

# Malta Fantasy Stamps

## Gerald King - Elizatoria

With newer technologies bringing lower cost higher quality printing capabilities there seems to be an increase in the number of fantasy, replica stamps being produced and offered for sale on online auction sites such as ebay with some items being of higher quality than others and issued with full gum while some are also more prolific than others.

While many traditional stamp collectors would consider these a worthless and unwelcome appearance it should be noted that I have seen fantasy sets sell for over four times what an original issued set would sell for so there is definitely an interest in this type of material and have even started to see the odd listing in the main stream stamp auction houses.

Clearly in the world of fantasy stamp issues the combinations and designs could be limitless and impossible to record definitively but I have been trying to record as many issues as I can and find out as much about the people behind them.

Surprisingly I only recently discovered the Gerald King fantasy items and the more I researched the more interesting these stamps became as I discovered these stamps were first produced around the late 1990's and are not amongst the new crop of modern day productions, not to mention the very interesting person behind them.

Born in the UK and now aged 81 (2016) Gerald worked as an artist and produced his first series of fantasy stamps in 1965, a set of 34 stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary Lewis Carols famous publication, it is said this was in direct response to the Royal Mail not issuing a commemorative issue to celebrate the event. Since then Gerald has produced thousands of items (stamps and covers) covering a variety of themes, the Elizatoria theme is estimated to contain around 500 different stamps covering all countries of the commonwealth including Great Britain and depict the combination of an Elizabeth head inside classic Victorian frames.

Gerald has a huge following within the Cinderella community and I really recommend researching Gerald and his philatelic work if you have the time, Gerald has been quoted as saying the stamps were produced for his own pleasure and was just a hobby that got out of hand !. There are some catalogues of his work but I've yet to find a comprehensive Elizatoria reference so i can't definitively describe which stamps were produced for the Malta series. As well as stamps he also produced signed proofs.



### Examples of Signed Proofs and Colour trials



### Edward frame ?



There is one recorded exception to the Victoria frames

## The issued stamps (known to date)

The stamps were hand produced on Laser copiers (not computerized), the designs were made at postcard size and reduced down, hand gummed with gum Arabic then perforated with a single line Victorian machine (Perf. 11), some later issues can be found with a hand stamped Watermark.



(2) One Penny



(1) Half Penny  
First Issue



(3) Two Pence  
First Issue



(4) Four and Half Penny



(5) Two Shilling Six Pence  
First Issue



(5a) Two Shilling Six Pence



(6) Five Shilling  
Watermark CC



(7) Ten Shilling  
First Issue

Second, later series ?



Back showing Watermark under print  
Crown CA



(8) One Penny



(9) Two Pence



(10) Three Pence



(11) Four Pence



(12) Six Pence



(13) One Shilling

There are a few tribute sites to Gerald's work, below is one I have noted..

<http://www.cinderellafan.com/elizatoria-2/>