

Detailed Information about:

by J. Farrugia

Maltese Uniforms Issue	X
Commemorations 1987 Issue	Y
Maltese Ships 5th. Issue	Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	10-6-87	18-8-87	16-10-87
Values	3c, 7c, 10c, 27c	5c, 8c, 23c	2c, 11c, 13c, 20c
Stamp Size	29mm × 47mm	48mm × 39.5mm	47mm × 29mm
Designer	Luciano Micallef	Antoine Camilleri	Norbert Attard
Printers	Printex Limited	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.7 × 13.9	14 × 14	13.9 × 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways	same	Maltese Crosses Upright
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, except in the 13c value, of issue Z, which are next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows.

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 and Y, but from right to left in issue Z.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, on all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Z, but printed in brown in issue Y.

Printed Sheets:

Issue X – 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. All stamps are of the vertical format.

Issue Y – 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 stamps are of the horizontal format.

Issue Z – The Printed Sheet of each value consisted of three Panes, A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal 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 – 3c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 7c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 10c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- 27c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.
- Issue Y – 5c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- 8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- 23c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.
- Issue Z – 2c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
- 11c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5.
- 13c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6.
- 20c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4.

Perforations of Margins:

Issue X – The top margins of Panes A, B and C, of all values are imperforate. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Registration marks or parts of them were seen in the bottom left hand corner of Panes A, in the middle of the top margin of Panes B and in the top and bottom of the right hand margins of Panes C, of all values.

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown Fig. (a), stamps would be seen the right way up. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Issue Y – 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, circumscribed by an eclipse, crossed by two lines” were seen in the top left hand margin of Pane A and the top right hand margin of Pane B, of all values. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown Fig. (b), stamps would be seen the right way up.

Perforator ran from top to bottom.

FIG. (a)

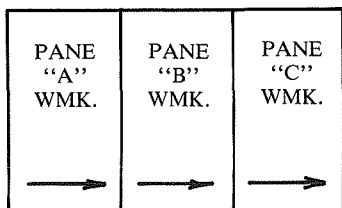


FIG. (b)

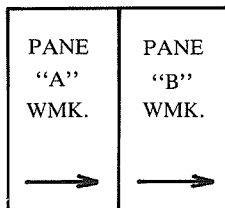
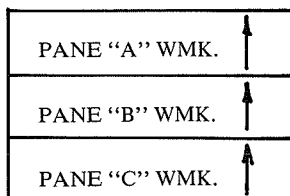


FIG. (c)



Issue Z – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate. All other margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Registration marks similar to those of issue Y, or parts of them, were seen at the top of the left and right hand margins of Panes A, as well as at the bottom of the left and right hand margins of Panes C, of all values. Also a small horizontal line, about 4mm long, was seen, in the left hand margin, next to the first stamp of the middle row, in Panes B, of the 2c value only. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, Fig. (c), 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 in issues X and Z, but printed in brown in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in all issues.

Special hand postmarks, incorporating a portrait of a XVI century soldier (issue X), and a line drawing of a ship’s helm (issue Z), were used on the first day of each of the three issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm27,021 (issue X), Lm18,500 (issue Y) and Lm28,683 (issue Z).

Stamps were to remain on sale up to Monday, 23 November 1987 (issue X), up to Monday, 8 February, 1988 (issue Y), and up to Tuesday, 8 March, 1988 (issue Z), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Maximum Card No. 8

This card was issued on the first day of issue Z. It depicts the ferry “Ghawdex”, shown on the 13c value of this fifth and final issue featuring Maltese ships.

This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the maximum card and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark.