

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN No: 31

MARCH 1978

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to the following new members:-

Mr. W. Deynckens, Schuurveldlaan 17, Bus 1, 2610 Wilryk, Belgium.
Mr. J.L. Kalp, 56 Gorsewood Way, Northwood, Middlesex.
Mr. B.P. Hudson, 30 South Eaton Place, London S.W. 1.

and ask members to note that Mr. R.A. Davies and Mr. A.H. Fitt have resigned.

With the next bulletin a revised list of members will be circulated but until such time please refer to the amendments, additions and deletions carried by this Bulletin and Bulletin No: 30.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

G. Celis, B.P. 555, Kigali, Rwanda.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to our Chairman, Ray Keach, who was awarded the Surrey Federation Webb Cup - (Lado Enclave)
- our Secretary, Peter Foden who received a Bronze Medal at this year's Stampex (15c Mols)
and am I permitted? - to the Bulletin Editor, the Buxton P.S. Hobson Cup - One country (Belgian Congo) display.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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

It is hoped that some of our new members, who as yet have been unable to attend our meetings might be able to manage the next one. If you would like to come along, contact any of the officers and we will try to arrange shared transport. There will certainly be room for three in a car from Buxton!

The last two meetings both proved extremely successful. In October last, at Mr. Lawrence Green's home, Mr. Charles Spurgeon showed his Postal History collection. He began with a comprehensive display of the small circle cancellations 1886 - 1922 including many not previously recorded on cover or postal stationery. Additionally, we were shown several new sub types, all on cover. Scarcer items included Nyangwe, Stanley Falls, Kasindi, Sankuru, Tumbu-Mani, N'Zobe, Zobe, Musofi, Baya, Bena-Bendi, Monveda.

Continuing, Mr. Spurgeon showed 28 pages of TPO and Railway cancellations with many examples again on cover. Other items included Lado Enclave, Territory Markings, Sorting Office cancellations, Foreign Markings, Registration Markings, Postage Dues, Airmails (including Roi de Albert and also crash covers). A selection of cancellations of the river-boats both on and off cover, including damaged by water cachets. Military mail for World Wars I and II and a large selection of Maritime mail added even further variety. Service Markings of many types, telegraphic cancellations, straight-line cancellations and finally half circle cancellations concluded this outstanding display.

In January, we met at the Bedford College in Regents Park. Nine members attended and we were particularly pleased to welcome two new members - Mr. Hudson and Mr. Kalp.

The group were also pleased to hear good wishes received from Mr. Thomson who has been very ill and the meeting wished him a speedy recovery.

Following the morning get together and BOURSE we were entertained during the afternoon by our Chairman who gave the most comprehensive of displays of the 5 Centimes Mols Issues.

Each plate combination was taken in turn and re-entries, retouches and varieties to be found in a study of this magnitude were clearly explained and illustrated.

It is difficult to express in words the pleasure given to those of us who were able to attend these two very fine and interesting displays but we thank both Ray and Charles for showing them to us.

SALE OF MEMBERS' DUPLICATES

For some months, Mr. Keach has been disposing to members not only of the Thrasher, Wise and Davies collections but also of various duplicates supplied by other members. Other than to the legatees of deceased members, 5% commission is charged to the vendor, this paying necessary postages and to date making a contribution to the Study Circle funds.

If any member has material of which he is prepared to dispose, will he please give details to Mr. Keach.

Want-lists, preferably detailed, are welcomed. These should be as condensed and concise as possible giving numbers, mint or used, by any of the catalogues or, in the cases of plate varieties and sheet reconstructions, the positions on the sheet. The object in asking for 'wants' rather than what members already have is that items can be crossed off when they have been supplied.

At the time of writing, there is a substantial accumulation of postal stationery of the period 1886 - 1922, appreciable parts of the Wise and Davies collections and various useful oddments.

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE

With a supply of printed blank authenticity certificates, the Expert Committee is now in a position to accept stamps, cancellations and covers for formal opinion on their authenticity or origin. The proposed charges for this service have been published in the Bulletin.

To get this service off to a flying start, members are invited to send items about which they have doubts immediately to: R.H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

La Revue Postale No. 101

"Les Surcharges Typographiques 'CONGO BELGE'" by R. Ingels concludes his series on the 1909 overprints with the detailed information which appeared in Bulletin No. 29 together with some further data, including the identification of four different forgeries. This article, together with his previous articles on the handstamps, is now to be published as a monograph by Editions de la Revue Postale. As yet we do not know the price.

De Naamstempels van Belgisch Kongo - Walter Bekx

A monograph, in Flemish, on the straight-line cancellations of the Congo, listing all the known examples and with illustrations of most of them. An excellently produced paper giving the most up-to-date information on the subject.

Copies are available and can be obtained through M. Bekx (Zwijndrechstraat 71, B2720 Burcht, Belgium), including postage in Belgium 7.50 francs, elsewhere 15 francs.

Mr. A.G. Wood provides the following extracts from the London Philatelist which appear pertinent to our study of 'Sterios' used for overprinting the stamps of the Belgian Congo.

L.P. Vol. 79 - 1970, Page 150. Ireland by H.V. Fletcher - Para. 7.

