

## REVIEW

### MALTA POSTAL RATES

(Malta Study Circle, Study Paper No. 39; 29pp, illustrated)

The Malta Study Circle has recently published a study paper on Malta Postal Rates. The contents is the result of research work by some of the Circle's members and reports on items in other members' collections and auction catalogues.

The study tries to trace all types of postal rates from the time of the Knights in Malta to the present day. It deals with the changes in the early years, external, internal, seamen and soldiers Privileged rates; surface and air; newspaper, parcel, registration and express rates. The field covered is very vast and as expected it lacks details in parts.

The study is very comprehensive and detailed with regards to rates connected with the U.K.. Fees and charges to other countries are not so documented and detailed. Rates resulting from bi-lateral Conventions affecting Malta mail would have been more than welcome. Fees levied on mail to and from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the Papal States, the Kingdom of Sardinia and France would have rendered a greater contribution to Malta's Postal History.

One could explain this situation by the fact that research on the continent is not so easy as that in U.K. in view of the fact that the greater part of the Circle's members reside in Great Britain.

The contents of the paper is in most parts very objective; based on official notices and information. Gaps have been filled with knowledge gleaned from existing covers although a warning is sounded that such information "is insufficient to enable a firm conclusion to be drawn". More interest from members may fill such details as Parcel Post Rates, the full implementation of the Standard Penny Post Rate at the turn of the century and the slow resumption and expansion of air mail service after the Second World War. These details and the "field of further study" could be filled if the paper is divided in parts and members "adopt" an item and work on it.

Such Study Paper is an indication of the interest of the members of the M.S.C. have to acquire and broadcast any information on the various aspects of Malta Postal History.

Carmel G. Bonavia

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ing 23mm in diameter and the outer 32mm. In the upper part of the ring is written "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-~~HRUG~~ 31-3-1975" and in the lower part the name of the Post Office where the stamps are cancelled. Written horizontally across the inner circle are the words "MALTA REPUBBLIKA".

The Philatelic Bureau also provided specially designed envelopes and Souvenir Folders.