

## EUROPEAN CLASSICS

### XXVIII. MALTA

*Malta*, a British colony during its stamp-using classic period, consists of three islands, namely Malta proper, which has an area of 95 sq. miles, Gozo, 20 sq. miles, and Comino, 1 sq. mile, as well as two uninhabited rocks, Cominotto and Filfia. It is situated in the Mediterranean Sea, 60 miles south of Sicily and 180 miles from the northern coast of Africa. The language of the population was a Phoenician dialect, the so-called Maltese, but Italian and English were also current during that period. In 1836 the population was about 120,000, including the garrison; it had increased to 145,000 in 1873. The capital was *Valetta*, named after Grand Master de la Valette who founded it in 1570, with a population of almost 60,000 in 1873.

The *History* of Malta shows that it was a strategically important site in the Mediterranean. It was colonized first by the Phoenicians, before 1000 B.C. In the 7th and 8th centuries B.C. it was an important Phoenician possession. In the following centuries, Malta changed hands several times. First the Greeks took possession of the islands, to be driven out by the Carthaginians about 480 B.C. These in turn were replaced by the Romans who held the islands for many centuries until the decline of the Roman Empire. In 395 A.D., the islands became part of the Eastern Empire, but were subjected to several invasions by the Arabs, who ruled the islands intermittently until the 11th century, when they came under Norman rule. In 1194, Constance, the wife of the German Emperor Heinrich IV, inherited the islands. They were conquered in 1282 by Pedro of Aragon and came under Spanish sovereignty. The islands were raided by the Turks in 1427 and in 1530 were given by the German Emperor as a grant to the Catholic order of the Knights of St. John which had been driven from Jerusalem and later Rhodes by the Turks. Under the Knights of Malta, as they were now often called, the islands remained nominally under Spanish sovereignty. The knights participated in many wars against the Turks and Arabs and distinguished themselves by great bravery, especially during the great siege by the Turks which began in 1565, checking the advance of Islam in that re-

gion. In 1798, on his way to Egypt, Napoleon took possession of the islands, but was dislodged again in 1799, when the British occupied them. The Treaty of Amiens (1802) restored the rule of the Order of St. John, but the British did not leave, and their claim was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris (1814) and the Congress of Vienna (1815). The islands became a British colony and have remained so until this day.

Little is known about the early *Postal History* of Malta, but it seems apparent that no organized mail service functioned there before the islands came into British hands. The Knights of St. John forwarded their own mail by messengers, and these may have also taken with them letters from merchants and other people, but no regular mail service was available to the public. Soon after the occupation of the islands, the British administration established a packet agency at Malta which handled mail to Great Britain and foreign countries, originating from or addressed to Malta, as well as mail in transit through Malta. In addition to this service, the local authorities organized a local mail service which transported mail between Malta and Gozo as well as between the towns and villages of the islands. Both postal services worked together but remained independent until 1849, when they were consolidated. But the local mail service still remained under the direction of the local authorities, while the mail to and from outside the islands was supervised and, in September 1857, taken over by the London General Post Office. During the classic stamp period, only one regular post office functioned, at the capital Valetta. The local mail service in the various towns and villages was handled by the police stations, which accepted mail, sold stamps, etc. Generally, no mail was delivered, it had to be picked up at the post office or the police stations. Later, delivery was made in some places against a separate delivery fee, but letters on which postage was due, or registered letters, were held at the post office or the police stations to be picked up. Letter boxes were installed on the island and daily delivery of mail introduced simultaneously with the introduction of postage stamps for local mail, on December 1, 1860. In 1875, Malta, through the

London General Post Office, joined the Universal Postal Union.

The volume of mail in Malta was rather large, considering the small population. During the classic stamp period, between 20,000 and 40,000 local letters and about 70,000 letters to Great Britain and foreign countries were handled every year. Ship mail to England went either by British ships to Southampton or Marseille or by French ships to Marseille.

Malta was an important port for the transit of mail from the Orient and therefore a convenient place for the disinfection of such mail, which was customary until deep in the 19th century. The Malta hospital was used to a large extent for fumigating mail arriving from the countries of the Middle and Far East.

During the classic stamp period, the British Currency, 1 Pound (£) equivalent to 20 Shillings (sh), one Shilling divided into 12 Pence (p) and one Penny consisting of 4 Farthings (f), was in use in Malta.—British measurements were also used for distances and weight.

