

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN 128

June 2003

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Editor's Ramblings

This issue turned out to be somewhat different than I had planned. Some technical problems and some delays along with a few deadlines have forced me to put together an issue that I could e-mail to our two members in Europe who handle distribution there. This caused me to leave out a few items that will show up in the next issue. I would like to thank Emile Hoorens and Norman Clowes for the items that they sent a long time ago and their patience to see them in print. The next issue will feature an article on plane accidents in the Congo by Emile Hoorens and a favorite cover submitted by Norman Clowes. There will also be an article by Walter Deijnckens on covers created by Walter Nysten. If anyone else has submitted articles that have not appeared yet, please contact the editor to refresh his memory.

I would like to thank those who have submitted articles for the Bulletin. It would be a great help to the beleaguered editor if those submitting articles could, whenever possible, submit them as Microsoft Word files. Don't let this be your excuse for not writing something for the Bulletin, however. Articles submitted as hard copy or in other formats are certainly welcomed but may take longer to make it into print, so your patience will be appreciated.

Please note that the prices realized for the 2003(2) will appear in the next issue.

[NB Just arrived and will be enclosed with Bulletins distributed by NC]

E-mail Address Change

Will all members please note the change e-mail address of:

A.J.M.Cruickshank (member in Kenya) to: Loony@clubinternetk.com

Pat Dowling to: 20thonline@adelphia.net

New Member

The Study Circle would like to welcome its' newest member: Guy van Rijn, Avenue Broqueville 225, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

Register of Member's Interests

As announced at the 2002 AGM, it was agreed to create a *Register of Member's Interests* as exists with some other societies and I agreed to undertake the work.

The purposes of the register are as follows:

1. So that those offering material to the 'Auction' or 'Packet' can determine what will be most likely to sell.
2. Members collecting or engaged on research into a particular field of Congo philately may be able to find an expert or fellow-enthusiast.

Participation in the register is voluntary but it is hoped that as many members as possible will take part. The register will enjoy the same confidentiality as the *Membership Listing*. If you would like to take part you are invited to submit an entry of not more than four lines describing what Congo material you collect. The entry may be in your own words, or if preferred I will draft an entry based on information you provide subject to your final approval. I have drawn up a list of the main topics/historical periods which you may wish to refer to, but do not feel confined to these. Should you wish, you may also submit an additional entry of not more than two lines, describing your philatelic interests outside Congo.

Entries could range from a simple - “Belgian Congo and/or Ruanda-Urundi stamps to Independence” or “Mols varieties and plating” or “Postal History, rates, routes” etc. It can be as simple or complex as you like, subject to the four-line limitation stated above. The following headings/topics are suggested:

A) Historical Periods:

1. Pre-adhesive, before 1886
2. First two issues, 1886-1894
3. Mols/Waterlow, 1894-1923
4. 1923-1939
5. 1939-1960
6. Independence, 1960-1970, Congo (Democratic) Republic
7. 1970 (Zaire) – present day

B) Aspects of Philately:

1. Stamps – simple collection
2. Specialised:
 - a. Essays, proofs, colour trials, specimens
 - b. Printings, plating, perforations, papers, shades
 - c. Booklets and miniature sheets
 - d. Postages dues and ‘Taxes’ stamps
 - e. Railway parcel stamps
 - f. Revenue and fiscal stamps
3. Postal Stationery:
 - a. Postcards and letter cards
 - b. Aerogrammes
4. Postmarks:
 - a. General, one mark for each office
 - b. Detailed, differences in similar marks for the same office
 - c. Meter marks
5. Postal History:
 - a. Routes
 - b. Rates and Franking
 - c. Instructional marks
 - d. Registration, marks and labels
 - e. Sea posts and river posts
 - f. Aerophilately
 - g. Military: World War I
World War II
United Nations in Congo
 - h. Censorship, military and civilian
 - i. First day covers and special events
6. Miscellaneous:
 - a. Documents, postal and official
 - b. Books and maps
 - c. Picture postcards
 - d. Cinderella material e.g. labels, mementos etc.

