

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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**BULLETIN 131**

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**B.C.S.C. website: <http://users.skynet.be/lindekens/>**

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### Your New Editor - Stuart Smith

You will have read in the last Bulletin that Ron Strawser was finding it difficult to continue as Editor. May I on behalf of all members express our indebtedness and gratitude for his contribution in that capacity over the last few years and acknowledge personally a sympathetic understanding of the circumstances that precipitated his decision. The Bulletin is the Circle's communication lifeline and having found a new General Secretary in Michel Hopperets, I have agreed to take on the Editorial role for the time being. If any member feels the urge to get into 'amateur publishing' and would like to take over then I will happily stand aside.

Memories fade and I doubt anyone will recall that for a few years I did once do the job before. Out of curiosity I looked back and find it was only for a two year period and at a time when I was a new boy (only 4 years of membership), more than fully occupied travelling world wide for weeks on end on a regular basis, and at a time when word processors and computing was unknown to 'common man'. My first in September 1977 Bulletin #30, recalls that Ray Keach had just been appointed as our first Chairman, U.K. members held regular meetings and the Expert committee was being established. A4 paper was introduced for the first time to replace the then traditional 'foolscap format' and duplicated on a 'Gestetner hand rotated copier. My wife typed the first one for me and the highlight article (which I had the job of translating into English – probably mostly in transit) was l'Abbé Gudenkauf's authorities article on 'Permis de Port d'Armes'. Hal Hoyte had recently joined and Walter Deijnckens and Brian Hudson were both formally welcomed as new members in my second issue - Bulletin 31.

### Editorial

Having just looked back down memory lane it prompts me to comment on the recent resignation of a member because his particular interest was Katanga and the Bulletin was largely devoid of information on that territory. It's a sad story but equally serves as a reminder and prompt of what really is available. I write about this because I am sure other members may often feel the same – i.e. we don't publish much about their specialisation. If you do feel like this, need help? - Please read on.

There are 130 previous editions to this Bulletin, packed full of information and it has been suggested that we reprint articles from them - but what is the point? We believe everything that has previously been published, is documented by cross reference in the invaluable 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the 'Index' The 'Index' was compiled by Norman Clowes and at the time of printing, it was distributed to every existing member. Time moves on and whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition only covers volumes 1-114, that surely provides a wealth of useful knowledge.

I mention the above as a notice to all members and make the point that to the best of my knowledge; the resigned member appears not to have delved. I have just briefly scanned 'Katanga' in the 'Index' and at a quick count found 49 cross-referred entries. When he didn't know the answer himself that is what Ray Keach used to do in preparing to answer members queries. Sadly Ray is no longer with us so please do help yourself.

*(Stop Press – 'Index 4<sup>th</sup> Edition' is anticipated during the next 15 months.)*

Finally I refer briefly to *Norman Clowes* whose final article on Imperial airways is included in this issue. As many will know, Norman has been one of the Circles stalwarts specialising in the 'Airmail' field, and the Expert committee has used his extensive knowledge on many occasions. Whilst maintaining membership of the Circle, he is about to embark on another

'Index' and continuing as the Bulletin distributor to 'UK' and 'Rest of the World', - he has finally decided to dispose of his collection which will be offered in the postal sales of 'Airmail Collector'. An advertisement from this company is included at the end of the Bulletin and those who share an interest in 'Airmails' are encouraged to register with them.

### New Member

The Study Circle extends a welcome to a new American based member with interests up to the period of Independence including post, postal stationery and airmail services between the Congo and the States.

Raymond B. McGarrity. 11034 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Dr. Apt 109, Phoenix, Az 85029  
Email – 'Mrayfrank@aol.com'

### E-mail addresses

Address changes, amend to read –

**USA** - Ken Goss; 'kgoss@mindspring.com'

**Belgium** - Danny Van der Hauwaert; 'danny.vanderhauwaert@skynet.be'

New additions –

**U.K.** - Charles Lloyd; 'charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk'

- Michael Round; 'mround@macunlimited.net'

**Belgium** - Charles Henuzet (Belgian Packet Secretary); 'charleshenuzet@tiscali.be'

### New Publications

Leo Tavano - '*Congo Belge – Mars 1909 Emission Mols et van Engelen. Le secret des PRINCES*'.

This is another in a series of books written by Leo Tavano (the chairman of our Expert committee). It covers the origin and history of the PRINCES issue and makes an exhaustive study of the surcharge plates with a detailed comparison of each of the positions. Based on previous publications this is highly recommended to all those with interest in the Mols issues. The price is €30 and obtainable from – 'Leo Tavano, Rue Wazon 26, 4000 Liège'.

For those who somehow have missed previous contributions to plating and the Mols issues from the same author I also commend to you:

*Congo et Congo Belge 1894-1923 – Emission Mols et Van Engelen – Étude du 10c 'Stanley Falls'*

*Étude du 5 Francs Chef Bangala et 5 Francs Ochre 1915*

*Congo Belge - Emission Mols et Van Engelen – 'Bilingue 1910 et Recuperation 1921'*

*Afrique Oriental Allemande – 'Occupation Belge 1916-1922, Emission de Londres'*

Heim-Keach – '*The Cancellations of the Normal post Offices – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*'

As reported in the last Bulletin Philippe Lindekens and Charles Stockmans have now completed their work on the third edition of this invaluable reference book. At the AGM it was decided to make it available to members at cost. Because local and international postage rates vary, the following will apply. These prices are exclusive to members only.

