

EUROPA 1990 ISSUE

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	9th February, 1990
Values	10c and 35c
Stamp Size	10c = 27mm x 33mm
.....	35c = 33mm x 27mm
Art Designer	Richard J Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	10c – 13.9 x 13.75
.....	35c – 13.75 x 13.9
Watermark	10c Maltese Crosses Sideways
.....	35c Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

This set was printed in multicolours using the same four colours for each value.

Designs

The 10c stamp features the General Post Office, Valletta, at the Auberge d'Italie, in Merchants Street, Valletta.

The 35c stamp depicts the Branch Post Office, Zebbug, in Antonio Sciortino Street.

The 10c value stamp is of the vertical format and each Pane of ten stamps is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space of the top row can be seen, the top part of the main door of the GPO and in the second space of the same row, the CEPT emblem and the words EUROPA '90.

The 35c value stamp is of the horizontal format and each Pane of ten stamps is also divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The same two designs in the first and second spaces of the top row in a 10c Pane, can be seen again in the first space of the top row, and in the first space of the second row, of a 35c Pane respectively.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin of each Pane, printed in Black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, of both values, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes of the 10c value, but from right to left in all Panes of the 35c value.

The printed sheet of each value consisted of nine Panes of ten stamps, A to I.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values.

10c = 1A x 4 up to and including I x 4

35c = 1A x 4 up to and including II x 4.

Perforation of Margins:

In the 10c value, the top margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate, the other

three margins are all perforated. The four margins of Panes D to I are also perforated.

In the 35c value, the left margins of Panes A, D and G are imperforate, the other three margins are all perforated. The four margins of Panes B, C, E, F, H and I are also perforated. Registration or cutting marks were only seen in the top left hand margin of Pane A, of the 10c Value.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig (a) for the 10c value and fig (b) for the 35c value. Perforator ran from top to bottom in fig (a) and from left to right in fig (b). Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in the 10c value and upright in the 35c value.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of each value. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue. A line drawing of a pillar letter box is also incorporated in the handstamp. This set remained on sale up to Monday 11th February, 1991.

First day sales amounted to Lm105,181.

A Postal Card, incorporating the 10c and 35c Europa 1990 stamps, also designed by Richard J Caruana, commemorating the participation of the Malta Post Office in the Stamp World London 90 Exhibition, which was held in London, was to be on sale from the 3rd to the 13th May, 1990.

The Postal Card was to be available during this period, either in mint condition or cancelled with a special hand-postmark inscribed "Post Office — Malta — 3-13-V-90 — London 1990". The Emblem of Malta and the postal horn are also

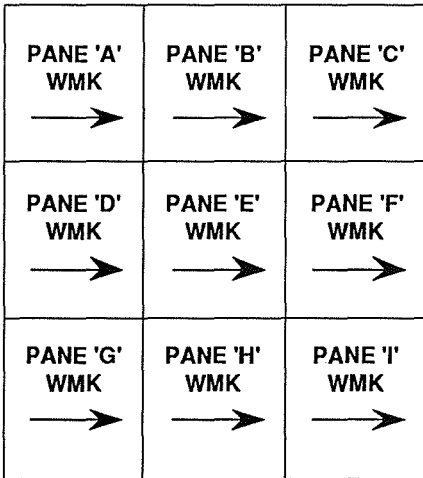


Fig. (a)

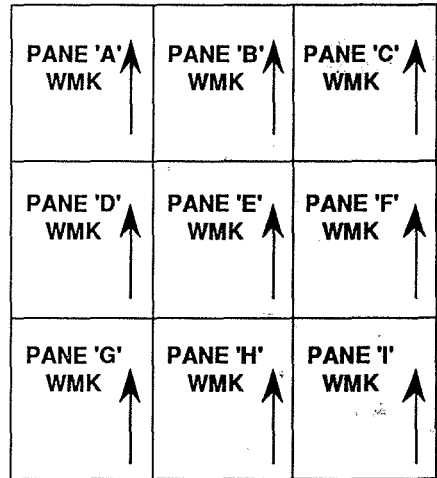


Fig. (b)