

Finding a Treasure Trove of Information

Part 2

by Paul and Barbara Kayfetz

MELITA ISSUES 1922 – 1926

The duty frame plates are present for all values. The vignette key plate for the high (shilling) values is present but not that for the low values.

¼d Duty Plate (Photo No. 18) – This relief plate contains two side-by-side panes of 80 images each. Each pane contains eight rows of 10 stamps each. The plates are copper with an approximate thickness of 2mm; the (relatively small) image portions are on raised sections for each value tablet and each country tablet. These sections are an additional 3mm tall. A Jubilee Line surrounds each of the panes. These are in a thin ridge protruding above the base level of the plate. Each pane consists of four segments that are separate and which are attached by screws through holes cast in the plate.

The Jubilee Lines are formed by what appears to be a continuous cast ridge which has been cut after the copper plate was cast. The incisions made at intervals to break the line are ragged and rough in nature. Extending across the flange from each are scratch marks indicating that a tool similar to a saw blade was used to cut these gaps. Similar marks appeared in all of the Duty Plates for this issue.

The 18mm thick mahogany board on which the plates are attached has approximately 20mm borders top and bottom and 3mm on each side. The board consists of four pieces which have been connected with splines.

Punched into the lower right-hand corner of the right-hand pane is the date “27/8/22”.

½d Duty Plate (Photo No. 19) – This plate is generally similar to the ¼d described above. However, each pane consists of 16 separate components which have been attached onto the backing board in proper relationship to each other.

At the lower right-hand corner at the left-hand pane is its punched date “29/6(?) /22”.

It should be noted that these plates contain interleaving boards of the same material as the pictorial set. These are descriptive notations in the same hand and blue crayon. Clearly, therefore, these notations and interleaving boards were prepared at a date later than the actual use of each plate. This could have been in preparation for transmission of these plates to the government of Malta or at a time of storage organization.

1d Duty Plate (Photo No. 20) – This plate is identical in configuration to the ½d described above. It bears the date “22/6/22”.

1 – ½d Duty Plate (Photo No. 21) – This plate is generally similar to those described above. However, the left-hand pane was combined from 10 pieces and the right-hand pane from 9. There is no date punched into this plate.

2d Duty Plate (Photo No. 22) – This plate is generally as described above. The configuration of each pane has been assembled from four parts. It should be noted that the gaps between the parts extend through the Jubilee Line and therefore appear in the finished stamps as wider gaps in the Jubilee Line than those which are cut into the Jubilee Ridge within each segment of a pane. Throughout this issue the segmentation of the Jubilee Lines is not necessarily coextensive with the sides of the stamps.

