

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN NO. 36

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EDITORIAL: For the past two issues of the Bulletin, we have been most fortunate in having a wealth of material to publish, but we must now match our philatelic literature appetite with our pocketbook. With this issue, we are attempting to reduce the size, not with the idea of stifling contributions, but to keep from completely eliminating any sort of treasury. If you have sent in material, and it has not seen the light of print, do not despair - we will try to get it in some future Bulletin. So please have patience with your Editor - it does take a bit of juggling.

NECROLOGY

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Douglas F. Thomson on 26 February, 1980. He had been a member of the Study Circle since 1953. Many years ago he gave us a display of his postal stationery, the only meeting that I, unfortunately through ill health, had to miss.

Doug was no specialist in the stamps of the Congo but he was a keen member of the Circle, always attending meetings when it was possible.

He was one of the kindest and most generous men that I have known. Never did he attend a meeting at the home of another member without bringing with him a bunch of flowers for the lady of the house.

During the past ten years he suffered a succession of illnesses which undoubtedly culminated in his death but, in spite of the suffering that he experienced, he attended most of our meetings.

R. H. KEACH

MEMBERSHIP

New members: O. Cooremans, Kroonstraat 7, 8000 Brugge, Belgium  
 J. Babicki, 3271-A Jackson Street, San Francisco,  
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We extend a warm welcome to our new members and are particularly pleased to have a contribution in this issue from two of our new members.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

So far, 18 completed returns have been received. If you have been putting off sending in a listing of your interests, don't delay further as the total results will help our organization in formulating future plans.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 10 MAY 1980

The May meeting was attended by 18 members and 3 guests although, with the minor alternative attraction of London 1980, not all were able to stay for the entirety. There were also apologies from 8 members.

As those present can attest, the Secretary was fully occupied in collecting monies for lunches, answering questions, trying to make notes, trying to put the right names to some of the less-often seen faces and counting the seconds for recharging his camera flashgun. The unkind may even say that the excellent lunch and wine also had a deleterious effect on his mental state. This being the case, the following record expresses to the best his recollection of the meeting subject to correction or addition by anyone present whose memory is more reliable.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

The Chairman welcomed those present, particularly Mrs. Jeidel from South Africa, Mr. and Mrs. Hirdler and Mr. Heim from the U.S.A., Mr. Molander from Australia and Mr. Sommerfeldt from Norway, who had also come to London in his role as an Observer Juror for London 1980. The Belgian members were well represented by Mr. and Mrs. Bekx, Mr. Deynckens, Mr. Jeukens, Mr. Salman and Mr. Vindegoghel, and Mr. Beales, from Northern Ireland, who has been a member for some 25 years, celebrated the occasion by attending a Study Circle meeting for the first time.

MORE ON MEMBERSHIP:

After removing 4 members at the beginning of the year for non-payment of subscriptions, the membership stood at 53. During the year, 1 member resigned and 2 died, while 9 new members joined; however, at the time of writing, there are still 4 members whose 1979/80 subscriptions remain unpaid despite reminders. It was agreed that no further documentation would be sent unless and until all arrears have been paid, so, for practical purposes, the membership now stands at 55.

ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer remarked that a further 30 pounds had been spent since the date of the accounts preparation. As the accounts had been circulated in advance and there were no questions, their acceptance was proposed and seconded and carried by the meeting.

EXCHANGE PACKET:

The packet secretary reported that, despite numerous requests, very little material was being sent in by members, although such items as were submitted generally sold well. As a result, there had been only one packet during the year. Members were again asked to provide material.

BULLETIN:

Mr. Smith, who was present, explained that pressure of business had prevented him from carrying on as editor, but that Mr. Jacquemin had been most helpful in stepping in to fill the post. The secretary mentioned that Mr. Jacquemin was happy to continue as editor, but that it was up to the membership at large to ensure that there would be sufficient material for the Bulletin, particularly as the aim was to keep to regular quarterly issue dates in the future.

EXPERT COMMITTEE:

Despite the allowance to members of one free certificate per year, the Committee was hardly overworked, although a fair number of items have now been received for authentication, most of these from only one or two members. As a service to members, the Committee will continue to function, but members are asked to consider whether they really do not require to make use of this service to a greater extent.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS:

There were no nominations for any of the Study Circle's Offices and, as the present incumbents had expressed their willingness to continue, they were re-elected en bloc.

PUBLICITY:

Following on last year's AGM, the BCSC had joined the British Philatelic Federation and would appear in the Year Book for 1980/81. Four members agreed to have their names included as being prepared to give displays of Belgian Congo to local societies.

No member had been found who was prepared to take the post of publicity officer. It was agreed that all members should seek the opportunity of advancing knowledge of the BCSC as much as possible:

- by giving local displays and mentioning the Study Circle
- by noting their membership of the Study Circle where they had articles published
- by sending resumes of the Study Circle activities to local Federation magazines
- by submitting further articles (from previous Bulletins) for inclusion in the main philatelic press.

The promised letterhead is not yet available, although the initial design has been prepared and is presently being amended in line with comments by the Committee.

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE:

The Belgian Study Circle has issued an invitation to BCSC members to attend their meetings as guests. The 1980/81 programme is available to anyone who is interested. At the meeting, it was agreed that we should reciprocate.

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The AGM was followed by a most enjoyable buffet lunch at which members had time to circulate and chat to old friends and new. After lunch, a number of members entertained the meeting with displays.

Mrs. Jeidel had brought with her several sheets of Lado Enclave covers which were extremely interesting. She also showed several values of the second portrait issue with the essays of overprint "CONGO BELGE" and, in some cases new values. It had obviously been considered that remainders of these stamps could also be used in 1909 after suitable overprinting, but the scheme did not proceed. In addition were several sheets of forged die proofs, a warning about which appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Mr. Bekx showed an extremely comprehensive collection of straight line cancellations on covers and stamps although in some cases he was unwilling to comment on how genuine these were. Towns included Leopoldville, Leopoldville 1, Sankuru, Matadi, Popokabaka, Musofi, Isangi, Kinshasa, Bandundu, Luluabourg, Bolobo, Coquilhatville, Gombe, Lukolela, Elisabethville, Albertville, Bukavu, Monveda and many more. Also shown were fantasies of Kingushi, Vivi, Station de

Matadi and scarce cancellations of Vivi and Kafakumba. One question was asked by Mr. Bekx - his earliest use of a postcard with a "CARTE INCOMPLETE" cachet is 19 February, 1898 and his latest normal card is 21 January, 1898. He wonders if any member has material which would pin down further the changeover date, which is not officially recorded.

Mr. Hirdler showed an interesting selection, mainly of covers and postal stationery, but with some stamps, including the only copy known to date of the Mols 10 centimes blue, perforated 15, with inverted centre, unused. Other unusual items were a cover from Boma dated 21 November, 1895, to Ipswich (England) which included the Mols 5 centimes blue and 10 centimes brown amongst the stamps making up the 50 centimes postal rate, and two cards showing a most unusual South African censorship cachet.

Mr. Heim has been trying since 1960 to complete a postally used collection of the Belgian Congo stamps which were overprinted for use after Congo independence, and showed an almost complete display, although some spaces are still filled with mint or CTO stamps. He feels that some of the others may not exist postally used. On display, he also had three covers with South Kasai stamps, admittedly philatelic, but having passed through the mail nonetheless.

Mr. Molander showed us a pot-pourri which included 2 different Kigoma paquebot marks, some U.N. mail from the Swedish Contingent, and a page of perforation varieties on the 1937 booklet stamps. He also displayed an interesting marginal block of Ruanda Urundi overprints on the 1941 Congo Albert Monument stamps, showing how the overprint had marginal guide lines which fell over the perforation guide lines between the stamps.

For the benefit of those members who had never seen the variety, Mr. Vindevoghel showed his cover with the 10 centimes stamp with the short Est Africain overprint. He also displayed 3 sheets showing the different settings of the 25c/5fr Boma overprint and a number of sheets and large blocks of the 1fr with Est Africain overprint, showing how some varieties constant within vertical rows seem to move from one column to another on the sheet. He hopes soon to write this up for the Bulletin so that other members can add their findings to his.

Mr. Keach showed 6 sheets of the Costermansville miniature sheets with the (probably complete) set of six different plate positions. This he followed with a selection of postage due material including one of the formal receipts (of which only three are known) in use before 1906. From the use of normal postage stamps used as dues after separate dues had been issued, Mr. Keach suspects that only a few of the major post offices were ever supplied with the proper postage due stamps. Also shown were some plate proofs and perforation varieties of the 1923 dues and an imperforate block of 4 of the 1957 50 centimes.

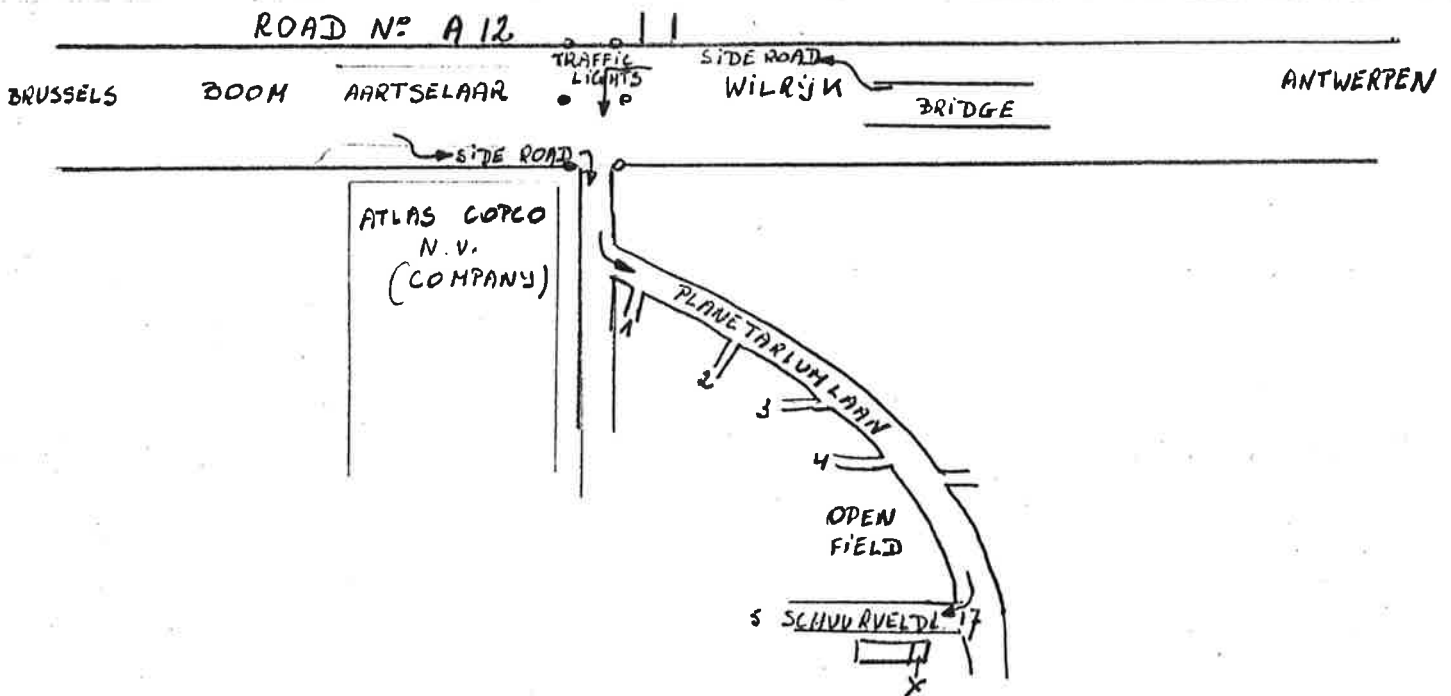
After the display, the Chairman thanked all those who had shown the Congo and remarked on the breadth and depth of the many different aspects dealt with.

PROGRAMME FOR 1980/1981:

Members are asked to note the following in their philatelic diaries:

1980 August 19/23: British Philatelic Congress and Belgian Congo Study Circle Meeting in Cambridge. Full details accompanied the March Bulletin. The items for study are Lado Enclave and postal routes in and to the Congo.

September 20: Mr. Deynckens invites all members to his house for a meeting at 1400 hours where he will show slides and material on maritime mail and other members may also bring material on this subject. Although it is envisaged that mainly members in Belgium will attend, those from other countries will be made very welcome. A sketch map of the route to Mr. Deynckens' home is shown below



November 1: Meeting at Bedford College, London, where Mr. Spurgeon will give a presentation on Congo Postal Stationery.

1981 January 17: Meeting at Bedford College, London, where Mr. Wood will continue the detailed presentation of the Mols issues with the 25 centimes value.

May 16: Meeting at Bedford College, London, with a display on slides and sheets of maritime mail, led by Mr. Deynckens.

July 18/19: Joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle at Bristol University. The BCSC sessions will be devoted to the plate layout and printings of the Mols issues, using all values for the purpose.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As always we remind members:

- i) to support our Packet Secretary
- ii) to send any specific wants to Ray Keach
- iii) the "Expert Committee" is here to help you

BURUNDI ANIMALS ISSUE OF 1ST JULY 1962

The overprints for these issues were made at the State printing works at Bujumbura. In spite of the care with which the overprinting was done, the issue presents some interesting plate varieties and overprint errors. The list of plates shown in the catalogues is usually incomplete, and only Stanley Gibbons show it correctly.

