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## BULLETIN 151

July 2009

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The Study Circle website

[www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be](http://www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be)

No. 60.

3656



# ENTRY OF THE CONGO FREE STATE INTO THE POSTAL UNION

On the 1st of JANUARY next the CONGO FREE STATE will enter the Postal Union; and prepaid correspondence for that State will then be subject to the following rates of postage—

LETTERS	. . . . .	4d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
POST CARDS	- . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.
NEWSPAPERS	- . . . .	1d. per 4 oz. for each paper.
PRINTED PAPERS & PATTERNS	- . . . .	1d. per 2 oz.
COMMERCIAL PAPERS	. . . . .	{ The same as for Printed Papers, except that the minimum charge will be 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Unpaid and insufficiently paid Letters will be charged on delivery with double the deficient postage.

Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, Commercial Papers, Printed Papers, and Patterns addressed to the CONGO FREE STATE may be registered, the registration fee being in all cases 2d., which, in addition to the postage, must be prepaid. The sender of a registered letter, or of any other registered article, may obtain an acknowledgment of its delivery by paying an additional fee of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in advance, at the time of posting.

Correspondence for the CONGO FREE STATE will be subject in every respect to the conditions of transmission applicable to correspondence addressed to Countries of the Postal Union generally.

By Command of the Postmaster General

GENERAL POST OFFICE

22 December 1885

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by W. P. Gowers & Sons, Ltd., Princes Square, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
22 December 1885

## **The AGM in Bruxelles - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

There was a good turnout, the usual business, some very interesting displays as well as the celebration of an important non-philatelic occasion. We were again indebted to our President for chairing the meetings and to Emile Hoorens who made all the arrangements on our behalf.

### **Those attending –**

Ludo Achten, Laurent Biery, Walter Deijnckens, Jean-Pierre Flamand, Thierry Frennet, Charles Henuzet, Emile Hoorens, Michel Hopperets, Thomas Lindekens, Philippe Lindekens, Bruce Lockhart, Charles Lloyd, Eric Michiels, Marc Oblin, Vincent Schouberechts, Stuart Smith, Charles Stockmans, Christian Vandenbossche Luc Vander Marcken and Yves Winand,

**Apologies** - were received from Bernard Harris (U.K.), T. Hordies, F. Van der Haegen, Leo Tavano (Belgium) and Roger De Landsheer (Luxembourg)

### **Minutes of the AGM 2008**

The minutes of last years meeting were approved.

### **Matters arising**

1. The '*Forgeries collection*' donated to the Study Circle by the Keach family and presently in the possession of our former member Johan Delbeke, is being returned to the safe keeping of Philippe Lindekens. The future of this collection is to be considered at next years AGM.
2. No progress has been made in respect of updating and republishing of André Jeukens '*La Censure au Congo Belge – (Civile & Militaire), Guerre 1939 – 1945*'
3. No further progress has been made on a rewrite and update on the 'Hudson' Mols plating study.

### **Hon. Treasurer:**

Financial statements were tabled and received from Stuart Smith, *Hon. Treasurer*; Charles Henuzet, *Belgian Packet Secretary*. As previously published in Bulletin #150, the 'Income and Expenditure accounts for 2008' were approved. The 'Treasurer' informed the meeting that in view of the previous Secretary being unable to continue, he was offering himself for election in that capacity later in the meeting. If appointed, he considered it neither desirable nor feasible to continue as Treasurer and in that event it was his intention to nominate Dr. Charles Lloyd as his successor.

Auction accounts - Due to difficulties in administering and the reconciliation of the auction accounts, it had not been possible to prepare an accurate 2008 year end report. Philippe Lindekens repeated his plea of previous years in that he found it impossible to manage the complexity of 'international finances' as well as the descriptive duties of our quarterly auctions.

After a long discussion Ludo Achten offered his professional services to analyse and prepare a formal summary of the status quo. On completion, which is expected to take a few months, he would present a detailed report to the Officers, for consideration and publication. In that report it is expected that new management 'Guide lines of compliance' relative to the future financial administration of the Auctions, will be issued.

Relevant to the above, the Treasurer expressed serious concern about the reducing Bank balance (International) largely attributed to the cost involved in supporting the 'Annual Meetings' coupled with a lower than anticipated contribution from the auctions. Hopefully the analysis now being undertaken will enable us to identify if other actions will be necessary.

