

THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

The Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, known also as that of Rhodes and of Malta was founded around the year 1000. It had its seat in Jerusalem up to 1291; in Cyprus from 1292 to 1310; in Rhodes from 1311 to 1523 and in Malta from 1530 to 1798. From that time it has resided in Rome and today its affairs are directed by His Highness Fra Angelo de Mojana in his capacity as the 77th Prince and Grand Master. As at the time of its inception, the Order today continues its work of mercy in a number of countries, dispersed throughout all the continents, where it has founded hospitals and has been responsible for their running. Ambulances, mobile dispensaries, clinics, blood banks, medical research centres and motorised units for emergency relief work in the case of disasters, form part of the programme of the humanitarian activities of the Order. The international executive committee in aid of Leprosy victims in Geneva — founded by the Order — today extends its activities in about 30 countries.

A very good number of countries recognise the Order of Malta as a Sovereign State and between these and the Order exist full diplomatic relations with exchange of Ambassadors and accredited Ministers.

Poste Magistrali

The Postal Administration of the Order was instituted on the 20th May, 1966 after a Decree of the Grandmaster which was approved by the Sovereign Council of the Order. The first set of stamps was released on the 15th November, 1966.

The value of the stamps is expressed in the currency of the Order, i.e. Scudi, Grani and Tari. The approximate sterling equivalent is Scudo = 12 Tari = 240 grani = 32 pence.

Bilateral Postal Convention Between Malta And The Order

On the 4th March, 1975 the Postal Administration of the Republic of Malta and that of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta signed a bilateral Postal Agreement which stipulated that:—

- (a) The Postal Administration of Malta undertakes to carry to destination in its territory correspondence originating from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and franked with the stamps of the Order.
- (b) The Postal Administration of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta undertakes to carry to destination in its correspondence originating from Malta and franked with Malta Stamps.

In the execution of the abovementioned undertaking both Postal Administrations have agreed to abide and be guided by all the Acts or Regulations of the Universal Postal Union to which they have already adhered to or may be acceded to by them in the future.

Under this agreement stamps of the Order, affixed on correspondence addressed to Malta, are being cancelled on transmission with a date stamp showing the date of transmission and the words POSTE MAGISTRALI. On the first day of issue of sets of stamps of the Order there will be added a cancellation stamp showing the words PRIMO GIORNO D'EMISSIONE with the Emblem of the Order in the centre.

The Postal Administration of Malta is delivering at destination in Malta this correspondence after back-stamping it in the usual manner.

G. SAID.

SAID MALTA STAMP AND COIN CATALOGUE

The 1975 Edition of this 218 page Catalogue gives:

- * A full postal history of Malta.
- * Actual size illustrations of all stamps issued.
- * Reproductions of all cancellations, from pre-adhesive to present day.
- * Complete listing of major varieties.
- * Updating of prices.

The COINS SECTION includes:

- * Full information and illustrations of Malta Gold, Silver and base metal sets.
- * The listing of all Currency Notes issued by the Government of Malta.
- * Contemporary numismatic issues of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in Rome.

Price: 68 cents.

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