

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 15

May, 1961

MEETING - APRIL, 1960

At the invitation of Mr. Laurence Green a meeting of the Study Circle was held at Esher on 30th April, 1960, 7 members attending. Most members present brought parts of their collections for the entertainment of the others and an enjoyable and enlightening meeting resulted.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last publication of the List of Members, the following have joined the Study Circle:-

W. Oppenheim, P.O. Box 8740, Johannesburg, S. Africa.

C. Hobson, 1 Mountlands, Hardwick Square South, Buxton, Derbyshire.

FINANCES

At 30th April, 1961 there was £3. 2. 6d in hand.

CIRCULATING PACKET

The circulating packet eventually completed its circuit and generally speaking, the results were very satisfactory. A difficulty has always been to obtain suitable material for inclusion but in this instance the relics of Mr. Joseph Wright's collection provided a good basis.

SPERATI FORGERIES OF 1891 - 10 Francs

There was an error in the origin given for the notes in Bulletin No. 14. The notes were prepared by Mrs. Green during her study of the Sperati reproductions lent to her by Mr. Robson Lowe.

50c/25c, RECOVERY ISSUE OF 1921

A copy of this stamp with double surcharge was sold in a recent Vessey sale. The doubling was oblique and spaced about 1 mm. It appeared to be perfectly genuine.

BOOKLETS

The Belgian Congo has issued four basically different booklets:-

1. 1915 issues with yellow cover
2. 1915 issues with blue cover
3. 1922 issue
4. 1931/34 issues

Of these booklets only the last is relatively common, that with the 1922 issues being scarce.

"1915" Booklets

Composition

These booklets contain specially printed sheets of 10 stamps, 2 x 5 for horizontal stamps, 5 x 2 for stamps of vertical format, with wide selvedge on all sides and were prepared by Waterlow & Sons.

Included in the yellow-covered booklet are five sheets of the 5 centimes value, 3 of 10 centimes, 3 of 15 centimes and 2 of 25 centimes, of total value 15 francs; in the blue-covered booklet are 4 sheets of 5 centimes, 3 sheets of 10 centimes, 5 sheets of 15 centimes and 5 sheets of 25 centimes, of total value 25 francs.

The sheets of stamps are backed with tissue paper to prevent adherence in the damp climate and inter-leaved with pages of advertisements. Sheets of stamps, tissues and advertisements are stapled to the covers; in all booklets examined the staples are at the top of sheets with horizontal stamps and at the left of sheets with vertical stamps.

The writer has available for examination three yellow-covered booklets, and three blue, one of each colour from each of the three printings (see later).

The sequence of sheets in each of the yellow and blue booklets from the first and second printings is as follows, the tissue behind each sheet of stamps being ignored:-

Sheet of advertisements, shared by D.J. Robinson and Comptoirs des Exportateurs Belges au Congo

Sheets of 5c. stamps

Advertisement - Compagnie Commerciale et Agricole d'Alimentation du Bas Congo

Sheets of 10c. stamps

Advertisement - H. Aronson

Sheets of 15c. stamps

Sheets of advertisements, shared by Drisse-Davre and Compagnie Francaise du Bas Congo

Sheets of 25c. stamps

In the booklets of the third printing the only advertisement is that of H. Aronson which precedes the sheets of stamps.

In the case of the first two printings the inside of the front cover is used for listing the postal rates, the inside of the back cover for an advertisement of Societe Anonyme des Huileries du Congo Belge and the outside of the back cover an advertisement of Syndicat d'Etudes et d'Enterprises au Congo.

In the third printing both booklets have an advertisement of Compagnie Francaise du Bas Congo inside the front cover, an advertisement of SEDEC inside the back cover and an advertisement of Syndicat d'Etudes et d'Enterprises au Congo outside the back cover.

Thus it appears that the advertisements were changed between the second and the third printings.

The Shades of the Stamps

Of each value there are three distinct shades referred to as the first, second and third printings. The stamps contained in any single booklet are all from one printing regardless of the different values. Thus 5c. stamps from the first printing are not found in the same booklet as 10c. stamps from the second printing and so on.

The shades of the 5c. stamps are:-

- First printing - yellowish green and brownish black on creamy-white paper
- Second printing - bluish green and black on white paper
- Third printing - green and grey-black on coarse greyish paper, rather like the French "G.C." paper

The shades of the 10c. stamps are:-

- First printing - dull carmine and brownish black on creamy white paper
- Second printing - bright carmine and black on white paper
- Third printing - carmine and grey black on coarse greyish paper

The shades of the 15c. stamps are:-

- First printing - dull blue-green and brownish black on creamy white paper
- Second printing - bright blue green and black on white paper
- Third printing - dull blue green and grey black on coarse greyish paper

The shades of the 25c stamps are:-

- First printing - dull blue and brownish black on creamy white paper
- Second printing - bright blue and black on white paper
- Third printing - dull blue and grey black on coarse greyish paper

With mint booklet stamps the printing is easily recognised but used stamps require rather more care. Recognition of booklet stamps from stamps from the sheets of 50 will be considered later.

Perforation

All sheets from the first and second printings are perforated 14.

Most sheets from the third printings are perforated 14 but sheets of the 5c, 10c, and 15c, are found perforated 15 and of the 10c. perforated 14 x 15. Sheets of the 25c., perforated 15, existed but none is recorded. The writer has found a single used copy of the 25c., third printing, perforated 15, but this perforation of the 25c. booklet stamps must be regarded as rare or very rare.

Sheets perforated 14 and 15 are found in the same booklet; indeed, sheets of the same value with different perforations are found in the same booklet.

All perforations are line and therefore extend through the margins of the sheets.

Varieties exist due to missing holes of perforation, resulting in imperforate margin varieties. Examples seen are:-

- 5c., third printing, pane B (see later) - left margin imperforate
- 10c., first printing, pane C - top margin imperforate
- 10c., first printing, pane B - bottom margin imperforate
- 15c., first printing, pane C - right margin imperforate
- 15c., third printing, pane D - bottom margin imperforate

Dies Used for Preparing the Plates

The centre plate of the 5c., is from the die without the "dot on the mountain" i.e. Type I, Balasse 64 N1 etc., as are stamps from most of the sheets of 50.

