

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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CONTENTS

PAGES

News and Views	2 - 3
Belgian Congo Censorship During World War 2	4 - 9
This Old House in the Congo	10 - 11
The Vice-Presidential Column	12 - 19
Belgian Congo Study Circle Auction Sales	19 - 20
Letter from the Secretary	
Postal Auction Sale - 1988(1) Lot 1 through 433	

NEWS AND VIEWS

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the BCSC:

D. J. M. Kerr, Earlston, Scotland, U. K.

A NEW STUDY CIRCLE

Mr. Jozef Duruyck has written to our Secretary informing us that a new study circle has been formed and that some of our members might be interested in joining this group. This Circle will be specializing in the Poortman-Issues of Belgium. A copy of their first Bulletin has been furnished to our Study Circle.

The price for the subscription is BF 450 (FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY BELGIAN FRANCS - mail included) and must be done on the account number 551-3431100-85 of STUDEFKRING VAN DE POORTMANZEGEL or send 7,50 Pounds Sterling to Jozef Deruyck, Secretary-Treasurer, 1680 Lennik, Zwartebroekstraat, nr 37, Belgium.

The initial meeting was held June 27, 1987 at Gent.

BOURNEMOUTH MEETING GROUP PHOTO

Your editor has received a color print of the BCSC members and the Belgian Study Circle recently held at Bournemouth. The photographer was Mara Lavitt, daughter of Edwin M. Lavitt of Rockville, Conn., U.S.A. Copies were furnished to all who attended this meeting. And since your editor is growing old and with a short memory, our Secretary was kind enough to furnish a key to identify those in the picture. We certainly wish to thank the Lavitt's for their kindness.

31 OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting on 31 October, which was attended by 5 members (unfortunately due to the Secretary's having been on holiday and being thus late in distributing the notices) opened with the reading of a telegram from our President, Mr. A. Vindevoghel, regretting that he could not be present on this occasion and wishing us a successful meeting. Those present indeed had a successful meeting, with a broad-based display of the many facets of Belgian Congo postal history from the earliest days up to 1960 on a selection of sheets from Mr. C. V. Spurgeon's extremely comprehensive collection. Our thanks are due to Mr. Spurgeon, both for his display and for his hospitality on a most enjoyable occasion.

EXHIBITION RESULTS

We are pleased to announce that in September, our secretary, Peter Foden took a small silver-gilt for his Mols issues 1894-1909 at STAMPEX, the U. K. National. In addition he was awarded the Ebby Gerish Trophy for the best entry consisting of mainly 20th century

foreign (i.e. not British or Commonwealth) stamps. With this award, Peter is now qualified to enter international competition.

Your editor took a Silver Award at MIDAPHIL '87 showing his "BLOCKS OF FOUR AND MORE - CONGO (1894 - 1925)". This is probably the first time any Congo material has been shown in Kansas City, Mo., and it was a disappointment that so few attended the many fine exhibits shown. Most of the activity was at the bourse, and from your editor's observation, the goods offered was not first class.

While not in the area of the Congo, we are pleased to announce that our member, Ralph A. Yorio, took a Gold award with his "Belgium, Leopold I" and in addition received the APS Research Medal and the Florida Stamp Dealers' Association Award. Congratulations certainly go to Mr. Yorio!

HISTORICAL MAPS OF THE CONGO

Our member in Denmark, Mr. E. H. Olsen, has found copies of a couple of historical maps of the Congo. Both are in Danish, one from 1890, is a map of the Emin Pasha relief expedition (about 27 x 15 inches) and the other is a map of the Congo about 1902-03 (about 18 inches square, scale 1:5,000,000). The copies are both very clear. Members wishing copies should write direct to Mr. Olsen, Kronhjortlokken 88, 5210 Odense NV, Denmark, enclosing payment with order, as follows:

1890 map - Europe	60	Danish	Kroner
- Other	70	"	"
1902 map - Europe	44	"	"
- Other	54	"	"

prices include postage in stout cardboard tubes.

18 JANUARY 1988 DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

We have previously mentioned the BCSC Competition in Bulletin Nos. 62 and 65 giving the rules and outlining our objectives in this exercise in exhibiting. It is hopeful that some of our members who have never experienced the joy of displaying a part of their collection will participate. From this we hope to see a lot more Congo collections on display in local, regional or national competitions. Of course, the ultimate is to see some of our members participate on the international level, but then one has to walk before one can run. So dig out your last Bulletin, look for the 'pink' rules, prepare your best 12 pages and get the application blank off to The Competition Secretary- Norman Clowes, 20 Ogwen Drive, Lakeside, Cardiff CF2 6LL Great Britain.

Remember, it takes three copies for the benefit of the judges - and let us hope their job will not be easy. Good luck to all who enter!

BELGIAN CONGO CENSORSHIP DURING WORLD WAR 2 P. S. Foden

It is well worth remembering that Mr. Heim's definitive article on this subject appeared a dozen years ago and, apart from the subsequent discovery of two additional resealing tapes/labels, the information it contained stands largely unamended.

