

BELGIAN CONGO



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CONTENTS

PAGES

News and Views	2 - 3
Great African Mysteries by Lawrence G. Green, Chapter XIV (continued)	3 - 5
5c EAAOB with Imperforate Margin	6
1921 - "Recuperation" Overprints	6 - 9
C. H. Compton	9
The 1921 Recuperation 10c Surcharge	9
The 1922-23 Boma Surcharges	10
Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1897-1922) - Addenda & Corrigenda	10
Sales Department	10 - 11
Mail Posted at Sea	11 - 12
TAXES Stamps of the Congo (1886 - 1923)	12 - 15
The Waterlow Perforations	15 - 16
Zaire Provisional Issue of 24 September 1970	16 - 20
Les Timbres Du Congo Surcharges a Boma en 1922-23 - Corrigenda	5 - 9 of the booklet

NEWS AND VIEWS

Change of Address: P. Brandeleer, Rue de la Station, 143
5780 Moustier, Belgium

John Fitzgerald
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We wish to give a most hearty welcome to the following new members:

R. Kairis
5 Rue des Pinsons
4852 Lambermont,
Belgium

J. M. Frenay
14 Avenue Du Fonds Des Carpes
1338 Lasnes, Belgium

R. A. Gooch
2 Cumberland Gardens
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A. Saechez-Ariño
Felix Pizcueta 6
Valencia (4)
Spain

Note from the Secretary: The Joint Meeting with the Belgian Study Circle this year will be at Birmingham on 15-16 September. There will be two joint sessions on

- 1) World War I Mail
- 2) World War II Mail

and one of the separate BCSC sessions is expected to deal with essays and proofs. The remainder of the programme is not yet fixed. Would any member interested please contact the Secretary for further details.

Note from Georges Celis: In the case of the 1970 Provisionals, he is in possession of large quantities of many of the varieties and errors of overprint which he mentions in his article. If any member is interested in buying any of these, would they please send him a wants list.

Also, he has published a book last year (in French) and while not dealing directly with philately, it may be of interest to some members. The title is:

BURUNDI 1900 - 1930
30 Years of History in Photographs

The book contains about 120 black and white photographs of the period, describing the Burundese, the Germans (who first colonised the country between 1896 and 1916), the Belgians and the first Missions. A fifth chapter is reserved for traditional Burundese crafts: blacksmiths, witchdoctors, etc. Most of the photographs were taken by the author. A full page is reserved for stamps(!): stamps of German East Africa, cancelled in Burundi, an "Urundi" stamp, some "E.A.A." stamps and finally, Ruanda-Urundi stamps. The price of the book is £ 6, including postage.

NEWS AND VIEWS (Continued)

New postal rates in Zaire, from 22 September, 1983 as follows:

local mail	continues at 1z (provisionally)
mail to Europe	15z for 5 grams
mail to U.S.A.	37.5 for 5 grams
registration and express fees	unchanged (provisionally)

(The above information was supplied by Georges Celis, with the note that since 1964, this represents an increase of 2300 times in respect of the rate to Belgium.)

Note on subscriptions concerning American members: There has been a considerable delay in funds reaching our Secretary, mainly due to reminders having to be sent, and then upon payment, checks on American banks have been sent - made payable to either the Belgian Congo Study Circle or to the Secretary. These checks have been forwarded to the Editor, endorsed by the Secretary and then by the Editor, in order to decrease the cost of changing the funds over to English pounds. So, please, in the future, send your dues payable to the Editor personally (we are not large enough to have a Study Circle separate bank account). On the few remaining unpaid, please remit as we cannot continue to send you Bulletins - it would be unfair to our other members.

Back issues of the Bulletin. An inquiry has been received on obtaining back issues. Because of the number of back issues, and that much of the information has been updated over the years, we would encourage members to await the upcoming indexing in order to select the matters of interest. Then copies may be obtained by writing the Secretary. Naturally, there will be a copy charge.

Typing Assist. A very special thanks to member Norman Clowes for the beautiful typing on the Abbe G. Gudenkauf's Corrigenda on the Boma issues. It is very much appreciated by the Editor - it makes getting out an issue a real pleasure!

Awards on Exhibiting. A word from Gene Adams, stating he had received a Silver and the A.P.S. post 1940 at the Boston Show, matching the same honors he had taken at the 1983 ARIPEX Show in Tucson, Arizona. Then at MIDAPHIL he received a Silver-Bronze to round out his efforts for 1983.

At the 1984 ARIPEX in Phoenix, your Editor took a Silver and the A.P.S. medal for the best 1900-1940 period.

For those members who have never tried to exhibit, we would certainly encourage you to make an effort. Each exhibitor has to take a first step - and in so doing, you are promoting philately and making it possible for others to appreciate a special interest. Once you try, it will prove very worthwhile.

GREAT AFRICAN MYSTERIES by Lawrence G Green, Chapter XIV (continued)

The last of our cargo of palm oil casks was coming on board, natives rolling them down the steep banks and up the gangway. They sang as they worked. A French doctor, bound for Lake Kivu and the Mountains of the Moon, to inspect labour for the copper mines, chuckled as he listened to the artless Swaheli song:

"The white man is good.
The white man is kind.
The white man is generous."

As the white foreman moved away the words changed:

"But the work is hard,
And the pay is small.
Ai brother. All together."

The great paddle wheel thrashed the water, and the Prince Leopold was steaming downstream on the green water. There were so many sand banks that it was impossible to follow a straight course for a minute at a time. An hour after leaving Bukama, I saw the first crocodile, waiting at a gamepath to grip its victim by the nose. A lion beating the ground with his tail before springing is a terrifying sight; but the lurking half hidden crocodile is one of Africa's sinister and revolting things.

Sometimes the engines stopped, and we groped cautiously round a corner; for there was seldom more than a fathom of water under the shallow hull. The captain was not a sailor, but a man trained on the inland waterways of Belgium. He was very much in the hands of his Baluba quartermasters, who knew every intricate channel along hundreds of miles of river. When the steamer did lift and switchback sensationally over a sandbank it was usually because the channel had altered since the last voyage.

In the gaps between the trees the red backs of sable antelope were seen above the brown grass. There were hundreds of them, and they turned for a second to stare at the noisy steamer before scampering away. Captains of cargo boats on the river will always stop if you care to shoot for the pot; but the Prince Leopold was a mail boat hurrying northwards without delay.

Our chief steward was a man of resource. At every stopping place he hurried down the gangway, accompanied by a kitchen boy. He bartered face powder for eggs with the wife of a trader. Where there were Englishmen, he took a bundle of newspapers, and behold the kitchen boy staggered on board with a fat buck over his shoulders. Months ago, he distributed seeds of vegetables at native villages, so that he received all the tomatoes and celery, onions and brussels sprouts he needed. We enjoyed our meals in the breezy salle a manger. The pineapple and mango salads were excellent, and I had not yet learned to hate fried bananas and the Congo chicken.

