

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Hon. Secy. R.H. Keach
25 Kingswood Road
Tadworth
Surrey, KT20 5EE

Bulletin Editor: P.S. Foden
5 Ascham Lane
Whittlesford
Cambs, CB2 4NT

Bulletin No. 28

January 1977

NEW MEMBERS

Since the issue of the last bulletin, the following new members have joined the Study Circle:

E.A. Hirdler
P. Jacquemin
A. Jeukens
B.S. Katz
R.S. Oliver
M. Round

Both Mr. Jeukens and Mr. Katz were members of the Study Circle some years ago and have now decided to rejoin. Addresses for the new members, as well as some address changes, will be found in the updated list of members which is enclosed with this bulletin.

FINANCE

We have had an unexpected windfall. For the three articles in "our special Silver Jubilee issue", 'Stamp Collecting' has paid us £40. The authors of the articles have all agreed that this should be paid into the general funds of the Study Circle and we are most grateful for this. It is the Committee's intention to apply some, at least, of this money towards obtaining the initial requirements for our Expert Committee.

Whereas the authors were recognised by having their names appended to the articles, no mention was made of Mr. Thrasher, who very kindly prepared the illustrations, drawing some and retouching others. We are very grateful to Mr. Thrasher for this service, without which the articles would have lost much of their impact.

THE SILVER JUBILEE MEETING, 2 OCTOBER, 1976

R.H. KEACH

As had been hoped, there was a record attendance and 18 members, many of whom were accompanied by their wives, were present. Particularly welcome were those who had come from overseas, Messrs. Heim and Jacquemin from the U.S.A. and Bekx, Ingels and Vindevoghel from Belgium; apart from Mr. Heim, who is a very old friend, the others are new friends to most of the home members.

Several members presented short displays as briefly listed below:

Mr. W. Bekx - showed part of his magnificent collection of used postal stationery, stress being laid on scarcer and more interesting cancellations, of which a great many were included. He showed also a highly specialised study of the 1888 post card (No. 3 in all postal stationery catalogues) including many essays, proofs and specimen cards.

Mr. P.S. Foden - presented air mail stamps with particular reference to the article on the 1934 issue that he wrote for a recent bulletin.

Mrs D.M. Green - showed part of her postal history of Belgian-occupied German East Africa. The sheets shown had been included in her display to the Circle last May, but they are of such interest and importance that the 'repeat performance' was amply justified for the benefit of those not present at the previous meeting.

Mr. L.G. Green - displayed the postage dues, including not only the postage due stamps themselves and the TAXES marks, but a fine array of covers and documents showing the various ways in which the tax was collected.

Mr. A.I. Heim - showed a small selection of his World War Two censored covers, admirably illustrating the article that he wrote for the bulletin and the article appearing in "our special issue" of 'Stamp Collecting'.

Mr. W.H. Hoyte - dealt with the 1967-68 surcharges, including an item that is considered a postal forgery, and the post-1960 cancellations; of particular interest were the temporary cancellations used during the immediate post-1960 period.

Mr. R. Ingels - presented his intensive study of the typographed CONGO BELGE overprints on stamps and postcards with a wealth of material and demonstrating the degree of interest that can be found in the surcharges.

Mr. R.E. Jacquemin - presented no formal display but brought with him one of his albums which showed us how, with care and proper presentation, a splendid collection of, for the most part, quite ordinary stamps can be prepared. It was a lesson to all of us.

Mr. R.H. Keach - displayed the 1916 RUANDA, URUNDI and EST AFRICAIN overprints with particular attention to the multiplicity of settings of the EST AFRICAIN overprint.

Mr. A. Molander - although not able to come from Australia for the meeting kindly sent for our inspection a dozen sheets of his Mols plate varieties with enlarged photographs (his own photography) and carefully prepared descriptive notes on the causes of the varieties.

Mr. S.S. Smith - showed the 1947 Mols issue with die and plate proofs, fresh entries and retouches which make the issue so interesting.

Mr. C.V. Spurgeon - showed a fine array of railway, river boat, ship and port arrival cancellations with many cancellations on covers and post cards.

Mr. A. Vindevoghel - has studied in more detail than anyone else the 1922 Local surcharges, demonstrating the existence of three combinations of plates of the 10c/1fr. value (only one previously recognised) and the three settings of the 25c surcharge on the 5francs. His display of the stamps included even partly reconstructed sheets of the stamps with inverted surcharges.

Mr E.A. Wise - presented a display of the Mols stamps, value by value, demonstrating the development of the stamps and their designs through the 28 years of their use.

Prior to the meeting there was lunch, attended by a total of 29 members and spouses, Mr. L.G. Green was in the chair and welcomed, in English and French, all members and, particularly, the overseas visitors. He traced the history of the Circle from its inception 25 years ago to the strength and enthusiasm of the present membership and then proposed the toast of the Study Circle, drunk with acclamation by all present.