The next stage must therefore be to attempt to ascertain the dates of use of the various marks and any additional information which can be discerned from research into a large number of covers. For instance, were certain censors operating in particular languages, or on mail addressed to particular destinations. In order to carry such research forward, I have designed a form upon which each censored cover may be recorded and would greatly appreciate the participation of other members so that the study can be based on the largest possible sample.

The blank form is shown on the next page; followed by a couple of examples of forms completed from covers in my own collection. Also shown is a page of illustrations of the known marks (Bab is not shown, as I can find no example to illustrate - it looks like Baa, but is only 52mm in length. Baa varies from 53.5 to about 55.5mm in length, but probably as a result of wear, inking, and the pressure applied). To finish, there is a page showing the main types of postmarks in use during the period. There are many variations and more detailed information on these will be welcomed on the forms if it is known.

The known censor stations were:-

Aba	Elisabethville	Lusambo
Albertville	Irumu	Matadi
Boma	Kindu	Stanleyville
Buta	Kindu-Port Empain	Tshikapa
Coquilhatville	Léopoldville	Usumbura
Costermansville	Libenge	Watsa

Once collected, the intention is to record all the information in a computer database, to provide for various types of sorting and the eventual results will be published for the benefit of all members. Copies of the blank form will be provided on request - just let me know how many you require:-

P.S.Foden, 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford, CAMBS CB2 4NT, U.K.

They take about 5 or 10 minutes each to complete, but no need to do them all at once, I am perfectly happy to receive them in batches, given the extra time I shall need to put them on the computer.

BELGIAN CONGO CENSORSHIP.

LABEL/MARK TYPE _____ CENSOR STATION _____

Date of Cover (YYMMDD) _____

Date of Mark (if known) (YYMMDD) _____

Destination _____

Language (if known) _____

Route _____

Mode of travel _____

Cover CDS _____

Censorship CDS _____

Colour of Censor Mark* _____

Colour of Censorship CDS* _____

Other Associated Censor Marks - Congo _____

_____ - Other Countries _____

Any initials or manuscript associated with censor label/mark _____

Other remarks _____

* Colours recognised are:- black
 blue-black/blackish-blue
 bright blue
 purple/violet
 red/carmine

Owner's initials _____ (preferably 3 letters).

Please return this form to: P. S. Foden, 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford,
 CAMBS CB2 4NT, U. K.

BELGIAN CONGO CENSORSHIP.

LABEL/MARK TYPE Aa CENSOR STATION LEOPOLDVILLE.Date of Cover (YYMMDD) 45 01 17Date of Mark (if known) (YYMMDD) 45 01 19Destination U.K.Language (if known) ENGLISHRoute BOACMode of travel AIRCover CDS THYSVILLE 8A3-Censorship CDS LEOPOLDVILLE 8A2-Colour of Censor Mark* BLACKColour of Censorship CDS* BLACKOther Associated Censor Marks - Congo Ex. No. 21 (LEO.)- Other Countries UK PC90 Ex. No. 54Any initials or manuscript associated with censor label/mark -Other remarks -

* Colours recognised are:-
 black
 blue-black/blackish-blue
 bright blue
 purple/violet
 red/carmine

Owner's initials PSF (preferably 3 letters).**313**

Please return this form to: P. S. Foden, 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford,
 CAMBS CB2 4NT, U. K.

BELGIAN CONGO CENSORSHIP.

LABEL/MARK TYPE Baa CENSOR STATION LEOPOLDVILLE.

Date of Cover (YYMMDD) 44 12 07

Date of Mark (if known) (YYMMDD) -

Destination BELGIUM

Language (if known) FRENCH

Route VIA LAGOS

Mode of travel AIR

Cover CDS LEOPOLDVILLE - KALINA 8A1-

Censorship CDS -

Colour of Censor Mark* BLACK

Colour of Censorship CDS* -

Other Associated Censor Marks - Congo -

"PASSED/P.126" (RED) - Other Countries UK OCTAGONAL H/S

Any initials or manuscript associated with censor label/mark -

Other remarks POSTCARD

* Colours recognised are:-
 black
 blue-black/blackish-blue
 bright blue
 purple/violet
 red/carmine

Owner's initials PSF (preferably 3 letters).
579

Please return this form to: P. S. Foden, 5 Ascham Lane, Whittlesford,
 CAMBS CB2 4NT, U. K.

A. TAPES / LABELS.

66/8

CENSURE

CENSURE

CENSURE

TYPE
Aa.

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

CENSURE

CENSURE

Censure
Congo Belge

CONGO BELGE

CONGO BELGE

TYPE Ad.

TYPE Ab.

RE CONGO BELGE CENSURE CONGO BELGE

RE CONGO BELGE CENSURE CONGO BELGE

fold line

TYPE Ac.

