

## 1930 Antwerp and Liège International Exhibition

Each city hosted part of the exhibition. This Flemish/Walloon dichotomy, which is worse today, was fed by the Germans during the WW1 occupation. Flemish, being Dutch and hence more Germanic than French, was given greater prominence. Before 1916, the postage stamps had **centimes** and **franc** after the values. From 1916 they used **cent** and **F** so both camps were happy.

Antwerp, which was the larger and more lavish site, carried the subtitle **Coloniale, Maritime et d'art Flamand**, while Liège hosted the **sciences, industry, social economy, agriculture and music**.

Part of the discord between the two cities was caused by the concurrent Centenary celebrations of Belgium's independence from Holland, from whom she seceded in 1830. Brussels had staged the very successful 1910 exhibition. Now Antwerp & Liège decided it was their turn. Brussels built the Heysel Stadium to mark the centenary and the other agreed to split the exhibition between them.

Both exhibitions opened on 26 April and closed on 5 November.

**Antwerp** proved the more popular site for two reasons. Flemish art from the previous five centuries proved a tremendous attraction throughout Europe, while the colonial sections, as with similar early twentieth century exhibits, were most impressive. It was these latter sections, which dominated the official literature and set the tenor for the exhibition.

Not only Belgium but France, Holland, Italy and Portugal, all colonial powers, staged the most lavish displays of empire ever held on Belgian soil. The Palais du Congo of Belgium outdid them all. (By 1960, it was a very different story). The *Avenue de la Colonie* contained substantial pavilions for all these countries.

The Flemish art exhibition included pictures from many European galleries. To complement this part in atmosphere, there was the obligatory and ever popular *Vieille Belgique* mediaeval reconstruction, which contained sideshows and entertainments around the site.

There were impressive examples of modern architecture, notably the Finnish, Norwegian, Dutch and Italian pavilions and also of the Hanseatic League. This last's sensational style was soon to be proscribed by the National Socialist regime. Similarly, the Italian pavilion was one of the last pieces of modernism to have Italian government approval. By 1937 in Paris, Mussolini equated classicism with the cause of fascism. Modernism had arrived and the works of Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier and JJ Oud could be compared with Antwerp.

**Liège** by comparison had much more the air of a trade fair or conference about it, having been stripped of those features normally most colourful at these events. Nevertheless, in terms of participation and international trade it created, it remains a significant event for that city.

Attendance figures are not contained within official reports, but there were good attendances throughout and both were considered most successful. The large sums the British, French, Italians and Portuguese spent on their contributions confirmed they considered them 1<sup>st</sup> class events with large audience potential.

Two stamps were issued for the exhibition opening on 26 April printed by Joh. Enschedé & Zonen of Holland. 15,000,000 of each value, p12 were printed by heliogravure in sheets of 200 stamps.

