

LAYOUT of the 60 STAMP SHEETS

		SN1 X1 (TMC) & S1		SN2		SN3		C2	
		O8	+ O1	1234		5678			
		9012							
1/1		1/5	L1 (TCIS)	1/7				1/10	
2/1								2/10	
3/1		3/5	3/6					3/10	O2 (RMC)
4/1			+ X5 (CCIS)				(RCIS) L2		+ S2 & X2
5/1		4/5	4/6					4/10	O3
6/1		6/5	L3 (BCIS)	6/7				5/10	
		"Waterflow" Imprint IM							
		O7	+ O4					5	PN
		S3 & X3 (BMC)							
								3	CPN
									C3

(LMC) X4 & S4 + O6 O

31/7/96

This Figure is diagrammatic, not to scale, and incomplete as it only shows relevant data. (Brackets refer to G.B. descriptions by the late Gerry Bater)

DON'T FORGET THE MARGINS

Waterlow Markings on Pictorial Definitives 1938-1956

Descriptions of "Marginal" Markings

Many people ignore the stamp margins but I hope to show that there is much of interest. The illustrations and the diagram, show examples of the kind of markings to look for and their names as used in this article. Most of the names and symbols have been taken from the Malta Study Circle Handbook, called "MALTA, the stamps and Postal History 1576 - 1960" page 267, published in 1980 and edited by Mr R.E.Martin. Of necessity, extra symbols and descriptors have now been added to extend the range beyond the 1980 listing. It was a comment in this handbook that challenged me to start this investigation. "The marginal markings do not appear to provide any obvious way of identifying one pane from another ... furthermore, they are not entirely consistent."

Most markings are fairly obvious without the need of a magnifying glass to detect them. However, careful scrutiny, using a 10x glass, is often required to measure the precise distance/position of crosses or circles.

On monocoloured values the following marks are in the SOLE colour. On bi-coloured values they are in the FRAME colour. See Diagram.

MARKS found on EVERY Sheet.

L1 to L4	Horizontal and Vertical Lines visible on perforation tips.
X5	Cross at Sheet Centre visible on perforation tips.
IM	Printer's Imprint: Waterlow & Sons Limited, London Wall, London E.C.

MARKS found on MANY Sheets.

X1 to X4	Mid Marginal cross. May be guillotined off if engraved wide of nearest stamp
C1 to C4	Corner Angles as above
PN	Plate Number for Monocoloured values & Frame plate number for bicoloured values.

The following marks may be in the SOLE, FRAME or CENTRE colours or even in BLACK for the sheet numbers. Some marks may be found on some sheets. See Diagram.

S1 to S4	Mid Marginal Circles.
SN1 to SN3	Sheet numbers
CPN	Centre Plate number on bicoloured values only.
O1 to O8	Circle and "T".
R1/R2 etc.	Registration Guide Marks on bicoloured values only.

COMMENTS on the "MARGINAL" MARKINGS.

a) Horizontal & Vertical Lines, L1 to L4 and Sheet Centre Cross, X5

These are just visible on the tips of the perforation teeth of the appropriate stamps and positively identify the sheet position and the printer as Waterlows. The lines are printed on some of the perforation tips of marginal stamps between columns 5 & 6 and between rows 3 & 4 on all the 60 stamp panes. On the Malta farthing with 15 rows of 8 columns the lines and sheet centre cross are between columns 4 & 5 and between rows 8 & 9.

b) Printer's Imprint, IM

The length and style of the imprint do not alter, but its vertical position does vary.

c) Mid Marginal Crosses, X1 to X4

These crosses, when present, are always at the CENTRE position of the sheet margins. This is true even with an odd numbered sheet size, eg the Farthing with 15 rows. Here the left and right margin crosses are placed HALF way down the 8th row. The purpose of these crosses is as PERFORATION Guide marks.

