

BELGIAN CONGO



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NEWS AND VIEWS

If your calendars are not marked, this is to serve as a reminder of the joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle to be held at Southampton on the weekend of 18 - 19 September. Program is to consist of 10-minute displays by those present - always a popular feature.

As announced in the previous Bulletin, the BCSC will meet on 23 October, 1982 at 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth - the 1947 - 50 Idols Issue and the 1921 "15" and "30" handstamps on post cards.

Correction on address given in Bulletin No. 44. The correct address for Mr. W. A. Weinberger, is 21 Luddington Rd., West Orange, N.J. 07052, U.S.A.

For the benefit of newer members, the Editor wishes to express his thanks to member L. H. Lomax for faithfully supplying our publication with the long running feature on the POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO ~~CLASS~~. This takes a special kind of effort - not the kind that brings praise or complaints - but I am certain the entire membership will join me in the appreciation expressed to Mr. Lomax. Well done!

As you read this issue of the Bulletin, please be aware this entire issue was the results of three of our members. While we are not a huge organization, doesn't it make you wonder what we could accomplish if we had more contributions by more of our membership? Or to put it another way, the Editor is looking for material for future issues!

THE 'EST AFRICAINE' OVERPRINTS

It has always appeared very probable that these overprints were applied by Waterlow & Sons (or subcontracted to another printer by the company). This is now confirmed by a solitary 'File Copy' sheet from the Waterlow records.

It is of 5c plates V3+F, perforated 14. The overprint is currently Type L6 but this will be changed shortly when, we hope, further discoveries on these overprints will be disclosed in the Bulletin.

The File Copy sheet bears in manuscript the Waterlow reference number 116042, the date 26.5.19 and the number of stamps printed, 100,000.

The combination of plates V3+F is not known, and almost certainly does not exist, without the Est Africain overprint. If General Du Four's estimates of the number of 5c stamps overprinted is anything like correct it seems likely that there was another printing from V3+F plates.

R. H. KEACH

L'UNION POSTALE

The following are extracts from 'L'Union Postale', the official organ of the Universal Postal Union.

1 NOVEMBER, 1885 (Page 226)

'The independent State of the Congo has notified to the Government of the Swiss Confederation its adhesion to the Universal Postal Union from the 1st. of January 1886.'

1 FEBRUARY, 1886 (Pages 38-42)

'The Postal Service in the Congo Free State

As our readers are aware, the Congo Free State - that youngest of all States, of which so much has been said of late years - entered our Union on the 1st of January of this year. This State has an area of about 2,500,000 square kilometres, nearly 80 times the size of Belgium and 5 times that of France.

The legislative basis of the postal service in the newly constituted State is the decree issued by King Leopold II. of Belgium, the sovereign of the State, on the 18th of September of last year. This decree came into force on the same day as that on which the country became a member of the Universal Postal Union. As it may interest our readers to know the conditions under which the postal service is to be carried on in the new State, we give below a few extracts from the above-mentioned decree and from the Detailed Regulations relating to it.

The chief direction of the Postal Administration is confided to the Administrator General of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Congo Free State, who resides in Brussels. He has, among other things, to arrange for the establishment of post-offices, to appoint officers for the carrying out of the service, and has to take all the measures he may deem necessary for the proper working of the same. He is empowered to fix the rates and the conditions of transmission for correspond-

ence forwarded in the domestic service, and to and from abroad, as well as to decide the amount of compensation to be paid for the conveyance of correspondence to foreign countries to the captains of such vessels as are not subsidized by Union countries. At the end of each year he has to lay before the Sovereign a report on the number and use made of the post-cards, postage-stamps, and other labels of prepayment issued in the course of the year. He is further authorized to conclude Conventions relating to the postal service, with foreign Administrations and private persons, subject to ratification by the Sovereign.

The Post undertakes the collection and transmission of letters, post-cards, printed matter of all kinds, commercial papers, and patterns and samples of merchandize to places with post-offices within the limits of the country as well as abroad. The exclusive privilege of the Post, however, only extends to letters, to closed and open written communications, and to post-cards. Letters and post-cards which are transmitted between places without post-offices, or which are exchanged between private persons by means of special messengers whom they send to each other from the different estates, are not included in the postal privilege.

The following articles are excluded from transmission in the mails: - Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence addressed to countries not belonging to the Universal Postal Union. Letters or packets containing gold or silver bullion, pieces of money, jewellery or valuables further, articles liable to soil or damage the mails, packets containing commercial documents or printed matter of every kind exceeding 2 kilogrammes in weight or having on any side a superficial measurement of more than 45 centimetres; and, lastly, patterns and samples of merchandize exceeding the weight of 250 grammes, or measuring more than 20 centimetres in length, 10 centimetres in width, and 5 centimetres in depth.

The postage, in the domestic service, is fixed at the following rates: - on letters at 25 centimes per 15 grammes, on post-cards at 15 centimes, and on commercial documents, printed matter, and patterns and samples of merchandize at 5 centimes per 50 grammes. The prepayment of postal articles must be effected by means of postage-stamps. Insufficiently prepaid articles are charged with double the deficiency, and unpaid covers with double the postage on prepaid articles. Only the official correspondence despatched by the authorities is forwarded free of charge.

All articles allowed to be transmitted by Post can be registered. The registration fee, which must be paid in addition to the ordinary postage, is fixed at 25 centimes in the domestic service. If the sender wishes to receive an acknowledgment of delivery, he has to pay an additional fee of 25 centimes in advance.

No registered articles addressed to countries not belonging to the Union are accepted for transmission by mail. Registered letters may not be delivered to anybody but the addressee, to his procurator, or to a person duly authorized by him. The procuration given in this case must be a special one, signed by the mandant and two witnesses, and be in conformity with the pattern furnished by the Administration. It is subject to a fee of 2 francs which is to be paid by the mandant by means of postage-stamps affixed to the procuration and obliterated with ink; this procuration is only valid for a term of two years.

No indemnity is paid by the Administration for a registered letter lost in the domestic service. If the registered article is addressed to a foreign country, an indemnity of 50 francs is paid in case of its loss, provided that such loss has not occurred in the territory of a country in which no indemnity is allowed for lost registered articles, that it has not been caused by the negligence of the sender, or that it is not the result of force majeure.

At present, post-offices are established at Banana, Boma, and Vivi; of these, only the first named serves as exchange office for the correspondence to and from foreign countries. The places with which the post-office of Banana is to maintain an exchange of direct mails are designated by the Director of Finances of the Congo Free State.

All railway, boat, ship, or carriage companies are bound to effect the conveyance of the correspondence for the Administration free of charge. These Companies have to communicate to the Postal Administration the lines maintained, and the localities served by them, as well as the time tables of their services.