Our first port of call was Kiabo. Just a hot cluster of huts where cargoes were unloaded when the papyrus grass fills the river and makes navigation impossible. Joseph Conrad who once commanded a Congo river steamer, must have had just such a place as Kiabo in mind when he wrote his "Outpost of Progress". The sound of the syren brought two pale Belgians out of their grass roofed shelter. In Conrad's story the climax is reached with that same dramatic sound, but there were no white men alive to answer it.

North of Kiabo, we passed the steam pinnacle of an officer responsible for the charting of the ever changing river. It was a narrow forty foot boat, with a cabin on which the sun struck down pitilessly. There was a tiny deck aft, covered with an awning; but from the intolerable heat there could have been no escape. The officer

was a Russian, formerly a captain in the Czar's navy. His wife was with him in that little boat. Once these exiled aristocrats had a mansion in St. Petersburg.

Lake Kiabo was crossed next day, a line of massive wooden posts marking our course. During the rainy season the tributaries of the Lualaba bring floating islands of papyrus down to the lake, and stakes have to be driven into the river bed to check the encroaching mass of grass. But in spite of all human effort, river steamers are sometimes held up for weeks. By fixing an anchor into the papyrus barrier and heaving in vigorously with the winch, it is sometimes possible to clear a channel and steam through. When the papyrus cannot be torn open, all trade along the river stops.

Each village and trading station offered something new. At one all the little children were paddling canoes as we passed. It was a superbly graceful picture. At another port of call the witch doctors had been busy. Some outbreak of tropical disease had given them the opportunity of plastering the faces of their clients with white mud, the cure for many ills.

Our deck hands seem to have been recruited from among the most villainous blacks in the Congo. They mingled with the crowd on shore, stole eggs, fruit, anything they could snatch away from the children, and hurried back to the ship with their loot. Often there were pitched battles between our men and the men of the villages. The crew always won, for the security of the ship was theirs whenever they were outnumbered. They took cover behind the stacks of wood fuel on the lower deck, and hurled sticks at their enemies. There was nearly always an organised chorus of curses as we steamed away from a village.

Take away the risk of disease, and many of the river trading stations would not be unpleasant places in which to make a fortune. They all look very much alike. A thatched house with bamboo walls, packing cases as tables, canvas chairs, tattered newspapers, and a pet monkey on the verandah. Bananas as long as your fore arm growing in huge bunches outside. Scales for weighing the small brown kernels which are crushed for oil. A store crammed with cloth of every gay pattern likely to appeal to the exacting native taste. Teeming huts of black people. Great dugout canoes capable of carrying two tons of cargo.

Five days on the river, and soon after breakfast we were at **Kabale**, with the train for Kindu waiting. There was a fettered native on the platform at the end of my coach on the train. Two black soldiers with fixed bayonets scowled down on him. He had shot two white men dead, wounded many natives, and escaped into the forests. For weeks there had been a reign of terror around Kindu. So five hundred black soldiers came up the river to hunt the murderer. They found him at last, so here he was, with the five hundred black soldiers further down the train in open trucks. A day and a night through the tall trees, and the train ran alongside another river steamer, the Prince Charles, at Kindu.

The soldiers marched on board found room for themselves marvellously on the lower deck, and started singing "La Brabanconne" in perfect tune. The well built houses of Kindu vanished behind the palms, and we were steaming away down the river to Ponthiersville, two hundred miles away. (To be continued in the next Bulletin.)

5c EAAOB WITH IMPERFORATE MARGIN

Mr. Cooremans has kindly sent a photocopy of the 1916 5c EST AFRI-CAIN stamp with imperforate bottom margin. The stamp is clearly with centre plate E, perforated 14, with long overprint and probably L2. It has a BPCVPK cancellation. It is thought that this stamp has not previously been recorded although the same stamp imperforate-between in vertical pair is well known.

1921 - 'RECUPERATION' OVERPRINTSMisplaced Overprints

General Du Four said on page 226 of his book that it is possible to find misplaced overprints more or less high.

Having looked through my stamps I am of the opinion the matter needs to be more widely considered because you can find overprints misplaced sideways to the right or left and low.

So I propose a series of definitions of what comprised a misplaced overprint (see the drawings that follow).

