

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN NO. 59

MARCH, 1986

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NEWS AND VIEWS

New Format With Bulletin No. 59, we are changing the format from A4 (a metric measure of paper to those who are uninformed to the 8½ x 11 size - in the United States it is referred to as Letter Size) and all of this is to reduce cost of copying from the master form that is made in the United States and then forwarded to our Secretary for reproduction in England for members residing outside the United States. Sounds a bit complicated but we still hope to put out a Bulletin consistent with those in the past. The numbering of the pages will now move to the upper right instead of being in the center of the upper page. We hope all members will be happy with the new changes. It just saves us a considerable amount of money.

Resignations We were a bit hasty in announcing the resignation of Philippe Lindekens of Belgium in the December Bulletin. He is still a member in good standing.

New Members Just after the December Bulletin was mailed out, we received a new application for membership from William E. Korstanje of Chesapeake, Ohio who was recommended to us by Ed Hirdler. Mr. Korstanje's collecting interest are town cancellations, T-TAXE-TAXES overprints, and the Mols overprints of 1909+. He is in need of literature on these areas and will appreciate any help that our better informed members can supply him.

He is 50 years old, married, 2 children and works for Inco Alloys as Credit Analyst. He has been a collector for 35 years and specializes in Benelux.

We welcome you and hope you will derive as much from the Study Circle as other members have.

Membership Visit Just one week ago, your editor had the pleasure of playing host to Ron and Bethel Strawser from Odessa, Texas. Both are heavily involved with the oil industry and this was just a short break from their busy schedule to come to ARIPEX '86 for a bit of relaxation. It was a pleasure to have them and to share our common interest in the stamps of the Congo.

AMERIPEX '86 In the first part of January your editor received notice that his application for six frames at AMERIPEX '86 had been accepted. Considering that only 4,000 frames are available and the applications for frames came to a figure of some 12,000, it is indeed an honor to have been accepted at all. Many collectors had their applications reduced (four was the minimum and eight was the maximum with only one application accepted from any applicant) and the qualifying merit was to have received at least a Vermeil Award in any national show.

Your editor's exhibit will consist of the Plating Studies and Postal Usage of the Mols and Van Engelen Issues of the Congo, having qualified at WESTPEX '84 in San Francisco. The Etat issues and the overprints will be shown. Your editor will be in Chicago from May 29 until the end of the exhibit and will appreciate meeting any members of the BCSC at the show.

THE TELEGRAPHIC CANCELLATIONS 1897-1960

When, ten years ago, Mr. A. I. Heim and the writer published the results of their years of study of the normal post office cancellations they deliberately excluded telegraphic cancellations although appreciating that some of them were used for cancelling mail in the usual way. Included in the book was a "half-promise" of a subsequent work on the telegraphic cancellations. This article is a poor effort after such a long gestation period but is based on only the writer's modest collection of these cancellations. It is hoped that supplementary information from other members on other cancellations and on additional dates of cancellations already known to the writer will be offered so that a more complete publication may eventually be produced. Some cancellations not included in this listing are described, and some illustrated, in the books of De Cock and du Four and in the Philatco Catalogue; these will be added to the check-list if a more comprehensive edition of this article is produced.

According to De Cock, the first Congo telegraph station, Gongolo, was opened 9 September 1897 and this was followed by Boma, Leopoldville, Matadi and Tumba on 1 May 1899. The number of stations had increased to 46 by 1929 and to 197 - plus 19 in Ruanda Urundi - by 1960. Each of these stations must have had at least one date stamp or cachet - whichever you prefer to call it in the later days - so that it will be appreciated that the cancellations included in the list that follows represent a very small fraction of what existed.

It would appear that in the Congo a system similar to the British prevailed where the telegraphic service was integrated with the postal system and it is presumed that, in general, telegraph offices were combined with post offices and that in the more important offices there would have been a special counter for telegrams whereas in minor offices with telegraphic facilities a single clerk would have dealt with both postal and telegraphic work. There also existed telegraph offices without a post office attached or nearby; as an example, there was a telegraph office but never a post office at Kipembele.

It is presumed that the method of handling the receipt of telegrams was originally the same as in Great Britain: the message, handwritten or typed on a special telegraph form, was handed over the post office counter and postage stamps to the value of the fee were affixed. The original telegraph form was, in due course, sent to some headquarters and ultimately destroyed. This belief is supported by the existence of so many stamps from 1899 to about 1912, especially high values, with telegraphic cancellations and one must suppose that a) the postal authorities sold the used stamps in bulk to dealers, b) they were a perquisite of some post office employees or c) they were illicitly removed from telegraph forms before destruction and if the last the illicit practice must have been very widespread. With but few exceptions, which will be mentioned later, virtually no stamps with telegraphic cancellations are found after about 1912. This may be due to a rigid control on used telegrams having been imposed or to a change in the presumed procedure in the telegraph office whereby postage stamps were no longer affixed to the telegraph forms.

A curious thing about the Congo system is that they differentiated, at least with their cancellations, between "wired" telegraphy and radio-telegraphy (telegraphie-sans-fils or TSF) and, even in the late days of the colony, at least some offices had different telegraphic and radio-telegraphic cancellers, the former inscribed "TELEGR." and the latter "T.S.F.". Shortly before Independence some cancellers appeared bearing the letters "T.T."; the meaning of these letters has not, to the writer's knowledge, been explained but it is strongly suspected that they represent "Telegraphie et Telegraphie-sans-fils" and that, at last, a single canceller was used for all telegraphic purposes in a single office.

Telegraphic cancellations may be found having served various uses:

- 1) Applied to stamps affixed to telegraph forms and this covers the very great

majority of cancellations to 1912.

2) Used for some period as a post office canceller because the number of postal date stamps available was insufficient for the amount of mail handled. This was the case in Likasi (1925-27), Thysville (1925-28), Kolwezi (1949-52) and probably Bukama (1929), Goma (1945-46), Kibombo (1946-48), Mweka (1949-50), Luena (1952), Lukula (1947-50) and Mvira (1947-50) judging by the numbers of stamps of normal postal denominations that are found with these telegraphic cancellations.

In the decade following Independence, because of the acute shortage of normal post office cancellers, telegraphic cancellers were used at quite a few, maybe many, offices for postal purposes; Moanda in 1970 is a not uncommon example.

3) Used by a telegraphic office that did not have a post office incorporated with it and was prepared to accept mail for transmission to the postal system. The 1903 cover illustrated had the stamp pen-cancelled aboard a river boat and was then handed to the Irebu telegraph office because the post office at Irebu was not opened until 1906.

The Bunia-Kilo TSF cancellation was probably used on mail because there was no post office immediately available (the exact location of the Bunia-Kilo office is unknown to the writer); Bunia and Kilo are some 50 kilometres apart.

4) Used accidentally to cancel stamps or as a transit mark on mail, the clerk picking and applying the wrong date stamp. This is probably what happened with the 1954 Gungu cover illustrated, and perhaps with the Kamina TELEGR. transit mark on a cover to the U.S.A.

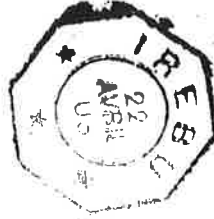
5) As a cachet, as opposed to a cancellation, on unstamped official mail from telegraph offices to indicate the origin of the letter, as the 1954 Kikwit cover illustrated.

6) Applied by favour to provide an example of the cancellation. These are usually on stamps of low face value.



Thysville TIC.1 used regularly on mail.

*Yellow
Zircon*



Mrs. Billington

a. B. M. & C.

Shoko Station

Lake Mambouba

Haut Congo

Via Irebu

Irebu TIC.1 used because
post office nearby.

FROM

**K. J. UMITT,
Bunia Congo Belge,
Via Mombasa**



Messrs

Groves & Lindley

Lion Building Station Street

Huddersfield

ENGLAND.



Bunia-Kilo TSF1 probably used
because no post office nearby.



Monsieur Joseph, Ed. J. M. N'simba
Commis de la Poste
Gungu.-

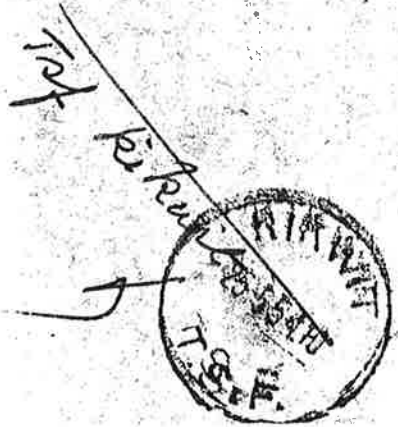
Gungu TSF2B probably
used in error.

C O N G O B E L G E



Tsf

Gungu



Kikwit TSF2B used
as cachet.

The cancellations of the earlier telegraph offices (to circa 1920) were octagonal, as were those of Belgium, but all later cancellations were circular, those of the early radio-telegraph offices being of a rather "fancy" design and mostly rather larger than the then current postal cancellations.

In the following designation and listing of the cancellations the nomenclature used in "The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo 1886-1960 and Ruanda Urundi 1917-1962" has, as far as possible, been followed and readers are referred to that book for explanation of the nomenclature. Because some telegraph offices had more than one canceller - not necessarily at the same time - of a generally similar design angular measurements are used to identify them as they are for the postal cancellations; this applies to both octagonal and circular cancellations excepting the "fancy" radio-telegraph cancellations each of which is thought to be unique.

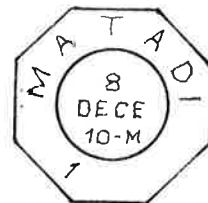
As for the postal cancellations, "Record cards" of some early telegraphic cancellations exist and these are indicated in the tabulation.



T1A-DMTY/T



T1Aa-DMY/Y



T1Ab-DMTY

T1A was the only type used during the 19th. century and it is clear that, as was the case with the postal cancellations, the 18 of the year was a fixed part of the canceller resulting in new cancellers being required on 1 January 1900. All examples seen have the space for the time replaced by a black rectangle.

It would appear that the replacement 20th. century cancellers were late in arriving and some improvisation was necessary. At Boma the figures 18 of the year were removed and in the space intended for the time was inserted the figure 19, presumably intended as the first two figures of the year; this type is designated T1Aa and only a few examples have been seen.

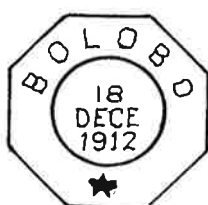
At Matadi it is uncertain what was done but two rather poor examples of Type T1Ab, illustrated above, have been seen on 1900 50c stamps. Of the year only the first figure, 1, is clearly visible; of the second figure only parts are visible and it is possible that an endeavour was made to alter the 8 to a 9 as was done with postal cancellation Albertville 1.2. Only fragments of the last two figures are visible and it is not possible to judge what they are. Clearer examples of this cancellation are required in order to decide exactly what was done.

No Type T1A cancellations of Gongolo, Leopoldville or Tumba have been seen and it is not known if there was similar improvisation at the last two offices, Gongolo having been closed before the end of the 19th. century.

As with postal cancellations angles are measured from the initial letter of the town name; the angles measured are to the last letter and to the first figure, 1, of the year. In the case of Type T1Aa only the angle to the last letter is used, the year having been removed.



T1B-DMY



T1B-DMY



T1B-DMY/Y

Type T1B has one star incorporated in the design and angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name and to the star; there is no space for the time. Initially only the last two figures of the year were included but later the year was given in full; in some cases, however, late strikes of the cancellation had only the two-figure year. The cancellation is found with a black rectangle in place of the year.



T1C-DMy



T1C-DMY

Type T1C has three stars incorporated and angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name and to each of the three stars; again there is no space for the time. As with Type T1B, both shortened and full years are found and it may well be that black rectangles instead of years exist and these would be described as T1C-DMy/Y or T1C-DMY/Y.



T1D-DMtY



T1D-tDMY



T1D-DMtY/t



T1D-DMyY/Y

Type T1D has no circle surrounding the date data, has the year in full at the bottom of the cancellation and has space for the time, to date found only according to the 24-hour clock. The cancellation exists with a black rectangle in place of the time.

Type T1D-DMyY/Y, apparently peculiar to Bukama and similar in this respect to the postal cancellation of that office, includes only the first two figures of the year at the bottom and the last two figures in the space intended for the time. Let it be said that the writer was not drunk when he drew the sketch of this cancellation; the name of the town is not square within the octagon.



T2-Dmyt



T2-Dmyt/t



T3-Dmyt

Type T2 has the town name at the top and TELEGR. at the bottom. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the R of TELEGR. and R to the T of TELEGR. Black rectangles are found in place of the time.

Type T3 has the word TELEGR. following the town name. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the T of TELEGR. and to the R of TELEGR.



All considered as TSF1

Type TSF1 covers all the "fancy" types of radio-telegraphic cancellations which, as stated previously, vary in size, in wording too. As far as is known no two similar cancellations exist for any one telegraph office and use of the suffix numbers, 1, 2 etc., is dispensed with. No times are included in the cancellations.



TSF2A-Dmyt



TSF2B-Dmyt



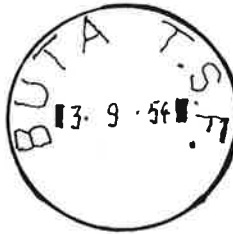
TSF2B-Dmyt/t

Type TSF2A has the town name at the top, T.S.F. at the bottom and a star at each side. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the right star, to the F of T.S.F., to the T of T.S.F. and to the left star.

Type TSF2B is as Type TSF2A but without stars. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the F of T.S.F. and to the T of T.S.F. Examples with black rectangle in place of time have been seen.



TSF3A-Dmyt



TSF3A-Dmyt/t



TSF3B-Dmyt

Type TSF3A has the letters T.S.F. following the town name and without a hyphen preceding them. Examples with a black rectangle in place of the time have been seen. Type TSF3B is similar with a hyphen between the town name and T.S.F. In both cases angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the T of T.S.F. and to the F of T.S.F.



TSF4-Dmy



TSF5-Dmyt

Type TSF4 is a double circle cancellation with the town name at the top, T.S.F. at the bottom and a star at each side. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the right star, to the F of T.S.F., to the T of T.S.F. and to the left star. With this cancellation there is no time.

Type TSF5 is bilingual with the French name at the top, Flemish at the bottom and T.S.F. above the Flemish name. Angular measurements are from the initial letter to the last letter of the French name, to the last letter of the Flemish and to the first letter of the Flemish name.



TT1-Dmyt



TT2-Dmyt

Type TT1 has the town name at the top and T.T. at the bottom. Angular measurements are to the last letter of the town name, to the second T of T.T. and to the first T of T.T.

Type TT2 is bilingual, similar to TSF5 but with the letters T.T. in place of T.S.F. Angular measurements are as TSF5.

TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE	CANCELLATION	ANGULAR MEASUREMENTS					DATES & NOTES
ALBERTVILLE	T1D.1	125	271				()
BAMBESA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	150	240	287			59
BANANA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	118	229	269			60
BASOKO	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	112	227	267			54
BAYA	T1D.1-DMtY/t	67	220				12
BOLOBO	T1B.1-DMY	140	257				12,20 ()
BOMA	T1A.1-DMTY/T	130	273				98-9
	T1Aa.1-DMY/Y	130					
	T1C.1-DMy	106	179	239	297		03 ()
	T1C.1-DMY						07-8
	T1C.2-DMY	90	162	228	290		07-10
	T1C.2-DMy						
	TT1.1-Dmyt	82	212	237			59 (18/4/30)
BOMA TEL. A.E.	T1B.1-DMY	195	285				07-8
BONDO	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	108	218	271			59
BUKAMA	T1D.1-DMyY	134	260				29
BUKAVU	TT1.1-Dmyt	122	235	261			60
BUMBA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	130	223	282			54
BUNIA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	108	220	269			60
BUNIA-KILO	TSF1-DMY						*23-7
BUTA	T2.1-Dmyt/t	71	184	260			54
	TSF3A.1-Dmyt/t	86	138	199			54
BUTEMBO	TSF2A.1-Dmyt	173	213	244	305	333	58
COQUILHATVILLE	T1B.1-DMY	237	305				06-9 ()
	T1B.2-DMy	243	306				04
	T1B.2-DMY						10-1
DEMBA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	80	209	244			60
DIMBELENCE	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	156	248	293			59
DUNGU	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	90	215	261			60
ELISABETHVILLE	T1D.1-DMtY	216	316				12
	T1D.1-tDMY						12
GOMA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	108	213	273			45-6
	TSF3B.1-Dmyt	128	167	223			54
GUNGU	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	85	214	261			*54
ILEBO	TSF2A.1-Dmyt	73	132	209	250	314	26
INKISI	T3.1-Dmyt	90	119	219			59-60
IREBU	T1C.1-DMy	111	181	242	300		*03
	T1C.1-DMY						07-11
JADOTVILLE	TT2.1-Dmyt	134	184	311			59
KALIMA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	109	220	260			
KAMBOVE	T1B.1-DMY	150	266				18
KAMINA	T2.1-Dmyt	130	220	297			*50-1

TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE	CANCELLATION	ANGULAR MEASUREMENTS					DATES & NOTES
KASENGA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	120	230	271			60
KAZUMBA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	166	251	295			58
KIBOMBO	T2.1-Dmyt	150	224	305			46-8
KIBUYE	TSF2A-Dmyt	150	194	230	295	321	59
KIKWIT	TSF2B-Dmyt	98	206	261			54
KINDU-PORT EMPAIN	TSF5.1-Dmyt	151	187	338			56
KINSHASA	T1B.1-DMy	158	264				04-5
	T1B.1-DMY						06,10-1
KIPEMBELE	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	158	236	300			53
KISENGE	TSF4.1-Dmy	103	156	214	275	328	60
KOLWEZI	T2.1-Dmyt	160	227	307			*47-52
KWAMOUTH	T1B.1-DMY	162	267				08-11
	T1B.2-	175	274				()
	T1B.3-	180	275				()
KONGOLO	T1B.1-	135	250				()
LEOPOLDVILLE	T1B.1-DMy	220	294				04
	T1B.1-DMY						07-11
	TT1.1-Dmyt	159	199	340			59
LIKASI	T1B.1-DMy	98	230				*25-7 (28.6.29)
LUEBO	T3.1-Dmyt	72	106	200			47
LUENA	T2.1-Dmyt	113	210	282			52
	TT1.1-Dmyt	97	217	249			60
LUKI	T1C.1-DMY	91	152	226	296		
LUKOLELA	T1B.1-DMy	187	278				03
	T1B.1-DMY						06-11
LUKULA	T1B.1-DMy	133	253				16
	T1B.1-DMY						18
	T1C.1-DMY	133	200	252	303		10
	T2.1-Dmyt	140	218	306			47-50
	T2.2-Dmyt	116	199	287			60
LUOZI	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	81	208	256			60
MADIMBA	T1C.1-DMY	140	202	249	300		11
	T1C.1-DMy						27
MANONO	TSF3A.1-Dmyt	98	127	166			59
MATADI	T1A.1-DMY/T	166	285				97-8
	T1Ab.1-DMY	166	285				
	T1C.1-DMY	125	174	238	295		01
	T1C.2-DMy	120	182	238	290		03,26
	T1C.2-DMY						05-11
MOPOLENCE	T1B.1-DMy	169	272				04
MWEKA	T2.1-Dmyt	115	201	290			49-50
PAULIS	TSF3B.1-Dmyt	117	184	245			59
PONTHIERVILLE	TSF5.1-Dmyt	128	180	315			60

TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE	CANCELLATION	ANGULAR MEASUREMENTS					DATES & NOTES
SAKANIA	T1D.1-DMtY/t	126	274				12
	TSF2B.1-Dmyt	136	227	284			60
SANDOA	TSF2B.1-Dmyt/t	113	222	263			*53
	TSF4.1-Dmy	98	148	204	263	314	60
TENKE	T3.1-Dmyt	71	97	179			49-50
THYSVILLE	T1B.1-DMY	155	263				08-10
	T1C.1-DMy	170	221	270	318		*25-8
	T3.1-Dmyt	110	137	220			47
	TT2.1-Dmyt	100	177	284			59
TSHINSENDA	T1B.1-DMY/Y	215	284				
TUMBA	T1C.1-DMY	111	175	236	294		03-4
	T1C.1-DMY						05-6
UVIRA	T2.1-Dmyt	104	201	282			47-50
WALIKALE	TSF2B.1-Dmyt/t	154	241	?			
YUMBI	T1C.1-DMY	107	175	233	290		08-9

MEMBERS: Please help with additional information.

RHK

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Stamps, cancellations and covers for certificates of authenticity are requested to be received not later than 30 April 1986. The charge for stamps, up to a block of four is, if genuine, £1.00 and, if forged, 50p. The charge for larger blocks, post cards and covers is dependant on their size and the space they occupy on the photographic plate. No charge is made for items on which the committee feels itself unable to give a firm opinion. There is 20% reduction in the charge for five or more certificates.

Items for certificates should be sent to R. H. Keach.

A CURIOUS "SMALL CIRCLE" DATE STAMP

Small circle cancellations with one element, usually the month, inverted are common enough and examples have been seen with day, month and time all inverted.

Dr. G. R. Hoffmann has kindly sent for inspection a much more curious error, the date data set at 90° to its proper position. It is a strike from the Leopoldville 1.10 canceller with date 29 AOUT 9-10 1910 on a travelled post card and other examples may very well still exist.

In Bulletin No. 29 (April 1977) was included William Thrasher's careful drawing of an actual similar date stamp and it is clear that the opening for the day, month and time slugs was square so that the three elements could be inserted at 90° to their correct positions although the retaining thumb screw might have had difficulty in keeping all three elements in place.

Careless clerks in other post offices may have produced similar results and they are well worth looking for.

RHK

THE SECOND ISSUE 5 CENTIMES

According to the authoritative 'text books' and the catalogues, the 5 centimes Grossbarbe was issued 1 January 1891.



The cover shown above includes the stamp and the BANANA cancellation is dated 15 September 1889, more than 15 months earlier.

The immediate reaction is that the cover has been faked. I have carefully studied the cancellation, comparing it with others that are undoubtedly genuine, and I am completely convinced that it is a genuine BANANA l.l. Postal clerks sometimes made errors in the dates in their date stamps but the year 1889 is confirmed by the arrival mark at Freetown, Sierra Leone.

One has to conclude that the date of issue of the stamp, 1 January 1891, is quite wrong. Other information on the use of the stamp before 1891, especially on covers and post cards, will be greatly appreciated.

My thanks to Mr. Spurgeon for the opportunity to inspect this cover.

RHK

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

LEOPOLDVILLE. Alt 1006 ft (Mount Leopold 1115 ft). Capital of Belgian Congo. Seat of Government General of the Colony, of the Govt of the Province and of the Urban District. There are four principal quarters:- Leopoldville West; Kalina; Kinshasa; and Ndolo. On 1 Jan 55 the population was Eur 16355 and native 282,000. Immigration Office; telephone; telegraph; R/T; radio beacon; broadcasting station. Customs office; aerodrome; prison; native labour exchange. Hospitals. Seat of Appeal Court and Court of Military Appeal. Schools; Consulates; Museums; Stadia; Papers; Banks; Travel Agencies. Taxis, launches; Missions, etc. There is also a school for helmsmen, engineers and electricians for river boats, and a police school.

This is how Jean Labrique, a journalist of the Information Service, describes Leopoldville:-

"Metropolis of a vast developing country, city covering an area almost equivalent to that of the built up area of Brussels, seat of an administration covering territory as large as two thirds of the European continent, Leopoldville is growing every day.

"Originating in Dec 1881 as the result of an explorer-journalist meeting a handful of natives, the capital of the Belgian Congo had an estimated population of 180,000 by the end of 1950. By the end of 1952, there were 258,000 inhabitants.

"Situated at the extreme end of the navigable section of the river, which flows on both sides of the Equator, over a distance of more than 2480 miles, including a navigable section of 807 miles, Leopoldville proudly displays on its crest a crowned "L" equitant a river, with the device "Opes advectat amnis". In fact it is the river which provides it with its riches, and at the same time with a great measure of its charm.

"While Stanley could say that without a railway from Leopoldville to Matadi the Belgian Congo was not worth a penny, one can imagine that without that line, Leopoldville would only be a village. It may also be said that the sirens of the steamers, and the strident whistles of the locomotives which increase in numbers each year, have punctuated the economic stages of the Colony, and marked the development of the capital.

"From the black to the white, from the ultra modern bottle factory to the primitive native pottery, from the finest dish brought from Belgium by air to the maniac bread sold in the streets of the city, from a recital by Yehudi Menuhin to the tom-tom throb in the moonlight, from the large vessel driven by crude oil engines to the dug-out struggling through the swirling waters, from the new administrative buildings to the surrounding maize fields, Leopoldville shows all the stages of its evolution. Near the port equipped with giant cranes, and opposite a nine storey building, there is still the end of the old caravan trail, the present terminus of which is marked by a street lamp, the poetical, twisted and picturesque remnant of a heroic period.

"When the offices and factories close, thousands of cyclists ride along the tarred avenues of the native city, reminding one of Copenhagen, while alongside, large American cars, used as taxis, convey elegant Congolese adorned in colourful cottons, returning from a stroll in town.

"Small oil lamps standing on the ground between the crude and colourful displays of the evening market, twinkle within a hundred yards of the electric standards from which neon lights illuminate the principal avenue of the native quarter, and gradually the mango trees of the last century are giving way to the invasion of concrete. Civilised and savage, Nordic and tropical, Leopoldville is the spectacular intersection of two civilisations which after avoiding each other, tend to integrate more and more; a piano virtuoso, a favourite of the best halls in Europe, gives a recital to the native elite, while a Belge-Congolese cultural group cordially unites writers, artists and journalists of the two peoples, and a black painter exhibits his works in the largest banqueting halls of the capital."

LEVERVILLE. Situated at the confluence of the Kwilu and Kwenge. Seat of the management of one of the five agricultural and industrial sectors of the Huilleries du Congo Belge. There are hospitals, schools and a mechanical high school training factory mechanics. A visit to the factory can be arranged and presents a certain technical interest for those concerned with the processing of palnuts and the extraction of palm oil. Garage and petro. Missions. Lazarette.

LIBENGE. Is on the left bank of the Ubangi. Terr. Hq. Township. R/T station and beacon. Rest house, and hospital. Airfield and customs office. Terminus for a regular service by Otrace on the Ubangi River. Ginnery of the Cetence. Bank, missions, trade school. From Libenge, the opposite river bank of French Equatorial Africa more than 1.2 miles away is not visible. A large island about ten miles long obscures the view.

LIGASA. A protestant mission near Isangi.

LIKASI. Is one of the six districts forming Jadotville, and is the administrative, industrial, commercial and residential area.

LIKATI. Administrative post on the river of the same name. Govt rest house. Trading and industrial centre. Oil mill. Station on the Aketi-Bende railway. Catholic missions of the Premonstratensian Fathers and Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary. School and dispensary. There is a bridge across the Likati River.

LIMETE. The full name appears to be LIMETE NJILI, in the territory of Kasungulu, near Leopoldville. It has a hotel called Auberge de la Njili.

"TAXES" STAMPS ON COVER





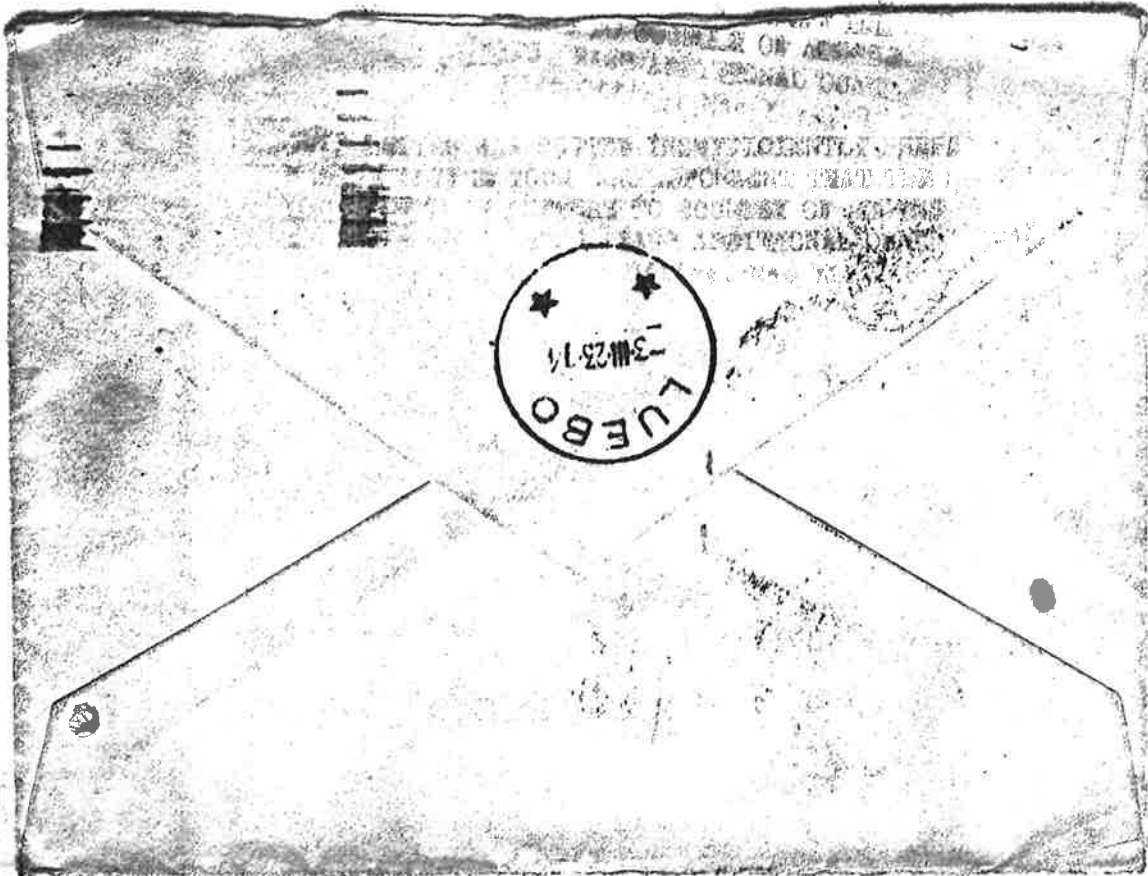
0.60.



Rev + Mrs. R. F. Cleveland



Lube
Congo Belge
Africa



"TAXES" STAMPS ON COVER (cont'd)

Our member, Mr. Edwin M. Lavitt, has supplied us with the photocopies of a recently acquired cover seen on the previous page. He writes that with all of the arguments with respect to the "TAXES" overprints, a truly postally used cover is a welcome addition to the collection.

The best Mr. Lavitt could decipher on the reverse side from the faded undoubtedly originally illegible strike is as follows:

" -- LETTER WAS POSTED INSUFFICIENTLE (SIC) PREPAID
-- ADVISE YOUR CORRESPONDENT THAT THE
-- --- -- LETTERS * TO COUNTRY OF ADDRESS*
----- ADDITIONAL -----

-- -- INDICATES AN ILLEGIBLE WORD

* INDICATES THE APPARENT WORD UNDER THE MAG GLASS

(Editor's Note: A special thanks for sharing the prints with the membership.)

A STAMP THAT NEVER WAS

LAST MINUTE REPRIEVE FOR DE LA RUE



Illustrated above are frame, centre and combined die proofs of a 1 franc stamp intended for issue in 1959. The central design is of Bukavu Cathedral.

The story of the stamp is given in the following letter from a De La Rue engraver:

"Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of 22nd, October 1969 concerning the Belgian Congo stamp dies.

I cannot furnish you with the exact date the dies were made but it was between late 1958 and early 1959.

The colours of the printed stamps were orange and blue; orange for the vignette and dark blue for the border.

I personally engraved the church, tree and sky. The lettering was

engraved by an engraver who had just completed his National Service.

The spelling mistake (the "C" had been left out of the word "BELGISCH") caused quite a stir, as you can imagine, because the dies had been approved and duly printed in anticipation of confirmation of the order. It was a mystery how the mistake was not detected by my colleague, myself, trained "Readers", printers etc.

However, the embarrassing situation was saved when the Belgian Congo, after confirming the order, cancelled it, the reason being the crisis in their country at that time. The Company received the cancellation almost the same day as the mistake was discovered. The stamps never left the factory, they were destroyed and the Belgian Congo paid compensation for the cancellation of a confirmed order.

Myself being a senior apprentice at the time, I asked if I could have the dies as a keepsake. As they were of no further use to the Company I was permitted to have them.

Since I started engraving in 1954 I have engraved the portraits and vignettes on banknotes and stamps for 65 countries. During those fifteen years of engraving I cannot personally record any other mistakes being made on dies."

RHK

BOOK REVIEW

Several members of the Belgian Congo Study Circle have received acknowledgment for their contributions to E. and M. Deneumostier of Belgium for their new book ETAT IND. DU CONGO - LES PREMIERES VALEURS POSTALES. This extremely attractive, well illustrated book of 113 pages, is devoted to an in depth study of the first issues of the Congo. The text is in French as are other authoritative writings on Congo and should not be difficult for any serious student.

The Editor's copy was furnished by one of our newer members, Mr. A. DeLisle, who is a philatelic literature specialist. Copies may be obtained through him at P. O. Box 2333, Sun City, AZ 85351 for American members at \$16.00 per copy. Others may wish to order from IMPRIM ' EXPRESS , rue des Martyrs, 30, 4800 VERVIERS. Their price may differ from the price quoted for American members.

"THIS OLD HOUSE" IN THE CONGO

The following pages concludes the showing of various types of dwellings in Africa, wherein Mols stamps have been applied. All are from the editor's collection.

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V2 + E
POSITION NO. 37

PLATES V2 + E
POSITION NO. 21



Boma ce 14 - ju. 26. 314

salutations
très distinguées


M. J. G. P.
171. Pierre avenue
à Garfield New-Jersey
U.S.A.

Ern. Thill, Bruxelles.
S.C. 5971

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V2 † E
POSITION NO. 42

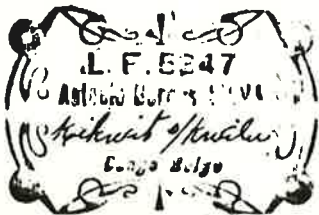




Ima F. H.
Penie e
Antonio Borges da Silva
L. E. 5347

Em. Thill, Bruxelles.

