

Christmas 1997-----X Commemorations 1997-----Y

* *by J. Farrugia*

	X	Y
Date of Issue	12-11-97	5-12-97
Values	6c, 6c+2c 16c + 3c, 26c + 3c	2c, 6c, 16c, 37c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm (6c) 31mm x 44mm (other values)	44mm x 31mm
Art Designer	Harry Borg	Design Section Posta Ltd
Printers	Printex Ltd.	Printex Ltd.
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x14 (6c) 14 x 13.9 (other values)	13.9 x 14
Watermark	Crosses Sideways (6c) Crosses Upright (other values)	Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.	P.V.A.

Colours:

Issue X – This set was printed in the following four colours: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Light Brown. The usual colour black was not used. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Light Brown-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

Issue Y – The three values, 2c, 16c and 37c of this set, were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow. The other value, 6c, was printed in the two colours, Dark Red and Black and the progressive sheets were printed in the order Black-Dark Red.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. They are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right in all positions.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in the bottom margin only, in all Panes, of all values, printed in Light Brown (issue X) and Black (issue Y).

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps (6c value) and five rows of ten stamps in values 6c + 2c, 16c + 3c and 26c + 3c. The 6c value is of the horizontal format whilst the other three values are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A and B in the 6c value, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 6c + 2c, 16c + 3c and 26c + 3c values, the right hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet, in all values. Unless eliminated during cutting, they could be seen at the top and bottom of the left hand and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively in the 6c value, but at each end of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively in the other three values. Another printing mark consisting of a square 1cm side, enclosing the words “Posta” and “Malta” plus the “Postal Horn”, can be seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in each value. The square and the words “Posta” and “Malta” are printed in Cyan, but the “Postal Horn” is printed in Yellow. In the 6c value it is seen at each end of the fifth row of each Pane, and in the other three values, at each end of the middle row of each Pane.

Issue Y – The top margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet in all values. Unless eliminated during cutting, they could be seen at the top and bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively. Another printing mark consisting of a square 1cm side, enclosing the words “Posta” and “Malta” plus the “Postal Horn” can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, in each value, next to the fifth row. The square and the words “Posta” and “Malta” are printed in Cyan and the “Postal Horn” in Yellow, in the values 2c, 16c and 37c. All these are printed in Dark Red in the 6c value.

Plate/Pane numbers:

These like the colour checks, were printed in four different positions, on the margins of each Pane, in all values of issues X and Y. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and also under the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane.

Issue X
6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.
6c + 2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.
16c + 3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.
26c + 3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

Issue Y
2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.
6c = 1A x 2, 1B x 2.
16c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.
37c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in Figure (a) for the 6c value of issue X as well as all the values of issue Y, but as shown in figure (b) for the values 6c + 2c, 16c + 3c and 26c + 3c of issue X. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values, of issues X and Y, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is Sideways in the 6c value of issue X and in all values of issue Y, but Upright in the values 6c + 2c, 16c + 3c and 26c + 3c of Issue X.

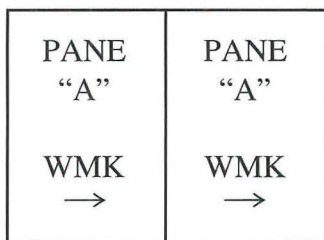


fig. (a)

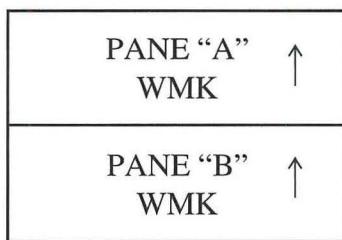


fig. (b)

Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from right to left in figure (b).

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the middle stamp of the bottom row in Panes of the value 6c of issue X and all the values of issue Y, but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row in Panes of the values 6c + 2c, 16c + 3c and 26c + 3c of issue X. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Light Brown in issue X and Black in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, from issues X and Y, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of both issues. Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on the 12 March, 1998 (issue X) and on 2 December, 1998 (issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm20,065 (Issue X) and Lm18,377 (Issue Y).

28 February 1998 Treasures of Malta will be published in next issue

Historic Commemoration Issue

Date of Issue	28th March 1998
Values	6c, 6c, 16c, 16c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm
Art Designer	Joseph Mizzi
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

This set was printed in the four colour process, using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours. The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black - Cyan - Magenta - Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, of all values. These are seen next to the

first and last stamps of the top and bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all positions.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in bottom margin only printed in Black, in all Panes, of all values.

Only two Printed Sheets were used to print the four values issued. One Printed Sheet was used to print two different stamps of values, 6c and 6c, in se-tenant form. The Printed Sheet consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps or twenty five se-tenant sets, made up of five rows of ten stamps, each row having five se-tenant sets. The se-tenant set depicts “Ferdinant von Hompesch” (6c) and the “Departure of the Order” (6c). The other Printed Sheet was used to print the other two different stamps of values, 16c and 16c, in the same manner. The se-tenant set shows the “Arrival of the French” (16c) and “Napoleon Bonaparte” (16c). All four stamps are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins:

The top margin of Panes A is imperforate. The other three margins of this Pane, and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. The usual printing mark of a small circle enclosed in an oval, crossed by two lines at right angles, were seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet, but they were too far out, and probably none were seen on Panes after cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark consisting of a square 1cm side enclosing the words “Posta” and “Malta”, all printed in Cyan, plus the “Postal Horn” printed in Yellow, can be seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, next to the third or middle row.

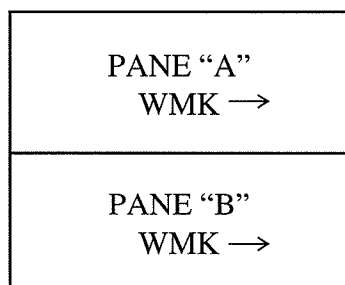
Plate/Pane numbers:

These like the colour checks, were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row and below the first and last stamps of the bottom row.

$$6c + 6c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$$

$$16c + 16c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$$

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet, of each see-tenant set, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, se-tenant sets would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in all stamps is sideways. Perforated ran from top to bottom.



Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint “PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen below the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Black.

An Imprint Block of four will contain only the Imprint

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

This set was withdrawn from scale on the 17th March, 1999, unless stocks were previously exhausted.