Belgian and Euro-zone members - contact Walter Deijnckens;	€5 + postage
U.K. members – contact Allan MacLaren;	£5.50 (incl.postage)
U.S.A. members – contact Ed Lavitt;	Regular mail \$9.50
	Priority mail \$12
Rest of the World – contact Allan MacLaren;	Price on request

### Congratulations

- to those of our members who participated at the Léodiphilex Exhibition in Liège

### *Leodiphilex National Exhibition results of 'Belgian and Independant State of the Congo' entries*

#### Category - *Traditional philately*

<i>Léo Tavano</i> : Congo Belge, 1894-1923, 5 frs le chef Bangala	86%
<i>Léo Tavano</i> : Congo Belge, the March 1909 Princes and June 1909 Unilingual printings.	85%
<i>Charles Henuzet</i> : the 5c. Mols, 1894-1922	85%

#### Category – *Postal Stationery*

<i>Jean-Claude Courard</i> : 1912 Congo Belge illustrated entires	82%
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#### Category – *Postal History*

<i>Michael Hopperets</i> : the small circular cachets in use 1886-1920	80%
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#### Category – *Aerophilately*

<i>Jean-Pierre Flamand</i> : Airmails to and from the Congo 1921-1945	86%
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#### Category – *Single frame entries*

<i>Jean-Claude Courard</i> : Congo Belge stamps of the first booklets	30/40 (Ruby)
<i>Charles Henuzet</i> : Watermarks in the 3frs, 3.50frs and 10 frs Mols, 1905-1923	30/40 (Ruby)
<i>Jean-Claude Courard</i> : Evolution of the Mols stamps, 1894-1925	28/40 (Ruby)

#### Category – *Literature*

<i>Léo Tavano</i> : Congo Belge – Mols/Van Engelen 1910 bilingual and 1921 Recuperation issues	83%
<i>Léo Tavano</i> : London overprints - Belgian occupation of German East Africa, 1916-1922	80% + 'Special Prize'
<i>Charles Henuzet and Léo Tavano</i> : E.I.C. Leopold II 1886, 'nos bessons africains'	76%

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### **Minutes of the Belgian Congo Study Circle AGM, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Léodiphilex Exhibition site in Liège on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004. In attendance were Messrs: L.Achten, W.Deijnckens, J.Deruyck, Th.Frennet, M.Frevelshausen, C.Henuzet, E.R.Hoorens, M.Hopperets, J.Huppermann, Ph.Lindekens, E.Michiels, S.S.Smith, and C.Vandenbossche.

Apologies were received from B.Harris, H.Hoyte, E.Lavitt, A.MacLaren, H.V.Maulding, R.Strawser, D.Schaubroeck and L.Tavano.

#### Minutes of the AGM 2003

The minutes of last years AGM as published in the Bulletin were approved.

#### Matters arising

1. Work has been completed in preparing the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of 'Cancellations of the Normal Post offices etc, Heim & Keach'. The cost is to be a modest €5 plus postage and distribution costs. This will be

made available to Belgian members through Walter Deijnckens, U.S.A. members from Ed Lavitt, the U.K. and rest of the world from our Librarian Allan MacLaren.

Outside the Euro-zone the final delivered price will be determined by currency conversion rates and the add on postage costs. Further details are to be published in the next (this) Bulletin.

*The Circle is greatly indebted to Charles Stockmans, Philippe Lindekens and l'Abbé Gudenkauf who have worked on and contributed in preparing this new edition. Its publication must be one of the 'best value for money' books ever offered by the Study Circle.*

2. The Circles private website, established with the help of Philippe Lindekens is now well established and thanks were given to him and those who contribute to this facility.

#### **General Secretary's report – (Stuart Smith)**

Once again and as reported last year, there remain a few outstanding subscriptions for 2004. Final reminders have been sent out.

Membership of the Circle is presently 121. (129 at 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2003).

Membership distribution is shown below.

	2003	2004		2003	2004
Belgium	46	44	Netherlands	1	0
U.K.	29	29	New Zealand	1	1
U.S.A.	33	29	Philippines	1	0
Australia	1	1	South Africa	1	1
Denmark	5	5	Spain	2	1
France	1	2	Sweden	4	3
Germany	1	1	Switzerland	1	2
Kenya	1	1	Zambia	1	1

The General Secretary informed the meeting that it was his intention to resign from this position and to stand as Bulletin Editor when the 'Officer appointments' were considered. However he is prepared to accept a position as the Regional Secretary for the 'UK/Rest of the world' – acting in the same capacity as Emile Hoorens (Belgium) and David Schaubroeck (USA).

#### **The Internet and Circle Website**

*By way of a reminder – if any member has internet access and an e-mail facility – it is only possible for us to pass the access information to our private website if you register your Email address with the General Secretary (see new appointments) or Philippe Lindekens.*

#### **Donation by Abbé Gudenkauf**

The meeting formally expressed its appreciation to l'Abbé Gudenkauf for the several sheets of stamps generously donated to the Study Circle and specifically for use by the Expertisation committee. These include the complete and various combinations of the 1922 Boma overprints, the 1921 10 francs issue (combinations II5 and II6), Malines 1922 5c/50c shiny surcharge, as well as the I State 10c. turquoise blue I1+A2, (the combination corresponding to those with the inverted centre).

