

**Detailed Information about:**

**by J. Farrugia**

<b>Maltese Ships (Third issue) . . . . .</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>International Year of Peace issue . . . . .</b>	<b>Y</b>

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	27 – 11 – 85	28 – 1 – 86
Values	3c, 7c, 15c, 23c.	8c, 11c, 27c.
Stamp Size	47mm × 29mm	8c & 27c = 44mm × 31mm 11c = 43mm × 21.5mm
Designer	Norbert Attard	11c & 27c Tony Bugeja 8c Anthony Agius
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same
Process	Lithography	same
Perforation	13.9 × 13.6	8c & 27c = 13.9 × 14 11c = 13.4 × 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same
Gum	PVA	same

### Colours:

Issues X and Y were produced using multicolours.

Colour checks in form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows, in each Pane, of each value, of issue X, but next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in issue Y. As for the colour checks of Pane B, of the 11c value of issue Y, nothing can be said for reasons to be stated later on. The colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of all values, in issues X and Y.

Reference Pane numbers, a very interesting point may be mentioned here, about the 27c value of issue Y. In both Panes A and B of this value, the number of colour-checks is four, but the number of Pane numbers is three, i.e. the 1A in Pane A and 1B in Pane B, in the top colour of the colour checks is missing. As far as I know, this is the first time that the number of Pane numbers does not correspond to the number of colour checks.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, in all Panes, printed in Black in issue X, but printed in the top colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y.

### Printed Sheets:

Issue X – Each value consisted of Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of five rows of eight stamps. All values are of the horizontal format. Two kinds of paper were used for the printing of this set. I have seen a Creamy coloured paper used for Pane B, of the 23c value, which means that there must also be, Panes A and C of this value on the same Creamy coloured paper. Other values may also have been printed on this same kind of paper. When seen together, the difference is quite evident, because one paper is much whiter than the other.

Issue Y – The 8c and 27c values consisted of Panes A and B. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps. The 11c value consisted of Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps, made up of four rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Another interesting point, reference Pane B of the 11c value, may be mentioned here. All Panes B of this value have been issued with

the last two columns missing, i.e. eight stamps missing. This means that the right hand margin of Pane B which includes the colour checks, part of the top margin and part of the bottom margin, having the Printer's Imprint, were also missing. Hence as mentioned earlier, nothing can be said about the colour checks of this Pane.

**Plate/Pane numbers:**

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes of all values, of issues X and Y.

Issue X – 3c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5

7c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6

15c = 1A × 5, 1B × 5, 1C × 5

23c = 1A × 6, 1B × 6, 1C × 6

Issue Y – 8c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4

11c = 1A × 4, 1B × 4, 1C × 4

27c = 1A × 3, 1B × 3 (should be 1A × 4, 1B × 4)

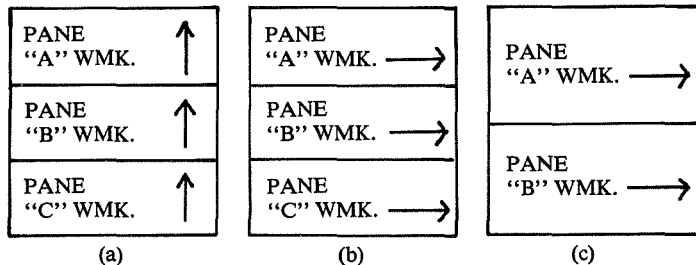
**Perforations of Margins:**

Issue X – The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of all values are imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Parts of printing or cutting marks were seen in the top left hand corner of Panes A and the bottom left hand corner of Panes C of all values. I have also seen smaller marks in the top right hand corner of Pane A and the bottom right hand corner of Pane C in the 23c value only, and noticed that this right hand margin was wider than in the other values, where no such marks were seen.

Issue Y – The top margin of Pane A, of the three values, is imperforate, whilst the left hand, right hand and bottom margins of this same Pane, are all perforated. All four margins of Pane B in the 8c and 27c values, and those of Panes B and C of the 11c value, are also perforated.

A printing or cutting mark was seen only in the top left hand corner of Pane A of the 8c value.



From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would look as follows:

Issue X – All values as in figure (a).

Issue Y – The 11c value as in figure (b) and the 8c and 27c values as in figure (c).

Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of all values, of the two issues, would be seen the right way up. Hence watermark is upright in issue X and sideways in issue Y. Perforator ran from left to right in figure (a) and from top to bottom in figures (b) and (c).

### Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, of issues X and Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Black in issue X, and in the top colour of the colour checks, of each value, in issue Y. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, in all values, of both issues, except Pane B of the 11c value, of issue Y, because of reasons mentioned earlier.

Special hand-postmarks incorporating a line drawing of a ship’s helm (issue X) and the emblem of the International Year Of Peace (issue Y), were used on the first day of issue.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm29,271 for issue X and Lm26,056 for issue Y.

Stamps were to remain on sale up to 15th. June, 1986 for issue X and 12th. September, 1986, for issue Y, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

### Maximum Card No. 6

This Maximum Card was issued with the “Maltese Ships” third issue. It reproduces the steamer “Gleneagles” featured on the 15c value stamp of issue X. This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the maximum card and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark. The maximum card was available for sale at 5c. The card was also available for sale from the Philatelic Bureau, at 25c, with the 15c stamp affixed on the image side and cancelled with the first day of issue postmark.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from left to right

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

PANE “A” ↑ WMK.	PANE “B” ↑ WMK.	PANE “C” ↑ WMK.
PANE “D” ↑ WMK.	PANE “E” ↑ WMK.	PANE “F” ↑ WMK.

### Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint “PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks.

A special hand-stamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed:- “Europa 1986 – L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġ – 3.4.86 – Malta” and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing of a butterfly is also incorporated in the postmark.

This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 25th. November, 1986, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Sales up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue amounted to Lm128,170.