The frames of most stamps in the sheet of 50 with Type I centre, have a green dot at about mid-height in the vertical white line above the left figure 5, this dot presumably having been used in setting out the plate. The dot is missing from the booklet stamps.

The centre plate of the 10 centimes is from the retouched die with the extended shading of the sky, Type II, Balasse 65 N3 etc. The frame plate of the 10 centimes booklet stamp was prepared from a roller die different from that used for the sheets of 50 stamps. Examination of 1915 10 centimes stamps with the original centre plate without the extended sky shading, Type I, Balasse 65 N1 etc. and all from sheets of 50, shows a consistent break at the bottom of the coloured circle around the left figure 10; this was due to a damaged transfer roll. Stamps with the retouched centre, Balasse 65 N3 etc., and the damaged circle in the frame are from sheets of 50. A new and undamaged transfer roll was used for the booklet plate, the circle around the left figure 10 being complete (See "La Revue Postale" No. 6, 1955).

The 15 centimes centre is from the retouched die, Type II, Balasse 66 N2 etc., with the centre spine to the palm frond. The first two "printings" of the 15 centimes in sheets of 50 (Sheets containing Balasse 66 V10) have the G of Belge with the central line inside the "stool" curved and following the contour of the letter itself. Subsequently prepared plates of 50 and the booklet plates used a damaged transfer roll in which the centre line in the stool of the G of Belge is askew and obviously out of place (See "LA Revue Postale" No. 10, 1955).

The centre plate of the 25 centimes was prepared from a retouched die as were the last two centre plates used for the sheets of 50. Retouching comprised primarily additional shading composed of dots around the large flat rocks to the right of the natives. With stamps resulting from the retouched die there is no white line above these rocks as there is for example on the 25 centimes stamps of 1910 (See "The Stamp Lover", December 1946).

The Plates

Study of a number of booklet sheets of any one denomination shows that four different plates were used. It is reasonable to presume, therefore, that actually the plates, centre and frame, each bore 40 impressions in groups of 10 with wide margins between. Sheets printed from this plate would have 40 stamps in four panes of 10 stamps. Support for this contention is gained by the fact that booklet sheets of the four panes are in approximately equal quantities and by the continuity of guide lines between adjacent panes. This last observation has permitted the relative positions of the four panes to be ascertained. No complete sheet of 40 stamps is known to exist.

For reference purposes, the panes are designated A, B, C, D, these being top left, top right, bottom left and bottom right. Any complete booklet has all sheets of a particular value of the same pane, A, B, C, or D but the different values in a particular booklet are not necessarily from the same pane.

The six booklets available for examination have sheets from the following positions:-

<u>Cover</u>	<u>Printing</u>	<u>5c.</u>	<u>10c.</u>	<u>15c.</u>	<u>25c.</u>
Yellow	1	C	A	B	A
"	2	C	B	B	B
"	3	D	B	C	B
Blue	1	C	A	B	A
"	2	A	C	D	C
"	3	B	C	D	D

It is clear, therefore, that the sheets of 40 were not assembled with the flimsy interleaving and advertisements in blocks of four and the assembly then cut into four. Packs of sheets of 40 of each value must have been guillotined into panes of 10 and the component parts of the booklets assembled therefrom.

Recognition of the Plates

- 5 Centimes, Pane A - Stamp No. 2 has a re-entry in the B and S of Belgisch and in the C of Congo.
- Pane B - Stamp No. 6 has a horizontal scratch or guide line under the bottom right corner, extended into the margin.
- Pane C - Stamp No. 1 has a nearly vertical scratch in the top margin, 3 mm. to the right of the top left corner,
- Pane D - Stamp No. 3 has a re-entry in the right curve of the right figure 5.
- 10 Centimes, Pane A - Stamp No. 10 has a re-entry in the bottom left figure 10.
- Pane B - Stamp No. 1 has a re-entry in the central left figure 10.
- Pane C - Stamp No. 2 has a re-entry in the bottom left figure 10.
- Pane D - Stamp No. 2 has a nearly horizontal scratch beneath the bottom right corner.

- 15 Centimes, Pane A - Stamp No. 1 has crossing horizontal and vertical frame guide lines outside the top left corner.
- Pane B - There is a vertical centre guide line in the margin above Stamp No. 5.
- Pane C - Stamp No. 1 has a frame plate dot in the horizontal white line above the C of the Upper Congo.
- Pane D - Stamp No. 1 has a nearly vertical scratch between the left frame lines near the top left corner.
- 25 Centimes, Pane A - Stamp No. 1 has a diagonal scratch between the top frame lines, 2 mm. from the left corner.
- Pane B - Stamp No. 4 has a horizontal scratch immediately below the bottom right corner and extending into the margin.
- Pane C - Stamp No. 10 has an oblique scratch in the bottom margin, $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the left of the bottom right corner.
- Pane D - Stamp No. 4 has a vertical line near the right of the lower horizontal leg of the second N of Centiemen.

With care, each stamp in each pane can be recognised by means of minor imperfections, although some copies of the third printing are difficult, especially when used.

History of the Plates

5 Centimes, Frame Plate

The plate remained unchanged throughout the three printings.

5 Centimes, Centre Plate

The plate was at least partly re-entered before the second printing, resulting in minor doubling of some parts of the design. Examples are:-

- Pane A - No. 4, dots and shading in bottom right corner of central design.
- Pane C - No. 1, shading of water below bottom boat; No. 7 shading of water immediately to bottom left of left boat; No. 8, shading of water below left boat.
- Pane D - No. 1, shading of water to bottom left of left boat; No. 3, shading of water to left of left boat.

Other imperfections appeared before the second printing :-

- Pane A - No. 10, a nearly vertical scratch in the right frame but this disappeared before the third printing.
- Pane B - No. 10, a diagonal scratch to the left of the left boat.
- Pane D - No. 2, a black dot in the distant mountains at the right.

10 Centimes, Frame Plate

The plate remained unchanged throughout the three printings.

10 Centimes, Centre Plate

The plate was partly re-entered before the second printing, this re-entering being apparently restricted to Panes B and D. Evidence of re-entry is shown in the vertical doubling of the canoes:-

Pane B - No. 10, the left canoe doubled.

