

THE 1924/5 BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION HANDSTAMPS

by A.D. SABEY

A number of collectors are under the impression that the small circular handstamp sometimes applied to mail from Malta during 1923 and 1924 was only used there. However a little research reveals that a similar type of handstamp was also employed in British Guiana, Johor, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur areas of Malaya and in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Of these, British Guiana appears to be the most plentiful and it is believed to have been used from July 23 probably to the end of the summer of 1924 and again in 1925 for the second session of the Exhibition.

The three Malayan regions — Johore, Kedah and Kuala Lumpur used a similar handstamp for roughly the same period of time although no 1925 dates have been noted.

With regard to MALTA, the use of this handstamp was not regular. As with other territories which used a handstamp, it was not employed as the canceller but as an additional item. Thus for it to be applied, the mail must have been dealt with in two operations.

Other interesting facts have come to light in that three variations in the composition of the stamp are known:-



- 1) Two *narrow* horizontal lines below the feet of the lion.
- 2) Two wider horizontal lines below the feet of the lion, and the lower of these has a 2mm. break, just left of centre.
- 3) The dots between BRITISH and EXHIBITION, and EMPIRE and 1924 are not central.