B. HANDSTAMPS.

CENSURE CONGO BELGE

Types Baa and Bab

CENSURE CONGO-BELGE

TYPE Bb

Censure Congo Belge

TYPE C

CENSURE CONGO BELGE.

TYPE Bc

« CENSURE CONGO BELGE »

TYPE Bd

30

EXAMINER NO.

PASSE CENSURE ALBERTVILLE

TYPE Da

« PASSE CENSURE ELISABETHVILLE »

TYPE Db

Passé Censure ALBERTVILLE

TYPE Ea

Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE

TYPE Eba

CENSURE

15

CONGO BELGE

TYPE J

+ EXAMINER NO.

CENSURE DU CONGO BELGE BUREAU DE BUTA

TYPE H

Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE

TYPE Ebb

Passé par censure

Passé Censure Irumu

TYPE Fa.

à ABA (Congo Belge)

TYPE G

Passé Censure Irumu N° 1-

TYPE Fb

WORLD WAR II PERIOD - COMMONER TYPES OF CANCELLATION
(HEIM/KEACH NOMENCLATURE)



7A. "POSTES" + STARS.

7B. No STARS.



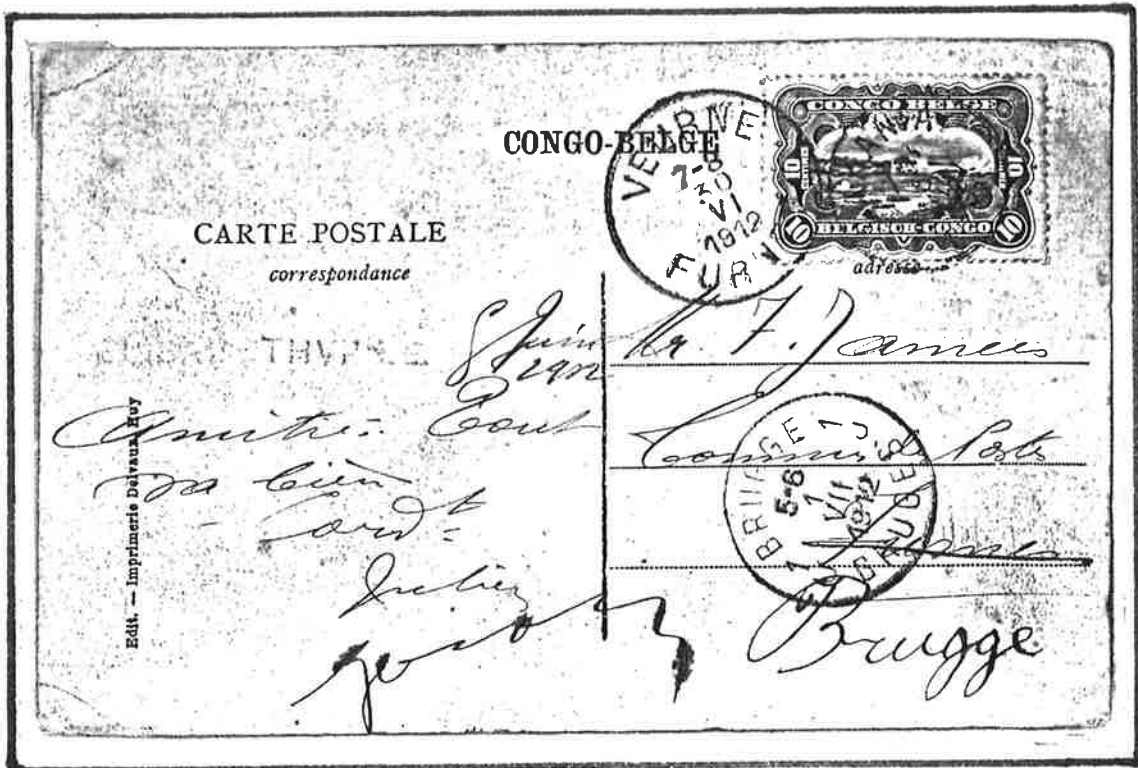
8A. "POSTHORN" VARIOUS.



