

Detailed Information about:

by J. Farrugia

Christmas 1987 Issue	X
Resolution Of The U.N. On The Seabed Issue	Y
Maltese Personalities 1988 Issue	Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	6-11-87	18-12-87	23-1-88
Values	2c + 1c, 8c + 2c, 20c + 3c	8c, 12c	2c, 3c, 4c, 10c, 25c
Stamp Size	48mm × 39.5mm	39.5mm × 48mm	31mm × 44mm
Designer	Richard J. Caruana	Salvu Mallia	Esprit Barthet
Printers	Printex Limited	Same	Same
Process	Lithography	Same	Same
Perforation	14 × 14	Same	Same
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	Maltese Crosses Upright	Same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	Same	Same
Gum	P.V.A.	Same	Same

Colours:

Issues X, Y and Z were printed in multicolours.

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 each value, in issues X, Y and Z.

Colour checks from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, of issues X, Y and Z.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, on all Panes, of all values, of issues X, Y and Z. It is of interest to mention here, that in Pane B only, of the 4c value, of issue Z, under the last stamp of the bottom row, the value Lm2.00 of the whole Pane is missing.

Printed Sheets:

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

Issue Z – 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, Y and Z.

Issue X – $2c + 1c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$8c + 2c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$20c + 3c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

Issue Y – $8c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$12c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

Issue Z – $2c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$3c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$4c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$10c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

$25c = 1A \times 4, 1B \times 4.$

Perforations of Margins:

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A and B, of all values are imperforate, all other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated. Registration marks in the form of a circle in an ellipse, crossed by two lines at right angles were seen in top left hand margin of Pane A and top right hand margin of Pane B, of all values.

FIG. (a)

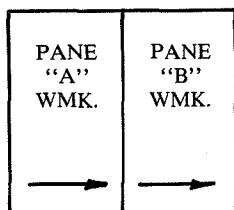


FIG. (b)

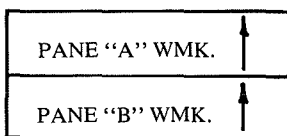
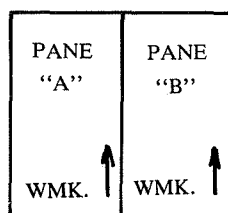


FIG. (c)



The Printed Sheet of all values would look as shown in fig. (a). Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Issue Y – The right hand margins of Panes A and B of both values are imperforated. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Registration marks similar to those of issue X, were seen in the top right hand margin of Panes A and the bottom right hand margin of Panes B, of both values.

The Printed Sheet of both values before cutting into Panes would look as shown in fig. (b). Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from right to left.

Issue Z – The left hand margin of Pane A of each value is imperforate. All other margins of Panes A and B are perforated.

Registration marks similar to those of Issue X or parts of them, were 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, of all values. Also a small horizontal line, in the middle of the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the fifth row from the top, was seen in Panes A only, of the 2c, 4c and 10c values.

The Printed Sheet of all values before cutting into Panes would look as shown in fig. (c). Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks:

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

Special hand postmarks, incorporating a motif relating to the Xmas. stamps, (Issue X), a motif relating to the commemorative postage set (Issue Y) and a line drawing of a book (Issue Z), were used on the first day of issue. By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm16,803 (Issue X), Lm20,110 (Issue Y) and Lm23,091 (Issue Z).

Stamps were to remain on sale up to Monday, 4th April, 1988 (Issue X), up to Wednesday 18th. May, 1988 (Issue Y) and up to Friday, 23rd. December, 1988 (Issue Z), unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Souvenir Sheet:

On the same day of Issue Y, a souvenir sheet, incorporating the two stamps, was also issued at 20c each.

The size of the souvenir sheet is 125mm × 90mm in a horizontal format. The perforation of the stamps is 13 × 13 and the watermark is maltese Crosses sideways. This means that two stamps of the same value, from issue Y, could have opposite watermarks and different perforation, but one of them would be from a souvenir sheet.