

Anniversaries 1997 -----X Pioneers In Education -----Y

by J. Farrugia

	X	Y
Date of Issue	10-7-97	24-9-97
Values	1c, 16c (Antonio Sciortino) 6c, 11c (Gozo Cathedral) 6c, 22c (Joseph Calleja)	6c, 16c, 19c, 26
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm (1c, 16c) 44mm x 31mm (6c, 11c) 44mm x 31mm (6c, 22c)	31mm x 44mm
Art Designer	Design Section Posta Ltd.	Debbie Caruana Dingli
Printers	Printex Ltd.	Printex Ltd.
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.9 (1c,16c) 13.9 x 14 (6c, 11c) 13.9 x 14 (6c, 22c)	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Crosses Upright (1c, 16c) Crosses Sideways (6c, 11c) Crosses Sideways (6c, 22c)	Crosses upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.	P.V.A.

Colours:

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: values 1c and 11c of issue X, Yellow, Cyan, Magenta, Black. The other four values of issue X and all values of issue Y, 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 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 black, in issues X and 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 in 16c and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) but made up of five rows of ten stamps in the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino). The 1c and 16c values are of the vertical format, the other four values being of the horizontal format.

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

Perforation Of Margins:

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A and B, in the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 6c and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, of these four values, are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark was seen at each corner of the Printed Sheet in the 6c and 11c (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja). Unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, of these four values. In the 1c and 16c values, it was only seen at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet. Again unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen only at the top of the right hand margin of Panes A and at the bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, of these two values.

Another printing mark consisting of a circle 1cm in diameter, enclosing the “Postal Horn” and the words “Posta Ltd. Malta”, can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, of each value. It is next to the first and last stamps of the third row in the values 1c and 16c, but next to the first and last stamps of the fifth row in the other four values.

Issue Y – The left hand 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 only seen at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet. Unless eliminated during cutting, this mark could be seen at the top of the right hand margin of Panes A and at the bottom of the right hand margin of panes B, of all values. Another printing mark can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, of all values. This consists of a square, 1cm side, printed in Cyan, next to the first and last stamps of the middle row of each Pane. Enclosed in this square are the words “Posta” and “Malta”, also printed in Cyan, and the “Postal Horn” printed in Yellow.

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 1c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

16c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

6c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

22c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

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

16c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

19c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4.

26c = 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 and 11c values (Gozo Cathedral) as well as the

6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) of issue X, but as shown in figure (b) for the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) of issue X and all values of issue Y. 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, 11c, 6c, and 22c values of issue X, but Upright in the 1c and 16c values of issue X, as well as in all the values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from left to right in figure (b).

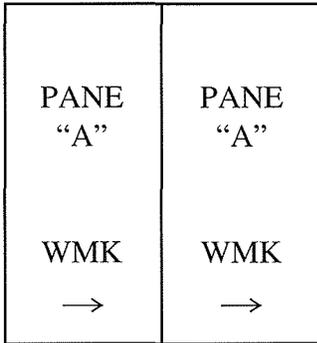


fig. (a)

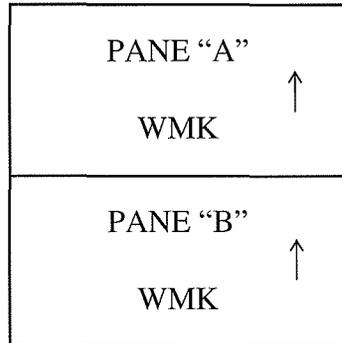


fig. (b)

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the middle stamp of the bottom row in Panes of values 6c and 11c (Gozo Cathedral) and in the 6c and 22c values (Joseph Calleja) of issue X, but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row in Panes of the 1c and 16c values (Antonio Sciortino) of issue X, as well as in all values of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, in 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 8th July 1998, (issue X) and on 24th September 1998 (issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted. On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm 17,950 (issue X) and Lm 21,334 (issue Y).

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