Unfortunately, the writer of these notes was engaged during the meeting in organising later displays and in affairs of the treasurer and had inadequate time to study the exhibits with the attention that they deserved. He regrets any errors or omissions in the notes, such errors or omissions being due to the state of complete confusion in which he found himself.

DISPLAY TO THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, 20 OCTOBER, 1976

The combined display by home members, in 52 frames, of stamps and postal history covering most periods and the most interesting aspects of the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi eventually went off without a hitch (despite some signs of nervousness among the members actually engaged in placing the sheets in the frames on the morning of the 20th) and was very well received by the 40-50 members of the Royal Philatelic Society who were present. After the display, the President of the Royal presented a commemorative plaque to Mrs. Green, our senior member. Thanking him, Mrs. Green then re-presented the plaque to Mr. Keach, who, she said, had done more than any other for the Study Circle over the last 25 years. This gesture on Mrs. Green's part was greatly appreciated by those members of the Study Circle who were present.

We are most grateful to all those who contributed in any way towards the success of the display, but particularly those who supplied material, those who prepared the sheets for display and those who came along on the day to assist. As usual, a special thank you goes to Mr. Keach, who co-ordinated the entire effort.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 5 February, 1977, at Tadworth, at 2-30pm. Mr. Keach will give a display and talk on "Varieties on Engraved Stamps". The display is not limited to Congo material, but the Congo is well represented and the display should be of great interest to the majority of members of the Study Circle, particularly all those who are interested in the Mols or the later Idols issues.

CANCELLATIONS OF THE NORMAL POST OFFICES

For members who have a copy of the preprint of the above, Addenda and Corrigenda No. 6 is enclosed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A copy of Mr. Keach's work "A Philatelic Bibliography of Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi" has been found with one page replaced by a blank sheet of paper. Unfortunately the compiler did not check each copy but any defective copy will be replaced.

One error in the text has been reported. The last reference on page 41 is to 'SM Sep. 1939'. For 'SM', please read 'SMG'.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

Postal History International: September and November, 1976.

The "definitive" publication of The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of the Belgian Congo 1886-1960 and Ruanda Urundi 1917-1962 by A.I. Heim and R.H. Keach continues in serial form.

Stamp Collecting Weekly: October 7 and 14, 1976. (Our special issue).
Belgian-Occupied German East Africa by R.H. Keach and A. Vindevoghel.
Belgian Congo Fakes and Forgeries by P.S. Foden and R.H. Keach.
World War II Censor Markings of the Belgian Congo by A.I. Heim.

Little need be said about any of these articles, which were really an attempt to bring some aspects of Congo philately to a wider circle of readers; the data contained in the articles is not new to Study Circle members, being largely taken from items appearing in previous issues of this Bulletin. The illustrations included in the magazine articles, however, will be found to be of high quality and may be useful to many members.

GUATEMALA 2

R.H. KEACH

The second volume of a book on the stamps and postal history of Guatemala by Ronald A. Goodman was published in 1974 by Robson Lowe.

Members may very well ask what has a book on Guatemala to do with the Belgian Congo Study Circle. The answer lies in the fact that the stamps of Guatemala from 1902 until 1926 were, in the main, printed by Waterlow and Sons and that the Guatemala Study Circle has been much more industrious and successful than have we in obtaining information from the printers.

Without doubt, the pictorial stamps of Belgian Congo and of Guatemala have much in common and information obtained from the printers for the latter country may well apply to the former.

Permission has been obtained from the author of 'GUATEMALA 2' to reproduce in the Bulletin, in whole or in part, anything in the book and this permission is gratefully acknowledged. There is reference in the book to several papers in El Quetzal, the journal of the Guatemala Study Circle, and to an article by Burgess in Collectors Club Philatelist of October, 1928; all such articles have been studied and incorporated in the present article.

Paper

"Two papers were used. Up to 1920 the paper used is described by Waterlow as 'Mill No. 219, Cream Wove Ungummed, James Wrigley Mill' and in and after 1921 as 'Mill No. 100, Cream Wove Ungummed, Guardbridge Mill'. It does not seem possible to distinguish between them. Mr. Burgess says that early printings were on toned paper, usually of a dirty yellowish appearance, and later printings on pure white, more opaque paper. But his classification does not mesh with the chronology of the papers actually used, and there is the possibility that the 'toned' effect on any given stamp may be caused by climatic or other influences".

As far as the writer is aware, apart from the 1915 booklets and the 1918 Red Cross issue, nothing has been written on the paper used for the Waterlow and Sons' Mols issues. This might be an area well worthy of study; clearly, used stamps which may have suffered from a tropical climate, the sun and much soaking, are not of much value in the consideration of shade of the paper but most of the unused copies that we have will have been purchased from the Congo agency in Brussels and will not have suffered the adverse tropical conditions.

Plates

Our Guatemala friends obtained from Waterlow a list of plates and dies of Guatemala stamps that were destroyed on the Waterlow premises on 1 and 4 March, 1957.

