

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN No. 33

APRIL 1979

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Chairman : R.H. Keach, 25 Kingswood, Tadworth, Surrey. KT20 JEE	News, Views, Addenda, Corrigenda	Page 1 - 2
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Hon. Sec/Treasurer : P.S. Foden, 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford, Cambs. CB2 4NT		
Packet Sec. : C. V. Spurgeon, 1 Holly Hill, Vauxhall Lane, Southborough, Kent.		
Bulletin Editor : S.S. Smith, 87 Park Road, Buxton, Derbyshire. SK17 6SN		

NEW MEMBERS

We record as a new member and extend a welcome to Dr. S. Carol, P.O. Box 414, Holbrook, New York 11741, U.S.A.

Please also note that Mr. R.M. Kitchingman has moved and his new address is Pelham, Chideock, Dorset DT6 6JW.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 12th May 1979 - at 87 Park Road, Buxton - AGM and members display with a Postal History flavour.
- 6th - 8th July 1979 - at University of York - joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle.

Unfortunately the editorial check on the final copy of the previous bulletin failed miserably and the following corrections should be made to that issue. For any members who would like a reprint of pages 2,3 and 4 in the corrected form please let me know, plus postage, and I'll send you copies.

BULLETIN No. 32

CORRIGENDA

- i) Page 1 delete 1979 and amend to read 1978
- ii) Page 2 'nomenclatures' - amend 1111, 1112, 1113 in all instances to read III1, III2, III3.
- iii) Page 4 The communication titled "1921 25c Surcharged Stamps" is a continuation of that on page 2 titled "The 15 Centimes of 1910"
- iv) Page 4 amend nomenclature as (ii) above
- vii) Page 8 para. 7 line 5 amend 'think' to read 'thin'
- Page 11 para. 8 line 1 amend 'think' to read 'thin'
- Page 10 last para. line 1 amend 'eith' to read 'with'
- v) Page 3 'nomenclatures' - para. 4, line 8 should read 'make and use a new frame plate III although that'
- vi) Page 3 'nomenclatures' amend 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 111+A7, 111+B in all other instances to read II1, II2, II3, II4, II5, III+A7, III+B

THE CANCELLATIONS OF THE NORMAL POST OFFICES OF BELGIAN CONGO 1886 - 1960 AND
RUANDA URUNDI 1947 - 1962

Addenda and Corrigenda No. 11

- LUGAMBO 5D1 - Dmyt. Change dates to * 21 - 30
- NIANGARA 5C1 - Dmyt. Change dates to 23 - 28

2.

With the very successful introduction of the newsletter by our Hon. Sec. Peter Foden many of the notices concerning minutes and reports of our meetings are now covered in that media.

Whilst there will naturally be some overlap of ideas as to what the 'Bulletin' and 'Newsletter' should each contain we think the division is fairly well defined but your views will always be noted.

This particular bulletin is something of a bumper issue - not I would hasten to add anything at all to do with the extra activity of your editor - indeed to the contrary. We had sufficient material available early in the year BUT whilst well intentioned I just didn't get round to producing the goods. It will inevitably happen again - apologies, but will do my best.

In addition to those who have contributed so magnificently particular thanks are due to Ralph Jacque min who having offered to type the bulk of the final copy did so in a time which could only be likened to a devoted Olympic sprinter. Ralph has offered his assistance fo future bulletins and this will ensure dead-lines better kept.

During early February on a visit to South Africa I had the good fortune to visit and spend a day with Hilda Yeidal and her husband Rudi at their lovely home near Cape Town. What a great pleasure it was and how much I enjoyed seeing some Jems from her collection. All being well other of our members will have an opportunity of meeting them both as they hope to be exhibiting at the 'London 1980 International'.

We again remind members

- i) to support our Packet Secretary, Charles Spurgeon, by submitting material for circulation.
- ii) to send any specific want lists to Ray Keach who does a truly magnificent job on our behalf.
- iii) that the 'Expert Committee' will be meeting again shortly and your submissions would be appreciated.
- iv) that a few are behind with subscriptions and whilst our accounts are in a healthy state it is an unfair and embarrassing situation when we have to chase those which are overdue.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE MOLS PLATES

General Du Four initiated the nomenclature that we use for the plates used for printing the Mols stamps, for each value Roman numerals for the frame plates, letters for the centre plates and Arabic numeral for the states of both frame and centre plates.

In his book, Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale, he listed, as far as knowledge then was available, the various combinations of plates and their states for each value of the Mols series, including the various overprints. In the twenty years since the book was written our knowledge has extended and, at various times, we have recorded in our Bulletin additions and alterations to the lists of combinations of plates compiled by the General. There are now corrections to the plates of the 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 50c and 1fr values and it would be very convenient for those who are interested in the plates for revised lists to be compiled. One of our members has offered to compile consolidated lists for inclusion in a Bulletin.

There is, however, amongst those members of the Study Circle who study the plates, some disagreement about what changes to a plate are necessary to constitute a 'new state'. General Du Four's principle was that any deliberate change to a plate such as retouching of one or more impressions, re-entering and additional engraving of any kind would result in a new state. Cleaning of a plate, if there was resulting evidence of such cleaning, also resulted in a new state. On the other hand, unintended changes such as corrosion and cracking did not result in a new state.

The General was not entirely consistent in his allocation of states of the plates - he gave new states to the centre plate of the 3,50fr in the Princes' issue although the new state resulted only from corrosion (he explained why he did so in a foot note in his book). He omitted to create new states of plates when a) the 10fr frame plate I had Waterlow Bros and Layton's name added to it (and the same with the 3,50fr but it so happens that the addition of the name coincided with the corrosion) and b) the 15c plate III had the hole drilled in it to prevent the crack extending to the edge of the plate. There was other cleaning of plates, notably the 1fr centre plate, where cleaning may not have coincided with re-entry.

Before our member embarks on a revised listing of plates it will be as well, if we can, to agree on what changes to a plate justify a 'new state'. Those of our members who are interested in the states of the plates are invited to state their views on this matter so that the listings will be acceptable to as many members as possible.

THE LADO ENCLAVE : USE OF A SUDAN POSTAL CARD

Members may recall a request for information emanating from the Sudan Study Group which was published in Bulletin No. 31. We are delighted to report that two of our members were able to provide some details, and the following note appeared in the December 1977 issue of "The Camel Post" :

MR. R. H. KEACH OF THE BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE WRITES

Mr. Foden had shown me No.2. of your excellent journal, The Camel Post, and naturally I was interested in the description of the Lado card. Not knowing the whereabouts of "Gite Lebago", I wrote to the Abbe Gudenkauf, our most knowledgeable student of the Lado, putting the question to him.

"Gites d'etapes" were places where a hut was built for the use of travellers on the roads and "Gite Lebago" was actually "Gite Libago". According to Maurice Calmeyn's book "AU CONGO BELGE", published by Flammerion in 1912, Libago was to the south-west of MOUNT GUMBIRI, perhaps 50km from LOKA in the direction of ABA. (This is ABA in the Congo and not the place of the same name in the Sudan). According to Stigand's book "THE LADO ENCLAVE" it was much further to the west, the last stage before reaching ABA on the route from REDJAF. It is difficult to believe that there were two places of the same name on the same road, but one can be fairly sure that it was somewhere on the road from ABA to LOKA. I hope that this bit of information will be helpful.

Perhaps I can usefully add a few comments of my own. The nearest CONGO post office in 1909 was DUNGU, many miles to the west of ABA and there was a postal courier between DUNGU and the LADO and thence to the Sudan frontier, or maybe the mail for Europe was loaded onto boats at REDJAF. The post card, not bearing a Congo stamp, would not have passed through the official Congo postal system but would have been taken from Libago to Redjaf by courier, maybe the postal courier taking mail from Dungu to Redjaf; given a tip, he would presumably have obliged.

It was not unusual for mail from the north-east Congo, bound for Europe via the Lado, to bear both Congo and Sudan stamps. The sum of the Congo internal and the Sudan overseas letter rates was marginally less than the Congo overseas letter rate at the time. Goodness knows why the Congo postal administration permitted the practice, with the resultant loss of revenue.

THE 1922 'MALINES' SURCHARGES

L'Echo de la Timbrologie of 15 May 1922, pages 465-6, gives contemporary information on the Malines surcharges. Based on information provided by Gisquierre it lists the numbers of each of the five 1915 values and each of the five 1916 EST AFRICAINE values sent from Boma to London for surcharging. For the stamps to be sent to London suggests that the work was entrusted to Waterlow and Sons.

Traditionally, the surcharging was done by the Belgian Government Printing Works in Malines and General Du Four, in his book, concurs with that view although this would appear to be conjecture.

Although Gisquierre was not, at least in some ways, the most reputable of dealers, he was very active in the stamps of the Congo at that period and probably had access to official information on what was happening to the stamps. It seems highly unlikely that he would have stated that the stamps were sent to London if that was not the case.

Again by tradition, the 1921 'Recuperation' overprints were applied in London, presumably by Waterlow, but General Du Four, in his book, puts forward circumstantial evidence that the overprints were applied in Malines.

The qualities of the 1921 and 1922 overprints are indeed very different. The 1921 surcharges and overprints are all very neat and clean with sharp edges to the lines and figures whereas the 1922 'Malines' surcharges are exceedingly rough and crude. It is very difficult to believe that the same printer did both jobs.

Should we not consider revising the traditional roles of the printers, giving Malines the credit for the 1921 'London' surcharges and Waterlow the very doubtful credit for the 1922 'Malines' surcharges?

R. H. KEACH

FORGERIES OF THE 1922 'MALINES' SURCHARGE

Positioning copies of the 50c/25c 1922 issue for members who reconstruct sheets of this stamp according to the different centre plates, I recently found two copies where the original 25c stamp clearly came from the 1917 booklets.

There is no record of the booklet panes ever having been surcharged and it is highly unlikely that they were.

Comparison of the surcharges on these two copies with those of undoubtedly authentic examples discloses differences in the shapes of the figures but these differences are difficult to describe; a clear identifying feature is the shape of the lower dot under the letter c. On these two copies the dot is circular whereas on the normal genuine stamp it is a flattened ellipse.

I would be very glad if members would examine their own copies of this stamp and, if they find any with circular dots, permit me to inspect them.

There seems to be no doubt that the surcharges on the two stamps are forgeries although the addition of the surcharge, while increasing the face value, reduces the current catalogue value.

Forgeries of the 10c 1922 Malines surcharge have already been reported in an earlier Bulletin.

R. H. KEACH

A NEW LEOPOLDVILLE 1 "POSTES AND STARS" CANCELLATION?

Mr. Hudson has shown me a cover with a Leopoldville 1 Type 7A cancellation quite different from those listed in the book on the cancels.

The cover is, at best, highly 'philatelic' with not only a surplus of Congo stamps but also examples of Martinique, U.S.A. and China, all duly cancelled. The cover is addressed to 'COMBELGA, LUSAMBO' and there is no transit or arrival cancel.

The whole cover could be a fake with forged cancellation, it could have a genuine cancellation and have passed through the post or, as I think most likely, it could have been cancelled 'par complaisance' with a genuine canceller and not passed through the post.

