

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN 129

September/December 2003

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The Editor's Ramblings

I would like to apologize to our members that I was unable to publish the September Bulletin. I moved to Houston, Texas in August. Since that time I have been commuting back and forth between Houston and Midland. When it came time for the September issue everything was still in boxes in my stamp room. I only had weekends to work on our new house (a high priority in my wife's mind) and everything else that I had to do, like work on the Bulletin (a low priority). Philippe Lindekens had the September auction ready and after e-mails between Philippe, Stuart Smith and myself it was decided that we should not delay the auction. Thus we mailed the auction without the Bulletin. Thus this issue becomes the combined September/December issue. I now have my stamp room essentially put back together and can once again work on the Bulletin. Your patience and understanding on this situation is greatly appreciated. Please note in the masthead of this issue my new mailing and e-mail address.

Thanks to our president Walter Deijnckens for the articles in this issue. Walter has even sent a few more. You will notice that they appear somewhat different than most articles that appear in the Bulletin. This is due in part to the method in which they were sent to me. This was the only method I was able to come up with for putting them in the Bulletin without further degrading image quality. I hope both the author and the reader find this acceptable. I have a few other articles for the next issue (which I had planned on putting in this issue) as soon as I find which box they went into for the move to Houston. I can always use more articles though, so write up that cover or that topic you've been thinking about and send it to me.

New members should be aware that one of the sections that normally appears in the Bulletin is "Member's Questions". If there is some aspect of Congo philately that you have a question about, send me that question and it will appear in the Bulletin. It is likely that one or more of our knowledgeable members will be able to answer your question.

E-mail Address Change

Will all members please note the change of e-mail address for Ed Hirdler that now reads:
reldrih@comcast.net

Address Change

Please note the change of address for:

Johan G.A. Delbeke: Gemeentestraat 206-201, 3010 Kessel-Lo, Belgium.

David A.Schaubroeck, 4515 SE Peachwood Terrace, Stuart, Florida, 34997, USA,
Telephone: 1-772-220-5893 E-mail address: dascongo@bellsouth.net

Hal Hoyte,, 104 Willow Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1AL, Great Britain

New Members

The Study Circle would like to welcome its' newest members:

Jean-Claude Porignon, 8 rue des Jonquilles, F 60128 Plailly, France, e-mail:
jc.porignon@wanadoo.fr

New Members (Continued)

Johan S. Jantzen, Prinsensgade 31, st.th., DK-9000 Aalborg, Denmark. Mr Jantzen is only 18 years old and therefore our youngest member by a long way! His particular interests include 'Stamps and entires, the Mols, CMB and maritime mail. He speaks English, Danish, Dutch and can read French.

Noel Maroit, Rue Benne Brulee 81, 5621 Morialme, Belgium

Subscriptions – 2004

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2004 are now due. Excepting those who have already paid in advance, your early attention to this matter would be much appreciated and save the Study Circle the expense of having to send out reminders. The following details this modest charge –

Region Subscription

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

Please send your subscriptions as follows –

U.K., Other European and Rest of the World to Stuart S. Smith,
Lychgates, Pinfold Hill, Curbar-Calver, Hope Valley. S32 3YL
(‘Other European’ – please send €10 notes and not a cheque)

(Note for those who pay directly to Stuart Smith - Several members pay well in advance and by way of an acknowledgement – the following are fully subscribed for 2004: Messrs. Hills, Kelland, Jantzen Overgaard, Svendsen, Porignon, Kropman, Ohrneman and Jonsson.

Belgium to Emile R. Hoorens,
Avenue Eugène Ysaye 105/1, 1070 Brussels

U.S.A., Canada and Philippines to David Schaubroeck,
4515 SE Peachwood Terrace, Stuart, Florida 34997-2278

Spring Meeting and AGM – Liege 15th May 2004

As previously advised the next meeting of the Study Circle is being held in Liège, Belgium to coincide with the ‘Leodiphilex Philatelic Exhibition’ that runs from 13th to 16th May. With help from our President we have managed to obtain a meeting room from 1000-1200 on the Saturday and as usual members are invited to bring material with them for display. Clearly we will have to find additional accommodation to enable us to fulfil the requirement of holding our AGM and both the time and venue will be announced in due course. Will any member requiring further details and/or intend being present, please register your interest with either our President or myself. Our website will provide further information as it becomes available. Those members without such a facility and who have indicated interest will be kept informed either through the Bulletin or by mail.

Quarterly Auctions – 2004

Commencing with the first auction of 2004 more of the specialized material from the Keach collection will be offered. This naturally includes some of the more expensive material and it is intended to limit the auction size to about 150 lots. As such it is hoped to be able to contain the 'estimate value' within a maximum of approximately €10,000.

Stuart Smith (General Secretary)

Omar Cooremans

It is with sadness we record the death of a long standing Belgian member of the Study Circle. Whilst records appear not to have been kept on membership longevity - it is fair to say that Mr. Omar Cooremans, who died 13 September, at the age of 97 must rank as one of longest living.

Advertisements

I am trying to plate COB #49 and 49PT and would be interested in buying positions that you have available (preferably used). I also need position #17 for COB29. Please e-mail first if possible: xverbeck@earthlink.net Xavier Verbeck, Barefoot Trace #311, 6240 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080 USA

New Literature Available

Our members Leo Tavano and Charles Henuzet have published a new study in 3 volumes of the first stamp issue of the Etat Independant du Congo:

Title: Etat Indépendant du Congo, émission Leopold II - 1886 Nos bessons Africains.

Tome I: les 4 valeurs émises le 1er janvier 1886, historique, genèse, fabrication, inscriptions marginales des timbres belges de 1875 à 1886 et du Congo de 1886(évolution), blocs reports, variétés, essais, oblitérations, usages particuliers (nombreuses mises au point et inédits)

Tome II: le 5 frs lilas; le C.P. 3.50/5 frs lilas et les Entiers Postaux à 15 cent brun et bleu, analyse approfondie, variétés, usages, falsifications

Tome III: 50 cent., réséda et 25 cent. bleu, planchage, intégral étude très utile pour l'expertise, inédits.

Price for the three volumes: 50 euro + freight costs. These can be ordered from Leo Tavano, rue Wazon 26, 4000 Liège or Charles Henuzet, place St Roch 30, 5620 St Aubin (Florennes) or from Bilmans, Passion Philatélique, Galerie du Centre 37, 1000 Bruxelles.

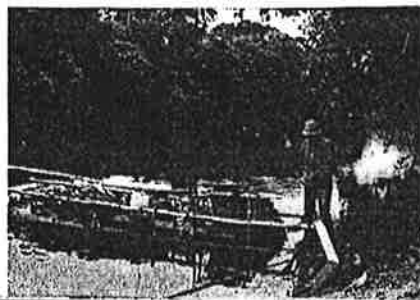
NEPOKO cancellation. (bogus or true?)
 walter.deijncens@skynet.be october 03.

Page 63 of A.Heim&R.Keach cancellation book indicate the existence of a postmark named Nepoko. Page 4 explains that this cancellation has **not** been found on authentic travelled covers and it is unlikely that they were ever correctly used on mail.

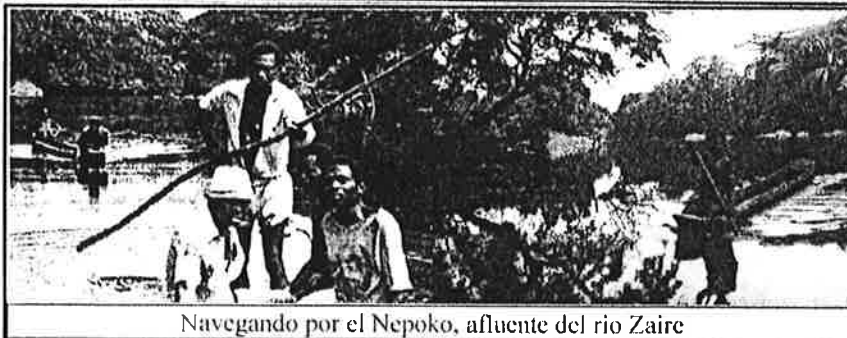
A few years ago I was able to purchase a small part of a stamp collection from a deceased missionary. Within this collection 4 stamps which were cancelled with Cataractes 17 mars 1895 (with 175 – 315° so false), Itimbiri 31 dec 1896, Sankuru 6 mai 1897, Stanley-Falls octo 1899 and also **NEPOKO 19 SEPT 5-6 1897** in blue. When I published this finding in the bulletin of the Studiegroep Belgisch Kongo I had a reaction of Mr P. Storm van Leeuwen stating that he has seen this cancellation at R. Keach but the stamp and the cancellation were lost in time.

I am not claiming that the cancellation Nepoko on this 5 c brown stamp is genuine but it is nevertheless an item to collect and to wonder if it is bogus or true.

Nepoko is a tributary of the Aruwimi river who ends up in the river Zaïre nearby Basoko. The present village Bafwaboka is situated on the borders of the river Nepoko. The area was first visited by a German called Wilhelm Junker (1840-1892) in the year of 1879.



