

EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ELDERLY ISSUE —X
50th ANNIVERSARY – G.W.U. —Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	23-9-93	5-10-93
Values	5c, 35c	4c
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm	26.4mm x 35mm
Designer	Maurice Tanti Burlò	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	14 x 13.9	13.5 x 13.5
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

These two issues in the four-colour process using the standard CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black) process colours for each value, in issues X and Y.

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 each Pane, of all values, of issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y.

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

Printed Sheets

Issue X – 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. Both values are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of this value, in my opinion, consisted of three Panes, but instead of being printed as A, B and C, they were printed A, B and another A. The reason for this conclusion is the following: The usual printing marks seen in the margins, consisting of a small circle enclosed in an oval and both crossed by two lines at right angles, are always seen in the four corners of the Printed Sheet. For example, if a Printed Sheet consists of three Panes A, B and C, with Pane A on the left, Pane B in the middle and Pane C on the right, the mentioned printing marks, would be seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Pane A and also at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Pane C. In the case of this issue, these same printing marks are seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and also at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of the other Panes A, with Panes B, being in the middle, having none of these printing marks. In this case the watermark is sideways and the perforator ran from top to bottom, so the top margin of both Panes A and Pane B are all imperforate. If the watermark had been upright and the perforator ran from left to right, (as in the case of issue X) the Pane A on the left would have had the left hand margin imperforated whilst the Pane A on the right would have had all four margins perforated, and that would have made the printing error more obvious.

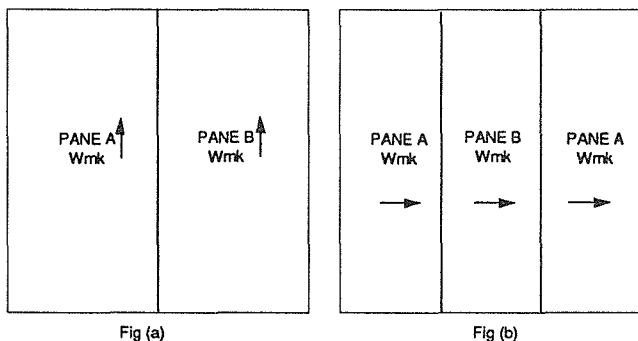
Each Pane of this value has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps. This value is of the vertical format.

Perforations of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margin of Panes A of both values is imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes and the four margins of Panes B are all perforated. Other printing marks or parts of them could have been seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B.

Issue Y – The top margins of both Panes A and Pane B of this value are imperforate

whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. As mentioned earlier on, other printing marks were seen at the top and bottom of the left hand margin of some Panes A and at the top and bottom of the right hand margin of other Panes A.



Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values of issues X and Y

Issue X 5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

 35c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

Issue Y 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1A x 4

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheets of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig (a) for both values of issue X and as shown in fig (b) for the value in issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, all stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in issue X is upright and sideways in issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in fig (a) and from top to bottom in fig (b).

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of both values, of issue X. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. The same Imprint is not seen in any Pane of the value of issue Y. An Imprint Block of four, of issue X, will also include the colour checks. Special hand postmarks incorporating motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Issue X remained on sale up to September 15, 1994 and issued Y up to July 6, 1994, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm22,000 (issue X) and Lm4,428 (issue Y).

Correction: Vol 23 N° 1/2, page 38

"Historical Buildings" issue. The watermark for the 4c and 25c values, should read "Maltese Crosses Sideways".