

# DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

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## CHRISTMAS ISSUE - 1976

Date of Issue .....	23rd. November 1976.
Values .....	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5, 10c + 2c
Stamp Size .....	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 47.15mm × 20.5mm. 10c + 2c = 35mm × 30mm.
Art Designer .....	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers .....	Printex Limited Malta.
Process .....	Lithography.
Perforation .....	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 13.5 × 13.5 Comb. 10c + 2c = 13.5 × 13.8 Comb.
Watermark .....	1c + 5m, 5c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 Maltese Crosses pointing upwards 10c + 2c Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper .....	Chalk surfaced.
Gum .....	P.V.A.

### Colours:—

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

### Design:—

In this issue the Malta Post Office has maintained the tradition of including a small surcharge in addition to the postal value of each stamp. This is the eight Christmas issue in succession on which a surcharge has been included. The proceeds from this surcharge are distributed to various local organisations that carry out child welfare work.

The 10c + 2c stamp shows the complete painting, known as the "Madonna And Saints" by Domenico Di Michelino (1417-1491). The 10c + 2c stamp is split into the three single stamps depicting St. John the Baptist and St. Michael, (1c + 5m), Madonna and Child (5c + 1c), St. Christopher and St. Nicholas (7c + 1c5). This painting is one of the best works of Domenico Di Michelino, an important 15th. Century artist, well known for his portrait of Dante in Florence Cathedral. It is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta. It was donated to the Museum in recent years by Mrs. Salvina Zahra of New York.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm and printed in black.

The Printed Sheets of the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 consist of three Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All three stamps are of the vertical format.

The Printed Sheet of the 10c + 2c consists of two Panes. Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. The stamp is of the horizontal format.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, as to the position of colour checks, Pane numbers and especially direction of watermark, it is best to say that a Pane of stamps is looked at, and assumed to be the right way up, when the Plate/Pane numbers are at the left hand side of the bottom margin, and the colour checks are at the bottom of the right hand margin. In this way the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and the 7c + 1c5 Panes, will be seen with the stamps sideways resting on their 47.15 side and the 10c + 2c Pane will be seen with the stamps looking the right way up. Also, in this manner, the watermark in all the Panes, of all four values, is sideways. But if the stamps are looked at individually, the right way up, the watermark in the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 will be seen upwards and in the 10c + 2c will remain sideways.

This is the first time, since Printex have been producing Malta stamps, that when a Pane, is looked at as suggested above, (which I have always done in the past), stamps are seen sideways.

**Plate/Pane Numbers:—**

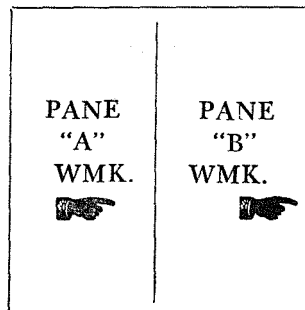
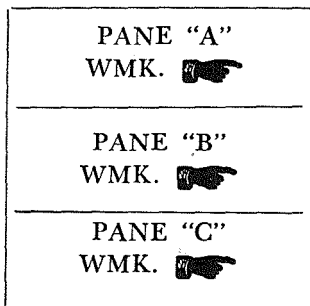
These are seen completely under the first stamp of the bottom row in the 10c + 2c value, but also extending on the left hand side of the first vertical perforation line in the other three values.

- 1c + 5m = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 5c + 1c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 7c + 1c5 = 1A x 6, 1B x 6, 1C x 6.
- 10c + 2c = 1A x 6, 1B x 6.

**Perforation of Margins:—**

In the 1c + 5m, 5c + 1c and 7c + 1c5 values, the top margins of Pane "A" of all three values, are imperforate. The bottom margin of Pane "A" as well as the top and bottom margins of Panes "B" and "C" of the e values are fully perforated. The left hand and right hand margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of these values are also fully perforated.

In the 10c + 2c value, the top margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforate. The left hand margin of Pane "A" and the right hand margin of Pane "B" are nearly fully perforated except for a little space at the edges, where two more perforations could have been inserted. The right hand margin of Pane "A" and the left hand margin of Pane "B" are fully perforated. The bottom margins of Panes "A" and "B" are also fully perforated. The only registration marks seen were on Pane "A" of each of the three lower values. It was in the form of a small horizontal line or lines at the edge of the right hand margin, just under the first horizontal perforation line.



From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheets before cutting would look as shown above, the left hand side for the three lower values and the right hand side for the high value.

In this way the stamps of the three lower values would be seen sideways and the high value stamp, the right way up.

**Imprint Blocks:—**

"PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in the 10c + 2c value, but also extends to the right hand side of the last vertical perforation line, in the other three values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. As usual, a special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day issue. Up to 4 p.m. on the first day of issue, the sale of these stamps realized the sum of £M36,108.

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