

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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**BULLETIN 122**

**DECEMBER 2001**

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## The Editor's Ramblings

In spite of my best intentions this issue is once again a little late. This was caused in part by some events that were outside of my control and by some that I probably should have been able to control. Hopefully you will consider it worth the wait. I must plead once again for articles of any size and any candidates for the "My Favorite Cover" column.

## Presidential Thoughts

I first met Ray Keach when I joined the Study Circle in 1956. I was living in Birmingham at the time (not realizing that he was born and educated there), and when I joined, he took the trouble to travel up to meet another new member, Mr. G. K. Nichols, who lived locally (and still does) and myself. I did appreciate that gesture. I don't remember visiting him or going to a meeting at his old home before he moved to Yorkshire, though I do remember a meeting at Lawrence Green's home in about 1957. The next time I saw him was when I was working in Yorkshire for six months, and was invited to stay for a weekend at Beverly early in 1959. The worst feature was an appalling "pea-souper" fog which delayed my train by about three hours. The best was my introduction to Joan Keach's marvelous hospitality, something which I and many other members were to appreciate in the years to come. This visit was the occasion of my first glimpses of the vast realm of Ray's collection, as well as being given the chance to acquire items from the collection of Joseph Wright, the oldest founder-member, who had died the previous year. Was this the first time that Ray had handled the collection of a deceased member? If so, it marked the beginning of an extremely valuable aspect of Ray's work for the Study Circle, and it certainly wasn't the last.

Beyond doubt, the most important contribution made by Ray to the study of Belgian Congo philately (and he put the "study" into the Study Circle with a vengeance!) was in the field of the "Mols" issues, including his founding of the Waterlow Study Circle. My personal debt to him however was in the field of the postmarks of the Congo. First of all was the example of his own magnificent collection. Secondly he was an invaluable source of material for my own collection, especially covers (remember "Montgomery Ward" and "De Laurence"!), but most important for me was the way he studied and classified the postmarks, culminating in the Heim-Keach catalogue. I have myself written a book on the postmarks of a neighboring country, Northern Rhodesia, and I can testify how much I was influenced by Ray's methods of classification, and his use of the 360 degree protractor. We are used to seeing detailed study of the printing of stamps, but Ray brought the same attention to detail in his study of postmarks, to such great effect. Thank you Ray. (Editor's note: This was received too late to include in the last issue when we reported the death of Ray Keach.)

## Letters to the Editor

In the September Bulletin, on Page 121:2, there is an editorial seeking comments from members about advertising. I am in agreement with this in principle, though I would recommend that the amount be limited in order to keep an air of professionalism about the general ethos of the Bulletin. I do like the idea of one or more free adverts. per year for members to have a kind of bourse, but what about extending this idea into having a "trading post" for buying and selling to replace the irreplaceable Ray Keach? On postal voting, I have a firm view that it should be allowed as a means of extending "democracy" to those members who, like me, find it difficult to attend AGMs. Yes, of course some work needs to be done on the mechanics of it by the Committee,

but as you say in the editorial, other societies manage to do it so the problems are not insurmountable. - Roger Nailer, "Fortune's Well", 39 Couzens Close, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire, BS37 6BT

I support your ideas re ads and voting at the AGM. A couple of other suggestions. I would like to see a list of email addresses published in the Bulletin, to encourage communication among the members. Members who write articles for the Bulletin might include an email address, for instance. Secondly, I think it would benefit the group if we could get informal "expertization" opinions via email, based on scans, etc. I imagine this kind of thing is already going on among some of the members. We do quite a bit of this kind of thing in other groups to which I belong. It would also be worthwhile for BCSC to have a web page. I think that would do wonders re recruiting new members. It would also be a good place to post auction results, etc. – Pat Dowling

### **New Members**

The BCSC would like to welcome its' newest members:

Mr. A.J.M. Cruickshank, P.O.Box 25375, 00603 Nairobi, Kenya. E-mail [loony@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:loony@africaonline.co.ke)  
Mr. Olivier Simons, Armendijlaan 30, 1933 Sterrebeek, Belgium  
Mr. Louis Rudy, 960 A Rue de la Chapelle, 6686 Flamierge, Belgium  
Mr. Thierry Gregoire, F. Broersstraat 26, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium

### **Notice To All Platers**

Ray Keach acted as intermediary between those of us who had plating copies of the Mols to offer and those of us who were completing their reconstructions. I have taken over his duties. Some of the Platers have already sent me their want lists and Ray had given me the names of a number of members who had stamps to offer. Will all Platers who are interested please send me their needed lists. Will all members who have stamps to offer send me their lists. I will then endeavor to carry on Ray's work. All mailings to: E. M. Lavitt P O BOX 900 Rockville CT 06066 USA

### **The BCSC Expertization Committee**

Although the expertization committee has lost several members over the last several years it is still active and available to expertize any items submitted by members. Items should be sent to: Ph Lindekens – Rue des Trois-Ponts, 38 – B-1160 Bruxelles – Belgique/Europe. Also if anyone feels that they are qualified to serve on the committee and would like to do so they should also contact Mr. Lindekens.

### **A Belgian Congo Website**

Members should take note of a website that is dedicated to the philately of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi that has been created by Charles Stockmans. The site, which is in French, can be found at <http://users.skynet.be/chst/>. Even if one cannot read French it is a very interesting site. Among other things it mentions the BCSC. This is a very comprehensive site and is well worth checking out.

## Notes from the Honorary Secretary & Treasurer

### The Ray Keach stamp collection

Following the very sudden and sad news of Ray's death the question of what will become of his collection has obviously been raised. As all members will know the collection is indeed very extensive, though he had already disposed of most of his post-Mols, postal history and postmarks material.

Ray was a very warm, generous and forward thinking person! With a wry smile on his face, glowing pipe and smouldering (just caught fire) trousers, he said to me "*I'm glad it won't be my job to describe this lot.*"

It was Ray's wish that with a few specific exceptions, his collection should be made available to members of the Study Circle by whatever means was practical. To arrange for all the material to be offered solely through our own quarterly auctions is both a massive administrative undertaking and impossible to achieve within a reasonable time scale.

After preliminary discussions with his family and with the help of a few Study Circle volunteers it is intended to start describing and process as much as possible through our own auctions. At the same time some material will be presented through recognised 'Auction Houses'. In this latter case **any Auction House involved will be notified of the address of all Circle members who inform me that it is their wish to be included on the mailing list\***. By this means all members will have an equal opportunity of involvement. Where time permits we will announce such sales in the Bulletin.

How soon will all this happen? It is unlikely that material will become available until the middle of 2002. Thereafter there is likely to be a continuous flow – probably for several years.

**\* Will all those wishing to be included on any participating Auction House mailing list please confirm this to me – in writing. Not by E-mail.**

### Membership

It is with regret that we learnt of the death of David Glover of Hitchin, Herts and formerly from Amersham. David had been a member for about ten years.

Accompanying this Bulletin is a membership list based on information in my possession. In just a few instances either names/initials or addresses are incomplete and as always it is possible there are some errors. Where applicable would you please correct and advise me accordingly. If telephone numbers have been supplied they are included, but it will be quite apparent that many are either not known or members do not wish them to be published.

*E-mail:* Whilst many now use this form of communication, I have been notified of only six E-mail addresses and therefore have chosen not to incorporate them. Would those members who are happy to have the information circulated please let me have their E-mail addresses and when there are sufficient to justify a listing I will prepare one for distribution.

### Insurance – liability and responsibility

For information and by way of clarification, would all members note that *the Circles insurance does not cover accidental damage to a member's stamps* whilst in the hands of the 'Auctioneer/describer' or an 'Expert committee' member.

Essentially members are only protected in respect of stamps/philatelic material *lost or stolen* when on the premises of *named Expert Committee members or in transit between such members; or in the possession of or post from, the Auctioneer/describer to the purchaser.*

### Subscriptions for 2002

At last years AGM the following subscription levels were agreed for 2002. These become due as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 but payment in advance can be made at any time.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Subs.</u>	<u>Payment to</u>
Belgium	€10	<i>Emile Hoorens</i>
Denmark	€10 }	
France	€10 }	
Germany	€10 }	<i>Stuart Smith</i> – please pay in Euro Notes, (see comment below)
Netherlands	€10 }	
Spain	€10 }	
Sweden	€10 }	
U.K.	£8	
Africa/Australasia	£10	
USA & Philippines	\$15	<i>David A.Schaubroeck</i> 36634 Winterset, Clinton Township, MI 48035

U.S.A. & Philippines - please note that D.A.Schaubroeck is the new Membership and Subscription Secretary.

European members – paying subscriptions to Stuart Smith (i.e. all except Belgian)

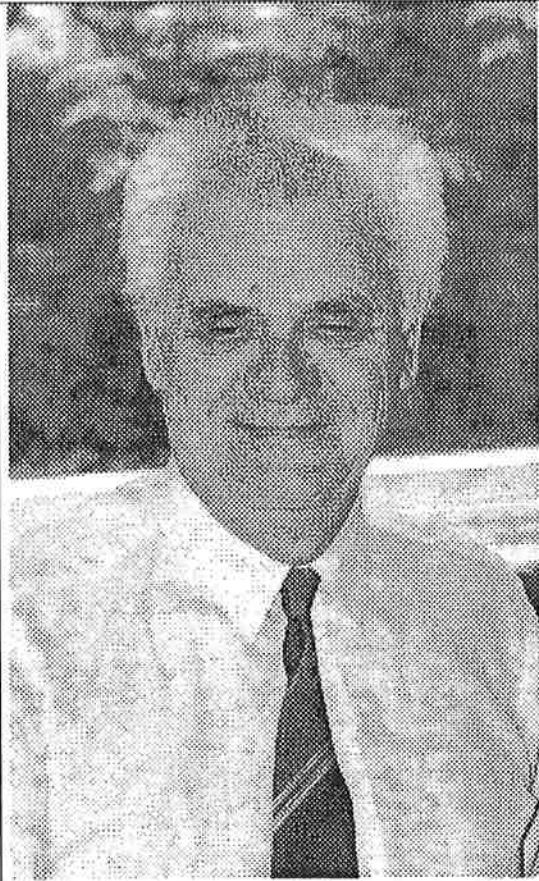
When the above new European subscription formula was decided at the AGM, it was thought that the introduction of the 'Euro', would make payment simpler. This is not the case. Firstly the Hon. Treasurer expected it would be possible to open a 'Euro Bank account', but this is neither practical nor financially viable at the present time.

Secondly it was thought that members throughout Europe would be able to pay their subscriptions by cheque into a Circle account either in the U.K. or Belgium. Neither of these two options is financially viable.

Please note that the bank charges involved in cashing cheques are excessive (upto 35%) depending on where you live. Payment of subscriptions should therefore be made in Euro notes i.e. not cheques. I am happy to receive Euro or £ sterling bank notes but if members wish me to acknowledge receipt of their subscription it would be a great help if they would include a return addressed envelope – no stamps necessary, we have our own!

Stuart Smith

## Jean-Marie Frenay



### Mr Jean-Marie Frenay (1928-2001)

Cette fin 2001, voit la disparition d'un autre grand congolâtre, après Ray Keach, décédé quelques mois plus tôt.

Jean-Marie fut un passionné du Congo & philatéliste, membre du BCSC depuis plus de 20 ans ; il était toujours très présents dans nos réunions, les expositions ou les ventes belges. Ces principales collections (Entiers Postaux, Taxes & EAAOB) furent de nombreuses fois médaillées en expositions compétitives nationales et internationales.

Il fut aussi un auteur très prolifique ; ses nombreux ouvrages et conférences permettront encore à beaucoup d'y puiser des informations. Citons pour exemples : les « études des 10 valeurs Mols de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo », « les timbres-taxes de l'EIC 1886-1960 », « Censure militaire & civile en 1914/18 » ....

Jusqu'à ce que la maladie ne l'emporte, il continua à compléter ses collection, à étudier et à faire des projets pour un nouveau livre.

Pour beaucoup, il restera un ami joyeux, bon vivant et toujours prêt à partager ses passions et connaissances.

