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**EXCHANGES, MONEYS, ACCOUNTS,  
WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.**

1890.

## COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

*Exchanges.*—Rates on London during the period of the exportation of Malta produce (April and May) were not this year so low as in the corresponding one last year; the failure of a firm in connection with the export of local produce discouraged the demand for any but Bankers drafts; so that rates, with a few exceptions between Bankers on particular occasions, recovered their normal course. The negotiation of 3 m. d. trade bills on commercial centres, on London particularly, formerly so common in Malta, but which began considerably declining during the last three years, was totally discontinued in the second half year: and the sad events which have happened to large financial houses abroad caused a great change in the usual banking system of the place.

Place	Maximum	Minimum	Normal rate
On London—Bankers draft per £ 100—On demand ...	14/-	4/-	11/-
"    "    3 days sight ...	12/-	2/-	10/-
"    "    30. " date ...	7/6	5/- disc.	2/6 disc.
"    "    60 " " ...	3/-	7/6 "	2/6 "
"    "    90 " " ...	par.	12/6 "	5/- "
Cable transfers	15/-	10/-	12/- prem.
Commercial Bills			
"    "    30 " " ...	par.	10/- disc.	par.
"    "    90 " " ...	2/6 disc.	1½ "	1% disc.
	f. c.	f. c.	f. c.
France—Bankers cheques per Pound ...	25. 06	25. 20	25. 2½
"    "    drafts			
"    "    3 days sight ...	25.	25. 25	25. 05
"    "    3 months date	25. 20	25. 30	25. 25
Italy—Bankers cheques ...	25. 12½	25. 50	25. 20
"    Notes of the National Bank ...	25. 10	25. 35	25. 25
Egypt—Alexandria, sight ...	¾ prem.	¼ prem.	½% prem.
"    Cairo do. ...	1% "	¼% "	¾% "

*Specie.*—Sovereigns under the current weight, viz. 122½ grains, and half sovereigns under 61½ grains continue to circulate with extreme difficulty, and are usually purchased by weight only; the holder bearing the cost of abrasion.

*Pre-Victorian Gold.*—In virtue of the Government Notice of the 27th February 1890 pre-Victorian Gold was withdrawn from circulation. £ 2,960½ in sovereigns and half sovereigns were deposited with the Receiver General for conversion, which was effected at a loss of 2½ pence per £, as per Government Notice of the 10th April. The total amount of pre-Victorian gold then existing in Malta may be reckoned approximatively to £ 8,000. What was not deposited with the Receiver General was taken up by private speculators: and in some cases at very onerous conditions for the holders.

## COINS.

Pursuant to an Order of Her Majesty's in Council of the 24th of September 1886, British Coins are the only legal tender in these Islands, and the limit up to which Silver and Bronze Coins are received is raised to five pounds and one shilling respectively.

Twenty franc pieces and five franc pieces both French and Italian are, now, merely kept in deposit as articles of merchandize for exportation to the neighbouring marts of Tunis, Tripoli, Syria, and Sicily, when a demand arises for them for the purchase of produce, or for the acquittal of bills payable in Francs or Lire. The demand of Napoleons for Tripoli and Bengasi was brisk during these last two years, and in some instances they were paid at  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  each premium.

Further measures have been undertaken by this Government for reducing the redundancy of Silver defaced coins in circulation.

The currency chiefly consists of British gold and silver, and as gold coin below legal tender weight is rejected, specie payments continue to involve a considerable loss of time in counting and examination, which, as well as loss from abrasion, would be minimized by a legal tender note issue, established on a satisfactory basis.

In November 1889 the Malta Government made arrangements for the deposit of public moneys in the three local Banks, namely: the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the Anglo-Maltese Bank and the Banco di Malta. But in October 1890 the Anglo-Egyptian Bank withdrew from balance such agreement. The Banks pay an interest at the rate of 2 % per annum on the minimum for each month.

## CIRCULATION.

The British gold coin held in Malta fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported and the Fleet requirements. It is at present roughly estimated at

Sovereigns...	£ 400,000
Half Sovereigns	5,000
	<u>Total £ 405,000</u>
and the British silver coin at	130,000
	<u>Specie £ 535,000</u>

The note circulation is at present restricted to the notes of two Local Banks (about £ 30,000) and to an issue of the Local Branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, limited to £ 8,000.

## ACCOUNTS KEPT.

By Government, in Sterling.

„ Commerce likewise in Sterling: a few merchants, however, of the Marina and Casals (villages) still continue to keep their Accounts according to the old style in Scudi, Tari and Grains:—

One Maltese Scudo is =  $1/8$ .

A Tari „ =  $-1\frac{2}{3}$ .

A Grain „ =  $-10\frac{1}{2}$ .

Twelve Maltese Scudi „ = 20/- or £ 1 Sterling.

The Maltese Coins have been demonetized; Coins to the nominal value of about £ 12,000 were withdrawn from circulation in November 1886.

MEASURES.

1. Length Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			=	ENGLISH MEASURE		
Pollici	Palmi	Canne		Yards	Feet	Inches
1	...	...	=	...	...	... $\frac{55}{64}$
12	1	...	=	...	...	10 $\frac{20}{64}$
96	8	1	=	2	...	10 $\frac{32}{64}$

N.B.—Beams are sold by a length measure, called *Tratto*, equal to 12 *Palmi*, or 3 Yards, 1 Foot, 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  Inches English: each *Tratto* is calculated by cubic measure. Planks and Scantlings are sold by the 100. Mahogany is sold by the English Cubic Foot.

