

Belgian black-and-white small sheets : INFO

General observation regarding black-and-white small sheets: :

The observations of black-and-white small sheets can sometimes be rather confusing across different sources. Hopefully, the information below will provide greater clarity.

This site finally brings the black-and-white small sheets to the fore

It has been a long-term project in album form, complete with inventory lists

There are no lists available online except for the **ZNP, ZNE, GCA, GCB & GCD series**; however, there are no scans in the **OSC - ZW** (only listed, not numbered)

Strictly speaking, **MVs** are also black-and-white sheets but are different (see the entry on **MVs**)

Belgian black-and-white small sheets – overview by series

Note: the table below has been compiled from public records of OSC references. For a complete official overview, including catalogue values, the latest OSC catalogue remains the authority (please check for any errors)

In general, black-and-white small sheets are reproductions of one or more stamps printed in black and white on a sheet, with or without a postmark (dry postmark, post horn ink postmark, sometimes in different variants). They were issued by Bpost or other bodies (see below for the different types).

The various postmarks on different black-and-white small sheets:



© bpost



1 Dry stamp “De Post / La Poste / Die Post”



2 Printed bpost stamp (also known as the “flat-printed bpost logo”)



3 Stamp without the bpost logo (Philapost)



4 Black post horn stamp – Post in 3 languages



5 Minimalist post horn stamp



6 Grey post horn stamp – Post in 3 languages **3**

General note on the meanings of the abbreviations

These abbreviations appear in OSC but were not specified in the ‘symbols and abbreviations used’ lists

There are countless interpretations of the meaning of the various abbreviations on the internet and found via AI, including:

ZNP: Zwart Niet-Postzegel; Zwart Niet-Perforé / zwart-wit proef ;+ Zwart Niet-getand Proefvelletje; Zonder Naam-en-Emissie;Gaufre du Coin Artistique-Zonder Naam-en-Prijs; Zwart-wit Non-Prior; Zwart-wit Normale Postzegels

ZNE = Zwart Niet-Emissie; Zwart-wit Nieuwe-Emissies; Zwart-Wit tentoonstellingsbladen

GCA = black-and-white small sheets for regular subscribers (“subscription sheets”); een Zwart-Wit velletje (Gekartonneerd); Gaufre du Coin Artistique; Graphic Computer A; Groot Cliché A

GCB = black-and-white mini-sheets from the bpost yearbook; Graphic Computer A; Large Cliché B

GCD = coloured mini-sheets (colour issues as opposed to black-and-white); Graphic Computer D; Large Cliché Double

DOT = usually used for documentary or thematic commemorative issues (less standardised; meaning sometimes varies by catalogue); Digital Optical Technology; Print-on-Draw

The text marked through is most likely untrue:

© bpost

© bpost

▼ See therefore the likely correct (and most readily available and logical) interpretation below (►►) ▼

Black-and-white small sheets (ZW series)

● ZW series – Black-and-white sheets

With postmarks:

1 Dry stamp “De Post / La Poste / Die Post”

Type: mechanical embossing.

Characteristic: tactile relief featuring the old Belgian coat of arms and trilingual text.

Period: 9 May 1987 ► 15 March 2010: **ZW1- (2251/52) ► ZW25- (BL179)** except for **ZW16- (BL91)** with 5 Minimalist post horn stamp

2 Printed bpost postmark (also referred to as the ‘planographic bpost logo’ in philatelic documentation)

Type: planographic (no relief, i.e. no embossing)

Colour: light grey

Text: BELGIË BPOST BELGIQUE BELGIEN in a circle

Logo: the bpost symbol in the centre

Period: from **ZW26 (BL194)** onwards and on subsequent **ZW** sheets

Function: replaces the former dry stamp; serves solely as visual identification of bpost



►► **ZW** stands for ‘Zwart-Wit’ (Black-White) in Dutch, just as in French ‘**NB**’ stands for ‘Noir-Blanc’: this series is not finite but is supplemented annually

These are listed in the OSC catalogue at the bottom of the series under **MV/MK** and **MK/CM** entries.

Unfortunately, no lists can be found in OSC or elsewhere on the internet. Please refer to the **ZW/NB** inventory lists on this site.

