

Royal Effigy of King Albert I - 1915-1922


The Belgian definitives of the XX-th century have been neglected for a long time. Just a few series have been discussed and studied pretty well like the King Baldwin designed by Anne Wiśniewska-Velghe or the Birds designed by André Buzin. We thank the Study Circles Royal Effigies and André Buzin for this.


The King Albert I series of 1915 was mainly printed in typography by Waterlow and Sons, London, England. All face values but for the 3 c were available in 1915 in the non-occupied part of Belgium. After World War I the stamps were distributed also elsewhere in the liberated Belgium. However, still the stamps were printed by Waterlow and Sons. In 1920 at last the 3c was issued.

It took some time before in 1922 the Mechelen Printing House started to print the 5c and 20c stamps in typography from plates prepared by Waterlow and Sons.

Studying the catalogues - the Belgian Dealers Association with OBC and the German Michel - it becomes clear that several types are recognized however with poor illustrations notwithstanding the ample texts.


Michel:

1915/22. Freim.-Ausg. (be).  Mac Donald; Bdr. Waterlow (Typ I-III), At. Timbre (Type IV); gez. 14.


		Preis der billigsten Sorte		I. 15. 10. 1915		II. 1919		III. 30. 12. 1920		IV. März/Juni 1922	
											
be) König Albert I.											
113.	1 C. orange	—30	—50	—30	—50	—50	—50				
114.	2 C. dunkelbraun.....	—30	—50	—30	—50	—50	—50	1.50	—50		
115.	3 C. blaugrau.....	—50	—50			—50	—50				
116.	5 C.	1.—	—50								
	a. grün			1.—	—50	2.25	—50	4.—	—70		3.— —50
	b. hellgelblichgrün					3.50	1.—				
	c. blaugrün			3.50	—80			4.—	—70		
117.	10 C. karmin	1.—	—50	1.—	—50			85.—	2.50		
118.	15 C. violett.....	2.—	—50	2.—	—50	2.50	—50	100.—	4.50		
119.	20 C.	3.—	—50								
	a. lila			3.—	—50						
	b. braunlila										5.— —50
120.	25 C. blau	—50	—50	—50	—50						

116 P. blaugrau ist Probedruck, nachträglich gezähnt und gummiert.
 119 F. rot (Fehlfarbe) 5000.— 5000.—
 Nr. 119 F. wurde in Aubel (Prov. Lüttich) am Schalter verkauft; Auflage 400 Stück. Gültig bis 30.4.1931.


OBC:



sluit aan **touche le cadre**
 onderbroken **brisées**
 kort **court**



sluit aan **touche le cadre**
 niet onderbroken **non brisées**
 kort **court**



sluit niet aan **ne touche pas**
 onderbroken **brisées**
 kort **court**

TYPE I (Londen/Londres 1915)
 De krullen voor en achter het woord «BELGIQUE» zijn onderbroken./ Les volutes avant et après le mot «BELGIQUE» sont brisées.
 Zie de nrs. 135 t/m 141/ Voir les Nos 135/141

TYPE II (Londen/Londres 1919)
 De krullen zijn niet onderbroken./ Les volutes ne sont pas coupées par un trait de couleur.

135A 1c Oranje/ Orange (26/03/1920) **AQ**.....
 135Aa Donkeroranje/ Orange foncé

136A 2c Bruin/ Brun (29/12/1919) **AQ**.....
137A 5c Groen/ Vert (30/12/1919) **AQ**.....
 137Aa Donkergroen/ Vert foncé.....
139A 15c Violet/ Violet (25/09/1919)
 139Aa Donkerviolet/ Violet foncé

135A/39A (0,23F) 4 w/v

TYPE III (Londen/Londres 1920)
 De krullen zijn onderbroken en sluiten niet aan maar doorbreken de witte omlijsting./ Les volutes sont coupées par un trait de couleur ne touchant pas mais brisant le contour blanc

136B 2c Bruin/ Brun (10/1920) **AQ**.....
 136Ba Roodbruin/ Brun-rouge


137B 5c Groen/ Vert (22/11/1920) **AQ**.....
 137Ba Donkergeelgroen/ Vert-jaune foncé.....
138B 10c Karmijn/ Carmin (19/10/1920)
 138Ba Roodkarmijn/ Rouge-carmin vif

139B 15c Violet/ Violet (28/10/1920)

136B/39B (0,32F) 4 w/v

TYPE IV (Mechelen 1922)
 De krullen zijn onderbroken en één tak van het gebladerte van de linkerbovenhoek is langer en raakt bijna de 14e parel van het middenstuk, geteld vanaf het linker cijfer «5»./ Les volutes sont brisées par un trait et une branche du feuillage du coin supérieur gauche est plus longue et se situe environ en face de la 14e perle du cartouche central, en comptant à partir du chiffre «5» situé dans l'écusson de gauche.

	★★	*	⊙	⊠
137C 5c Groen/ Vert (12/06/1922) AQ	8,00	2,00	0,35	4,50
140C 20c Paars/ Lilas (31/03/1922)	17,00	3,00	0,35	12,50
137C/40C (0,25F) 2 w/v	25,00	5,00	0,70	



sluit aan
 onderbroken
 lang

Four types described of which type IV refers to the in Mechelen printed stamps.

A 5th type of the 5c could be considered a subtype of type I or as a proof/essay.

Bearing in mind the chronology and the fact that more than one printing house was involved, we might state the catalogue publishers were not always consistent or logical in their listings.

The Mechelen printings of 1922 deserve a separate status and need to be listed just before the 1922-1927 definitives of King Albert I designed by Houyoux.

The way there are listed now in the OBC does not give the several versions the attention they deserve and may suggest the variation is insignificant.

Back to the 4 types or rather designs!

The type I, II and III all have band of beads around the oval that contains the effigy of King Albert I. In the lefthand upper corner of the stamp the ornaments keep an even distance from the beads but in type IV [Mechelen printings] a fragment of the ornaments jumps out towards the beads.



In all types [except for type II] a broken curl ζ is present with a diagonal white line. Both in the lefthand upper corner as well as in the righthand upper corner. This allows us to establish the types still when the cancellations are a bit heavy and cover the characteristic details.

Type I left and right with the break in the ζ curl:



Type II left and right with the break in the ζ curl:



Type III just as type I has the broken curl, but in the lefthand lower corner type III shows next to the tablet a break of the white oval frame towards the effigy inside.

At the left type I - at the right type III



Type III of the 2c:



More differences between type I and type III can be seen in the left upper corner. Type 3 is slightly more symmetrical as to the left and right of these ornaments.

Type I



Type III



The value tablets show a lot of variation in the shape of the „c“; both in its compactness and its relative position to the ciphers.

The „5“ itself shows some variation in shape!