The angular measurements of the cancel are 149/170/195/228/303/329 and the date line Dmy with no time, actually 24 / .7 - 31, evenly arranged to fill the whole of the date line space. Will those who take an interest in these cancellations please examine their copies during the period of 1926-37 to see if they also have such a cancel and those who are not particularly interested please look at their stamps of that period and see if they have a LEOPOLDVILLE 1 cancellation with POSTES at the bottom, a star at each side and only three spaced numbers (no time) in the date line? Any response to this request will be greatly appreciated by

R. H. KEACH

From Mr. E. Hirdler, we have received the following. If any member can assist in answer to the Railway Stamps, we would be most interested to hear.

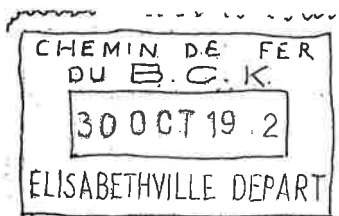
1960 PROVISIONALS - FLOWERS AND ANIMALS

Bulletin No. 16 (November, 1961) listed the varieties known at the time. Since then, further varieties have come into my possession, and these are listed as follows:

Flowers	0,10 on 0,15 surcharge inverted and CONGO inverted
	0,10 on 0,15 surcharge omitted
	0,10 on 0,15 surcharge inverted
	0,10 on 0,15 Congo inverted, surcharge omitted
	0,75 horizontal pair one with CONG ovpt., one without it
	0,50 on 0,60 Congo omitted
	0,50 on 0,60 surcharge misplaced
	0,50 on 0,60 surcharge omitted
	0,50 on 0,60 surcharge doubled
	0,50 on 0,60 two surcharges, one normal one inverted
Animals	0,20 inverted
	0,20 normal and inverted
	0,40 doubled, one is a cheval misplaced
	1,00 misplaced a cheval
	1,50 tripled
	1,50 quadrupled of which two are misplaced upward
	2,00 misplaced a cheval
	3,50 on 3,00 surcharge misplaced
	5,00 misplaced a cheval

RAILWAY STAMPS

An American collector who is doing research on Katanga has sent me the enclosed photocopy of some railway stamps which he has, but about which he has been unable to find out any details. His letter says "I have six railroad stamps. As far as I know, these have never been listed anywhere. I bought them from a retired stationmaster who left Katanga at Independence. He took these off documents that were being destroyed, 1958 I think." He also adds "BCK (Bas Congo - Katanga) stands for the words meaning Lower Congo & Katanga but the Lower Congo portion was never built, only the part in Katanga".



Can any member provide any information on these? Note that one of the items appears to have been a handstamp applied to a piece of perforated paper (the perforations are practically invisible on the photocopy).

E. HIRDLER

OFFICIAL PARCEL-POST STAMPS

I was recently fortunate enough to see some stamps which were completely new to me. These are official parcel-post stamps which were apparently valid both in the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi and, from the cancellations, it seems they were in use both before and after independence of the Congo.

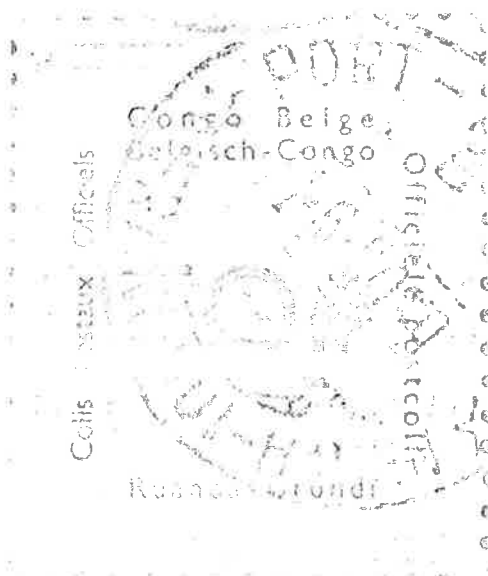
All of the stamps seen were similar in design, except for the value, having "Congo Belge / Belgisch-Congo" at the top, "Officiel post-colli" reading downwards at the right, "Ruanda-Urundi" at the bottom and "Colis Postaux Officiels" reading upwards at the left.

Five different values were shown to me, 1Fr, 5Fr, 10Fr, 50Fr and 100 Fr, although I have no way of knowing if this is a complete series. All the copies were used and apparently cancelled with normal post office cancellers, the 50Fr at Port-Francqui and the others at Leopoldville 1.

The perforation is almost 10 (line perf.).

The value and inscription are deep blue and the background, which is made up of intersecting circles, and frame lines are in light greyish blue and the paper is slightly toned.

The owner of these stamps has, unfortunately, gone overseas; however, I was able to take some photographs and it is hoped that these will photocopy to an acceptable standard so that an illustration can accompany this note.



I should be extremely grateful if any member can provide any further information about this issue.

PETER FODEN

METER MARKS OF THE CONGO

An interesting but neglected aspect of the Congo philately is the study of the meter marks. The author knows of nobody with anything like an extensive, let alone complete collection, so that knowledge of Congo meters is inevitably scanty. The objects of this article then are to a) summarize what little is known, b) encourage readers to submit details of what they have in the hopes of filling in the many gaps in that knowledge and c) encourage others to start collecting.

The meter marks of the pre-Independence period are now hard to come by, not many having been saved, although they may be picked up cheaply when they do appear - at the moment, that is - whilst in the later marks, the changes in territory name and currency after Independence provide an interesting field of study, if only one could obtain sufficient material.

For those not familiar with the meter mark, the latter may be defined as a mark applied to unstamped mail to denote that postage has been paid. In this, it is a form of 'postage paid' or 'port paye' mark, but one which always shows the amount paid and which is applied by a machine with a meter incorporated which totals the amounts impressed on all the mail that has been through it. The machine is hired out to a private firm, official body or even the Post Office itself, the meter being read periodically and the hirer charged accordingly.

Meter marks are often neglected by postmark collectors under the mistaken impression that they are not somehow part of the postal service, but the only thing 'private' about them is that they are actually applied by private firms, but this application is only by permission of the postal authorities, who deliver such mail like any other, applying transit or other marks or registration labels as necessary.

Most meter marks comprise two elements, the FRANK which may be said to replace the adhesive and is often designed to imitate the latter, and the TOWN MARK, which is a datestamp, usually circular, with the name of the nearest post office. (Some meter marks, including the Timbographe and earlier Hassler examples of Belgian Congo - see below - have the frank only, the normal postal datestamp appearing alongside.)

The FRANK normally shows:

- 1) Territory name
- 2) Amount of postage paid
- 3) Licence number of the machine

The design of the frank is usually characteristic of the firm supplying the machine, so that marks of the same design are made by the same model of machine. A firm might change the frank design with the introduction of a new model or two, show change of territory or change of currency.

Machines are classified as LIMITED VALUE or MULTI-VALUE. A LIMITED VALUE machine has a number of interchangeable frank dies displaying different denominations. If the item of mail requires a rate for which there is no single frank die, then two or more franks are impressed, e.g., 5F + 1F for a 6F rate.

A MULTI-VALUE machine impresses a single frank frank, but capable of registering any denomination within a given range, e.g., 5c to 100Fr.

The marks have been divided into different periods as follows:

A) Pre-Independence, 1929-1960.

Post-Independence -

B) Congo (Republique du Congo, 1960-1965.)

C) Congo (Republique Democratique du Congo, 1965-1971.)

D) Zaire, 1971-

It must be appreciated that the above changes, together with changes in town names in some cases, did not always immediately show on the meter marks which often went unchanged for a year or two. (An extreme example is the author's solitary example inscribed RUANDA URUNDI, dated USUMBURA 23.8.74, twelve years after Independence, with the normal cds BUJUMURA of the same date to confirm it.)

Items marked with an asterisk are known in mutilated form, e.g. with 'Belgische' and 'Belge' removed from the territory inscription after Independence or 'FR' and 'CT' removed after the 1967 currency change. References: B & S = Barfoot and Simon, Catalogue of 'World Meter Stamps', (Universal Postal Frankers, 1952).

MSB (with number) = Meter Stamp Bulletin (with the whole number of the issue in question).

RHK = Item in the collection of R. H. Keach.

JCM = Item in the collection of J. C. Mann.

WHH = Item in the collection of the author.

(I would like to acknowledge the help of John Mann, Hon. Secretary of the Meter Stamp Study Group, in generously supplying photostats of references, of Ray Keach, for the loan of his meter marks for study and of Georges Celis, for supplying some of the more recent items.)

List of Known Meter Marks of Congo

(These are classified according to the machine used together with changes in territory name.)

A) PRE-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD, 1929-1960

TYPE 1 - TIMBOGRAPHE machine - limited value

This is the earliest known type, introduced in 1929, (B & S), although the author has not seen any copy from before 1936. It was unusual in having no townmark, the postal datestamp being applied.

- A1 (B&S)
- A2 LEOPOLDVILLE (copy dated 2.7.41.(RHK)
- A3 ELISABETHVILLE, c.d.19.6.36.(WHH)

(RHK also has a proof sheet of impressions of A2 of the different

value dies, thus: 5c, 10c, 25c, 60c, 1F, 1F50, 1F75, 2F75, 3F50. B & S also lists 20c (rare), 50c, 1F25, 2F, 3F25, 4F, 5F, 6F, 7F, 10F. One may infer from this that some values were withdrawn and new values introduced as postal rates changed.)

It is not known whether more than three machines existed or for how long they were used, so information is welcome.

TYPE @ - HASLER F88 machine - multi-value

Introduced 1948, with a frank of similar design to that used on the same model in Belgium, but inscribed BELGISCH CONGO / CONGO BELGE, but unlike the Belgian examples, those of Congo had no townmark, the postal ods being applied.

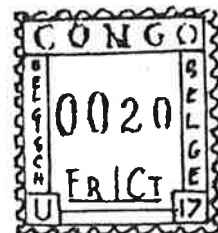


B & S noted that the first four machines had solid rectangles in place of the licence number. Other marks known:

- 5 ('B' omitted) (B&S)
- B6 LEOPOLDVILLE (B&S)
- B7 (error - '7' reversed) (B&S)
- B8 BUKAVU, 1.3.55 (RHK)
- B10 STANLEYVILLE, 2.3.55 (RHK)
- B11 (see under Ruanda Urundi, Type 1)
- BB7 LEOPOLDVILLE (JCM)
- B32 COQUILHATVILLE, 15.4.62 (WHH) (see under Section B, Post-Independence.)
- B35 (JCM)
- B47 LEOPOLDVILLE, also has a townmark (JCM)

TYPE 3 - UNIVERSAL machine - multi-value

Introduced before 1952. Frank design normally 26mm wide. Townmark normally double circle.



- U1 ELISABETHVILLE 5.3.48 BELGE at L, BELGISCHE at R. (B&S)
- U2 ditto - also with BELGISCHE at L, BELGE at R. (B&S)
- U4 (Elisabethville)+
- U6 Townmark solid circle (B&S)
- U7 ditto
- U8 ditto
- U17 LEOPOLDVILLE 23.3.54 (RHK)
- U21 LEOPOLDVILLE (JCM)
- U23 LEOPOLDVILLE 23.4.54 (Frank die 30 mm wide) (RHK)
- U43 (JCM)
- U47 (JCM)
- U63? LEOPOLDVILLE (JCM)

Note: +U4; the author has seen this mark only in mutilated form, (Belgische and Belge removed), with LUBUMBASHI townmark, (see Post-Independence sections), but its existence in original form may be reasonably be inferred.

TYPE 4 - SATAS machine - multi-value

Narrow frank design with townmark in straight line to lower L.

N150 LEOPOLDVILLE 20 NOV 50 (B&S)
 N151 LEOPOLDVILLE 1 JUL 62 (MSB62)
 N152 (JCM)

*Leau fait blanc
 le 1^{er} in fait charter*
 demandes *Reddo*
 ROUGE ET BLANC



20 NOV 50 = LEOPOLDVILLE =

(Illustration reduced - B&S)

TYPE 5 - FRANCO TYP machine - multi-value

Design as shown with single circle townmark.

F1(?) ELISABETHVILLE (B&S)
 F8, F9 F27 - see under Ruanda Urundi.
 F52 LEOPOLDVILLE, 25.4.58 (WHH)
 F88 LEOPOLDVILLE, 1.8.59 (RHK)
 FL)# (JCM)

B) POST-INDEPENDENCE - REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO, 1960-1965

a) MUTILATED MARKS: Initially, the territory inscription was changed to 'Congo' by excising 'Belgische', ~~Belgische~~ and the crown from existing frank dies. Types so treated bear the suffix 'M'.

TYPE 2M

As Type 2, Hasler machine, frank only, with 'Belgische' and 'Belge' excised.

B17 LEOPOLDVILLE/LEOPOLDSTAD (bilingual townmark) (JCM)
 B32 COQUILHATVILLE 28.2.64 (WHH)
 B32 (JCM)

TYPE 3M

As Type 3, Universal machine, with 'Belgische' and 'Belge' excised.

U4 LUBUMBASHI 16 XII 66 (WHH)
 U75 (JCM)

The same mark exists further mutilated by the removal of 'FR' and 'CT', after the change of currency to ma-kuta and sengi.

U4 LUBUMBASHI 25 III 68, 23 IV 68 (WHH)

TYPE 4M

As Type 4, Satas machine, but with 'Belgische' and 'Belge' removed.

N151 LEOPOLDVILLE 31 JUL 63, 17 AOU 67 (MSB 62 and 82)

TYPE 5M

As Type 5, but with 'BELGISCHE' and 'BELGE' excised.

F103 LEOPOLDVILLE 5.62 (JCM)

b) NEW FRANK DESIGNS INSCRIBED 'REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO'

So far, only two marks have come to light, newly inscribed 'Republique du Congo' and 'Congo' respectively, before the name of the territory was changed to 'Republique Democratique du Congo'.

TYPE 6 - Universal machine - multi-value

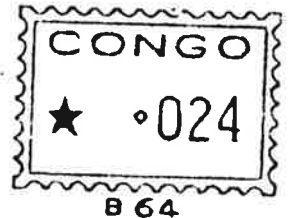
Design as illustrated

U90 KINSHASA 1, 30 x 67 (WHH)

TYPE 7 - Hasler machine - multi-value

Plain design as illustrated, inscribed CONGO, with licence number outside design.

B64 LUBUMBASHI 29 XII 67 (MSB 82)

c) POST-INDEPENDENCE, REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, 1965-1971

During this period, the currency was changed from francs and centimes to ma-kuta and sengi, but since both are decimal currencies, little alteration was necessary in the frank designs.

TYPE 8 - Hasler machine - multi-value

Design similar to Type 7 but taller, with REPUBLIQUE reading up L and DEMOCRATIQUE down R.

B23 KINSHASA 13.12.69 (MSB 96)
B130 LUBUMBASHI 1 13.11.71 (WHH)
6.6.72 (WHH)

TYPE 9 - Universal Automax machine - multi-value

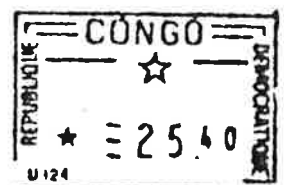
Design as illustrated.

U4 LUBUMBASHI 23.1.69 (WHH)
- error, 10 VII 60
(instead of 70) (WHH)
U34 KINSHASA 1 26 VI 70 (MSB 93)
U79 KINSHASA 1 20 IX 72, (WHH)
18 XII 72 (WHH)
U95 KINSHASA 1 21 IV 71 (MSB 96)

TYPE 10 - Pitney-Bowes 5000 machine

Design as illustrated.

U124 KINSHASA 1 21.12.70 (MSB 96)
U125 KINSHASA 1 24.6.72 (WHH)



D) POST-INDEPENDENCE. ZAIRE. 1971-TYPE 11 - Hasler machine - multi-value

Plain square design, with ZAIRE above, value at centre and licence number below, within frame. Townmark is normally single circle.

- B45 LUBUMBASHI 22.1.77 (TM double circle) (WHH)
 B61 LUBUMBASHI 24 XII 76 (TM double circle) (WHH)
 B121 BUKAVU(?) 18.1.77 (WHH)
 B129 LUBUMBASHI 12.12.76 (WHH)
 B130 LUBUMBASHI 4.7.74 (WHH)
 B138 LUBUMBASHI 16.8.76 (WHH)
 B145 LUBUMBASHI 28.1.77 (WHH)

TYPE 12 - Francotyp machine

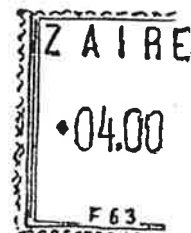
Square design with single frameline inside false perforations, ZAIRE above in small letters licence number in two separate rectangles in lower corners.

- F29 LUBUMBASHI 23.12.76 (WHH)
 F66 LUBUMBASHI 27.1.77 (WHH)
 F76 LUBUMBASHI 1 18.1.76 (WHH)

TYPE 12a - Francotyp machine

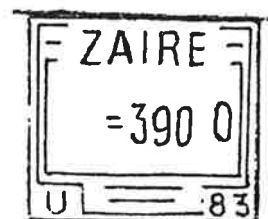
(this design is probably used with a different model of Francotyp machine.)
 As Type 12, but three framelines at sides, two below, ZAIRE larger, licence number placed centrally, unboxed.

- F45 LUBUMBASHI 2.2.77 (WHH)
 F46 KINSHASA (1?) 2.IX.76 (WHH)
 F63 LUBUMBASHI 21.6.76 (WHH)
 F89 LUBUMBASHI 28.1.77 (WHH)
 F127 KINSHASA 1+ 18.7.73 (WHH) +figure '1' at foot.

TYPE 13 - Universal Automax machine

Large rectangular design with large licence no.

- U64 (MSB 107)
 U83 KINSHASA 25 VII 73 (WHH)
 U93 KISANGANI 9 XII 76 (WHH)

TYPE 14 - Pitney Bowes machine

As Type 13, but smaller, with small licence nos.

- U124 KINSHASA 1 25.2.74 (MSB 107)
 U125
 U126 LUBUMBASHI 1 14.7.75 (WHH)

TYPE 15 - Satas machine

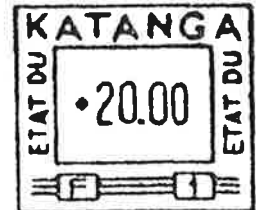
As Type 4, (Belgian Congo), but inscribed ZAIRE.

N151 KINSHASA (?) (MSB 1070)

E) POST-INDEPENDENCE - KATANGAType 1 - Francotyp machine

Design as illustrated, inscribed
ETAT DU KATANGA.

F1 ELISABETHVILLE 2.3.61 (MSB 51)
F11 (ELISABETHVILLE?) (MSB 51)

TYPE 2 - Universal machine

Upright rectangle 27 x 29mm inscribed KATANGA above, ETAT DU upwards on each side. Key-letter 'U' and number in boxes at bottom L and R. Introduced 1961?. (MSB)

THE METER MARKS OF RUANDA-URUNDIA) PRE-INDEPENDENCE, 1951-1962TYPE 1 - Hasler machine

As Type 2 of Belgian Congo, but inscribed RUANDA URUNDI in upper scroll only. No townmark.

B11 USUMBURA 1-(11?)-52 (JEM)+

TYPE 2 - Francotyp machine

Design with false perforation, RUANDA URUNDI in curve above. Licence number in rectangle below, centre, flanked by lions.

F-8 USUMBURA 28.4.54 (JEM)+
F-9 USUMBURA 23.8.74=(WHH)
F-27 USUMBURA 16.2.61 (JEM)+

=date confirmed by BUJUMBURA (sic) postal cds.

B) POST-INDEPENDENCE, REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDITYPE 3 - Francotyp machine

Design as Type 2 of Ruanda Urundi, but inscribed REPUBLIQUE du BURUNDI.

F-(25?) BUJUMBURA 27.7.75 (MSB)



+(JEM) - from the collection of J. E. Mann of the Meter Stamp Study Group.

ZAIRE - PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF LATE APRIL, 1977

Mr. Celis was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to examine between 300,000 and 400,000 of these provisionals at the Central Post Office in Lubumbashi and we are grateful for this opportunity to share in the results of his mammoth study.

The increasing disorganization of the philatelic service of the Zaire post since 1971 has led to a serious shortage of stamps paying normal postal rates; this shortage has in fact been greatly aggravated by the large increase in postal rates on 1 January, 1977: in effect an increase of 3.5 times approximately. Certain post offices had no stamps at all (Likasi, for example) or did not have sufficient values (Lubumbashi had no stamps with a face value above 20k since March, 1977, whereas a 5 gr letter to Europe to be franked with 48k).

The progressive reorganization of the philatelic service had not had much effect up till then; however, after the record of 1976 (only one issue of 4 stamps during the entire year and even that at the end of December!) the postal administration issued an attractive series depicting Zairean art in January, 1977 (unfortunately, this reflected the old postal rates), and then, to meet its difficult financial situation, the administration decided to salvage older stocks of values which were of no postal use.

Quite logically, the choice fell on the Congo 10 sengi value (about 0.04 Belgian francs or 0.06 new pence at the official exchange rate) and on the 9,60k values for which it was practically impossible to find the complimentary 0.40k values (9,60k was an old postal rate dating from before 1970).

We see from an order from the P.T.T. Department (No. 0063/BCE/01260/31/25/77 of 12 April, 1977) that it was decided, "in view of the urgency" to issue the following stamps:

- 1k/10s	(no. 693)	"arms"
- 2k/9,60k	(no. 669)	"leopard"
- 10k/10s	(no. 785)	"monkeys"
- 25k/10s	(no. 753)	"insects"
- 40k/9,60k	(no. 703)	"President Mobutu"
- 48k/10s	(no. 763)	"butterflies"

In addition, since these stamps bore the inscription "Republique Democratique du Congo", this was obliterated by bars and replaced by "Republique du Zaire".

The original face values were greatly increased, except in the case of the 2k and, in particular, note the high value, increased in value by a factor of 480.

Despite the shortage of stamps, this series did not reach the post offices in the interior until June or July. Disorganization? They had been on sale in Kinshasa since the end of April.

The surcharges are typographic, in brilliant black ink, except perhaps for the 2k (but the quality of the paper is so different) where they are often matt black. The work was done locally at Kinshasa, so that the composition of the plates has given rise to several errors and varieties which are listed below.

