

Centenary of the Malta Post Office Issue ----- X
International Youth Year 1985 Issue ----- Y
7 June 1919 Issue ----- Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	2-1-85	7-3-85	7-6-85
Values	3c, 8c, 12c, 20c	2c, 13c, 27c	3c, 7c, 35c
Stamp Size	31 mm × 44 mm	47 mm × 29 mm (2c, 27c) 29 mm × 47 mm (13c)	44 mm × 31 mm (3c, 7c) 31 mm × 44 mm (35c)
Designer	Norbert Attard	Tony Bugeja	Luciano Micallef
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	14 × 13.9	13.8 × 13.6 (2c, 27c) 13.6 × 14 (13c)	14 × 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Upright (2c, 27c) Sideways (13c)	Maltese Crosses Upright (35c) Sideways (3c, 7c)
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same	same

Colours:

Issue X - This set was produced in multicolour using four different colours for each value.

Issue Y - This set was produced in multicolour using five different colours for the 2c and 27c values, and four for the 13c value.

Issue Z - All values of this set were printed using the same four colours: Sepia, Red, Gold and Light Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3 mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of each value, of issues X, Y and Z. 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 Z, but from right to left in issue Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black in all Panes, of issues X and Y, but printed in the top colour of the colour checks, in issue Z.

Printed Sheets;

Issue X - Each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

Issue Y - Each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps. The 2c and 27c values are made up of five rows of eight stamps, whilst the 13c value is made up of eight rows of five stamps. The 2c and 27c values are of the horizontal format and the 13c value is of the vertical format.

Issue Z - Each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten in the 3c and 7c values, and ten rows of five in the 35c value. The 3c and 7c values are of the horizontal format, whilst the 35c value is of the vertical format.

Rate/pane numbers:

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of the three issues.

Issue X-	3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	12c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	20c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
Issue Y -	2c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
	13c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
	27c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
Issue Z -	3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	7c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
	35c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.

Perforation of Margins:

Issue X - Right hand margin of Pane A, of all value is imperforate, whilst the same margin of Pane B, is fully perforated. The top, bottom and left hand margins of Panes A and B, of all values, are also fully perforated. A horizontal registration line was seen in the middle of the right hand margin, of Panes A, of all values.

Issue Y - Left hand margin of Panes, A, B and C, of the 2c and 27c values, are all imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated. In the 13c value, the top margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate, whilst the left hand, bottom and right hand margins are all fully perforated.

Issue Z - The top margin of Pane A, of the 3c and 7c values, is imperforate, whilst the top margin of Pane B is fully perforated. The left hand, bottom and right hand margins, of these same Panes are also fully perforated. In the 35c value, the right hand margin of Pane B is imperforate, whilst the same margin of Pane A is fully perforated. The top, left hand and bottom margins, of Panes A and B are also fully perforated.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet, of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as follows:

Issue X - all values as in figure (a).

Issue Y - values 2c and 27c as in figure (b).
value 13c, as in figure (c).

Issue Z - values 3c and 7c as in figure (d).
value 35c, as in figure (e).

Looking at all the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values, of the three issues, would be seen the right way up. Hence watermark is upright in all values of issues X, 2c and 27c in issue Y, and 35c in issue Z. It is sideways in the 13c value of issue Y plus the 3c and 7c values of issue Z.

Perforator ran from right to left in figures (a) and (e).
from left to right in figure (b).
from top to bottom in figures (c) and (d).

Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X, Y and Z. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black in issues X and Y, but in the top colour of the colour checks in issue Z. An Imprint Block of four will include the colour checks, in all values of the three issues.

By 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue sales amounted to Lm55,987 for issue X, Lm25,180 for issue Y, and Lm26,932 for issue Z.

Stamps remained on sale up to 3-7-85 for issue X, 6-9-85 for issue Y and 10-12-85 for issue Z.

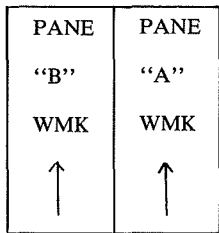
Issue X – Souvenir Sheet

A souvenir sheet was also issued on the first day of issue of this set. The souvenir sheet incorporates the four stamps of this set and was available for sale at 43c each.

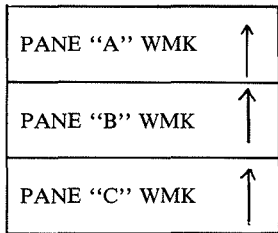
The size of the souvenir sheet is 164 mm × 90 mm and is of the horizontal format.

The Printed Sheet consisted of twelve souvenir sheets, made up of four rows of three sheets.

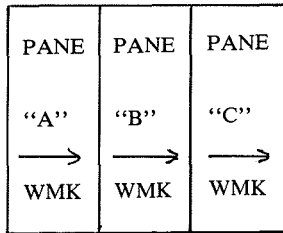
The watermark of the souvenir sheet is also Maltese Crosses, but pointing sideways, i.e. opposite to that on stamps from normal Panes. So it is possible to have two stamps of the same value with different watermarks but one of them would have been cut from a souvenir sheet.



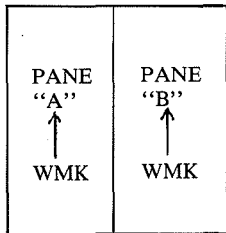
(a)



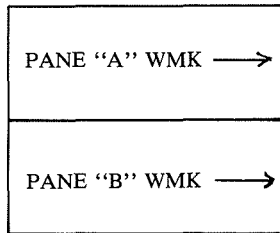
(b)



(c)



(e)



(d)