Two examples are known of the Cyprus 1938 stamps, with very widely cut margins, that show a dot and a line beyond the mid marginal cross, but the dot & line are almost always guillotined off.



d) Circle and "T" Marks, O1 to O8

The circle is almost filled in to form a disc with a tiny central hole. The "T" mark is always beyond the circle and points away from the stamps, i.e. inverted in top margin, upright in bottom, and sideways in the vertical margins. There is always a pair of circle and T with only ONE occurrence of the pair in each margin. The "T" is usually 3 to 3.5 mm beyond the centre of the circle and so may often be guillotined off. The purpose of these "Circles and Ts" is as a FINAL replacement of the mid-margin crosses and mid-margin circles as PERFORATION Guide Marks.

e) **Plate Numbers, PN and CPN**

On these 60 stamp sheets the plate numbers, if present, are in the bottom margin of the lower right sheet corner, below row 6 no. 9 for the FRAME or MONOCHROME plates; and below row 6 no. 10 for the CENTRE plates.

UNNUMBERED Plates: are always plate 1. Waterlows did not engrave this number on plates issued in 1938. These are referred to as plate (1) or plates (1,1). The 2½d value had a single plate (1) with double pane throughout its entire life of 17 years but was issued in 3 different colours. (Illustrations page 122).

Plate 1 Engraved: From 1939 Waterlows were asked to identify any newly engraved plates with a number. The only Malta example is the 1954 3d violet Royal Visit of the present Queen. It is an adapted design from the then current 3d definitive. It is included here as it was issued during the lifetime of the George VI definitives.

Later Plates: The 6d value has several combinations from 2 to 5 for the frame plate and from 2 to 3 for the centre plate.



f) **Mid-Marginal Circles, S1 to S4**

These mid-marginal circles or "needling points" are only known to me on 3 values, ½d. brown plate 4; 2d. green plate 2; and some later printings of 2d. red unnumbered plate (1). On Imprint Blocks the circle is ALWAYS below the capital "L" of "London Wall" of the imprint. The purpose of the mid-marginal circles is as an INTERIM improvement for PERFORATION Guide Marks, replacing the former mid-marginal crosses.

g) **Sheet Numbers, SN1 to SN3**

Only in very rare cases, 4 recorded, are sheet numbers known in the top margin of the Malta sets. Malta must have been unwilling to pay extra to have them added.

h) **Corner Angles, C1 to C4**

The corner angles are usually seen as "L" shaped lines at each of the four sheet corners. On some sheets part or all may be cut off and so not visible. On sheet engraved near the end of the life of these sets the corner angles may be visible as an offset cross and not just an "L". The purpose of the corner angles is to act as GUILLOTINE Trimming Guide Marks.

i) **Registration Guide Marks, R1 and R2 etc.**

These marks are a major topic and need much research. Their purpose is to assist in the registration of the two

separate colour printing plates on the bi-coloured values only.

TABULATION of the FINDINGS

The table opposite quotes distances, measured in millimetres, FROM the OUTER frame line of the NEAREST stamp TO the featured marking. (a) For Imprints the distance is to the BOTTOM of the imprint; (b) for Crosses, Circles and Ts, it is to the CENTRE of the featured marking. They are grouped into a range of similar distances so that general trends can be seen.

This table does not quote the entire listing of plate numbers, but does show those of interest and relevance. It is interesting to note that these distances and positions are NOT constant throughout the time span covered. I have been surprised by new discoveries on new purchases so that it is certain that my list is not complete. The author would be pleased to know of any additions to this Malta listing via the editor.

CONCLUSIONS from the TABULATION

a) The distance of the marginal markings from the nearest stamp VARIES from plate to plate and from pane to pane.

b) The overall conclusion is that the LATER (higher numbered) plates USUALLY, but NOT ALWAYS, have the features CLOSER to the stamp frame line. This is most easily seen by comparing the Imprints for the 3d. 1938 through to Royal Visit 3d.1954.

c) Some of the features can be used to distinguish some plates and/or panes.

d) "Old" previously used plates can have new features engraved onto them during their lifetime. eg. Compare the presence / absence of the CIRCLES and Ts for the Malta 2/- to 10/- "Unoverprinted" with the "Self-Government" stamps.

e) Some of the features may enable an approximate dating to be assigned.

f) Waterlow plate numbers, unlike those of Harrison and Bradbury Wilkinson, do not distinguish left and right panes as used for the double pane monochrome values.