#### **Presidents Report – (Walter Deijnckens)**

The President briefly reported that he was looking forward to his second year in office and hoped all who had been able to attend the meeting and Léodiphilex Exhibition would find it an enjoyable and beneficial visit. He drew attention to the several Congo exhibits competing in the national competition and commended our participation in viewing after the meeting.

Our President has subsequently written to the President of Léodiphilex, Mr. Hubert Caprasse, conveying the thanks of the Circle for the room and other facilities made available to us.

**Treasurer's Report – (Stuart Smith)**

As published in Bulletin #130, the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2003, were approved. The Treasurer reported that finances of the Circle remained stable and he was expecting a contribution to central funds from the American membership later in the year. The Belgian account held a small and working balance whilst that in the USA stood at \$574 (31 December 2003)

Of some concern and inconvenience is late and overdue settlement of auction lot purchases, making management of the account difficult. As a result it has not yet been possible to make any commission payments to the Circle account from sales of the Keach collection during the last 9 months.

*In the Treasurers opinion this method of operation (effectively high bids that cannot be immediately paid for) is unhelpful to the Circle, to those managing the auction and unfair competition to our wider membership.*

The Circle has a stock of books for sale valued at approximately £800. These are held by and in the safe keeping of the Librarian. (N.B. Complete list included on page 19 of this Bulletin)

**Will members please note that for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 the following subscriptions will continue to apply :-**

<i>Region</i>	<i>Subscription</i>
<b>U.K.</b>	£8
<b>Belgium</b>	€10
<b>Other European</b>	€10 (or £10)
<b>U.S.A.</b>	\$15
<b>Rest of the World</b>	£12

**Auction Secretary – (Philippe Lindekens)**

A comprehensive and detailed financial report of auction sales for 2003 was presented. The following is a summary:

Number of lots offered	1,172
Number of lots sold	981
Average number of buyers/sale	27
Total value sold	€38,423
Costs incurred	€154
Commission due to BCSC after the deduction of costs and on receipt of overdue payments.	€782

It is the intention and anticipated that the present 4 auctions per year will continue during 2004 and 2005.

***Payment for auctioned lots;***

***U.K. and Commonwealth members*** - will continue to receive their lots from Norman Clowes and payment should be made to him. 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 Drive, Lakeside, Cardiff. CF23 6LL

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

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

**Expert Committee –(LeoTavano)**

*The Expert committee endorsed the thanks already reported by the General Secretary to L'Abbé Gudenkauf for his donation of reference sheets.*

(Subsequent to the AGM a full inventory of sheets and items in the Committees possession has been listed and recorded by the General Secretary and Treasurer).

*Certificates continue to be issued and a full report has been passed to the Treasurer for the period to May 2004. During the year ending 2003, 21 certificates had been issued.*

*Because members are entitled to 2 free certificates per year the financial contribution to Circle funds is relatively small and will in future be incorporated under 'Miscellaneous' in the annual Receipts and Payments account. Details will be available on request from the Circle's Treasurer.*

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)**

*Whilst the Circle offers a library facility it is noted that in general it is little used by members. The library is a lifetime assembly and was donated by Ray Keach to the Circle. Not only are these books available on loan for a small fee to cover postage etc. but also copies of articles published in all previous Bulletins can be obtained from the Librarian on request and at a nominal charge. Members are reminded that there is an index (Index to Bulletins 1-114, compiled by Norman Clowes) covering every subject published in the Bulletin and for those desirous of finding information on matters relating to their own specific interests, it is quite likely that such subject matter can be found in a back copy of the Bulletin.*

New members are reminded that the Librarian also has available for sale, books as listed elsewhere in this Bulletin. 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.

**Hudson – Mols Plating Study**

*Work on the translation into French of Brian Hudson's original series of articles, previously serialised in the Bulletin, is still being worked on. Where possible this will be updated in the light of any new knowledge obtained.*

**Packet Secretary (U.K. and Belgium)**

*A packet is presently in circulation in the U.K. and anyone wishing to contribute or receive it should make contact with Hal Hoyte.*

*During the year Charles Henuzet has established a similar successful and enthusiastically received service to Belgian members. Once again should any of our continental members wish to contribute or receive it, you are requested to make contact with Charles.*

*Thanks were expressed to both Hal and Charles for their contribution in managing this popular service.*

**Bulletin Editor – (Ronald E. Strawser)**

*The statement from Ron Strawser in the last Bulletin advising of his resignation from the post as Editor was accepted and he was thanked for his past services in that capacity. It was also noted that he would not be able to act as the mailing distributor to American members and a replacement had to be found.*

Subsequent to the AGM, Ed Lavitt once again offered to act as the USA distributor of the Bulletin and Ken Goss has also offered to help if required.