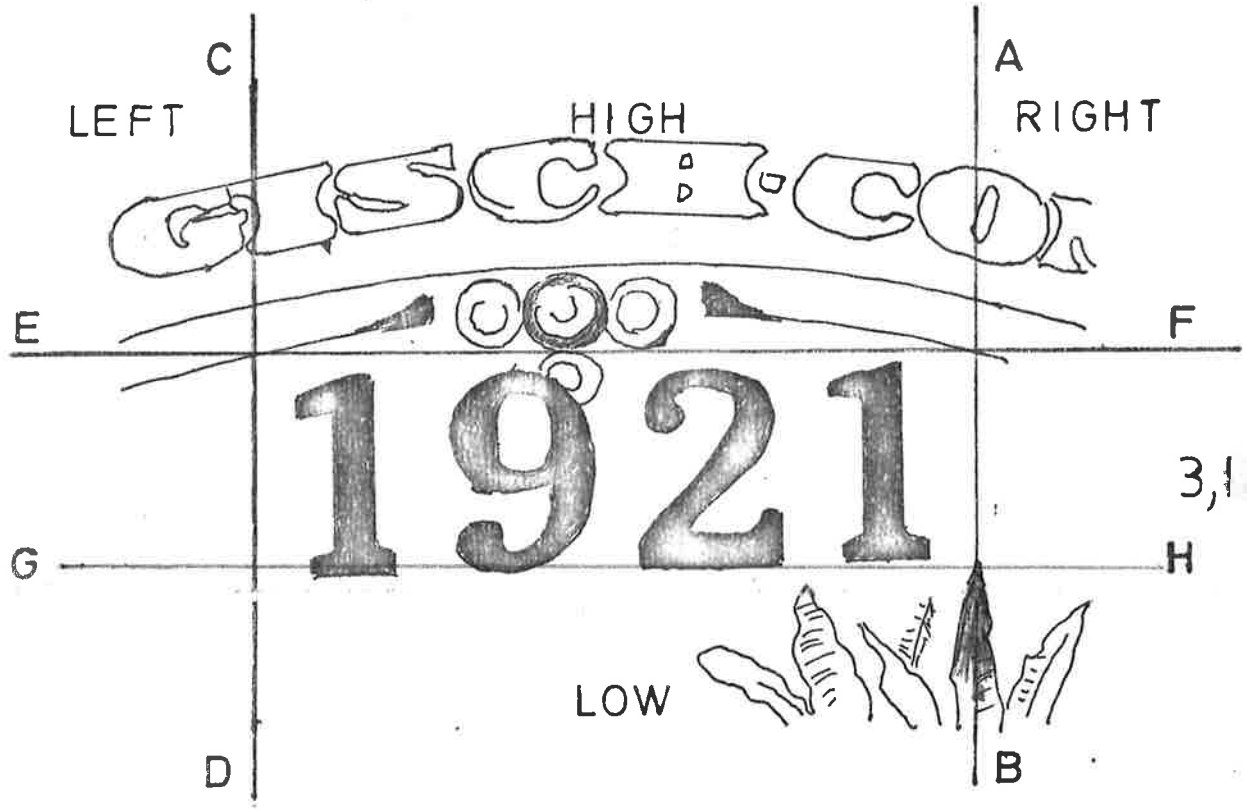
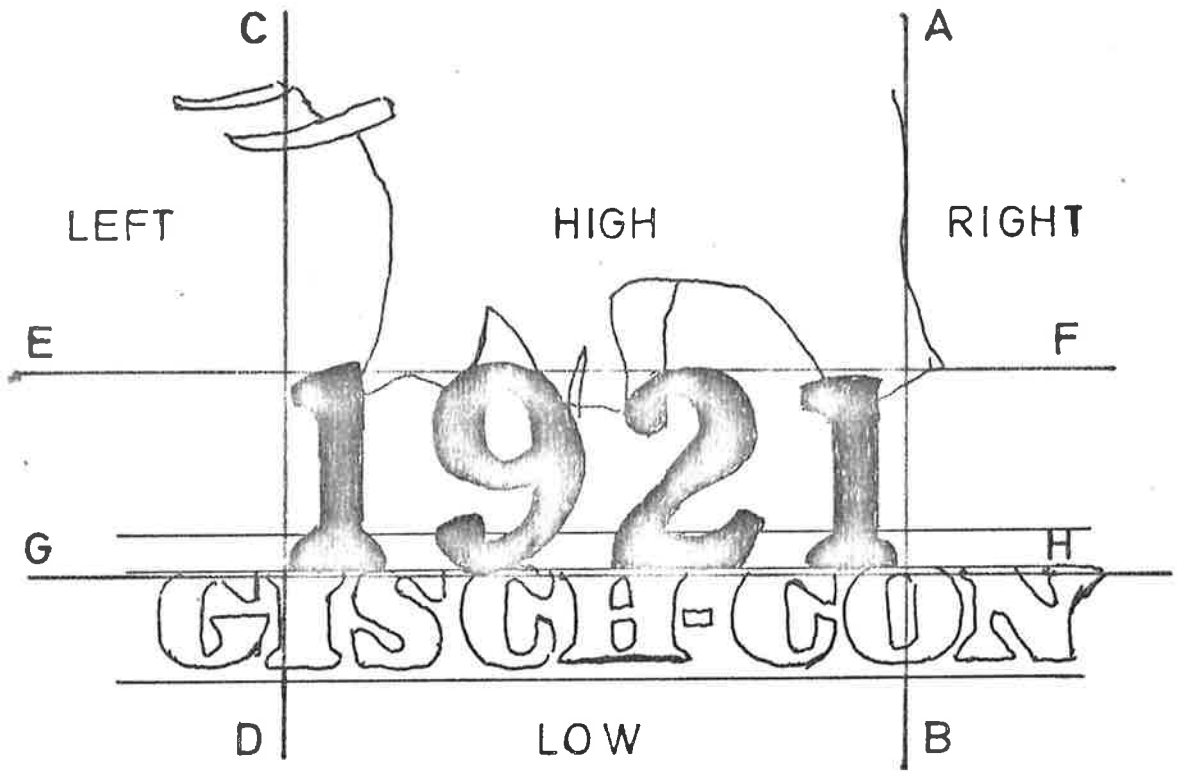
- 1) Well Centered Overprint - 1921 must be printed inside the rectangle formed by the lines AB, CD, EF and GH or overlapping the lines by very little.
- 2) Overprints Misplaced HIGH - 1921 must be completely above the line EF and between the lines AB and CD.
- 3) Overprints Misplaced LOW - 1921 must be completely below the line GH and between the lines AB and CD.
- 4) Overprints Misplaced to Right - at least the figures 21 must be to the right of line AB.
- 5) Overprint Misplaced to the Left - at least the figures 19 must be to the left of the line CD.
- 6) Lightly Misplaced - any overprint not fulfilling the above conditions.

If more than one of conditions 2, 3, 4 and 5 are met the overprint may be said to be 'High and to the Right', 'Low and to the Right' etc. But I think that such combinations complicate the case of REAL displacement of the overprint.

