

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Apologies are in order to the entire membership for the delay in getting out this issue. The Editor and his family had the honor and privilege of entertaining and hosting Mr. Omer P. Cooremans of Brugge, Belgium. This was his first visit to the United States and made possible through his contacts, mainly philatelic, by correspondence with friends in this country. Omer's visit to Arizona included a trip to Tucson and then a week long trip to Northern Arizona, parts of Southern Utah and was concluded by a trip to California. He will tour a good bit of California with one of our members, Joe Babicki, and then will return to New York, his starting point, before returning to Belgium. Omer was a grand guest and we look forward to other members' visits to our warm and sunny State.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held at 11:30 am. on 22 May, 1982 at Anvers, New Road, Esher, the home of our Chairman, Mr. L. G. Green. Mr. Green welcomed those present (of whom there were 6, one further member being able only to attend the afternoon session) and passed the proceeding to the Secretary.

The Secretary noted that there were 5 apologies ~~for~~ absence and said that the Study Circle had had another good year in membership, which had increased to 63, even ignoring those who had so far defaulted on 1981/82 subscriptions and to whom no more documentation would be sent until they were up to date. In the normal way, such members would merely be omitted from future lists.

The accounts had already been circulated, showing that the Society was also healthy, financially. After some minor queries had been asked and answered, the Chairman proposed acceptance of the figures and this was agreed.

Mr. Keach reported on the sales department, which was being most effective in keeping subscriptions at a lower level than would otherwise be necessary. The commission earned indicated sales during the year of almost 6,000 pounds and, with two large postal auction sales taking place during 1982/83, it was hoped that this level would be maintained.

The Expert Committee, also reported on by Mr. Keach, had had a relatively quiet year, but was still functioning smoothly and covering its costs. This was not apparent from the accounts, but 34 additional certificates had been issued in April whereas much of the cost in preparing these had already been incurred in March.

The Bulletin Editor, for obvious reasons, being unable to attend, the Secretary stated that the Bulletin was patently running both successfully and regularly and had contained a good deal which was of real substance to Congo collectors over the year.

As the various officers were prepared to continue, the Chairman proposed that they would be asked to do so and this was heartily agreed by the other members present.

The Secretary explained that, while sales commission income was expected to continue as in the past few years, there was no real need for an increase in subscription rates at the present time, except to adjust the amount payable in Belgian Francs, where the exchange rate had slipped very badly and the new subscription should be 500 Bfrs.

Equally, there was as yet no need to increase the rate chargeable as sales commission or the charges for copy documentation or for Expert Certificates. As it was some time since a consolidated list of these charges had been issued, the Secretary would send out a new list in the next few months.

The programme for 1982/83 would again consist of two meetings, the provisional dates and subject matter being:

23 October, 1982 at 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth - the 1947 - 50 Idols Issue and the 1921 "15" and "30" handstamps on post cards.

21 May, 1983 at 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford - morning Annual General Meeting, followed in the afternoon by the next value of the Mols series, the 50 centimes.

Mr. Wood detailed the progress made to date with arrangements for the joint meeting at Southampton with the Belgium Study Circle over the weekend 18 - 19 September. The programme was complete except for the final Sunday afternoon session. It was agreed that this should take the form of 10-minute displays by those present. For the following year, several of the overseas members had asked if a meeting could be held in Edinburgh and, provisionally, it is believed that this could be arranged for the weekend 17 - 18 September, 1983.

Mr. Keach apologised for his slow progress with the promised reprints and publications which he had been working on, but said that some work had been done and that the backlog was now beginning to get dealt with. Fortunately, the Study Circle's continuing financial strength would be of assistance in meeting the initial costs involved in preparing publications which, in the longer term, should be a source of additional income to the Society.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

In the afternoon, the subject for presentation and discussion was the Mols 40 centimes value. The presentation was given by Mr. Foden, drawing upon his own material, heavily supported by that of Mr. Keach, which enabled him to show, inter alia, several extremely scarce and interesting progress proofs of the die for the original frame plate.

Mention should be made that Mr. A. Heim, one of our Founder Members, had travelled from New York to be at the meeting, and who was particularly welcomed by all present. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hirdler, from Florida had also hoped to be present, but, owing to Mrs. Hirdler's illness, had to postpone their visit meantime.

We wish to welcome the following new members:

Mr. W. A. Weinberger, 20 Luddinton Rd., West Orange, N.J. 07052, U.S.A.

Mr. Baiwir, 44 bis, Avenue Marie-Jose, 1200 Brussels, Belgium.

P. Brandeleer, Rue J. Tonneau 19, 5001 Belgrade, Belgium.

Dr. G. R. Hoffman, Nouvelle Clinique de la Basilique, Rue Pangaert 37/47, 1080 Brussels, Belgium.

A very great honour has been conferred upon the Study Circle's member, Mrs. H. Jeidel, who is also a noted collector of Monaco; on 5 April, 1982, Mrs. Jeidel was created a Chevalier des Grimaldi by the Hon. Consul of Monaco in Cape Town. The actual title was bestowed on 18 November, 1981, the National Day of Monaco, but it took some time to obtain the consent of the State President of South Africa, without which it is illegal for a South African citizen to accept a foreign title or decoration. Mrs. Jeidel is certainly the only lady Chevalier in South Africa, and it cannot be usual for such an honour to be conferred for efforts in philately.

Word has been received that the highlight of the year was 27 May 1982 when Mr. R. H. Keach had his exhibition at the Royal Philatelic Society. He showed about 500 sheets covering all the Mols issues and postal stationery, and ending with a long series of complete sheets illustrating virtually every plate combination of each value.

Awards - We note that at Rochester, N.Y. (ROPEX) - a national show - Joe Babicki took a Silver Award and Gene Adams took a Bronze. It might also be mentioned that the Editor took a Vermeil Award and the Marcus White Award at BECKPEX '82, Fullerton, California, and this qualifies him to exhibit at BALPEX at Hunt Valley, MD for the SHOWCASE PLAYOFF - the winners of all Marcus White Awards during the year.

MORE 'FILE COPY' SHEETS OF THE MOLS ISSUES

A few more of Waterlow's File Copy sheets of the Mols stamps have come to light and Robson Lowe has kindly allowed me the sight of them. It appears that these are likely to be the last and it is a great pity that the File Copies of the 1910 and 1915 issues are so incomplete. However we have to be thankful for even the incomplete records and for the opportunity we have had to study the sheets.

1895 10c blue

The sheet has the manuscript markings: 132054 (Waterlow reference No.) 10.1.99 and 80,000 (number of stamps printed). The stamps are perforated 14.

The Stamps are in the typical blue-green shade of the late printings, plates I2+A2, and include Balasse varieties V2 and V3 but not V4, the scratch across the moored canoes on No. 28. This last variety was reported in the first article on the File Copies (Bulletin No. 35) to be present on the 16.3.98 printing.

In Bulletin No. 38, Mr. Hudson disclosed the existence of a third state of the centre plate, A3, with doubling of the right sky on No. 28. The writer's copies of Balasse V4, in the blue-green shade, do not have the doubled sky and it appears to be virtually certain that another combination of plates I2+A2 exists. This can be proved conclusively if the File Copy sheet of the 16.3.98 printing remains intact. IF ANY MEMBER HAS THE FILE COPY OF THE SHEET OF THE 10c BLUE, REFERENCE NO. 145741, WILL HE PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO INFORM THE WRITER.