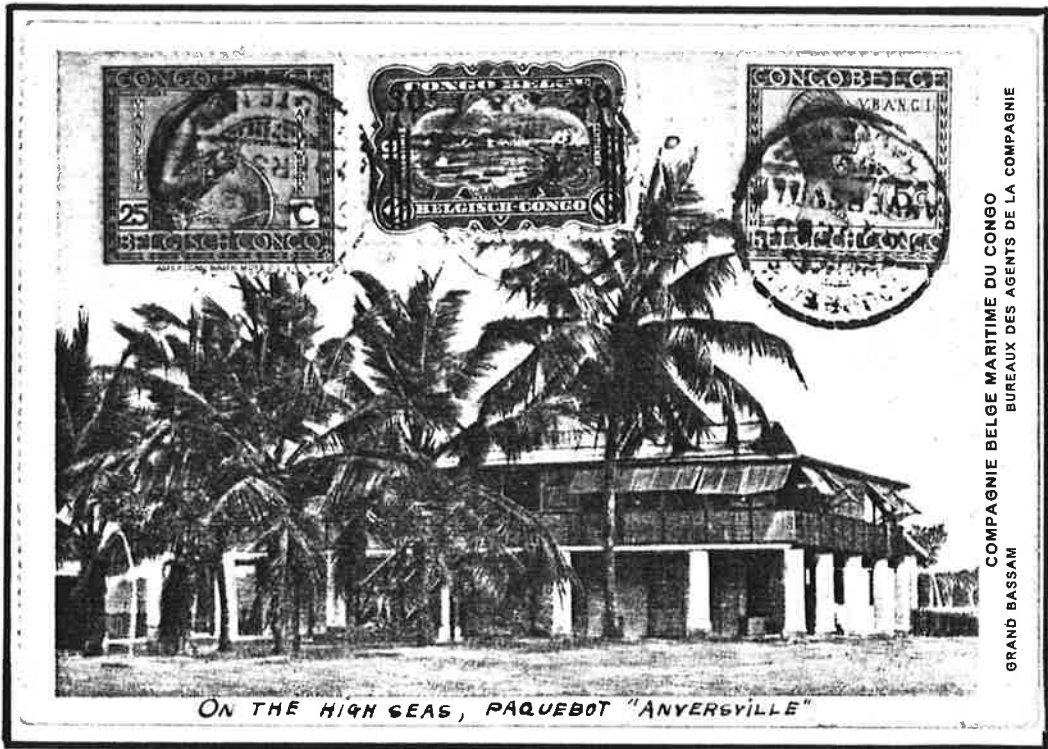
Monsieur
John Gall
175 Pierre Avenue
Garfield New Jersey
U.S.A.



 L. F. 5347
 Antwerp Belgium
 Antwerp Belgium
 Congo Belge

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES IV + D1
POSITION NO. 44
CARMINE SHADE



à bord de l'Anversville ce 29/12/26
 CARTE POSTALE POSTKAART *Double cote rec.*
 POST CARD

CORRESPONDANCE ADRESSE

Meilleures souvenirs
Quigley
S. 59712

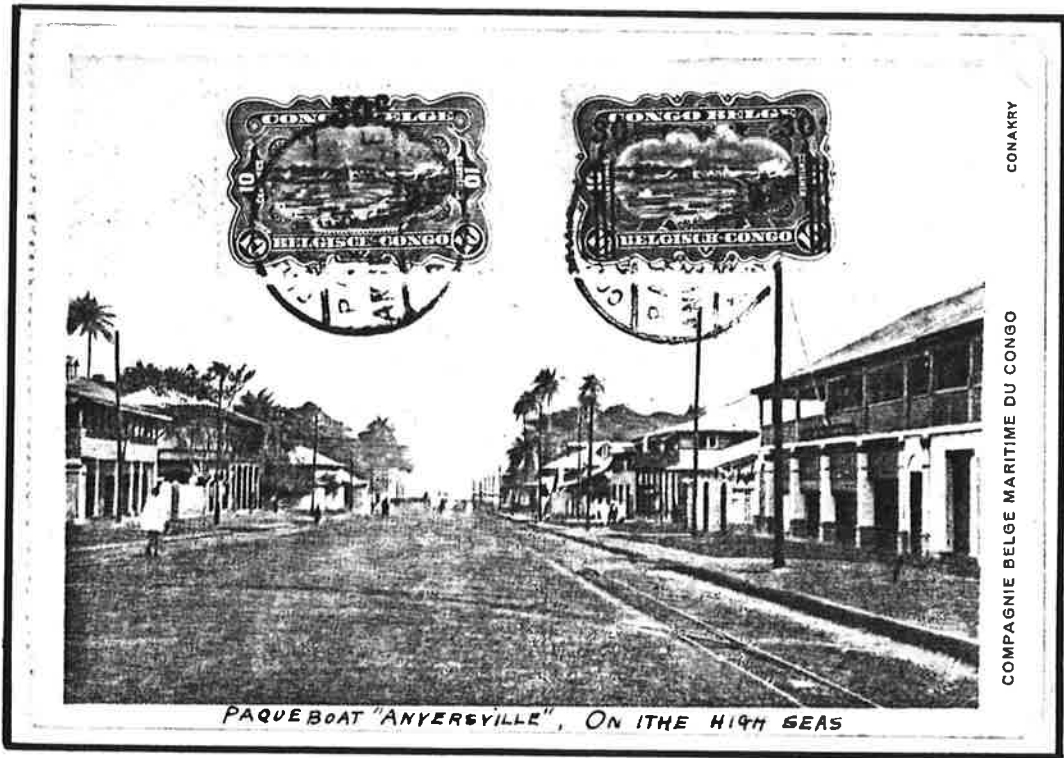
*Monsieur
 O. John Cabot
 145 Pierre avenue
 à Garfield (New Jersey)
 U. S. A.*

ÉDITIONS D'ART E. STOCKMANS & CO, ANVERS

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V2 + E
POSITION NO. 27

PLATES IV + D1
POSITION NO. 49
CARMINE SHADE



à bord - 8' Anyreville. ce 24.7.26.

4/5

CARTE POSTALE POSTKAART *Timbre coté vers*

POST CARD

CORRESPONDANCE ADRESSE

Voyage merveilleux

Dringis

85. 5971 4.

Foussier

Louis Galt

45. Pisse avenue.

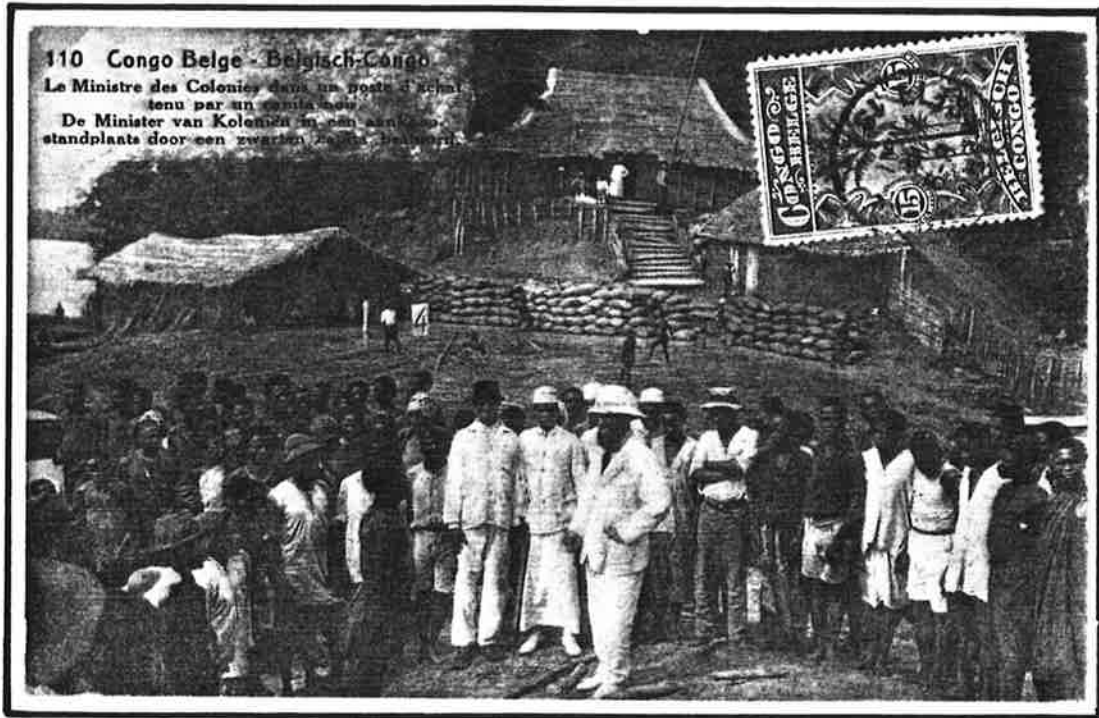
Garfield (New Jersey)

U. S. A.

ÉDITIONS D'ART E. STOCKHANS & CO. ANVERS

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V + C2
POSITION NO. 9



Congo Belge - Belgisch Congo
Carte Postale - Postkaart

Correspondance. -- Briefwisseling

Adresse. -- Adres.