The first entry is **ZW1-(2251/52)** on 9 May 1987

These are ‘Europa-CEPT’ black-and-white sheets, with perhaps a few exceptions

These are sheets bearing the inscription ‘Europa’ which are not classified anywhere but belong to the classic black-and-white sheets **ZW/NB** designation

© M.Z

Belgian black-and-white small sheets (ZNP, ZNE, GCA, GCB series)

● ZNP series – Black-and-white small sheets from the postal diary

With postmarks: (in OSC, all with dry stamps??)

[1] Dry stamp ‘De Post / La Poste / Die Post’

Type: mechanical stamp impression (embossed stamp).

Characteristic: tactile embossing featuring the old Belgian coat of arms and a trilingual text.

Period: 1969 ► 1996: ZNP1- (1447) ► ZNP28-(2462/64)



[4] Black postmark featuring an image of a post horn

Type: postmark printed in black.

Period: 1997 ZNP29-NI- (2642/45) ► ZNP29-FR- (2642/45)

Characteristic: large black post horn with the text LA POSTE • DE POST • DIE POST.



[5] Minimalist postmark featuring a post horn

Type: postmark printed with a grid or dotted pattern.

Characteristic: just the post horn, without text, with a dotted border.

Period: 1998 ► 2011 ZNP30-(2230) ► ZNP43-(1427)



► ► ZNP stands for ZNP: Z = Zwart and wit; N = Noir and blanc; P = according to the Postagenda: this series is limited.

These were trial prints of designs that were not issued as actual postage stamps (for example, rejected designs or designs used exclusively as decorative prints).

Issued by Pro-Post in collaboration with Bpost

Usually, each sheet contains inscriptions in Dutch or French =► ▼ different sheets marked ZNP(NL) or ZNP(FR)

BLACK-AND-WHITE REPRODUCTIONS OF THE SPECIAL STAMPS ‘Name of the series’ ISSUED IN year

They are taken from the postal calendar: hence the perforated edge on the left-hand side. What is a postal calendar?

Year	No.+OSC No.	Note
------	-------------	------

In 1969	ZNP1-(1447)	1st
---------	-------------	-----

In 2011	ZNP43-(1427)	Last
---------	--------------	------

► ► What is a postal diary?

(This one you could buy through Bpost until 2010)

The **postal diary** was an annual diary published by the Belgian Post (later De Post, then bpost). It was primarily intended for:

- postal service staff;
- business customers and contacts;
- philatelists (stamp collectors);
- and was sometimes used as a promotional gift.

The diary usually contained:

- a calendar;
- postage rates;
- the addresses and contact details of the postal services;
- information on new stamp issues;
- historical and philatelic articles;
- photographs and illustrations of Belgian stamps and postal history.

The editions from the 1960s and 1970s were still published by the Post Office. For example, an advertisement for the 1969 Post Office Diary explicitly states ‘published by the Post Office’.

● **ZNE series: black-and-white small sheets from the exhibition catalogue**

►► stands for **ZNE**: **Z** = Zwart-and-wit; **N** =Noir-and-blanc; **E** = from the Exhibition catalogue: this series is likely to be limited.

Issued by Pro-Post in collaboration with Bpost

With postmarks: (in the OSC, all with a dry stamp??)

1 Dry stamp 'De Post / La Poste / Die Post'

Type: mechanical stamping (embossed stamp).

Characteristic: tactile embossing featuring the old Belgian coat of arms and a trilingual text.

Period: 1965 ► 2001: **ZNE1- (1349/50) ► ZNE13- (BL91)**



5 Minimalist postmark featuring a post horn

Type: postmark printed in halftone or with a dotted pattern.

Characteristic: solely the post horn, without text, with a dotted border.

Period: 1998 ► 2022 **ZNE14-(BL96) ► ZNE22BL315)**



Unlike the **ZNP** small sheets, the **ZNE** small sheets do not contain any text in Dutch or French.

Year	No. + OSC No.	Note
In 1965	ZNE1-(1349/50)	1st
In 2022	ZNE22-(BL315)	Last ??

►► What is a bpost **Exhibition Catalogue**?

The sheets that are given when purchasing an exhibition catalog at the big fairs, the last one was Antwerp 2022 Olympic Games.

