

Introduction to Belgian PRE1 - PRE332 stamps

This album is made with overprints of 7 cities, namely:

Antwerp, Brussels, Charleroi, Ghent, Leuven, Liège, Verviers.

Other cities are not mentioned here, such as Ath, Alost, etc.

Curiosities: only double overloads.

Some sites often exchange the numbers of the Louvain and Liège prints.

This order is that of the classification in the old COB (A1996).

Please note: There are also other manual surcharges with a unilingual or bilingual indication of the location and a two- or four-digit indication of the year of validity. These are not typographic surcharges, but manual surcharges. The Belgian specialist catalogue distinguishes more than 6000 different manual surcharges.

One aspect that many stamp collectors in Belgium often overlook is pre-stamping.

This technique has two variants: hand pre-stamping and typographic pre-stamping.

The first variant, which is mainly applied manually, **will not be discussed further in this album.**

The pre-stamping hand roller is a system that has existed since 1894 and is characterized by often unusual and sometimes irregularly applied overprints. These pre-stamped stamps are specially designed for sending large quantities of printed matter. Using these stamps allows franked mail to be sent directly to the sorting departments, which saves a lot of time.

The 2 centime stamp, illustrated below, shows the ANTWERP hand pre-stamping from 1895, while the 1 centime stamp shows a DINANT pre-stamping from 1903. For each year, a new design or cliché was made. From 1906 onwards, the pre-stamps were applied using a press, but many hand roller stamps continued to be used thereafter.



Please note: There are also other handprints with a unilingual or bilingual indication of the location and a two- or four-digit indication of the year of validity. These are not typographic prints, but handprints. The Belgian specialist catalogue distinguishes more than 6,000 different handprints.

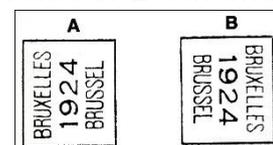
For typographic pre-stamps, which use a printing press, it is important to distinguish the position of the surcharge.

In the case of BRUSSELS 1924, there are two positions: position A on the left and position B on the right. The position of the surcharge can have a significant impact on the catalogue value.

Between 1906 and 1908, only position B was available with the office name BRUSSELS. In 1909, both ANTWERP in position A and BRUSSELS in position B appeared. In 1910, only position A was used for both office names. During the years 1911 to 1913, only position B was used for both offices.

In 1912, the cities GENT and LIEGE were added, with the office names now also being displayed in French.

In 1914 the new office name LEUVEN 14 LOUVAIN was introduced, with a value of 2 centimes, available in positions A and B.



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In 1922, new pre-stamped postage stamps were introduced. This series included, in addition to the existing values of 1 and 2 centimes, also 3 and 5 centimes, all made in the 'Houyoux' type with an image of King Albert I. Most of these pre-stamped stamps are available in variants A and B. From 1923, these stamps were also used in Charleroi.

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From 1929 onwards, stamps with the design of the 'heraldic lion' were introduced, available in the values of 3, 5 and 10 centimes.

In 1930, this series was expanded with a 20 centime stamp, but this was exclusively intended for use in BRUSSELS.



On 1 January 1929, three special pre-stamped postage stamps were introduced, which had received a unique postmark.

These stamps contained, in addition to the year, a new value indication of 5 centimes. They were specifically designed for use in the post offices of the Brussels metropolitan area.

The three stamps, namely 5c on 30c, 5c on 75c and 5c on 1F25, are classified by philatelists as 'overprint stamps' and are part of their main collection.

The question arises whether there was a shortage of 5 centime pre-stamped stamps in Brussels in 1929 and whether this issue was only a one-off action.

These stamps were valid for postage until 1 March 1930.

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▼ The original stamps are not classified here but can be found in this site: "Album J1920 tot J1932 (179-362)" on page 21 ([273-274-275](#))" (Dutch version)

[Album J1920 tot J1932 \(179-362\) & invent.](#)

In 1931 and 1932, instead of the usual office names, the inscription "BELGIQUE 1931 BELGIË" was used, the year serving as a pre-cancellation.



On 20 February 1931, a remarkable event took place: the introduction of two pre-cancelled postage stamps with a value of 3 and 60 centimes, which were modified by the addition of the numbers 2c and 10c in the design of the postage value.

Instead of an office name, the stamp bore the text "BELGIQUE 1931 BELGIË" accompanied by the year.

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▼ The original stamps are not classified here, but can be found in this site: «Album J1920 tot J1932 (179-362)» on page 29 ([315-316](#))». (Dutch version)

[Album J1920 tot J1932 \(179-362\) & invent.](#)

On 1 January 1932, new stamps were issued, this time with a pre-cancellation that also adjusted the value.

These stamps bore the text "BELGIQUE 1932 BELGIË" accompanied by the new value of 10 centimes. It is possible that the 10 centime overprint on the 70 centimes was significantly offset or even in an inverted position.



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▼ The original stamps are not classified here, but can be found in this site: «Album J1920 tot J1932 (179-362)» on page 31 ([333-334](#))». (Dutch version)

[Album J1920 tot J1932 \(179-362\) & invent.](#)

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In 1933, the same two stamps also received a pre-cancellation. In addition, the general pre-cancellation "BELGIQUE 1933 BELGIË" was applied to two different positions on the 5 centimes Mercury type stamp.



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For the year 1934, there was only the value of 40 centimes with the pre-cancellation "BELGIUM 1934 BELGIË".

It is easy to forget that the pre-cancellations with the names of the offices ANTWERP, BRUSSELS and LIÈGE had already been introduced in 1933 and were also still in use afterwards. In addition, these pre-cancellations were applied to the 2 centime stamp on 3 centimes.

The two stamps of the type Ceres (5 centimes) and Mercury (10 centimes) also received a pre-cancellation. The 1929 "Heraldic Lion" stamps, with a nominal value of 40 and 70 centimes, received a pre-cancellation of "BELGIQUE 1933 BELGIË", with the value simultaneously adjusted to 10 centimes.



For the nominal value of 40 centimes, there was also a pre-cancellation of "BELGIQUE 1934 BELGIË", with the value simultaneously adjusted to 10 centimes.



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▼ The original stamps are not classified here, but can be found in this site: «Album J933 tot J1939 (363-526)» on page 2 (**375A-375 -376**) ». (Dutch version)

[Album J1933 tot J1939 \(363-526\) & invent.](#)

The 1929 "Heraldic Lion" stamp, with a face value of 40 centimes, was last pre-cancelled with "BELGIQUE 1937 BELGIË", the value being simultaneously adjusted to 10 centimes.



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▼ This original stamp is not classified here, but can be found in this site: «Album J1933 tot J1939 (363-526)» on page 19 (**455**)». (Dutch version)

[Album J1933 tot J1939 \(363-526\) & invent.](#)

In the years J1934 to J1936, stamps with the images of Ceres and Mercury were also used. In 1936, 1937 and 1938, two stamps of the type "Small State Coat of Arms" of 5 and 10 centimes were issued, which had pre-cancellations with the names BELGIUM, ANTWERP, BRUSSELS and LIEGE since 1935.

An important note is to be careful with so-called "mint" copies as it is possible that used pre-cancelled stamps have been re-gummed, especially for stamps whose postage value has been As for manual pre-cancellations, they continued to be used until 1931.

The second part (**PRE333-PRE838P8**) delves deeper into pre-cancelled stamps whose