

MALTA HEARSAY.

Once again, Chevalier Cremona outshone himself as an artist in executing an excellent design for the three value set commemorating the 25th anniversary of the award of the George Cross. The blue ribbon of the medal, an exact replica of the original, certainly adds a considerable amount of "flavour" to the stamp.

The majority of users still remember those incessant air raids of the early 1940's which reached a climax in the spring of 1942 when the Luftwaffe decided to wipe out all signs of the "Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier". Much to the disappointment of the Nazi leaders, Malta stayed firm and solid. Helped by Britain and her Allies, the Maltese stood up to their tradition of being loyal fighters.

The only jarring note about the issue was the failure on the part of the postal authorities to make use of the long awaited special date stamp showing a "First Day of Issue" cancellation. It really puzzles everybody why such an attractive novelty takes so long to put into effect. The set would have looked more complete on a first day cover if it were thus postmarked.

Malta stamps have finally stopped in their sharp rise to fabulous prices. This was certainly an exaggerated and undesirable move, motivated from a great demand by our friends on the Continent. This demand came mainly from collectors and dealers, and certainly not from visitors; thus it is most unlikely that the market will at some time or other be flooded by these issues. The only exception is perhaps the Malta Trade Fair set, which was connered on the second day of issue. This may come up for sale at some time or other.

The fact that so many collectors have shown an interest in Maltese philately may be attributed, in part, to the excellent artistic designs offered by Chev. Cremona.

It is again rumoured that Malta intends to commemorate local celebrities of international status. A reference to this was made some months ago in 'Malta Hearsay'. This is a very wise move which will certainly meet with everyone's approval.

Our Island is pregnant with a wealth of priceless history. Surely, events or people can easily be selected and duly commemorated. On the other hand, an excess of this is very harmful indeed and the number of issues should never exceed five (or, possibly four) each year.

Emmanuel Said.

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