Pane D - Nos. 5, 6 and 8, left canoes doubled.

15 Centimes, Frame Plate

Every impression was retouched before the second printing, this retouching apparently being restricted to the cross-hatching in the upper rectangle around Congo Belge. The retouching is visible as either additional lines between the lines of the existing cross-hatching or as extensions to the existing cross-hatching into the letters or white ornaments.

Positions of retouches are:-

Pane A - No. 1, top right corner; No. 2, top right of C of Congo; No. 3, above N of Congo; No. 4, above second E of Belge; No. 5, across top right serif of L of Belge; No. 6, to right of second E of Belge; No. 7, to right of second E of Belge; No. 8, at top left corner; No. 9, to right of second E of Belge; No. 10, to left of C of Congo.

Pane B - No. 1, above second E of Belge; No. 2, above second E of Belge; No. 3, above NG of Congo; No. 4, to right of second E of Belge and extended into top serif of C of Congo; No. 5, extended into the left C of Congo; No. 6, above N of Congo and extended across long white ornament above L of Belge; No. 7, under N of Congo; No. 8, extended across long white ornament above L of Belge; No. 9, above second E of Belge; No. 10, above C of Congo.

Pane C - No. 1, top right corner; No. 2, bottom right corner (of top rectangle); No. 3, bottom left corner; No. 4, across curl of white ornament above second E of Belge and extended across long white ornament above L of Belge; No. 5, to top right of second E of Belge and extended across long white ornament above L of Belge; No. 6, above second E of Belge; No. 7, to top right of second E of Belge; No. 8, above C of Congo; No. 9, to left of C of Congo and extended across long white ornament above L of Belge; No. 10, to top left of C of Congo and extended across long white ornament above L of Belge.

Pane D - No. 1, bottom right corner; No. 2, to right of E of Belge; No. 3, below first O of Congo; No. 4, to right of E of Belge; No. 5, above N of Congo; No. 6, above second E of Belge and extended into the bottom serif of C of Congo; No. 7, to right of E of Belge; No. 8, extended into top right of G of Belge; No. 9, extended into curl of white ornament above second E of Belge; No. 10, extended across top horizontal bar of G of Belge and extended into the bottom serif of C of Congo.

15 Centimes, Centre Plate

The plate remained unchanged throughout the three printings.

25 Centimes, Frame Plate

The frame plate was at least partially retouched during the course of the second printing.

Apparent retouches are a small St. Andrew's cross in the margin to the left of Pane A, No. 5 and a second similar cross in the margin to the right of Pane B, No. 8, and, in addition, scratches which are undoubtedly burin marks. Such scratches are:-

- Pane A - No. 4, curved scratch outside the top right hand corner; No. 5, three dots below bottom left corner; No. 8, scratch across the top left corner; No. 9, scratch between frame lines below G of lower Congo; No. 10, scratch between frame lines below second O of lower Congo and nearly vertical curved scratch in the right margin.
- Pane B - No. 1, four dots in the margin above left 25; No. 4, scratch between the frame lines between G of Belgisch; No. 6, scratch in the margin below second O of lower Congo.
- Pane C - No. 1, diagonal scratch at extreme top right of central design; No. 4, diagonal scratch below G of upper Congo; No. 5, curved scratch outside the top right corner; No. 6, scratch above frame line near right end; No. 7, scratch between left frame lines near the top; No. 9, scratch outside the top left corner; No. 10, scratches outside the top right corner.
- Pane D - No. 2, scratches outside the top right corner; No. 3, scratch above the top frame line near right corner; No. 4, scratch outside the top left corner; No. 5, scratch above the top frame line near right corner; No. 7, scratch between bottom frame line below G of Belgisch; No. 8, horizontal scratch in the white curve below left whorl; No. 9, scratch between bottom frame lines below L of Belgisch; No. 10, scratch outside the top left corner.

25 Centimes, Centre Plate

The centre plate remained unchanged throughout the printing.

Date of Issue

The booklets contain stamps issued in sheets of 50 in November, 1915 but there is no record of the date of issue of the booklets. The earliest cancellations on the booklet stamps in the writer's collection are :-

- First Printing - June, 1917
Second Printing - February, 1918
Third Printing - November, 1920

Inverted Centre

One pane of the 10 centimes value has been found with centre inverted. This is one of the rarest Congo stamps; a copy was offered for sale by private treaty by Harmer's a few years ago for £750. Three other panes must have existed and there is always the hope that one may turn up unexpectedly!

"1922" Booklets

Booklets were made from sheets of 50 stamps current in 1922. The sheets of 50 were divided into blocks of 10, 5 x 2 for the stamps of horizontal format and 2 x 5 for the vertical stamps, the selvedge on the two short sides and one of the long sides of the sheets being removed and the selvedge on the one long side, at the left of the horizontal stamps and at the top of the vertical stamps, being retained for stapling in the booklet.

Stamps included, in blocks of 10, are:-

- 2 blocks of 5c/50c of 1922, Malines Surcharge,
- 3 blocks of 10c/5c of 1922, Malines Surcharge,
- 2 blocks of 15c of 1915,
- 4 blocks of 25c/40c of 1922, Malines Surcharge,
- 1 block of 30c/10c of 1922, Malines Surcharge,
- 2 blocks of 50c/25c of 1922, Malines Surcharge,

the booklet selling for 30 francs.

The stamps have flimsy inter-leaving sheets and are stapled between buff-coloured covers, without advertisements, the booklets being prepared by Waterlow & Sons.

The writer has only one booklet for examination but the printings used in this booklet are:-

- 5c/50c, stamps from the retouched die, Balasse 95N2,
- 10c/5c, stamps from the original centre plate, without dot on the mountain, Balasse 96N1,
- 15c, Balasse 66N3, stamps from the last printing, that with the multiplicity of centre re-entries, doubled negroes etc.
- 25c/40c, stamps from the retouched plate, Balasse 97N2,
- 30c/10c, stamps from the original die, Balasse 98N1, the original plate before re-entering,
- 50c/25c, Balasse 99N1, from the retouched centre die with shading around the flat rocks in the right foreground.

The scarce 25c/40c stamps from the original centre plate, Balasse 97N1, existed in these booklets, the writer having a block with staple marks in the left margin.

All stamps in the booklet examined are perforated 14 but perf. 15 may well exist.

In the booklet examined the positions of the blocks from the original sheets of 50 are:-

- 5c/50c Both sheets Nos. 11-20
- 10c/5c All three sheets Nos. 21-30
- 15c Both sheets Nos. 9/10, 19/20, 29/30, 39/40 and 49/50.

- 25c/40c First sheet Nos. 21/30, second third and fourth sheets
Nos. 31/40.
- 30c/10c Nos. 1/10
- 50c/25c Both sheets Nos. 11/20

It is clear, therefore, that the booklets were not prepared by assembling the complete sheets in mixed packs of 14 and then splitting into blocks of 10. The sheets of 50 must have been split into blocks from packs all of the same value and then assembled haphazardly.

The booklets were presumably prepared in 1922 or 1923 before the Floors stamps were issued.

"1937" Booklets

These booklets contained postage stamps of the 1931/37 Pictorial issue and airmail stamps of the 1934 issue, all printed in special sheets of 8 stamps, 4 x 2 with vertical format, 2 x 4 with horizontal format, with selvages on all four sides.

The booklet contains:-

- 1 sheet of 0,50 Balasse No. 173,
- 2 sheets of 0,75, Balasse No. 175,
- 2 sheets of 1,25, Balasse No. 157,
- 1 sheet of 1,50, Balasse No. 177a,
- 1 sheet of 2,50, Balasse No. 178a,
- 2 sheets of 1,00, Air, Balasse No. 8,
- 1 sheet of 4,50 Air, Balasse No. 11,

together with flimsy interleaving after every sheet of stamps, advertisements and at the beginning a pink sheet headed "Erratum", the whole being stapled into a buff cover. Of several booklets examined, all have the same advertisements. The booklets were produced presumably by the Belgian Government Printing Works in Malines. The total value of the stamps is 120 francs.

In all booklets examined, whereas the vertical stamps are always upright the horizontal stamps are stapled sometimes by the top selvedge and sometimes by the bottom, but the former appears to be usual.

Some sheets bear a plate number 1 or 2. The vertical stamps, (4 x 2 in the sheets) have the plate number in the bottom selvedge between Nos. 6 and 7; the horizontal postage stamps (2 x 4) have the plate number in the left margin between Nos. 4 and 6; the air stamps (2 x 4) have the plate number in the left margin near the bottom of the bottom row of stamps. It appears that for each value there were two plates, each with a multiplicity of panes of eight; judging by the relative scarcity of panes with plate numbers, there were probably 6/12 groups of eight impressions on the plate, only one pane having the plate number impressed thereby.

The postage stamps are perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, the air stamps $13\frac{1}{2}$ x 14, both perforations being harrow, the perforations not entering the selvedge. A curious feature of the postage stamps is that the perforations on one of the shorter sides is extended at one end by one hole into the selvedge; the extension is apparently at any one of the four corners.

MOZART - RUANDA 6,50 FR. + 2,50 FR.

Reference was made in Bulletin No. 14 to a re-entry on this stamp and the Secretary stated that the variety did not exist in a complete sheet of the value, plate No. 1. This statement was quite incorrect and careful study shows several re-entries. These are detailed below, the sheet comprising 30 stamps (5 x 6). All are light doubles to the left, No. 18 being the most pronounced and most complete.

- No. 17 - Vertical strokes of ELI of "Elisabeth" and heads of notes at left of bottom three staves of music.
- No. 18 - ELISABET of "Elisabeth", the harp, "1756" and heads of notes of bottom four staves.
- Nos. 20, and 25 - Heads of notes at left of top four staves.
- Nos. 21, 22, 23, 26 and 29 - Heads of some notes at left of fourth stave.
- No. 24 - RU of "Ruanda", 175 of "1756" and heads of notes at left of top four staves.

USE OF BELGIAN CONGO STAMPS AFTER 30th JUNE, 1960

The Secretary received from the Ministry of Communications in Leopoldville a letter dated 24th September, 1960 with attached copy of the Public Notice concerning the issue of overprinted stamps. The notice includes a statement that the Belgian Congo issue without "Congo" overprint will only be valid for postage until 31st July, 1960. The letter from the Ministry was franked with "Five Kings" stamps, naturally without "Congo" overprint!

Belgian Congo, Congo Republic and Katanga stamps appear to be used indiscriminately.

LA COMMISSION DE CO-OPERATION TECHNIQUE EN AFRIQUE AU SUD DU SAHARA
(C.C.T.A.)

On 19th December, 1960, two stamps, each of 3 francs value, were issued for the Belgian Congo and two for Ruanda Urundi to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the above Commission.

Created in January 1950 by six governments responsible for the administration of territories in Africa to the south of the Sahara, La Commission de Co-operation Technique en Afrique au Sud du Sahara (C.C.T.A.) arranged an inter-government convention on 19th January, 1954. The founder governments were Belgium, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, France, Portugal, United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa. To these governments were added later governments of Ghana, Liberia and Guinea.

The object of the Commission is to ensure technical co-operation between its members; it is assisted by the Conseil Scientifique en Afrique au Sud du Sahara. (C.S.A.) where various scientific bodies are represented. These two organisations operate through a joint secretariat with head offices, one in Europe (London) the other in Africa (Bukavu). The London office, which is controlled by a general secretary, was to be transferred to Lagos (Nigeria) during 1960. The Bukavu office is controlled by a scientific secretary.

The organisation of C.C.T.A. is based on:-

1. The creation of a network of offices, committees, services and technical correspondence with specialised scientific purposes (labour, soil, animal health, the tsetse-fly, etc.).
2. The organisation of inter-African conferences (co-operation in medical, labour, education, soil, statistical services etc.) and of reunions and informal discussions.
3. The administration of an inter-African research organisation to undertake work of common interest (weather maps, work consecrated to science in African development, research on absenteeism and instability of handicrafts etc.).

