

BELGIAN CONGO



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Editor's Note: We have missed a couple of issues on the "Post Offices of the Congo c1955" - it is not from lack of material - it is just that it does take a bit of time in preparing, and in the interest of getting out this late issue, it is being omitted. With the next issue, we will try to make up for our past omissions. As always, our thanks for this useful information goes to our very good member, L. H. Lomax - a most faithful contributor.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Late Issue. Without going into the details, your editor has been ill and this involved a quick trip to a hospital, then a group of tests - all more painful than the surgery that followed. Happily there has been a quick recovery and it is hoped that future issues will be right on schedule - four times a year - March, June, September and December.

Something New. With this issue comes some new information on the revenue stamps of the Congo. Written by a long-time collector friend here in Phoenix, Donn Lueck, he does invite correspondence with our membership. Any information that you can pass along to Donn will be most appreciated.

Memberships

We wish to welcome the following new members to the Study Circle, and again apologize for the lateness of this issue in announcing your joining our ranks:

D. Van der Hauwaert, Hasselt, Belgium
 D. G. Norton, York, U.K.
 Donald F. Garrett, Jackson, Mississippi, U.S.A.
 Ralph A. Yorio, Indian Harbour Beach, Florida, U.S.A.
 Walter Bjork, New York, N. Y., U.S.A.

The memberships of Messrs. Garrett and Yorio came about as a result of an article written by your editor that appeared in the December issue of The American Philatelist. Illustrations were shown of some of my plating efforts on the Mols issues, and this is something of deep interest to both of them.

Mr. Bjork has been in contact with our secretary and in correspondence, has indicated he is interested in obtaining W. W. II covers: from British & Italian African Colonies, Egypt, Sudan, Brit. Somaliland, Indian FPO's, EA/APO's, APO-U-MPK's, German Feldpost in North Africa & Belgian Posta Militare in Congo, Sudan. He may be contacted at P. O. Box 8023, New Fair Field, CT 06812, U.S.A.

From the Secretary

The demand for photocopied books and articles during the last few months has been very heavy and the Secretary regrets that there have been delays in obtaining all the necessary masters, making the copies and mailing these back to members. All requests will be filled eventually, and the Secretary hopes that members will continue to show patience for a little longer.

50 CENTIMES PRINCES' TYPO

The Abbe Gudenkauf has found a block of four of the 50c Princes' with typographed overprint misplaced downwards by one stamp so that, unless corrected by the overprinters, the top row in the sheet was without overprint. The bottom row of overprints would have fallen off the lower selvedge; in that case there must have existed vertical pairs, the upper stamp without overprint.

One percent of the issued stamps must have come from this sheet and it is very likely that we have hidden in our collections copies

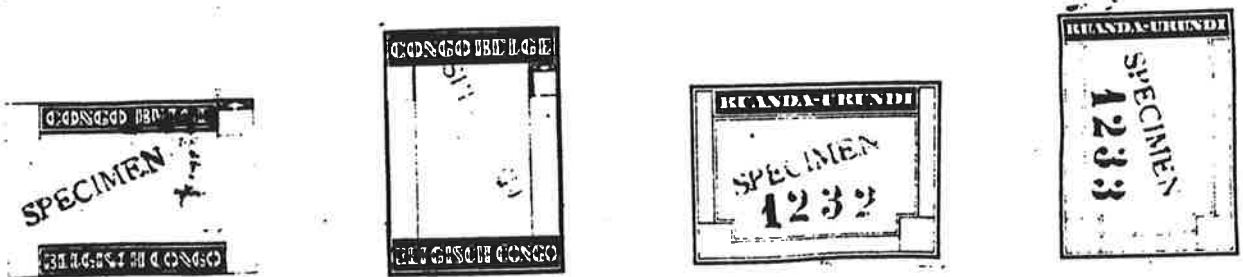
of the stamp with the 'wrong' overprint on them. The block of four has the framed TAXE mark on each stamp, almost certainly CTO or forged, and it may be that all stamps of this sheet were so treated. Will members please look at their Princes' 50c typo and see if any have the framed TAXE cancel and, if so, please let me know? In case all stamps in the sheet were not mutilated with the TAXE mark it is very well worthwhile having all copies of the stamp positioned in the sheet and the overprint compared with what it should be on that position. Fortunately, most of the fifty overprints can be individually identified.

R. H. KEACH

L'INSTITUT DE GRAVURE, PARIS

Robson Lowe Ltd. recently sold an exercise book entitled "Repertoire Molette/Chapman" which appears to be the note book of an engraver of L'Institut de Gravure of Paris and contains various die proofs, plate proofs (?) and issued stamps, together with other examples of engraving. The work covers the period 1929 to 1937.

Included are the following progress proofs which clearly are proofs from the master dies of the horizontal and vertical designs of the Belgian Congo 1930 "Goutte de Lait" and Ruanda Urundi 1931 "Paysage" issues.



It can reasonably be assumed that the Congo "Goutte de Lait" and Ruanda "Pasage" designs were also engraved by L'Institut de Gravure.

It is known that the "Goutte de Lait" and "Paysage" issues were printed in Malines but where the plates were made is unknown. I suspect Paris.

Of the 1947 "Masques" issue we know from die proofs that the dies were engraved by L'Institut de Gravure and from the design in the selvedge that the plates were produced there. Were the stamps printed in Paris or Malines? Does any member know?

R. H. KEACH

THE "FLOWERS" ISSUE GUM

In all past Bulletins we have considered the designs on the stamps plus their perforations and have never, to my knowledge, looked at the backs, except to look for "thins" and the type of hinge affixed to unused stamps.

Mr. Verbraak has drawn my attention to two entirely different types

of gum used on the 1952 "Flowers" issue, one shiny and the other matt. I suspect that the former is gum arabic and the other polyvinyl acetate but perhaps one of our scientific members - and we have quite a few with a chemical background - can tell us or have the contacts to find out. Mr. Verbraak sent several values with both gums and it is presumed that all values exist with both.

R. H. KEACH

THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE 1894 MOLS STAMPS

When I studied, and reported in the Bulletin on, the 'File Copies' I stated that there was a date on each sheet and that I judged that to be the date when the order was completed or dispatched. Inspection of the Portuguese Nyassa proof sheets and 'File Copies', 1924 issue, clearly indicates that judgement to be wrong, at least in 1924 and presumably always. It is practically certain that the date is that when the order was received although this is difficult to believe for the sheets of 1894 Congo where the date on the sheets of the first printing is 2 October 1894 and the reputed and traditional date of issue 25 November 1894.

The two dates are compatible if 25 November 1894 is the date on which the stamps were first on sale at the philatelic bureau in Brussels and not at the post offices in the Congo.

