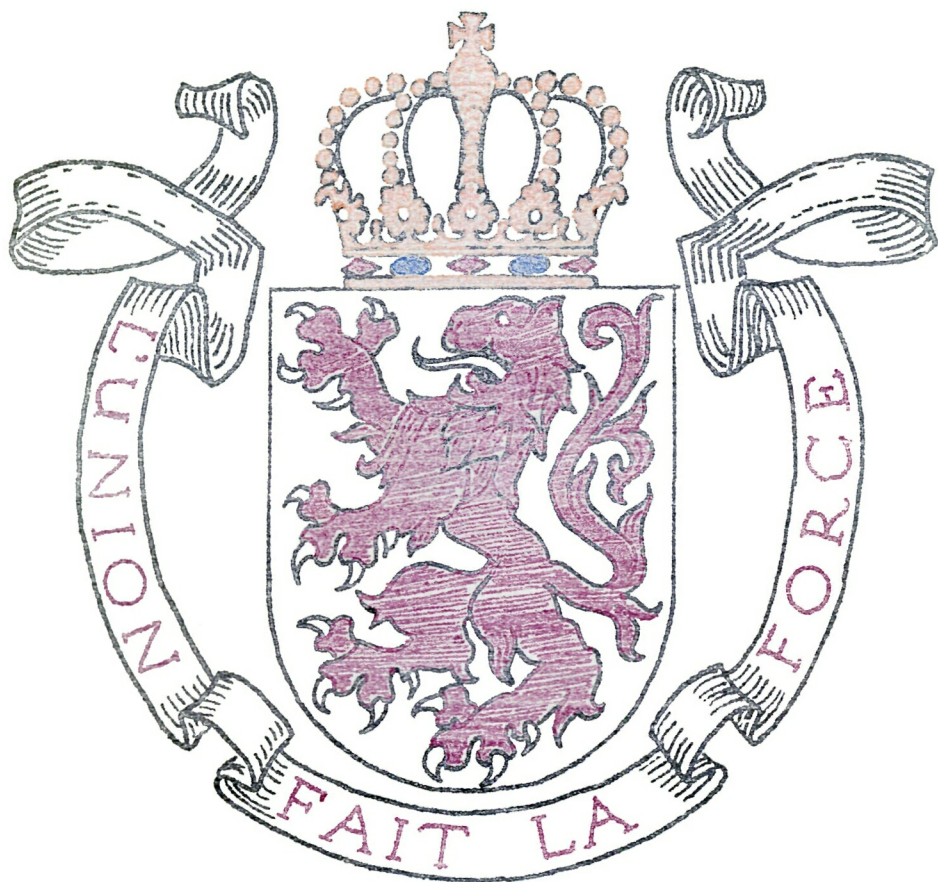


4/1957



C A T A L O G U E
of
DISPLAY to the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON
by
THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE
Thursday, February 28th, 1957

INVITED DISPLAY by the BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

to the

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.1. February 28th 1957

It is regretted that space does not permit a complete specialised showing of all stamps issued by Belgium since 1849. We have endeavoured, however, in the fifty Frames available, to give an overall view of the stamps of the Country with particular emphasis on issues where specialised study has been carried out.

Officers of the Belgian Study Circle 1957.

President	H.C. Green, F.R.P.S.L.
Chairman	S.J. Andrews
Secretary	O.C. Loader
Librarian	A.G. Wood
Packet Superintendent	A.L. Soulsby
News Letter Editor	S.J. Andrews.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London

41 DEVONSHIRE PLACE,

LONDON, W.1.

February 4th, 1957

DEAR SIR,

The tenth meeting of the season will be held on **February 28th, 1957** when a display of the **Postal History and Stamps of BELGIUM** will be given by the **Belgium Stamp Study Circle**.

A cordial invitation is extended to friends of the Exhibitors and members of the Anglo-Belgium Union.

The meeting opens at 2.30 p.m. and closes at 6 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

L. J. GILBERT-LODGE,

Hon. Secretary.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

Frame
No.

