

TRV-Railway vignettes

INTRO (EN)

The use of railway stamps was discontinued after 1987.

This means that these TRV stamps no longer have postal value and are considered as stickers.

The print run consists of 300,000 series/blocks.

TRV1 / 2:

The NMBS has decided to issue two stamps again, with a nominal value of 100 francs and 300 francs, on the occasion of the official commissioning of the high-speed train "Thalys" on June 2, 1996. This train will offer connections between Amsterdam, Antwerp, Brussels, Liège, and Paris. Both beautiful railway stamps, designed by the design team of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and printed in our workshops in Mechelen, depict this train.

TRV3 / 5:

The NMBS has issued three stamps with nominal values of 50 francs, 100 francs, and 200 francs, in connection with the introduction of new rolling stock. These lovely railway stamps were designed by the design team of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and printed at the Stamp Printing House in Mechelen.

The comfortable I11 carriages have been in use on the Belgian railway network since 1995. A total of 163 units were purchased, capable of speeds up to 200 km/h, serving the Ostend-Eupen and Antwerp-Charleroi routes. The I11 carriages provide optimal comfort with individual ergonomic seats, extra space, folding tables, footrests, climate control, and a new suspension system.

The MS96 (motorized three-car set) offers a similar level of comfort. Thanks to the rotating driver's cabs, there is always ample passage between the units when they are coupled together.

TRV6 / 9:

The design teams of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and the NMBS (JG Jacques Gilles) have jointly designed these beautiful stamps, which were printed at the Stamp Printing House in Mechelen. The first stamp, featuring the Eurostar, is valued at 80 francs. The second stamp (also 80 francs) shows the Thalys. The third stamp (160 francs) is a combination of the previous two, namely Eurostar and Thalys. For the first time, the value is also indicated in euros on a railway stamp.

Pre-sales will take place during the Train-Tram-Bus day at the district salon of Brussels-South station on October 3 and 4. After these dates, the stamps will only be available at the stations Antwerp-Central, Arlon, Bruges, Brussels-North, Charleroi, Eupen, Ghent-St. Peters, Hasselt, Leuven, Liège, Namur, and Ottignies.

TRV10 / 12:

The NMBS is issuing four stamps with the theme of new uniforms. These beautiful railway stamps are the result of a harmonious collaboration between the design teams of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and the NMBS (JG Jacques Gilles). They were printed at the Stamp Printing House in Mechelen and depict train conductors and drivers. This set comes in a matching envelope.

TRV14 / 17:

The NMBS is issuing three stamps and a sheet with the theme of freight transport. These fine railway stamps are the result of a harmonious collaboration between the design teams of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and the NMBS (JG Jacques Gilles). They were printed at the Stamp Printing House in Mechelen.

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TRV18 / 28:

On October 8, 2001, the NMBS introduced a sheet with 11 stamps themed “The Modern Railway.” These new railway stamps are the result of a harmonious collaboration between the design teams of the Philately Directorate (MVTM) and the NMBS (JG Jacques Gilles).

TRV29 / 31:

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the North-South connection, new railway stamps will be presented and sold on October 5, 6, 12, and 13, 2002, under the theme “Brussels, 50 years of North-South connection.” During this four-day sale, it will be possible to have the stamps marked with a special cancellation at Brussels-South, Brussels-Central, and Brussels-North stations. A continuous exhibition will take place at Brussels-South, and souvenirs (postcards, earlier series of railway stamps, etc.) will be available for purchase. On October 5 and 12, Jacques Gilles (Design office NMBS) will be present at Brussels-South to personalize your copy.

The stamps will be offered in a luxury folder with a corresponding special envelope.

Pre-sales and special cancellations will take place at three different locations:

1. In the District salon of Brussels-South (entrance via track 22 – Fonsnylaan side), where the exhibition can be visited;
2. In the main hall of Brussels-Central station, where the sale of railway stamps is part of a series of
3. In the railway museum at Brussels-North.

TRV33 / 35:

Royal trains, a folder with two sheets representing the royal trains (both internal and external views).

TRV36 / 38:

As every year, a new series of railway stamps is issued in October. This year marks the “125th anniversary of the first railway stamp.” In addition to an extra photo exhibition about 125 years of railway stamp history, there will be a special cancellation of the stamps on postcards. The designer will also be present to sign the folders. Previous issues will also be available for purchase.

TRV39 / 41:

In October, as every year, a new series of railway stamps will be released. This year’s theme is “the new structure of the NMBS group.” You will receive a folder with a strip of three stamps visualizing the three companies. There will also be a photo exhibition about “the new structure of the NMBS group” and a special cancellation of the stamps on postcards. The designer will be available to sign the folders. Previous issues will also be available for purchase. Additionally, there will be an exceptional sale of older series (from before 1987) and canceled railway documents.

TRV42 / 47:

Every year, a new series of railway stamps is issued in October. This year’s theme is “The Steam Era,” in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the last passenger steam train between Aat and Denderleeuw on December 20, 1966.

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TRV48 / 50:

On the occasion of its presence at Belgica '06, the philatelic center of NMBS-Holding sells a special sheet, consisting of the "Steam Era" sheet and the commemorative sheet "From Steam to Electricity." Only 700 copies were made, numbered from 1 to 700. The sheets are sold with a technical data sheet and presented in a special envelope. The total price is €20. A specially designed souvenir card is available for €0.75, with different railway stamps daily and a same-day cancellation for €1.50. In addition to all available railway stamps, post, souvenir, and telephone cards, older series (SP378-SP398 and the luxury sheet of SP321) are sold for 1/3 of the catalog value. NMBS-Holding participates in the "Philatelic Passport" action with the Thalys stamp of 300 francs, which is exceptionally sold for €0.50. There is a daily raffle with numerous prizes: sets of railway stamps, "Märklin" miniature trains, books, calendars, etc. These products are exclusively sold during Belgica 2006 at the NMBS-Holding stand in hall 11.

Each block contains stamps **TRV42** through **TRV50**.

TRV-BL11: Untagged block and without numbering.

TRV-BL11A: €20 (tagged and numbered copies).

TRV51:

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Hergé, a special railway stamp is issued. During the event 'Long Live the Train,' a limited numbered series (4,200 copies) will be for sale at Brussels-South for €15.

TRV52 / 53:

This year focuses on the Trans-Europ-Express, the precursor to the high-speed train inaugurated in 1957, which provided fast and comfortable connections between major European cities.

TRV54 / 57:

Thanks to the railways, the various local times (solar time) were standardized. Around 1840, all stations and cities in the country adopted Brussels time, and in 1892, Belgium became the first country on the European continent to switch to international standard time, the so-called Greenwich Mean Time or railway time.

TRV58 / 61:

This railway stamp is issued on the occasion of the official opening of the new Liège-Guillemins station, designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. The sheet contains four stamps, presented in a corresponding folder and envelope.

TRV62:

On behalf of the NMBS, Paul Delvaux painted four works in 1963 to decorate the Trans-Europ-Express. This issue completes the series of three railway stamps issued in 1977 and 1985.

TRV63 / 66:

Antwerp-Central station, also known as Middenstatie, was built between 1899 and 1905. This masterpiece of railway architecture was designed by architect Louis de la Censerie, while engineer C. Van Bogaert provided the impressive station roof. In 1975, the station was classified as a protected monument, and renovation began in 1985. With the construction of the north-south connection, this terminal station was prepared for the arrival of the high-speed train. The completely renovated and modernized station was officially opened on September 25, 2009.

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TRV67:

On the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the Belgian railways, the Philatelic Center of NMBS-Holding is issuing a new railway stamp. The block shows a historical scene with a steam train. The sheet contains one stamp, presented in a matching folder and envelope.

TRV68 / 71:

In September, the fully restored and renovated Brussels-Central station was officially opened. The railway philately presented new railway stamps there.

TRV72:

The Kalmthout station Heide celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2011 and is also the home of Suske and Wiske. The Philatelic Center of NMBS-Holding wants to seize this unique opportunity and issues a railway stamp featuring the comic heroes at station Heide.

TRV73 / 76:

This year focuses on the rise of diesel locomotives. From 1961, diesel locomotives of types 200, 205, 210, and 212, later transformed into series 51, 55, 60, and 62, were deployed in large numbers on the Belgian network.

TRV77:

Who does not know the famous "type 12," one of the most beautiful steam locomotives ever built in Belgium? Six copies of this advanced machine, with an impressive streamlined design and monumental wheels with a diameter of over two meters, were built. They were put into service in 1939 on the Brussels-Tournai-Lille connection and were retired on July 29, 1962. Artist and illustrator François Schuiten, who is responsible for the decor of the future railway museum, is taken by the avant-garde design of this locomotive and makes it a hero in his next comic book. Alongside the comic book, the philatelic center of NMBS-Holding is issuing a railway stamp.

TRV78:

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Gent-Sint-Pieters station! The station was officially opened on November 19, 1912. A hundred years later, you can relive this with various activities in and around the station. You can also view the work for the renewal of the station and its surroundings. On the occasion of this anniversary, the Philatelic Center of NMBS-Holding is issuing a railway stamp. Pre-sales will take place during the celebration weekend of November 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Gent-Sint-Pieters station. The complete program will be announced via our website and the media.

Regular sheet presented in an envelope – €7.

Numbered sheet presented in an envelope (print run 1,250) – €10.

Postcard presented in an envelope – €2.

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TRV79:

The philatelic center of NMBS-Holding is this year present at the 'Steam Train of the 3 Valleys' festival in Mariembourg. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the festival, a railway stamp will be released featuring the oldest preserved steam locomotive in Belgium, the "Land van Waas." This locomotive, designed by engineer Gustave de Ridder, was deployed on the narrow-gauge line from Antwerp to Ghent via Sint-Niklaas and Lokeren. This line was the first private concession in Belgium, granted in 1842, with a maximum speed of 60 km/h. This tender locomotive is part of the collection of Train World, the future railway museum in Schaerbeek.

Regular sheet presented in an envelope – €7.

Numbered sheet presented in an envelope (print run 1,250) – €10.

Postcard presented in an envelope – €2.

Article published in daily newspapers in May 2015:

The SNCB's philatelic service has been abolished.

Railway chief Jo Cornu quietly closed the NMBS philately service in early May 2015. This marks the definitive end of the issue of railway stamps after 136 years.

Since 1879, the NMBS had issued stamps initially intended for franking packages transported by train. Over time, they were also accepted by postal services for other shipments. In 1987, the NMBS issued the last railway stamps with postal value. Since the 1990s, annual issues have included stamps with only a collector's value.

The Philatelic Center was part of the Historical Heritage & Documentation department of the NMBS, explains spokesperson Bart Crols. "Until recently, there was still one employee responsible for the sale of the stamps. He now performs other tasks within the commercial service. The management committee has decided to definitively halt the issuance of railway stickers and all activities of the center, as they do not fall within the core tasks of the railway company."

Stamp collectors, however, are pleased. "Those stamps only served to take money out of collectors' pockets," says Johan Caers, president of the Royal Flemish Association of Stamp Collectors. "The issues since the 1990s easily cost dozens of euros. Anyone who bought them has simply lost that money, as there is virtually no interest anymore. Probably the NMBS itself has torn through its budget with the last issues."