

NOTES ON:

OLD PHILATELIC PERIODICALS.

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It is really a difficult assignment that befell on me to write on philatelic magazines and journals that were published in Malta in the past. Unfortunately, before 1925, there was no law imposing a duty on the author of a work printed and published in Malta to deliver a copy of such work to the Royal Malta Library and another to the Gozo Public Library. Besides, no bibliography of philatelic periodicals published in Malta is known to exist. From time to time, I have been told of periodicals supposed to have been printed in Malta in former days, but the data given me was seldom accurate and therefore I consider this information too unreliable and of little value. I am therefore in no position to give a complete list of these publications.

I can, however, write a few notes on "The Melita Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser" and quote some extracts from this periodical which may be of interest to our readers.

This publication was started by Mr. Alfred Muscat, a very enterprising gentleman, towards the end of the last century. The journal seems to have originated as an advertising medium on stamps, but in the 5th issue (1st May, 1899) a short article on "Errors of Malta Stamps" was published.

In the issue of the 1st December, 1889, Edmund Rizzo published the first instalment of an interesting article entitled "Stamps of Malta." At the end of these notes I am reproducing this article and I intend publishing its continuation in subsequent issues of the "Newsletter."

The last issue of this journal bears the date 1st December, 1890. This was the twelfth number that had seen the light of day, although the journal was intended as a monthly publication. It appears that before this journal was started other attempts were made to publish a periodical of philatelic interest but they never came to fruition as the venture was considered too risky.

In this century a number of philatelic journals are known. I am giving a list of those I have come across in the hope that others will come forward to add the names of other philatelic magazines they may know of:

1. Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal (1916-1917);
2. The Malta International Friendship (Philatelic Exchange Club) (1935);
3. The Melita Post (Edited by Dr. L. Grech) (1937-1938);
4. The Melita Post (Malta Philatelic Society, Zejtun) (1937-1939);
5. Invicta Magazine (A quarterly edited by C.J. Mhempdale) (1946-1948);
6. Malta and Gozo Courier (incorporating the Advertiser (Edited by G. Xicluna) (1946).