Paso de barca que une las dos orillas del Nepoko, en Legu, y barca cargada de provisiones para buscadores de oro en los sedimentos del río



Navegando por el Nepoko, afluente del río Zaire

<http://www.rmsl.es/zaire/paisajes3.htm>

THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

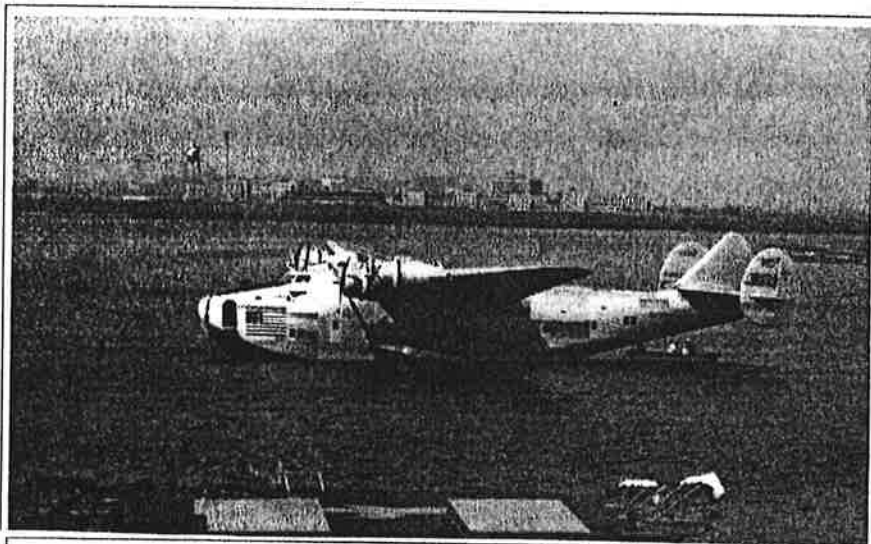
walter.dejinckens@skynet.be October 2003.

In 1939 Pan American Airways started with 4 Boeing 314 Clipper flying boat planes, transatlantic flights via a southern route, starting in New-York with stops in Bermuda, Azores to Lissabon and Marseille.

The flying boat planes were named as follows:

(reference: www.zpub.com/sf/history/boeing314.htm)

Yankee Clipper	February 1939	Atlantic service. Inaugurated the first scheduled trans-Atlantic flight (mail only), 20-May-1939 (Port Washington, New York-Horta-Lisbon-Marseilles) Purchased by the U.S. Navy in 1942, but operated by Pan Am. Crashed and sank in River Tagus near Lisbon, Portugal on February 22, 1943
Atlantic Clipper	March 1939	Atlantic service. Purchased by the U.S. Navy in 1942, but operated by Pan Am. Salvaged for parts.
Dixie Clipper	April 1939	Atlantic service. Inaugurated trans-Atlantic passenger service, 29-Jun-1939 (Port Washington, New York-Horta-Lisbon-Marseilles) Purchased by the U.S. Navy in 1942, but operated by Pan Am. Sold after the War to World Airways and scrapped in 1950. President Roosevelt was flown to the Casablanca Conference, to meet with Churchill and Stalin, on January 14, 1943, thus becoming the first in-office president to fly, and the 314 Dixie Clipper the first presidential airplane.
American Clipper	June 1939	Atlantic service. Sold to the U.S. Navy in 1942. Sold to World Airways after the War and was scrapped in 1950.



Aircraft shown is the Atlantic Clipper. The number on the left hand vertical stabilizer is NC 18604. The location where this photo was taken is unknown. (Photo: Jesse Davidson Archives)

THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

The first connection from the Congo directly to the States was foreseen in November 1941. The flight with a Clipper was delayed till the 12th of December 1941. A special postmark was made in a frame stating the following:

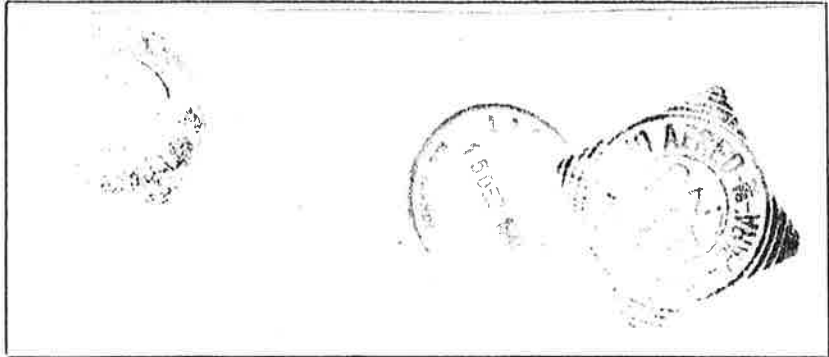
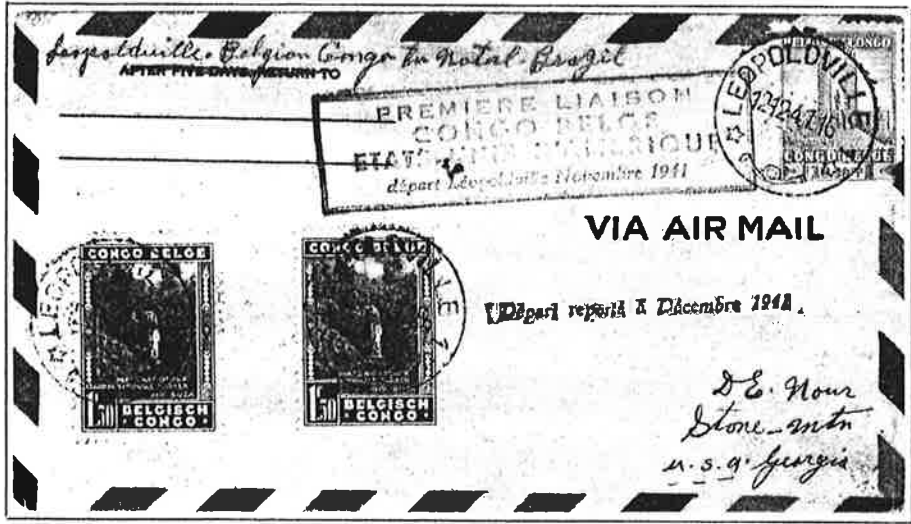
PREMIERE LIAISON
CONGO BELGE
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
départ Léopoldville Novembre 1941