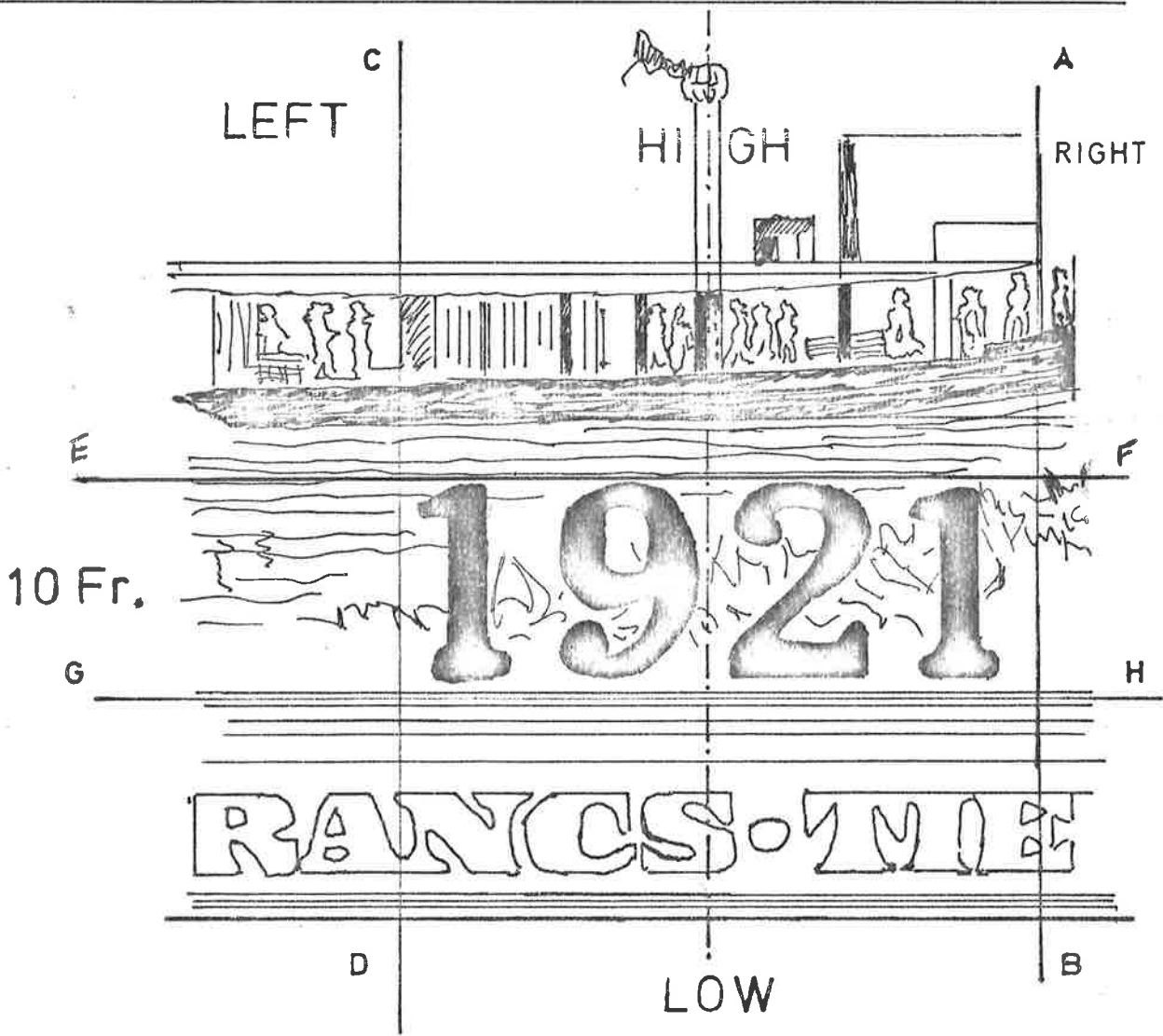
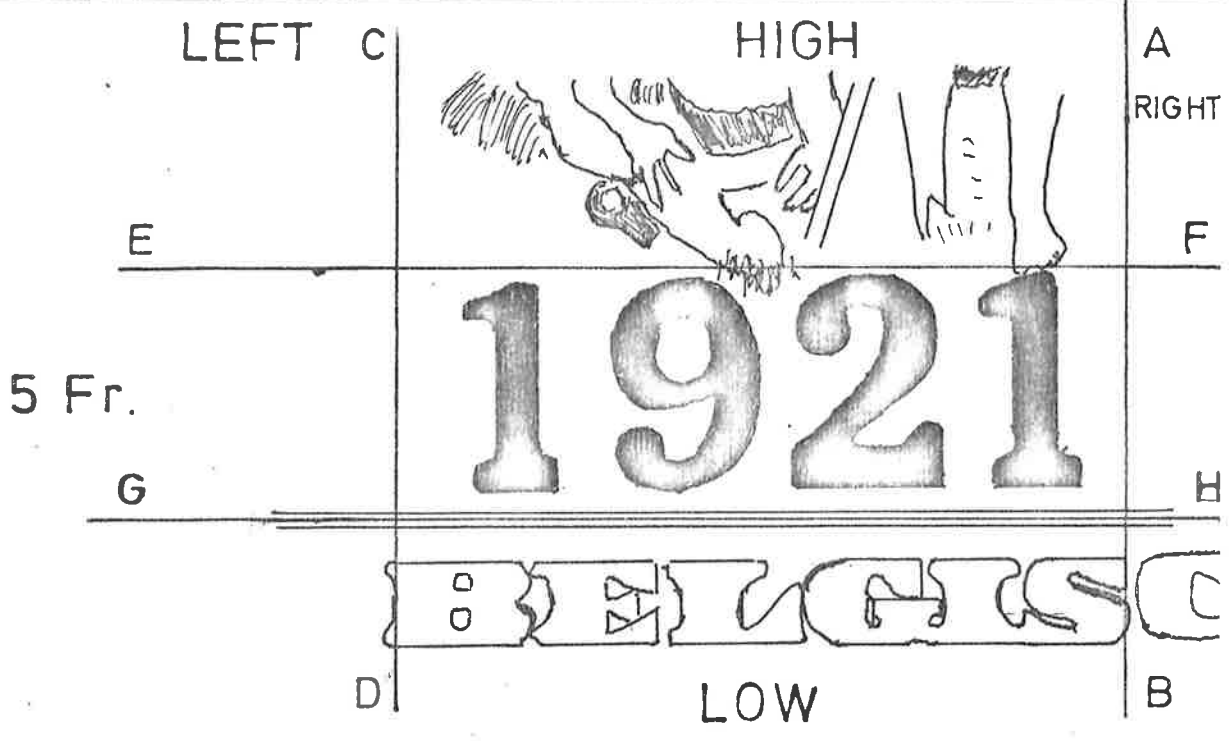
The rectangle in which the 1921 is inscribed is 8mm wide by 3mm high with variations of $\frac{1}{2}$ mm depending on the fluidity of the ink that was used.

A. VINDEVOGHEL

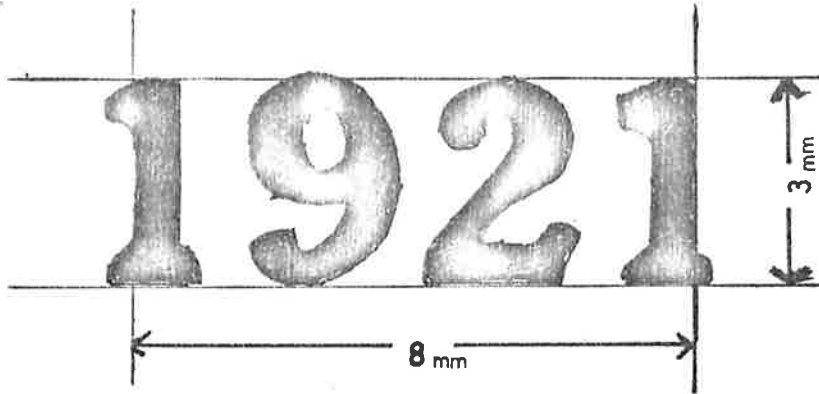
SURCHARGES de RECUPERATION - 1921 -



SURCHARGES de RECUPERATION - 1921 -



SURCHARGES de RECUPERATION -1921-



AV.

C. H. COMPTON

We very much regret to record the death, suddenly on 15 December, 1983, of Cecil Compton. Attending our inaugural meeting, he was a Founder Member and keen supporter of the Study Circle, he and his wife frequently welcoming us to meetings at his home.

Compton was a stamp collector of the old school and never made pretensions to be a 'philatelist'. His main interest was in Thailand but he collected many countries including Congo of which he had a very good collection.

In recent years his interest in the Congo waned and he decided to dispose of his collection through the Study Circle. Many of us have benefitted greatly by this decision.

Our sincere sympathy has been passed to his wife, Gladys.

R. H. KEACH

THE 1921 RECUPERATION 10c SURCHARGE

I have a copy of the 10c/5c value with the basic stamp the 1915 5c which appears to be genuine but the 0 of the left 10 is badly deformed with a considerable dent at the top. This variety is not present on any of my sheets of the normal stamps, nor on those of the Abbe Gudenkauf and M. Vindevoghel. The stamp is from the bottom left corner of the sheet, No. 46.

