

VISIT BY H.H. POPE JOHN PAUL II ISSUE

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	May 25, 1990
Values	4c and 25c
Stamp size	29mmx47mm
Art Designer	Noel Galea Bason
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.6x13.85
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

This set was printed in multicolours using the same three colours for each value.

Designs

The 4c stamp depicts St. Paul

The 25c stamp represents Pope John Paul II

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 both

values. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes, of both values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of eight rows of five stamps. Both stamps are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

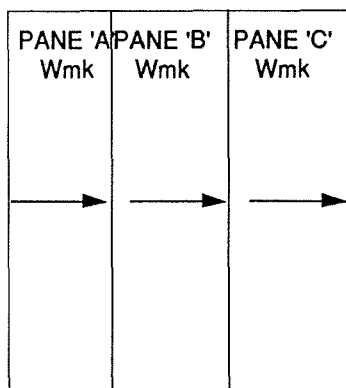
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of both values:

4c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3

25c = 1A x 3, 1B x 3, 1C x 3

Perforation of Margins:

The top margins of Panes A, B and C, of both values are imperforate, whilst all other margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Cutting marks or parts of them were seen in the top and bottom on the left hand margin of Panes A and in the top and bottom of the right hand margin of Pane C.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in figure. Looking at the printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is sideways. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Imprint Blocks

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

Sheetlets

With the issue of Panes of forty stamps as have just been described, sheetlets of five se-tenant sets were also issued. The se-tenant 4c and 25c stamps, their perforation and their watermark are all the same as in the forty stamps Panes. The same gum, process, colours and paper were also used. The designer and printers are also the same, except that the Printers Imprint does not appear on the margins of the sheetlets as in the large Panes, but it appears on each stamp as in the larger Panes. I am saying this, because in most cases like these, you could distinguish single stamps as coming from large Panes or sheetlets or souvenir

sheets, either by perforation or direction of watermark. In this case there is nothing to distinguish single individual stamps and the only way is to have a se-tenant set.

The Printed Sheet of the se-tenant Panes consisted of six sheetlets, each sheetlet having five se-tenant sets. Each sheetlet is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. The top and bottom rows contain two se-tenant sets each. The first space of the middle row contains an extract from the Acts of the Apostles (28 1.2) in Maltese relating to St Paul's Shipwreck on Malta. The second and third spaces of the same row are occupied by a se-tenant set, whilst the fourth space of the same row has the same wording of the first space, in English. As for the margins of each sheetlet, in the top margin above each stamp, in the four spaces of the top row, from left to right, can be seen the coats of arms of the Pope, the Archbishop of Malta, the Bishop of Gozo and the three colour checks. In the bottom margin, and in the same order can be seen the Pane numbers and the same three coats of arms. In the left-hand margin the wording "Zjara tal-Q.T. il-Papa Gwanni Pawlu II — 25-27.V.1990", can be seen, and the same wording in English is seen in the right hand margin. The value of the whole sheetlet is not shown on any of the margins.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen, as mentioned earlier, above the fourth stamp of the top row, horizontally. The colours from left to right correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers also from left to right.

The Printed Sheet consisted of six Panes or Sheetlets A to F, each Pane having five se-tenant sets.

The Plate/Pane numbers are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, of each Pane of se-tenant sets.

Se-tenant Panes 1A x 3 to and including 1F x3.

Perforation of Margins

The top, left hand and right hand margins of Panes A, B and C are imperforate, whilst the bottom margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. The left hand and right hand margins of Panes D, E and F are imperforate, whilst the top and bottom margins of these same Panes are fully perforated.

Pane "A" → Wmk	Pane "B" → Wmk	Pane "C" → Wmk
Pane "D" → Wmk	Pane "E" → Wmk	Pane "F" → Wmk

From a study of details given, I would say that the Printed Sheet of these se-tenant Panes, before cutting, would look as shown in figure, with a special setting of the perforator running from top to bottom. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in indi-

vidual stamps is also sideways, the same as in the larger Panes.

Stamps from sheetlets and large Panes were to remain on sale up to Wednesday, May 22, 1991, unless stocks were previously exhausted. A special hand-stamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Two other special hand-stamps were used on Friday, May 25, both in connection with the Pope's visit. One at the GPO and the other at the Temporary Branch Post Office at Dar l-Emigrant, in Valletta. Three other special hand-stamps were also used in connection with the same visit. One on Saturday May 26, at Victoria, Gozo, one at Rabat BPO on Sunday, May 27 and another also on Sunday, at the Temporary Branch Post Office at Floriana. For more information about these special hand-stamps see "Malta a Diary".

First day sales up to 12.45pm amounted to Lm74,600.