

Reprints of the First Decimal Definitive Postage Set

By J. Farrugia

The first Decimal Definitive set was issued on the 31st. March 1973, and consisted of fifteen stamps with values from 2m to £M2. The £M2 value stamp was withdrawn from sale on the 31st. December, 1975. It was replaced by another £M2 value stamp, bearing the new emblem of Malta, on the 28th. January, 1976.

It is interesting to note that all the values of this set, with the exception of the original £M2 stamp, were reprinted during the period of use of this Definitive set, i.e. up to the 30th. October, 1981. Some values had only one reprint but others had seven and even eight reprints.

One particular value, the 4m value, presents a problem reference the second reprint. I have information that the second reprint could have been printed in March 1974, but I cannot find the date when it was released for sale. Information from members about this point would be appreciated.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, the original printing of all values of this Definitive set, issued on 31st. March 1973, is known as the first printing. Therefore the first reprint of any value, is denoted in the table below as the 2nd. print, the second reprint as the third print and so on.

The following are all the values reprinted with the date of release for sale from the G.P.O. The actual date of printing of each value, would be some time before the date of release for sale. In some values this time could have been months, in others less than a month and in a few, it was only days. It all depended on how fast a particular value was sold and whether the order for a reprint was made early enough. All values reprinted had four Panes, A, B, C and D, the same as in the first printing. The only exception being the £M1 value, which had Pane C missing, again the same as in the first printing when the set was issued. In most cases, the four Panes of each value, were released together on the same date, but there were cases, where certain Panes of some values were released quite later than others.

Whilst on the subject of "reprints", it may be of interest to mention, that the Air Mail Set issued on the 30th. March 1974 and withdrawn on 2nd. October 1978, had only one value reprinted, (set consisted of seven values), during the period of use. This was the 5c value, and it was released for sale on the 10th. February 1978. Three Panes, A, B, and C were released, the same as in the original printing.

Value	Print	Released for sale	Value	Print	Released for sale
2mls.	2nd.	11 — 1 — 1974	2c	2nd.	15 — 7 — 1975
				3rd.	6 — 8 — 1976
4mls.	2nd.	4 — 9 — 1973		4th.	28 — 11 — 1978
	3rd.	?		5th.	14 — 9 — 1979
	4th.	17 — 2 — 1978		6th.	14 — 10 — 1980
	5th.	19 — 1 — 1979		7th.	27 — 1 — 1981
	6th.	3 — 8 — 1979	3c	2nd.	23 — 6 — 1978
	7th.	4 — 12 — 1979		3rd.	4 — 12 — 1979
	8th.	5 — 9 — 1980		4th.	26 — 9 — 1980
	9th.	9 — 1 — 1981			
5mls.	2nd.	11 — 1 — 1974	4c	2nd.	13 — 10 — 1978
	3rd.	5 — 11 — 1976		3rd.	11 — 7 — 1980
	4th.	22 — 5 — 1979		4th.	26 — 9 — 1980
	5th.	22 — 1 — 1980	5c	2nd.	20 — 7 — 1976
	6th.	13 — 6 — 1980		3rd.	17 — 12 — 1976
	7th.	2 — 12 — 1980		4th.	6 — 6 — 1978
8mls.	2nd.	25 — 7 — 1975		5th.	24 — 8 — 1979
	3rd.	3 — 5 — 1977		6th.	31 — 10 — 1980
	4th.	22 — 6 — 1979	7c5	2nd.	3 — 5 — 1977
	5th.	18 — 3 — 1980			
	6th.	6 — 3 — 1981	10c	2nd.	22 — 9 — 1978
1c	2nd.	26 — 11 — 1974		3rd.	10 — 8 — 1979
	3rd.	5 — 11 — 1976		4th.	18 — 3 — 1980
	4th.	14 — 4 — 1978		5th.	7 — 11 — 1980
	5th.	22 — 5 — 1979	50c	2nd.	13 — 6 — 1980
	6th.	11 — 7 — 1980			
	7th.	26 — 9 — 1980	£M1	2nd.	5 — 5 — 1978
	8th.	27 — 1 — 1981			
1c3	2nd.	17 — 2 — 1978	£M2	2nd.	13 — 6 — 1980
	3rd.	16 — 3 — 1979			
	4th.	17 — 7 — 1979			
	5th.	4 — 12 — 1979			
	6th.	11 — 7 — 1980			
	7th.	2 — 12 — 1980			