

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 30

September 1977

Hon. Secy. P.S. Foden,
5 Ascham Lane
Whittlesford,
Cambs. CB2 4NT.

Bulletin Editor: S.S. Smith,
87 Park Road
Buxton,
Derbyshire, SK17 6SN.

NEW MEMBERS

It is regretted that in the last bulletin we omitted:-

J. Sacher, 12 Bourne St., London SW1W 8JU.

In addition we extend a welcome to the following new members who it is hoped will enjoy, benefit and perhaps contribute to the bulletin and our occasional Circle activities:-

G. Petitjean, Brusselsesteenweg 239, 1641-Alsenberg, Belgium.
E.I. Grimes, 38 High St. Hurstpierpoint, Hsssocks, Sussex.
S.F. Dobson, 296 Stockport Rd., Marple, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 6ET
W.T. Mawdesley, P.O. Box 676, Luanskya, Zambia.
F.R. Mayer, 2300 Lincoln Center Building, Denver, Colorado 80264 U.S.A.
R.C.W. Perry, 133 Dorchester Rd., Garstang, Preston Lancs, PR3 1FE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

P. Hill, Wyvern, Knapp Hill, Motcombe, Nr. Shaftsbury, Dorset.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

We extend our congratulations to the following members who have recently received awards and recognition for displays of their material:-

Hilda Jeidel - Silver gilt (Vermeil) at Amsterdam International
(AMPHILEX)
A. Molander - Silver at Christchurch, New Zealand National
(PANPEX 77)
Peter S. Foden - The Cambridge P.S. Cup.

We also extend our apologies to any members not included above who should have been. Keep us informed! - Ed.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS 1977/78

8th October, 1977 - at the home of Mr. L.G. Green, Anvers, New Road, Esher,
Surrey
Mr. C.V. Spurgeon - Postal History - display and talk.

14th January, 1978 - at Bedford College, Regents Park, London
Mr. R.H. Keach - Detailed display of the 5c. Mols.

13th May, 1978 - A.G.M. at 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge - the
home of Mr. P.S. Foden who will also give a display of
the 2nd World War issues of Belgian Congo and Ruanda
Urundi.

SUMMARY OF (with some additions to) THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21st May, 1977 held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Compton

Election of Office-Bearers: Although the Study Circle has functioned since 1952 without an official Chairman, it was felt appropriate at this time to initiate the office. By unanimous vote of those present, Mr. R.H. Keach, who had resigned the office of Secretary/Treasurer after an unbroken period of 25 years from the inception of the Study Circle, became it's first Chairman for an initial period of two years.

Other Officers are:-

Secretary/Treasurer	Mr. P.S. Foden
Packet Secretary	Mr. C.V. Spurgeon
Bulletin Editor	Mr. S.S. Smith

Dealer Membership: The matter was discussed and it was generally agreed that dealers should be admitted though of course there is no intention of actively seeking such. Comments had been received from three members unable to attend the A.G.M. two of whom were in favour and one against.

Sale of Members' Material: Members who have material for disposal and which they consider unsuitable for the circulating packet should send it to or provide Mr. Keach with details and prices desired. On receipt of any such material, Mr. Keach will first go through those wants lists, specific and general, that he has and try to satisfy such as far as possible. Afterwards he will judge from his available knowledge of other members' collections and decide to whom to offer the remaining items. Further new wants lists, as detailed as possible, would make things easier and will be helpful to the compilers.

However, there are certain costs applicable to these sales, notably postage, registration and in some instances, exchange fluctuations. It was therefore agreed that, in future, 5% commission would be charged on all such sales. This will be credited to Study Circle funds and should cover all expenses of expediting these transfers of material between members. Similarly, 5% commission will be charged to sellers in all future exchange packets.

In the case of deceased members estates, where the Study Circle is asked to dispose of material, this will be done at the actual cost without further charge to the estate.

In order to encourage this exchange of material, members are again requested to submit to Mr. Keach their particular interests.

Publication of Articles in the Philatelic Press: The funds received a welcome addition of £40 last year as the result of the articles published in Stamp Collecting. It was agreed that, as future policy, further articles should be culled from the Bulletin and published. Any members willing to rewrite, revise, or otherwise assist should please contact the Secretary or the Bulletin Editor.

Sale of the late Mr. W.J. Thrasher and Mr. E.H. Wise collections:

Mr. Keach has been asked to assist in the disposal of these collections. A Postal Auction and itemised lists will be circulated at a later date.

Subscriptions 1977/78: These are payable on 1st September, 1977 the subscription rate remaining unchanged from the previous year:-

Members to whom correspondence may be sent surface mail - £2

Members outside Europe requiring correspondence by air mail - £3

Following the A.G.M. Stuart Smith gave a general display from his collection of material from 1886 up to and including Congo and Katanga overprints.

