

EUROPA 1975

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

Date of Issue	15th. July 1975.
Values	5c and 15c.
Stamp Size	29mm x 47mm (both values).
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.6 x 13.9 (Comb).
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing upwards.
Colours	The colours of these stamps were produced by the multi-colour process.
Designs	5c stamp features a reproduction of Francesco de Mura's, (1696 — 1782), "Allegory of Malta". 15c stamp reproduces "Judith and Holofernes" by Valentin de Boulogne (1591 — 1632).

Since 1972, Malta has issued the Europa set in small sheets of ten. This year was no exception, and again the two values have been issued in small sheets of ten. Both values are of the horizontal format. Each sheet is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The third space of the third row is used to describe the painting and the artist. The third third space of the fourth row is used to show the C.E.P.T symbol plus the wording, "EUROPA 1975 REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA". The value of each sheet of ten, is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp.

Colour checks are found in the right hand margin, next to the last spaces of rows three and four, which are used for descriptions as explained above. They are in the form of five coloured discs 3mm in diameter. The colours from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, on all Panes of all values. There are six Panes of ten stamps each for each Printing Sheet of each value.

Plate/Pane numbers: These are found under the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours are in the same order from left to right as the the colour checks from top to bottom.

5c = 1A x 5 up to, and including 1F x 5.

15c = 1A x 5 up to, and including 1F x 5.

In the 5c value, I noted quite a noticeable difference in the colour shade used for the background. In Panes B and D it is more on the greenish side compared to Panes C, E and F which are more on the reddish side. Pane A looks a bit different from both. I would say my Panes are from different Printing Sheets after cutting. I mean other people will notice the difference in shade, in a different order than that which I noticed in my Panes.

Perforation of margins:

Panes B, D and F of both values, have the top, bottom, left hand and right hand margins fully perforated.

Panes A, C and E of both values have the top, bottom and right hand margins of these Panes is imperforated. I did not notice any cutting lines or any other registration marks on any of the margins.

From a study of the perforations on all margins, Pane numbers and direction of watermark, the Printing Sheet may have consisted of the six Panes as shown.

A	D
B	E
C	F

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" printed in black, is found under the last space, of the bottom row. The letters used are 1mm high. I would suggest that the bottom half of a sheet is bought. This will include a block of four stamps, the Plate number, the two spaces used for description, the colour checks and the Imprint.

As usual a special handstamp was again used for cancellation on the first day of issue. With this issue there were eighteen different cancellations, instead of the usual seventeen from the different Post Offices. This was because of the temporary Post Office at the Trade Fair, Naxxar, which was still open on the 15th. July.

Up to 12.30 p.m. on the first day of issue, sale of stamps of this issue had realised £M167,257.