"Owing to the shortage of stamps of some values and as the old plates were too worn the stamps were overprinted from the "Master Plate" and as there was no shrinkage this accounts for the wider overprint which measured $16 \times 15\frac{3}{4}$ mm $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm wider than normal which was $16 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

also from L.P. Vol. 79, 1970, Page 236. Purves & Jaffe on "St. Vincent some new work".

"Although apparent small differences in the overprints are to be found between $\frac{7}{8}$ the upper and lower 30's, we are satisfied that these are due to inking irregularities and that this is not a case where a frame of type (and rules) was set up and two stereotype duplicates used to perform the actual overprinting"

In "Le Philatelite Anvers for February 1897 is an account of a visit to the Malines Printing Works. From this collectors of Etat Independant stationery may be interested to learn that a German machine, a Koenig & Bannr press was used. This machine had a daily output of 5,500 sheets of 72 cards that is to say 396,000 cards in total.

In addition, the writer says that a small 'Napier' press was used to print the current Belgian stamps for which there was only a small demand, namely the 20c, 35c, 1fr and 2fr stamps of the 1893 Issue.

It is possible that this machine was also used to print the Etat Independant Issues for the 1886 and 1887 Issues.

AVAKUBI CANCELLATION 1.1 (Refer also to Bulletins 29 and 30)

Following the short note in Bulletin to. 29, the Abbe Gudenkauf has written that he has a post card with the crushed AVAKUBI cancellation 1.1 dated 20 November, 1913. The date of the damage to the canceller is now restricted to the period 14 January to 20 November, 1913.

We have a further example on stamp dated 14 August 1913 which appears to be in an intermediate condition, slightly oval, approximately 23 x 22mm but this may well be from an unevenly inked undamaged canceller.

THE POST OFFICE AT LEVERVILLE

The first post office at Leverville was opened in 1931 and then closed almost certainly in 1936.

A second post office, of sous-perception status, was opened there in 1957. According to the 'Bulletin Administratif du Congo Belge' the opening date was 16 October, 1957.

We have acquired an unaddressed envelope bearing various low value stamps cancelled Leverville (Type 12B(A)-) on 13 December, 1957 and with the typewritten inscription 'Inauguration du Bureau des postes a Leverville' suggesting that it is First Day 'cover'. Also imprinted thereon is the bilingual Leverville 'griffe' used for marking unappropriated registration labels.

Information on Leverville cancellations between 16 October and 12 December, 1957 would be appreciated. - Please send to R.H. Keach.

SUDAN STUDY GROUP : an arrangement has been made with the Sudan Study Group for a reciprocal exchange of journals and the first two issues of their quarterly bulletin "The Camel Post" are available from the Secretary.

An early benefit of this exchange is the following note and request for further information, which is reprinted from "The Camel Post" by kind permission of the Editor and of the author, Professor P.A.S. Smith.

THE LADO ENCLAVE : USE OF A SUDAN POSTAL CARD

The postal history of the Lado Enclave has been written many times, the most authoritative version known to me being the chapter in Jean du Four's book "Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale, published in Belgium in 1962 by Editions de la Revue Postale. The Belgian administration of this territory of south western Sudan lasted from 1894, when an agreement was made between the British and King Leopold, until the end of 1909, when it reverted to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan upon the death of King Leopold.

The postal card illustrated here is cancelled on the White Nile T.P.O., as is much of the known mail from the enclave, with postmark date 2 III 1909, and is struck on arrival at Louvain with the date stamp 24 Mars '09. The message side bears the manuscript date 25 Fevrier, 1909, and the card was presumably carried by hand to the nearest port of call of the Nile steamer.



The message side is also shown on the following page, but it is rather difficult to read, so I give the best transcription I can manage:

"Gite Lebago le 25 fevrier 1909
 Non cher Alfred"

Tu as deja du te dire bien souvent que je t'avais oublie depuis les trois longues annees que je n'ais plus donne signe de vie par lettre. Et portant c'est une erreur. Mais la besogne d'ici est tellement absorbante et les demandes de nouvelles de Belgique sont si nombreuses que je n'y puis suffire.

Me voici en pleine brousse recevant encore une lettre de reproche de

Georges et pourtant je ne grincerai pas comme lui. Je vais encore entreprendre un grand voyage pour finir mes 4 années et ensuite le me dirigerai sur Bruxelles content et heu^{reux} de retrouver les bons amis. On ne s'en fait guere, l'existence est particuliere, singuliere por les (arrives ?) d'Europe. Compliments a Georges etc. Dieu le --- toi.

Daniel Prudhomme"

Epke Lebrago le 23 Mars 1879
 Mon cher Alfred,
 Tu es si bon que
 j'ai bien souvent pensé que j'avais
 oublié depuis les trois longues années
 que je n'ai plus donné signe de vie
 par lettre. Et pourtant c'est une
 erreur, mais la besogne ici est
 tellement absorbante et les demandes
 de nouvelles de Belgique sont si
 nombreuses que je n'ai pu suffire.
 Voici en pleine réponse à
 cause une lettre de reproche de Georges et
 pourtant je ne puis être satisfait
 je suis en train de prendre un grand voyage
 pour finir mes 4 années et ensuite je
 me dirigerai sur Bruxelles content
 et heu^{reux} de retrouver les bons amis.
 On ne s'en fait guere, l'existence
 est particuliere, singuliere por les
 (arrives ?) d'Europe. Compliments a Georges
 etc. Dieu le --- toi.

(My Dear Alfred

You must very often have thought that I have forgotten you since I have not written to you for three long years. This is not the case. But the work here is so absorbing and there are so many letters from Belgium asking for news that I cannot answer them all.

Here I am in the middle of the bush receiving another reproachful letter from Georges, however I should not complain. I am going on another long journey to finish my 4 years and then I will be going to Brussels, very happy to meet all my friends. We take things easy here, life is strange for those who have just arrived from Europe.

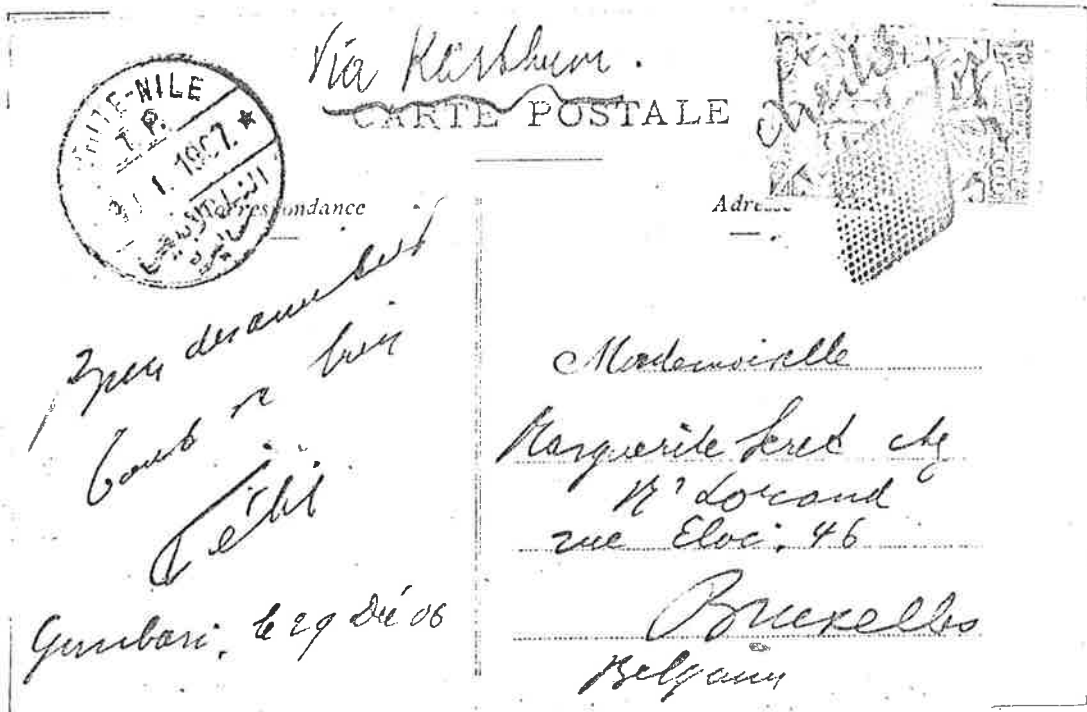
Regards to Georges)

The message speaks for itself, making evident the isolated, lonely circumstances of a Belgian official in that place. However, where is

locality in the heading - "Gite Lebago"? I have read all I could find and looked at every available map and atlas, but have found no clue. "Gite" has the meaning of "bivouac" and so the place may have been a very temporary establishment, never known to mapmakers. Does anyone have any knowledge of it, or even an intuition about it? I would be grateful for even the slightest scrap of information.

LADO - PART 2

Professor Smith very kindly sent a photocopy of the reverse of yet another Lado card and this is reproduced below. Written at Gombari on 29 December, 1906, it is addressed to Brussels and marked Via Karthum. It is franked with the Mols 15 centimes stamp of 1896 which has been pen-cancelled "Lado 30/01/07" and has also received the 306 dot retta. The circular cancellation on the left is the White Nile T.P.O. (Stagg Type 264) dated 30 I 1907. Again the Professor would be grateful to have any further information which can be gleaned from the photocopy.



It would be appreciated if any member having information on these cards would forward it to the Secretary for onward transmission (and possible inclusion in the Bulletin).

RUANDA URUNDI 1930 CHARITY ISSUE - P.S.Foden

Recently, whilst sorting my copies of the 1930 Charity Issue overprinted "Ruanda Urundi", I noticed that the overprint one one copy of the 10c + 5c appeared unlike the others. Mr. Keach then checked his own copies and found a similar variety on one copy of the 20c + 10c. Although one can never completely ignore the possibility of a forged overprint, we are both reasonably confident that this is not such a case.

It appears, therefore, that for the vertical setting of the overprint, at least one position can be identified in the overprinting plate. The main points of variance are the N of Ruanda in this position is 2½ mm tall instead of the normal 3 mm, and there is a small black spot to the right of the lower left leg of the first A of Ruanda. Can any member shed some light on the position on the sheet in which the variety occurs?

RARE STAMPS AT LOW PRICES - R.H. Keach.

To obtain a bargain, without cheating the vendor, is always a joy to the collector, no matter what he collects, and the stamps of the Congo still present opportunities of good purchases to collectors who are more knowledgeable than are the dealers. The acquisition of the necessary knowledge is a profitable and pleasant activity.

Let it be said very clearly that it is necessary to differentiate between a rare stamp and a valuable one; only if the rarity is generally recognised and if there is the demand for it will a stamp become valuable. Nonetheless, there is great personal satisfaction in acquiring rare stamps of little market value.

The object of this article is to point out the Congo stamps that, in nearly thirty years of concentrated collecting, I have found to be scarce or rare, in the hope that others will take pleasure in the search, taking pains to acquire the necessary knowledge for their recognition.

Plate varieties, be they major re-entries or minor imperfections, must be relatively uncommon because a particular variety is to be found only once on every 50 or more stamps of a particular kind examined. These are obviously relatively uncommon and will not be considered further.

Stamps used on cover are clearly much less common than the same stamps separated therefrom and the relative scarcity increases with age and with the actual scarcity of the stamps themselves. Particular mention should be made of the rarity on cover of the 50c grey of 1894, the 5c and 10c of the first Mols issue, the 5c and 10c with typographed CONGO BELGE overprint, the Brussels CONGO BELGE handstamps, the 1922 local surcharges, the 1923 Elisabethville surcharges and all the charity stamps other than those issued after 1950. As far as Ruanda Urundi is concerned, all issues prior to 1942 are rarely seen on cover.

However, the principal object of this article is to point out single stamps, what we may call 'abnormal' stamps, that are uncommon or rare and that may be discovered in the stamp dealer's stock book, unrecognised as desirable items and available at the usual discount off the standard catalogues' prices.

Amongst the first two issues, those with portrait of Leopold II, the outstanding stamp is the 50c grey. Unused or with forged cancellation it is common enough, but with genuine cancellation it is hard to find.

Of the 1894 issue, the 5c blue and 10c brown, original and with genuine cancellations, are rare indeed. The complete printing (only 25 or 30 thousand) of these two values was sold in Brussels to a dealer or dealers and not a single copy was officially sent to the Congo (this scandal resulted in much adverse criticism in the philatelic press of the time). All genuinely used copies must therefore have been sent by collectors or dealers to the Congo specially to be used - and there were few enough of them, most remaining in their unused condition.

The 25c blue of 1900 with the thick top and bottom frame lines is a really rare stamp and probably not more than two dozen are known but unrecognised copies undoubtedly exist and are to be found when quite modest collections appear in the auction sales or are purchased by dealers. During my collecting I have found two copies, one in a dealer's stock book - if I remember correctly, it cost me 3d. - and the other amongst a friend's duplicates. This is a stamp that can easily be missed and should always be sought diligently.

Reverting to the plate varieties, there are some uncommon items amongst the 1894-1900 issues: the 10c Balasse 19V5 and the 15c Balasse 20V2 and 20V3 existed only in the last printings of which most sheets received the CONGO BELGE overprint.

The Brussels CONGO BELGE handstamps are all uncommon relative to their local counterparts. As far as Great Britain is concerned, the recent separate listing of the Brussels handstamps in the Gibbons catalogue is, for the collector, unfortunate. Any clear handstamp will henceforth be classified by dealers as Brussels and priced accordingly; great care needs to be exercised in the purchase of such stamps. Amongst the local handstamps, Type 8, easily recognised from the other types but not so easily from some of the forgeries, is paramount and should be sought. Many years ago, I purchased as a forgery from a prominent collector - and paid for it as a forgery - a copy of the 25c with handstamped CB. Years afterwards - the earliest owner was then dead - I realised that I had inadvertently acquired a genuine Local 8 overprint. They still exist unrecognised and can be found by the diligent searcher.

The 5c and 10c with the typographed CONGO BELGE overprint, original, as opposed to Princes' Printing, are rare in genuinely used condition; I have never found a copy of the 10c. Both values are common enough unused, but genuinely used is an entirely different matter; The current catalogue practice of pricing the used at the same price as or cheaper than the unused is sheer madness.

It is imperative that the Congo collector recognises stamps from the Princes' Printing. Such stamps without the CONGO BELGE overprint are very rare but I did have the good fortune to recognise and purchase a copy of the 3,50fr in an auction sale. The same stamps with the Brussels handstamp are rarely seen but I found a copy of the 25c in a collection purchased some years ago. The stamps with the typographed CONGO BELGE overprint are much more prolific, at least in used condition and these, unrecognised, can be found in any dealer's accumulation of typo overprints - provided that a Congo enthusiast has not got there before you. Over the years I have found many copies of each value and they must still be there to be found.