Antwerp



**Peter-Paul Rubens** (1577 – 1640)  
self portrait

Liège

**Zénobe Gramme** (1826 - 1901)





**Antwerp Philatelic Exhibition 9 - 15 August 1930**  
**Held during the 1930 International Exhibition**



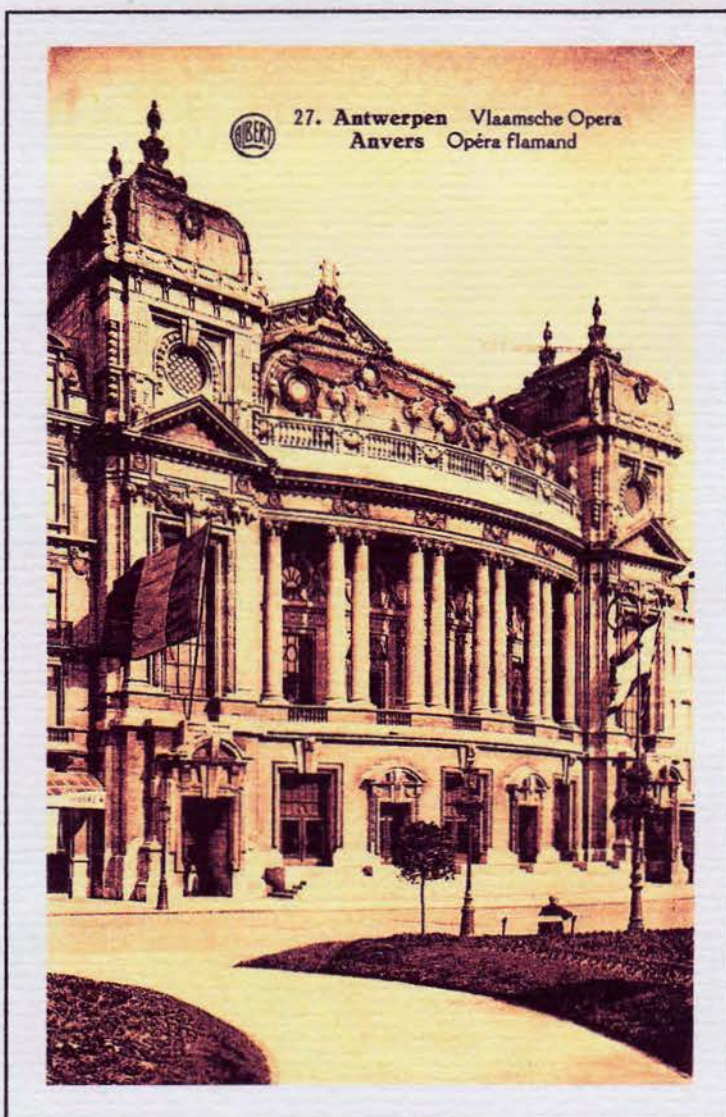
**Miniature sheet with first day cancel clear of the stamp**  
**Antwerp Coat of Arms**

Engraved by Jean de Bast and recess printed with 61,500 sheets issued.  
 The miniature sheet was sold at the Exhibition post office in the Salle des Fêtes du Meir  
 from 9 - 16 August, and by subscription from 6 - 16 August.

It had a face value of 4 Fr and 6 Fr served as admission fee to the philatelic exhibition.



### Advertising Antwerp World Exhibition before it opened



**Top**

**Antwerp 6** mechanical canceller of  
3 Jan 1930.

1 Fr postage abroad

### Bottom

**Antwerp Opera House**  
Flemish speaking





**Printed matter letter to Italy with Rubens stamp for Antwerp site**

**Bruxelles / Brussel 1 cds dated 24 December 30**

35c ( $\leq 50$  gm) was the correct rate



**Postal card to Paris with Antwerp Exhibition special cancel**

**Antwerpen-Anvers cds dated 24 September 30**

1 Fr was rate abroad for postal cards

EP85 card was issued in 1924 before the spin off from the German hyperinflation caused Belgian postage to rise steeply between 1924 and 1927





Picture postcard to Nijmegen with Liège Exhibition cancel

Liège / Luik 1 cds dated 6 June 30

35c was the internal rate for postcards  
Boxed A.56 is Nijmegen postman's route number



Liège - Luik Exposition-Tentoonst. special Expo cds



Picture postcard of Paris pavilion dated 3 June 30  
Note "Century of Independent Belgium" at top



Picture postcard of the Belgian Provinces pavilion dated 23 Oct 30



Bent Frandsen,  
c/o **AGENCE MARITIME INTERNATIONALE**  
REMPART S<sup>TE</sup> CATHERINE, 67  
**ANVERS**

1000-28-3-30



T.E.Smith, Esq.,  
13, Albury Park Road,  
TYNEMOUTH,  
Angleterre.



**Philatelic letter from Antwerp International Fair to UK**

with the 4 express stamps then current, two of the three marking Belgium's Centenary and a block of Gramme stamps.

Antwerp International fair cds of 13 Aug 30



## Centenary of Belgium Independence

The centenary celebrations, while the three stamps to mark the event were issued on 1 July 1930, are of differing origin. Riots began on 25 August 1830 and a Declaration of Independence followed on 4 October. The resulting London Conference of major European powers recognized Belgian independence early 1831. It took until 1839 for this to be ratified at the Treaty of Vienna and accepted by the Dutch. In honour of the day Belgium finally achieved independence when King Leopold 1 was crowned in 1831, 21 July is celebrated as Belgium's National Day.

The designs from paintings by Lievin de Winne were engraved as follows: 60c by Jean de Bast, 1 & 1<sup>75</sup> Fr by Jef Leempoels. Printed by l'Atelier du Timbre in sheets of 75 stamps (15x5) and p11½, they were demonetised 1 Jul 38.



Leopold 1  
1831 - 1865

Leopold 2  
1865 - 1909

Albert 1  
1909 - 1934



## Registered letter to USA

Sottegem cds of 6 Aug 30

Fresno Calif. registered arrival cds of 20 Aug 30 (verso)

Postage and registration each 1<sup>75</sup> Fr (15c stamp verso to make 3<sup>50</sup> Fr)





### Centenary of Belgium PPC and Liège Exhibition

Leopold I, Albert I and Leopold II

PPC addressed to Enghien but unfranked



### Antwerp to London

Antwerp Exposition Philatélique cds of 9 Aug 1930

Portman Square BO arrival cds of 11 Aug

Postage

1<sup>75</sup> Fr





French Colonies pavilion



Picture postcard to Switzerland

Antwerp Exhibition cds of 9 Aug 30





**Place du Centenaire** (see PO on left side of building)



**Official picture postcard to Holland**

**Antwerp Exhibition cds of 17 May 30**

Postage 35c for ≤ 5 words of text





Place du Centenaire at night



Official picture postcard to Chicago

Antwerp 6 mechanical cancel of 12 Dec 30 (after expo closure)

Postage 1 Fr (card sold with 35c stamp for internal use)









Netherlands pavilion at Antwerp



Official picture postcard to Holland

Antwerp Exhibition cds of 6 Jul 30

Postage 1 Fr for 5 words of text (1<sup>05</sup> Fr paid)





English pavilion at Antwerp



Official picture postcard to Holland

Antwerp 6 mechanical canceller of 25 Sep 30

Postage 1 Fr using a Centenary of Independence stamp









Dutch pavilion at Antwerp



PPC from Antwerp Exhibition to Louvain

Anvers (Expos) mechanical bilingual canceller of 4 Sep 30



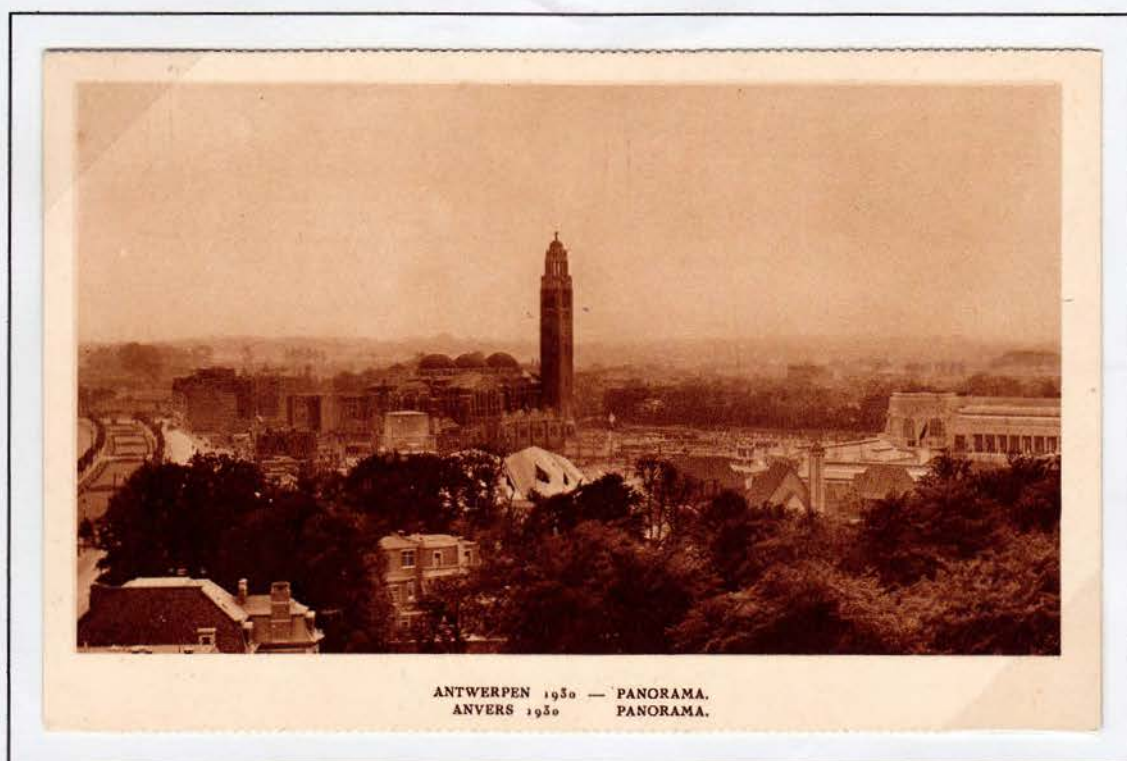


### Lilliputian railway at Antwerp

Used to transport visitors around the Exhibition from one venue to another.



