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BULLETIN 112



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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Surprisingly we have continued to maintain our membership the same numbers. Tragically, in the past two years, we have lost a number of our key fellows. We have had some new replacements. But it is a matter of great concern to me that our membership does not include many young people. In my opinion it is imperative, if we are to continue as a viable organisation, that each and every member designate himself as an ambassador of the Belgian Congo Study Circle to apprise every person who is interested in the stamps of the Congo of the value of our Circle and the persuade him (or her) to join us.

We do offer tremendous value. Parenthetically it is to be noted that the annual subscription does not cover the cost of the Bulletin. Our Expert Committee is simply non-pareil. Our auctions are of great value as they "cover the waterfront" with items as esoteric as complete plate reconstructions of the 10F Etat issue and many of the "common" stamps so wanted by all collectors which cost but a few pence. Our articles are designed to examine all phases of Belgian Congo Philately. Again we "Cover the waterfront". The plating studies by the late Brian Hudson, the exhaustive study of the 1915 booklet panes by Dr. Goddecris, warnings about forgeries, interesting Belgian Congo ephemera etc. are all included.

We are now faced with the problem of an auctioneer. The task is daunting. The late Brian Hudson had worked his magic touch with his computer and his knowledge was invaluable in lot descriptions. So too are those auctions prepared and completed by Mr. Keach. The review of the bids and the mailing and billing of 200 or more lots to the successful bidders is a task of monumental proportions. But Brian is gone and our imposition of the task on Mr. Keach (which is in addition to all else that he does for the Circle) is now no longer fair. Replacement is vital and difficult but I am sure we will rise to the challenge.

I feel somewhat guilty leaving the problems to my successor. However I know that Emile Hoorens is more than up to the task and I look forward though working with him in the coming years.

Lastly I would be remiss if I did not thank Ray Keach for his help and advice and Stuart Smith, who, I fear, I drove to distraction with my late reports and accountings, for keeping the books and records of the Circle in such fine order and for keeping me on the right path.

EML

BULLETIN EDITORS REPORT

In the past year, in addition to our four auctions, we published Dr. Goddecris' all encompassing study of the 1915 booklets, Ray Keach's Vice Presidential column with its warnings, new discoveries, discussions of interesting nuances of various stamps and issues to name but a few. Emile Hoorens was an active contributor as was Dr. Celis and the cancellation study by Peter Storm van Leeuwen added to our store of knowledge of these fascinating stamps from a most interesting part of the world.

However we are faced with a genuine crisis. Your Editor has delayed publishing the Bulletin on no less than two occasions awaiting useful material. This is not fair. Mr. Clowes, in the UK, and M. Hoorens on the Continent reproduce the Bulletin and send it to the members in their area. If the Bulletin is late it makes their job harder. If the Bulletin is late it forces a change in the final date for bids in the Auction which in turn shortens the time for the Auctioneer to do his work and that in turn impinges upon the completion of the following Bulletin as it awaits the prices realised. The bulletin should have a dead line of the first of the month for articles. Then it could be completed by the 5th or 7th and then the copies mailed to Europe for reproduction and distribution in very good time.

But the bulletin is not of value unless we get Articles. We have lost such regular contributors as Vindevogel, Jeurgens, Hudson, and Foden—Mr. Keach is hampered in making further studies by the loss of his collection. We must have articles if we are to survive. I do not wish to suggest that we reduce the number of bulletins published annually. That is a step backward and not in my thinking.

But, if we are to survive, we must all work together. Those of our members who are more comfortable writing in French please do so. We have other members who are willing to translate their efforts into English. Those members who find interesting items—write of them—share the discoveries with your fellow members. If you have questions, publish them—you will be surprised—you may find an answer—you may kindle a study and an article.

Many of our members are specialists in some phase of Belgian Congo philately. I beg they share their knowledge.

We are planning a mini-meeting of the Circle in connection with the Brussels Exhibition next fall. Let us hope that at that time I will be able to declare that my pleas have not fallen on deaf ears.

EML

112/1

THE INCOMPLETE POSTAL STATIONERY POSTCARDS FROM BELGIAN CONGO

(Since M. Hoorens translated the following article we have learned that Dr. Stibbe has died—his works in the field of Belgian Congo Philately were most valuable. His study of the postcards—Les Entiers Postaux du Congo—is a seminal work Dr. Stibbe gave M. Hoorens some photocopies of the various cachets. However, notwithstanding M. Hoorens heroic efforts to reproduce them for the Bulletin the quality of the originals—given to him—was such that your Editor's printer was not able to make usable copies. Should we obtain a usable copy of the cachets we will reproduce it in a later bulletin. Editor)

This is the translation of an article written in 1968 by Dr. Jacques Stibbe in the bulletin "L'Entier Postal". He gave me his authorization for publishing, at this time, the article in the bulletin of the Belgian Congo Study Circle.

All the information given in 1968 is still very useful, except perhaps some "first dates of use", which now, thirty years later, are more completely known.

E.R.Hoorens

The incomplete postcards are in a collection of Belgian Congo Postal Stationery a particular and original chapter. It concerns postcards with paid reply (answer) attached which, when separated, demand and answer, were used as single cards with a lineal mark "Carte Postale incomplète" viz.: (incomplete postcard).

The only document of information known was a part of the collection of Mr. Navez. It exists in a lot of administrative documents filled in by 33 different post offices of Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi, each document with the imprint of the marks they were using. These documents answered an inquiry ordered on 28 February 1930 by the Direction of the Post. Although this list is partial, it is the unique and precious source of information we have. For other documentation, we are obliged to stay at the level of suppositions. All the mentioned dates are only indicative and based on the cards we have seen in the collections of Messieurs Du Four, Marler, Wery and myself.