Amongst the 1910 issue it is desirable to seek combinations of frame and centre plates where nearly all the sheets received the 1921 'Recuperation' surcharge. The rarest of these, although the least recognised, is undoubtedly the 5c with the combination of plates IV+D1 of which I, perhaps the only searcher, have found some twenty copies but only one of these unused. The 10c with combination of plates IV+D1 is very much scarcer than the same stamp from other plates; IV+D1 exists in two shades, bright carmine and carmine-lake (beware of colour changelings) and the latter has achieved catalogue status. The unheralded bright carmine is probably just as scarce or nearly so. The 50c III2+B3 (deep olive-green shade) and the 1fr. III+A4 (the carmine-lake shade) are both scarce without the 1921 overprint and I have found neither postally used. Some of the stamps, or combinations of plates, perforated 15 are very hard to find; I have never found an unused copy of the 50c with this perforation.

Of the 1915 issue, mention must be made of the relatively uncommon but very easily recognised 5c VI+F and 10c V+E and these two combinations of plates are particularly scarce perforated 15. Of the 15c, plates V+C, unused, I have found a solitary single copy and a block of 9; of this same combination of plates perforated 15, a single used copy. The 25c in combination III+D is not easy, in single copies, to differentiate from some printings of III+C or from some booklet stamps but I think that it is quite scarce without the Malines surcharge; in vain I have searched for the odd stamp in the sheet recognisable as III3+D without the surcharge. The 25c from the third printing of the booklets is desirable perforated 15 or 14X15 and I have not found a used copy with the compound perforation. The existence of the 25c from the second printing of the booklets, perforated 15, was disclosed in a recent Bulletin and no further copies have been notified. It is a long and tedious job, even with the necessary complete sheets available, to classify 1fr. stamps with re-entered frames but it appears that II3+A5 and II5+A5 are scarce.

Because of the heavy charity surcharge, very few of the 1918 Red Cross issue would have been postally used (this applies even more to the A.O. stamps) and used stamps, even when CTO, are difficult to find. I have still to find some of the A.O. values with genuine cancellations.

In the 1921 issue the missing dots in the surcharges are common enough except for the 25c/15c and this is well worth seeking; I have yet to find it in the combination IIII1+A3. There are some combinations of plates, common enough in the original 1910 issue, but which are rare with the 'Recuperation' surcharge: the 10c/5c IIII1+B3 with either original or corroded centre plate (in all, I have found about a half-dozen unused and a solitary used copy); the 30c/10c IIII1+C1; and especially the 50c/25c III1+A3 (the original pale blue shade of the 1910 issue) of which I have found a single unused copy and have not seen or heard of a used specimen. The 5c/40c and 15c/50c perforated 15 appear to be scarce stamps and I have found no copy of the former.

The 1922 Malines surcharges provide us with one real rarity, the 5c/50c with the easily recognisable combination of plates III2+A4; I have never found a copy and have never seen it used. More common, but still quite scarce, although easily recognised, is the 25c/40c II+A2 with either vermilion or carmine surcharge (and particularly if perforated 15) and the 50c/25c IIII1+B, and this is especially true of unused copies of which I have found none at all. The Balasse catalogue lists the 5c/50c perforated 15. If it exists with this perforation, I have never seen it nor otherwise heard of a copy.

Amongst the 1922 Local surcharges, the scarce items are amongst those perforated 15. With this perforation, the 25c/5fr is a scarce stamp and I have found only one copy unused and one used. The Balasse catalogue lists the 10c/1fr.perf. 15 but I have heard of no example.

Of the later issues, pride of place must go to most of the used charity stamps, very common though they are unused. Most of us have gratefully to accept cancelled-to-order copies of the 1930 'Goutte de Lait', 1939 'Zoo', 1942 'Spitfire' and 1944 Red Cross issues and even cancelled-to-order copies are very much scarcer than the corresponding unused stamps. I still lack used (as opposed to CTO with 1er JOUR D'EMISSION) copies of some values of the Olympic Games issue.

Of the 1942 issue, although I have found one or two used copies of the 1,25fr with the compound perforation $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, I have yet to find an unused copy. The same stamp (compound perf.) with the 1944 Red Cross surcharge appears to be scarce.

Turning to Ruanda Urundi, I have never found RUANDA and URUNDI overprints from the original Kigali overprinting or the Grysolle overprints masquerading as the much more common Havre reprints but I am sure that some people have been more fortunate.

Of the 1916 stamps with the 'EST AFRICAINE ...' overprint, some of the values with the narrow overprint are very elusive; I have found a single unused copy of the 25c and have never seen a used copy of the 1fr. Genuine OCCUPATION varieties are very difficult to find; I have never found the 5c and have not seen a used copy of this or of the 1fr.

Unused copies of the Vloors stamps with all the different RUANDA URUNDI overprints can, with the exception of the 5c. with Type C overprint, be found by diligent searching but stamps with genuine cancellations present an entirely different story and, although I have searched for 25 years, my used collection is still incomplete and I blush to admit that it includes some blatantly forged cancellations.

Used copies of the 1930 'Goutte de Lait', 1941 'Meulemans', the 5c/1,50fr of 1941, the 1942 'Spitfire' and the 1944 Red Cross are almost impossible to find, even cancelled-to-order. In my own collection, postally used copies of the Olympic Games issue are entirely absent, as are the low values of the Usumbura Cathedral issue and this is not for the want of trying to fill the gaps.

