

## Plate and Imprint Blocks—1972

### Heart Issue (20th. March)

The Printing Sheets for this issue had three Panes for each value. Each Pane had sixty stamps consisting of fifteen rows with four stamps. All Blocks examined indicate, that all Panes of all values have all margins perforated except the top margin. Plate Blocks from Panes A and B of all values have the Printer's name, in pale blue small print, in the left hand margin, whilst Plate Blocks from Pane C of all values have the left hand margin blank. I have three Imprint Blocks, one of each value, and each of them has the right hand margin printed with the Printer's name in small print. I cannot say which Panes they are from, or whether all Imprint Blocks from all Panes, of all values, are like these. Colour checks, in the form of two concentric circles, for each colour, are found in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the top three rows.

#### Plate/Pane numbers:—

All Plate numbers are printed under the first two stamps of the bottom row. 2d, 10d, 2/6=1A×6 up to, and including 1C×6.

**Imprint Blocks:—** The Printer's name, "Format International Security Printers Ltd." is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row.

### 1st. Decimal Coinage (16th. May)

About this issue, nothing much can be added to the very interesting Study Paper produced by our friend and member Mr. Carmel Bonavia, with which he won first prize in the 4th. Malta Philatelic Exhibition. This study Paper gives all the information about the position of all Panes in the Sheets, of all values. Also information about the Imprint, Colour checks and other Registration Marks.

For the information of Plate Block collectors, especially those who have not seen Mr. Bonavia's Study Paper, some information will be of interest.

There are eight Panes to each Printed Sheet, for values 2m, 3m, and 2c. For the values 5m, 1c, and 5c there are six Panes to each Printed Sheet, whilst for the values 10c and 50c there are only two Panes. All Plate numbers of all values, appear under the first two stamps of the bottom row.

#### Plate/Pane numbers:—

2m, 3m, 2c=1A×4 up to, and including 1H×4  
5m, 1c, 5c=1A×4 up to, and including 1F×4  
10c, 50c =1A×4 and 1B×4

**Imprint Blocks:—** "Format International Security Printers Ltd." is found under the last three stamps of the bottom row, in the 2m, 3m, 5m, 1c, 2c and 5c values. Therefore an Imprint Block of six must be bought to have the full Printer's name included.

In the 10c and 50c values, the printer's name is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row, hence an Imprint Block of four will be enough. The Colour Checks, which are in the form of two concentric circles for each colour, can be seen in the top right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the first and second rows.

### **Overprint Issue (30th. September)**

This set was issued due to a shortage of certain values of the Decimal Coinage set. Its duration was short, and all three values were withdrawn from sale when the Europe issue was released in November. The overprinting was in black and carried out at the Government Printing Office, Valletta. Use was made of three values from the Historic Definitive Issue of 1965 and overprinted thus:—

1c3 on 5d; 3c on 8d; 5c on 1s-3d.

The original values were obliterated by two black bars.

**Plate/Pane numbers:—** All Plate numbers used in the Historic Set for these three values, were again used in this Overprint issue. All Plate numbers of all values are found under the penultimate stamp of the bottom row.

1c3 = 1A×4, 1B×4.

3c = 1A1A1A1A1A1A and 1A1A2A1A1A1A

5c = 1A1A1A1A1A1A

In the 1c3 value the right hand margin of both Plate Blocks is perforated whilst the right hand margin of both Plate Blocks of the 3c value and that of the 5c value are imperforated. The bottom margin of all Plate Blocks of all values is only perforated with one hole.

**Imprint Blocks:—** Only the 1c3 value has an Imprint, which is in the centre of the bottom margin. An Imprint Block of eight will include the whole Printer's name "Harrison And Sons Ltd. London."

### **Europa (11th. November)**

This is the first issue that was printed by "Printex Ltd. Malta". It was also the first time that a miniature sheet of ten stamps was issued. I shall always remember this set, because it created quite a problem for Plate Blocks collectors, as never before had so many different Pane numbers been issued for each value.

**Plate/Pane numbers:**— There are twelve Panes (Sheetlets of ten stamps) for each value. The Plate numbers of the first nine Panes of all values are found under the first stamp of the bottom row, whilst for the last three Panes of all values they are printed under the first and second stamps of the bottom row.

1c3, 3c, 5c, 7c5 = 1A×4 up to, and including 12A×4

**Imprint Blocks:**— "Printex Limited-Malta" is found under the last two stamps of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, which are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp.

### Christmas Issue (9th. December)

With this Xmas. set, a miniature sheet consisting of three stamps, one of each value, was also issued. This is the second Xmas. miniature sheet issued, and although no Plate numbers are involved, it is the only one with an Imprint. "Printex Limited-Malta" is printed in the bottom right hand corner. The normal sheets consist of fifty stamps, ten rows of five stamps.

**Plate/Pane numbers:**— As if to make up for the large number of Plate numbers issued with the Europa set, only one Plate number for each value was printed with this Xmas. issue. Naturally the quantity of Plate numbers depend on factors like size of stamps and the most economical use of printing paper. The Plate numbers of all values are printed under the first stamp of the bottom row. The bottom and the left hand margins of all Plate blocks, of all values are perforated.

8m+2m, 3c+1c, 7c5+1c5=1A×3

**Imprint Blocks:**— The printer's imprint "Printex Limited-Malta" is found under the last stamp of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four will also contain the Colour checks, which are in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the ninth row. The bottom and the right hand margins of Imprint Blocks of all values, are perforated.

### Corrections

Vol. 5, No. 2 (Spring '75). Page 7: The second line under 'Second Print' should read :

4m (September 1973) = 1A×5 up to, and including 1D×5.

Page 10: Plate/Pane Numbers. Details for the 5c value should read:

5c = 1A×2, 1B×2.