" stamp has to comply with a lot of high standards.

Abbreviations

<u>Italy</u>	B	BB	BBB	for nice, very nice, extra nice (Bellissimo).
	R	RR	RRR	for not common, rare, and very rare.
	CC			Well centred.
	F	FF	FFF	Fresh colour, very fresh colour extra fresh.
	GM			Great margins
<u>USA</u>	G			for gum,
	C			for centred,
	F			fresh of colour
	D			damaged or repaired,
	P			for Perforations
	PM			postmark
				and the degree indicated by small letter i.e.
	G.o			Original gum
	G.n			without gum.
	CC			Exactly centre
C.r			Centred right etc.	

By this system a stamp can be accurately described and Valued, perhaps future dealers and auctioneers will have a computer which one can feed in the relevant details and get the exact valuation expressed as a percentage.

MORE MALTA FROM THE MAGAZINES

Stamps to Look for (according to Sagesse) (acknowledgement is made to The Stamp Magazine November 1966)

Do not pay fancy prices for the recent Trade Fair set, I always try to prevent any obvious (to me) exploitation of my readers, so avoid this speculative set until prices become realistic. "Sold out in three days" cuts no ice with me when full background information is available. 'Care study of the local newspaper has been of considerable value: it appears that an application for a very 'large' number of sets made well in advance of the release date was referred to 'Higher Authority' for approval. No indication has been given of the treatment of the 'application'— It is true that all Post Offices had stocks and in the face of spirited local buying most supplies were exhausted within the space of a few days; so I deduce that a 'syndicate' was responsible for the very heavy buying of the 2/6d. So much for the record.

At this stage everything appears to be going well for the stamp buyers; but other factors can influence the course of events in no uncertain way. On this occasion I consider that the speculators have slipped up very badly insofar as their over optimistic assessment of the 'foreign' demand for Trade Fair sets is concerned. Surely it is obvious that unlike previous commemoratives with historical backgrounds, the purely local Trade Fair set cannot achieve universal appeal.

Philatelic speculators are not unknown in Malta: 'cornering' has been tried before, but met with little success. An amusing example of planned 'shortage' occurred during the currency of the 1922 'Melita' series (SG 123—134). The 4d was printed in two-colours, providing an unusual contrast. Shortly after release a spate of letters adversely criticizing the colour combination received publicity. The authorities took notice of the 'public' outcry, and the stamps were withdrawn. Everyone was satisfied - until the authorities later discovered that the instigator of the 'public' outcry had bought up considerable supplies of the much abused 4d ! His triumph was short-lived. The object of his carefully planned campaign was soon restored to Post Office stocks.

In more recent times "cornering" was attempted with the 1954 3d Royal Visit, but a glance at existing catalogue quotes show that the plan failed.

BOOK REVIEWS

The story of Malta and her Stamps, by James A. Mackay
(published by Philatelic Publishers Ltd., price 16s)

As its title implies, this book is primarily the story of one of the most colourful countries in the Mediterranean told in such a way as to appeal to the layman and the stamp collector alike. Chapters dealing with prehistoric Malta, St Paul, the Knights of Malta and the heroic resistance of the island fortress during World War II are unfolded in a most readable fashion and the relevant stamps are used to illustrate each point in the Malta story. There are, in fact about 160 stamp illustrations, not to mention full page plates. A special chapter deals with the postal history of the island and contains much hitherto unpublished material. An appendix contains a check—list of Maltese stamps from 1860 down to the latest Christmas issue (an actual specimen of which embellishes the title page).

The same firm above also produces a One-country album- It is designed to hold all the stamps of this popular country from 18 right up to the Christmas stamps issued in October and there will be annual supplements. The binder is in brown Duraplex and the slip-case features one of the first Halfpenny stamps of Malta in yellow-orange.

Acknowledgement for the above two extracts are made to
(The Stamp Magazine December 1966)

Both the above items are available in Malta from:

Emm Said
32 Britannia St.
Valletta.

WANTED

Good Quality Classical Issues - Mr Louis Frank
23 St Roque Street, Kalkara.

WANTED

ADVERTISERS FOR NEXT EDITION OF THE
NEWSLETTER

LATE SOCIETY NEWS

The January meeting was rather poorly attended due possibly to the normal Society arrangements about meeting on the first Monday of each month, for this and other reasons the display programme scheduled was cancelled.

The February meeting due to be held normally on 6th February has been postponed until 20th February, due to the former date being Carnival Time, the programme is unchanged.

However before the February Monthly meeting on the date above there is to be an Annual General Meeting to be held on THURSDAY 2nd February 1967. At this meeting the election will take place of a new committee — all committee members are to be voted on i.e. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and four others. The vote will be a secret (written) vote from nominations to be made at the meeting. -

PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EDITORS BOOK REVIEW

The story of Malta and her Stamps by James MacKay

A copy of the above book has been given to me, so I thought I would add my personal opinion to the other review made.

The book is well and interestingly written in a clear and simple manner with many illustrations — the type of book just right to encourage a newcomer to the hobby. Also it might suggest that Malta was or is a good country on which to base a collection. Merely to obtain the stamps illustrated would give the beginner or even perhaps a moderate collector great interest and a sense of achievement.

I would recommend anyone to buy and read this book, it could in no way be described as stuffy or stilted

Additionally the same Company prints and distributes a Single Country Album of Malta, the book lists the contents of this album.

The cost of the book is 16/- (with a bonus of the 1d Christmas stamp as a frontispiece) and is money well spent.