

# Christmas 1996 – X

## Treasures of Malta – Sedan Chairs – Y

by J. Farrugia

	X	Y
Date of Issue	.07.11.96	.11.04.97
Values	.5c, 5c+2c, 14c+3c, 25c+3c	.2c, 6c, 16c, 27c
Stamp Size	.61x25mm (5c)	.44x31mm (2c, 6c)
	.30x35mm (other values)	.31x44mm (16c, 27c)
Art Designer	.Harry Borg	.Design Section Posta Ltd
Printers	.Printex Ltd	.Printex Ltd
Process	.Lithography	.Lithography
Perforation	.13.6x13.4 (5c)	.13.9x14 (2c, 6c)
	.13.8x13.6 (other values)	.14x13.9 (16c, 27c)
Watermark	.Sideways (5c)	.Sideways (2c, 6c)
	.Upright (other values)	.Upright (16c, 27c)
Paper	.Chalk Surfaced	.Chalk Surfaced
Gum	.PVA	.PVA

### Colours

These two sets were printed in the four colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value. The progressive sheets in issues X and Y were printed in the following order: Black-Cyan-Magenta-Yellow.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter were printed in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of each value. They are seen next to the first and last stamps, of the top and bottom rows, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all positions.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the bottom margin only, in all Panes, of all values, printed in black, in issues X and Y.

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of each of the three values 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the vertical format. The Printed Sheet of the 5c value consisted only of Pane A. This Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. The 5c stamp is of the horizontal format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of two Panes, A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps (values 2c and 6c) and five rows of ten stamps (values 16c and 27c). Values 2c and 6c are of

the horizontal format and values 16c and 27c are of the vertical format.

### Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A and B in the 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c values are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 5c value, the top margin of Pane A is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this same Pane are perforated. The usual printing registration mark, was seen as usual, at each corner of the Printed Sheets, but they were too far out to be still seen on Panes when cutting took place. The logo of MaltaPost can be seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, in all values. The circle and the word “Malta” are printed in black, the ‘postal horn’ in yellow and the words “Posta Ltd” in magenta. In the 5c value, it is seen next to the fifth row and in the other three values it is seen next to the third or middle row in each Pane.

Issue Y – In the 2c and 6c values the top margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. In the 16c and 27c values the left hand margins of Panes A and B are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. The usual printing registration marks were seen in each corner of the Printed Sheet of the 2c and 6c values, but only at each end, of the right hand margin of the Printed Sheet of the 16c and 27c values. So unless they were eliminated during cutting of Printed Sheets into Panes, these registration marks may be seen at the top and bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively in the 2c and 6c values, but at the top of the right hand margin of Pane A and at the bottom of the right hand margin of Pane B in the 16c and 27c values. The logo of Malta Post can be seen in the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B, next to the fifth row in the 2c and 6c values but next to the middle row of Panes A and B in the 16c and 27c values. The circle and “Malta” are printed in black, “Posta Ltd” in magenta and the ‘postal horn’ in yellow.

### Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks were printed in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, in all values of issues X and Y. They are seen above the first and last stamps of the top row, and also below the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane.

Issue X –	5c =	1Ax4	Issue Y –	2c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	5c+2c =	1Ax4, 1B x 4		6c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	14c+3c =	1Ax4, 1B x 4		16c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	25c+3c =	1Ax4, 1B x 4		27c =	1A x 4, 1B x 4

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig (b), for the 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c values of issue X and for the 16c and 27c values of issue Y, but as shown in

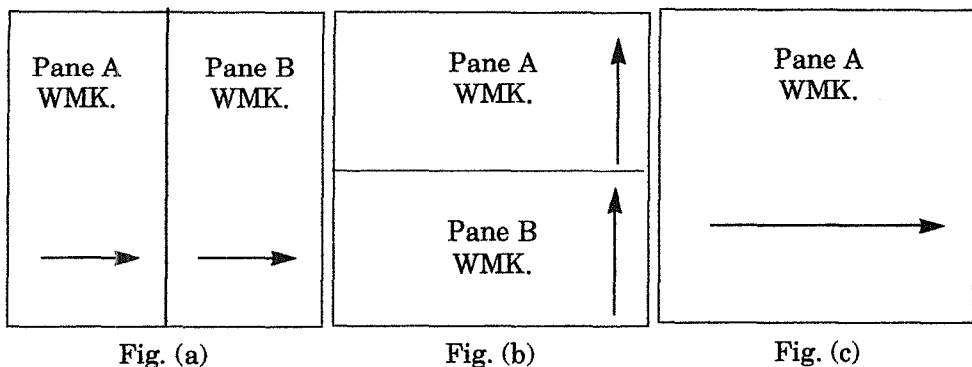


figure (a) for the 2c and 6c values of issue Y. The 5c value of issue X is shown in fig (c). Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown stamps of all values of issues X and Y would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is Sideways in the 5c value of issue X and in the 2c and 6c values of issue Y, but Upright in the 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c values of issue X as well as in the 16c and 27c values of issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in fig (a), left to right in fig (b) and from top to bottom in fig (c).

### Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA', printed in black is seen under the middle stamp of the bottom row, in Panes A of the 5c value of issue X and in Panes A and B of the 2c and 6c values of issue Y, but under the fifth and sixth stamps of the bottom row, in Panes A and B of the 5c+2c, 14c+3c and 25c+3c of issue X as well as in the 16c and 27c values of issue Y. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, in issues X and Y, will contain only the Imprint.

A special hand postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of both issues. Stamps of these issues were withdrawn from sale on March 12, 1997 (issue X) and on April 16, 1998 (issue Y) unless stocks were previously exhausted.

On the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm16,021 (issue X) and Lm15,646 (issue Y).

**Note: Between the dates of issue of the above mentioned two sets, in fact on February 20, 1997, the set "Maltese Cities 1797-1997" was also issued. Detailed information about this set was given in Vol.26 N° 1, April 1997.**