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

As you will see from the report of the A.G.M. you have a new Editor. I don't anticipate any significant change in format, though it does occur to me that there might be a case for future Bulletins to be in two parts - one being general news concerning members, meetings etc. and the other to contain the purely philatelic material.

I wonder how many of our members, if any, actually create their own reference system for the bulletin and if you would like to be able to segregate the contents?

One of our members has let it be known that the size of the paper used is not ideal for binding purposes. For production of course, foolscap is the most economical though make up is easier on A4 (i.e. the size of this issue).

If you have any views on this or any other matters I would be pleased to have them. - Ed.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

At long last the Expert Committee is organised and a supply of printed blank certificates and an embossing stamp for tying a photograph for a certificate have been ordered.

Initially, the members of the committee will be the Abbe Gudenkauf and Messrs. Foden and Keach. Opinions will be given on stamps, cancellations and covers.

When a 'not genuine' certificate is given, no photograph will be incorporated.

If a stamp is submitted for an opinion and it is considered to be genuine but with a forged cancellation regummed or damaged in some way, such an opinion will be stated on the certificate and the 'Genuine' charge will be made. An item submitted solely for the cancellation will be charged as 'genuine' or 'not genuine' as appropriate.

Meetings of the Committee will be held twice a year, normally in March and September. Views have been expressed that this frequency is quite inadequate and that certificates of authenticity are required at any time and very quickly so that a member may decide whether to purchase or refuse a stamp offered to him. To provide such a service would be very expensive and the cost of a certificate would greatly have to exceed the charges proposed; individual photographs would have to be purchased and the cost of postage, if registered, of sending a stamp for opinion between the individual members of the committee would be very substantial.

The present service of immediate but unofficial opinion on stamps and cancellations by Mr. Keach will continue, at no cost other than the return postage, and it is hoped that this will be adequate for members' needs.

It is not intended that the service will be a profit-making venture but it is hoped that it will not need to be subsidised by the Study Circle general funds and that the considerable initial expenses for equipment now being incurred may, in due course, be met from the fees charged. Whether the proposed low fees can be maintained depends on the numbers of items submitted for opinion.

Proposed charges to members are:-

Certificate stating that the item is genuine: stamp and cancellations	£1
covers	£2.50
Certificate stating that the item is not genuine:	£0.25
No Certificate issued because the committee is unable to give a firm opinion:	NIL

In all cases, return postage will be charged and, when submitting items, members are asked to say if they wish the items to be returned by ordinary post, recorded delivery or registered.

Whereas every reasonable care will be taken of all items submitted for opinion, neither the Study Circle nor the members of the committee can be held responsible for any damage or loss whilst stamps are in their care.

For the first meeting of the committee, items must be received by R.H. Keach not later than 15th September, 1977 and preferably earlier in the month.

For the interest and possible 'education' of the members attending the October meeting of the Study Circle, items submitted for opinion will be displayed and returned to their owners shortly thereafter.

It is intended that any particular aspects of the Committee's findings will be presented to future Study Circle meetings or recorded in the Bulletin, though the owners' anonymity will be preserved.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

Kwartaalblad Voor Filatelie Vol. 2, No. 1, April, 1977

Totale en Gedeeltelijke Vervalsingen van Belgisch-Congo - P.S. Foden and R.H. Keach.

(Essentially a translation of the article in Stamp Collecting 7/10/76 but has more illustrations and includes an additional forgery of the 5fr. of 1886)

La Revue du Timbre - 15th June, 1977 - Le Point sur une Emission peu Connue du Zaire; les Timbres du Nord-Katanga (Emission d'Albertville) - G. Celis

M. Celis gives the story of the stamps valid during the period 1960-1962 in North Katanga with details of the CONGO overprints on Katangan stamps and the curiosities that are known. The article is an amplification of that published by M. Celis in Bulletin No. 21 and includes essential information for students of these issues.

Paquebot Cancellations of the World - R. Hosking
(Summary review by R.H. Keach)

This new book lists and illustrates:

- (i) The normal Congo PAQUEBOTS in a frame 30mm x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm used at Albertville in 1931, at Matadi 1942-69 and at Boma in 1965. Its use at Boma, if factual, is new to the writer.
- (ii) Boma Paquebot, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long, with letters, other than the P, lowercase. This is reported for 1954.
- (iii) The large seriffed PAQUEBOT 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long (1930-34) and 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm long (1931-41) for Kigoma.
- (iv) A large seriffed PAQUEBOT 35mm long (1939) for Kisumu.