Official Postcards



Panorama over the Expo site



The Electric Farm



## Official Postcards



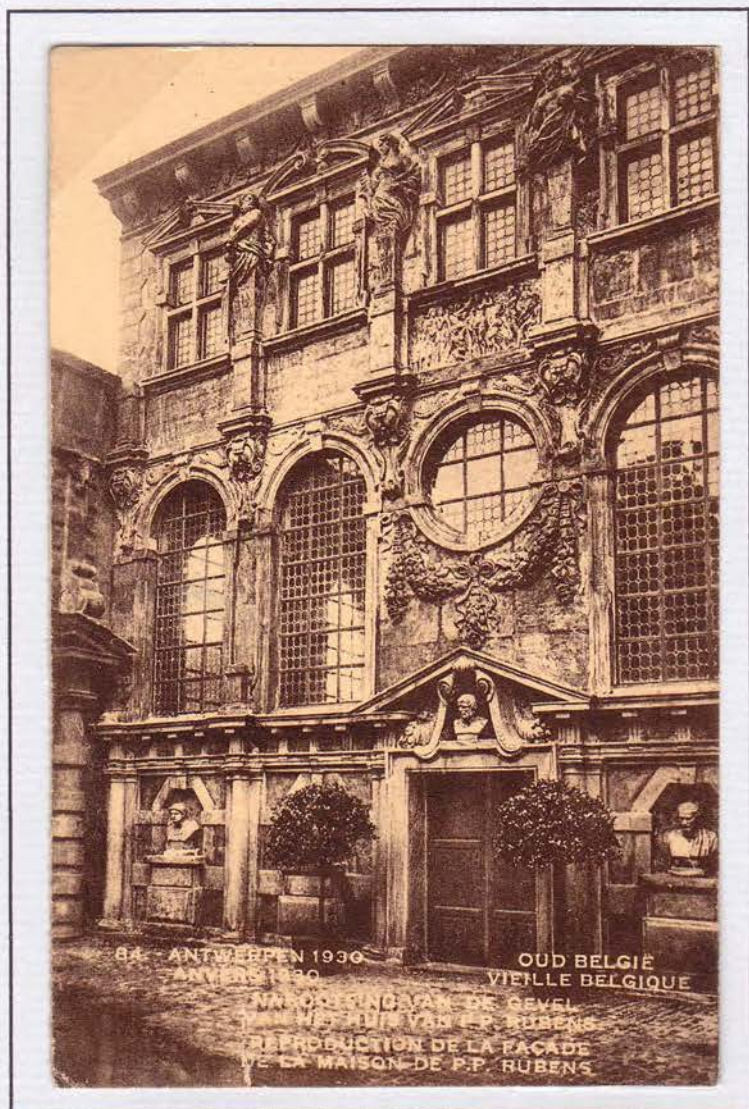
## Belgian Congo Pavilion



## Netherlands Pavilion



## Official Postcards



### Old Belgium - reconstruction of the façade of Reuben's house

Ppc sent from Antwerp to Muno, Luxemburg  
22 Jul 1930 with Expo cds



## Ephemera stamps from Antwerp



English



French



Trilingual



Liège Exhibition

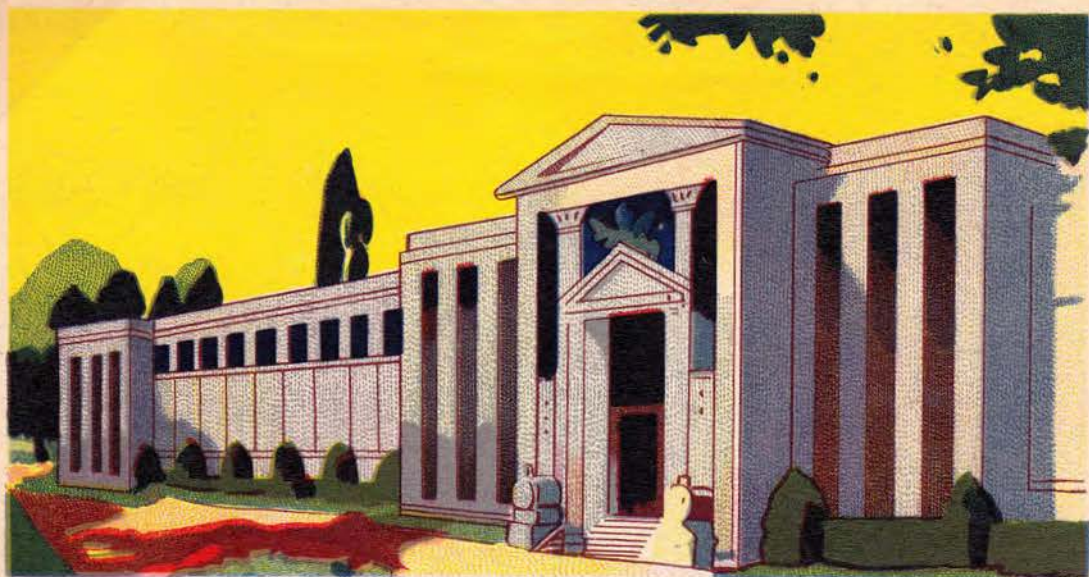


Pavilion of the "Speciality for You"  
Foundation

*pavilion behind*  
Swiss beer hall







EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE **LIÈGE 1930**

GRANDE INDUSTRIE  
SCIENCES & APPLICATIONS  
ART WALLON ANCIEN

IMP. BÉHARD S.A. LIÈGE

Pavilion for heavy industry, science & applications, old Walloon art



EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE LIÈGE 1930

AVRIL - NOVEMBRE

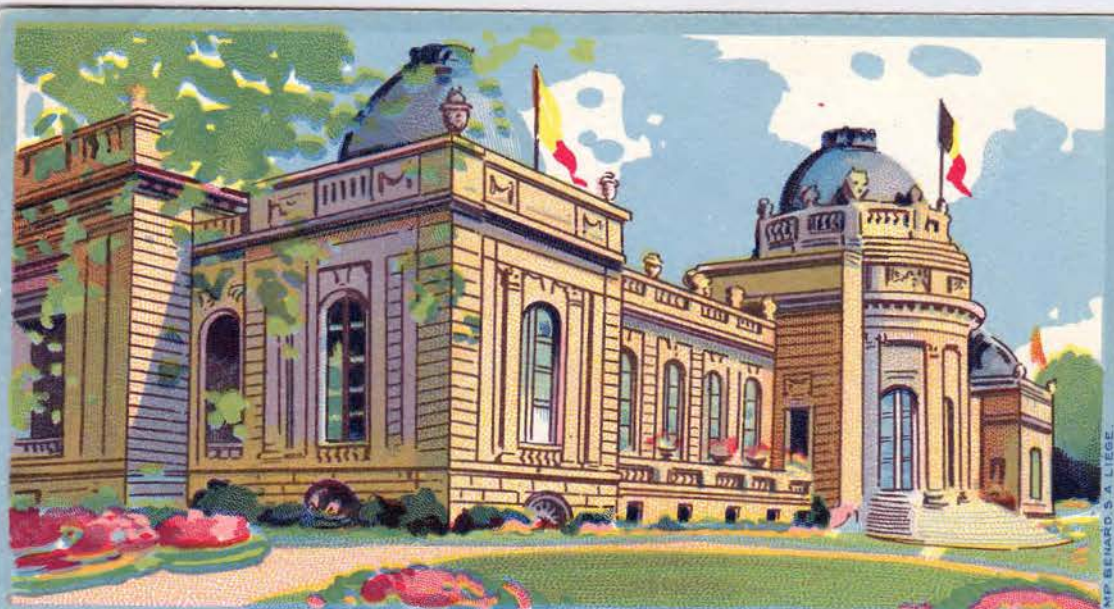
SOUS LE PATRONAGE OFFICIEL DU GOUVERNEMENT

