



Buzin Watch No.6

It has been quiet on the Buzin front. Since the Bearded Reedling last year, the second Buzin for 2019, there had been no further issues and no developments to report.

After first appearing thirty five years ago, Buzins of course now only turn up in ones and twos nowadays with the occasional year when there is only a sheet, so our ration for 2019 was good and probably the best we could expect.

However, for 2020 we now have one more to join the already massive Buzin aviary. Those of you who, like me, are keen Andre Buzin collectors will have already spotted that Bpost issued another stamp on the 27th January. You might even (gulp!) have already purchased it!

This time he has returned to wildfowl with the Barnacle Goose and as ever, it is a very handsome addition in a large landscape format. It is produced in the usual partnership with Myriam Voz responsible for layout and printed offset in four colours in small sheets of ten.



The bad news is that it is issued at the Aantekenport Recommendation or “AR” rate, which means it is expensive. It is retailing at £50.62 for a whole sheet at WOPA, which of course equates to £5.06 per single issue. And that’s the price **before** shipping costs! Bluntly, it’s a lot for a small piece of gummed paper.

With dealer mark-up I have little doubt that it will be available in the UK at a good deal more than the price I have found so far. Words failed me for some of the prices I saw for

the previous Bearded Reedling issue. My advice is to shop around and compare or alternatively seek out singles or part sheets.

Incidentally, according to Scharning's listing this species has only ever appeared philatelically thirteen times previously. That truly surprised me. This is the fourteenth occasion, but the first for Belgium. I think it compares well with my personal favourite, the Killian Mullarney Irish definitive €1 of 2002.

The neighbouring Netherlands accounts for three issues, but Royal Mail - always extremely poor on geese - has never issued one at all. If you are not particularly into Buzins but a serious collector of geese stamps, this is an issue for you. However, taking out a small mortgage might assist.



Try to keep Buzzin!