Of the 1902-07 issues, the plates were of either copper or steel and the impression gained from the list is that the early plates were of steel and the later of copper although there is no uniformity in this respect. Although both stamps were issued in 1902, the centre and frame plates of the 1 peso value were of copper whereas both plates of the 2 pesos were of steel. The plates of the 25c. of 1917 were of copper, the plates of the bicoloured stamps of 1919 of steel and those of the 1921-22 stamps of copper. It would appear therefore that there was little method in the choice of material.

"Earlier plates were of steel, later plates of copper faced with steel or, later, with chromium. These later plates were re-faced every few days of use to avoid wear".

To have re-faced the plates by depositing additional steel or chromium on top of the original facing would not have improved the impression and it must be presumed that the earlier facings were removed, presumably electrolytically, and the copper plates then re-plated. For this to be done 'every few days' sounds an incredibly expensive practice. The process of hardening steel was very well known to and used by Waterlow - without it the original dies and the transfer rollers could not have been used - and it is difficult to understand why they used any other than hardened steel plates which would have lasted for a very long time. Information from someone with practical knowledge of printing from engraved plates is essential for a proper interpretation of these procedures.

Traditionally, the plates of the Congo were always considered to have been of copper, with no suggestion of plating with a harder material, presumably because of the great degree of wear experienced by some of them, as examples the first frame plates of the 5c, and 25c. of 1910. Unhardened steel plates would probably have suffered much wear, if not as much as would be expected with copper plates.

Many of the Congo plates suffered severely from corrosion; particular instances are: the first centre plate used for the 5c. of 1910; the first frame plate of the 10c of 1910; the first centre plate of the 5c. of 1915; the frame plate of the 50c of 1915. In each of these cases, and indeed of others, corrosion, in the way of very extended pitting of the surface, is obvious from the masses of small coloured dots found on later printings of the stamps. The writer has always found it difficult to believe that such pitting of copper plates was possible due to printing ink left on the surface of the plate or to atmospheric or other 'natural' corrosion. If steel plates had been left unprotected in a damp place, corrosion and pitting was inevitable. There seems little doubt that some, maybe most, of the Mols plates were of steel.

Some senior members of the Rhodesian Study Circle are quite sure that at least some of the plates used for the 1910-22 issues (Waterlow again) were electrotypes from the original plates and produce good evidence to support the contention. There is no mention in the GUATEMALA book of electrotypes being used for their stamps and we can find no evidence of their use for the Congo.

Position Marks

These are the lines and dots on the plates that we know variously as 'guide lines and dots' (not to be confused with the guide lines and dots originally

inscribed on the virgin plate to assist in positioning the impressions), 'plate setting marks' (they were certainly not used in the setting out of the impressions on the plate) and 'traits de repere' (in General Du Four's book).

"On all bicoloured sheets, markings in the colour of the frame may be seen in the spaces between certain horizontal rows, consisting usually of a horizontal line preceded or followed by a dot. These markings are said by Kohl, on the authority of Waterlow, to have been used to ensure correct register between frame and centre; they corresponded with markings on the press and were placed in line with these markings before the centre was printed. It is not easy to see exactly how this was done, but Waterlow confirmed this more recently, saying that the markings 'were engraved on the plate for the 1st printing as sighting marks for the operative to lay to for the 2nd printing'.

"Except for the Estrada Cabrera commemorative of 1917, there were two such markings on each sheet. Normally they occur in the third and eighth vertical rows (the stamps were in sheets of 100, 10X10). The vertical position of the markings varies from between the third and fourth horizontal rows to between the fifth and sixth. In at least one instance, the position marks appear to have been erased from a plate and re-engraved in a different position, presumably to adapt the plate for use in a different press.

"More often than not, the left-hand marking consists of a line preceded by a dot, and the right-hand marking of a line followed by a dot. The lines vary in length from 1½mm to 22mm. and in thickness (which quite often is uneven)."

We have frequently discussed the possible use of these marks on sheets of Congo stamps and have never come to any mutually agreed conclusion, satisfactory or otherwise. Obviously, we must accept the Waterlow explanation, however difficult it is to see the application; and it is difficult to see why, when such marks had been found necessary or desirable, new plates were made and used without any marks. This is a problem to which we hope to return at a later date to discuss in more detail.

As a point of interest, our Rhodesian Study Circle friends call them 'printer's marks' and consider that they were engraved in different positions on different electrotype plates in order to identify the electros. We can state with certainty that this was not the case with the Congo plates.

Re-Entries

"Many re-entries are to be found on the stamps of the 1902 issue and on the 12½c. of 1907, but hardly any on the Waterlows of 1917 onward. The change from steel to faced copper plates was evidently the reason: Waterlow has said that 'in the early days, steel plates when showing any slight wear would have been re-entered from the original die'.

"At present there are only one or two plates which we have been able to identify with certainty before and after re-entering, and in each case the plate had already been re-entered to produce the earlier of the two states we have identified: moreover the second re-entering of Centre Plate 1 of the 20c. was of a most peculiar nature, and it is far from clear how it was done. Other re-entered plates probably showed few, if any, characteristics which would make identification easy before being re-entered.

