

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

1c7 Overprint Issue

Date of Issue	24th. March 1977.
Value	1c7
Stamp Size	24.13mm x 28.42mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Harrison and Sons Ltd.
Process	Photogravure.
Perforation	14 x 14.6.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

Mauve, Red, Black, Gold and Silver.

Design:

This stamp together with the 4½d stamp, depicted the stay of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John in Malta, as part of the Historic Definitive Set of 1965. In the centre is seen an eight pointed cross, popularly known to-day as the Maltese Cross. On the left, there is the Coat of Arms of the Order and on the right a suit of armour and two weapons. At the top can be seen a support to hold three lanterns placed at the stern of galleys used by the Order.

The stamp, formerly of the 4d. denomination, was overprinted by the 1c7 value tablet to indicate its new denomination. The overprinting in letterpress was carried out at the Government Printing Press.

The Printed Sheet consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Both Panes are being released for sale in this overprinted issue. Each Pane has 60 stamps made up of six rows of ten stamps. There were two printings of this stamp. The first was on the 7th. January 1965 when the set was released and the gum used was Gum Arabic. The second printing was in March 1969 and the gum was P.V.A. Whether the whole overprinted issue is from the second printing or from both, I cannot yet say. The Panes I have examined are from the second printing and the gum is P.V.A.

Perforation of Margins:—

The left hand margins of Panes “A” and “B” are fully perforated, but the right hand margins of both these Panes are imperforate. There are only single extension holes at top and bottom margins in both Panes.

Panes of this stamp as a 4d. value, have been seen having the right hand margin also fully perforated. It would be interesting to know if the same will be noticed in this overprinted issue.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the last three stamps of the bottom row. A block of six must be bought to include all the Plate numbers. The order of the colours of Plate/Pane numbers, from left to right is:— Silver, Silver, Black, Gold, Red and Mauve. The reason for the double Silver is, that two silver plates were used when this stamp was printed, one for the words “Knights of Malta” and the other for the word “Malta”.

No colour checks or Printer's Imprint are seen on any of the margins.

1c7 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6..

A special hand-postmark was used for the cancellation of philatelic mail at the G.P.O. and at all Branch and SubPost Offices on the first day of issue. It was inscribed with the words:— “L-Ewwel Jum tal-Fruġ — Overprint 1c7 — 24.3.77” and the name of the respective locality. Up to 4.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, stamps sold amounted to £M4,322.76c.