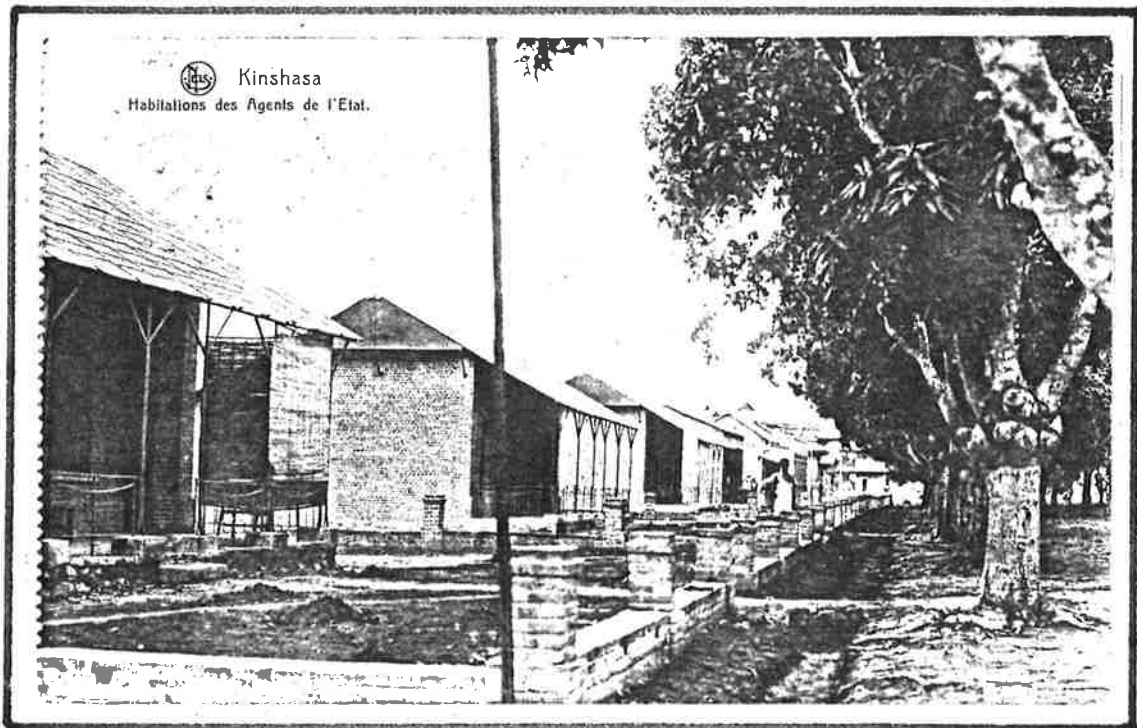
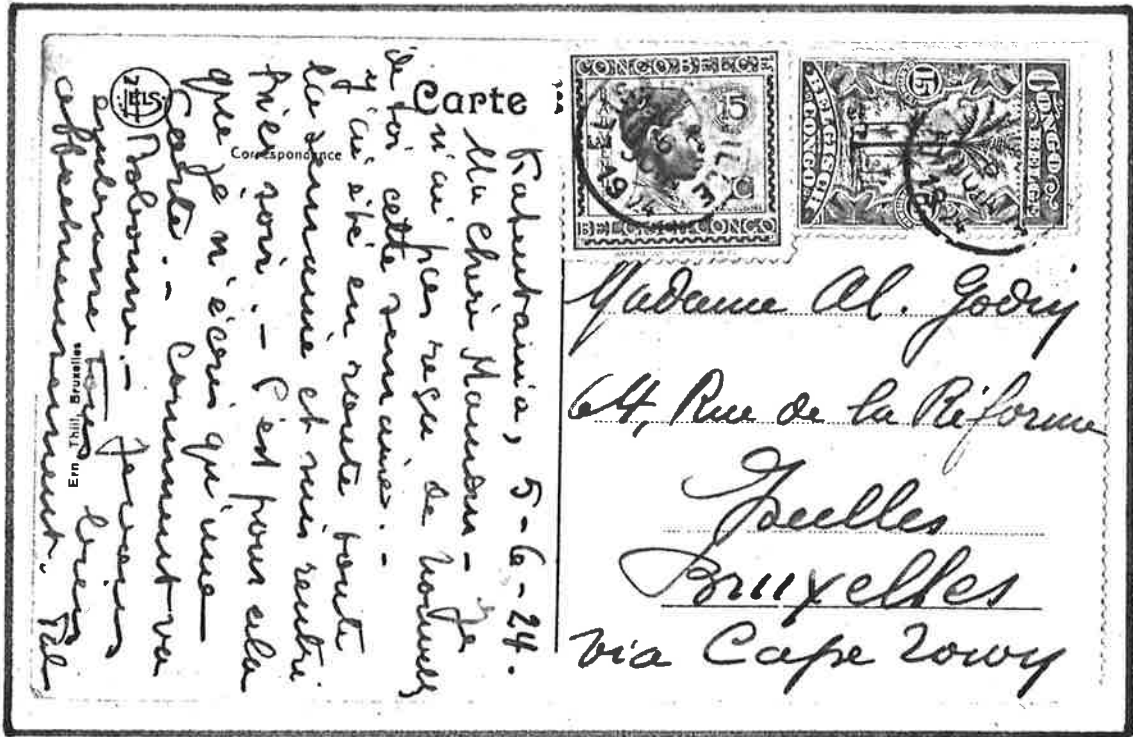
8B. "POSTHORN"
LONG & EQUAL ENDED.



8C. "POSTHORN"
LARGE HORIZONTAL ELLIPSE.