"The re-entries vary from striking major examples (especially in Centre Plate 1 of the 20c and one centre plate of the 6c) to the very minor and almost invisible.

We have described only the most important.

"At least two plates (Centre Plate 1 of the 20c. again - in its earlier identifiable state - and Frame Plate 2 of the same value) show series of similar re-entries with a uniform and considerable degree of displacement, too great to be the result of re-entering individual positions. These can only be accounted for by the supposition that all the original entries were erased and the whole plate re-entered at one time.

"One 20c. plate has traces of a re-entry of the marginal inscription".

It is very clear, here and elsewhere in the book, that Congo, as opposed to Guatemala, collectors are very fortunately placed in having an abundance of complete sheets of the Waterlow stamps such that the treatment of the plates can, with perhaps a very few gaps, be followed from the beginning to the end of their lives. It may very well be that only plating every available stamp, allocating it to its position in the sheet and recognising the plate and the state of the plate, will complete the story.

Retouches

"We have found nothing to indicate that any die was ever retouched. But two frame plates each of the 6c. and the 20c, at least one of the 75c, and one centre plate of the 12½c, of 1907 had wear restored not by re-entry but by retouching, probably because the wear affected only small parts of the design, but many or all the positions on the plate. Another 75c. frame plate also shows signs of retouching, much less obtrusive, and perhaps done before the plate was first put into the press. We can be certain that these retouches were carried out on the plate itself, as (except in the case of the 12½c.) they vary in detail from one stamp to another, and in many cases we have been able to identify stamps from the same position both with and without the retouch. Frame Plate 2 of the 20c. was twice retouched, in different parts of the design, and thus may be found in three states".

It is clear that retouching, both before use of the plates and after their use, was used to a much greater extent with the Congo stamps than would appear to be the case with those of Guatemala. To some extent this may be due to the abundance of complete sheets and large blocks that we have and, perhaps, to the fact that the Congo stamps have been studied in greater detail.

Other Plate Varieties

"Plate scratches, and small plate flaws producing coloured marks on the stamps, are common, especially on the earlier stamps, and only the most prominent are mentioned.

"Guide-dots have already been mentioned. Four other classes of extraneous dots are to be found on the stamps:

1. All specimens of the 1c. show a small coloured dot in the centre of each of the four figures of value. These do not vary in position and are clearly part of the die. Similar dots are to be found in the central curve of the figures of value on the 5c; the dot is always present in the right-hand figure but not always in the left, where it probably was weakly impressed in the die.

2. Dots found in the same position on a series of adjoining stamps. These can only be the result of a small particle of foreign matter adhering on the transfer roller. Examples are to be found on Frame Plate 1 of the 20c. and on one frame plate of the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. of 1907 which has other curious varieties (details in individual articles).
3. One 2c. frame plate and the only frame plate of the 30c. of 1919 have dots in the frame colour that fall within the inner frame lines.
4. One centre plate of the 2c. shows an unusual recurrent pattern of dots (see individual article).

"Stamps may be found showing a general and not very clear doubling of almost the entire impression of frame or centre, usually the former. These we believe to be the result of the paper's slipping or touching the plate twice at the moment of impression. We know of no positively identifiable double impression resulting from two passages through the press".

"Worn plate varieties are fairly common, particularly on 50c. and 2p. centre plates".

Very much the same types of plate varieties are found on the Mols stamps.

Plate scratches, scars and similar imperfections abound and, in general, it is thanks to them that we are able to position stamps in the sheet.

Dots in absolutely constant position on the stamps in a sheet must have been engraved on the die itself. M. Vindevoghel has recently been studying closely copies of the 5fr. of 1894 and has discovered in the centre design red dots that must have been on the frame die and were clearly the centres of circles forming part of the frame design as though the circles on the die had been inscribed with a pair of compasses, the dots being the centres in which the compasses were positioned.

No mention is made of the existence on Guatemala stamps of dots existing on all, or most, impressions but not in precisely the same position. These must have been engraved on the plate and used as guides in locating the transfer roll when making an impression on the plate. The prominent dot found on many copies of the 5c. of 1915 and located in the vertical white line between the N of CENTIMES and the left margin is our best example. This existed only in the sheets of 50, plates V+E, and there for most of the stamps of the right four vertical columns; the fifth row of such dots is in the right margin of the sheet.

Marks due to a particle of foreign matter adhering on the transfer roller are common. The best known is the 'Dot on the mountain' of Centre Plate F of the 5c. (so-called 'Type 111' centre) of 1915 where the foreign matter adhered for the whole operation of rocking-in the impressions on the plate. There are many other examples affecting only two or three impressions; perhaps best known of these is the 'Dot on the Mountain' on positions 30, 31 and 32 when the centre plate of the 1fr. was re-entered before the 1900 stamps were printed with the frame in carmine.