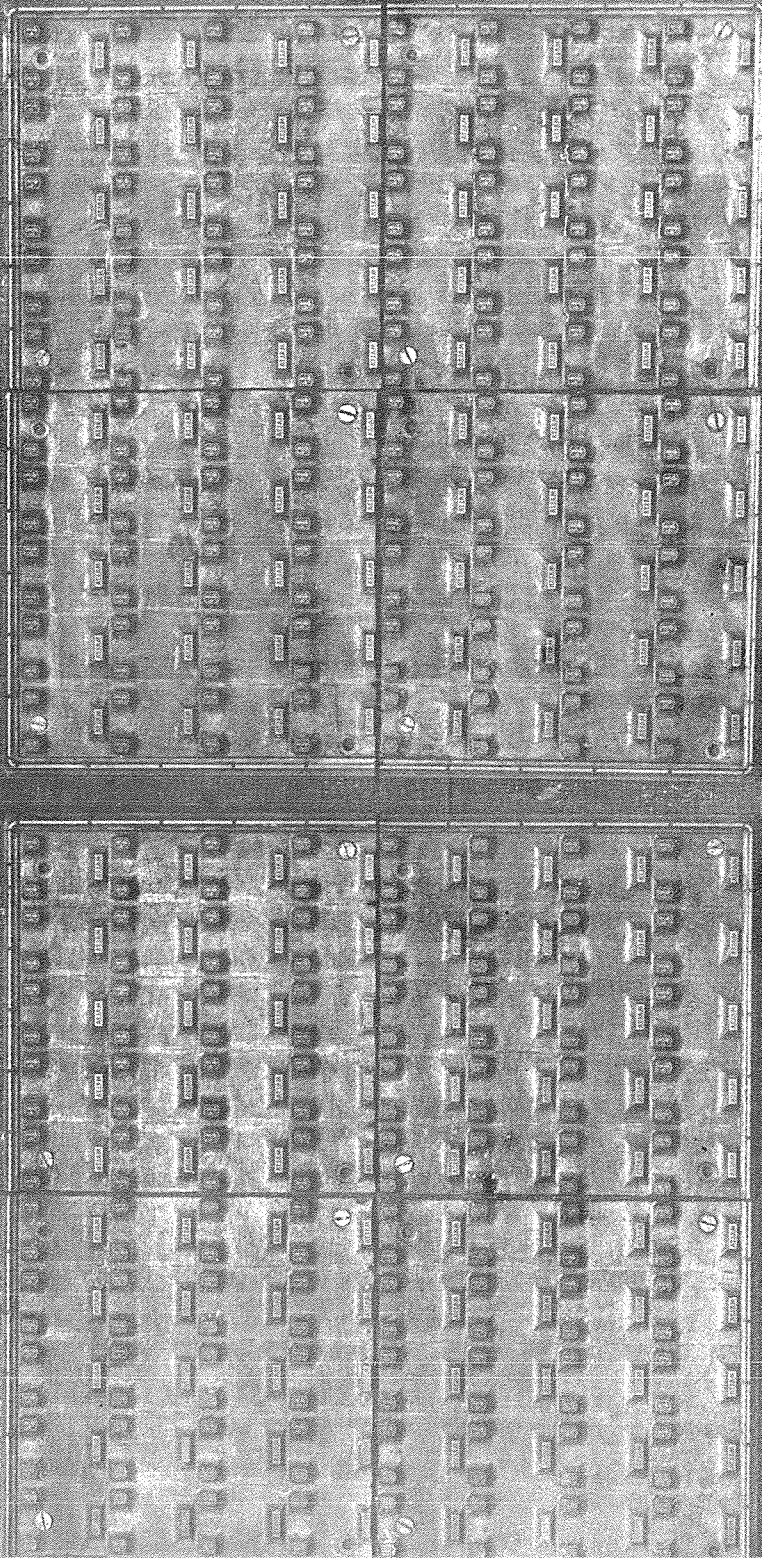
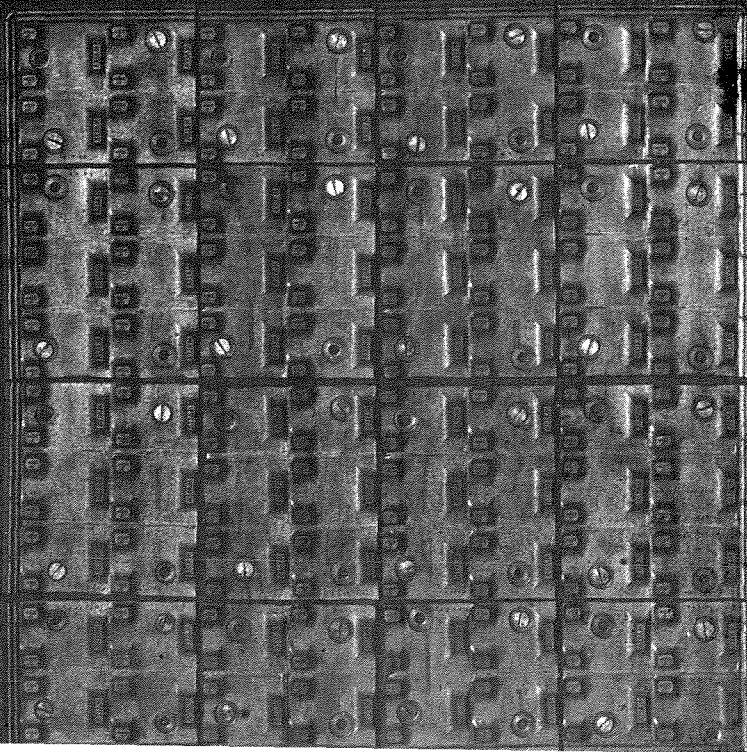
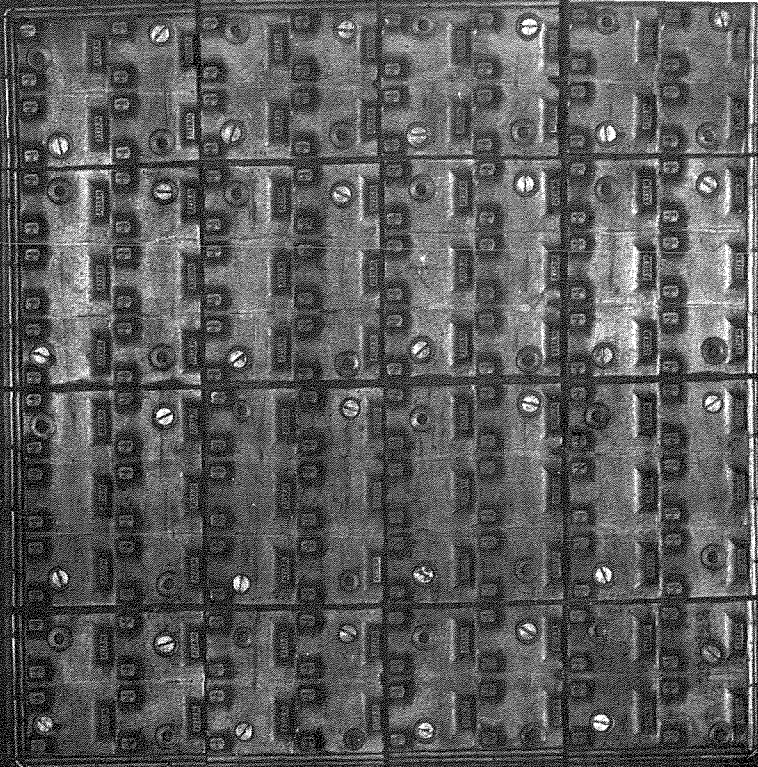
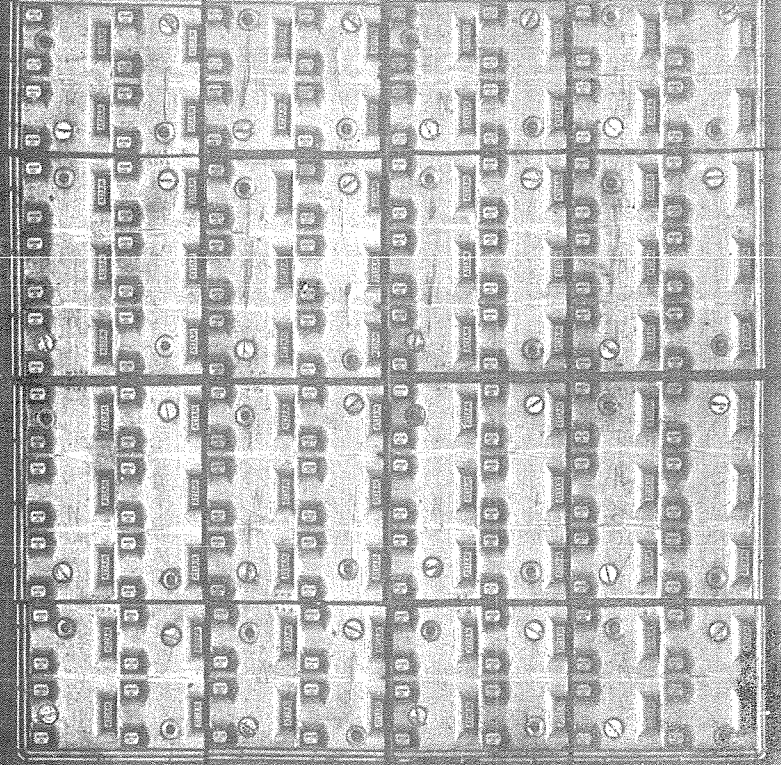
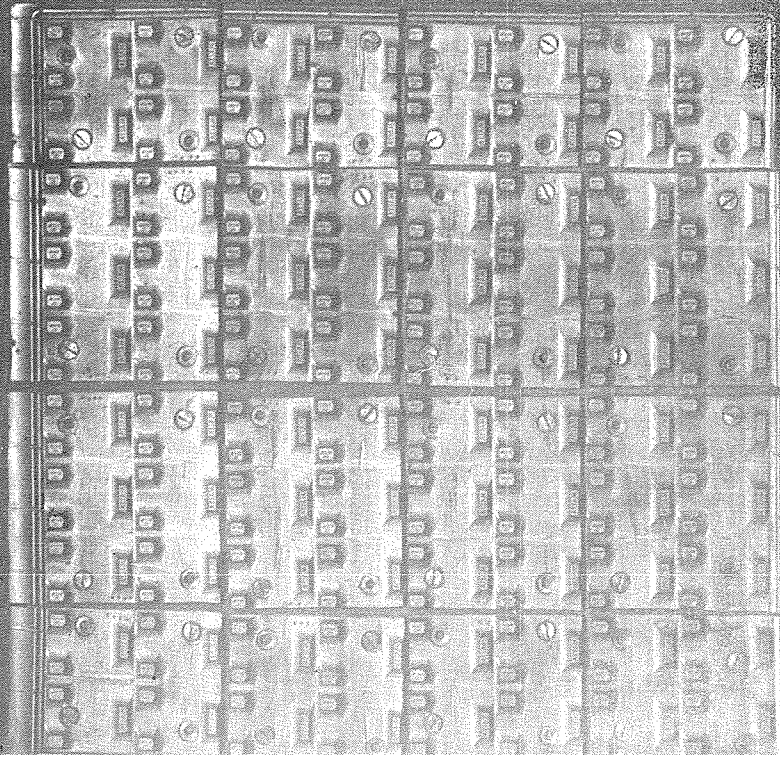