Dr. Jacques Stibbe

THE CAUSES

It seems that some complaints were addressed in 1897 to the Postal administration of Belgian Congo about postcards with paid answer of which the answer part was stolen on the way to delivery.

The administration was aware of the fact that some cards with paid answer were sent separately by senders. The Post gave instructions to the post offices to indicate, first manually, later with a special mark on the separated cards that they had been received without the answer card attached. This procedure should limit the responsibility of the post and avoid in the future some more complaints.

Moreover some offices being out of stock of single cards now had approval to sever some postcards with (reply) answer and sell them as single postcards. These offices were obliged to apply the mark "incomplete postcard" before the sales.

In the first case, the mark "carte postale incomplète" is a postal mark proving that the answer card had been cut off. In the second case, it is a surcharge transforming half a postcard with answer in a single postcard and creating so a new postal stationery item. ("surcharge" is used herein to describe the mark or overprint "postal carte incomplète" which is the subject of this article. Ed.)

In practice, it is impossible to make the distinction between the two cases.

THE MANUAL SURCHARGES

The oldest manual surcharge I have seen was done in Brussels! A card coming from Leopoldville on 16 September 1897 was manually surcharged by arrival on 28th October 1897 with the notation "Arrived in Brussels without the answer-card."

Between 25 November 1897 and 20 January 1898, many cards were found with a manual surcharge "arrived in Boma without the answer-card", in French (viz.) "parvenu à Boma sans formulaire réponse", with the signature of the officer in charge. The identical text on all cards, written by different postmasters, is the proof that they were following official instructions.

The official mark of Boma appears for the first time on 27 January 1898.

Some manual surcharges from Leopoldville are also known with more recent dates. These surcharges are different from those of Boma, "Leo (or Leopoldville) carte incomplète". These manual surcharges from Leopoldville are known from August 1898 until June 1900. But a great part of the incomplete cards of Lèò during this period was forwarded with the similar mark of Boma.

THE TYPES OF SURCHARGES

The first marks were early 1898 only delivered to the three offices located in the mouth of the Congo River: Boma, Matadi and Banana. These framed seals contained the words (in French) "incomplete card" and the name of each town.

All Correspondence coming from the interior of the country was concentrated in Boma, principal exchange office for foreign countries. The incomplete cards, canceled in the post office of departure, received the mark of Boma by arrival in this office. The seals of Banana and Matadi were only applied on the cards posted in these two towns. This is the reason why the mark of Boma is the most common.

From 1900 on, the other post offices inside the country received a mark "carte postale incomplète" on one line, without frame and without any mention of town or village. These marks have a length of 51 to 52 mm, but there is also a mark of 49 mm and a large one of 61 mm. This last mark has been seen on cards from Leopoldville in 1909 and later.

On the documents found in the Mavez collection, we find mostly the 51 mm mark, but also a large mark of 72 mm used in Mweka but never seen on cards.

The post office in Usumbura (Ruanda Urundi) used a mark with a different text "Taxe postale incomplète" known only on some cards sent to Mr. E. Christiaens. The same mark was also used in the Uvira post office, but, once again, never has been seen on a card coming from that office.

Finally, a handmade mark has been used in Kambove. General Du Four had in his collection the two cards 33 TT, demand and answer with this mark.

The surcharges on the postcards of Independent State of Congo exist in blue and black on the cards of Belgian Congo, the marks are mostly in black. The surcharge is always on the front of the card, on the legend or left above the space reserved for the address. (the marks have been found inverted Ed)

THE SURCHARGES WITH PARAPHE

Originally, the postman was obliged to put his paraphe [his mark] near the mark "carte incomplete".

I give hereafter the dates of application of the paraphe.

- Boma with paraphe 27.1.1898 to 11.11.1898
- without from 12.4.1898 on .
- Banana with paraphe 23.2.1898 to 2.9.1898
- without from 27.7.1898 on
- Matadi with paraphe 15.9.1898 to 12.11.1898
- without from 27.12.1898 on .

Unused postcards were found with paraphe. This is the evidence that, since 1898, the incomplete cards were sold separately and surcharged by the post offices.

THE ISSUES

The Independent State

When the different marks "carte incomplete" were distributed in 1898, the "Palms" issue of February 1897 was in use, but many small post offices had still postcards with answer from the King Lèopold issue for sale . Some older postcards from the small "Palms" issue of 1889 have been seen but they are extremely scarce I

The postcards with Lèopold II are more easy to find, but always with the mark of Boma . Such cards with the Banana or Matadi marks are unknown .

After 1.1.1901, all the old cards before the "Palms" issue were recalled and these Palms issue cards were in use until 1908.

It is strange to see that 80 % of the cards from 1897 and 1900 were used between 1898 and 1900, while these cards were not used in quantities between 1901 and 1909 ! Specially, the postcard n* 19 is not common with the surcharge "carte incomplète"

The Provisional Issue of 1909

The postcards were overprinted "Congo Belge" on 1.1.1909 The same marks were used on these cards and are known on cards with local or typo overprint.

The mark "carte postale incomplete" has been found on postcards from the "Princes issue" .

All these postcards were recalled on 1.1.1911

The Provisional Issue of 1910

When the postal rates were decreased on 1.4.1910, all the previous postcards received a second overprint with a new value These cards with the different overprints "carte incomplete" are easy to find used in 1911 and 1912.

One of reasons is the low stock of single postcards at that time All the post offices were obliged to cut postcards with answer in big quantities to satisfy the demand.

The Issues of 1911, 1915 and 1921

Postcards of these 3 issues with overprint "carte incomplete" are scarce Postal stationery cards were not used at that time by the customers, who had a preference for the view cards issued in 1912 .

From 1925 on, the use of postcards declined, so that the post offices had no need to cut postcards with answer to make single ones. The last date of use I have seen is 28.9.1926 The marks remained in the post offices until early 1930 The marks were probably sent back to the central administration after the inquiry of January and February 1930 .

The Ruanda Urundi issues

The surcharge used for the postcards of this territory is different : Taxe postale incomplete".

This surcharge was applied on the issues of 1917 and 1921

Dr. Jacques Stibbe

as translated by Emile Hoorens

(For reference purposes the illustrations included these 'marks' from ABA; ALBERTVILLE; BASANKUSU; BASOKO; BALOBO I; BALOBO II; BOMA; BULUNGU; BUMBA; BUTA; COQUILHATVILLE; DIMA; IRUMU; KABINDA ?; KASENYI; KASONGO; KIKWIT; LEOPOLDVILLE 1; LEOPOLDVILLE 2; LIBENGE; LIKASI; LISALA; LUSAMBO; MADIMBA; MATADI; MUSHIE; MWEKA; RUTSHURU; SAKANIA; STANLEYVILLE; THYSVILLE; TSHIKAPA; USUMBURA; UVIRA; WATSA -as I indicated we hope to be able to reproduce these in a legible form in a later issue of the Bulletin --Editor)

112/4

RALPH JACQUEMIN

It is with much regret that we learn of the death of Ralph Jacquemin on May 13 1999 at his home in Phoenix Arizona. He was a veteran of the Air Force in WW II having served in England and we always reminisced when we spoke—the stamps and the past. He was a long time Editor of the Bulletin for which the BCSC is most indebted. He was forced to give it up as his health deteriorated some years ago.

He served as an Editor of the Arizona Philatelist and was a Vice President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors.

Ralph was an active Exhibitor and won many silver and gold medals at regional, national and international Exhibitions. Included among his many Belgian Congo exhibits were: The postal Stationery of the Belgian Congo; The Palms issues; Blocks of four and more/Congo 1894-1925; and Mols booklet pane stamps.

He was a veteran plater who had the distinction of plating one of the 5 centimes (either 1910 or 1915) by finding 50 postal cards on which each of the plate positions had been postally used—a truly remarkable feat.

Ralph also did the presentation/mounting of several grand award exhibits for other philatelists.

Ron Strawser, who assisted your Editor in this report, states “He was a good friend always willing to help other collectors and his home was always open to visiting BCSC members” and that he had the pleasure of working with Ralph on numerous occasions.

I have expressed the sympathy of the BCSC to his wife Patricia and trust she will convey the same to their three children Mark, Chris and Sarah and to the grandchildren.

EML

NEWS FROM BELGIUM

1) Change of address:

Mr. F. Van der Veken has moved to: Résidence Parc d'Italie Chaussée de Boitsfort, 15 B / box 109 1050 Brussels
Phone + Fax 32.2.672.34.22

2) We welcome the following new Members

- Mr. Michel Hopperets Résidence Aurore 4 Avenue J. Van Kalken, 4 / box 70 1070 Brussels
Phone (only week-ends) 32.87.33.97.81
- Mr. Michel Bouvy 12, Rue des Aubépines 6720 Habay
- Mr. Luc Dekeyser R. Dansaertlaan, 168 A 1702 Groot Bijgaarden

3) Meeting on Sunday 3 October 1999

The Belgian members, but also all our ‘foreign’ members are invited to a meeting on Sunday 3 October 1999 from 11.00 AM until 01.00 PM, to be held during the national stamp exhibition BRUPHILA 99.

We will have some presentations which will be made by members and we will go through the collections of Belgian Congo in the exhibition. We hope to welcome many members of the Club, not only from Belgium, but also from UK and other countries. Inquiries : Emile Hoorens - phone 32.2.522.16.26

EH

THE HANDSTAMPS OF THE CONGO BELGE OVERPRINTS

In the next nine pages we reproduce, with the kind permission of M. R. Ingels, the first portion of his work “*Les surcharges CONGO BELGE 1909*” published in 1977. The illustrations of the various types are clear and the text, in French, should not prove too daunting to our English speaking members. The reproduction of the Hudson listing of the various perforation varieties does not touch on shade varieties but will open the door to the vast challenge of these overprints. The balance of the Hudson listings and of the Ingels article will appear in the next bulletin. As always remember forgeries of these overprints abound—use the BCSC Expert Committee!!!

112/5

Les timbres avec surcharge à main de Bruxelles

L'étude des surcharges à la main est toujours compliquée. Il faut, en effet, tenir compte de la manière particulière dont elles sont frappées par celui qui manipule le cachet. Par contre, un cachet mécanique possède sa caractéristique propre. Un tel cachet est stable et est appliqué sur le timbre avec une pression généralement régulière. Il en résulte que pour les surcharges à la main les différentes caractéristiques d'une lettre sont plus ou moins visibles et plus ou moins constantes. Ceci est l'élément de base dont il faut tenir compte lors de l'étude des différents types. Voici les résultats de mes observations :

TYPE 1 : le deuxième O de Congo est ouvert à hauteur du trait horizontal du G.

TYPE 2 : Le trait oblique du N est ouvert. La boucle gauche du deuxième O est très amincie à mi-hauteur.

TYPE 3 : Le trait oblique du N est brisé et la partie supérieure du jambage droit a la forme d'une quille. La boucle droite du deuxième O est très mince à mi-hauteur.

