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Dimensions for MSs

- ☑ no central scan archives
- ☑ rarely in catalogs with images except on this site if available.
- ☑ primarily visible via auctions and private collections

1. Overview of MS formats in Belgium (practically useful)

Let's be honest, a ministerial sheet is not a stamp, not even from a distance; it does not belong in a stamp catalog, perhaps not even in a philatelic one, although there may be debate about that. In fact, it is a glorified blueprint, a collector's item to have alongside the issued stamps.

"Minister sheets" are black-and-white printed images of issued stamps.
They usually have a relatively small print run and, bearing a dry stamp, are distributed by the post to high-ranking personalities and, nowadays, sometimes also to subscribers of stamp issues.

⚠ Important beforehand:
There exists**no fully official uniform list** (even bpost does not publish these systematically), so this is based on**philatelic practice + catalogs**.

MS- Blocks and booklets usually have approximately the same dimensions as the actual dimensions in editions.
These are therefore indicated in the albums by note at the top of the MS (±)
From ±Y2002 (?) the stamps of the same series are sometimes grouped on a single MS, which makes creating an album difficult if one does not know the correct dimensions (or scans).
Separate MS versions of these series may possibly also have been released (???)

Period 1 — Very old ministerial sheets (1/7/1848 ▶ 7/1866)

Stamps No. :1 ▶ 2 with braided lines
📐 **Standard: 150 × 178 mm**

Period 2 — Old ministerial sheets (17.10.1849-50 ▶ 19.07.1919)

Stamps No. :**3 ▶ 178** With dry stamp ▶



📐 **Standard: 150 × 178 mm**
also unstamped proof copies and special editions such as:
- Unaccepted type
- Without value indication
- Without appendix or only appendix
- etc. (see in albums and inventories)

Period 3 — Old classic ministerial sheets (20.05.1920 ▶ 01.12.1932)

Stamps No. :**179 ▶ 362** With dry stamp
📐 **Standard: 150 × 178 mm** but also 140 × 140 mm (see in albums and inventories)
also unstamped proof copies and special editions such as:
- Unaccepted type
- Without value indication
- Without appendix or only appendix
- Also in color (130 x 185 mm / 150 x 178 mm / 140 x 190 mm (Publisher De Bast Privé)
- etc. (see in albums and inventories)

Period 4a — Classic ministerial sheets (15.10.1933 ▶ 01.12.1939)

Stamps No. : **363 ▶ 526** With dry stamp
📐 **Standard: 140 × 140 mm** 📐 **150 × 178 mm (slight variations)**
✔ Very consistent
✔ **Almost all subsequent MV's follow this format**
👉 **This is the "reference standard"**

Period 4 b— Classic ministerial sheets (01.01.1940 ▶ 01.12.1954)

Stamps No. : **527 ▶ 960** With dry stamp
📐 **Standard: 140 × 140 mm** but also exceptionally different sizes (see in albums and inventories)
✔ Very consistent

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Dimensions for MSs

Period 4c— Classic ministerial sheets (01.01.1940▶01.12.1954)

Stamps No. : **961▶1171** With dry stamp

Standard: 140 × 140 mm but also exceptionally different sizes (see in albums and inventories)

Very consistent

Period 4d— Classic ministerial sheets (15.02.1955▶13.12.1960)

Stamps No. : **961▶1171** With dry stamp

Standard: 140 × 140 mm

Very consistent

Period 4— Classic ministerial sheets (20.03.1961▶23.12.1965)

Stamps No. : **1174▶1359** With dry stamp

Standard: 140 × 140 mm

Very consistent

Period 5 — Transitional period (12.02.1966▶19.12.1979)

Stamps No. : **1360▶1960** With dry stamp

140 × 140 mm (remains)

150 × 200 mm ?(first larger versions)

Cause: different printing techniques, larger graphic margins

Period 6 — Diversification (26.01.1980–▶31.12.2001)

Stamps No. : **1961▶3049** With dry stamp

This is where the real variation begins:

Square

140 × 140 mm (remains)

Rectangular

other versions incl.: 150 × 100mm, 215 x 140mm, etc...

Often associated with: thematic issues, commemorations

Period 7 — Modern period (01.01.2001▶10.11.2007)

Stamps No. : **3050▶3740** With dry stamp

No more standard

140 × 140 mm (remains)

165 × 165 mm

170 × 170 mm

180 × 180 mm (occurs)

variable rectangular

Extra features: wider margins, design plays a bigger role, sometimes almost a “mini-poster”

Period 8 — A4 period (19.01.2008▶10.11.2011)

Stamps No. : **3741▶4193** With or without dry stamp & with minimalist post horn stamp

standard single A4 size

END OF ISSUE OF MV's until the end of 2011