Photo No. 18

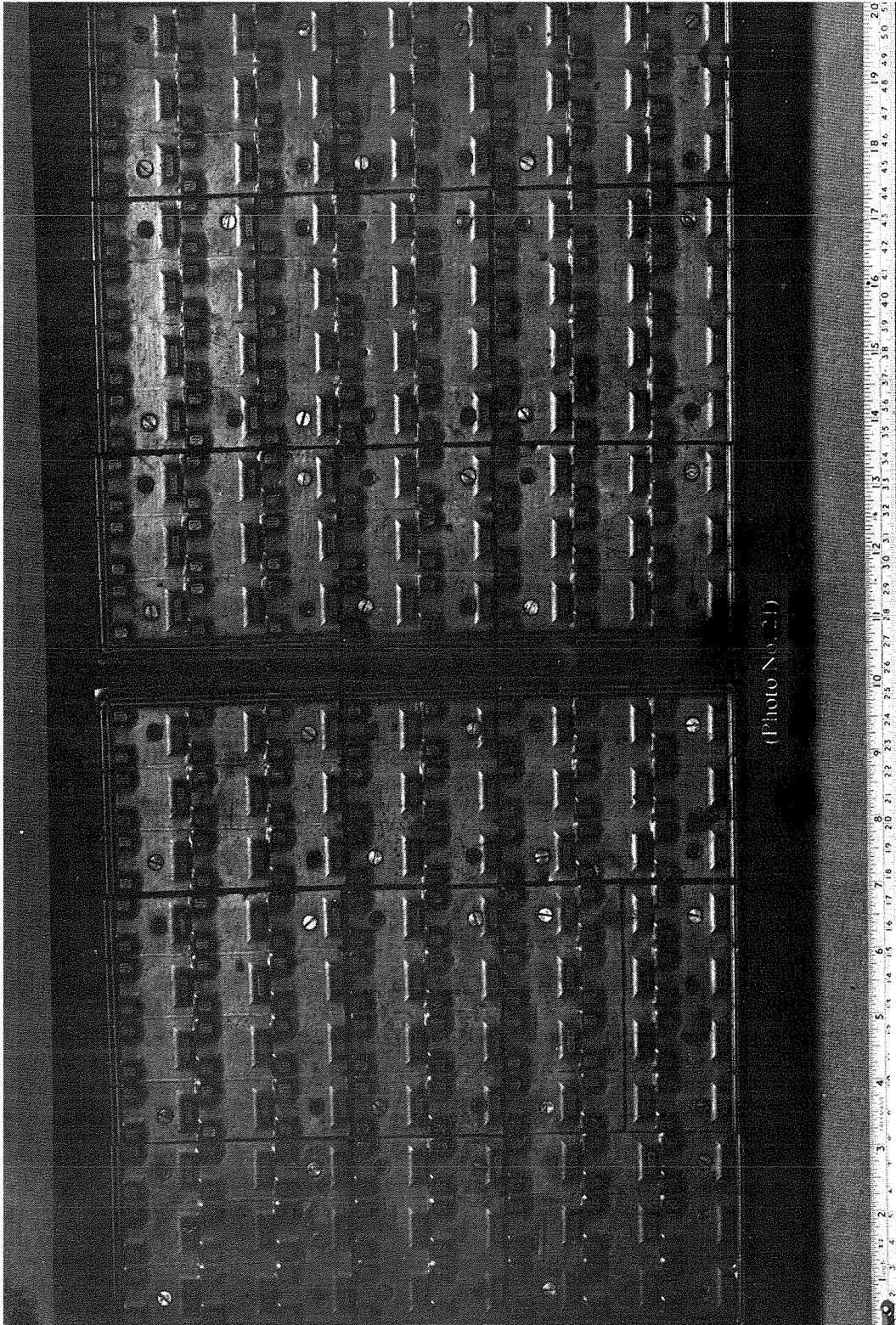


(Photo No. 19)

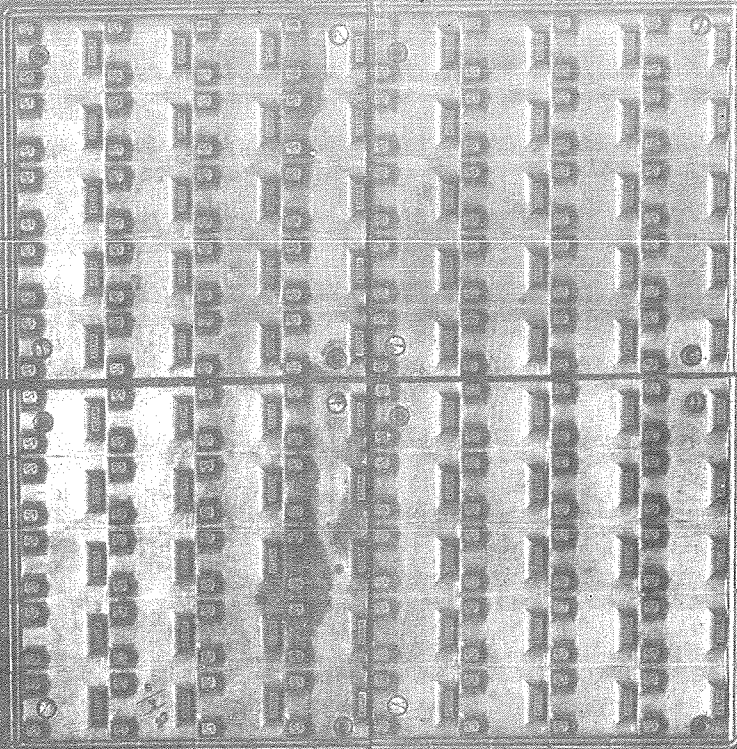
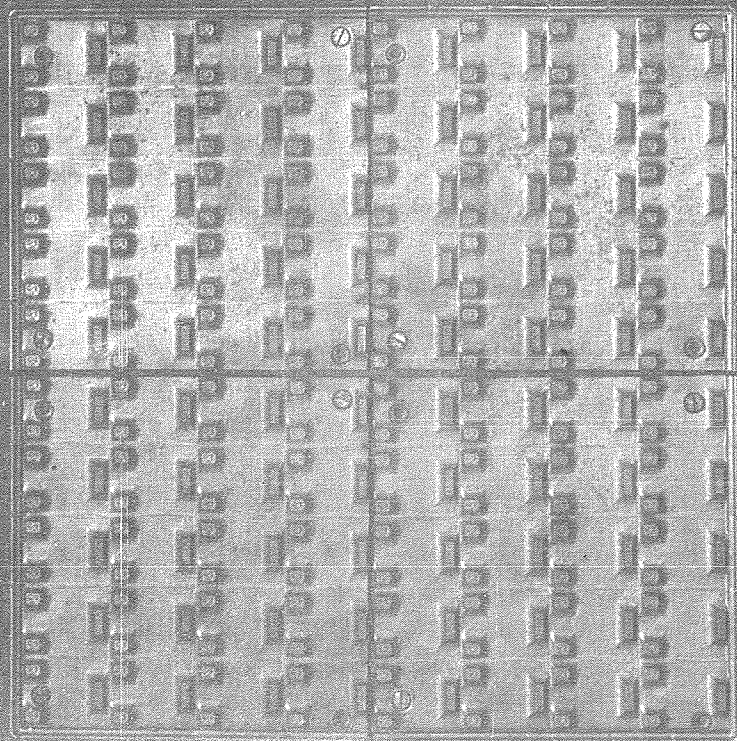


(Photo No. 20)





(Photo No. 21)



(Photo No. 22)



A date is raised letters obtained from inscribing the mold for this die with a punch reads: "6/7/22". This is a different configuration for the numbering of the plate since the preceding ones involved numbers punched into the finished plate rather than into the mold.

2 – ½d Duty Plate (Photo No. 23) – Each pane of this plate was assembled from eight components. There are fairly wide gaps in the Jubilee Line in the central gutter due to wide spacing of some of these components. A date is raised relief (therefore punched into the mold) is partially obscured by one of the screw holes used for attaching the plates to the backing board. The portion that appears is: "12/___/___6", suggesting the 12th of some month in 1926.

3d Duty Plate (Photo No. 24) – This plate has been assembled from four components in each of its panes. The date which is in raised letters on the plate is "12/7/22".

4d Duty Plate (Photo No. 25) – Each pane is assembled from four parts. The raised date "14/7/22" appears in the lower left-hand corner of the left-hand plate.

