

Detailed Information about:-

40th. Anniversary of the Foundation of the G.W.U. ----- X

Maltese Ships Second Issue ----- Y

Airmail 1984 Issue ----- Z

Issue	X	Y	Z
Date of Issue	5-10-83	7-11-83	26-1-84
Values	3c, 8c, 27c.	2c, 12c, 13c, 20c.	7c, 8c, 16c, 23c, 27c, 38c, 75c.
Stamp Size	47mm x 29mm	same	same
Designer	Frank Portelli	Norbert Attard	Richard J. Caruana
Printers	Printex Ltd.	same	same
Process	Lithography	same	same
Perforation	13.8 x 13.6	13.8 x 13.6	13.9 x 13.7
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright	same	same
Paper	Chalk Surfaced	same	same
Gum	P.V.A.	same	same

Colours:

Printed in multicolour using five different colours for each value in issue X, six in issue Y and five in issue Z.

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 issues X and Z, but next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows of issue Y. This was so in all Panes, of all values, of the three issues. Colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes, of all values, in issue X, but from right to left in issues Y and Z, except in the 7c value of issue Z, in which they are from left to right.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes of the three issues X, Y and Z.

The Printed Sheet of each value, of each of the three issues, consisted of three 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.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

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

Issue X -	3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
	8c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
	27c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
Issue Y -	2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	12c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	13c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
	20c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.

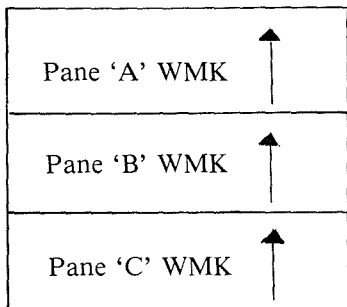
Issue Z - 7c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 8c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 16c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 23c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 27c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 38c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.
 75c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5.

Perforation of Margins:

The left hand margins of Panes, A, B and C, of each value, of all the three issues X, Y and Z are imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated.

Registration Marks:

These were only seen in issue X. A registration and cutting mark is seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in Pane A, of all three values. In Panes B of all values, a small horizontal line is seen in the left hand margin next to the first stamp of the middle row. In Panes C of all values, two horizontal lines one shorter than the other are seen at the top of the right hand margin.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, of all three issues, X, Y and Z, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown on left.

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

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, of the three issues. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation, on the first day of issue, of each of the three sets.

Issue X - A friend of mine noticed that the special handstamp which was being used at the sorting room in Valletta was faulty. It was used between 8.00 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. when the fault was noticed and the handstamp withdrawn. Some 30 or 35 covers had been stamped by then. The fault was in the word “HRUĠ” which was being printed “HRUC” i.e. the last letter being a C instead of a G.

Issue Y - On the first day of issue Y, Maximum Card No. 4 was also issued. It reproduces the brig shown on the 13c stamp. This card was available for sale either with the 13c stamp affixed on the image side and cancelled with the special hand postmark, or without a stamp.

Issue Z - The Airmail postage set which was issued on the 3rd October, 1978, was withdrawn from sale, at the close of business on the 25th January, 1984, the previous day of issue Z.