I should greatly appreciate it if members with complete sheets or blocks or stamps from the bottom left corner of the sheet of either the normal 10/5c or of the 1915 stamp surcharged would inspect them and tell me if the 0 of the left figure 10 is damaged. Please try to help.

R. H. KEACH

THE 1922-23 BOMA SURCHARGES

In 1974 the Abbe Gudenkauf published his booklet LES TIMBRES DU CONGO SURCHARGES A BOMA EN 1922-23. Since then there have been new discoveries and the Abbe has produced addenda and corrigenda, particularly for the 10c/5c value. These are produced as an addendum to this Bulletin; they comprise pages 5 to 9, intended to replace the same pages of the original book, plus additional pages 7a, 8a and 9a. Members will doubtless wish to keep these pages together with their copies of the book.

Copies of the original book are available from our Hon. Secretary, P. S. Foden at a cost of £ 1.00.

MAILBOAT SERVICES FROM EUROPE TO THE BELGIAN CONGO (1897-1922)Addenda & Corrigenda

- Page 3: LEOPOLDVILLE 4 to 24.6.13 (and not 6.1.13)
BRUXELLESVILLE 3 to 23.9.12 (and not 7.3.11)
- Page 41: The lower picture is of S.S. ANVERSVILLE 2 (and not 3)
- Page 43, line 8: the LULU BOHLEN returned to Antwerp 8/5
- Page 79, line 3: add: ALBERTVILLE 4, departed Matadi 27/3
- Page 79, line 8: the ALBERTVILLE 4 departed Matadi 27/6
- Page 83, line 7: the ALBERTVILLE 4 arrived Antwerp 17/6
- Page 84: add new 5th line: ALBERTVILLE 4 arrived Antwerp 17/5
- Page 84: add new penultimate line: ALBERTVILLE 4 departed
Antwerp 8/12

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

(Copies of the book are still available for members at the reduced price of £ 4 each plus postage from the Hon. Secretary, P. S. Foden)

SALES DEPARTMENT

The death of Cecil Compton is reported elsewhere in this Bulletin. We have already disposed of the best of the collection of Congo and Ruanda through our auction sales and privately within the Study Circle but Mrs. Compton has asked me to sell what remains.

There are large numbers of stamps of all issues including the newly independent states. Members' wants lists that I already have will have first priority but other lists, in any degree of detail, are invited.

One stamp of particular interest to collectors of Rwanda is the 1967 20c 'St. Martin' (Catalogue Officiel No. 205) with missing black colour (no value or other inscription). This curiosity was described in a Bulletin long ago and, as far as I know, no other copy has been

reported although 50 must have existed. I have really no idea what price to ask for the stamp but offers are invited. If the highest offer is thought adequate that will be accepted; otherwise the stamp will be sent to public auction.

Most stamps will be at one-third Catalogue Officiel prices (generally around one-quarter of Gibbons).

There are hundreds of covers, mostly of the 1945-70 period, and wants lists for these, according to the stamp on them or the cancellations, are invited. There is also some useful postal stationery.

Members submitting requests are asked not to expect an immediate reply. Sorting out what there is will take me some considerable time but I will reply as quickly as possible.

There are the following books at the suggested prices:

Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique, Congo Belge et Luxembourg - Davo, as new £ 5.00

Philatco Catalogue, 1946-47 £ 1.50

Les "Dix Francs Verts" du Congo - Joncker £ 5.00

Etat Independant du Congo, Le Timbre a 5fr de 1894 - Crustin £ 5.00

Bartolomew's Map of Central & East Africa 1:4,000,000 on linen, circa 1950 £ 2.00

The first offers received at these prices will be accepted, otherwise the highest offer. Postage will be extra (overseas members please say if to be sent by air or surface mail).

Offers are invited for LA REVUE POSTALE (the present series) Nos. 2 to 112 complete; the Study Circle may be able to provide a copy of No. 1; otherwise a photo-copy can be supplied. Also LE PHILATELISTE BELGE Nos. 54 to 62 (No. 62 as photo-copy) which include Avidon's article 'Les Timbres du Congo Belge' with post offices and bibliography.

R. H. KEACH

MAIL POSTED AT SEA

Long ago I queried in the Bulletin what stamps could be used on mail posted on board a ship at sea.

Mr. Philip Cockrill has sent the following extract from the U.P.U. Regulations adopted at the 1924 Stockholm Congress:

"Correspondence posted on the High Seas, or between ports of call, and handed to officers of a vessel carrying mail, postage may be prepaid by means of postage stamps according to the postage rate of the country under whose flag the vessel sails. But if posting on board occurs during the stay of the vessel at one of the two terminal ports of the voyage or at one of the ports of call, prepayment is valid only if effected by means of postage stamps according to rates

of the country in whose waters the vessel happens to be."

This is somewhat ambiguous stating what the postal rate should be but not stating clearly what should be the origin of the stamps used although it may be inferred that they should be of the vessel's home country while the ship is on the high seas and of the country of the port when in a port. It was presumably left to the purser, or other officer dealing with the mail, to use his discretion, some understanding the regulations in one way, some in others.

What happened before the 1924 Congress is not known.

R. H. KEACH

TAXES STAMPS OF THE CONGO (1886 - 1923)

Addendum to the corresponding chapter in General Du Four's book (p. 395...)

1.- Period 1886 - 1906

Although used as the method for exacting postage due for a period of twenty years, only four "receipts" are known, one more being recently discovered in England, with a 50 cm of the first issue dated in June 1886.

The only receipt with Mols stamps is that shown in De' Cock on page 202.

2.- Period 1906 - March 1912

Before the end of 1906, the post office at Matadi took the initiative and affixed stamps to the covers themselves, when they were insufficiently franked, apposing also the T handstamp and the MATADI 'griffe' (straight-line postmark) (17 x 3½ mm). Commandant Bruneel, the philatelist who discovered the Princes printing when living in Boma, refers to this usage in a letter. We never saw such a cover, but single stamps have survived without gum and several bear Mr. De Cock's mark.

So to the question asked by General Du Four in the middle of page 399, we may now answer: Yes, Matadi took this initiative.

To date, the TAXES griffes types I, II, V, VI and VIII are not known on covers.

On single stamps, types V and VI are very rare,
types I, II and VIII rare (I with T and MATADI griffe)

a) Type III covers several marks, of differing sizes (27½ to 28mm x 8½ to 8 ¾mm overall) used at different principal post offices (perceptions) which have been met on covers to:

BOMA	(27 ¾ x 8½mm))	
LEOPOLDVILLE	(27½ x 8½mm))	letters 3mm tall
MATADI	(28 x 8 ¾ mm))	

and to BASOKO, BUMBA, COQUILHAVILLE, STANLEYVILLE and UVIRA but these have the LEOPOLDVILLE TAXES mark, the last principal post office through which they passed.

