

FLEMISH TAPESTRIES — II

Date of Issue	26th. January 1978.
Values	2c, 7c, 11c and 25c.
Stamp Size	48mm x 39.5mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

COLOURS:—

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

DESIGNS:—

This is the second set of four stamps in the Flemish Tapestries series. The first set was issued on the 30th. March 1977. The priceless 17th. century tapestries are on permanent exhibition at the Museum of St. John's, in Valletta, and are hung in the Co-Cathedral during the special liturgical functions which take place during June. Each of the fifteen large tapestries and the fourteen smaller ones bear the name "JUDOCUS DE VOS" or the initials "J.D.V." together with the shield and the letters "BB", as hallmark of Brussels, in the selvage. The firm of Josse de Vos which wove the tapestries was one of the leading Flemish families of tapissiers. The series of Malta postage stamps will feature the large tapestries. The second tapestries set reproduces four scenes from the Life of Christ, all related to Easter. The 2c stamp shows "The Entry into Jerusalem" by an unknown artist. The 7c stamp features "The Last Supper" after a painting by Nicholas Poussin (1594 - 1665). "The Raising of the Cross" from the celebrated triptych in Antwerp Cathedral by Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) is reproduced on the 11c stamp. The 25c stamp depicts "The Resurrection" also attributed to Rubens.

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 all values. In the 25c value Panes, I noticed two different things from the other three values. One is in the colour checks, the other is in the Pane numbers. In the 2c, 7c and 11c value Panes, the order of the colour checks from top to bottom is the same in all three, i.e. the "Yellow" colour is the second from the top. In the 25c value, the "Yellow" colour is shifted down from second to fourth place from the top. In the Plate/Pane numbers of the first three values, each one of the six "1A" or "1B" on each Pane of each value is quite clear, separate from each other and easy to see. In the 25c value Panes, the last "1A" and "1B" (colour gold) are shifted to the left, such that the "1" is completely on the previous "A" or "B", and only the letters "A" or "B" alone are seen.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and are printed in black.

The printed sheets of all four values consist of two Panes. Each Pane has 40 stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

PLATE/PANE NUMBERS:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the left hand side of the first vertical perforation line.

2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

7c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

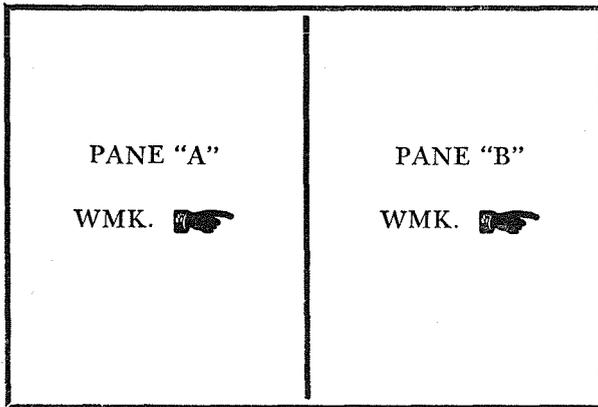
11c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

25c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

PERFORATION OF MARGINS:—

The top margins of Panes "A" and "B" of all values are imperforate. The right hand margin of Panes "A", the left hand margin of Panes "B" and the bottom margins of Panes "A" and "B", of all values are fully perforated. The left hand margin of Panes "A" and the right hand margin of Panes "B", of all values, are also fully perforated except for a little space at the edges.

There were four registration crosses (5.5 x 6mm) on the Printed Sheet before cutting, one on each corner. Also some coloured horizontal lines of various lengths could be seen just above the two corner crosses at the top. When the Printed Sheets were cut into Panes, these crosses and horizontal lines remained visible in the top left hand margin of Pane "A" and in the top right hand margin of Panes "B", of all values. The bottom crosses can still be seen in the bottom left hand margin of Panes "A" and in the bottom right hand margin of Panes "B" of all values. Thus a plate block of four, from Pane "A" of any value



will show one of these bottom crosses whilst an Imprint Block of four from Pane "B" of any value will show the other cross.

From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting, would look as shown on left. In this way, stamps would be seen the right way up.

IMPRINT BLOCKS:—

"Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, and also extending to the right hand side of the last vertical perforation line on each Pane. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four of any value will include the colour checks and a registration cross if it is from Pane "B" or the colour checks only, if it is from Pane "A".

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. £M62,050 worth of stamps were sold up to 4p.m. on the first day. This set will remain on sale up to Friday, June 16, 1978, unless stocks are previously exhausted.