

Detailed Information about:

by J. Farrugia

Christmas Issue 1986	X
Maltese Ships 4th. Issue	Y
25th. Anniversary – Ornithological Society Issue	Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	10 – 10 – 86	19 – 11 – 86	26 – 1 – 87
Values	2c+1c, 8c+2c, 20c+3c.	7c, 10c, 12c, 20c	3c, 8c, 13c, 23c.
Stamp Size	2c+1c = 48mm × 40mm 8c+2c = 40mm × 48mm 20c+3c = 48mm × 40mm	47mm × 29mm	3c & 23c = 44mm × 31mm 8c & 13c = 31mm × 44mm
Designer	Luciano Micallef	Norbert Attard	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	2c+1c = 13.9 × 14 8c+2c = 14 × 13.9 20c+3c = 13.9 × 14	13.9 × 13.6	14 × 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright 8c+2c Maltese Crosses Sideways 2c+1c, 20c+3c	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Upright 8c & 13c Maltese Crosses Sideways 3c & 23c
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P. V. A.	same	same

Colours:

Issues X, Y and Z were printed in multicolours.

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, Y and Z, except in the 10c value, of issue Y, which are next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. It is interesting to mention here, that for the colour checks of Pane A, of the 13c value, of issue Z, nothing can be said for reasons to be stated later on.

Colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, of issues X, Y and Z, except for the top colour (blue) in the 10c value, of issue Y which in the Pane numbers is printed last on the right instead of first on the left.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X, Y and Z.

Printed Sheets:

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps (8c+2c), and eight rows of five stamps (2c+1c and 20c+3c). The 8c+2c value is of the vertical format and the other two 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 forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Issue Z – The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps (3c and 23c), and ten rows of five stamps (8c and 13c). The 3c and 23c values are of the horizontal format and the 8c and 13c values are of the vertical format.

An interesting point, reference Pane A of the 13c value, may be mentioned here. All Panes A of this value were issued with the last column of stamps missing i.e. ten stamps. This means that the right hand margin of Pane A which includes the colour checks, and which may also have had two registration marks, one at the top and one at the bottom, plus part of the top margin and part of the bottom margin having the Printer's Imprint, were all missing. Hence as mentioned earlier, nothing can be said about the colour checks of this Pane.

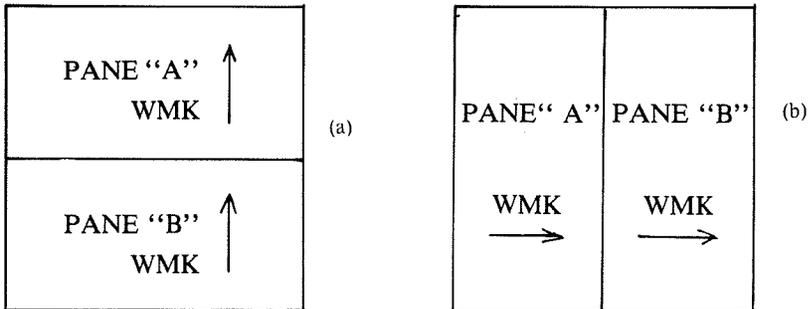
Plate/Pane Numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp, of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X, Y and Z.

Issue X –	2c+1c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.	Issue Z –	3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	– 8c+2c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.		8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	– 20c+3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.		13c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
Issue Y –	7c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.		23c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	10c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6.		
	12c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.		
	20c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.		

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X – In the 8c+2c value, the left hand margins of Panes A and B, are imperforate, whilst all other margins are fully perforated, figure (a). In the 2c+1c and 20c+3c values, the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate, whilst all other margins are fully perforated figure (b).



Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, all stamps are seen the right way up. Perforator ran from left to right in figure (a) and from top to bottom in figure (b).

Registration marks in the form of a “circle, circumscribed by an ellipse, crossed by two lines at right angles” were seen in the four corners of both Printed Sheets, in figures (a) and (b), i.e. left and right corners, top margin, Pane A, and left and right corners, bottom margin, Pane B, in figure (a). Also top and bottom corners, left margin, Pane A, and top and bottom corners, right margin, Pane B, in figure (b).

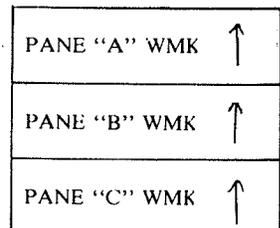
Issue Y – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate, all other margins of the same Panes are all fully perforated.

A registration mark in the form of a horizontal line, 6mm in length, was seen in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the middle row, in Panes B, of all values.

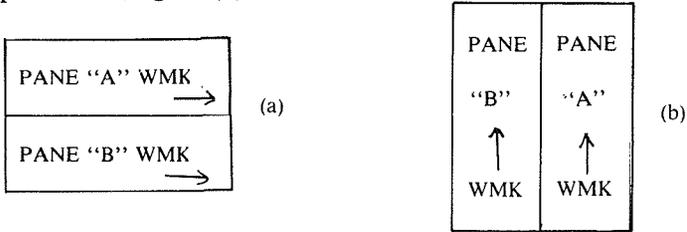
The Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left.

Looking at the Printed sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up.

Perforator ran from left to right.



Issue Z – In the 3c and 23c values, the top margin of Pane A, is imperforate, whilst all other margins of Panes A and B are all fully perforated, figure (a). In the 8c and 13c values, the left hand margin of Pane B is imperforate, whilst all other margins of Panes A and B are all fully perforated, figure (b).



Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from top to bottom in figure (a) and from left to right in figure (b).

Registration marks, similar to those mentioned for Issue X, were again seen in the four corners of the Printed Sheet, in the 23c value, figure (a), 8c and 13c values, figure (b), but none in the 3c value, figure (a). Hence marks were seen in the following positions on Panes.

For the 23c value, left and right corners, top margin, Pane A, and left and right corners, bottom margin, Pane B, figure (a).

For the 8c and 13c values, top and bottom corners, left margin, Pane B, and top and bottom corners, right margin, Pane A, figure (b).

It is to be noted that the last part is being assumed for the 13c value, as Pane A of this value, was issued without the last column of stamps and its margins.

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X, Y and Z, except in Pane A of the 13c value, of issue Z, for reasons mentioned earlier. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, except in Pane A of the 13c value, of Issue Z, for the same reasons.

Special hand postmarks incorporating a motif symbolizing a star (Issue X), a line drawing of a ship's helm (Issue Y) and the emblem of the Ornithological Society (Issue Z), were used on the first day of issue.

By 12.45p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm20,125 (Issue X), Lm28,486 (Issue Y) and Lm26,871 (Issue Z).

Stamps were to remain on sale up to Tuesday, 17th. February, 1987, (Issue X), up to Wednesday, 17th. June, 1987 (Issue Y) and up to Monday, 13th. July, 1987 (Issue Z), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Maximum Card No. 7

This card was issued on the first day of Issue Y. It depicts the "Valletta City", a steamer also shown on the 12c value stamp. This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the Maximum Card and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark.