

BELGIAN CONGO

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STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN NO. 68

JUNE 1988

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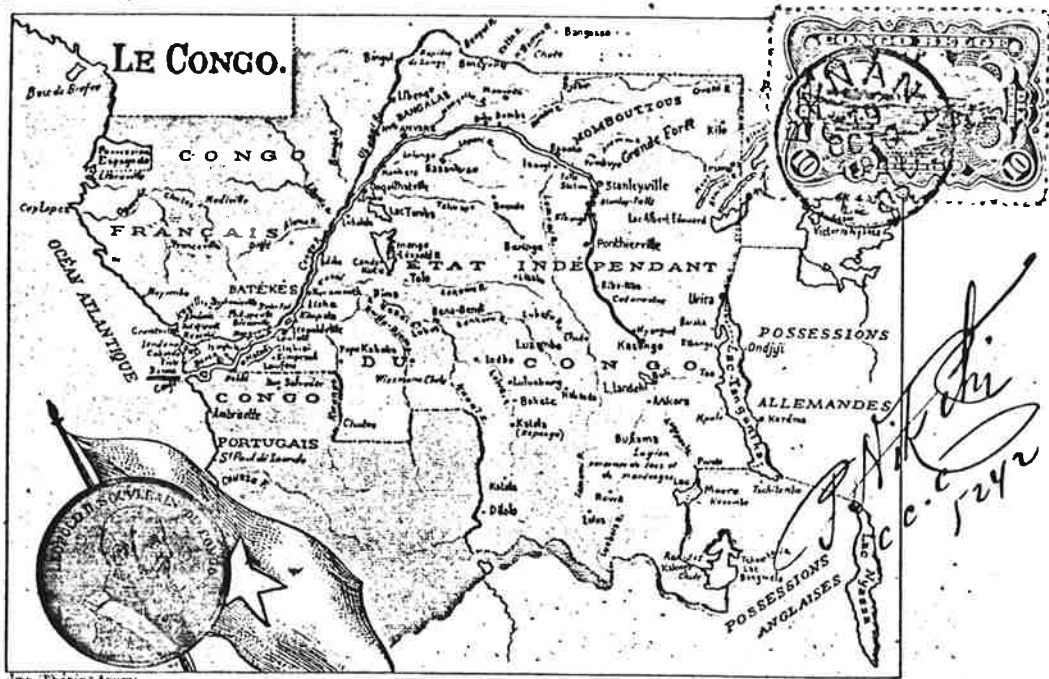
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CONTENTS

PAGES

News and Views	2 - 5
Intra - BCSC Annual Competition	6 - 9
Annual General Meeting - 7 May 1988	10 - 14
The Vice-Presidential Column	15 - 21
Postal Auction Sale - 1988 (2) - RUANDA URUNDI Lot 1 through 240	



NEWS AND VIEWSCORRECTIONS

Here are a couple of important corrections to the text of the March Bulletin: page 67/6 line 3 'with' should be 'without'. Page 67/6 paragraph 5, line 4 'e,50F' should be '3,50F'. Apologies for these errors.

NEW MEMBERS

J. D. Wallace, St. Agnes, Cornwall, U.K.

E. Norman Lurch, Stony Brook, New York is a long time collector of postal stationery and because of this interest he has limited to this field. Norman is a member of several philatelic organizations.

Patrick J. Dowling, Colorado Springs, Colorado. His interest in Congo philately extends to the stamps, postal history, postal stationery, varieties and proofs. Patrick is a member of several philatelic groups with interest in the Canal Zone, Portugal, Greece, France, Vatican and Ireland. His collecting covers 30 years.

SUBJECTS FOR TORQUAY WEEK-END

Joint Meeting - 1915 Waterlow File Copies; consideration of make up of sheets, etc.

BCSC Meetings - Postal Stationery
1909 Unilingual issue
Postage Dues
1921 Surcharges and overprints

Particularly for the last 2 subjects, all attendees are asked to bring anything they have. Other subjects may be added on request, but as bookings were done direct this year, the Secretary has no list of attendees and therefore no idea of what might be of interest.

INTRA - BCSC COMPETITION

With this issue is the completed report of Competition Secretary, Mr. Norman Clowes, including the results and a list of some ideas for future competitions. After reading these reports, all members should be absolutely delighted with the way the competition was conducted, including the number of those who submitted entries, the judges who made the awards and for the time spent in critiquing the exhibits, not to mention Mr. Clowes' work on making the final report.

THE PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS HANDBOOK

For those seriously interested in exhibiting - a new book has just been released - "The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook" written by Randy L. Neil. This 221 page book covers all aspects of exhibiting including laying the groundwork, subject matter, planning, tools, page layout and design, the write-up and the title page. Also included is information on thematic exhibits, postal history exhibits and youth exhibits. Problems of exhibiting at the international level are also explored. (Your editor was honored by having three pages from his collection included in the highly illustrated book.) A note to your editor will tell you how to obtain a copy and the cost.

FURTHER CORRIGENDUM

The sketch on page 67/19 to assist members in positioning or authenticating the 10c/lfr Boma surcharge should have been attributed to Mr. Frenay; Mr. Vindevoghel's association with it was merely to forward it for inclusion in the Bulletin. We apologise to Mr. Frenay for our mistake.

REMINDER

Would those members who intend purchasing either or both of the historic maps advertised in Bulletin 66, page 3, and who have not already done so, please contact Mr. Olsen as soon as possible.

WALKING TOURS

As reported in the April 1988 issue of The Philatelic Exhibitor, it seems that our member Regis Hoffman, while acting as the Exhibition Chairman for the Pittsburgh Philatelic Society, gathered a small group at PITTPEX to start an impromptu tour of the exhibits. What followed was heckling, criticizing and making both derogatory and complimentary comments. As more people joined the group, comments became more and more earnest. It became a walking seminar on exhibiting that was actually informative and helpful. The tour was conducted the following day and had to be done twice because of the numbers who joined the group. (Editor's comment: This sounds like fun and should be part of the program for most stamp shows. It is another example to getting people educated and entertained at the same time.)