The earliest date that I have of an authentic cancellation on an 1894 stamp is 5 January, 1895. Will members please be so good as to look at their 1894 issue stamps to see if they have earlier dates, especially of November and December 1894, and will they please let me know if they find any. If members are not certain that the cancellations are genuine - there are very many forgeries - a sight of the stamps will be greatly appreciated in order to confirm that the cancellations are authentic.

R. H. KEACH

'SALES DEPARTMENT' - IMPERFORATE WATERLOW PROOFS ON OFFER

1925 60c Leys (Cat. Off. 124) Imperforate with 10mm demonetizing hole in the middle of each block of four.

Block of 4 - £ 10; block of 4 with one wide selvedge - £ 12. If available, larger blocks pro rata. Due to parts of the part-sheet being creased and torn there should be left some pairs at £ 5.

Ruanda Urundi Message Sheets These were printed in sheets of 12 and some part sheets are available for breaking up into imperforate panes with small demonetizing hole puncturing each stamp. The part sheets have been folded for storage and are creased. Earliest requests will receive first choice. There are available 15c, 75c complete, 75c frame only, 1 F complete and 1 F frame only. Price £ 4 each, pairs and blocks, if available, pro rata.

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Members' duplicate material is requested for offer to others but prices must be stated by the vendor, allowing 5% commission to the Study Circle. 1894-1922 Mols Issues are particularly wanted, even the commonest values.

R. H. KEACH

ZAIRE (BELGIAN CONGO) REVENUES

BY Donn Lueck, ARA 1520

Andrew Hall has kindly given his permission to update the article he had published in the April 1981 issue of the American Revenuer. The following list includes those items in his article and those in my collection. What I present here is still incomplete and sparse, however, it is a start. Readers able to shed additional light on these items are invited to correspond with the author. P. O. Box 11582, Phoenix, AZ 85061.

BELGIAN CONGO

I.C. (IMPOT DE CAPITATION)
I.S. (IMPOT ?)



Type A

As Type A Serial no. in black. Value, I.C. and date in second-color. I.S. in place of I.C.

1949 04, 08, 10, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22,
I.C. 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36,
38, 41, 44, 50 violet-brown
background & red.

I.S. 14, 18, 48 yellow-brown back-
ground & red.

1950 01, 02, 04, 06, 07, 08, 13, 14,
I.C. 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 35, 37, 45,
46, 48 green & blue.

I.S. 11, 12, 14, 16, 26, 27, 39
orange & brown

1951 02, 03, 06, 08, 10, 13, 14, 16,
I.C. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27,
28, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 47
blue & deep blue

I.S. 08, 09, 10, 39, 41 light lilac
& red.

1952 01, 02, 04, 07, 08, 12, 13, 14,
I.C. 17, 21, 22, 26, 31, 32, 34, 36,
42, 44, 47, 49, 50 pale green
& deep yellow green.

I.S. 24, 25, 29, 40, 41, 47 yellow-
orange & orange-brown.



Type B

As type B Serial no. in black. Background, value, I.C. or I.S. and date in same color.

1953 01, 02, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16,
I.C. 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 32,
33, 36, 37, 42, 43, 44, 47, 49, 50
light violet.

I.S. 15, 17, 18, 19, 27, 31, 45 yellow-green



Type C

As type C serial No. in black. Background, value, I.C. or I.S. and date in same color.

1954
I.C. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 10, 11, 12, 13,
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27,
28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43,
44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50 red.

I.S. 01, 03, 16, 19, 24, 35 red-brown.



Type D

As Type D Serial No., I.C. or I.S. and date in black.

1955 I.C. 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 orange.

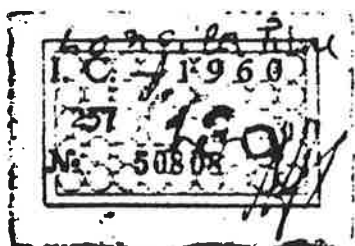
I.S. 14, 25, 41, 49 Deep Blue
1956 I.C. 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 green

I.S. 16, 35, 47 deep violet
1957 I.C. 01, 02, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21-30, 33-36, 38, 41, 44-50 pink.

I.S. 15, 24, 29, 30, 31, 46 pale olive
1958 I.C. 02, 03, 07-12, 14-17, 20-26, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49 bright green

I.S. 14, 38, 44 bright blue
1959 I.C. 01-05, 07, 09-14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24-38, 40-46, 48, 49 pink.

I.S. 47, 48 light violet



Type E

As Type E Serial No., I.C. or I.S. and date in black.

1960 I.C. 03, 16, 19, 21, 25, 29, 39, 44, 48 pale yellow.

I.S. 19 pale greenish-blue



Type F

As Type F Serial No., C.P.M. and date in black.

1961 I.C. 01, 03, 10, 11, 13, 18, 48, 49

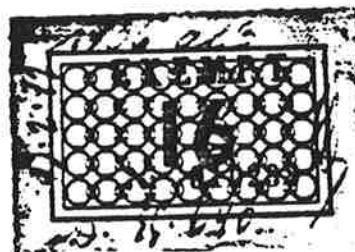


Type G

CUSTOMS EXEMPT ISSUES

As Type G Serial No., I.C., date and EXEMPT in black.

1955 I.C. 06, 11 grey



Type H

As Type H Serial No. and EXEMPT in black.

1956 I.C. 16, 48 red-orange
1957 I.C. 21, 28 bluish-grey
1958 I.C. 08, 17, 18, 45 pale brown
1959 I.C. 01, 05, 47, 50 pale orange
1960 I.C. 24, 46 grey

The large numbers in the center of the design are probably position in the sheet. All issues probably exist up to number 50, meaning they were probably printed in sheets of 50 (5 x 10). With the exception of 1955, the tax exempt issues have manuscript dates only. I have one 1958 exempt issue with a handstamped date.

IDENTITY CARDS



Type I

Handstamped in black on thin, brownish paper. Dated in manuscript "23/1/47".



Type L

Printed in green or blue-green with yellow background on heavy white wove paper. Rouletted.

20 Frs. Green and yellow



Type J

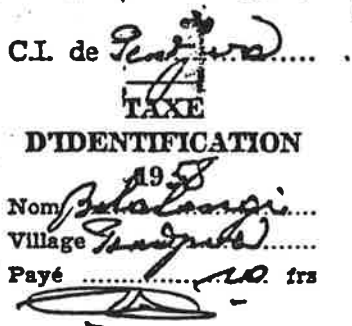
Printed in black on heavy brown paper. There is no readable date. Value 5 Francs.



Type M

Printed in deep blue on heavy white wove paper. Rouletted.

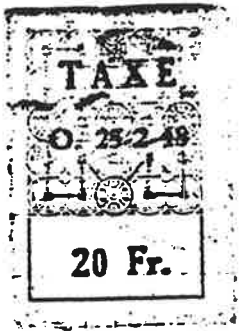
20 Frs. Deep blue



Type K

Printed in black on thin, white wove paper. Date of use is 1958.

TAXE



Type N



Type Na

Rouletted.

Type N
20 Fr. Black on green background

Type Na
20 Fr. Red on black background

MEDICAL SERVICES TAX



Type O

1960 Rouletted, white wove paper

3 Fr. Black on fancy brown background
5 Fr. Black on fancy green background

WATER TAX



Type P

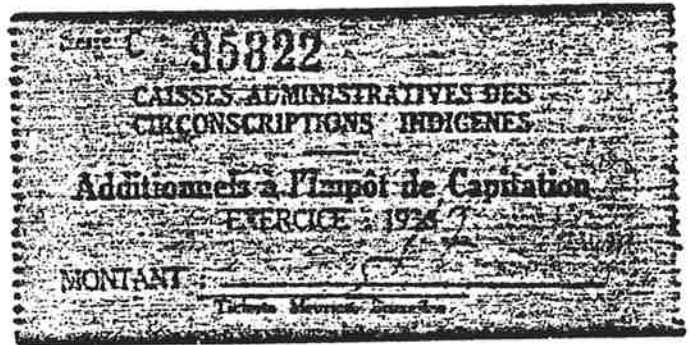
1958 200 Frs black on pink paper.
rough perforated.

ADDITIONAL TAX



Type Q

As Type Q printed in black on heavy pink paper. Manuscript dated 1934. Printed in Brussels, Belgium by Tickets Meurice. Perforated 11 vertically.

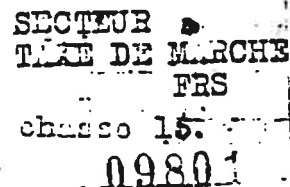


Type R

As Type R printed in black on heavy pink paper, issues 1936. Printed in Brussels, Belgium by Tickets Meurice, perforated 11 vertically.

MARKET TAX

Typeset in black on white wove paper. No known date of use.



Type S

TAXE VOIRIE (HIGHWAY TAX?)



Type T

As type T typeset in black on white wove paper. Manuscript value 50 Frs, date unknown.

CONSULAR TAX



Type W

As type W, white star in shield design, 25 x 30 mm, perforated 12, unwmk.

PORT D'ARME TAX



Type U

As type U printed in black on various colored backgrounds, undated. Manuscript dates are from 1949-1955.

Orange, Pink, Blue & Brown

As Type U, different colors.

Brown on pale brown background
Blue on green background (ms date 1953)

- 5 Fr. Brown and black
- 10 Fr Brown and black
- 15 Fr Brown and black
- 40 Fr Brown and black



Type X

As type X, large colored star design, 25 x 30 mm, perforated 12, unwmk.

- 5Fr Blue and black
- 10Fr Blue and black
- 15Fr Blue and black



Type V

- 1958 Black on violet background, perf 10.
- 1959 Black on blue-green background, rouletted.



Type Va



Type Y

As Type Y, perforated 13½ on 3 sides. rouletted on left side, wmk paper. Blue, yellow and black.

- 10 ¢
- 30 ¢
- 200 ¢
- 500 ¢
- 1000 ¢
- 5000 ¢

WATERLOW DIE PROOFS OF BELGIAN CONGO, RUANDA URUNDI AND KATANGA

Through the courtesy of Mr. Robson Lowe I have had the opportunity to study the Congo die proofs from the Waterlow & Sons records. There is much of interest in them and this needs to be recorded. At the same time I am describing other die proofs of the country that are known to me.

The Waterlow record proofs comprise cut-down - sometimes little larger than the engraved design - die proofs, nearly all in black ink, pasted onto both sides of cardboard pages of several stock books. In the case of bicoloured stamps the proofs are generally from the separate dies and in only a few examples, none of Congo, are composite (frame and centre together) die proofs included. Many of the proofs, presumably due to the books having been kept in the stores and the leaves much turned by dirty fingers, are in sad condition but others, kept in 'clean' books, are almost as they came from the printing press. Included and higgledy-piggledy in the books are die proofs of not only stamps, postage and fiscal, but also bank notes, cheques, advertisements etc. etc., a more or less complete record of Waterlow & Sons as engravers from the 1880's to 1961.

The two printing firms, Waterlow & Sons and Waterlow Bros. & Layton, were amalgamated in 1920 under the name of Waterlow & Sons. Waterlow Bros. & Layton dies were entered into the Waterlow & Sons stock; proofs were taken from them and, given new numbers in the Waterlow & Sons series, the die proofs were entered into the record books.

Each of the earlier die proofs has a number, the die serial number, written on or above it - the numbers were marked on the dies themselves as has been seen on dies existing in the Brussels Postal Museum. Intermediate proofs have two numbers, the serial number of the die and the serial number of the cylinder (transfer roll or roller die). Late die proofs have a third serial number, that of the proof itself. It is presumed that the last was of value if a used die was altered and a proof from the original proof although the serial number of the die might remain unchanged.

The Congo 1894 10c and 50c casements (frames) are known, due to the existence of 'parasitic entries', to have been on the same cylinder, and similarly for the casements of the 25c and 5 fr values. This economical practice appears to have been abandoned because in the later proofs, on which the cylinder number is given, each proof has its unique cylinder serial number. Quite probably, each later cylinder had more than one impression from the same die.

Most of the earlier proofs are cancelled with a large cross; the later proofs are marked in manuscript "Cancelled" and a date; the various serial numbers are usually crossed through, in a few cases partly rubbed out. Most of the cancellations are in black ink but some are in red. It is presumed that the proofs were cancelled when the dies finally left the stores, either to be sent to the authorities for which the stamps were printed or for destruction.

In addition to the books of proofs themselves there is a written register listing dies engraved by Waterlow with the dies numbered

serially from 1 to 22154; there are odd gaps, maybe because dies were started, allocated a number and then abandoned but, for some unaccountable reason, there is a gap in the numbering from 7275 to 9999 although there is no corresponding gap in the dates on which the dies were engraved. Nos. 6200 to 6870 were allocated to Waterlow Bros. & Layton dies.

