

DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT NEW ISSUES

by Joseph Farrugia

EUROPA 1981 ISSUE

Date of Issue	28th. April 1981
Values	8c and 30c.
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm.
Art Designer	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of these stamps was produced by the four colour process.

Designs:

This is the eleventh set in the series of Europa issues. The theme for this year chosen by C.E.P.T. is "folklore".

The 8c stamp features a horse race on the occasion of a local "festa". Traditional horse racing has long been a favourite sport, with races taking place on the road instead of on a race track. Such races are held on "festas" like "Imnarja" and "St. Rocco's Day", at Rabat, Malta, and "St. John's Day" at Xewkija, Gozo. The "Imnarja" races can be traced back to the 15th. century. The prizes distributed in most of these races are called "pal-ji", consisting of strips of fine damask of various shades, about two metres in length and half a metre wide.

The 30c stamp depicts the greasy pole, known as the "gostra". This is another popular event which takes place at several seaside towns and

villages during summer "festas". During the festivities of "Il-Vittoria" held in September each year, the "gostra" is always included in the official programme.

The "gostra" consists of a long tapernig pole, placed at an incline from the head of a barge, with a small flag fixed at the end. The pole is covered with grease and soap to make it slippery, the aim being to make it very difficult for the competitors to run up the pole and seize the flag. At first there would be several unsuccessful attempts, with the competitors tumbling down into the water, and then renew the attempt, until the winner succeeds in getting hold of the flag, on his way down into the sea.

This year's Europa issue is again printed in small Panes of ten stamps. Both values are of the vertical format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. The first and second spaces of the top row are used for description purposes, including the C.E.P.T. symbol, "Europa 1981" and the

name of the sport depicted by the stamp. 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 bottom row. The colours from op to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of both values. After looking at quite a number of Panes from the back, I would say that two different kinds of paper were used for the printing of this set.

Each Printed Sheet, of each value, consisted of nine Panes of ten stamps, "A" to "I".

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 & includ. 11 x 4.

30c = 1A x 4 up to & includ. 11 x 4.

Perforation of Margins

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

The Printed Sheet of each

"A" WMK.	"B" WMK.	"C" WMK.
"D" WMK.	"E" WMK.	"F" WMK.
"G" WMK.	"H" WMK.	"I" WMK.

each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from top to bottom. 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 sideways.

Imprint Blocks

The imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black.

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed "L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug — Malta", the name of the respective locality and the date "28.4.81". The CEPT emblem is also incorporated in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Monday 28th. December, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

A total of £M326,276 worth of stamps was sold up to 12.45 p.m. on the first days of issue of this set.

XXV INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF MALTA ISSUE

Date of Issue	12th. June 1981.
Values	4c and 25c.
Stamp Size	24.8 x 26.43mm.
Art Designer	Anthony De Giovanni.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.5.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

The colours used for the production of these stamps are: 4c value, red, yellow, blue and black.

25c value, orange, green, bur-deaux and black.

The main objectives of the International Fair of Malta are the promotion of exports, the establishment of international contacts and the increase of domestic trade. The Fair is held annually in the beautiful gardens of Palazzo Parisio, Naxxar, from the 1st. to 15th. July. This marks the 25th. edition of this event.

With the expansion of Maltese industry, the outlook of the Fair has changed from an original display of imported goods, to that of a mixed display of locally manufactured and imported goods, with an increasing representation of Malta made products.

Over forty countries have at one time or another taken part in this Fair, including the Government of Malta, through a number of its Ministries.

The International Fair of Malta is affiliated with the Union des Faires Internationales, and is the Island's shop window, displaying amongst other things, a varied choice of products testifying to the skill of the Maltese worker and industrialist, towards export promotion of locally produced goods. It also gives the ever increasing number of foreign visitors, buyers, as well as others the opportunity to see Maltese products and discuss purchases on the spot.