Because of the delay another postmark was made saying:
Départ reporté à Décembre 1941.

The flight route however was now via Natal in Brazil.

A first letter to D E. Nour, Stone mtn, Georgia U.S.A. has a cancellation of Leopoldville 12-12-41.16. It shows the above postmarks and also three postmarks from Brasil on the backside of the cover.

15 DEZ 1941 of Rio Grande do Norte in violet
17 DEZ 41 of what we think it is from Natal
20 DEZ. 41 Correio aero of (Bragança?) – Para.



THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

Although this second letter was sent at the same time as the previous cover, it did arrived in the States on the 17th of December 1941. This second cover was however closed and perhaps therefore subject to a censorship. Cancellation of Leopoldville 1 at 12-12-41.9.

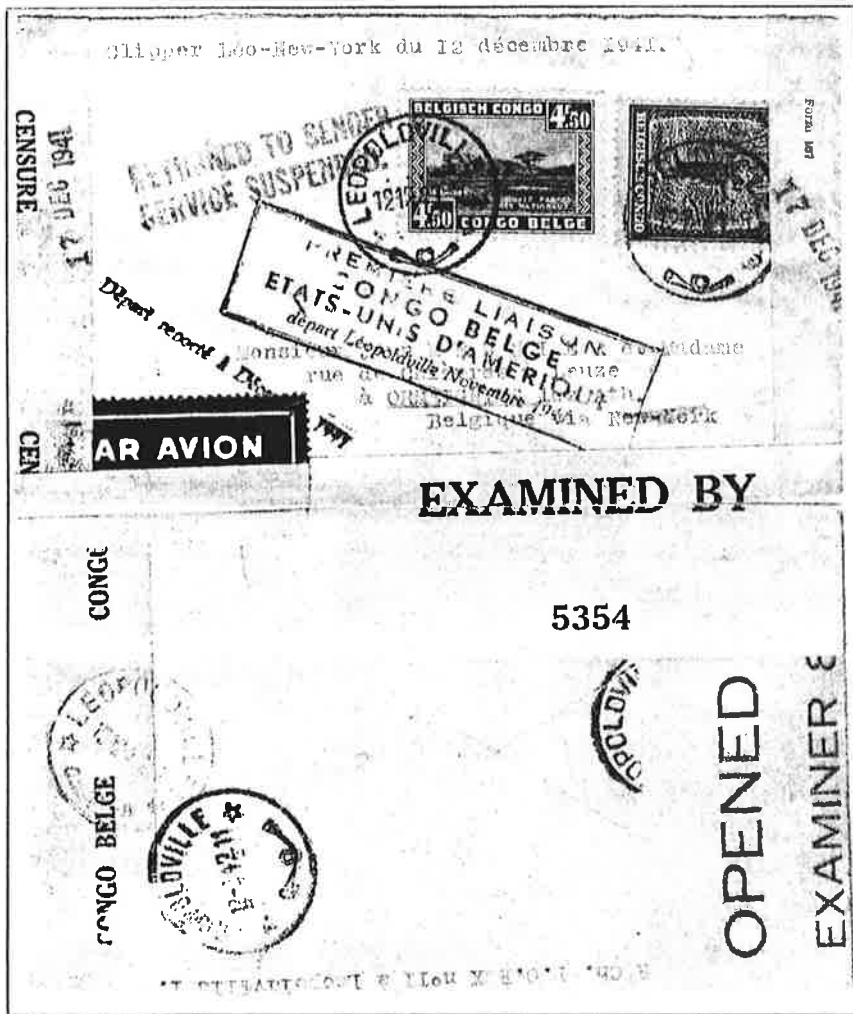
The sender knew that is was impossible to sent any mail to Belgium through the normal postoffices because of the war in Europe and tried to sent this letter to Ormeignies lez Ath to Belgium via New-York.

On top of the cover it is typed **Clipper Léo-New-York du 12 décembre 1941.**

The two poststamps with the Premiere liaison and delayed stamp but also the poststamp in violet **RETURNED TO SENDER**

SERVICE SUSPENDED

Three wrappers shown that the cover was first opened at Leopoldville **CENSURE CONGO BELGE** and twice in the States, once by arrival **OPENED BY EXAMINER 8007 Form 167** and probably a second time by returning the cover **EXAMINED BY 5354**.



THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

The order of 8 November 1941 n° 484/P.T. stated for the first time the postal rates with Pan American Airways for direct flytes to the States. The postal rates became effective at the 1st of January 1942. Air rate for letters and postal stationary: 15.50 fr per 5 gram weight + 3.50fr normal postage.

CLIPPER

Cover from Leopoldville 24-9-42 to New-York and censored by censor 42 in Leopoldville. Stamps 15 +2x2 fr or 19 fr, the exact rate for the U.S.A.

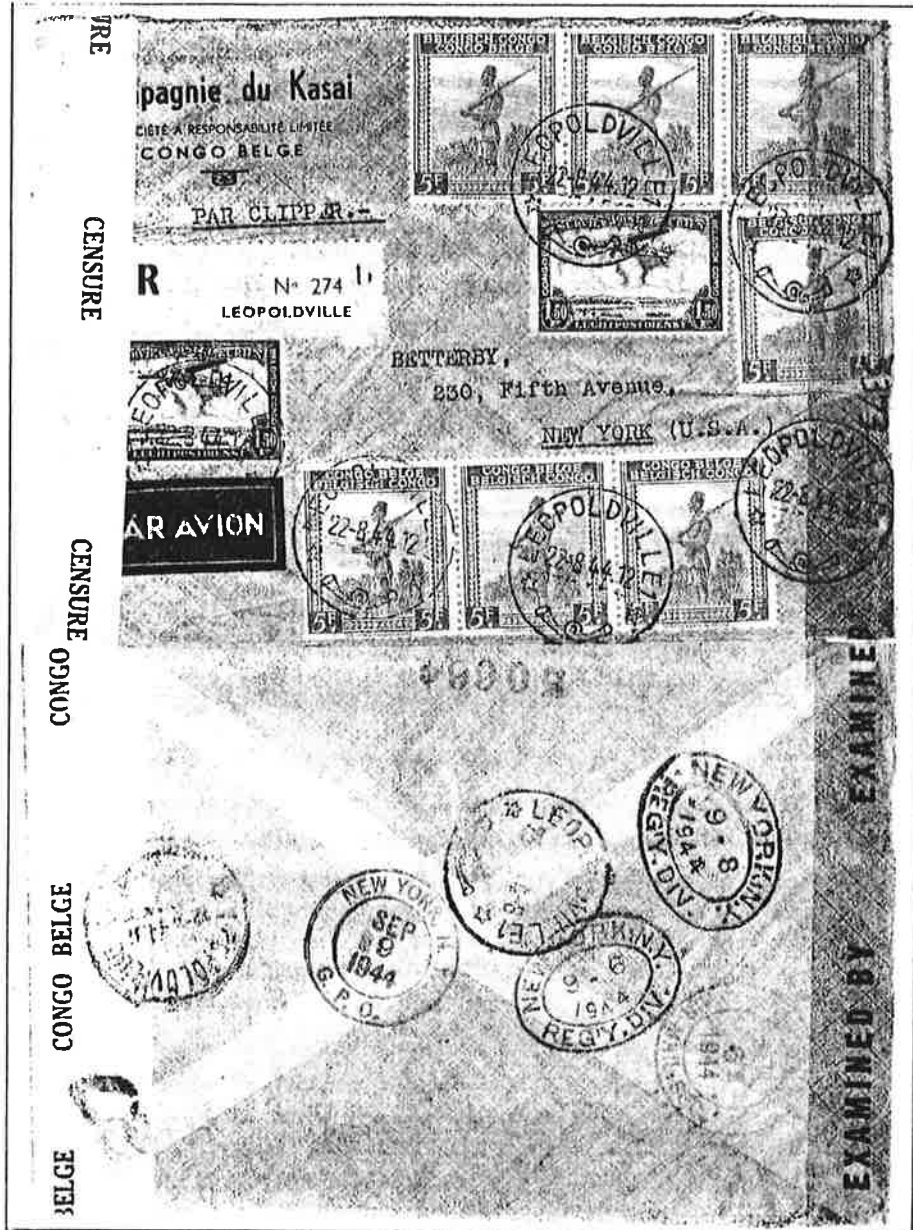


THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

Registered cover from Leopoldville 1 22-8-44 and arrived in New-York 9 - 8 1944 with typewriting:

PAR CLIPPER

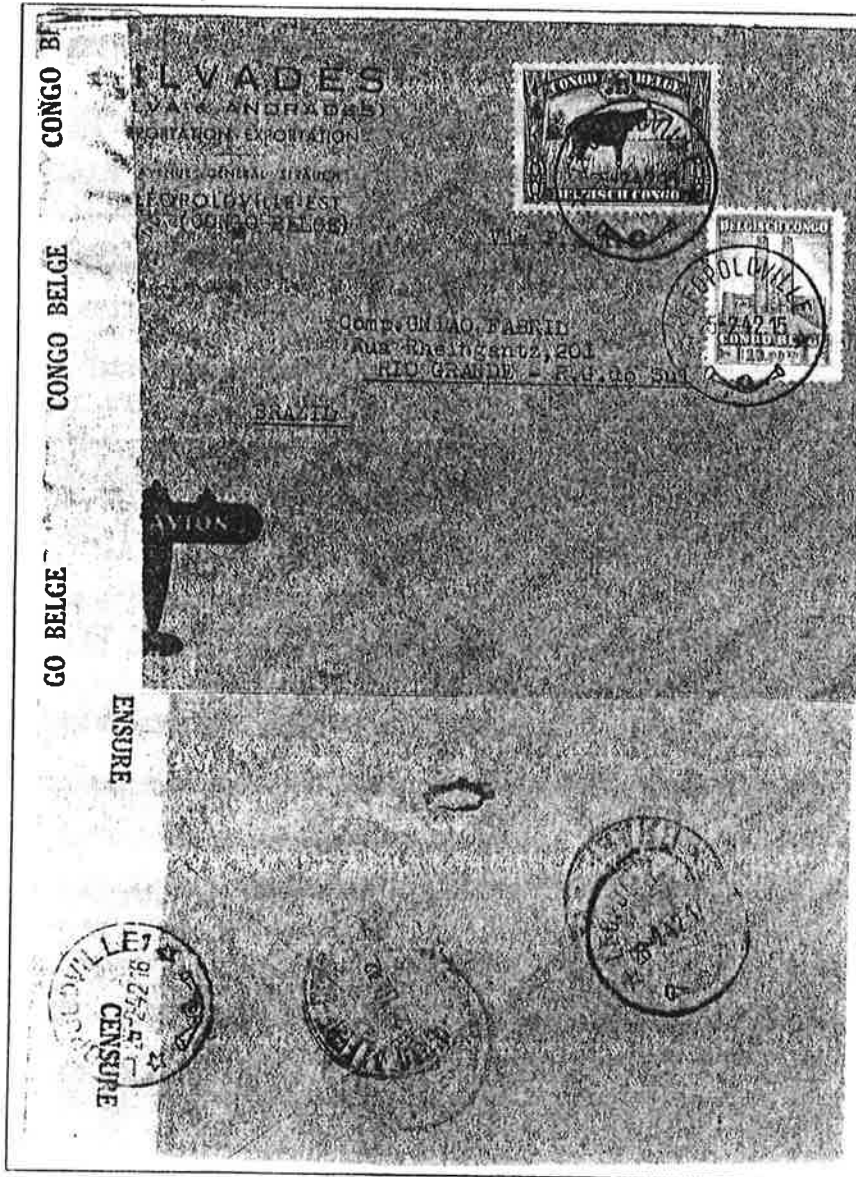
Censor marks at Leopoldville with censor 27 and in New-York.
Stamps 7x5fr + 2x1.50fr or 38 fr total . Postal rate in 1944: reg. 3.50 fr + letter 3.50 fr + 2x5gram or 2x15.50fr=31 fr or 38 fr total.



THE CLIPPER flying boat PLANES.

If you want to know more about the Clippers please type in a search program Pan Am Clippers and the world of the Clippers will open for you.

The Atlantic-, Dixie-, and American Clipper stayed in service from 1942 till 1946.
On occasions one can find Inscription like **Via P.A.A.** on a cover like this last cover from Leopoldville 25-2-42 to Rio Grande Brazil. The letter was censored at Leopoldville 1 26-2-42 but still arrived at 24 March 1942 at Rio Grande do sul.
Postal rate: 3.50 fr letter+ 9.75 fr airrate = 13.25 fr total.



Exchange Control Cancellations of Greece on Belgian Congo Covers.

Walter Deijnckens.

Four airmail letters from Elisabethville with dates between 1938 and 1939 show very remarkable censor cancellations which I could not initially classify. The destination each time was Celje (100 km from the Austrian border) in the present republic of Slovenia. The covers have arrival cancellations of Athens, Zemun (Belgrado) and Zagreb.

The four covers were sent as follows:

Elisabethville 11-6-1938, reverse cancelled by handstamp Athinai poste arienne 18.VI.38.13, front with exchange control cancellation showing **MEN**, reverse also cancelled with Zemyh 5, 3 Zemun 5 of 20.VI.38-11 and cancellation Zagreb 14, 3 of 20.VI.38.20.

Elisabethville 25.-3-1939, reverse with machine cancellation of Athinai poste arienne 2.IV.39.15 and Zemyh 5, 3 Zemun 5-3.IV.39-13 and on the front an exchange control cancellation of Athens showing **YEZ**.

Elisabethville Postes 21-4-39, reverse with machine cancellation of Athinai poste arienne, front with exchange control cancellation showing **MEN**, reverse also with cancellations by hand of Zemyh 5, 3 Zemun 5 1-V-39-13, Zagreb 14, 3 of 1-V-39-19, Zagreb 2, 30 of 1-V-39.20 and Zagreb 2, 32 of -1.V-39.22.