INTERNAL PRINTED MATTER

Our Secretary has submitted the items on the following two pages that were sent as internal printed matter to the Italian Consulate at Kinshasa. The timetable is an attempt to show the overall route and timing using the railway and air and steamer connections to best advantage. Air mail material from 1927 is not too common, but for those having it, this may explain routes and transit markings.

As for the cinema advertisement, it is hardly postal history but is being shown as a commentary for the times.

Société Anonyme Belge d'Exploitation de la Navigation Aérienne

S. A. B. E. N. A. 1^{er} Trimestre 1927

Siège Social :

13, rue de Bréderode, Bruxelles

Service rapide Anvers-Elisabethville de courrier, passagers et marchandises
Services combinés C. B. M. C., Sabena et Chemin de Fer du Katanga

	s/s Elisabethville	s/s Thyville	s/s Anversville	s/s Elisabethville	s/s Thyville
O. B. M. O.	Jeudi 6 janvier Vend. 7 janvier Mardi 11 jan. Jeudi 13 jan. 11 " 13 " 13 " 11 " 13 " 13 " 11 " 13 " 13 "	Lundi 24 janvier Mardi 25 janvier Sam. 29 jan. Lundi 31 jan. 29 " 31 " 31 " 29 " 31 " 31 "	Vend. 11 février Samedi 12 février Mer. 16 fév. Vend. 18 fév. 16 " 18 " 18 " 16 " 18 " 18 "	Jeudi 3 mars Vendredi 4 mars Mardi 8 mars Jeudi 10 mars 8 " 10 " 10 " 8 " 10 " 10 "	Lun. 21 mars Mar. 22 " 22 mars Sam. 26 mars Lun. 28 mars 26 " 28 " 28 " 26 " 28 " 28 "
S. A. B. E. N. A.	Dimanche 16 janvier " 16 " 16 " " 16 " 16 " Mardi 18 janvier " 18 " 18 "	Mercredi 2 février " 2 " 2 " " 2 " 2 " " 2 " 2 " Jeudi 3 février Vendredi 4 "	Dimanche 20 février " 20 " 20 " " 20 " 20 " " 20 " 20 " Mardi 22 février " 22 " 22 "	Diman. 13 mars " 13 " 13 " " 13 " 13 " " 13 " 13 " Mardi 15 mars " 15 " 15 "	Mercredi 30 mars " 30 " 30 " " 30 " 30 " " 30 " 30 " Jeudi 31/mars Vendredi 1 avril
O. F. M.	Mardi 12 janvier " 12 " 12 " Jeudi 13 janvier " 13 " 13 " " 13 " 13 " " 13 " 13 "	Dimanche 15 jan. Sam. 15 jan. 14 " 15 " 15 " 14 " 15 " 15 " 14 " 15 " 15 "	Vend. 18 fév. Sam. 19 fév. " 18 " 19 " " 18 " 19 " " 18 " 19 "	Vend. 11 mars Sam. 12 mars " 11 " 12 " " 11 " 12 " " 11 " 12 "	Mar. 29 mars Mer. 30 mars " 29 " 30 " " 29 " 30 " " 29 " 30 "

Retour Elisabethville-Anvers

O. F. M.	Elisabethville, départ N'Gilé, (Katanga) arrivé	Dimanche 30 janvier Lundi 31 "	Mercredi 16 février " 16 " 16 "	Mercredi 9 mars " 9 " 9 "	Dimanche 27 mars Lundi 28 "
S. A. B. E. N. A.	Kamina départ Kanda-Kanda Luebo départ Mobo Bandundu Léopoldville arrivé	Lundi 31 janvier " 31 " 31 " " 31 " 31 " " 31 " 31 " Mardi 1 fév. Merc. 2 février " 1 " 2 " 2 " " 1 " 2 " 2 " " 1 " 2 " 2 "	Jeudi 17 février " 17 " 17 " " 17 " 17 " " 17 " 17 " Vend. 18 fév. Sam. 19 fév. " 18 " 19 " " 18 " 19 " " 18 " 19 "	Jeudi 10 mars " 10 " 10 " " 10 " 10 " " 10 " 10 " Vend. 11 mars Sam. 12 mars " 11 " 12 " " 11 " 12 " " 11 " 12 "	Lundi 28 mars " 28 " 28 " " 28 " 28 " " 28 " 28 " Mar. 29 mars Mer. 30 mars " 29 " 30 " " 29 " 30 " " 29 " 30 "
O. B. M. O.	Léopoldville départ Boma, arrivée Boma, départ	Samedi 5 février " 5 " 5 " Diman. 6 février	Mercredi 23 février " 23 " 23 " Jeudi 24 février	Mardi 15 mars " 15 " 15 " Mercredi 16 mars	Samedi 2 avril " 2 " 2 " Diman. 3 avril

Pour tous renseignements s'adresser :

En Europe :

- à la Sabena à Bruxelles : 16, rue Thérésienne, téléph : 195.74 et 262.96.
- à la Compagnie Foncière du Katanga : 47, rue Royale, téléph : 235.11

En Afrique :

- à Léopoldville : à l'aérodrome de N'Dolo, téléph. 64.
- à Boma : à l'aérodrome de Lokondu-Boma
- à la Compagnie du Congo-Belge à Boma
- à Elisabethville : à la Compagnie Foncière du Katanga et à la Sabena Elisabethville-Karavia et aux divers sièges de la Sabena à Bandundu, E. O.

CINÉ

CINÉ

CINÉ

Aux Kinois,

C'est dimanche 26 juin, à 20 h. 45, au "Central" qu'aura lieu une séance cinématographique gracieusement offerte par Victor Dorignaux au profit des Journées Coloniales.

