

XMAS 1992 ISSUE —X

400th ANNIVERSARY - UNIVERSITY OF MALTA —Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	22.10.92	12.11.92
Values	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c	4c, 30c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm	4c: 31mm x 44mm 30c: 44mm x 31mm
Designer	Lawrence Buttigieg	Lawrence Buttigieg
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	13.9 x 13.9	4c: 14 x 13.9 30c: 13.9 x 14
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	4c: Maltese Crosses Upright 30c: Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issue X was printed in multicolours using the same four different colours plus gold for each value. Another solid colour (different for each value) was used as background in each stamp.

Issue Y was printed in multicolours using the same four colours for each value.

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. It might be of interest to note that in issue X, the same first four colours from the top, in each value, were used to produce the central part of each value in multicolours, whilst the fifth was used as a solid colour to serve as background for each value. The sixth, gold, was also used as a solid colour. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used 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. All 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 in the 4c value, and five rows of ten stamps in the 30c value. The 4c value is of the vertical format and the 30c value is of the horizontal format.

Perforation of Margins

Issue X — The top margin of Pane A, of all values, is imperforate, whilst the other three margins of this 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— In the 4c value, the left hand margin of Pane A is imperforate. The other three margins of Pane A and the four margins of Pane B are all perforated. In the 30c value, the top margin of Pane A is imperforate. The other three margins of Pane A and the four margins of Pane B are all perforated. Other printing marks could have been seen in the top and bottom of the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Panes B, in the 4c value. In the 30c value, similar printing marks could only have been seen at each end, of the bottom margin of Panes B only.

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 — 3c+1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6
 10c+2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6
 25c+3c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6

Issue Y — 4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4
 30c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4

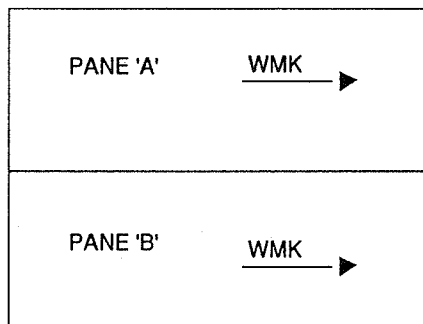


Fig. (a)

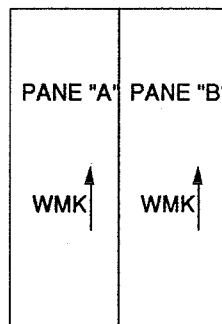


Fig. (b)

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in fig (a) for all the three values of issue X and the 30c value of issue Y, as shown in fig. (b) for for the 4c value of issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in all values of issue X and in the 30c value of issue Y and upright in the 4c value of issue Y. 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 Lm18,000 (Issue X) and Lm16,000 (Issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to February 26, 1993 (Issue X) and October 7, 1993 (Issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.