The overprinted stamps need to be considered in four groups:

- (a) Vertical format: 10c, 40c, 1fr and 2fr.
- (b) Horizontal format (small): 20c, 50c, 1.50, 3fr, 3.50, 5fr, 6.50, 8 and 10 fr.
- (c) Changed value: 4/10fr.
- (d) Large format: 20 and 50fr.

(a) Vertical format

Two overprinting plates were used, and can be easily distinguished:

- (1) "Du" is under the two last letters of "Royaume", and the bars are 23 mm long. All four values exist with this overprint.
- (2) "Du" is under "oy" of "royaume", and the bars are 21 mm long. Only the 40c and 1fr exist with this overprint, and it is less common than the other one.

These clearly represent separate overprinting plates, in that each sheet of 100 stamps shows only one of the two types.

Varieties: the 10c exists with inverted overprint;  
 the 1fr exists with the overprint much displaced (plate2);  
 the 2fr exists with double overprint, one of them oblique;  
 the 2fr exists with the overprint partly on the back, as a result of the sheet being folded when it passed through the machine.

All the overprints are in brilliant black.

(b) Horizontal format (small)

The overprints are black except:

- the 1.50 is usually blue, exceptionally black
- the 5fr exists exceptionally in blue
- the 8fr exists equally in blue and black

There are three distinct plates of the overprint which are not at all difficult to distinguish.

Plate 1. The words "Royaume du Burundi" are arranged as follows:

Royaume du	Royaume du	Royaume du	Royaume du	Royaume du
Burundi	Burundi	Burundi	Royaume	Burundi
(normal)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

- Notes: (1) Constant variety on no 41 of the overprinting plate.  
 (2) Exceptional variety on no 90 of the plate, known only on the 3fr and 8fr (blue); "Burundi" is 5mm from the bar.  
 (3) Overprint error which existed only at the start of the issue, and is known only on the 50c and 6.50 (the values most used at that time for mail) - stamps 27, 37 and 47 of the plate.  
 (4) The same after the repair of variety (3); the words remained aligned. A printing worker must have noticed this because this variety is not known on all stamps but only on the 1.50 (blue), 3fr, 3.50, 5fr, 6.50 and 8fr (black).

The bars vary slightly in length but are always less than 29mm, an important detail which helps distinguish this plate from the next.

Plate 2. In November 1963 there was a shortage of certain values at the Bujumbura post office, particularly the 50c and 3.50. Copies of the 50c and 3fr suddenly appeared with an overprint slightly different from plate 1. Told of this, the authorities refused to recognize that there had been a second issue of these values. The reasons for their attitude cannot be fathomed, unless perhaps the urgency of the situation meant that the stamps were issued without the necessary decrees being prepared.

Plate 2 can be recognized easily as follows. The words "Royaume de Burundi" are arranged as in variety (1) of plate 1, but the words are displaced towards the left of the bar, which always measures over 30 mm. In addition some letters literally pierce the paper of the sheet, particularly the last letter of each of the three words. Finally, 11 stamps of each sheet have "Royaume" with the "O" in italic type. This last feature results from the fact that these stamps were overprinted in November 1963, when some time had passed and the type at the State printing works had become mixed up. This can be seen in the information sheets published at this time by the Burundi Government; it was not the case in 1962. (The italic O is found in columns 6,7 and 10.)

In our views stamps with the plate 2 overprint are very rare, since they were used on local mail and were not distributed to the philatelic agency.

Plate 3. Only the 50c received this overprint. It is quite different from the others: the letters are very large, and the bars are continuous from one stamp to another. The overprints were made at the Lavigerie printing works in Bujumbura in December 1963.

The following table summarises the position:



	Plate 1:				Plate 2	Plate 3
	normal	var (1)	var (2)	var (3)		
20c (black)	x	x		-	-	-
50c (black)	x	x		x	x	x
1.50 (blue)	x	x		-	x	-
1.50 (black)	x	x		-	-	-
3fr (black)	x	x	x	-	x	x
3.50 (black)	x	x		-	x	-
5fr (black)	x	x		-	x	-
5fr (blue)	x	x		-	-	-
6.50 (black)	x	x		x	x	-
8fr (black)	x	x		-	x	-
8fr (blue)	x	x	x	-	-	-
10fr (black)	x	x		-	-	-

"x" means that the stamps are known; "-" that they cannot exist; a blank that they are not known but may exist.

Varieties: the 3.50 and 6.50 exist with inverted overprint; the 3.50 exists with the overprint much displaced towards the top; colour varieties have already been described.

#### (c) Changed value: 4/10fr

Two crosses obliterate the old face value. There are two types - small crosses and large crosses. Some sheets show only large crosses, some show one column of small crosses and some show three columns of small crosses. They all come from the same plate, since the alignments of the overprints are the same for both types of cross. The crosses were probably progressively replaced though we do not know why.

#### (d) Large format

There are three quite distinct types of overprint, all of which were at one time on sale in Bujumbura simultaneously. Plate 1 was sold at the central post office, plate 2 at the airport post office and plate 3 at the philatelic agency!

Plate 1. The overprint has narrow bars passing continuously from one stamp to another (except for very small interruptions); these bars cross the whole of the sheet. Both the 20fr and 50fr exist with this overprint. The ink is often greyish. A constant variety is found on no 41, where the word "du" is reduced to two small loops. This is the most common plate.

Plate 2. The 'thick bars' overprint. The bars are 45 mm long and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm thick. They are not continuous from one stamp to another; there is a gap of 5 or 6 mm between stamps. The ink is often dull. The 50fr is found commonly enough with this overprint but the 20fr is very rare.

Plate 3. The overprint has narrow bars 45 mm long. As in plate 2 the ink is black. It appears to come from the same plate as type 2 but the bars are 2 mm less thick. The 50fr seems very rare with this overprint and the 20fr is unknown.

#### General remarks

There are many forgeries which could deceive no one because they do not

stand up to detailed scrutiny. In particular the error "Royaume du Royaume" is often forged, sometimes adjoining a normal stamp! One even finds it on stamps cancelled in Rwanda, where non-overprinted stamps were also valid.

Incomplete overprints seen up to now are all forgeries, and are much more dangerous.

### Summary

10c: one plate (black)	3.50: one plate (black)
20c: one plate (black)	4/10f: two types (black)
40c: two plates (black)	5fr: one plate (black, sometimes blue)
<del>50c</del> : three plates (black)	6.50: one plate (black)
1fr: two plates (black)	8fr: one plate (black or blue)
1.50: one plate (blue, sometimes black)	10fr: one plate (black)
2fr: one plate (black)	20fr: two plates (black)
3fr: two plates (black)	50fr: three plates (black)

GEORGES CELIS

### THE SHIPPINGLINE ANTWERP - CONGO BY THE SHIPOWNER "COMPAGNIE BELGE MARITIME DU CONGO.

#### Foundation.

In the book Compagnie Maritime Belge (Lloyd Royal), published at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of this shipowner, we can read the following passages: "to set up a regular shipping line between Antwerp and Congo, some trading companies and the Freestate came to an agreement. They negotiated about the transport possibilities with the African Steamship Co, the British and African Navigation Company both from Liverpool and the Woermann Linie from Hamburg. The syndicate proposed to have a departure every sixth of a month from Antwerp to Matadi and it would take only 25 sailing days to go and 30 days to come back. The ships however were still owned by foreign shipowners. It is therefore the glorious merit of King Leopold II to understand, if Belgium wanted to have a closer contact with the Freestate, they had to take care of their own marine transport. The King applied, with careful considerations, to both groups interested in the matter and persuaded them to take part in the foundation of a Belgian shipping company. At Antwerp, on the 24th of January 1895 the foundation of a Belgian shippingline called "Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo" took place.

#### First Period 1895 - 1910.

During this first period, the interests of the new shipowner were looked after by an agent called John P. Best, who was entitled "to deal with all the business they received in writing from the managers of the company and to represent the owner in Antwerp. The terms set up by this authorisation teach us that the managing of the new owner stayed in England. It was Mr. (later Sir) Alfred L. Jones, principal partner of Elder, Dempster & Co who, together with Mr. Bond, was in charge of the exploitation."

On 24/1/1895 the African Steamship Co brought into the company two ships: the Coomassie and the Leopoldville.

On 21/1/1895 at the same time with the foundation of the C.B.M.C. another shipowner was founded by the Woermann Linie called: "Societe Maritime du Congo." The agent for this shipowner was Walford & Co.

The two shipowners were obliged to have a departure on a fixed date from Antwerp to the Congo. From that time on the Freestate gatē all their cargo to the C.B.M.C. line and the passengers had the opportunity to go on board in Antwerp.

Owing to a private agreement the liquidation of the Societe Maritime du Congo took place in 1908 and only the Compagnie Belge Maritime du Congo remained. During the periods 1895 - 1910 there were 13 passenger ships in service who left however very little postal history or ship cancellations.

Leopoldville 1. 1895-1897.

This was the first ship in service and made its maiden trip for the new company on the 6th of May 1895. The ship could accommodate 90 passengers in the first and 60 in the second class. 20 days after departure it arrived in Matadi.

Leopoldville 2. 1897-1903.

The first departure took place on the 6th of February 1897.

Leopoldville 3. 1904-1909. S.S. LEOPOLDVILLE

This straight line could be from one of the three Leopoldville ships because Gen. Du Four has seen it on a stamp of the Freestate.

Leopoldville 4. 1909-1914 (period 1909-1910). LEOPOLDVILLE

This straight line we have seen on a 10c "Mols stamp" issued in 1910 and on a 5fr Guinee Francaise stamp.

Albertville 1. 1896-1898.

Albertville 2. 1898-April 1904.

Mr. Spurgeon had a letter in his collection with a straight line from this ship.

Albertville 3. 1906-1910.

Gen Du four reports to have seen a straight line on a 1909 stamp of the Belgian Congo.

PAQUEBOT ALBERTILLE

N° 49 3246 T.

Anvers Belgique

We have a postcard with a straight line ALBERTILLEE without a V. and numbered No 49 and gross ton indication.

Anversville 1. June 1899 - March 1906.

1/5 ANVERSVILLE

Mr. R. Keach has seen a straight line on a postcard with Spanish stamps issued in 1901. We have seen this same straight line on two post cards in the collection of Abbe Gudenkauf, both posted on the same trip in February 1901.

Stanleyville 1. January 1900 - May 1902.

This ship crashed and was lost on the 23rd of May 1902.

Gen. Du Four is reported to have seen 2 straight lines on two B.C.

stamps issued in 1909.. These 2 straight lines can not be from the

Stanleyville 1. The 1909 B.C. issued stamps were out of issue in 1916 or 10 years before the first departure of the Stanleyville 2. We must therefore say that these two straight lines are forgeries.

QUEBOT STANLEYVILLE

S/S STANLEYVILLE

Bruxellesville 1. 1900-1907.Bruxellesville 2. 1906-June 1909.Bruxellesville 3. 1909-December 1912.

From these ships are no straight lines known to have been used during the period 1895-1910.

Phillipville. 1900-1904.

No straight line known.

On the 1st of December 1910, the African Steamship Co, Elder Dempster & Co, Banque d'Outremer, Woermann Linie and Hamburg Bremen Afrika Linie came to an agreement to reconstruct the company, to change the articles of association and to appoint a management.

WALTER DEYNCKENS

ATELIER DU TIMBRE, MALINES

(Note: Members will recall that among the various subjects suggested for project groups to interest themselves in, was that of the equipment in use from time to time at the Belgian Government Printers at Malines. Mr. Vindevoghel has spent a great deal of time and effort in trying to obtain such information as is officially available and has eventually succeeded in receiving a response from Mr. J. Weckhuysen, a senior official at the Belgian Ministry of Posts. The information is reproduced in full hereunder and it is unlikely that anything further will be forthcoming from this source. If members have, or come across, further details, please send these to either the Bulletin Editor or the Secretary.)

The Postal Administration has documentation in respect of the Mols and Van Engelen stamps, as less importance was placed on the establishment of archives in those days.

As regards our principal items of equipment, I list below, year by year, the technical data of entry into and withdrawal from service at the Government Printers, Malines, from 1920 to 1979 inclusive:

1921: Into service: three typographic printing presses and a complete set of equipment for constructing clichés. All these have long since been withdrawn from service.

1927: Into service: a rotary STICKNEY printing press.

- 1930: Into service: JOHANNESBERG and INTAGLIO hand-presses for photo-gravure printing. The engraved copper plates were fixed on the cylinder. The JOHANNESBERG has not been used for postage stamps since 1952, although the INTAGLIO press is still used occasionally.
- 1949: Into service: GROVER perforators were used for the first time. Like the PHOENIX, they were rotary machines and were taken out of service in 1967.
- 1950-52: Into service: 1) three typographic machines, i.e. a MIEHLE 41, a MIEHLE 29 and a MIEHLE V50. These machines had flat plate printing heads suitable for printing from clichés mounted in retaining plates. The MIEHLE 41 was taken out of service in 1974, the other two are still in use.
- 2) a WIFAG rotary press equipped to print monochrome stamps either by photogravure or by the recess method. This was the first machine in the works which, from the initial roll of gummed paper, produced the finished article, that is, it printed, sequence-numbered, dated, perforated and cut to size the sheets of stamps. This was in use until 1978 and was purchased with the following main accessories
- an installation for chromium-plating and de-chroming the cylinders (replaced in 1970).
  - a coppering bath (replaced in 1979).
  - an installation for hardening steel.
  - a sharpening machine for the perforators.
  - a machine for testing perforation settings.
  - a transfer rolling machine for the preparation of recess plates in steel.
- 1956: In service: a second WIFAG rotary press. This is equipped for printing in 4- colour photogravure and 1- colour recess and can also combine in one operation 4- colour photogravure and 1- colour recess printing.
- 1957: In service: a rotary sheet-fed S.T.I.F. machine for 1 to 4- colour recess-printing from steel cylinders. The sheets had to be perforated after printing. This press was exhibited in action at the Universal Exposition in 1958 and at Belgica 1972.
- 1960: In service: another S.T.I.F. machine, rotary and web-fed, but able to recess-print in up to 6 colours from steel cylinders as follows:-
- three colours indirectly by means of an off-set cylinder cased in rubber;
  - three colours directly on to the paper.
- In the main it is commemorative or tourist-type stamps which are printed from this press.

- 1967: In service: two KROLL heavy-duty perforators.
- 1970: In service: a horizontal chromium-plating bath as well as a complete cleaning and dechroming installation
- 1972: In service: a web-fed rotary GOEBEL printing press with four sections for photogravure printing and a section for recess printing from steel in a maximum of 3 colours.
- 1973: In service: a semi-automatic GOEBEL transfer rolling machine for preparation of steel recess printing of cylinders.
- 1974: In service: a ROTAFOLIO rotary typographic (surface) printing machine for sheet printing. This prints from plates from treated photographic originals which are then fixed to the cylinder. A bicoloured impression is possible at a single operation.
- 1978: In service: a second GOEBEL press; this also is a web-fed rotary press with one section for photogravure and one for recess-printing from steel cylinders in up to 3 colours.
- 1979: In service: a new coppering bath to re-copper cylinders.

As far as concerns the Stickney machine, we no longer have any technical documentation giving its dimensions or mode of operation; the only information available to the Authority is as follows: It worked by recess printing in monochrome from steel, and for this, two printing plates 30cm x 52,5cm were set on the cylinder. Pressure was applied by a second cylinder driven by an endless belt. The machine was not equipped for overprinting.

It was, however, equipped with a gumming installation, a rotary perforator and a numbering mechanism. However the perforation system was not very good and was therefore not used; since then, sheets printed on this machine were perforated afterwards by a separate perforator. Moreover it was never used for stamps issued in very large numbers as technical difficulties happened as a result of the method of making the plates.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE 4,50 FR. NATIONAL PARKS BLOCKS ISSUED  
20 OCTOBER 1937. (196A).






There are still a lot of stamp issues after the Mols period that are interesting to study more closely. The first official block is one of these issues. I called in the help of Mr. Foden who suggested to me the possibility of 8 blocks in a pane. These 8 blocks would fit in the 100 stamp pane of the following National Park issue of the first of March 1938.

Mr. Chantraine wrote in the "Philatelite Belge" of February 1938 to have distinguished five different blocks and he too suggested that there would be 8 cliches to fit the printing cylinder. This would give 12,500 copies of each block or 100,000 blocks in total

with 4 stamps or 400,000 stamps in total. Of these 100,000 blocks, 60,000 of them would have been sold in Belgium and we find therefore the cancelled ones more difficult to find as the whole block itself.

Five blocks were identifiable. A sixth one I could point out easily but the seventh and the eighth, I needed the help of Mr. Raymond Keach.

1	2
3	4

- Block 1: No. 1: dent on the left side of the C of Belgisch. 
- No. 4: electric lamp in the second tree from left. 
- Block 2: No. 3: red dot right side under, near perforation. 
- No. 4: black "C" to the left of the right tree.
- Block 3: No. 3: pimple on the top of the C of Belgisch. 
- Block 4: No. 2: the top frame line thinned for 1 1/2 mm above 0 of 4,50.
- Block 5: No. 4: a break in the top frame line above G of Congo (Belgisch).
- Block 6: No. 1: vertical line under the B of Belgisch. 
- Block 7: No. 4: a black dot 2mm above the top of the left tree.
- Block 8: No. 3: - spheric bulb (UFO) in the sky above left tree.  
- red dot, 3/4 mm above the top frame line above ..H C..
- No. 4: a black dot 5 1/4 mm above the top of the right tree.

WALTER DEYNCKENS

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1980/81: As forewarned in the March Bulletin, the meeting agreed to the higher subscription rates proposed for the new year, these being:

Members in Europe 3 pounds (or 200 Belgian francs, or \$7.00 U.S.)

Members elsewhere 5 pounds (or \$11.00 U.S.)

Members in Belgium may pay in francs to either Abbe G. Gudenkauf or Mr. A. Vindevoghel; members in the U.S.A. may pay in dollars direct to Mr. R. E. Jacquemin. In both cases this is to members' advantage as well as to that of the Study Circle.

It was further agreed that, where members paid subscriptions by post, the receipt would be sent only when the secretary had occasion to write or with the next issue of the Bulletin. This should save some postage costs.

In view of the response in recent years to reminders to members whose

subscriptions remained unpaid, it was agreed that reminders should be included in the September Bulletin only. Members who did not pay by December would cease to receive Bulletins and other documentation commencing with the December Bulletin.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

Stamp Magazine, February, 1980. CINDERELLA CORNER - Norman Williams.

Referring to the article in 'American Philatelist' (reported in Bulletin No. 34) on the 1960 Katanga 'provisional issue', the article claims that these stamps are completely bogus. A registered cover bearing two of the values is illustrated. The registration label is different from those known to have been in use prior to Independence and the cancellation is quite extraordinary, octagonal and about twice as long as it is tall, somewhat reminiscent of Congo railway cancellations but not seen elsewhere. It would appear that the 'stamps' need to be treated with the utmost caution.

### BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

#### Membership

Members in Europe	3 pounds
Members outside Europe	5 pounds

#### Certificates of Authenticity

Stamps or cancellations	1 pound* plus postage
Covers	2.50 pounds* plus postage
Not genuine items	50 pence* plus postage
Unable to give opinion	postage only

One free certificate per member per year.

#### A PHILATELIC BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA URUNDI BY R. H. KEACH

3 pounds\* plus postage

#### Documentation

Previous BCSC Bulletins - complete issues	3p* per page) plus
- single articles or pages	5p* per page) postage
Photocopies of other documentation and articles	5p* per page plus postage

#### Sales of Material 5% of sale price

Where done on behalf of estate of deceased member, this will be reduced to actual cost.

\* = 50% surcharge to non-members.