THE BOMA SURCHARGES 10/5 CENTIMES - A RECENT FIND

The definitive work on the 1922/23 local surcharges is undoubtedly the monogram "Les Timbres Du Congo Surcharge a Boma en 1922-1923" by Abbe G. Gudenkauf, in which are listed the various overprinting plates used and the combinations of frame and centre plates known to have been surcharged. The Abbe Gudenkauf gives full details of these, including the overprinted sheets perforated 15 instead of the more usual 14. Recently, however, the writer has come across a stamp, perforated 15, which is not listed.

This is the 10/5 centimes Surcharge C from combination VI + F. Fortunately, the stamp in question is mint so that there can be no doubt as to the perforation and, by way of a bonus, is number 16 on the sheet, which is easily recognisable in the surcharging plate by having a missing serif at the bottom right of the figure 1.

No doubt, now that this combination is known to exist, other members will discover further copies and the writer will be very pleased to hear of any such. - P.S. FODEN.

BOGA 'griffe'

Mr. Bekx has a 1925 cover with the stamp cancelled with both the normal Irumu cancellation 5E1 and a BOGA 'griffe' (straight-line cancel). A second strike of the griffe is on the back.

The BOGA post office was closed in 1913 and it is hardly credible that the use of one of its cancellers should have been official twelve years later. It would appear highly likely that the griffe is completely bogus or was applied 'par complaisance' or privately by the then owner of the canceller.

The griffe, a sans-serif type, which would be called type 2A, is quite different from 2C1 listed in 'The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo 1886-1960 and Ruanda Urundi 1917-1962!'

It would be very interesting to know if the canceller used was authentic in that it was used on registered packages during the 1911-13 period that the BOGA post office was open. Will any member who has a registered letter from BOGA be so kind as to write to Mr. Bekx and give him details of it.

A KIHEMBWE STRAIGHT-LINE POSTAL MARK

M. Bekx has sent a photo-copy of a 2,50fr Idols stamp on cover or piece cancelled with Pangi 8A1 - dated 20.7.53. There is also a Kihembwe 'griffe'; at first sight, it would appear that the 'griffe' is partly covered by the stamp but closer inspection makes it clear that the straight-line cancel was applied after the stamp was stuck on the cover.

The post office at Kihembwe was transferred to Pangi at some unknown date but, judging by the dates recorded on Kihembwe and Pangi date stamps, and presuming that Pangi cancellers were immediately available for the new post office, the transfer was effected between November, 1946 and 18th June, 1947.

It should be mentioned that Pangi and Kihembwe are some 32 kilometres apart as the crow flies, probably twice that distance by road.

Why, 16 or 17 years after Kihembwe post office was closed, should the 'griffe' still have been in use? Pangi certainly had its own 'griffe', used on registration labels.

Is it possible that Kihembwe retained some sort of postal agency which applied to letters posted there the old 'griffe'; before transporting them to the post office at Pangi?

AVAKUBI CANCELLATION 1.1

Further to the note in Bulletin No. 29, M. Ingels reports the cancellation in undamaged condition on 15 April, 1913. The severe damage to the canceller must therefore have occurred between 15 April, 1913 and 21 January, 1914. Information on intermediate dates will be gratefully received.

THE PRINCIPAL VARIETIES OF THE "OUA" ISSUE - 1967 - G. Celis.
(Refer "Independant Congo - Recent Philatelic Developments" - Bulletin No. 20)

Surcharge Plates

The 6.60 K/1 Fr. exists with three surcharge plates. The first is identical to the plate used for the other values of the series. The second differs essentially by the relative positions of the lines. The third is easily recognised by the 'smaller characters' of the 6.60. It is certain that the second plate has been sold in certain post offices in the 'Equateur' region and that the third has been sold in at least some offices in 'Bas Zaire'.

Stamp number 20 of the plate of the 9.80 value carries the 6.60 type overprint instead of 9.80.

Errors of Colour

The 6.60 K exists with a black surcharge instead of red.

Inverted surcharge

All six stamps of the series exist with 'inverted surcharge'. The 6.60 K from the 'third plate surcharge' also exists inverted; this inverted surcharge from the third type also occurs with the surcharge displaced across the top of the stamps.

There also exists a 3K/2 Fr. with inverted surcharge. Normally, the 3K surcharge has been applied to the 5 Fr. stamp and not on the 2 Fr. The surcharge seen however, has been well authenticated.

At this time a total of 8 different surcharges are known.

THE 10 Fr. "ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO" on *"PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES"
- Abbe Gudenkauf

*(Permits authorising the holding of small arms - hereafter referred to as 'Arms Permits')

This was a normal use for these stamps; if one examines such documents they will be found there, in all but exceptional circumstances. Their origin was in May 1898 when the Brussels journal "La Belgique Coloniale" announced the 10 Fr. Mols issue and in which it said "The 10 Fr. stamp will be useful for mail and for Arms Permits".

On three occasions we have come across these stamps on 'Philatelic letters' but they were most certainly used on insured items and for telegrams.

They were used extensively, for example, during the period 1892-97 and this is easily justified and understood: the number of Europeans in the Congo increased from 950 to 1474 (according to 'Bulletin Officiel') and most of the stamps were used on permits for their own personal arms. The permits were valid for 5 years and it seems reasonable therefore to accept that a thousand or so of the permits were granted. As each carried two 10 Fr. stamps and the number of the so called 'grosse barbe' 10 Fr. stamps issued is estimated at 3000, two thirds of the issue were used up on permits. The stamp with a manuscript cancellation is, moreover, sought after.

Let us see how the document originated.

1 - THE ORIGIN OF THE ARMS PERMIT

In a letter from Vivi dated April 1885, Sir Frances of Winton, a successor to Stanley, proposed as an insurance in the administration of the new State that they should maintain a controlled monopoly over the sale of arms and 'powder' ammunition. The letter stresses that whilst this is without doubt a source of revenue, more importantly the control over dealings in arms in the 'Haut Congo' is very necessary, in view of the threat from the Arabs.

The following month the King replied that as a temporary security measure he recommended the prohibition of the importation of arms into the Congo. In October of the same year the Minister van Eetvelde stressed that "for the possession of arms, authorisation is required first. It is therefore an internal security precaution and not a means of raising money".

The Antislavery Conference in Brussels (1889-92) insisted that in order to stop the trading of blacks and to minimise the internal fighting in Central Africa, it was absolutely essential to prevent the passage of fire arms into hands other than those of the colonisers.

2 - IT'S CREATION BY DECREE OF 10th MARCH 1892

We repeat here the text from the "Bulletin Officiel".

"In consideration of our decree taking place to control the importation and trading in fire arms and munitions and to place this legislation in accordance with the arrangements of the general Act of the Brussels Conference;..... we have decreed and do declare:

- (i) Importation, trade in, carrying of and possessing any fire arms whatsoever, also powder, shot and cartridges, are forbidden, except in those cases and under the conditions hereafter stated.
- (ii) Importation, carrying and possession of fire arms and their munitions, other than flint lock rifles and common powder, as it is called by the trade, must be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, by the Governor General. This authorisation will be established by a "Permis de port d'armes", issued by the Governor General, or by a delegated civil servant. Independently where measures necessitate the arming of the 'Force publique' and arrangement for the defence of people, this permit will only be issued to an authorised person - viz
 - (1st) To persons providing a sufficient guarantee that the arms and munitions which will be delivered to them will not be given, lent or sold to third parties.
 - (2nd) To travellers supplying a declaration from their permanent Government that the arms and ammunition are to be used exclusively for their own personal defence.
- (iii) Arms permits are valid for 5 years and are renewable. They will be revoked in cases of repeated abuse. They will be subject to a fixed fee of 20 Fr.

3 - ISSUE BY ACT OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL 16th JUNE 1892

Here is the text of the "Bulletin Officiel".

Fire arms other than flint lock rifles and their munitions must, at the time of their importation, be declared at the customs office of Banana, Boma or Matadi; the arms are immediately placed in a public bonded warehouse.....

The 'Arms Permits' are issued by "Import Receivers" at Banana, Boma or Matadi upon presentation of authorisation issued by the Governor General. The issue of the Arms Permit takes place on payment of the 20 Fr. fee. The fee is receipted by means of two postage stamps each of 10 Fr. value, which are remitted to the "Import Receiver". The latter will fix the stamps to the permit and add his signature across them thus effecting a cancellation.

The traveller and those who arrived with arms in the State by road from Chiloango or by river at Stanley Pool would be able to obtain an Arms Permit at the "Import Receiver's Office" at Stanley Pool or Zobe.

4 - PERMITS OF THE FIRST PERIOD: June 1892 - March 1897

Let us consider the Permit illustrated (No. 205) which is dated 1893.

They always carry two stamps - 10 Fr. ochre (grosse barbe); they always refer to a European's arms; they are always an individual's permit. (They do not, therefore, bear letter A, B or C printed in the top left-hand corner).

The administrative cachet with a flag is that of the district of Boma. (Four others were possible). The stamps also carry the Lukungu obliteration of 1896 (date illegible) applied no doubt, by request. Note also that this form, issued in Boma is number 205 and this at the beginning of November 1893; (for the 5 "Import Receivers" one could estimate one thousand permits in 5 years). At the time of their renewal, the old permits were normally destroyed. The type illustrated here with stamps of the second Congo series is very rare; we know of 5 examples.

5 - PERMITS OF THE SECOND PERIOD: March 1897 - December 1906

As stated in the Circular from the Governor General dated 12th March 1897.

"..... the 20 Fr. tax must be charged only once on each permit, irrespective of the number of weapons included on it; but it should be understood that the permit must clearly identify the destination of the arms; that is to say that as well as the permit for an individual there is a permit for a business and for a boat.

