

FLEMISH TAPESTRIES FOURTH ISSUE

Date of Issue	30th January 1980.
Values	2c, 8c and 50c.
Stamp Size	2c and 8c — 48mm x 33.5mm. 50c Miniature Sheet — 114 mm x 86mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printes	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	2c and 8c — 14 x 14 (comb). 50c Miniature Sheet — 13.5 x 13.2.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways in
Paper	2c, 8c and Miniature Sheet.
Gum	Chalk Surfaced.

Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

Designs

This is the fourth and final set in the Flemish Tapestries Series. The first set was issued on the 30th March 1977, the second on the 26th January 1978 and the third on 24th January 1979.

The two tapestries depicted in this year's set are among the finest in the collection. The 2c stamp shows, "The Institution of Corpus Domini" generally known as "La Disputa", painted by Rubens in 1609 for the Church of St. Paul, Antwerp. The composition of this splendid scene, which is vertical in the original, has been adopted horizontally so as to conform to the shape of the other tapestries.

The 8c stamp shows "The Destruction of Idolatry", a dramatic scene which Rubens painted for the Convent of the Discalced Carmelites, Madrid, in 1628.

The 50c value is a miniature sheet with a portrait of the donor of these tapestries, Grand Master Perellos, probably woven from a painting by a Maltese artist of the period. It bears an inscription to the effect that the tapestries were presented to the Church in 1700.

The portrait is flanked by figures of St. Jude and St. Simon, two of the fourteen panels "en grisaille", which also hang in St. St. John's. So this set brings to end this beautiful series, which I am sure, will enrich the Malta collection.

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 Panes of the 2c and 8c values. The miniature sheet does not show any colour checks or Pane numbers.

The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on both Panes of the two values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins of Panes. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in Blue.

The Printed Sheets of the 2c and 8c values consisted of two Panes, "A" and "B". Each Pane has 40 stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. Both stamps are of the horizontal format.

The Printed Sheets of the Miniature Sheets consisted of 16 miniature sheets, made up of four rows of four. Stamps in the miniature sheets are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

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

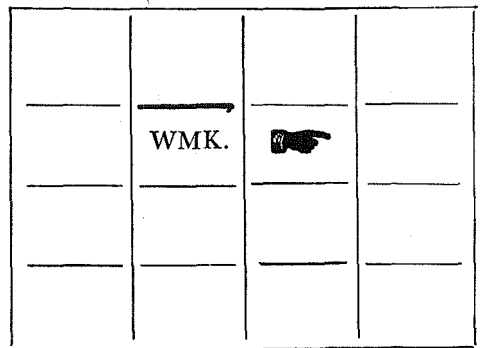
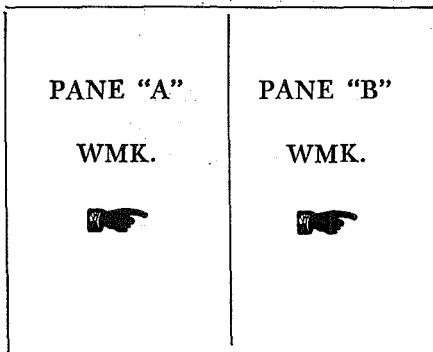
2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

8c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes "A" and "B" of both values are imperforate. The right hand margin of Panes "A", the left hand margin of Panes "B", and the bottom margin of Panes "A" and "B" are fully perforated. The left hand margin of Panes "A" and the right hand margin of Panes "B" are not fully perforated, but an extension of ten perforation holes can be seen on them.

Registration lines, next to the top perforation line, could be seen in the top right hand corner of Panes "B" and in the top left hand corner of Panes "A". One thing to notice, as far as perforations are concerned, is that whilst the 2c and 8c values are both perforated 14 x 14, the 50c stamp in the miniature sheet is perforated 13.5 x 13.2.



From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of the 2c and 8c values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top left. In this way, stamps would be seen the right way up. The figure on the right gives an indication of how the Printed Sheet of the miniature sheets would have looked before cutting. In this way, miniature sheets are also seen the right way up.

Imprint Blocks

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in Blue. An Imprint Block of four, of the 2c and 8c values, will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. The postmark is inscribed "L-Ewwel Jum tal-~~H~~rug", (First Day of Issue), "Malta", the name of the respective locality and the date, "30.1.80." A Maltese Cross is also incorporated in the postmark. Sale of these two stamps and the miniature sheet, up to 1 p.m., on the first day of issue, realised the sum of £M100,260.

This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 29th July, 1980, unless stocks are previously exhausted.