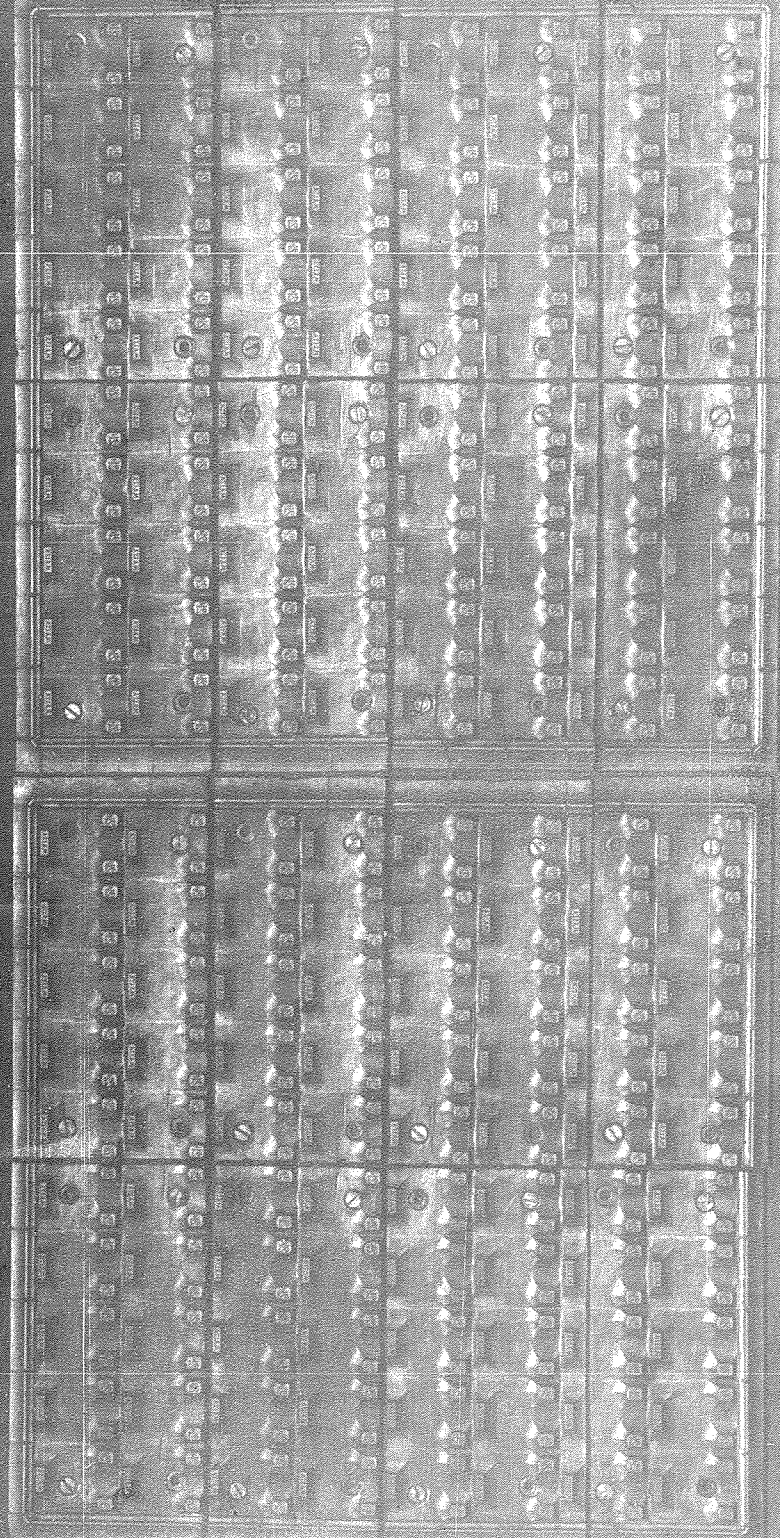
6d Duty Plate (Photo No. 26) – This is also composed of four parts for each pane. The raised date "4/7/22" appears in the lower right-hand corner of the left-hand pane.

High-value Key Plate (Photo No. 27) – This relief plate contains 80 images in eight horizontal rows with 10 stamps in each. The general configuration is similar to that described for the 2d stamp of the set above. However, there are two separate brass plates screwed to the mahogany backboard. The division between the two halves is a vertical line with 40 stamps on the left and 40 on the right. The flange is 10mm in width beyond the Jubilee Line which surrounds the complete block of 80 stamps. There are screw holes at intervals throughout the flange. Screws at each corner and pairs on either side of the division at top and bottom fix the plate to the backboard. The date "2/6/22" appears cast in positive relief in the upper margin on the right half of the plate. The mahogany backboard extends 2mm beyond the plate at the top and the two sides and 8mm at the bottom.

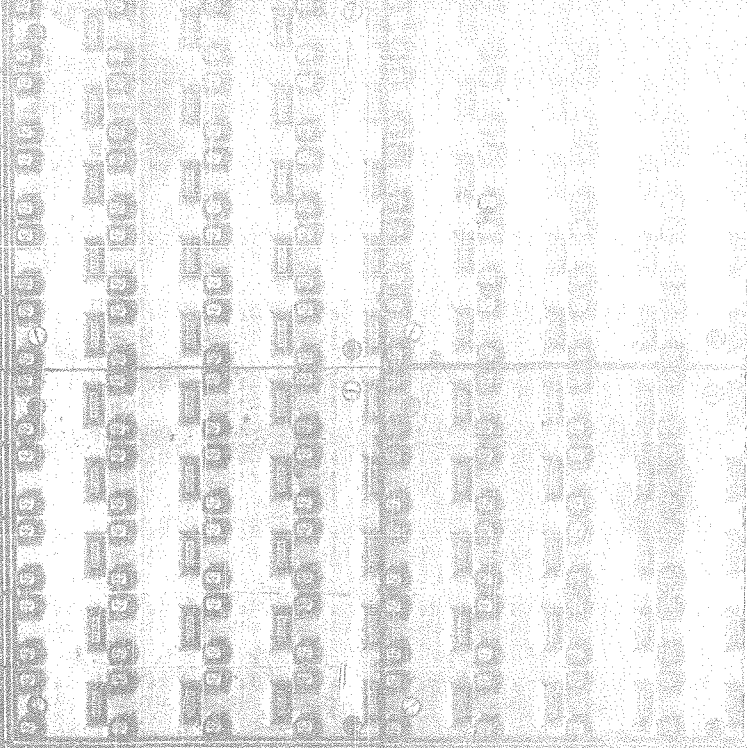
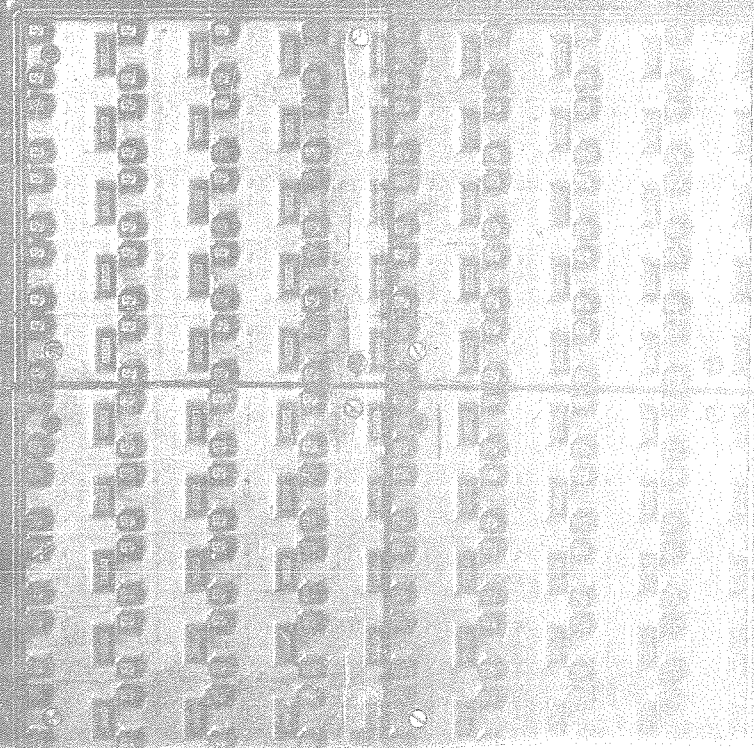
The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 226 states that in the shilling values the plate number "1" appears above or below the corner stamps of each sheet. However, this plate contains the plate number "1" only below the corner stamps at the bottom of the sheet. These numbers have been soldered onto the cast plate. There are no similar numbers at the top and it is apparent from an examination of the plate that none has ever been attached at the top of this plate.