The 80,000 stamps in this printing increases the total number of which we know from 200,000 (Bulletin No. 35) to 280,000, greater than the numbers given by Balasse and Du Four. Moreover, as discussed in Bulletin No. 35, it is clear that the first printing of this stamp is not represented by a File Copy sheet. The total printing must have been of the order of 350,000.

1910 15c

The sheet has manuscript markings: 94480, 10.10.13 and 300,000 (stamps is of combination of plates III3+B2 (sadly not III3+B3) and is perforated 14.

The one other extant File Copy sheet was reported in Bulletin No. 39, with combination of plates III1+A5 (III1+A6 with the revised nomenclature) and that printing was of 100,000, a total of 400,000. With the multitudes of plate combinations of this stamp there must have been many more printings (printings may not have coincided with changes of state of the plates) and the total printing of the stamp of 623,250 given by Du Four must be a gross underestimate.

1910 25c

There are two sheets:

<u>Plate Combination</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Printed</u>	<u>Perforated</u>
III1+A4	204311	7.11.11	500,000	14
III3+B	94480	10.10.13	<u>300,000</u>	14
			800,000	

There are excluded the large printing or printings of III1+A3, a possible

second printing of III+A4 and the printing of II2+A4. Balasse gives printings of 290,000 + 278,000 (with 50c surcharge) = 568,000 whereas Du Four estimated a total of 682,950. It is clear that both estimates are much too low and the total printing must have well exceeded one million copies.

1910 50c

The sheet has manuscript markings: 94480, 10.10.13, and 100,000. It is of combination III2+A4 and perforated 14.

The File Copy sheets reported in Bulletin No. 39 was of plates III1+A3 with a printing of 100,000 copies of the stamp. There must have been at least one additional printing of III1+A3 and Du Four's estimate of the total printing of 523,500 may well be of the right order.

1910 1 fr.

The sheet has manuscript markings: 94480, 10.10.13 and 100,000, is of combination of plates III+A4 and is perforated 14.

With no other File Copy sheets of this stamp available there is no evidence to query the figures given for the number of stamps printed, 352,000 given by both Balasse and Du Four.

General

Accepting that these are the last of the 'File Copy' sheets that still exist, it seems clear that the sequences of printings of the 1894-1900 issues are fairly complete, the Princes' Printing is complete, the 1909 Unilingual sheets do not exist, the 1910 issue is very sparsely represented, the 1915 issue is fairly but not entirely complete and the 1918 is complete except maybe for a small additional printing of the 10fr (with vermilion surcharge).

R. H. KEACH

BELGIAN CONGO: AIRMAIL & SURFACE RATES DURING WW2.

INTERIM REPORT # 1. The article in Bulletin 42 refers.

The response by Society Members holding collections of WW2 covers from the Congo has been most encouraging. Peter Foden has examined several major holdings and has forwarded photocopies for my records: to these I have added information from material owned by Society of Postal Historians members.

This interim report is intended to stimulate those who so far have not sent details of their covers. The details which follow represents that of which Peter and I are reasonably certain. Items recorded but not included involve registration, on which our opinions differ as to a possible increase in rate during 1942, and any which appeared to have been slightly under-or-over paid. These hopefully may resolve themselves when more material has been seen.

The lists which follow show the International Surface Rates, the Air fees to Europe and the Air fees to the Americas. Airmail rates were calculated by the addition of Surface Rates per 20gms to Air fees per 5gms. Note that for heavy letters, the Surface Rate beyond the first 20gms was at a reduced level. There was a special surface rate for Postcards and they were charged one Air fee.

Brief notes have been added alongside the various Air fees lists.

These indicate the route and/or airline concerned and will be the subject of a detailed article to be published later.

1. International Surface Rates (excluding African Postal Union countries)

Letters, 1st 20gms.	Rate	Dates of covers seen	Number of covers
	2.50	27 MY 40 to 15 JY 40	2
	2.75	9 DE 40 to 25 AU 41	10
	3.50	*5 FE 42 to 2 JY 45	18
Postcards	2.00	19 JY 43 to 3 DE 44**	3

Notes: * Earliest date possibly at least 9 DE 41 from airmail evidence.

** Latest date derived from airmail postcards.

All other dates were noted from surface rate mail.

2. Airmail fees to Europe (air throughout, theoretically)

Air fee/5gms	Covers dated from	Number of covers	Comment
3.50	10 AP 40 to 7 JU 40	5	BOAC via Egypt or Air France via Algiers
6.75	31 JA 42 to 15 NO 44	10	via Gold Coast
6.00	3 DE 44 to 11 JY 45	6	via Gold Coast & Portugal

Airmail fees to Europe (part air only)

2.00	13 DE 43	1	Air to Cape Town only
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Examples of total rates

Paid	Comprising		
	Surface	+	Air fees
6.00	2.50	+	3.50
10.25	3.50	+	6.75
17.00	3.50	+	6.75 x 2
23.75	3.50	+	6.75 x 3
5.50	3.50	+	2.00
8.00	2.00	+	6.00
9.50	3.50	+	6.00
15.50	3.50	+	6.00 x 2

3. Airmail fees to the Americas (air throughout)

a. Eastwards (transpacific)

Air fee/5gms	Covers date from	Number of covers	Comment
21.00	3 DE 40	1	via "Far East"
27.50	7 JA 41 to 28 JA 41	2	via Cairo & Hong Kong
25.75	24 JU 41	1	via New Zealand

b. Westwards (South Atlantic, PAA FAM22: otherwise North Atlantic)

15.50	9 DE 41 to 11 JA 45	20+	PAA FAM22
12.50	Sept '44 to 15 JU 45	8	BOAC and PAA

c. Part air only

2.00	8 NO 40	1	Air to Cape Town
5.00	13 SE 41	1	Air to Gold Coast

d. Examples of total rates (groups a and b)

Paid	Group	Comprising			Other	Comment
		Surface	+ Air fee	+		
44.50	a	2.50	+ 21.00 x 2			
30.25	a	2.75	+ 27.50			
37.25	a	2.75	+ 27.50	+	6.00* *Air, USA to Argentine	
28.50	a	2.75	+ 25.75			
19.00	b	3.50	+ 15.50			
34.50	b	3.50	+ 15.50 x 2			
50.00	b	3.50	+ 15.50 x 3			
17.50	b	2.00**	+ 15.50		**Postcard rat	
16.00	b	3.50	+ 12.50			
28.50	b	3.50	+ 12.50 x 2			
53.50	b	3.50	+ 12.50 x 4			
93.00	b	3.50	+ 12.50 x 7	+ 2.00***	***2nd sur- face incre- ment	

IAN M. WARM

(Editor's Note: Direct contact with Mr. Warm may be made writing: 1, Knowsley Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2AD. His telephone number is (0272) 656920.)

1945 AIRGRAPHS FROM THE CONGO

A friend of mine, Mr. George F. Crabb, interested in Airgraphs, has recently been surprised to acquire two examples from the Congo.