### Officers of the Study Circle

The following were elected :-

<b>President</b>	<i>Walter Deynckens</i>
<b>International General Secretary</b>	<i>M.Hopperets</i>
<b>Regional Sec. – Belgium</b>	<i>E.R.Hoorens</i>
<b>Regional Sec. – USA</b>	<i>D.A.Schaubroeck</i>
<b>Regional Sec. – UK + rest of world</b>	<i>S.S.Smith</i>
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<i>S.S.Smith</i>
<b>Auction Secretary</b>	<i>Ph.Lindekens/ C.Stockmans</i>
<b>Librarian/Book sales</b>	<i>A.J.D.MacLaren</i>
<b>Packet Sec. – UK</b>	<i>W.H.Hoyte</i>
<b>Packet Sec. – Belgium</b>	<i>C.Hemuzet</i>
<b>Chairman Expert Comm.</b>	<i>L.Tavano</i>

### *Future Meetings*

The next meeting of the Study Circle will take place on the same day and at the same venue as next years AGM. – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at the Erasme Hotel, B-1070, Brussels.

No other meetings are planned except that should there be a need, the appropriate elected officers of the Circle would convene.

### **Any other business**

In the absence of any matters being raised the President thanked all those attending; those who have agreed to serve further terms of duty and those retiring from office.

*Stuart Smith*



*From left to right – W.Deijnckens, S.S.Smith, E.R.Hoorens, Ph.Lindekens*



### Displays by members

Following the AGM and prior to our tour of the many exhibits and trade stands, members gave the following 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. I hope these will also be used as the basis for future Bulletin articles.

Those who contributed to this part of the programme were

- Walter Deynckens** - 'Clipper Airmails from the Belgian Congo to the U.S.A.'  
**Thierry Frennet** - 'Congo Etat Indépendant, Mols – Inland and Frontier mail'  
**Philippe Lindekens** - 'Katanga – High/inflationary postage rates'  
**Walter Deynckens** - 'Nysten's Covers – genuine but C.T.O.'  
**Walter Deynckens** - 'Newspaper wrappers – 1910 to 1950.'

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## Imperial Airways

### – *Involvement with mail to and from the Congo* Part 3

*By Norman Clowes*

Parts 1 and 2 of this article dealing with *Inwards* and *Outwards* mail respectively appeared in Bulletins 123 and 124. This final part adds a few more routes that have been subsequently reported by members of the 'Imperial Airways Study Group'. The writer hoped that BCSC members might also produce further material and Emile Hoorens reported the two covers (northwards via Mwanza) which were illustrated in Bulletin 130, p12-14.

Numbering of covers, in this final part, carries on as before.

In Bulletin 124 page 26, reference was made to a cover carried on the last Elisabethville - Broken Hill service (13 November 1935), presumably by Société des Transports Aériens du Katanga. By chance the writer has just realized that not only was the following cover 'N°25' carried on the next flight (16 November 1935) - being the first Elisabethville to Broken Hill by Régie Malgache - but it is an excellent example of Congo to Congo mail using Imperial Airways for part of the way.

The back of the cover has four postmarks which clearly show the route to Broken Hill (16 November) for Imperial Airways flight AN 291 to Dodoma 17 November (NB either wrong date in the postmark or no delay on this stage) for rail to Kigoma 21 November and finally steamer and road to Costermansville (Bukavu) 23 November. The special cachet was used mainly and logically on mail to Europe by the first Air Afrique return flight of the joint service with SABENA, now extended to Elisabethville; it makes no sense here but no doubt the rubber stamp was wielded with gusto. Total 4fr postage is correct, being the basic internal 1.25fr plus air fee.

Elisabethville to Dodoma 2.75fr, - the latter being another impossible amount to make up, in air stamps.



Cover No.25  
Elisabethville to Costermansville via Broken Hill

In sending for consideration a copy of his cover Brussels 2 August 1937 to Usumbura 12.8 Paul Magid has added an even more distant Imperial Airways connecting point i.e. Dar-es-Salaam. The cover is illustrated below as N°26 and is clearly a first Belgian acceptance (for the Congo) for the Imperial Airways flying boat service which had started a couple of months earlier. As so often happens, precise official information is hard to find but this cover has an oval Dar-es-Salaam registered transit postmark of 7.8 indicating arrival there on the 'Challenger' (flight DS 11). From Dar-es-Salaam the railway went straight to Kigoma (as when Dodoma was the connecting point).

There is no relevant information in Vandenbauw (1990 edition) nor in Jennekens 1969 catalogue which, it is believed, succeeded Godinas 1951 edition; nor even in Walter Major's magnum 2001 opus on 'La Poste Aérienne Belge .....'. Thankfully, Godinas 1951 (page 61) sets out the new route for Belgian mail to parts of the eastern Congo:

- 'Par la ligne impériale ..... furent desservis depuis le 2.8.1937  
1° le district du Kivu, via Port Bell, notamment Rutshuru, Goma, Costermansville  
2° le Kivu méridional et l'Urundi via Dar-es-Salaam, notamment Kitega et Usumbura.'

In the annual report of the Congo Postal Service for 1937, passing comment is made on the use of Dar-es-Salaam for outwards mail. Clearly the route was used but the writer has not yet seen an item with suitable directional or transit markings.

