

# BELGIUM's 40c IMPERFORATE 'MEDALLIONS' (1849 - 1863)




## THE EXHIBIT

This exhibit covers the period 18 October 1849 to 1863, when the imperforated Medallions were removed from service and the 'perforated Medallions' put on sale. The 40 centimes stamp was introduced to frank prepaid letters to France with postage stamps, from 1 October 1849, following the Belgo-French Treaty of 27 April 1849, at the single rate of 40 centimes for a letter up to 7.5 grams. However the 40c Medallion was not ready on time and only available for the public on 18 October 1849, which is the first date of use of this stamp up to now. The 40c, which is the highest value of all imperforated classic Belgian stamps and the rarest one, is studied on all its aspects on a traditional basis, from the genesis to its postal usage. This exhibit was assembled over a 24 year period and can not be duplicated. The material recollects the majority of the most important items of the 40c stamps. Almost every page shows a rarity which is either unique or recorded two or three times only. All items chosen are of the highest available quality.

## THE STAMP'S HISTORY

**27 April 1849:** Belgo-French Treaty allowing bilateral prepayment with postage stamps. This treaty was put in forec on 1 October 1849. **18 October 1849:** Belgium's third stamp was put on sale: the imperforate 40c 'Medallion' red, printed with a PLATE of 200. This 1849 issue had three printings on different papers: **First printing 1849** on framed watermark paper, **Second printing 1851** on unframed watermark paper, **Third printing 1858** on paper without watermark.

**1 April 1861:** a new issue was introduced, the imperforated 'Medallions' printed with a NEW PLATE of 300 on paper without watermark. This new issue was for sale until 10 April 1863. **On 11 April 1863** a new issue was introduced, the perforated Medallions, identical to the imperforated issue of 1861. The only difference is the perforation. The 1863 perforated issue is not part of this exhibit, however 12 letters are known with the combination of the 40c imperforated with the perforated Medallions.

	1849 Issue : three printings Plate of 200			1861 Issue : one printing Plate of 300
	1849	1851	1858	1861
			Without watermark	Without watermark
	No. 5	No. 8	No. 12A	No. 12

## PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT

		Page No.
1. The genesis of the Medallion stamp		2-5
2. The 1849 1 <sup>st</sup> printing, framed watermark:	No. 5	6-32
3. The 1851 2 <sup>nd</sup> printing, unframed watermark:	No. 8	33-72
4. The 1858 3 <sup>rd</sup> printing, without watermark:	No. 12A	73-96
5. The 1861 new issue, without watermark:	No. 12	97-122
6. Plate varieties of the 40c (all issues)		125-126
7. The end of the imperforated Medallions & Stamp removal from service		127-128

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXHIBIT

The key items are highlighted by a frame.

- Largest unused multiples: p. 7, 33, 97
- Earliest recorded dates: p. 9, 33, 74, 97
- Highest frankings: p. 65, 72
- Unique cancellations: p. 23, 57-58, 105
- Unusual mixed & combined frankings: p. 17, 27-28, 88.

**Research:** new facts are highlighted in RED. **Personal digital census** of 3'575 'Medallion' 40c letters and 2'005 off-cover 40c allows me to record all existing dates of use, number of letters for all offices, destinations, multiples, mixed and combined frankings, cancellations, varieties.

**Publication:** Huys and Kaiser 'Belgium, Foreign Destinations under Leopold I', 334p. (Monacophil 2009).

**Literature:** Catalogue Balasse (1949); the Balasse Magazine (1936-88); Le Philatéliste Belge (1920-82); Hanciau: Marques Postales belges (1929); Stibbe: Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste (1969); Stes: Essais de Belgique (2009); thousands of auction and exhibition catalogues (1904-2022).

\* **Numbering:** Catalogue Officiel Belge (2021); Stes: Essais (2009).

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