To give you an idea my own entry would read as follows:

Hoyte, Hal:-

Katanga, all aspects from 1896, S.Kasai, Albertville, Stanleyville issues. Stamps, 1928 Stanley, 1942 Palms (inc. R.Urundi), 1967 and 1977 local surcharges, 1969 Mobutu definitives. All meter marks. P. History. Paquebots and River posts. WW2 military. Censorship. 1960-64 UN in Congo.

Also:- All aspects of N.Rhodesia/Zambia, Angola and Portuguese Nyassa.

All members are invited to participate and those wishing to take advantage of this facility should send details to me – Hal Hoyte, 1 Braybrook Road, Hastings, TN34 1TA, England, or those wishing to e-mail their interests can send them to Hon.Sec. Stuart Smith at SSSCongo@AOL.com

Minutes of the Belgian Congo Study Circle AGM, 3rd May 2003

The Annual General Meeting was held at Hotel Erasme, Brussels on Saturday 3rd May 2003. In attendance were Messrs D.Bilmans, Mr. Mrs. Daneels, W.Deynckens, Th.Frennet, M.Frevelshausen, Mr. Mrs. B.Harris, C.Henuzet, E.R.Hoorens, W.H.Hoyte, Ph.Lindekens, O.Simons, S.S.Smith, C.Stockmans, L.Tavano, and Y.Winand.

Apologies were received from P.Masselis, R.Strawser, D.Schaubroeck and C.Vandenbossche.

In Memory of Lawrence Green - Members stood for a few moments in memory of our last remaining founder member Lawrence Green, who passed away earlier in the year. President Hal Hoyte chaired the meeting and the minutes of the AGM held in Hastings 4th May 2002, were approved.

Matters arising

Hal Hoyte, the retiring President anticipated that he would now be able address the documentation and recording of member's individual and specific interests. When compiled the information will be made available for reference purposes.

Presidents Report – (Hal Hoyte)

The retiring President thanked all the officers for their support and particularly Ron Strawser and Philippe Lindekens for their major contribution in getting the Bulletin and Auction listings published – four times a year. Whilst leaving office he hoped and expected to be able to promote the Circle by arranging future meetings in the UK.

Secretary's report – (Stuart Smith)

Some subscriptions are still outstanding but the majority have been paid. Membership fees are considered very modest and it is unreasonable to have to keep sending out reminders. Further reminders will be included in the next Bulletin (#128). **If this is the last bulletin you receive it is because your membership is regarded as having been terminated.**

Membership of the Circle is 129 in total, the distribution is shown below.

	2002	2003	Unpaid (3 May 2003)
Belgium	50	46	
U.K.	25	29	2
U.S.A.	34	33	12
Australia	1	1	
Denmark	5	5	5
France	1	1	
Germany	1	1	1
Kenya	1	1	
Netherlands	1	1	1
New Zealand	1	1	
Philippines	1	1	1
South Africa	1	1	1
Spain	2	2	1
Sweden	3	4	2
Switzerland	1	1	
Zambia	1	1	

On a day-to-day basis the e-mail facility has made communication with our widespread membership so much easier - though it commands more of my time. **If you have an e-mail facility and have not yet notified me, will you please do so?** (*It does seem surprising that according to my records only one Danish member and none of our Swedish members have this facility available to them!*)

The intention to finalise details and the establishment of our own Web Site is seen as a major contribution to our future. We are indebted to Philippe Lindekens and colleagues for the work done so far and subsequent discussion is reported later in these minutes.

Treasurer's Report –(Stuart Smith)

As published in Bulletin #126 the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2002, were presented and approved. At the year-end additional funds were lodged in our American account in the sum of \$510.01. Our Belgian account indicated approximately €346 of commissions – the remaining balance of €8883 (at that moment in time) being due to sellers.

The librarian is holding stocks of books for sale to the approximate value of £800 at cost.

In accordance with the resolution passed at last years AGM I confirm that in the event of infirmity, insanity or me just passing on, Hal Hoyte, Norman Clowes and Bernie Harris are all now signatories to the Study Circles U.K. bank account.

Will members please note that for the year commencing 1st January 2004 the following subscriptions will continue to apply :-

Region Subscription

U.K.	£8
Belgium	€10
Other European	€10 (or £10)
U.S.A./Philippines	\$15
Rest of the World	£12

Auction Secretary – (Philippe Lindekens)

A comprehensive and detailed financial report of auction sales for 2002 was presented. The following is a summary:

Number of lots offered	1,050
Number of lots sold	738
Average number of buyers/sale	27
Total value sold	€33,020
Costs incurred	€360
Commission to BCSC after costs	€725

Payment for auctioned lots;

U.K. and Commonwealth members

Will U.K. and Commonwealth members note that following the death of Lawrence Green – successful bidders will in future receive their lots from Norman Clowes and it is to Norman that invoices should be paid. Whilst bidding will be in Euros(€), UK and Commonwealth members will be invoiced in (£) pounds sterling and payment should be sent to:- N.Clowes, 20 Ogwen Road, Lakeside, Cardiff. CF23 6LL
Drive, Lakeside,

In accordance with the existing arrangement, payment for other members are as follows:-

U.S.A. (\$) – E.Lavitt, P.O.Box 900, Rockville, CT 06066

Belgium & all other countries (€) – Ph.Lindekens, Rue des Trois Ponts 38, B-1160 Brussels

Expert Committee –(L.Tavano)

As a result of the new rules set by the Expert committee to eliminate unnecessary certification of common material (Expertisation Committee Rules published Bulletin #126) – there has been a welcome decrease in the demand for such certificates. The committee still functions under the direction of Mr. Leo.Tavano to whom all enquiries should be addressed.

L.Tavano, rue Wazon 26, 4000 Liège, Belgium

(N.B. All members are entitled to 2 free certificates per year but members must pay postage. A reduction of 20% on the total fees (except postage) will be given for 10 certificates or more per sending.)

Librarian – (Allan MacLaren)

Permission was sought and granted to reprint Abbé Gudenkauf's 'Mailboat Services from Europe' and 'Mailboat Steamers on the Congo'. This was done and both publications are now in stock. A full library of books from the Keach reference collection is also available on loan – details have already been published in the Bulletin and enquiries should be addressed to the Librarian. (Address published in the Bulletin)

Publications

Heim/Keach - Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices etc. (In English and French)

Mr. Van der Hauwaert has passed to Philippe Lindekens the information necessary for us to work on a reissue of the Keach/Heim 'Cancellation Book'. With some assistance on updates of postmarks/illustrations from Charles Stockmans and l'Abbé Gudenkauf, it is expected that this third edition will be published in September. As soon possible thereafter, it is our intention to create a French edition. Finances permitting all members will be entitled to one free copy and with this in mind our French-speaking members may care to wait a short while for their free copy.

Hudson – Mols Plating Study

Thanks to Thierry Frennet, work is also being put in hand to issue in booklet form, Brian Hudson's original series of articles previously serialised in the Bulletin. Where possible this will be updated in the light of any new knowledge obtained.

Packet Secretary (U.K.) – (Hal Hoyte)

The packet was not circulated during 2002 but with the help of Bernie Harris it is hoped it will start its 2003 circuit shortly. During discussions Mr. Henuzet offered to start a Packet circuit for all interested Belgian members. This offer was received with enthusiasm and its success will be watched with interest.

Bulletin Editor – (Ronald E. Strawser)

The meeting received the following written report:

I would like to thank the members of the BCSC for their support in the publishing of the Bulletin. I would especially like to thank those members who provided material for the Bulletin this past year. Norman Clowes and Emile Hoorens are also to be thanked for their efforts in the distribution of the Bulletin to those members who live outside the U.S.A. I must ask the members to be patient. I realize that each issue has been somewhat late. I will try to do better but can make no guarantees due to my work schedule and other outside duties. Hopefully the issues have been worth the wait. I have been trying to improve the overall quality and will continue to do so. As will probably be discussed I am working with Philippe Lindekens to put the Bulletin on the BCSC Website that is being created. As mentioned in the March 2003 Bulletin I am exploring other ideas concerning the electronic transmission of the Bulletin. Any thoughts or criticisms concerning the Bulletin will be welcomed.

As always I request that members submit articles, questions etc. concerning Congo philately. Members are also reminded that they can place free ads in the Bulletin by contacting the editor.

Web Site

Philippe Lindekens reported and illustrated the progress made in creating our own Web Site. All members known to have an 'Internet facility' had previously been advised of the site and asked to comment on its content. (During the present trial period it is/has only been accessible to members.) Views communicated prior to the AGM as well as those contributed at the meeting, were aired and discussed in detail. There was full and enthusiastic agreement that this was a very worthwhile exercise, and should be implemented.

The following decisions were made –

1. Register the web site identifying the Study Circle as a 'Philatelic Society' and provide the general public with:
 - a 'Home' title page outlining the Study Circles activity and including information on how to become a member. (Secretary's postal address only to be provided)
2. Available to subscribing members of the Circle using a security entry key:
 - details of all our activities including reproduction of the Bulletin, auctions (with illustrations), listing of publications, names of officers etc. The site would be based on that already developed, which it is intended to update appropriately.

Philippe Lindekens was congratulated on his work and thanked for all he has and is doing in bringing this to fruition.

Officers of the Study Circle

The following were elected :-

President – Walter Deynckens

Hal Hoyte having chaired the meeting to this point announced one nomination as the Circles new President - Walter Deynckens who was duly elected. Walter has been a constant supporter of our activities over many years and a frequent attendee at our meetings in both Belgium and England. Best wishes were extended to him. Walter then took over as Chairman for the rest of the meeting and subsequently managed the remainder of the day's events.

The following further nominations were approved:

Secretary/Treasurer	S.S.Smith
Regional Sec. - Belgium	E.R.Hoorens
Regional Sec. – USA	D.A.Schaubroeck
Bulletin Editor	R.E.Strawser
Auction Secretary	Ph.Lindekens/ C.Stockmans
Librarian/Book sales	A.J.D.MacLaren
Packet Sec. – UK	W.H.Hoyte
Packet Sec. – Belgium	C.Henuzet
Chairman Expert Comm.	L.Tavano

Future Meetings

Hal Hoyte expressed the view that he would like to have a meeting some time during the autumn and probably in London. Belgian members expressed the view that it would also be helpful to them if the timing could be aimed to coincide with the 'Stampex Exhibition' – which several of them usually attended.

The Belgian 'Nationale Leodiphilex Exhibition' is scheduled 13-16 May 2004. The venue is in Liège and it was agreed that next years AGM would indeed be held in Liège on Saturday 15 May, to coincide with this event.

Any other business

The Hon. Secretary wishes to record the thanks of all members to Emile Hoorens through whom all accommodation and meeting room arrangements had been made. Further-more those attending from the U.K. add their additional thanks to him for so generously looking after all our other needs – taxi service and restaurant get-together, to mention but two. Thank you Emile.

Stuart Smith (Hon.Sec.)

Highlight of the day – Displays by members

Following the AGM and certainly of greatest interest to all attending were the member's displays. It is not my intention to relate the detail other than to list the subjects and presenters, each of which had so much to offer. What a pleasure it is to be among like-minded friends, share our common interest in Congo philately and witness what can only be described as the majestic best.

Those who contributed to this part of the program (alphabetical order!) were
Frans Daneels: (from the Masselis collection) 'Congo State pre 1886 - precursor covers and correspondence'.

Thierry Frennet: 'Congo Etat Indépendant, Mols - some registered covers'.

Hal Hoyte: 'ONUC – Military intervention of UNO in Congo/Katanga 1960-1964'.

Emile Hoorens: 'Belgian Congo — Military censorship, 1940-1945'.

Emile Hoorens: ‚Katanga Postal History, 1960-1963’.

Philippe Lindekens: ‚Belgian Congo, temporary 1909 issues on covers’.