The captain of every vessel arriving in, or touching at, any of the ports of the Congo Free State where a post-office is established, is bound to deliver to that post-office, without any delay, the correspondence on board of his vessel, with the exception of the articles addressed to a foreign post-office which are to be sent by the same vessel, and of open documents relating to the cargo of the vessel.

The captain of every vessel leaving any of the ports of the Congo Free State is bound to transport, and deliver to the agencies or offices of destination, in exchange for a regular receipt, all correspondence entrusted to him by the Administration. For this purpose, he must give notice to the post-office nearest to the point of departure of the course which he intends to keep, and of the date on which he intends to sail.

Any captain of a vessel who does not comply with the provisions cited in the two last paragraphs may, jointly with the owner of that vessel be mulcted in a fine of not exceeding 2000 francs for each contravention.

Among the other penalties we may cite the following:

1. Postal officers violating the letter-secrecy are punished with a fine not exceeding 2000 francs in amount for each violation;
2. any person who, with fraudulent intent, shall forge postage-stamp or post-cards, or who, with or without fraudulent intent, shall counterfeit any postage-stamps or post-cards, shall be punished with a fine of not more than 5000 francs for each offence; and
3. any person conveying articles of correspondence the conveyance of which is the monopoly of the State, incurs a fine not exceeding 500 francs for each offence.

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

COQUILHAVILLE. Capital of the Equatorial Province and HQ of the Equatorial District and Territory. Alt. 1214 feet. Eur. pop. 1050. Native pop. 30000. On the left bank of the Congo at the confluence

of the Ruki River. Telephone, Telegraph, R.T. Station, Airfield, Customs, hospital, graving docks and repair shops. Shipping Commissioner. Seat of management of the S.A.B. (Societe Agricole et Commerciale de la Busira et du Haut Congo). Banks. Catholic mission of the Father of the Sacred Heart and the Daughters of Charity. Resident of Vicar Apostolic. Protestant mission of the Disciples of Christ Congo with school. Gov't. schools. Clinic, Hospitals, Hotels.

The station of Coquilhatville was established on 17th June 1883 by Stanley and Van Gele. It was then called "Equator" and the first officer in charge was called Coquilhat. The original station was located where the present village of Wangata stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ downstream from the present town. Coquilhat left the station on 30th April 1884 leaving Van Gele in charge. Subsequently there were a number of officers in charge and the station was abandoned on 23rd April 1886. It was not re-occupied until after the Treaty of Annexation when it was moved to its present position, but the native name of the town remained. The Congo crosses the Equator shortly before Coquilhatville.

COSTERMANSVILLE, now named BUKAVU. Headquarters of Kivu Province, the South Kivu district and the Territory. Altitude 4920 ft. Pop. 3645 & 26000 natives. Telephone service, radiotelegraph station, meteorological station. Hospitals, private nursing homes. Customs at Kamembe aerodrome. Shipping board. Otraco agency.

History - Lake Kivu was discovered in 1894 by Count Adolf von Goetzen, a German officer. The first European settlement took place in 1901. Lieutenant Tondeur established himself where Bukavu now stands.

In 1902 eight of his troops were killed in the course of a skirmish with natives. Lt. Tondeur was killed in the same year by the men of the Chief Tutaganda. A memorial has been erected to him beside the Kabare-Walungu road. The people refused to submit until 1915 and Chief Kabare did not submit until 1916.

The post of Kabare was established in 1922 while Bukavu was not more than outpost. It subsequently became the HQ of the Kivu district and later of the province. In memory of Government Inspector Costermans, it was called Costermansville. However, as neither the Europeans nor the natives used this name, the town reverted to its original name of Bukavu on the 1st January 1953. The town in its present form is of recent origin and it owes its rapid development less to its status as Provincial HQ than to its unique position on the shores of a very beautiful lake, its very mild climate, and to its geographical position in the centre of magnificent country popular with settlers and tourists.

Built on five peninsulas which form the southern shore of Lake Kivu "like a verdant hand dipped in the lake" as George Sion wrote, it is backed by high mountains rising nearly 6500 ft. The villas surrounded by wonderful gardens, the beds of variegated flowers, the parks, the stupendous views over the lake, the beach, the first class hotels and the ideal climate make it an ideal place worth a visit on its own merits.

Bukavu has grown very rapidly from 300 before World War II to 3645 at the close of 1954.

Nearby are the Ruzizi Falls, and the rapids which extend for several miles below the outflow from Lake Kivu.

Otraco operate regular services on the lake from Badavu on Wednesdays and Saturdays and from Goma on Mondays and Thursdays.

DAKWA. On the right bank of the Uele. Catholic mission, ginnery and rest house.

DEKESE. Territorial HQ. Radiotelegraph station, rest house. Terminus of the Otraco service on the Lukenie River from Kutu to Dekese. Trading and agricultural centre. Garage.

DEMBA. Altitude 2008 ft. Territorial HQ. B.C.K. railway station. Telephone/Telegraph office. Trading and cotton centre. Garage. Catholic mission of the Father of Scheut. Hotel.

DEMBIA. 9 miles from ~~Ban~~besa, a rest house. 2 miles further on is the seat of the management in Africa of the Plantadem (See Plantations de Dembia, Place de Louvain, Brussels).

DIBAYA. Territorial HQ. Hospital. Industrial centre. Management of the Societe d'Elevage et de Culture au Congo Belge. Important road junction.

DIBAYA LUBUE. On the watershed between the Pukulu and the Lubue Rivers.

DILOLO. Altitude 3307 ft. Near border with Lobito. Scheduled transports of the M.A.S. operate from Dildo as far as Kamponde (on the Port Francqui-Kamina railway).

DIMA. On the left bank of the Kasai River. This is the seat of management of the Compagnie du Kasai, founded in 1901. This company is engaged in trading, palm growing, the extraction of palm oil and river transport services. At Dima, it owns a workshop and a ship-building yard. Steam driven oil mills have been built in the surrounding plantations. Garage, workshop, petrol. The medical service of the company operates the hospital at Mokamo.

DIMBELENGE. Territorial HQ. Radiotelegraph station. Rest house, trading and industrial centre.

DJALASIGA. Trading centre and road fork, near the mine at Zani.

DJUGU. Altitude 5906 ft. Territorial HQ. RTF Hospital, trading centre. Car hire. Road fork.

DONGO (UBANGI). An administrative post with a rest house on the left bank of the Ubangi River.

THE WATERLOW Bros. & LAYTON ISSUES OF THE BELGIAN CONGO

(The greater part of the following article was originally written as a paper for presentation to the Waterlow Study Circle. In the hope that it may be of some interest to Congo collectors, additional sections have been added, but the writer apologises for any lack of overall coherence occasioned by the grafting process.)