1/- Duty Plate (Photo No. 28) – This plate contains 80 images and is generally configured as the key plate described above. However, the flange extends 10mm beyond the duty line on each side 13mm at top and bottom. The plate is molded as a single unit. The mahogany backing board is flush with the edges of the plate. There are no holes provided in the flange for attachment of the plate to the backing board. Rather, the attachment is effected with screws placed in holes drilled in the sunken area for the vignette at each corner of the plate. The date "24/6/22" appears in raised relief in the upper border from numerals that were punched into the mold. There are registration devices at the center of each side margin of the type described on the 2/- and 5/- George V definitives above.

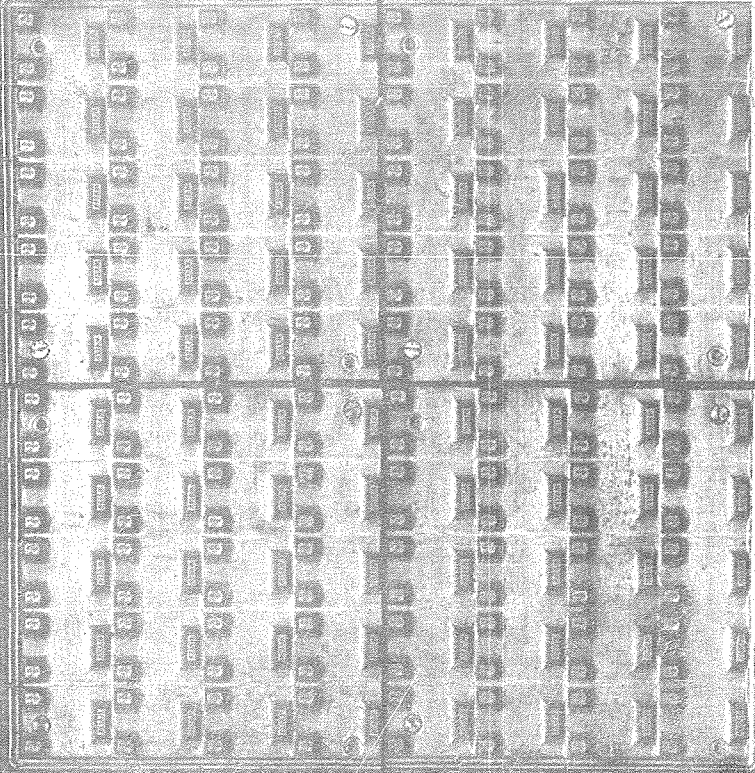
There are dark marks of the size and shape of plate number discs above



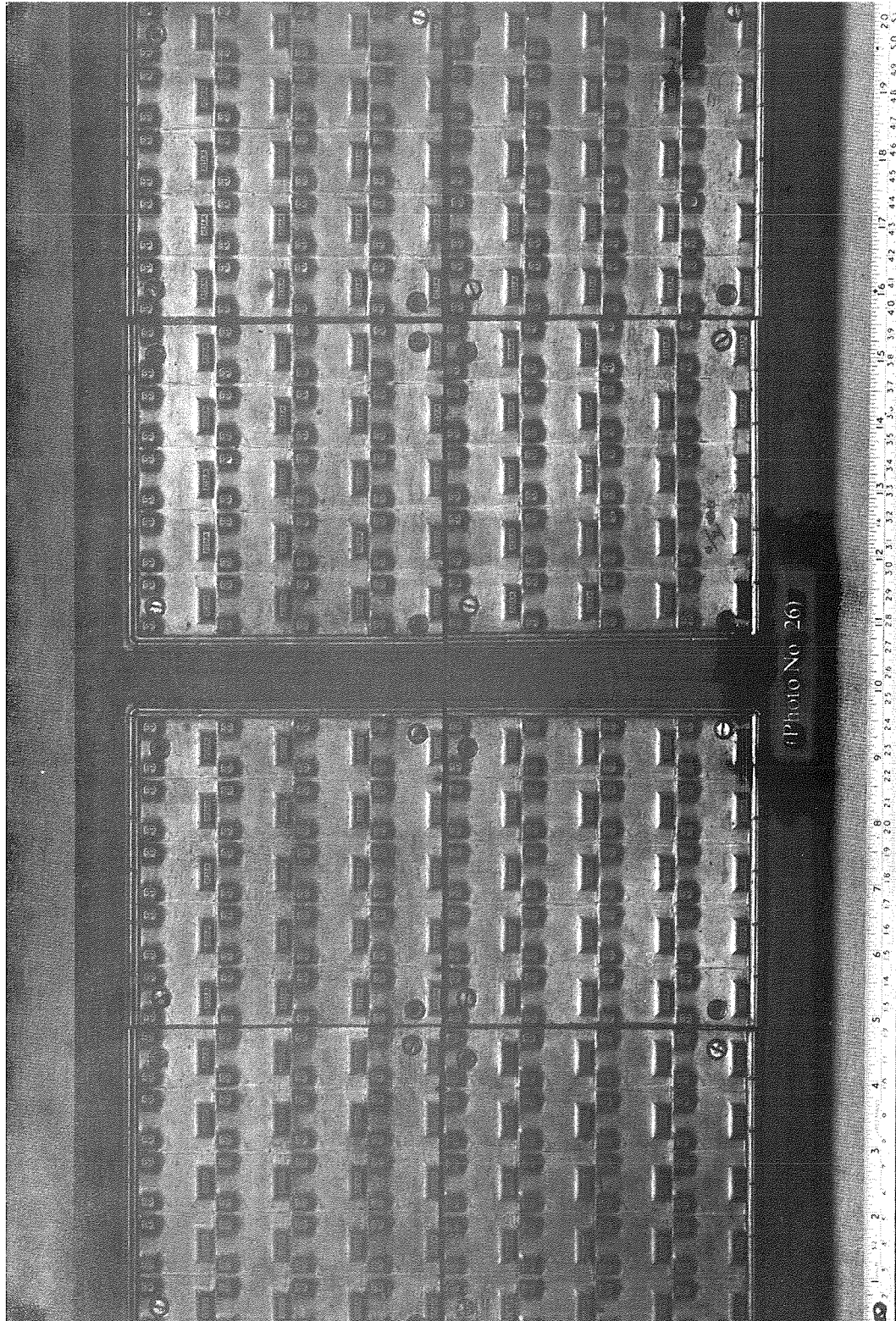
(Photo No. 23)



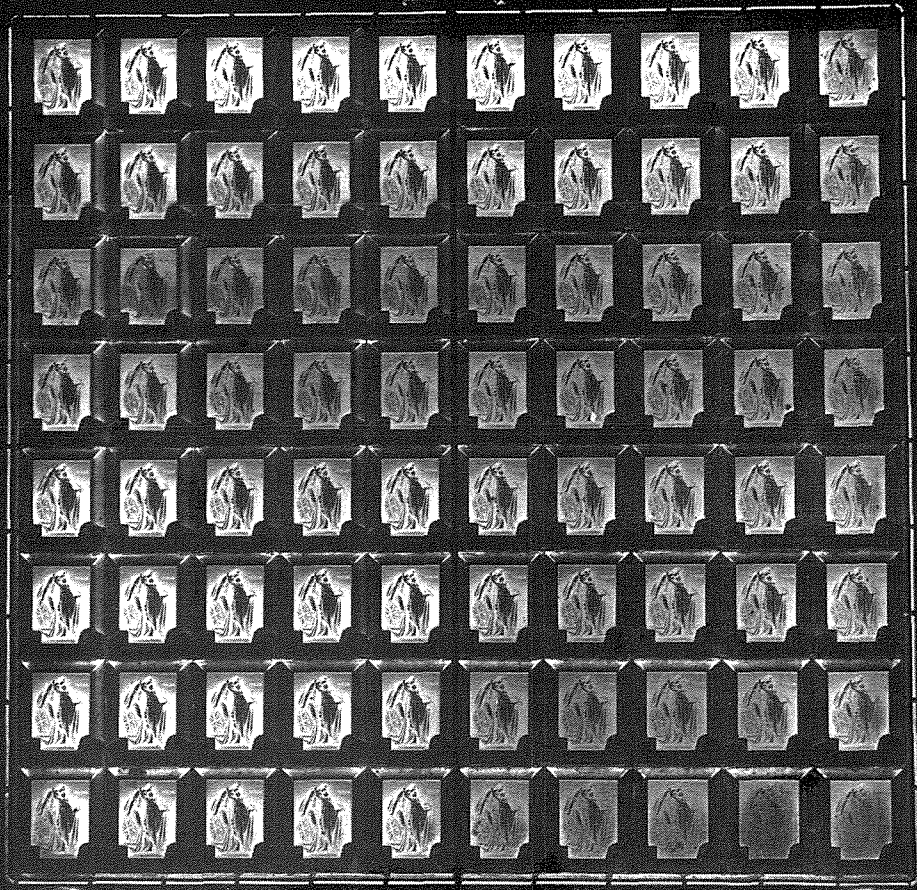
(Photo No. 24)



