

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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NEWS AND VIEWSNEW MEMBERS

It is not often that your editor gets the chance to meet a new member right after receiving his application. Just by chance I happened to overhear a conversation between this new member and his wife with a dealer at the WESTPEX show in San Francisco. What followed was, of course, several very delightful conversations with Larry J. Price and his wife, Judy who hail from Healdsburg, California. Larry was recommended to our group by our long time member, Ed Hirdler. Larry has been collecting books for the past ten years on the exploration of Central Africa and is particularly interested in the intra-Belgian Congo movement of mail.

On his application Larry's prize remark is "It's hard to find people who are interested in the Congo". Let us all try to make this a bit easier for him!

Another new member is Dr. Harry W. Wilcke of Abington, Pennsylvania. It was through a letter addressed to our member Al De Lisle that I was able to start a correspondence concerning the problems with present day exhibiting that brought Dr. Wilcke to our group. Dr. Wilcke has had much experience with exhibiting in the Italian area of AMG. He has found many juries having negative feelings and prejudice against the material he has shown - much the same as those who have tried to exhibit Congo material.

Dr. Wilcke has an interest in the Mols issues, postal stationery, the Independence Period and Ruanda-Urundi. With such a broad interest, he should be a most welcome member to our group.

SUPPLEMENTS WITH THIS ISSUE

Issued as supplements with this issue is a new Index compiled by Norman Clowes and a new auction list covering Postal History (1). With just a brief look at the new Index and one cannot help but be overwhelmed by the huge undertaking by Mr. Clowes. For those having past issues of the Bulletin, it will be most helpful. For newer members, it will be a most useful guide in trying to track down material on any specific subject.

ON THE EXHIBITING FRONT

With this issue we have the results of the Second BCSC Annual Competition. We are most grateful to Mr. Clowes for his report and to the jury for their considerations. The big disappointment was the reduced number of contestants - most of whom have had experience in exhibiting. The original purpose of this exercise was to encourage exhibiting by our members who have never taken the first step. It is not an easy task to make a showing on just 12 pages, but it can be done! On the next Annual Competition, it would be nice to see a lot more activity by those who have never exhibited before.

In the last issue of the Bulletin, your editor mentioned that his Booklet Pane Stamps would be exhibited at WESTPEX. The display garnered the only Silver Award at the show and also received the Larry Spice Memorial Award for the best Benelux at the show. This was of dubious merit as the exhibit was the only

(continued on page 72/5)

THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL COLUMNTHE 1915 50 CENTIMES

In Bulletin No. 70 I wrote in this column of a copy of this stamp, No. 50 in the sheet with the original centre plate ('white smoke') without doubling of the shading of the sky such as is present on my own copies. I asked for help from other members who may be interested in the stamp. There has been quite unusual response with two members making most important contributions.

A second example of No. 50 without the doubling of the sky has been sent for inspection and this clearly confirms its regular existence.

Perhaps more important, another member sent a copy of No. 40 without doubling of the shading of the sky that is present on my copies. Moreover this copy of No. 40 exhibits another important difference from my own copies. All the copies of No. 40 have a fine frame plate line - doubtless a 'burin mark' caused by the engraving tool, the burin, slipping and producing an unintended scratch on the plate - between the two right outer frame lines a little below the centre height of the stamp. My three copies all have a much more impressive long burin mark in the bottom margin stretching from the bottom of the first O of CONGO downwards and to the left to a point under the C of BELGISCH. On the copy without doubling of the sky shading there is no sign of this second burin mark. This second burin mark is not visible on any copies I have of No. 40 with the second centre plate, B; it may have been burnished from the plate.

Although we would like more evidence from other positions in the plate it appears to me almost certain that we have a previously unknown combination of plates of the 1915 50c, the following having been Waterlow's procedure during the first printings of the stamp. Prior to the printing of the 1915 stamp the 1910 frame plate was strengthened by retouching resulting, inter alia, in the burin mark on No. 40 between the right frame lines and in a burin mark in the bottom margin of No. 50, beginning from a point of the bottom frame line  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm to the left of the bottom right corner and extending for a short distance to the left and downwards. With this retouched frame plate and the centre plate as used for the last 1910 stamps a number of sheets were printed. Then, unaccountably, a) the frame plate was further retouched producing, inter alia perhaps, the burin mark at the bottom of No. 40, and b) the centre plate was re-entered, probably in every subject although visible on only a few subjects; the remainder of the sheets were then printed from these repaired plates.

If this analysis is correct we have the following combinations of plates for the 1910 to 1918 50 centimes values

	<u>Existing Nomenclature</u>	<u>Possible New Nomenclature</u>
1910	III1 + A3	III1 + A3
	III2 + A4	III2 + A4
1915	III3 + A5	III3 + A4
		III4 + A5
1918		III4 + B
	III3 + B	III5 + B
	III4 + B	

Overprinted stamps would, of course, also have their combinations of plates changed.

Until there is more evidence for other positions in the sheet or until other students report similar findings on this stamp I do not propose personally altering the existing nomenclature of the 50c plate combinations.

A COPY OF GENERAL DU FOUR'S BOOK AVAILABLE

It is some years since we had a copy of 'CONGO' - Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale' to offer to members but one is now available and is offered by auction with a reserve price of £ 70. The book has not been heavily used and is in excellent condition.

Bids to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE to be received not later than 31 August. Postage will be extra and non-European bidders please state if to be sent by surface or air mail.

THE 1915 15 CENTIMES, PLATES III4 + B3 ('PALMIER COUPE')

Mr. Foden has given me for study two examples of this stamp, both indisputably No. 45 in the sheet, that are, however, unquestionably somewhat different. Both have the pronounced doubling of the sky above the sitting natives but one has the vertical line between the legs of the colonist, the shading of the sky to the right of the right very small palm tree and the shading of the ground at the extreme right doubled whereas the other stamp has no clear doubling in these three places.

I have been able to consult two complete sheets of the stamp III4 + B3, one an early sheet without the hole drilled in the plate between Nos. 41 and 42, the other a later sheet with the hole drilled. On both sheets the doubling in the three places as described for one of Mr. Foden's copies is present, as it is with my own single copy of No. 45.

We have fairly recently discovered and introduced III3 + B3 into our sequence of plates for the last printing of the 1910 15c due to re-entry of the centre plate B2. It has, so far, been impossible to make a full study of III3 + B3 because, as far as I know, a complete sheet, or even the odd block, has not been found and identified for what it is. I have identified two copies of the 1910 15c and eight copies of the stamp with 25c surcharge which I am satisfied are from plates III3 + B3 and one most fortunately is No. 45 in the sheet.

To my eyes the vignette of Mr. Foden's 1915 stamp without the doubling in the three places is identical with the vignette of 1910 stamp, III3 + B3 No. 45. The frames are however different, the 1910 stamp being III3 and the 1915 stamp III4.

If these observations are correct it means that we will need to introduce a further state of 1915 15c, III4 + B3, with the existing III4 + B3 becoming III4 + B4.

Before taking the important step of introducing yet another state of the plates we need further evidence and this is going to be hard to find because, to the best of my knowledge, no-one has made any substantial headway in reconstructing

a sheet of the 1910 III3 + B3 so that for only a few positions do we know what change was made to the centre plate in converting B2 to the new B3.

This will probably have to be a co-ordinated effort of the 'platers' and I will be asking them to let me have sight of their sheets, blocks and reconstructed sheets of 1910 III3 + B2 to see if I can discover hidden amongst them any III3 + B3, and their similar pieces of 1915 existing III4 + B3 to try to identify any new B3 amongst them.

Finally, if anyone has a sheet or large block of 1915 15c III4 + B3 (or with RUANDA or URUNDI overprint) without the hole drilled between Nos. 41 and 42 will he or she PLEASE write to me because such an item may provide us with an immediate answer to the problem.

### NEWS AND VIEWS

#### ON THE EXHIBITING FRONT (continued from 72/2)

Benelux exhibit at WESTPEX but the special prize was a very beautiful cut glass decanter. The glass had a heavy lead content, and on departing San Francisco, the stopper of the decanter looked on the radar screen just like a hand grenade. Upon inspection, it turned out to be just what it was - so now I have a most beautiful "hand grenade" decanter.

But here is what Michael Laurence, the editor and publisher of Linn's Stamp News had to say:

"A time-honored precept of stamp judging is 'When in doubt, give it a silver.' The only silver medal winner at Westpex, Ralph Jacquemin's elaborate plating study of the first booklet pane stamps (1917-20) of the Belgian Congo, bore this out.

"This is probably the most comprehensive showing of this arcane material ever assembled. According to the exhibitor, it's the first time all 48 booklet panes have been together in one place.

