

# EUROPA 1976 Issue

Date of issue .....	8th. July 1976.
Values .....	7c and 15c.
Stamp Size .....	43m.m. x 12.5m.m.
Art Designer .....	Frank Portelli.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	13.4 x 13.8 (Comb).
Watermark .....	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

## Colours:—

7c Violet, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Dark Red.

15c Dark Brown, Orange, Ochre, Light Brown.

## Designs:—

The theme chosen by C.E.P.T. for this year was "Craftwork" and the two stamps feature "lace-making", 7c and "stone-carving" 15c.

This Europa Set, like the rest before it, has been issued in small sheets of ten stamps. Both values are of the horizontal format. Each sheet is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The first space of the top row, is used to show the C.E.P.T. symbol plus the wording "EUROPA 1976". The first space of the second row is used to describe the design of the stamp and show tools used in the particular trade. The value of the whole sheet of ten stamps is shown in the top margin only, above the middle stamp.

Colour checks, in the form of four coloured discs, 3m.m. in diameter, are found on each Pane of both values. They are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamps of rows one and two. 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 each, to each Printed Sheet of each value.

**Plate/Pane Numbers:—**

These are found under the first stamp of the bottom row.

7c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

15c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

No registration marks were seen on any Pane of both values, but I noticed that not all the Panes of each value were of the same size horizontally. Either the left hand margin or the right hand margin of some Panes were not of the same width as the rest.

**Perforation of Margins:—**

Panes A, B and C of both values have the top margin imperforated. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all these Panes are fully perforated.

Panes D, E, F, G, H and I have the top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins, all fully perforated.

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I

As to the formation of the Printed Sheet before cutting, I do not have any doubt that it was as shown on the left. The reason being, that in the Malta Post Office Stand at the Trade Fair Naxxar, the whole printing process of the "Europa 1976" issue, was shown, up to the final Printed Sheet before cutting. As far as I know this was the first time that the whole printing process of any issue was shown at any Trade Fair or Exhibition, and I can assure the Post Master General, Mr. Borg and his able crew that it was really appreciated by all philatelists who visited the Stand.

**Imprint Blocks:—**

The imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1m.m. high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. The colour of the Imprint of each value, is in the same colour, as the first disc from the top, of the colour

checks. An Imprint Block of four will only show the Imprint, i.e. neither the colour checks nor the Pane numbers will be included.

A special handstamp for cancellation was again used on the first day of issue. Sale of stamps on the first day was quite high, over £M184,100 compared with £M167,257 last year.