Leo Tavano: ‚Congo Etat Indépendant – plating of the Mols, 5c.Brown’.

Walter Deynckens: ‚Belgian Congo - interesting post Mols issues on covers’.

I sincerely hope that some of these presentations find their way into print! (S.S.S.)

Congo Free State “ENREGISTRÉ” Mail – Philippe Lindekens

First, shown below is the postal decree of the service’s creation, from André De Cock’s book “Le Congo Belge et ses marques postales” page 72/73 (Editor’s note: pages 71-72 in 1986 2nd edition)

Instructions according to the decree of January 25th, 1898 Creation of “enregistered ” service

“According to the current information from our postal service, the deposit of an ordinary letter at the post office and its’ travel to its’ destination isn’t verified by any document. In case of loss or delay, any investigation under these conditions is often unfruitful.”

“After some requests, the Government researched what should be done to assure more security at the mailing and receipt of letters, however without generalising the registration service, which the Administration couldn’t in the current circumstances, to assure the responsibility in the Upper-Congo.”

“It is for this purpose that the decree of the State Secretary, on January 25th 1898, establishes the “Enregistré” Service. This name has been chosen to avoid confusion of this service with the registration service, which is completely separate.”

The following instructions have been given to assure the achievement of this decree: “ with a supplementary postage fee of 15c. per mailing, the sender of a letter could ask, where there is no registration service, that he be given a written acknowledgement of receipt for his deposit and that his item be specially indicated on the dispatch sheet with which it will be included.”

This part of the decree’s article I will be immediately executed in all sub post offices, except in Banana, Boma and Matadi (1) where such “enregistré” has no reason to be setup, because the registration service exists.

The cost of an “enregistré” letter for interior mailing is 15c. postage + 15c.(“enregistré”) fee for a total of 30c.

« enregistré » is an interior service but can however be applied to items to foreign countries, to the moment where they arrive in the international postal service : they can receive an acknowledgement of mailing at the starting post office and be indicated on the dispatch sheet which accompanies the dispatches from the sending post office to the exchange post office (Boma or Banana).

Such an “enregistré” item is and remains an ordinary piece of mail during its’ travel in international postal service unless it has been registered at one of the post offices authorized to receive mail of this type.

Thus, the sender can, at an interior sub post office “enregistré” an item to foreign countries ; franked 50c. (ordinary rate for foreign countries) + 15c. (fee for “enregistré”). When this item arrives in the Lower Congo, it should be registered by the sender’s agent (mandatary)(2) for a normal fee of 50c. If the sender doesn’t have an agent (mandatary) in the Lower Congo or if the agent isn’t advised of the letter’s transit to be registered, the interior post office has agreed to accept , if the postage paid equals 1.15 fr(3), corresponding item in “enregistré” state, to be registered at Boma; in this case, they will inscribe on the sheet of dispatch sheet the note : “ to be registered at Boma post office, postage paid” + the sender’s name.

The administration assumes no responsibility in case of loss or delay in the transmission of “enregistré” items, it has judged useless to make registers reporting the delivery of those items to the addressee and has limited the establishment of special registers for deposits, numbered from 1 to 500 ; the receipt detached from those registers will be the sender’s receipt.

It doesn’t appear necessary for the most part to modify the text of the advice sheets used in the interior relationship between post offices ; it will suffice that the postman cancel with large marks the word “recommandé” which is found at front of those sheets and replace it with the word “ enregistré”.

Labels for applying the word “enregistré” on letters submitted for this service, will be sent in a short time to all sub post office, at the same time as the special registers in question.

The “enregistré” number will be handwritten by the postman, next to the “enregistré” marking.

The above instructions will be given notice at all concerned post agents.

The Governor General, F. FUCHS
(2)(3) see below, comments and updates of the decree

On March 15th, 1900 Léopoldville became a principal post office (in the past, a sub-post office) and thus the first registration post office met by the interior mails. All known covers (with one exception) are dated in the 20th century and thus have been registered at Léopoldville ; only one is known dated in the 19th century and has been registered at Boma in 1899.

Summary of all possible cases and number of known items :

Postage rate	Description	Number known
1,40 F	international letter(50 c) + registration (50 c) + « enregistré » (15 c) + acknowledgment of receipt (25 c)	1
1,15 F	international letter(50 c) + registration (50 c) + « enregistré » (15 c)	3
	private post card (PPC) before may 1902 (50 c) + registrations (50 c) + “enregistré” (15 c)	5
80 c	postal stationery (15 c) + registration (50 c) + “enregistré” (15 c)	1
45 c	Printed matter + “ enregistré” domestic usage	1
30 c	international postal card (15 c) + “enregistré” (15 c)	1
	international PPC after May 1st 1902 + “enregistré” (15 c)	1
Free postage rate	Official domestic letter (free postage rate) + “enregistré”	1

No Mols stamps were issued to pay this postage rate (1.15 fr) with only one stamp ; this “enregistré” service was temporary, created only for a small demand.

The known covers came from :

Popocabacca	sub-post office	July 15, 1899
Ibembo	sub-post office	January 2 , 1900
Ibembo	sub-post office	September 1900
Ibembo	sub-post office	April 30, 1902
Basoko	sub-post office	September 24, 1902 (*)
Basoko	sub-post office	September 30 ,1902 (*)
Tumba-mani	sub-post office	March 7, 1903

Pweto	auxiliary post office	May 3, 1903
Basongo	sub-post office	May 14, 1903
Basoko	sub-post office	March 26, 1904
Uvira	sub-post office	March, 1907

(*) same sender

Postal stationery with markings of all cancels available at post office, CTO at the back :

Nyangwe	sub-post office	19** (no year)
Chute François-Joseph	sub-post office	1905

The letters which must be registered at Leopoldville for international destination, are generally (3) franked with sufficient postage which was applied by the sender and sometimes with the notation "to be registered at Leopoldville". We have never seen any addition of stamps to pay for registration, by a mandatory agent at Boma or later at Leopoldville.(2) However, some mailers have sent their letters only "enregistré", without registration ; whether on account of forgetfulness or for protecting their letters only during their transportation in the Congo. We can thus see the mention, hand-written at Leopoldville : "postage rate insufficient for registration" No postal form, including dispatch sheets, acknowledgments of receipt (registration) or acknowledgment of "enregstration" has yet been seen with "enregistré" marking.

The Fuch's postal decree gives us the starting date of the "enregistré" service, but no decree gives the end. Only the registration service's penetration into the Upper Congo establishes those limits. The search for the first known dates of registration in the Upper Congo could set the limits of the use of "enregstration", on a post office by post office basis. However, it would seem that in Middle Belgian Congo, the registration service was completed around 1905 and in 1907 for the Upper Congo. By 1909, the post offices of Belgian Congo no longer had an "enregstration" service.

Registered and «enregistrered» cover – 1,15 Fr



Cover sent from Basoko March 26th, 1904 to Liege, Belgium where it arrived on May 23rd. "Enregistré" number 477 and franked with the complete postage rate (a 50c. Mols is missing.) at Basoko. All stamps were cancelled at Basoko. Bumba transit April 1st and arrival on April 25th

at Leopoldville where the “enregistré” mark is cancelled with pen and the registration number 1167 was applied. The postman cancelled a second time the 40c. which had received a poor (insufficient) cancel at Basoko. The registered cover continued its’ journey and finally arrived at Brussels and Liège on May 23rd.



Shown on the previous page is a letter sent from Ibembo to Brussels where it arrived on November 20th, 1900. "Enregistré" number 4, franked with the exact postage rate with remark "to be "enregistered" and registered". All stamps cancelled at Ibembo. When it arrived at Leopoldville on October 28th, the "enregistré" mark was cancelled with pen and registration number 4141 was applied. Transit Boma at October 31th, 1900. Note the break on the left of the Léopoldville "recommandé" marking, which during 1901 will lose its' small oblique bars . (Part of left bar already lost). Exact franking of 1.15fr with 1fr lilac (registered international letter) and 15c. ochre (enregistré). The sender marked in red around the stamps in order to prevent any theft by the carrier before that the stamps were cancelled at the post office.