Elisabethville Postes 28-4-39.24, on the reverse a machine cancellation of Athinai poste arienne, front with exchange control cancellation showing **YEZ** and hand cancellations on reverse of Zemyh 5, 3 - 3.939-13, Zemun 5, Zagreb 14, 3 - 8.V.39.19 and Zagreb 2, -8.V.39.21.

Thanks to Ruud Verberne , a collector of Greece stamps who provided me with a copy of the publication of the Hellenic Philatelic Society of Great Britain on Exchange control in Greece and its repercussions on philately by Ulysses Bellas (1976) I could solve the problem on these Belgian Congo covers.

To protect the national currency, in 1936 the Greece government decided to control all the outgoing and incoming international mail with foreign currency. It was forbidden to send or receive even post stamps without the necessary permission. A post office had the obligation to send all international mail to the nearest exchange control location, which would return this mail to the original post office after it was checked. For Athens it was without any doubt the Bank of Greece one University Street which was doing the control. After all it seems that only 5% of all international mail was checked.

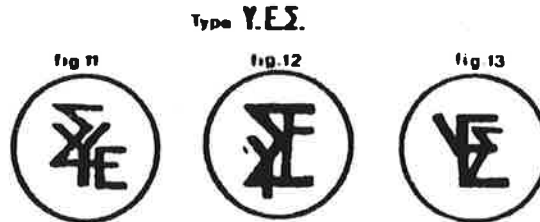
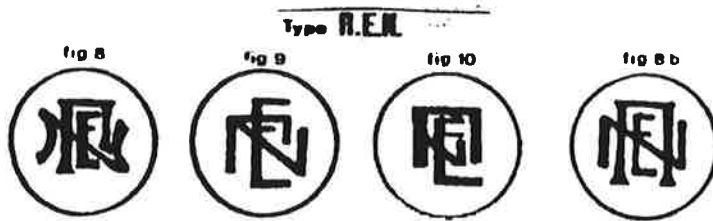
Two distinct periods can be recognized, a first one between the years 1936 to 1941 and a second period between the years 1945 and 1951.

All four Belgian Congo covers shown, fall in the first period. In total 7 different control cancellations were used , four of them showing **MEN** and three of them showing **YEZ**. Men stands for national currency protection and YEZ stands for national exchange service.

The types shown on the four Belgian Congo covers on the next two pages are figures 10, 11, 8B and 13.

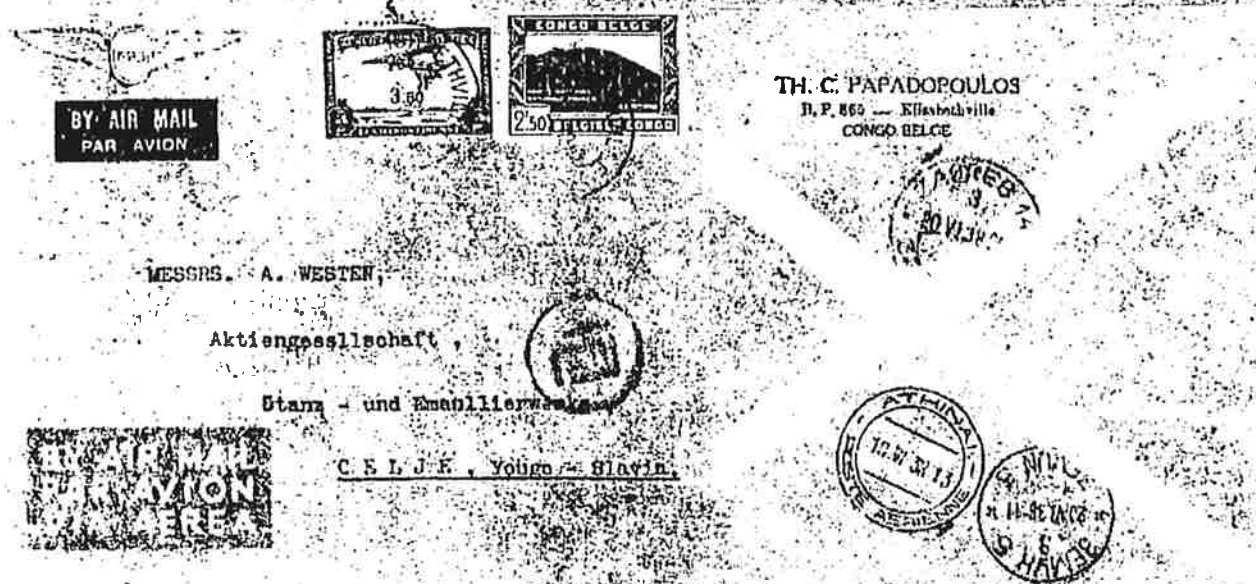
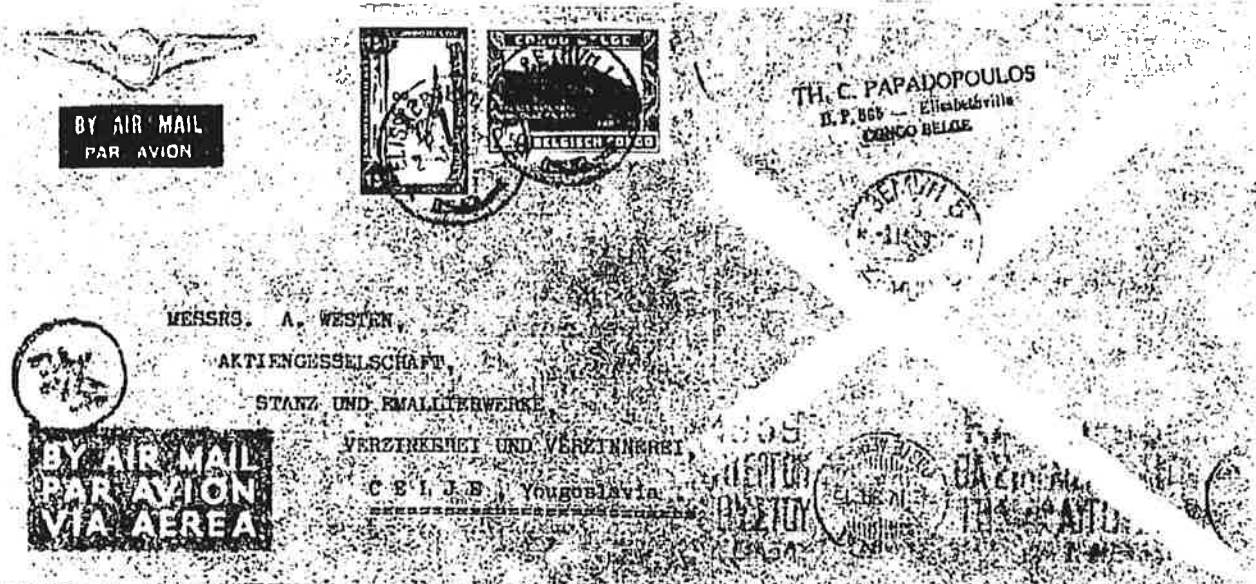
Wissel control stempels van Griekenland op Belgisch Congo brieven.