FROM THE COLLECTION OF RON STRAWSER



FROM THE COLLECTION OF RON STRAWSER

THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL COLUMNTHE 1947 10 CENTIMES 'MASQUES'

There have, in the past, been reports of the 10c Masques printed in brown instead of the normal orange and it has been suggested that it is an error and worthy of catalogue status.

Mr. Sanchez/Arino wrote to me some time ago saying that he had a copy of this error - he enclosed an admirable coloured photograph - which he had been given by a friend in Leopoldville, an entirely honest man who was not a collector of Congo, and who had himself removed the stamp from a newspaper wrapper when he noticed that the colour was unusual. The stamp is unusually well authenticated back to when it was delivered on a package in the post.

A few other copies are said to be known, all used in Leopoldville with dates covering two or three days.

Having always taken a particular interest in the Masques issue I was delighted when Mr. Sanchez-Arino visited me a year ago that he brought the stamp itself for my inspection. The stamp is what I would call orange-brown, very different from the usual bright orange, and the cancellation is certainly authentic.

Out of interest we put the stamp, together with several normal stamps, under the ultra-violet lamp and the result was startling: whereas the paper of the normal stamp appears a drab colour that of the brown stamp appears a bright white, almost fluorescent.

What does this mean? The brown stamp could be some sort of proof printed on entirely different paper but I think not. Chemical treatment of a stamp usually affects the paper; even soaking in a dilute solution of Chloramine-T to remove or weaken a stain bleaches the paper and such treatment of a stamp is immediately apparent to an expert because of the effect on the paper.

I believe the 10c brown to be a normal orange stamp chemically treated, either intentionally or accidentally.

But how can one reconcile this belief with this particular copy of the stamp that has had such an honourable history? One can only conjecture. Many years ago General Du Four gave me a number of stamps that came from a mail bag salvaged from the Ville de Bruges after it sank in the river in 1908. The changes in the colours of the stamps were very substantial and they are very clearly 'colour changelings' although not intentionally so. Maybe the 10c orange Masques, before use, had a similar immersion in the river or in even more polluted water and maybe the finder of them endeavoured to improve their appearance by soaking in a chemical solution. Drying and application of a little domestic gum would render the stamps fit for use although somewhat 'off-colour'.

THE N'ZOBÉ 'SMALL CIRCLE' CANCELLATION

Hal Hoyte has kindly sent me for inspection a copy of this cancellation dated 21 MAI 1893 (the time is not quite clear) on the 5 F carmine issued 25 November 1894 and asks for an explanation.

In looking through my own examples of the cancellation I find that I have both 10c blue and 50c green with the date 21 MAI 7-M 189?; the last figure of the year has the upper part missing and I have previously presumed it to be an 8 although the bottom curve of the figure ends abruptly at the left as would 3 or 5. I am sure that all three cancellations are 21 MAI 7-M 1893 and the fact that all three are the same makes one suspicious.

I have examples of the cancellation for 1889, '90, '92, '93 and '96, 1889 and 1896 being on post cards that have travelled. Two dated 1896, including the card, and one almost certainly 1898 have the bottom left corner of the Z damaged.

What are the possibilities? As I see them 1) the cancellation is a forgery although it agrees with the genuine in shapes of letters and figures and in angular and linear dimensions 2) the cancellation was applied posthumously, probably after 1899 when the canceller was obsolete, but in that case you would expect the Z to be damaged which it is not and 3) the 93 year slug was used in 1895 because a 95 date slug was not available or, maybe, during both 1894 and 1895.

The problem can be solved, if it can be, only with the help of others. Please look at your N'ZOBÉ cancellations and write to me if 1) you have any that could be dated 21 MAI 7-M 1893 2) you have any clearly dated 1894 or 1895 and 3) you have any dated 1897 or later which do not have the damaged Z. In all cases please identify the stamp, cover or post card.

MY LOST ALBUM

The Editor kindly included in a previous Bulletin some details of an album that I had lost, presumably stolen.

It is with considerable embarrassment that I confess that the album was not stolen, simply hidden amongst the albums of cancellations. My search in that area was not as diligent as it should have been.

There is no fool like an old fool!

My apologies for having wasted valuable space in the Bulletin.

THE VIVI CANCELLATION

The one and only small circle VIVI cancellation is, as we all know, a rare item.

I understand that two or three genuine covers or post cards with the

66/14

cancellation exist but, unfortunately, they, or photographs of them, are not available to the members of the Study Circle's Expert Committee and we are therefore unable to authenticate examples of the cancellation.

I am prompted to write on this subject because one of our members recently submitted to me three examples of the cancellation for my opinion of them although it was understood that I would not be able to authenticate them.

One of the cancellations, dated 31 MARS 8-S 1886, is identical with same date and time as one of mine and an obvious forgery. The date and time are set askew relative to the VIVI and 1886 (the fixed parts of the canceller) and we know from having inspected two of the early small circle cancellers (described and illustrated in a Bulletin, some years ago) that the date cannot be askew in this type of canceller. The date can be inverted, even vertical (one of our members has such a cancellation) but not askew.

