

Book Review

"SAID MALTA CATALOGUE 1978" 9th Edition; Printex Ltd, for E. Said Publishers—Malta, 1977, pp.330, £4

The ninth edition of the "Said Malta Catalogue 1978" once more reflects the volatile and unstable market in early and classic material of Malta; a market so uncontrollable that most catalogue publishers continue to make vain efforts to produce a valuation capable to hold true for at least six months. This situation is creating havoc; — as soon as a catalogue is published, some prices are already out-dated. Unfortunately this is what happened to the ninth edition of the "Said" catalogue.

In fact, barely one month after the publication of the edition under review, the same publishers produced a colourful new price list revising upwardly, of course, a few single items; the most spectacular price increases being: $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ reserved for that classic Multiple Crown C A 10/- black of 1919, and 50% for that much abused "International Women's Year" set of 1974, the black sheep of the Republican issues.

The publishers shouldn't be held responsible for offering to collectors an out-dated, (in part only), catalogue by the time it reached them through the post. Printing-time schedules have to be honoured and respected by both parties and if anyone is to blame, then it's people who are ready to demand at whatever costs.

The "Said Malta Catalogue" is not just a stamp catalogue. It has now been established as a unique reference of almost all aspects of Maltese philately, including a wide spectrum of postal history. Sections are also reserved for listing and pricing the S.M.O.M. Issues, as well as numismatics of both Malta and the S.M.O.M.

Postal History now occupies almost a fifth of the catalogue providing a guide to the value of pre-adhesive cancels, the Lazzaretto markings and the village postmarks, all of which show increases over last year, in accordance with current market realizations. Other aspects of this section include modern, special and machine cancels and postmarks, World War I Censorship and a brief note on the postman's personal handstamps, every section being profusely illustrated.

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