In the 'Die Register' useful information is given. There is a brief description of the die; in the case of stamps this is often enough to be able to identify the stamp and if casement or vignette but sometimes there is only brief information such as 'Brazil stamp', even only 'Crown Agents'. In the early days the register frequently included the name of the engraver, or at least the name of the engraver to whom the work was entrusted because it may well be that part of the work was done by apprentices and improvers. Again in the early days, two dates are given, the 'DATE GIVEN OUT' - presumed to be the date when the metal for the die was handed to the engraver and when the die was registered - and the 'DATE FINISHED', probably when the completed die was handed to the stores after the cylinder had been made. The 'Date Finished' of all early dies is given as 13.1.97 although obviously the dies had been completed earlier and this is thought to be the date on which the register began, all existing dies being entered on that date. Intermediate entries into the register give only a single date, probably that when the metal was handed out to the engraver and the die registered. Late entries include the cylinder number and two dates, the first when the die was registered and the second, written across the description of the die, when it was 'cancelled'. Some of these cancellation dates differ from the cancellation dates on the die proofs themselves but these discrepancies are considered of no significance.

1894-1918 ISSUES

Although at first sight it would appear logical to take the various issues in succession, the vignettes and the general designs of the casements are, for each value, the same throughout the period and there are good reasons, as will be apparent, for treating the whole series one value at a time or, rather, the vignette and then the casement of each value in succession.

5 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 1843 - Engraver J. A. C. Harrison -
Date 'Given out' 28.8.94 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

The proof is of the die as used for the 1894-1910 issues, Plates A to D.

Prior to the preparation of Plate E, used initially for the 1915 issue, the die was retouched, for some curious reason to remove the lean-to building adjoining the church immediately behind the large central building. The most reasonable explanation for this alteration is that the die was damaged in this spot and the easiest way to repair the damage was to cut heavily engraved lines in the die removing the lean-to altogether. There is no proof of the re-engraved die and it is presumed that the alteration was considered too trivial to record.

10 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 1845 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date
'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

The proof is of the die as used for the 1894-1915 (early printings) and 1918 issues, Plates A to D.

The casements of the 1894, 1909 and 1910 stamps had a central ornament which encroached into the sky of the vignette and the engraving of the sky shading in the vignette was shaped to accept the ornament. In the 1915 casement the central ornament was removed but the vignette die was not immediately altered so that the shading of the sky would fill the space. Prior to the preparation of Plate E, used for the late printings of the 1915 issue, and of the special plate for the 1917 booklet panes, the shading of the sky on the vignette die was extended to fill the central space of the casement. There is no proof of the re-engraved die and it is again presumed that the change was not thought to merit record in the book of proofs.

15 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 2270 - Engraver Rapkin - Date
'Given out' 14.8.96 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

The proof of the die is as used for the 1886-1910 issues and the first printing(s) of the 1915 issue, Plates A and B.

The die had fine guide lines on it, vertically to left and right (within the casement) and horizontally, at the level of the top of the large palm tree, in the lower part of the casement (at left and right) and at mid-height (at left only). Traces of these guide lines can be found on some positions of the printing plates so they must have been present on the cylinder and only sometimes burnished from the plates.

In the original die most of the central palm fronds had no spines. Although this seems of little consequence, it was corrected by re-engraving of the die prior to the preparation of Plate C, used for most printings of the 1915 issue and for the 1918 issue, and of the special plate for the 1917 booklet panes.

There is no proof of the retouched die.

25 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 1847 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date
'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

The proof of the die is as it was used for the 1894-1910 issues and for the first printing(s) of the 1915 issue, Plates A and B.

The original die had a white line between the large rocks in the right foreground and the shading of the water. Although of no consequence at all, the die was retouched by adding shading to remove the white line and to strengthen the shading of the water in the centre of the vignette. The retouching was done prior to the preparation of Plates C and D - the former used for intermediate printings of the 1915 issue, the latter for late printings and for the 1918 issue - and of the special plate for the 1917 booklet panes.

There is no proof of the re-engraved die.

40 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 2268 - Engraver Rapkin - Date 'Given out' 14.8.96 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

The proof of the die is as it was used for the 1896-1910 issues and for the early printings of the 1915 issue, Plate A, states 1 and 2.

The original die had a conspicuous white spot near the prow of the canoe. During the course of the 1915 printings the die was retouched to remove the white spot and the top two rows of subjects on the plate were re-entered. It was then decided to retouch the die further to strengthen the reflection in the water of the prow of the canoe. After this second retouch of the die the remaining eight rows on the plate were re-entered.

The retouched die was also used to prepare Plate B, used for the 1925 Colonial Campaigns stamps

There is no proof of the retouched die.

50 Centimes Vignette - Die No. 1849 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

The proof of the die is as it was used for the 1894-1910 issues and for the first printing(s) of the 1915 issue, Plate A. The proof shows that the die had engraved on it the inner outline of the casement, presumably to indicate the space available for the vignette. This outline is not seen on the stamps; it was probably removed from the cylinder where it would have been in relief and easily removed.

During the course of the printings of the 1915 issue the die was retouched to strengthen the shading of the far river bank and to add shading to the plume of smoke from the locomotive. The re-engraved die was used to make a new plate, Plate B, used for late printings of the 1915 issue and for the 1918 issue.

There is no proof of the retouched die.

1 Franc Vignette - Die No. 1839 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are three die proofs:

- a) No number - Natives and elephants only.
- b) No number - Remainder of the design consisting of foliage and the mountains.
- c) No. 1839 - The complete design.

Each of the first two proofs has written on it words that I cannot decipher; they appear to read '9 in Specimen Pte Cogger' and 'in Mr. Low stock' but this interpretation is clearly wrong.

The normal way of engraving a vignette die was to cover the polished blank die plate with a thin layer of an acid-resisting compound, a mixture of pitch and wax. The engraver drew with a 'point' - a

needle with a handle - the design of the vignette (in reverse) on and through the wax so that thin lines of exposed metal resulted. The edges of the plate were built up with the acid-resistant material to form a tray into which a strong acid solution was poured. The acid etched its way into the exposed metal. After a pre-determined time the acid was washed away and the wax compound removed by a solvent leaving the thin etched lines on the face of the die. These lines were probably deep and wide enough for the fine lines required on the die but where the lines were required to be stronger, they were widened and deepened by a hand-held 'graver', a sharply pointed triangular-shaped tool.

As far as can be ascertained from the die proofs, the above is the procedure that was adopted for all the vignette dies except the 1 franc where the existence of the three dies makes it clear that the foliage and mountains were etched on one die - some of these lines may have been strengthened with graver or point - b) above. The strongly lined native and elephants were hand engraved on a separate die, a) above, although on this the outlines of the figures were probably etched before application of the graver. By means of cylinders the two impressions were transferred to a third blank to produce the finished die. One would have thought that there would have been the need only to transfer one design to the other but any error in the transfer would have ruined the second die.

The original die was used for all issues but there were two successive plates, A and B.

3,50 Francs (1898) and 3 Francs (1910) Vignette - Die No. 6692 - Original Waterlow Bros & Layton Die No. 113.

