

INDIVIDUAL VALUES1d.Date of Issue. 7 Jan. 1965.

Design. The central subject is a sculptured reclining female figure wearing a $\frac{3}{4}$ length dress lying on a couch with a pillow beneath her head. In the background is a spiral pattern taken from a decorative slab in a stone age temple. The figure is known as the 'Sleeping Venus' and is now preserved in the National Museum of Malta in Valletta. The pattern is from an altar of one of the triple temples unearthed at Tarxien by Sir Temistocles Zammit between 1915 and 1920.

Order of Pl.Nos. Violet, Gold, White, Light Mauve.Order of Printing. Violet, Gold, Light Mauve, White.

Printings. 7 Jan. 1965. Gum arabic. Plate Nos. 1A x 4 and 1B x 4. No reaction to UV light.

21 June 1967. Gum arabic. Plate Nos. 1A x 4 and 1B x 4. Very slight reaction to UV light. The violet is darker.

30 Sept. 1969. PVA gum. Plate Nos. 1A x 4 and 1B x 4. No reaction to UV light. The violet is darker still but there is a slight shade difference between the 1A and 1B plates with 1B being fractionally paler.

11 Dec. 1970. PVA gum. Plate Nos. 1A x 4 and 1B x 4. Strong reaction to UV light. The gold shows through the design much more clearly.

Constant Varieties.

- A1. Plate 1B. R4/2. Triangular violet flaw to right of elbow of the reclining figure. Th. G4.
- A2. Plate 1A. R2/2. End of wound coil shows as clear gold below first A of MALTA. Th. B3.
- A3. Plate 1A. R1/9. Three small white dots on central figure. Th. C4 H4.
- A4. Plate 1A. R4/10. Dot in O of NEOLITHIC. Th. I2.
- A5. Plate 1A. R6/9. Curved hairline at the centre above the reclining figure. Th. D5 E5.
- A6. Plate 1A. R3/1. Blue diagonal flaw on feet and ankles of the reclining figure. Seen on three or four sheets but is probably not constant.

Non Constant Varieties

- B1. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. doubled one $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the other but also many times almost superimposed
- B2. MALTA doubled. This and B1 are so common as to suggest that these colours were always printed twice to obtain the desired effect.
- B3. Light mauve and gold smudges.
- B4. Paint pinkish double bar across the sheet ('Doctor' blade flaw)
- B5. $\frac{1}{2}$ c for $\frac{1}{2}$ d due to misplaced value being cut by perfs..
- B6. Perfs. misplaced and cutting through value.
- B7. Large pinkish smudges over R1/1 only to the edge of the stamp (also MALTA doubled).

Nos. Sold. 5,354,096

On display at the Crown Agents' display at the Gibbons' Centenary Exhibition were the four printing plates for this value. Each was numbered and the colour of the ink to be used was inscribed. They were as follows:

4762 Light Mauve
 4763 Violet
 4764 White
 4765 Gold

BOOKLETS

The Malta Post Office issued its first Stamp Booklet on 16th May 1970, but after issuing four different booklets during 1970 and 1971, the practice was discontinued.

All four of the booklets have certain common characteristics. These are:-

- (1) All have been made using complete sheets of the basic definitive stamps (ten books per batch of sheets) and thus the technical details of the stamps are as per normals. Due to the manufacturing method the booklets can be found in equal numbers with the stamps stitched through the upper or lower sheet margins, hence upright and inverted panes.
- (2) All measure 92mm's x 48mm's when completed.
- (3) All are stitched with black cotton 4 or 5mm's from the left hand edge of the covers.
- (4) All have the same listing of postal rates on the inside of the front cover.
- (5) None have protective interleaving between the stamp panes.
- (6) The stamp panes have margins of 6 to 7mm's.

BOOKLET No.1

Issued 16 May 1970. This was the first booklet ever issued in Malta. It was sold out almost immediately and booklet No.2 was issued two days later to meet the demand although its issue was intended to be at a later date.

Contents. 6 x 1d. with PVA gum
 6 x 2d. with Gum Arabic
 6 x 2d. with Gum Arabic

Both of the 2d. panes are perforated through the upper or lower stamp margin and these were perforated on a machine that was only used for perforating this value.

Cover Design. A drawing of the General Post Office, Palazzo Parisio, Valletta, showing the main entrance. Also shows 'Malta Postage Stamps' with the contents and total value and, at the left hand side 'Booklet No.1'.

Rear Cover. Advertisement of E. Said, Stamp Dealers.

Inside Rear Cover. Advertisement of Cassar and Cooper.

The covers are grey with black printing throughout. One booklet was found with the bottom margin of a 1d. pane cut back at 45 degrees on the left hand corner.

Nos.Sold. 30,000

BOOKLET No.2.

Issued on 18 May 1970 (reported date) but the earliest known usage is 22 May 1970.

Contents. 6 x 1d. with PVA gum
 6 x 2d. with PVA gum
 6 x 2d. with PVA gum