Since 1959 C.C.T.A. has established an organisation for technical assistance (Fondation pour l'Assistance Mutuelle en Afrique au Sud du Sahara) (F.A.M.A.). This foundation fosters and centralises bilateral agreements of technical assistance between its members, based on the use of experts, the organisation of courses and loans of basic materials.

NEW ISSUES

Belgian Congo

1st December, 1959, Christmas Issue, printed in photogravure by Courvoisier. The design shows the Madonna and Child, Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

0,50	brown, buff and red-brown
1,00	deep blue, violet and red-brown
2,00	grey-blue and red-brown

19th February, 1960, Commission de Co-operation Technique En Afrique au Sud du Sahara (C.C.T.A.) designed by J. Van Noten, engraved by Malvaux, recess-printed by the Government Printing Works at Malines and depicting map of Africa with allegorical designs. Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

3 fr.	olive and vermillion with inscription in French
3 fr.	olive and vermillion with inscription in Flemish

The French and Flemish inscribed stamps were printed from different plates so that they are not found se-tenant.

2nd May, 1960, Olympic Games, printed in photogravure by Belge Securite; perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$.

0,50 + 0,25	ultramarine and carmine - high jumper
1,50 + 0,50	carmine and green - hurdlers
2,00 + 1,00	blue green and carmine - footballers
3,00 + 1,25	purple and blue - javelin thrower
6,50 + 3,50	red brown and carmine - discus thrower

Congo Republic

30th June, 1960. With the birth of the Independent State, existing current stamps, Flowers, Animals and C.C.T.A. were overprinted "Congo", some values being surcharged.

Flowers	0,10	Animals	0,10
	0,10 on 0,15		0,20
	0,40		0,40
	0,50 on 0,60		0,50
	0,50 on 0,75		1,00
	1,00		1,50
	1,50		2,00
	2,00		3,50 on 3,00
	3,00		5,00
	4,00		6,50
	5,00		8,00
	6,50		10,00
	8,00		
	10,00	C.C.T.A.	3,50 on 3,00 French
	20,00		3,50 on 3,00 Flemish
	50,00		
	100,00		

30th June, 1960, Independence Issue. Printed in photogravure by Courvoisier; perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$; all of the same design

0,10	brown
0,50	carmine
1,00	green
1,50	red-brown
2,00	lilac
3,50	violet
5,00	blue
5,00	greenish-blue
6,50	black
10,00	yellow
20,00	ultramarine

30th June, 1960, Postal Stationery overprinted "Congo"

Single post card	1,50	blue (standard palm tree design)
Air letter	4,00	claret on blue
Letter card	3,00	bright purple on blue (reported but not seen)

The 1,50 post card has not been seen without the "Congo" overprint.

4th January, 1961, Second Anniversary of 4th January 1959. Printed in photogravure by Courvoisier, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. Each denomination has the Congo flag in blue with yellow stars.

2,00	violet
3,50	orange-red
6,50	brown
10,00	green
20,00	lilac

_____, Overprinted "Congo".

0.50 Madonna

Katanga

5th September, 1960. With the establishment of an independent Katanga existing stocks of Belgian Congo stamps were overprinted "Katanga".

Flowers	0,10	Animals	0,10
	0,15		0,20
	0,20		0,40
	0,25		0,50
	0,40		1,00
	0,50		1,50
	0,60		2,00
	0,75		3,00
	1,00		5,00
	2,00		6,50
	3,00		8,00
	4,00		10,00
	5,00		
	6,50	Idols	1,50/1,25
	7,00		3,50/2,50
	8,00		20,00
	10,00		50,00
			100,00
Madonna	0,50		
	1,00	C.C.T.A.	3,00 French
	2,00		3,00 Flemish

Reported varieties:-

- 0,40 Flowers, Line obliterating "Belgisch-Congo Belge" omitted.
- 0,25 Flowers, overprint inverted.
- 0,60 Flowers, overprint inverted.
- 0,50 Animals, overprint inverted.
- 1,00 Madonna, overprint inverted.

5th September, 1960. The Independence issue of the Congo Republic was overprinted "11 July l'Etat du Katanga".

0,20 to 20,00 as listed under Congo Republic.

?, New definitives, printed in photogravure by Courvoisier; perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. Designs depict Katanga art.

0,10	green
0,20	violet
0,50	
1,50	slate-green
2,00	purple-brown
3,50	blue
5,00	blue-green
6,00	brown
6,50	ultramarine
8,00	purple
10,00	brown-violet
20,00	slate-green
50,00	deep brown
100,000	turquoise

_____ , Postal Stationery overprinted "Katanga".

Single postcard	1,50	blue (standard palm tree design)
Air letter	4,00	claret on blue

Ruanda Urundi

10th March, 1961. New postal values in the Animal series designed by J. Van Noten, printed in photogravure by Courvoisier, perforated 11½.

20 fr.	multi-coloured	- panther
50 fr.	multi-coloured	- lions

_____ . Surcharged with new value.

3,50 on 3,00 **Animals**

_____ , 1960. Current postage due stamps of Belgian Congo, issued 15th March, 1957, overprinted "Ruanda Urundi" in black.

0,10	brown
0,20	claret
0,50	green
1,00	ultramarine
2,00	scarlet
4,00	violet
6,00	violet-blue

Variety: Overprinted in carmine (apparently one sheet of 100 only).

0,10 brown

International Reply Coupon

Some time prior to 30th June, 1960 the value of the International Reply Coupon was increased to 7 francs.

LIST OF POST OFFICES

Attached are amendments to the list of post offices, which accompanied Bulletin No. 14, and details of new post offices opened up to March, 1960.

CLASSIFICATION OF POST OFFICE CANCELLATIONS

Mr Heim has been studying the post office cancellations of Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi and has prepared a classification which he has had duplicated for the benefit of members of the Study Circle. A copy is attached.

Over a period it is hoped to produce as comprehensive a check list of cancellations as is possible and the assistance of all members of the Study Circle will be requested when a draft list has been distributed.

FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS

Reference was made in Bulletin 14 to First Day Cancellations for Congo and Ruanda. These are used at any time as a cancellation to order and are, therefore, of little interest. Prior to 30th June 1960 the cancellations were used in Brussels as well as in Leopoldville and Usumbura. Presumably the Ruanda cancellation is still applied in Brussels.

