

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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EDITOR'S NOTE: With this issue comes the very exhaustive research work of member, Mr. Brian P. Hudson, on the Mols Plate Combinations, with the hope this will become the "standard" for specialists of these issues. We are pleased to announce that through the efforts of Mr. Robert P. Odenweller, member of The Collectors Club of New York and Mr. E. Eugene Fricks, Editor of The Collectors Club Philatelist, that this very fine monograph will be reprinted in that esteemed publication. Our congratulations go to Messrs. Hudson, Keach and to other members of our Study Circle for their contributions to this effort.

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY - Members are reminded that unless the current year's subscriptions are paid forthwith, no further Bulletins can be sent to those in arrears.

Correction: The correct address for M. E. Adams is 44 Bigelow Road, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154, U.S.A. - not the State of Maine, as listed in Bulletin No. 41.

The correct address for M^{lle} M-P Thiebaud is Rue Bechee 1, 5938 Grand-Leez, Belgium (not Grand-Allez).

NEWS AND VIEWSMEETINGS

Although rather poorly attended, the 24 October meeting at Mr. C. V. Spurgeon's home in Southborough was greatly enjoyed by those present. Both Mr. Spurgeon and Mr. Keach showed many interesting covers, some of which were quite new to the other members present and there seemed to be no aspect of the Congo postal service and its various markings which was not well represented amongst the material on display. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon for their hospitality on this occasion.

The next meeting of the Study Circle will be the Annual General Meeting on 22 May, 1982. Details will be given in the next Bulletin.

Mr. Keach has the honour to be giving an afternoon display of Mols issues (about 600 sheets) to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on Thursday, 27 May, 1982, and members who are interested in attending are asked to note this date in their diaries. Further details will be given later, but there will be no difficulty in signing in BCSC members who are not members of the Royal.

It is hoped that there will be another joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle in September 1982. Preliminary correspondence is in hand with the University of Southampton. At present, the joint session is expected to deal with the 1869 issue of Belgium and the 1886 and 1887 portrait issues of the Congo. BCSC individual sessions will deal, inter alia, with the Occupation of German East Africa and the East African overprints of 1916.

NECROLOGY

We regret to announce the sudden death of our member Mr. Walter Bekx, Burcht, Belgium on 20 October, we understand due to a car accident.

Mr. Bekx' main philatelic interest was in the classic issues of Switzerland, but he had a fine collection and considerable knowledge of the early postal history of the Congo. He has been a member for several years, and many members will recall the displays he gave of his material, both at the 25th Anniversary meeting of the Study Circle in 1976, and at the May, 1980 meeting which was held to coincide with the London International. He will also be remembered by his colleagues in Belgium for his monographs "de Naamstempels van Belgisch Kongo" and "Eerste Postale Verbindingen Uit Katanga", two articles of great interest which appeared in the Belgian philatelic press. On behalf of the Study Circle a letter of condolence has been sent to Madame Bekx, whom many of us met when she accompanied her husband on his visits to the U.K.

MEMBERSHIP

Change of address; J. Deruyck, Zwartebroekstraat 37, 1680 Lennik, Belgium.

MEMBERSHIP (Cont'd)

New members: M. De Cock, Diepestraat 92, B9520 St. Lievens Houtem, Belgium.
J. Du Four, OMPHI, Galerie du Centre, Bureau 329, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Rejoined: M. L. D. Round, 12 Geary Road, London N.W.10.

AWARDS

Congratulations to our member Mr. A. Molander on obtaining a silver-bronze medal at international level both at Auckland, New Zealand and at Gothenburg, Sweden within the last year.

Also at the international level, Joe Babicki took a bronze award at ROCPEX TAIPEI '81 with his display of Katanga. Considered one of the most efficiently run shows, it was held in October at Taipei, Taiwan.

Bulletin Nos. 36 thru 39 took a silver award at the American Philateli Society's 14 Annual National Philatelic Literature Exhibition held at Atlanta, Georgia Sept. 24-27. This was the first time our publication had ever been entered in a literature competition. Unfortunately, the display was off to one side of the show, there was no information on the awards given at the show for the public to see, and the awards were announced on the last day of the show. Hardly a good way to promote philatelic literature.

PUBLICATION REVIEW

Our member, Mr. Omer P. Cooremans of Belgium had an article published in Linn's Stamp News, Sept. 14, 1981 concerning Belgian Congo Railway stamps. Any member desirous of obtaining a reduced photocopy of this article, please write to Joe Babicki. Return postage would be appreciated.

ADMINISTRATIVE CACHET USED AS CANCELLATION

Mr. Bill Holabird has kindly sent me for inspection a missionary cover with the stamp cancelled with a large administration cachet of the usual type with the coat of arms in the middle. The strike is poor and it is difficult to read the lettering. There is in the double ring around the coat of arms CONGO BELGE at the bottom and (DISTRICT) DU KWANGO TERRITOIRE DES BA..... at the top. The last word appears to be of seven letters but it is impossible to decipher it.

The cachets were allocated to all government offices and are commonly found struck on the left side of envelopes emanating from such offices.

This cover, sent to the U.S.A. is backstamped KIKWIT 14.1.50.

R. H. KEACH

AIRMAIL ROUTES AND RATES FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO DURING WORLD WAR 2.

By way of introduction to this article and myself, I attended the joint airmail meeting of the Belgium and Belgian Congo Study Circles at Bristol University as the guest of Jack Andrews, a fellow member of the Society of Postal Historians. My interests lie in the air routes, rates and censor marks of the world during WW2. Whilst not ignoring the services provided by airlines of the Axis powers, most of the intriguing covers seen were carried by Allied services, since together they extended right around the world and took letters eastwards or westwards, according to the fortunes of war and without regard to the overall distance flown.

After the closing of pre-war European routes caused by the German occupation of the Low Countries and France and the severe curtailment of long distance services formerly flown by KLM, Sabena and Air France, the movement of Allied letters depended mainly upon BOAC (supported by certain foreign airlines flying under contract) and on the Pan American transatlantic and transpacific services.

At the Bristol meeting I met a kindred spirit in the person of your Secretary Peter Foden, who on learning of my overall interests, invited me to collaborate with the Study Circle with an aim of publishing a list of findings in your Bulletin. This I am most pleased to attempt, since all countries were interdependent for airmail routing and their postal rates, whilst not identical on the simple basis of financial exchange, were closely related.

Peter has already sent to me such information as he has, in the ideal form of photo-copies of covers. Unfortunately, the combination of his and mine are too few to be a reliable basis and I appeal to anyone with an airmail or surface rate letter dated between September 1939 and December 1945 to send the details to me. A photo-copy of both sides is preferable; failing this, a note of country of destination, posting date, total value of adhesives, type of censor marks and superscriptions is needed. Avoid only any cover showing signs of underpayment, as these tend only to confuse the issue.

Because of the way in which different countries rated their airmails and surface mails in pre-war days, and to some extent confused matters by altering their normal practise during the war years, I think it will be worth mentioning that from a world-wide approach, letters could be rated according to country of origin by surface weights of 20 grams, 3/4 ounce, 25 grams or 1 ounce for the first increment, with a reduced amount for subsequent increments. (I am ignoring preferential rates between Mother and Colonial territories at this point.) To the surface rate was added an airmail fee based on either a 5 gram or 10 gram increment. For each country it is imperative that we establish the primary, secondary and postcard surface rates and the dates and amounts when they were changed. Other countries, notably the UK and USA, used the simpler basis of a combined surface and air-rate per 1/2 ounce. The disadvantage to the sender of the latter method is that very few ordinary letters weigh as much as half an ounce, to the benefit of the Post Office concerned.

Because of the foregoing, it will be worthwhile at this stage to state what is believed to apply in the case of the Congo.