Kinois, rendez-vous à cette séance et soutenez le beau geste de notre ami Victor.

Comme on le pensait à Kin, une fusion cinématographique s'imposait. Rappelons à nos bons Kinois que M. Robert Montu viendra donner ses représentations au "Central" et sans pouvoir affirmer c'est jeudi 30 courant qu'aurait lieu sa première séance au "Central".

AU PROGRAMME

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Faith <i>Capri</i> | Documentaire. |
| 2. Le Coffret de Jade | Comédie dramatique en 6 parties. |
| 3. La Fille bien gardée | Comique en 3 parties. |

Retraite

R. MONTU.

Report by the Competition Secretary

General Remarks

Comments on the possibility of an annual competition amongst BCSC members were first given prominence in Bulletin 62 dated December 1986. Given the geographical split of our membership, and the practical effects both of Post Office (in)efficiency and Customs bureaucracy, there was no question of a conventional assemblage of entries. However, following thoughts put together by Messrs Heim and Jacquemin, the idea of a competition consisting solely of photocopied sheets was discussed, both informally and at the 1987 AGM.

The writer agreed to draw up rules for the venture and full details were sent to members as a supplement to Bulletin 65. In early discussions it had been suggested that the March 1988 Bulletin should include detailed comment on, and results of, the competition but this was found to be impracticable. Indeed, there were both early and subsequent hitches which resulted in entrants being advised of the results rather later than the writer would have wished. Apologies are offered to the patient nine.

The entries arrived between Oct 13 and Jan 12, from the USA (3), GB (4) and Belgium (2). Within the general subject matter the favourite area was the Mols issues with no fewer than seven entries devoted thereto and another mainly. Although not all entrants had interpreted the rules in the same manner and the occasional arrival did cry out for a degree of editing (or even rejection) the writer decided to put forward the submissions in the form received. The overall standard was high and, having taken a lot of time and trouble, participants in this initial venture deserved the full attention of the judges, without the intrusion of red tape.

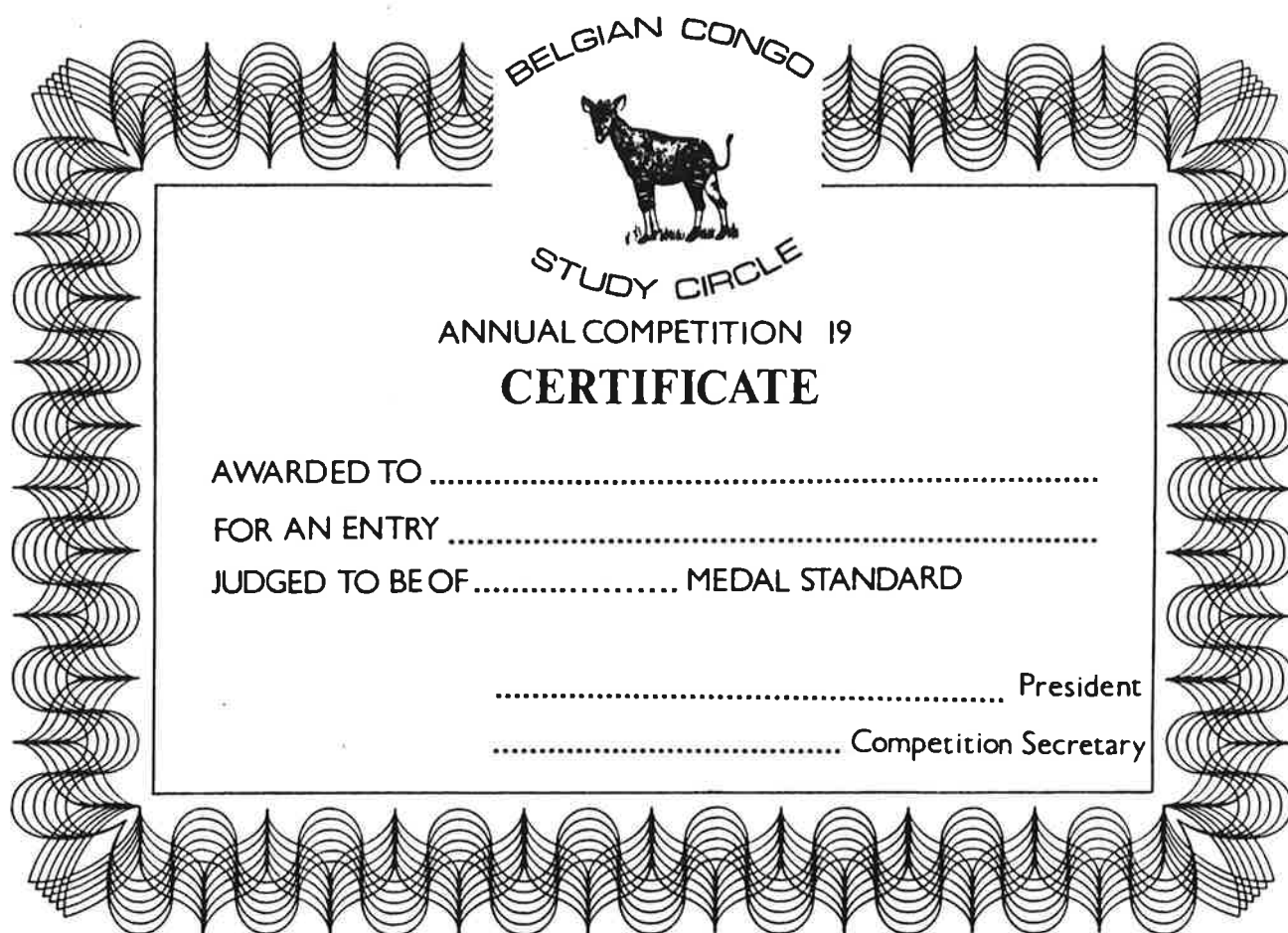
As the entries arrived it became clear that some of the rules needed clarification; also perhaps that the very use of photocopies might sometimes call for different writing up and mounting techniques. Quite a number of detailed points were down for discussion at the May 1988 AGM and they will be reported elsewhere in this Bulletin if possible - otherwise in September.

