

## TG-Telegraph Stamps

### RT-Telegraph Receipt Stamp

#### INTRO (EN)

##### **Telegraph Stamps: History**

In January 1866, the issuance of telegraph stamps was introduced in Belgium. These stamps were notable because they were hexagonal, unlike the usual rectangular postage stamps. The first telegraph stamps featured the portrait of King Leopold I, even though he had already passed away several weeks before their release. The telegraph stamps were printed exclusively in French and were produced at the stamp printing house in Mechelen. A distinctive feature of these stamps is their relatively high catalog value, even for stamped examples.

In 1899 (TG17), the last series of telegraph stamps was issued, and in 1911, the validity of telegraph stamps for postage ended. After that year, they were no longer used. It is also worth mentioning that telegraph services in Belgium were discontinued by Proximus on December 29, 2017.

##### **Payment for Telegram Sending**

As the name suggests, telegraph stamps were used to cover the cost of sending a telegram. They resembled postage stamps and were sometimes accepted as such by postal authorities. In some cases, postage stamps were used as telegraph stamps. This use is often identifiable by the specific telegraph cancellation mark applied.

##### **Destruction of Telegram Stamps**

In various countries, special cancellation marks were used to destroy postage stamps affixed to telegram forms. In some cases, the stamps were rendered unusable by perforation (see below). Additionally, there are also specific telegram stamps.

##### **Monopoly Position**

In some countries, it was possible to use postage stamps to pay for telegram services. Often, telegraph and telephone services were provided by the same entity responsible for postal transportation, as the state held a monopoly on these services in many cases.

##### **Perforation Hole**

A commonly used method for the fiscal destruction of postage stamps is to punch a hole in them instead of applying a cancellation mark. Such stamps are not typically collected by philatelists, as they are considered fiscal stamps.

##### **RT1 - Telegraph receipt stamps**

INFO: **TG17** is the last telegraph stamp in 1880, **RT1** is from 1897, and the first telephone stamp is from 1891. It is likely that they intended to create these as predecessors to the telephone stamps with that strip, and then they stopped and withdrew them from circulation in 1911 (also for telephone stamps? Because this is not mentioned anywhere: last: **TE20** with strip).