



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

On November 12, 2009 the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus will issue a souvenir sheet "Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!"

Designer: Galina Yermalovich. **Printing:** offset. **Colour:** multicoloured. **Paper:** chalk-surfaced, gummed. **Perforation:** comb 13^{3/4}:13^{1/2}. There are 2 stamps and 1 coupon in the souvenir sheet. **Size** of the stamps: 26x37 mm. **Size** of the souvenir sheet: 110x97 mm. **Print quantity:** 15.000 souvenir sheets.

There are elements of protection on the stamps.

Historical reference: The souvenir sheet depicts the image of the so-called "Batleika" — the folk puppet-show. Its origin is connected with Christmas holidays in Belarus. "Batleika" began to develop from the 16th century. It had many names: "Zhlob", "Vifleem", "Yaselka" etc.

For the puppet-show of "Batleika" they made the wooden house like a dwelling or a church of arbitrary size. It had horizontal circle-stages with openings for conducting the puppets.

Nowadays the national puppet-show "Batleika" is being revived.

Souvenir sheet No. 69



№. 803

New Year Tree

1500 BYR

№. 804

Angel

1500 BYR



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34 (360)

November 2, 2009



Colour of the postmark - black.

Special **postmark and FDC**
designed by G. Yermalovich.



A special cancellation on FDC will be carried out at the post office No.1 of Zaslavl on the souvenir sheet issuing day.