Only four stamps were printed for the Belgian Congo by Waterlow Bros. & Layton:-

1898	3,50 fr. black and vermillion
	10,00 fr. black and green
1910	3,00 fr. black and brick-red
	10,00 fr. black and green

The very reason for this firm's receiving the order for the original two stamps remains shrouded in mystery. Since the production of the first bicoloured pictorials in 1894, Waterlow & Sons Ltd. had been printing the Congo stamps and, with the exception of the values listed above, they continued to do so, additional values or changes in design or colour being printed in 1895, 1896, 1900, 1909, 1910, 1915 and 1918, to say nothing of the many reprintings of most of the basic stamps. The most plausible explanation for the appearance on the scene of the firm of Waterlow Bros. & Layton thus seems to be a pure accident. It may be surmised that, in 1898, some clerk in the Congo Postal Administration in Brussels, when ordering these stamps, simply addressed the order to Messrs. Waterlows, Printers, London, and it became the task of some London postman or sorting clerk to decide which firm should be the recipient of the communication. By the automatic operation of Murphy's Law, he inevitably made the wrong selection and a new chapter was opened in Congo philately. More surprisingly, Waterlow Bros. & Layton, who were not particularly well-known in the field of stamp production at that time, apparently accepted the order without comment and produced the stamps to the customer's satisfaction, judging by the fact that they received further orders for the same values at subsequent dates.

There are, however, several salient differences between the stamps printed by Waterlow Bros. & Layton and those printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., particularly in the early issues. These will be discussed hereafter but, to begin with, it is thought that some information as to the designs used for the stamps will be of interest.

Vignettes

3,50 fr. and 3,00 fr.:-

the original design was almost certainly a pen and ink sketch of a village on a caravan route by Lieutenant Masui. This was used as an illustration for the book "D'Anvers a Banzyville". It is clear, however, that the relative heights of the palm and banana trees were substantially altered to fit into the horizontal format of the stamp design. In fact, this design is believed to have been originally intended for the 10,00 fr. value, but the height of the palm trees, although reduced from that in the original drawing, still made too uncomfortable a fit in the 10,00 fr. frame. It appears that the 3,50 fr. frame

must have been designed later, as it made special provision for the extra height of the central design at the left.

10,00 fr.:-

there seems to be some difference of opinion as to the name of the stern-wheel paddle steamer shown on this value. In "Philately" of November/December 1946, it was identified by Ernest W. Argyle as "La Delivrance" which was in service on the upper Congo between 1890 and 1898. General Jean Du Four, however, in his monumental work "Congo - Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale" avers that it is the "Baron Dhanis" and that the design is taken from a photograph of this vessel lying at anchor on the upper Congo. This photograph, which was one of the illustrations of the book "l'Etat Independant du Congo a l'Exposition Bruxelles-Tervueren", published in 1897, is reproduced in General Du Four's book and does indeed bear a striking resemblance to that shown on the stamp, except that in the latter case the steamer is no longer at anchor, but is steaming up-river with smoke billowing out behind it.

Design and Engraving

As far as can be ascertained, the vignettes for both values and probably also the frames for the 1898 issue were engraved for Waterlow Bros. & Layton by T. S. Harrison. Certainly, plate proofs of both values and a die proof of the 10,00 fr. are included in the papers of T. S. Harrison, and his son R. A. Harrison who, in turn, was employed by Waterlow Bros. & Layton and may have been responsible for engraving the redesigned frames of the 1910 issue. Some of the dies themselves, engraved on small flat pieces of steel, have been on display at the Postal Museum in Brussels. These are:-

3,50 fr.	1898	centre - die no. 6692
10,00 fr.	1898	centre - die no. 3271
10,00 fr.	1910	frame - die no. 2723

Proofs

(a) Die Proofs

The following are known to exist for the 1898 issue:-

	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Frame</u>
3,50 fr.	Blue	Orange
	Black	Deep Green
	Black	Purple (on card)
	Green	Bistre-Orange (on card)
	Black	Vermilion (adopted colours)
	Black	Green (wove paper)*

* Has number in reverse at top left side. At the bottom left corner in manuscript what appears to be "Congo", and on the right hand side, "more issued this colour".

	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Frame</u>
10,00 fr.	Black	Deep Violet
	Blue	Bistre-Brown
	Blue	Brown
	Black	Ultramarine
	Black	Blue
	Black	Prussian Blue
	Black	Deep Blue
	Black	Claret
	Black	Mauve
	Bistre- Orange	Brown
	Orange- Bistre	Green
	Ultra- marine	Bistre-Orange
	Black	Green (adopted colours)
	Black	Sepia (wove paper)*

* In manuscript in the bottom left corner "Belgian Congo" and on the right hand side "Original Die more issued this colour".

3,50 fr. Frame and centre printed side by side on same sheet, known both in black and both in orange.

Apart from those listed, it is certain that many others in various colours have been seen from time to time. There is such a variety of these die proofs that it is tempting to regard them as colour trials. If this is the case, however, then the Congo Postal Administration must have adopted different practices to those of their dealings with Waterlow & Sons Ltd., when they specified the colours to be used for each value and no die proofs of these values are recorded in other than the adopted colours. It is thus difficult to find any justification for the veritable rainbow produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton in this case, and it is believed that these were really presentation proofs designed to publicise the firm's work.

Dr. K. Goddeeris believes that there were at least two dies of both the frame and centre for each of the two values. He supports this contention by reference to his own large collection of die and plate proofs, although it has not been possible as yet for any other philatelist to reach a final conclusion on this hypothesis as material is scarce. If additional dies were made, this would be in accordance with best practice so that the secondary die could be used, if necessary, to take up several times on the transfer roll, whilst the master die was kept secure. Such a circumstance could also account for the notes referring to "Original Die etc.". It is not possible, however, to comment further on this point at present.

So far, no die proofs of the 1910 issue have come to light.

(b) Plate Proofs

The following are known for the 1898 issue:-

3,50 fr. frame only, in green
centre black, frame
vermillion (adopted colours)

	1909	centre black, frame vermillion (inverted centre)
10,00 fr.		*centre black, frame green on white paper
	1909	*centre black, frame green on pinkish-buff paper
	1909	centre black, frame green (inverted centre)
		**centre claret, frame green

- * adopted colours
- ** the copy known is perforated and mounted on a card on which Waterlow Bros. & Layton's name and address has been stamped in violet. The card is endorsed in manuscript "This colour green, centre black".

The proofs with inverted centres are on watermarked paper and, from other evidence, appear to relate to the "Princes" printing.