PROPOGANDA POSTMARKS

Referring to the report in Bulletin No. 14 the complete inscriptions for Bukavu, Goma and Moanda are as follows:-

LAC KIVU - BUKAVU - KIVU MEER

SES VULCANS - GOMA - ZON VULKANEN

SEJOUR MARIN - MOANDA - VERBLOF AAN ZEE

BRUSSELS EXHIBITION CANCELLATION

At the Brussels Exhibition in 1959 current Belgian Congo and Ruanda stamps were available in sets, cancelled with special large circular cancellations inscribed "Palais du Congo Belge et du Ruanda Urundi". In the centre are the insignia of the Exhibition and a tracing of the Congo Pavilion. This is, of course, not a postal cancellation.

NORMAL POSTAL CACHETS

The postal markings listed below have been seen by the writer or are recorded in Andre de Cock's book, these last being indicated by the letters "A.D.C.". Information on other markings will be welcomed. Local censor markings, "Wreck" markings and special flight cachets are not included.

Postal markings are for convenience, sub-divided into various types:-

Type I	In French without frame.
Type II	In French with rectangular frame.
Type III	In French and Flemish with rectangular frame.
Type IV	In French and Flemish in octagonal frame (rectangular corners cut off)
and	Miscellaneous

Registration

RECOMMANDE	in italics in parallelogram frame.
RECOMMANDE	Type I, 5 mm. letters, 52 mm. long. Other very similar types have been seen but these are thought not to be official.
REGISTRE or ENREGISTRE	(only REGISTRE seen on stamp but the letters EN would have been on the envelope or adjoining stamp), Type I, 3½ mm. letters.

Air Mail

AVION	Type I, 4½ mm. letters, 22 mm. long.
AVION	Type I (but sometimes with trace of frame), 6½ mm. letters, 20 mm. long, in use at Luluabourg.
AVION	Type II, frame 37 mm. x 10 mm.
AVION	Type II, frame 43 mm. x 19 mm. in use at Leopoldville in August, 1933.
PAR AVION	Type IV.

Other types of Avion and Par Avion have been seen but these are thought to be unofficial and not postal markings.

Cancelling Air Mail

Elongated St. Andrew's Cross, 50 mm. x 20 mm. in black or red, obliterating "Par Avion" etiquette or cachet.

Two wavy or curved lines forming a rectangle approximately 45 mm. x 15 mm. in red obliterating "Par Avion" etiquette or cachet.

Air Mail for Part of Journey

PAR AVION	
DE _____	Type I
A _____	
Ditto	Type IV

Insufficient Air Mail Postage

SURTAXE	Type II, frame 55 x 14 mm.
AERIENNE INSUFFISIANTE	
Ditto	Type II, frame 46½ x 15 mm.
Ditto	Type II, with frame 39 x 11 mm.
Ditto	Type IV.

Air Mail Advertisement

UTILISER L'AVION	Type II, frame 38 x 10 mm.
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Express

EXPRES	Type I, 10 mm. letters, 45 mm. long with equal top and bottom parts of S.
EXPRES	Type I, 10 mm. letters, 45 mm. long with unequal top and bottom parts of letter S.
EXPRES	Type IV.

Instead of an air mail etiquette or cachet, early air letters received the Express mark Type I.

Paid

PAYE	Type I, 10 mm. letters, 25 mm. long
------	-------------------------------------

Used as postage stamp cancellation in Belgian-occupied German East Africa.

PAYE	Type I, 10 mm. letters, 32 mm. long (ADC)
------	---

Used in Katanga at the end of 1922 when there was a shortage of 25c. stamps required for the posting of magazines.

PAYE	Type IV.
PORT PAYE	Type I, seriffed 5 mm. letters, 35 mm. long.

Apparently used as surcharge on an incorrect T marking indicating that postage due payment was necessary.

Verified

VERIFIE Type I, 5 mm. letters, 29 mm. long

This marking was used when a printed matter envelope had been opened to confirm that the contents were in accordance with the postage paid.

Inadequate Postage Paid

T Type I, seriffed letter 16 mm. high

T Type I, 10 mm. high with trace of frame.

This mark was used to indicate that stamps affixed to the packet were insufficient to pay the correct postage and that postage due was required to be paid by the recipient.

Stamps Invalid

O Type I, letter 15 mm. high

O Type I, letter 17 mm. high

The mark is normally placed adjacent to each stamp which is no longer valid for postage or which has already been used for paying postage. The use of this mark is usually accompanied by the mark T requiring postage due from the recipient.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

AR Type I, seriffed letters 13 mm. high

Various shapes of letters have been noted.

AR Type I, seriffed letters 15 mm. high

This mark is used where the sender requires acknowledgment that the recipient has received the package.

Too Late

DEPOT TARDIF Type I, seriffed 5 mm. letters, 40 mm. long

DEPOT TARDIF Type I (Bilingual)

LAATTISDIGE AFGIFTE

?

RP Seriffed letters, 13 mm. high. Use unknown.

Seen on Registered official cover from Usumbura to Kindu dated 1957.

Found in the Wrong Box

TROUVE A LA BOITE Type II, frame 43 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

TROUVE A LA BOITE Type IV.

This marking was used when mail intended to be registered was put into the postbox by mistake or when an airmail letter was put into the normal postbox or vice-versa.

Returned Letter Markings

Unknown

INCONNU Type II, frame 35 x 8 mm.
INCONNU Type II, frame 29 x 9 mm. (ADC).
INCONNU Type IV.

Deceased

DECEDE Type II, frame 29 x 10 mm.

Refused

REBUT Type I, seriffed 5 mm. letters 27 mm. long (ADC).
REBUT Type II, frame 22 x 8 mm.
REBUT Type IV.

Not Claimed

NON RECLAME Type II, frame 30 x 10 mm.
NON RECLAME Type IV.

Refused

REFUSE Type II, frame 30 x 10 mm. (ADC).

Left Without Leaving Any Address

PARTI SANS LAISSER D'ADRESSE - Type II, frame 40 mm x 10 mm. (ADC).
PARTI SANS LAISSER D'ADRESSE - Type IV.

