

EUROPA 1996 ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	April 24, 1996
Values	14c and 30c
Stamp Size	31 x 44mm
Art Designer	Catherine Cavallo
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	PVA

Colours

This issue was printed in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black) process colours for each value, (plus the solid colour 'gold'). The progressive sheets were printed in the following order: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow. Both stamps are of the vertical format.

A Pane of ten stamps of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space, of the top row, of both values, can be seen "Europa '96". In the second space of the top row can be seen the "Inez Trophy", a bronze statuette depicting the Muse of Drama (30c) and the entrance to the Allied Newspapers Ltd in St Paul's Street, Valletta (14c). The value of the whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the second and third spaces of the top row, printed in black.

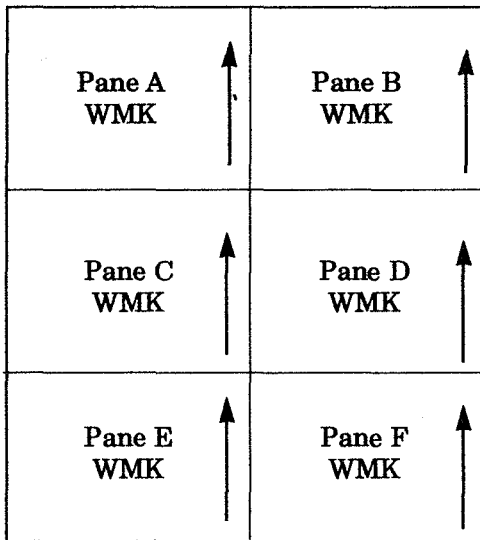
Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in four different positions on the margins of each Pane, of both values. The first two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are next to the first and last spaces of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all positions, in all Panes, of both values. Another printing mark is seen in the left and right hand margins of each Pane, next to the first and last stamps of the middle row. It consists of a circle 1 cm in diameter, enclosing the 'Postal Horn' and the words "Posta Ltd - Malta", all printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of six Panes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These like the colour checks are seen in four different positions on the margins, of each Pane, of both values. The first two positions are above the first and last spaces of the top row, and the other two positions are below the first and last stamps of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values.

14c =	1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4
30c =	1A x 4 up to and including 1F x 4



Perforation of Margins

The right hand margins of Panes B, D and F are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes, plus the four margins of Panes A, C and E are all perforated.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in the figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in both values is upright. Perforator ran from right to left.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint 'PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA' is seen below the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four, from each value, can include the Imprint, the colour checks, the Pane numbers and also the 1cm diameter circle mentioned earlier.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set was withdrawn from sale on April 23, 1997, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

First day sales amounted to Lm50,474.