These marks were used until the end of March 1913. (1)

b) Type IV is now known on five covers addressed to Banana.

c) Type VII is known only on a piece with Bumba cds next to the stamp.

d) Type IX exists on covers sent to Dima and Kinshasa in 1911, well before the end of this period.

Conclusions :

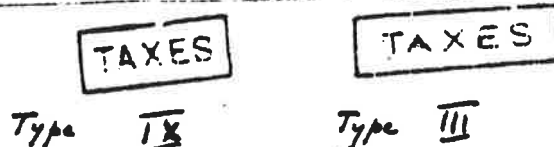
- Only "bureaux de perception" (principal post offices) received TAXES types I to VIII.
- On nearly half the covers seen, the TAXES handstamp ties the stamp to the envelope.
- The TAXES handstamp on the stamp is never accompanied by a cds.

It is a well established fact that postal authorities in the Congo sent to collectors in Belgium complete sets of stamps with TAXES handstamps mint and used, all CTO, when they were asked to do so. And so they are now listed in some catalogues.

But it is nonsense to collect the TAXES stamps No 1 to 30, used (with cds) as the last conclusion above clearly demonstrates and the prices for such "used" stamps should disappear from the catalogue.

Unused and without gum, they perhaps have been used on covers which travelled normally through the post. If with gum they are surely CTO. Let us not forget that many TAXES types were not retained on covers; we are indeed obliged to collect them on single stamps! (2)

- (1) Let us never forget that new decisions when published in Boma, were applied in distant provinces much later, months later, when officially transmitted and known on the spot.
- (2) To illustrate how many single stamps with TAXES griffe are CTO, we show here two handstamps owned by a former dealer specialising in Congo stamps



The one to the left (20 x 8 mm) is probably genuine; it is identical with the TAXES mark used in Etoile du Congo (Katanga) in July 1915.

The other one should be a forgery because its height (7½ mm) is less than the height found on all the types III on covers. It could however be a genuine one, held in reserve. Several other forged TAXES marks are known.

3.- Period March 1912 - 1923 (Du Four, page 398)

The 6th paragraph must be corrected: the previous handstamps (types II to VIII) are seen on covers till 1913 (March) and various handstamps TAXES type IX appear from now on everywhere.

Please correct the 8th paragraph: from November 1913 on, the TAXES handstamp is always accompanied by the cds of the receiving post office, on arrival.

So it seems here nonsense to collect single stamps with TAXES handstamps but without cds; the prices for 'mint' stamps TAXES No 41 to 65 in the catalogues should disappear!

But used items may have been used on covers.

In the 9th paragraph, General Du Four comments on the NOTE D'AVIS to advise an addressee that a taxed cover is waiting for him in the post office; here is the complete text of such a note, always type-written and stenciled:

MM.
 Est informe de l'arrivee d'un
 objet taxe a
 Priere de vien vouloir le
 retirer au guichet 4
 t. a date

The number of the 'guichet' varied. t. a date = c.d.s.

The name of the addressee and the postage due to be paid were added in manuscript and the final note, after addition of the stamps and cancelling appears as the following illustration:



Andre De Cock in his book quoted article 281 of the Postal code: 'To avoid useless writing the post office should abstain from adding postage due stamps to correspondence which they know cannot be delivered (gone away, deceased, unknown etc.); the same for correspondence addressed 'poste restante' or held for a time at the office and that should have postage due stamps applied only at the time of delivery'.

It would appear that the special note was used only for mail that was collected at the post office by the addressee, either 'poste restante' or by special arrangement, in which case it is presumed that the note, without stamps added, was placed, together with mail not requiring postage due, in the pigeon-hole of the addressee and he had to take it to the particular 'guichet' of the post office counter where he was able to collect the letter on payment of the sum due and after the stamps had been affixed and cancelled.

Whereas on most such notes seen the value of the added stamps equals the sum stated in manuscript, it is curious that in the illustration in De Cock's book the amount to be paid is clearly 35c and the value of the stamps 45c.

In twenty years we saw six such notes, always from Elisabethville and dated between January and July 1923.

Conclusions : It is logical to collect single TAXES stamps :

From No 1 to 30 : 'unused' and without gum with Types I to IX.

From No 31 to 40: 'unused' and without gum with Types I to IX.

used with types IX.

From No 41 to 65: used with types IX.

(The numbers refer to Catalogue Officiel TAXES stamps.)

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

THE WATERLOW PERFORATIONS

I thought that Brian Hudson's work on the Mols perforations, published in a recent Bulletin, most admirable and that it wafted a breath of fresh air over the Congo.

As time permitted I have in recent months been classifying my stamps a la Hudson but have oscillated between wild enthusiasm and absolute dejection. Brian has made no claim that his paper is the end of the story and how right he was not to do so. Let me give you a very small example:

Of the 1915 booklet panes, 10c 3rd. printing I have the previously recognised 14, 15 and 14 x 15; also 13½ (Hudson classification, actually about 13.7 and I call it 13 3/4) and now 14¼ (14.3). This last perforation is certainly different from the perf. 14 pane; if you place the sheets together there is a difference of about 1½ in the height of the pane.

Waterlow obviously used, over the years that they printed the Mols stamps, many different perforating 'heads' on what must have been a multiplicity of line-perforating machines. But were there 10, 20, 50 or 100 different 'heads', maybe each identifiable? We have absolutely no idea.

The problem for each of us is how far to go in the matter. The one extreme is to ignore perforations altogether, as do the general catalogues; the other extreme is to identify each perforating head used - at least endeavour to do so - and then to ascertain which stamps were perforated on each perforating head.

I wish that someone would advise me what to do and, more important, that I would then follow the advice.

R. H. KEACH

ZAIRE
PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 24 SEPTEMBER 1970

A) FOREWORD

In 1967, the "Republique Democratique du Congo" (now "Zaire") replaced the Congolese franc by a new currency: the Zaire. The name of the country changed in 1971, 4 years after the introduction of the new currency. The value of the new Zaire was

1 Zaire = 1000 Congolese Francs

One Zaire is divided into 100 kutas (k). The value of 1 new Kuta is thus 10 Congolese francs.

The introduction of the new currency coincided with an important devaluation. The new rate of exchange was:

1 Z = 100 Belgian Francs (1,25 B) (1967)
1 K = 1 B.F.

The Kuta itself was divided into 100 sengis; but its small value resulted in the fact the sengi was a stillborn currency, never accepted by the population. The very rapid devaluation of the Zaire that has lasted for 15 years resulted in the withdrawal of the sengi.

The present value of 1 Zaire is 1,80 B.F. at the official rate of exchange. (January 1984)

The stamps expressed in francs were little by little surcharged with the new currency. Finally, the remaining stock was overprinted in 1970. In most cases, the values were not modified: they were simply converted into the new currency.

