

Detailed Information about:-

EUROPA 1983 Issue

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	5th. May, 1983
Values.....	8c and 30c
Stamp Size.....	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer.....	8c - Tony Bugeja 30c - Richard J. Caruana
Printers.....	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation.....	13.85 x 13.6
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum.....	P.V.A.

Colours:-

8c - Beige, Blue, Green and Black.
30c - Blue, Yellow, Brown and Black.

Designs:-

This is the thirteenth set in the Europa series issued by the Malta Post Office. The theme chosen by C.E.P.T. for 1983 is "great works of the human genius".

The 8c stamp depicts the Ggantija Megalithic Temples in Gozo.

The 30c stamp features Fort St. Angelo which overlooks the Grand Harbour.

As usual this set is printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format and each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space of the top row, in both values, a silhouette of Fort St. Angelo as well as the C.E.P.T. emblem, can be seen. The first space of the second row consists of a different and less detailed drawing of Ggantija Temples and "Europa 83". The background of both spaces is white, which is different from that of the actual stamps.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin and printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the last stamp of the top row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of both values.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consists of six Panes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane Numbers:-

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row in each Pane of both values.

8c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4.

30c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4.

Perforation of Margins:-

The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of both values are imperforate whilst the left hand margin of Panes D, E and F are fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes A to F in both values are fully perforated.

PANE "C" ↑ WMK	PANE "F" ↑ WMK
PANE "B" ↑ WMK	PANE "E" ↑ WMK
PANE "A" ↑ WMK	PANE "D" ↑ WMK

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from left to right.

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

Imprint Blocks:-

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks.

A special handstamp, including the C.E.P.T. emblem, was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 12.45p.m. Lm166,527 worth of stamps had been sold on the first day of issue. This set was to remain on sale up to Thursday 15th December, 1983, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

The Europa 1983 stamps and an appropriate motif were printed in multicolour on a commemorative postal card, issued on the occasion of Malta's participation in "Tembal 1983" International Exhibition which was held in Basle, Switzerland, from the 21st to the 29th May, 1983.

More information about this postal card may be found in "Malta - A Diary" of the 21st. May, 1983.