

**CHRISTMAS 1990 ISSUE—X**  
**25TH ANNIVERSARY — PHILATELIC SOCIETY —Y**

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	10-11-90	6-3-91
Values	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c	10c
Stamp Size	3c+1c, 25c+3c: 26.5mm x 35mm 10c+2c: 44mm x 31mm	44mm x 31mm
Designer	Ghaqda Hbieb tal-Presepju	Joseph L. Mallia
Printers	Printex Limited	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	3c+1c, 25c+3c: 13.4 x 13.5 10c+2c: 13.9 x 14	13.9 x 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

**Colours**

Issues X and Y were printed in multicolours using the same four colours, for each value, in both issues.

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 each Pane, 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, on all Panes, of all values, in both issues.

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

Issue X — The Printed Sheets of this Christmas Issue, like last year's, are a bit different from the Printed sheets of other issues. This was done, I think, to save watermarked paper, because Christmas stamps are not sold in large enough quantities as other issues, especially the high value stamp, because of the surcharge.

The 3c+1c and the 25c+3c values were printed together on the same Printed Sheet consisting of three Panes. The 3c+1c value was printed on two Panes, A and B, and the 25c+3c value on one Pane A. Each of these three Panes has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps.

The Printed Sheet of the 10c+2c value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps.

The 3c+1c and the 25c+3c values are of the vertical format. The 10c+2c value is of the horizontal format.

Issue Y — The Printed Sheet of this value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each

Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. The stamp is of the horizontal format.

### Plate/Pane Numbers

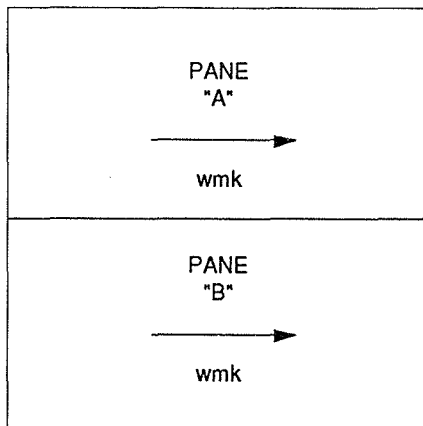
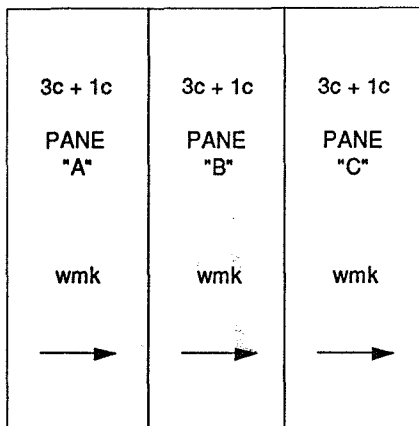
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Issue X     $3c+1c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$     Issue Y     $10c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$   
                $10c+2c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4$   
                $25c+3c = 1A \times 4$

### Perforation of Margins

Issue X — The top margins of Panes A and B of the  $3c+1c$  value and the top margin of Pane A of the  $25c+3c$  value are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the  $10c+2c$  value, the top margin of Pane A is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this same Pane and the four margins of Pane B are all perforated. Cutting marks could have been seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Pane A in the  $3c+1c$  value, the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Pane A in the  $25c+3c$  value and at both ends of the top and bottom margins of Panes A and B respectively in the  $10c+2c$  value.

Issue Y — The top margin of Pane A is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this same Pane and the four margins of Pane B, are all perforated. Cutting marks could have been seen at both ends of the top margin of Pane A and at both ends of the bottom margin of Pane B.



From a study of details given the Printed Sheets of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in Fig. A for the  $3c+1c$  and the  $25c+3c$  values of issue X and in Fig. B for the  $10c+2c$  value of Issue X, as well as the  $10c$  value of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the

right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in all values of issues X and Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom 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 1mm high and printed in black in both issues. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in issues X and Y. Special hand-postmarks were used for cancellation on first day of issue.

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to Wednesday, March 20, 1991 (Issue X) and up to Tuesday, March 10, 1992 (Issue Y) unless stocks are previously exhausted.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm21,500 (issue X) and Lm8.050 (issue Y), which is equal to 80,500 stamps sold.