B) OVERPRINTED STAMPS

4 issues are affected by the overprints:

1. "Houses of Parliament" issue (15 September 1964)

0,10 k /	1 f
0,20 k /	2 f
0,30 k /	3 f

0,40 k / 4 f
 0,60 k / 7 f
 0,90 k / 9 f
 1 k / 6 f
 3 k / 30 f
 4 k / 40 f
 5 k / 50 f
 10 k / 100 f

2. "Army" issue (the first one): 17 November 1965)

0,90 k / 9 f
 1 k / 7 f

3. "President Mobutu" issue (1 May 1968)

0,20 k / 2 f
 0,40 k / 4 f
 1 k / 12 f
 2 k / 24 f

4. "Army" issue (the second one: September 1966)

2 k / 24 f

C) THE OVERPRINTS

These are typographical overprints, printed by "CONCORDIA" printing works in Kinshasa (run by a Catholic mission).

All of the overprints are black.

No forged overprints are known (since the new denominations are the same in red value as the former ones).

All the stamps are overprinted in the same way:

- if the facial value in francs has one figure, it is cancelled by two thin horizontal bars: = 3mm in length.
- if the facial value in francs has two or three figures, it is cancelled by two pairs of thin horizontal bars = ≡.
- the new denomination is always shown under the bars.

D) WITHDRAWAL

The stamps should have been withdrawn since the middle of the seventies; this is impossible to verify: most of the archives documents have been sold by junior employees on the local markets, where they are used to wrap such things as peanuts or fritters.

E) QUANTITIES OF STAMPS OVERPRINTED

These are not known. The quantities would not have been considered important; the stamps of that issue were completely sold out, when the author arrived in Zaire, in September 1972.

F) PLATE VARIETIES

The plates were carefully prepared, and there are no important plate

varieties (one exception is the 0,40K/4f of the Mobutu issue). The quality of these overprints is far better than the 1977 overprints.

Specks of dust striking between the thin bars sometimes printed black dots on the stamps.

Very few sheets of overprinted stamps could be examined; this means that other plate varieties could exist, but did not appear on the sheets examined.

Here are the observed plate varieties:

1. Houses of Parliament: (sheets of 100 stamps)

0,10 k/ 1 f stamp no. 52: the second "0" of "0,10" is broken at the top.
stamp no. 64: the "K" is broken in its middle.
stamp No. 74: the lower bar sometimes shows a break.

0,20 k/ 2 f -

0,30 k/ 3 f stamp no. 1 : the first "0" is broken at the bottom.
stamp no. 83: the first "0" is thin at the top.

0,40 k/ 4 f -

0,60 k/ 7 f many stamps show the second "0" thinned down on the left; they appear at the following places on the sheet:

+	+	+	+	+			+	+	
+	+	+	+					+	+
+	+		+				+	+	
+	+		+	+			+	+	+
+	+	+	+	+			+	+	
+	+	+	+					+	
+	+	+					+	+	
+		+	+					+	
+	+		+					+	

None seen in the last row.

stamp no. 81 has the lower bar of the "K" shorter than usual.

0,90 k/ 9 f 3 stamps were missing on the observed sheet: Nos. 81, 91 and 100; no variety seen.

1 k / 6 f -

3 k / 30 f 2 stamps were missing on the examined sheet: 10 and 20.
stamp no. 3 has the lower bar (on the right hand side) bent downwards.

4 k / 40 f stamp no. 35 has the lower bar (on the right hand side) bent downwards.

5 k / 50 f -

10 k / 100 f stamps nos. 24, 25, 34 and 35 were missing on the examined sheet.

2. "Army" (first issue) sheets of 50 stamps: 10 lines, 5 columns.

0,90 k / 9 f -

1 k / 7 f -

3. "President Mobutu" issue (sheets of 100 stamps)

0,20 k / 2 f stamp no. 91 was missing on the examined sheet.

0,40 k / 4 f one out of the examined sheets presents the only remarkable variety of this issue: stamp nos. 67 and 77 present 4 bars instead of 2. Were the plates with 2 bars obtained from a plate with 4 bars (and 2 pairs of bars left by mistake)?

1 k / 12 f stamp no. 16 has its upper left bar shorter than the other ones.
stamp no. 61 has its upper right bar bent downwards.

2 k / 24 f the two first columns were missing on the examined sheet.

4. "Army Issue" (the second one)

2 k / 24 f -

G) OVERPRINT MISTAKES

A rather important set of misprints escaped from the Central Post Office of Kinshasa around 1980. They were supposed to be burned. Some torn up sheets were reconstructed with brown gummed paper showing the words "IMPRIMERIE CONCORDIA" in large letters.

1. "Houses of Parliament" issue:

0,10 k / 1 f some sheets show a folded corner; in one case, this caused all the overprints to be displaced to the right. recto-verso (pale).

0,20 k / 2 f double overprint.
overprint displaced downwards.

0,30 k / 3 f folded corners (cf 0,10k/1f).
a creased sheet shows an overprint partially displaced to the right.
sheet showing multiple overprint tracks, maculated by black ink on the back.

0,40 k / 4 f folded corners (cf 0,10k/1f).
oblique overprint.

0,60 k / 7 f inverted overprint.

0,90 k / 9 f -

- 1 k / 6 f 5 columns to the left: normal overprint;
5 columns to the right: albino overprint.
- 3 k / 30 f creased sheet: two lower lines with albino
overprint.
sheet showing multiple overprint tracks, spotted
by black ink on the back.
- 4 k / 40 f folded corners (cf 0,10k/1f).
- 5 k / 50 f -
- 10 k / 100 f -
2. "Army" issue (first one)
- 0,90 k / 9 f albino ovpt, slight oblique ovpt in the borders
of the sheet.
sheet with albino ovpt in the two first cols.
- 1 k / 7 f inverted ovpt.
oblique ovpt.
Important crease: 5 lines correctly ovptd, 5 last
lines very displaced.
albino ovpt, except on stamp no. 50 only (!)
folded corners.
sheet with albino ovpt in the two first columns.
ovpt very displaced to the right (no ovpt in the
first col.) caused by the asymmetry of the margins.
3. "President Mobutu" issue
- 0,20 k / 2 f inverted ovpt.
recto-verso ovpt.
folded corner.
sheet with 5 lower lines showing more or less al-
bino ovpt.
- 0,40 k / 4 f displaced ovpt, to the left.
oblique ovpt.
recto-verso ovpt.
folded corner.
- 1 k / 12 f -
- 2 k / 24 f -
4. "Army" issue (second one)
- 2 k / 24 f double ovpt.
folded corner.
creased sheet: ovpt correctly printed on the left
half of the sheet, displaced on the right half.
folded top margin (partially), with ovpt on the
back.
displaced ovpt.

If any member has additional information about this issue, would he please send it to the author. With thanks.