## Members' Questions

**Q:** In going through my mint Congo postal cards , I ran across one that I could not find in the 1986 Stibbe catalog. (Editor's note: A scan of a Stibbe #42 address side was included.) This is an apparent #42 but without the picture on the other side. It is also on very thin paper. Could this be a 52 without surcharge? Or possibly a 42 which has been delaminated to remove the picture side of the card. The only difference I can see between these two cards is that the address lines on 42 are formed by small dashes and the unknown are formed by dots. Can you help me indentify this unknown card? - Ralp Yorio

**A:** Your idea about a delaminated card is almost certainly the correct one, especially since you said it was very thin. I have seen these cards where the layers of paper were separated to a greater or lesser degree. It would be easy to finish the process so that all one had, was a front or back of one of these cards on very thin paper. As for the differences of the dots or dashes, Stibbe mentions three types of address side. They vary in lengths of the lines and in the makeup of the lines, i.e. whether it is dots or dashes. There are some "proofs" of the view sides that do not have the address side. These are on normal thickness cards. Some such cards even show significant differences in the wording, etc. from the issued cards. I consider these to be a form of essay. - Ron Strawser

I do have some questions that might be worth working into an article: - Roger Nailer

1. Concerning Belgian Congo place names. I have some questions that our Belgian members might be able to answer (or, indeed, anyone else who has information). It is fairly obvious who Albertville, Baudouinville, Elisabethville, Leopoldville and Stanleyville were named after, but who were (or what was) Banning in Banningville, Banzy in Banzyville, Coquilhat in Coquilhatville, Jadot in Jadotville, Ponthier in Ponthierville and Thys in Thysville?
2. In the 1948 issue for the 50th Anniversary of the Matadi-Leopoldville Railway, the Waterlow-designed stamp shows a locomotive apparently without any wheels. Has any member seen a proof or first day cover where wheels are present?
3. 1952 (according to COB, January 1953 according to Stanley Gibbons) saw the issue of a stamp for the Fourth Centenary of the Death of St. Francis Xavier. Why was this saint chosen as a subject for a commemorative stamp in a country such as the Belgian Congo?
4. In 1953 a pair of attractive stamps was issued, presumably as commemoratives though they seemed to become definitives by default, celebrating the Kivu Festival. What was the Kivu Festival: was in an agricultural event, a religious gathering, a seasonal festival or was it political? And what exactly was shown on the two stamps: does anyone have any information on the direction and nature of the view chosen?
5. The Vloors stamps are particularly outstanding for their unusual, one might say unique, designs, though these were in keeping with the art nouveau culture of the time, but why was the American Bank Note Company chosen to print them? Was there a tender exercise, or did someone in Belgium have contacts with the company that led to a contract?
6. Subsequent to the issue of the Vloors stamps, further denominations were produced by utilizing existing designs in different colours, but when two extra denominations, 45c. and 60c. were required, Waterlows were contracted to copy the style of Vloors in producing the two Leys stamps. Why was the American Bank Note Co. not asked to produce these two stamps? (Editor's note: While members can write to Roger directly it would be beneficial to all our members if replies and hopefully articles on the above could be sent to me so they could appear in a future Bulletin.)

### **My Favorite Cover**

This month's favorite cover is that of Gene Adams of Sugar Land, Texas. Gene describes it: At the time I bought it, I was only interested as it went through Elisabethville. Only later was I able to really appreciate its true rarity. Though a little worse for wear and smudged, it is a properly used reply half postal card from Belgium occupied German East Africa that was posted on August 14th, 1918 at Fulham Station, London, England. That marking is partially shown starting with the large 'GE'. There is a transit receiving cancel at Elisabethville of October 4, 1918, as the card headed for the occupied zone. The card got to the proper unit, only to be forwarded back through

Elisabethville (October 28th) to Boma and onwards to Bruxelles, where it received its last postmark of March 2, 1918. What makes the postcard even better is on the message side is another postmark from Elisabethville on March 2, 1918 when the full card left the occupied area and transited on its way to London. This card traveled for over 12 months and through at least 4 different postal systems during war time....but it got there.





A propos de la première émission des timbres de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo: on voit les faux Lenoir des 5, 10 et 50 cm se séparer facilement des authentiques sous la lampe aux rayons ultra-violets; leur luminescence apparaît tout autre.

Il n'en va pas ainsi pour le 25 cm où la luminescence, bleue-violette pour les authentiques et bleue pour les faux Lenoir, est parfois subtile à distinguer, surtout si la vignette a trempé dans certains liquides !

Certes, s'impose aussi le critère de la dimension en hauteur du dessin de chaque timbre, plus grande en moyenne de 1/4 mm. pour les faux Lenoir. A l'usage, ce test s'avère peu décisif, tant il y a d'exceptions.

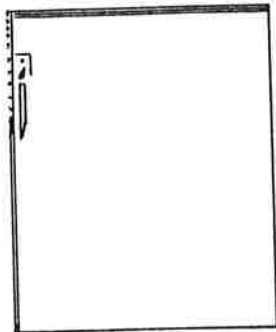
D'où l'idée si pertinente d'examiner à nouveau les feuillets Lenoir, dont il subsiste une réserve d'environ 840 exemplaires.

Notre ami Charles Hénuzet a pu emprunter ces pièces au détenteur actuel pour tenter de mieux cerner les variétés d'impression les plus constantes des dix faux. Il semble être allé aussi loin que possible dans cette recherche: félicitations !

Les feuillets Lenoir sont numérotés de 1 à 5.000; ils présentent, malgré l'usage d'une même encre, des tons variant du bleu pâle au bleu très intense (dit par certains "outremer").

Grâce à une longue patience, une vue hors du commun, Mr Hénuzet a déniché des variétés nettes et souvent inédites pour toutes les vignettes, complétant ainsi les descriptions de Mr Van Bleyenbergh. De plus, il les a superbement dessinés.

Voici son excellente contribution à l'expertise d'un timbre cher et difficile, dont les exemplaires faux fourmillent. On peut estimer à près de 50 % la proportion des faux dans les collections.



1

Le filet d'encadrement gauche manque sur  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm au coin supérieur. Variété quasi toujours présente.

N° 2.

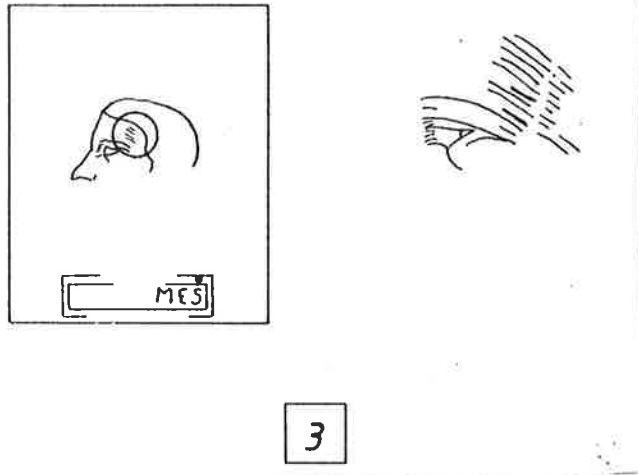


2

Au sommet de la chevelure en forme de V, la ligne de droite est divisée en plusieurs morceaux; cette variété apparaît souvent aussi sur des N° 1 ou 3; comme ceux-ci présentent d'autres variétés bien nettes, la confusion n'est pas possible.

Dans les lignes qui ombrent la tempe du roi, les deux traits du bas sont plus courts que les autres et d'égale longueur, très généralement.

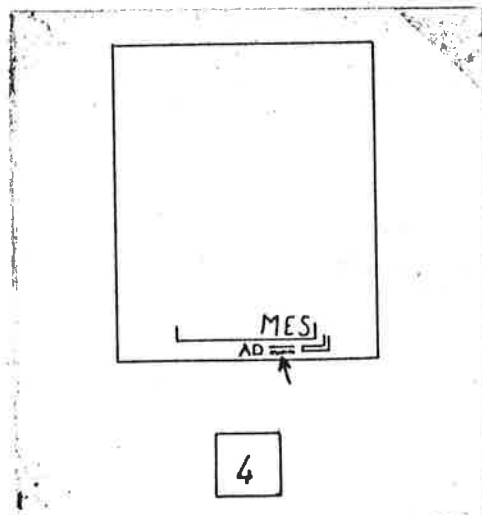
N° 3.



Ici, la variété est bien connue: la tache blanche au dessus du S de CENTIMES, toujours présente. Les faux Lenoir se distinguent des authentiques dans les traits qui ombrent la tempe: un premier et un quatrième nettement plus courts que les autres, en comptant à partir du bas. La quatrième ligne est parfois prolongée à gauche par un point ou un trait court.

Variété quasi toujours présente.

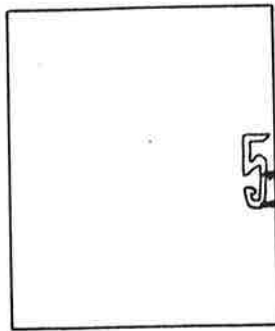
N° 4.