'Muzzy' prints which give the impression of not very clear doubling are by no means uncommon in the Mols stamps and they appear to be particularly common with the centres of the 5c. of 1915.

Worn plate varieties are, again, very common; we can mention the frame lines of the 25c. blue of 1900, the horizontal lines forming the top panel of the first frame plate of the 5c. of 1910 prior to retouching and strengthening of the lines and the right vertical panel of the 25c. of 1910 prior to the retouching of the horizontal lines in the panel.

Perforations

"The perforations of the Waterlows are a very complicated matter, except in the 1926 issue. We are informed by Waterlow that hand treadle machines and rotary perforating machines were used, but it has no records of dates or any other details. In another communication Waterlow spoke of straight-line comb perforating machines, but we have found nothing to indicate that it used these on Guatemala stamps.

"For the issues from 1902 to 1922 there is evidence of the use of at least six perforating machines and probably more. These machines were of various gauges; hence the complications of the Waterlow perforations of this period, not only of Guatemala but of other countries whose stamps were perforated by the same machines. In 1924 or 1925 Waterlow installed new machines, with a uniform gauge of 12.4. The only Guatemalan postage issue for which they were used was that of 1926. It seems likely that these new machines of 1924 or 1925 were the rotary machines referred to by Waterlow, and that the earlier, varying perforations were made by the hand treadle machines. But Waterlow was unable to tell us whether this was the case.

"All the Waterlow perforations of Guatemala, except perhaps those of the 1926 issue, were by single-line machines.

"The only previous attempt at classifying the Waterlow perforations was by Mr. Burgess, in his Collectors Club Philatelist article. His awe inspiring list includes a multitude of compounds. Complicated though these perforations are, we do not think they are really as involved as that; and as for compounds, we have yet to see a Waterlow-printed stamp of Guatemala which offers any evidence that its horizontal and vertical perforations have been produced by different machines.

"For these perforations, the usual system of measurement to the nearest half-perforation would be quite inadequate, and we have used an "Instanta" gauge measuring to the nearest decimal. Study of stamps that Waterlow printed for other countries in this period has been helpful.

"In summary, we have found seven different perforations (one in two versions) on the Waterlow stamps of 1902-22. In listing the stamps, we have not given separate numbers to the different perforations, but after each value have indicated in parentheses the perforations we have found, by letters according to this list (references to machines are explained in the text that follows):

- A. Perf. 15.6 to 15.8
- B. Perf. 14.9, varying slightly from 14.8 to 15.0. Most of these will be from the new 14.9 machine, but some will be from the old 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 machine.
- C. Perf. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 (14.2 to 15.2, irregular).
- D. Perf. 14.1, varying occasionally to 14.0 or 14.2.
- E. Perf. 13.9. Almost certainly there were two (or more) successive machines with this gauge. It is possible but highly unlikely that there was only one, which was repaired to eliminate the irregularity listed as perforation F.

F. A variety of perforation E, showing a part of one or more sides perforated 12.5 or 11.8. The irregularity is usually but not always in the horizontal perforations.

G. Perf. 13.7, regular.

H. Perf. 13.5, regular, with very small holes and blunt, irregular teeth.

"Mr. Burgess says four machines were in use when the 1902 issue first appeared. As he puts it, one, with a gauge of 14, got out of order and was repaired to give compounds he describes as 12, 12½, or 13X14. The other three gauged, respectively, 14½, 15½, and 16. Shortly after 1902 says Mr. Burgess, these machines went out of use, and they were possibly used only for the first printing of the 1902 issue. Later three new machines gauging 13½, 14 and 15, respectively, as he describes them, were brought into use.

The "Old" Machines

"This account, although incomplete and not entirely accurate, forms a useful basis for a study of the Waterlow perforations. We may consider first the "old" machines: those in use in 1902.

"Perforation G. First of all, an omission by Mr. Burgess. The "old" machines certainly included one with a gauge of 13.7. We have found 13.7 to be a common perforation on the Waterlow-produced 1898 issue of China, which was not printed after 1902. It is found on all values of the 1902 and 1907 issues of Guatemala. We have seen a 2c perforated 13.7, with a dated cancellation of 1903, and an undated 5c with the same perforation whose shade indicates an early printing.

"Perforation H. Stamps with this very regular 13.5 gauge seem quite scarce, and probably are from early printings. This perforation occurs on most values of the 1902 issue.

"Perforation A. On the other hand, we think that Mr. Burgess's perforations 15½ and 16 are from one machine, not two. Virtually all specimens we have examined, including contemporary Waterlow stamps of other countries and the Guatemala 1898 fiscals, vary from 15.6 to 15.8 on all sides. This is the scarcest of the perforations on the Waterlows. It is found, by rough estimate, on perhaps 1% of all examples of the 6c. and we have discovered it on fewer than ten each of the 1c, 2c and 10c.