These values were produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton, the same vignette being used for both stamps; indeed the same plate was used for both.

The die has a prominent vertical guide line, centrally and immediately above the design, and this was transferred to the plate, as is evidenced by early plate proofs. The lines were removed or much weakened by burnishing before the stamps were printed.

5 Francs Vignette - Die No. 1841 - Engraver Hill - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

The proof of the die is as used for the single plate that was used for all issues.

10 Francs (1898 and 1910) Vignette - Die No. 6833 - Original Waterlow Bros & Layton Die No. 118.

These values were produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton, the same vignette plate being used for both stamps.

The die has a faint vertical guide line extending from the top of the funnel to the limit of the shading of the sky. It is faintly visible on one or two stamps in the sheet.

10 Francs (1918) Vignette - Die No. 5623 - Cylinder No. 1406 (?)

This stamp was produced by Waterlow & Sons, the vignette design being very well copied from the earlier Waterlow Bros. & Layton stamp.

1894-1918 Casement Dies

During the period the casement design of each particular Waterlow & Sons value remained generally similar but inscriptions were changed for political reasons and some alterations were made to ornamental details. It has always been clear that completely re-engraved dies were not used for the later issues and it was thought that secondary dies were used, utilising cylinders to transfer those parts of the earlier design that were to be incorporated in the new. The die proofs prove conclusively that this procedure was not followed. For each value the casement Die No. remained unchanged and it has to be accepted that a single die (i.e. a single piece of metal) was used throughout the whole period and the die itself was altered when required. The fact that such a procedure was possible, even standard with Waterlow & Sons, has been confirmed by Mr. Carradine, an ex-Waterlow engraver. The die, after softening, was placed face down on a flat anvil and, using a hammer and punch located in exactly the right place on the back of the die, the metal of the die was flattened against the anvil and the engraved lines obliterated. The flattened places on the die were then re-engraved and any surrounding engraving retouched if necessary.

The above applies only to the values printed by Waterlow & Sons. Waterlow Bros. & Layton engraved entirely new casement dies for their values of the 1910 issue.

5 Centimes Casement - Die No. 1844 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date
'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

There are four die proofs, each with the same die number, one each of the 1894, 1909, 1910 and 1915 issues.

The 1894 proof has written on it "Die altered see page 19", as well as "Cancelled". The 1894 plate was completely re-entered about 1905 and there then appeared on each subject on the plate (one subject excluded) two minute circles, each a half-millimetre to the left of the right outer frame line, one immediately above the top frame line and one immediately below the bottom frame line. No reasonable suggestion has been made for the addition of these circles but it was thought that they had been added to the die after the original plate had been prepared. If that supposition were correct the circles would not have been present on the 1894 edition of the die proof but they would probably have remained on the 1909 edition; no traces are visible and it must be presumed that the circles were individually added to the plate, a tedious and unnecessary method, particularly when their purpose is completely obscure.

The 1915 proof had a Cylinder No. on it but this has been erased.

10 Centimes Casement - Die No. 1846 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date
'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished'
13.1.97.

There are four die proofs, each with the same die number, one each of the 1894, 1909, 1910 and 1915 issues.

The 1909 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page " (page number not decipherable). The 1910 and 1915 proofs each have in manuscript "Present state of the die".

15 Centimes Casement - Die No. 2269 - Engraver Rapkin - Date 'Given out' 14.8.96 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are three die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1896, 1909 and 1910 issues.

The 1896 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page 14"; the 1909 proof has the words "Die altered see this page also page 60" but "also page 60" has been crossed through.

The third and last casement plate used for the 1915 issue, also for the 1918 issue, Plate V, had, on each subject, two minute circles, each 3/4 mm below the top frame line and just outside the left and right frame lines. These may have been added to the die before the plate was prepared. If so, it was apparently thought unnecessary to include a further proof in the records.

25 Centimes Casement - Die No. 1848 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are three die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1894, 1910 and 1915 issues.

The 1894 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page 19" and "Cancelled".

40 Centimes Casement - Die No. 2267 - Engraver Rapkin - Date 'Given out' 14.8.96 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are two die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1896 and 1910 issues.

The 1910 proof is marked "Present state of the die".

50 Centimes Casement - Die No. 1850 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are three die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1894, 1909 and 1910 issues.

The 1894 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page 15".

The 1909 proof is marked "Die altered" and the 1910 proof "Present state of the die".

1 Franc Casement - Die No. 1840 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are two die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1894 and 1910 issues.

The 1894 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page 15" but 'page 15' has been crossed through. The 1910 proof is marked "Present of die" (sic).

3,50 Francs (1898) Casement - Die No. 6766 - Original Waterlow Bros. & Layton Die No. 112.

As stated previously, this stamp was produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton.

The die had a central vertical guide line in the upper part of the casement and this is visible on the issued stamps; there is an extension of this guide line beneath the bottom frame line and this is seen on some stamps. There is a faint horizontal guide line at mid-height and to left and right of the casement but this is not visible on the stamps, perhaps because the casements are in vermilion and not in black.

3 Francs (1910) Casement - Die No. 6769.

This stamp was produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton but the original die number is unknown.

As reported in Waterlow Study Circle Journal No. 12 (June, 1894), A. G. Wood and P. S. Foden have inspected the original die, together with all other dies of the 1894-1918 issues, in the Brussels Postal Museum. Uniquely for the series, this die and that of the casement of the 1910 10 francs are, one above the other, on the same piece of steel.

The die proof has various guide lines, centrally and extending the outer frame lines into the selvedge. These are not obvious on the issued stamps.

5 Francs Casement - Die No. 1842 - Engraver R. Joseph - Date 'Given out' 29.8.94 - Date 'Finished' 13.1.97.

There are two die proofs, each with the same die number, one each for the 1894 and 1910 issues.

The 1894 proof has in manuscript "Die altered see page 54"; the 1910 proof bears a manuscript letter "S".

10 Francs (1898) Casement - Die No. 6798 - Original Waterlow Bros. & Layton Die No. 117.

This stamp was produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton.

The die has a central vertical guide line immediately above the top frame line; this is not visible on the issued stamps.

All subjects on the plate were strongly retouched before the stamps were printed. There is on the die proof no indication of weak engraving and it is presumed that the transfer was faulty.

10 Francs (1910) Casement - Die No. 6770.

This stamp was produced by Waterlow Bros. & Layton. As stated previously, the die was on the same piece of steel as the 1910 3 francs casement.

The die proof has a group of dots in the upper left corner of the vignette, two diagonally placed dots under the letters "CO" and 2mm inside the inner frame line, and a dot in the left selvedge at the height of the bottom of the figures '10'. All these dots are clearly visible on the issued stamps.