To some of our members the term 'Airgraph' may be new and need some explanation:

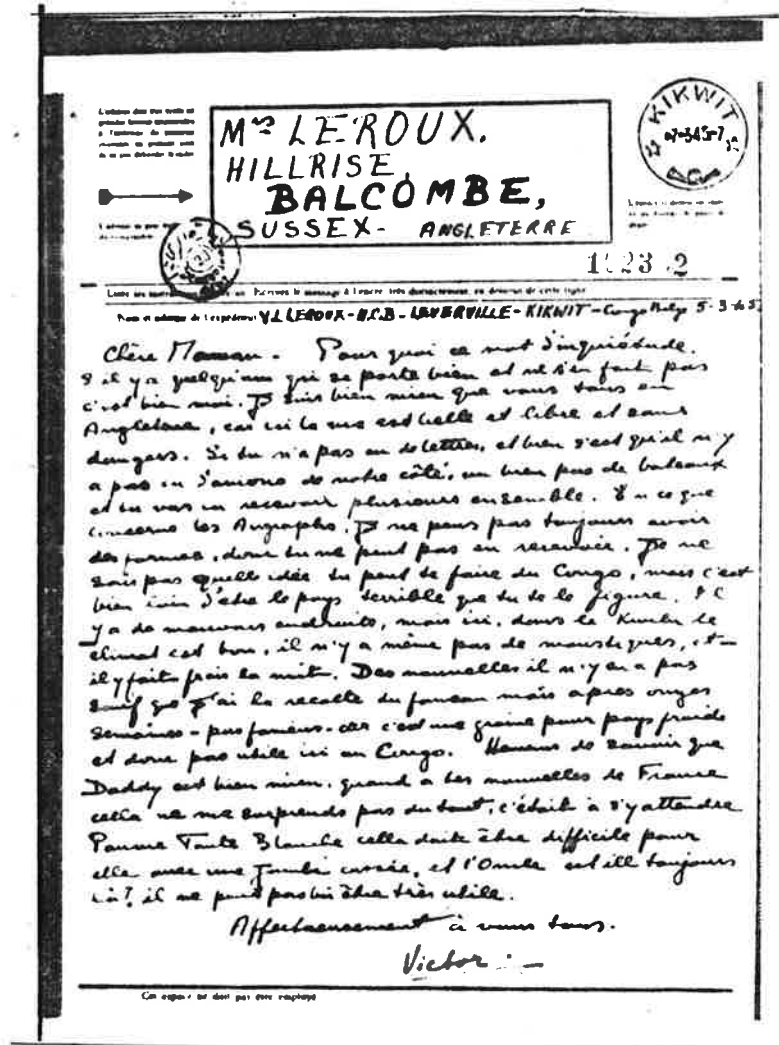
During the last war letters between British and Commonwealth troops in North Africa and the Near East and their families took up to two and a half months to reach their destinations. Such poor communications were leading to low morale, both amongst the soldiers and their families. To deal better with this mail Airgraphs were introduced. The letter was written on a special form, 28cm x 21½cm. and taken to a processing depot where it was photographed onto microfilm in which form it was transported by air to its destination. The letter was there enlarged to 14cm. x 10 ¾ cm. (half size) and this delivered through the normal post to the addressee. The service was available also to civilians generally and to commercial companies; commercial tenders and drawings could be sent in this way.

The first two depots were London and Cairo, the first dispatch from London 25 April 1941 and the first from Cairo 17 August 1941. Additional processing depots were opened at Toronto, Calcutta, Bombay, Colombo, Johannesburg, Nairobi, Melbourne and Wellington (N.Z.) and subsequently at Algiers and Naples.

1700 letters could be photographed onto a 30 metre length of microfilm

weighing only 156 gr. The microfilm was normally carried by flying boat of which only one, the 'Clare' bearing 55,000 letters, was lost; the original letters were again photographed and followed on the next flying boat. In all, 330 million letters were transmitted in this way before the end of the war!

Kodak Ltd. were responsible for all the processing at all depots.



Illustrated is one of the airgraphs from the Congo to England. As is seen, it was accepted by the Kikwit post office on 7 March 1945; unfortunately there is no indication of the date of its arrival in England. The presence of the Cairo censor mark indicates that the letter was reduced to microfilm at the processing depot at Cairo. How it travelled from Kikwit to Cairo is unknown.

The second airgraph is from the same correspondence, sent from Kikwit on 8 January 1945 and with the same Egyptian censor mark.

Airgraphs normally had inscriptions in English but this one has them in French and it must have been a special printing for the Congo, and maybe for French colonies held by the Free French. If Canada had a special issue of airgraph forms they would presumably have been bilingual English-French.

With so very few British and Commonwealth troops in the Congo during the last war it seems amazing that the post offices there accepted

airgraphs. Any information, particularly from members who were in the Congo during the war, on airgraphs to and from the Congo will be greatly appreciated.

R. H. KEACH

'CONGO BELGE' HANDSTAMP FORGERIES

We all know of the large number of different forged CONGO BELGE hand-stamps and of their very wide distribution but the Abbe Gudenkauf wishes to draw the attention of all members to dangerous forgeries of Local 6 and Brussels 5. These forgeries are in almost perfect agreement with the Maes gauge, produced by Balasse. The details of the letters has to be considered as well as the spacing of the letters.

KATANGA 1908 - 1910

About postal offices opened there at the time.

In "La Tribune Congolaise", a colonial paper issued in Brussels, we are told on 5 May 1910 that some people are complaining about a LUKAFU cancel being used at Elisabethville and a MUSOFI cancel used at Sakanian. They add: "Is our state so miserable that it cannot pay for proper cancelling date stamps?"

We know that this strange situation lasted for nearly one year, at least in Elisabethville. Opened (in a hut) on 1 April 1910, the post office received its proper cancel in March 1911. This is something of a record but the other post offices then created in Katanga had also to wait before they got their own cancellers.

MUSOFI	opened 1 July 1908	Cancel known 10 Oct	delay: 3 months
LUKAFU	opened 1 July 1908	Cancel known ? Oct	delay: 3 months
SAKANIAN	opened 1 March 1910	Cancel known 7 May	delay: 2 months
KAMBOVE	opened 1 Oct 1910	Cancel known 12 Mar 1911	delay: 5½ months

Such facts reveal some laxness in the handling of the postal situation, to say the least, which one does not meet in the Congo Free State, i.e. before November 1908.

Delays between opening the the use of a proper cancel also happened for instance in the offices of exchange with Uganda and these were known to De Cock: in KUESI (opened 1 Nov 1910 - no cancel known that year) - BOGA = IRUMU.