The object of this article is not so much to state the rarity of some very lowly priced stamps - this rapidly becomes obvious after visits to a few stamp shops, even those in Brussels - but to demonstrate that real treasures may be found amongst the common stamps and they are there, in small quantities, for the seeking. But knowledge of what to look for is essential.

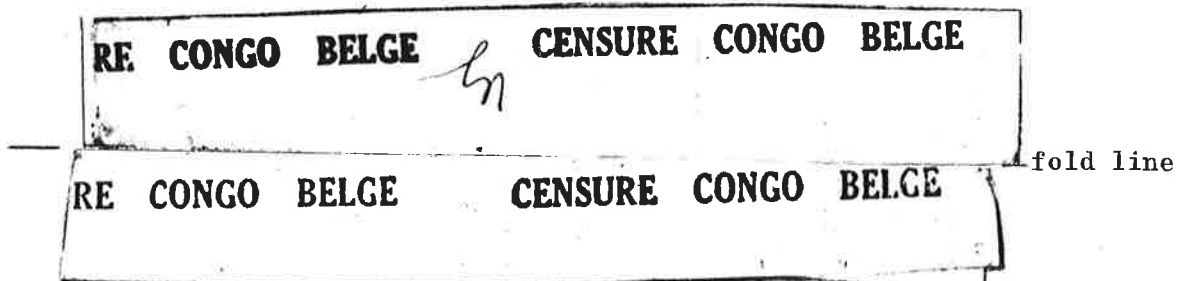
ONE LAST WORD. If you have had the good fortune to acquire duplicate copies of any of the above, please don't forget the writer!

A NEW DISCOVERY -A.I.Heim

What is believed to be a new, or rather, a hitherto unreported type of censor marking for Congo censorship has come to light among a batch of covers recently purchased by mail order from a Mid-Western American dealer. The cover is one of three all posted in Usumbura and each is addressed to the same person in Chicago, U.S.A. The first two covers were posted respectively 23.12.39 and 17.2.40, at which time the World War II was in progress in Europe, but Belgium was not yet involved. Neither letter was censored in the Congo, but both were opened and examined by British censors while en route, perhaps at Dar-es-Salaam since one of them was backstamped there. The other was backstamped only with New York registry transit stamping.

The third letter was posted in Usumbura 19.7.40, just 70 days after the invasion of Belgium on 10 May 1940. It is backstamped with a transit marking at Albertville 7.8.40 and presumably it was at Albertville that the letter was opened and censored. Albertville is known to have been a Censor Bureau. The Congo Belge censorship was the only one.

The letter was opened and resealed with a white paper seal 35mm wide as illustrated



The repetitive "CENSURE CONGO BELGE" appears at both the upper and lower part of the tape. It was letterpress printed and closely resembles the handstamp types B but differs in length of the inscription by about 1½ mm.

It should be noted that the seal is not tied to the cover by the Albertville (or any other) canceller as was standard practice later with the common type A tape seal. The newly found seal may be designated type Ab. In a sense it appears to be a forerunner of the more common type A seal.

There is another white sealing tape underneath the outer one and, since the lettering shows through extremely faintly, the underneath tape is possibly the same as the outer tape. There is no way to determine whether or not there were two examinations, for to find out, it would be necessary to soak off the outer tape seal, something the writer is not prepared to do, particularly as he does not own the cover.

The seal on this cover is, to the writer, not only a new type but it is also the earliest date seen of Congo censorship. Without doubt, however, there were earlier dates, which may be existent.

Mr. Geoffrey Wood, who recently visited the POSTAL MUSEUM IN BRUSSELS made note of the following which will be of interest to our members.

1886 Issue

There were dies for the 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and 5 Fr, apparently copper stereotypes, all the impressions were surrounded by a white frame and then a black frame each about $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2mm wide; these were referred to as "Coins-Galvanos".

There were also "planches d'impression" and these were all of 50 subjects. That for the 5Fr was a stereo of 50 which was screwed onto a wooden base. For the values 5c, 10c, 25c and 50c the first 40 subjects were in blocks of ten but no's 41-50 were in separate stereotypes. In each case the 50 items were let into a block of wood so that one had a printing base of 50 subjects.

1887 Issue

There were dies (coins-galvanos) for the 5Fr, 10Fr, 25Fr and 50Fr but these did not have a heavy black frame (I'm not certain whether it was the 25Fr or 25c). The "planches d'impression" for these four values were all of 50 subjects in five blocks of ten.

The Mols Issues

There were sundry dies for these issues both for the centre and the frame, all on small flat pieces of steel. In many cases these were numbered, sometimes with two numbers. I was not able to distinguish the type of the centre dies.

