

Detailed Information about:-

Maltese Ships Issue 1982

By J. Farrugia

Date of Issue.....	13th. November, 1982
Values.....	3c, 8c, 12c and 20c
Stamp Size.....	47mm x 29mm
Art Designer	Norbert Attard
Printers	Printex Limited Malta
Process.....	Lithography
Perforation.....	13.85 x 13.6
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:-

- 3c - Brown, beige, ochre, red and black
- 8c - Green, beige, yellow, red and black
- 12c - Green, beige, brown, red and black
- 20c - Blue, beige, green, red and black

Designs:-

This is the first set in a series featuring Maltese Ships. Congratulations to Norbert Attard for a beautiful set.

The 3c stamp features the Brigantine (Brigantin), a small and fast ship. This ship was built in Malta and was in use before 1530. The Brigantin ran errands to and from Italy, undertook spying missions and carried cargo to all parts of the Mediterranean.

The 8c stamp depicts the Tartana. This ship carried most of the local grain trade from Sicily, and was the most important cargo vessel owned by the Maltese.

The 12c stamp shows the Xebec (Xambekk). It was a typical corsair vessel, and one of the fastest of her time. Maltese owners recognised her capabilities as a cargo vessel which could be used in all kinds of weather conditions.

The 20c stamp reproduces the Speronara (Xprunara). This typically Maltese vessel was small and quite fast. It was widely used to carry passengers and despatches to and from Italy. The Speronara accompanied warships as an auxiliary vessel and was also employed on guard duties at the entrance of the Grand Harbour.

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. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of the four 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 five rows of eight stamps. All four values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:-

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row:

3c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5

8c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5

12c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5

20c = 1A x 5, 1B x 5, 1C x 5

Perforation of Margins:-

The left hand margin of Panes A, B and C of all four values, is imperforate. The top, bottom and right hand margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. Some bottom margins of Pane C, of all four values may be found as not fully perforated. The reason for this is, that the width of the bottom margin where it is not fully perforated is wider than that of a fully perforated bottom margin. But in every case, the number of perforations in the bottom margin is the same, i.e. ten.

PANE "A" WMK	↑
PANE "B" WMK	↑
PANE "C" WMK	↑

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, 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. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special hand-postmark inscribed “Bastimenti Maltin - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug - 13 Nov '82 - Malta” and the name of the respective locality, was used on the first day of issue. The inscription means “Maltese Ships - First Day Issue - 13 Nov '82 - Malta”. A line drawing of a ship's helm is also incorporated in the postmark.

Sales from this issue amounted to Lm35,466 up to 12.45 p.m. on the first day of issue . This set was to remain on sale up to Thursday, 2nd June, 1983, unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Maximum Card No. 2:-

With this set, the Malta Post Office issued Maximum Card No.2. This Maximum Card reproduces the same design featured on the 12c stamp. This stamp could have been affixed on the image side of the Maximum Card and cancelled with the Maltese Ships first day issue postmark. The Maximum Card was available for sale, mint, at 5c each from the G.P.O. and all B.P.O.'s and S.P.O.'s.

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