As for postage, the writer has in the past purported to agree the total 6.25fr (including 25c on the back) with constituents: basic to Congo 1.50fr, registration fee of 1.75fr and air fee 3fr per 5gm. However, he can now only find a 3.50fr rate for 1937 (prior to October), even though other dealers' mail (both letters and postcards) of the same date all tallies with 3fr/5gm.

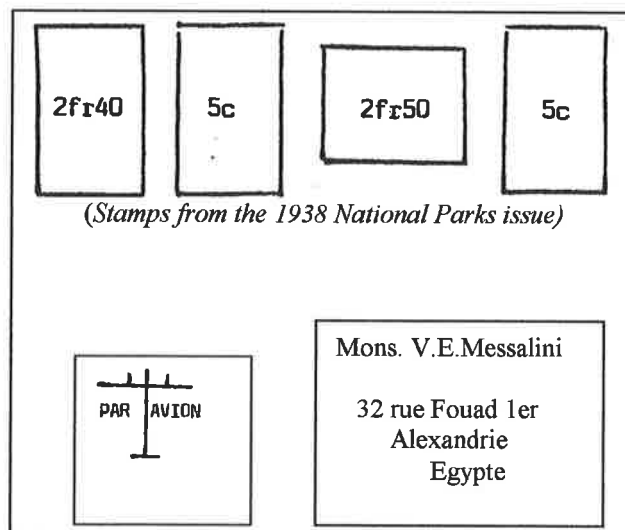
*(Note – I have recently found a 1937 3fr/5gm rate in Deneumostier's 'La Poste Aérienne en Belgique' but the necessary precision is lacking.)*



Cover No.26

From the same stable as the Brussels - Usumbura cover comes another welcome addition i.e. Fort Lamy. The Leopoldville to Alexandria cover in question used the main SABENA/Air Afrique alternate service from the Congo to Fort Lamy (in Chad, French Equatorial Africa) and there joined the Imperial Airways Accra to Khartoum service for ultimate carriage to Egypt.

Unfortunately it is in one of the dark colours so often used from the 1930s Congo; it reproduces badly and so I believe it is better to provide a diagram rather than a horrible copy.



Cover No.27

Leopoldville 14.3.1939 to Alexandria 19.3 via Fort Lamy (no transit mark but see text) and Khartoum 18.3

The route as indicated is logical enough for mail to Egypt and Peter Wingent has carefully worked out that the quick four days' journey to Khartoum rules out other routes which were theoretically possible.

No one, so far consulted, can find any official direct comment on this particular route from the Congo while John Sears (Egypt Study Circle) can find nothing in the reverse direction. However, it must have been formally established as Stockmans and Gallant in their 1997 book on Congo postal rates quote the following 5gm air surcharges to Egypt:

	<i>via Bangui</i>	<i>Juba</i>	<i>Entebbe/Dodoma</i>	<i>Broken Hill</i>
	<i>(= via Fort Lamy)</i>			
1 June 1935	4.25fr	1.50fr	1.50fr	3.50fr
7 Dec. 1936				
(1 Jan. 1937) ?	2.25fr	1.75fr	1.75fr	2.75fr

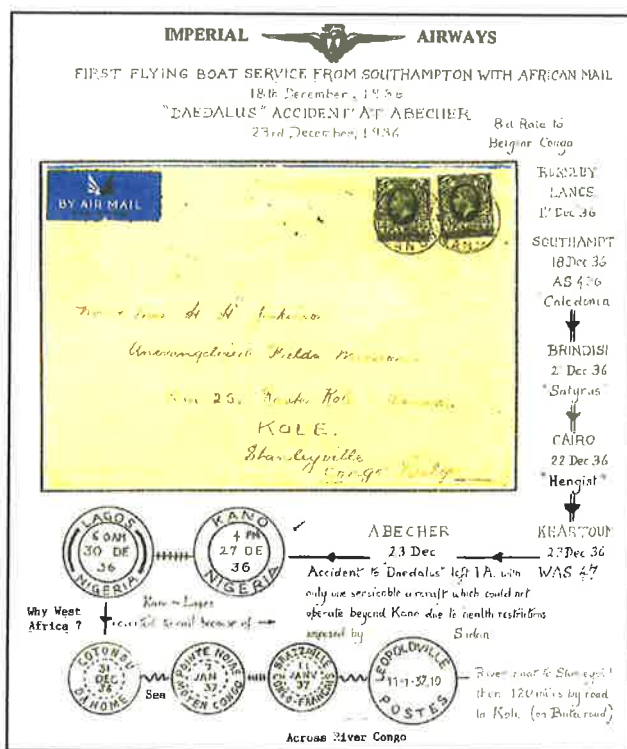
The Bangui route was only possible after the inauguration of the SABENA/Air Afrique service to Europe. Cost and time (via Europe) would surely have ruled out that route in 1935 but the opening of the Imperial Airways service from Khartoum to West Africa changed matters radically and this is reflected in the 2fr drop in air fee by the end of 1936. Despite the make up of the 5fr postage the rate on the cover cannot be reconciled. The basic rate had been 2.50fr since 1 June 1935 and the cover is therefore 25c over franked.

The cover would have travelled on the following flights:

Air Afrique, Brazzaville 15 March to Fort Lamy.