2. Cloth Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			=	ENGLISH MEASURE			
Pollici	Palmi	Canne		Yards	Quarters	Nails	Inches
1	...	...	=	...	...	...	... $\frac{55}{64}$
12	1	...	=	...	1	...	12 $\frac{0}{64}$
96	8	1	=	2	1	...	13 $\frac{2}{64}$

3. Square Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE							=	ENGLISH MEASURE						
Once	Palmi	Canne	Misure	Mondelli	Tumoli	Salme		Miles	Acres	Roods	Perch.	Yards	Feet	Inches
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	...	... $\frac{27225}{36864}$
144	1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	...	106 $\frac{1424}{4096}$
9,216	64	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	5	2	...	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
39,321 $\frac{9}{15}$	273 $\frac{2}{15}$	4 $\frac{4}{15}$	1	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	22	3	...	96
393,216	2,730 $\frac{9}{15}$	42 $\frac{9}{15}$	10	1	...	...	=	...	...	...	7	12	2	132
2,359,296	16,384	256	60	6	1	...	=	...	...	1	4	13	4	...
37,748,736	262,144	4,096	960	96	16	1	=	...	4	1	31	3	3	36

4. Solid Measure for Wheat, Seeds, &c.

MALTESE MEASURE						=	ENGLISH MEASURE	
Lamini	Misure	Mondelli	Tumoli	Sacchi	Salme		Quarter	Imperial Bushels
1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	... $\frac{1}{1200}$
10	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	... $\frac{1}{120}$
100	10	1	...	...	...	=	...	... $\frac{1}{12}$
600	60	6	1	...	...	=	...	... $\frac{1}{2}$
2,400	240	24	4	1	...	=	...	2
9,600	960	96	16	4	1	=	...	or 8

N.B.—Charcoal, Walnuts, Chesnuts, and large Sicilian Beans are sold by heaped measure.

MEASURES.

5. Liquid Measure for Ale, Beer, Porter, Wine, and Spirits.

MALTESE MEASURE									ENGLISH MEASURE														
Pinto	Terzi	Mezzi	Quartucci	Quarti or Oitavi	Quartare	Barili	Pipe	Botte	FOR ALE, BEER, AND PORTER						FOR WINE AND SPIRITS								
									Botts	Hhls	Barrels	Kilderkin	Funnels	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills	Pipes	Hhls	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
8	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
38	19	9½	4¾	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...
76	38	19	9½	2	1	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
304	152	76	38	8	4	1	...	...	=	...	...	1	2	...	...	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3,344	1,672	836	418	88	44	11	1	...	=	...	1	1	...	1	5	2	...	14	1	2	...	...	...
6,688	3,344	1,672	836	176	88	22	2	1	=	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	1	20	...	...	...	...

N.B.—209 Gallons are equal to 1 Botte.

6. Liquid Measure for Oil and Milk.

MALTESE MEASURE								ENGLISH MEASURE			
Quartini	Misure	Terzi	Mezzi	Quartucci	Quarte	Caffai	Barili	Gallons	Quarts	Pints	Gills
1	...	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	1	...	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	2½	1	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
40	10	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
160	40	16	8	4	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
640	160	64	32	16	4	1	...	4	2	...	...
1,280	320	128	64	32	8	2	1	9	...	...	...

7. Apothecaries' Measure.

MALTESE MEASURE			
Gocce	Dramme	Ounce	Libbre
1	...	...	...
60	1	...	...
480	8	1	...
5,760	96	12	1

= 1 Grain  
 = 1 Dram  
 = 1 Ounce  
 = 1 Pound

ENGLISH MEASURE.

WEIGHTS.

8 Troy Weight for Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones.

MALTESE WEIGHT					=	ENGLISH WEIGHT			
Gracce or Grani	Trappesi	Ottavi	Once	Libbre		Pounds	Ounces	Drams	Grains
1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$\frac{1325}{1728}$
18	1	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$12\frac{1314}{1728}$
72	4	1	...	...	=	...	...	2	$3\frac{72}{1728}$
576	32	8	1	...	=	...	...	17	$\frac{576}{1728}$
6,912	384	96	12	1	=	...	10	4	4

9. Avoirdupois Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT							=	ENGLISH WEIGHT			
Ottavi	Quarto	Once	Rotoli	Fese	Cantari	Pesate		Cwts.	Pounds	Ounces	Drams
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{3}$
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$3\frac{1}{3}$
8	4	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	$14\frac{1}{3}$
240	120	30	1	...	...	...	=	...	1	12	...
1,200	600	150	5	1	...	...	=	...	8	12	...
24,000	1,200	3,000	100	20	1	...	=	1	63	...	...
72,000	36,000	9,000	300	60	3	1	=	4	77	...	...

WEIGHTS.

10. Wool Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT							ENGLISH WEIGHT						
Ottari	Quarte	Once	Rotoli	Pese	Castari	Pesate	=	Sacks	Wey	Tod	Stones	Cloves	Pounds
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	... <sup>7</sup> / <sub>960</sub>
2	1	...	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	... <sup>14</sup> / <sub>960</sub>
8	4	1	...	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	... <sup>56</sup> / <sub>960</sub>
140	120	30	1	...	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	...	1 <sup>720</sup> / <sub>960</sub>
1,200	600	150	5	1	...	...	=	...	...	...	...	i	1 <sup>720</sup> / <sub>960</sub>
24,000	1,200	3,000	100	20	1	...	=	...	...	6	...	1	...
72,000	36,000	9,000	300	60	3	1	=	1	...	5	1	1	...

11. Apothecaries' Weight.

MALTESE WEIGHT						
Grani	Scrupoli	Dramme	Once	Libbre	=	ENGLISH WEIGHT.
1	...	...	...	...	=	1 Grain
20	1	...	...	...	=	1 Scruple
60	3	1	...	...	=	1 Dram
480	24	8	1	...	=	1 Ounce
5,760	288	96	12	1	=	1 Pound