10 Francs (1918) Casement - Die No. 5622.

This is a very good copy by Waterlow & Sons of the 1910 casement, engraved by Waterlow Bros. & Layton, but there are minor distinguishing features.

General Note on Casement Dies

Most of the proofs of the casements have a dot in the middle and this is often seen on the issued stamps. There are also dots which were used as centres when scribing, with dividers, the various arcs of circles which are part of the engraving and these dots are seen on the issued stamps although largely obscured by the vignettes. A notable case in point is the 5 francs where, on the issued stamps as well as the casement die proof, groups of dots are clearly visible at top left and top right of the vignette.

Other Known Die Proofs

There exist composite (casement and vignette combined) die proofs of the six 1894 values, mounted on thick card and each with the cachet WATERLOW & SONS LIMITED on the backs. The proofs are in the issued colours but the designs of the casements are not exactly as those of the die proofs in the record book and of the issued stamps. The alterations to the casement dies after striking of these proofs were very minor and comprised the addition of various very small circles, for example above and below the E of ETAT and above and below the T of INDEPENDANT on the 5 centimes. These circles added very little to the design of the stamps and it is difficult to see why their addition was thought desirable. These six proofs were probably sent to the customer for his approval.

There exist four of a series of progress proofs of the casement of the 1896 15 centimes; they have serial numbers 6 (dated 12.9.96), 7 (21.9.96), 9 (24.9.96) and 10 (24.9.96). Nos. 6, 7 and 10 are in black, No. 9 in ochre, the colour of the issued stamp. These proofs record the progress made in engraving the die, No. 10 being complete but not accepted; the shape of the E of ETAT was changed radically before the record die proof was struck and the design transferred to the printing plate. The earlier proofs had additions to the engraved design in ink by the artist, presumably as a guide to the engraver. It would appear that this casement was directly engraved with the graver without prior etching.

The late Joseph Wright had a small die proof, in black, of the 1896 40 centimes vignette, apparently identical with the proof in the Waterlow records.

There exist ten in a series of progress proofs of the 1896 40 centimes casement with serial numbers 6 (dated 10.9.96), 7 (11.9.96), 8 (11.9.96), 9 (14.9.96), 10 (14.9.96), 11 (14.9.96), 12 (14.9.96),

13 (15.9.96), 14 (15.9.96) and 15 (19.9.96). Nos. 6, 10, 12 and 13 are of the casement only in green (the issued colour), No. 11 is of the casement only in black and the remainder have the casement in green and the vignette, in black, added so that the whole resembles the issued stamp. Even at stage 6 the engraving was complete; later changes were of a minor nature and, indeed, it is impossible to see any change between some successive proofs in the series. At stage 15 further work had to be done before the final design was approved; the accent to the first E of INDEPENDANT had to be added and the C of CENTIMES was altered in shape.

Many composite die proofs of the Waterlow Bros. & Layton 1898 3,50 francs and 10 francs are known, in the issued colours and in various combinations of vignette and casement colours. It is impossible to believe that these were prepared as colour trials to submit to the customer and it is now considered that most of them were 'printers' samples, shown to prospective customers as samples of the company's work. Similar variously coloured plate proofs of the same stamps are known to have been used for publicity purposes. Die proofs of the 3,50 francs vignette and casement, side by side, are known, both in black and both in orange.

Composite die proofs of the 5, 10 and 25 centimes of the 1910 issue with the inscriptions and detailed design modified to those of the 1915 issue exist. They are obviously essays for submission to the customer or a guide to the engraver in modifying the casement dies.

The late Joseph Wright had composite die proofs, in approximately the issued colours, of the 15, 40 and 50 centimes and 1 and 5 francs values of the 1915 issue. These, of exactly the same designs as the 1910 stamps, were probably used as colour trials for submission to the customer.

Composite die proofs of six values of the 1918 Red Cross issue - the 15 and 50 centimes and 5 francs values are missing - are known, these having the Red Cross surcharge; they were probably sent to the customer for approval.

1925 COLONIAL CAMPAIGNS CHARITY ISSUE

Vignette

Die No. 2268, prepared for the 1896 40 centimes, was used for these 25c + 25c stamps. It was then, of course, in the retouched state as was used for re-entering the 40 centimes plate during the 1915 issue. The rather larger size of the 1925 stamps compared with 1896-1918 made a new vignette plate necessary.

Casements

The issue comprises two stamps of the same value, one with wording in French and the other in Flemish. The two stamps alternated in the sheet, both horizontally and vertically.

The upper part of the design, except for the values and inscription, is identical with the design of the 1910 40-centimes casement and this element of the design must have been transferred from the original die.

Of the French language casement there is a progress proof which has the left word **CENTIMES** but no other lettering and no figures of value. There is a finished die proof numbered 10697 and the date in the register is 9.5.25.

Of the Flemish language casement there is a progress proof which has the words **BELGISCH CONGO** and no other lettering and no figures of value. There is a finished die proof numbered 10698 and its date in the register is 9.5.25.

Particularly bearing in mind that these stamps are about $3/4$ mm taller than the 1910 stamps, the suggested method of preparing the dies to the stage of the progress proofs is as follows: the cylinder (roller die) of the 1910 40 centimes casement had the whole of the bottom panel and all other inscriptions except the left word **CENTIMES** deleted from it and this was used to make a daughter die to which the frame lines of the bottom panel were added by the graver. At this stage the new die was in the condition of the progress proof of the French stamp. The cylinder was then altered further by removal of the left word **CENTIMES** and the design was then transferred to a second daughter die. By the use of a second cylinder the words **BELGISCH CONGO** on the 1910 die were transferred to this second daughter die and at that stage it was in the condition of the progress proof of the Flemish stamp. An alternative possibility is that the cylinder, still with the left word **CENTIMES**, was used for the second daughter die and the **CENTIMES** was then removed by hammering out from the back of the die, the procedure that was used for the 1894-1918 casement dies.

1925-26 LEYS ISSUE

This issue comprises two stamps, of the same design, the 60c centimes issued in 1925 and the 45 centimes in 1926.

Die No. 10696 - the 60 centimes value, unusually printed in carmine, the issued colour, marked "S" in manuscript. The date in the register is 9.5.25.

Die No. 10696A - the proof, in black, is of either the 60 or 45 centimes value with the figures of value cut from it so that it simulates a master die proof without value. Quite unusually, it is punctured with a demonetizing hole as was Waterlow's practice with the stamps in proof sheets and 'File Copy' sheets. Cylinder No. 5113.

Die No. 11260 - the 45 centimes value, unusually in deep Prussian blue. The date in the register is 30.9.26.