Mid-Marginal CIRCLES

Gibbons Stamp Monthly of February 1945, concerning ½d. brown plate 4 and the December 1944 release quotes "In some supplies the margins were wide enough to include the marginal dividing marks and showed some sheets had a cross centred below the printer's imprint and a solid circle in the top margin; on other sheets the positions are reversed, the latter showing the figure 4 weakly printed". This is confirmed from my own collection.

The ½d. brown plate 4 and 1d. green plate 2 were newly engraved plates showing the mid-marginal circles (needling points) at 3 positions on each sheet. This is the first time these marks were seen and these plates were issued in 1933-1945. I have called the first described pane in the above paragraph Pane "A" and the second Pane "B".

Pane A shows:- S1 CIRCLE, S2 CIRCLE, X3 cross, S4 CIRCLE

MALTA PICTORIAL DEFINITIVES 1938 to 1966

by Geoffrey T. Davis

1/858

Value, Colour & if Self- Government Overprint = SGv	PLATE Nos.	IMPRINT			Mid-Margin CROSS			CIRCLE (& T)		
		8½ STD	7- Int	6 to Near	17 to 18mm Far	15% - 16 STD	12% 13 mm Near	14 to 16% STD	12% 13% Int	9% - 11% Near
1/4d.	(1)	*				*				none
1/4d. S.Govt	(1)	*				*		*		none
1/2d. Green	3	*				*				none
1/2d. Brown	3	*				*	*			none
" "	4	*				#	*			none
1/2d. " SGv	5 or 6	*							O1*	* O4
" " SGv	6	*							O2, O4* O6	* O1
1d. Brown	(1)	*			*					none
1d. Green	(1)	*			*		*			none
" "	2	*				#	*			none
1d. Green	pr.3	*								*
1d. Green SGv	pr.3	*								*
" " SGv	pr.3	*								*
1d. Grey SGv	4	*		*						O1, O2, O4 & * O6
1 1/2d. Red	(1)	*				*				none
1 1/2d. Black	(1)	*				*				none
" Black SGv	2	*								*
" " SGv	(1) or 2	*								*
" Green SGv	2	*								*
" " SGv	2 or 3	*								*
1 1/2d. " SGv	3	*		*						O1, O2, O4 & * O6
2d. Black	(1)	*			*					none
2d. Red	(1)	*			*					none
" " Late Print.	(1)	*				0	0			none
2d. Red SGv	(1) or 2	*			*					*
" " SGv	(1) or 2	*								*
2d. Yellow SGv	2	*							O4*	
" " SGv	3	*		*						O1, O3, O4 & * O5
2d. Yellow SGv	4	*		*						O5, O7 & * O8
2 1/2d. Blue	(1)	*				*				none
2 1/2d. Violet	(1)	*				*	*			*
" " SGv Pane A	(1)	*				*	*			*
" " SGv Pane B	(1)	*				*	*			*
2 1/2d. Red SGv	(1)	*				*	*		O4* O6	* O1
3d. Violet	(1)	*				*				none
3d. Blue	(1)	*				*				none
" "	2	*	*							*
3d. " SGv Pane A	2	*	*							*
" " SGv Pane B	2	*	*							*
3d. Violet SGv	2	*	*							*
1954 R. Visit QE2	1	*		*						O1, O3, O4 & * O5
4 1/2d. Ochre	(1,1)	*				*				none
" "	2(1)	*		*						*
" Ochre SGv	2(1)	*		*		*				*
" Blue SGv	3(1)	*		*						O1, O2, O4 & * O6
6d.	(1,1) & 2,2	*				*				none
6d. S.Govt	?	*								*
" SGv FRAME 3 or 4 or 5		*		*						*
1/- plate (1) & 1/8d	(1,1)	*				*				none
1/- S.Govt	(1)	*								*
1/8 S.Govt	pr.(1,1)	*								*
2/- & 2/8 both	(1,1)	*				*				none
2/- & 2/8 SGv	(1,1)	*				*				*
5/- & 10/- both	(1,1)	*				*				none
5/- & 10/- SGv	(1,1)	*				*				*