While on this subject it may be as well to give a warning to anyone thinking of buying a cover or post card with VIVI cancellation because there are forgeries. I have a postal stationery card, Catalogue No. 1, with forged VIVI and with forged BANANA transit and BRUXELLES arrival marks. It, or its twin brother, formed part of an exhibit in a London International Exhibition (1950 if I remember rightly) and the entry received a high award. The copy that I have is surely not the only example of this forger's handiwork.

REGISTERED MAIL

Registered mail from the Congo originally bore the mark 'Recommande' in sloping letters inside a parallelogram. Later, there was introduced a different 'RECOMMANDE' in capital letters and without a frame. Later still, the marks were replaced by adhesive labels with the letter 'R' and the name of the post office applied with a handstamp.

The Abbe Gudenkauf is endeavouring to ascertain the dates of these changes although it is appreciated that, almost certainly, the date of change varied from post office to post office.

Will all members please study their pre-.9.2 covers and let the Abbe or me (I offer this alternative to save the Abbe the trouble of acknowledging, I hope, dozens of letters!) have details of their covers before or after the following target dates. Most of the dates are of my own covers and will easily be beaten.

'Recommande' in parallelogram - after 19 April 1911 (Banana)

RECOMMANDE without frame - before 1910 in and after 31 July 1911 (Lukafu)

Adhesive label - before 20 April 1914 (Kabinda)

66/15

There is also a question with 'Acknowledgement of Receipt' (Accuse de Reception) for registered packages. As demonstrated in a Bulletin, a year or so ago, the original procedure was to use a form which travelled with the letter, or form bearing a stamp of value that of the cost of this service. This practice was later replaced by the addition on the cover of stamps to the value of the Acknowledgement of Receipt fee and the application to the envelope of the mark 'AR'.

Early 'AR' covers are rarely seen and information on any prior to, say, 1920 is requested.

CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY FOR STAMPS, CANCELLATIONS ETC

Members will have read in the report of the Annual General Meeting of the discussion on the work of the Expert Committee. Judging by the number of items submitted in past years the service was of value and served a very useful purpose to members. The greatly reduced number of submissions resulting from the last invitation for 'patients' led the committee to wonder if the service has now served its purpose and should be abandoned. Judging by the number of items submitted 'unofficially' to at least two members of the Expert Committee this is doubtful.

At the AGM it was decided to give the Expert Committee another year to justify its existence. If insufficient subjects are received the service will be abandoned.

In spite of the necessary recent increase in prices, our certificates are still very cheap compared with those from well known authorities and I have seen 'good' certificates of Congo stamps from such authorities which are incorrect, the stamps being quite obvious forgeries.

Subjects for certificates are requested to reach me not later than 31 October 1987 (Editor's Note: This article arrived too late for inclusion in the September Bulletin) and they should be sent to me, R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, U. K.