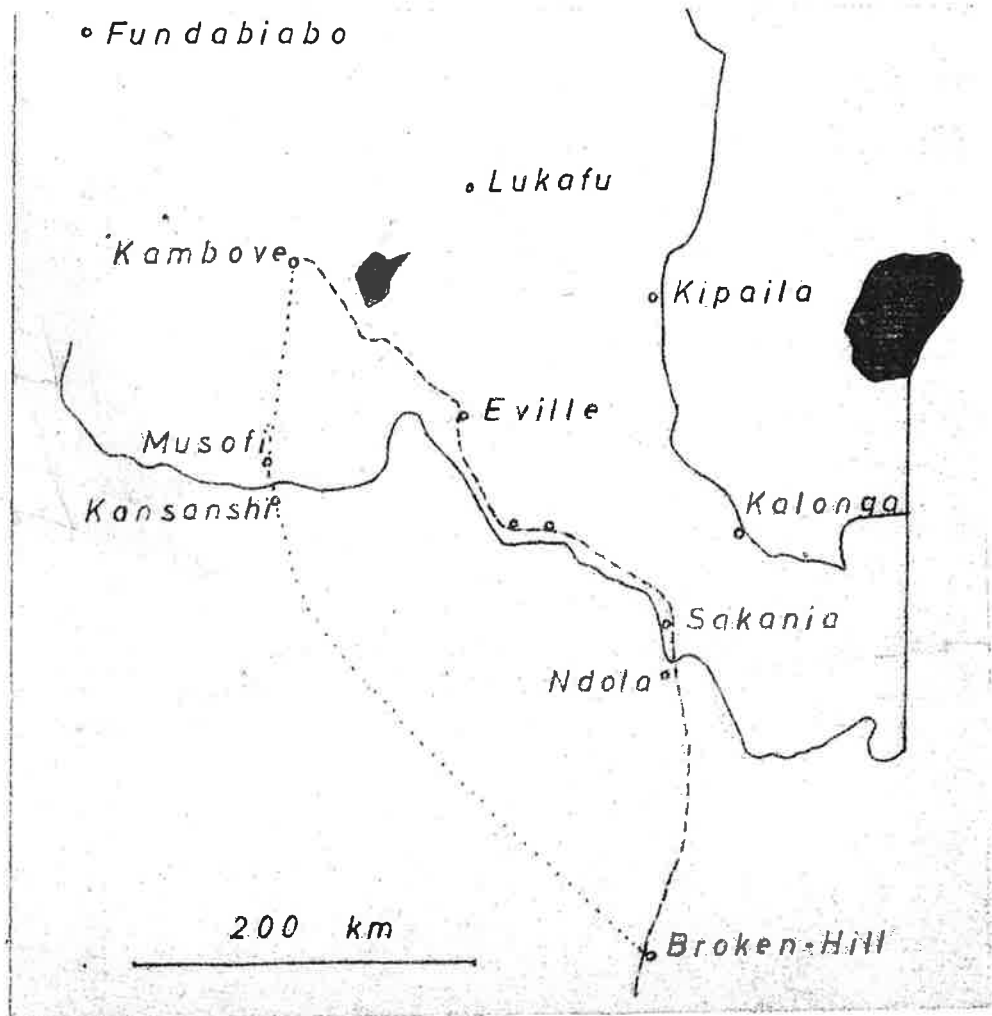
But here, in the rich mining province, there were also other reasons to explain such a chaotic situation:

At the beginning, the sovereign power was not in the hands of the new colony but in those of the "Comite Special du Katanga", the transfer occurring only on 22 March 1910. Wangermee, previously Chief of the CSK, became first Governor of the province, but always a tension remained between the Boma authorities and the man reigning far away on the spot, in the quickly expanding South-East. Interesting here to note that Elisabethville counted some 300 white inhabitants at the end of 1910; one year later, more than 1,000. (Endoof 1909: 40)

Another source of delay was the fight between Kambove and Elisabethville for the administrative leadership of the province; Brussels and Boma preferred the first, Wangermee the latter. This competition ceased in

1910 but the real transfer was made only in June 1911.

Parallel to this, the Cape railway was first intended to run from Broken Hill to the Kambove copper mines through Kansanshi and Musofi, where a post office of exchange was therefore established.



In mid-June 1908, this project fell through and it was decided to run the Cape railway straight to Elisabethville through Ndola and Sakania. It was realised that this last town was only 190 km from Broken Hill, instead of 350 for Musofi and that the new line would serve the southern part of Katanga.

In fact, the line reached the frontier in November 1909, Sakania on 5 April 1910 and Elisabethville in October of the same year.

The Post Offices

PANIA-MUTOMBO: The route opened at the end of 1903 from Lusambo via Kabinda and Ankoro to Pweto was still in use, but was rapidly losing its traffic. In May 1910 people complained that some mail was sent from Brussels to the mining districts of Katanga via Pania-Mutombo and it took 4 or 5 months instead of one via Cape Town.

On the first Southern route, used from 1905 to 1910:

MUSOFI: The decision to open then an office of exchange was made at the end of February 1908, when the railway line was still expected to pass that way.

Before and after the real opening on 1 July 1908, mail passed through Musofi and received in Northern Rhodesia the KANSANSHI cancel. See mail coming from Lake Moero (Kilwa) sent "via Kansanshi and the Cape", with Rhodesian stamp:

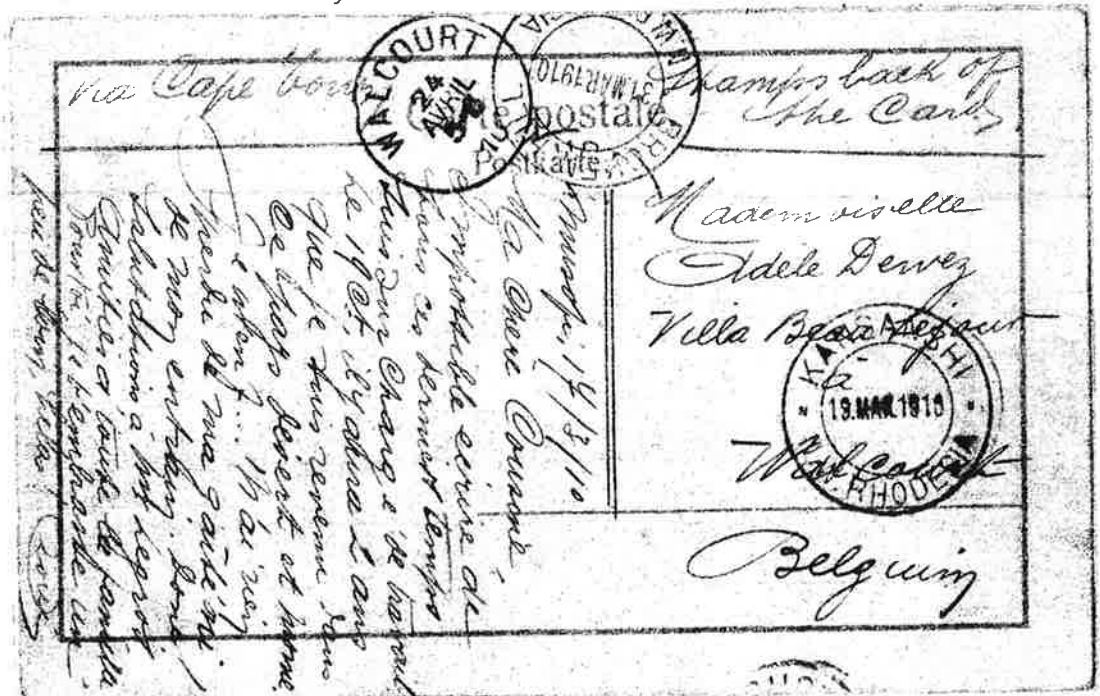


A similar card is known with the KANSANSHI cancel on 20 September. The first proper cancel MUSOFI seems to appear on 9 Oct 1908.

After the closing of that route on March 1st 1910, the MUSOFI cancel was used at Sakania and this very probably till the beginning of May, when Sakania received its own handstamp. Two covers are known, one with MUSOFI 30 March 1910 (On the back: point of departure: Sakania 30.3.10); the other one shown here on the following page.