1. That Congo airmails were charged an international surface rate plus an air fee plus fees for additional service such as registration or A.R. or Express.
2. Surface rate increments were per 20 grams. (All international).
 - a. The charge from September 1939 to sometime during 1940 was f2.50 for the first 20 grams & f1.50 for subsequent increments. Postcards f1.25. Preferential rate to Belgium may have been f1.50 + f0.90 & p/cards 0.75.
 - b. According to the Canadian Postal Guide and the United States Postal Guide, by June 1941 the surface rates were f2.75 + f1.50 & p/cards f1.25. There is some evidence to suggest the change took place at September or October 1940.
 - c. Surface rates again increased during 1943. The first increment became f3.50; secondary not known. Postcards not known. A cover is known at f3.50, dated May 1943. Later information suggests that this increase took place as early as February, 1942.
 - d. Covers to addresses between the Congo and South Africa are a special case, as for part of the war there were preferential rates to countries in the African Postal Union.
3. Airmails were charged per 5 grams.
 - a. The pre-war air fees per 5 gm were f1.00 internal, f3.00 to Belgium (via Bangui only) and f3.50 international (to Europe). Covers dated up to June 1940 appear to confirm that the international fee remained without change. Also confirmed by entries in the French Postal Guide for January 1940.
 - b. There was a fee for carriage by internal air service only. For international airmails, the charge was inclusive of carriage on the ~~internal~~ service where available and of use.
 - c. Covers sent by air on First Flights during the war are held not to be representative of subsequent commercial rates. This is particularly so for those sent on the FAM22 Leopoldville-Miami service during December 1941. Those seen usually were paid at a fee of f5.00 per 5 grams, the rate current for a part-air/part-sea service available prior to FAM22. There were several changes of rate by FAM22 during 1942 and on the basis of charges to other African countries, it finally settled at the equivalent of about 2/- per 5 grams.

It must be repeated that notes 1 to 3 are held to be true, but in detail are open to challenge, since they are the product of whatever Peter Foden and myself have concluded so far.

On a cautionary basis, there is a need to observe that as air charges increased to the level of f50 or more, the addition of minor sums to

pay for secondary weight increments can show some inaccuracy, and may reflect a disregard for small change or temporary shortage of lower value adhesives.

Many postal administrations issued in their Guides a list of surface and registration rates charged abroad. This helped their own staff when faced with charges for postage due on incoming underpaid mails. From those seen it appears that registration rates for the Congo remained at f2.50 throughout the war.

All of which I hope shows that the war period is potentially full of interest, but the recording of every possible cover is needed for a worthwhile study. On airmails, there is a special need for anything from July 1940 to January 1942 on mails to Europe and from September 1939 to December 1941 to the Americas. On surface mails, the whole period applies. As information comes to hand, I propose to combine it for publication with a note of the available services according to period.

So now it's up to you.....

IAN M. WARN

CONGO STAMP BOOKLETS

The two 1917 booklets (containing 1915 stamps), the 1922 booklet and the 1937 (?) booklet are very well known to us. The Scott catalogue, and that alone, lists booklet panes of the 1920 air stamps and the writer has hitherto considered such panes a figment of the Scott imagination.

It now appears that Scott is correct although it is not yet known to the writer if the panes were from special plates or if they were blocks of 10 taken from the sheets of 100 in which the normal stamps were printed.

The recently published 'CATALOGUE DES CARNETS DES TIMBRES POSTE DE BELGIQUE ET DU CONGO BELGE' includes a booklet, priced at 30fr and with cover printed in black on fawn, containing two panes of 10 of the 50c and two panes of 10 of the 1fr 1920 air stamps.

Additional information on, indeed confirmation of the existence of, this booklet will be appreciated.

R. H. KEACH

P POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

BOKOTE. Terr. HQ. Trading centre. Catholic Mission on the right bank of the Busira.

BOLOBO. The width of the Congo River is reduced to 1.2 miles here. Admin. Post. Telephone and telegraph office; RTF stn; Customs; stopping place for river services; Mission of the Lazarist Fathers;

Baptist Missionary Society; hospital; dispensary; industrial school. One of the oldest stations in the Congo, established by Capt. Hanssens in 1882.

BOLOMBA. Downstream from Basunkusu. Terr. HQ on the right bank of the Ikelemba River.

BOMA. 54 miles upstream from Banana Point. From 1886 to 1926, Boma was the capital of the Congo Free State, and subsequently of the colony of the Belgian Congo. At present it is the HQ of the Lower Congo District and Colony. Hospitals for Europeans and Africans. Government primary school for Europeans. Schools for natives run by the Brothers of Christian Schools and Franciscan Sisters. School for nursing assistants. RTF Stn; Telephone and telegraph office. Portuguese Consulate. Banque du Congo Belge. Cophaco.

Industrial centre (ship building yard, ice factory, oil mill, soap factory, fisheries etc). Commercial centre. Travel agencies. Airfield. Motor bus service for natives and Europeans. Garages repairs. Catholic Mission of the Fathers of Scheut. Residence of Vicar Apostolic. Mission of Franciscan Sisters. Protestant Mission of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Hotels.

Communications: River service by launch and ocean going ships to Banana and Matadi. A launch service from Matadi reaches Boma Tuesdays and Fridays in 2½ hours. On Mondays and Thursdays a launch leaves Boma for Matadi 5 hours. The launch arriving from Matadi on Tuesdays continues to Banana (7 hours) whence it departs on Wednesdays. Rail service to Tshela (84 miles) on MON WED FRI.

Roads to Banana 78 miles; Moanda 72 miles; Vista 78 miles; Cabinda 114 miles.

History. Boma, like Banana, is one of oldest European settlements in the Belgian Congo. In the 17th century, it was known to the navigators and merchants trading on the west coast of Africa. It was known as "Lombi" subsequently changed to "EMBOMMA" and was part of negro kingdom of Sogno. In those days, trade was principally in slaves.

Captain Tuckey, an Englishman who endeavoured to sail up the Congo in 1816 and whose expedition failed miserably in the region of the cataracts landed at Embomma in July 1816. At that time French, Portuguese and English vessels called regularly to load slaves. One of the ministers or governors of the King of Embomma was a coloured man of French descent by the name of Candy. In Aug 1877 when Stanley arrived at Boma after his famous crossing of Africa, there were 8 trading stations managed by 18 Europeans. Alexander Delcommune was among them as head of a French trading station.

The three large firms established at Boma at that time were the A.H.V., later named the N.A.H.V. (a Dutch firm), the French firm Daumas & Cie, and the English firm of Hatton and Cookson. These firms had branches at Ponte da Lenhe, and Loanga downstream, and

at Massuco and Noki upstream and as far as San Salvador, which was previously the capital of the Negro Kingdom of the Congo. The trading posts were wooden structures with zinc roofs. The Europeans maintained their vegetable gardens, fruit trees and vines. When the slave trade was abolished, dealings in palm oil, groundnuts, ivory, rubber, copal and so forth took place. The European settlement was then called Boma; the village of Embomma was a little further inland.

In his book, "Across the Mysterious Continent", Stanley says that the Europeans had traded with the natives for more than a century. Boma was only made the capital of the Free State in 1886 when it replaced Vivi (on the right bank of the river opposite Matadi).

OCTOBER, 1981 AUCTION SALE

Prices realized were: (NS = not sold) (values in pounds) Lot 1-NS; 2-NS; 3-1.20; 4-18.00; 5-NS; 6-NS; 7-28.00; 8-14.50; 9-1.40; 10-19.10; 11-19.50; 12-9.60; 13-NS; 14-1.10; 15-28.00; 16-NS; 17-NS; 18-28.25; 19-3.00; 20-6.00; 21-3.10; 22-6.00; 23-5.25; 24-7.25; 25-4.75; 26-NS; 27-NS; 28-7.50; 29-NS; 30-19.75; 31-128.00; 32-85.50; 33-28.50; 34-60.50; 35-0.60; 36-8.50; 37-0.75; 38-5.20; 39-22.50; 40-180.00; 41-35.25; 42-9.60; 43-0.80; 44-7.25; 45-1.20; 46-14.00; 47-2.20; 48-20.25; 49-3.20; 50-NS; 51-4.60; 52-40.25; 53-26.00; 54-18.25; 55-0.20; 56-4.40; 57-0.35; 58-4.30; 59-0.35; 60-4.60; 61-NS; 62-1.50; 63-6.75; 64-12.25; 65-35.50; 66-4.80; 67-2.40; 68-2.40; 69-4.10; 70-4.20; 71-4.10; 72-4.60; 73-0.80; 74-5.75; 75-5.75; 76-0.35; 77-3.20; 78-0.20; 79-3.10; 80-3.20; 81-0.25; 82-1.20; 83-2.50; 84-19.00; 85-NS; 86-6.00; 87-6.00; 88-1.00; 89-16.25; 90-4.80; 91-6.00; 92-7.00; 93-0.75; 94-8.25; 95-0.50; 96-5.75; 97-1.20; 98-NS; 99-17.75; 100-8.25; 101-8.75; 102-0.45; 103-0.45; 104-10.25; 105-7.75; 106-10.25; 107-1.75; 108-22.00; 109-15.50; 110-15.50; 111-0.30; 111-0.30; 112-6.00; 113-0.50; 114-0.55; 115-0.25; 116-4.00; 117-5.50; 118-0.65; 119-0.55; 120-0.90; 121-12.25; 122-15.25; 123-3.60; 124-5.25; 125-0.20; 126-NS; 127-NS; 128-NS; 129-59.50; 130-6.00; 131-NS; 132-22.00; 133-1.60; 134-5.75; 135-3.50; 136-NS.

