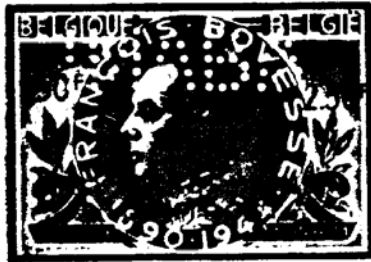


I M A B A Exhibition Perfins from Belgium by Gary Shayler.

The 2 stamps illustrated below are from a set of 9 which were perfined through the face side, I M A B A, and also underprinted, 'IMABA du 21 au 29 août 1948'. The set is also overprinted on the face, 'LUCHTPOST POST AERIENNE'. The set is unlisted in Gibbons.



IMABA  
du 21 au 29 août  
1948



Perhaps some member knows more about this particular exhibition and the meaning of the letters.

Belgium I M A B A Perfin article in Bulletin 240 Pg.6.

This article is still causing me some headaches. ROY EVERETT informs me that the I M A B A Stamp Exhibition was one held in Switzerland to commemorate the 1st Geneva to New York air flight of "Swissair", the national air carrier, which was made in 1947. A stamp commemorating this is listed under Switzerland S.G. 472.

The set mentioned in Bulletin 240 is listed in the 'Catalog of Perfins of Belgium of 1983' by W.A. Smetsers and H. Smit. It is listed as 'Private and Non-Commercial' number Pr3, Pg.109 and the original non-perfined set numbered 18 stamps, issued in 1947.

BRIAN BIRCH has sent a photocopy of the relevant pages of 1947 & 1948 from the Specialised Illustrated Belgium Catalogue, 'PRINET'. Cross checking in my Gibbons 'Stamps of the World', in 1946 Belgium issued a set of 9 Charity stamps reflecting aspects of the life of Father Damien, E. Vanderveld and Francis Bovesse (3 of each). In PRINET (but not in GIBBONS) this set was mentioned as used again in 1947 to commemorate the centenary of the 1st U.S.A. stamp. Each set of three was either overprinted 'Poste Aerieenne - Luchtpost' or 'Luchtpost - Poste Aerieenne'. The latter for sale in predominantly Flemish speaking areas. 100,000 were printed; 10,000 for the New York Exhibition and 10,000 perforated I M A B A. Why?

In 1948, to commemorate the Centenary of the 1st Swiss stamp, another 10,000 were issued perforated I M A B A but with the underprint 'I M A B A du 21 au 29 aout 1948'. I am still not sure where these two sets were sold and for what purpose. It would be easy to make a guess, but I hope someone can write the last chapter to this saga. We still do not know the actual meaning of the word I M A B A or the type of Exhibitions in New York and Switzerland and why the Swiss and Belgium Postal Authorities collaborated in the production of these Non-Commercial stamps.