**[At the time of preparing this Bulletin I can confirm that Ludo Achten has completed his work on the Auction Accounts, and it is expected that a financial statement will be made in the next Bulletin]**

Subscriptions for 2009 – 2010 remain unchanged and are listed below.

U.K.	£10	(£8 for those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Belgium	10€	
Other European	10€	
U.S.A.	\$20	(\$15 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Rest of the World	£12	(£8 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email.)

At the time of the AGM, membership of the Circle was 124, the same number as last year. The distribution is shown below.

	2008	2009		2008	2009
Belgium	57	54	New Zealand	1	1
U.K.	21	23	Poland	1	1
U.S.A.	28	29	South Africa	0	1
Denmark	5	4	Spain	1	1
France	5	4	Sweden	2	2
Kenya	1	1	Zambia	1	1
Luxembourg	1	1	Zimbabwe	0	1

### **Auction Secretary**

Philippe Lindekens repeated that he was particularly concerned about the volume of work associated with the dual role of '*Describing*' and '*Financial administration*' of the Auction. The latter, involving collection of dues and payment to overseas sellers was a particular burden and problem. He no longer felt able to continue and wished to be relieved of the 'financial management' aspect. Refer to the 'Treasurer's report above.

### **Librarian**

The Librarian reported that very little use of the library took place – but it remained in safe keeping.

### **Packet Secretaries**

**Charles Henuzet** tabled a summary of activity associated with the distribution of the 'Belgian Packet' which had also made a small contribution to the BCSC accounts. He was thanked for providing this facility to the Belgian membership.

**Hal Hoyte.** After a gap of a few years, another Packet was presently in circulation in the U.K. and would complete its circuit during the next 8 weeks. A report will be prepared for next years A.G.M. A new Packet Secretary, John Kelland had volunteered to take over the position and was nominated and appointed officially later in the day.

### **Expert Committee**

Due to the continued indisposition of the committee chairman no formal report was presented. However Charles Henuzet confirmed that 14 certificates had been issued during the year.

### **Officers - Election**

President	<i>W. Deijnckens</i>
International General Secretary	<i>S.S. Smith</i>
Honorary Treasurer	<i>C. Lloyd</i>
Regional Sec. – Belgium	<i>E.R. Hoorens</i>
Regional Sec. – USA	<i>D. A. Schaubroeck</i>
Regional Sec. – UK + other	<i>S.S. Smith</i>
Bulletin Editor	<i>S. S. Smith</i>
Auction Secretaries	<i>Ph. Lindekens and C. Stockmans</i>
Auction Finance Officer	<i>L. Achten</i>
Librarian/Book sales	<i>B H. Harris</i>
Packet Sec. – Belgium	<i>C. Henuzet</i>
Packet Sec. – UK	<i>J.F. Kelland</i>
Chairman Expert Committee	<i>L. Tavano and L. Vander Maercken</i>

***The next meeting and A.G.M. will again be held at the Erasme Hotel, Bruxelles.  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010***

**Special Occasion – a Birthday and Champagne from Champagne**

Excepting Chantal Vandenbossche, only occasionally do we have the pleasure of welcoming member's wives - but to be fair we don't actually set out any sort of programme for them – other than Saturday night at 'The Portuguese'.

This year was a special occasion for Chantal, and we all shared in the occasion and wished her **'Many Happy Returns'**.



**Stuart Smith, Charles Lloyd, Christian and Chantal Vandenbossche, Bruce Lockhart**

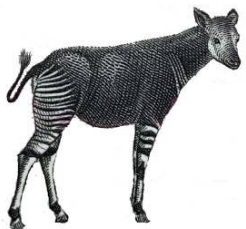
## Members Displays

We were again entertained by several ‘Members Displays’. The following is a resume of those participating. Please accept my apologies for being unable to elaborate further. On most occasions help is provided in preparing a write up, but not on this occasion and by this time your Editor and now ‘General Secretary’ decided to sit back and be educated.

