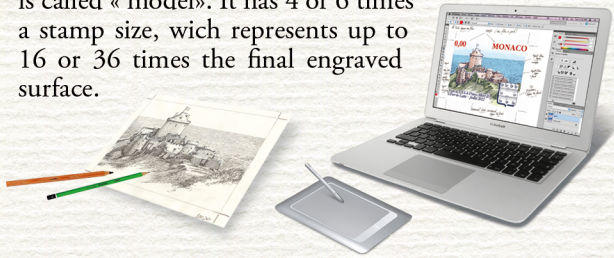


Intaglio engraved stamp

1 An artist's creation : the stamp's design

According to precise specifications, an artist designer prepares several original projects. The approved design is called « model ». It has 4 or 6 times a stamp size, which represents up to 16 or 36 times the final engraved surface.



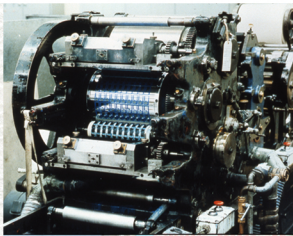
2 The engraver's skill: the intaglio engraving

An artist engraver (the stamp's designer or not), with a binocular magnifying-glass, engraves with a chisel on a mild steel plate, cutting and embossing, an original punch representing the stamp in its entirety. It's an art of patience, exactness and expression. The artist can make grooves between 10 and 100 microns and he can tighten 7 sizes per millimeter, according to the image he wishes to render.



3 Industrial printing production

The punch is transferred to a printing cylinder. Then, thanks to the skinfull printers, the intaglio rotary printing presses print the stamps sheets in 3 or 6 colors on gummed paper.



How to recognize an intaglio stamp ?

To the touch : you can feel an embossed printing.

To the eye : great delicacy of the design / drawing.

With the magnifying-glass : it reveals a universe of chisels and not a superposition of digital frames.

At the stamp's bottom : the designer's name is on the left side and the engraver's name on the right one. If the designer is also the engraver, one name only is at the bottom right side.



If you want to know more

Join the friends of the intaglio stamp. Become a member of the association **Art du Timbre Gravé**. It's a non-profit association created in 2005 by engravers, designers, collectors, philatelic press journalists, art and engraving lovers, especially intaglio design and engraving for printing intaglio stamps.

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