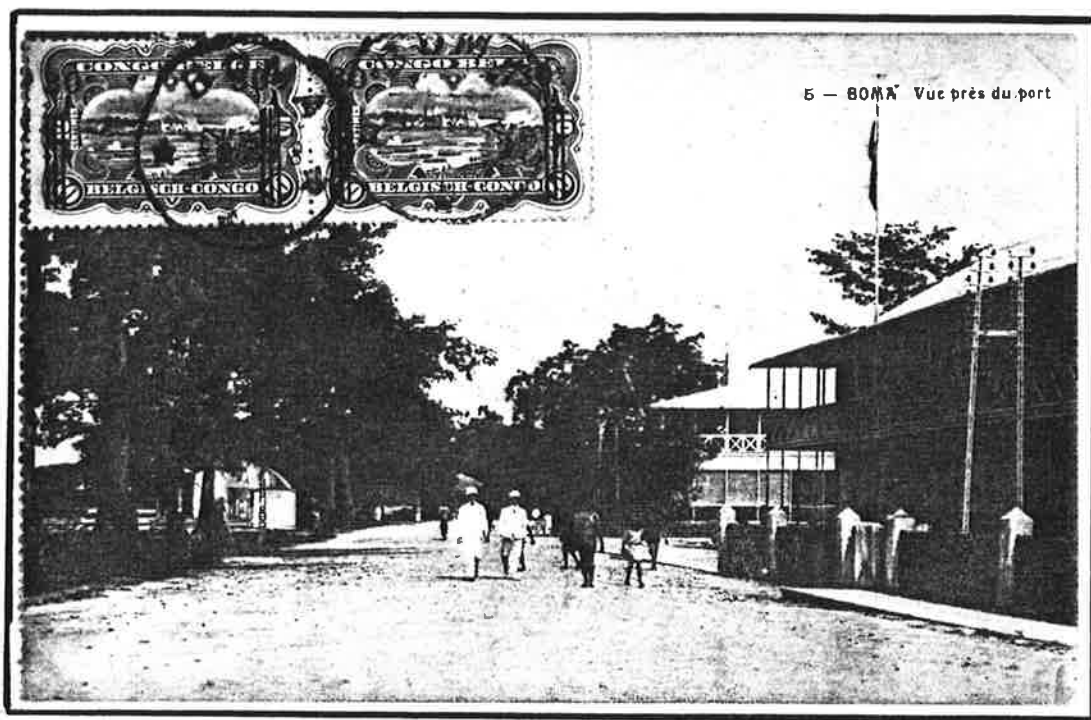


A-I-L-E
1486.

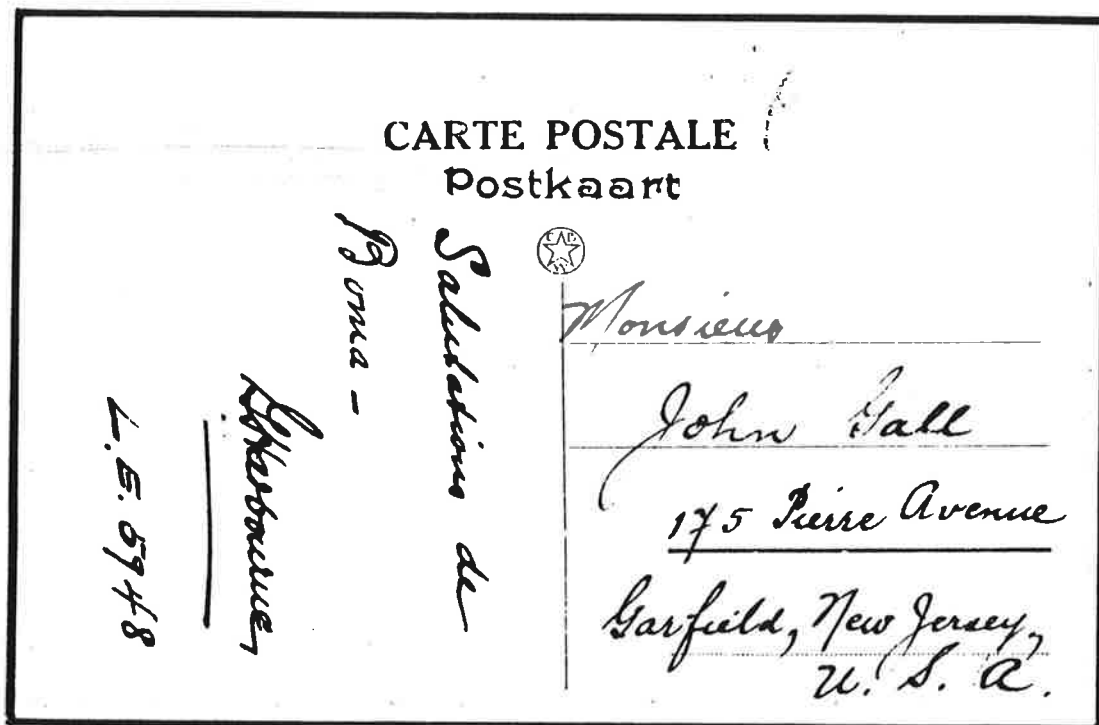
Mr John Gall
175 Penn ave
Garfield New Jersey
U-S-A. H24

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES IV + D1
POSITION NOS. 2 AND 3
CARMINE LAKE SHADE



5 - BOMA Vue près du port



CARTE POSTALE
Postkaart



Monsieur

John Gall
175 Peire Avenue
Garfield, New Jersey,
U. S. A.