GEORGES CELIS

#51

LES TIMBRES DU CONGO SURCHARGES A BOMA
EN 1922-23 (G. GUDENKAUF) - CORRIGENDA

These pages are to be substituted for pages 5 to 9
in the booklet.
Existing diagrams remain and new sheets 7a-9a are added.

Page 5

CHAPTER I

5 CM BILINGUAL MOLS OF 1915 SURCHARGED 10 C. (NO 100) (1)*

1. Plate a - carmine surcharge

The carmine shade of the surcharge and the black dot in the mountain easily allow stamps from this plate to be identified; all the other surcharges are vermilion or red-vermilion.

Let us however remember the following characteristics:

The horizontal distance between the 2 sets of bars is always 23 mm. The distance between 10 and c is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm in the first two columns (from the left); nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm in the other columns; as much as 4 mm on stamp No 35.

The outer short bars at left and right sides of the sheet are $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm long.

The vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars is $10\frac{1}{4}$ mm in all the rows except the 5th, where it is 11 mm.

It is curious that the surcharge is known only on the VI+F combination of plates, the last one, with the black dot in the mountain. All stamps apparently from earlier plates and from booklets have been found to have forged surcharges; among such items are vertical pairs with one stamp without surcharge and inverted surcharges.

How can we explain the absence of sheets V+E ?

Probably the last batch received (VI+F) was placed on top of the old stock, as often happens. This is applied in accountancy on the 'last in, first out' principle.

Tradition has it that this printing occurred at the beginning of January 1922, to the extent of 75,000 copies; entire sheets are common, even now.

(1)* The No in brackets is the No in the Catalogue Officiel.

Varieties: Perforation 15 - rare.

The opposite page shows in larger format the constant varieties of the surcharge, often allowing identification of forgeries.

Surcharge a is the most common one on cover.

Curiosities: Inverted surcharge, perforated 14 and 15.

Misplaced surcharges; the horizontal bars may be found twice on the same stamp - 'à cheval' - perf. 14 and 15.

Vertical pair with lower stamp without surcharge; the sheet was presumably folded to obtain such a result; we have come across 25 and 30, 33 and 38, 42 and 47, 44 and 49, all perf. 15, thus affected.

Absence of 10 c. on stamps from the top row - presumably a piece of paper was interposed between the stamps and the surcharging plate; perf. 14 and 15.

NB Several curiosities are known bearing the cancellation 21 March 1922.



2. Plate b - vermilion surcharge

On a single stamp, the horizontal distance between bars is here 23 mm.

The short bars, at the extreme left and right of the sheet, are $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm long.

The distance between 10 and c, now standardised, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars varies from row to row, as indicated on the next page (7a). This can be very useful in plating the stamps.

This printing, in May 1922, was done on 25,000 copies, so it seems.

It is very rare on cover.

Varieties: The following combinations of plates are known:

V1+E1	yellow-green	perf. 14
V2+E2	yellow-green	perf. 14
V3+E3	blue-green	perf. 14
VI+F	blue-green	perf. 14 and 15

Curiosities:

Inverted surcharge: very rare on V2+E2 perf. 14.
 very rare on V3+E3 perf. 14
 not rare on VI+F perf. 14

Misplaced surcharges in all directions, even 'à cheval'.

Double surcharge, one inverted, on V2+E2 and V3+E3, perf. 14.

Surcharge doubled horizontally, on V3+E3 perf. 14

Vermilion colour covering the back of the stamp with double surcharge.

During the printing, the c and the full stop disappeared on stamp No 25 in the sheet; on V1+E1, V2+E2 and V3+E3

See also. opposite, drawings of the constant varieties of this surcharge.

10 c./5 c. BOMA - surcharge b

Vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars from row to row:

10 mm				
10 mm				
$11\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
10 mm				
$10\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
$10\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
$10\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
$10\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
$9\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
$9\frac{1}{2}$ mm				

3. Plate c - vermilion surcharge

The horizontal distance between bars is always 14½ mm.
The distance between 10 and c is nearly 3½ mm.
The short bars in columns 1 and 5 measure 12½ mm.
The vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars differs from row to row as shown on the next page (8a).

This printing, at the beginning of September 1922, is understood to have been on 35,500 stamps.

Rare on cover, even very rare.

It is this surcharge which is found on the 'errors', on the 1910 5 cm IIII+B4 especially.

Varieties: The following combinations of plates are known:

- V1+E1 yellow-green perf. 14
- V2+E2 yellow-green perf. 14
- V3+E3 blue-green perf. 14 and 15 (rare)
- VI+F blue-green perf. 14 and 15 (rare)

Curiosities:

- Inverted surcharge on V2+E2 and V3+E3, perf. 14.
- Misplaced surcharges in all directions on all plates
- Vertical pairs, one stamp without surcharge, on V3+E3 perf. 14.
- Double surcharge, one inverted.
- Imperforate horizontally between adjacent stamps (on VI+F).

Constant varieties of the surcharge are shown on the opposite page.



#51

8a

10 c./5 c. BOMA - surcharge c

Vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars from row to row:

8-8 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
9 mm				
9 mm				

4. Plate d - vermilion surcharge

The horizontal distance between bars is here 27 mm in the 4th column (but $27\frac{1}{2}$ for No 24, 27 for No 29, & $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm for No 39).
In the other columns it is 26 mm, but $26\frac{1}{2}$ for No 16 & 27 for No 48.

The distance between l0 and c is $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm in the 1st column
2 mm in the second
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm in columns 3,4 and 5
(but 3 mm on No 24)

The short bars at left and right measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
The vertical distance between l0 c and the bars is given on page 9a.

This last printing is usually treated as dating from the end of Sept. 1922, to the tune of 12,000 copies.

The rarest of all: the entire sheet is really rare and the stamps the rarest on covers.

Varieties: The following combinations of plates are known:

V2+E2	yellow-green	perf. 14 and 15.
V3+E3	blue-green	perf. 14 and 15
	yellow-green	perf. 14 and 15 (rarer)
VI+F	blue-green	perf. 14 (very rare)

Curiosities:

Inverted surcharge on V3+E3 yellow-gr. perf. 14
V3+E3 blue-green perf. 14.
Misplaced surcharges on V3+E3 perf. 14 and 15.
Left margin imperforate on V3+E3.

See also, opposite, drawings of the constant varieties of this surcharge.

Please make the following additional corrections to the booklet:

Page 11. The inverted surcharge on II+A3 perf. 14 exists also misplaced: (absence of the 1st column of stamps?). The misplacement and the inversion have the combined effect, for example, of putting surcharge No 10 on stamp No 42 etc.

Page 12. Varieties: perf 15 exists also on A2 but is very rare.

André Vindevoghel and abbé G. Gudenkauf.

10 c./5 c. BOMA - surcharge d

Vertical distance between 10 c. and the bars from row to row:

11 mm				
11 mm				
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
11 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm			11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm				
10 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm				