

COMMEMORATIONS 1996 – X **OLYMPICS 1996 – Y**

by J. Farrugia

X

Y

Date of Issue	5-6-1996	10.7.1996
Values	5c, 5c, 14c, 44c	2c, 5c, 14c, 25c
Stamp Size	31 x 44mm	44 x 31mm
Art Designer	Damian Borg Nicolas	Luciano Micallef
Printers	Printex Ltd	Printex Ltd
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.9	13.9 x 14
Watermark	Malt. Crosses Upright	Malt. Crosses Sideways
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 X issue and the 5c and 14c values in the Y issue were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow. The 2c and 25c in the Y issue were printed in the following order: Yellow-Cyan-Magenta-Black.

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 five rows of ten stamps. All values 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 values are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – 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 may be seen at each end of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively, of 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' can be seen, in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in each value, next to the middle row of stamps. The circle and 'Malta' are printed in black, 'Posta Ltd' in Magenta and the 'Postal Horn' in yellow.

Issue Y – 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 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 the cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes. Another printing mark, as described in issue X, including colours, 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 = 1Ax4, 1B x 4

Issue Y – 2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 44c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

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

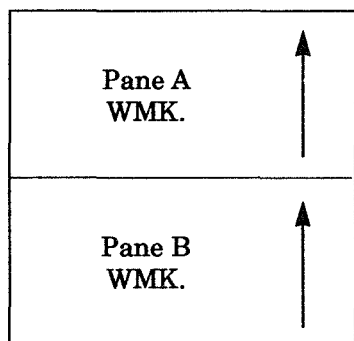


Fig. (a)

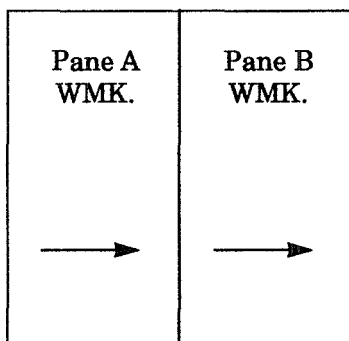


Fig.(b)

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 as shown in figure (b) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps

of all values of issue X and Y would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is upright in all values of issue X and sideways in all values of issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in figure (a) and from top to bottom in figure (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the fifth and sixth stamp, of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all values of issue X, but below the middle stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of all 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 was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm17,948 (issue X) and Lm15,905 (issue Y).

These two sets were withdrawn from sale on May 21, 1997 (issue X) and July 9, 1997 (issue Y) unless stocks were previously exhausted.