Imperial Airways Fort Lamy flight WAN 163 on 17 March to Khartoum 18 March (*too late for flight to Alexandria.*)

Imperial Airways Khartoum (*need flight leaving 19 March, but which one?*)



Cover No.28

Finally it is worth considering a route that should not have been, as portrayed by cover No.28 (Burnley 17 December 1936 to a village in Stanleyville province) which evidently decided that it needed to see the sights of, or savour the mailbags of, British West Africa, French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa en route. Its initial appearance is deceptively simple and its owner S. Wheatcroft has written it up admirably on his album page. The present writer will

merely add some background musings.

Postage 8d was correct for the Congo via Juba or Broken Hill and the British P.O. airmail leaflets at the time did not call for any particular 'superscription' for the Imperial Airways route. It should surely have been bagged for Juba (reached by flight AS 406 on 23 December) but as this flight was the first by flying boat with African mail, perhaps somehow that put a spanner in the bagging.

At all events somebody in Kano or Lagos decided to forward the cover via 'French Africa' rather than send it back to Khartoum for onward carriage southwards. Lagos to Cotonou was only about 60 miles by a reasonable road and Dahomey port was served by more shipping lines than was Lagos. Having reached Leopoldville as described in the writing up, the cover received no further transit marks and Mr. Wheatcroft has opted for river steamer for most of the remaining journey. However there were various internal services in operation at the time and Leopoldville to Libenge and then Libenge to Stanleyville would have been feasible, depending on the all-important connections. The same proviso would apply to an apparent Leopoldville-Coquilhatville-Stanleyville alternative. Indeed there seem to be so many inponderables that river steamer it may well have been!

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## Aeroplane Accidents 1930 to 1960

By - *Emile Hoorens*



Kouande – 9<sup>th</sup> December 1945  
Salvaged mail



Forwarded in a covering envelope

During the period 1930 to 1960 there were 14 recorded accidents involving aeroplanes – either internally or in transit to or from the Congo. These are recorded in the following list that includes details of the place and date, the type of plane, the pilot's name, mail routing and those instances when the recovered correspondence received an acknowledging cachet. As illustrated above, some covers were in such a bad state that it was necessary to forward them under cover of a separate envelope with special notification cachets. Others can only be identified by their postal cancellations of departure and/or arrival.

In addition to accidents involving aeroplanes there are of course others – typically those involving buses and trains and some examples are included at the end of this article.

**DIBAYA (Kasai) – Jan. 1930**

Farman 190  
Route: Madagascar-France  
Pilot: Roux  
Accident  
Mail Transferred  
Identification mark applied

**ELISABETHVILLE – 7 Feb. 1930**

Farman 190  
Route: Madagascar-France  
Pilot: Goulette  
Accident  
Mail re-routed by sea, Boma-Anvers  
No identification mark

**KAMINA – 16 Feb. 1936**

Potez 56 AIR AFRIQUE  
Route: Elisabethville-Kamina  
Pilot: Piemont  
Accident  
Mail re-boarded – 22 February  
No identification mark

**RUFUNSA (Rhodesia) – 13 Mar. 1936**

Bloc F-ANTK  
Route: Teneriffe-Elisabethville  
Pilot: Assolant  
Bad weather  
Mail re-routed via Broken Hill  
No identification mark

**ELISABETHVILLE – 16 Mar. 1936**

Bloc F-ANTK  
Route: Elisabethville-Teneriffe  
Pilot: Assolant  
Accident  
Mail transferred and carried by Lefevre  
No identification mark

**COQUILHATVILLE – 16 Nov. 1938**

Bloch – AIR AFRIQUE  
Route: Algeria-Teneriffe  
Pilot: Viot  
Accident  
Mail redirected  
No identification mark



**ORAN (Algeria) – 26 Jan. 1937**  
OO-AGR Savoia-Marchetti – SABENA  
Route: Leopoldville-Bruxelles  
Pilot: Closset  
Accident  
Mail redirected  
Identification – illustrated above



**KOUANDE (Dahomey) – 9 Dec. 1945**  
OO-CAK Lockheed 160 – SABENA  
Route: Leopoldville-Bruxelles  
Pilot: Van Opstal  
Breakdown at Kouanda + fire  
Mail re-routed via Leopoldville  
Identification – illustrated above



**Accident Avion Sabena  
à Libenge pour route  
vers leurs destinations**

**LIBENGE – 13 May 1948**  
OO-CBE DC4 – SABENA  
Route: Leopoldville-Bruxelles  
Pilot: Greindl  
Accident  
Mail re-directed via Libenge  
Identification - illustrated above  
+ transit 'Libenge' canceller.