pr. = probably * = exists (1) or (1,1) is UNNUMBERED plate(s) 1 or 1,1; while "1" is NUMBERED plate 1
O1 & O4 are at the top and bottom of COLUMN No. 6 O5 & O7 are at the top and bottom of COLUMN No. 5
O6 & O2 are at the left and right of ROW No. 3 O5 & O3 are at the left and right of ROW No. 4
There are 3 MID MARGINAL CIRCLES at "Standard" distance & 1 Mid-Marginal CROSS at "Near" distance
() There are 4 MID-MARGINAL CIRCLES, 3 CIRCLES are at "STD" distance and 1 at "Near" distance.

Pane B shows:- X1 cross, S2 CIRCLE, S3 CIRCLE, S4 CIRCLE

The ½d. brown plate 4 is known with both panes A & B. The 1d. green plate 2 is only known to me as pane B, but pane A is presumed to exist.

The 2d. red unnumbered plate (1) is interesting and different from the other two values discussed. When first issued both in the black and red colours the sheets had 4 mid-marginal crosses, X1 to X4. Mr. Richard Lockyer in his February 1988 Gibbons Stamp Monthly article mentioned that the pane with 4th state "Curl Flaw", also shows traces of many "T" marks within the sheet and especially on R6/7 (his figs.12 & 14). This same pane is known with all 4 mid-marginal crosses, S1 to S4, one in the centre of EACH margin; and is the only recorded example of this "layout". It is my opinion that the new mid-marginal CIRCLES were superimposed upon the previous mid-marginal CROSSES as traces of the cross still remain.

Circle and "T" Marks

There are 5 possible combinations of these marginal Circle and "T" marks. (going clockwise and starting in top margin):-

- (i) NONE at all (despite wide margins) eg. ½ Green plate 3
- (ii) At 01, 02, 04 & 06 eg. 1d. Grey Self Government plate 4
- (iii) At 01, 03, 04 & 05 eg. 2d. Yellow-Ochre Self Government plate 3
- (iv) At 08, 02, 07 & 06 eg. Cyprus 4 piastres King George VI plate 1
- (v) At 08, 03, 07 & 05 eg. 2d. Yellow-Ochre Self Government plate 4

PLATE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES.

The fascinating task is to find, if possible, the plate number of your imprint block (s). It is possible that other marginal blocks can be plated too. These features add much interest to your collection and should be bought whenever you find them. The Malta 2d Yellow-ochre Self government is especially interesting as we shall see.

First see if the face value/colour combination comes from a single plate(s). The list is:-

½d. & ¼d. S.G. both plate (1); 1d. Brown plate (1); 1d. Grey SG plate 4; 1½d. Red & 1½d. Black (NO S.G.) both plate (1); 2d. Black & 2d. Red (NO S.G.) plate (1); 2½d. All are plate (1); 3d. Violet (NO S.G.) plate (1); 3d. S.G. both colours plate 2; 4½d. Blue frame SG plate (1) 3; 1/- plate (1); 1/6d. (NO S.G.) plate (1); Lastly 2/- & 2/6d & 5/- & 10/- all are plate (1).

Second look for the presence of MID-MARGINAL CIRCLES, S1 to S4, which distinguish these plates:- 1/2 Brown Plate 4. 1d. Green Plate 2. 2d. Red Plate 1, from a late printing. The position of these circles is very obvious and an easy plate identification feature. See the Illustrations.