TYPE 4 : La lettre N est brisée en différents endroits. Le trait vertical du premier E est très caractéristique.

TYPE 5 : La lettre la plus caractéristique, ici, est de G de Congo. La moitié supérieure est visiblement déplacée vers la gauche et le trait vertical gauche est aminci à mi-hauteur. Cet amincissement se rencontre aussi dans les surcharges typographiques.

TYPE 6 : La base du premier O est fortement amincie à gauche, ou brisée. Les extrémités supérieure gauche et inférieure droite de la lettre N sont très pointues.

TYPE 7 : Les lettres C, O, G et B sont très angulaires et n'ont que de petits arrondis.

TYPE 8 : Toutes les lettres sont très minces. Le G de Belge est très étroit.

En ce qui concerne les tirages, des chiffres très précis peuvent être donnés. (On les trouve en page 306 du livre « Congo, cinquante ans d'histoire postale »). Grâce à cela, il est également possible d'établir un ordre exact de rareté relative de chaque surcharge.

Voici cet ordre pour les 5, 15 et 50 c. ainsi que le 3,50 F en remplacement de celui publié dans le livre précité :

5 c. : 2 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 3 - 7 - 8
15 c. : 2 - 4 - 5 - 1 - 6 - 3
50 c. : 2 - 6 - 5 - 1 - 3 - 7
3,50 F : 2 - 5 - 6 - 3 - 1

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 1

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 2

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 3

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 4

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 5

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 6

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 7

CONGO BELGE

Bruxelles 8

8 ☆

112/7

Les timbres avec surcharge à main locale

Pour l'étude des surcharges locales, on ne peut faire état d'une pression régulière du cachet sur le timbre car il s'agit bien ici d'un réel cachet à la main.

Mais comment déterminer la rareté d'un type de surcharge ? Avant tout, il s'agit de rechercher d'éventuelles indications dans les documents de 1909 et des années suivantes. La chance est, ici, de notre côté. Dans les lettres de feu le major Bruneel, Commandant de la Force Publique à Boma et philatéliste, on peut lire ce qui suit : « Pour les surcharges à la main, je dois vous dire que je n'ai pas trouvé ici, à Boma, un seul timbre à 10 francs ni à 5 francs surcharge noire. Je pense que, pour les timbres à 5 francs, la surcharge noire sera beaucoup plus rare que la violette. En effet, il y a encore ici à Boma, environ 5.000 timbres à 5 Frs surchargés à la main et tous avec la nuance violette. »

Donc, d'un tirage total d'environ 10.750 exemplaires, la moitié a été surchargée à Boma. Il faut y ajouter que, durant une période relativement courte, tous les cachets ont été utilisés à Boma. Les timbres congolais étaient, en effet, entreposés dans l'immeuble des postes de Boma et le stock existant à Boma même était fort important par rapport à celui des autres bureaux.

Dans une lettre du 22 avril 1910, le major Bruneel écrivait encore : « J'ai essayé d'avoir des renseignements au sujet du nombre de timbres existant dans les postes au moment où la surcharge a été appliquée. Impossible d'avoir une réponse, on m'a donné simplement le nombre de timbres et de cartes surchargés au Contrôle des Postes, à Boma ; cela présente déjà un certain intérêt et cela montre que certaines valeurs ne seront jamais rares. Il y avait à Boma, au Contrôle, les quantités suivantes qui ont été surchargées à la main :

37.850 timbres à 0,05	1.650 timbres à 0,50
40.250 timbres à 0,10	5.605 timbres à 1,00
9.400 timbres à 0,15	55 timbres à 3,50
14.850 timbres à 0,25	5.405 timbres à 5,00
5.425 timbres à 0,40	4.036 timbres à 10,00

Le total des timbres ainsi répertoriés est énorme par rapport au tirage total. On peut donc supposer que le solde était réparti entre les 38 autres bureaux de poste et de télégraphe, ainsi que chez des particuliers.

Cinq cachets furent expédiés, respectivement à Boma, Thysville, Léopoldville, Matadi et Bumba, cinq centres importants qui, par le fait, possédaient une réserve de timbres relativement grande. Ces timbres furent surchargés avec les cachets expédiés. On peut, de cette manière, établir un compte fictif du nombre de fois, qu'un cachet déterminé a été appliqué sur une valeur déterminée. Mais cette méthode de travail est, en soi, sans valeur. Elle ne peut être qu'un des éléments d'une hypothèse.

Quelques autres informations peuvent être glanées en consultant des collections très spécialisées. Mais peut-on être certain que les pièces qui n'y figurent pas sont réellement rares ? Il advient parfois qu'on retrouve soudain un stock non négligeable de pièces portant les surcharges présumées rares. Les indications ainsi obtenues peuvent pourtant servir, mais moyennant certaines réserves.

Le contrôle des timbres mis en vente publique peut également fournir des indications complémentaires, bien que, souvent, de nombreux timbres sont vendus sans indications suffisantes.

Reste encore une possibilité : l'examen même des surcharges. On peut constater que différentes surcharges présentent des lettres endommagées. Ces dommages résultent d'un emploi intensif. Examinons donc les différents types de surcharges :

TYPE 1 : La lettre B est brisée à la jointure des deux boucles, et également à gauche. Le premier E est brisé entre les deux traits horizontaux inférieurs. Le L est brisé presque au même niveau. Le dernier E est brisé entre les deux traits supérieurs.

Type 2 : Le coin supérieur gauche du C est brisé. La lettre G et le deuxième O sont brisés à la base. Le trait supérieur du premier E n'est pas relié à la hampe et le L est brisé.