All the surcharges have small positioning marks in the four corners of the sheet.

1) 1k/10s arms : (sheets of 50 stamps, 5 rows of 10)

The surcharge is made up of 4 lines:

- a fine bar over "Republique Democratique"
- a thicker bar over "10s" and "du Congo"
- the value "1 K" occupies the third line
- the words "Republique du Zaire" form the fourth line

The bars of the surcharge vary in length from 19.5 to 20.5mm, a small variation considering the length.

The distance between the thick bar and the "1K" is 2.5mm except upon numbers 29, 30 and 39 on the plate :

- on number 41 (1.5mm) and number 40 (2mm)

The distance between the "1K" and the line "Republique du Zaire" is

- 4.5mm for the second and fourth lines, and for number 29
- 5mm for the first and third lines (except no. 29)
- 5.5mm for the fifth line.

Curiosities:

- the word "Zaire" is barely, or even not, printed on the 10th stamp on the plate
- the figure "1" is reduced to a small vertical line on number 17 and 18 of the plate.

The sheets are generally marred by black ink fingerprints, especially in the margins.

2) 2k/9,60k leopard : (sheets of 100 stamps, 10 rows of 10)

The surcharge is made up of 5 lines:

- the words "Republique du Zaire"
- one bar over "Republique Democratique du Congo"
- two bars covering "9,6K"
- the figures "2K" in the bottom right corner

The words "Republique du Zaire" show nothing of note.

The bar on the old inscription varies in length from 31.5 to 33mm. Due to this, the word "Zaire" ends slightly before or slightly after the bar, depending on position on the sheet. The bar reaches 33mm on numbers 32, 51, 61 and 91. It is as short as 31.5mm only on numbers 8, 55, 67 and 68. In most cases it measures between 32 and 32.5mm. It is longer than the words on about 10 occasions on each sheet.

The second table shows the lengths of the bars on "Republique Democratique du" and "Congo".

28 14.5	28 14.5	28.5 14.5	27.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	27 15	29 14.5	29 15	28 15	29 15
29 14.5	29 14.5	28.5 15	29 14.5	29 14.5	29 14.5	28.5 15	28.5 14.5	28.5 15.5	28.5 14.5
29 14.5	29 14.5	29 14.5	29 14.5	28.5 15.5	29 14.5	29 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5
28.5 14.5	29 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 15	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5
28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14.5	28.5 14	29 14.5
31 16	30.5 16	30.5 16	30 16	30 16	30.5 15.5	30.5 16.5	29.5 16	29.5 16	29.5 16
30.5 16	30.5 15.5	29.5 16	29.5 15.5	29.5 15.5	29.5 16	30.5 16	29.5 15.5	29.5 15.5	29.5 16
29.5 15	29 15	29.5 15	29.5 14.5	29.5 15	29.5 15.5	29.5 15	29.5 15.5	29.5 15	29.5 15
30.5 15.5	30.5 15	30 15.5	29.5 15.5	29.5 15.5	30.5 15.5	29.5 15.5	29.5 15	29.5 15.5	30 15.5
30.5 15.5	30.5 15	30 15.5	29.5 15.5	29.5 15.5	30.5 15	29.5 15.5	29.5 15	29 15.5	30 15.5

To further complicate matters, the bars over the words "Republique Democratique du Congo" are of varying thickness! The longest, that on "Republique Democratique du" has a thickness of 1/3 to 3/4mm. It should, in fact, be possible to give a table of measurements if a lens with a scale were used. To the naked eye, there seems to be four different thicknesses! On the word "Congo" the bar also seems to have two or three different thicknesses from 0.5 to 1mm. As to the bars on the "S", these appear to be uniformly very fine except for that on the final stamp of the last line, and those on the "10" are of a constant thickness (1mm).

Next, the characters forming "10K" are different in the last line from those in the other nine lines; they are thicker and smaller; the letter "K" in particular does not have the top part symmetrical with the lower part. In the last line, the small bar intended to cancel the "S" is directly above the other bar, instead of above and to the right.

To end, it remains to add a table showing three factors :

- the length of the top part of the surcharge (that is from the left hand point of the figure 1 to the right hand end of the small bar cancelling the "S").
- the vertical distance between the words "Republique du Zaire" and the long bar
- certain stamps have the I of ZAIRE incomplete (missing the top 1/3) shown with an I on the table, and some have the A slightly shortened at the top, shown with an A.

17.5 7	16 7	17.5 7	17.5 7	17 6.5 I	17.5 7	16.5 7	17 7	16.5 7	17 7
17.5 6.5	16 6.5	17 6.5	17.5 6.5 I	17.5 6.5	17.5 6.5	16.5 6.5	17 6.5	16.5 6.5	17 6.5
17.5 7	16 7	18 7	17.5 7	17 7	18 7	18 7	17 7	16.5 7	17 7
17 6.5	16.5 6.5	17 6.5	17.5 6.5	17.5 6.5	17 6.5	17 6	17 6.5 A	17 7	17 7
17.5 7.5	17 7.5	17.5 7.5 I	17 7.5	17 7.5	17.5 7	17 7 I	17 7	16.5 7 A	17 7
16.5 7	16.5 7	17.5 7	17 7	17 7	17 7	17 7	17 7 I	17 7	17 7
17 8.5	17.5 8.5	17 8.5	17 8.5	17 8.5	17.5 8.5	17 8.5	17 7	17 8.5	17 7 A
17 7	17 7	17 7	17 7	17 7	17.5 7 I	17 7	17 7	17 7	17 7
17 6.5 A	16.5 6.5	17 6.5	17 6.5 I	17 6.5	17 6.5	17 6.5	17 6.5	17 6.5	16.5 6.5
16 6.5	16 6.5	16 6.5	16 6.5 I	16 6.5	16 6.5	16 6.5	16.5 6.5	16 6.5	16 6.5

One further point of note is that, some 50 times on the sheet, the bar over "Republique Democratique du" is more or less concave in shape; the same applies to the bar over "Congo".

But of all these varieties, the most marked is that produced by the use of the different characters for "10K" in the 1st line.

Note too, that the total height of the surcharge varies with the variation in vertical distance of "Republic du Zaire" from the other elements of the surcharge.

4) 25k/10s insects : (sheets of 50, 10 lines of 5 stamps)

The surcharging plate is of bizarre conception and presents a spectacular error, making this stamp particularly interesting. The words "Republique Democratique du Congo" are in three lines; however, the surcharge has only two bars which never quite manage to correctly cover the three lines of text!

One plate variety leaps to the eye: the 25K is upside-down on the 23rd stamp of the sheet (3rd stamp, 5th row). This error was corrected at some time during the course of the issue.

A second variety: the I of ZAIRE on the first stamp of the plate is replaced by a figure 1.

On the sheets examined, the following further varieties were noted:

- last stamp of the first line: the first of the two bars has a large break
- stamp no. 28 has the U of REPUBLIQUE reduced to two small vertical lines
- stamp no. 25 has the tops of several letters shortened and the top arm of the last E is missing
- the bar covering the 10s is under the PU of REPUBLIC on all stamps except no. 40, where it appears under the EP.

The thickness of the bars varies; the first bar varies in thickness from 1.5 to 1.75mm, but in the second column the thickness is 2mm. The second bar is normally 1mm thick, but in the fourth column, 1.5mm.

These bars are usually 21mm long, except:

- stamp no. 6, 20mm
- stamps nos. 21 and 47, 20.5mm
- stamps nos. 4 and 30, 21.5mm

The short bars over the "10S" also vary in length from 3.5 to 5mm. Normally they are 4.5mm except as shown below.

			5	
5			5	
		4	5	
		4		
		3.5		
		3.5		
		3.5		
		3.5		4

The thickness of these short bars varies from 12/3mm to 21/3mm.

5) 40k/9.6k President Mobutu : (sheets of 50, 5 lines of 10)

As for the 25k/10s, the conception of the surcharge is a trifle strange; the words "Republique Democratique du Congo" are in two lines, however, the surcharge only has one bar, insufficiently wide, to cover them.

The sheets seen were notable for the many spots of ink on them. That apart, there was little else of note except:

- the letter "K" has a shorter top bar on stamps nos. 6 and 43
- the bar of the surcharge varies in length from 21.5 to 23mm; the lengths are noted in the table below
- the word "Zaire" ends in various positions in respect to the end of the bar. Again, this is indicated in the table as follows:
 - + if the word ends to the right of the bar (++) if the entire letter E is to the right of the bar)
 - = if the end of the word is aligned with the end of the bar
 - if the end of the word is to the left of the end of the bar

23 +	23 +	23 =	23 =	23 =	23 =	23 -	23 -	23 -	23 -
23 +	23 -	22.5 =	21.5 =	22.5 -	23 -	23 -	23 -	23 -	22.5 =
23 ++	23 +	23 +	22 +	22.5 =	22.5 =	23 =	22.5 -	23 -	22.5 -
23 =	22.5 =	23 -	22 -	23 ++	22.5 -	23 -	23 -	23 -	23 -
23 ++	23 +	23 +	22 +	23 =	22.5 =	23 -	23 -	23 -	23 -

Both printings (1969 and 1971) exist thus surcharged. The first printing seems to be much less common.

6) 48k/10s butterflies : (sheets of 50 stamps, 10 lines of 5)

The surcharge on this stamp gives a great impression of cleanness. It is composed of 5 lines:

- one line over "10S"
- the new value "48K"
- the wording "Republique du Zaire"
- one line over the word "Republique"
- on line over the words "Democratique du Congo"

The figures "48K" appear oblique on No. 5 of the plate. One sheet has been seen on which the word Zaire on no. 45 was reduced to ZAIL and the long bar underneath was shortened by 5mm.

The long bar is very regular, and is 43.5mm long, except:

- 43mm on nos. 1, 26, 31 and 36
- 44 mm on nos. 15, 38 and 44.

22.

In relation to their length, the other bars vary much more; that over the "10S" varies from 4.5 to 6mm and that over "Republique" from 13 to 14.5mm.

The following table shows the variations in these two bars:

5.5 14	5.5 13	4.5 13.5	5 13.5	6 14
5.5 14	5.5 13.5	4.5 13.5	5 13.5	5 14
5.5 14.5	5.5 13.5	5.5 13.5	5 14	5 14
4.5 14	6 13.5	5 13.5	5 13.5	5 14
5 14	5.5 13.5	5 13.5	4.5 13.5	5 14
5.5 13.5	6 13	5 13.5	5 13.5	5 14
6 13.5	5.5 13.5	5 14	5.5 13.5	5 13.5
5.5 14	6 13	4.5 14	5 13.5	5 14
6 14.5	6 13.5	5 14	5 13.5	5 14
5.5 14.5	5.5 14	5.5 14	5.5 13.5	5 14

This further table shows the varying vertical distance between the bar over the "10S" and the figures "48K":

4	4	3	3	2
3	3	3	3	3
3.5	3	3	2.5	3
3	3	3	2.5	2.5
2	3	3	2.5	2.5
3	2.5	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3
3	3	2.5	2.5	3
3.5	3	3	2.5	2.5
2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5

Where the "48K" is oblique, the distance has been measured between the "8" and the bar. The extremes of 2 and 4mm occur only twice each on the sheet.

SOME KNOWN VARIETIES

These are varieties during the printing process; not plate varieties as already described above.

1) Standard Varieties

	renversée	déplacée	double	recto-verso
1k/10s	would exist	x		
2k/9,6k	x	see below	x	x
10k/10s	x			
25k/10s	x			
40k/9,6k	would exist		x	x
48k/10s	x			

2) The 1k/10s exists with oblique surcharge (making a 20° angle with the horizontal).

3) Varieties on the 2k/9,60k

The 9,60k was printed at l'Imprimerie Concordia de Kinshasa on a thick, mediocre quality, paper in sheets of 100 stamps. Once folded, the paper tears quite easily. At the time of issue, the stamps were packed in parcels of 10 sheets (1000 stamps), stapled together, and then folded in two vertically. To be surcharged, the sheets had to be de-stapled and unfolded.

When the surcharging was done, certain sheets which had not been properly unfolded were creased whilst passing through the machine, nearly always at the 5th or 6th column. Because of this creasing, the size of the sheet was reduced and one, or both, halves of the sheet are found with the surcharge laterally misplaced to quite an extent, not to mention the occasional very strange surcharges which happened to fall on the crease itself. These varieties have been seen at Lubumbashi and Goma.

At other times, the badly folded sheet has caught in the machine and become partly torn or folded. Several spectacular varieties have resulted (see at Lubumbashi).

Still more curious are the surcharge varieties due to the varieties or errors of perforation of the original issue. Examination of several hundreds of sheets has shown the following varieties (confirming the cause of the significant variations in dimensions of these stamps) :

Either the last two lines of perforation, or the remaining nine, could be misplaced. This had a significant effect, since it thus happened that

- the "2K" is missing (misplacement of the final two lines of perforation obliquely, upwards to the right side)
- the words "Republique du Zaire" are found at the bottom of the stamp above (9 rows of perforation misplaced, obliquely, downwards to the right)

A similar phenomenon occurs with the two last rows of vertical perforation, particularly the second last, which can be misplaced so far to the left as to behead the leopard.

Finally, one sheet was found at Mbandaka post office, in which the two last horizontal rows of perforation were missing completely.

4) Most of the values of the series can be found with defective surcharges due to the presence of specks of dirt in the plate; a black dot, surrounded by a circular area in which the letters are missing, appears fairly frequently, particularly in several places on the sheets of 2k and 48k. These defects sometimes appear to be identical on dozens of consecutive sheets.

GEORGES CELIS

MOBUTU DEFINITIVES OF THE REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, "Overseas 4", 2nd Edition, now lists three distinct series of the President Mobutu definitives, these being the 1969 printing, perf. 13 (actually $13 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$), and the 1971 printing, perf. 13 (again $13 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$) and perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ (nearer $13 \frac{3}{4}$).

Gibbons lists the complete series to 100k in the 1969 printing, but both the 1971 series apparently go only to 10k. Listed below is a table showing those which I myself have seen :

		1969 perf. 13 x $13\frac{1}{4}$	1971 perf. 13 x $13\frac{1}{4}$	1971 perf. $13 \frac{3}{4}$
SG 685	1k	x	x	x
SG 686	2k	x		x
SG 687	3k	x	x	x
SG 688	5k	x		x
SG 689	6k	x		x
SG 690	9.6k	x	x	x
SG 691	10k	x	x	x
SG 692	20k	x		
SG 693	30k	x		
SG 694	100k	x		

Can any member assure me that the 2k, 5k and 6k do in fact exist in the 1971 printing, perf. $13 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$, and is it correct that there were no reprints of the three high values after 1969?

Incidentally, all three varieties of the 9.6k listed above were used in the preparation of the 1977 provisional issue.

REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE

In the later President Mobutu series (SG 814-819), Gibbons again list all values as perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ (more properly $13 \frac{3}{4}$), with the sole perforation variety being the 0,04Z, perf. 13. This agrees with my own findings and it may be useful to note that this variety appears to have a lighter shade of green used for the background.

A. RAMSEY

THE LINE-ENGRAVED STAMPS OF THE CONGO AND THEIR MANUFACTURE
 (Continuation from Bulletin 32, pages 6-12)

The Preparation of the Printing Plate

With the die completed and die proofs approved by the printer and by the purchaser of the stamps, the die is finally hardened and a final die proof approved by the printer. A transfer roll, probably two or even three as a precautionary measure, is prepared from the die as previously described. With a transfer roll hardened the design is ready for transfer to the printing plate.

The plate is flat sheet of copper or steel, a little larger than is to be the sheet of stamps to be printed from it, and highly polished on the upper surface. Steel is probably universally used for the present-day printing of stamps and has been the usual material ever since the printing of the Penny Black. Without much doubt, all Congo stamps subsequent to the Mols issues were printed from steel plates. Traditionally, the Mols stamps were printed from copper plates (see Du Four - Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale p. 115) but we are virtually certain that this was not entirely the case. Certain of the plates suffered badly from corrosion, resulting in pitting of the plate and the appearance on the printed stamps of coloured dots in areas that would otherwise be white. There are many such examples but we would quote the 5c centre plate B during its third state, the 10c frame plate III during its first state, the 1 franc centre plate during its fifth state and the 1915 25c centre plate for the booklet panes prior to the second printing. Whereas no one can claim that copper is uncorrodible, we feel sure that such pitting that did occur was rusting of steel plates that were put into the store after use without adequate protection by grease or other water repellent material. The contention that at least some of the Mols plates were of steel is supported by facts in the book 'GUATEMALA 2', reviewed in an earlier Bulletin. Waterlow and Sons were producing stamps for Guatemala at the same time as they were producing the Mols stamps and, the numbers of stamps required being at least of the same order, it is reasonable to presume that the methods adopted for the production of the stamps of the two countries were similar. Our Guatemala collecting friends were somewhat more adventurous than we and obtained firm information from Waterlow on the plates before they were destroyed. Without any apparent reason or sequence, some of the Guatemala plates were of steel and some of copper. Until we have good reason to know or suspect otherwise, we must presume that the Mols plates be considered as a mixture of steel and copper and it is a matter of interesting conjecture to decide which were the copper plates. Waterlow Bros. and Layton produced all the 3fr, 3,50fr and 10fr Mols stamps other than the 10fr Red Cross. Both centre and frame plates of the 3,50fr suffered some corrosion prior to the Princes' Printing and it is presumed that at least these plates were of steel.

Except for its subsequent treatment, it is of no consequence for our present story if the plate is of copper or steel but if the latter, the steel must be in the fully annealed condition prior to final polishing.

The 'subjects' or impressions on the plate have to be set out on the plate in uniform lines and evenly spaced. With the present perfection

in the positioning of the subjects on a plate there can be little doubt that semi-automatic machines are used, these having the lateral position of the plate in the transfer press and the radial position of the transfer roll interlocked so that every subject is located exactly where intended. Previously, and this means probably all Congo stamps printed prior to the last war, the exact position of each subject on the plate was dependent entirely upon the skill of the sideographer, the title of the man who transfers the design to the plate.

To aid correct positioning of the subjects on the plate various means are adopted. Frequently a grid of vertical and horizontal lines are drawn on the plate with the graver; these guide lines, not forming part of the finished stamp designs are very finely drawn. If the plate is to be of a complete stamp or of the frame of a bicoloured stamp, the guide lines are drawn so as to coincide as far as is possible with the outer frame lines of the stamps so that the guide lines are barely visible and need not be burnished out when the plate is completed. Remains of these guide lines on the frame plates are visible on many copies of Mols stamps. Such traces at the top of the stamp and at its left extremity on the 25c of 1894, 1fr of 1910 and 25c of 1915 may be mentioned but such lines can be found on most values, especially in early printings before the very fine lines had been worn away by continued pressure in the printing.

For a centre plate the location of suitable guide lines is not so simple as the outline of the vignette is normally not rectangular or framed. The guide lines, both vertical and horizontal, usually pass through the subjects on the centre plate. Of the first 25c Mols centre plate, particularly visible on the stamps printed in orange and on most stamps in the sheet, traces of vertical and horizontal guide lines are visible in the upper left corner of the vignette. In the third centre plate of the 10c value, that used for the first printings of the 1910 issue, on some impressions vertical guide lines are visible crossing the stern of the steamer and, in the case of No. 7 in the sheet, has achieved Balasse Catalogue status.

Because of the difficulty of burnishing out after the plate is completed or of obscuring centre plate guide lines where they cross the centre designs, such lines are not always continuous and may be intermittent short lengths (these may originally have been continuous lines with most of their lengths burnished smooth prior to laying out the plate - transferring the impressions thereto). For example, on the 25c booklet stamp centres, traces of short lengths of horizontal lines at the immediate left and immediate right of the vignette are visible on most copies.

These guide lines permit the sideographer, for each successive transfer to the plate, to position laterally (both ways) the plate and circumferentially the transfer roll so that when pressure is applied to the transfer roll and it is rocked backwards and forwards, the impression on the plate is in exactly the correct position relative to the other impressions.

Other means have been adopted for ensuring that entries to the plate are in their correct positions and notable among these is the 'side point'. Most 1915 5c stamps from frame plate V, the common one for the sheets of 50, have quite a large green dot in the vertical white

line about midway between the N of CENTIMES and the left outer frame line. This dot is absent from all stamps in the left vertical column of the sheet but, with very few exceptions, is clearly visible on the remaining stamps in the sheet. Moreover, there is a line of dots in the right selvedge of the sheet, these being positioned at mid-height of each of the ten rows of stamps. These 50 dots were positioned on the frame plate when it was originally prepared and before transfer of the subjects. A 'point' or needle was firmly clamped to the mandrel of the transfer roll in such a position that when the needle was precisely positioned on the dot scribed on the plate and the transfer roll then lowered into the plate the subject transferred was in precisely the intended position. It is clear that the 1915 frame had the impression sideways on the transfer roll i.e. the height of the stamp was circumferential, whereas we know that the frames of the 1894 issue were lengthways on the roll. The dots in the right selvedge were used for positioning the adjacent subjects of the right vertical column (of the printed sheet of stamps, left vertical column on the plate); the left vertical column of stamps in the sheet were located on the plate by the dots found in the second vertical column. It follows that when preparing the plate the subjects were entered from right to left (the left column of stamps on the printed sheet entered first).

Side point dots are found on other Congo stamps. Large dots in a more or less constant position are found in the frame plate colour on many stamps in the sheet of the 3fr and 10fr of 1910. These must have been side point dots and it is presumed that the dots missing from some subjects must have been burnished from the plate before the stamps were printed.

Study of a pane of the 1928 Stanley stamps shows the presence of a large dot approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm above each stamp, midway above the top frame lines, except for the right vertical column where there are no dots. There must have been a row of dots at the right hand side of the plate that would have become the left selvedge had it not been removed before the stamps were printed. In transferring each subject to the plate the dot to the right of the subject on the plate (the dot to the left of the subject on the sheet of stamps) was used to position the transfer roll.

The plates of the 1934 air stamps had side points that are visible in the top margin of each stamp, above the R of AERIEN, if the perforations have not removed it.