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KATANGA'S RR STAMPS - ONLY 160 SURVIVED

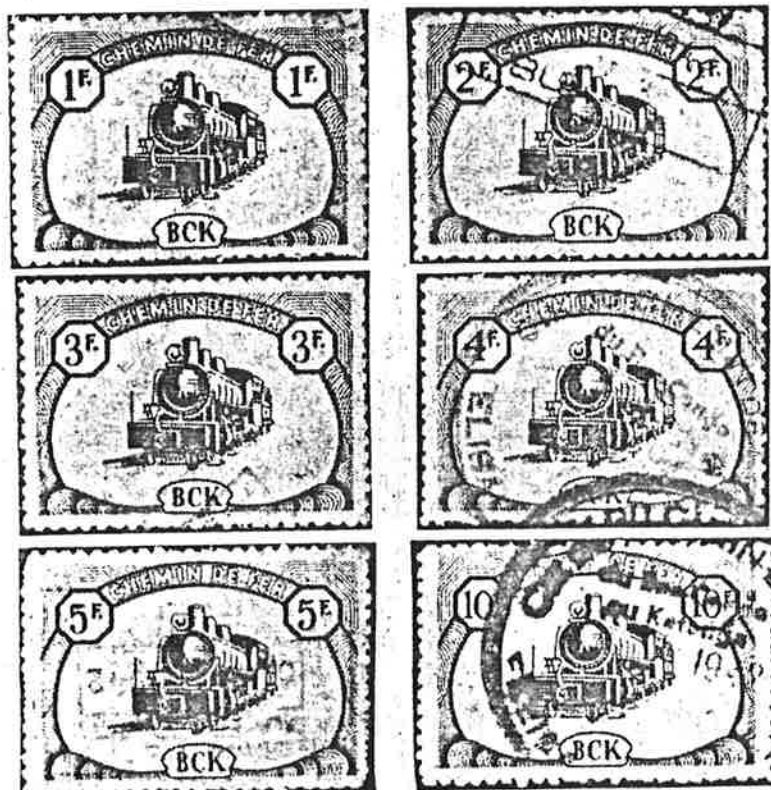
by Joe Babicki with Omer Cooremans

(Babicki is a student of Katangan postal history whose general interest in 'dead' countries led to his specialty in this area of Africa. Cooremans spent most of his career working on the railroad in what was then the Belgian Congo. He is now retired and lives with his wife in Bruges, Belgium.)

L'Etat du Katanga, now Shaba province in Zaire, engaged in a civil war against the Congo central government and against the United Nations from July 11, 1960 to Jan. 15, 1963.

This might seem too short an independent life to have any real philatelic interest, but I have become fascinated by this country, which has a variety of material, including the forerunners that are the subject of this article.

Railroad parcel post stamps were issued by the Lower Congo and Katanga Railroad Company, abbreviated "BCK" for "Chemin de Fer du Bas Congo au Katanga." As the Lower Congo portion was never built, this railroad operated primarily in Katanga.



Railroad parcel stamps — only 160 sets are known to have survived.

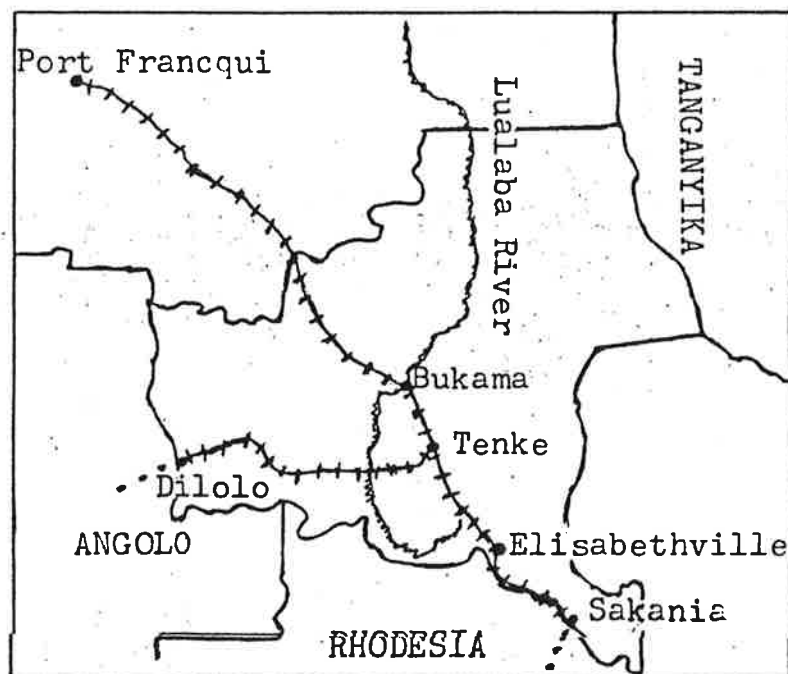
The CFK, "Chemin de Fer du Katanga," was a stock company with government permission to build and operate a railroad in Katanga. It went through several name changes along with expansions, has since been nationalized, and is now part of the SNCZ, "Societe National des Chemins de Fer Zairois."

The CFK started operations in 1910 carrying Katanga's mineral wealth to the world through Sakania to Northern Rhodesia and South Africa to the seaports.

In 1918, the line was extended to Bukama on the Lualaba River, which comprises the upper reaches of the Congo River, where the cargo was transferred to steamers for water transport. This was still a long journey and required several transfers of the cargo from rail car to river paddle wheel steamers and vice versa.

A second line was added, Bukama to Port Francqui, and the CFK became the BCK. With the extension of service the only transfer of cargo necessary between Katanga and Leopoldville was at Fort Francqui where it was placed on Kasai River steamers to complete the journey.

The third line was finished in 1931, and ran from Tenke to Dilolo. This allowed the shippers to use the port of Lobito in Angolo and the entire journey from the mines to the sea was by rail. The BCK was renamed and became the LKD, "Chemin de Fer Leopoldville-Katanga-Dilolo."



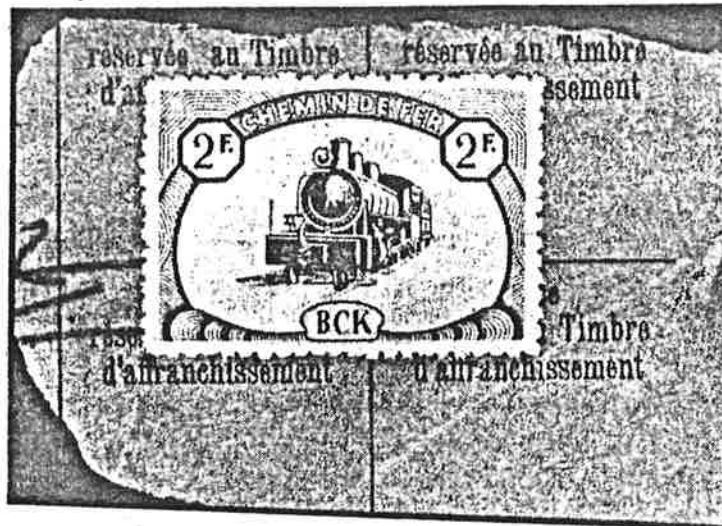
Map of the railroad through Katanga.

