

## MALTESE FOLKLORE ISSUE

Date of Issue	26th. February 1976.
Values	1c3, 5c, 7c5, 10c.
Stamp Size	1c3 & 10c = 27 x 33mm; 5c & 7c5 = 33 x 27mm.
Art Designer	Nazareno Camilleri.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.9 x 13.75 (Comb.).
Watermark	"Maltese Crosses" pointing sideways in values 5c and 7c5 and pointing upwards in values 1c3 and 10c.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours: 1c3 Brown, Blue, Light-Yellow, Red.  
5c Brown, Blue, Yellow-Ochre, Orange.  
7c5 Black, Light-Blue, Light-Yellow, Orange.  
10c Brown, Blue, Yellow-Ochre, Red.

Design: The four stamps depict "Village Feast" 1c3, "Mnarja" 5c, "Carnival" 7c5, and "Good Friday" 10c.

Colour checks in the form of discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, except in the 7c5 value, where the top disc touches the top perforation line of the bottom row. The Pane numbers were noticed to be all in line, in the 5c and 7c5 of all values, except in Panes "A" and "B" of the 10c value. In these Panes the top disc is not in line with the other three, but 3mm to the right.

The colour 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. Cumulative totals of progressive columns are seen in top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5mm and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consist of two Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps in the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format) and five rows of ten stamps in the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format).

**Plate/Pane numbers:** These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row of stamps. These coloured discs are seen to be in line, in all Panes values. In the 1c3 value, the second "IA" in Pane "A", and "IB" in Pane "B" are seen to be above the other three. In the 10c value the first "IA" in Pane "A" and the first "IB" in Pane "B" are lower than the other three.

1c3, 5c, 7c5, 10c = IA x 4, IB x 4.

**Perforation of Margins:** In the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format) the top margins of Panes "A" and the bottom margins of Panes "B" are not fully perforated. The bottom and right hand margins of Panes "A" as well as the top and right hand margins of Panes "B" are fully perforated. The left hand margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforated.

In the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format) the top margins of Panes "A" and "B" are imperforated. The right hand and bottom margins of Panes "A" as well as the left hand and bottom margins of Panes "B" are fully perforated. The right hand margin of Panes "B" of both values are not fully perforated. The left hand margin of Pane "A" of the 5c value is fully perforated whilst that of the 7c5 value is not. Some difference might be noticed to what I have said about the perforation of margins, the reason being that not all the Panes of certain values seem to have margins of the same width

Registration marks in the form of cutting lines could be seen in the bottom left hand corners of Panes "A" and "B" in the 10c values, and in the top left hand corners of Panes "B" in the 5c and 7c5 values. None were seen in either Pane of the 1c3 value.

From a study of all the details given, the Printed Sheet of the 5c and 7c5 values (horizontal format), was such, that stamps were printed the right way up, with Pane "A" on the left and Pane "B" on the right. The Printed Sheet of the 1c3 and 10c values (vertical format), was such, that stamps were printed sideways, resting on their 33mm side, Pane "A" being on the right and Pane "B" on the left. If after printing and before cutting, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the left, the stamps would look the right way up, with Pane "A" on top of Pane "B".

**Imprint Blocks:** "PRINTEX LIMITED" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high. Under the last stamp is also seen the total value of fifty stamps. Whilst in the 10c value, the Printer's name is printed under this total, in the other three values, it is printed above it. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks. From the information given about the perforation of margins, an Imprint Block can be traced as to whether it formed part of Panes "A" or "B"..

A special handstamp was again used for cancellation.

Up to 4 p.m. sales amounted to £31,766.