Small black crosses, like + signs, are sometimes to be seen in the left margin, at mid-height, of 5c and 10c stamps of 1915 (plates V+E and V+D respectively) and it appears to be almost certain that they were used for locating side points to give correct positioning of the subjects in the laying down of the centre plates. Whereas all the crosses on the 5c centre plate were left and appear on the printed stamps, at least in early printings, most of the crosses on the 10c centre plate must have been removed by burnishing; only a few, notably those to the left of stamps Nos. 37, 42 and 50, remained to appear on the printed stamps. Similar crosses are found in black (therefore on the centre plate) at about mid-height in the left parts of the frames of the 5c booklet stamps but these appeared only with the second printing and will be considered later when repairs to the plates are discussed.

It is said that the common practice with, say, a plate of 50 subjects, 5 wide by 10 high, was, maybe also is, first to transfer to the plate one of the two centre horizontal rows of subjects, perhaps the fifth (measured from the top and to follow this with the sixth, then the fourth, the seventh, the third, the eighth, the second, the ninth, the top and finally the bottom row); this was certainly the procedure in laying down the frameplate of the 1910 1fr as will be demonstrated later. The reason for this sequence is said to be to reduce the effect of expansion of the plate laterally due to the high pressure of the press producing some reduction in the thickness of the plate. Whereas the writer appreciates that there will be some 'growth' of the plate during entering of the impressions, he is unable to see how matters are improved by commencing entry in the middle of the plate.

Before entering any subject onto the plate, located securely on the bed of the transfer press, the transfer roll is positioned above the plate in as accurate a location as possible using guide lines or side point dots as a guide and the transfer roll is then lowered onto the plate. Very substantial pressure is then applied to the roll and it is rocked backwards and forwards so that the whole of the impression, in relief on the transfer roll, is transferred, in recess, onto the plate. The pressure on the plate and the number of 'passes' (rockings backwards and forwards) of the roll need to be sufficient for the design to be fully transferred to the plate and therein lies part of the skill of the sideographer.

When all subjects have been entered onto the plate, it is carefully examined with a glass and any burrs or locally raised parts are removed with a scraper and the area locally burnished and cleaned. If the plate has become distorted by the pressures exerted in the transfer press and is no longer flat, it is flattened by hammering on the back of the plate, the precise positioning and strength of the hammer blows being of great importance and requiring substantial skill.

If necessary, the plate is repolished and a 'pull' or proof print, a true 'plate proof', taken from it by inking the plate and pressing onto it a sheet of paper. The proof sheet is examined very closely to discover mistakes and weaknesses in the impressions on it and then to decide what corrections and repairs need to be made to the plate before it is fit to use.

Faults in the Prepared Printing Plate and Their Correction.

1) Subjects on the plate not 'square'. If a sheet or block of the 1910 10fr is examined and a ruler or straight-edge placed along the top or bottom frame of any stamp, it is seen that each subject is askew relative to the plate itself, although all subjects are mutually parallel. This fault was probably due to the original die being askew in the transfer press when the transfer roll was prepared so that the impression on the roll was askew and, successively, each subject on the plate.

Clearly such an error could be corrected only by commencing a new plate and doing the work all over again; this would be justified only if the subjects were grossly askew.

2) Damage to the transfer roll before hardening. The soft steel of the relief impression on the transfer roll can easily be damaged by a light blow from a tool or by dropping onto a hard surface. This must have happened to the transfer roll of the casement (frame) of the 1894 5fr. If any example of this stamp is examined, a light spot will be observed at the extreme left of the frame and at about the height of the native chief's shoulder. This 'white spot' is not found on the 'publicity proofs' with the green frames and a second transfer roll must have been used for preparing the plates of nine subjects from which the proofs were printed.

3) Damage to the transfer roll during preparation of the plate. After hardening of the transfer roll the surface becomes more brittle and the raised impression of the stamp design rather fragile. With the sideways pressure induced during the 'rocking in' operation whereby the impression is transferred from the roll to the plate, part of the relief design can become detached, usually being retained at one end. This occurred on several occasions with the Congo stamps.

The best known example is on the frame plate used for the 1910 1fr value. The penultimate horizontal row of impressions rocked into the plate was the bottom, this in the sequence 50, 49, 48, 47 and 46. Immediately prior to the rocking in of No. 50 a 1½mm length of the right frame line (right on the stamp and on the transfer roll but of course left on the plate) at about mid-height became detached from the roll except at its lower extremity. Between Nos. 50 and 49 this 1½mm length became completely detached except at its upper extremity. This short length of partly detached 'wire' is clearly visible on Nos. 49, 48, 47 and 46, its position varying somewhat from impression to impression, but it had become completely detached before rocking in of the last horizontal row of impressions, the top row on the plate and sheet and this in the sequence 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1. Prior to rocking in No. 5 the frame line had deteriorated further, the remainder of this line becoming loose but not detached. On each of the ten impressions 1 to 5 and 46 to 50 the frame line was completed on the plate by means of the graver.

Another notable example of the transfer roll becoming damaged in the same way during rocking in is seen in the frame of the 1,25fr Congo 1947 Masques. This plate was rocked in from left to right (right to left as it appears on a sheet of stamps) and upwards in each column. Prior to No. 38 a short length of the cross-hatching above the NG of the lower word 'CONGO' became loose but not detached at either end; on Nos. 28 and 18, the next two impressions to be entered, conditions were largely unchanged but prior to No. 8, the next impression, the short length of 'wire' had become detached at its lower end and askew and it remained so for Nos. 47 and 37. In each of the impressions 18, 8, 47 and 37 the line of cross-hatching has been completed by hand application of the graver to the plate. After No. 37 (No. 27 et seq.) there is no trace of the loose 'wire'; it may have broken off and the line on the plate been completed with the graver or a second and undamaged transfer roll may have been used to complete the entering on the plate.

Other examples, but affecting fewer impressions on the plate, are in the frame of the 1,50fr Congo Masques (to the left of the figure 1 and affecting only No. 41; also in the frame of the 1894 10c (and of course the 1895 and 1900 10c which were printed from the same

plate), the partly detached part of the transfer roll being of the top frame line above the T of INDEPENDANT and affecting Nos. 9, 8 and 7 in the sheet.

4) Rolling marks. If a small piece of metal or other hard material adheres to the relief design on the transfer roll when an impression is being entered in the plate, the fragment of metal will be pressed into the copper or soft steel of the plate and the consequent indentation will appear as a coloured spot or line on the printed stamps. If the adventitious matter is removed, disintegrates or otherwise disappears before the next impression is entered only the one position in the plate will show the imperfection and there is no way of knowing if it is due to a foreign body on the transfer roll or if the finished plate has received a knock. The foreign body sometimes adheres to the transfer roll for several impressions, often gradually disintegrating. There are many examples of rolling marks on the Mols stamps, mostly very minor: in the first frame plate (III) used for the 1910 5c there is a green spot $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the B of BELGE on Nos. 3, 2 and 1, most prominent on No. 3 and barely visible on No. 1; in the last centre plate (D) used for the 1915 25c (also for the Red Cross stamps) there is on Nos. 2, 1, 10 and 9 (and decreasing in strength in that sequence) a short, thick line $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm to the left of the left negro; on the same 25c centre plate there is a second and similar mark 1mm to the right of the other and clearly visible on Nos. 9, 8, 7 and 6, strongest on No. 9 and weakest on No. 6. Study of blocks and sheets of the Mols stamps discloses many other such rolling marks.

In the Masques issues much the most prominent rolling mark is in the frame of the 2fr Ruanda Urundi where a larger spot is very visible in the upper part of the figure 2 on Nos. 17, 7, 46, 36, 26, 16 and 6, strongest on No. 17 and weakest on No. 6. There are several rolling marks to be found on other values.

Much the best known rolling mark on Congo stamps is the 'dot on the mountain' of the 5c centre plate F (the so-called Type III centre) used for late printings of the 1915 issue and more commonly found with Malines and 1922 Local surcharges. In this case the rolling mark affects every position in the sheet; a piece of very hard metal must have got embedded into the surface of the transfer roll.

5) Weak or Incomplete Transfer. If the plate was not perfectly flat and had a dent in it at one point or if the transfer roll was applied to the plate with unequal or insufficient pressure the relief on the transfer roll may not be completely transferred to the plate so that the recessed lines of some part of the subject are shallow or non-existent and this will show on the proof sheet as weak or missing lines on one or more subjects. Prominent examples of such faults are seen in the 1894 25c Nos. 26 and 27 in the sheet where the bottom frame line is missing at the right end and in the 1898 3,50fr where the top left frame line is missing on No. 11. Also should be mentioned the missing shading of the water in Nos. 10 and 35 of the 1898 10fr.

If the original die was, in some place, only weakly engraved, this weakness will be apparent, even increased, on the proof sheet from the plate. There are many instances of such weak engraving. The

top and bottom frame lines of the 1894 25c are very weak and many completely disappeared from the plate during its use. The shading in the triangle in the left top corner of the frame and that within the circle around the left figures 10 of the 1898 10fr must have been very weak and, as we shall see, had to be repaired before the plate was thought fit for use.

Such weaknesses in the designs on the plate can be corrected in one of two ways: a) by deepening and widening the weak lines with the graver as was used in the engraving of the die and b) by replacing the plate in the transfer press and applying the transfer roll again to the subjects that require deeper engraving. Which means is adopted depends on how much of the design is affected.

Touching up the plate with a graver, if this re-engraving is not perfect, and it rarely can be, results in 'original' retouches (retouches before the plate has been used for printing stamps) and malburins, the last where the burin or graver has slipped and there is an engraved line or scratch where there should be none. Mention has been made of the weakness of engraving of the frame of the 1898 10fr and every subject on the plate was touched-up with the graver. If a few copies are examined it will be seen that the shading lines inside the framed triangle in the upper left corner of the stamp vary from stamp to stamp such that it is almost possible to position a stamp in the sheet solely by the extent and direction of the engraved shading at this point. On the same stamp, with the exception of No. 1 in the sheet, the shading within the circle around the left figure 10 was also retouched with the graver. The frame and shading lines at the top and bottom of the same stamp were also very weak and there was much retouching of these lines resulting in malburins where a) the lines are extended beyond their original limits and b) the graver has slipped while held in the engraver's hand and produced a scratch not conforming to the design; the latter type of malburin is evident at the top of the stamp on Nos. 15 (above the PE of INDEPENDANT), 26 (above ANT of INDEPENDANT), 28 (above DEP of INDEPENDANT), 32 (near the right extremity of the top frame line), 33 (above P of INDEPENDANT), 36 (near the top right corner), 44 (above DE of INDEPENDANT), 45 (above N of CONGO) and 46 (above the second N of INDEPENDANT). Moreover, the same stamp has irregular thicknesses of the four horizontal lines of shading at the top resulting from rather careless touching up.

Probably most of the Mols plates were touched up by the graver in order to strengthen details where the engraving was relatively weak, but where the work was done carefully only expert study can determine these original retouches. Careful study of the stamps and comparison of one copy with another can disclose some carelessly done retouching of the original plates of these stamps.

In this respect, predominant amongst the 1947 Masques is the 70c Congo where the engraving on the die of the cross-hatching to the right (on the printed stamp) of the figurine must have been very weak indeed and it was thought necessary to touch up with the graver every subject on the plate, and this so crudely that any stamp can be positioned in the sheet by reference to this one feature.