The "Capitas" (Black Native overseers) who are employed in the Haut Congo by tradesmen and who are provided with a gun must also be issued with a permit. I am reminded, by this statement, that the "native supervisors" are not able to have in their possession a more superior weapon than a * "fusil a piston non raye".

Until now, everyone was issued with one standard printed form as an Arms Permit. So that errors will not arise in the future, amended forms will be used.

The form with the letter 'A' is the old printing and is to be used exclusively as a permit for individuals.

Those with letter 'B' will be issued for arms intended for the defence of a business or of a boat.

Those carrying the letter 'C' will be used for permits in connection with guns entrusted to the Capitas. These permits are not bound to specify the name of the Supervisors carrying the arms; they can be registered in the name of the company or business and each permit has a validity of 5 years for each item of arms.

* We have experienced some difficulty in translation of this description but believe it could be a shot-gun (Ed.)

Observations on the Permit - type 'A' illustrated (No. 959) dated December 1905.

The original layout is modified by the addition of the letter A in the upper left-hand corner

- the administrative cachet with the flag is that of the district of Boma
- in blue.
- the 10 Fr. Mols stamps are perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$ and each cancelled with a signature, the same signature as that in the bottom right of the Permit.

This type 'A' Permit is rare.

Observations on the Permit - type 'B' (No. 151) dated November 1900

The text and notes at the bottom of the lay-out have been modified as foreseen

- the Permit is annuled on the 16th February 1904
- the ten 'fusils Albinis' ** have been transferred to another permit at Basoko, from where the cachet (illegible on the photocopy) is of the district of Aruwimi.
- the normal administrative cachet is that of the district of Stanley Pool
- in blue.
- the 10 Fr. Mols stamps are perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$ - This permit is exceptional.

Observations on the Permit - type 'C' (No. 163) dated June 1898

- The factory - Yanga - on the Lomani was founded by Hodister in March 1892 and established by the Societe Anonyme Belge of the Haut Congo (known as S.A.B.)
- the administrative cachet, in black is that of the district of Stanley Pool.
- the 'lay-out' of the first period has been slightly modified as stated especially the notes at the bottom of the page.
- this type of permit is not as rare (the 10 Fr. Mols are always perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$)

N.B. The forced harvesting of rubber in the forest resulted as one would expect in a number of corrupt practices; a Commission of enquiry was therefore created in 1904 to clarify the situation. We read of this in the Bulletin Officiel of 1905;

"The report of the Commission of enquiry points out the abuses committed by the Black 'Capitas' supervisors and who, provided with a gun, have the job of controlling the natives at work in the forest, have to ensure that they do not destroy the precious rubber plantations and supervise the collection of the rubber at the State Company depot. Provided with a superior weapon, they had committed many crimes against the natives including robbery. In the region of the Anglo Belgian India Rubber Co. in 7 months, 142 Capitas had been wounded or killed by the native labour it resulted in the abandonment of this system and in giving back to the natural village chiefs their authority. It was necessary that the State withdrew the Arms Permits from the 'Capitas'.

** Albinis (name of the Italian inventor of the gun)

6 - THE PERMITS OF THE THIRD PERIOD (from the beginning 1907 - April 1909)

After the enquiry a decree of 3rd June 1906 forbade the Capitats the shot-gun or improved weapons. The Permit, type C, as a result without use, would be returned with the weapons to be annulled as from 1st January 1907.

Permits, types A and B remained in use but as the 10 Fr. Mols with the new perf. 12 appeared at the beginning of 1907 these are normally to be found.

The use of the 10 Fr. Mols on Arms Permits ceased on 30th April 1909. "The 20 Fr. tax on Arms Permits will no longer be represented by stamps".

Observations of Permit A of the Third Period (No. 438) dated February 1908

- The 10 Fr. Mols are now perf. 12
- The administrative cachet is of the Matadi district - in black
- The permit of the third period is the only one we would have encountered, with the 10 Fr. perf. 12. - Without doubt, exceptional.
- There must also exist - some B Permits but we have never seen any.

SPECIFIC NOTES CONCERNING - 10 Fr. MOLS MANUSCRIPT CANCELLED STAMPS

We know of a number of manuscript cancelled stamps which have subsequently been treated with a chemical to erase the signatures:

- some, regummed, purporting to be mint; a quick examination under the lamp reveals the intended deception.
- some after treatment to 'make them mint' have been surcharged Congo Belge, local or even Brussels type; we have come across one letter which has indisputably travelled "philatelically" from Africa to Brussels - providing such a 10 Fr. Mols, surcharged Brussels type V.
- some have received an authentic cancellation, this being when they reappear again on a Permit after having been detached; this latter instance occurs frequently at Basankusu. The stamp with an authentic cancellation would have a greater value in comparison with one cancelled by hand. This is undoubtedly the reason for the existence of these double cancels.
- some have received only a common cancel, but forged; notably 'Stanley Falls' and 'Chutes Francois - Joseph'.