Salutations de
Boma -

A. Herbaeus

L. E. 5948

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V + C2
POSITION NO. 34

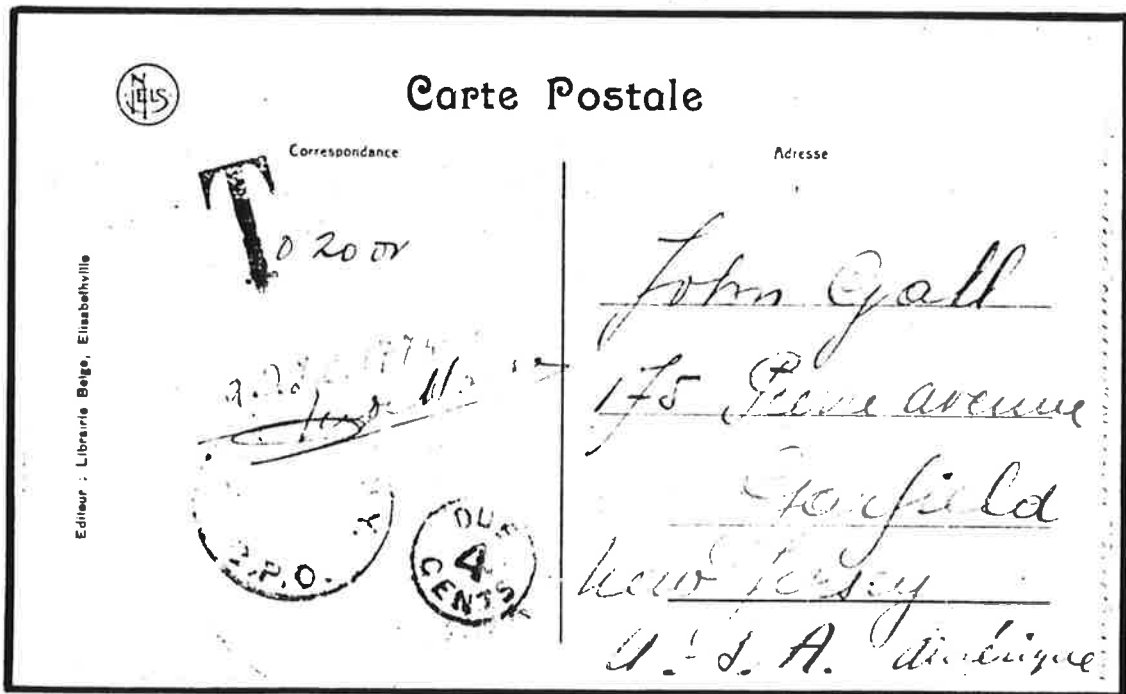
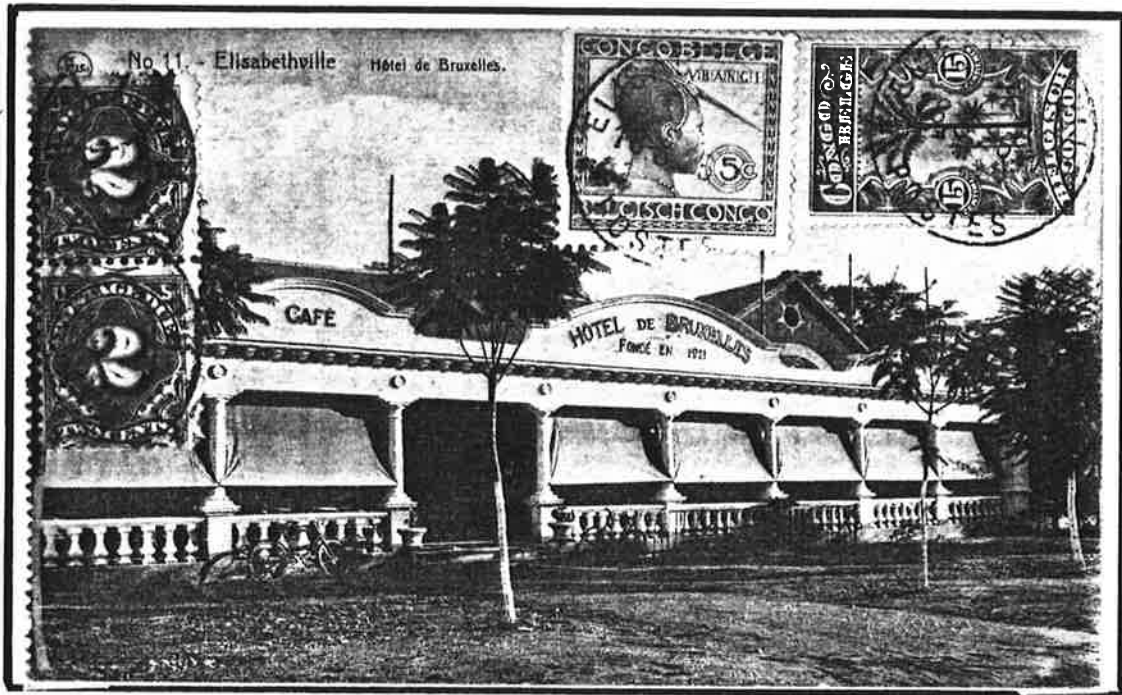


JHK - x: 2
 Kinshasa
 1915
 15 BELGIC CONGO
 60 CONGO LEON C BELGIC CONGO
 ADRESSE
 Send me please
 2 or 3 post cards
 showing American
 children. I would
 be very content.
 2 card Thanks
 A.H.M.

John G. Gall
 195. Pierre Avenue
 Garfield
 New Jersey
 U. S. A.

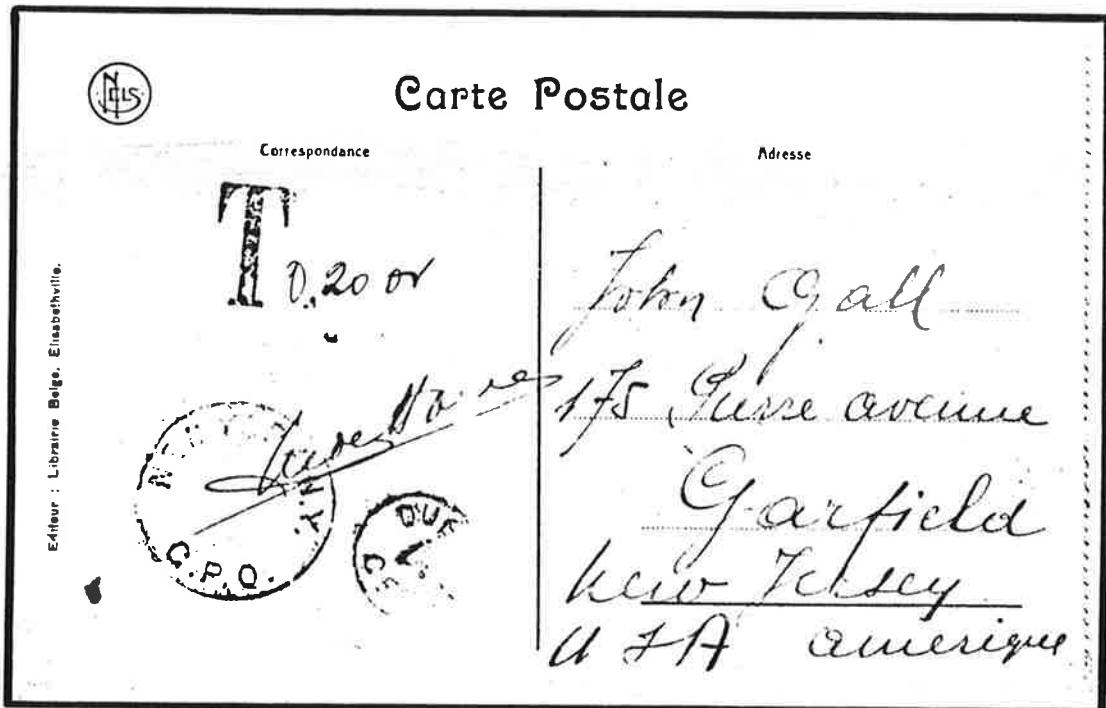
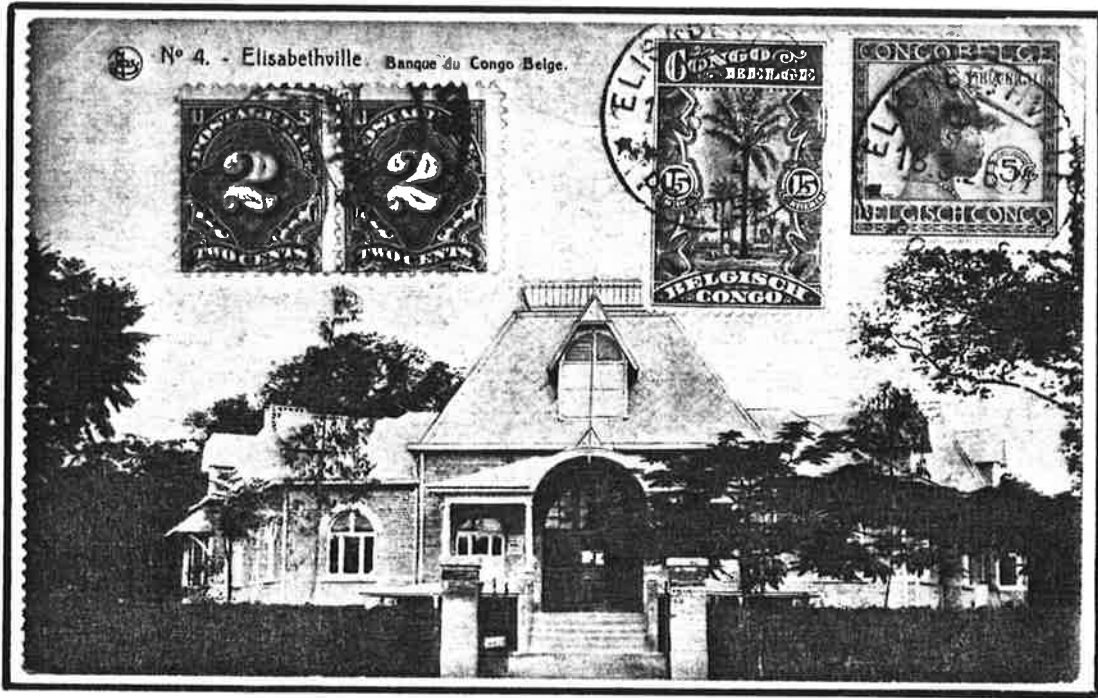
POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V + C2
POSITION NO. 38