Registered cover, not "enregistered".



Letter sent from Manyanga and stamped by the sender at 1.15fr, as postage rate of an "enregistered" letter to be registered. However, the first post office reached by the letter, Matadi on December 8th, 1898, was a principal post office which could register a letter for international destination :. The letter was thus not "enregistered". The indicated weight of 11gr was weighed a second time as 8gr, both weights being a single weight. At Matadi the registration number 1 was added and all stamps were cancelled.

This is an interesting cover because the sender living in the Upper Congo didn't know if his letter would first reach a sub post office or a principal post office. Thus the sender franked the letter with the rate for inland "enregistration" and "registration" for international use.

Now when we send a registered letter, we go to the post office and we pay the correct postage rate directly calculated by the postman. In the past, in the Upper Congo, the sender put his stamps on the letter and gave it to a carrier (a boy/native) to take it to the post office at a distance of many kilometres. If the applied postage was incorrect, the letter continued its' journey with postage due or without registration if underpaid , or with a mention "stamped by the sender" if the sender put too much postage on the cover. This mention doesn't always mean a philatelic item. The above cover does not have the correct postage, as only 1fr was necessary for a registered cover, but the sender thought his letter must be "enregistered" and thus put on 1.15fr. It's not a philatelic item but rather an historic item which can be explained according to this special decree of "enregistration" – particularly not easy to apply by the senders and sometimes by even by the post office itself.

PPC « enregistré » and registered – 1,15 Fr



PPC sent from Iembo April 30th, 1902 with Anvers transit to Eeckeren-lez-Anvvers where it arrived on June 10th. “Enregistré” number 388, with remark “to be registered at Leopoldville” It’s the last day of the 50c. postage rate for PPC. On May 1st, 1902 the rate became 15c. It arrived at Leopoldville on May 11, where the “enregistré” was cancelled with pen and registration number 804 was applied.



PPC sent from Basoko September 30th, 1902 to Brussels where it arrived on November 25th . “Enregistré” number 244, with remark ”to be registered”. It arrived at Leopoldville on October 24th , where the “enregistré” was cancelled with pen and registration number 1924 was allied. (postage rate see note X).



PPC sent from Basoko September 24th, 1902 to Brussels where it arrived on November 24th. "Enregistré" number 237, with remark "to be registered". It arrived at Leopoldville on October 13th, where the "enregistré" was cancelled with pen and registration number 1810 was applied. (postage rate see note X).



PPC sent from Basoko September 24th, 1902 to Brussels where it arrived on November 25th. "Enregistré" number 239, with remark "to be registered". It arrived at Leopoldville on October 13th, where the "enregistré" was cancelled with pen and registration number 1807 was applied. (postage rate see note X).

Note X:

The above three picture post cards (PPC) came from the same sender. The correct postage rate after May 1st, 1902 was: PPC (15c.) + enregistre (15c) + registration (50c.) = 80c., but these cards were franked 1.15fr based on the 50c. PPC rate prior to May 1st, 1902. The sender ignored the new rate and continued to mail at the past rate. Curiously there was no remark “stamped by sender” for excessive postage (always put on registered cover when the postage is overpaid) applied at Leopoldville when the cover was registered.

Letter « enregistered », registered & AR– 1,40 Fr



Letter (ex Du Four collection) from Popocabacca mailed on July 15th, 1899 to Brussels where it arrived on September 15th. “Enregistré” number 117 ; arrival at Boma on July 30th, registration number 2152 and “AR” (receipt requested). The only known nineteenth century “enregistré” item .

Postage rate 1.40 fr:	
Letter simple weight :	50 c
ENREGISTRE :	15 c
Registration :	50 c
acknowledgment of receipt :	25 c

Business letter (quadruple weight rate) “enregistered” & registered



Business letter mailed from Basongo on May 14th, 1903 to Anvers where it arrived in June 1903. “Enregistré” number 212. Arrival at Léopoldville on May 22nd , where “ENREGISTRE” was cancelled with pencil and registration number 1022 was applied. The letter actually weighed 58 grams, thus was a quadruple weight rate. The sender probably weighed the letter at approximately 60 grams and applied postage for 5 weights, thus 3.15 F in postage instead of the needed 2.65 F.