NEW POSTAL TARIFFS - 17 AUGUST IN ZAIRE

Local mail (up to 20 gr): 1z

International Mail:

	limitrophes	Africa	Europa	USA	Oceanie
5 gr	1,70 z	2 x	3 z	7,5	8,5
10 gr	1,90	2,5	4,5	13,5	15,5
15 gr	2,10	3	6	19,5	22,5
20 gr	2,30	3,5	7,5	25,5	29,5
25 gr	3	4,5	9,5	32	37

Registered mail: 3 z

Express mail 2 z

A.R.: 1,5 z (local mail), 4,50 z (international mail)

GEORGES CELIS

A REVISED LISTING OF THE MOLS PLATE COMBINATIONS

By B P Hudson

INTRODUCTION

General Du Four's book 'Congo: Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale', published in 1962, established a systematic classification and listing of the printing plates used for the Mols issues of 1894 to 1925. Since then many new discoveries have been made which have led to re-labelling of the plates or to the addition of new plate combinations. Most of these discoveries have been reported in the BCSC Bulletin or in other periodicals; some, especially the more recent ones, have not yet been so reported.

In the paper below I have set out a complete revised listing of the Mols plate combinations, incorporating all the discoveries made since the publication of Du Four's book. I have also taken the opportunity to standardise the system of plate designation, in which Du Four did not achieve complete consistency. In preparing the paper I have been helped by several Study Circle members but in particular by Ray Keach, who in his usual fashion took enormous trouble to check in detail my successive drafts. Ray Keach and I hope that the plate designations set out below, where they are revised from Du Four's originals, will now become the standard usage among the specialist collectors of these issues.

The listing takes each of the ten face values in turn and describes the plate combinations used for the basic stamps; 'sub-states' of the plates; plate combinations associated with the various overprints and surcharges; shade varieties; perforation varieties; and the so-called 'proofs' and 'errors'. In the following notes I explain the various conventions and abbreviations used.

Plate combinations

The basic system of nomenclature introduced by Du Four is as follows. The stamps are bi-coloured and recess-printed and for each two printing plates were used, one for the frames and one for the centres. For each value successive frame plates are labelled I, II, III etc and centre plates are labelled A, B, C. States of the plates are labelled A1, A2 etc and the complete plate combination is shown as (eg) II1+A2. New plates should not be confused with new dies: in the Mols issues, the same die was in many cases used throughout for each value, with or without modification as successive plates were made from it.

The labelling of the booklet panes of 1915 is rather different. They were printed in four panes of ten each rather than in sheets of 50, and the panes are designated by the greek letters alpha, beta, gamma and delta. There were three printings of the booklets so that (for instance) stamp 9 from pane beta of the first printing of the 10 centimes is labelled 10c 1β9.

This system for the booklets has one defect: it does not cater for changes to the plates which took place during the course of printings. Such changes occurred with the 5c (re-entry of centres during 1st printing), 10c (ditto during 2nd printing), 15c (retouching of frames between 1st and 2nd) and 25c (frames retouched during 2nd printing).

Where the change took place during a printing I propose that the two states of the plate should be distinguished by the suffixes (1) and (2) - eg 25c 2(2) for pane alpha of the 2nd printing after retouching.

Otherwise I have left Du Four's basic system untouched. It has served well and any attempt to alter it would only cause confusion.

It has been necessary, however, to review the definition of what creates a new 'state' of the plate, since Du Four was sometimes inconsistent on this point. Before I prepared the revised listing Ray Keach canvassed the opinion of several Study Circle members on what the definition should be. Inevitably divergent views were expressed, and it has therefore been necessary for me to decide on a compromise. The following definitions reflect the majority opinion and have the advantage of keeping changes from the Du Four designations to a minimum.

The general rule is that deliberate enhancements or additions to the plates count as new states, whereas accidental changes, or the repair of such changes, do not. Thus the following count as new states:

- (i) Partial or complete re-entry, ie the re-impression of the die on one or more positions of the plate.
- (ii) Retouching.
- (iii) The addition or removal of what Du Four called 'traits de repere', ie the lines and dots which (for reasons unknown) were often added to the plates, at certain positions between the stamps, in the course of their usage. At Ray Keach's suggestion these marks are now termed 'guide-marks', abbreviated to 'GMs' in the listing below.
- (iv) The addition of the printers' name in the margin of the plate. This occurred only with the 3½fr and 10fr of 1898.

The following do not count as new states, although they may count as 'sub-states' (described below):

- (i) All accidental blemishes such as wear, corrosion, scratches (including scratches caused by cleaning) and cracks.
- (ii) The repair or correction of such blemishes other than by re-entry or retouching. The main example is burnishing, ie the pressing of a burnishing tool against the plate to eliminate unwanted marks. Another example is the drilling of a hole in 15c frame plate III4, to stop the spreading of the crack on position 41.

No system of definition can be totally logical. I hope that the system suggested above proves to be reasonably workable. In fairness I should mention that Ray Keach and one or two others argued that all deliberate alterations to the plate, including in particular burnishing, should count as making a new state. I saw serious practical difficulties in this since in many cases it is arguable whether burnishing or natural wear was responsible for the disappearance of the marks in question, so that to include burnishing as creating a new state could cause much argument and uncertainty about the numbering of the plates, with frequent renumbering and all the inconvenience which that entails. Accordingly I have opted for a more pragmatic definition,

which Ray Keach has kindly agreed to accept.

In the listing below footnote numbers (eg '(1)') are set against all plate combinations which are different from those shown by Du Four. The corresponding note describes the nature of the change. Plate combinations shown in brackets (eg 5c 1915 (V3+F)) are those which are known only with a particular overprint or surcharge, not on the underlying stamp.

The labelling of the various issues is mostly self-explanatory. '1909' refers always to the unilingual issue. '1918' refers to the Red Cross issue.

Sub-states

Unlike the concept of 'states' of the plate, 'sub-states' has no consistent definition. Rather it is an expression used for convenience to describe changes in the plate which did not coincide with a change of state but which had a visible effect on the stamps, distinctive enough to make the different sub-states worth separate study or sheet reconstruction.

Sub-states are denoted by suffixes a, b etc, eg III1+B4a (first sub-state of centre plate B4) or III4b+B3 (second sub-state of frame plate III4). A typical example arises from the wear or corrosion of the centre plate during a long printing, eg the 5c of 1910 or the 25c of 1915, where differences between the appearance of early and late printings can be very marked. In most cases (eg corrosion of the plate by moisture) the difference between the sub-states is clearly defined; in others (eg continuous wear) there may be some stamps intermediate between the two sub-states, though most can be allocated to one or the other without much difficulty.

Where sub-states coincide with a change of state (eg corroded centres coinciding with the addition of frame GMs), I do not trouble to designate the sub-state since it is not needed for the purpose of differentiating the stamps. The listing below of perforation varieties etc shows sub-states where they have been defined; if they are not shown, it can be assumed that the variety etc in question applies to both sub-states.

Finally, I freely admit that my choice of sub-states is entirely arbitrary.

Overprints and surcharges

This part of the listing shows the plate combinations known for each of the various varieties of overprints and surcharges. In all cases of course the listing relates to the face value of the underlying stamps, not of the surcharge: thus the Malines surcharge 10c/5c, for instance, is dealt with in the section on the 5 centimes value, not in the 10 centimes section.

The abbreviations used are as follows:

- (i) Brussels and local. The eight Brussels and eight local Congo Belge handstamps are labelled B1 to B8 and L1 to L8. Handstamps marked with an asterisk * are those which were listed by Du Four but whose existence on the plate combin-

ation in question has not been confirmed by R H Keach, by the Abbé Gudenkauf or by the present writer.

