



Buzin Watch No.8

There are two wee matters to bring to your attention for this Buzin Watch. Both are historical.

Firstly, I am grateful to member Mike Carter for alerting me to the difficulties of acquiring the Red-crested Pochard that was issued in January 2018 (See Flight March 2018). I did hear something at the time. This was to the effect that Bpost might not be distributing this issue in the normal way, but as I then acquired several shortly afterwards paid no further heed to the philatelic gossip.



The illusive Red-crested Pochard

It now appears that many dealers in the UK were unable to obtain copies. Mine had been purchased directly from Belgium based dealers via the Delcampe website. A back-check revealed that a number of prominent thematic dealers did not advertise this issue. Whilst not the most thorough of searches, a look at the WOPA site for 2018 for example shows that the stamp is absent. However, it does appear to be available on the Stampworld website and I now know that Paula Cant Stamps have a handful of copies.

If this issue is missing from your Buzin collection you had better be quick!

Secondly, I have I recently discovered that Bpost issued a pair of limited edition “Collector’s Cards in late January of this year. They are intended to depict some of the “Iconic Stamps” of Belgium philately. Card A includes classic issues for Leopold I, Albert I and Leopold III amongst others. But it is Card B which might be of more interest to collectors of Bird thematics.

With the exception of the well-known 1953 King Baudouin definitive, the others on this card are not, in my view, particularly remarkable, except there is one Buzin in the selection! This is the non-definitive, Stamp Day €4 Black Stork (SG3903) first issued in April 2005. See the illustration below.

Whilst certainly a fine Buzin - and one that is not all that easy to get hold of either - I am not sure I would have this selected this one as an example of a “classic Buzin.” Indeed, I can think of several others that I would have chosen instead. I wonder which ones you would have suggested. Answers on a postcard to the editor.

Described as “Unique, luxurious, limited, numbered, and special stamps,” I understand that circulation is extremely limited with only 700 copies of each card. They were issued on the

27th January and bear the product Code: 00000031684. Chances are that there are now few available, but if you have been able to lay your hands on one you will have done extremely well, so do let Flight Magazine know.



The 2020 Collectors Card (B)
(Illustration much reduced)