CACHETS OF ATHENS

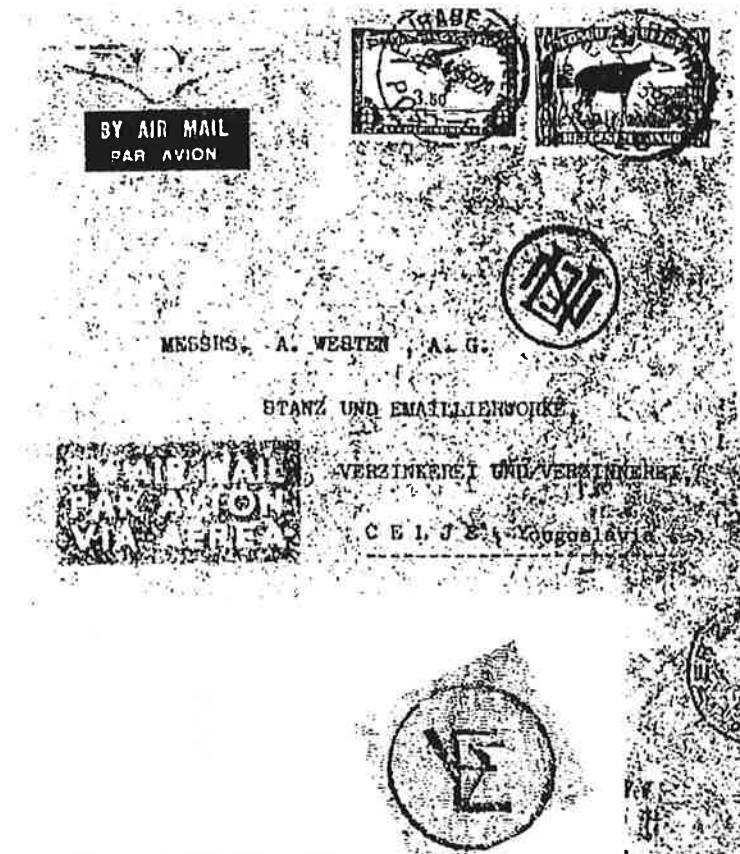


Elisabethville 11-6-1938 en Elisabethville 25-3-1939.

Porten voor het buitenland: 2.50 fr eerste 20 gram + 3.50 fr per 5 gram voor Yougoslavië.



Wissel contibie stempels van Griekenland op Belgisch Congo brieven.



Elisabethville 21-4-39



Elisabethville 28-4-39



Walter Deijnckens, Brasschaat, 10 september 2001.