Repair to the plate before printing of the stamps by re-application of transfer roll in the transfer press will be dealt with at some length under 'Fresh Entries'.

R. H. KEACH

STAMP VALUES

I have been interested, as I am sure many people have, to see the advertisements and articles in the press as to the amount of profit which can be made by investing in rare stamps. This has caused me to look at the stamps I collect and see how in fact they have fared over the last 25-28 years. I attach as a separate schedule the annual growth rates of the stamps that I personally am particularly interested in. The fact of different periods for each country is due purely to the ready availability of old catalogues.

Where I talk about annual growth rates, these are in simple and not compound terms. In other words, where I find a stamp catalogued at Fr.750 in 1960, Fr.3,500 in 1976 and Fr.6,000 in 1979 I can see that the growth from 1960-76 is Fr.2,750, i.e. 366% which, divided by 16 years, gives an annual growth rate of 23% - from 1960-70 the growth is Fr.5,250, i.e. 700%, which divided by 19 gives a 36% annual growth rate and lastly in the last three years a growth of Fr.3,500 to Fr.6,000 = Fr.2,500 giving a growth rate of 71% which divided by 3 gives an annual rate of 24%.

If I may quote from an article in the Daily Telegraph in July of this year, this quoted a report by the investment house of Salomon Bros. which gave compounded growth rates as follows:

"According to the Salomon report here are the annual compounded growth rates for the 10-year period ended in May for American investors. Chinese Ceramics, 19.2 p.c.; gold 16.3 p.c.; stamps 15.4 p.c.; old masters 13 p.c.; non-gold coins, 13 p.c.; diamonds, 12.6 p.c.; crude oil 11.5 p.c.; farmland, 10.6 p.c.; existing homes, 9.2 p.c.; foreign exchange 6.2 p.c.

The consumer price index during that period has risen at 6.1 p.c. rate which is matched by Salomon Brothers on index of bond values while the growth rate of the Standard and Poor's Composite of Common shares has turned out a 2.8 p.c. rise annually on average."

I am well aware of course that catalogue value is not necessarily a particularly good indication of what a stamp will fetch at auction and from which usually 15-17½% commission has to be deducted. It is nevertheless a fair guide for an average stamp of the growth rate over a considerable period of years.

I think the interesting thing to see is the relative steadiness of growth of the values of the classic stamps in the stronger economies of Belgium and Luxembourg and the slower growth rate for an African country like the Belgian Congo. I have also shown separately the growth rate of the mint stamps only. Generally speaking this is higher than used stamps, but not in all cases, and in any event these are average rates for all stamps in one issue, which can and do vary amongst themselves quite considerably. The 1893 stamps of Belgium show by far the highest growth rates. For example the 35 centimes brown No. 61 mint stamp of 1893 has risen from a value of Fr.25 in 1951 to Fr.1,550 in 1979, a rise of 61 times in value of 217% per annum. On the other hand you can find disaster areas in Belgian Congo stamps where a stamp quoted in 1955 at Fr.200 is quoted at Fr.175 today, an absolute loss.

The most striking feature, as I said above, is the steady rate of growth of classic stamps and in fact, as can be seen on the summary, the growing rate of growth of Belgian and Luxembourg classics, more particularly Belgian.

Other articles recently published covering also a 10 year period showed much the same picture of these sort of growth rates which must surely make one a little thoughtful in an inflationary world of the value in investing wholly in equity shares, certainly for a first investor. To quote the Salmon report on the American market up to 1978; this shows only a 2.8% rise per annum over a 10 year period whereas stamps show a 15.4% growth rate, presumably on American stamps, and they are by no means the leaders.

One further comment; these valuations are comparing Belgian Franc values in the 1950's and 1960's with today's Belgian Frank catalogue values. There is obviously a further material gain to the British investor, as the Belgian Franc today at 60 to the pound compares very favourably with its rates at 30th June 1951 of 140, 1961 of 138 and 1973 of 93.

STAMPS

Comparative Summary of Annual Growth Rates

Catalogues used:

Prifix Luxembourg, Catalogue Officiel for recent
and Prinnet for early Belgian & Belgian Congo

BELGIUM

Mint only

	Over 23 years %	Over 28 years %	Last 5 years %	Over 23 years %	Over 28 years %	Last 5 years %
<u>1863</u> P.12½ M & U	13	31	28	15	31	25
<u>1865</u> M & U	13	30	29	16	35	29
<u>1893</u> M & U	31	93	43	42	132	48
<u>1912</u> M & U	19	77	47	26	99	62
<u>1914/5</u> M & U N.122 Croix Rouge	40	60	48	46	80	54
<u>1946</u> M & U Van Ackers (ex Ghislenghien)	9	39	57	10	44	60
1920 Eupen & Malmedy (M & U)	11	29	29	11	29	30

<u>LUXEMBOURG</u>	Over 16 years %	Over 19 years %	Last 3 years %	Over 16 years %	Over 19 years %	Last 3 years %
<u>1852</u> Used	8	9	6	-	-	-
<u>1859</u> M & U	26	34	17	25	40	22
<u>1865</u> issues M & U	18	27	17	22	37	24
<u>1874</u> M & U	16	28	20	18	36	21
<u>1880</u> M & U	25	34	11	27	30	12
<u>1882</u> M & U	21	39	28	29	55	33
<u>1891</u> M & U	28	33	12	22	29	14
<u>BELGIAN CONGO</u>	Over 19 years %	Over 23 years %	Last 5 years %	Over 19 years %	Over 23 years %	Last 5 years %
<u>1886</u> + CP M & U	11	17	14	12	18	13
<u>1887</u> CP only M & U	16	24	13	17	27	16
MOLS <u>1894</u> 26/29 M & U	8	12	13	7	10	13
<u>1909</u> C.B. Surcharge - Local, Brussels & Typo 37/39	5	10	13	3	8	13
<u>1909</u> Unilingue M & U	10	17	14	9	17	16
<u>1910</u> Bilingue M & U	11	19	14	12	20	15
<u>1915</u> Bilingue mod. M & U	15	22	14	15	25	16
<u>1921</u> 91A/93A&B/ 94A&B M	-	-	-	1	3	10
<u>Ruanda-Urundi</u>						
<u>1916</u> M & U	7	13	13	7	13	14

L. G. GREEN

by Abbe G. Gudenkauf.

We have useful books on the 1 F, 5 F and 10 F ETAT INDEPENDANT Mols and, years ago, the BCSC published an excellent study of the 1 F, distinguishing the two shades, violet and carmine.

With the help of M. Vindevoghel, we have studied now the 3,50 F Mols, the rarest stamp of the series. 51,000 copies were issued but 27,800 of these received the overprint 'CONGO BELGE', leaving 23,200 copies without overprint.

We now know of two complete sheets without overprint; the Baron de Moffarts has been very kind, lending us his sheet for study. This sheet together with a sheet with typographed 'CONGO BELGE' overprint, two nearly complete reconstructed sheets and a completely reconstructed sheet of the 3,50 F Princes-typo, has provided us with ample material to study the plate varieties. In our listing of the varieties we have included only those that were constant, continuing into the Princes' Printing.

After many years of search, I found one block of four cancelled in Leopoldville; I have not seen another used block. The normal usage was probably for parcels, the stamp following the famous CP stamps, overprinted for that purpose. Large blocks of the 5 F and of the 10 F are not rare but I have never seen one of our value.

But the stamp was used also on heavy letters sent by big corporations in the Congo: Compagnie du Kasai, S.A.B. - A.B.I.R. - Cie. du Chemin de Fer de Matadi-Leopoldville etc. and, although rarely, on telegrams.

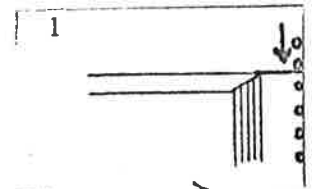
Hereunder is a list of the known covers bearing the 3,50 F stamp; the last three are undoubtedly 'philatelic'.

- 1) The envelope of a small parcel bearing one copy of the 3,50 F and one of 50 c has been preserved; the year is 1905; the weight of 103 gr is indicated, this requiring seven times the normal tariff of 50c plus 50c for registration.
- 2) The Baron de Moffarts has a very large cover with seven copies of the 3,50 F; the package was very heavy, the stamps being in accordance with the weight inscribed on the envelope.
- 3) A neat cover, sent from Boma in 1899 to Leipzig with a Lisbon transit mark, with one copy of the 3,50 F. The weight was only 6 gr and, including registration, 1 F postage would have sufficed.
- 4) A large cover sent from Boma on 11 April, 1899 and bearing eight different Mols stamps and one 5 c of the second issue. The stamps have the rare cancellation BOMA 1.4.
- 5) A cover with the three top values (the 10 F is perforated 12) sent from Thysville on 18 November, 1908 to Brazzaville (arrival mark on the back).

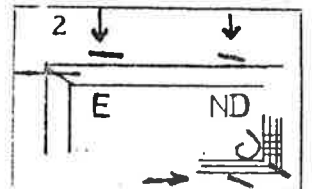
In the identifying features of the fifty positions in the sheet, the varieties are generally of the frame plate, in the vermilion colour. Where imperfections are of the centre plate, they are in black, which word is underlined.

10 April, 1979

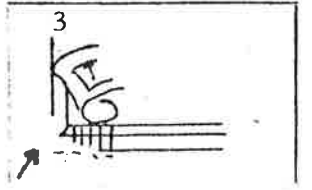
No. 1 - Top frame extended to the right, reaching stamp No. 2.



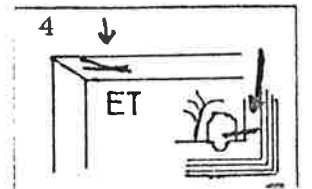
No. 2 - Horizontal scratches in top margin above E of ETAT and above second ND of INDEPENDANT.
Short oblique black scratch under bottom right corner.



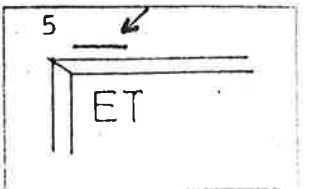
No. 3 - Bottom left corner missing.



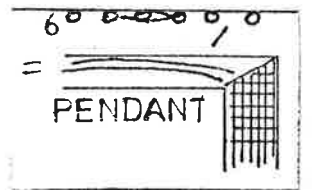
No. 4 - Two oblique crossing scratches between frame lines near top left corner.
Curved black scratch under and to the right of the last hut on the right.



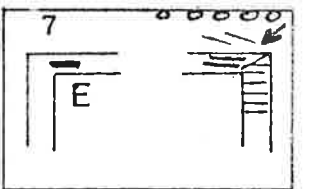
No. 5 - Long horizontal scratch in top margin above E of ETAT.



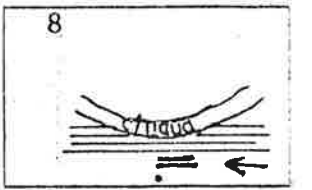
No. 6 - Double nearly horizontal scratches between frame lines above PENDANT of INDEPENDANT.



No. 7 - Two nearly horizontal scratches between the frame lines near the top right corner.
Nearly horizontal scratch between the frame lines above E of ETAT.