Walter Deijnckens	Belgian Occupation of East Africa
Stuart Smith	World War I Censorship
Emile Hoorens	Identifying ‘Princes’ Postal Stationery Early Airmails, Lara and Air and Rail accidents
Jean-Pierre Flamand	Raids – Looz, Corswarem, 1934 and Mahieu, 1935
Charles Henuzet	Mols Princes – identifying those without C-B overprint
Marc Oblin	Special family POW cover to Grandfather
Thomas Lindekens	Red Cross stamps used in the Congo regions – Oriental, Katanga, Equatoria and Kasai.
Philippe Lindekens	Inward Mail to the Belgian Congo

X-X

## *From the Editor*



As a result of my article on the wartime activities of the S.S. *Copacabana*, I am indebted to several members who took the trouble to provide me with a wealth of information about the various ships and shipping lines servicing the Congo. There is little doubt that there is much interest in this field and certainly the information I now have on file could form the basis of other articles – but at this stage I am overwhelmed. Nevertheless, thank you.

I also wish to thank others who send ‘all sorts’ including ‘snippets’ as questions and requests. It all helps to add variety to the Bulletin.

**By way of a prompt** – short articles related to favourite covers are always very popular and well received. These are contributions which everyone can make. *“Please consider the plea!”*

## *Bits and pieces and can you Help?*

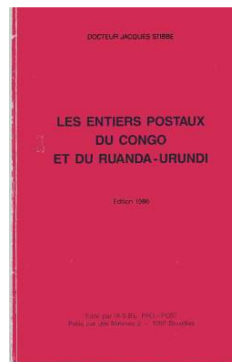
## Mols collectors

### The 1894 3fr 50. Used blocks?

Our Spanish member, ***Tony Sanchez-Ariño***, is interested to know whether any other member has in his possession a used block of this value. Several years ago he managed to purchase one through Christie Robson Lowe and was told that only four examples are known to exist. Do any of our members have any? We think there may be more and would like to try to confirm their scarcity.

## Postal Stationery – Stibbe catalogue ‘*valuation*’ update

Dr. Jacques Stibbe's catalogue is and has been our principal Postal Stationery reference source. It was issued in 1986 and by now the values quoted are almost meaningless. Thanks to work by Emile Hoorens and Yves Winand the original price list has been reappraised and a complete update is now available 'on request'. See page 10.



# Wants

COB 26A1 franc violet in used block of 4.  
COB 29a 10 francs perf.12 with a clear 'Matadi' cancellation.

*If you can help, please contact the Editor and I will pass on the information.*

**Luc Smalle**, our South African member is particularly interested in stamps issued during the chaotic 1960's revolutionary period of Independence. It is a popular subject and there are several others hooked on it also. Can anyone help by offering any of the following 'Wants' on his list:

- Katanga – Unmounted mint inverted and misplaced overprints and any imperfs.
- South Kasai – Unmounted mint inverted overprints and private issues.
- Stanleyville – As for Katanga and specifically the 6.50fr flower and 6.50fr animals
- Leopoldville – All unmounted mint inverted overprints.

**Reply by email directly to Luc Smalle at: [lnlsmalle@gmail.com](mailto:lnlsmalle@gmail.com)**

## Membership News

### *New Members*

We extend a warm welcome to **Greg Howard** from Tasmania and hope he enjoys and is able to benefit from his membership.

*Australia* - Greg Howard

11 Guardian Court,  
Huntingfield  
Tasmania, Australia 7055  
e-mail: [dhow3371@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dhow3371@bigpond.net.au)

### ***Residential and e-mail address changes and additions***

**Belgium**      - Jan Bonroy;      e-mail: [janbonroy@skynet.be](mailto:janbonroy@skynet.be)  
                  - Luc Baudoux;      e-mail: [luc-baudoux@voo.be](mailto:luc-baudoux@voo.be)

**Denmark** - **Niels Peter Overgaard;** Ordrupvej 33, 2.TH  
2920 Charlottenlund  
Denmark



## In the Market Place – *Inverted Centres*

Of particular interest to our ‘Mols’ collectors will have been the very recent sale of the Robert H. Cunliffe collection of inverted stamps which included several ‘Congo’. This was held by ‘Spink Shreves Galleries’ in June.

Of note was a mint block of 4 of the 1895 10c perf.14 (COB 18B) and a mint single of the perf.15. (COB 18A). The latter had previously been in our former member, Ed Hirdler’s collection, and according to the auctioneers, is the only known ‘mint’ example – but we know there are at least three!



