

BOOK SHELF

SAID MALTA STAMP AND COIN CATALOGUE 1981

The twelfth edition of this catalogue has been published by Messrs. Emmanuel Said of 32, Melita Street, Valetta, and is being released on Monday, 6th October, 1980.

The Catalogue includes detailed and fully illustrated sections dealing with the stamps, postal history and coins of Malta and lists all the currency notes issued by Malta. A fully illustrated section is devoted to the stamps of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It also gives a complete listing of the Order's contemporary coins.

The stamps of Malta from the Republic issue onwards, as well as all miniature sheets and sheetlets and airmail stamps are illustrated in colour. Prices of stamps, covers and other philatelic material have been revised to take account of present-day market prices and auction realisation. In the album of 420 pages with over 700 illustrations and nearly 300 line illustrations, the philatelist will find everything he wants to know about Maltese philately.

All the special sections, such as those dealing with Malta Post Office machine cancellations, Prisoner of War Mail, Official postal stationery, pre-adhesive and postage due handstamps, disinfected mail, major varieties, etc. have been revised and up-dated. The section dealing with proofs and colour-trails have been completely re-written and reflects our latest knowledge on this topic.

The catalogue, in an attractive linen cover designed by Edwin Bonello, has been photoset, printed and bound by Printex Limited, Malta. It is being sold at £M2.50c per copy.

“MALTA. The Postal History and Stamps 1576-1960”

R.E. Martin, editor for the Malta Study Circle;
London, Robson Lowe Ltd., 1980. pp. 412, ill.

It has been felt necessary for some years for a complete and updated manual about Malta. Several individuals and bodies, especially the Malta Study Circle, have been researching Malta's postal history and related aspects, published in numerous publications, in particular the Circle's, such as the Study Papers and Newsletters, not to mention other contributions scattered in a handful of periodicals. For almost thirty years, the only available treatise about Malta was Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia, vol. 1, published in 1952.

The present volume, “Malta”. The Postal History and Stamps 1576-1960” published by the same house, is subdivided into thirty-two chapters, spanning five centuries of Malta's philately. After the introductory chapter dealing with the history and topography of the Maltese Islands, there follows seven chapters discussing the pre-adhesive postal history. Chapters 9 to 26 cover in detail and chronologically philately proper, including aspects of postal history such as Village Marks, Postmen's Personal Handstamps, Prisoner of War Mails, Forces Mail, Air Mail and War Time Air Mail. The last six chapters are dedicated to Specimens, Revenue Stamps, Postal Stationery, the General and Branch Post Offices machine and hand stamps, and Registration.

Every chapter is meticulously researched, based on all information already published as well as on up-dates, thus providing an in-dept study of the subject under discussion. As a result the 'handbook' took more the form of an 'encyclopedia'. Over 250 philatelists contributed towards this volume and credit should be given to Mr. R.E. Martin, Editor and the Handbook Committee of the Malta Study Circle, who worked incessantly to have the handbook published in time for “London1980”.