As stamps of Great Britain were used in Malta for mail to Great Britain and to foreign countries, the classic stamp period lasted for the purposes of this monograph as long as in Great Britain, namely to 1873. This leaves only the early printings of Malta's own first stamp within the scope of this monograph.

Postage Stamps were first issued in Malta in September 1857, when the General Post Office of London sent a supply of the current stamps of Great Britain there. All British stamps used at Malta prior to that date were brought there by travellers or sent there as return postage. Malta issued its own postage stamps, for local mail only, on December 1, 1860. No other kinds of adhesives were issued at Malta during the classic stamp period, but Postal Envelopes of Great Britain were probably introduced at the same time as the adhesives, and British Postal Wrappers as well as British Postal Cards seem to have been issued on or soon after October 1, 1870, when they were introduced in Great Britain proper. Nothing seems to be known about the use of British Telegraph Forms and British Telegraph Cards in Malta, although telegraph service existed there to and from Europe.

The Postal Rates, as far as the domestic service within and between the islands was concerned, were very simple after stamps were introduced. Letters paid ½p for each half ounce, while newspapers were delivered free of charge. For letters to Great Britain, the rate by way of Southampton was 1sh for ¼ oz in 1857, which was reduced to 8p in 1872. By way of Marseille, letters sent by British ships paid 1sh 3p for ¼ oz, by French ships 1sh 1p for ¼ oz. There were lower rates to Greece and Italy (6p, from 1860 on only 4p for ¼ oz) and Sicily (3p for ¼ oz). The rates of the Universal Postal Union came into force on July 1, 1875.

For its local mail service, Malta introduced only one denomination of postage stamps, a ½p stamp which paid the postage for a local letter of ½ oz. For mail to Great Britain and foreign countries, all denominations which were issued in Great Britain from 1857 on until the end of the classic stamp period were also issued at Malta. 1p, 2p, 4p, 6p and 1sh were available from September 1857 on, while 9p followed in 1862, 10p, 2sh and 5sh in 1867 as well as ½p and 1½p in 1870. There exists little information about the use of postal stationery at Malta. It seems doubtful whether it was available there at all, and there is no evidence in the files that envelopes (1p, 2p) were available there from 1857 on. It is equally doubtful whether postal cards (½p) and wrappers (½p) as well as telegraph forms (1sh) and telegraph cards (1sh) were ever issued there.

The following classic stamps of Great Britain are known used at Malta:

1841-54 (Imperforate)

- 1p (Scott #3)
- 2p (Scott #4)
- 6p (Scott #7)
- 1sh (Scott #5)

1854-55 (Wmk. Small Crown)

- 1p, Die I, perf. 16 (Scott #8)
- 1p, Die II, perf. 16 (Scott #9)
- 1p, Die II, perf. 14 (Scott #12)
- 2p, perf. 16 (Scott #10)

1855-58 (Wmk. Large Crown)

- 1p, blued paper, perf. 16 (Scott #14)
- 1p, blued paper, perf. 14 (Scott #16)
- 1p, white paper, perf. 14 (Scott #20)
- 2p, blued paper, perf. 14 (Scott #17)
- 2p, white paper, perf. 16 (Scott #19)

## 1856-64

- 1p, Plates 71-74,76,78-125,127,129-224 (Scott #33)  
 2p, thick lines, Plates 7-9,12 (Scott #29)  
 2p, thin lines, Plates 13-15 (Scott #30)  
 4p (Scott #26)  
 6p (Scott #27)  
 1sh (Scott #28)

## 1862 (Small colorless letters)

- 3p (Scott #37)  
 4p (Scott #34,34a)  
 6p (Scott #39,39b)  
 9p (Scott #40)  
 1sh (Scott #42)

## 1865 (Large colorless letters, wmk. heraldic emblems, 4p garter)

- 3p (Scott #44)  
 4p, Plates 7-14 (Scott #43)  
 6p, Plates 5,6 (Scott #45)  
 9p, Plate 4 (Scott #46)  
 1sh (Scott #48)

## 1867-73 (Large colorless letters, wmk. spray of roses)

- 3p, Plates 4-10 (Scott #49)  
 6p with hyphen (Scott #50)  
 6p without hyphen, Plates 8-10 (Scott #51)  
 6p brown, Plates 11,12 (Scott #59)  
 6p gray (Scott #60)  
 9p (Scott #52)  
 10p, Plate 1 (Scott #53)  
 1sh, Plates 4-7 (Scott #54)  
 2sh, Plate 1 (Scott #55)  
 5sh, Plates 1,2 (Scott #57)

## 1870

- 1/2p, Plates 4-6,8-15,19,20 (Scott #58)  
 1 1/2p, Plates 1,3 (Scott #32)

Several of the major varieties of the above stamps are known used at Malta, namely the 6p of 1856 on blued paper, the watermark error "three roses" of the 6p of 1865, and the 1sh of 1862 with the "K in circle" variety.