CONCLUSION: The fashion in philatelic research is for the stamp on document; Postal History interests one more in the various uses of a stamp and the resulting information. Generally, the 10 Fr. stamp of the Independent State no longer exists on letters or telegrams. They have been most widely used on Arms Permits and there remain but a few. Some merchants of 'La Rue du Midi' in Brussels recall seeing bundles of these documents; here also, someone had removed the stamps and I leave it here.

ETAT INDÉPENDANT DU CONGO.

PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES

97205

M
M

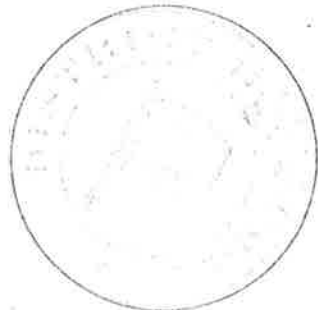
Brughmans
Commis de 1^{re} classe

est autorisé à porter les armes renseignées ci-dessous dans le territoire de l'État Indépendant du Congo pendant un terme de cinq années consécutives à dater du présent permis.

NOMBRE (en toutes lettres)	DÉSIGNATION ET DESCRIPTION	LETTRE ET NUMÉROS
un	Revoluer Magant cal: 9	P 375
une	Carabine de chasse cal. 9.	D. 624

Booma, le 3 Janvier 1893.

Le fonctionnaire délégué par le Gouverneur Général,



[Signature]

(1) Nom et prénoms. — (2) Qualité.

A

ÉTAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO

PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES

N° 959

(1) M

Monneau Marcel

(2)

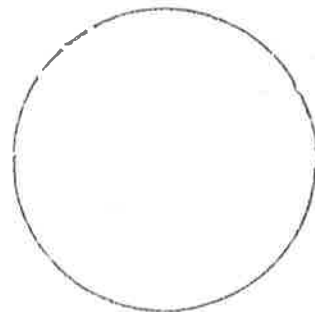
Agent de l'Etat

est autorisé à porter les armes renseignées ci-dessous dans le territoire de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo pendant un terme de cinq années consécutives à dater du présent permis.

NOMBRE (en toutes lettres)	DÉSIGNATION ET DESCRIPTION	LETTRE ET NUMÉROS
une	carabine Flouquet	B 5990
une	revolver 6 coups	B 5991



Brazzaville le 28 X 1905
 Le fonctionnaire délégué par le Gouverneur Général,



Renard

(1) Nom et prénoms. — (2) Qualité.

République
 Française
 Colonies

Van Causpeghem - 115 - 116 - 117 - 118 - 119 - 120 - 121 - 122 - 123 - 124 - 125 - 126 - 127 - 128 - 129 - 130 - 131 - 132 - 133 - 134 - 135 - 136 - 137 - 138 - 139 - 140 - 141 - 142 - 143 - 144 - 145 - 146 - 147 - 148 - 149 - 150 - 151 - 152 - 153 - 154 - 155 - 156 - 157 - 158 - 159 - 160 - 161 - 162 - 163 - 164 - 165 - 166 - 167 - 168 - 169 - 170 - 171 - 172 - 173 - 174 - 175 - 176 - 177 - 178 - 179 - 180 - 181 - 182 - 183 - 184 - 185 - 186 - 187 - 188 - 189 - 190 - 191 - 192 - 193 - 194 - 195 - 196 - 197 - 198 - 199 - 200

B

ETAT INDÉPENDANT DU CONGO



PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES

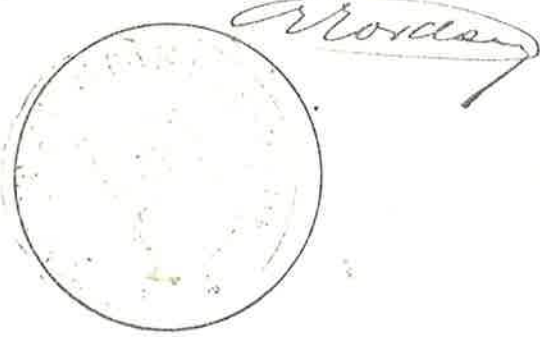
N^o 151. Le Directeur de la P. S. Sangi, M. G. Couv

(1) La factorerie de Maonga appartenant à l'Échange de la factorie de Maonga

est autorisé à avoir, pour la défense, les armes renseignées ci-dessous; pendant un terme de cinq années consécutives à compter de la date du présent permis. Il est interdit de faire tout autre usage de ces armes.

