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NA - Non-Accepted Designs

The official NA series of the Belgian Professional Chamber of Stamp Dealers (BBKPH) starts with NA 1 in 1995. According to the BBKPH, from that year onward a non-accepted design was added annually to the Official Belgian Stamp Catalogue (OBP), with numbering starting at NA1. The issues were free of charge.

Non-accepted designs were also issued on the occasion of international philatelic events such as Phileuro, Belgica, Antverpia and Antwerpfila. These usually appeared as commemorative souvenir sheets featuring artwork by a Belgian artist. The issues were sold. In this album, any issue price is indicated by the symbol 🛒.

Non-Accepted Designs (NAs) form a unique collecting field within Belgian philately. They are designs originally created for a future postage stamp or philatelic issue but were ultimately not selected as official issues by bpost.

NA issues provide a unique look behind the scenes of the design process of Belgian postage stamps. They showcase alternative designs, rejected proposals and artistic creations that would otherwise have remained

In this album, the known Non-Accepted Designs are presented chronologically, together with information about the theme, designer, year of issue and possible variants.

Essays and NA issues

Essays are the artist's original design proposals. The later NA issues of the BBKPH are commemorative sheets featuring such non-accepted designs. As a result, the same subject may exist both as an essay and as an NA issue.

For the period before 1995, related collecting areas include:

essays (design proposals)
proof prints
competition entries
hand-painted designs
non-issued stamps
designers' archive material

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LX, SLX and other editions

Some NA issues also exist in deluxe editions.

LX = deluxe edition.

SLX = large-format deluxe edition, usually on cardboard and sometimes with additional finishing.

In many cases, the design remains identical to the standard issue. The difference mainly lies in the paper, cardboard, format, print run or finishing. As a result, these differences are not always visible on scans.

Curiosities and cuvettes

In this catalogue, the abbreviation Cu refers to a curiosity. It should not be confused with a cuvette.

A cuvette is an embossed or recessed frame in the paper or cardboard surrounding a design. This relief is created during the printing process and is often easier to feel than to see. To detect a cuvette, it is best to hold the item at an angle to the light or examine the reverse side.

Not all NA issues have a cuvette. In issues without a cuvette, the paper or cardboard remains completely flat.

The NA series is still ongoing and continues to be expanded as new issues appear.

Enjoy your collection and browsing.
MZ