

# Revenue Stamps for Refugees and Stateless Persons

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The League of Nations concluded an arrangement May 12, 1926 whereby it assumed the responsibility for certificates of identification delivered to Russian and Armenian refugees.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the usual taxes collected by the countries delivering them, these certificates were charged a fee of 5 gold francs payable to a common fund for aid to refugees. This tax was paid, and acknowledgement was made, by affixing a special stamp to the document.<sup>2</sup>

The resolution of May 12, 1926 was approved by a number of countries, notably European, and put into operation rapidly in these countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Esthonia, France, Hungary, India, Poland and Switzerland in 1926; Finland, Germany, Iceland, Luxemburg, Norway and Sweden in 1927; Cuba, Yugoslavia and Romania in 1928.

## SECTION I: General Issue

### A. Portrait Issues

The first issue of the special stamps, which was most attractive, bore a portrait of Fridtjof Nansen, high commissioner for refugees under the League of Nations, and enclosed in a frame which was to receive appropriate inscriptions. From 1926 through 1932, two stamps were issued each year. One had inscriptions in English; the other, in French. The 1926 stamp is undated, but the stamps for the following years had the date inscribed below the portrait. At first, the common fund was administered by the High Commissariat of Refugees of the League of Nations; then after the death of Dr. Nansen, from 1932 on, by the "International Nansen Office for Refugees" under the control of the League of Nations. In 1932 the stamps bearing the old inscriptions had the new

title added around the portrait in the inner frame. From 1933 up to the last issue in 1938, the name of the new organization was printed on the stamps bilingually.



Type I: Inscription in English  
5 Gold Francs

Dim. 36x43 mm Perf. 11 1/2

1. violet, grey & yellow-gold without date (1926).....RRR
2. "1927" in black.....RRR
3. "1928" in red.....RRR
4. blue, brown & golden yellow "1929" in green.....R
5. "1930" in red.....RR
6. "1931" in black on issue 1930.....RRR
7. "1932" in red.....RRR



Type II: Inscription in French  
5 Francs Or

8. violet, grey & golden yellow without date (1926).....R
9. "1927" in black.....R
10. "1928" in red.....R
11. blue, brown & golden yellow "1929" in green.....RR

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