- 1-2. Pre-adhesives. Prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of Belgium in 1830, the Low Countries came under several dominations and were the scene of frequent campaigns. The periods of domination or occupation are Burgundian (1383-1477), Spanish Hapsburg (1477-1712), Austrian Hapsburg (1712-94), Revolutionary French (1794-1815), Dutch (1815-30). These two Frames show examples of marks from all these except the Burgundian period - the earliest letter being dated 1484 from Bruges. Also shown are pre-adhesive markings of the Kingdom prior to the introduction of adhesive postage stamps.
3. "The Epaulettes", 10c and 20c issued on 1st July 1949. The Dies were engraved by John Henry Robinson after a painting of King Leopold I by Charles Baugniet. In this frame are shown some of the many contemporary plate proofs - the range of shades for both values and some of the major printing varieties. In particular should be noted the strip of four 20c stamps on cover showing the four similar printing varieties on stamps Nod.151-4 in the sheet.
- 4-7. "The Medallions". The second of the classic issues of Belgium, which was adapted from the design of the Epaulettes.
4. This Frame shows the various attempts at adaptation leading up to the accepted new design. Examples are given of contemporary plate proofs, and colour trials, also of the 1929 reimpresions from the "working" plate.
5. Here is shown the full range of values in this issue, including watermarked and unwatermarked issues and the introduction of perforations.
6. The Perforations of the Medallion issue are themselves a very interesting study, and this Frame shows some of the perforation varieties to be found.
7. Several Plates were used for the printing of all four values of the Medallion issue, and many Plate varieties occur. This Frame shows examples of some of the most recognisable varieties, and in some cases explanations of their causes. In particular should be noted the "Circle" varieties and the very rare grilled watermark paper.

- 8-9. Postal Markings on Epaulettes and Medallions. With the introduction of postage stamps were also introduced special marks intended for the cancellation of such stamps
8. This Frame shows examples of some of the types of cancellations employed by the Bureaux de Perceptions and Distributions. Mention should be made of the several rare cancellations used at times at Bruxelles and the "Rebut" mark on the last sheet in the Frame.
9. In this Frame are shown examples of some of the more unusual marks - Rural postman's marks, Relai office marks, Transit marks and the T.P.O. marks. Belgium first ran a Trial T.P.O. Service in 1840, and amongst items shown are the only five covers known in England bearing these early T.P.O. marks. Also illustrated are the views of the Belgian Study Circle as to other marks used on early trial T.P.O. lines.
10. 1865 Issue printed by Messrs. De la Rue. Attempts in Belgium to produce typograph stamps of two colours with final printing in England for the 1865 issue. Early proofs in 1862 by three artists are followed by the entries for the 1864 "Concours". At the end are the Joubert unadopted and adopted die proofs with colour trials of Messrs. De la Rue. These essays and dies are only to be found in very few collections.
11. 1869 Issue. With the death of King Leopold I in 1865, new stamps were required and Messrs. De la Rue submitted a design the following year. This was not accepted, and after several essays by Belgian Engravers the designs of H. Hendrickx were accepted. This Frame shows a die proof of the De la Rue Essay signed by Warren de la Rue, and various proofs of the accepted Hendrickx design. The issue is of particular interest from the shade point of view, as aniline die inks were introduced in the later printings of the issue.
12. The Forgeries of the 5 Fr. 1878. This is the most forged stamp of all the many Belgian issues, and this Frame contains a selection from a specialised study of these forgeries. One page of genuine stamps is included for reference purposes.

13. The Issue of 1883. October 1883. Messrs. De la Rue were again called in for new stamps. Six values were produced but only the four lower values issued. Note the hand painted Artist's drawing of the 50c. Originally designed for 1 Fr., Chinese white has been used to alter the value. Die proofs are shown; before hardening and after hardening, and after striking. Unadopted designs and colour trials are also shown, and the stamps were printed at Malines from the British made plates.
- 14-15. "Arms of the Kingdom" and "Small Beard" stamps of 1893 - 1900. A seemingly uninteresting issue, the study of which has been greatly neglected. The stamps, as is the case with most surface-printed ones, provide fruitful and intriguing material for considerable research. A unique issue, being the first to be bi-lingually inscribed and the first to have attached the "Not to be delivered on Sunday" label, a device never used by any other Country. In these two Frames a few of the stamps are exhibited.
- 16-17. The "Pellens" 1912 issue. As a result of the Germans looting the Belgian Printing Works at Malines and flooding the market with these stamps, they have never been popular. Except for an article in the "Philatliste Belge" by Paul de Smeth, published in 1939, little has been written about the issue, and of course official records were lost in the 1914-1918 War. Recent studies in Belgium and this Country have, however, revealed interesting details in the method of plate production of these stamps which are shown here. Of course, their wartime use opens up a vast field for the Postal Historian.
- 18-19. 1914-15 Red X Issues. These comprise three issues in all each of three values. The first two issues, the "Merode Monument" set and the "Small Head" set, were printed in Antwerp prior to the fall of that City on 9th October 1914. The "large head" set was printed in England. Items shown include proofs, abnormal perforations, postmarks, forgeries and blocks.

