

MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ISSUE —X WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIONS ISSUE —Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	8.2.92	15.4.92
Values	4c, 10c	4c, 10c, 50c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm	31.5mm x 44.5mm
Designer	Harry Borg	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	13.9 x 14	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

These sets were printed in multicolours using the same four 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 all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours for Pane numbers, from left to right, in all Panes, of all values, in 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, in 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 five rows of ten stamps. Both values are 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. All values are of the vertical format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X — The top margin of Pane A, of each value, is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this same Pane and the four margins of Pane B are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen at each end of the bottom margin of Panes B of each value.

Issue Y — The left hand margin of Pane A, of each value, is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this same Pane and the four margins of Pane B are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen at each end of the left and right hand margins of Panes A and B respectively, in all values.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

Issue X — 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
Issue Y — 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 50c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

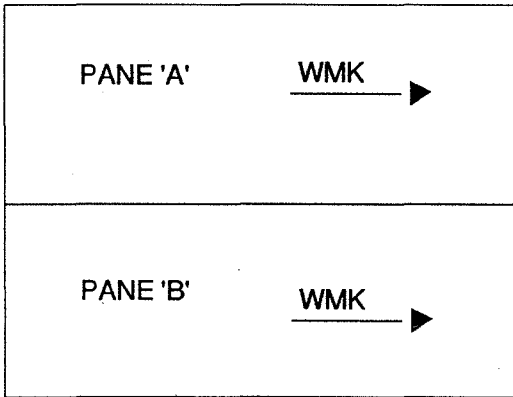


Fig. (a)

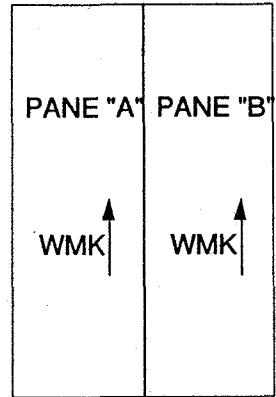


Fig. (b)

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

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

Special hand-postmarks, incorporating appropriate motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of both issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm9,700 (Issue X) and Lm33,500 (Issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to February 9, 1993 (Issue X) and April 8, 1993 (Issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.