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introduction & site formating

introduction

INFO on MS ministerial sheets:

Let's be honest, a minister sheet is not a stamp, not even remotely; it doesn't belong in a stamp catalogue, perhaps not even in a philatelic one, although that is open to debate. In fact, it is a glorified blueprint, a little trinket to go with or alongside the issued stamps.

"Minister sheets" are black-and-white printed images of issued stamps.

They are usually produced in relatively small quantities and, bearing a dry stamp, are distributed by the post office to dignitaries and, nowadays, sometimes also to subscribers to stamp issues.

From 2008 onwards, they were issued in A4 format, with a stamp or block on the same theme on a single sheet.

They are therefore not offered for sale and can be regarded as promotional gifts.

In the Belgian Official Stamp Catalogue, they are listed with their value at the bottom of the description for each issue, preceded by the abbreviation MV/FM (Ministerial Sheet).

The last MS was awarded on 2 November 2011



For further information, see:	▶ MV-info - FM info - MS info
For MS print runs and circulation figures, see:	▶ MV-oplagen & zeldzaamheid - FM-Tirages et rareté - MS print runs & rarity postzegelalbum-be
For dimensions, see:	▶ MV Afmetingen - FM Mesurements - MS Dimentions

Note: if the actual MV is not available, proofs may be shown.

Aim

This unique section of the website on MSs has been made possible by a great deal of research, a subject on which, surprisingly, very little in-depth writing has been done.

A genuine comparative study with foreign equivalents is a rare sight or not at all.

Free digital albums and inventory lists of Belgian ministerial sheets.

Individual free blank albums with inventory lists for collectors.

Focus exclusively on Belgium.

This could well be a first within this field of collecting.

International comparisons

Although the project remains Belgian in scope, the following equivalents may be briefly mentioned:

France: Épreuves de luxe (luxury proofs).

Germany: Gedenkblätter and Erinnerungsblätter.

Luxembourg: luxury and commemorative blocks.

United Kingdom: Deluxe Proof Cards.

United States: Presentation Cards, Die Proofs and Plate Proofs.

Conclusion:

Belgium appears to be one of the few countries where ministerial sheets have developed into a separately catalogued field of collecting

Unique value of the project

A very long-term research project.

Reliable information gathered on the earliest ministerial sheets up to and including 1960.

Not merely an album, but also documentation of a little-studied field of collecting.

Considerably more detail than the brief entries in the OSC catalogues.

Album contents

For each ministerial sheet:

MV number

subject

year (stamp issue + any information from Folders and Philanews)

scan (if available)

known print run

comments

One blank album per set

Contents of the inventory album (Pdf & Excel format)

number

subject

provide cells for 'own' and 'duplicate'

purchase price (optional)

comments

Conclusion

Despite their special place within Belgian philately, ministerial sheets have been studied only to a limited extent. Apart from the entries in the OBP catalogues, there is little compiled documentation. This album aims to provide an overview of

Personal conclusion

The project is not a standard collection catalogue, but rather a reference work for a highly specialised area of Belgian philately. This makes it potentially unique and useful for future collectors.

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The ministerial sheets are designated 'MV': e.g. MV-808 for stamp No. 808

In album and inventory ▶	2/02/1948	=▶ the date of issue of the stamp in question on the MS
In inventory ▶	◀scan	=▶ missing scan of the MS
In album ▶	◀M	=▶ missing scan of the MS
In inventory ▶	◀?scan?	=▶ missing scan of the MS, if it exists
In album ▶	◀M?	=▶ missing scan of the MS, if it exists
In album ▶	stating ▶	scan =proefdruk opstelling? - scan=feuillet d'essai? - scan=ministerial proof sheet?
In inventory ▶	◀?⚠?	=▶ bad scan of the MS
In album ▶	◀M⚠	=▶ bad scan of the MS
In album ▶	◀?scan?▒?	=▶ uncertainty regarding the dimensions of the MS
In inventaris ▶	◀M?▒?	=▶ uncertainty regarding the dimensions of the MS
example of MV designation ▶	MV-202-/18x°	=▶ MS of stamp No. 202: 18 types, numbered
	MV-115 | 115 | B & BL + ...	▶ =▶ MV from stamp N°. 115 | =▶▶ MV of B, BL & F... + exeptions (NA-NI-ØV-...KC-...Pw↑-...|=|- ... [ ])
In album ▶	90°	=▶ MS has been rotated by 90°
Exempleof désig MS ▶	§	=▶ MS is signed

▼For MS 3▶435, specific MSs have been highlighted and described as set out below▼

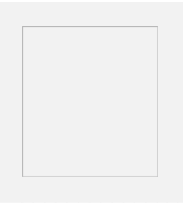
special notices ▶

⚫/18x°= 18x numbered MSs ⚫ Ø° = none° ⚫ ØV= Ø value indication ⚫ NA◀= types not accepted ⚫ NI◀= types not issued ⚫ ┬↑ = MS without strip ⚫ ┴↓= = MS with strip only C ⚫ PC = postcard ⚫ KC = in color ⚫ ZW= in black and white ⚫ Med = medallion only ⚫ § = overprint only ⚫ \|═\| = centre section only ⚫ [ ] = frame only ⚫V↕ with the two values shown enlarged ⚫=Pw↑▶W/B/W↑= whiter papier ⚫▇ = MS dimension ⚫~~xxx~~ ▶ = not in le OSC

examples ▶

MV-190-/18°	=▶ ⚫/18x°= 18x numbered MSs
MV-317 Ø°	=▶ ⚫ **Ø° = no ° (no numbered MVs)**
MV-ØV(190-210)	=▶ ⚫ ØV= Ø value designation
MV-NI(15c)-(187)	= ▶ ⚫ NI◀= types not issued
NA(50cx+50c)	=▶ ⚫ NA◀= types not accepted
MV-┬↑-(53▶56)	=▶ ⚫ ┬↑ = MSw ithout suffix
MV-┴↓-(53▶67)	=▶ ⚫ ┴↓= = MS with suffix only
MV-256-KC- /18x°	=▶ ⚫ KC = MS in colour
MV-166▶ZW	=▶ ⚫ ZW= MS in black and white
MV-Med.-(135-▶149)(???-???)	=▶ ⚫ Med = MS with medallion only
MV-§(272A▶272K)	=▶ ⚫ § = MS with overprint only
MV-182 |═|	=▶ ⚫ |═| = MS with centrepiece only
MV-182 [ ]	=▶ ⚫ [ ] = MS with frame only
MV-276-Pw↑	=▶ ⚫=Pw↑▶W/B/W↑= MS on whiter paper
⚫▒	=▶ ⚫V↕ = MS with the two denominations enlarged
⚫V↕	=▶ ⚫▇= MS dimensions
~~xxx~~	=▶ ~~xxx~~ ▶ = not in OSC
☺	=▶☺ = blanco albums

example album layout



Usually divided into 2 MSs per sheet

◀This large grey box represents the probable dimensions of the MS

◀The smaller grey box in the centre represents the probable dimensions of the miising MS at ± 70%

— specific MSs have been highlighted and described , see: (EN) invent.

Lots of reading and collecting pleasure

MZ