

ANATOMY AND SURGERY ISSUE

Date of issue	14th. September 1976.
Values	2c, 5c, 7c and 11c.
Stamp Size	47m.m. x 20.5m.m.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.5 (Comb)
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

- 2c Dark Claret, Red, Light Claret and Gold.
- 5c Deep Blue, Red, Brown Yellow and Gold.
- 7c Olive Green, Red, Dark Claret and Gold.
- 11c Dark Grey, Red, Mushroom and Gold.

Designs:—

This set of four stamps is being issued to mark the 300th Anniversary of the Foundation of the School of Anatomy and Surgery. This School was founded on the 19th December, 1676, by Grandmaster Nicholas Cottoner (shown on 2c stamp) at the Holy Infirmary (the facade and part of the balcony of which are seen on the 11c stamp) of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, at Valletta. The first holder of the Chair was Dr. Fra Giuseppe Zammit (depicted on the 7c stamp). The 5c stamp depicts the anatomy of an arm.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3m.m. in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5m.m. and printed, for each value, with the same colour as the top disc of the colour checks.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

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

2c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

7c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

11c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

Perforation of Margins:—

The top margins of Panes "A", of all values, are imperforate. The bottom margins of all Panes, of all values, are fully perforated. The top margins of Panes "B" and "C" of all values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated. The left hand margins of all Panes, of all values, are fully perforated except for a little bit at the edge, where in the 5c and 7c Panes, there is space for another perforation and in the 2c and 11c Panes, there is space for another two perforations. The left hand margins of all Panes of all values are a little bit wider than the right hand margins. As for the letters used for Pane numbers, I noticed, that for Panes "A" and "B" of all values, the first "1A" and "1B", all start on the first vertical perforation line or after it, and in Panes "C" of all values, the first "1C" start before the first vertical perforation line.

From a study of all details, I would say, that the Printed Sheet was such, that stamps were printed the right way up, with Pane "A" being at the top, Pane "B" in the middle and Pane "C" at the bottom.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" can be seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, with the last word "MALTA" being in the right hand margin, just after the last vertical perforation line. Letters are 1m.m. high and printed in different colours for each value. In each value, the colour is the same as that of the top disc of the colour checks for that value. This corresponds with the colours used for values of columns of stamps at top and bottom margins.

An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The sale of stamps, up to 12.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, realised £M40,937.