(Photo No. 25)



(Photo No. 26)



(Photo No. 27)



the second stamp in from the end of each end of the top row. Similar marks appear below the corresponding stamps in the bottom row. These marks are off-center toward the nearest side margin rather than centered above the respective stamps.

Interestingly, the edge of the mahogany board contains a branded notation in 4mm high capital letters which reads: "Cayman Ilds 2 – ½". Also, in chalk in back of the board is written the notation: "1/- Border Duty".

2/- Duty Plate (Photo No. 29) – This plate is similar to that described above for the 1/- value except that the margins at top and bottom are cut down. The dark circular marks are not present. The punched date "30/6/22" is at the bottom of the margin. The edge of the mahogany board contains the label "3d Gambia".

2/6 Duty Plate (Photo No. 30) – This plate is identical to that of 2/- . However, the top and bottom flanges have been sawn off so that they extend only 3mm beyond the Jubilee Line. The inscribed date is therefore missing. The board contains the notation on its edge: "3S Cayman Islands". The date "5/7/22" appears punched within one of the vignette areas.

5/- Duty Plate (Photo No. 31) – This plate is almost identical to that described above; the date "11/7/22" is located in one of the vignette areas within the plate. The board contains the notation on its edge: "¼d Cayman Islands".

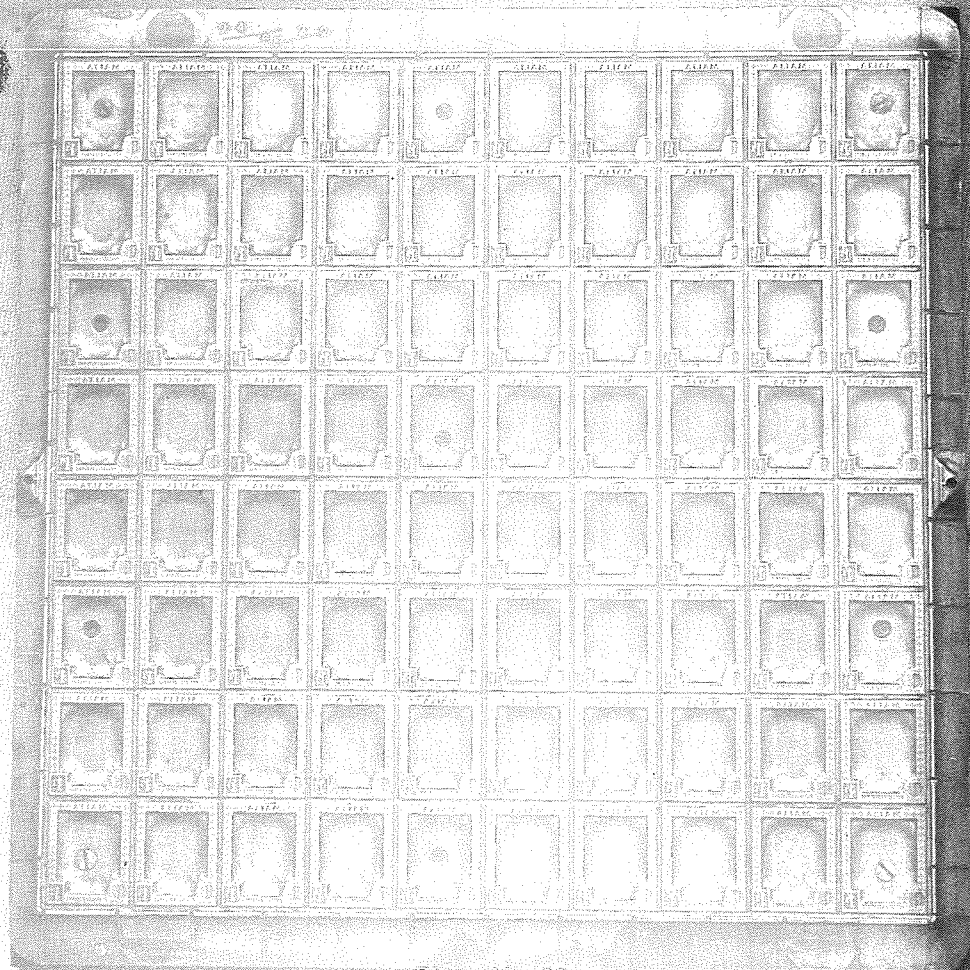
10/- Duty Plate (Photo No. 32) – This plate is similar to the 5/- including the cutting of the flange at top and bottom with the resultant removal of any date that might have been thereon. The board indicates in its label "5d Gambia". The date "11/7/22" appears within one of the vignette areas in the plate.

The Malta Study Circle Handbook at page 225 discussed the Jubilee Lines. The discussions speaks of standard lengths of line segments with odd lengths "to complete a pane surround usually found in the bottom right-hand corner". It should be noted that the Jubilee Lines were not formed as this implies from pieces of type, but rather through the sawing of gaps in a molded continuous border on the printing plate. (Photo 37A)

