



EMBARGOED TILL 9 SEPTEMBER 2005, 10.30 AM

FIRST EVER JOINT STAMP ISSUE BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND BELGIUM



Complete set of 4 stamps – S\$3.83

SINGAPORE, 9 SEPTEMBER 2005 – The first ever joint stamp issue between Singapore Post and Belgian Post will be issued, to mark the close relationship between Singapore and Belgium. The stamps will be jointly launched on 9 September 2005 by the Belgian Embassy, Belgian Post, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore and Singapore Post. A similar joint launch of the stamps will be held concurrently in Belgium.

SingPost launched the first joint stamp issue with China, in 1996. This was followed by Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Sweden, Switzerland and Malaysia.

The stamps in this issue feature shophouses, portraying a unique view of the different historical architectural styles in the two countries. Many heritage shophouses serve as Singapore's and Belgium's historical landmarks, as well as a reminder of their social history.



In Singapore, the shophouse vividly represents a significant aspect of Singapore's history. These narrow, small-scale terraced houses were built in early Singapore and were used for both work and dwelling. They also offer those who pass along their common five-foot ways, protection from the tropical heat and rain. Shophouses are an important building type in Singapore's architectural heritage.

In this joint issue, a shophouse in *Kandahar Street* [60¢ stamp] in Kampong Glam district and a row of shophouses along *Bukit Pasoh* [\$1 stamp] in the Chinatown district in Singapore are featured. The Belgian stamps feature the *Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art* [1st local stamp] and the *Museum of Musical Instruments* [\$2 stamp], both designed Art Nouveau-style at the beginning of the 20th Century.

As part of this joint stamp issue, SingPost will release other special products. These include a Special Joint Cover featuring the stamps of Singapore and Belgium to mark the joint release of the set of four stamps on "Shophouses" in both countries. This commemorative cover will be affixed and cancelled with two matching sets of stamps and datestamps, making it a special memento for the two countries' co-operation in this joint issue. The quantity is limited to 8,000 covers only.

SPECIAL MYSTAMPS

To be also released specially for this exhibition is a pair of *MyStamp* sheets. One sheet incorporates images of Singapore shophouses, alongside the Singapore motifs of the joint issue stamps. The other *MyStamp* sheet will feature Belgian comics alongside the Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art, the Belgian motif for the joint stamps. *MyStamp* is a unique



service offered by SingPost for customers to personalise their stamps with their favourite photos. These *MyStamp* sheets are available exclusively at the Singapore-Belgium Joint Stamp Exhibition and through mail orders only.

The *MyStamp* sheet on Singapore shophouses and the Belgian comics are produced jointly with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA) and the Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art respectively.

STAMP EXHIBITION AND BELGIAN FAIR FROM 9 TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2005
AT PAVILION, FAR EAST SQUARE

In conjunction with the joint stamp issue with Belgium, an exhibition cum Belgian Fair will be held from 9 to 11 September 2005 at the Pavilion, Far East Square, from 12.00 noon to 7.30 pm daily. Participating at the exhibition will be Singapore Post, Belgian Post, Singapore Philatelic Museum and URA. Besides stamp and collectibles dealers, there are companies selling Belgian products such as chocolates, biscuits, coffee, beer, books and collectibles. Browse through the popular TINTIN and Smurfs comics that originated from Belgium and try the country's famous chocolates and waffles, and the many styles of Belgian Beer at the exhibition. Information on Belgian Tourism and Universities will be available at the Belgian Fair.

In addition, there will also be a very special exhibit on Belgian stamps that gives an excellent overview of Belgium, its royalty and history. Don't miss the picture postcard at the exhibition that shows the site of the battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon suffered his final military defeat in 1815. Waterloo is a small town to the South of Brussels.



Other highlights of the exhibition include URA exhibits on Shophouses, on-the-spot personalisation of stamps, talk on stamps, drawing contest for children on Saturday and Sunday, magic shows, lucky draws with special souvenirs, and special coffee and beer tasting.

“Stamps are sovereign items unique to each country. It is therefore fitting that a joint stamp issue was chosen to commemorate the close partnership between Singapore and Belgium. These stamps which feature the shophouses in both countries will not only help to raise the awareness level among the public on our shared heritage, it also vividly captures the different historical and architectural styles of a bygone era in both countries,” said Mr Lau Boon Tuan, Group CEO, SingPost.

“This joint stamp issue adds yet another dimension to the fast expanding partnership between Belgium and Singapore, which is already well established in the port and telecommunications industries. In addition, there is a growing number of bilateral investments and co-operation between universities, cultural exchanges and fruitful contacts on the political level between Belgium and Singapore. Thus, this stamp issue is a milestone in the close ties between both countries,” said Mr Hugo Verbist, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Royal Embassy of Belgium.

Information and enquiries

For more information on these new stamps, please call the Singapore Philatelic Bureau at telephone numbers 1800 741 4111 (toll-free within Singapore) or 68456756 during office hours or visit www.singpost.com or email us at sinstamp@singpost.com. These stamps can also be ordered online at <http://shop.vpost.com.sg>.

FACTSHEET

Items on Sale

The following items will be on sale at all Post Offices and the Singapore Philatelic Bureau (Singapore Post Centre Branch), unless otherwise stated:

Items	Price	Date Available
Complete set of stamps	\$3.83	9 September 2005 onwards
First Day Cover (Without stamps)	\$0.25	26 August 2005 – 9 September 2005
Pre-cancelled First Day Cover (Affixed with stamps)	\$4.45	9 September 2005 only
Pre-cancelled First Day Cover (Affixed with Miniature Sheet)	\$4.45	9 September 2005 only
Pre-cancelled Commemorative Cover (Affixed with both Singapore's & Belgium's stamps)	\$8.80	9 September 2005 only
Presentation Pack (With Complete set of stamps)	\$5.35	9 September 2005 onwards
Pair of MyStamp Sheets on Shophouses And Comics	\$12	9 September 2005 at Far East Exhibition only

Prices inclusive of 5% GST for purchases within Singapore.

You are also purchase in advance at our online shopping mall, <http://shop.vpost.com.sg>

Orders will be processed and sent on/after the issue date.



Technical details of this stamp issue are as follow:

Date of issue	:	9 September 2005
Denominations	:	1 st Local, 60¢, \$1 and \$2
Stamp Size	:	29.85mm x 40.80mm
Miniature sheet size	:	170mm x 95mm
Perforation	:	13
Paper	:	Unwatermarked
Printing Process	:	Offset Lithography
Printer	:	Secura Singapore Pte Ltd
Sheet Content	:	10 stamps
Designed by	:	Sylvia S H Tan

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or visit us at [www.singpost.com](http://www.singpost.com)**