Sous les lettres ME de CENTIMES, la ligne blanche du bas est mince et le plus souvent coupée en deux segments, celui de droite le plus long.

Même chose au N° 6, aisément repérable par d'autres différences.

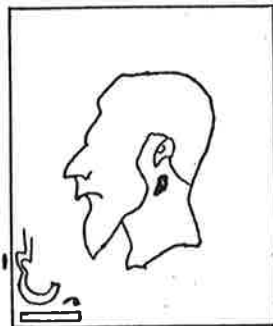
N° 5.



5

Phénomène bien connu: deux traits blancs horizontaux, à la droite du 5 de droite. Toujours.

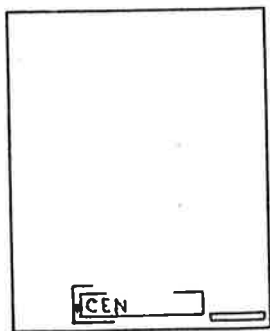
N° 6.



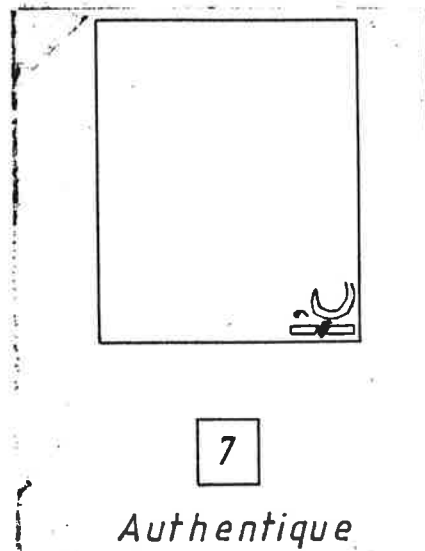
6

- La fameuse virgule blanche sous l'oreille, quasi toujours.
- Un court trait vertical bleu en marge gauche, à hauteur de la pointe de la barbe; rarement absente.

N° 7.



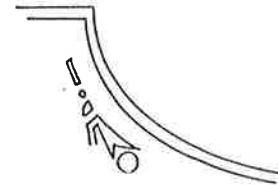
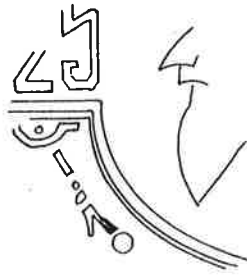
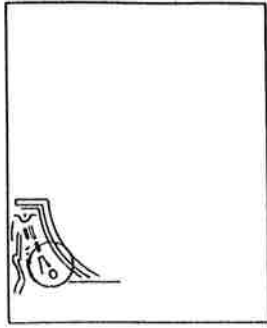
7



7

Authentique

Toujours la petite tache bleue à gauche du C de CENTIMES. Dans l'authentique, la bande blanche du coin inférieur droit est coupée par un gros trait bleu oblique. Dans le faux, non.



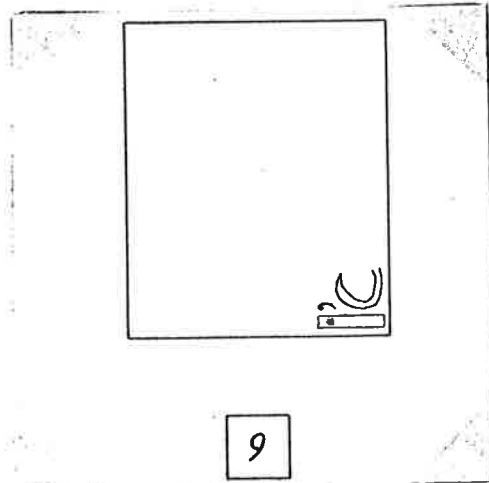
8

8

*Authentique*

Une merveilleuse découverte ! Sous le 25 de gauche, un ornement en forme de V renversé montre son extrémité droite d'un seul tenant alors que, dans l'authentique, ce bout est fourchu. Pas toujours, mais dans environ 90 % des cas vérifiés.