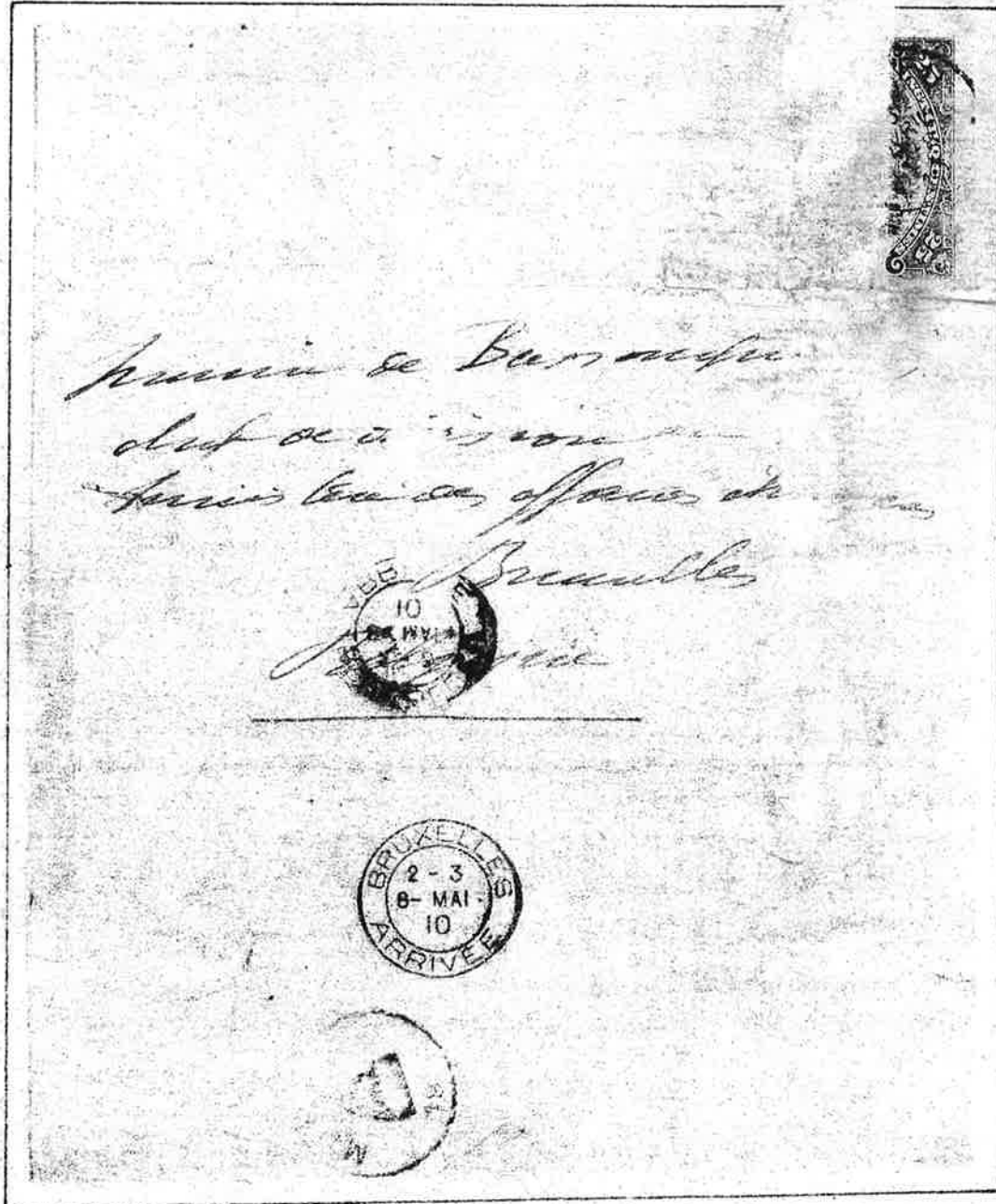
Mail issued from Musofi during that period followed as previously the route via Kansanshi with Rhodesian stamps:

Musofi
17.3.10



MUSOFI 1

Utilisé à Sakania le 12 av. 10.



Lukafu 1
utilisé
à Eville.

MUSOFI
→
12 avr. 10

Le plus ancien cachet connu de Sakania : 7 mai 1910.

Later, and certainly in November of the same year, such mail went through Elisabethville.

As no other post office was created at that time, the MUSOFI cancel was returned to Musofi in May 1910.

But we find it again later, used in Kambove, very probably from the

opening on 1 October 1910 till the appearance of the proper canceller on 12 March 1911. Four covers are known; their dates are (for the MUSOFI cancel): 22 Nov 1910 - 12 Dec - 16 Jan 1911 (see card) - 23 Feb

Lukafu (at E'ville) 20.1.11

Musofi 16.1.11

Kambove
14.1.11

This fascinating story of the MUSOFI cancellation can be summarized:

1st	Used at Musofi	: from 9 Oct 1908 till 1 March 1910	: 17 months
2nd	Used at Sakania	: from 1 Mar 1910 till 6 May	: 2 months
3rd	Held in reserve	: from 7 May 1910 till 30 Sept.	: 5 months
4th	Used in Kambove	: from 1 Oct 1910 till 12 Mar 1911	: 5½ months

As the MUSOFI cancellation is not common, we may think the 4th rare and the 2nd very rare.

KAMBOVE: The opening of a post office in the administrative centre of Katanga was decided in Brussels on 5 Dec 1909, but the decision in the province was taken only on 7 June 1910; the actual opening was fixed on 1 October of the same year.

The last known use of the MUSOFI cancel in Kambove, as seen above, was 23 February 1911. We have a curious card from a doctor then residing in Fundabiabo (see map), where we find, it seems, the first date for the KAMBOVE canceller 12 March 1911 and Elisabethville 16 March with perfect sequence of the dates.

But on the other side, on the stamp, we read KAMBOVE 11 Fevr 1910 (hours blocked as on the other side)!!? It is not legible on the photocopy, so is not shown. See card on next page.

We may suppose that the handstamp prepared in Brussels was sent to the Congo with that date; the postman struck the stamp and realised his error; he then inserted the correct date and struck the other side, which is thus very probably the first day.

Another strange feature of this cancellation is the break in the circle just before the letter K, legible on nearly all the impressions from the first day on!

Kambove 12 March



Elisabethville 16.3.11

LUKAFU: Opened on 1 July 1908, the same day as Musofi. We may presume that its cancel also appeared in October, after a delay of three months.

But we have here two different cancels:

- LUKAFU 2: always used at Lukafu till 1 March 1912. There is no 19 for the year and all the impressions we know show the hours under the day. The letter K is relatively narrow.
- LUKAFU 1: used in Lukafu from October 08 till the end of March 10; used in Elisabethville from 1 April 1910 till 14 March 1911; used again in Lukafu from ± 20 March 1911 till 1 March 1912.

There is no 19 for the year and the hours are blocked (black rectangle) from the end of September 1910 till 10 January 1911.

Not only is the letter K relatively wide, compared to that of the previous cancel, but we see a break in the circle just after the letter F, visible certainly from 5 July 1909. There is also a nick in the circle to the left of the year, visible from the end of March 1910.

The first cover known with LUKAFU 1 used in Elisabethville dates from 6 April 1910 (see MUSOFI 1 cover) and the last from 6 March 1911. Such covers are not rare.

More interesting and rarer are covers with the two different LUKAFU cancellers. This is evi-

dently normal on mail sent from Lukafu proper to Western Europe: see following card: on the back, the place of departure is Lukafu - on this front, LUKAFU 2 on the vignette and LUKUFU 1 (with hours blocked) to the left. Dates being: 25 and 28 Nove 10.



