

RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS ISSUE

Date of Issue	15th February 1980.
Values	2c5, 6c, 8c and 12c.
Stamp Size	2c5 and 6c — 31mm x 44mm. 8c and 12c — 44mm x 31 mm.
Art Design	Based on photography by Department of Information and Mr. J.A. Vella, F.R.P.S.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	2c5 and 6c — 14 x 13.9. 8c and 12c — 13.9 x 14.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing: Upright in the 2c5 and 6c values. Sideways in the 8c and 12c values.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.C.

Colour

The colour of this set was produced by the four colour process.

Designs

This set marks the inauguration of an international campaign, sponsored by UNESCO, for the restoration of monuments in Malta. The general aim of the campaign will be to restore a number of monuments in Malta and Gozo which are considered to be among the most important cultural relics of the Mediterranean region, and to strengthen the capacity of the local restoration services by the training of technical personnel.

The monuments towards which the main physical work of the campaign will be directed will be the following:

The Ħal Saffieni Hypogeum at Pawla, depicted by the 2c5 stamp, a pre-historic rock-cut temple of approximately 2500 B.C.

Vilhena Palace and Bastion, Mdina, seen on the 6c stamp, with its characteristic forecourt in the French Baroque style. It was built by Grandmaster Manuel de Vilhena (1722-1736) as his official residence in the former capital of Malta.

The Citadel of Victoria, Gozo, depicted on the 8c stamp, is the hub of all aspects of life on the Island. The archaeological investigation of its ruined areas could throw much light on Gozitan history and permit the restoration of several important monuments.

Fort St. Elmo, seen on the 12c stamp, a focal point of the ancient fortifications guarding the Grand Harbour of Malta, and the scene of several military

epicts from the middle of the 16th century to the Second World War.

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 all Panes of all values.. (With this set, it is important to remind again, that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left of the bottom margin, and the colour cheks are at the bottom of the right hand margin). The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values.

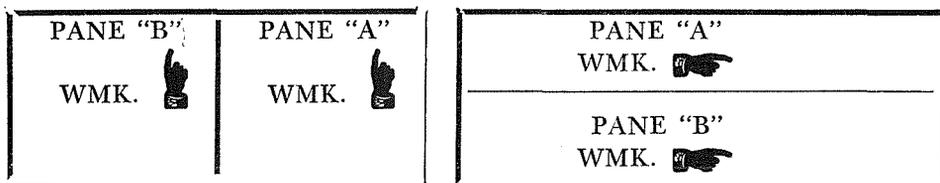
Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins of Panes. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in Black.

The Printed Sheets of all four values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps in the 2c5 and 6c values, and five rows of ten stamps in the 8c and 12c values. The 2c5 and 6c stamps are of the vertical format, and the 8c and 12c stamps are of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

In the 2c5 and 6c values, the top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are perforated. The left hand margin of Pane "B" is also perforated, but the left hand margin of Pane "A" is imperforate.

In the 8c and 12c values, the left, right and bottom margins of Panes "A" and "B" are perforated. The top margin of Pane "B" is also perforated, but the top margin of Pane "A" is imperforate.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheets, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown above left, for the 2c5 and 6c values, and above right, for the 8c and 12c values. In this way, stamps of all values would be seen the right way up, hence why the watermark in the 2c5 and 6c values is upright and in the 8c and 12c values is sideways.

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 used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark is inscribed "L-Ewwel Jum tal-~~H~~rug", (First Day of Issue), "Restawrta' Monumenti", (Restoration of Monuments), "Malta", the name of the respective locality and the date "15.2.80". The emblem of UNESCO is also incorporated in the postmark.

Sale of these stamps, up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue, realised the sum of £M37,275. This set will remain on sale up to Saturday, 27th September, 1980, unless stocks are previously exhausted.