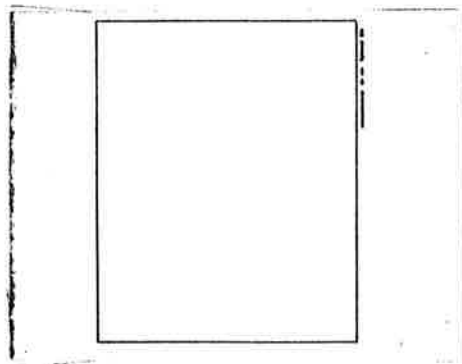
N° 9.



9

Dans la bande blanche du coin inférieur droit, au quart de sa longueur, un point bleu quasi toujours visible, plus ou moins épais.

N° 10.



En marge droite, près du coin supérieur, double frappe.

N.B. Les timbres faux qui, par exception, ne montrent pas ces variétés quasi constantes, seront normalement repérés par les rayons UV. Charles Hénuzet - abbé G. Gudentauf.

A STUDY OF THE 25C LENOIR FORGERY (SO-CALLED "LENOIR REPRINT")

In the first issue of the stamps of the Congo Free State we have the Lenoir forgeries of the 5c, 10c and 50c, easily distinguished from the originals when viewed under ultra-violet light, their fluorescence appearing quite different.

That is not so for the 25c where the fluorescence, violet-blue for the genuine and blue for the Lenoir forgeries, is sometimes difficult to distinguish, especially if the stamp has been soaked in certain liquids!

One can certainly use the criterion of the height of the design of each stamp, greater by about 1/4mm in the case of the Lenoir forgeries. In practice this test does not prove decisive because there are exceptions.

Hence it is appropriate again to study the sheets of 10 of the Lenoir forgeries of which there remains a stock of about 840.

Our friend Charles Henuzet has been able to borrow these sheets from the holder in order to endeavour to identify the most constant printing varieties on the ten forged stamps. He appears to have reached completion in this research. Congratulations!

The Lenoir sheets are numbered from 1 to 5000; they present, in spite of all being printed using the same ink varying tones from pale blue to very intense blue (called by some "ultramarine").

Thanks to much patience, an uncommon quality, Mr. Henuzet has ferreted out varieties, distinct and often not previously described, for each of the ten stamps in the sheet, thereby completing the descriptions of Mr. Van Bleyenbergh. Moreover, he has produced superb sketches of them.

Here is his excellent contribution to the expertisation of an expensive and difficult stamp of which forgeries abound. One would estimate that nearly 50% of copies in collections are forgeries.

No. 1

The outer left frame line is missing for a length of ½ cm near the upper corner, a variety very nearly always present.

No. 2

At the top of the hair the right leg of the shading in the form of a V is interrupted and in several pieces; this variety appears often also on Nos. 1 and 3; as these positions have other quite clear varieties confusion is not possible.

In the lines which shade the king's temple the two lowest lines are generally of equal length but shorter than the other lines.

No. 3

Here, there is a well known variety: the blue spot above the S of CENTIMES, always present not only on the forgery but also on Nos. the genuine stamps. The Lenoir forgeries are distinguished from the genuine in the lines of shading of the king's temple: the first and fourth lines, counting upwards, are a little shorter than the others. The fourth line is sometimes extended to the left by a dot and then a short line. This variety is nearly always present.

No. 4

Under the letters ME of CENTIMES the bottom white line is thin and generally cut into two segments of which the right is the longer.

The same variety appears on No. 6 but No. 6 has other varieties that identify it.

No. 5

A very well known variety: two horizontal white marks to the right of the right figure 5 and always present.

A short vertical blue line in the left margin at the height of the point of the beard and rarely absent.

No. 7

Always a small blue dot to the left of the C of centimes and present also on No. 7 of the genuine stamps(???). On the genuine the horizontal white line in the lower right corner is cut by a thick oblique mark and this is not present on the forgery.

No. 8

A marvellous discovery: under the left 25, the lower end of the right leg of the ornament in the form of an inverted V is not forked whereas in the genuine stamps it is clearly forked. The line on No. 8 is not invariably without the fork but in 90% of the sheets examined that is the case.

No. 9

In the horizontal white line in the lower right corner and a quarter along from the left is a blue dot, always visible but varying in size.

No. 10

In the right margin and near to the top corner is an interrupted line doubling the right frame line.

N.B. Forged stamps which, exceptionally, do not show these almost invariably constant varieties will normally be detected by ultra-violet light.

Charles Henuzet & Abbe G. Gudenkauf