- (ii) Typo refers to the 1909 issue with the typographed Congo Belge overprint.
- (iii) 1921 refers to the 'Recuperation' issue of 1921, in which the six lower values were surcharged and the four higher values were overprinted '1921'.
- (iv) Malines (sometimes abbreviated to Mal.) refers to the Malines surcharges of 1922. On the 25c and 40c the surcharges are found with varieties of shade and on the 50c with varieties of texture ('shiny' and 'matt').
- (v) Boma refers to the provisional surcharges applied to the 5c, 40c, 1fr and 5fr values in Boma in 1922 and 1923. The authoritative work on them is the booklet published by Abbé Gudenkauf in 1974. For the two lower values four different surcharging plates were used, labelled A, B, C and D. The listing below uses, it should be noted, the Gudenkauf nomenclature, which is the same as Du Four for the 10c/5c but for the 25/40c reverses A and B.
- (vi) Elis. refers to the provisional 25c surcharges applied in Elisabethville in 1923 to 10c stamps which had already received the 1921 or Malines surcharge. A full account of these surcharge were given by Ray Keach in BCSC Bulletin 34, p22, and the nomenclature in that article for the two forms of the surcharge, type A and type B, is also used in the listing below. The listing does not of course cover the forged surcharges which make up the vast majority of the copies of this stamp in existence.
- (vii) Tombeur refers to the 'Ruanda' and 'Urundi' overprints applied to the 1915 issue when Belgian forces under General Tombeur invaded German East Africa in 1916. There are three varieties: the original overprints called 'Kigali' (although they were in fact applied at Pambani); those called 'Grysolle', with a distinctive curvature to each overprint and also applied locally; and the 'Havre' overprints subsequently applied (with official blessing) at Le Havre. In the listing the three types are abbreviated to K, G and H respectively.
- (viii) EAA refers to the 'EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND' overprints of 1916. For a full account of these I would refer the reader to my study published in Bulletin 41. There are five different types of overprint: S (the 'short' overprint) and L1, L5, L6 and L7 (forms of the 'long' overprint). Other forms of the overprint, previously known as Sa, L2 to 4 and L5a, were shown by my study not to be essentially different from S, L7 and L5 respectively.
- (ix) AD refers to the AD overprints on the Red Cross stamps of 1918.
- (x) EAA Mal. refers to the EAA overprint on stamps with the Malines surcharge. The labelling of the different overprint types is the same as with the EAA issue.
- (xi) 1925 RU refers to the 25c+25c charity stamps of 1925 overprinted Ruanda-Urundi. The stamps are listed in the 40 centimes section because the basic Mols design used was that of the 40c.

Shades

This section lists the main varieties of shade in the frames of the stamps, and their association with different states (or in some cases sub-states) of the plates. Minor shade variations such as differences in intensity, which are found in almost all Mols stamps, are ignored.

Perforations

For a detailed study of the perforation varieties I refer the reader to my article in BCSC Bulletin 39, p3. The perforations of the stamps printed by Waterlow Bros and Layton (the $3\frac{1}{2}$ /3fr and 10fr) are relatively straightforward, being either p14, p12 (10fr only) or the compound perforations 11x14, 12x14 and 14x12 found on a few of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ fr and 10fr of 1898. For the stamps printed by Waterlow and Sons the perforations are far more complex and fall into six groups, four 'regular' and two 'irregular':

- (i) Perf $13\frac{1}{2}$. This regular perforation (gauge 13.7 to be exact) is found infrequently on issues from 1900 to 1915. It is never found on Red Cross, EAA, AO or EAA Mal. issues.
- (ii) Perf 14. By far the most common perforation, found on almost all issues. The gauge varies between 13.9 and 14.1.
- (iii) Perf 15. Generally not uncommon, and found on most varieties of the stamps. The gauge is 14.9 to 15.0.
- (iv) Perf 16. A scarce perforation found on issues between 1895 and 1900. In fact the gauge is 15.6 to 15.8 so that one or more sides of the stamp often measure $p15\frac{1}{2}$ rather than p16.
- (v) Irregular perf 12 to 14. This perforating machine showed, in places, great irregularity in the spacing between the pins. Typically two opposite sides are perf 14 while the other two are perf 14 over most of their length but a much wider gauge - 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ - over a portion. Portions at $13\frac{1}{4}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$ are also found. Stamps perforated by this machine are relatively uncommon and are restricted to the issues between 1894 and 1900.
- (vi) Irregular perf 14 to 15. Another distinctive perforating machine, in common usage from 1894 to 1900 and also found in early printings of several values of the 1910 issue. The gauge varies mostly between $14\frac{1}{2}$ and 15, so that the most common forms of this perforation group are $p14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$, $p15 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ and $p14\frac{1}{2}$.

It should be noted that there is some overlapping between these six categories, in that the irregular machine (v) could produce stamps with a regular perf 14, which fall under group (ii), and machine (vi) could produce perf 15 stamps which fall under group (iii). In practice this means that values and plate combinations found with the irregular perfs (v) and (vi) will also always be found with (ii) and (iii) respectively.

For completeness two other perforations should be mentioned: the rare compound perforation 14x15 found in the 3rd printing of the 1915 10c and 25c booklets, and perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ used for the 'Campagnes Coloniales' stamps of 1925.

The listing shows which perforation varieties are found with each variety of stamp, including (where appropriate) sub-state, overprint and shade varieties. Previous studies, including Du Four's book, have not distinguished perforation varieties before 1909, and from 1910 onwards have distinguished only perf 14 and perf 15. I should stress therefore that the listing of the other perforation varieties is based solely on the stamps in my own accumulation, so that there may well be a few gaps.

Proofs and errors

The final section for each value shows the plate combinations associated with the so-called 'proofs' and 'errors'. I say 'so-called', since whatever the 'proofs' were they were not proofs, and - with perhaps one exception - the 'errors' were not errors.

Four 'proof' sets were issued: the 1915 black (perf 15) and imperforate sets, and the 1918 Red Cross and AO imperforate sets. The last two are not shown in the listing because for each value of the Red Cross stamps only one plate combination was used. The 1915 black and imperforate stamps were printed sometimes with the first and sometimes with the second plate combination of the value in question, which demonstrates that they came after, not before, the initial issues of the ordinary stamps, and so cannot have been proofs in the normal sense of the word. Perhaps they are best described as philatelic souvenirs, printed by the authorities in limited numbers for sale at a high profit margin to dealers and collectors.

The 'errors' mostly fall into the same category. In the main listing I include what might be called 'plausible' errors, ie stamps which might be genuine errors (Boma 10c/5c surcharge C on 1910 III1+B4) together with overprints consistent with the wording of the original decree authorising the issue (Congo Belge overprints on the 1fr violet and lilac, 1921 overprints on certain local, typo and unilingual stamps). In a supplementary list I show certain 'implausible' errors, ie deliberate mistakes carried out without the connivance of the authorities - CB overprints on the 5c brown and 10c blue, 1921 surcharges on the 5c, 10c and 25c of 1915, Boma surcharge C on 1910 5c III2+C, and Boma 25c surcharge A (normally applied to the 40c) on the 1915 5c.

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The listing below is the first attempt since Du Four's book to set out systematically the plate combinations and varieties of all the Mols issues. There are therefore bound to be gaps and mistakes in it. If any member of the Study Circle can spot a mistake, or can confirm a variety that I have not listed, I would be grateful if he could send details of it to me at 92 Oakley Street, London SW3. I will then aim to publish in the Bulletin in say a year's time an Addenda and Corrigenda to the listing.

5 CENTIMESPlate combinations

1894	I1+A		Original frames and centres
1895	I1+A	(1)	
1900	I1+B1		New centres
	I2+B2		Frames and centres re-entered
Princes	I2+B2		
1909	II+B2		New frames
1910	III1+B3		New frames; centres re-entered and GMs added
	III1+B4	(2)	Extra centre GMs added
	III1+B5		Centres re-entered
	III2+B5		Frames retouched
	III2+B6		Centres re-entered
	III2+C		New centres
	IV+D1		New frames and centres
	IV+D2		Centres re-entered
1915	V1+E	(3)	New frames and centres
	V2+E	(3)	Frame GMs added
	V3+E	(3)	Frames retouched
	(V3+F)		New centres - EAA overprint only
	VI+F		New frames
	Booklets	(4)	Centres re-entered during 1st printing
1918	V3+E		

- (1) Du Four distinguished three states of centre plate A: A1 (normal), A2 (scratch marks caused by cleaning on nos 3, 8, 46 and 47), and A3 (scratch on no 3 burnished out). Similar scratches are found on many other Mols stamps, and are not now considered as creating a new state of the plate. Du Four's A1, A2 and A3 have therefore been renamed A.
- (2) Early in the printing of III1+B3 two holes were engraved on the centre plate, one between nos 42 and 43 and one between nos 43 and 44. They must have been additional guide-marks, and they therefore create a new state of the plate. The states previously known as B4 and B5 have accordingly been renumbered B5 and B6.
- (3) Du Four did not distinguish between V1, V2 and V3. V2 was created by the addition of frame GMs; in practice it can be distinguished from V1 by the coarse as opposed to fine centres. V3 is distinguished from V2 by the light retouching of the horizontal shading, especially at the top right.
- (4) Du Four stated that the booklet centre plate was re-entered between the 1st and 2nd printings. However copies from the 1st printing have recently been discovered with re-entered centres. The two states of the 1st printing are labelled 1(1) and 1(2).