3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. - 3,50 fr. centre in black, with 10,00 fr. frame in green (perforated 14½ on gummed paper, or imperforate without gum)

The normal plate proofs in the adopted colours appear to be just that. In some cases, various plate guide lines appearing on them are quite pronounced, indicating that they come from early printings. They are normally imperforate, although the block of 10,00 fr. on ungummed coarse buff wove paper, which emanated from the Harrison papers, is perforated 14 and has a sheet watermark, providing some evidence that it belongs to the 1909 "Princes" printing.

On the other hand, it is probable that the "plate proofs" with inverted centres were deliberately printed in this form to avoid their being mixed up with the issued stamps (and here it is important not to get these proofs confused with the 10,00 fr. inverted centre stamps of which it is believed some copies were surreptitiously removed from the printing works. There is no evidence to suggest that they reached the outside world legitimately.). The proofs were printed on the thin watermarked paper which was brought into use around 1905 and which was used for the 10,00 fr. stamps perforated 12, as well as for the "Princes" printing of both values in 1909. As it was proposed to use this new type of paper, it would be normal to puff off some sheets of both values in order to see the finished result in the desired colours before using the paper for full-scale production. It is entirely plausible, therefore, that the centres (or perhaps the frames, as the centres in black may well have been printed first) were printed recto-verso in order that these trial sheets could be readily distinguished from the normal issue. In any case, these trials, which are imperforate, are very interesting and extremely rare; only two stamps of each value are known, one of each having been in the Ferrari collection and these, together with a 10 centimes blue with inverted centre, were sold for 104 pounds at the 6th Ferrari auction (lot 233) held in Paris on 25 - 27 April 1923.

Another way of ensuring that such items could not be used for postal purposes was to punch holes in them, and a block of 10,00 fr. perforated 12, as well as a block and a pair of the 3,50 fr. "Princes" printing are known thus mutilated. Undoubtedly these are trials pulled just before each value was printed on the new type of paper mentioned above; the 10,00 fr. around 1905 (when at the same time the perforation was altered from $14\frac{1}{4}$ to 12) and the 3,50 fr. in March 1909, the time of the "Princes" printing. These may perhaps be considered similar to the Waterlow & Sons Ltd. "File Copies".

In the case of the proofs with the 3,50 fr. centre and 10,00 fr. frame, two items are recorded:- a single, perforated $14\frac{1}{4}$ and gummed and a pair, imperforate and without gum. As already stated, it is believed that the central design of the 3,50 fr. was originally intended for the 10,00 fr. value but that, when this centre was combined with the 10,00 fr. frame, which of course already had the value incorporated, it was found the tall palms at the left crowded the frame at the top. It was then decided to utilise the stern-wheeler design for the 10,00 fr. centre and to design an asymmetrical frame for the 3,50 fr. making due allowance for the extra height of the centre at the left. It is believed that these particular proofs were pulled before the decision to change the 10,00 fr. centre was made. Their very existence would seem proof of the "publicity" nature of the various "Die Proofs" of both values in different colours, as the colours are already those used for the issued 10,00 fr. value.

(c) Publicity Proofs

As with the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., a number of proofs in other than the issued colours exists, and these are generally thought to have been used by the printers for publicity purposes. Unlike the Waterlow & Sons issues, however, special miniature sheets of 9 stamps were not printed. The perforating head used would appear to preclude a date of later than 1913 for the production of these proofs and, in all probability, they can be ascribed to the first decade of the present century. These proofs should not be confused with the die proofs listed above.

The following are known:-

	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Frame</u>
1898 issue		
3,50 fr.	Black	Bistre-Brown (on thin ungummed paper and roughly perforated)
	Black	Deep Green (imperforate)
	Black	Yellow (perforated 14)
	Blue	Brown (perforated 14)
	Violet	Blue (imperforate)
	Black	Brown (imperforate)
	Black	Orange-Bistre (perforated 14)
10,00 fr.	Black	Deep Blue (perforated 14)
	Black	Prussian Blue (perforated 14)
	Black	Deep Blue-Green (imperforate)
	Violet	*Yellow (imperforate)

Black	Violet (perforated 14)
Black	**Violet (imperforate)
Black	Vermilion (perforated 14)
Black	Prussian Blue (imperforate)
Black	Milky Blue (imperforate)

* the copy seen has been perforated with large initials, part of a word or words which must have been across several stamps.

** mounted on a card stamped with the reference S.T. 1032, this proof has an oblique "Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Specimen" overprint in black in small sans-serif characters, and this must presumably have been added after the re-amalgamation of the two firms.

1910 issue

3,00 fr.	Black	Brick-Red (imperforate but with gum)
10,00 fr.	Black	Deep Green (imperforate but with gum)
	Black	Blue (reference S.T. 967, with oblique overprint as above)

The "proofs" in issued colours of the 1910 issue may be true plate proofs, but are generally considered to be a special restricted printing, or to have been produced for presentation purposes.

Plates

Plates for the Waterlow Bros. & Layton issues of the Belgian Congo contained 50 subjects, set 5 horizontal by 10 vertical. They were created by the classic method:- the design (either centre or frame in the case of bicoloured stamps) is cut in reverse on a soft steel die and when the engraving is complete, the die is hardened. A softened steel transfer roll is then applied to the die and, under considerable pressure, is rocked to and fro across the engraved design, after which the surface of the transfer roll is also hardened. The transfer roll is then applied under pressure to a copper or soft steel plate and is rocked to and fro to impress the design into the plate, this process being repeated on the plate as many times as necessary - in this case, 50. Each subject on the plate should thus be a replica of the original die.

In the case of the Waterlow Bros. & Layton plates, the surface area covered by the stamp designs (frames), excluding margins and the printer's imprints which were added later, was about 185 x 250 mm. compared to 180 x 240 mm. for the concurrent Waterlow & Sons Ltd. plates used for Congo stamps. Each subject measured roughly 22 x 34 mm.

During the lives of the plates, certain deliberate enhancements or additions were made, thus creating new states. For the Belgian Congo collector, the system of nomenclature developed by General Du Four remains in use; each new frame plate for each value is given a Roman numeral, I, II, III, etc., whilst each new centre plate is la-

belled by a capital letter, A, B, C, etc. Successive states of each plate are then identified by Arabic numeral suffixes. Using this system, the history of use of the Waterlow Bros. & Layton plates is as follows:-

3,50 fr.	1898	I + A	Original frame and centre plates.
	1909	I + A	"Princes" printing. Both plates had suffered corrosion and this is apparent on the printed stamps but, not being a deliberate change, does not of itself result in a new state.
3,00 fr.	1910	III + A	New bilingual fram plate; the value also changed, but this stamp is seen as the direct descendant of the 3,50 fr. value as the same centre plate continued in use.
		II2 + A	The top frame lines had become very weak and every position on the plate was retouched.
10,00 fr.	1898	I1 + A1	*Original frame and centre plates.
	c 1905	I2 + A1	Printer's imprints added to frame plate
	1909	I2 + A1	"Princes" printing.
	1910	II + A1	New bilingual frame plate.
	?	II + A2	Centre plate retouched in several positions to remove defects and strengthen weak lines of engraving.