While the company was still the BCK, about 1930, it first issued parcel post stamps serving the same purpose as railroad parcel post stamps in Belgium, i.e., to pay freight charges.

The shipper obtained a pre-numbered form serrated into two parts, each part with the same number, from either the conductor or from the station. After completing both parts of the form with his own name and address as

well as that of the recipient, the clerk or conductor calculated the fee based on weight and distance, received the money from the sender, applied the stamps, and handstamped with a canceler both the stamps and the other part of the form.

The part of the form with the handstamp but sans stamps was given to the shipper as a receipt. The portion of the form with the canceled stamps went with the freight. The recipient signed the form to receive the freight and the form was then sent to the central office in Elisabethville for control.



A stamp used on part of tag, but uncanceled.

The receipts were retained for a minimum of two years and then destroyed.

You will notice that the form with the stamps went from the conductor or clerk with the freight to the destination and finally to the central office files. Though a stamp collector could buy mint stamps, nowhere could used stamps be legitimately obtained.

Several years after the use of these stamps had been discontinued, it was decided to "clean house" and destroy old documents of all kinds including these receipts and also the unused remainders.

My source for these stamps worked in the central office. When he heard of the coming destruction he tried to get mint stamps from the accounting office but was refused. Later he "rescued" about 160 used sets by going to the files and tearing off the portion of the forms with the stamps. Since the forms were to be destroyed, either no one noticed or no one cared.

A total of 32,000 sets were printed and only the 160 sets mentioned above are known to have survived.

It is presumed that a local Elisabethville firm, Essor du Congo, prepared the stamps as the perforations are quite rough and the letterpress printing is very clean and simple. The locomotive appears flat because of an almost total lack of shading.

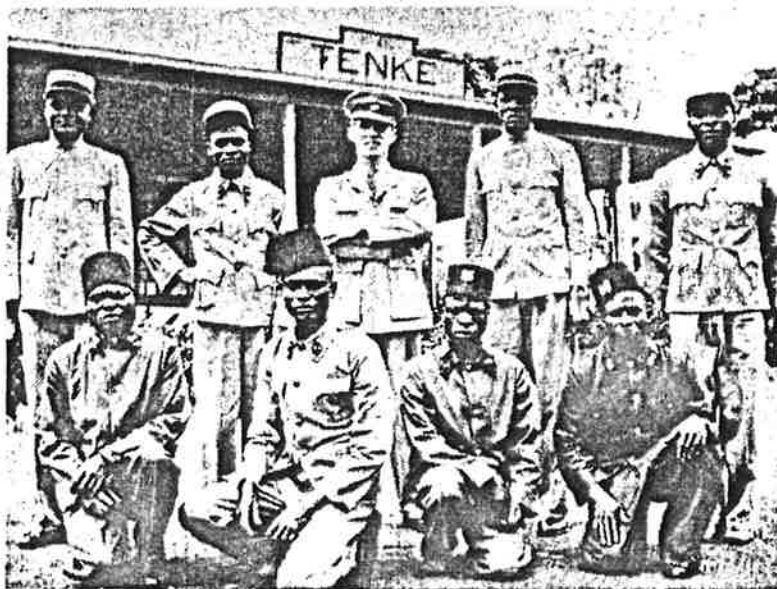
The subject of all six stamps is an identical picture of 300 series of narrow-gauge wood burning locomotive and tender, called a "Mikado," built by the Societe Franco-Belge at La Croyere, Belgium.

The maximum speed was about 36 mph, as its wheels were of a small diameter, which is typical of a steam locomotive of that era built for freight rather than passenger service. Without the tender, the locomotive weighed 55 metric tons, 61 short tons. It developed traction power of 10,000 kgs, about 11 short tons.

There was one piston rod on each side of the engine connected to three sets of drive wheels. The braking system was vacuum but freight trains carried two or three brakemen for the hand brakes.

All operating personnel on the train were black except for the white conductor. If the train was going to cross the Congo-Rhodesia border, the black engineer had to be replaced by a white.

Because of the racial implications these stamps might fit into a black history collection as well as the obvious railroad and Katanga collections.



The Tenke stationmaster, Omer Coormans, and staff in 1935.

My stamps measure 44 to 46 mm x 31 or 32 mm. The outside of the printed area is 40 mm x 28 mm. The values and colors are 1fr, red/carmine; 2fr, blue; 3fr, green; 4fr, pale purple; 5fr, yellow; and 10fr, black. The perforation is 10.

Several years after the original stamps were discontinued, new stamps were issued and the system already described reinstated. The subsequent issue is smaller in size and there are more values going up to 50fr. The subject on both issues is the same.

THE 1938 COSTERMANSVILLE TOURIST CONGRESS MINIATURE SHEET

The normal 1937 Parks stamps were printed in sheets of 100, two panes of 50 with gutter margin between the panes.

It seemed reasonable to think that the miniature sheet would be printed on the same machine and from a plate of the same size. It would have been just possible to accommodate eight of the booklet panes on the plate but six would have been more comfortable. There are therefore, or should be, six or eight different miniature sheets, twelve or sixteen if there were two printing plates but this seems unlikely with a printing of 100,000.

Thanks to the kind co-operation of other members of the Study Circle, the writer has been able to inspect between thirty and forty panes and has been able to identify each as one of six different. A member whose arithmetic is fresher in his mind than is mine assures me that, having inspected thirty random panes and found only six different, it is highly unlikely that there are more than six. Until a pane turns up that cannot be identified, we must presume that there were only six panes on the plate.

I have tentatively called the six panes A, B, C, D, E and F. Apparently constant features that can be used to identify a pane are:

Pane A - There is a small blue dot  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm above TE of INTERNATIONAL in the top margin.

The 2,50 fr. has a brown dot in the sky 5mm to the left of the mountain peak and a second brown dot, sometimes rather faint, 7mm to the right of the peak and rather lower in the sky.

Pane B - The 5c. has a brown dot in the palm frond  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm below the I of NATIONAL.

The 4,50 fr. has a brown dot in the sky 3mm above the right extremity of the second large tree (the left tree is considered as the first).

Pane C - The 4,50 fr. has a brown dot in the sky 3mm above the top and 2mm to the left of the centre of the first large tree.

Pane D - The 5c. has a brown dot in the sky  $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm below the S of PARCS. The 2,40 fr. has two brown dots or a short oblique brown line in the sky, normally about 1mm below CO of the upper CONGO. The 4,50 fr. has a oblique brown mark in the sky 4mm to the right of the trunk of the right large tree but this is sometimes weak.