Sub-states

In later printings of 1910 III1+B4 the centre plate became badly corroded with numerous fine dots, no doubt as a result of being left with moisture on it. The sub-states of the plate before and after corrosion are labelled B4a and B4b.

5 CENTIMES (continued)

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I1+B1 (B2,*B5,*B6); I2+B2 (*B2,B3-6,*B7,B8); Princes (B2,B5)
Local	I1+B1 (*L1,L4,*L6,L7); I2+B2 (L1-7,*L8)
Typo	I2+B2, Princes
1921	III1+B3, III1+B4b, III1+B5, III2+B5, III2+B6, III2+C, IV+D1, IV+D2
Malines	V2+E, V3+E, VI+F
Boma	V1+E (C); V2+E (B,C,D); V3+E (B,C,D); VI+F (A,B,C,D)
Tombeur	V1+E (K,H); V1 or 2+E (G)
EAA	V2+E (S,L7); V3+E (L5,L7); V3+F (L6)
AO	V3+E
EAA Mal.	V2+E (?); V3+E (L5); V3+F (L6)

The Boma surcharges B and D, on frame plate V, are found with thick lines (early printings with viscous ink) or thin lines (later printings with more fluid ink).

The shades of the EAA overprints S and L7 range from deep blue to deep violet blue, the latter shade being unique to the 5c.

Shades

The 1894 stamps are a uniform blue ('sky blue'). Used stamps are frequently found in a lighter shade of blue; these are stamps from the 1900 issue chemically faked into a blue colour.

The 1895 stamps went from brown ('chocolate brown') to dull red brown to rose brown to bright brown red. This last shade is associated with what Du Four called centre plates A2 and A3, ie with the scratches on nos 3, 8, 46 and 47.

The 1900 stamps are uniformly green. The Princes issue are blue green and the unilingual issue of 1909 are green, with a touch of bluishness in the early printings.

The 1910 stamps (III1+B3) started blue green and quickly went to green and then yellow green. As far as can be judged, the change from blue green to green coincided with the change from III1+B3 to III1+B4a, ie the graving of the centre plate holes between nos 42, 43 and 44. With the 1921 surcharge III1+B seems to be unknown - all B3 and B4 stamps with surcharge and uncorroded centres are blue green. The remaining plate combinations of the 1910 issue, from III1+B4b to IV+D2, are yellow green to deep yellow green.

Of the 1915 stamps, V1+E and V2+E are yellow green. V3+E with the EAA or EAA Mal. overprints are also yellow green. Other V3+E stamps are blue green, and apart from the EAA issues this is the easy way to distinguish V1 and V2+E from V3+E. V3+F are blue green and VI+F are green; the centres of both are much lighter in shade and impression than the centres from plate E. The 1st booklet stamps are yellow green, the 2nd booklets bright blue green, and the 3rd booklets dull green or dull blue green.

The Red Cross stamps of 1918 are blue green, ranging widely from a pale to a deep shade.

5 CENTIMES (continued)

Perforations

- Perf 13 $\frac{1}{2}$: 1900 I2+B2; local I2+B2; 1909; 1910 III1+B3, III1+B4, III1+B5, III2+B5; 1915 V1+E, VI+F, 3rd booklets; 1921 III2+B4, IV+D1; Malines VI+F; Boma C VI+F.
- Perf 14: All.
- Perf 15: All except Princes; typo; 1909; 1910 III1+B3, III2+B5, III2+C, IV+D1, IV+D2; 1915 1st and 2nd booklets; 1921 III1+B3, III1+B4, III2+B5; Boma B V2+E, C V1+E, V2+E, D VI+F; Tombeur; EAA V2+E (S), V3+E (L7); EAA Mal. V2+E.
- Perf 16: 1895 red brown; 1900 I1+B1.
- P.12-14: 1894; 1895 (except brown).
- P.14-15: 1894; 1895 (except bright brown red); 1900; Brussels; local.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof V1+E
 1915 Imperf proof V1+E
 Boma C on 1910 III1+B5

'Implausible' errors include Brussels and local overprints on 1895 5c; Boma C of 1910 III2+C; 1921 surcharge on 1915 V3+E; and Boma 25/40c surcharge type A on 1915 5c V2+E and VI+F.

10 CENTIMESPlate combinations

1894	I1+A1		Original frames and centres
	I1+A2		Centres re-entered
1895	I1+A2		
	I2+A3	(1)	Frame GMs added; centres re-entered
1900	I2+B1		New centres
	I3+B2		Extra frame GMs added; centres re-entered
	I4+B2	(2)	Extra frame GMs removed
Princes	I4+B2		
1909	II+B2		New frames
1910	III1+C1		New frames and centres
	III2+C1	(3)	Frame GMs added
	III2+C2		Centres re-entered
	III3+C2		Frames retouched
	IV+D1		New frames and centres
1915	V1+D2	(4)	New frames; centres re-entered
	V2+D2	(4)	Frame GMs added
	V2+D3		Centres re-entered
	V2+E		New Centres
	Booklets		Centres re-entered during 2nd printing
1918	V2+D3		

10 CENTIMES (continued)

- (1) I2+A2 in Du Four. He overlooked the second re-entry of centre plate A, visible only in the sky lines of no 28, to form A3. In practice I2+A3 is distinguished from I1+A2 by the blue green as opposed to green blue frames.
- (2) Du Four designated the centre plate in these combinations as B3, because a spot in the top selvedge of B2 appeared to have been burnished out. Whether or not this burnishing took place, it is not now treated as creating a new state. In practice I4+B2 can be distinguished from I3+B2 by the heavier shading in the top centre sky and by the rolling marks in the sky on nos 41, 44, 45 and 46. Until recently these rolling marks were thought to indicate that the centre plate was re-entered at the same time as I3 changed to I4; however the same marks can be seen, albeit more faintly and finely, on I3+B2, and in the absence of evidence to the contrary it must be assumed that re-entry did not take place.
- (3) Du Four mentioned the addition of frame plate GMs but did not reflect them in his classification. Thus what he called III1+C2 and III2+C2 become III2+C2 and III3+C2 respectively.
- (4) Similarly Du Four described both V1 and V2 as 'V' although he mentioned in his text that frame GMs were added after the first printings. Unless the GMs are visibly present or absent, there is no way in practice of distinguishing V1 from V2.

Sub-states

In the early printings of 1910 III1+C1 the lines of the centre plate are sharp and clear. Later they became worn and blurred. These two sub-states are labelled C1a and C1b respectively.

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I2+B1 (B2,6); I3+B2 (B5,6); I4+B2 (B1,2,4-8); Princes (B2,5)
Local	I2+B1 (L1,2,4,5); I3+B2 (L1,3-5,7); I4+B2 (L1-8)
Typo	I4+B2, Princes
1921	III1+C1a,b, III2+C1, III2+C2, III3+C2, IV+D1
Malines	V2+D2, V2+D3, V2+E
Elis.	III2+C2 (A); III3+C2 (A); IV+D1 (A,B); V2+E (A,B)
Tombeur	V1+D2 (K,H); V1 or 2+D2 (G)
EAA	V2+D2 (S,L5,L7)
AO	V2+D3
EAA Mal.	V2+D2 (L5,L7)

Shades

The 1894 stamps are a uniform brown. Reddish brown stamps are chemically faked copies of the 1900 10c carmine.

The 1895 stamps started a plain blue ('sky blue') and then became a greenish blue ranging from pale to very dark. With the printing of I2+A3 the stamps became bluish green and the latest printings are pale green.

Of the 1900 stamps, I2+B1 are rose carmine, I3+B2 rose to reddish

10 CENTIMES (continued)

carmine and I4+B2 reddish carmine. Very occasionally I4+B2 is found in a distinctive 'strawberry carmine' shade. The Princes issue and the 1909 unilingual issue are bright carmine.

The 1910 stamps range from dull to deep carmine, sometimes with a touch of rose. Deep carmine is found more often on the later plate combinations. IV+D1 is found both in carmine and in a distinct carmine lake shade, and is rare without the 1921 surcharge.