NOMBRE (en toutes lettres)	DÉSIGNATION ET DESCRIPTION	LETTRE ET NUMÉRS
Six	fusils Albin n ^o D 6070, 6071, 6072, 6073, 6074, 6075, 6076, 6077, 6078, 6079 Accusé, ces fusils ayant été reversés sur le permis D 150 de l' établissement d'Oléo. Bosoko, le 16 février 1904 Le Gouverneur Général L. M. Couv	

Kinsasa, le 16 novembre 1890.
Le fonctionnaire délégué par le Gouverneur général,



Van Compenhout Fils et S. - No 2156.

1) L'établissement de (indiquer la localité ou le bateau) indiquer le nom.
2) Nom du propriétaire ou de la firme.

C

ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO

PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES

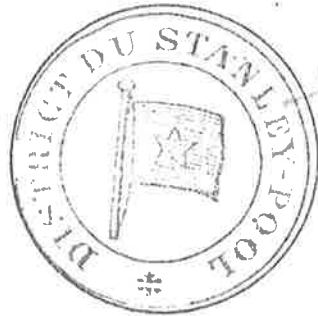
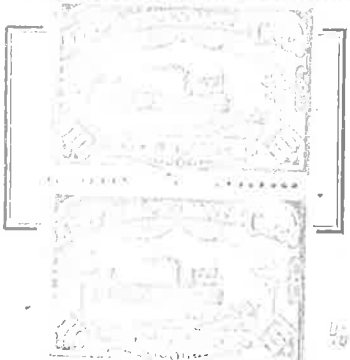
N° 163

Le capita de l'établissement de (1) Yanga appartenant à (2) La S. A. P. est autorisé à porter, pour sa défense personnelle, le fusil à piston non rayé renseigné ci-dessous dans le district de (3) Stanley Falls, pendant un terme de cinq années consécutives à compter de la date du présent permis.

NOMBRE (en toutes lettres)	DÉSIGNATION ET DESCRIPTION	LETTRE ET NUMÉROS
un	fusil à piston rayé	D. 1603

Le *Yanga*, le *27* *juin* 189*7*
Le fonctionnaire délégué par le Gouverneur général

Van Campenhout Frs & Co. — No 2100



(1) Nom de la localité.
(2) Nom du propriétaire ou de la firme.
(3) Nom du district.

A

ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO

PERMIS DE PORT D'ARMES

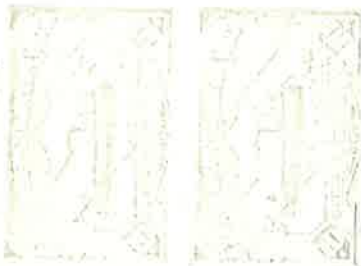
N° 438

(1) M^r Auguste Adam, directeur de la Compagnie
 (2) Ch. de fer Congo Supérieur Grands Lacs Africains
 est autorisé à porter les armes renseignées ci-dessous dans le territoire de
 l'Etat Indépendant du Congo pendant un terme de cinq années consécutives
 à dater du présent permis.

NOMBRE (en toutes lettres)	DÉSIGNATION ET DESCRIPTION	LETTRE ET NUMÉROS
Une	carabine Mauser	C. 5315
Une	carabine Winchester	C. 5316
Un	Révolver d'ordonnance	6 cp. C. 5317
Un	pistolet Flobert	C. 5318

Matadi, le 7 février 1908.

Le fonctionnaire délégué par le Gouverneur Général,



[Handwritten signature]

Van Campenhout, Fies et sr., - N. 21. 01.

(1) Nom et prénoms. - (2) Qualité.

14, 30, 25, 33, 22 or 48?

(An interesting contribution from our friend in the field - G. Celis)

The introduction of new postal tariffs for Zaire is a rather confusing affair.

For several years now, in spite of inflation and two or three Zairen devaluations the postal rates have remained stable. Fortunately correspondents in this country had only to pay 4 Kutas for the internal letter rate (1.60 Belgian Francs) and 14 Kutas for a letter to Europe (5.60 Belgian Francs).

It was not known when the Postal rates would change and therefore, before the new tariffs were introduced we considered it a wise precaution to ask for confirmation of the rate at the post office. At Lubumbashi, in Shaba (formerly Katanga) the old rates applied until Saturday, 8th January 1977. On Monday it was announced that for letters to Belgium it was now 30 Kutas instead of 14 K. So on Tuesday when we asked as a matter of course what the rate was, we were specifically told that to Belgium it was only 25 K.

The following Monday, 17th January, a small piece of brown paper - scribbled in the form of a bulletin and stuck in front of the post office counter announced the final tariff rate: "33 Kutas for a letter to Europe". Having prepared a large bundle of mail during the weekend we hurried to take it to a small post office where as anticipated - the new postal rates were not yet known and the clerk informed us "You have put on too much Sir - the rate for Belgium is 22K. Ah?!