On the second Southern route:

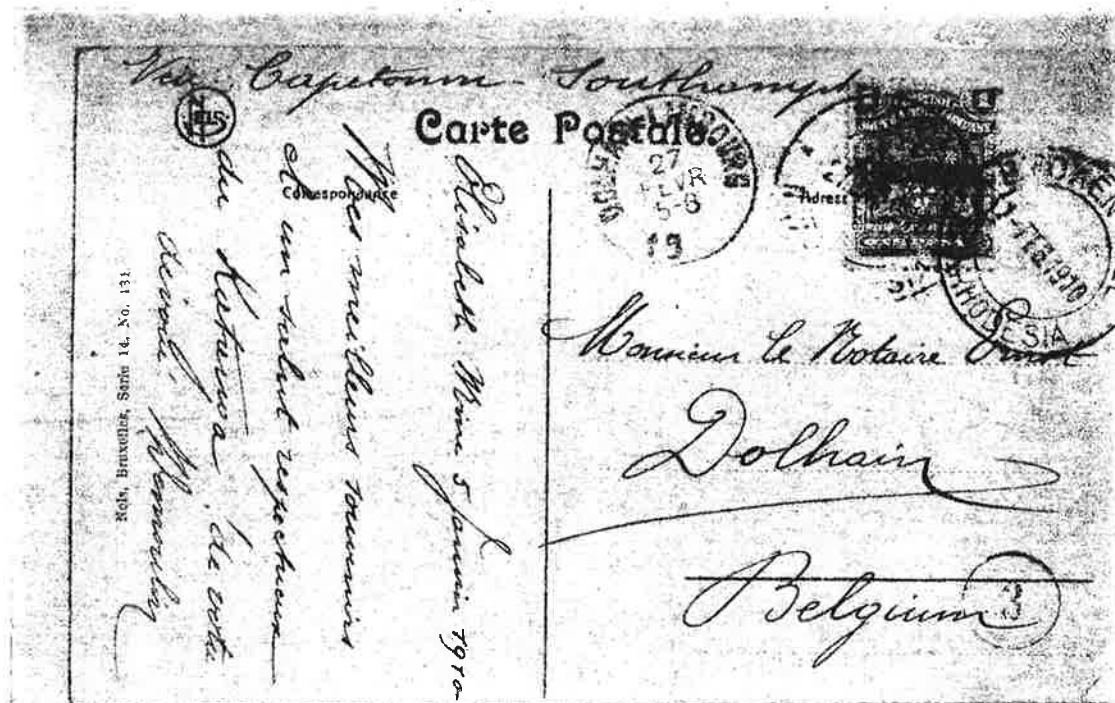
ELISABETHVILLE: Since the end of 1907 certainly, some mail from the first copper mine in production was sent with Rhodesia p.s. cards or stamps through NDOLA via the Cape. See the following cards: the name "Etoile du Congo" was changed into "Elisabeth-Mine" after the visit of Prince Albert in 1909.

Ndola 23 April

Etoile du Congo
10 April



Ndola 27 Jan



This was the normal route before the opening of the post office.

As we know, the cancel LUKAFU 1 was in use in Elisabethville from 1 April 1910 till the middle of March 1911, the last date known on a cover being the 6 March.

We have two cards sent by the same doctor in Fundabiabo, one on 17 February 1911, the other on the next day, the first via Lukafu, the last via Kambove, and he asks: "Laquelle des deux arrivera la premiere?" In fact both received the same ELISABETHVILLE cancel 1.1 in blue 15 March 8-9 1911, the first day now known; they arrived together in Brussels.

It is noteworthy to underline that this cancel, from the beginning, showed the hours above the day when Kambove, always in black, shows them under the day till 1913.

It seems another canceller appeared in Elisabethville only in 1912.

SAKANIA:

The opening of this office was decided for 1 March 1910 and we have seen that it used the MUSOFI cancel till the beginning of May.

Two different cancellers arrived together: 1.1 and 1.2. We have the 1.1 on a card 27 May and the other on a single stamp with 7 May.

KIPAILA:

The same day was decided for the opening here as for Kambove: 1 Octo 1910. As it was transferred to Kalonga on 6 January 1911, it is highly improbable that it received its proper cancel before that day, when Kambove, the headtown of the province, had to wait

till March. KIPAILA may have been used later in Kalonga.

We have the posthumous imprint of the genuine canceller on one half of a p.s. card: it measures 134-276°:



We know of two other different cancels on single stamps, which are very probably forgeries: the one has the date 1 Janv 1911 and measures 140-285°; the other measures 122-272° !....

KALONGA:

We may presume that the scarcity of mail caused the transfer from Kipaila to Kalonga.

We don't know when that rare cancellation appeared in 1911. A cancellation on a single stamp is known with day and month in Roman ciphers: V - VIII - 1911. It measures 153-276°. This seems very dubious.

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

BELGIAN CONGO CANCELLERS: THE END!

Facing a serious and general deterioration of all the cancellers used in Zaire, the Administration of Posts decided in 1979 to replace them all, in all post offices.

The cancellers were ordered in Germany; they arrived in Zaire a few weeks ago. A detailed control was done, and it appeared that some cancellers presented mistakes; a complementary order must be sent in a very near future.

The cancellers must now be sent to all offices, and are supposed to be put in service on the 1st of June. In fact, since most of the Kinshasa cancellers are completely worn out or locked by rust, the new ones have been introduced for the 10th of March, and all the older ones withdrawn. It must be expected that many post offices will use the new cancellers as soon as they receive them.

All the cancellers present a classification letter (A, B, etc) a star precedes the name and a second one follows it. There is a frame around the date. The lower part is completely empty. It has been suggested to the Zairian authorities that the name of the country could be mentioned there (in future orders).

This new material makes a complete rupture in the models of cancellers that have been in use for 1916 till today. Many Belgian Congo cancellers are still in use, and they will be definitely withdrawn. Furthermore, for the first time for 1916, all the cancellers will belong to a unique model. The only period that had an unique model of cancellers is the 1886-1916 one ("small circle" cancellers only). From 1916, the Belgian administration used to change them little by little, and this resulted in the co-existence of many different types; after the independence, this has got even worse, and there are about 15 types

of cancellers in use. This is the end of the Belgian Congo material.

Each post office will receive two cancellers, at least; main post offices will receive more (maximum: 26 for Kinshasa 1).

Each post office will also receive two "griffes": a small one and a large one: most of the griffes that are presently in use are of the Belgian time, some of them being still bilingual French-Dutch.

Here is the list and the number of the cancellers provided by the German Company Ernest REINER: (some comments follow that list)

The fact that a post office is listed does not mean that it really operates; this is the case for the following offices (at this moment, March, 1982):

Gumba Mobeka
Kipaka Lutshi

Gumba Mongala
Kuma

Kimbau

One canceller only is not to be changed: the one that shows "Kinshasa, Service Philatelique": (probably an omission).