From due courtesy, each participant has been sent an advance copy of this report and a detailed critique of his entry. Certificates, as outlined in Rule 7, have also been sent out; they are in the format shown on the next page.

Judges' General Comments

The Circle is grateful to the three judges for the time they spent on the entries and for their helpful comments, both on the competition in general and on the individual submissions. The judges were Messrs Arthur Heim, Geoffrey Wood and Colin Fraser, the first two being very senior members of the Circle and the last a highly-regarded British professional philatelist. Given time and distance it was, of course, impossible for the judges to produce a conventional joint report and the writer has summarised the various comments made to him.

More than one judge, on considering the eligibility of an entry, felt that the term 'stamps' (in the context of Rule 2) could properly embrace proofs and essays; however, it could hardly include covers and postal stationery. Several entries had to be marked down for this reason.



(Certificate measures 9½" x 7½" i.e. 250 x 185mm and is on thin cream card)

One inherent weakness in the competition was the lack of opportunity for the judges jointly or individually to meet the entrants in order to discuss points arising. A parallel weakness might have been an individual judge's lack of that knowledge necessary to enable him fully to appreciate (or, alternatively, not be blinded by the science of) a specialist entry. In this first competition happily this latter possibility did not arise - however, entrants would normally be well advised to assume, when exhibiting outside the Circle, judges' lack of specialist Congo knowledge. The average mark was a high 71 and perhaps this reflected a higher than average awareness of what was being shown. All the entries came from good collections and most concentrated on a relatively narrow aspect: indeed, this was often logical enough, given the confines of twelve pages. Some otherwise excellent entries omitted to explain to the viewer just what was meant by the various details and numbers appearing in profusion in the writing up. A few lines of guidance are essential where intense specialisation is involved. On the other hand it is equally unwise to seek to cover too wide an area or too long a period.

Standards (including neatness and accuracy) reflected time spent on the preparation of the entry. Hardly ever, especially within the confines of a small entry, can existing album pages be put together to form a coherent whole, relevant to the title chosen, without some editing to set the scene. A couple of entries gave the game away by titles which did not accurately reflect the material displayed: furthermore, there were examples where the title chosen did not appear at all on the entry itself, not even on the first sheet. The country may be obvious but its name should appear somewhere.

In a way it was a pity that some entries could not reach their full potential as their layout made them more suited to a Circle or stamp club display than to a competition having rules both actual and implicit. One or two entrants were honest and left gaps on pages, reflecting elusive material still to be acquired: better to rearrange the setting in order not to broadcast the fact. Excessive writing up did occasionally mar a submission - remember that at a 'live' competition the judges will not have time to relax and read the lengthy background paragraphs, however interesting they may be.

From the last paragraphs the reader might naturally, but wrongly, infer that the judges set out merely to criticise adversely: far from it. At an international or national exhibition or competition the judges will be experienced and, normally, trained not to be unduly influenced by given aspects of an entry. However, both they and their less experienced colleagues handling regional displays are only human. An entry wins good initial appraisal by dint of careful thought and planning: such bonus points are all too easily thrown away if spelling mistakes, untidy mounting and inaccurate generalities fairly scream at the viewer. It is for this reason that the comments up to now have, in the main, been consciously unfavourable.

Nevertheless, a set of entries such as is summarised below must have far more pros than cons and, indeed, it was a pleasure to see evidence of such a generally high standard of philately. Logically twelve pages were very convenient for a number of entries concentrating on single values or aspects of Mols issues; a well-planned combination of single stamps, blocks, neat writing up and (on occasion) enlargement of part designs can score very well. Ironically, such excellent entries can actually lose marks for lack of 'importance' when taken out of a wider context - this is a drawback of the 12 page restriction. Typing is not essential as neat lettering (by hand or by use of stencils or easily applied rub-down transfers) can be just as effective.

A number of submissions concentrated on other self-contained groups such as the Etat Independant or the various Congo Belge overprints. The judges were appreciative of the selective use of proofs and, in this context, members are reminded that the addition of 'something different' to an entry need not necessarily cost a great deal. For example the black printings of the 1915 set are not relatively expensive. Quite a number of entries showed evidence that the owners had read widely and had done, or were aware of, appropriate research; this is always a good mark-gaining section. In the marking criteria the word 'research' should not put off the would-be entrant as that magic word does not necessarily mean original work; it reflects appreciation of an entrant's ability to look beyond (in our sphere) the Catalogue Officiel into other published works and, particularly, our own Bulletins.

Summary of Entries

All entrants have agreed that they may be mentioned; they are listed alphabetically.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title of entry (condensed)</u>	<u>Medal standard</u>
M.E. Adams	Katanga Art issues	(near miss)
P.S. Foden	Mols - Congo Free State	vermeil
J.M. Frenay	Etat Independant	silver-bronze
E.A. Hirdler	Congo Belge local overprints	silver-bronze
G.R. Hoffmann	Congo Belge typo overprints	silver
B.P. Hudson	Mols 5fr varieties	large silver
R.E. Jacquemin	10c Mols (3 plates of)	vermeil
R.H. Keach	1915 1 Franc	silver
H.R. Lancaster	Mols 1894 - 1923	bronze

Rules (partly revised) for the 1989 competition will be included in the September Bulletin. It is hoped that experience, together with comments already made, will remove teething troubles and that the next competition will build on the undoubted success of the first.

N. Clowes.

BCSC COMPETITION

Thoughts for consideration at the AGM. Not all are of monumental importance but they represent comments made by members in some cases and, also, the unexpected queries arising during the administration.

1. Suggest that the competition lose its 'Intra' in the title
2. The 'Subject' rule must be clearer in future. Three entrants (incl one in particular) had varying numbers of covers or postal stationery. In future we also set out what should not be entered in a given year.
3. Entries to have the order of pages marked on the back by the entrant.
4. Rule 8 should include the closing date for the year in question.
5. Do we or do we not allow a page of explanations in addition to the 12 ?
- 6(a) Should coloured photocopies be allowed ?
(b) Photocopies all to be taken at the same time - not copies of the first.
7. Question of language. Writing up in a foreign tongue (i.e. English) can lead to howlers. Writing up in Flemish (in practice there was none this time) might conceivably give the judges headaches.
8. Judges' experience. [No reflection on individuals intended]. This time we had two Congo experts plus one who probably knew more about the Congo Mols issues than most non Congo collectors. In real competitions this would not arise and marking might be harsher. Suggest in future two out of three judges not to have specialist Congo knowledge. (also non-recognition of entries)
9. Memory tickler for present or future Comp Secs. Essential that get back from one judge (UK based) a full set of entries. (a) cannot properly collate views without (b) necessary if rules preclude repetition within given years (c) useful knowledge of members' collections. BUT to be handled with discretion as security could be involved.
10. To what degree should an entry be prepared deliberately for a photocopy competition ? e.g. mounting on black to show perms better. Think not.
11. Stick to 12 pages ? Seems to have been too restrictive for a number ^{of entrants} / this time. On the other hand, cost & volume.
12. Rule 3. must surely be changed in that the only way we can see if the judges' message is getting home is by seeing the entry again, duly improved in accordance with the earlier guidance [cannot remember what was the original thinking behind the 5 year rule]
13. Anything else ?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7 MAY, 1988

Six members, including our President, Mr. A. Vindevoghel, managed to be present at the Annual General Meeting held at Whittlesford. Nine other members had apologised in advance for being unable to attend, one of these being Mr. E. H. Olsen, our sole representative in Denmark, who was celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his business on that day. It was agreed that the Secretary should send the Study Circle's congratulations to Mr. Olsen on this happy occasion.

The President then opened the meeting proper by thanking all the Officers for their efforts during the past year. Not wishing to take up any more time, he asked the Secretary to continue with the pre-arranged agenda for the meeting.

The accounts had already been circulated and again showed the Study Circle to be in a strong financial position, which could enable it to consider additional activities if these were thought to further its objects. Certainly, if new books of interest became available, the Circle would be able to continue its policy of buying a reasonable stock for onward sales to members, thus taking advantage of any bulk buying discounts which might apply. In the basic activities, subscriptions had covered the cost of Bulletins for the year, so that profits and commissions made on sales of various kinds could cover any extras. The Expert Committee had not covered its costs, but this was because a new stock of certificates had been purchased for future use.

In membership numbers, the Study Circle had continued to grow, with the total now in excess of 90. Only 1 member was seriously in arrears of subscription and would be taken off the list of members.

Reports of the other officers followed.

Secretary to the Expert Committee.

At the 1987 Annual General Meeting, a lack of interest in the Study Circle's expertising service was reported and it was decided to continue the service for another year and then decide if it should be continued or abandoned. This decision was included in the report of that A.G.M.

A very great improvement has resulted and no less than 104 certificates have been issued during the year. So encouraging is this improvement that further books of blank certificates have been purchased.

At the 1987 A.G.M. it was agreed that, because of increased operating costs, photographs and postage, fees for certificates should be increased. This was not implemented until the March, 1988, Bulletin and all certificates issued during the past year were charged at the old rates.

It is hoped that the increased charges will not act as a deterrent. Our fees are still only a fraction of those of other bodies.

It is much regretted that only a few members make use of the service. Because of the large numbers of dangerous forgeries in circulation of 1886-87 high values and of later stamps with overprint or surcharge where that overprint substantially increases the catalogue value of the stamp, certificates for such stamps are always desirable.

Sales Secretary.

Direct sales of members' duplicates to other members have continued briskly during the past year, primarily due to a continuation and conclusion of the sale of the Barstow Smith collection, and to a member having unloaded his very considerable "stock" of Mols duplicates. Commission amounting to £270 has been transferred to the general fund, indicating sales amounting to some £5400. Of the £270 commission, a considerable sum has to be deducted for the necessary postage in effecting the sales.

The relics of the Barstow Smith collection have now been passed to a public auctioneer and it is expected that they will be sold in June. Otherwise, in all, £8889, less our 5% commission, has been paid to Mr. Barstow Smith. His very conservative estimate of the value of the collection was £2700 and the maximum he expected was £4000.

The February auction sale was much more successful than expected and an interim commission of £170 has been transferred to the general fund. It is expected that further commission of about £10 will accrue. Our grateful thanks are due to Geoffrey Wood who kindly acted as independent auctioneer. With the large number of bidders and the complexity of some of the bids, with maximum total expenditure limits, Mr. Wood's job was not as simple as might be supposed.

Exchange Packet Secretary.

The usual annual exchange packet was sent to those U.K. members who had requested it in the autumn of 1987. 5 vendors provided booklets which were seen by 10 purchasers. Total sales value of the booklets was £674, of which £313 was sold, with a net commission for the Study Circle of

£12. The usual notice will be circulated to U.K. members with the June Bulletin, asking those who wish to see this year's packet to give their names to the Packet Secretary.

No formal report had been sent in by the Bulletin Editor, who, however, communicates directly with members on a quarterly basis. As usual, members are asked to keep - or to start - contributing to the Bulletin, in order to make life a little easier for him.

Election of Officers.

As Mr. Vindevoghel's term as President still had a year to run, there was no election for President. No proposals had been made in respect of any of the other Officers and, since all were willing to be re-elected, they were so re-elected, en bloc, by acclamation.

