



*"I swear that I will uphold the constitution  
and the laws of the Belgian people and will  
maintain the independence and integrity of  
the territory".*

When he took the constitutional oath before  
the Chamber of Deputies, on 9 August 1993,  
Albert II succeeded his brother Baudouin, who  
had died unexpectedly on 31 July.

10000 - Franc note  
Albert II and Paola



## Security

*The 10000-franc note is protected by a number of effective security features enabling anyone to check that a note is genuine; examples are areas of raised print, the security thread, the watermark, the optically variable devices...*

## Code in raised print

*In the top left-hand corner of the note, near the portrait, a group of bars in relief forms a code which can be identified by the visually handicapped. This indicates the value of the note:*

*“|” represents hundreds,  
“||” represents thousands,  
“|||” represents tens of thousands;  
the horizontal bars multiply these by: 1 (“—”), 2 (“=”) or 5 (“≡”).*



Actual measurements: 169 mm x 76 mm

On the front, a detail of the 10 000 F note in front of part of the greenhouses of the royal residence at Laeken. © Photo SFI

## Ways to identify a genuine banknote

### 1. Exclusive paper



When you handle a banknote you can feel the special quality of the paper and hear the crackle it produces. These features enable a preliminary identification of the note.

### 2. Raised (intaglio) print



Several areas on the front (including the portrait) can be perceived by touch. The engraving and the thickness of the ink raise the wording and the bar feature perceptibly, which helps visually impaired people to identify the note by touch.

### 3. Anti-copying features



The grey motifs are specially designed to change when reproduced.



The green colour in the design changes if the note is copied.

#### *4. Optically variable feature*



The figure 10000 on the back of the note sparkles in the light and looks green or blue when viewed from different angles.

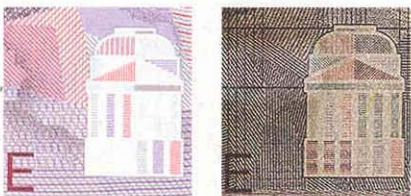
#### *5. Watermark and thread*



The watermark is of a finely drawn portrait of King Albert II with his monogram. Anything which appears dark when the watermark is held to the light, becomes light when the note is placed on an opaque surface.

On the back, the security thread looks like a broken silver line. When held to the light it seems black and continuous; the figure "10000 F" is repeated over its whole length.

#### *6. Printing in register*



The accuracy of the printing can be checked by looking at the central part of the royal palace against the light. The coloured areas on the face fit exactly with those on the back.



## 7. Hidden image



In the rectangle, the figure 10000 appears when the note is brought up to eye-level and then tilted towards the light. It becomes lighter or darker depending on the way the note faces.

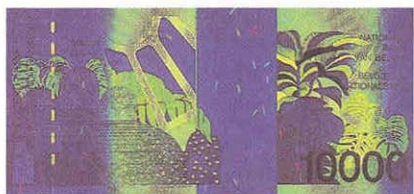
## 8. Micro-lettering



On both sides of the note, a magnifying glass reveals words in minute lettering on the border of the white band of the watermark.

Elsewhere, one can see the denomination 10000 in very small characters.

## 9. Under an ultraviolet lamp



Under ultraviolet light, some features on the back of the note stand out clearly in green and yellow. The security thread is also green, and additionally, red, green and blue fibres appear scattered throughout the paper.



## Albert II, sixth King of the Belgians

King Albert II was born on 6 June 1934 at Stuyvenberg Castle and was given the title “Prince de Liège”. He was the son of Léopold III and Queen Astrid, but he very quickly lost his mother, who died in an accident in 1935.

Together with his father and the whole of his family, the young prince was deported to Germany after the Allied landings in 1944. Later they lived in Austria and Switzerland, where Prince Albert studied before returning to Belgium on 22 July 1950. When King Léopold III abdicated in favour of his elder son, King Baudouin took the oath on 17 July 1951.

On 2 July 1959, Prince Albert married Donna Paola Ruffo di Calabria, who was born at Forte

dei Marmi (Italy) on 11 September 1937. There are three children of the marriage: Prince Philippe (born 15 April 1960), Princess Astrid (born 5 June 1962) and Prince Laurent (born 19 October 1963).

As Honorary President of the Governing Board of the Belgian Foreign Trade Office from 1962 to 1993, Prince Albert headed some hundred or so trade missions abroad and visited many Belgian companies. This duty has since been taken over by his elder son, Prince Philippe. Prince Albert's many other duties included the Presidency of the Belgian Red Cross, where he has now been replaced by Princess Astrid. He was also actively involved in the fields of town planning, housing, the environment and the protection of monuments and sites.



Swearing-in of King Albert II

Pol de Prins & Wim Robberechts. © Belgian Chamber of Deputies



Princess Paola concentrated mainly on welfare activities.

Despite their grief at the sudden loss of King Baudouin in the summer of 1993, the new monarchs took up their duties at once. They started by going out to meet the people in all the provinces of Belgium.

The King at once involved himself in all the activities which are the lot of a Head of State: daily audiences at the Palace with politicians and representatives of the country's business community, welfare services, culture and sport, audiences with Heads of State or senior officials of international organisations and State visits to other countries.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces with the rank of Lieutenant-General and Vice-Admiral, the King keeps in close touch with problems of national and international security.

The speeches which he makes traditionally on 21 July, at Christmas and when he receives national authorities are used as occasions to highlight the most pressing problems of his reign such as the fight against unemployment, child abuse, marginalisation, educational shortcomings, insecurity, etc. Following the terrible cases of the disappearance and abuse of children which marked 1996, the King also spoke to the nation after he and



© Belga

the Queen had received individually the families of the children concerned.

The Queen helps her husband in his manifold activities. She also has her own special interests, such as projects to improve the conditions in which children and young people live. Through the Fondation Reine Paola, the Queen channels aid to young people trapped in poverty, the world of drugs and criminal behaviour and awards a prize to teachers working to the same end.

Queen Paola's social secretariat is in direct contact with citizens in difficulty who are seeking advice and support. Lastly, one of the Queen's major interests is the protection of the national heritage, the arts and craft industries.





## What you should do if...

*... you have a note which is withdrawn from circulation?*

All banknotes of more than 100 F issued by the National Bank of Belgium since 1944 can be exchanged at its counters.

*... you have a damaged note?*

Take care when bringing it to the National Bank not to forget any fragment. The note will be passed on to experts who will check it free of charge and estimate its value.

## If you want to know more...

... about the long history of the currency or the origin of banknotes, you can arrange a free guided tour of the *Musée de la Banque Nationale*, rue du Bois Sauvage 9, 1000 Brussels. ☎ 02/221.22.06.

... about the history of the Belgian royal family, you can visit the *Museum of the Dynasty*. In the historical setting of the Bellevue house, numerous royal souvenirs can be seen which trace the pre-eminent contribution of the royal family to the evolution of our country. For groups, guided tours can be organized with an audiovisual presentation. The Museum is open everyday except on Mondays. *Musée de la Dynastie*, place des Palais 7, 1000 Brussels. ☎ 02/511.55.78.

The royal park with, on the left, parliament and on the right the royal palace.  
Detail of "Brussels panoramic map" by A. Lernout. © Atelier Perspective