Return to Sender

RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR Type II, frame 50 x 9 mm.
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR Type II, frame 27 x 10 mm. (ADC).
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR Type III
RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR Type IV.

Insufficient Address

ADRESSE INSUFFISIANTE Type I, 3 mm. letters, 43 mm. long (ADC).
ADRESSE INSUFFISIANTE Type IV.

Composite Returned Letter Cachet

This comprises a rectangle 50 mm. x 90 mm. with bilingual inscriptions. At the top "Retour a l'Expeditieur" and beneath this are eight boxes to be marked according to the reason for not delivering the package.

- a. Non Reclame
- b. Adresse Inexistante
- c. Adresse Incomplete

- d. Parti sans laisser d'Adresse
- e. Localite Inconnu
- f. Refuse
- g. Decede
- h. Inconnu

Mis-Directed

MALDIRIGE

Type II, frame 20 x 5 mm.

The writer is by no means certain that this is a Congo marking. He has it on a cover from Usumbura to England, the only transit mark being that of Kigoma. There is no other evidence that at any time in its journey the letter was mis-directed.

General 1940-45 Censorship Cachet

CENSURE CONGO BELGE

Type I, 4 mm. letters, 56 mm. long.

Postal Advertisement

CONSOMMEZ
LES CAFES DU
CONGO

In oval 33 mm. x 17 mm.

This cachet was in general use in 1935.

FIRST FLIGHT

On 27th January, 1960 there was a Sabena first flight from Leopoldville to Rome. The cover seen has a large black cachet and the stamp has the Leopoldville machine cancellation "Congo Unis-Pays Fort" dated 27th January, 1960.

RETURNED LETTER CACHET

Mr. Thomson has sent a British newspaper wrapper intended for delivery to Boma which has received a violet boxed handstamp "Retour a l'expediteur du fait l'impossibilite de debarquer le courrier au Congo", and a similar inscription in Flemish.

It is probable that the cachet is of Belgian origin and was applied in Antwerp. The British date stamp is not clear but is either June or July, 1960.

GODINAS CATALOGUE

The existence of the 1951 edition of "Catalogue de Poste Aerienne" by F. Godinas and dealing with first and special flights of Belgium, Congo and Luxembourg, has only recently come to the attention of the Secretary. Although 10 years out of date this catalogue is invaluable to the collector of special flights. Details of the flights and special cachets and prices of covers are given.

The catalogue is available from Francis J. Field and the price is 15/-d.

THIRTY YEARS OF SABENA

This reprint of an article by N.C. Baldwin in "The Aero Field" includes a check list up to 1953 of Sabena first flights including those to and from the Congo with illustrations of some cachets.

CONGO CINQUANTE ANS D'HISTOIRE POSTALE

General Du Four's book is expected to appear in September and will be limited to 300 copies. Orders have been placed for those members of the Study Circle who have requested copies. It is understood that the 300 copies are rapidly being reserved and that if any additional copies are required by members of the Study Circle orders should be placed without delay.

L'EPOPEE DE L'AIR AU CONGO

Notice of the publication of a book by Jose Henin is given. The book, of 150 pages, will give detailed information on first and special flights to and from the Congo up to the end of 1935. The price will be 150 francs (about 22/-d) and may be ordered in advance through Jacques Du Four, Galerie du Centre 3, Bureau 329, Brussels, 1. Alternatively the Secretary will send a composite order if members so desire.

EXTRACTS FROM PERIODICALS

La Revue Postale Nos. 34, 35 and 36 - Etat Independant du Congo - l'Emission de 1886 - Jean Du Four

General Du Four has continued and concluded his comprehensive study of the 1886 issue covering shades, perforations, curiosities, Colis Postaux surcharges, postcards, numbers printed, relative values of blocks and covers, and forgeries.

La Revue Postale No. 36 - Echos - Nouvelles

Warnings are given against stamps with forged overprints and bearing the signatures of Walter Nysten and forged C.B.E. or forged Victor Gisquiere marks of authenticity.

La Revue Postale Nos. 37, 38, 39 and 41 - Etat Independant du Congo - l'Emission de 1887 - Jean Du Four

The first four instalments cover the stamps themselves proofs, plate varieties, shades, impressions, perforations, marginal markings, Colis Postaux surcharges and postcards.

La Revue Postale No. 41 - Echos - Nouvelles

Stamps with forged Katanga overprints are reported these having emanated from the U.S.A.

4e. Exposition Philatelique Nationale, Brussels 1960 - Catalogue

Congo Belge - Genese des Emissions aux Types "Mols et Van Engelen" - Jean Du Four.

General du Four explains the origins of the central designs of the Mols issues with reproductions of the original photographs and photographs of the diarama of the Antwerp Exhibition of 1893.

The Holy Land Philatelist, October, 1960 - U.N.E.F. in the Congo - Betty Miller and Guy McBride

The writers have many covers from United Nations Emergency Forces in the Congo. Of those described, those from the Ghana and Swedish contingents bear stamps of their respective countries with F.P.O. cancellations "FPO 1 FRANKED - GHANA" and "SVENSKA FN-BATALVONEN KONGO" respectively. From the other contingents mail is franked with Congo or Katanga stamps and bears the normal Congo P.O. cancellation but some have special army cachets. One letter from the Irish contingent has no stamps but in manuscript "S.P., Military, ONUC."