* clearly, the original¹ frame plate was found to be imperfect after entering, as every position shows signs of having been retouched-up by hand, most often in the top left corner. No proofs from the original plate before this touching-up have ever been found.

It appears that touching-up and retouching were the methods preferred by Waterlow Bros. & Layton, when plates required to be improved. This contrasts with the considerable use of re-entering by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., although this firm too made use of retouching on occasion.

Initially the plates had no printer's imprint, but the frame plates had guide marks in the top left and both bottom corners. In the case of the 3,50 fr., these were each in the form of a St. Andrew's cross while for the 10,00 fr. they were formed by a vertical line crossed by an oblique. The intersections of the lines sometimes have a small hole through them, indicating that their purpose was as guides for the perforating machine - it is most unlikely that they had any use in the actual laying down of the plate. Further, it appears that these guide marks were removed after the printings perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$, as they do not occur on the 10,00 fr. sheets which were perforated 12, nor on the sheets from the "Princes" printing.

In addition, the frame and centre plates of the 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. of the 1898 issue have vertical and horizontal guide lines in the centres of the horizontal and vertical sides respectively of each design. These have been traced with considerable care and accuracy and are believed to have been laid down as a preparatory stage to rolling the impressions on the plate in the correct posi-

tions. In the 1910 issue, such guide lines appear only on the centre plate and, as the original centre plates remained in use, it may be that changes in the firm's techniques had made such lines unnecessary and, although they were not cleaned off the centre plates, there was no reason to inscribe them on the new frame plates.

Before the printing of the 10,00 fr. stamps, perforated 12, around 1905, the printer's imprints were added to the frame plate. The imprints, which read

"WATERLOW BROS & LAYTON, LIM^{td} BIRCHIN LANE, LONDON, E.C."

were some 53 mm. long and engraved, reading outwards, in all four margins of the plates, at the top, above positions 2, 3, and 4; at the bottom, beneath nos. 47, 48, and 49; to the left of nos. 21 and 26, and to the right of nos. 25 and 30. The inscription of the 1910 plates for both values was about 60 mm. in length and thus also extended to the left of nos. 16 and 31, and to the right of nos. 20 and 25.

Paper

The original paper used for the 1898 issue was white and of even texture, similar to, although very slightly thicker than, that used by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for the other values of the current Congo series. In about 1905, however, a new paper was introduced. This was rather thinner and tended to toning, either greyish or yellowish. It also had a papermaker's watermark which was repeated with a vertical space between of 165 mm. and could thus appear once or twice on a sheet, the dimensions of which were about 300 mm. x 235 mm. A reduced illustration of the watermark is shown:-

JA^s WRIGLEY & SON L^D
219

The actual dimensions are:- (given in mm.)

length of top line	187.0
height of capital letters and numerals	15.0
height of smaller letters	12.0
total height of watermark	+ 40.0
width between double lines of each letter	- 2.5

The number is always 219 and it is interesting to note that a paper described as "Mill No. 219, Cream Wove Ungummed, James Wrigley Mill" by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. was also used by that firm for printings of Guatemala stamps up to 1920, although none of the stamps they printed for the Congo has ever been found on watermarked paper.

The new paper coincided with the change of perforation of the 10,00 fr. stamp from $14\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 around 1905 and, no doubt, if any

further printings of the 3,50 fr. had been required at that time, these would also have been on this paper. It appears, however, that stocks of the 3,50 fr. stamps must have been sufficient until the "Princes" printing in March 1909, when this value first appeared on watermarked paper.

Both the 3,00 fr. and 10,00 fr. stamps of the 1910 issue appeared printed on the same type of watermarked paper, although later printings were on rather bluish-toned paper.

Where the watermarked paper was used, only a few stamps in each sheet show traces of it and these are considered highly collectable by Congo enthusiasts. In fact, according to the way in which the sheet was placed on the plate during printing, the watermark can be found in four varieties:-

- (1) Reading normally from printed side: Upright
- (2) Reading normally from printed side: Inverted
- (3) Reading normally from gummed side : Upright
- (4) Reading normally from gummed side : Inverted

The change to the watermarked paper had one rather odd side-effect as far as the stamps of the 1898 issue were concerned. The recess-printing process of the time required the paper to be dampened before printing. When paper is damp it expands, more so at right-angles to the grain of the fibres, and when it dries it re-contracts. Different types of paper expand to different extents, but it is also probable that the original paper used for these stamps had the grain of the fibres running from left to right on the sheet, whereas the watermarked paper had the fibres running from top to bottom. In any event, having been printed while the paper was damp, the stamps on the different papers, once dry, were of slightly different dimensions. As the printings can be recognized by other means, this, although interesting, is of mainly academic value, but it does provide an additional means of identifying stamps of the "Princes" printing in cases of doubt. The dimensions (of the printed area of each stamp) are as follows:-

3,50 fr.	normal printing	33.75	x	22.5	mm.
	"Princes" printing	34.25	x	22.25	mm.
10,00 fr.	normal printings:-				
	perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$	33.5	x	22.5	mm.
	perf. 12	34	x	22	mm.
	"Princes" printing	34	x	22	mm.

Shades

1898 issue

3,50 fr. - the frame shade is virtually constant, except for the "Princes" printing, where the frame is slightly brighter. Centres are usually slate, but occasionally black for the earlier printings, brownish-black for the "Princes" printing.

10,00 fr. - the original stamps, perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$, have a yellow-green frame, whilst those perf. 12 are usually rather lighter in shade. Stamps of the "Princes" printing are a darker, bluish-green, and have brownish-black centres compared to the black centres of the earlier stamps.

1910 issue

3,00 fr. - the frame shade shows no significant variation. The centres of the later printing with the retouched frame appear slate rather than the earlier black but this may be due to the toned paper then used.

10,00 fr. - on the yellowish paper, the stamps appear green or yellowish-green. On the later bluish paper, the stamps appear dark green or deep blue-green. Only state II + A1 is found on yellowish paper, but both states exist on bluish paper.

Printing Varieties

Apart from the normal plate varieties due to the recess-printing process, which are not discussed here in detail, the 1898 10,00 fr. value provides one of the most spectacular errors in Belgian Congo philately - it exists with inverted centre! (More properly, of course, it was the frame which was inverted, as the centre was the first to be printed.) To date, only a handful of copies have turned up and the available evidence suggests that they are all from the same sheet, so that probably no more than 50 ever existed. The non-appearance of the remaining 40+ is a minor mystery. These inverted centres, which are both perforated and gummed, should not be confused with the imperforate proofs mentioned above.