The story surrounding the origin and distribution of these varieties has been well documented; but apparently not so well known is information on the two examples of imperforate inverted centre stamps – which the auction house were also offering and said they had not previously been aware of. They are/were the 3fr.50c and 10 francs, illustrated below.



However such imperforate *inverted centre proofs* are known to exist and information has been published previously, by Dr. Gooderis <sup>[1]</sup>, in the ‘Catalogue Willy Balasse’ and by Jean Du Four <sup>[2]</sup>. Furthermore, Charles Henuzet and Léo Tavano <sup>[3]</sup> have recently included full details, including illustrations of two other similar examples in Dr. Gooderis’ collection.

It is probably the case that Waterlow & Layton printed these stamps intentionally and specifically so that they were clearly not *genuine accidentals*! Both the stamps in the Gooderis collection are from the ‘Princes’ plates and the centres do coincide with those which would naturally occur if taken from a full inverted centre sheet, that is they were not ‘one offs’. It is known that some had been presented as souvenirs to an eminent philatelist – *Ferrari*!

Waterlow did this sort of thing as exemplified by the **WATERLOW & SONS LTD/SPECIMEN** 10C lilac and black with inverted centre which was also in the same sale. This latter was from a Waterlow publicity sheet of nine; a similar ‘*exceptionally well centred*’ item from a different position was in the Brabant collection sold by Christie’s Robson Lowe in 1987 whilst a third is once again illustrated by Henuzet and Tavano. <sup>[3]</sup>



Having a particular interest in proofs, essays and publicity issues, and having acquired one of the Waterlow & Son publicity sheet with contrived imperforation arrangements - it seems reasonable to presume that both Waterlow and Waterlow & Layton were not only capable of creating varieties, but did just that.



Publicising an ability to create both horizontal and vertical 'imperf. between'

In today's parlance, any such printing would have been interpreted as publicity in support of a marketing strategy. In this category there exists a wide array of both perforated and imperforated stamps as essays in varying colours, as well as proofs, whatever! We know of and have identified the accidental legitimate inverted centres, and whilst I am not naturally a cynic, it does beg the question - how many apparently genuine imperforate varieties were accidental?

*Whilst no examples were included in the Robert Cunliffe sale, it is appropriate to remind the reader of the other two famous Belgian Congo inverted centre stamps:*

- *That of stamps from the 1915 10c booklet pane, about which an article was included in Bulletin 140.*
- *10 franc. For those fortunate enough to attend, Patrick Maselis recently showed this perf. 14½ example at the Royal Philatelic Society in London, as part of his 'Postal History' display.*



From the several sources of documented information available, the exact number so far said to exist does vary; but if my reading of the facts is correct<sup>[3]</sup>, it would appear that the following have been seen – positions 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 31 and 36. Du Four said he had seen/knew of one used example; but to my knowledge that was the last anyone heard of it.

1. Gooderis; *Balasse Magazine*.
2. Jean Du Four ; *Congo Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postal*.
3. Henuzet & Tavano ; *Etat Indépendant Du Congo L'Emission Mols – Van Engelen, 1894 – 1908*.

*Stuart Smith*



## *Poste Restante* – Inward mail to Belgium

By - Walter Deijnckens

### Post office – unfair taxes

A decree of 30<sup>th</sup> May 1879 stipulated that everyone could have their mail addressed and delivered to a post office as '*Poste Restante*'. Unclaimed correspondence must have caused a storage problem because three years later on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1882, it was decided that mail would only be kept for a period of one month.

For forty years the service proved a great success but on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1922 this facility was effectively taxed and extra postage had to be paid – either by the sender or by the recipient..

The postal rates for cards and letters were as follows:

1st January 1923:	0.20 francs
1st November 1926:	0.30 francs
1st August 1941:	0.50 francs
15th September 1945:	0.60 francs
20th May 1946:	0.50 francs
15th December 1948:	0.65 francs
15th December 1952:	1 franc

From 1<sup>st</sup> November 1959 a standard charge of 1 franc was introduced for all types of mail.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Figure 1 illustrates a 1929 letter from Boma; 2.75fr postage paid including 'Registration'. This did not include sufficient to cover the 'Poste Restante' duty of 0.30fr which was duly taxed on arrival in Bruxelles.