A slight clarification: the term '**bpost Exhibition Catalogue**' was not used consistently throughout the entire period from 1965 to 2022. In Belgian philately, there are various types of publications that collectors sometimes group under the same heading:

- 1. Catalogues of philatelic exhibitions** (national and international exhibitions).
- 2. Annual catalogues of Belgian stamps.**
- 3. Issue and collection booklets** from De Post / bpost.
- 4. Special exhibition folders** sold at an event.

Consequently, it is not clear whether by 'Exhibition catalogue' you mean one specific annual series.

What was the purpose?

These catalogues were primarily intended for:

- stamp collectors;
- visitors to philatelic exhibitions;
- post offices with a philatelic service;
- dealers and experts.

They usually contained:

- images of the stamps issued;
- technical details (printer, print run, size);
- background articles;
- information on special postmarks and exhibitions;
- sometimes advertisements from stamp dealers.

© bpost

© bpost

GCA series (standard black-and-white sheets)

►► Stands for **GCA** ► **G** = ‘Gift’ (Dutch); **C** = ‘Cadeau’ (French); **A** = ‘Abonnés’ (French): this series is not finite but is supplemented annually

These are free gifts from Bpost featuring imperforated stamps and blocks, distributed with a standard or special (FDC; FDS) subscription?

With postmarks:

Stamped/printed (?) with an ink stamp featuring a post horn, with or without text; sometimes without a postmark.



GCA1 (3) & GCA2 (6)



GCA3 ► GCA6



GCA7 ► present



4 Black post horn 5 Minimalist post horn

Year No.+OSC No. Comment

in 1996 **GCA1-(2626)** 1st

in 2026 **GCA58-(BL350)** Last (perhaps also in Y2026 or later?)

GCB series (standard black-and-white sheets)

►► Stands for **GCB** ► **G** = “Gift” (Dutch); **C** = “Cadeaux” (French); **B** = from “YearBook”: this series is finite and ends in Y2014

These are miniature sheets featuring **Christmas and New Year** series of stamps: free gifts from Bpost with imperforated stamps

These are miniature sheets from the **Yearbook**. (What is the Yearbook?)

Stamped/printed (?) with an ink stamp featuring a post horn, sometimes without a stamp.

With stamps:

5 Minimalist post horn stamp

Type: printed stamp in a grid or dot pattern.

GCB1 ► GCB18

Period: from 1997 ► 2014

Characteristic: just the post horn, without text, with a dotted border.



Year No.+OSC No. Comment

in 1997 **GCB1-(2731)** 1st

in 2014 **GCB18- (4467)** Last

© bpost

© bpost

Belgian so-called “black-and-white small sheets” but in colour (**GCD series**)

● **GCD series (usually in colour, but also black-and-white small sheets)**

►► Stands for **GCD** ► **G** = “Gift”(Dutch); **C** = “Cadeaux”(Frech); **D** = “Divers”(Dutch=various) for standard subscribers: this is not a finite stock but is replenished annually

Gifts that are distributed to subscribers who have a special subscription, that is to say Regular collection, Sheets/booklets collection, F.D.S. & Year flyers.

These are sheets **distributed to standard subscribers** (without a number on the reverse)

Sheets of imperforated stamps and blocks (usually in colour)

No postmarks except **GCD2(NL) & GCD2(FR)** (see info) **5** Minimalist post horn postmark



Year	No.+OSC No.	Comment
in 1996	GCD1-(2629)	1st
in 2025	GCD54-(BL336)	Last (perhaps also in Y2025 or later?)

Belgian so-called “black-and-white small sheets” but actually belong to the ministerial sheets (**MV/MS**) and feature colour illustrations: (**DOT series**)

● **DOT series (sheets with colour illustrations)**

►► Means **DOT** literally ► **DOT**: from ‘Dotatie’ (Dutch)) to **MV/MS** subscribers: this is not finite but is topped up annually

These are allocations for Ministerial sheets (**MV/MS**)

Endowment: this has replaced the old lost postage stamps since 2020 and is distributed to high dignitaries and executives at government institutions.

(For example, Prime Minister, Ministers President, CEO of the National Railway Company, Chief of Staff, etc...)

Until 2024, the edition is 300 copies, from 2025 the edition is 40 copies, with very limited distribution due to restructuring.

There is absolutely no further information available on this!

Lots of fun collecting and viewing

amz