

150th Anniversary — Birth of Giuseppe Cali — X Mechanised Transport — Y

by J. Farrugia

| | X | Y |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Date of Issue | 22.08.96 | 26.09.96 |
| Values | 5c, 14c, 20c, 25c | 2c, 5c, 14c, 30c |
| Stamp Size | 44x3mm (5c, 14c) | 44x31mm |
| | 31x44 (20c, 25c) | |
| Art Designer | Debbie Caruana Dingli | Richard J. Caruana |
| Printers | Printex Ltd | Printex Ltd |
| Process | Lithography | Lithography |
| Perforation | 13.9x14 (5c, 14c) | 13.9x14 |
| | 14x13.9 (20c, 25c) | |
| Watermark | Sideways (5c, 14c) | Maltese Crosses Sideways |
| | Upright (20c, 25c) | |
| Paper | Chalk Surfaced | Chalk Surfaced |
| Gum | PVA | PVA |

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: 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 (5c, 14c), and five rows of ten stamps (20c, 25c). The 5c and 14c stamps are of the horizontal format whilst the 20c and 25c stamps 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 stamps are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X — In the 5c and 14c values, the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 20c value, the right hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 25c value,

the left hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate, whilst 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. If they were not eliminated during the cutting of the Printed Sheets into Panes, 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 5c and 14c values, but at each end of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively of the 20c and 25c values. Another printing mark consisting of a circle, 1 cm in diameter, enclosing the words "Posta Ltd" and "Malta" and the 'postal horn' can be seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in each value. The circle and the 'Malta' are printed in black, 'Posta Ltd' is printed in magenta and the 'postal horn' printed in yellow. In the 5c and 14c values, it is seen at each end of the fifth row, of each Pane, and in the 20c and 25c 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 Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration mark, may be seen at the top and bottom, of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively, of each value, unless they were eliminated during cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark consisting of a circle, 1cm in diameter enclosing the words 'Posta Ltd' and 'Malta' plus the 'postal horn', all printed in black, can be seen in the left and right hand margins, of each Pane, in each value, next to the fifth row of stamps.

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 – 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y – 2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 30c = 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 5c and 14c values of issue X and for all the values of issue Y, but as shown in fig (b) for the 20c and 25c values 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 on the 5c and 14c values of issue X and all values of issue Y, but upright in the 20c and 25c values of issue X. Perforator ran from top to bottom in fig (a) for the values 5c and 14c of issue X as well as for all the values of issue Y. In fig (b), perforator ran from right to left for the 20c value of issue X, but left to right for the 25c value of the same issue X.

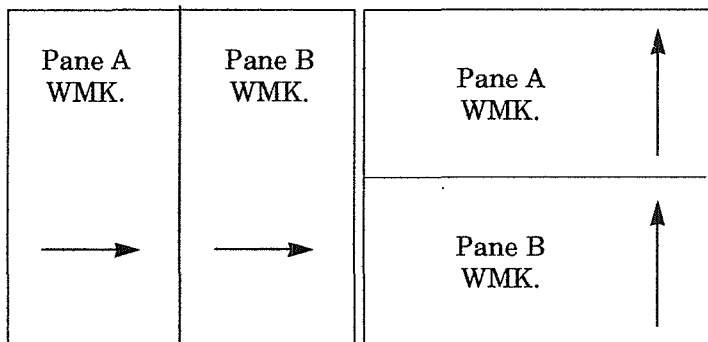


Fig. (a)

Fig. (b)

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen under the middle stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of the 5c and 14c values of issue X and in each Pane of all the values of issue Y, but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row of each Pane in the 20c and 25c values of issue X. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An imprint block of four, of any value, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of each issue. Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on August 20 1997 (issue X) and September 17, 1997 (issue Y) unless stocks were previously exhausted.

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm19,111 (issue X) and Lm15,005 (issue Y).

Brian Hobbs

By Dr A. Bonnici

It was with great sadness that we in Malta received the news that Bryan Hobbs had passed peacefully away. Bryan was the Hon. Secretary of the UK-Malta study Circle since 1991, and Hon. Editor for the Malta Newsletter from 1996.

He was a frequent visitor to Malta, attending our meetings delighting us all by his eloquent philatelic dissertations and exhibits. His last visit was when he had organised the successful Malta Study visit in October 1998.

We will miss him.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Marie, and their two daughters.