In addition, there are two further recognized printing varieties of the 10,00 fr. of 1898 and 1910, due to faulty registration of frame and centre plates. Perhaps the best known of these is where the paddle-wheel of the steamer touches the frame at the left. Although this could be caused by mis-registration of the entire sheet, it is also known in cases where only one or two columns at the side of the sheet are affected and, in this case, it may be assumed that differential expansion and shrinking of the paper after it was re-dampened for printing in the second colour is a contributory factor. Relatively speaking, the variety is most common on stamps of the "Princes" printing and least common in the 1910 issue.

A similarly-produced variety, which is more spectacular and rather less common, is that known as the "low tide" variety, where the hull of the boat is almost touching the frame at the bottom.

In both the above cases, the reverse, with the centre misplaced towards the right, or the top of the stamp, can also be found but, as the steamer does not approach the frame so closely in such

cases, they are of less interest to collectors.

Generally, all values of the pictorial series can be found with similar faulty registration of frames and centres but, traditionally, collectors have considered those of the 10,00 fr. to be the most desirable.

Perforation

During the period between 1898 and 1910, Waterlow & Sons Ltd. are known to have used a number of different perforating machines of various gauges, with resultant complexities in the perforations of the issued stamps. The same, however, is by no means the case with Waterlow Bros. & Layton. The basic perforations of the Congo stamps printed by this firm are fairly simple:-

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 1898 | Both the 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. were perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ (line) |
| ± 1905 | The 10,00 fr. was perforated 12 (line) |
| 1909 | "Princes" printing - both values were perforated 14 (line) |
| 1910 | Both values were perforated 14 (line) |

In addition, however, the following compound perforations exist for the 1898 issue:-

3,50 fr.	12 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$) 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12)	I + A	
10,00 fr.	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$) 12 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$) 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 12)	I + A1	(It is not known whether the printer's imprint had been added to the frame plate prior to this, but the design is of the same dimensions as the perf. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ issue, implying the original paper and, probably, frame state II)

Over the years, a number of different opinions have been expressed as to the reasons for these compound perforations, but it is now generally considered that the most likely explanation is that advanced by Mr. R. H. Keach.

It must be remembered that, at the time, Waterlow Bros. & Layton were almost unknown as printers of stamps and it is highly unlikely that they did the perforating themselves. The first deliveries of the stamps were uniformly perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$. With hopes of obtaining further orders from this source, the firm which had done the perforating had chosen some new machines on which the pins were spaced further apart. The first of these gave a perforation of 11 $\frac{1}{4}$. As a trial, the company in question finished perforating some sheets of the 10,00 fr. which had already been perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ vertically (several pairs of the 10,00 fr. are known, perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ vertically only and torn through, no doubt deliberately to

render them unsaleable) and which were still in the possession of Waterlows, or had been returned by Brussels as unsatisfactory.

The first perforator was obviously not considered to be suitable and so a second, perf. 12, was put into use and further trials were made on reject sheets of both 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. which had previously been perforated $14\frac{1}{4}$ in one direction only.

It is probable that the trial sheets were sent to Brussels at the same time as the delivery of the 10,00 fr. perf. 12 printing. That no further delivery of the 3,50 fr. was made at this time accounts for the fact that this value does not exist perf. 12 all around.

A single, apparently authentically used, copy of the 10,00 fr. perf. $11\frac{1}{4}$ x $14\frac{1}{4}$ is known with a Leopoldville telegraphic cancellation dated 2 January 1908 but, because of the line perforation it would not be possible to authenticate the stamp.

Certain errors of perforation are also known:-

- | | | |
|------|-----------|--|
| 1898 | 3,50 fr. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> imperf. between vertical pair imperf. left margin imperf. to top of sheet ("Princes" printing) imperf. except for left selvedge ("Princes" printing) imperf. sheet ("Princes" printing) |
| | 10,00 fr. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> imperf. between horizontal pair (x perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$) imperf. to top edge of sheet (x perf. 12) horizontal perforation double (perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$) imperf. horizontally (x perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$) imperf. to top of sheet (perf. 12) imperf. between vertical pair ("Princes" printing) |
| 1910 | 3,00 fr. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> imperf. to bottom edge of sheet imperf. right margin imperf. to top of sheet |
| | 10,00 fr. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> imperf. between horizontal pair |

In general, the fact that the trial perforations and other items are so frequently found for these stamps can probably be attributed to Waterlow Bros. & Layton's relative inexperience as stamp printers at that time. They do not appear to have been so aware of security problems with respect to philatelic items as many more established firms.

Sheet Numbers

Except for the first printings in 1894, the sheets printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were numbered from 1 to 500 at the top right corner (for horizontal format stamps, this positioning placed the sheet number at the bottom of the right hand side for vertical format stamps). The sheets printed by Waterlow Bros & Layton, for the most part, did not have any sheet numbers. The sole exception is the 1905 10,00 fr. perf. 12, where the sheets have 3-digit numbers in the centre of the top margin.

The "Princes" Printing

The reasons for this separate printing in March 1909, both the romantic legend and the more prosaic but probably true explanation, are well known to Congo collectors, but bear some brief repetition. First the romance:-

Tradition has it that, at the beginning of 1909, the Countess of Flanders expressed a desire to give her grandsons, the Princes Leopold and Charles, a complete set of the Congo pictorial issue, with the Brussels "CONGO BELGE" handstamped overprint. The Administration was already sold out of several values and thus had this special printing made in March 1909.

In fact, the change of status of the Congo to a Belgian Colony in November 1908 had required, in the interim while new stamps were being prepared to reflect this change, the overprinting of the available stocks with the words "CONGO BELGE". Unfortunately, the stocks, particularly of the lower values, were proving inadequate to cover the full period until the new stamps were to be available, and the Administration thus ordered an emergency printing of 5,000 examples of each value of the current series, eight of these being printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. and the remaining two by Waterlow Bros. & Layton.

Of the 100 sheets of each value, two (100 stamps) remained without overprint, six (300 stamps) received handstamped overprints in Brussels, and the remaining 92 (4,600 stamps) received the typographed "CONGO BELGE" overprint. The typographed stamps were sent to the Congo, where the vast majority of them were commercially used. The reason for the Brussels handstamps, which were not sent to the Congo, could well have been that certain V.I.P.'s and important dealers used their influence to have these handstamps applied and then bought the stamps for their own use. Conceivably, one such person was the Countess of Flanders and this gave rise to the traditional story.

From the philatelic point of view, the important and rather mystifying aspect of the "Princes" printing is certain similarities of production of the values printed by both firms. It has never been seriously suggested that Waterlow Bros. & Layton did not carry out this final printing of the 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. values of the 1898 designs (perhaps this is further evidenced by the continued use of the watermarked paper which was never used for the other values) and yet, like the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. the frame colours are somewhat brighter and the green ink used has more blue in it than in the earlier printings. Further, all 10 values of the series are uniformly perforated 14, quite distinct from the earlier $14\frac{1}{4}$ found on the Waterlow Bros. & Layton stamps, and all the centres have a more brownish appearance in the 1909 printing.

