

CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE – X TREASURES OF MALTA – PREHISTORIC ART – Y

by J. Farrugia

X

Y

Date of Issue	29-2-1996	29-3-1996
Values	.5c, 14c, 20c, 25c	.5c, 14c, 20c, 35c
Stamp Size	44 x 31mm	44 x 31mm (5c, 14c) 31 x 44mm (20c, 35c)
Art Designer	Frank Ancilleri	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Ltd	Printex Ltd
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x 14	13.9 x 14 (5c, 14c) 14 x 13.9 (20c, 35c)
Watermark	Malt. Crosses Sideways	Sideways (5c, 14c) Upright (20c, 35c)
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 the 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. All values are 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 ten rows of five stamps (5c, 14c) and five rows of ten stamps (20c, 35c). The 5c and 14c stamps are of the horizontal format, whilst the 20c and 35c stamps are of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – 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 may be seen at the top and bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively, in each value, unless they were eliminated during the 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. Issue Y – 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 and 35c values, the right hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The 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 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 in the 20c and 35c values. Another printing mark consisting of a circle, 1cm in diameter, printed in black enclosing the 'Postal Horn' printed in yellow, the words 'Posta Ltd' printed in magenta and the word 'Malta' printed in black, can be seen at each end of the fifth row, of each Pane, in the 5c and 14c values, but at each end of the third or middle row of each Pane in the 20c and 35c values.

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 below 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 – 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 35c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

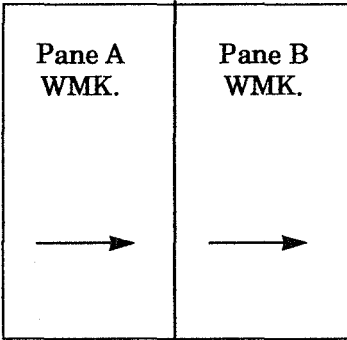


Fig. (a)

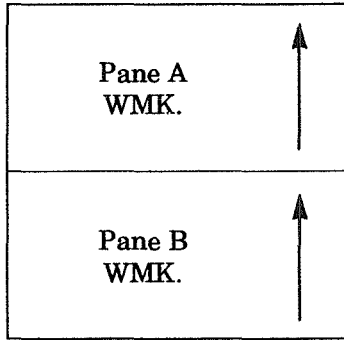


Fig. (b)

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure (a) for all values of issue X and the 5c and 14c values of issue Y but as shown in figure (b) for the 20c and 35c 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 all values of issue X and in the 5c and 14c values of issue Y, but upright in the 20c and 35c values of issue Y. 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 each Pane, of all values of issue X and in each Pane of the 5c and 14c values of issue Y, but under the fifth and sixth stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of the 20c and 35c values of issue Y. 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 incorporating an appropriate motif was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to February 20 1997 (issue X) and up to March 25 1997 (issue Y).

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm25,429 (issue X) and Lm27,089 (issue Y).