



This is a personal review by Neil Grover using much of the text and images publicly posted for the sale.

An important find of Malta Essays were auctioned at the Hansons auction house on 9th May. The Malta lots consisted five lots (41 to 45). The Essays have not previously been known or seen and included many of the adopted designs.

Fryer, who died at the age of 74 in 1964, worked as a designer for Waterlow and Sons working for the company for more than 50 years from 1906 until he retired in the late 50s. Decades later, some 270 of his original stamp artworks plus 40 bank note designs were discovered by his granddaughters.

They were discovered by his daughters after an aunt passed away and her house was cleared, they were found tucked away in a wardrobe in a spare bedroom where it is believed they laid for decades.



The Malta lots were by far the most sought after with the top price of £22,100 paid for Lot 42 being nearly four times the realisation of any other lot including bank notes.

Lot 41

Estimate: 1,000 - 1,200 GBP

Sold : **5,200 GBP**

1926 Definitive issue: Essays for ½d to 6d low values: preliminary sketches of 3d in black and in purple on buff coloured ground - former not adopted, latter approaching adopted design; Essay for 2d value in black of adopted design (3)

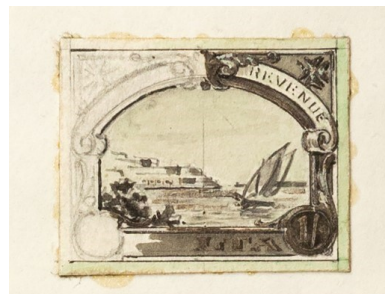


Lot 42

Estimate: 4,000 - 4,500 GBP

Sold : **22,100 GBP**

1926 Definitive issue: Fine group of progressive (6) and finished (6) Essays for 1s (2) in black (Valetta Harbour); 1s6d in black and blue (St Publius); 2s (2) in black (Medina Notabile); 2s6d (2) in black (Gozo fishing boat & Neptune); 5s (3) in black Neolithic temple Mnajdra); and 10s in black and in black and red (St Paul): The finished Essays for the 1s, 1s6d, 2s, (2s6d Gozo fishing boat), and 5s were all adopted. The 2s6d (Neptune) was adopted for the 3s value; the 10s design in black and red (St Paul) being adopted for the 10s



Oddly the catalogue listing stated Lots 41 and 42 being for the 1926 Definitive issue, yet the designs show Postage and Revenue which was the 1930 issue - this is odd as the 1930 issue would have been a re drawn version of 1926 designs.. Or these are the original 1926 essays and were initially drawn to show Postage and Revenue but was later changed to just Postage.



Lot 43

Estimate: 2,000 - 2,500 GBP

Sold : 5,700 GBP

King George VI – 1938-43 Definitive issue: Essays (6): 1½d red, 2d slate black, two 3d violet, 6d black and red, 2s green and black - all adopted for design and value. Essays (4): 1d red, 2d grey, 4½d purple and olive-green (vignettes selected for 4½d, 1d, and ½d values respectively); 2s black and claret – unadopted design



Lot 44

Estimate: 300 - 400 GBP

Sold : **3,100 GBP**

Revenue stamps: Preliminary sketches for Revenue stamps (3): 3d in pink and purple, 6d in blue, £1 in purple



Lot 45

Estimate: 200 - 250 GBP

Sold : **2,000 GBP**

Revenue stamps: Essays for Workmens Compensation
Revenue stamps 1d in red & 2d in black – adopted?