Certainly the brighter, browner or bluer inks may have little significance. Over a period of time, base ingredients can change and more effective or economical ways of preparing ingredients and mixing inks can be found and it is logical to assume that, once discoveries were made, most printing houses would make use of them. It may thus be that both printers were simply using slight-

ly different inks than before as a natural result of a continuing process of this sort. In any case, it could hardly be expected that the shades of earlier issues could be matched absolutely - in the case of the Waterlow & Sons Ltd. stamps, which passed through many more printings than the 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. values, many slightly different shades are found for most values, but attention has not been focussed on these to the same extent as on the easily-identifiable "Princes" printing.

The uniform perforation is less easily explained away. Although, building on the information contained in "Guatemala 2", a considerable amount of research has now been completed by Mr. B. P. Hudson on the Waterlow & Sons Ltd. perforations of the Belgian Congo issues, the "Princes" printing, because of the lack of availability of material in sufficient quantity, has been excluded from this so far. One possible explanation for the uniformity is, of course, that Waterlow Bros. & Layton, having no perforating equipment of their own and having a rush order to complete, actually requested Waterlow & Sons Ltd. to do this operation for them. This is unlikely, owing to the strained relations which had caused the division between the two firms in the first place and the fact that, in all probability, Waterlow & Sons Ltd. would have believed that the order for the two values should have come to them in the first place. Alternatively, the same sub-contractor may have been used by both firms, but this would assume both coincidence and that Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were so busy at the time that they had no in-house capacity to perforate 800 sheets within a reasonable time-scale. Perhaps an answer to this poser will develop by application of knowledge gained of the stamps of other countries printed during the period by one or other of the firms.

The 1909 "CONGO BELGE" Overprints

As is well known to Congo collectors, on 15 November 1908, following considerable international pressure, Belgium took over the government of the territory, changing its status from an independent State, the Congo Free State, with Leopold II as its direct sovereign, to a Belgian colony. As it would be some time before this change would be reflected in newly-printed postage stamps, the decision was made to overprint remaining stocks of the Mols issue with the words "CONGO BELGE".

The initial overprinting was by means of handstamps, 15 of which were made in Brussels, and all of which can be distinguished from each other by minor differences. Eight of these were retained in Brussels to be used in overprinting the stocks held there by the Congo Administration. The remaining seven were sent to the Congo to be used at the major post offices where the bulk of the local stocks were kept. Finally, one more handstamp was made for its own use by the Congo Railway Company, which had its headquarters in Matadi.

The Brussels stocks of some values were extensive and the task of overprinting each stamp individually was extremely tedious so that eventually it was decided to create a typographic plate so that a complete sheet of 50 stamps could be overprinted at a single operation. Using the Brussels Type 5 handstamp as a master, this was

done by making a series of moulds (probably five) in a papier mache matrix, in which several cliches (probably 12) in lead were cast from each mould. Progressive shrinking of the moulds, due to the pouring in of hot metal for each set of castings, caused both a diminution of size of later castings and several minor varieties of overprint which appear in a number of different positions in the overprinting plate.

In the Congo, where labour was cheaper, the handstamps were used throughout and tended to be applied less carefully than on the sheets handstamped at Brussels, thus giving rise to several overprinting varieties.

It is not the purpose of the present article to go into depth on the subject of the overprints, as this subject has already been fully covered by other writers; what is relevant is to list the overprints as they are to be found on the Waterlow Bros. & Layton stamps. The following are known to date:-

3,50 fr.	Brussels Handstamps	(I + A)
	Type B1	
	B2	
	B3	
	B5	
	B6	

The relative availability is B2 (least rare), B5, B6, B3, B1

Local Handstamps	(I + A)
Type L1	
L2	
L3	
L4	
L5	
L6	
L7	
L8	

The relative availability is L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L7, L6, L8

Typographed Overprint	(I + A)
-----------------------	---------

"Princes"	Brussels Handstamps	
	Type B2	
	B6	(only a single copy recorded)

Typographed Overprint*

10,00 fr.	Brussels Handstamp	(II + A)
	Type B1) all perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$
	B2	
	B3	
	B5	
	B6	

The relative availability is B2, B5, B6, B3, B1

Local Handstamps	
(I1 + A1; perf. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$)	(I2 + A1; perf. 12)
Type L1	Type L1
L2	L2
L3	L3
L4	L4
L5	L5
L6	L6
	L7
	L8

The relative availability is L1, L5, L2, L3, L6, L7, L4, L8

The perf. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ stamps with overprint are much less common than those perf. 12.

Typographed Overprint

Only two sheets perforated 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ (i.e. I1 + A1) are known to have received the overprint; the remainder are perf. 12.

"Princes" Brussels Handstamps (I2 + A1)

Type B2

Typographed Overprint*

* The typographed overprint for the "Princes" printing differed somewhat from that used for the original sheets. After the first overprinting, the plate of 50 cliches had apparently been dismantled and, prior to overprinting the "Princes" stamps, had to be reconstructed. Apart from the overprint varieties appearing in different positions on the sheet, it is clear that some cliches which had not been used for the earlier printing were used in the latter case, replacing others. It is partly this fact which gave rise to the assumption that 60, rather than 50, cliches had been produced originally. Also, the overprint on the "Princes" stamps frequently appears to be much thinner, and this is ascribed to the use of a more fluid ink for the second overprinting.

Curiosities and Errors of Overprint:-

The typographed stamps produced few significant items, but in the case of the 3,50 fr. it is known that one sheet of the "Princes" printing received an inverted overprint, but, because the sheet was out of position, the bottom margin also received the overprint while pairs from the top two rows (the stamps reading normally, the overprint, in the lower row, inverted) are known, one with and one without overprint. Another, but much less spectacular, variety is the 10,00 fr. with vertically à cheval overprint.

One sheet of 10,00 fr. stamps, again of the "Princes" printing has a double overprint, with approximately one mm. vertically between the strikes.

No errors of the typographed overprint on the original printings of the 3,50 fr. and 10,00 fr. are known.

In the nature of things, the handstamps provided more scope for error and, dare one say, creativity. Both the smaller quantity of, and more careful workmanship apparent in, the Brussels handstamps minimised the varieties from this source, the only one known on the Waterlow Bros. & Layton values being the inverted surcharge (B5) on the 3,50 fr.

In the case of the local handstamps, numerous curiosities exist and the following are recorded:-

Inverted Surcharge
3,50 fr.

