

Princess Elizabeth stays in Malta

(The Malta 1950 Royal Visit issue)



Registered First Day Cover addressed to New York, USA, postmarked with handstamp **V3b**, December 1, 1950, and with registered mail coil label **VL-51** (see page 7).

INTRODUCTION:

Purpose and Scope:

To illustrate the stamps, and examples of post marks, instructional marks, First Day Covers, and postal and revenue usage, including postal rates, routings, and destinations, of the Malta 1950 three-stamp Princess Elizabeth "Royal Visit" issue.

Princess Elizabeth:

From the late autumn of 1949 to summer 1951, Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain had four extended stays (rather than "visits") on the island of Malta with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, who was serving in the Royal Navy and stationed there. During these stays she was on the island privately, primarily as a naval officer's wife; though during later stays they also carried out official engagements. During the third stay (Nov. 25, 1950 - Feb. 12, 1951), Malta issued a three-stamp set to commemorate the stay, which became known as the "Royal Visit" issue.

The issue's significance:

The 1950 Royal Visit issue was the first "stand alone" commemorative set of stamps issued by Malta. The very first commemorative stamps were issued in 1935, the Crown Agents omnibus George V Silver Jubilee issue. From 1937-1949 Malta participated in only 4 subsequent omnibus issues. Because Malta released so few stamps, and this was its first individual commemorative issue, it garnered significant interest, and both the stamps and First Day Covers (FDCs) were popular with local and international collectors and non-collectors alike.

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Significant or unusual items and pertinent text outlined in blue.

Previously unreported or new findings and pertinent text outlined in green.