In some panes D there is a thick blue horizontal line through the top of the C of CONGRES in the top margin but this was not present for part of the printing.

Pane E - There is an oblique blue mark 1mm under the first E of COSTERMANSVILLE.

Pane F - The 2,40 fr. has a short diagonal line or three dots just under the right slope of the mountain, normally under the

right slope of the mountain, normally under the first E of BELGE.

There is a blue mark  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm below and  $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm to the right of the bottom right corner of the 4,50 fr.

There are other details constant for a particular pane but it is thought that those listed are adequate for a pane to be identified.

The Balasse Catalogue lists a variety 203V1 on the 5c. This appears to be a transient mark on Pane B. Only one example has been noted.

In addition, quite a number of panes inspected have fine, nearly, but not quite, vertical blue lines, particularly in the white surround. These would appear to be due to fine scratches on the plate but the scratches were not constant through the life of the plate. If these lines are due to scratches they would have persisted through part of the printing and should permit the vertical allocation of the panes on the plate to be ascertained.

Perhaps a little time might be given to this at one of our meetings, members bringing with them the panes that they have and we could endeavor to trace lines continuing from one pane to another.

In the meantime the writer will be very glad to hear from any member who has a pane without any of the identifying marks listed above.

R. H. KEACH

#### BELGIAN CONGO 1894-1909 PICTORIALS

Special offers from the Waterlow perforated "File Copy" sheets as described in B.C.S.C. Bulletin No. 35.

No duplication, each denomination in the same colour being a different perforation and printing. The sheet positions and the printing number in accordance with the following list are lightly pencilled on the reverse of each item in A and B:

1.	2.10.94	5.	15.12.97	8.	5.3.00	11.	2.12.02
2.	11. 4.95	6.	16. 3.98	9.	25.4.01	12.	14. 6.04
3.	13.12.95	7.	10. 1.99	10.	16.7.01	13.	5. 3.06
4.	10.11.96						

All stamps are without gum and the backs of some show staining which sometimes is visible from the front. All offers are therefore "on approval".

A. 5c. blue, brown (3) and green (2); 10c. brown, blue (2) and carmine; 15c. (3); 25c. orange (2) and blue; 40c. (2); 50c. green (4) and ochre (3); 1fr. reddish-violet (2) (both violet), claret (rose-lilac), and carmine (2) (lilac-carmine, and carmine with a touch of lilac); 5fr. (4). The 1fr. colours in brackets are the Belgian classification. All stamps of the same denomination are from the same sheet position.

34 stamps

60 pounds plus V.A.T.

- B. As A but blocks of four. 275 pounds plus V.A.T.
- C. As A but marginal blocks of ten (5x2) from the tops of the sheets except the 1895 10c. from the bottom and the 1898 5fr. which comes from an incomplete sheet and lacks the second stamp of the upper row. The 15c. and 5fr. are not all from the same sheet positions. The sheet margin of each item is endorsed with the Waterlow reference number, date and, apart from the 25c. blue and one of the 50c. ochre, with the quantities printed. Some faults but majority good to fine. A truly unique collection. 1000 pounds plus V.A.T.
- D. 1894 5fr. complete sheet 150 pounds plus V.A.T.
- E. 1896 1fr. claret (dæep lilac) complete sheet 500 pounds plus V.A.T.
- F. 1898 1fr. claret (rose lilac) complete sheet, some severance and staining on the obverse 250 pounds plus V.A.T.
- G. 1904 10c. carmine perf. 14 plates I3 + B2 the only complete sheet so far recorded 100 pounds plus V.A.T.
- H. 1895 25c.; 1898 5c. and 10c.; 1900 40c.; 1901 5c. and 10c.; 1902 25c.; all in sheets. Also part sheets of 1899 50c. green (4 missing) and 1906 5c. (1 missing). 150 pounds plus V.A.T.
- J. 1909 "Princes Printing" 5c. to 5fr. sheets endorsed "File Copy 232091, 15.1.09, 5000"; all battered and stained in places and some stamps missing or defective but there are between 24 and 40 of each value which are of reasonable to good appearance. 750 pounds plus V.A.T.

ENQUIRIES TO: Mr. David Fortnum  
Robson Lowe Limited  
39 Poole Hill,  
Bournemouth,  
DORSET. BH2 5PX.

WARNING - GAILLY FORGED DIE PROOFS ARE ON THE MARKET AGAIN.

Stanley Gibbons 'Rare Stamps Department' has sent out a list of Congo items available including various die proofs of M&S stamps of 1894 and 1910. I have inspected them and they are all lithographic forgeries as listed in "Le Negro Guide".

I told Gibbons that the proofs are all forgeries and they said that they would either withdraw them or offer them as forgeries. Gibbons is a reputable company but forgeries have a habit of passing from one place to another and members are advised to treat any die proofs offered with the utmost caution.

This is the second, maybe the third, time that, over the years, members have been warned of these 'proofs' circulating.

R. H. KEACH





		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	
38	5F	Unused	17500	2150	4400	2150	1940	2450	2900	
		Used	1000	1350	2250	1300	1100	1670	1750	3000
		Cover	7500	8000	15000	8000	7500	9000	11000	20000
39	10F perf 12	Unused	3500	4650	9350	4650	4100	5200	6400	
		Used	1100	1750	3300	1750	1300	2200	2650	4000
		Cover	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	??
39a	10F perf 14 $\frac{1}{4}$	Unused	7000	12500	??	12500	10000	15000		
		Used	5300	50000	??	50000	40000	60000		??
		Cover	30000	??	??	??	??	??		??

All prices are 'catalogue' except for type VIII which are minimum net.  
?? indicates rarity for which there is no basis for establishing a price.

Prices for covers may be expected to vary widely from the figures shown,  
which are in each case for one stamp only.

\* Type VIII on no. 34, 40c green, is generally believed not to exist.  
One example, however, has been reported.

Numerous forgeries exist for all types. Mint stamps with type VIII over-  
print which may be 'made-to-order' or may be forgeries.

ARTHUR I. HEIM

#### MORE EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

Forum Magazine (house magazine of L'Union Miniere) December, 1979 - Les  
premieres Liaisons Postales du Katanga.

A short article, inspired by M. W. Bekx, tells of the early postal system,  
post offices and cancellations of the Province of Katanga.

#### BOOK REVIEW

LEX ENTIERS POSTAUX SOUS LA REGNE DE LEOPOLD II, Tome 2 - E. et M.  
Deneumostier.

This book describes the postal stationery of Belgium from 1894 to 1909  
and of the Congo from 1886 to 1909.

The writer cannot comment on the Belgian section but the Congo section  
appears to be extracts from de Cock and Davo plus, without acknowledge-  
ment, information provided by Messrs. Bekx and Ingels.

R. H. KEACH