For mail to places outside the islands, the use of postage stamps started in September 1857, for local mail one December 1, 1860. It became obligatory for mail to Great Britain and foreign countries on March 1, 1858 and for local mail on December 1, 1860.

The stamps of Great Britain used in Malta were withdrawn when the island issued its own postage stamps and stationery on January 1, 1885. They became invalid for postage after December 31, 1884. The first 1/2p stamp issued for Malta was used up; we

do not know when or whether it was ever demonetized.

The design of the only classic Malta stamp features the head of Queen Victoria, facing to the left. The particular head used for the stamp was cut in steel by Jean F. Joubert of de la Rue & Co. of London, and was also used for other British Colonial issues of the period (Mauritius and Sierra Leone 1860, British Columbia and Vancouver Island 1861, Hongkong and New South Wales 1862). The design of the frame was the work of an unknown designer, probably also an employee of de la Rue & Co. It enclosed the head in an octagonal frame with laurel leaves surrounding the bottom part, MALTA at top and ONE/HALF PENNY at bottom.

The die for the frame was cut in steel and the head design transferred into it. The die was then hardened and used for the manufacture of the printing material for typography. Electrotypes were made in the necessary number and used to assemble a setting. It consisted of four panes of 60 each, in ten rows of six. The panes were arranged as a block, the horizontal gutter had the height of a stamp, the vertical one was about 9mm. wide. Each pane had at top the marginal inscription "MALTA.—POSTAGE ONE HALFPENNY." The plate number appeared twice in each setting, in the top right and in the bottom left corner. It was a numeral "1", colorless in a colored circle; only this number is known. There were no "current numbers" such as can be found on other British and British Colonial stamps. A guide cross as an aid to the perforating was in the top margin.

The printing was done on a letter press, and no specific varieties can be found, except that some printings are clear, others more or less blurred, probably due to the ink which was used and to the carelessness of the make-ready.

The paper used for the printing was the same as that used for other contemporary British Colonial stamps. For the earliest printing, a machine-made paper without watermark was used, which for the first printing, made in 1859, had a distinct bluish tint due to chemical treatment before the printing. The further printings, from early 1862 on, were on untreated paper which was white. From late in 1863 on, a special paper with watermark was put into use for British Colonial stamps, and the new printings

of the Malta stamps made from then on were on this watermarked paper. It had an individual watermark for each stamp, showing the letters CC, standing for "Crown Colonies", below a crown. The sheets had a margin watermark CROWN COLONIES in shaded letters, horizontally once across the horizontal gutter and vertically twice on each side. Reversed watermark is common, but inverted watermarks are rare and known only from a few printings, in perf. 14 and 12½.

The color of the stamp, originally buff, underwent many variations during the years which should enable the student to separate the various printings. But it is a difficult task to try to do that, because not only were there partly different shades to the same printing, but some colors were rather sensitive and changed under the influence of light and moisture. The unwatermarked stamps showed rather small variations, they were buff, often with a reddish or yellowish tint. The earliest watermarked stamps had the same shade as the last printing of the unwatermarked ones. Only late in 1864 did stamps in a rather bright orange shade appear, and from then on buff and orange shades alternate until the end of the classic period in 1873. Many collectors have tried to bring these shades into a sensible system, but all research of this kind seems to have failed to achieve a really satisfactory result.