It seems unlikely that the 60 centimes die, for a stamp still in use, was altered to make the 45 centimes die and more likely that, by means of the 60 centimes cylinder, a duplicate die was made from which the figures 60 were removed and this intermediate die was numbered 10696A; the die proof is a reasonable record of this die. Not knowing that orders for further values would not be forthcoming Waterlow would probably have retained Die No. 10696A hoping to be able to make further use of it. Cylinder No. 5113 would have been used to produce a further daughter die to which

the figures 45 were added to provide Die No. 11260. However, Die No. 10696 does not figure in the Register and it may have been a transient stage in the preparation of Die No. 11260.

1942 BELGIAN CONGO & RUANDA URUNDI CHARITY STAMPS

Master Dies

The master dies are without the bilingual wording.

	Die. No.	Cylinder No.	Proof No.	Date	Cancelled
Belgian Congo	16857	12949	12325	10.9.41	11.10.54
Ruanda Urundi	16858	12950	12322	10.9.41	16.9.54

Completed Dies

Belgian Congo					
French on top	16867	12960	12326	30.9.41	24.9.54
Flemish on top	16869	12957	12324	30.9.41	24.9.54
Ruanda Urundi					
French on top	16866	12958	12323	30.9.41	12.10.54
Flemish on top	16868	12956	12321	30.9.41	24.9.54

Other Known Die Proof

Some years ago I saw a die proof in brown of one of the Belgian Congo stamps; unfortunately, I did not record if the French or the Flemish inscription was at the top.

1942 BELGIAN CONGO & RUANDA 'PALMS' ISSUES

All values of the Belgian Congo issue except the 5 centimes and 50 and 100 francs were duplicated, one series with French inscription on top and a second with Flemish at the top. In the following tabulation 'FR' indicates with French at the top, 'FL' with Flemish.

	Die No.	Cylinder No.	Proof No.	Date	Cancelled
<u>Master & Intermediate Dies</u>					
5 centimes, no inscription	16885	12982	13302	27.10.41	21.8.54
10 to 60 centimes, no value					
No inscription	16873	12976	13262	9.10.41	21.8.54
Belgian Congo FR *	16893	No No.	13269	5.11.41	14.10.54
Belgian Congo FL	16891	No No.	13272	5.11.41	24.9.54
Ruanda Urundi	16892	No No.	13265	5.11.41	14.10.54
75 centimes to 1,25 francs casements, no value					
No inscription	16875	12980	13261	9.10.41	21.8.54

Belgian Congo FR	16898	12996	13270	11.11.41	20.8.54
Belgian Congo FL	16899		13273	11.11.41	20.8.54 or 12.10.54
Ruanda Urundi	16876	12999	13264	8.10.41	20.8.54
1,75 to 2,50 francs, no value					
No inscription	16872	12987	13259	9.10.41	20.8.54 or 24.9.54
Belgian Congo FR	16924	13028	13267	19.11.41	20.8.54 or 16.9.54
Belgian Congo FL	16925	13027	13296	19.11.41	20.8.54
Ruanda Urundi	16923	13026	13263	19.11.41	20.8.54
3,50 to 10 francs, no value					
No inscription	16879	12979	13260	9.10.41	20.8.54
Belgian Congo FR	16896	13017	13268	11.11.41	21.8.54
Belgian Congo FL	16900	13015	13271	11.11.41	21.8.54
Ruanda Urundi	16897	13016	13266	11.11.41	20.8.54
20 francs Belgian Congo casement					
No inscription	16874	12981	13237	9.10.41	20.8.54
50 and 100 francs casement, no value					
No inscriptions **					
Belgian Congo	17071	13265	13794	16.7.42	21.8.54
Ruanda Urundi	17239	13501	16010		23.8.54
<u>Completed Dies for Monochrome Stamps</u>					
Belgian Congo					
5 centimes	16902	12994	13321	11.11.41	21.8.54 or 12.10.54
10 centimes FR	16911	13018	13330	17.11.41	24.9.54 or 24.10.54
10 centimes FL	16906	13003	13314	17.11.41	14.10.54 or 10.12.54
15 centimes FR	16912	13019	13327	17.11.41	12.9.54 or 24.9.54
15 centimes FL	16908	13007	13319	17.11.41	21.9.54 or 14.10.54
20 centimes FR	16914	13201	13329	17.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
20 centimes FL	16909	13004	13318	17.11.41	14.10.54
25 centimes FR	16916	13022	13322	17.11.41	21.9.54
25 centimes FL	16905	13005	13317	17.11.41	21.9.54 or 16.10.54
30 centimes FR	16972	13074	13324	24.12.41	24.9.54
30 centimes FL	16974	13073	13315	24.12.41	21.9.54
50 centimes FR	16915	13023	13326	17.11.41	21.9.54
50 centimes FL	16907	13006	13320	17.11.41	14.10.54 or 10.12.54

60 centimes FR	16913	13020	13325	17.11.41	24.9.54 or 14.10.54
60 centimes FL	16910	13002	13312	17.11.41	14.10.54 or 24.10.54
1,75 francs FR	16950	13064	13289	11.12.41	24.9.54
1,75 francs FL	16954	13056	13294	11.12.41	24.9.54
2 francs FR	16948	13062	13287	11.12.41	24.9.54
2 francs FL	16956	13058	13295	11.12.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
2,50 francs FR	16949	13063	13288	11.12.41	24.9.54
2,50 francs FL	16955	13057	13293	11.12.41	24.9.54
3,50 francs FR	16971	13080	13328	24.12.41	24.9.54
3,50 francs FL	16970	13079	13316	24.12.41	24.9.54
5 francs FR	16942	13048	13323	2.12.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
5 francs FL	16940	13049	13313	2.12.41	24.9.54
6 francs FR	16943	13077	13291	2.12.41	24.9.54
6 francs FL	16939	13078	13297	2.12.41	24.9.54
7 francs FR	16958	13097	13290	19.12.41	21.9.54
7 francs FL	16960	13098	13298	19.12.41	24.9.54
10 francs FR	16944	13047	13292	2.12.41	29.9.54 or 12.10.54
10 francs FL	16941	13050	13299	2.12.41	21.9.54

Ruanda Urundi

5 centimes	16901	12995	13300	11.11.41	14.10.54
10 centimes	16922	13010	13305	18.11.41	24.9.54
15 centimes	16920	13013	13307	18.11.41	14.10.54
20 centimes	16919	13011	13304	17.11.41	21.9.54
25 centimes	16918	13009	13309	17.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
30 centimes	16973	13075	13310	24.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
50 centimes	16921	13012	13311	18.11.41	24.9.54
60 centimes	16917	13014	13303	17.11.41	24.9.54
1,75 francs	16953	13061	13282	11.12.41	24.9.54
2 francs	16951	13059	13280	11.12.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
2,50 francs	16952	13060	13281	11.12.41	24.9.54
3,50 francs	16969	13081	13308	24.12.41	24.9.54 or 22.10.54
5 francs	16938	13052	13285	2.12.41	21.9.54
6 francs	16937	13076	13284	2.12.41	21.9.54
7 francs	16959	13099	13286	19.12.41	24.9.54
10 francs	16936	13051	13283	2.12.41	21.9.54

