

COMMEMORATIONS 1990 ISSUE—X BRITISH MEN OF LETTERS ISSUE—Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	7-4-90	3-5-90
Values	3c, 4c, 19c, 20c	4c, 10c, 12c, 25c
Stamp Size	3c & 20c=31mmx44mm 4c & 19c = 44mm x 31mm	47.15mmx20.5mm
Designer	Tony Bugeja	Anton Grech
Printers	Printex Limited	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	3c & 20c = 14x13.9 4c & 20c = 13.9x14	13.4x13.5
Watermark	3c & 20c Maltese Crosses Upright 4c & 19c Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issue X was printed in multicolours using the same four colours for each value. Issue Y was also printed in multicolours using four colours for each value, three of which are common to all values, the fourth being the colour of the border of each value.

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 issue X, (next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in issue Y), in each Pane, of each value,

in both issues. 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 issue X (printed in the bottom colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y), on all Panes, of all values, of both issues.

Issue X — The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Pane A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps, (3c and 20c) and five rows of ten stamps (4c and 19c). The 3c and 20c values are of the vertical format whilst the 4c and 19c values are of the horizontal format.

Issue Y — The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are 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 = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 19c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
 10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
 12c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
 25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X — The left hand margins of Panes A in the 3c and 20c values are imperforate whilst the other three margins of Panes A and the four margins of Panes B of these two values are all perforated. The top margins of Panes A in the 4c and 19c values are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of Panes A and the four margins of Panes B of these two values are all perforated. Cutting marks were seen on all Panes.

Issue Y — The top margins of Panes A, of all values, are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of Panes A and the four margins of Panes B and C of all values are perforated. No cutting marks were seen.

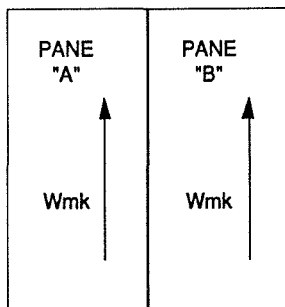


fig. A

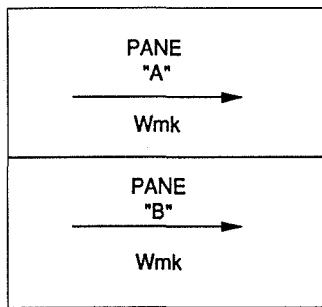


fig. B

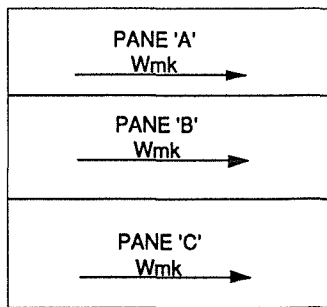


Fig. C

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 and 20c values of issue X, in fig (b) for the 4c and 19c values also of issue X, and in fig (c) for all values of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is upright in the 3c and 20c value of issue X and sideways in the 4c and 19c values of issue X and all values of issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in fig (a) and from top to bottom in figs (b) and (c).

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 issue X, but printed in the bottom colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in issues X and Y.

Special hand-postmarks were used for cancellation on the first day of both issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue sales amounted to Lm24,565 (issue X) and Lm28,500 (issue Y). Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to Wednesday, April 3, 1991, (Issue X) and up to Wednesday, May 8, 1991 (issue Y).