

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

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CHRISTMAS ISSUE 1980

Date of Issue	7th. October 1980.
Values	2c + 5m, 6c + 1c, 2c + 5m, 6c + 1c,
Stamp Size	8c + 1c5 = 20.5mm x 47.15mm 12c + 3c = 48mm x 39.5mm. 8c + 1c5, 12c + 3c.
Art Designer	Raymond Pitre'.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	3 low values 13.4 x 13.4 (comb). high value 14 x 14 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright in all three low values and pointing sideways in high value.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

The colour of this set was produced by printing in multicolour using six different colours.

Designs:

This is the seventeenth set of Xmas. Stamps issued by the G.P.O. Besides the postal value, each stamp includes a surcharge, the proceeds from which will be distributed amongst philanthropic organisations.

This set of four stamps features a triptych painting, (the high value stamp 12c + 3c), by a Maltese artist, Anton Inglott (1915-1945). The painting shows the Annunciation (2c + 5m stamp), Conception (6c + 1c stamp) and Nativity (8c + 1c5 stamp).

The painting in triptych form, is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta.

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 all Panes of all values. The colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes of all values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins of all Panes. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in the top, or first colour, of the colour checks.

The Printed Sheets of the 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5 values consisted of three Panes, "A", "B" and "C". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps.

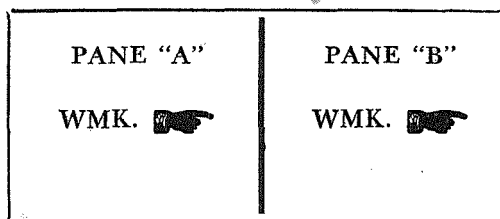
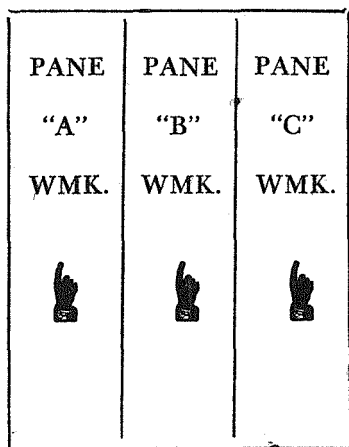
The Printed Sheet of the 12c+3c value, consisted of two Panes "A" and "B". Each Pane has 40 stamps, made up of eight rows of five stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

Perforation of Margins

As with other sets, a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way, that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left of the bottom margin. In the case of the three low values, 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5, the left hand margin of Pane "A", of each value is imperforated, whilst the left hand margin Panes "B" and "C" are fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" are also fully perforated. In the case of the 12c+3c value, the left hand margin of Pane "A" is imperforated, whilst the left hand margin of Pane "B" is fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are also fully perforated.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 2c+5m, 6c+1c and 8c+1c5 values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps will be seen the right way up, hence why water mark is upright. The printed sheet of the 12c+3c value, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown at top right. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would also be seen the right way up, hence why water mark is sideways. The perforator in both cases ran from left to right.

Imprint Blocks:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in both Panes of the 12c+3c value, and under the last two stamps of the bottom row in all Panes of the other three lower values. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks in all values.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. This set will remain on sale up to January 23, 1981 unless stocks are previously exhausted. Brisk sales were reported on the first day of issue, and up to 5p.m. sales amounted to £M41,827.