£1 MELITA

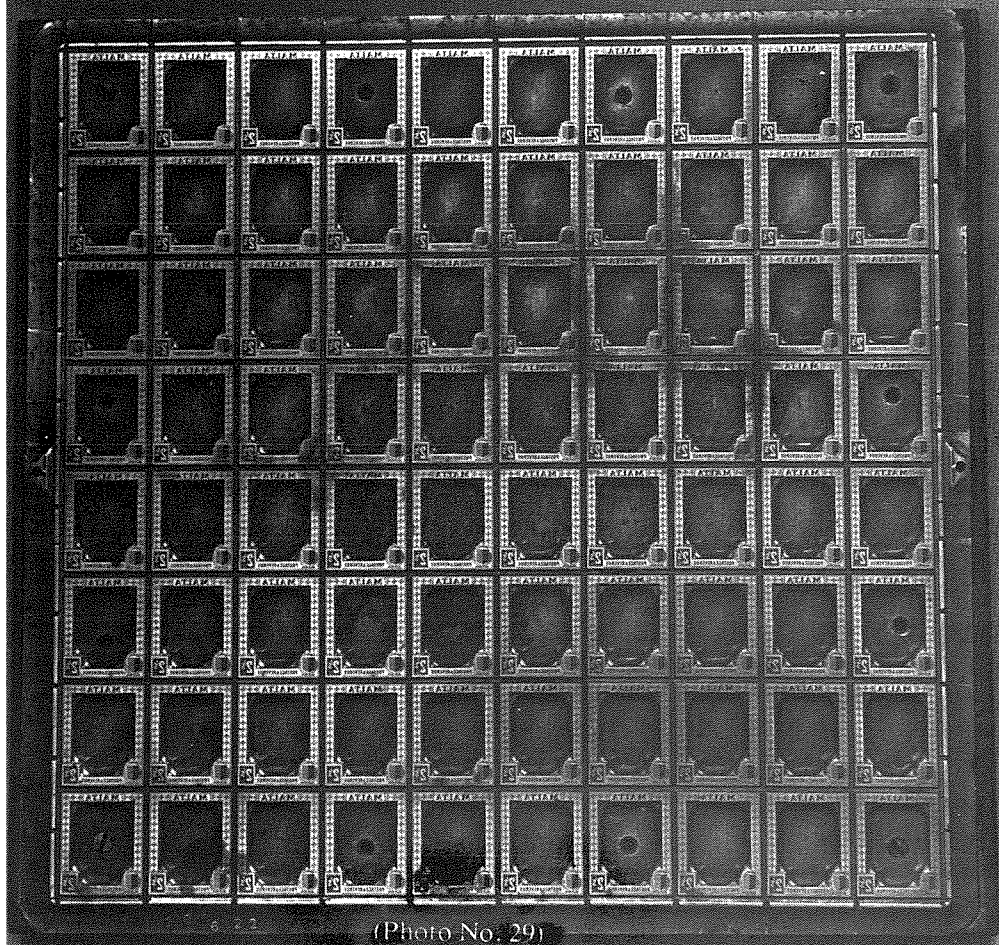
Key Plate Vignette (Photo No. 33) – This engraved plate contains 40 images in four rows of 10. It is a plate for relief printing composed of steel 5mm thick. There appears to be a nickel surface-plating on the steel. Some sort of varnish or other protective coating appears to be on top. The plate is 292mm wide and 165mm high. There are registration crosses which extend all the way to the edge of the plate at the center of each side of the sheet.

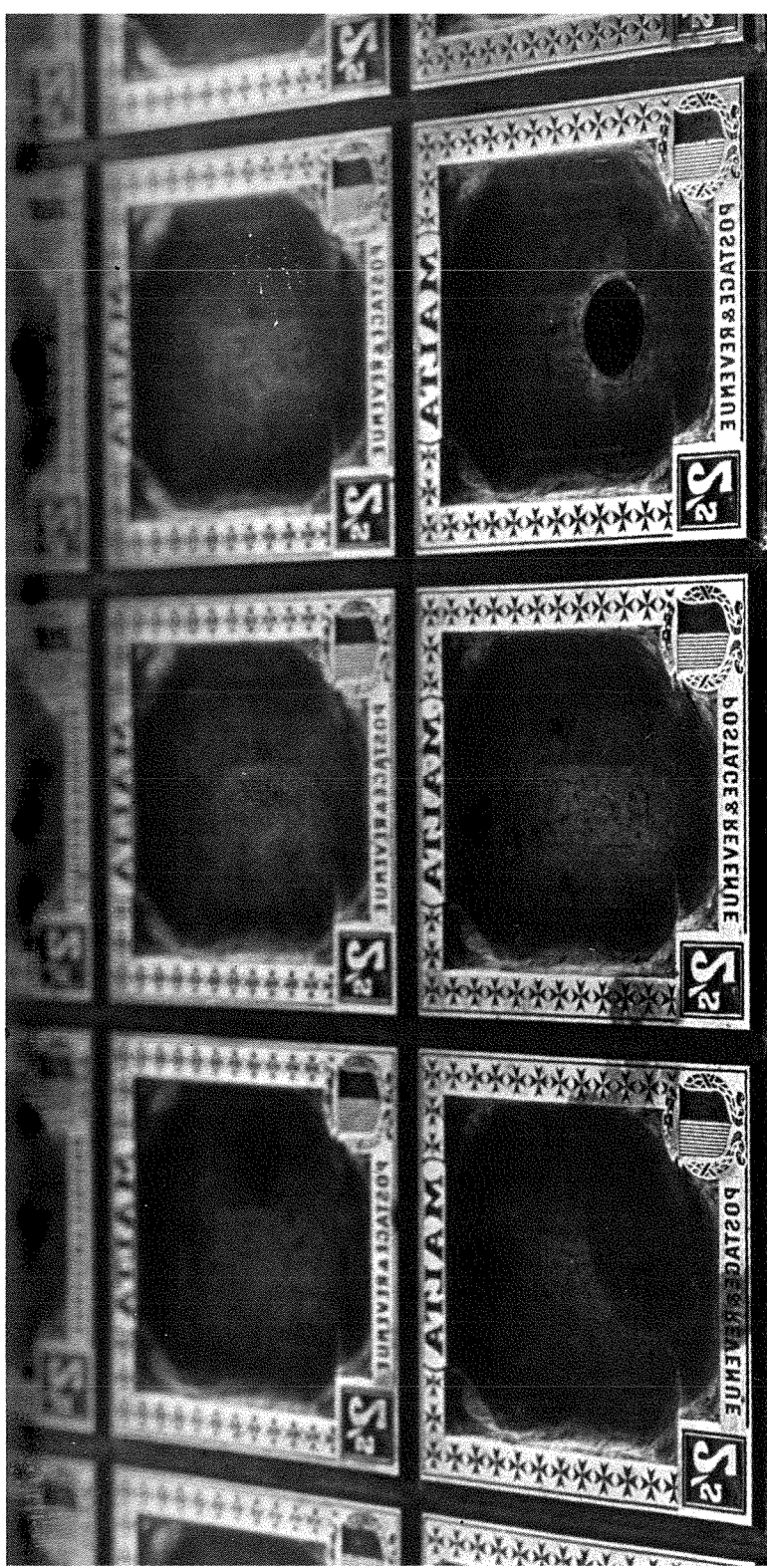
Border Duty Plate (Photo No. 34) – This engraved plate is identical in physical configuration to the Key Plate described above. It contains a double-ruled border completely around the sheet of 40 stamps. The lines comprising the border at 3mm apart and are 12mm from the image of the nearest stamp on each side. Registration crosses, similar to those on the Key Plate, run to the edge of the plate.



(Photo No. 28)







29 (enlarged)