**Courrier retiré de l'avion accidenté  
à Léopoldville le 27/8/1949**

**LEOPOLDVILLE – 27 AUG.1949**  
OO-CBK DC3 – SABENA  
Route: Leopoldville-Bruxelles  
Pilot: Fremolle  
Accident  
Mail recovered  
Identification - illustrated above



**AVION ACCIDENTE IDIOFA**

**IDIOFA – 4 Feb.1952**  
OO-CBN C47 – SABENA  
Route: Costermansville-Leopoldville  
Pilot: Adendorf  
Accident  
Mail recovered  
Identification – illustrated above



**ROME – 13 Feb.1955**  
 OO-SDB DC6 – SABENA  
 Route: Bruxelles-Leopoldville  
 Pilot: Stolz  
 Accident  
 Mail recovered  
 Identification – illustrated above

**CASABLANCA – 18 May 1958**  
 OO-SFA DC7 – SABENA  
 Route: Bruxelles-Leopoldville  
 Pilot: Pauwels  
 Accident  
 Mail recovered  
 Identification mark applied

**BUNIA – 26 April 1960**  
 OO-SFG DC4 – SOBELAIR  
 Bruxelles-Elisabethville  
 Pilot: Whiteside  
 Accident  
 No mail known

As previously stated recorded accidents also occurred during rail, road and river transportation. The sinking of the stern wheel steamer ‘Ville de Bruges’ 15 April 1890 has been well documented and falls outside the period of this article. However the following examples should add flavour to this study.

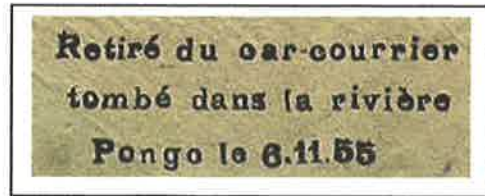
**Train accident**



Letter from Usumbura to Bern, damaged in a fire on board the train travelling from Kabalo to Albertville

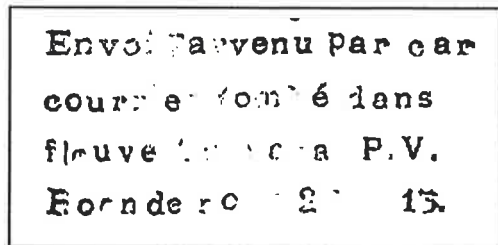
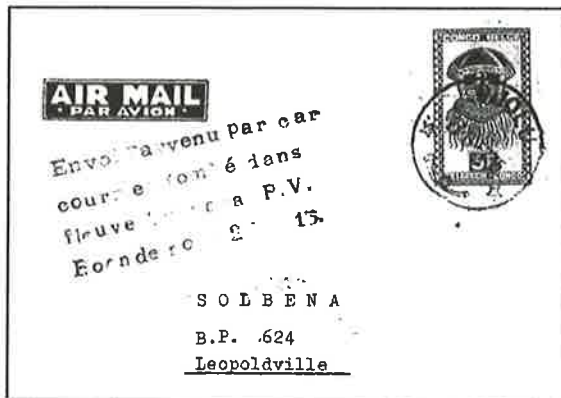


### Transport accident - in transit to Libenge airport



Letter by air from Bombona to Leopoldville, 4th November 1955.  
A vehicle carrying the correspondence to the Libenge airport was involved in an accident and crashed into the river Pongo, 6th November.

### Mail Bus accident



Cover to Leopoldville, 27th June 1952  
Mail retrieved from a mail bus which fell into the river Tshuapa.

## **Foreign Censor Marks of World War II on Belgian Congo Covers** *a plea from our President - Walter Deijnckens*

More than 10 years ago P.Foden, E.Hoorens and A.Jeukens published in earlier Bulletins articles about the censor marks of the Belgian Congo during the second world war. Did you know that in the Belgian national philatelic competition in 1993 A.Jeukens received 80% marking with his publication 'La Censure au Congo Belge Guerre 1939-1945 (civil et militaire)?

André Jeukens, Peter Foden and Emile Hoorens all focussed their research on the censor marks used in the Belgian Congo itself. Up till now I know of only one publication about foreign censor marks that can be found on Belgian Congo covers and that was published in 1992 – 'Le Congo Belge en 1940-45 by Jean Oth. Mr Oth illustrates covers of 18 different countries which used their marks on Congo covers namely: French Equatorial Africa, South Africa, Germany, Belgium, Cameroon, Goldcoast, Egypt, U.S.A., France, U.K., Kenya, Nyassa (Tanganyika), Uganda, Southern Rhodesia, Sudan and Tanzania.

*As a Study Circle, I call on you all to help by pooling information and contributing in the study of all foreign censor marks. If you have covers in your collection please try to identify where the mark was applied and by who. Note the dates, make a list and/or send a photocopy to my address. I will gather the information together and report frequently.*  
*Walter Deijnckens*



**Austrian Censor Mark -**  
Oesterreichische Zensurstelle 729-W

**Other** – V12 (in circle)  
Brown censor tape

**Ex - Elisabethville:**  
K –7-6-48-6 (type 10K)

***Belgian Congo Censorship 1940-1945 – two recent finds***  
by – *Emile Hoorens*

*Can you help?*

Illustrated are two new censor marks – neither is recorded in Mr.Heim’s or Mr Jeukens publications on the subject. If any members have seen these marks on other covers or cards please contact the author.



This postcard was sent from Brussels to the Belgian Congo, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1940 and reached the colony at Dilolo after travelling on the Benguela railway through Angola, and despite that the final destination was located in the Uélé Province in northeast Congo.