VALUE	ISSUE	FRAME No's	FRAME No. according to J. Du Four	CENTRE No's	CENTRE No. according to J. Du Four
5 Cent	1915	998, 1844	1844	998, -	1843
10 Cent	1915	921, 1846	1846	757, 1845	1845
15 Cent	1910	1165, 2269	?	1165, 2270	?
25 Cent	1910	866, 1848	1848	866, 1847	1847
40 Cent	1910	1259, 2267	2267	1167, 2268	2268
50 Cent	?	866, 1850	1850	866, 1849	1849
1 Fr	1910	866, 1840	1840	866, 1839	1839
5 Fr	1910	758, 1842	1842	866, 1841	1841
3.50 Fr	1898			6692	
10 Fr	1898			3271	
10 Fr	1910	2723			
25c	1925	10697) (FRENCH) 10698) (FLEMISH)			

There were also "galvanos" for postal stationery, Mols Palmiers, 15c, 30c, and 45 c.

There was also a lot of other Congo material on show in the museum, but time was too short.

The above notes need checking, but they may whet someones appetite. I have no doubt a closer examination would be amply repaid. There may, of course, be other material for these issues not on show.

THE PRINCES POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS - R Ingels

We consider here a delicate subject with some reservations. The Princes issues are rare and to state that one will always be able to recognise them after reading of my observations is perhaps a high claim or even a mistake.

Towards the end of 1908 the powers that be ordered a new quantity of the 25c stamps from Waterlow & Sons. These stamps are the ones with plate combinations I3 + A2. We know that these stamps without the Congo Belge overprint are some of the scarcer to be found. On that same day (according to my hypothesis) an order was also placed for a new quantity of the 1900 edition 10c + 10c postcards. In addition to the 25c stamp plates, the postcard printing plates were also being cleaned and retouched resulting in the following characteristics:

- (i) a broken C in the text "Cote reserve a l'adresse"
- (ii) re-entry in the top left corner design
- and (iii) some re-arrangement above NDANT.

These can easily be seen by everyone.

When in March 1909 the Princes stamps were being printed, new cards were also being ordered. For the 10c + 10c cards it was obvious that the recently cleaned plate would be used. Therefore on the 10c + 10c Princes cards we again find the same features as on the ordinary cleaned edition. We know also that the 15c, the 15c + 15c and the single 10c card have all been reprinted each in their identifiable shade and here and there with an added colourspot.

Well now! How does one recognise the Princes card? As even the ordinary cards show characteristics which are also attributable to the Princes cards we must therefore, examine something else, namely the "CONGO BELGE" overprint. It is fortunate, quite incredible and almost unbelievable that on all the Princes cards which I have examined - even on the reply cards I repeatedly find the same identifiable typographical overprint. This is an overprint which does not occur on ordinary cards i.e. is not one of the 60 or so overprints which were made.

Here are the characteristics of this overprint:

- (i) The C in CONGO is rectangular at the top right corner
(This is the most obvious characteristic)
- (ii) The overprint is always type c (as illustrated Bulletin 29 April 77, page 10) showing a break in the first E.

Much more could be written but this much is the most important. The real detective work can start and a few may well be very surprised to find a Princes card in their collection.

'SCARFACE' Stanley - Peter G. Hill

A copy of the 1fr60 Stanley stamp has come to light with a prominent line running from Stanley's right nostril along the right cheekbone and finishing level with the right-hand end of his right eye. There are also traces of another line passing from beneath the right eye and up over the bridge of the nose.

I would be grateful if members could check their copies of this stamp for similar varieties in order that the sheet position, constancy or otherwise, and cause of this flaw can be determined, and let me know of their findings.

CONGO BELGE

9942

TABLEAU DU SERVICE A L'ALLER

PORTS	NOMS DE BATEAU									
		→ Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville	Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville	Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville
Anvers	Samedi	6 Janv.	27 Janv.	17 Févr.	9 Mars	30 Mars	20 Avril	11 Mai	1 Juin	22 Juin
La Rochelle-Pallice	Lundi	8 »	29 »	19 »	11 »	1 Avril	22 »	13 »	3 »	24 »
Dakar	Lundi	15 »	5 Févr.	26 »	18 »	8 »	29 »	20 »	10 »	1 Juill.
Conakry	Mercredi	17 »	7 »	28 »	20 »	10 »	1 Mai	22 »	12 »	3 »
Grand Bassam	Samedi	20 »	10 »	2 Mars	23 »	13 »	4 »	25 »	15 »	6 »
Banana	Mercredi	24 »	14 »	6 »	27 »	17 »	8 »	29 »	19 »	10 »
Boma										
Matadi	Vendredi	26 »	16 »	8 »	29 »	19 »	10 »	31 »	21 »	12 »
Anvers	Samedi	13 Juill.	3 Août	24 Août	14 Sept.	5 Oct.	26 Oct.	16 Nov.	7 Déc.	28 Déc.
La Rochelle-Pallice	Lundi	15 »	5 »	26 »	16 »	7 »	28 »	18 »	9 »	30 »
Dakar	Lundi	22 »	12 »	2 Sept.	23 »	14 »	4 Nov.	25 »	16 »	6 Jan.1913
Conakry	Mercredi	24 »	14 »	4 »	25 »	16 »	6 »	27 »	18 »	8 »
Grand Bassam	Samedi	27 »	17 »	7 »	28 »	19 »	9 »	30 »	21 »	11 »
Banana	Mercredi	31 »	21 »	11 »	2 Oct.	23 »	13 »	4 Déc.	25 »	15 »
Boma										
Matadi	Vendredi	2 Août	23 »	13 »	4 »	25 »	15 »	6 »	27 »	17 »

