

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

MALTESE WORKER ISSUE

Date of Issue	12th October 1977.
Values	2c, 7c and 20c.
Stamp Size	20.5 x 47.15mm.
Art Designer	Anthony Agius.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.5 Comb.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upright in 2c and 7c, sideways in 20c.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

COLOURS:

- 2c Terracotta and dark terracotta.
- 7c Brown and dark brown.
- 20c Green, dark green, red and gold.

DESIGNS:

The 2c stamp symbolises the help given to workers handicapped through work while the 7c stamp depicts work in the old established craft of building in local stone and comparatively recent trades of modern industry and ship-building. These two values feature details from a Monument to the Maltese Worker which is to be erected shortly on the initiative of the General Workers Union. The 20c value is dedicated to the dangers encountered by workers and shows, in relief form, a mother holding the body of her son who lost his life while at work. The decoration featured is awarded for Service to the Republic. The first such decoration to be given, was awarded posthumously to a worker who lost his life at work.

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 the 2c and 7c values but also extending to the stamp above it in the 20c value. With this set, it must be pointed out again that a Pane of stamps is looked at in such a way that the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side and the Printers Imprint is at the right hand side of the bottom margin. In this way, looking at Panes of the 2c and 7c values, the stamps will be seen sideways resting on their 47.15 mm side, but looking at Panes of the 20c value, the

stamps will be seen the right way up. This is the reason why the direction of watermark in the 2c and 7c values is different from that of the 20c value.

In the 2c and 7c values, the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of these two values. In the 20c value the colour checks from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of this value.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in dark terracotta, dark brown and red in the 2c, 7c and 20c values respectively.

The Printed Sheet of all three values consists of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. Stamps of the 2c and 7c values are of the vertical format, while the 20c value is of the horizontal format.

PLATE/PANE NUMBERS:

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

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

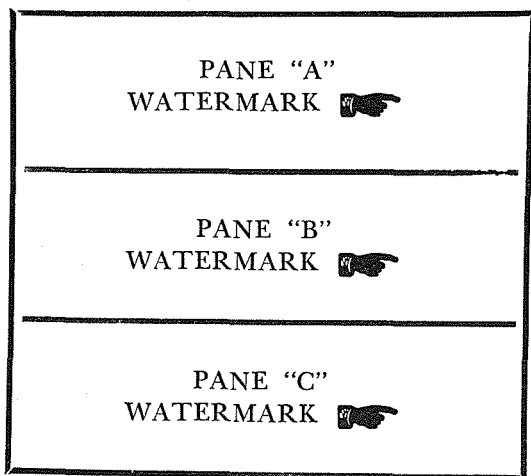
7c = 1A x 2, 1B x 2, 1C x 2.

20c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

PERFORATION OF MARGINS:

The top margin of Pane "A" of all three values is imperforate. The left hand, the right hand and bottom margins of Pane "A" of all three values are fully perforated. The top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins of Panes "B" and "C" of all three values are also fully perforated.

Registration marks in the form of coloured horizontal lines were seen in margins next to the first or last or both stamps of the top row. Such marks were seen only on Panes "A" of all three values.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet, before cutting, of all three values would look as shown on left. The direction of watermark in the Printed Sheets is the same for all the three values. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown, stamps of the 2c and 7c will be seen sideways and those of the 20c value will be seen the right way up. Hence the reason when individual stamps of the 2c and 7c values are examined the watermark will be seen upright but in the 20c value it will be seen sideways.

IMPRINT BLOCKS:

“PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row and printed in dark terracotta, dark brown and red in the 2c, 7c and 20c values respectively. Letters are 1mm high. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. A special hand-postmark was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed with the words “Il-~~H~~addiem Malti”, “L-Ewwel Jum tal-~~H~~rug”, the name of the respective locality and the date “12.10.77”. The inscription is embodied in a motif symbolising industry. Sales on the first day of issue of this set amounted to £M~~2~~7,872.