

WITH AN EAR TO THE GROUND

The recent 'FAO' issue looks like being one of the best philatelic bets of 1968. Already it has been tipped by "Stamp Collecting Weekly's column, FYNDEM", and prices in U.K. are as high as 9/- mint or used, while most dealers are complaining that there are not sufficient stocks to go round. It would seem a definite shortage is the case since the Crown Agents stocks were exhausted by October the 24th, and local sources were severely rationed soon after issue for a while, but only time will prove the point.

Rumours are rife on this set, but one has a ring a truth about it, Gibbons, it seems, may list the two major flaws on the 2/6d value, i.e.:—

Right Pane, R1/6 black mark on breast.

Left Pane, R1/10 large retouch on breast.

The "Commonwealth Elizabethan Catalogue", are to list some varieties on recent Maltese issue, so far, it is known that the 'Trade Fair' issue flaws itemized below are definitely due for listing. Further details will be published as they come to light.

Trade Fair issue.

All values. R5/1 Cylinder IA

Bulge at top of 'L' in white Malta, broken line to right below Malta cross and deformed base of 'T' in Trade.

Also the Xmas 1968 issue.

1d. value. R1/6 Broken line on reclining figure.

8d. value. R8/3 Large retouch above Malta.

Further additions are expected to the "J.L. Variety Catalogue", they are:— Human Right issue, 6d. value.

R7/5 White flaw lower right

R3/6 Large weak entry.

Trade Fair issue 8d value.

R8/3 weak entry in lower centre of design.

AN UNDISCOVERED VARIETY

A possible new variety has come to light in the form of Edward VII stamps with MULTIPLE WATERMARK (Previously uncatalogued). It was discovered on the 3d. Grey & Purple (SG42) overprinted "Revenue", by Dr. J. Saunders of the Malta Study Circle. Subsequently, one of our members found a copy after reading about the discovery in the Circle's newsletter.

If anyone has a copy, or, can throw any light on the subject, would they please contact one of the Editors?