Aba	2		Bokde	2	
Aketi	5		Bongandanga	2	
Ango	2		Bosobolo	2	
Ankoro	2		Bozene	2	
Aru	2		Budjala	2	
Bafwasende	2		Bugarula Idjwi	2	
Bagata	2		Bukama	2	
Bagira	2		Bukavu 1	10	
Babesa	2		Bukavu 2	2	
Babibili	2		Bukavu 3	2	
Bambumines	2		Bulungu	4	
Banalia	2		Bumba	4	
Banana	2		Bunia	4	
Bandjow Moke	2	(1)	Bunyakiri	2	
Bandundu 1	6		Businga	4	
Bandundu 2		(2)	Busu Djanoca	2	
Banga Tshela	2		Busu Melo	2	
Baraka	2		Busu Simba	2	
Basankusu	5		Buta	4	
Basoko	4		Butembo	4	
Befale	2		Bwala Yulu	2	
Bena Dibebe	2		Dekese	2	
Benaleka	2	(3)	Demba	2	
Bena Tshiadi	2		Dibaya Lubue	2	
Bengamisa	2		Dilolo	4	
Beni	4		Dimbelenge	2	
Bikoro	2		Djalo	2	
Bilili	2		Djolu	2	
Binga	2		Djugu	2	
Bishusha	2		Djuma	2	(5)
Boende	6		Dongo	2	
Bokote	2		Doruma	2	
Bokungu	2		Dungu	2	
Bolia	2		Faradje	2	
Bolobo	2		Fatundu	2	
Bolomba	2		Feshi	2	
Boma 1	6		Fizi	2	
Boma 2	2		Gandajika	4	
Bomboma	2		Gbadolite	3	
Bomongo	2		Gemena	4	

Goma 1	7	Kenge 2	2	
Gombari	2	Kianza (Mukoso)	2	
Gombe Matadi	2	Kibambi	2	
Gumba Mobeka	2	Kibombo	2	
Gumba Mongala	2	Kikondja	2	
Gungu	2	Kikwit 1	2	
Idiofa	3	Kikwit 2	2	
Ikela	2	Kiliba	2	
Ilebo	4	Kilwa	2	
Inga	2	Kimbau	2	
Ingende	2	Kimpangu	2	
Ingende	2	Kimpese	4	
Inkisi	5	Kimvula	2	
Inongo	4	Kindu 1	7	
Irebu	2	Kindu 2	2	
Ireko	2	Kindu 3	2	
Irumu	2	Kinshasa 1	26	10 Mars 82
Isangi	2	Kinshasa 2	4	18 Mars 82
Isiro 1	7	Kinshasa 3	2	
Kabalo	4	Kinshasa 4	2	
Kabambare	2	Kinshasa 5	2	26 Mars 82
Kabare	2	Kinshasa 6	5	
Kabeya Kamuanga	2	Kinshasa 7	2	
Kabinda	4	Kinshasa 8	4	
Kabondo Dianda	2	Kinshasa 9	2	
Kabongo	2	Kinshasa 10	2	17 Mars 82
Kahemba	2	Kinshasa 11	3	
Kailo	2	Kinshasa 12	2	22 Mars 82
Kalehe	2	Kinshasa 13	4	
Kalemie 1	7	Kinshasa 14	2	17 Mars 82
Kalemie 2	2	Kinshasa 15	3	
Kalemie 3	2	Kinshasa 16	2	
Kalima	4	Kinshasa 18	2	
Kamana	2	Kinshasa 19	2	
Kambove	2	Kinshasa 20	4	
Kamina 1	5	Kinshasa 21	4	
Kamina B.M.2	2	Kinshasa 22	2	
Kamituga	4	Kinshasa 23	4	
Kampene	2	Kinshasa 24	4	
Kananga 1	11	Kinshasa 31	2	
Kananga 2	2	Kinshasa 32	2	
Kananga 3	2	Kinshasa 33	2	
Kangu	2	Kinshasa 34	2	
Kaniama	4	Kinshasa CPX	11	18 Mars 82
Kanutshina	2	Kinshasa CTT	2	
Kapanga	2	Kinshasa G.C.	2	16 Mars 82
Karawa	2	Kinshasa Gombe	6	18 Mars 82
Kasaji	2	Kinshasa Limete	4	
Kasangulu	2	Kinshasa Palais	2	16 Mars 82
Kasenga	2	Kipaka Lutshi	2	
Kasenyi	2	Kipuku	2	
Kasese	2	Kipushi	4	
Kasongo 1	4	Kiri	2	
Kasongo 2	2	Kirotshe	2	(8)
Kasongo Lunda	2	Kisangani 1	13	
Katako Kombe	2	Kisangani 2	2	
Katana Lwiro	2	Kisangani 3	2	
Katanda	2	Kisangani 4	2	
Katshisamba	2	Kisangani 6	2	
Katwambi	2	Kisenge	2	
Kayna Luofu	2	Kitenge		(9)
Kazumba	2	Kitona	2	
Kenge 1	4	Kivunda	2	or 3?

Kole	2		Mangai	2	
Kole (Kisangani)	2		Manono	6	
Kolokoso	2		Mapangu	2	(13)
Kolwezi	2		Masi Manimba	2	
Kongolo	4		Masisi	2	
Kwilu Ngongo	4		Matadi 1	6	
Kuma	2		Matadi 2	2	
Kungu	2		Mateko	2	
Kutu	2		Mayoko	2	
Kwamouth	2	(10)	Mbandaka 1	6	
Lemba	2		Mbandaka 2	2	
Libenge	4		Mbanza Ngungu 1	6	
Likasi 1	7		Mbanza Ngungu 2	2	
Likasi 2	2		Mbuji Mayi 1	6	
Eikati	2		Mbuji Mayi 2	2	
Lisala	6		Mbuji Mayi 3	2	
Loango	2	(11)	Miabi	2	
Lodja	7		Minova	2	
Lokandu	2		Mitwaba	2	
Lokolama	2		Moba	4	
Lokolua	2		Mobayi	2	(14)
Lokutu	2		Mokambo	2	
Lomela	4		Mompono	2	
Lowa	2		Mondombe	2	
Lubao	2		Mongwalu	2	
Lubefu	2		Monkoto	2	
Luberizi	2		Motenge Boma	2	
Lubero	2		Muanda	4	(15)
Lubudi	4		Mulumba	2	
Lubumbashi 1	14		Mungbere	2	
Lubumbashi 2	2		Mushie	2	
Lubumbashi 3	2		Mutshatsha	2	
Lubumbashi 4	2		Mutwanga	2	
Lubumbashi 5	4		Mweka	5	
Lubumbashi 6	4		Mwene Ditu	5	
Lubumbashi 7	2		Mwenga	2	
Lubumbashi 9	2		Mweso	2	
Lubumbashi 10	2		Niangara	2	
Lubumbashi 11	2		Nioka	2	
Lubutu	2		Nioki	2	
Luebo	5		Nizi	2	
Luena	2		Nkara	2	
Lufu Toto	2		Nsia Mfumu	2	
Lula	2		Ntandambelo	2	(16)
Luiza	4		Nya Lukemba	2	
Lukala	2		Nyangezi	2	(17)
Lukalaba	2		Nyunzu	2	
Lukolela	2		Opala	2	
Lukula	2		Oshwe	2	
Lulingu	2		Fanga	2	
Lulonga	2		Panzi	2	
Luoxi	2		Pay Kongila	2	
Lupatapata	2	(12)	Pendjwa	2	
Luputa	2		Poko	2	
Lusambo	4		Popokabaka	2	
Lusanga	2		Punia	4	
Madimba	2		Pweto	2	
Mahagi	2		Rungu	2	
Makanza	2		Rutshuru	2	
Malele	2		Rwindi	2	
Malemba Nkulu	2		Sakania	2	
Mambasa	2		Samba	2	
Mambenga	2		Sandoa	2	