Type 3 : Le jambage gauche du N est brisé peu avant la base. Le B est brisé à droite, à la jointure des deux boucles. Le E est brisé entre les deux traits horizontaux inférieurs. Le L est brisé à la même hauteur que le E.

TYPE 4 : Toutes les lettres sont intactes. Le premier G est très angulaire et souvent la surcharge présente une ressemblance embarrassante avec le type 3.

TYPE 5 : La base du C est angulaire et le sommet de la lettre est étroit. Le N est très large et mince. Le G de Congo est parfois brisé à gauche, à hauteur du trait horizontal. Cette lettre est plus étroite dans le haut que dans le bas. La courbe supérieure du B est plus large que la courbe inférieure. Le G de Belge est très étroit.

TYPE 6 : Le C est brisé dans le haut à gauche. Le premier O est plus large que le second. Le N est brisé juste sous l'angle supérieur gauche. Le premier G présente un trait horizontal particulièrement petit. Le B est brisé juste sous le coin supérieur gauche.

CONGO BELGE

Locale 1

CONGO BELGE

Locale 2

CONGO BELGE

Locale 3

CONGO BELGE

Locale 4

CONGO BELGE

Locale 5

CONGO BELGE

Locale 6

CONGO BELGE

Locale 7

CONGO BELGE

Locale 8

☆ 9

112/10

Le E est brisé entre les deux traits horizontaux supérieurs. Le deuxième G est brisé dans le bas, à droite.

TYPE 7 : Rien à signaler.

TYPE 8 : Tous les petits traits horizontaux se trouvent à même hauteur et les angles supérieur gauche et inférieur droit du N sont très pointus.

Le fait que le type 4 soit resté intact attire surtout l'attention. Par contre, on remarque que les types 3 et 6 sont fortement endommagés. N'est-ce pas parce que, lors de la répartition des cachets le type 4 a été attribué directement au guichet même de la poste, tandis que le type 1 fut utilisé ensuite pour la surcharge du stock ? N'est-ce pas la raison pour laquelle le type 4 est particulièrement rencontré avec des surcharges renversées ? Ne sait-on pas aussi que le type 4 existe comme deuxième surcharge au-dessus ou sous une surcharge déjà existante. Le type 4 est connu pour toutes ces fantaisies de surcharges et est réellement plus rare qu'on le déclare. Notre hypothèse concernant les détériorations mène à une révision de l'ordre de rareté relative des surcharges. Voici nos résultats :

pour le	5 c. :	1 - 5 - 4 - 2 - 3 - 7 - 6 - 8
pour le	10 c. :	1 - 5 - 2 - 4 - 3 - 6 - 7 - 8
pour le	15 c. :	1 - 5 - 2 - 4 - 6 - 7 - 3 - 8
pour le	25 c. :	1 - 5 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 6 - 7 - 8
pour le	40 c. :	1 - 5 - 3 - 7 - 4 - 2 - 6 - 8
pour le	50 c. :	1 - 5 - 2 - 4 - 7 - 3 - 6 - 8
pour le	1,00 F :	1 - 5 - 3 - 2 - 7 - 4 - 6 - 8
pour le	3,50 F :	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 7 - 6 - 8
pour le	5,00 F :	1 - 5 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 6 - 7 - 8
pour le	10,00 F :	1 - 5 - 2 - 3 - 6 - 7 - 4 - 8



Remarque : Dans les surcharges typographiques on décèle diverses variétés qui se présentent aussi bien dans les tirages dits ordinaires que dans le « tirage des Princes ». Mais qu'observe-t-on ? Que la même surcharge sur les timbres du tirage des Princes est parfois endommagée. Une caractéristique est donc venue s'y ajouter. Les clichés utilisés en novembre 1908 ont à nouveau servi en mars 1909. Et le fait s'est reproduit : l'emploi répété d'un cliché (qu'on pourrait aussi appeler cachet) produit de nouvelles caractéristiques par détérioration de l'ancien cachet. La possibilité d'étudier scientifiquement les surcharges typographiques fournit une technique qui permet également une étude plus approfondie des cachets à main.

1909 Congo Belge Overprints

In connection with the publication of Ingels work on the Congo Belge overprints your Editor has included, through the 50 centimes, the following reprint of the Hudson plating work as it applies to these items. (The 1F etc. will appear in the September Bulletin). For the plater it is an excellent reference and for the general collector it demonstrates the challenge of any attempt to acquire to various perforation combinations. The abbreviations used are 'B' = Brussels; L = Local handstamp. Hudson's code as to his observations of the relative rarity of the plate combinations and the overprints is:

A: Very common; B: Common; C: Fairly uncommon; D: Scarce; E: Rare; X: Probably unknown.

No attempt is made as to the shades except with the 50c where one finds ol—olive and y-ol—yellow olive.

5 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I1+B1	B2	p 14 (DE), p15 (CE), p14 1/2-15 (CE)
I1+B1	L1	p15(EE)
I1+B1	L2	p 15(EE)
I1+B1	L4	p 15(EE)
I2+B2	B2	p 14(CE)
I2+B2	B3	p 14(DE)
I2+B2	B4	p 14(DE)
I2+B2	B5	p 14(DE)
I2+B2	B6	p 14(DE)
I2+B2	B8	p 14(EX)
I2+B2	L1	p 14(AA),p14h-15(BB)
I2+B2	L2	p 13 1/2 (DD),p14(AA),p14 1/2 -15(BB)
I2+B2	L3	p 13-VDD),p14(BB),p14 1/2 -15(CC)
I2+B2	L4	p 13 1/2 (DD),p14(AA),p14 1/2 -15(BB)
I2+B2	L5	p 13 1/2 (CD),p14(AA),p14 1/2 -15(CC)
I2+B2	L6	p 13 1/2 (DD),p14(BB),p14 1/2 -15(CC)
I2+B2	L7	p 13 1/2 (DD),p14(BB),p14 1/2 -15(DD)
I2+B2	L1	exists with imperforate bottom margin