10,00 fr. (I1 + A1)
(I2 + A1)

Double Surcharge
3,50 fr.

10,00 fr. (I1 + A1)
(I2 + A1)

Misplaced Surcharge
3,50 fr.

10,00 fr.

Details of which Local handstamps occur in these varieties are unknown, although one copy of the 10,00 fr. with inverted L4 has been seen.

The overprinted stamps were ordered on 16 November 1908 and produced in time for them to be available for sale on 1 January 1909 in Brussels and at the end of January in the Congo - both the handstamped and typographed issues. The typographically overprinted stamps of the "Princes" printing reached the Congo by the end of April 1909. All the overprinted stamps were invalidated between January and April 1916, according to districts.

The "1921" Overprints (Recuperation)

Early in the First World War, the German Occupation of Belgium led to the capture of large quantities of stocks of Congo stamps, mainly of the 1910 Mols issue. The Congo Postal Authorities, in order to prevent these stocks from being misused, invalidated the stamps and ordered the 1915 series where, to maintain the U.P.U. colour scheme, the 5, 10, and 25 centimes appeared in the same colours as previously but with modified frame designs, whilst the other values, excluding however the 3,00 fr. and the 10,00 fr., had the frame colours changed. Only the values produced by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. were thus re-issued in 1915 and it is not known - but presumably was for economic considerations - why no further order for the remaining two values was given at the time.

After the war the stocks which were undamaged were returned to Belgium and, as they were substantial, it was decided to revalidate them. Due to increased postal rates and the revised alloca-

tion of colours imposed by the U.P.U. Convention at Madrid on 30 November 1920 - green for overseas printed matter, red for overseas postcards and blue for letters to other countries - the low values of the series were surcharged as appropriate. The four high values, including the 1910 3,00 fr. and 10,00 fr. were simply overprinted "1921". The order for the revalidation was worded in such a way as to permit overprinting of earlier issues as well as that of 1910 and, in fact, limited numbers of some values were so treated, although none is known postally used.

The following is a list of overprints on the Waterlow Bros. & Layton stamps:-

"1921" in black on 1910 3,00 fr.- III + A perf. 14
 do. in black on 1910 3,00 fr.- II2 + A perf. 14
 do. in red on 10,00 fr. perf. 12 with LI "CONGO BELGE" overprint
 do. in red on 10,00 fr. perf. 12 with typographed "CONGO BELGE" overprint
 do. in red on 1910 10,00 fr. - II + A1 perf. 14
 - II + A2 perf. 14

As concerns the 1910 10,00 fr. value, two separate overprinting plates have been identified by differences in spacing and also by the fact that on the less common of the two, there are small red spots appearing, apparently from small eruptions in the overprinting plate which were inked at the same time as the overprint proper, one each on numbers 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 30 and 40 on the sheet.

No curiosities of the "1921" overprint are known.

The "Recuperation" stamps were ordered on 15 May 1921, issued on 1 July 1921 and invalidated on 1 January 1933. The actual overprints are believed to have been applied by Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

Numbers Printed

The most reliable source for the numbers printed is General Du Four, who made a considerable study of the subject. His estimates were as follows:-

3,50 fr. I + A	1898	23,200	
	1909	100	Brussels Handstamp
		5,300	Local Handstamp
		22,400	Typographed Overprint
		<hr/>	
Total Printing		51,000	
		<hr/>	
I + A "Princes"		100	
		300	Brussels Handstamp
		4,600	Typographed Overprint
		<hr/>	
Total Printing		5,000	
		<hr/>	

3,00 fr.	III + A } II2 + A }-	1910	125,000 69,500	Overprinted "1921"
Total Printing			194,500	

The 1898 issue was perforated $14\frac{1}{4}$; the "Princes" and 1910 issues were perforated 14.

10,00 fr.	I1 + A1 } I2 + A1 }-	1898/ 1905	58,000	
	I1 + A1		175	Brussels Handstamp
	I1 + A1 } I2 + A1 }-		13,225	Local Handstamp
	I1 + A1		100	} - Typographed Overprint
	I2 + A1		18,900	
	I2 + A1		300	"1921" on Local Handstamp (L1)
	I2 + A1		300	"1921" on Typographed Overprint
Total Printing			91,000	
	I2 + A1 "Princes"		100 300	Brussels Handstamp (B2) Typographed Overprint
			4,600	
Total Printing			5,000	
	II + A1 } II + A2 }-	1910	85,000 56,000	Overprinted "1921"
Total Printing			141,000	

For the 1898/1905 issue without overprint and with Local Overprint, no distinction can be made between I1 + A1 (perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$) and I2 + A1 (perf. 12) stamps, although the overprinted stamps are predominantly I2 + A1. The "Princes" and 1910 issues were perf. 14.

The rarity of certain stamps apparent from the above table disguises one further fact. Serious collectors of the Congo were few and far between in the early 1900's and, perhaps bearing in mind the complexity of perforations of the Waterlow & Sons Ltd. issues, even fewer paid much attention to completion inclusive of perforation changes. For this reason, and also because of the high face value of the stamp, few unused copies of the 1905 10,00 fr., perf. 12, found their way into collections and this stamp, in mint condition, may well be as rare as the "Princes" stamp without overprint and the perf. $14\frac{1}{4}$ stamp typographically overprinted "CONGO BELGE".

Usage

The original 3,50 fr. stamp was the direct successor to the earlier "COLIS POSTAUX" provisionals and thus paid the combined sea and inland rate on small parcels to Belgium. The stamp also saw occasional use on telegrams and was used on heavy covers sent by large business organisations. Only five covers, of which three are clearly philatelic, are known to have survived. One of the commercial covers, of a large and heavy package, bears no fewer than seven copies of the 3,50 fr., the total being in accordance with the weight inscribed on the envelope; the other, dated 1905, has a 3,50 fr. stamp in association with one of 50c and, as the weight is indicated at 103 gr., this also appears a correct rating of 7 x 50c. plus 50c registration fee.

The 10,00 fr. stamp, as previously stated, was widely used in pairs to receipt arms permits. It also saw considerable use on telegrams, as well as serving normal duty as a high value stamp.

In later years, both stamps were mainly used as normal high value stamps.

Conclusion

Despite the limited number of "face different" stamps covered by this article, the writer hopes to have shown that an extremely interesting, if expensive, collection can be formed based on the stamps printed for the Congo by Waterlow Bros. & Layton.

The 3,00 fr. of 1910 was the final 3,00 fr. value of the Mols series. Although the 10,00 fr. was re-issued in the 1918 Red Cross series, on that occasion it was printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. from new plates (and from new dies) which, while very similar, were sufficiently different from the Waterlow Bros. & Layton plates for the stamps to be readily distinguished, even were it not for the blue, instead of black, centres of the 1918 issue.

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