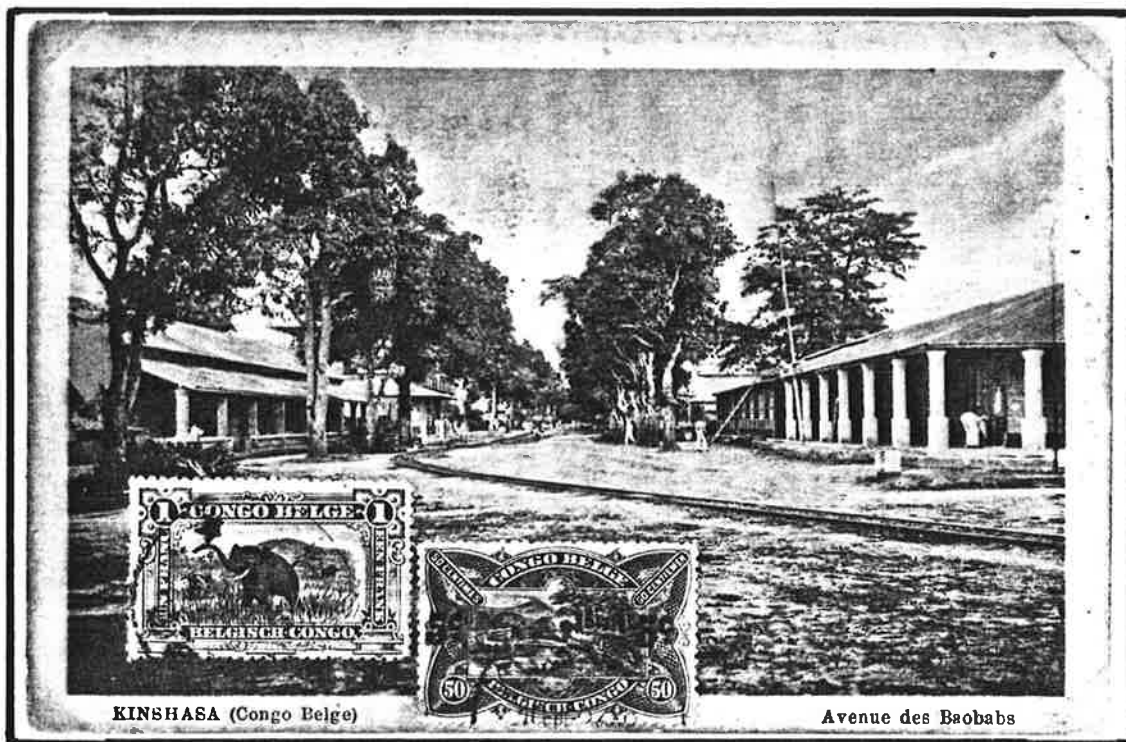
POSTAL USAGE

PLATES V + C2
POSITION NO. 48



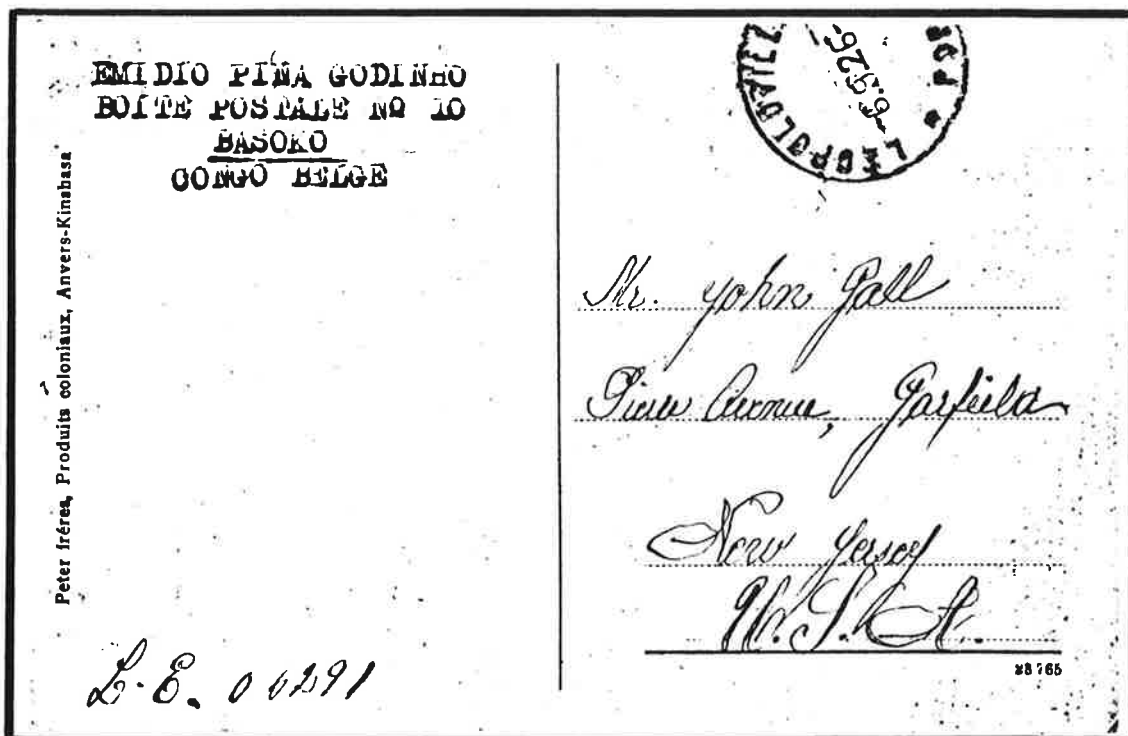
POSTAL USAGE

PLATES 116 + A6 PLATES 1113 + B
POSITION NO. 40 POSITION NO. 7
MATTE SURCHARGE



KINSHASA (Congo Belge)

Avenue des Baobabs



EMIDIO PINA GODINHO
BOITE POSTALE NO 10
BASOKO
CONGO BELGE

Peter freres, Produits coloniaux, Anvers-Kinshasa

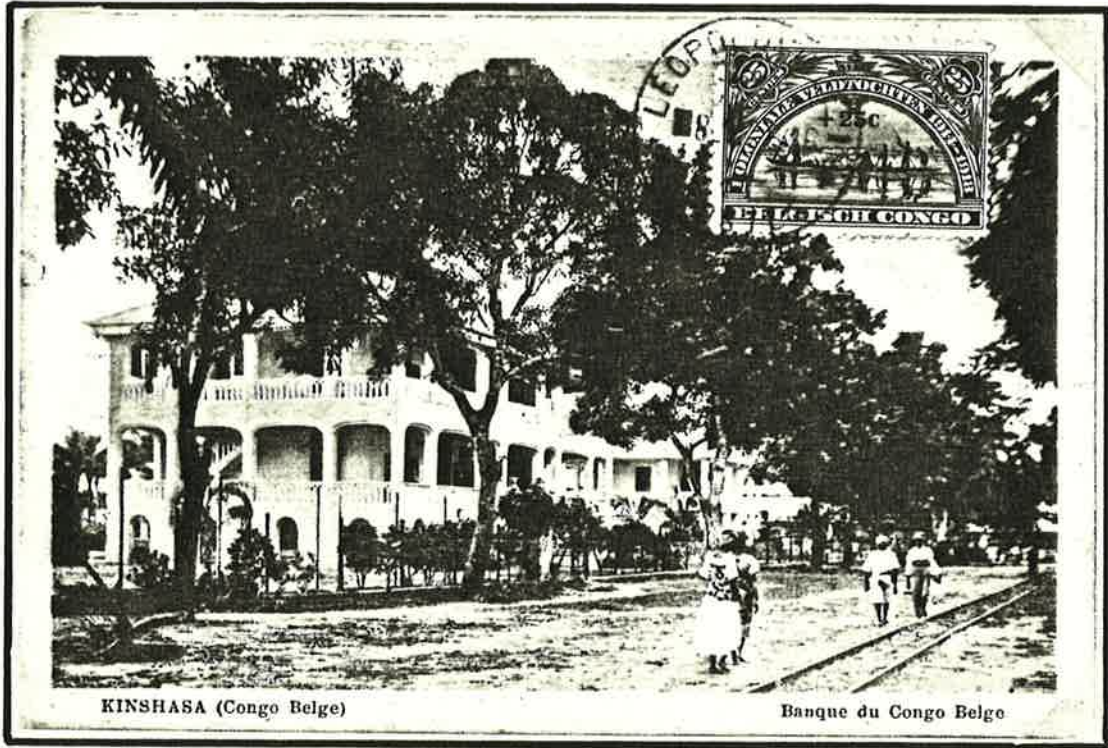
Mr. John Gall
Five Avenue, Garfield
New Jersey
U.S.A.

L.E. 04291

28765

POSTAL USAGE

PLATES III + B
POSITION NO. 6



KINSHASA (Congo Belge)

Banque du Congo Belge

Affranchie.

Mr. J. Gull
 175. Pierre Avenue
 Fairfield
 New-Jersey
 U. S. A.

Reine
 Georgette A. B. X
 Ad. C. J. S. A. Cités
 Caissier de la S. A. Cités
 Leopoldville
 Congo Belge
 LE 5969

Kinshasa est le nom
 indigène de Léopoldville
 Peter Iréna, Produits Coloniaux, Kinshasa

88760