"Perforation C. The "old" 14½ machine produced a very irregular perforation: 14.3, 14.6, 14.9 and various compounds of these, occasionally varying to 14.2 or 15.2 and quite often with two or even three gauges on the same side of a stamp. The complexities of this machine defy full description or listing. There seems no way of distinguishing stamps perforated 14.9 by this machine from those from a later machine with a regular perforation 14.9, varying slightly from 14.8 to 15, especially as the latter seems to have been introduced at about the time the "old" 14½ machine was withdrawn from use. The two may indeed have been in use together for a time.

"Perforations E and F. The "old" 14 machine had a normal gauge of 13.9, but the repair mentioned by Mr. Burgess resulted in considerable irregularity. The following table shows the results obtained by Mr. Goodman by measuring from left to right an entire horizontal row of a sheet of the 1c perforated by this machine. The first figure is the gauge, the second the number of consecutive millimeters with that gauge.

13.9	29	9.8.....	1½	13.6.....	1½
14.1	9	13.9.....	9	13.9.....	36
13.9.....	17	11.8.....	5	13.8.....	31
13.5.....	1½	13.8.....	10	13.9.....	87
12.5.....	13	13.5.....	5	13.2.....	1½

13.5	8	13.3.....	1½	13.9	8
13.4	1½	13.8.....	5	13.1	8

"The sheets tended to move to left or right as they went through the machine, so the "F" irregularities may be found in any row.

"It seems true that the 15.6-15.8 and the 13.5 machines were not used long after 1902. The "old" 14½ machine survived at least until 1906, as it was used to perforate some sheets of the 12½c, first printed in 1906 and issued in 1907. Probably it was withdrawn very shortly afterwards. The 13.7 machine remained in regular use right through to the 1922 issue, but we have no evidence of the number or dates of use of machines with this gauge.

"The "old" 13.9 machine remains a bit of a problem. Mr. Burgess includes it among those machines withdrawn from use shortly after 1902. Gibbons has this note after China's 1898 issue: "Owing to an irregularity in the perforating machine, these stamps may be found perf. 12 to 13 on one or more sides in conjunction with 14 regular on the other sides. This must refer to the machine we are discussing. After China's unwatermarked issue of 1902-03 there is another note; "Some of these may be found with the 12 to 13 perforation, as in the unwatermarked set, but the majority were issued after the irregularity had been corrected" Gibbons and Burgess are thus in agreement about the disappearance of the irregularity shortly after 1902, but not about the fate of the "old" 13.9 machine. A regular 13.9 perforation certainly continued, and is one of the commonest on all the Waterlows through the 1922 issue. We feel that in all probability this later 13.9 perforation is from a new machine or at least from one which had been provided with a completely new set of pins. For classification purposes, however, all 13.9's must perforce be labelled "E".

The "New" Machines

"Three new machines, gauging 13½, 14, and 15, were brought into use after the withdrawal of the old machines, according to Mr. Burgess. We have seen that a 13.7 machine was already in use. The other two gauges however, mean at least three machines, which by the Instanta gauge give perforations measuring 13.9, 14.1, and 14.9.

"Perforations D and E. It is certain that there were two new 14 machines, gauging respectively 13.9 and 14.1. We have seen complete sheets with each of these perforations and no significant variation throughout. The new 13.9 machine varies very slightly; occasionally the gauge is perhaps .05 more or less. The new 14.1 machine varies between 14.0 and 14.2; we think that we are right in assigning stamps perforated 14.0 to this machine and not to the 13.9 (we have found 14.0 in blocks of the 14.1 and not in blocks of the 13.9). Also, we are confident in assigning 14.2 here rather than to the "old" 14½-15 machine in which 14.2 occasionally occurs. The 14.1 machine was in service by 1908 at the latest, we have seen this perforation on the 1908 provisionals.

"Perforation B. The new 14.9 machine varies between 14.8 and 14.9 and very occasionally produces a side which is almost or quite 15.0. It is difficult to say when it was introduced, owing to the practical impossibility of distinguishing its products from those of the "old" 14½-15 machine which happen to gauge 14.9: the earliest specimen we have seen which we can feel reasonably safe in assigning to the new 14.9 machine has a dated cancellation of 1913. In all probability, however, the machine is some years older than that".

It is clear that the Guatemalan stamps have the same degree of complexity of the perforations as those of the Congo but our Guatemalan friends have studied the subject more thoroughly. In general, the same perforating machines must have been used for the stamps of the two countries.

The only published study in depth of the perforations of the Etat Independant Congo stamps appears to be that of H. Clavereau in La Revue Postale of March, 1930 although La Revue Postale of February, 1926 listed many combinations of perforations. Amongst the Study Circle, the only member known to have given serious thought to the various perforations prior to 1910 was the late Joseph Knight but his collection was dispersed many years ago and there is no known record of his discoveries.

Perhaps using the findings in 'Guatemala 2' as a basis, there is much scope for research into the perforating machines used by Waterlow for the Mols stamps; all we can be sure of now is that the work was done on single line perforators.

