

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC

Date of Issue	12th. December 1975.
Values	1c.3, 5c, 25c.
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm (All values)
Art Designer	Anthony De Giovanni.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 13.9 (Comb.)
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Values/Colours/Designs

1c3 — Blue, red, brown, black; the right to work.

5c — Blue, green, brown, black; the safeguarding of the environment.

25c — Blue, red, black; the national flag of Malta.

Colour checks in the form of discs 3mm in diameter are found in the right hand margin of all Panes, of all values, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures for these values are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the colours checks from top to bottom in all values.

1c3 & 5c = IA x 4, IB x 4, 25c = IA x 3, IB x 3.

Perforation of Margins: The top, bottom and right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are perforated.

The left hand margins of Panes "B" of all values are perforated.

The left hand margins of Panes "A" of all values are imperforate.

From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, the printing of the sheets was such, that Pane "A" was on top of Pane "B", with all stamps resting on their 44mm side. If after printing, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the left, all stamps would be seen their right way up, with Pane "A" on the left and Pane "B" on the right.

Imprint Blocks: "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was again used on the first day of issue.

There were eighteen different cancellations instead of the usual seventeen, the reason being the extra temporary branch Post Office at the sixth Malta Philatelic Exhibition which opened on the 11th December.

Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue of this set, sales amounted to £M41,384.