

EUROPA 1997 ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	May5, 1997
Values	16c and 35c
Stamp Size	27x33mm
Art Designer	J. Mallia
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.8x13.7
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	PVA

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 vertical format.

A Pane of ten stamps of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space, of the top row, of both values, are printed the following: "Hrejġef u Legġendi – Europa '97 – Stories and Legends". The last part is a translation of the first part, which is in Maltese. In the second space of the top row, can be seen an antique 'doorknocker' (16c value) and an antique 'candlestick' (35c value). The value of the whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the second and third spaces 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. The first two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. 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 of each Pane, next to the first and last stamps of the middle row. It consists of a circle 1 cm in diameter, enclosing the 'Postal Horn' and the words "Posta Ltd – Malta".

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. The first two positions are above the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are below the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values.

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 →

16c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4

35c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, plus the four margins of all the Panes from D to 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 the 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 sideways. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the third 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, can include the Imprint, the colour checks, the Pane numbers and also the 1cm diameter circle mentioned earlier.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to May 6, 1998, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

First day sales amounted to Lm57,478.