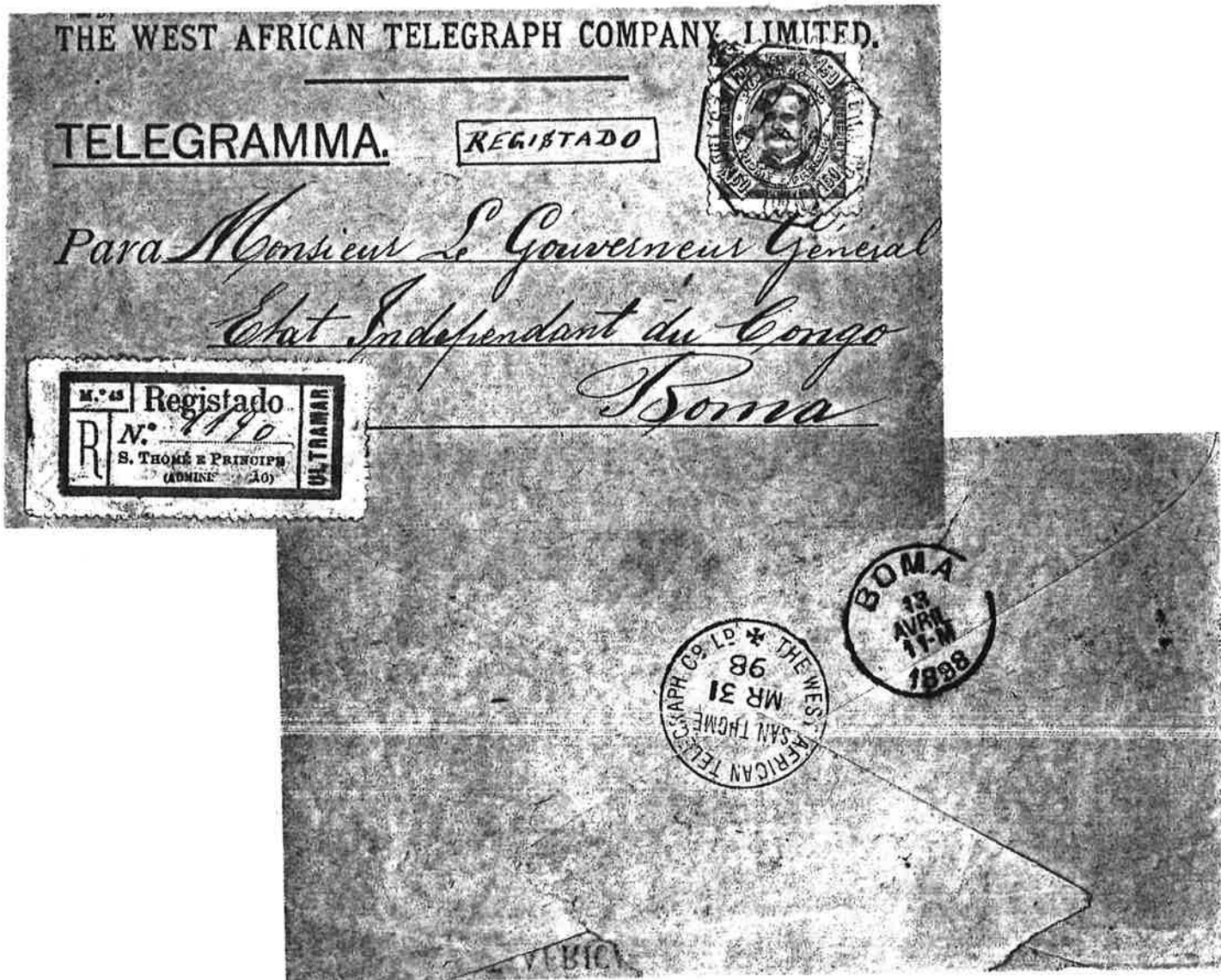
Members have in the past expressed regret that a certificate for a single stamp cannot be provided quickly and when required. Due to the high cost of photography and of registered postage between members of the Expert Committee this is not possible at anything like our present costs of certificates. 'Unofficial' opinions on stamps will always be given immediately and at the cost of the return postage and, where requested, a letter for submission to the vendor of the stamp will be provided. This is part of the BCSC service to members but it is always hoped that such items, if advised as genuine, will later be submitted for formal certificates.

If a member, resident in the United Kingdom, had the facilities to produce good life-size photographs of stamps it might then be possible to provide certificates on a one-off basis.

EARLY TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES

According to General Du Four's book the first telegraph office in the Congo was opened at Gongolo on 9 September 1897 followed, on 1 May 1899, by offices at BOMA, LEOPOLDVILLE and TUMBA. Was there previously no means of telegraphic communication between Europe and the Congo?

The Abbe Gudenkauf has acquired a cover which demonstrates how messages could relatively speedily be got from Europe to the Congo and front and back of the cover are shown below. In 1898 and probably earlier there was telegraphic communication between Europe and SAN THOME, an island in the Gulf of Guinea. The message was transmitted from Europe - probably London - to San Thome whence it was dispatched by registered post to the Congo, in this instance, Boma. This particular telegramme took a fortnight from San Thome to Boma, and I would think this time abnormally long, doubtless awaiting the mailboat, compared with the three week sea voyage from Lisbon to Banana.



AN ERROR ON THE 1912 PICTURE CARDS?

A letter from Mr. Vannerum comments on the legend on card No. 64 'Waterfall on the River Pozo near Stanleyville'. The River Pozo is near Matadi and Mr. Vannerum cannot find another of the same name near to Stanleyville. If the view was taken near to Stanleyville should the river be the Tshopo?

POSTAL STATIONERY STIBBE No. 26

I am amused to acquire a copy of this postal card with the following printed on the back:

Federation des Philatelistes Belges

 XIXe ASSEMBLEE GENERALE
 TENUE A GAND, LE 4 JUILLET 1909

 Menu du Banquet

 Potage Oxtail

 Darne de Saumon au beurre fondu

 Filet du Boeuf roti jardiniere

 Turbans de Ris de Veau financiere

 Poulardes a la Reine

 Canetons braises, Compote d'Abricots

 Cascade de Homards Norwegienne

(cont'd)

Glace en surprise

Corbeille de fruits

Dessert

I trust that they had been studying the stamps before the meal and did not intend to do so afterwards. Our forefathers of nearly eighty years ago were certainly good trenchermen.

THE MOLS 15c CENTRE PLATE A2

We very well know that the centre plate of the 1896 15c stamp was repaired by re-entry during the course of the several successive printings and that this re-entry resulted in doubling parts of the design on many of the fifty subjects, Balasse variety V3 being the best known example of such doubling. The resulting repaired centre plate, plate A in its second state or A2, was used not only for late printings of the 1896 stamp - and subsequently most copies of the value with the local CONGO BELGE overprint and all copies with the typographed overprint - but also for the 1909 Unilingual stamp before the plate was again repaired prior to its use for the 1910 15c.