PAVILLON  
DE LA SYLVICULTURE  
(SECTEUR SUD) \*

IMP. BÉHARD S.A. LIÈGE

Pavilion for water and forests (cultivation of trees)

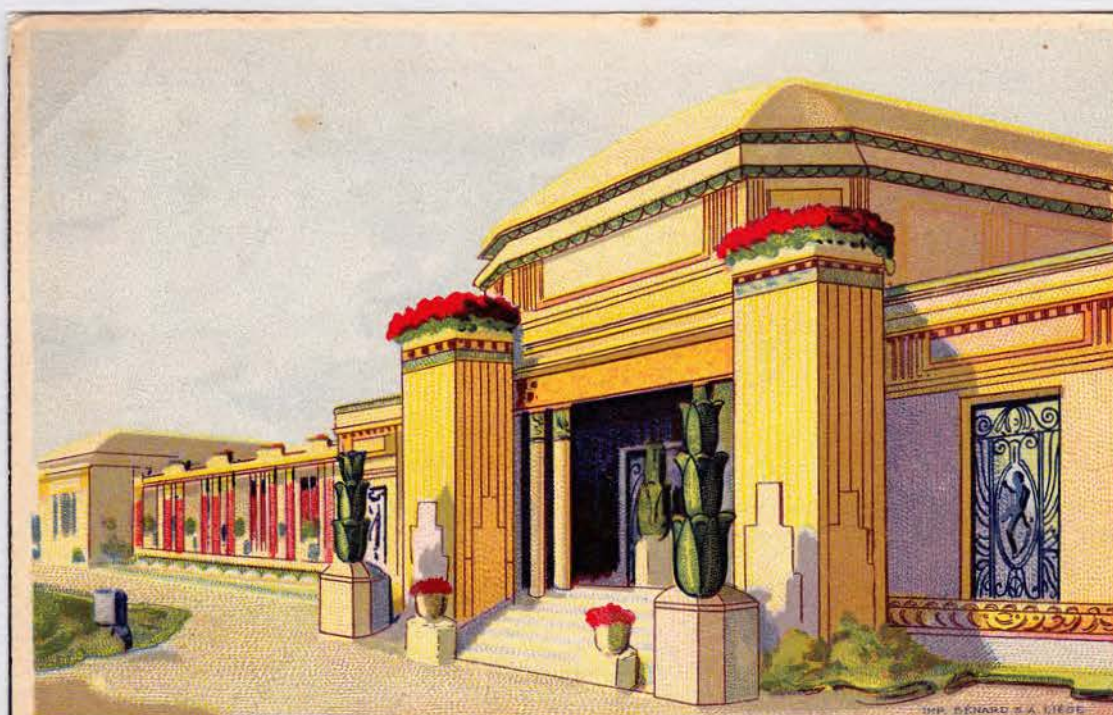




EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE LIÈGE 1930  
AVRIL - NOVEMBRE  
SOUS LE PATRONAGE OFFICIEL DU GOUVERNEMENT

SECTION ART WALLON ANCIEN  
PALAIS DES BEAUX-ARTS  
(SECTEUR SUD)

Pavillon des Beaux-Arts (Southern) for old Walloon art



EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE LIÈGE 1930  
GRANDE INDUSTRIE - SCIENCES & APPLICATIONS - ART WALLON ANCIEN

PALAIS DES FÊTES  
(Arch.: M.M. Poismans et Warnolle)

Pavilion for amusements



## Ephemera Stamps for Liège



French