"But the subject is so obscure that even the literature, such as it is, is impossible to obtain. The judges can be forgiven for not knowing what to award this exhibit on its first time out."

### IMPORTANCE

Much is being said in the philatelic press concerning Importance as a factor in judging. Many on juries think that if it is something collected by members of the jury, it is important. If not collected by the jury, then it is not important.

Some guidelines are being proposed that seem to make sense. Here are two questions that are worthy of some thought:

1. How easily could the material of this exhibit be duplicated?
2. How much individual effort would normally be expected to assemble this exhibit?

BCSC Annual Competition

Members will recall that in Bulletin 68 the background to the Competition was set out and general remarks made at some length. This year's event has been no less interesting but the writer feels that there is little point in repeating generalities already set out last time.

This year's subject was 'Postal History'. This is capable of a multitude of definitions but a simplified version was provided in the modified rules: 'The study of postal markings, postal routes and postal rates.' Six stalwarts, representing a very wide range of experience, tried their hand; three from the USA, two from England and one from South Africa. Although the number of entries fell by one third the nature of 'Postal History' led to a much wider subject matter and there was no duplication of intent in the entries.

The judges were Colin Fraser who helped in 1988, Mrs Lesley Hampton and Ritchie Bodily: none is a member of the Circle. Of the newcomers Mrs Hampton is a Council member of the British Philatelic Federation Ltd and a lecturer on judging at area level, while Mr Bodily is a well respected and experienced London dealer and a judge at national level. Our thanks are extended to all three for their help, especially as it was possible this year for a joint meeting at which the views of all three could be discussed.

From routine reading it was known to the writer, but not disclosed to the judges, that some of the entrants had won prizes up to Gold level in national competition. However, it must be remembered that such entrants, whose expertise is so valued in our Circle, do not necessarily start with a built-in crushing advantage. It is difficult to select just 12 pages from a much larger award-winner and still maintain unity. Furthermore, the points awarded differ [because no physical covers are examined] from normal national and international figures where Presentation can count for as few as 5 points. Our pattern allows 20 points for this category and while some entrants scored well others may have been disappointed.

Once again, no entrant requested anonymity and there follows a summary (alphabetical by name of entrant) of the results.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title of entry (condensed)</u>	<u>Medal standard</u>
P.S. Foden	Belgian Congo - internal airmail	silver
R.M. Hoffmann	Belg. Forces in E.Africa - W.W.1	large silver
R.H. Keach	The Payment of Postage Due	vermeil
R.E. Jacquemin	Congo Postal Usages 1887 - 1925	silver
Mrs H. Jeidel	Postal History of the Lado Enclave	large vermeil
A.J. Morvay	Charity Issues on cover 1930 - 1942	(near miss)

The average performance continued to be good and, compared with last year, the average mark improved from 71 to 73. Please remember, when comparing these bare bones of results, that each medal quality has a spread of 5 points (as set out in the rules) and that the marking is to a very demanding standard. The latter aspect may be underlined by the writer's own experience, in that at area level he has on one occasion won a 'Bronze' with only 52 points, the spread having been set at 50 - 60 for that particular competition.

It is worth mentioning, for future reference, that some entrants used the first page purely to summarize what was to come, thus compressing the philatelic content into eleven pages. This would of course cause no problem in a full length entry - indeed such a page would be mandatory - but when the length is restricted to a total of only twelve pages it might be better to open with a precis plus the first cover or card.

Each entrant has been sent an advance copy of these comments, together with a judges' report on his or her own entry.

N. Clowes

POSTAL AUCTION SALE - 1989(1) - POSTAL STATIONERY (2)