Completed Casements for Bicoloured Stamps

Belgian Congo

75 centimes FR	16929	13034	13241	25.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
75 centimes FL	16927	13033	13244	25.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
1 franc FR	16930	13030	13239	25.11.41	24.9.54
1 franc FL	16928	13031	13245	25.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54

1,25 francs FR	16931	13029	13240	25.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
1,25 francs FL	16932	13032	13246	25.11.41	24.9.54 or 12.10.54
20 francs FR	16903	13025	13242	11.11.41	21.9.54 or 16.11.54
20 francs FL	16904	13024	13243	11.11.41	21.9.54 or 16.10.54
50 francs	17097	13280	13796	19.8.42	20.4.54 or 23.8.54
100 francs	17096	13298	13795	19.8.42	16.9.54
Ruanda Urundi					
75 centimes	16945	13039	13249	4.12.41	21.9.54
1 franc	16946	13040	13248	4.12.41	21.9.54
1,25 franc	16947	13041	13247	4.12.41	21.9.54
20 francs	16880	12993	13250	16.10.41	20.8.54
50 francs	17244		16008		23.9.54
100 francs	17245		16009		16.9.54

Vignettes for Bicoloured Stamps

Belgian Congo

75c to 1,25 fr	16877	12983	14005	9.10.41	20.8.54
20 francs	16878	12967		9.10.41	20.8.54
50 francs	17082	13281	(13798) (14587)	5.8.42	12.10.54

Ruanda Urundi

75c to 1,25 fr	16871	13000	13301	7.10.41	12.10.54
20 francs	16881	12992	13300	16.10.41	24.9.54
100 francs	17240		14250		

Belgian Congo

100 francs)	17072	13279	13797	16.7.42	24.9.54
Ruanda Urundi						
50 francs)					

The vignette for Ruanda Urundi 75c to 1,25 fr was engraved by Mr. Harrison.

There is the proof of Die No. 17281, Proof No. 14723, marked 'soft', of the frame of a 'Palms-type' stamp, bilingual with CONGO BELGE at the top of design that was not adopted. It could have been intended for the 1942 postal stationery but the designs used for these postal cards were the same as the designs of the issued 'Palm Tree' adhesives except that the values, 1 franc and 2 francs, were different.

Included in the register are two dies, Nos. 16987 and 16988, described as 'Copper Litho Palm Tree Congo Belge' with date 29.1.42, of which there are no die proofs. These could have been two of the six dies required for the postal stationery.

Notes

* This die proof has the letter C outlined in the value tablet.

** Such a master die almost certainly did not exist because it is fairly clear that the original order was for 5 centimes to 100 francs of Belgian Congo and 5 centimes to 20 francs of Ruanda Urundi although one or two values, 30 centimes and 3,50 francs, may have been afterthoughts, and the 50 and 100 francs of Ruanda Urundi were not ordered until 1942 and, indeed, were not issued until 1943. However, the engraving of the lower part of the casement and of part of the oval surrounding the vignette is identical for Congo and Ruanda. Part of Die No. 17071, the casement of 50 and 100 francs Congo, must have been transferred in making Die No. 17239, the casement of 50 and 100 francs Ruanda.

Where there are blank spaces for serial numbers and dates the information is either not available in the records or has been crossed through or rubbed out so effectively that it is not visible.

'Cancellation' dates are given both in the register and on the die proofs. In many cases the two dates for a particular die coincide; where there is variance of two or three days a single date is given in the tabulations; where there is wider variance both dates are given. No explanation why there should be two different dates, weeks apart, is offered.

The Congo 50 francs vignette was the only example of two proofs from the same die being included in the record book. The later proof shows no evidence of alteration to the die.

Other Known Die Proofs

The following die proofs are known, composite in the cases of the bicoloured values:

Belgian Congo 5 centimes in green.

1,25 francs FR in vermilion (casement) and black (vignette).

2 francs FL in olive.

10 francs FR in carmine.

20 francs FR in yellow-brown and black.

Ruanda Urundi 50 centimes in brown.

75 centimes in blue and black.

20 francs in purple and black.

In addition, there are the following essays, struck from the dies:

Belgian Congo 50 francs casement in blue with 100 francs vignette in yellow brown.

Ruanda Urundi 50 francs casement in lilac with 100 francs vignette in sepia and 100 francs casement in vermilion with 50 francs vignette in black.

1948 RAILWAY STAMP

	Die No.	Cylinder No.	Proof No.
Casement	18385	15043	20077
Vignette	18386	15044	20076

No dates are given in the register.

KATANGA UNISSUED 1961 SERIES

There are two die proofs:

Horizontal Casement - Die No. 22140

Vertical Casement - Die No. 22154

Both are marked 'Cancelled 6.2.61'.

In the register Dies Nos. 22127 to 22131 inclusive are allocated to 'Katanga Vignettes' but the record book shows that they were engravings for bank notes.

Other Known Die Proofs

There exists a series of eleven die proofs with casements from Dies Nos. 22140 and 22154 above. The 0,10, 0,20, 1,00, 1,50, 5,00, 6,00, 8,00 and 10,00 francs have the horizontal casement and the 2,00, 3,50 and 6,50 francs values the vertical. Unfortunately, I have only a photocopy of these proofs and am unable to state the colours in which they are printed. All eleven vignettes are of different designs.

The vignettes comprise different scenes together with the national flag, probably in three colours, and, quite unusually, the figures of value. The vignettes may well be lithographed, in which case there would be no die proofs of the vignettes.

R. H. KEACH

DIFFERENT PAPERS USED FOR THE 1942 "PALMS" ISSUES

I have before me two mint copies each of the Belgian Congo 60c (Flemish above French), 50 F and 100 F values in which it appears that there were two different papers, one thicker and 'normal', the other appreciably thinner. The thickness is judged by inspection of the backs of the stamps. In the case of the "thinner" paper the design of the stamp appear very much more clearly. It could be that the apparently thinner paper is actually more translucent but I think not. Not owning a micrometer, I cannot measure the thicknesses of the papers.

Not having looked through the duplicates I have of other values and of the corresponding Ruanda Urundi series, I cannot say if the different thicknesses of paper are found on other values but it seems likely that they can be. Here is the opportunity for modest research by someone who has the time and a quantity of duplicates of these common stamps.

R. H. KEACH