Perforation Errors

Missing lines of perforation giving rise to imperforate-between pairs and to stamps with imperforate margin are found on Guatemalan stamps but not apparently as prolifically as on the stamps of the Congo (it is not suggested that they are exactly common).

'Guatemala 2' writes of double perforations. We have neither found nor heard of such on Mols stamps printed by Waterlow and Sons; double horizontal perforation is found on the 10fr. of 1898 but that, of course, was printed by Waterlow Bros. and Layton, a separate firm at that time.

THE CENTRE PLATES OF THE MOLS 50 CENTIMES

P.S. FODEN

According to published information, it has hitherto been believed that, when the colour of the frame of the 50c. Etat Independant stamp was changed from green to olive, a completely new centre plate was introduced. However recent study of the stamps discloses that this was not the case. The centre plate prepared originally for the 1894 issue in fact continued in use through the 1900, 1909, 1910 and 1915 issues and was not replaced until the die was retouched during the course of the 1915 issue.

In arriving at this conclusion, the important position to consider is No. 29 on the sheet. In the earliest printing of the 1894 stamps with the frame in blue-green, No. 29 of the centre plate had no obvious blemish, but prior to the intermediate printing with the frame in bright yellow-green there appeared on the centre plate to the left of the top margin of No. 29 a group of dots, appearing in black on the stamps, normally positioned above the top frame line over the A of ETAT. This group of dots remains clearly visible on the last printing of the 50c. of 1894 with the frame in yellow-green, the 1900 printing with the frame in olive, and the 1909 Unilingual and 1910 Bilingual issues, although the dots become increasingly weaker with wear of the plate; in the first printings of the 1915 issue, only two of the dots are still visible.

The cause of the dots must be a subject of conjecture. It now seems probable that the plate was of soft steel, not of copper as was originally thought, and a spot of water left on the centre plate after the first printing of the 1894 stamp could have corroded the plate, causing pitting, which would then show as black dots on the printed stamps.

After the final printing of the 1894 stamps with the frame in yellow-green, it is clear that the centre plate must have been at least partly re-entered to remove the scratch on position No. 42 (Balasse variety V1) as no trace of the scratch can be found on the stamps with olive frame. Apart from the scratch on No. 42,

the only imperfections of the centre plate of the 1894 stamp that are clearly visible are vertical guide lines to the left of the impressions and normally in line with the E of ETAT. In the stamps with olive frames, these guide lines have disappeared, or very nearly so, and it is clear that they were burnished out after completion of the last printing of the green stamp. In general, the shading of the sky is much coarser with the olive stamps than is the case with the green, and we are of the opinion that, after removal of the vertical guide lines, the centre plate was completely re-entered. The presence of the rolling marks on Nos. 49 and 50 (see General Du Four 'Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale', page 177) confirms the re-rolling.

To update General Du Four's book to incorporate this additional information the tabulation of the centre plates for the 50 centimes value should be amended; centre plate A should now read A1, B1 should read A2, B2 should be A3, B3 should be A4 and C should be B.

The summary on page 180 (already incorporating the changes advised in La Revue Postale No. 72-73, Fevrier 1968) should then read as follows:

COMBINAISONS DES PLANCHES DES CADRES ET
DES CENTRES DU 50 CENTIMES

Etat Independant	1894	I1 + A1
	1900	I1 + A2
		I2 + A2
Tirage des Princes	1909	I2 + A2
Unilingues	1909	II + A2
Bilingues	1910	III1 + A2
		III2 + A3
Bilingues	1915	III2 + A4
		III3 + B
		III3 + B
Croix-Rouge	1918	III3 + B

COMBINAISONS CONNUES DANS LES FEUILLES SURCHARGES

1909 Surcharges CONGO BELGE	1) de Bruxelles	I1 + A2
		I2 + A2
	2) locales	I1 + A2
		I2 + A2
	3) Typographiques	I1 + A2
		I2 + A2
1909 Tir. Princes: surch. de Bruxelles et typographiques		I2 + A2
1921 "Recuperation" surcharge 15 centimes	sur timbre avec surcharge CONGO BELGE (typogr.)	I2 + A2
	sur unilingue de 1909	II + A2
	sur bilingue de 1910	III1 + A2
		III2 + A3
1922 Surcharge de Malines: 5 centimes		III3 + A4
		III3 + B

EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND

1916 "Tombeur" surcharges locales et du Havre		III3 + A4
1916 Surcharge EST AFRICAIN		III3 + B
1922 Surcharge de Malines: 5 centimes		III3 + B
1918 Croix-Rouge: surcharge A.O.		III3 + B

THE CANCELLATIONS OF THE NORMAL POST OFFICES OF BELGIAN CONGO
1886-1960 AND RUANDA URUNDI 1917-1962

Addenda and Corrigenda No. 6

MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXT Page 9, paragraph 10, 2nd. line: change
1949 to 1947.