The stamps were issued *perforated* only; a few unused imperforate copies which are recorded are obviously from imprimatur sheets or proofs. The perforation was a horizontal comb perforation 14 (14x17 perfs); 22 operations of the perforating device were necessary to perforate a sheet completely. The perforation was applied at Somerset House, the Government Printing Works, later, on an identical device, by the printers themselves. The stamps adjoining the vertical gutter were not perforated like the other stamps of the sheet, but the vertical perforating line run through the center of the gutter, creating stamps with half of the gutter on the right or left side. Such stamps had 17x17 perfs, therefore have a square size. In 1868, the printers also used a line perforating device 12½ for the perforating, and such stamps were issued late in that year. They can be found, simultaneously with stamps in comb perforation 14, until about 1872, when the latter perfor-

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ation was again used exclusively. Of the 12½ perforated stamps, the only major perforation variety exists, namely imperforate horizontally. A margin copy of this variety, perforated 12½ vertically only, is in the Tapling Collection.

The gum was the same colorless thin gum used by the printers for numerous issues of British and British Colonial stamps.

The stamps were issued in complete sheets of 240; each such sheet cost 10sh.

There were no *remainders* of the classic stamps, but this is noticeable only for the unwatermarked stamps which are considerably scarcer unused than used, while for the watermarked stamps the lack of remainders is partly offset by the relatively large purchases by stamp dealers made during the time when these stamps were available at the post office. The low face value and the fact that the country issued only this one denomination made such purchases especially inviting. Of course, of some printings, less was bought for collecting purposes than of others, so that they are scarcer. *Unused multiples* are rather easily available of the watermarked stamps, although blocks are not common of all printings. Of the unwatermarked stamps, multiples are rare, especially of the stamp on blued paper, of which only few blocks are known, while those on white paper are also rare in blocks, but more easily available.

In *used* condition, the classic Malta stamps are not difficult to obtain, although they are much rarer than could be expected when we consider the quantities used. This is due to the fact that the local correspondence on which these stamps were used exclusively—they were invalid on mail to Great Britain or foreign countries—was almost entirely private correspondence, sent in envelopes which were usually not kept. No business archives with early stamps, which were the main source of classic stamps of most countries, existed of the local stamps of Malta, and in our opinion used copies are considerably scarcer than unused ones, especially of the watermarked stamps, although the catalogs do not take notice of this fact. *Used multiples* are scarce, as heavier local letters were usually delivered by messengers. We do not remember ever having seen used blocks of the unwatermarked stamps, and we doubt that such exist of the watermarked issues up to 1873. In any case, should such blocks ex-

ist, they must be of considerable rarity.

On *entires*, the first Malta stamps are generally uncommon, for the same reason that used stamps are relatively scarce. Especially the unwatermarked stamps on cover are elusive, as are certain of the scarcer shades of the watermarked stamps.

Due to their method of use, no *mixed frankings* with Great Britain stamps, which were in use for mail going outside the islands, should exist, and none are known. We do not know of any other mixed or emergency frankings.

There were no *Keprints* of Malta stamps, but there exist some *Forgeries*. In addition to crude imitations of the unwatermarked stamps, there exists a rather well executed job by Jean Sperati, who used a cheap stamp of another country with the same perforation without watermark, probably of Sarawak, from which he removed the design and printed on it instead a quite convincing imitation of the ½p stamp, also applying bluing and faked gum to the paper. Compared with an original, the Sperati imitation has very few and only tiny differences in the design, but the impression looks much less distinct and more worn than that of the genuine unwatermarked stamps, so that even a less experienced collector will be able to spot it when he compares it with an undoubted original. It seems to exist only unused.

The first *Postmarks* are known from the period of British sovereignty. The earliest postmark is known of 1807, showing MALTA in capital script letters in a curved box. For paid letters, a similar postmark, but with PAID in Roman capitals above the box, was used. These postmarks were used until about 1839. About 1828, straight line postmarks started to appear, MALTA POST OFFICE for unpaid letters, and MALTA ★ P.PAID for paid ones; they exist in several types. The latter was replaced in 1838 by another straight line, Malta Post Paid between bars, but also without bars. These postmarks were in use to about 1850. From 1842 on, various types of double circles—with MALTA at top, breaking the circles, date including year in the center—were introduced, with the name first in Roman capitals, from 1855 on also in sans-serif type. For paid letters, a similar double circle, but with added PAID at bottom, was in use. These double circles were withdrawn in 1857, but used

occasionally until 1859. They were replaced by small single circles, with MALTA placed horizontally, and a check letter—known are A,B,C and D—above and the date including year below. A similar single circle for paid letters, inscribed MALTA at top and PAID at bottom, was also introduced in 1857, but remained in use for a short period only, to the obligatory use of adhesives, which started on March 1, 1858. For mail which was received from the mail boxes of ships which called at Malta, a special octagonal MALTA/MB (MB standing for Mail Box) with date was used from 1858 on.

For ship letters arriving in British ports from Malta, special ship origin postmarks were used, first from 1813 on a curved MALTA, with date and year below, then from 1841 on a straight line MALTA|SHIP LETTER. Both seem to have been used at Southampton. A straight line dateless MALTA, found about 1815-20, seems to be an origin marking also, but it is not known where it was used.

Other markings of the pre-stamp period were generally all related to the payment of postage. They were either rate markings or postage due markings of various kinds. From 1830 on, on letters which were disinfected at Malta, an oval "Purifié au Lazaret Malte" was stamped, which was replaced in 1836 by a double circle with the same inscription.

For local mail, special straight line markings were used from 1828 on which showed the date and the amount of postage. The denominations known are 4p,5p,8p and 1sh3p (1828-38), 3p (1838-40), 1p and 2p (1840-47). There were also a few additional markings for such mail.

The *ink* used for the pre-stamp postmarks was mostly black; red ink was used exclusively on paid letters, but they were frequently also stamped in black. The handstamps on local mail were all in black. For the first origin marking applied at Southampton, green ink was used.

British postage stamps were first sold in Malta in September 1857, but occasionally stamps sent as return postage or brought by travellers were used there on mail several years earlier. For such stamps, the double circle MALTA was sometimes used as canceller, but in other cases, a rectangular grid formed by undulated horizontal lines was employed. Its origin is unknown, possibly it

was a locally manufactured canceller or it was not used at all on the island but at another port where ship letters from Malta were handled. In any case, this early canceller is extremely rare and is known only in a few examples, on the 1sh of 1847 and on the 1p, large crown, perf. 16 of 1855. The double circle town postmark is also very rare and has been found only on the 1p of 1841 and the 6p of 1854.

When British stamps were sent to Malta in September 1857, a special canceller was delivered simultaneously, showing the letter "M" in an oval of bars. This canceller, of which two types existed, was used as canceller of British stamps until February 1859. It was always accompanied by a town postmark, which was usually stamped on the reverse side of the letters. First, until March 1858, the double circle MALTA was used for that purpose; from then on, for a short period, the double circle MALTA PAID, and from April 1858 on for the balance of the classic stamp period, the single circle MALTA.

In the middle of February 1859, a duplex canceller, consisting of an oval of bars with "A 25" in the center, with a circle town postmark at its left, was introduced and used exclusively for the cancelling of British stamps. From 1861 on, a second type of this duplex canceller was in use. The town postmark of this duplex is known with the check letters A,B,C,D and E above MALTA, the last letter being found very rarely. From October to December 1859, the year date on this postmark was erroneously set at "56" instead of "59", with fact led some students to wrong conclusions.

For registered letters, an oval REGISTERED MALTA postmark was in use from 1872 on; stamps on such letters were not cancelled with the duplex canceller but with a single "A 25" canceller without town postmark.

For the cancelling of the Malta stamps on local mail, from their introduction on December 1, 1860 on, the M-canceller, which had been withdrawn from use on British stamps, was again put to use, but only for a month. From January 1861 on, a single circle town postmark was employed to cancel the Malta stamps. Only from 1862 on were the Malta stamps cancelled in the same way as the British stamps, namely with the duplex "A 25" canceller.

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Additional markings were used mainly to indicate full payment of postage. First a "P" in an oval, then a "P.D.", straight line or in an oval, were used on mail going outside the islands.

The *ink* used for cancelling was generally black; this was at first also the case for the town postmarks, but from March 1858 on, red ink was introduced for them. By error, the cancellers were wrongly inked, and the "M" canceller as well as the "A 25" duplex are known in a few examples in red, as rarities. The additional markings were usually applied in red.

On the local Malta stamps, the first unwatermarked stamp on blued paper comes either with the "M" canceller—which can not exist on later printings, therefore is sufficient to identify any ½p stamp as belonging to the first printing—or the single circle MALTA postmark. The later printings can be found almost exclusively with the A 25 duplex canceller.

When we consider that Malta is a small field, the amount of *Literature* dealing with it is rather adequate. All research seems to be based on an article by W. R. Gatt, a resident of the islands, which was published in 1908-09 and contained a great amount of useful information. A brochure by A. J. Séfi, which appeared in 1913, did not contain any important new research and, except for the unearthing of some unknown official documents concerning the postal history of the islands, very few new findings were reported in later articles by various authors. The Kohl Handbook (in Volume III, on pages 852 to 855) gave a well balanced account of the Malta cancellations on British stamps, and Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" provides a fine handbook of the country in respect to postal history, stamps and postmarks. All together, Malta can be considered a country which has enough good literature to satisfy the collector who is looking for information.

As far as the classic period is concerned, the *Scott Catalog* should list the first Malta stamp in two main numbers, without and with watermark, with the differences of shade in the paper and color as sub-numbers. Actually, the catalog uses for them unnecessarily—or, to be more correct, in accordance with tradition—four main numbers, and assigns two more numbers to post-classic

shades which should also be degraded to sub-numbers. By the way, even the chronological order is wrong, as the first stamp, issued on December 1, 1860, was undoubtedly the stamp on blue paper which is now incorrectly listed as No. 2, preceded by the stamp on white paper which is not known used before 1862. As the two basic stamps which deserve main numbers list unused only \$25.00 and \$8.00, used \$22.50 and \$7.00 respectively, it seems clear that, even considering the sub-numbers, classic Malta is a good field for the collector of small and medium means. There are no great rarities in a high price range among its stamps and cancellations, and with relatively little money a sizable collection of Malta cancellations on British stamps as well as of the classic  $\frac{1}{2}$ p stamp of Malta can be brought together. There is not much by way of research to be accomplished, but considering the varieties of the cancellations, multiples and covers, there is sufficient material available to keep a collector busy. Malta is not very popular, but also far from unpopular, so material steadily becomes available to keep the collecting interest alive.

(Next: XXIX. Mecklenburg-Schwerin)

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- *The next issue of the MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL is scheduled for December, 1960.*
- *Office Hours of the Mercury Stamp Company for the 1960-61 season are as follows: Monday to Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P. M., Saturdays 9 A. M. to Noon. Out-of-town visitors may, if necessary, be accommodated also at other hours; in such cases, it is advisable to phone well ahead of time for an appointment.*
- *The Friedl Expert Committee has resumed its work after the summer recess, and meetings are again held regularly. Generally, it takes about two weeks (if certificates are required, a few days more) before an opinion can be rendered. Foreign stamps only are expertized. Every effort will be made to maintain such fast service during the whole season. — New Expertizing Terms will become effective October 1, 1960. They are available free upon request (Address: 10 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.). All shipments received after September 30, 1960 will be subject to the new terms.*
- *The new catalogs are due to be published these days; we will review them in the next issue. From the advance notices, it seems obvious that they will reflect the market conditions by considerable price rises in all fields. The new Yvert Catalog in all its three parts, the Michel and Zumstein Europe Catalogs, as well as part II (Europe & Colonies) of the Stanley Gibbons Catalog are all scheduled for publication early in September, while the Michel Overseas Catalog and the Stanley Gibbons Part I (British Empire) are expected somewhat later. The Scott Catalog announces the same schedule as last year, Part II in September and Part I in October. We hope that the publishers will at least be able to avoid considerable further delays which inconvenienced collectors and dealers last year.*
- *The 12th National Postage Stamp Show in New York, organized by the American Stamp Dealers' Association, will be held on November 18, 19 and 20, 1960, again in the Armory, Park Avenue and 34th Street.*
- *An International Airmail Exhibition, JUPOSTA 1961, is scheduled to be held in Vienna from May 13 to 21, 1961. It is the first exhibition sponsored by the International Federation of Airmail Societies (F.I.S.A.), which was founded in April 1960 at a meeting held in Strasbourg.*
- *Of Edwin Mueller's "Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations 1850 to 1864", Sections 8 and 9 were published during the summer, and Section 10 is due to be published early in September. They contain the illustrated monograph about the cancellations of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia which in the finished book will be the first part, therefore precede the catalog which was published in Sections 1 to 7. Detailed instructions for correct binding will be provided with the last section which will be delivered with the binder. Due to the unexpected length of the bilingual monograph, probably one or two more sections will be necessary than scheduled, therefore 13 or 14. This will not increase the price to subscribers and for advance orders; the scheduled payments for 12 sections will be considered payment for the complete book.— The available sets of the handbook in sections are sold out, and no further orders can be accepted. A number of copies of the complete bound book will be available after publication of the last section, about the middle*