The 1915 stamps are carmine with relatively little variation. The 2nd booklets are bright, deep carmine and the 3rd booklets are dull carmine. The Red Cross stamps of 1918 range from pale to deep carmine. Some are on coarse paper which gives the centres a greenish tinge.

Perforations

- Perf 13: 1900 (all); Brussels I2+B1; 1910 III1+C1a,b, III3+C2; 1915 V+D2, V2+E, 3rd booklets; 1921 III3+C2, IV+D1 (carmine, carmine lake); Malines V2+E.
- Perf 14: All except 1894; typo.
- Perf 15: All except Princes; local I4+B2; 1909; 1910 IV+D1; 1915 1st and 2nd booklets; 1921 III1+C1, III2+C1, III3+C2; Elis.; Tombeur; EAA (S); EAA Mal. (L7).
- Perf 16: 1895 I2+A3.
- P.12-14: 1895 I1+A2; 1900 I2+B1.
- P.14-15: 1894; 1895 (all); 1900 (all); Brussels; local; typo; 1910 (III1+C1a).
- P.14x15: 1915 3rd booklets.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof V1+D2
1915 Imperf proof V1+D2

'Implausible errors' include Brussels overprint on 1895 10c blue; 1921 surcharge on 1915 V2+D3.

15 CENTIMESPlate combinations

1896	I+A1	Original frames and centres
	I+A2	Centres re-entered
Princes	I+A2	
1909	II+A2	New frames
1910	III1+A3	New frames; centres re-entered & GMs added
	III1+A4 (1)	Centres re-entered
	III1+A5	Centres re-entered
	III1+A6	Centres re-entered
	III1+A7 (2)	Centres re-entered
	III1+A8 (2)	Centres re-entered

15 CENTIMES (continued)

1910	III2+B1		Frames retouched; new centres
	III2+B2	(3)	Centres re-entered
	III3+B2		Frames re-entered
	III3+B3	(4)	Centres re-entered
1915	III4+B3		Frames re-entered
	III5+C1	(5)	Frames retouched; new centres
	IV1+C1		New frames
	IV2+C1		Frames re-entered
	V+C1		New frames
	V+C2	(5)	Centres re-entered
1918	Booklets		Frames retouched between 1st and 2nd printin
	V+C1		

- (1) An intermediate state of the centre plate has recently been discovered between A3 and what Du Four called A4 (now renamed A5).
- (2) The discovery of these two states was described in BCSC Bulletin 32, page 2. What are now A6, A7 and A8 were all labelled A5 by Du Four.
- (3) The combination III2+B2 was discovered very recently. It is not necessarily uncommon, since B1 and B2 are often hard to distinguish
- (4) III3+B3 is another relatively new discovery - see Bulletin 37 p10. To recap, here is a list of the combinations as they are known now compared with Du Four's list:

<u>Now</u>	<u>Du Four</u>
III1+A3	III1+A3
III1+A4	-
III1+A5	III1+A4
III1+A6	III1+A5
III1+A7	III1+A5
III1+A8	III1+A5
III2+B1	III2+B1
III2+B2	-
III3+B2	III3+B2
III3+B3	-

- (5) Du Four described C2 as a new centre plate D. It was later discovered (see Bulletin 29 p15) that D was a re-entered form of C, so C and D were renamed C1 and C2 respectively.

Sub-states

In the early printings of the 1896 issue, I+A1, the centre plate is clean. In the later printings it is heavily pitted with corrosion spots. The two sub-states are labelled A1a and A1b respectively.

In the earliest printings of 1910 III1+A3, labelled A3a, the centres are a characteristic deep black. In later printings (A3b) they are a brownish or bluish grey-black.

In the course of the printing of 1915 III4+B3 a hole was drilled in the frame plate of no. 41 to stop the spreading of the crack known as Balasse variety 10. The sub-states of the frame plate before and after the drilling of the hole are labelled III4a and III4b.

15 CENTIMES (continued)

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I+A1b (B1-4,*B5,*B6); Princes (B2,B5)
Local	I+A1b (L2-4,L5,L7); I+A2 (L1-7,*L8)
Typo	I+A2, Princes
1921	III1+A3a,b, III1+A4, III1+A5, III1+A6, III1+A7, III1+A8, III2+B1, III3+B2, III3+B3
Tombeur	III4a,b+B3 (H); III4a or b+B3 (K,G)
EAA	III5+C1 (S,L1,L7); IV1+C1 (L5,L7)
AD	V+C1

Shades

The 1896 stamps before corrosion (centres A1a) are yellow ochre, ochre or (very occasionally) olive ochre. After corrosion (A1b) they are orange ochre. The stamps with re-entered centres (A2) range from yellow ochre to ochre yellow. The Princes issue are a brownish orange ochre.

The 1909 unilingual issue range from ochre to brown ochre and ochre brown.

The 1910 stamps started (A3a) with deep yellow frames and deep black centres. In all later combinations the centres are greyish or brownish black. The frames are dull ochre or yellow ochre, with a brownish tinge in some of the later combinations and a distinctive ochre orange in III3+B2 and III3+B3.

In the 1915 stamps III4+B3 are green, III5+C1 to V+C1 are blue green and V+C2 are yellow green to deep yellow green. The 1st booklets are blue green, the 2nd booklets are bright blue green (almost 'peacock blue') and the 3rd booklets are dull green.

The 1918 Red Cross stamps are blue green. Copies are known with blue frames (virtually the same shade as the centre) but they may be chemically faked.

Perforations

Perf 13¹: 1896 I+A1b; local I+A2; 1910 III1+A3a,b, III1+A6, III2+B1; 1915 III4+B3a,b, V+C2; Tombeur (Havre) III4+B3a,b.

Perf 14: All.

Perf 15: All except 1896 I+A2; Brussels; local; Princes; 1909; 1910 III1+A4, III1+A5, III1+A8, III2+B2, III3+B2, III3+B3; 1915 IV2+C1, 1st and 2nd booklets; 1921 III1+A3 to A6, III1+A8, III2+B2, III3+B3; Tombeur; EAA III5+C1 (S,L1), IV1+C1 (L7).

Perf 16: 1896 I+A1a.

P.12-14: 1896 I+A1a,b.

P.14-15: 1896 (all); typo; 1910 III1+A3a.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof	III5+C1
1915 Imperf proof	III5+C1

25 CENTIMESPlate combinations

1894	I1+A1	Original frames and centres
1900	I2+A2	Frame GMs added; centres re-entered
	I3+A2	Frames retouched
Princes	I3+A2	
1910	II1+A3	New frames; centres re-entered & GMs added
	II1+A4	Centres re-entered
	II2+A4	Frames retouched
	II3+B	Frames re-entered; new centres
1915	III1+B	New frames
	III1+C (1)	New centres
	III2+C	Frame GMs added
	III2+D	New centres
	(III3+D) (1)	Extra frame GMs added- Malines surcharge on 1
	Booklets	Frames retouched during 2nd printing
1918	III2+D	

(1) The existence of III1+C and III3+D was not known to Du Four - see Bulletin 23 p2.

Sub-states

During the printing of centre plate C of the 1915 issue, the plate became much coarsened and corroded, particularly in the horizontal lines of the sky. This occurred after frame GMs were added to the frame plate to make III2. The fine and coarse centres are labelled respectively III2+Ca and III2+Cb. (A similar process occurred during the printing of III1+B of the 1915 issue, but the distinction between fine and coarse centres is not so clear-cut as it is with centre plate C.)

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I2+A2 (B1-5, *B6); Princes (B2, B5)
Local	I2+A2 (L1-8); I3+A2 (L1-8)
Typo	I2+A2, I3+A2, Princes
1921	II1+A3, II1+A4, II2+A4, II3+B
Mal. (red)	III1+B, III2+Ca, b
(carmine)	III1+B, III2+Ca, b, III2+D, III3+D
Tombeur	III1+B
EAA	III1+B (S, L1, L7); III1+C (L5, L7); III2+Ca (L5)
AO	III2+D
EAA Mal. (red)	III1+B (L1); III1+C (L5)
(carmine)	III1+B (L1, L7); III1+C (L5, L7)

Strictly speaking the Malines surcharge is found in 3 different shades: vermilion red (described above as 'red'), carmine red and carmine rose (both described above as 'carmine'). The carmine red and carmine rose are not listed separately above because they can in practice be very difficult to distinguish.

