

Europa 1998 Issue

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	22 nd April, 1998
Values	16c and 35c
Stamp Size	33mm × 27mm
Art. Designers	Frank Ancilleri & Richard Caruana
Printer	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.7 × 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

This issue was 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.

Both stamps are of the horizontal format.

A Pane of ten stamps of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, 4 rows of 3. In the first space, of the top row, of both values, are printed the following: at top of space the wording "National Festival" and at bottom of space, the translation in Maltese "Festival Nazzjonali". In between these wordings can be seen the three "Palji" I, II and III won by the first three competitors in the "Regatta" as well as the "Shield" held by the winners of the "Regatta" for a year. In the first space of the second row, of both values, can be seen the word "Europa" and the figure "'98". The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle space of the top row, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of both values. They are seen next to the first and last spaces 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, in all Panes, of both values. Another printing mark is seen, in the left and right hand margins, next to the first and last spaces of the third row. It consists of a square, 1cm side, printed in Cyan, enclosing the words “Posta” and “Malta” also printed in Cyan. Also enclosed in the square, is the “Postal Horn” printed in Yellow.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of nine Panes, of ten stamps, A to I.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

These again, like the colour checks, are seen in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, of both values. They are seen above the first and last spaces of the top row as well as below the first and last spaces of the bottom row, of each Pane.

$$16c = 1A \times 4 \text{ up to and including } 1I \times 4$$

$$35c = 1A \times 4 \text{ up to and including } 1I \times 4$$

Perforation of Margins:

Pane “A” WMK ↑	Pane “B” WMK ↑	Pane “C” WMK ↑
Pane “D” WMK ↑	Pane “E” WMK ↑	Pane “F” WMK ↑
Pane “G” WMK ↑	Pane “H” WMK ↑	Pane “I” WMK ↑

The left hand margins of Panes A, D and G are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, plus the four margins of Panes B, C, E, F, H and I are all perforated.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in both values is upright. Perforator ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint “PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen below the middle space of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, from each value, will include the Imprint, the colour checks, the Pane numbers and also the square, 1cm side, mentioned earlier. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set was withdrawn from sale on 22nd April, 1999, unless stocks were previously exhausted.