

**XXV ANNIVERSARY U.H.M. ISSUE —X
CHRISTMAS 1991 ISSUE —Y**

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	23-9-91	6-11-91
Values	4c	3c+1c, 10c+2c, 25c+3c
Stamp Size	35.02mm x 26.43mm	31mm x 44mm
Designer	Norbert Attard	Harry Borg
Printers	Printex Limited	same
Process	Lithography	same
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

These sets were printed in multicolours using the same set of 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. It might be of interest to mention here that in issue Y, the colours from top to bottom in the 3c+1c value are Yellow, Magenta, Cyan and Black, whilst in the other two values they are Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black. 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 the top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Issue X – The Printed Sheet of this value, consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. This value has a 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.

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, 1C x 4
Issue Y –	3c+1c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	10c+2c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4
	25c+3c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4

Perforation of Margins

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of this value are all imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated other printing marks could have been seen at each end of the top margin of Panes A and at each end of the bottom margin of Panes C.

Issue Y – The left hand 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 in the top and bottom, of the left hand and right hand margins, of Panes A and B, of all values, respectively.

From a study of details given the Printed Sheets 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 all values of issues X and Y is upright. Perforator ran from left to right in issues X and Y.

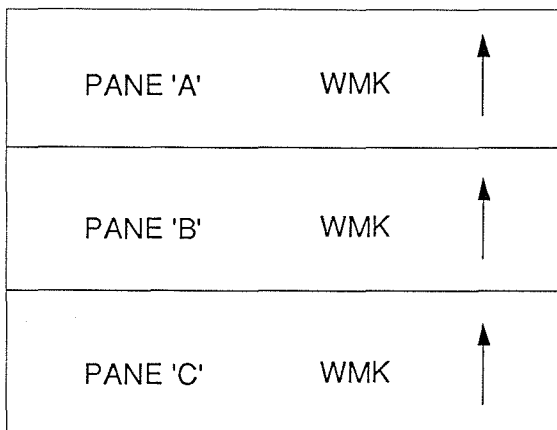


Fig. (a)

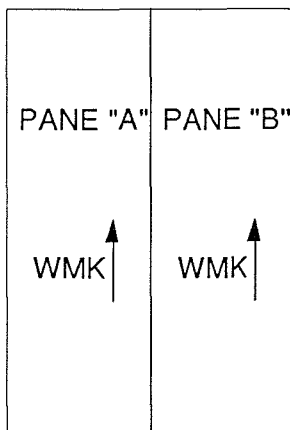


Fig. (b)

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 issue.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm5,120 (issue X) and Lm20,150 (issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to Wednesday, 23rd September, 1992 (issue X) and up to Wednesday, 29th July, 1992 (Issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.