Third look at the IMPRINT Distances, IM, which distinguish the following plates:-

1d. Green S.G. OR Grey S.G. (either colour)	
	6.5 mm for plate 4
1½d. Green Self Government	6.25 mm for plate 3
2d. Yellow Self Government	9.0 mm for plate 2
" " " "	6.5 mm for both plates 3 and 4
3d. Violet OR Blue (either colour)	9 mm for plate (1)
" " " "	7.25 mm for plate 2
4½d. Yellow-Brown frame	9 mm for plate (1)
" " " "	6.5 mm for plate 2
" Blue frame Self Government	6.5 mm for plate 3
6d. Red frame	9mm for plate (1)
	9.5 mm for plate 2
" " " Self Government	
	6 mm for undetermined plate (s)
	Either frame plates 3, 4 and/or 5

Once again most of these changes are very easy to distinguish without a ruler or measure.

Fourth determine the position of CIRCLE and "T" marks on blocks with the near imprint distance (6.5mm)

2d. Yellow Ochre Self Government	01 and 04 plate 3
	08 and 07 plate 4

On these Imprint blocks, the circle is below "E.C" 04 for plate 3; and below "Wat" 07 for plate 4. This is very obvious indeed with no need for a glass. See the illustrations.

Much less obvious, if the top margin circle is left of centre 08, determined from position of the vertical line L1, then it is from plate 4. If it is right of centre 01 then it could be either plates 2 or 3.

Fifth is the presence of VARIETIES.

1d. Green OR Grey, Strengthened Top Frame Line	
	plate 4
1½d. Red OR Black, Broken Cross	plate (1)
" Black OR Green, Small Inverted ? L.R. Corner	plate 2
2d. Black OR Red, Extra Windows	plate (1)
" Yellow Self Government, Cracked Plate flaw	plate 2
" " " " Halation flaw	plate 2
3d. Blue, Extra Window	plate 2
2/6d. Damaged Value Tablet	the only plate (1,1)
5/- Semaphore flaw (sideways T mark)	sole plate (1,1)

APPROXIMATE DATING GUIDE

For the King George VI issues the following is an approximate guide to-date.

Plates First Engraved during:-

1938-1945	
plates have Mid-Marginal CROSSES	X1 to X4
1944-1947	
a few plates have Mid-Marginal CIRCLES	S1 to S4
1947 onwards	
plates have Circles and Ts	01, 02, 04 & 06
1954 on,	
plates have Circles and Ts	01, 03, 04 & 05
1995 on	
plates have Circles and Ts	EITHER 08, 02, 07 & 06
	OR 08, 03, 07 & 05

PANE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The challenge for collectors of Waterlow printed issues is to distinguish the left and right panes of the single colour printed values. A careful examination must be made of either (1) varieties on the stamps, or (2) differences in the marginal markings.

I have found much interest and enjoyment in collecting MATCHED PAIRS, one from each pane. This will be difficult but greatly enhances any collection.

Arbitrary Classification of-	Pane "A"	Pane "B"
a) Presence of Mid Marginal CRICLES S1 & S3 Mid Margin Circle in CENTRE of	TOP Margin, S1	BOTTOM Margin, S3
b) Vertical Position of Mid Margin CROSS and of Circle & T		

Stamp	Mid Margin Cross	Pane "A"	Pane "B"
1d. Brown plate 1	X3 is at	12.5mm	17.5mm
1d. Green plate 1	X3 is at	12.5mm	17.5mm
2½d Blue or Violet or Red	X3 is at	12.5mm	16.0mm
2½d Blue or Violet or Red	04 Circle & T is at	11.5mm	15.5mm
3d. Blue or Violet plate 2	04 Circle & T is at	13.0mm	16.0mm

(imprint @ 7.25mm)

Quoted distances are from bottom frame line.

There is some evidence to suggest that the following happens:-

Pane "A" has Top Margin features WIDER, & Bottom Margin features CLOSER.
 Pane "B" has " " " CLOSER, " " " WIDER.

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Any comments, corrections and additions are very welcome via the editor. The author appreciates any help towards completion of this study.

References

- (a) "Malta The Postal History & Postage Stamps 1576-1960". Malta Study Circle Handbook. Edited by R.E. Martin and published by Robson Lowe in 1980.
 (b) "The Cyprus Circular Post" (Journal of the Cyprus Study Circle). Vol. V No.3 January 1985. Article entitled "Waterlow Printed Definitives 1934-1955" by Geoffrey T. Davis.

