
Zakelijke Postzegels / Business Stamps

TNT Post has issued two business stamps on 24 May 2005, that are designed by Martijn Sandberg. Postage value of the stamps is 39 euro cents, or 78 euro cents respectively. The stamps are printed on rolls of 100 self-adhesive stamps.

One of the distinctive properties of a stamp, global and throughout time, is the perforation at the edge. If a stamp is enlarged to an enormous size it still remains recognisable as a stamp due to the perforation. Even self adhesive stamps have a sort of perforated edge. So perforation has performed through the test of time.

A stamp is proof of payment; a price sticker; the proof that postage has been paid. Moreover, the size can be compared to a coin. The design of this business stamp is based on these characteristic features and may be summarized in the words: stamp, edge, perforation, point, point grid and coin grid.

The design arose by translating the stamp perforation through from the edge 'from outside to inside'. Consequently, the diameter of the points on the stamp and their mutual distance is implemented through the perforation. This point grid formed the design basis for these two stamps.

The typography and organisation of the stamp also derives implicitly from this. The place where the postage is announced, designation of the Netherlands and the year also fit into this grid.

Martijn Sandberg: 'If I were to wake you up from a deep sleep and immediately ask you what a stamp is, then with your finger you would draw a flat surface with a zig-zag edge. So this is the main characteristic of a stamp apparently, and how we recognize a stamp as being a stamp. And in fact, that's the origin or starting point of my stamp design - it's based on the characteristic standard perforation line.'

The points in this stamp's typographic grid may be compared with a miniaturised depiction of a coin: the point and the coin are both round in form.

The point grid on the business stamps may be seen as a coin grid. A collection of coins, ordered on a grid. The larger the coin collection, the richer the grid. Points as coins, coins as points.

The red-copper and nickel colours of the euro coins reinforce the commercial aspect of these stamps and lay emphasis on their value. Both the characteristic perforation of the stamps and the 'richness' of the stamp are thus anchored in the metallic point grid of the stamps.

Martijn Sandberg: 'I think it's very special to have had the opportunity to make a contribution to the history and development of the Dutch stamp, which so powerfully reflects the design mentality so typical of our country's culture'.

Stamps: 'Zakelijke Postzegels 2005' / 'Business Stamps 2005'

Artist: Martijn Sandberg

Stamp size: 25,3 x 20,8 mm

Print colours: 0,39 euro copper / 0,78 euro silver

Perforation: slit form

Paper: normal with phosphorus impression

Gum: self adhesive

Country of issue: The Netherlands

Date of release: May 24 2005

Product sort: rolls with 100 business stamps

Printing technique: gravure

Edition: 0,39 euro 706.000 rolls / 0,78 euro 156.000 rolls

Printer: Joh. Enschede Security Print, Haarlem/ NL

Commissioned by: Royal TNT Post BV, The Netherlands