

Christmas 1988 Issue Independence 1964 - 1989 Issue

X
Y

By J. Farrugia

Issue	X	Y
Date of Issue	5-11-88	28-1-89
Values	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c	2c, 3c, 4c, 10c, 12c, 25c
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm	25c= 44mm x 31mm Other Values= 26.5mm x 35mm
Designer	Ray Gauci	Frank Portelli
Printers	Printex Limited	Same
Process	Lithography	Same
Perforation	14 x 13.9	25c= 13.9 x 14 Other Values= 13.5 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways All Values
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Same
Gum	P.V.A.	Same

Colours:

Issue X was produced, using four different colours for each value and issue Y using the same four colours for all values.

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, 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 issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. It is of interest to note here that the printed progressive totals of columns of stamps in the 12c value are only half of the true value. This error was noticed in Panes A, B and C of this value. These progressive totals are printed in blue in issue X and in red in issue Y.

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of the 25c value consisted of two Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. This value is of the horizontal format. The printed Sheet of all the other values consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical 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. It is of interest to mention here that the first 1A (blue) in Pane A of the 25c value, of issue Y, is missing.

Issue X	3c + 1c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	10c + 2c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	25c + 3c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
Issue Y	2c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	3c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4
	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 3, 1B x 4

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X – The left hand margin of Panes A of all values is imperforate, whilst the other three margins are fully perforated. All four margins of Panes B, of all values, are all fully perforated. Registration marks in the form of a circle in an ellipse crossed by two lines at right angles, or parts of them, were seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of all Panes A, and in the top of the right hand margin of all Panes B.

Issue Y – The top margin of Pane A of the 25c value is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this Pane plus the four margins of Pane B of this value are all fully perforated. The top margins of Panes A, B and C of all other values are imperforate, whilst all other margins of these same Panes are fully perforated.

Registration marks as in issue X, were seen in the top of the left and right hand margins of Pane A and in the bottom of the left hand margin of Pane B of the 25c value. The same marks were seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes C, of all other values.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as show in fig. (a) for issue X and in fig. (b) (25c value), and in fig. (c), (all other values) for issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is upright in issue X and sideways in issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in issue X and from top to bottom in all values of issue Y.

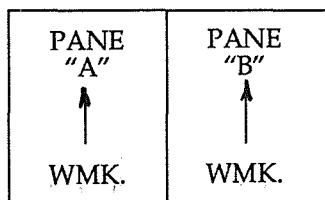


Fig (a)

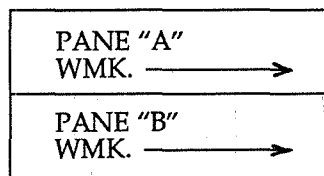


Fig (b)

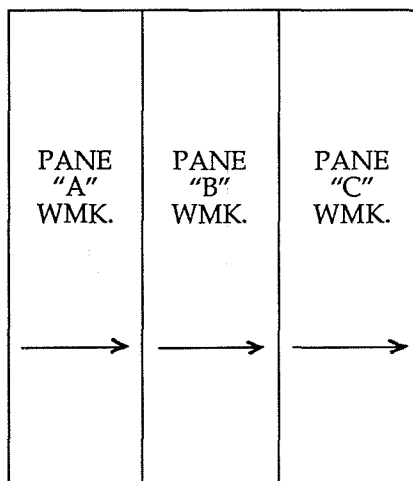


Fig (c)

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 blue in issue X and printed in red in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in issues X and Y.

Special hand postmarks were used on the first day of issue. By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm20,443 (Issue X) and Lm33,267 (Issue Y)

Stamps of these two issues were to remain for sale up to Monday, 3rd April, 1989 (Issue X) and up to Monday, 8th January, 1990 (Issue Y), unless stocks are previously exhausted.