ADDITIONAL CANCELLATIONS

BASANKUSU	1.1-tMDY	(date) 17
BUMBA	1.2-DtMY	20
IBEMBO	1.1-MDTY	*97
INKISI	8B2-	(angles) 87 146 178 265 300 43
KINDU	1.1-DMtY	*13
USUMBURA 1	11(P)1-	(seen dated 1963 but almost certainly existed prior to Independence)

REVISED CANCELLATION DESCRIPTIONS

PANIA-MUTOMBO	Change 1.1-DMtY to F1.1-DMtY
VISTA	Change 16A- to 16-

ADDITIONAL & REVISED SKETCHES

SEE BELOW

REVISED ANGULAR DIMENSIONS

PUNIA	8A4-	85 171 191 260 282
-------	------	--------------------

REVISED NOTES

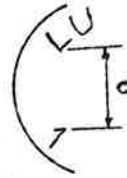
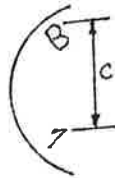
ELISABETHVILLE 8A4-	b=7mm (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm was an error)
LEOPOLDVILLE *1.10-DMTY	a=4 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm (4mm was an error)

CHANGED DATES

ANKORO 8A1-Dmyt: 37,45; 8A2-: *51-5,59-60; ARU 8A1-: *46-51; AVAKUBI 1.1-DMtY: *08-14; BAKWANGA 8A1-: *48-57; 8A2-: *48-56; BANALIA 8A1-: 37,42-4; BANANA 1.3-DMTY: *87-99; BANDUNDU 5D1-Dmyt; *21-30; BASOKO 1.3-MDTY: *03; BEFALE 8A2-: *46-54; BOMBOMA 8D1-Dmy: *44-6; BOSOBOLO 8A1-: 36,43-5; DILOLO 10(A)-: *47-52,58; DUNGU 1.1-DMtY: *09-13; 1.2DMtY: *11; ELISABETHVILLE 1.1-tDMY: *11-25; 8B1-: *42-51; FESHIE 8A1-Dmyt/t: 37-8,42-4; 8A2-Dmyt: *51-9; GUMBA-MOBEKA 8A1-: *39-45; ILEBO 5C1-Dmyt: 26-7; INKISI 8A2-: *40-7; INONGO 7A3-: 31-6; *8A1-Dmyt: *38-47; IREBU 8A2-: *48-57; KABAMBARE 8A1-Dmyt: 37,42-5; KABARE 8A1-: 36-8,45 (49 was an error); KAMITUGA 8A1-Dmyt: *38-50; KANGU 8A1-: *57-60; KASONGO 8C1-: *36-8,43-6; KATAKO-KOMBE 8A1-: *37-40,45; KINDU-PORT EMPAIN 8A2-: *51-2; KINSHASA 1.1-tDMY: *14-21; KILOTSHE 8A2-: *50-9; LEOPOLDVILLE 1 10(G)-: *47-53; LEOPOLDVILLE-AEROGARE 14B(E)-: *55-9; LEOPOLDVILLE-KALINA 10 (C)-: *48-51; LIBENGE 8A3-: *47-50,55,60; LISALA 8C1-: *39-40,46; LOKANDU 7A1-: 27-37; 8A1-: 39-47; LOMELA 8A2-: *46-54; LUENA 8C1-: 36-54; LUISA 8A1-: *37-48; LULUABOURG 10(F)-: *50-1; LUPUTA 8A1-Dmyt: *38-47; 10(B)-: *48-51; MASI-MANIMBA 6B1-Dm(B)y: 42,47,48; MITWABA 8B1-: *46-50, 56-9; MOBA 8A1-Dmyt: 37,43; MONGEWAIU 6B1-Dm(C)y: 46-9;

MONKOTO 8A1-: 36-45; MUSHIE 7A1-Dmyt: 24-8,34-9; 8A2-: *48-60; NIZI 8A2-: *46-51; 8A4-: *50-3,57-8; NOUVELLE-ANVERS 8A1-Dmyt: 39-46; NYANGWE 1.1-DMTY: *97; OPALA 8A2-: *50-5; PAULIS 8B2-: *47-56; PONTILIERVILLE 1.1-tDMY: *15-21; POPOKABAKA 1.1-DMTY: *10-4; PORT-FRANCOIS 12B(B)1-: *53-60; PUNIA 8A1-DMY: 45-9; 8A4-: *57-8; RUTSHURU 7C1: *35-8,49; STANLEYVILLE 1.1-tDMY: *13-9; 8A4-: *37-41; STANLEYVILLE 1 10(-C)-: *48-53; 10(-1)-: *48-53; TENKE 8A1-: *38-47; TSHELA 11(B)1-: 55-60; TSHOFA 8A1-: 36-46; 8A2-: 46-54; YAHUMA 8A1-Dmyt/t: 37-8,42,47; 8A2-: *47-59; KIGALI 7A1-: *26-41; KISENYI 11(D)1-: *55-9.

SKETCHES



BOMA 1.10 and 1.11
(omitted from Addenda & Corrigenda No. 5)

LUALI 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3

THYSVILLE 1.1 & 1.
(to replace existing sketch)