- 20-22. 1915 Issue. The study of this issue has been confined mainly to the typographed values, but the fact that the 5c Die la was not distinguished until 1940 illustrates the difficulties met with owing to the destruction of official records and the reticence of the Printers. This issue is unrivalled for the student of typography. At least three different methods were used in producing the printing plates for the various dies. There is a great range of shades and the postmark enthusiast has unlimited scope.
- 23-24. The German Occupation 1914-18 The portion of Belgium occupied by the Germans during the First World War was divided into three main areas for administrative purposes (i) the Front Line (ii) the "Western Rear Area" of the Germany Army (iii) the General Government area. The Western Rear Area was the zone of manoeuvre, stores and reassembly and corresponded with the Lines of Communication area. These Frames show some of the many interesting marks on post from this area.
25. The Postal Markings of Unoccupied Belgium 1914-18. A portion of Belgium remained unoccupied throughout the War, and here Belgian civilian posts continued to operate. This Frame gives examples of the marks to be found originating from this area, as well as marks from places elsewhere where Belgian posts operated.
26. The Belgian Expeditionary Force in Russia 1914-18. With the establishment of a comparatively static front in the mud of Flanders, Belgium was unable to use properly her mobile machine gun corps (Auto-cannons-Mitrailleuses) and as a consequence this body was despatched to the Russian front. The Frame shows part of a study of postal markings appearing on correspondence from members of this Corps.

27-28. Re-occupation of Belgium 1918-19. On October 22nd 1918 the advance back into occupied Belgium started, and the Government assumed the responsibility for the re-establishment of a civilian postal service. The initial shortage of postage stamps entailed the payment of postage over the counter in cash and the marking of an envelope with the words "Port Payé". Miscellaneous cancellations were also in use until official new postmarks were issued.

29-30. The 1919 "Tin Hat" Issue. First issue of July 1919 as "Stamps of the Liberation" have been very closely studied by the Belgian Study Circle, and many new varieties determined. First printed in Haarlem as the Malines works had been destroyed by the Germans. The 10c and 15c were first printed in sheets of twenty-five, possibly because paper this size was to be used up. Afterwards one hundred stamp sheets were used. All values, except the 40c, occur with at least two perforations.

31-33 "Montenez" Issue 1921 - 1925. So named after the Belgian Georges Montenez, who designed and engraved the dies. The six values 50c. to Fr.10 printed at Haarlem bear a finely engraved portrait of King Albert. The design, matched only by that for the "Medallion" stamp, exhibits one of the most creditable issues of the Country. Being recess printed, the stamps furnish a straightforward yet extensive study. A small selection is shown in these three frames.

34-35 25th January 1929. Two designers, Mauquoy and Montenez, were employed using typographic and recess processes respectively. The Frames show the enormous amount of trouble taken to obtain the necessary type and shade. Note three signed proofs taken as the engraver built up the design. Colour shades emphasise this side. The "Frs" being French plural only necessitated the "s" being omitted in the stamps. The second Frame illustrates Mauquoy's many designs with original "pulls" taken for him.

36. 1935 "Queen Astrid" Issues. The tragic death of Queen Astrid was commemorated by the issue, on 31st October 1935, of a single stamp value 70c + 5c showing the Queen's portrait from the photograph by Marchand. The same design was adopted for the Anti-tuberculosis issue of that year, and seven further values were issued. All stamps appeared with a black border. The issue is at present being studied by some of the Members of the Belgian Study Circle.
37. 1936-52 "State Seal" Issue. For some fifteen years the centime value postage stamps appeared in this design. The original set consisted of eight values, but later, with the change of postal rates, other values were added. Over the years of printing shades of colour abound as well as printing varieties. In particular, note is drawn to the variety "extra tail" on the ermine hanging which appears on all values and establishes that a common die was used. The issue is in course of study by the Belgian Study Circle.
38. 1936-52 the "Poortmann" Issue. Named after its engraver Maurice and Poortmann, the design of this issue ranks with the Medallion and Montenez issues. Seven values appeared in 1936, but with changes in postal rates some values were overprinted and new values appeared. The issue provides a study in shades of printing ink and types of gum used. Particular attention is drawn to a remarkable printing variety which appeared on the 10 Franc stamp in its 1951 (sheets of 50) printing.
- Pt. 39. Occupation 1940-45. Liberation 1945. These six pages show by postal markings on covers some of the various means by which civilian correspondence was maintained in this period between Belgium and Great Britain. Particular note is drawn to the use of P.O. Box 506 via Portugal.

40. 1946 the "Van Acker Overprints. In May 1946 as an anti-inflation measure, immediate reduction of 10% in postage and rail rates was introduced by M. Van Acker, the Prime Minister. On 16th May Postmasters were instructed to handstamp stocks of certain value postage stamps which they had in hand - some 480 different hand-overprints exist. In addition to the 1.Fr.50 2 Fr. and 5 Fr. values of the set "Leopold with V and crown" which were then the normal issue, values of earlier issues also received the overprints at some offices.

41-42. Charity and Commemorative Issues. Perhaps more than any other Country Belgium has used postage stamps with a charity surcharge as a means of raising funds for various charitable organisations. Annually, since 1925, a set has been issued in aid of the Anti-tuberculosis fund, other funds have been assisted frequently, and Frame 41 shows some of the several issues in aid of the fund for the rebuilding of Orval Abbey. Frame 42 shows a selection of the many other sets, some with Charity surcharge, others being of a purely commemorative nature.

43-44. Postage Due Issues. This Frame covers all issued Postage Dues and the unissued types of January 1870. The 10c, first issue, has been thoroughly explored, but much is unknown of the 20c. For the 1919 September set the Frames of the 1916 stamps were used as shown by similar errors. For the printing of the 5c and 10c values, it has recently been shown that two frame plates were used, similar except that the original plate has been divided vertically and rebuilt with one plate having the vertical sections changed right to left.

45. Railway Postmarks. In 1879 a Railway Parcel Post Service was introduced and with it special Railway Stamps. The Railway network was partly owned by the State and partly by Private Companies under concession. Each Station had its postmark for cancellation of the stamps, and these varied according to the Private Company concerned. At first the Station name only appeared; from about 1885 the Company's name was included in the mark. The Frame shows examples of marks used with an accept on the "Nord-Belge" line which operated the important section of line from Liege to Namur and Charleroi to Erquelines until as late as 1940.

46. Stamp Booklet Issues 1907 - 1940. These issues fall into three periods:-

1. From 1907 to 1914 privately printed ones were sold priced Fr.2 and Fr.5. Proceeds from the interleaved advertisements were entirely devoted to the Funds of the Tuberculosis Sanitorium of La Hulpe Waterloo.

2. In 1928-9 two Firms, Agence Rossel and Au Bon Marche, each privately issued two booklets priced Fr.9 and Fr. 21 respectively.

3. From 1930 to 1940 Official Booklets were on sale at Post Offices variously priced from Fr.3 to Fr.23. All these contained Advertisement Labels.

A small number of items appear in this Frame. No booklets have been issued since the last War.

47. Airmail Posts. Special Postmarks were introduced at several "Rallys" held in Belgium - the first at Spa in September-October 1909. The first attempt at a regular service was in 1920 from Bruxelles to Paris, after a trial period in 1919. This Frame gives examples of covers carried on the many regular air routes since established, including routes to the Belgian Congo.

48. Helicopter Posts. Belgium first carried out trials on 5th July 1947, whilst in 1950 a regular circular route was introduced. From then on regular Helicopter services were introduced from Bruxelles to several Continental Cities, and it is about to be extended to London. The Helicopter Station in Bruxelles is at L'Allée Verte, beside the site of the first Railway Station. The Frame includes covers flown on the trial flights and on most of the inauguration flights.

49. Forgeries. Many stamps have been forged at different times, and this Frame gives examples of some of these with the genuine stamp for comparison.

50. Local Issues of Moresnet. The Frame contains a small study of the postal history of this little known piece of territory on the German Frontier. A "Local" stamp with an amusing background was introduced in 1886 and was followed by a more serious issue which only remained in issue for a few days. Ultimately, the neutral territory was recognised having both a Belgian Post Office and a German Post Office each with its own postal cancellation.

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The material shown in this Display has been provided from the Collections of the following Members of the Circle:-

S.J. Andrews
H.C. Armstrong
B.L. Barker
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A. Cuigniez
J. Gibbs
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