

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUE

Date of Issue	17th. May, 1977.
Values	1c, 6c, 8c, 17c.
Stamp Size	38mm x 20mm.
Art Designer	Harry Borg.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.85 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways in 1c and 6c values, but pointing upwards in 8c and 17c values.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

- 1c Green, Red and Black.
- 6c Turquoise, Red and Black.
- 8c Terracotta, Red and Black.
- 17c Violet, Red and Black.

Designs:—

Since 1969, the International Telecommunication Union has designated the 17th. May of each year as "World Telecommunication Day" during which publicity is given to the important and useful work the I.T.U. is performing within the United Nations Organisation. The I.T.U. also chooses, every year, a special theme to mark this special day. The theme chosen for 1977 is "Telecommunication and Development". The two designs featured in this set symbolize the progress made in telecommunication and development in the Maltese Islands.

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, in the 8c and 17c values, but in the top left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the top row for the 1c and 6c values. To avoid misunderstandings, it must be remembered that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way that the Plate/ Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin and the Printers

Imprint is at the right hand side of the bottom margin. In this way, looking at Panes of the 8c and 17c values, the stamps will be seen sideways resting on their 38mm side. In the 1c and 6c values, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of these two values. In the 8c and 17c values, the colours from top to bottom correspond to the colour used for Pane numbers from right to left, on all Panes of these two values.

I think it will be of interest to note, that since Printex have been producing Malta stamps, apart from some of the Europa issues in small sheets of ten, there was only the Triptych Pane "A" of the Xmas. 1975 issue, which had the colour checks separated from the Imprint Block of four. Even in this case they were included in the Plate Block. But in this Telecomm. issue, for the first time, anyone wanting a block including the colour checks for the 1c and 6c values, must buy this block from the top, left hand corner of the Pane. This block will neither include the Pane numbers nor the Printers Imprint.

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

The Printed Sheets of all four values consist of four Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. Stamps of the 1c and 6c values are of the vertical format, while the 8c and 17c values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. I noticed that whilst in the 1c and 6c values, the Plate/Pane numbers are more or less in line, they are not so in the 8c and 17c values.

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

6c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

8c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

17c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3, 1D x 3.

Perforation of Margins:—

In each of the 1c and 6c values, the top, bottom and left hand margins, of all four Panes are fully perforated, whilst the right hand margin of these same Panes are imperforate. In each of the 8c and 17c values, the top, bottom and right hand margins, of all four Panes are fully perforated, whilst the left hand margin of these same Panes are imperforate.

Registration marks in the form of short coloured horizontal lines were seen at the top of the right hand margin on Panes "C" only, in the 1c and 6c values. Similar lines were also seen at the bottom of the left hand margin on Panes "B" only, in the 8c and 17c values. From a study of all the details given,

PANE "A" WATERMARK	
PANE "B" WATERMARK	
PANE "C" WATERMARK	
PANE "D" WATERMARK	

the Printed Sheet, before cutting, of all four values would look as shown on left. It has to be noticed that the direction of watermark in the Printed Sheets is the same in all four values. But looking at the Printed Sheets in this way, stamps of the 8c and 17c values will be seen the right way up, and stamps of the 1c and 6c values will be seen sideways resting on their 38mm side. Hence when individual stamps are examined and looked at, the right way up, the watermark in the 8c and 17c values will be found upright and that in the 1c and 6c values will be found sideways.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is under the last stamp of the bottom row and printed in red in all four values. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four will include the colour checks in the 8c and 17c values but not in the 1c and 6c values. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation of philatelic mail, inscribed with the date "17-5-77" and the words "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-HRUG", "MALTA" and the name of the respective locality. The emblem of the I.T.U. was also featured thereon. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of the issue, the amount realised from the sale of these stamps was £M40,031.