Subscription Rates for 1988/89.

The Treasurer stated that, considering the healthy state of the Study Circle's funds, there was no reason for any increase in subscription rates. The general feeling was that, so long as the basic costs of sending the Bulletin and Notices to members were covered by annual subscriptions, the Study Circle could afford to be relaxed on the matter for the immediate future, particularly as further income from sales commission was likely to be earned in the forthcoming year. Rates of subscription thus remain unchanged at:-

Members in U.S.A. & Canada	\$11 U.S., payable to R. E. Jacquemin
Members in Belgium	400 Belgian francs, payable to Abbé G. Gudenkauf
Members in U.K. & rest of Europe	£5, payable to P. S. Foden
Members Outside Europe & N. America	£8, payable to P. S. Foden.

Members are reminded that these subscriptions are due and payable from September, 1988.

The meeting then discussed the programme for 1988/89. As usual, there will be two meetings of the Study Circle, as follows:-

10 September, 1988 - at 5 Sutherland Grove, Southfields, London, the home of Mr. A. G. Wood; subject to be advised.

3 June, 1989 - Annual General Meeting, to be held at 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, the home of Mr. R. H. Keach, followed by a presentation of the Mols 15 centimes value by Mr. Keach.

There is also the joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle, over the week-end of 8 & 9 October, 1988, to be held at Torquay. The subject for the joint meeting will be 1915 issues of Belgium and the Congo by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., file copy sheets and other facets, while the separate B.C.S.C. sessions will include postal stationery (Mr. Keach), postage dues (Messrs. Green and Jeukens), 1909 Unilingual issue (Mr. Vindevoghel), and workshop sessions on the 1921 overprints/surcharges particularly as applied to the non-1910 stamps and the 25/40 centimes Boma surcharges. Quite apart from the workshop sessions, those attending are expected to bring any relevant material which might add to the enjoyment of each session.

Any Other Business.

The initial item under this head was the first Intra-BCSC Annual Exhibit (competition). It was felt that this had been successful and should continue as an annual event. Experience had shown that some minor changes and clarifications were needed to the rules and these would be attended to by Mr. Clowes, the Competition Secretary, who was thanked for his efforts in making the event a success and who agreed to act again for the 1988/89 competition. A full report of the competition appears elsewhere. Following the discussion of this item, the President signed the certificates showing the awards gained by each of the entrants.

Next, Mr. Frenay had done considerable work in drawing in detail all the plate varieties of the 1898 10 francs value. His drawings were shown to the meeting by Mr. Vindevoghel and all present were most impressed by the standard of the work. The intention is to publish the complete set as a monograph, either through the Study Circle or privately, making use of more sophisticated printing processes than is the norm with our own Bulletin. In either case, it was agreed that the project (to be followed by similar works on other values of the original Mols series) had the full support of the Study Circle and, further, that if an external monograph were to be decided on, the Study Circle would take up a minimum stock of 60 copies for resale to members.

Third was a request from a member who wished to know whether non-members could make use of the Expert Committee and, if so, under what conditions. It was noted that the Expert Committee members present

welcomed any widening of the scope in principle, as the more and varied material was seen, the better became their expertise. It was agreed that non-members should be able to send material for expertising at a 50% premium over the fees charged to members, but that it would be necessary to warn them that the Study Circle could accept no liability for any material sent and that insurance was therefore a matter for the owner. General notes about using the Expert Committee should be updated by Mr. Keach and available to all enquirers.

Finally, Mr. Keach reported that one of our members in Belgium, Mr. D. Van der Hauwaert, was in the process of making a computer file of the complete amended list of cancellations for the book "The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo 1886-1960 and Ruanda-Urundi 1917-1962". This was a project which was fully supported by the meeting and the intention would be that printouts of the updated listing would be stocked for sale to members. Further updates of the list could then also be produced in future with a minimum of difficulty.

The business part of the meeting being finished, those present adjourned to the local hostelry for lunch, where our President also insisted on buying drinks all round (this may encourage a larger turnout next time). In the afternoon, we were treated to a display of the Mols 10 centimes value by Mr. Keach. There is little to be said about the display which has not been said before. Those who have never seen the "Keach" method of showing a Mols value in the utmost detail really should try to get to one of these meetings. Effectively, if it has been recorded, it will be on show; he will also show items which have not been recorded. Just for this particular value, however, we also owe a vote of thanks to our President, Mr. Vindevoghel, for bringing with him from Belgium his cover with the "Short Est Africain" overprint on the 10c value.

THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL COLUMNBELGIAN STAMP OVERPRINTED 'CONGO'

Mr. Green has kindly sent me for inspection the novel item shown below, a 1900 10c Belgian stamp overprinted for use in the Congo but still used in Belgium!



Presumably, overprinting the (used) stamp with something like a 'John Bull' children's printing set to produce such a bogus item was a bit of fun for someone. Let us hope that no one ever considered it authentic and worthy of a prized place in his collection.

JAN CH. J. VERBRAAK

It is with great regret that we have heard of the death on 25 March of our Dutch member, Jan Verbraak, aged 71 years.

He has been crippled with rheumatism for some years and was unable, unaided, to leave his house. His stamps provided his major interest in life.

Although I never met him, we corresponded and he telephoned me frequently simply to be able to talk about stamps to someone. He was a very kindly man; his telephone calls were very frequent when his wife was ill a few years ago and concerned only with her progress.

I wrote to his widow on behalf of all of us, expressing our sincere sympathies.

1887 50c BROWN - THE LENOIR REPRINT

We are told that, with the exception of the 1886 5F value, stamps of the 1886 and 1887-94 portrait issues do not exist imperforate and genuine. The imperforate examples that we find, and, with one exception, they are common enough, are the forgeries commonly called 'Lenoir reprints' about which much has been written. Moreover, the Lenoir reprints are also found perforated to resemble the issued stamps.

The Lenoir reprints were printed from cliches of 10 as used to make up the printing plates of the issued stamps so that the details of the designs of the original stamps and the 'reprints' are more or less identical so that, at least for most values, these forgeries cannot be identified by comparing details of the design, the usual means of identifying complete forgeries.

However, in part by using ultra-violet light, we can be sure of identifying the forgeries.

As stated in the first paragraph above, one value of the Lenoir reprints is not common and that is the 50c brown of which, to my knowledge, I have seen only a single example; that belongs to Mr. Hirdler and he has lent it to me for study.

The genuine 50c is found in a variety of different shades and those thought to be original vary from a rich deep brown to a bright deep red-brown. Stamps in a grey-brown colour are also found but these are undoubtedly colour changelings resulting from exposure either to the sun or to chemicals that affect the ink. The 'reprint' is in a much lighter shade of brown, not to be confused with any genuine examples that I have. The colours of both originals and the reprint do not change appreciably in ultra-violet light and this is of no help in identification. The paper of this solitary reprint is heavily

toned and not to be confused with the white paper of the genuine stamps but if the paper of the reprint was originally toned or results from its later treatment cannot be confirmed.

I would be very interested to know of, and if possible to see, 1) any imperforate 50c brown possessed by members and 2) any perforated 50c brown, unused or cancelled, in a very noticeably lighter colour than most.

A 19TH CENTURY CANCELLER USED IN 1902?

Mr. Maulding has sent me for inspection an interesting picture post card bearing a 10 carmine (issued 25 May 1900) cancelled at MATADI with 1.3 dated 10 December 1899 and with Brussels arrival cancellation 15 October 1902. Both cancels appear to me to be authentic and the stamp is tied to the card by both cancellations. Unfortunately, the writer has not written the date in this short message.

It appears to me highly unlikely that the 10c carmine was available more than three months before the official date of issue and that the card took nearly three years to travel from Matadi to Brussels. Much more likely is that the post office at Matadi did not actually withdraw the obsolete 19th cancellers (with 18 of the year as a permanent part of them) but left them in a drawer and a clerk either picked one up in error or mislaid the current canceller and used an obsolete one in its place.

EXPERT CERTIFICATES

The last call for subjects for Certificates of Authenticity was very successful and, stamps having subsequently been received, a further batch has been processed so that more than 100 certificates have been supplied in the last six months. Only a relative few members use the service in spite of the low cost compared with that of other bodies and, because we concentrate on the one country, our certificates are certainly more reliable than some others.

Further stamps and covers are invited to be received at any time before 30 September. If sufficient are received before that date they will be processed as soon as the number justifies the cost of the photograph. Subjects should be sent to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England.

A CONFUSING REPLY POSTAL STATIONERY CARD



Illustrated above is the reply half of an internal reply paid post card. The stamp was cancelled at KASONGO and the card addressed to Kindu. That all seems very straight forward but more detailed observation of the postal markings tell another story.

First there is the manuscript mark 'Via Anvers'. Then there are the transit cancels (faint on the illustration) of Antwerp and Leopoldville and, on the back, of Stanleyville. Another point is that in the bottom left corner there had been an adhesive stamp although it was not tied to the card with a cancellation. From Kasongo to Kindu the 10c stamp printed on the card would have sufficed and an additional 5c stamp would have been required only for foreign use.

The message on the back of the card, in German, was written from Viege and the only place of that name that I can find in a gazetteer is in Switzerland.

The various dates on the card, in sequence, are:

KASONGO cancel, on the stamp, 15 March 1910
 Card written, in Viege, 11 June 1910
 ANIWERP transit cancellation 12 June 1910
 LEOPOLDVILLE transit cancellation 12 July 1910
 STANLEYVILLE transit cancellation 5 August 1910

It is clear what happened: the complete reply-paid was sent from Kasongo to Switzerland and the Kasongo post office clerk CANCELLED BOTH OUTWARD AND REPLY CARDS instead of only the outward card. The correspondent in Switzerland correctly replied on the reply half of the card and somehow managed to persuade the Swiss post office that the reply half card was valid although with the stamp already cancelled. The Swiss post office probably applied the 'Via Anvers' marking.

'SALES DEPARTMENT'

As can be seen from the commission earned as reported in the annual financial report the Sales Department has had a busy year, this largely thanks to our having had for sale the Barstow Smith collection, to the recent auction sale and to one of our members who has unloaded his substantial 'stock' of duplicate Mols stamps. Other duplicate material is requested - even the commonest 1894-1922 Mols stamps find a ready market - but new sellers should, before sending material, write to R. H. Keach telling him what they have available.

THE 1894-1922 MOLS PRINTING PLATES

In Bulletin No. 67 I wrote that I intended to produce a simplified list of the Mols combinations of frame and centre plates, the prime intention being to bring up to date the admirable listing in Bulletin No. 42 incorporating recent discoveries.

To make this new listing intelligible, because it is intended to be short, it will be necessary to include references to past articles on the subject so that anyone interested may be able to refer to them and find out what changes produced new states of the plates or caused existing states to disappear.

In preparing a list of these references I find that we have failed to report in the Bulletin details of some changes - I have said 'we' when I should have said 'I' because I think that I am entirely to blame for the omissions. This is an effort to fill in the gaps so that in the short composite listing I have something to which I can refer.

1910 15c COMBINATION OF PLATES III1 + A4 (NOW III1 + A5)

The above heading shows how confusing things are!

In Mr. Hudson's article in Bulletin No. 42 he introduced to the Study Circle a new intermediate state of the 1910 15 centimes plates which he called III1 + A4 but he was unable to give any guidance on how the centre plate A4 might be recognized. I will endeavour to provide some information although it is still tentative because no complete sheet or large block has, to my knowledge, been identified as coming from these plates. I have managed to acquire a few pairs and by means of single used copies have managed to assemble 46 towards a reconstructed sheet of 50. The position in the sheet of each stamp is correct but, until multiples are available, there must be doubt for some positions if the selected stamp is from plate A4,

from a late printing of A3 or even from A5.

The article in Bulletin No. 32 gave means of identifying complete sheets of the then-known seven different combinations of plates of the stamp and I will endeavour to introduce the new state of the centre plate into this sequence although I must stress again that this is tentative dependent upon the accuracy, sometimes intuition, in selecting stamps for reconstruction.

The numbering of the plates has recently been complicated by the discovery of a third state of the centre plate, described in Bulletin No. 67, during the printing of the 1896 issue and this results in a change to the suffix number of each of the later states of centre plate A. To keep the following in accordance with current nomenclature the first combination of plates used for the 1910 issue is correctly given as III1 + A4, not III1 + A3 as described in Bulletin No. 32. Moreover I am excluding the newly discovered III2 + B2 and III3 + B3; frame plates III2 and III3 and centre plates B1, B2 and B3 are very adequately described in General Du Four's book.

Sequence of tests in allocating a complete sheet of 1910 15 centimes:

- 1) If the top left corner of No. 4 is doubled, the sheet is III3 + B2 or III3 + B3.
- 2) If the bottom frame line, particularly at the left end, of No. 41 is doubled, the sheet is III2 + B1 or III2 + B2. (true of III3 + B2 and III3 + B3 also)
- 3) If in No. 50 there is light but clear doubling of the shading of parts of the sky in the top right corner of the vignette, the sheet is III1 + A9.
- 4) If on No. 36 there is a black circle about 1mm. diameter between the central large palm tree and the next tree to the right, the sheet is III1 + A8.
- 5) If on No. 11 the sitting natives are clearly doubled, the sheet is III1 + A7. (true also of III1 + A8 and III1 + A9)
- 6) If on No. 8 the shading of the roof of the hut is clearly doubled, the sheet is III1 + A6. (true also on III1 + A7, III1 + A8 and III1 + A9)
- 7) If on No. 12 the sitting natives are clearly doubled, the sheet is III1 + A5 - this new combination - (true also of III1 + A6, III1 + A7, III1 + A8 and III1 + A9).
- 8) If the sheet has none of these varieties, it is III1 + A4.

The different designations of the states of centre plate as used over the years are so confusing that a comparison is essential if reference is made to earlier writings, and I may as well include all combinations of plates of the 15 centimes value.

Current Nomenclature	Du Four	Bulletin No. 32	Bulletin No. 37	Bulletin Nos. 42, 47 & 50
I + A1	I + A1			I + A1
I + A2	I + A2			I + A2

(cont'd)

Current Nomenclature	Du Four	Bulletin No. 32	Bulletin No. 37	Bulletin Nos. 42, 47 & 50
I + A3				
II + A3	II + A2			II + A2
IIII + A4	IIII + A3	IIII + A3	IIII + A3	IIII + A3
IIII + A5				IIII + A4
IIII + A6	IIII + A4	IIII + A4	IIII + A4	IIII + A5
IIII + A7)		(IIII + A5	IIII + A5	IIII + A6
)		(
IIII + A8)	IIII + A5	(IIII + A6	IIII + A6	IIII + A7
)		(
IIII + A9)		(IIII + A7	IIII + A7	IIII + A8
III2 + B1	III2 + B1	III2 + B1	III2 + B1	III2 + B1
III2 + B2				III2 + B2
III3 + B2	III3 + B2	III3 + B2	III3 + B2	III3 + B2
III3 + B3			III3 + B3	III3 + B3
III4 + B3	III4 + B3			III4 + B3
III5 + C1	III5 + C			III5 + C1
IV1 + C1				
IV2 + C1	IV1 + C			IV1 + C1
IV3 + C1	IV2 + C			IV2 + C1
V + C1	V + C			V + C1
V + C2	V + D			V + C2

MOLS 25 CENTIMES FRAME PLATE II

I was quite sure that, at some time during the past couple of years, I had reported in the Bulletin a fourth state of this frame plate but, looking through recent Bulletins, it appears clear that I failed to do so.

Before or during the last printing of the 1910 stamps when the new centre plate B was in use it was found necessary or desirable to engrave additional lay marks on the frame plate in order to facilitate registration of the

frames and centres of the printed stamps. The marks are: a vertical line in the corner between positions Nos. 8, 9, 13 and 14 and a dot in the corner between Nos. 38, 39, 43 and 44. The new combination of plates is designated II4 + B. It is found also with the 1921 50 surcharge.

Combinations of plates of the 1910 25c are now known to be:

III + A3, III + A4, II2 + A4, II3 + B and II4 + B

All exist with the 1921 surcharge.

50 CENTIMES MOLS CENTRE PLATE III

General Du Four believed that the 50c frame plate used for the last printings of the 1910 issue and designated III2 was not altered before it was again used for the 1915 issue.

We have since discovered that the frame plate was extensively retouched before the 1915 issue with the plate thereby entering into a third state III3 and this new information was incorporated in Mr. Hudson's new listing of the plates in Bulletin No. 42.

I can find nowhere in the Bulletin where there has been any description of the retouching of the frame plate and this should be remedied.

The visible areas of retouching are around the shell-like ornaments at centre height in the left and right frame lines. Maybe a third of the subjects on the frame plate have scratches inside or near these ornaments or between the nearby frame lines. These scratches are due to the engraver's hand slipping when he was strengthening, with burin or point, the engraving on the plate in this area. He thought that the resulting imperfections so trivial that he did not bother to remove the scratches by burnishing.

Probably the most obvious of these retouches are on Nos. 11 and 20 where on each there is a scratch at the top of the left shell-like ornament and about two-thirds up the left frame line of the stamp and on No. 24 where there is a scratch three-quarters up the right frame line. There are many other less prominent retouches in these areas.