

## XMAS, 1975 ISSUE

Date of Issue	4th. November 1975.
Values	8m+2m, 3c+1c. 7c5+1c5.
Stamp Size	8m + 2m & 7c5 + 1c5 = 24.8 x 26.4mm; 3c + 1c = 49.6 x 26.4mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin. Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.6 x 13.5 (Singles & Triptych) Comb.
Watermark	"Maltese crosses" Pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A

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

Design: The three stamps in Triptych feature the "Nativity" by Maestro Alberto (XV-XVI Century). This painting is on permanent exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta.

**Colour Checks:** These are in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter. The colours of these discs from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers, from left to right, on all Panes of all values. Colour checks in Pane "A" of the Triptych set are seen in the left hand margin, next to the last two stamps of the first column. In Pane "B" of the Triptych and all other Panes in Single form, the colour checks are found in the right hand margin, next to the last two stamps of the last column. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins. In the case of Triptych Panes, the values in top and bottom margins are for columns of complete Triptych sets. The figures for these values are 2.5mm high and printed in black.

**Plate/Pane numbers:** These are seen under the first and second stamps of the bottom row in the 8m + 2m, 7c5 + 1c5 and Triptych sets. In the 3c + 1c Single form value, they are under the first stamp of the bottom row. Plate number collectors are to be careful with this set, because not all the values have the same number of Panes. The Printed Sheet of the 8m + 2m and the 7c5 + 1c5 in Single values consist of four Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of five rows of ten stamps.

The Printed Sheet of the 3c + 1c in Single form value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps, made up of ten rows of five stamps. The Printed Sheet of the Triptych set, consist of two Panes. Each Pane has twenty Triptych sets, made up of ten rows of two sets.  
8m + 2m & 7c5 + 1c5 = 1A x 6, up to, and including ID x 6.  
3c + 1c & Triptych set = 1A x 6, IB x 6.

**Perforation of Margins:** The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all Panes, of all values, including the Triptych are fully perforated. The top margins, of Panes "C" and "D", of the 8m + 2m and the 7c5 + 1c5 values are fully perforated. The top margins of Panes "A" and "B", of all values including the Triptych are imperforated.

Registration marks in the form of a small square 4.5mm side, subdivided into four other small squares, could be noticed only on Panes "A" and "B" of the Triptych set. In Pane "B", these whole squares can be seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamps of the top and bottom rows. The right hand margin of this Pane is much wider when compared to the left hand margins. In Pane "A", similar registration marks are seen in the left hand margin next to the first stamps of the top and bottom rows. The left hand margin is much wider than the right hand margin. Printex have been producing Malta stamps since 1972, and I have always noted that colour checks are always in the right hand margin of all Panes. With this Xmas. issue, I noticed an exception in Pane "A" of the Triptych, where the colour checks are in the left hand margin.

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet before cutting was made up as follows:

For the 8m + 1c5 and the 7c5 + 1c5 values, Panes "A" and "B" were on top of Panes "C" and "D", with Pane "A" on top of Pane "C" on the left and Pane "B" on top of Pane "D" on the right.

For the 3c + 1c and the Triptych, Pane "A" was on the left and Pane "B" on the right.

**Imprint Blacks:** "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row in the three values in Single form. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. In the Triptych set, the same Imprint is seen under the last two stamps of the bottom row. Letters are 1.3mm high and also printed in black. An Imprint block of four from any Pane of any value will also include the colour checks, except if it is from Pane "A" of the Triptych set, where the colour checks are in the left hand margin. An Imprint block from Pane "B", besides the colour checks, will also have one of the registration marks mentioned above. So an Imprint block from the Triptych set is easy to distinguish whether it is from Panes "A" or "B".

As usual a special handstamp was used on the first day of issue of this set.

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