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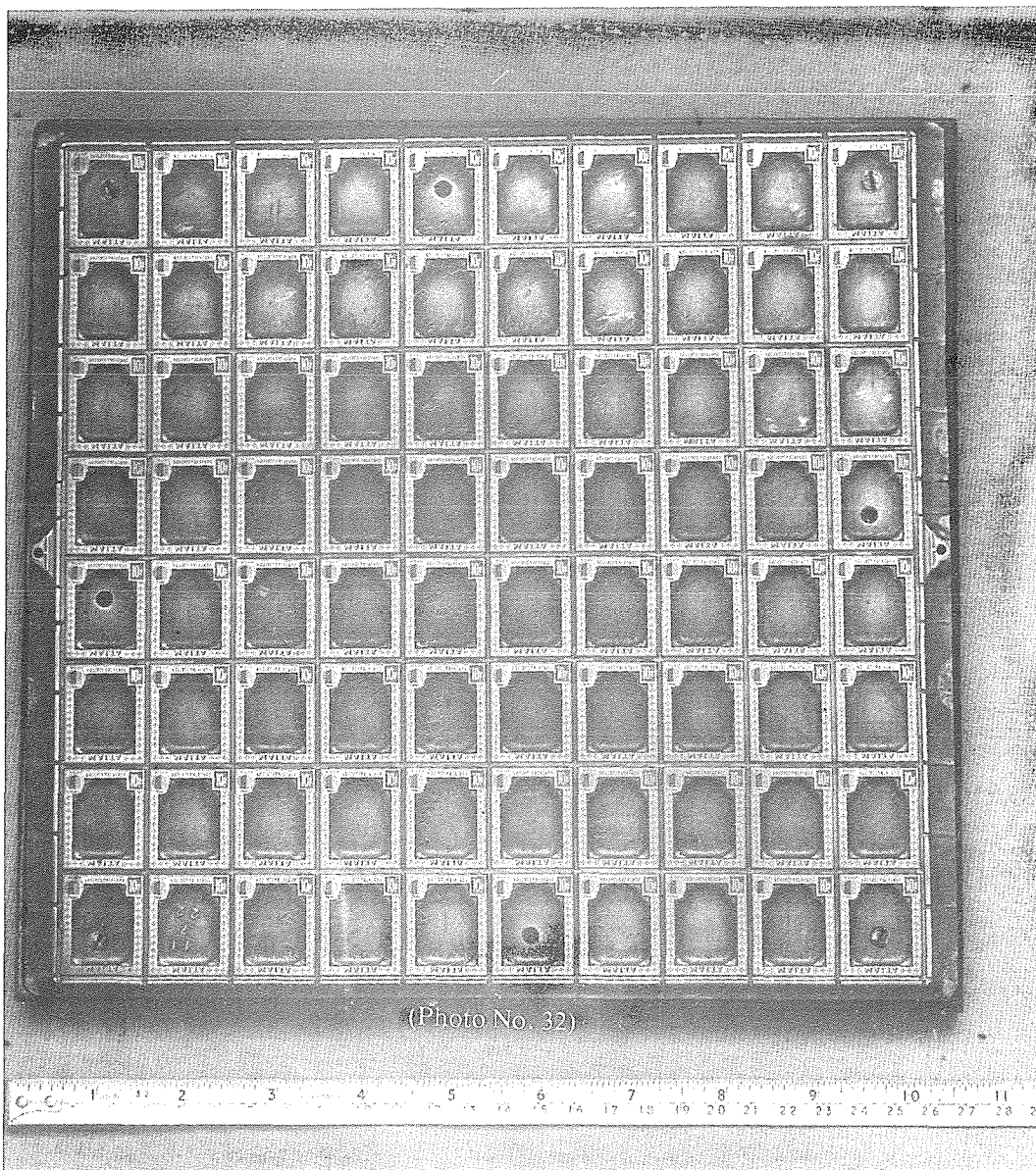


(Photo No. 30)

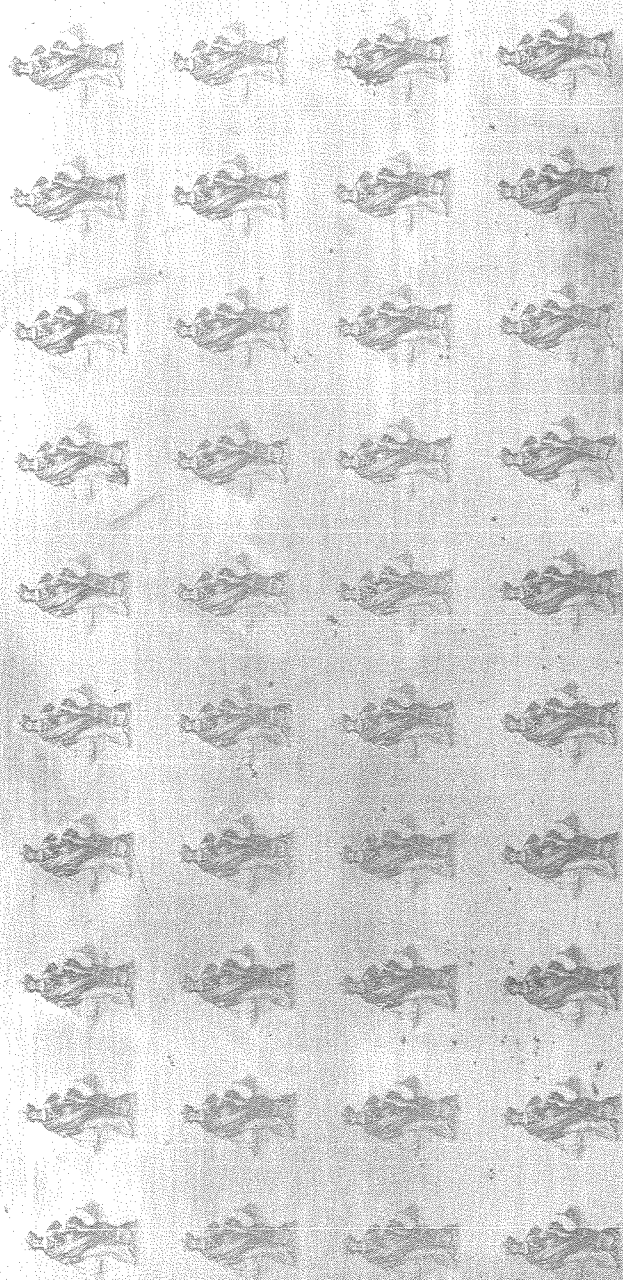


(Photo No. 31)

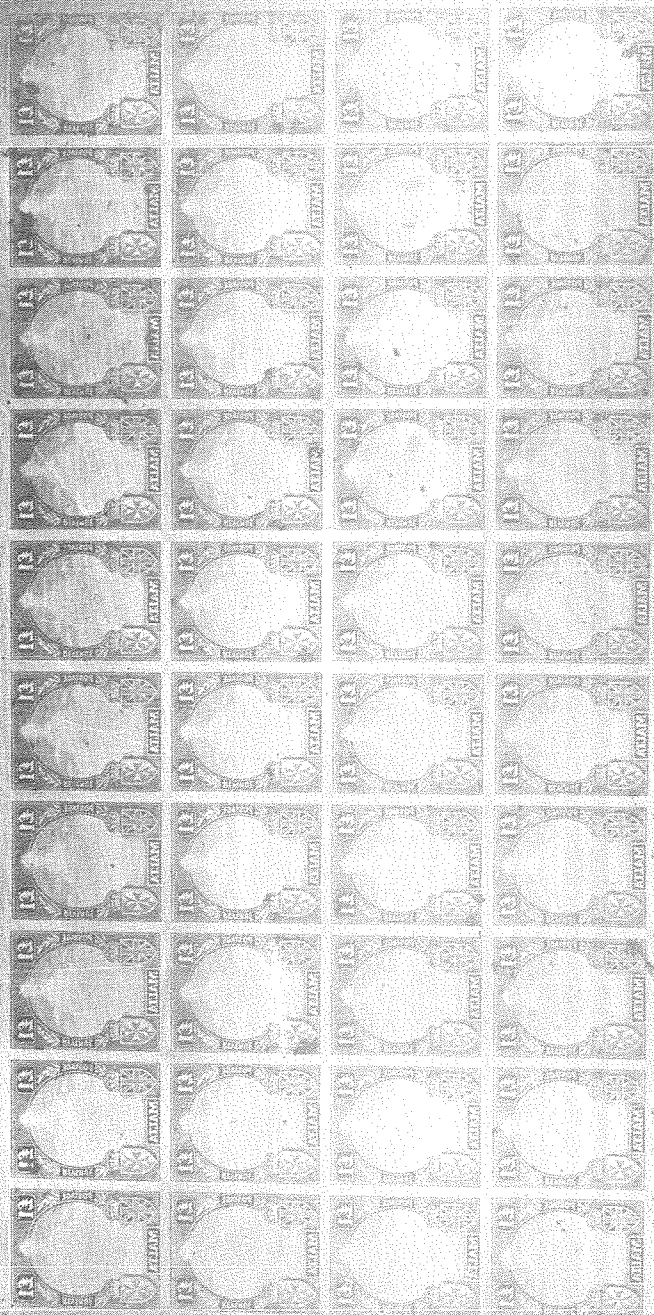
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11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90
91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



(Photo No. 32)



(Photo No. 33)



(Photo No. 34)

