

# CHRISTMAS 1989 ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue ..... 11th November, 1989  
Values ..... 3c + 1c, 10c + 2c, 20c + 3c.  
Stamp Size ..... 35mm x 26.4mm  
Art Designer ..... Joseph L. Mallia  
Printers ..... Printex Limited  
Process ..... Lithography  
Perforation ..... 13.5 x 13.5  
Watermark ..... Maltese Crosses Upright  
Paper ..... Chalk Surfaced  
Gum ..... P.V.A.

## Colours:

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

## Designs:

This set of three stamps is the twenty-sixth consecutive set in the series of Christmas stamps issued by the Malta Postal Administration. As usual, each stamp includes a surcharge to its postal value, proceeds from which will go to philanthropic organisations.

The stamps feature reproductions of paintings of Angels by Mattia Preti found on the vault of St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

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 each value. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on each Pane, of each value.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of this Christmas set is quite different from the Printed Sheets of other sets. Whereas, other sets, have Printed Sheets for each value, made up of two or more Panes, this set has one Printed Sheet for all three values printed together, each value having a Pane A, on the same Printed Sheet. I think that this was done to save watermarked paper, because Christmas sets are bought mainly by philatelists on the first day of issue or during Christmas time. After Christmas and New Year, not that many are sold because of the surcharge on each value, and I suppose large amounts remain unsold, hence the above system of Printed Sheets for this Christmas set. Each Pane A, for each value, has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the horizontal format.

## Plate/Pane Numbers:

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

$$3c+1c = 1A \times 4$$

$$10c+2c = 1A \times 4$$

$$20c+3c = 1A \times 4$$

## Perforation of Margin

The left hand margin of Panes A, of all values, is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated. Registration or cutting marks were only seen at the top, of the left and right hand margins, in the 3c+1c value.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all three values together, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown in figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps of all values is upright. Perforator ran from left to right.

**Imprint Blocks:**

*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, incorporating a motif, was used on the first day of issue.

This set remained for sale up to Friday, 30th March, 1990. Sales up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue amounted to Lm18,012.

PANE "A" 3c +1c	WMK ↑
PANE "A" 10c + 2c	WMK ↑
PANE "A" 20c + 3 c	WMK ↑

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Malta - Lm1.50