

5th GAMES OF SMALL NATIONS OF EUROPE —X SCOUTS AND GUIDES ISSUE —Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	4-5-93	21-7-93
Values	3c, 4c, 10c, 35c	3c, 4c, 10c, 35c
Stamp Size	38mm x 20mm	31mm x 44mm
Designer	Richard J. Caruana	Luciano Micallef
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	13.6 x 14	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

These two issues were printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value in issue X and the three values, 3c, 10c and 35c in issue Y. In the 4c value of issue Y, the third colour from the top is mustard instead of yellow, as in all other values.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in each Pane, of all values., in issue X but next to the last stamp of the bottom row in issue Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Printed Sheets

Issue X – the Printed Sheet of each value consisted of four Panes A, B, C and D. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. All values are of the horizontal format. No other printing marks were seen on any of the margins.

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 vertical format. Other printing marks or parts of them, could have been seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A, B, C and D are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated.

Issue Y – The left hand margin of Pane A of all values, is imperforate. The other three margins of Panes A and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated.

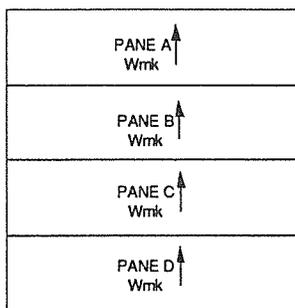


Fig (a)

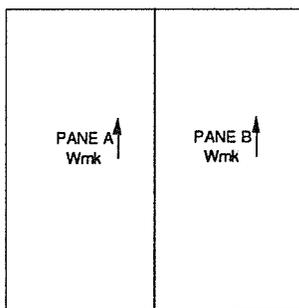


Fig (b)

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

Issue X 3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4

4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4

10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4

35c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4

Issue Y 3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

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

10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

35c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheets of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig. (a) for all values of issue X and as shown in fig. (b) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, all stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in all values of issues X and Y is upright. Perforator ran from left to right in figs. (a) and (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. Special hand postmarks, incorporating motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Issue X remained on sale up to May 11, 1994 and issue Y up to July 21, 1994, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm42,535 (issue X) and Lm31,420 (issue Y)

With Issue X, a souvenir sheet, measuring 120mm x 80mm was also issued. The four values are printed in this souvenir sheet, the watermark being Maltese Crosses Sideways, instead of Maltese Crosses Upright as in the normal Panes. Thus individual stamps of any value, can be checked whether they formed part of a souvenir sheet or a normal Pane, by means of the direction of the watermark. The Printed Sheet of the souvenir sheets, consisted of sixteen souvenir sheets, made up of four rows of four souvenir sheets.

As a point of interest, I would like to mention that I have seen a very unusual Pane B, of the 3c value of issue X. For some reason, when the Printed Sheet of this 3c value was cut into Panes, the bottom margin of Pane B was cut so short that the Pane numbers 1B x 4 and the Printer's Imprint are not seen. On the other hand, the top margin was cut so wide that Pane numbers 1A x 4 and the Printer's Imprint are seen, obviously from the bottom margin of Pane A which was printed above Pane B. Hence that left a Pane A having a bottom margin without the Pane numbers 1A x 4 as well as the Printer's Imprint and a Pane C having a top margin with Pane numbers 1B x 4 and a Printer's Imprint.