Postage rate :	
Letter 4 weights :	2,00 F. (4 x 50 c)
ENREGISTRE :	15 c
Registration :	50 c, thus 2.65 fr

Postal card “enregistered” at 30c. (without registration)



On the previous page, a postal card mailed from Tumbu-Mani on March 7th, 1903 to Brussels where it arrived on April 2nd. Transit at Tumba March 10th and Matadi March 12th. "Enregistré" number 158. No registration was requested. "Enregistré" wasn't cancelled because the stationery couldn't be registered. It continued on its' journey to Belgium as regular mail, for it was only protected by "enregistré" within the Upper Congo.

PPC "enregistered" at 30c. (without registration)



PPC from Pweto May 3rd, 1903 to Berne/Switzerland where it arrived on August 5th. "Enregistré" number 36/22 with no registration requested. The "Enregistré" mark was cancelled in error, because the PPC couldn't be registered. The handwritten remark "insufficiently stamped for registration" was probably applied at Léopoldville. In international mail it continued its' journey as regular mail, for it was only protected by "enregistré" within the Upper Congo.

Domestic printed matter "enregistered" - 45 c.



Shown on the previous page is a letter from Matadi on April 29th, 1900 to Kinshasa. "Enregistré" number 5 with no registration. 45c' postage paid by sender. This is curious because Leopoldville became a principal post office on March 15th and thus the registration could be applied to Léopoldville at this time. Red hand written "registered" by the sender, but the Matadi's postman applied only the "enregistré". Perhaps the registration service to Léopoldville wasn't yet in use.

Postage rate :

Printed matter: 5c. per 50gr – 4x5c/200gr.

Domestic registration: 25c.

Total: 45c.

Editors note: Mr. Lindekens did the initial translation of his fine article from the original French to English. The editor has tried to further improve upon this translation. If this further translation introduced any errors the editor wishes to beg the author's and the readers' forgiveness.

Message and thoughts from the new President.

It was certainly not my intention to become the president of the Study Circle, but as it turned out, I am very glad I can help out for the next two years, following in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors. The last president, Hal Hoyte has been a member of the circle since 1956 whilst I joined only in September 1977.

My contribution to the circle has been limited - an article of two, maybe three about the plating of the National Park issue, the 0.25 Elisabethville overprint on the Mols stamps and perhaps a few articles about the ship cancellations and in particular the C.M.B. markings. I wrote several others in Dutch and I hope Ron Strawser is not mad with me for not having translated them yet.

I know the Belgian Congo Study circle as a dynamic society and I realise that it takes much effort from a lot of people to keep that circle running. My admiration goes to the secretary Stuart Smith, to the bulletin publisher Ronald Strawser, to Philippe Lindekens and Charles Stockmans for the auction set up, and for all who are helping out to make this circle as it is. I have asked our chairman of the expertisation committee Mr. Léo Tavano to investigate the covers that have turned up recently, all with the same address to Walter Nysten (period 1930-1936). Anybody who can provide information about such items is requested to do so.

The general meeting in Brussels was fruitful and you will be able to read the minutes from Stuart Smith elsewhere. I remember the desire to move forward with the opening of our own special Belgian Congo Study Circle website but in such a way that you have to be a member to delve further than the home page. To be sure that the website can be found under the philatelic sites we will probably have to change the name to Belgian Congo Study Circle Philatelic Society.

A packet exchange secretary has been found in Belgium by the name of Charles Henuzet and he is certainly going to have a lot to do in the future.

The next A.G.M and General meeting will be held next year in Liège during the National competitive exhibition in May 2004. Please make a note in your diary. I hope to welcome you there, not only the Belgium members but also many from the U.K. and personally hope to see once more Ed Lavitt, to whom I carry a warm heart.

Walter Deijnckens

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