

DEFINITIVE POSTAGE SET ISSUE

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	31st. October 1981.
Values	5m, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 7, 8c, 10c, 12c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 50c, £M1, and £M3.
Stamp Size	33mm x 20mm.
Art Designer	Frank Portelli.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.75 x 13.75
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colours of this set were produced by the lithograph process using multicolours. The colours used for each stamp varied between four and seven colours.

5m Megalithic Buildings
2c Wooden Ship Construction
5c Art
7c Agriculture
10c Grape Pressing
15c Energy
25c Industry
£M1 Sea Transport

Designs:

This set of sixteen stamps depicts various old and new industries in Malta. The values with the corresponding subject being represented are the following:

1c Cotton Growing
3c Money Minting
6c Fishing
8c Stone Quarrying
12c Ship Repairing and Building
20c Telecommunications
50c Water Drilling
£M3 Air Transport

In my opinion this set puts the designer, Frank Camilleri, in an embarrassing situation, where it was near to impossible for him to present all the details of his designs, (and for these to be appreciated by the public), when he was restricted

by such a small sized stamp as 33mm x 20mm. The general opinion about this set was definitely not favourable, and the pity is that it had to be a Definitive set, meaning that we shall have to continue using it for a number of years. One other

thing which I did not like about this set was the uniform size of all sixteen stamps, irrespective of value. I would have expected a £M3 and a £M1 stamp to be different in size from a 5m stamp.

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 or the last stamps of the two bottom rows, depending on the value of the stamp and the number of colours used, i.e. in the 7c stamp only four colours were used, whereas in the 1c stamp, seven colours were used. The colours from top to bot-

tom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left, on all Panes of all sixteen values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps, are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of four Panes, A, B, C and D. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. Stamps of all values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:

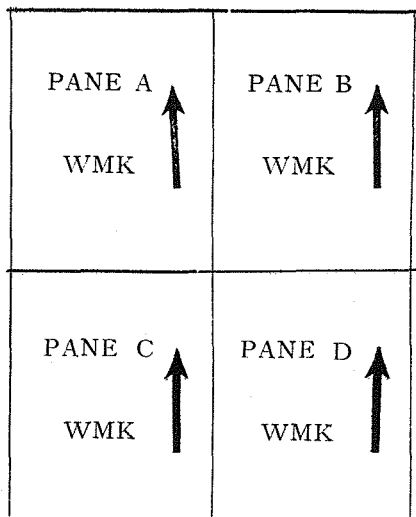
These are seen under the first stamps of the bottom row in all Panes of all values.

5m	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
1c	=	1A x 7,	1B x 7,	1C x 7,	1D x 7.
2c	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
3c	=	1A x 7,	1B x 7,	1C x 7,	1D x 7.
5c	=	1A x 6,	1B x 6,	1C x 6,	1D x 6.
6c	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
7c	=	1A x 4,	1B x 4,	1C x 4,	1D x 4.
8c	=	1A x 4,	1B x 4,	1C x 4,	1D x 4.
10c	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
12c	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
15c	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
20c	=	1A x 4,	1B x 4,	1C x 4,	1D x 4.
25c	=	1A x 4,	1B x 4,	1C x 4,	1D x 4.
50c	=	1A x 4,	1B x 4,	1C x 4,	1D x 4.
£M1	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.
£M3	=	1A x 5,	1B x 5,	1C x 5,	1D x 5.

Perforation of Margins:

The top, bottom and left hand margins of Panes, A, B, C and D, of all sixteen values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of

Panes A and C are also fully perforated, whilst the right hand margin of Panes B and D are imperforated.



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. Members might notice that some Imprint Blocks might have the right hand margin perforated, whilst in some others the right hand margin might be imperforate. Imprint Blocks from Panes A and C will be found perforated, whilst those from Panes B and D will be imperforate. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark is inscribed, “Definitiv — L-Ewwel Jum tal-Hrug — 31.10.81 — Malta”, meaning “Definitive — First Day Of Issue — 31.10.81 — Malta”, and the name of the respective locality. Up to 4

“From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of all values, 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.”

p.m. on the first day of issue, sales recorded at the Valletta Post Office and Branch Post Offices amounted to £M375,818, a record sum for first day sales. The previous record was of the Europa 1980 set at £M372,729.

It might be of interest to note that the previous Definitive set was issued on 31st. March 1973. The set consisted of fifteen stamps, with values from 2m to £M2. The £M2 stamp was withdrawn, and the last day of sale was 31st. December, 1975. The number sold of this £M2 stamp was 129,411 which when compared to the £M1 stamp of the 1965-70 Definitive set (395,424) and the £M1 stamp of the 1956-65 Definitive (198,139), makes it a nice stamp to hold on to, for the future.

Another £M2 stamp, depicting the Emblem of the Republic of Malta, was issued on the 28th. January 1976. This stamp and the rest of the Definitive set of 31st. March 1973, was withdrawn from sale at the close of business on Friday, 30th October, 1981.