LIST OF PRICES REALIZED

Lot No. 1 - £78; 2 - £2.50; 3 - £1.50; 4 - £1.50; 5 - £1.80; 6 - £3.60; 7 - £8.75; 8 - £2.10;  
 9 - £1.70; 10 - £5.50; 11 - £3.70; 12 - £6.50; 13 - £4.50; 14 - £1.50; 15 - £6.50; 16 - £1.90;  
 17 - £1.50; 18 - £2.10; 19 - £1.50; 20 - £2.10; 21 - £69; 22 - 75p; 23 - £1.90; 24 - 90p; 25 - 90p;  
 26 - £3.10; 27 - NS; 28 - 75p; 29 - £3.20; 30 - £11; 31 - £14; 32 - £2.10; 33 - £2.20; 34 - £2.10;  
 35 - £6.50; 36 - £17; 37 - £4.10; 38 - £31; 39 - £9.75; 40 - £3.60; 41 - £11; 42 - £4.50; 43 - £2.10;  
 44 - £6.75; 45 - £2.30; 46 - £11; 47 - £2.10; 48 - £3.70; 49 - £1.60; 50 - £5.50; 51 - £3.70;  
 52 - £301; 53 - £301; 54 - £5.25; 55 - £5.50; 56 - £8.50; 57 - £5.50; 58 - £6.50; 59 - £1.50;  
 60 - £123; 61 - £6.25; 62 - £2.20; 63 - £5.25; 64 - £11; 65 - £4.10; 66 - £7.50; 67 - £7.50;  
 68 - £1.50; 69 - £1.50; 70 - £7.50; 71 - £2.20; 72 - £3.60; 73 - £7.50; 74 - £4.70; 75 - £181;  
 76 - £2.20; 77 - £3.10; 78 - £5.50; 79 - £5.50; 80 - £5.50; 81 - £5.50; 82 - £7.50; 83 - £3.60;  
 84 - £4.60; 85 - £5.50; 86 - NS; 87 - £11; 88 - £5.50; 89 - £6.25; 90 - £4.50; 91 - £6.25; 92 - £6.25;  
 93 - £6.25; 94 - £22; 95 - £3.10; 96 - £2.20; 97 - £8; 98 - £6.50; 99 - £6.50; 100 - £5.50;  
 101 - £6.50; 102 - £6.25; 103 - £3.70; 104 - £4.10; 105 - £3.70; 106 - £6.50; 107 - £3.70; 108 - £6.50;  
 109 - £8.75; 110 - £4.10; 111 - £4.10; 112 - £8.25; 113 - £8.50; 114 - £8.75; 115 - £6.50; 116 - £2.30;  
 117 - £6.50; 118 - £7.25; 119 - £3; 120 - £3; 121 - £9.50; 122 - £6.10; 123 - £22; 124 - £3.50;  
 125 - £8.50; 126 - £22; 127 - £23; 128 - £6.25; 129 - £13; 130 - £13; 131 - £6.25; 132 - £8.50;  
 133 - £8.50; 134 - £6.25; 135 - £8.50; 136 - £15; 137 - £6.25; 138 - £8.50; 139 - £1.90; 140 - £79;  
 141 - £4.10; 142 - £1.50; 143 - £81; 144 - £10.50; 145 - £10.50; 146 - £10.50; 147 - £6.50;  
 148 - £5.25; 149 - £1.50; 150 - £7.50; 151 - £3.10; 152 - £107; 153 - £1.50; 154 - £10.50; 155 - £2.10;  
 156 - £6.25; 157 - £107; 158 - £2; 159 - £126; 160 - £5.75; 161 - £7.25; 162 - £2.40; 163 - £4.20;  
 164 - £11.50; 165 - £4.50; 166 - £2.60; 167 - £311; 168 - £107; 169 - £12; 170 - £8.50; 171 - £5.25;  
 172 - £7.25; 173 - £10.50; 174 - £10.50; 175 - £2.20; 176 - £6.50; 177 - £3.10; 178 - £6.75;  
 179 - £3.10; 180 - £17; 181 - £3.10; 182 - £18.50; 183 - £4.10; 184 - £11.50; 185 - £10.50; 186 - £2.60;  
 187 - £7.25; 188 - £2.60; 189 - £22; 190 - £4.10; 191 - £22; 192 - £2.20; 193 - £12.50; 194 - £8.25;  
 195 - £2.20; 196 - £4.60; 197 - £4.60; 198 - £3; 199 - £7.25; 200 - £2.20; 201 - £2.20; 202 - £11;  
 203 - £4.10; 204 - £14; 205 - £14; 206 - £4.60; 207 - £6; 208 - £14.50; 209 - £7.25; 210 - £9.75;  
 211 - £11.50; 212 - £1.70; 213 - £7.25; 214 - £1.90; 215 - £3.10; 216 - 90p; 217 - £3.60; 218 - £4.60;  
 219 - £1.60; 220 - £12.50; 221 - £2.20; 222 - £3.10. NS = not sold.

KENNETH H. BEALES

It is with great regret that we have to record the sudden death, at the end of February, of Kenneth Beales who had been a member of the Study Circle for about thirty years.