#15

POST OFFICES

SUPPLEMENT

ADDITIONAL AND CORRECTED DATES

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Perception</u>
Albertville	P	1.7.96	22.7.96	-
	S	18.1.10	3.3.22	-
	P	3.3.22	6.4.55	-
Bata-Siala	B	24.10.56	15.2.60	Tshela
Baya	S		16.10.14	
Belingo	B	4.12.56	15.2.60	Banningville
	A	15.2.60		Banningville
Bengamisa	B	23.8.49	25.1.60	Stanleyville 1
	S	25.1.60		Stanleyville 1
Bogoro	P	1.11.13	1.5.17	-
	S	1.5.17	23.8.17	
Bolomba	B	9.8.50	27.2.56	Basankusu
	S	27.2.56		Basankusu
Boma 2	B	4.12.56	15.2.60	Boma 1
	S	15.2.60		Boma 1
Bomboma	B	22.7.36	26.6.54	Coquilhatville
	S	26.6.54	21.11.56	Libenge
	B	21.11.56	16.3.57	Libenge
	B	16.3.57		Gemena
Bulungu	S	15.6.24	26.8.44	Bandundu
	S	2.1.54		Kikwit
Dibaya-Lubue	S	26.1.50	2.11.58	Kikwit
Dimbelenge (not Dimbolenge)				
Kaballa	S	22.4.22	1.11.22	
	B	1.11.22	14.10.25	
	S	14.10.25	1.5.50	Kabalo
Kibambi (Inkisi)	B	4.12.56	15.2.60	Inkisi
Kihembwe	B	31.7.36	1.8.55	(transferred to Pangi)
Kikwit 2	B		15.2.60	Kikwit 1
	S	15.2.60		Kikwit 1
Kingoma	B	1.8.59	15.2.60	Kenge 1
	A	15.2.60		Kenge 1
Leopoldville	S	1.5.89	15.3.00	
	P	15.3.00	1.7.24	-
Lubefu	S	25.2.55		Lusambo
Malele (Inkisi)	B	4.12.56	15.2.60	Inkisi
	A	15.2.60		Inkisi
Masi-Manimba (not Masi-Maninba)				
M'Baya	S	15.9.11		(Name changed to Baya)
Nioki	S	19.5.52		Banningville
Nizi	S	20.1.27	7.10.33	Kasenyi
	P	7.10.33	20.4.59	-
	S	20.4.59	15.9.59	Bunia
	B	15.9.59		Bunia
Nouvelle Anvers	S	1.7.96	1.4.19	
	S	10.2.39	3.3.60	Coquilhatville 1
	B	3.3.60		Coquilhatville 1
Pangi	S	1.8.55		Kindu 1
Stanleyville 3	S	2.1.55		Stanleyville 1

ADDITIONAL AND CORRECTED DATES

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Perception</u>
Thysville 2	B	4.10.56	15.2.60	Thysville 1
Yatolema	B	1.2.52	1.5.58	Stanleyville 1
	S	1.5.58		Stanleyville 1
Yumbi (Bolobo)	B	21.1.57	15.2.60	Leopoldville 1

A = Postal Agency. It is not known if these agencies have their own cancellations.

NEW POST OFFICES

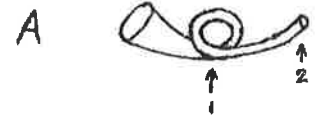
<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Lat.</u>	<u>Long.</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Stat.</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Perception</u>
Blukwa	1°45N	30°35	Orientale	B	15.9.59		Bunia
Kilomines	1°50N	30°15	Orientale	S	15.9.59		Bunia
Kipaka-Lutshi			Kivu	B	7.9.59		Kasongo 1
Mputi			Leo	A	15.2.60		Inkisi
Nkolo			Leo	B	1.2.60		Leopoldville 1
Nyarembe	2°15N	31°05	Orientale	B	25.1.60		Bunia
Stanleyville 6			Orientale	S	16.11.59		Stanleyville 1
Sumbi	5°00S	13°20	Leo	B	1.2.60		Tshela
Tsupu	2°00N	30°40	Orientale	B	25.1.60		Bunia

BELGIAN CONGO & RUANDA - URUNDI
A Classification of the Postal ~~Classification~~ Cancellations

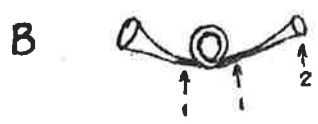
BASIC TYPES	MAJOR VARIETIES	MINOR VARIETIES	DESCRIPTIONS
I	A		Straight line
	B		Block letters (more than 5 mm high)
	C		Block letters (5 mm and less high)
	D		Large and small block letters Capital and lower case
II		*	No circle
III			Small circle, with M or S
	A	*	day month hr. hr.
	B	*	day month month
	C	*	day hr. hr.
	D	*	month day day
	E	*	hr. month
IV	A to E	*	Small circle, with hours instead of M or S Same as for type III
V			Large circle (date and time in horizontal line, roman figures for month, short year)
	A	*	One star
	B	*	Two stars
	C	*	Three stars
VI		*	Large circle, POSTES (date and time in horizontal line, arabic figures for month, short year)
	A	*	Same, with POSTE
VII			Large circle, posthorn, stars (date and time as in type VI)
	A	*	Posthorn type A
	B	*	Posthorn type B
	C	*	Posthorn type C
	D	*	Posthorn type D
	E	*	Posthorn type E
	F	*	Posthorn type F
	G	*	Posthorn type G
	H	*	Posthorn type H
	J	*	Posthorn type J
VIII	A to J	*	Posthorn as in type VII, with town name followed by a letter. Use the letter with the town name, e.g., MATADI B
IX	A to J	*	Posthorn as in types VII and VIII, but with letter below town name

POSTHORNS

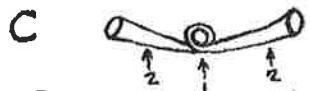
(approximately double size)



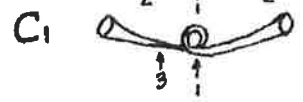
1= large center loop
2= small mouthpiece



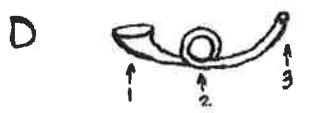
1= thins nearly to a single line
2= larger mouthpiece



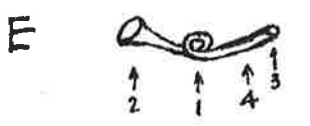
1= small center loop
2= ends fat and symmetrical



3= thins to nearly a single line, left side only.



1= horizontal ellipse
2= large center loop
3= curves high, no mouthpiece



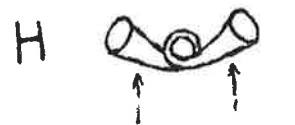
1= small center loop
2= end like type B
3= no mouthpiece
4= somewhat broad



1= small center loop
2= large mouthpiece



1= resembles type B, but curves upward more, and more slender



1= ends short, large and symmetrical



1= reversed horn