

AVIATION ISSUE — X

FIRST MAN ON THE MOON — Y

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	2.7.94	20.7.94
Values	5c, 14c, 20c, 25c	14c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm	31mm x 44mm
Designer	Richard J. Caruana	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	14x13.9	14x13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issues X and Y were printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets of each value, in issue X were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta and Yellow. The order in issue Y is: Magenta, Cyan, Black, Yellow

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row in all Panes of all values, 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 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

The Printed Sheet of each value in issues X and Y, consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps in issue X, but made up of ten rows of five stamps in issue Y. All values of issue X are of the

horizontal format and the value of issue Y is of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X—The top margin of Panes A, of all values, is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. Other printing marks could only have been seen at each end of the bottom margin of Panes B.

Issue Y—The left hand margin of Panes A, of this value, is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen at each end of the left hand margin of Panes A and at each end of the right hand margin of Panes 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	5c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	20c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
	25c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4
Issue Y	14c	=	1Ax4, 1Bx4

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

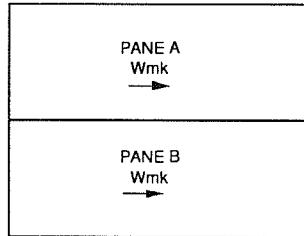


Fig. (a)

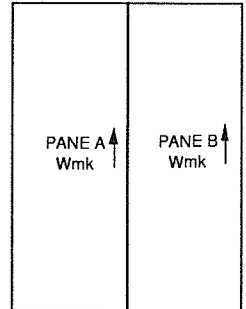


Fig. (b)

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 July 20, 1995 and issue Y up to July 20, 1995 unless stocks were previously exhausted. Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm29,104 (issue X) and Lm10,843 (Issue Y).

It is of interest to note here that the misprint of the word ‘Anniversarju’ on the 20c value stamp, of issue X, was mentioned in local newspapers. Issue X was marking the 50th anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organisation and after printing, the 20c value stamp was found to have the word ‘Anniversarju’ wrongly spelt ‘Anniverarju’. The mistake was discovered before the day of issue, but after the stamps had already been distributed to Branch Post Offices. All 20c stamps were withdrawn and a new printing successfully finished before the day of issue. The misprinted sheets were all destroyed. The printing mistake can be seen on the 20c stamp in the Malta Stamp Bulletin N° 134.