The stamps have a face value of 4c and 25c, and are designed by Anthony De Giovanni. The theme of the design is a beautiful and simple one, the numerals "25" (being the 25th. edition of the fair) with the Malta Trade Fair emblem.

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 both 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 four Panes, A, B, C and D. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten. Both values are of the vertical format.

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1S x 4, 1D x 4.
25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

The top margin of Panes A and B is imperforate. The top margin of Panes C and D is fully perforated. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of Panes, A, B, C and D are also fully perforated. In some A Panes of the 4c value, some registration lines were seen in the top left hand corner.

PANE "A" WMK.	PANE "B" WMK.
PANE "C" WMK.	PANE "D" WMK.

From a study of all the details given, 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, hence why watermark is sideways in individual stamps. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

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

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Monday 28th. December, 1981, un-

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS ISSUE

Date of Issue	17th. July 1981.
Values	3c and 35c.
Stamp Size	26.5 x 35mm.
Art Designer	Antoine Camilleri.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.5.
Watermark	Printex Limited Malta. sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of this set was produced by the four colour process, plus the colours "lilac" and "light brown" for the frames of the 3c and 35c value stamps respectively.

Designs:

To mark 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons, chosen by the United Nations General Assembly, the Malta Postal Administration issued two special stamps. The two stamps were beautifully designed by artist, Antoine Camilleri. The 35c value stamp shows a handicapped child playing with other children and the 3c value stamp depicts a disabled person in a wheelchair painting by mouth. The stamps also reproduce the official I.Y.D.P. emblem, representing two people holding hands in solidarity and support of each other in a position of equality. The emblem symbolizes equality, hope and support. The theme of I.Y.D.P. is "Full Participation and Equality". In Malta, steady progress has been sustained to alleviate the lot of the less fortunate members of the Maltese community. The provision of sheltered workshops, joint projects with voluntary organisations, plus recent legislation has greatly improved the

economic situation of the handicapped. Through these measures several handicapped persons lead near normal lives and others earn a living by their own abilities. Maintaining and broadening the good work done so far, should result in enabling the handicapped to live in dignity as useful members of the society.

Colours 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 for Pane numbers, from left to right on all Panes of both 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 and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. Both values are of the vertical format.

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

35c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Panes A, B and C, is imperforate. The bottom, left hand and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In Pane A of the 3c value, re-

gistration lines were seen in the top left hand corner.

PANE	PANE	PANE
"A"	"B"	"C"
WMK.	WMK.	WMK.

From a study of details given, 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, hence why watermark is sideways in individual stamps.

Imprint Blocks

WORLD FOOD DAY ISSUE

Date of Issue	16th. October 1981.
Values	8c and 23c.
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm.
Art Designer	Richard Caruana.
Printers	Maltese Crosses pointed
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.9 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointed sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

8c Sienna, grey, ochre and black.
23c Khaki, blue, ochre and black.

Designs:

To mark the first World Food Day, is also incorporated in the design. Congratulations to Richard Caruana, the designer of this set, who succeeded in producing such a beautiful, simple and effective set.

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 right to left, on all Panes, of both values.

Cumulative totals of progressive

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

A special hand-stamp was used for cancellation of philatelic mail on the first day of issue. A total of £M41,564 worth of stamps were sold from the G.P.O. and Branch Post Offices up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 28th. December, 1981, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

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 and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. Both values are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

8c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
23c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins

The top margin of Panes A, B and C, is imperforate. The bottom, left hand and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. In Pane C of both values, re-

gistration lines were seen in the top right hand corner.

PANE	PANE	PANE
"A"	"B"	"C"
WMK.	WMK.	WMK.

From a study of details given, 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, hence why watermark in individual stamps is sideways.

Imprint Blocks.

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

A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark also incorporates a line drawing of an ear of corn in a flask symbolizing the contribution made by Science towards greater food production. Up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue, sales totalled £M31,925 from the G.P.O. and Branch Post Offices. This set will remain on sale up to Thursday, 25th. February, 1982.