Shades

The 1894 issue is found in a wide range of shades from yellow to bright orange to orange bistre; frequently found intermediate shades are orange yellow, yellow orange and bistre orange.

25 CENTIMES (continued)

The 1900 stamps are a constant blue. Very occasionally light blue or grey blue shades are found. The Princes issue are a brighter, slightly greenish shade of blue.

1910 II1+A3 are pale green blue. II1+A4 are greenish blue to blue, II2+A4 are dark blue and II3+B are a distinctive deep blue.

The 1915 stamps printed in sheets are blue with very little variation. The 1st booklet stamps are greenish blue to blue; the 2nd booklets are deep bright blue; and the 3rd booklets are dull blue.

The 1918 Red Cross stamps are normally blue. Some stamps are printed on coarse paper which gives a greenish tinge to both the frames and centres.

Perforations

Perf 13½: 1900 I2+A2; local I2+A2; typo I2+A2; 1910 II1+A3, II1+A4, II2+A4; 1915 III+Ca, III2+D; 1921 II1+A4, II2+A4; Mal. III+D.

Perf 14: All.

Perf 15: All except Princes; 1910 II2+A4, II3+B; 1915 III1+C, III2+D, 1st and 2nd booklets before retouching; 1921 II1+A3, II2+A4, II3+B; Mal. red III1+B, III2+Ca; carmine III1+B, III2+Cb, III3+D; Tombeur (except that Havre 'Ruanda' is found p.15); EAA III1+B (S,L1), III1+C (L7), III2+Ca; EAA Mal. (p.15 found only on carmine III1+C L5).

Perf 16: None.

P.12-14: 1894 (except orange yellow)

P.14-15: 1894; 1900 I2+A2; Brussels; local (I2 and I3); typo (I2 and I3); 1910 II1+A3.

P.14x15: 1915 3rd booklets.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof III1+B

1915 Imperf proof III1+B

'Implausible errors' include 1921 surcharge on 1915 III2+C.

40 CENTIMES

Plate combinations

1896	I1+A1	Original frames and centres
	I2+A1	Frame GMs added
Princes	I2+A1	
1910	II+A2	New frames; centre GMs added
1915	II+A2	
	II+A3	Centres re-entered
1918	II+A3	
1925	III+B	New frames and centres (Campagnes Coloniales 25c+25c, printed in sheets of 100)

40 CENTIMES (continued)

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I2+A1 (B2,*B3,B4,*B5,B6); Princes (B2,B5)
Local	I2+A1 (L1-7)
Typo	I2+A1
1921	II+A2
Mal. (red)	II+A2, II+A3
(carmine)	II+A2, II+A3
Boma	II+A2 (B,C,D); II+A3 (A,B,C,D) (Gudenkauf nomenclature)
Tombeur	II+A2
EAA	II+A3 (L5,L7)
AD	II+A3
EAA Mal. (red)	II+A3 (L5,L7)
(carmine)	II+A3 (L5,L7)
1925 RU	III+B

Shades

The 1896 stamps are found in pale green and blue green, occasionally green. It is thought that the pale green stamps came first. They are, however, found with frame plate I2 whereas blue green stamps are found with both I1 and I2. The Princes issue are a brighter shade of blue green. Stamps with Brussels, local and typo overprints are always blue green.

The 1910 stamps are blue green with little variation. Occasionally a paler shade is found.

The 1915 and 1918 stamps are brown lake, sometimes with a reddish tinge. Some 1918 stamps are on coarse paper and their centres show a greenish tinge.

The 1925 stamps are bright carmine with no variation.

Perforations

Perf 12½: 1925.

Perf 13½: 1896 blue green; 1910; 1915 II+A2; 1921; Boma C II+A2.

Perf 14: All except 1925.

Perf 15: All except Princes; Malines red II+A2; Boma II+A2 (B,D); Tombeur; EAA II+A3 (L5); EAA Mal. (except p.15 found on carmine L5).

Perf 16: 1896 blue green.

P.12-14: 1896 blue green; Brussels, local; typo.

P.14-15: 1896 (all); typo; 1910; 1921.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof	II+A3
1915 Imperf proof	II+A3
1921 on typo	I2+A1

50 CENTIMESPlate combinations

1894	I1+A1	(1)	Original frames and centres
1900	I1+A2	(1)	Centres re-entered
	I2+A2		Frame GMs added
Princes	I2+A2		
1909	II+A2		New frames
1910	III1+A3	(2)	New frames; centre GMs added (re-ente
	III2+A4		Frames re-entered and retouched; centres
1915	III3+A5	(3)	Frames retouched; centres re-entered
	III3+B		New centres
1918	III4+B	(4)	Frame GMs added

- (1) Du Four designated centre plate A1 as A, A2 as B1, A3 as B2 and so on. The discovery that B1 was a re-entered state of A rather than a new plate was reported in Bulletin 28 p12.
- (2) Abbé Gudenkauf and A Vindevoghel recently reported the addition of GMs to centre plate A2 before the 1910 printing. They take the form of vertical lines between nos 7 and 8 and a large dot between 37 and 38. They therefore create a new state A3, and what used to be A3 and A4 become A4 and A5 respectively.
- (3) III2 in Du Four. It was discovered subsequently that III2 was retouched to produce III3 for the 1915 printing.
- (4) Also III2 in Du Four. The frame GMs which created III4 are found only in the Red Cross and AO issues.

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I1+A2 (B1,B2,*B3,B4-7); I2+A2 (*?); Princes (B2,B5)
Local	I1+A2 (*L1,L2,*L3-8); I2+A2 (L1-7,*L8)
Typo	*I1+A2, I2+A2, Princes
1921	III1+A3, III2+A4
Mal. (matt)	III3+B
(shiny)	III3+A5, III3+B
Tombour	III3+A5 (K,H); III3+B (G)
EAA	III3+B (S,L1,L5,L7)
AO	III4+B
EAA Mal. (matt)	III3+B (L5)
(shiny)	III3+B (L5)

Shades

1894 stamps are mostly blue green (early printings) or yellow green (later printings); green and bright yellow green are also found.

1900 stamps are mostly olive to dark olive, but later printings are yellow olive ('ochre') to olive yellow. The olive printings are I1 or I2 while the yellow olive are always I2. Stamps with Brussels or local overprints are usually olive; only L3,L4,L5,L6 and L7 are known on yellow olive stamps. All typo stamps are olive. The Princes issue are yellow olive.

The 1909 unilingual stamps are olive, pale olive or brown olive. The brown olive is quite distinct from the olive shades.

1910 III1+A3 are olive, ranging from grey olive to yellow olive. III2+A4 are a distinctive green olive or olive green.

The shades of the 1915 stamps fall into two groups: lilac brown ranging

50 CENTIMES (continued)

to deep lilac brown, and pale to deep red brown with varying degrees of reddishness. The 1915 issue itself is found in red brown and lilac brown in both plate combinations. The Red Cross and AO stamps are red brown. The Malines stamps are also red brown, except for the rare III3+A5 which is lilac brown. Tombeur stamps with the Havre overprint are found in both shades, Kigali in lilac brown only, Grysolle in red brown only. EAA stamps are found both lilac brown (S,L1,L7) and red brown (L5,L7). EAA Mal. are always red brown.

Perforations

- Perf 13½: 1900 I2+A2 yellow olive; local I2+A2 yellow olive; 1909 brown olive; 1921 III1+A3.
- Perf 14: All.
- Perf 15: All except Princes; 1909; 1910 III2+A4; 1921 III2+A4; Tombeur Kigali, Grysolle, Havre Urundi lilac brown; EAA; EAA Mal.
- Perf 16: 1894 yellow green; 1900 I2+A2 yellow olive.
- P.12-14: 1894; 1900 I2+A2 yellow olive; local I2+A2 yellow olive.
- P.14-15: 1894; 1900; local; typo; 1910 III1+A3; 1921 III1+A3.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof	III3+A5
1915 Imperf proof	III3+B
1921 on typo	I2+A2 (olive)
1921 on 1909 uni	II+A2 (olive)

1 FRANCPlate combinations

1894 violet	I1+A1	(1)	Original frames and centres
lilac	I1+A1		
1900	I2+A2		Frame GMs added; centres re-entered
Princes	I2+A2		
1910	II1+A3		New frames; centre GMs added
	II1+A4		Centres re-entered
1915	II1+A4		
	II2+A5		Frames retouched; centres re-entered
	(II3+A5)		Frames re-entered - EAA overprint only
	II4+A5	(2)	Frames re-entered
	II5+A5		Frames re-entered
	II6+A5	(3)	Frames re-entered
	II6+A6		Centres re-entered
	III+A7	(4)	New frames; centres re-entered
1918	III+A7		