Figure 2 is a 1933 letter from Matadi with postage paid of 4.50fr; which complied with the fee required to cover postage, registration and 'Poste Restante' duty! The correspondent took the trouble to write on the cover that the '*Poste Restante*' tax was included but the Belgian Post office ignored the facts and imposed a further levy of 0.30fr.



## ***Post office applied 'Pen annotations'***

### **Part III**

By – Philippe Lindekens

#### Preface

During the last eighteen months, we have published items from Philippe Lindekens collection of various 'Pen annotated' collecting themes – typically 'Mixed frankings', 'Return to Sender, etc. In his collection, there are many, and this concluding article has been assembled illustrating some of the remaining red ink post office annotations. All the examples referred to have been manuscript instructions applied by a Post office official. There were others and could be more! As Philippe said, "*this is an interesting side line thematic collection and may encourage others to see and build on what they already have*".

### **Affranchissement insuffisant pour Recommandation** ***Insufficiently franked for Registration***

Typical, is a cover posted 15th August 1904 from Coquilhatville to Gand in Belgium where it arrived six weeks later. The sender had manuscript written and franked the letter for registration, but had underestimated the weight causing a post office official to add the instruction *'Affranchissement insuffisant pour le Recommandation'*.



The circumstances of this scenario are not readily apparent because under normal circumstances it would be usual to hand the letter over at the Post office counter and pay the appropriate fee. In fact what actually happened here is pure speculation and perhaps peculiar to local circumstances at the time. Because the post office was a long way from the sender, he/she estimated the weight (probably no scales either) and duly franked it with that thought appropriate. The letter was then carried perhaps by a boy servant privately to the office and in the absence of any money, it couldn't be registered and was processed as ordinary mail – but was apparently delivered as usual.

Another scenario is of course possible in that the 'carrier' had been given sufficient money to pay that necessary for registration, but chose not to do so!

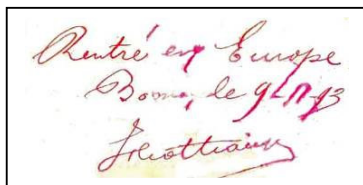


The '**17/2**' mark indicates that the letter weighed 17 grams, and the '**2**' confirmed the postage rate for 15 to 29 grams as double, i.e.  $2 \times 50c = 1 \text{ franc}$ . In this band, 1 franc was the normal letter rate before registration.



## ‘Rentré en Europe’ Returned to Europe

Many Belgians, having completed their usual 3 year term of employment in the Congo, will have returned home but regularly failed to advise all their correspondents. We often come across such mail which has been manuscript marked in red ink “Rentre en Europe” – effectively ‘Gone home so return to sender’.



## Non compliance - *Airmail postage stamps to be used*

When the ‘Airmail’ facility was first introduced there was a requirement to specifically affix official airmail stamps to cover the additional cost of conveyance by air. This letter posted from Albertville in September 1932, would have been conveyed by Imperial Airways and travelled via Brindisi in Italy. It was here that the PAR AVION label was applied and cancelled by a St. Andrews’s cross because the Italians did not authorize any foreign plane to fly over its territory.



“Cover franked by the sender with ordinary stamps in default of those for airmail.”

The manuscript *Pli affranchi par l'expéditeur de timbres ordinaires a défaut de timbres avion* was written by an Albertville postal official, where the correspondence was first posted. Gradually over a period of time, the original requirement to use airmail stamps for the additional cost, was tolerated and finally rescinded.

## Kisumu

*For the benefit of our non-Dutch reading members, the following translated and edited contribution from Walter Deijnckens was previously published in 'Koninklijke kring voor stempelstudie en postgeschiedenis', Nr. 314.*



\* Charles Stockmans <sup>[6]</sup> has reported that the ‘KISUMU - B.P.C.V.P.K’. canceller was used between 27<sup>th</sup> April 1916 and March 1917.

## Kisumu Belge.

The following are known -

- **Figure 1.**

A cover sold in March 2006 by l'Amicale Philatélique de Bruxelles with a cancellation of 'Kisumu Belge' had been posted from Masindi to Bogoro on 23rd March 1916 where it arrived seven days later on 30th March 1916. On arrival it was established that the Lieutenant to whom it was addressed had died. It was subsequently returned from Rutshuru on 9th May to the British post office in Mombassa via Kisumu, where it received the 'Kisumu Belge 13 Se 1916' transit mark.



