

COMMEMORATIONS 1989 ISSUE—X BUSH-GORBACHEV ISSUE—Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	17-10-89	2-12-89
Values	3c, 4c, 10c, 14c, 25c	10c
Stamp Size	44mm x 31mm	47mm x 29mm
Designer	Louis Casha	Dept. of Posts
Printers	Printex Limited	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x 14	13.8 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaces	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same

Colours

Issue X was printed in multicolours using the same set of four colours for values 3c, 4c, 10c and 14c, but a different set of four colours for the 25c value. The stamp of issue Y was also printed in multicolours using four different colours.

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, in 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, in issues X and Y. All values of both issues are of the horizontal format.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, on all Panes, of all values, printed in black in issue X and printed in the top colour of the colour checks, in issue Y.

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.

Issue Y – The Printed Sheet of this value consisted of three Panes A, B and C.
Each Pane has forty stamps made up of five rows of eight stamps.

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	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4.
	4c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4.
	10c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4.
	14c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4.
	25c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4.
Issue Y	10c	=	1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4

Perforation of Margins

Issue X The top margins of Panes A, of all values, are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are perforated. The four margins of Panes B, of all values, are also perforated. Cutting 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 B, of all values.

Issue Y The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate. The other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Cutting marks could have been seen at each end of the top margin of Pane A and at each end of the bottom margin of Pane C.

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 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 individual stamps is sideways in issue X and upright in issue Y. Perforator ran from top to bottom in issue X and from left to right in issue Y.

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 in issue X and in the top colour of the colour checks in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in issues X and Y.

Special hand-postmarks were used for cancellations on the first day of both issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm30,566 (issue X) and Lm30,300 (issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained for sale up to Saturday, 29th September 1990 (issue X) and up to Monday, 3rd December, 1990 (issue Y).

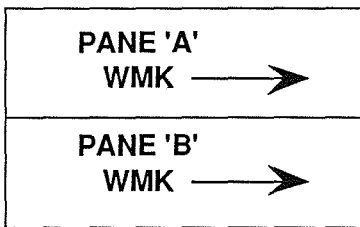


Fig. (a)

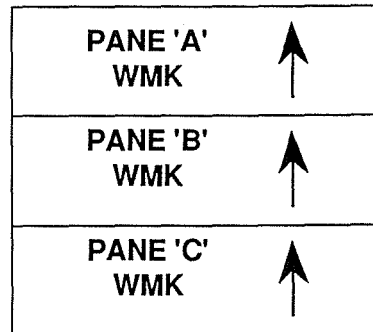


Fig. (b)