He was probably personally unknown to all our other members but I met him several times, once at his home in Belfast and four or five other times when he visited the Home Countries; the last time that we met was in 1988 when he came to London to give a paper to the China Study Circle and took the opportunity to spend a day at Tadworth.

Kenneth Beales had many philatelic interests, the principal probably being China, but he was greatly interested in the Mols stamps and had reconstructed sheets of many values.

Perhaps his most lasting achievement was the paper that he wrote on the Waterlow perforations based on a study of the Waterlow File Copy sheets of the 1898-1913 issues of China, these being in much larger sheets than the contemporary Waterlow issues of the Congo.

A letter of condolence has been sent to his widow to whom we offer our very sincere sympathy.

R. H. KEACH

1990 CATALOGUE OFFICIEL

We are hopeful that, once again, one of our Belgian members will oblige by obtaining for us copies of Catalogue Officiel at a substantial discount off list price. Orders please to R. H. Keach not later than 31 July. Unless the Flemish edition is specially requested the French edition will be supplied. Non-European members please state if to be sent by air or surface mail.

THE 10c SURCHARGES ON THE 1915 5c

Many members have copies of the Abbe Gudenkauf's admirable book 'Les Timbres du Congo Surcharges a Boma on 1922-1923' with its careful descriptions of the varieties of surcharges on the four stamps.

Mr. Frenay has prepared illustrations of the varieties of surcharges on the 5c value and copies are attached. They will be of particular interest to those members who do not possess the book but they do vary in some details with the illustrations in the Abbe's book.


We are grateful to Mr. Frenay for his permission to reproduce his illustrations.

R. H. KEACH



## LES SURCHARGES DE BOMA 10c / 5c TYPE A

VARIÉTÉS DE SURCHARGES CARMIN

0<sub>ka)</sub>ca = 2,5mm 1,2 colonne  
a = 3,5mm 3,4,5 colonne


1	2	3	4	5
			-0	1 ↓
6	7	8	9	10
	0 ↓			
11	12	13	14	15
		-1		0 ↓
16	17	18	19	20
0 ↓	1-			
21	22	23	24	25
	1- ↓			0
26	27	28	29	30
1 ↓				c. ↓
31	32	33	34	35
	0'	0 ↓		-1
36	37	38	39	40
1-	10c ↓			
41	42	43	44	45
0	-1- ↓	-1		
46	47	48	49	50
-1	c. ↓			

LES SURCHARGES DE BOMA 10c/5c TYPE B

VARIÉTÉS DE SURCHARGES

VERMILLON

0 c a = 3,5mm



1	2	3	4	5
			1	
6	7	8	9	10
1	1 c	0		
11	12	13	14	15
-0				
16	17	18	19	20
			c	
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
			1 c	0
41	42	43	44	45
	-1		0	
46	47	48	49	50
	-1			

LES SURCHARGES DE BOMA 10c/5c TYPE C

0c  
3,5mm

LES VARIÉTÉS DE SURCHARGES VERMILLON

14,5mm

1	2	3	4	5
		0	1 0	
6	7	0	0	1
11	12	13	14	15
-0				
16	17	18	19	20
1				-1
21	22	23	24	25
-1			c	
26	27	28	29	30
-1	0	-1		
31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40
	0			
41	42	43	44	45
	-1			-c
46	47	48	49	50
	1			

LES SURCHARGES DE BOMA 10c/5c TYPE D

VARIÉTÉS DE SURCHARGES VERMILLON

0<sub>pe</sub>c

a = 2mm colonne 1,2  
a = 2,5mm colonne 3,4,5



1	2	3	4	5
<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
6	7	8	9	10
26mm	26mm	<b>1</b> 26mm	<b>0</b> 27mm	<b>1</b> 26mm
11	12	13	14	15
<b>1</b> 26mm	26mm	26mm	27mm	26mm
16	17	18	19	20
26,5mm	26mm	26mm	26mm	26mm
21	22	23	24	25
<b>0</b> 26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	<b>1</b> <b>c</b> 27,5mm	26,5mm
26	27	28	29	30
26,5mm	<b>c</b> 26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm
31	32	33	34	35
<b>0</b> 26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm
36	37	38	39	40
26,5mm	26,5mm	<b>-0</b> 26,5mm	<b>1</b> 27,5mm	26,5mm
41	42	43	44	45
<b>0</b> 26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm	26,5mm
46	47	48	49	50
26,5mm	26,5mm	<b>1</b> 27mm	26,5mm	26,5mm