Figure 1.

- J-M Frenay has reported a letter sent by Colonel Thomas with a Kisumu cancellation of the 27 August 1916.
- Du Four<sup>[4]</sup> illustrates and comments on a mark dated 31 August 1916
- **Figure 2.**  
From Patrick Maselis's collection a Registered cover addressed from *St Adresse* on 2 August 1916 to Emile Todt. The 'Kisumu Belge' receiving office strike on the reverse side is identifiable but the precise date '15<sup>th</sup>' questionable.

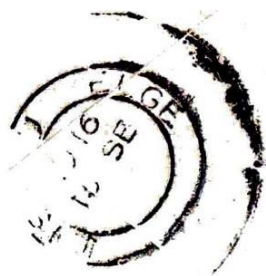


Figure 2.

From the above we confirm the use of the 'Kisumu Belge' canceller during the period 27th August to 15th September 1916.



### Kisumu B.P.C.V.P.K..

Although Charles Stockmans has reported this canceller as being in use from 27th April 1916 to March 1917, it is believed that these dates were in fact the opening and closing dates of the Belgian office at Kisumu. All the examples seen or reported to me, fall within the period 11<sup>th</sup> October 1916 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

Mr. Frenay has listed 16 covers where the cancellations can be seen on Mols stamps with or without Ruanda Urundi overprints. The first with a Kisumu B.P.C.V.P.K. cancellation is dated 13 October 1916 and the last on 11 November 1916. Other sources give several October dates with some as late as November 1916.

A bogus cancellation has also been reported by Charles. Stockmans, dated 10 NOV 17.

André Vindevoghel<sup>[7]</sup> reported a first use of the Kisumu B.P.C.V.P.K. cancellation as being 11th October 1916. According to Abbé G. Gudenkauf,<sup>[8]</sup> the last recorded as being 23rd December 1916.

Since then several have been reported by Patrick Maselis with October cancellations and one extending the usage date to 15<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

**Figure 3.**

From my own collection is a view card written at Tabora on the 21 September 1916 with manuscript *S.M.* and *Tabora 30.9.16.*

Tabora was captured on the 19 September 1916 and the Kisumu B.P.C.V.P.K. cancellation applied 21 October 1916.



**Figure 3**

***Other illustrations are shown in the original article but if any of our 'Civil Censorship' and 'East Africa' Study Circle members can add anything new, that would be much appreciated.***

1. *De postgeschiedenis van Ruanda-Urundi* door R. De Graeve. De Postzegel. Historique de l'emploi des marques de censure, pendant la Campagne de l'Afrique Orientale Allemande 1914-1918 par Dr. R. De Graeve. Balasse Magazine 217 et suivants.
2. *Die Belgische Feldpost in Deutschland*. Werner Stevens. Belgische Philatelie am Rhein. D/1987/2007/2.
3. *Le Congo Belge et ses marques postales*. André de Cock.
4. *Congo : Cinquante Ans d'histoire postale*. Jean Du four.
5. *Deutsch Ostafrika, Ruanda-Urundi, Burundi and Rwanda post offices and cancellations 1902-1996*. Georges R. Celis.
6. *Congo Belge et Ruanda-Urundi. Septante-sept ans d'histoire postale en Afrique centrale 1885-1962. III*. Ch. Stockmans.
7. *Chronologie des mouvements des troupes militaires Belges dans l'Afrique Orientale Allemande pendant la guerre 1914-1918*. A. Vindevoghel.
8. *La Revue Postale N° 111*. Abbé G. Gudenkauf.

# Events 2009



MonacoPhil 2009

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## *Belgian Rarities Exhibited at MonacoPhil 2009*

As part of the international exhibition 'MonacoPhil 2009' and in conjunction with the traditional exhibition of '100 timbres et documents philatéliques parmi les plus rares du Monde' (100 of the world's rarest stamps and philatelic documents).

The event, being held in the Principality from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009, will also witness the publication of a fully illustrated anthology written in several languages. This work, a veritable touchstone for this theme, will highlight Belgium's best material in terms of historical interest, rarity and quality.

**\*\* Refer to Catalogue Order Form, supplemental to this Bulletin.**

## *Subscription payments and other useful addresses*

### **Belgium**

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