Seke Banza	2	Uvira	4
Semendwa	2	Vitshumbi	2
Shabunda	2	Vuhovi	2
Songololo	2	Walikale	2
Sumbi	2	Walungu	2
Tapili	2	Wamba	2
Tenke	2	Watsa	4
Titule	2	Wembo Nyama	2
Tolo	2	Yahila	2
Tshanga	2	Yakoma	2
Tshela	4	Yangambi 1	4
Tshengerero	2	Yangambi 2	2
Talikapa	4	Yanonge	2
Tshilenge	4	Yatolema	2
Tshimbulu	Ø18)	Yumbi	2
Tshisimbi	(19)	Yumbi (Bolobo)	2
Tshofa	2	Zobia	2
Tshumbe	2	Zongo	4
Ubunda	2		

Notes and explanations

- (1) The new cancellers arrived with a mistake: "Badjow Moke; other ones would be ordered.
- (2) ~~Banfungu~~ 2: no cancellers at this name; an omission?
- (3) A newly created post office? Or a project?
- (4) Bwala Yulu: id. as (3)
- (5) Djuma: created in 1980 with the equipemnt of Mikwo (suppressed); no new cancellers at this name: an omission?
- (6) Kasenyi: spelled "Kasengi" on the new cancellers; other ones would be ordered.
- (7) Katana Lwiro: spelled "Katana Luiro" on the new cancellers.
- (8) Kirotshe: spelled "Kirotse" on the new cancellers; other ones would be ordered.
- (9) Kitenge: post office created in 1976, but unknown by the direction of Zairian posts in Kinshasa!
- (10) Kwamouth: this British name is the only one forgotten at the "Zairianisation" of foreign names.
- (11) Loango: id. as (3)
- (12) Lupatapata: id as (3)
- (13) Mapangu: id as (3)
- (14) Mobayi: the exact name is "Mobayi Mbongo" but the new cancellers show "Mobay" only. Are new ones to be ordered?
- (15) Muanda: the office, situated at the airport, has been divided for a few years into two offices, a second one is now functioning at the town hall (Muanda 2). But the new cancellers are made for one office only.
- (16) Opened around 1979 without equipment; letters used to be cancelled "NIOKI".

- (17) Nyangezi: spelled "Nyangenzi" on the new cancellers; other ones would be ordered.
- (18) Tshimbulu: no cancellers at this name; an omission?
- (19) Tshisimbi: suppressed?

GEORGES CELIS

MAY 1982 AUCTION SALE - PRICES REALISED (Prices in pounds)

Lot 1	5.75	37	NS	73	NS	109	31.00
2	6.50	38	8.00	74	6.00	110	31.00
3	6.00	39	7.25	75	5.75	111	31.00
4	36.00	40	402.00	76	NS	112	31.00
5	62.00	41	8.75	77	5.50	113	31.00
6	47.00	42	NS	78	44.00	114	10.00
7	12.75	43	20.00	79	14.75	115	30.00
8	8.50	44	NS	80	21.25	116	19.00
9	23.25	45	20.00	81	NS	117	NS
10	6.25	46	16.25	82	81.00	118	NS
11	12.25	47	15.50	83	10.25	119	NS
12	17.50	48	16.00	84	15.25	120	5.00
13	24.00	49	21.25	85	14.75	121	5.50
14	56.00	50	21.25	86	27.00	122	43.00
15	9.50	51	91.00	87	4.10	123	31.00
16	7.25	52	NS	88	2.10	124	33.00
17	18.75	53	33.00	89	7.75	125	6.75
18	6.75	54	10.25	90	4.10	126	6.75
19	20.25	55	12.00	91	16.00	127	NS
20	11.25	56	NS	92	3.60	128	29.00
21	7.75	57	NS	93	3.60	129	NS
22	14.00	58	5.25	94	26.00	130	17.25
23	36.00	59	9.75	95	NS	131	NS
24	NS	60	8.25	96	5.25	132	12.75
25	14.75	61	40.00	97	6.50	133	29.00
26	8.00	62	5.75	98	24.25	134	2.10
27	NS	63	3.25	99	12.25	135	20.00
28	6.50	64	46.00	100	36.00	136	12.50
29	6.50	65	1.55	101	20.00	137	14.50
30	6.50	66	19.75	102	16.25	138	18.25
31	10.25	67	20.00	103	NS	139	NS
32	8.00	68	7.25	104	28.00	140	15.25
33	40.00	69	6.00	105	4.70		
34	14.50	70	5.75	106	3.60		
35	3.50	71	15.75	107	6.50		
36	3.20	72	4.60	108	6.25		

NS = not sold.

R. H. KEACH

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

BUSINGA. Territorial HQ. Radiotelegraph station. Rest house. River port. A pretty station of the Cotonco and the Sotranscongo; end of the navigable section of the Mongala on which Otraco services operate. Trading and industrial centre. A large group of Cotongo industries - rice factory, ginnery, oil mill crushing cotton seed - Ford garage and workshops of the Sotranscongo. Catholic mission. Bedrooms possible at the firm of Mendes, Gomes and Antunes.

BUSU DJANOA. Territorial HQ. Radiotelegraph station. Trading centre. This is a palm oil district. Modern mill for crushing palm nuts has been built at Bosondjo. The construction and sale of dug-outs is a speciality of this territory.

BUTA. On the Rubi River (Bridge of 147 feet). European population 350, native population 11,000. HQ of the Bas-Uele district and territory. Telephone and telegraph office. Radiotelegraph station. Hospitals, schools, trading centre. Cotonco ginnery. Banks, hotels, travel agencies. Catholic missions of the Premonstratensian Fathers and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. Residence of Vicar Apostolic. The Premonstratensian Mission is one of the finest and most interesting in the Congo. There is an abbey with a farm, a ranch and small industries similar to one in Belgium. Norwegian Baptist Mission.

BUTEMBO. Altitude 5,900 feet. European population 225, native population 12,000. Settlement. Native township. Radiotelegraph station. Hospitals. Subsidised primary school for European children run by the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption. Boarding school. School for agricultural assistants. Trading centre. Banks. Seat of the management of the Northern Division of the M.G.L. mines. Coffee, cinchona and pyrethrum are grown. Hotels. Garages. From the guest house there is a panoramic view over the countryside. To the south the high mountains covered with bamboo forest adjoining Lake Edward; to the southwest are the Baswaga Hills covered in banana trees. In clear weather, the snow capped peaks of the Ruwenzori can be seen.

CATTIER. Altitude 1,377 feet. Railway workshops. Trading centre. Catholic mission of the Redemptorist Fathers.

CHARLESVILLE. Formerly known as Djoko Punda. Protestant mission still so named. RT station. Forminiere hospital. Rest house, schools. Trading and industrial centre. On the Kasai River. Excursion 3 miles upstream to Wissmann Falls.

CHUTES FRANCOIS-JOSEPH. Beyond Mayala the road leads to the Kwango River, where there are three waterfalls. The largest, the Sakabundu Falls is followed by intermediate and smaller falls, and by the third, really only rapids, called Ngoma Falls.

They were discovered by Major Von Mechow, an Austrian whose expedition, financed by Germany, reached this river on 19th July 1880. Von Mechow gave the falls their present names: the large Sakabundu Falls were named (after the German Emperor) William Falls; the Ngomba Falls were named after the Emperor of Austria and the intermediate falls after Don Luis of Portugal. At the Franz-Joseph Falls is the now abandoned administrative post.