5 CENTIMES TYPO

I2+B2	p 14 (AD)
I2+B2 Princess	p 14 (DC)

10 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I2+A4	B2	p15(DE)
I2+A4	B6	p13-2(DE)
I2+A4	L2	p15(EE)
I2+A4	L4	p13 1/2 (EE),p14(EE),p14 1/2 -15(EE),p15(EE)
I2+A4	L5	p14(EE)
I3+A5	B5	p14 1/2 -15(EE)
I3+A5	B6	p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I3+A5	L1	p14(EE)
I3+A5	L2	p14(EE)
I3+A5	L3	p14 1/2 -15(EE)
I3+A5	L4	p13 1/2 (EE),p14(EE)
I3+A5	L5	p14(EE),p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I3+A5	L7	p14(EE)
I4+A5	B1	p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I4+A5	B2	p14 1/2 -15(CE)
I4+A5	B4	p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I4+A5	B5	p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I4+A5	B6	p14 1/2 -15(DE)
I4+A5	B7	p14 1/2 -15(EE)
I4+A5	B8	p14 1/2 -15(EE)
I4+A5	L1	p14(AA)
I4+A5	L2	p14(AA)
I4+A5	L3	p14(BB)
I4+A5	L4	p14(AA)
I4+A5	L5	p13 1/2 (DE),p14(AA)
I4+A5	L6	p14(BB)
I4+A5	L7	p14(BB)
I4+A5	L8	p14(EE)
I4+A5 Princes	B2	p14(EX)
I4+A5 Princes	B5	p14(EX)

Other combinations may well exist. Forged overprints are common: I have forgeries on I2+A4 p15 and I4+A5 p14 and p14 1/2 -15.

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10 CENTIMES TYPO

I4+A5		p14 ½-15(AD)
I4+A5 Princes		p14(DC)

15 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I+Alb	B1	p14(EE)
I+Alb	B2	p13 ½ (DE), p14(DE), p12-14(DE)
I+Alb	B3	p14(DE)
I+Alb	B4	p14(DE)
I+Alb	B5	p14(DE)
I+Alb	B6	p13 ½ (DE),p14 ½ -15(DE)
I+Alb	L2	p14(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I+Alb	L3	p14(DD)
I+Alb	L4	p14(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I+Alb	L5	p13 ½ (DD), p14(DD), p15(DD), p14 ½ -15(DD)
I+Alb	L7	p14(DC)
I+A2/A3	L1	p 13 ½ (DD), p14(AA)
I+A2/A3	L2	p14(BB)
I+A2/A3	L3	p14(DD)
I+A2/A3	L4	p13 ½ (DD),p14(BB)
I+A2/A3	L5	p 13 ½ (DD), p14(CC), p14 ½ -15 (DD)
I+A2/A3	L6	p14(CC)
I+A2/A3	L7	p13 ½ (DD),p14(CC),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I+A2/A3	L8	p?(EE)
I+A3 Princes	B2	p14(EX)
I+A3 Princes	B5	p14(EX)

Because of the difficulty of differentiating A2 from A3, the above list does not distinguish between them. However the following have been confirmed: I+A2 p14 L1, L2, L4, L5, L6 and p13 ½ L5; I+A3 p14 L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L7 and p14 ½ -15 L7.

Forged overprints are common; I have forgeries on I+Ala p14, p15 and p12-14 and I+Alb p14.

The 15c exists with a Local overprint with the right margin imperforate.

15 CENTIMES TYPO

I+Alb	p14 ½ -15(EE)
I+A2	P14(CC),p14 ½ -15(BB)
I+A3	p14(BB),p14 ½ -15(CC)
I+A3 Princes	p14(DD)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate. I have forgeries on I+Ala p15, I+Alb p13 ½ and 15 and I+A2 p 13 ½

25 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I2+A2	B1	p14 ½ -15(EE)
I2+A2	B2	p15(DE),p14 ½ -15(DE)
I2+A2	B3	p 14 ½ -15(EE)
I2+A2	B4	p15(DE),p14 ½ -15(DE)
I2+A2	B5	p14 ½ -15(DE)
I2+A2	B6	p13 ½ (EE),p14 ½ -15(EE)
I2+A2	L1	p13 ½ (CC),p14(DD),p14 ½ -15(BB)
I2+A2	L2	p13 ½ (CC),p14 ½ -15(CC)
I2+A2	L3	p13 ½ (DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2	L4	p13 ½ (DD),P14(DD),p15(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2	L5	p13 ½ (DD),p14(DD),p15(CC),p14 ½ -15(CC)
I2+A2	L6	p13 ½ DD),p14(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2	L7	p14(DD),p15(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I3+A2	L1	p14(BB)
I3+A2	L2	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L3	p14(DD)
I3+A2	L4	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L5	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L6	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L8	p14(EE)
I3+A2 Princes B2		p14(EX)
I3+A2 Princes B5		p14(EX)

Other combinations may well exist. Forged overprints are found; I have one on 12+A2 p14~15.

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25 CENTIMES TYPO

I2+A2	p13 ½ (BB),p14 ½ -15(CD)
I3+A2	p 14(BA),p14 ½ -15(CA)
I3+A2 Princes	p14(DD)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate. I have a forgery on I2+A2 p14 ½ -15.