Centre plate A2 is not only characterized by the re-entries that resulted from the repairs but also by many scratches on the plate that, as far as we presently know, appeared immediately before the printing in the second state. Balasse variety V2 is the most obvious scratch but there were many others, generally lighter, and including horizontal scratches that appear on the stamps in the top panels of the frames in positions 2, 3 and 4 in the sheet.

Not only did the re-entry result in doubling of parts of the design but also in a prominent rolling mark; when re-entering positions 2 and 12 a piece of metal, or other hard substance, must have adhered to the transfer roll (roller die) so that it produced indentations in the plate that, collecting ink, show as black spots on the printed stamps. These black spots are seen above and at the left end of the roof of the native hut on Nos. 2 and 12.

I have before me a copy of the 15c with Local 1 CB handstamp which has horizontal scratches in the top panel that clearly identify it as No. 2 in the sheet but it does not have the rolling mark above the roof of the hut. What can be the explanation?

One possibility is that the scratches on the plate in positions 2, 3 and 4 occurred late in the life of the plate in its first state, A1, and that the stamp in question was printed while the plate was in that state and before re-entry. That appears not to be the case be-

cause the last stamps printed from A1 were from a badly corroded centre plate and with the frames in orange-yellow, not the typical light yellow of the stamps printed from A2. In the corroded state stamp No. 2 had a group of corrosion dots normally between A and second T of ETAT and these dots are missing from the stamp before me.

An alternative possibility which I am loath to accept because it further complicates the already very complicated life history of the 15c centre plate A is that what we presently call the second state A2 resulted from two successive re-entries of the plate with stamps printed between the two sets of repairs.

This note is somewhat esoteric and of little interest to most of our members but it records an observation which may be of value to any member, present or future, who may be studying the 15c centre plate.

1921 25c SURCHARGE ON 1910 15c

I have previously written about the forged surcharge, copies of stamps with which now appear plentiful in Belgium. Hitherto such stamps seen have all been unused and with the surcharge in a characteristic deep carmine ink, quite different from that used for the genuine surcharge.

I have now met a copy of a used 1910 15c with the forged surcharge in a shade apparently the same as the genuine and the forgery can easily be missed. With the surcharge in this shade it is a danerous forgery.

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE AUCTION SALES

A member's large collection will be offered, over an extended period, through a series of Study Circle postal auction sales. These will be normal not 'Dutch' auctions, with the winning bid one step above the next highest bid.

The collection will be broken down into the smallest reasonable lots, mostly single stamps or multiples, single sets and single covers and post cards so that buyers will not need to acquire unwanted material.

Steps will be: up to £ 1 - 5p; £ 1 to £ 5 - 10p; £ 5 - £ 20 - 50p; £ 20 to £ 50 - £ 1; over £ 50 - £ 5.

BCSC indicates with BCSC certificate of authenticity, RPSL with Royal Philatelic Society certificate. All lots, unless indicated otherwise, are guaranteed authentic and money will be refunded if shown to be otherwise. All lots are sold subject to the satisfaction of the buyer and may be returned if, in any way, not in accordance with the description.

Valuations are given and these are thought to be realistic although some are doubtless too high and others too low. The right to withdraw lots for which only bids less than 80% of valuation are received is reserved.

Geoffrey Wood, who will not be bidding, has kindly agreed to accept bids and adjudicate. Where there are equal bids he will draw lots for the winner.

For covers, where certain, cancellations are identified according to the Heim-Keach listing and dates are specified. Leo = Leopoldville; Stan = Stanleyville; E'ville = Elisabethville; Coq = Coquilhatville; Cost = Costermansville. Covers that are obviously 'philatelic', often with incorrect postal rates, are so indicated.

Symbols used will be: M = mint, usually hinged; U = Used; NG = unused without gum; CO = Catalogue Officiel No. ST = Stibbe (postal stationery Catalogue No. (copies of the catalogue are available from P. S. Foden at £ 6 plus postage); Bal = Balasse Catalogue No. p.c. = post card; P.M. = printed matter; reg = registered; CTO = cancelled-to-order with genuine cancellation; X 2 indicates pair, X 3 strip of three, X 4 block of four and so on; 'foxed' = stained.

For Mols stamps, where appropriate, plate combinations will be in accordance with the latest information recorded in the Bulletin, not necessarily as the obsolete combinations given in General Du Four's book.

Bids should be sent to: A. G. Wood, 5 Sutherland Grove, Southfields, London SW18 5PS.

In any one sale buyers may state the maximum total they wish to spend on lots in that particular sale.

Further information on any lot will be available from R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE. Photo-copies will be provided at cost (this depending on the number of items to be copied at one time) plus postage.

Prices realised will be published with later auction lists or with copies of the Bulletin.

These 'rules' will apply to all sales and will not be repeated.