

Date of Issue.....	14th March, 1983
Values.....	8c, 12c, 15c and 23c.
Stamp Size	8c and 12c = 47mm x 29mm
.....	15c and 23c = 29mm x 47mm
Art Designer	Charles Cassar
Printers	Printex Limited Malta
Process.....	Lithography.
Perforation.....	8c and 12c = 13.9 x 13.6
.....	15c and 23c = 13.6 x 13.9
Watermark.....	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
.....	in 8c and 12c values, sideways
.....	in 15c and 23c values.
Paper.....	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours: The colours of this set were produced by the four colour process.

Designs:

The Malta Postal Administration issued this set of four stamps, to mark Commonwealth Day on the 14th. March, 1983. Forty-five other member countries and ten associated and dependent territories also issued their own stamps.

The aim of this issue, is to foster wider awareness of the Commonwealth among its people and to serve as a contribution towards the financial stability of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Each country will donate a number of sets, profits from the sale of which will go to the operational reserve of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

This Maltese set designed by Mr.Charles Cassar, represents Malta's special status based on neutrality, culture, tourism and industry, each aspect being depicted in the 8c, 12c, 15c and 23c stamps respectively.

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. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of the four values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B, C. Each Pane has forty stamps. In the 8c and 12c values, each Pane is made up of five rows of eight stamps, whilst in the 15c and 23c values each Pane is made up of eight rows of five stamps. The 8c and 12c stamps are of the horizontal format and the 15c and 23c stamps 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.

$$\begin{aligned}8c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\12c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\15c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4. \\23c &= 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4, 1C \times 4.\end{aligned}$$

Perforations of Margins:

In the 8c and 12c values, the left hand margins of Panes A, B, C are all imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

In the 15c and 23c values, the top margins of Panes A, B and C are all imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins are all fully perforated.

From all the Panes examined, I noticed a small registration line only in Panes B of the 8c and 12c values. This was in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the middle row.

PANE "A" WMK	↑
PANE "B" WMK	↑
PANE "C" WMK	↑

PANE "C" WMK →	PANE "B" WMK →	PANE "A" WMK →
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From a study of the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 8c and 12c values would look as shown at top on the left, whilst that of the 15c and 23c values would look as shown at top on the right. In each case looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in the 8c and 12c values is upright, whilst in the 15c and 23c values it is sideways.

As shown, perforator ran from left to right in the 8c and 12c values and from top to bottom in the 15c and 23c values.

Imprint Blocks:

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of all values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special hand-postmark inscribed: "Jum Il-Commonwealth - 14 Mar 83 - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug - Malta" and the name of the respective locality, was used on the first day of issue. The inscription means: "Commonwealth Day - 14 Mar 83 - First Day Of Issue - Malta". The postmark also incorporates the Commonwealth symbol.

By 12.45p.m. on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm48,054. This set will remain on sale up to Wednesday, 14th September, 1983, unless stocks are previously exhausted.