

# "MALTA" IN GENEVA AUCTION

by Godwin Said

THE auction organised by Messrs. David Feldman S.A. at the Zurich Hilton between the 21st and the 26th May, 1982, featured an extremely strong Malta section. Of the 6,000 odd lots presented for auction, something over 200 were Malta items, but what items! The lots ranged from scarce postal history items to proofs, general issues and World War I Prisoner of War Mail and Censor Marks.

The star items in this wealth of stamp and philatelic material came from an award-winning collection of the popular "halfpenny yellows". What was particularly striking in this section was not just the range of material presented but also its excellent quality.

As the auction was held in Switzerland estimates and bids were in Swiss Francs. Below I am giving a description of some of the lots, mainly the major items, together with the estimated and actual realisation.

Lot No.	Description	Estimate	Realisation
11316	1875, letter to Constantinople with m/s 4, superb strike of MALTA/SHIPLETTER in black, arrival cds in red on reverse, late usage, fine	S.Frs.1000	S.Frs.1400
11342	1880, letter to SIRA with single ½d pl 19 tied by clear A25 duplex, very fine, scarce	S.Frs. 900	S.Frs. 650

## HALF-PENNY YELLOWS

11344	Plate proof in buff on thin glazed, interpanneau block of 12 with inscription and overprinted cancelled (12)	S.Frs.2500	S.Frs.2800
11354	½d Buff mint pair with sheet margin and part inscription at top, left-hand stamp small fault, fine and rare (2)	S.Frs.6500	S.Frs.5500
11363	½d Buff horizontal PAIR ON COVER TIED BARRED "M" OVALS, addressed to Zeitun,		

Lot No.	Description	Estimate	Realisation
	exceptionally well-centred, very fine. A unique cover of exhibition quality and another star piece of this collection, cert. R.P.S.	S.Frs.20000	S.Frs.22000
11368	½d Variety IMPERFORATED, unused with part gum, two threads at left, extremely rare	S.Frs.10000	S.Frs.13000
11376	½d brown orange pair and a strip of three together on cover to Valletta tied A25 duplexes JY. 15. 62, extremely rare high franking and very valuable item	S.Frs.1000	S.Frs.11000
11392	½d Buff VARIETY IMPERFORATE unused with traces of gum, from bottom of sheet, unique	S.Frs.10000	S.Frs.13000
11414	½d dull orange USED BLOCK OF FOUR, clear MY. 6. 70 duplexes, some short perforations, nevertheless very fine, extremely rare	S.Frs.3500	S.Frs.5500
11450	½d yellow unlisted variety WATERMARK INVERTED, cans. Malta duplex, one blunt perforation, very rare, cert. Fiecchi (SG.13 — 1881 cc perf. 14)	S.Frs.1000	S.Frs.1300
11482	1921-22 Script ½d to 10/- set mint, mostly very fine	S.Frs.1000	S.Frs.950
11488	1928 Air 6d used on cover to Greece with ½d and 2d fine	S.Frs.150	S.Frs.190

The above lots generally reflect how the bidding went. If a lesson is to be drawn I believe it is that recession or no recession, the classical and the genuine postal history items will always attract the collector. Malta's performance in this regard is very good indeed.

30th August, 1982.