

International Anniversaries 1973 (6th. October)

Plate/Pane numbers: There are four Panes to each Printing Sheet for each value. each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows with ten stamps each. All Plate numbers are under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c3, 7c5, 10c = 1A × 4 up to, and including 1D × 4.

Imprint Blocks: The printers' "Printex Ltd. Malta" is in the bottom margin below the last two stamps. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, which are in the right hand margin next to the last stamp and the one above it.

Christmas Issue 1973 (10th. November)

A miniature sheet was also issued with this set. It has three stamps, one of each value, separately perforated, with the 8m + 2m on top, and the 7c5 + 1c5 at the bottom. No Plate numbers or Printers' Imprint appear on the miniature sheets.

Plate/Pane numbers: There is only one Pane for each value and all Plate numbers are printed under the first stamp of the bottom row.

8m + 2m, 3c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 1A × 5.

Imprint Blocks: "Printex Limited Malta" appears under the last stamp of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four, will also include the colour checks, which are in the right hand margin next to the last stamp and the one above it.

Republic of Malta (Issue

Starting with this issue, detailed information will be given of new issues as they come out. If anyone thinks that other information, besides what is being given, might be of interest, please let me know and I shall do my best to include it for future issues. This is important, because all this information may serve as a basis for Study Papers later on. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff of the Philatelic Bureau for their interest and cooperation.

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| Date of Issue | 31st March 1975. |
| Values | 1c3, 5c and 25c. |
| Stamp Size | 31mm x 44mm (all values). |
| Art Designer | Chev. Emvin Cremona. |
| Printers | Printex Ltd., Malta. |
| Process | Lithography. |
| Perforation | 14.0 x 13.9 (comb). |
| Watermark | Maltese Crosses Pointing Sideways. |
| Colours | The colours of this set were produced by the multicolour process. |

1c3 Design: Stamp shows the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister by the first President of the Republic in the presence of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5c Design: Stamp shows the National Flag of Malta.

25c Design: Stamp shows the President addressing the public after the swearing-in ceremony. With him are the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Colour checks are in the right hand margin next to the last stamp of the bottom row. In the 1c3 and 25c values, the top colour touches the perforations extending on the margin. These colour checks are in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter. The colours from top to bottom are the same as those used for Pane numbers from left to right in the 1c3 and 25c values. But in the 5c value, the colour checks from bottom to top correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right.

Cumulative totals are seen in top and bottom margins, above and below each column. Above and below the last column is seen the sum total of a complete sheet of fifty stamps. The figures used for these values are 2.5mm high, in the same colour as the Printer's Imprint.

There are two Panes of fifty stamps each — five rows of ten stamps — for each Printing Sheet of each value.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are found under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the colour checks from top to bottom for the 1c3 and 25c values and from bottom to top in the 5c value.

1c3 = 1A × 5, 1B × 5; 5c = 1A × 2, 25c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5.

The top margin of Pane "B" of all values is fully perforated.

The bottom margins of Panes "A" and "B" of all values are fully perforated.

The left hand and right hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" of all values are perforated with ten holes, with a little space, enough for two or three more holes, near the edges, not perforated.

A small part of a horizontal line, near the edges of the left and right hand margins, can be seen in Pane "A" of all values. The position of these lines is next to the first and last stamps of the top rows.

From a study of the perforations, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, it seems that the Printing Sheet for each value consisted of Pane "A" on top of Pane "B".

Imprint Blocks: The Imprint "Printex Ltd. Malta" is found under the last stamp of the bottom row. A block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It consisted of a ring formed by two concentric circles, the inner be-

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REVIEW

MALTA POSTAL RATES

(Malta Study Circle, Study Paper No. 39; 29pp, illustrated)

The Malta Study Circle has recently published a study paper on Malta Postal Rates. The contents is the result of research work by some of the Circle's members and reports on items in other members' collections and auction catalogues.

The study tries to trace all types of postal rates from the time of the Knights in Malta to the present day. It deals with the changes in the early years, external, internal, seamen and soldiers Privileged rates; surface and air; newspaper, parcel, registration and express rates. The field covered is very vast and as expected it lacks details in parts.

The study is very comprehensive and detailed with regards to rates connected with the U.K.. Fees and charges to other countries are not so documented and detailed. Rates resulting from bi-lateral Conventions effecting Malta mail would have been more than welcome. Fees levied on mail to and from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the Papal States, the Kingdom of Sardinia and France would have rendered a greater contribution to Malta's Postal History.

One could explain this situation by the fact that research on the continent is not so easy as that in U.K. in view of the fact that the greater part of the Circle's members reside in Great Britain.

The contents of the paper is in most parts very objective; based on official notices and information. Gaps have been filled with knowledge gleaned from existing covers although a warning is sounded that such information "is insufficient to enable a firm conclusion to be drawn". More interest from members may fill such details as Parcel Post Rates, the full implementation of the Standard Penny Post Rate at the turn of the century and the slow resumption and expansion of air mail service after the Second World War. These details and the "field of further study" could be filled if the paper is divided in parts and members "adopt" an item and work on it.

Such Study Paper is an indication of the interest of the members of the M.S.C. have to acquire and broadcast any information on the various aspects of Malta Postal History.

Carmel G. Bonavia

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ing 23mm in diameter and the outer 32mm. In the upper part of the ring is written "L-EWWEL JUM TAL-~~HRUG~~ 31-3-1975" and in the lower part the name of the Post Office where the stamps are cancelled. Written horizontally across the inner circle are the words "MALTA REPUBBLIKA".

The Philatelic Bureau also provided specially designed envelopes and Souvenir Folders.