



## **Symbols of the Republic of Belarus in the Record of Postage Stamps**

Everybody has its own worldview, its own sense of reality, and that is fine. However, there is something that is unchanged, that brings all of us together, combines thoughts and actions. These are symbols of Homeland and State.

It is worth recalling major international competitions, when a Belarusian champion has left an award stand during medal ceremony and gone away, as the wrong anthem has been played by sponsors. This horrible mistake has been fixed, but the Belarusian champion has taught everybody a good lesson of honor and dignity...

Postal and telecommunications workers are especially proud of the country and its symbols. It is about postage stamps that are not a new phenomenon, but are more unique, as there are postage stamps that easily and freely help to make the range of symbols of the Republic of Belarus wider.

The history of Belarusian philately is an important and valuable element in the chain of historical memory of grateful descendants. It starts since the issue of the first stamp "The Cross of St. Euphrosyne of Polatsk" on March 20, 1992. The famous relic is one of the most valuable piece of art and one of the most well-known sacred things of Belarus.

Initially, Belarusian stamps have been being issued in Russia, but since 1995 the state postage prepayment impressions have started to be issued in our country. The first printed stamps have been ones in honor of 50 Years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, issued on May 4, 1995. It has been done to commemorate the sacred deed of soviet people in one of the most brutal wars.

Presenting important historical and modern events, postage stamps are spreading all over the world and filling albums of native and foreign postage stamp collectors, telling about our country through their own expressive means.

One of the most remarkable events in the republic is the issue of postage stamps of fine art to celebrate 500 Years of Belarusian Book Printing, the 135th Birth Anniversary of Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas, 1000 Years from the First Written Reference to Brest and other remarkable dates in the history and culture of Belarus.

The sphere of international cooperation is represented in an unusual way, fully using the national symbols of the Republic of Belarus. 270 projects have been dedicated to this topic.

1380 postage stamps are issued today. There are about 60 types of Belarusian stamps of fine art issued annually. The postage stamps show the real picture of the state, the historical and cultural heritage, as well as the rich flora and fauna of Belarus.

Obviously, the Belarusian postage stamps form the proud and informative record of the state. "Postage stamp is a visiting card of the country" has become a popular expression for a reason.

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