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TABLEAU DU SERVICE AU RETOUR

PORTS		Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville	Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville	Léopoldville	Bruxellesville	Elisabethville
Matadi	Mardi	6 Févr.	27 Févr.	19 Mars	9 Avril	30 Avril	21 Mai	11 Juin	2 Juill.	23 Juill.
Boma	Jedi	8 »	29 »	21 »	11 »	2 Mai	23 »	13 »	4 »	25 »
Banana										
Grand Bassam	Lundi	12 »	1 Mars	25 »	15 »	6 »	27 »	17 »	8 »	29 »
Conakry	Jedi	15 »	7 »	28 »	18 »	9 »	30 »	20 »	11 »	1 Août
Dakar	Vendredi	16 »	8 »	29 »	19 »	10 »	31 »	21 »	12 »	2 »
La Rochelle-Pallice	Samedi	21 »	16 »	6 Avril	27 »	18 »	8 Juin	29 »	20 »	10 »
Anvers	Lundi	26 »	18 »	8 »	29 »	20 »	10 »	1 Juill.	22 »	12 »
Matadi	Mardi	13 Août	3 Sept.	24 Sept.	15 Oct.	5 Nov.	26 Nov.	17 Déc.	7 Jan.1913	28 Jan.1913
Boma	Jedi	15 »	5 »	26 »	17 »	7 »	28 »	19 »	9 »	30 »
Banana										
Grand Bassam	Lundi	19 »	9 »	30 »	21 »	11 »	2 Dec.	23 »	13 »	3 Févr.
Conakry	Jedi	22 »	12 »	3 Oct.	24 »	14 »	5 »	26 »	16 »	6 »
Dakar	Vendredi	23 »	13 »	4 »	25 »	15 »	6 »	27 »	17 »	7 »
La Rochelle-Pallice	Samedi	31 »	21 »	12 »	2 Nov.	23 »	14 »	4 Jan.1913	25 »	15 »
Anvers	Lundi	2 Sept.	23 »	14 »	4 »	25 »	16 »	6 »	27 »	17 »

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Addenda and Corrigenda No. 2

Page 13, 4th paragraph, 10th line. After the word 'substitute' add a new sentence: 'A second exception is Avakubi 1.1 where precisely the same conditions appear to have existed; the few examples of this cancellation seen with the time line 7-8 clearly read 7-5.'

Page 30, 4th paragraph. Change the last sentence to read 'The Usumbura date stamp illustrated was much used from 1959 onwards for cancelling postage due stamps on unpaid letters but it has been seen used for other postal purposes.'

AVAKUBI. Add 1.1-DMTY * 08-10 p13
1.1-MDTY 09 p13

AVAKUBI 1.2-DMTY. Change dates to * 17-8,23-9.

BASANKUSU 5C1-Dmyt. Change dates to * 21-6, 32-4.

BOMA 1.11-tDMY. Change dates to * 12-26.

BONDO 7A1-. Change dates to * 30-6.

BUMBA 1.2-DMTY. Change dates to * 00-6,10.

FESHI 8A1-Dmyt/t. Change dates to * 37-8,42-4.

GOMBE 4.1-DMTY. Change dates to 19-21,25.

INONGO 1.1-DMty/t. Change dates to * 09.

KABALO. Add 2A1

4½X26½mm

KABINDA 1.1-tDMY. Change dates to * 12-24.

KAFAKUMBA. Add 1.1-MDTY * 14.

KIAMBBI 1.1-DtMY/t. Change dates to * 12-3.

KINDU 8A3-Dmyt. Change dates to * 41-3,48-9.

KINSHASA. Add 1.3-DMTY 168 292 * 09

LEVERVILLE 12B(A)1-. Change dates to * 57-60.

LUALI 1.2-DMTY. Change dates to 00-2

LUALI 1.3-MDTY. Change dates to * 04.

LUEBO 1.1-DMty. Add date * 14.

LUKULA 1.1-DMty. Change dates to * 07-9.

LUSAMBO 1.1-DMty. Change dates to * 12-4.

MADIMBA. Add 1.1-DMty * 11-3.

MADIMBA 7A1-. Change dates to * 28-31,35-7.

NOUVELLE-ANVERS. Add 1.2-TDMY 00

NYANGWE 1.1-DMTY. Change dates to * 96-7.

PANGI 8B2-. Change dates to * 47-54.

PONTHIERVILLE 1.1-DMty. Change dates to * 11-3,22.

POPOKABAKA 1.1-tDMY. Change dates to * 15-6,23.

SHABUNDA 8A1-Dmyt. Change dates to * 36-45.

STANLEY-FALLS 1.1-DMTY. Change dates to * 96-9.

STANLEYVILLE 1.1-DMTY. Change dates to * 01-9.

STANLEYVILLE 7A5-. Change dates to * 32-7

TSHIKAPA 11(A)1-. Change dates to 58-9

UVIRA 4.1-DMTY. Change dates to * 20-1,28-30.

KISENYI 8A1-. Change dates to * 46-54.