- (1) For the 1894 violet Du Four listed two states of frame plate I, the second (I2) caused when a scratch crossing nos 43 and 44 was partly burnished. Burnishing is not now considered as creating a new state of the plate; in any case R H Keach demonstrated in Bulletin 35, p15, that burnishing did not take place. Du Four's

1 FRANC (continued)

- I1 and I2 have been renamed I1, and what used to be I3 (the frame plate for the 1900 issue) has been renamed I2.
- (2) The discovery of a new state of the frame plate, II4, was reported in Bulletin 32 p3. Du Four's II4 and II5 were renamed II5 and II6 respectively.
- (3) This new combination, unknown to Du Four, was also reported in Bulletin 32 p3.
- (4) Du Four described A7 as B. It was renamed when it was discovered that it was a re-entry of A6 rather than a new plate. To recap, here is a list of the combinations of the 1915 stamp as they are known now compared with Du Four's list:

<u>Now</u>	<u>Du Four</u>
II1+A4	II1+A4
II2+A5	II2+A5
II3+A5	II3+A5
II4+A5	-
II5+A5	II4+A5
II6+A5	-
II6+A6	II5+A6
III+A7	III+B

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels I2+A2 (B1,B2,B5-7); Princes (B2,B5)
 Local I2+A2 (L1-8)
 Typo I2+A2, Princes
 1921 II1+A3, II1+A4
 Boma II4+A5, II5+A5, II6+A5
 Tombeur II1+A4 (K,H); II2+A5 (G)
 EAA II2+A5 (S,L7); II3+A5 (L5,L7)
 AD III+A7

Shades

The 1894 violet ranges from pale to dark violet; later printings have a slight rose or lilac tinge.

The lilac stamps began in a distinctive deep lilac, ranged from lilac and pale lilac to rose lilac, and ended in a carmine lilac shade which is close to (but can nonetheless be distinguished from) the carmine shade of the 1900 issue.

The 1900 issue are carmine with little variation in shade. The Princes issue are deep carmine.

1910 II1+A3 are pale to deep carmine or carmine red; II1+A4 are lake carmine or carmine lake.

1915 II1+A4 are green olive. Later plate combinations are olive, pale olive or yellow olive; III+A7 (including the Red Cross stamps) are always olive.

Perforations

Perf 13½: 1900; local; typo; 1915 II5+A5.
 Perf 14: All except 1894 lilac to rose lilac (carmine lilac is found p.14); Brussels; local; typo; Tombeur Kigali.

1 FRANC (continued)

- Perf 15: All except Princes; 1910 II1+A4; 1915 II2+A5, II4+A5, II6+A5, II6+A6; 1918; Boma; Tombeur (except Kigali which is always p.15); EAA; AO.
- Perf 16: 1900; Brussels; local; typo.
- P.12-14: 1894 violet, carmine lilac; 1900.
- P.14-15: 1894 violet.

Proofs and errors

Brussels on 1894	I1+A1 violet (B2,*B4,*B6); lilac (B1,*B6)
Local on 1894	I1+A1 violet (*L4); lilac (L1,*L5,*L7)
1915 Black proof	II1+A4
1915 Imperf proof	II2+A5
1921 on typo	I2+A2, Princes

3 $\frac{1}{3}$ FRANCSPlate combinations

1898	I1+A	(1)	Original frames and centres
Princes	I2+A	(1)	Printers' name added in selvedge
1910	II1+A		New frames
	II2+A		Frames retouched

- (1) Before the Princes printing both frame and centre plates suffered corrosion which Du Four listed as second states of the plates, ie I2+A2. Corrosion is not however regarded as creating a new state of the plate, so the centre plate has been renamed A throughout. The distinction between frame plates I1 and I2 is still valid because the name of the printers was added in the selvedge of the plate before the Princes printing.

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I1+A (B1,B2,*B3,B5,B6); Princes (B2,*B6)
Local	I1+A (L1-7,*L8)
Typo	I1+A, Princes
1921	II1+A, II2+A

Shades

All stamps are vermilion.

Perforations

All are perf 14, except that the 1898 stamp is found perf 12x14 and 14x12. (To be more exact, 1898 Waterlow Bros and Layton stamps are perf 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ whereas Princes and later issues are perf 14.)

5 FRANCSPlate combinations

1894	I+A1	Original frames and centres
Princes	I+A2	Centres re-entered
1910	II1+A3 (1)	New frames; centre GMs added
1915	II1+A3	
	II1+A4	Centres re-entered and GM removed
	II2+A4	Frame GMs added
1918	II2+A4	

(1) II1+A2 in Du Four. It is now thought that the black dot in the top right corner of no 22 and the black line at the top of no 29 (Balasse variety 3) are guide marks, which therefore create a new state of the centre plate A3. When the plate was re-entered to make A4 the line but not the dot was removed.

Sub-states

Late printings of II2+A4 have very worn and blurred centres. The plates before and after they became worn are labelled A4a and A4b respectively. The 1918 Red Cross stamps are always II2+A4a.

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I+A1 (B1,B2,*B3,*B4,B5,B6); Princes (B2)
Local	I+A1 (L1-7,*L8)
Typo	I+A1, Princes
1921	II1+A3
Boma	II2+A4a,b
Tombeur	II1+A3 (K,G)
EAA	II1+A3 (S,L1,L5,L7); II2+A4a (L5)
AO	II2+A4a

Shades

The 1894 stamps passed from deep carmine to deep rose carmine. Late printings are rose carmine but these are rare without overprint. Stamps with Brussels and local overprints are found in all three shades; typo stamps are always rose carmine. The Princes issue are red carmine.

The 1910 stamps are bright carmine with very little variation.

By contrast the 1915 stamps show considerable variation in shade. The earlier printings of II1+A3 are in a distinctive (and fairly constant) yellow brown shade. Later printings are ochre ranging to yellow ochre (sometimes almost yellow) and orange ochre, this last shade being found particularly with the EAA overprint. II+A4 are found in yellow ochre, ochre and brown ochre; the last printings with the worn centre plate, II2+A4b, are always brown ochre. Stamps with the Boma surcharge are mostly ochre or brown ochre.

The Red Cross stamps are normally ochre, sometimes pale yellow ochre. The Red Cross surcharge is reputed to be found in vermilion as well as carmine.

Perforations

Perf 13½: 1915 II1+A3 yellow brown.

Perf 14: All except 1894 deep carmine and deep rose carmine; Tombeur (both K and G).

5 FRANCS (continued)

- Perf 15: All except 1915 II2+A4b; 1918; EAA II2+A4; AO.
 Perf 16: 1894 deep carmine and deep rose carmine.
 P.12-14: 1894; typo.
 P.14-15: 1894; Brussels; local.

Proofs and errors

1915 Black proof	II1+A3
1915 Imperf proof	II1+A3
1921 on local	I+A1 (L1)
1921 on typo	I+A1

10 FRANCSPlate combinations

1898	I1+A1	(1)	Original frames and centres (perf 14)
	I2+A1	(1)	Printers' name added in selvedge (perf 12)
Princes	I2+A1		
1910	II+A1		New frames (yellow or bluish paper)
	II+A2		Centres retouched (bluish paper)
1918	III+B		New frames and centres

- (1) I+A1 in Du Four. The two states of frame plate I are created by the addition of the printers' name in the selvedge (see also note (1) on the 3½ francs).

Overprints and surcharges

Brussels	I1+A1 (B1, B2, *B3, B5, B6); Princes (B2)	(all p14)
Local	I1+A1 (p14 - *L1, *L2, L3-5, *L6); I2+A1 (p12 - L1-7, *L8)	
Typo	I1+A1 (p14); I2+A1 (p12); Princes	
1921	II+A1, II+A2	
AO	III+B	

Shades

The 1898 stamps are yellow green, with a lighter shade usually found in the later printings perf 12. The Princes issue are dark green. The 1910 stamps on yellowish paper are green or yellow green; on bluish paper they are dark green or blue green. The Red Cross stamps are green with the surcharge found either in carmine or vermilion.

Perforations

All stamps are perf 14 (strictly 14½ in the 1898 issue), except those with frame plate I2 which are perf 12. Compound perfs 11x14, 12x14 and 14x12 are also found in the 1898 issue, probably on I1+A1.

Proofs and errors

1921 on local (L1) and typo	I2+A1	(perf 12)
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