From the 17th to the 27th the situation appeared to stabilise in the way of changes. The mail to Europe stayed at 33 Kutas.

It was a waste of time hoping - and the lull was brief. On 28th January the person in charge at Lubumbashi P.O. 5 (Airport) showed us a package of stencilled sheets received that same day from Kinshasa announcing the final tariff increases: "Letters to Belgium to cost 48 Kutas for 5 grammes".

It appears this time that it will be final, and for want of that it will remain the cost of sending mail abroad.

Note that these new rates are extremely high: the letter to Belgium now costs about 20.50 Belgian Francs (according to the official exchange rate). It is not cheap!

THE TAXATION SYSTEM FOR LETTERS CARRYING INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE, IN ZAIRE-G. Celis

After the change in postal tariff rates occurring from 1st January 1977 a change in 'Postage Due' has been decided upon - as from April 1977.

Tax (i.e. Postage Due) on mail used internally

The amount in Postage Due is calculated as follows: a forfeit of 20K is collected, in addition to the amount underpaid.

e.g. if an ordinary airmail letter (10K) carries only 4K's worth of stamps, the tax due for payment as 'Postage Due' is only 20K + 6K = 26K. (The 6K represents the difference between that paid and that which should have been paid).

Tax (i.e. Postage Due) on international mail

These letters carry, normally, a 'fraction' near to the "T" cachet. To calculate the sum due in Kutas, this fraction must be multiplied by 25; the resultant is added to the 20K forfeit as for the internal service.

As there are no 'Postage Due' stamps in Zaire, the amount due is collected by the addition of ordinary stamps stuck onto the letter and obliterated 'Tax'.

(Note: Unfortunately it was not possible in translating this information to determine exactly the text of this obliteration - no doubt we shall know before publishing the next bulletin - Editor).

UNUSUAL POSTAL HISTORY DISCOVERY

We reprint a short contribution from the journal of the Rhodesia Study Circle - by their Editor and our member - Hal Hoyte.

'At a recent meeting of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, I was shown by the Secretary, R.H. Keach, a most unusual postcard. It is cancelled MUSOFI 11/DECE/1908, with a transit mark KANSANSHI 11 DEC 08 (with the "19" blocked out). It is addressed to LEEDS (UK), arrival mark JA 16/09. Mr. Keach kindly lent me this card to photocopy, together with a similar card postmarked MUSOFI 25/DECE/1908, KANSANSHI 26 DEC 08, LEEDS JA/30/09.

Musofi was situated some 15 miles from Kansanshi, across the border and was opened 1.7.08 and closed 1.3.10. Its business was taken over by Kambove, to the North, and in fact both cards were written at Kambove, in each case five days before the Musofi date. From Kansanshi, they would have gone via Ndola to Broken Hill.

They provide strong, if not irrefutable evidence of an official runner route between the two countries - a short distance and for a short period of time admittedly, (the completion of the Ndola - Elisabethville rail link soon afterwards making it redundant). One might well ask if any other Congo - Rhodesia runner link existed, but looking at the map and considering other Congo PO's open in the early days, the only likely candidate would be Pweto, at the Northern tip of Lake Mweru, to Chienji, though the chances of postal evidence of this coming to light are remote.'

Postscript to above

As I was going to press, I received a letter from Mr. Keach, who tells me that the Belgian Postal Historian Gudenkauf "has written about the Musofi-Kansanshi link. This existed from 1908-10 for mail between Katanga and Europe; even the supply of stamps for the Katanga post offices came from Brussels that way".

50

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

Addenda and Corrigenda No. 8

September 1977

BENI: add: 1.1 - DMtY
BOENDE 1.1 - tDMY: add date: * 16
BOMA 1.11 - tDMY: change dates to: * 12-26
ELISABETHVILLE 10(1) - : change dates to: * 48-51
ELISABETHVILLE 1 12E(C1)1 - : change dates to: * 60
EFOILE DU CONGO 1.1-DMtY : change dates to: * 13-4
GEMENA 8A1 -: change dates to: * 36-45
IRUMU 8A2 -: change dates to: * 39-48
KIPUSHI 10(A) -: change dates to: *55-8
KONGOLO: add: 1.1 - DtMY 14
LUKULA 5D1 - Dmyt: change dates to: * 21-34
LUSAMBO 1.1 - tDMY: change dates to: * 12-25
POPOCABACCA 1.1 - DMTY: add in NOTES: a=7mm
Add: 1.2 - DMTY 208 318 * 98 a=6 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm
POPOKABAKA 1.1 - DMTY: change dates to: 00,09-10
1.1 - tDMY: change dates to: 15-6
add: 2A1 19(year) 4X33mm
SAKANIA 1.1 - tDMY: change dates to: * 12-3,17-22
ZOBE 1.1-DMTY: change dates to: * 97-9