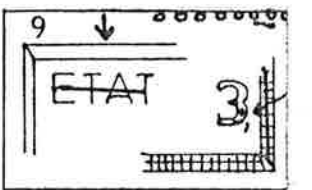


No. 8 - Two horizontal scratches in bottom margin, under QUA of CINQUANTE.

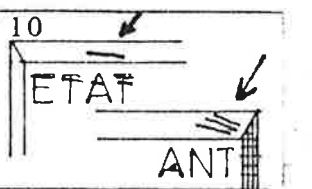


No. 9 - Dot in the 3 of the right 3,50.

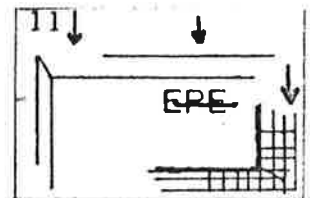
Horizontal black scratch, normally through TA of ETAT.



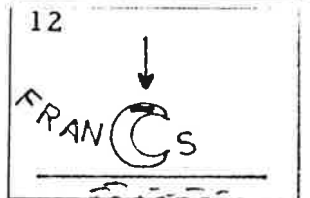
No. 10 - Three parallel oblique scratches between frame lines, above NT of INDEPENDANT.
Oblique scratch between frame lines, above AT of ETAT.



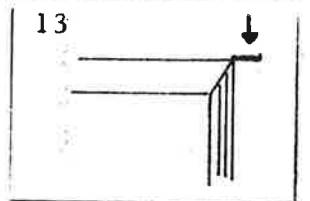
No. 11 - Top frame line missing on the left.
Two lowest horizontal lines missing in bottom right corner.
Nearly horizontal black scratch through EPE of INDEPENDANT.



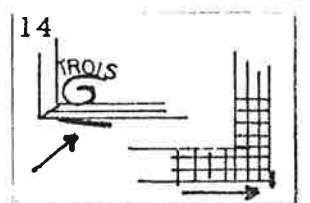
No. 12 - Horizontal scratch in top of C of FRANCS.



No. 13 - Short extension of the top frame line to the right.



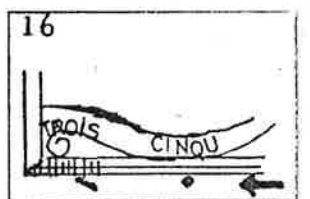
No. 14 - Short extension of the right frame line upwards.



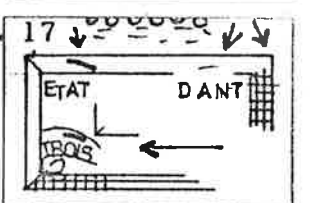
No. 15 - Horizontal dotted scratch in bottom margin, under S and C of FRANCS CINQUANTE.



No. 16 - Large red dot in bottom margin under and between N and Q of CINQUANTE.
Oblique scratch in bottom margin, under IS of TROIS.



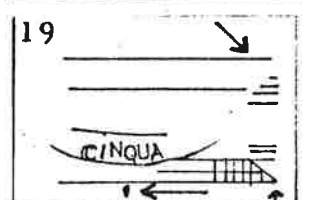
No. 17 - Inner top frame line missing above T of INDEPENDANT.
Oblique scratch between frame lines above second T of ETAI.
Oblique line missing between the frame lines in top right corner.
Oblique black scratch normally above I of TROIS.



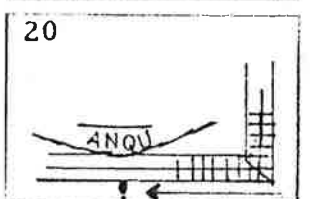
No. 18 - Horizontal scratch in bottom margin, under AN of FRANCS.



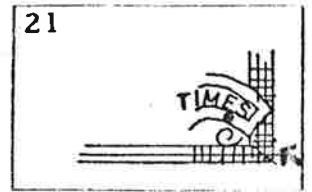
No. 19 - Oblique line missing between frames at top right corner.
One horizontal line missing at bottom right corner.
Vertical line in bottom margin, under and between NQ of CINQUANTE.



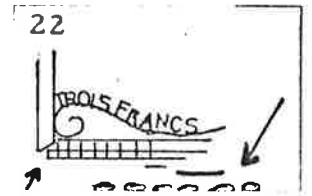
No. 20 - Exclamation mark (!) in bottom margin, under and between NQ of CINQUANTE.



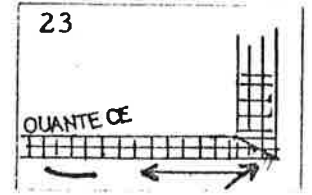
No. 21 - Red spot just under the second E of CENTIMES.



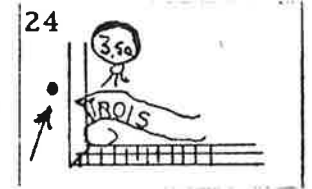
No. 22 - Bottom left corner open.
Horizontal scratch under A of FRANCS.
Horizontal dotted scratch under S of FRANCS.
Horizontal scratches under UA and TE of CINQUANTE (not shown on illustration).



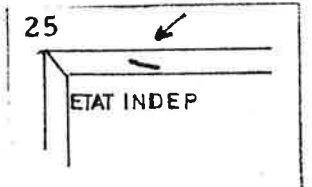
No. 23 - One horizontal line missing in the bottom right corner.
Horizontal scratch in bottom margin, under AN of CINQUANTE.



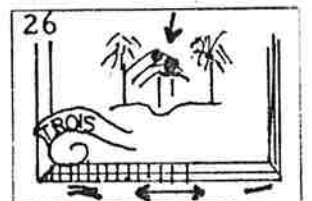
No. 24 - Red spot in left margin, a little above TROIS.



No. 25 - Oblique scratch between the frame lines, above first ND of INDEPENDANT.



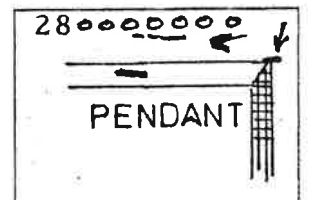
No. 26 - Two red dots in the centre of the vignette.
Two horizontal scratches in bottom margin, under OIS of TROIS.
Oblique scratch just under bottom right corner.



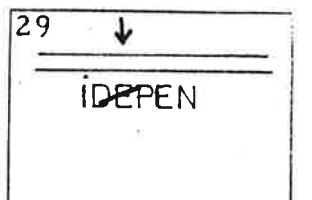
No. 27 - Vertical guide line through first N of CINQUANTE but shorter than that on No. 42.



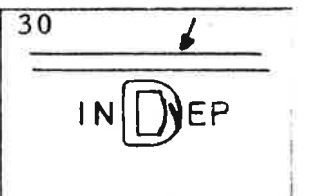
No. 28 - Short extension of the top frame line to the right.
Several nearly horizontal scratches in top margin.
Horizontal scratch between frame lines above EN of INDEPENDANT.



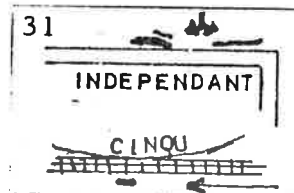
No. 29 - Diagonal scratch in bottom margin under S C of FRANCS CINQUANTE.



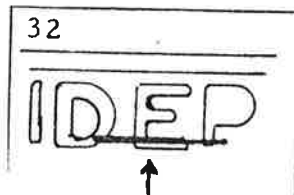
No. 30 - Curved line (fresh entry ?) in the first D of INDEPENDANT.



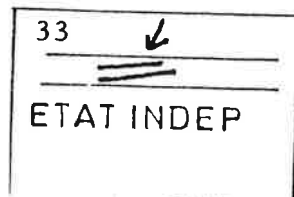
No. 31 - Horizontal scratches in top margin, above PEN and ANT of INDEPENDANT.
Horizontal scratches in bottom margin, under CI of CINQ and under bottom right corner.



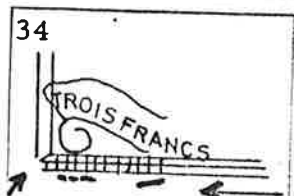
No. 32 - Thick horizontal line (fresh entry ?) through EP of INDEPENDANT.



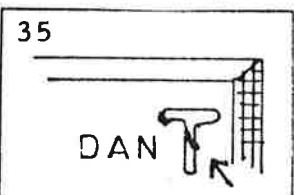
No. 33 - Two horizontal scratches between the frame lines, above T and I of ETAI INDEPENDANT.



No. 34 - Bottom left corner open.
Oblique scratches in bottom margin under RO of TROIS and under R of FRANCS.



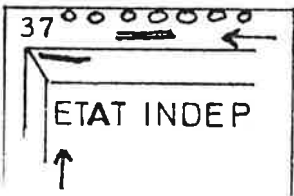
No. 35 - Thick curved line in the middle of the T of INDEPENDANT.



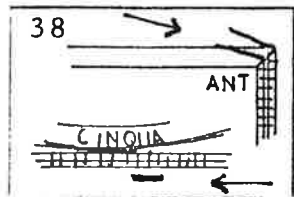
No. 36 - Vertical line through the right of the letter S of FRANCS.



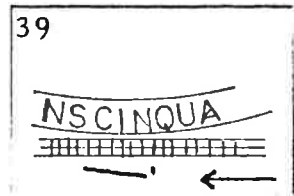
No. 37 - Long horizontal scratch between the frame lines above E of ETAT.
Two horizontal scratches in top margin above T and I of ETAI INDEPENDANT (sometimes cut by the perforations).



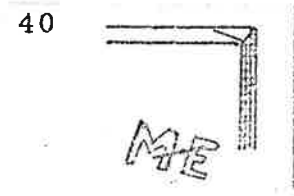
No. 38 - Two oblique parallel scratches, one in the top margin, the other between the frame lines, in the top right corner.
Horizontal scratch in bottom margin, under UA of CINQUANTE.



No. 39 - Nearly horizontal scratch in bottom margin, under CIN of CINQUANTE.



No. 40 - Diagonal scratch between the frame lines in the top right corner. Dotted horizontal scratch under IN of CINQUANTE (not illustrated).
Transient black scratch in M of CENTIMES.



- No. 41 - Two red guide dots in the centre of the vignette. Scratch in bottom margin, under NT of CENTIMES.
- No. 42 - Long vertical guide line through first N of CINQUANTE.
- No. 43 - The two bottom corners are very clearly doubled due to fresh entry.
- No. 44 - Horizontal scratch in top margin above ET of ETAT (sometimes cut by the perforations). Two parallel oblique scratches between the top frame lines in the left corner.
- No. 45 - Short oblique scratch in bottom margin under EN of CENTIMES. Horizontal scratch in top margin above the right part of the E of ETAT.
- No. 46 - Two curved scratches under the bottom right corner. Slightly oblique scratches in bottom margin, under RANCS C of FRANCS CINQUANTE.
- No. 47 - Slightly oblique scratch in bottom margin, under S of TROIS. Horizontal black scratch usually under and at the right of T of INDEPENDANT.
- No. 48 - Horizontal scratch between the frame lines, above A of ETAT.
- No. 49 - Curved line in the left part of the 0 of the right 3,50. Scratch formed of small dots under bottom right corner.
- No. 50 - Long oblique scratch in bottom margin under QUA of CINQUANTE.