40 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I2+A1	B2	p14(CE),p15(DE),p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	B3	p?(EE)
I2+A1	B4	p14(DE),p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	B5	p?(EE)
I2+A1	B6	p14(DE),p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	L1	p14(AA),p15(DD),p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L2	p14(BB),p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L3	p12 ½ (DD),p14(CC),p15(DD)
I2+A1	L4	p14(BB),p15(DD),p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L5	P14(AA),p15(DD),P12-14(CC),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A1	L6	p14(AA),p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L7	p14(AA),p15(DD),p12-14(CC)

I2+A1 Princes B2	p14(EX)
I2+A1 Princes B5	p14(EX)

Forged overprints are common

40 CENTIMES TYPO

I2+A1	p12 ½ (DD),p14(AA),p12-14(BB),p14 ½ -15(AA)
I2+A1 Princes	P14(DD)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate.

50 CENTIMES HANDSTAMPS

I1+A2 ol	B1	p14(DE),p14 ½ -15(DE)
I1+A2 ol	B2	p14(DE),p15(DE)
I1+A2 ol	B5	p14(CE)
I1+A2 ol	B6	p15(DE),p14 ½ -15(DE)
I1+A2 ol	B7	p14(EE)
I2+A2 y-ol,	B6	p14(DE)
I2+A2 y--ol	L1	p13h(DD)
I2+A2 y--ol	L2	p14(DD)
I2+A2 y-ol	L3	p13VDD)
I2+A2 y-ol	L4	p13 ½ (DD),p14(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2 y-ol	L5	p13 ½ (DD),p14(DC),p12-14(EE),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2 y-ol	L6	p13 ½ (DD),p14(DD)
I2+A2 ol	L1	p14(BA)
I2+A2 ol	L2	p14(CC),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2 ol	L3	p14(CC),p15(DD)
I2+A2 ol	L4	p14(CB),p15(DD),p14 ½ -15(DD)
I2+A2 ol	L5	p14(BB),p14 ½ -15(CC)
I2+A2 ol	L6	p14(CB),p15(DD)
I2+A2 ol	L7	p14(BB)

I2+A2 Princes B2	p14(EX)
I2+A2 Princes B5	p14(EX)

Frame plates I1 and I2 can be distinguished on only 4 positions of the sheet; it is assumed that olive stamps with Brussels overprint are all from I1+A2, but this has not been confirmed.

The following combinations were reported by Du Four but have not been confirmed by Ray Keach or myself:

I1+A2 ol B3	I2+A2 ol L8
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Other combinations may well exist. Forged overprints are common: I have forgeries on I+A2 ol p14 and p15 and I2+A2 y-ol p14 and p14 ½ -15.

50 CENTIMES TYPO

I2+A2 ol	p14 (AA), p14 ½ -15(CB)
I2+A2 Princes	p14 (DC)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate. I have forgeries on I+A2 ol p15 and I2+A2 y-ol p13~, p14 and p14 ½ -15.

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MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

The Annual General Meeting was held in London at 7 Chester Sq. Saturday 8th May 1999. In attendance were Messrs. L. G. Green, E. Hoorens, W. H. Hoyte, R. H. Keach, E. M. Lavitt, C. Loyd, M. Round, S.S. Smith and M. St. J. Wright

Apologies were received from M. C. Ellis, P. Storm van Leeuwen, R. Gallant and C. Stockmans.

The President, Edwin Lavitt, chaired the meeting and the minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

The Secretary referred to the sudden and sad loss of Brian Hudson who had contributed much service and knowledge to the Circle.

Membership of the Circle has remained fairly static and new members joining the Circle have been recorded in the Bulletin. For comparative purposes the movement and level of the membership has been as follows:

	1998	1997
Belgium	36	35
Britain	30	31
USA	34	35
Australia	3	4
Netherlands	1	1
Denmark	5	5
Spain	3	1
Sweden	1	1

The Treasurers Report, the accounts for the year to 31 December 1998, as published in Bulletin 111 were presented and approved.

It was noted in particular that whilst it has been the policy of the Circle to subsidise publication of the Bulletin, a detailed analysis of the costs involved over a two year period indicate disparity in the subsidy level on a National basis. With this in mind it was considered prudent and sensible to adjust the subscription levels for the year 2000.

Will members please note that for the year commencing 1st January 2000 the following subscriptions will become effective:

Region	Subscription
U.K.	£8.00
Belgium	B.F. 300
Rest of Europe	£8.00
USA and Canada	\$15.00
Rest of the World	£10.00

General Sales. Because of the death of the General Sales Secretary, Brian Hudson, there was no annual report. Ray Keach said that, as far as he could ascertain, the only general sales during 1998 had been of Brian's own stamps and the study circle commission had been paid on these sales.

It was thought that with the regular auction sales and the circulating packets (in operation in Great Britain and under consideration in the United States) there was adequate provision for the sale of members' surplus material and, at least for the present time, the position of General Sales Secretary should lapse. In recent years General Sales have largely been confined to Mols stamps for those members who reconstruct sheets from single stamps. There appears to be no one who possess the necessary complete sheets for reference and who would be willing to undertake the task of identifying stamps for sale to members. If in the future a member who is able and prepared to undertake this duty appears, the service could recommence.

Librarian. Ray Keach said that, because of old age and other duties within the study circle, he would like to pass to another the job of 1) holding the master copies of the Bulletin and providing photocopies when required and 2) holding our stocks of books which are for sale. It was agreed that a notice seeking a volunteer for this job should be included in the June Bulletin

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The Auction Secretary. Ray Keach reported the very sad loss of our auctioneer, Brian Hudson, who died before the end of the year. Four sales were held, two, run by Brian, being *General Sales* and two, run by myself, being *Special Sales*, consisting only of stamps from the collections of the late Peter Foden.