This mark was applied on a Belgian card sent from Portugal, 27 September 1941 and then probably forwarded under cover with other letters and correspondence. It travelled through Angola and was censored separately on arrival in Elisabethville. En route to Portugal it was censored by the Germans in Munich – A/d

## *Publications available from the Librarian*

*The Study Circle has stocks of the following books which are available to members at the price stated: -*

Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922) – Abbé G.Gudenkauf	£5.00
BELGIAN CONGO – Postal History of the Lado Enclave (1897-1910) - Abbé G.Gudenkauf	£9.00
BELGIAN CONGO – Mailboat Steamers on Congo Rivers & lakes – Postal History and Cancellations – Abbé G.Gudenkauf	£5.00
Étude du 5 franc Mols, État Indépendant du Congo – J.M.Frenay	£4.00
E.I.C. le 5 Franc de 1886 – E.Deneumostier	£4.00
<i>Arretes et Ordiances Concernant les Tarifs au Congo Belge et au Ruanda Urundi 1886-1952 (Letter rates including air mail and small packets, 1886-1952) – Stockmans and Gallant</i>	£10.00
<i>Ditto – Parcel post rates</i> £10.00	
<i>Service des Postes du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi, Rapports Annuels 1909-1958</i> Stockmans & Gallant	£15.00
<i>Copy of map (103x84 cms) positioning all existing post offices and means of transport between them.</i>	£4.65
Index to Bulletins 1-114 (1951 to 1999) and Allied Material – N.Clowes	
U.K. inland post and packing included	£5.00
Rest of the world –	price on request

### **Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo (1886-1960) and Ruanda Urundi (1917-1962) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition - Heim and Keach.**

U.K. inland post and packing included	£5.50
Rest of the world –	price on request

*The following accessory is available*

Full Circle protractor for angular measurement of cancellations	£0.25
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*Photocopies of pages from the following are available at £0.10 per page:-*

Congo Belge – Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postal – Jean Du Four

A Philatelic Bibliography of Belgian Congo & Ruanda Urundi – Keach (1976)  
----- ditto ----- Addendum (1983)

*Any issue of the BCSC Bulletin or article therein  
(Refer to 'Index to Bulletins' for details of contents)*

Orders for and enquiries about the above should be sent to:-  
Mr.A.J.D.MacLaren, 'Moray', 43 Millar Street, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 7AT, Scotland  
Email: [Allanjdmaclaren@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Allanjdmaclaren@blueyonder.co.uk)

**\*\* Postage and packing will be charged as an extra for all items except where stated as inclusive.**

**\*\* Please make cheques payable in £ sterling to A.J.D.MacLaren**

*Please note that the above prices are exclusively 'Members only' rates*

## *Literature available from the Authors*

**État Indépendant du Congo – Étude des timbres Mols** – J.M.Frenay in collaboration with Abbé G.Gudenauf.  
(This is a series of publications detailing individual stamp plating characteristics from this period. Each value is covered in a separate publication)

5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 40c, 50c, 1fr, 3.50fr and 10fr.

Please note that the 5Francs volume is available directly from the Study Circle at £4 plus postage and packing. Other volumes are to be purchased directly from J-M Frenay.

**Chronologie des Mouvements des Troupes Militaire Belges dans l'Afrique Oriental Allemande pendant la guerre 1914-1918** – A.Vindevogel. (Available from J-M Frenay)

**Histoire Postale de l'État du Katanga 1960-1963** – E.Hoorens

**Congo et Congo Belge 1894-1923 – Emission Mols et Van Engelen – Étude du 10c 'Stanley Falls'** – L.Tavano

**Etude du 5 Francs Chef Bangala et 5 Francs Ochre 1915** – L.Tavano

**Congo Belge - Emission Mols et Van Engelen – 'Bilingue 1910 et Recuperation 1921'** – L.Tavano

**Afrique Oriental Allemande – 'Occupation Belge 1916-1922, Emission de Londres'** – L.Tavano

**Het Luchtpostvervoer Tussen België en Belgisch-Congo 1920-1950. De Luchtrechten & de Bepalingen Betreffende de Luchtpost** – F.Broeckaert

**Les Timbres-Taxe du Congo de 1886-1960** – J-M Frenay

**Histoire du Service Postal au Congo Belge (1886-1960) – Tome II:- les valeurs postales** – R.Gallant and G.Huygebaert

**L'Emission des Timbres-poste ART INDIGENE du Congo Belge du 8 Decembre 1947 et du Ruanda Urundi du 18 Mai 1948** – F.Vanderveken

Addresses: J-M Frenay, Ave du Fonds des Carpes 14, 1380 Lasne, Belgium  
E.Hoorens, Ave. Eugène Ysaye 105/1, 1070 Brussels, Belgium  
L.Tavano, Rue Wazon 26, 4000 Liège, Belgium  
R.Gallant, Kalenbergstraat 105, 1700 Dilbeek, Belgium  
G. Huyghebaert, Van Benedenlaan 44, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium  
F.Vanderveken, Résidence Parc d'Italie, Chaussée de Boitsford, Belgium

*Members are requested to enquire directly from the authors for details of costs.*



## Airmail Collector



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**Belgian Congo Airmails, 1920-1960**, a superb collection compiled over the last 25 years by Norman Clowes, FRPSL. It contains material not seen on the market for many years and includes material originally in the collections of Baron De Moffart and Peter Foden. There are several items where only 2, or 3, examples are known.

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