

## EUROPA 1979 ISSUE

Date of Issue .....	9th May 1979.
Values .....	7c and 25c.
Stamp Size .....	27mm x 33mm.
Art Designer .....	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	13.9 x 13.7.
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by patchwork using multi-colours.

### Designs

The 1979 "Europa" stamp set, depicts as part of the general theme "History of Postal and Telecommunications Services" past and present day methods of mail transport and communications.

The 7c stamp features a "Maltese Speronara" and the tail fin of an Air Malta aircraft. The "Maltese Speronara" was a small open vessel equipped with sails and oars. It was designed to ride the waves and to sail to any port in the Mediterranean. The Order of St. John continuously employed the "Maltese Speronara" on several commissions, especially to carry official and private despatches to the galley squadrons or to the continent.

The 25c stamp depicts a coastal Watch Tower and a Radio-Link Tower. During the rule of the Order of St. John in Malta, many coastal Watch Towers were added, especially through the initiative of Grandmaster Martino De Redin (1657-1660) to the one already existing before the Order settled in the Maltese Islands in 1530. These towers served as a means of communication in case of enemy raids, or in other emergencies, through the conveyance of messages, from tower to tower, by gunfire, rocket, flag, fire or smoke signals.

This is the ninth Europa Set, issued by the G.P.O. and has again been 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 third space of the top row is used for the wording "EUROPA 1979", the C.E.P.T. symbol and a "Maltese Speronara" as seen on the 7c stamp. The fourth space of the top row is again used for the wording "Europa 1979", the C.E.P.T. symbol and a "Watch Tower" as seen on the 25c stamp. The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin, and printed in the same colour as that of the top disc in the colour checks of each value.

**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 top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of both values. There are nine Panes of ten stamps, "A" to "I" to each Printed Sheet, of each value.

### **Plate/Pane Numbers**










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

7c = 1A x 6 up to and including 11 x 6.

25c = 1A x 6 up to and including 11 x 6.

### **Perforation of Margins**

The top margin of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of both values are imperforate, but 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.

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

The Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left. The perforator ran from Panes "A", "B", "C" to Panes "D", "E", "F" to Panes "G", "H", "I". 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. Letters are 1mm high and again printed in the same colour as the top disc of the colour checks.

A special hand-postmark was used on the first day of issue for cancellation. It is inscribed, "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-~~HRUG~~", "MALTA", "EUROPA", the name of the respective locality and the date "9.5.79". A "Maltese Speronora" is also incorporated in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Friday, 9th November, 1979, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

A total of £M258,189 worth of "Europa" '79 stamps was sold from the G.P.O. and other Post Offices up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue. ■