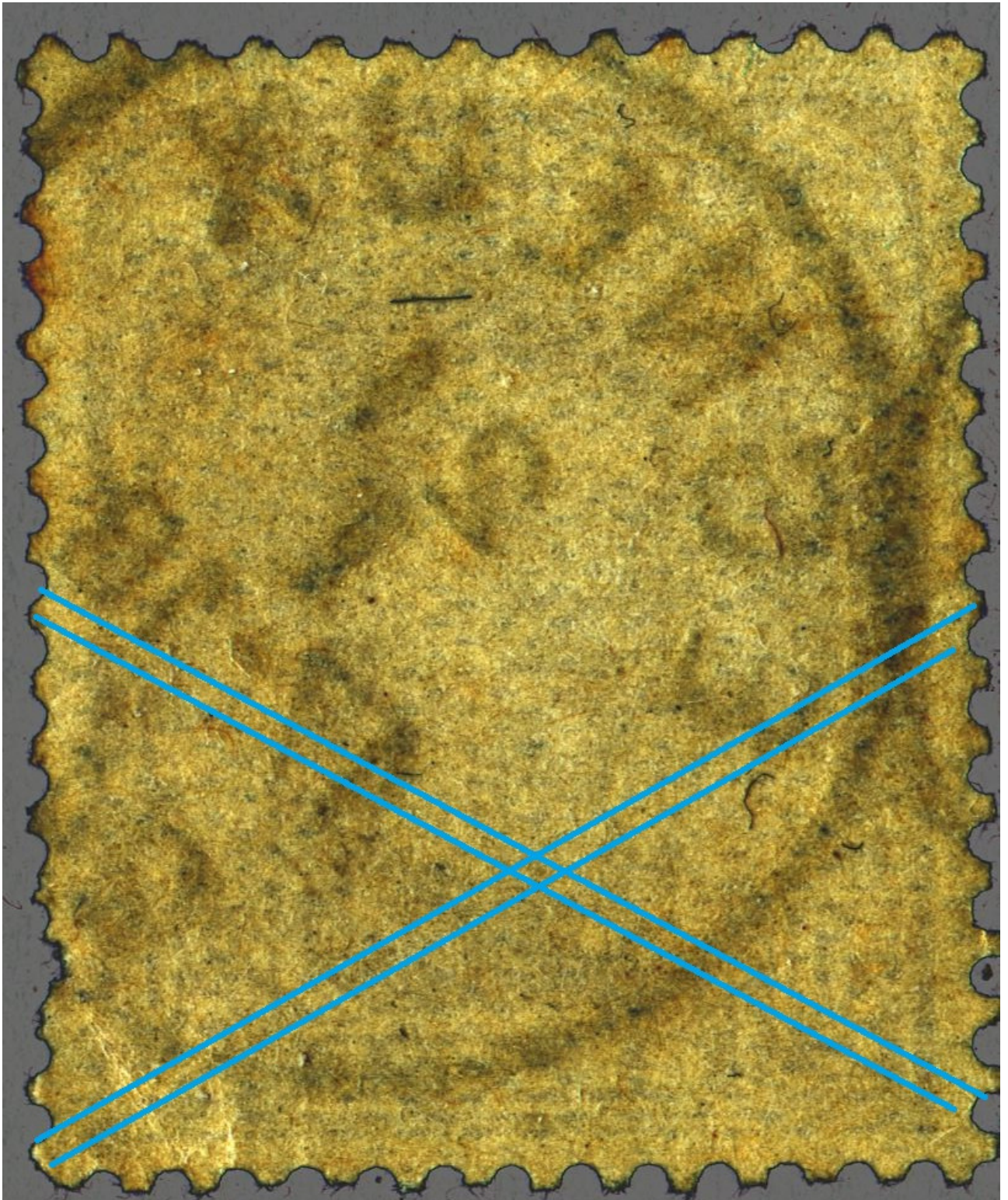


Note the flag of the „5“ and its distance to the white frame!

The usage of papers

We have not dealt with the usage of paper! Paper for typography printing was without a watermark. But it did show a clearly visible imprint of the sieve structure - when held against a strong light source - i.e. a symmetrical sieve structure following a linen-binding with long rhombs. The direction of paper - along the long diagonal of the rhomb - was vertical for ALL Waterlow printings but horizontal for the Mechelen printings.

Mechelen printing with direction of paper horizontal



Apart from the direction of paper another aspect of the sieve structure is its density! Most stamp papers - world wide in the 1850-1938 period - had a sieve structure with rhombs about 1.25mm high.

At least one of the Waterlow printings - with type I - had a fine sieve with rhombs circa 1.00mm high.

Fine, 1.00mm high rhombs:



Coarse 1.25mm high rhombs:



Survey according to types

1915 issue - Waterlow plates and typography

King Albert I with type I, 1915, 1919-1922 (in brackets the years known that had a Depot mark):

- 1c orange (1915, 1919), 2c brown (1915, 1920, 1922, 1924 *), 5c green (1915, 1919),
10c red (1915, 1919-1922), 15c violet (1915, 1920), 20c lilac (1915, 1919-1921),
25c blue

King Albert I with type II, 1919-1921 (in brackets the years known that had a Depot mark):

- 1c orange (1919), 2c brown (1920), 3c grey (1921), 5c green (1920-1921),
15c violet (1919-1921)

King Albert I with type III, 1920 (in brackets the years known that had a Depot mark):

- 2c brown (1920), 5c green (1920),
10c red (1920), 15c violet (1920); the latter two both scarce!

* Marks with Depot 1924 do occur but this does not imply that the stamps were printed in that year!

1922 issue - with Waterlow plates, typography of the Atelier du Timbre in Mechelen

King Albert I, with type IV, 1922 (in brackets the years of which the Depot mark is known)

- 5c green (1922), 20c lilac (1922)