Following our established practice no commission was charged on the Foden stamps but it is thought that all items in the *General Sales* obtained the BCSC 3% commission.

A new Auctioneer has now to be found as there is and will be no shortage of suitable material in the immediate future. Mrs. Hudson has indicated that she would like us to deal with Brian's stamps and if we follow our established practice this will be without commission and therefore of no financial benefit to the Study Circle.

At a later stage of the AGM it was agreed to continue with this practice of no commission charges on deceased members material for the immediate future. Clearly expenses incurred will continue to be met by the vendor and when appropriate postage and associated costs will be borne by the buyers.

The Expert Committee. Ray Keach reported an interesting and active year issuing a record 388 certificates to a total of 21 members. The great majority were for subjects submitted by five members and it is clear that, at least, they value the service that is provided.

Toward the end of the year the committee lost a greatly valued member, the late Brian Hudson, and is now reduced to Abbè Gudenkauf, Philippe Lindekens and Ray Keach but we make good use of specialists in particular fields notably Emile Hoorens, Georges Celis, Norman Clowes and Filip van der Haegen. We are very grateful to these gentlemen for their help.

During the year we changed from black and white photographs to coloured photocopies as reproductions on our certificates. This is a very decided

improvement upon which there has been no adverse comment. Apart from coloured photocopies being somewhat cheaper and more readily obtainable than photographs they show overprints and cancellations much more clearly.

At the 1996 AGM R. H. Keach was authorized to proceed with an exercise to endeavour to rebuild our photographic records of subjects submitted for certificates, most of these records having been stolen. The exercise has now been completed as far as it can be at a cost of £221 which has been met by our gracious insurers.

Thanks go to the fullest cooperation of nearly all members we now lack only about 50 photographs of the 2500 subjects submitted for certificates. For various reasons the great majority of these are not available or identifiable but there is hope that a few remain in members' collections and will be submitted for reproduction.

Profit from the Expert Committee service made a small but useful contribution towards Study Circle funds.

It is thought that many members do not realise that they are entitled, each year, to two certificates for single stamps free of charge and that when the time comes for collections to be sold, the market value of a scarce or unusual stamp or cover is enhanced if it carries a certificate or, in the case of a cover, certified information on its history.

"During discussions under AOB (Any Other Business), concern was expressed about the future of the Expert Committee, and it was resolved to seek further help, principally from our Belgian membership. It was also resolved that the same charge would be made for examination and opinion whether a submission was found to be genuine or otherwise."

Packet Secretary-Hal Hoyte reported that a Packet was circulated to U.K. members during 1999 and a report was included in the last Bulletin. Suffice it to say

that it proved a great success and will be continued during the coming year.

Bulletin Editor's and the Presidents reports are found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Election of Officers

The following were elected:

President	Emile Hoorens
Secretary/Treasurer	Stuart S. Smith
Regional Sec.-Belgium	Emile Hoorens
Regional Sec.-USA	Edwin M. Lavitt
Bulletin Editor	Edwin M. Lavitt
Auction Secretary	Ph. Lindekens
	C. Stockmans
Packet Sec.-U.K.	W. H. Hoyte
Expert Committee	R. H. Keach
	Abbè Gudenkauf
	Ph. Lindekens
	and others in support

Other Business

Insurance Coverage is still a cause for concern particularly in respect of coverage for stamps in transit to the USA. Our insurers have made the position very clear which will require us to follow very specific procedures. The purchasers of expensive lots shall bear the responsibility for coverage for these mailings. (see a note in this Bulletin to USA members) in this regard.

AGM 2000

The AGM 2000 will be held on Saturday 29th April 2000 at the same convenient venue viz.: 7 Chester Sq. London as this year, if it can be made available.

The meeting thanked Ed Lavitt for his service and commitment to the Circle during his period of office. Whilst retiring as President-he has fortunately agreed to continue as Bulletin Editor for the foreseeable future.

As there is a present shortage of material for publication in the Bulletin, and the Editor is forced to hold material back for subsequent Bulletins in order to have something to publish—it was suggested that some of our earlier articles would prove of interest to our newer members and that we should consider republishing after minor updates.

Following the business meeting the group met in the Study where we had the pleasure of examining L. G. Greens' collection of Balasse and DuFour varieties of the Leopold heads, a fascinating group of legitimate Zaire inflation covers shown by Michael Round, a splendid group of Princes presented by R. H. Keach and an Album of Mols containing some unusual part perf varieties brought over by Ed Lavitt.

The group thanked Stuart Smith and his daughter for providing a most agreeable venue for the meeting. The luncheon sumptuous and delicious—and the study area for stamp viewing was just perfect.

A delightful tea concluded the proceedings and all felt the day had been productive and most enjoyable.

Stuart S. Smith

WANTED-A LIBRARIAN

Urgently wanted is a volunteer, resident in the United Kingdom, for the job of BCSC Honorary Librarian.

He will keep the master copies of past issues of the BCSC Bulletin and of one or two out-of-print books, together with such duplicated copies as we have, and obtain and dispatch photocopies when ordered by members.

He will hold our stocks of books and accessories for sale and dispatch them to members when ordered.

The present total volume of the stock, in boxes and box files, is approximately 12 cubic feet and is most unlikely to increase dramatically.

He will account for sales to our Honorary Treasurer.

The job is by no means onerous and is most unlikely to become so.

A volunteer is requested to please write to the present aged and overstressed incumbent R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Rd., Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England UK

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