

BELGIAN CONGO



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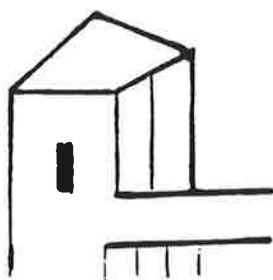
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VICE PRESIDENTIAL COLUMNANOTHER STATE OF THE 5 CENTIMES CENTRE PLATE B

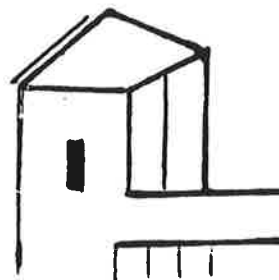
Mr. Van der Hauwaert has discovered yet another state of the Mols plates. He kindly sent me for inspection a copy of No. 41 in the sheet of the 1910 5c which, with its doubling of the boats, was clearly from the existing centre plate B5 but the church, the small building with the square tower above the right end of the large building, the so called 'hotel' did not have its roof doubled as is normally the case with sheets from the combination of plates IIII+B5.

Having several sheets of the 5c with that combination of plates I studied them and found that one, specially kept because it has a prominent centre plate scratch starting in the vignette of No. 1 and extending through the upper part of the vignette of No. 2 into the upper frame and top selvedge of No. 3, has No. 42 identical with Mr. Van der Hauwaerts' copy.

It will be as well if I try to sketch the tower of the church to show the changes to it.



(1)



(2)

During the first printing of the 1910 5c, from centre plate B3, and during the second printing from centre plate B4 in its uncorroded condition (B4a) the outline of the church tower is neat and free from any doubling (fig 1) in position 42. In the third printing from centre plate B4 in its corroded condition (B4b) the water on No. 42 shows large numbers of minute black dots due to pitting of the plate but the tower of the church remains clear and neat. The centre plate, doubtless because of the corrosion, was then completely re-entered producing, among other changes, the well known gross doubling of the boats on Nos. 8 and 37, to provide plate B5, but the tower on No. 42 remained neat without any trace of doubling; this was the fourth printing. Before the fifth printing the centre plate was again re-entered to give B6 and the left parapet of the church tower on No. 42 is now very clearly doubled (FIG 2); the re-entries on Nos. 8 and 37 remain unchanged.

During the sixth printing, each subject of the frame plate was very crudely retouched converting the frame plate from III1 to III2. The centre plate was unchanged but had deteriorated and the double lines of the left parapet on No. 42 has almost merged to a single thick line.

Let me say that in the last paragraph I have used the term 'printing' loosely, probably quite incorrectly presuming that no change was made to either centre or frame plate during an actual printing and that there was always some observable change to one or other of the plates before a new printing.

My old eyes are by no means as sharp as they were so I asked Brian Hudson to take my sheets of these stamps, study the above states B5 and B6 in detail and report his findings. In reproducing his report verbatim it has to be borne in mind that what I have called centre plate B5 was hitherto unknown and that what I have called B6 was hitherto called B5. I had, because of the scratch across Nos. 2, 3 and 4, thought that my sheet from the new combination of plates was late B5 but this is shown now not to be the case.

(HUDSON) "I have studied your three sheets of 5c B5. From their general appearance, I consider that what you call 'late B5' came first. The scratch at the top could be an early scratch that faded rather than a late scratch; it is certainly not visible in III2+B5. The impression of the centres is cleaner with less wear and corrosion than those of the other III1+B5 sheet, with III2+B5 centres more worn and corroded still. In this letter therefor, I will call what you call 'late B5' B5(1), and the other B5(2).

"Although many positions are conspicuously doubled, I could find no difference in the doubling between B5(1) and B5(2) in the top half of the sheet or in the bottom row. In most (but not all) of positions 26 to 45 I could find slight differences, but only in positions 40 and 42 are the differences at all noticeable.

"In 42, as you know, the roof of the church is doubled in B5(2) but not in B5(1).. The other distinguishing feature in this position is that in the doubled boat on the left; the upper half of the doubled hull is clearly thicker in B5(2) than in B5(1). In position 40, the clear doubling of the left of the sea lines which appears in B5(1) is not present in B5(2).

"I then looked at positions 40 and 42 on the sheet of III2+B5. The doubling of the church roof is rather fudged on No. 42, but this sheet clearly shows the thicker hull on 42 and the absence of sea doubling on 40. It is therefore III2+B5(2), which confirms that B5(2) came after B5(1).

"Other differences between B5 (1) and B5(2), though often very slight, are as follows: 26: vertical lines of church more widely doubled in B5(1). 27: in B5(1), slight doubling of left of roof of church and hill line above. 29: left sea lines more widely doubled and church roof more narrowly doubled, in B5(1). 33: doubling of mountain ridge slightly different, and slight doubling of middle mast of the right boat in B5(2). 34: on both plates, a short section of the middle mast of the left boat is doubled, but the doubling is wider in B5(2). 35: slight doubling of middle mast of right boat in B5(2). 36: left of roof of church less doubled in B5(1). 37: all six masts slightly doubled in B5(2). 38: same as 37. 39: doubling of the left sea lines a little different. 40. see above. 41: slightly different doubling in left sea lines and left of hills; left end of roof of building in bottom left corner of vignette very clearly doubled in B5(1) but not in B5(2). 42: see above..

"It seems to me, therefore, that at some stage, rows six to nine of B5(1) were re-entered, but that in general the re-entry made little perceptible difference." (End of HUDSON comments)

We have to accept that the centre plate was re-entered between B5(1) and B5(2) and, by our definition of what constitutes a state of a printing plate, we have to change our nomenclature for some of the combinations of plates for the 1910 5c value—and, of course for the same stamp with the 1921 surcharge.

In Mr. Hudson's descriptions we need replace B5(1) with B5 and B5(2) by B6 and we now have the combinations of plates of the 1910 5c and 1921 10/5c as follows:

<u>New BCSC</u> <u>Designations</u>	<u>BCSC Designations</u> <u>as Bulletin No. 69</u>	<u>DuFour</u> <u>Designations</u>	
III1 + B3		III1 + B3	III1 + B3
III1 + B4	III1 + B4		
III1 + B5			
III1 + B6	III1 + B5	III1 + B4	
III2 + B6	III2 + B5	III2 + B4	
III2 + B7	III2 + B6	III2 + B5	
III2 + C	III2 + C	III2 + C	
IV + D1	IV + D1	IV + D1	
IV + D2	IV + D2	IV + D2	

The combination of plates with the new designation III1 + B5 has not yet been recognized with the 1921 surcharge.

R. Keach

1991 CATALOGUE OFFICIEL

As far as Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi are concerned there are precious few changes from the 1990 edition. The only changes to prices noted are:

## Belgian Congo:

18B (centre inverted) unused from 62,000 to 65,000;  
the addition of 29, pen cancelled 500;

Belgian Congo 56 still has the mysterious unused price of '.,,' and this is taken to mean 30F, the same as unmounted mint, but we could very well be wrong; elsewhere the symbol '.,,' means either unknown or scarce.

'F' and 'F. S.' in rectangles continue to be used, erroneously suggesting that these are the only stamps of which dangerous forgeries exist (which suggestion, if it be a suggestion, is grossly erroneous (Ed)); CPI now has the mark 'V' in a rectangle instead of the previous 'F' in a rectangle and it is presumed this is a typographical error.

## Ruanda Urundi:

Tombeur overprint, 15A & 23 from 90,000 to 100,000;  
15A & 23, Grysolle overprint 80,000;  
65A (overprint inverted) from 2200 to 2500;  
151A & 153A are now listed only unmounted mint and used, the last price presumably being intended for mounted unused

RK

PERFORATIONS OF THE 'PALMS' ISSUES

These stamps, both of Congo and of Ruanda Urundi, are stated in all catalogues to be perforated 12 1/2 but we have reported in these columns that the Congo 50c (CO 234) and 1,25F (CO 238) exist with compound perforation 12 1/2 x 13 1/2 and that part of the printing of the 1,25F with the compound perforation received the 1944 Red Cross overprint.

With the same object in mind as the exercise with the sheet of the Mols stamps, I borrowed from Peter Foden his complete sheets of the Palms issues of Congo and Ruanda and made, for me, some interesting discoveries.

The results of the measurements, (made as with the Mols stamps), follow:

VALUE	SHEET SERIAL NO.	HORIZONTAL PERFORATION	VERTICAL PERFORATION
5c CB	463	12.54	12.53
5c CB	469	12.54	12.56
5c CB	493	12.59	12.70
75c CB/BC	426	12.52	12.70
5c RU	267	12.66	12.49
10c RU	22	12.71	12.49
15c RU	425	12.64	12.46
20c RU	395	12.65	12.49
25c RU	426	12.73	12.47
30c RU	245	12.61	12.51
50c RU	221	12.66	12.60
60c RU	460	12.53	12.58
1F RU	477	12.47	12.49
1.75 RU	67	12.53	12.72
2F RU	138	12.57	12.71
2,50 RU	3	12.59	12.60
3,50 RU	210	12.59	12.57

Checking perforations with an INSTANTA guage showed some about 12 1/2, some about 12 3/4 and some intermediate.

It appears clear that some of these sheets have compound perforations, that some, probably all, had their horizontal and vertical perforations added on different machines. This is a different method of perforation from that normally used for the Mols stamps where, in many cases, it can be conclusively proved that, for a single sheet, vertical and horizontal perforations were made on a single machine.

In looking at the 'Palms' sheets it struck me that, different from the Mols sheets, when a line of perforation was to left or right of the centre line between two stamps it was in the same position for all parallel lines of perforation. I measured, as accurately as possible, the distance between adjacent lines of perforation and found it identical vertically and identical horizontally, and this throughout the sheet.

It is impossible to believe that such precision could have been accomplished by hand positioning of the sheet of stamps for each line of perforation (as is required in the normal single line perforation machine), and the stamps must have been perforated on a comb machine-equipped with automatic feed of the sheets into the perforating head-but fitted with a single line perforating head.

This is perhaps not surprising bearing in mind that, over the years, Waterlow & Sons bought from Grover & Company only two single line perforating machines but no less than twelve of the much more expensive comb machines basically intended for perforating surface printed stamps.

RHK

#### NEWS AND VIEWS

Our member Alan M. F. Bennett reports a change of address to:  
22 N. Cliffe Dr  
Wycliffe  
Wilmington, De. 19809-1602

#### SECRETARYS' NOTES

##### Members List

I propose to distribute a list of members with the next Bulletin and will include addresses unless instructed not to do so. If members would like me to include their telephone numbers, I will also do this--in that case please let me know your number, as I do not have them all.

#### MAY 3/4 MEETING AT OAKLANDS PARK HOTEL, WEYBRIDGE

1991 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Belgian Congo study Circle. Special efforts will be made to persuade eminent Belgian and American philatelists to come over and show some of their treasures. An encouraging start to bookings, but plenty of room for more. Please do not leave it to the last minute to book. I will distribute an agenda for the meeting to those who are coming sometime in March, with details of how to find the OAKLANDS PARK HOTEL.

Meeting of 10 November 1990

There was a small gathering of the Study Circle at the home of Ray Keach at Tadworth and we enjoyed not only Ray's hospitality but a very fine show by him of the 40c MOLS in all its ramifications--Thank you, Ray.

We were pleased to welcome Mr. HILLS, a relatively new member from TROWBRIDGE, KENT, for his first visit to a Circle meeting.

New Members

I am pleased to report the following new members in 1990:

R. INGELS Sint Vincentius Straat 13 B90100 St Niklaas Belg.

D. BILLEMENS Rue Ferdinand Elbert, 57 1080 Brussels Belgium

P. COX 5100 Alberene Rd Richmond Va 23224 USA

W. RENAUD 2900-2 Meadow Brook Windsor, Ontario Canada N8T 3C8

Laurence Green, Secretary

BCSC AMERICAN EXCHANGE PACKET

Our fellow members in England have long enjoyed the benefits of a circulating exchange packet wherein they can buy and sell Belgian Congo (and related areas) stamps, covers and postal stationery. Unfortunately it has not been possible for American members to receive the English packet for various reasons. Plans are now being made to begin such an exchange packet for members in the United States and Canada. It will be helpful to determine how many members will wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If a sufficient number wish to participate, the first packet will begin in the first quarter of 1991. Any members interested should contact:

RONALD E STRAWSER  
310 W. WALL SUITE 1200  
MIDLAND, TX 79701

who has kindly consented to act as the American Exchange Packet Secretary. Please be sure to state whether you will be a buyer or seller or both. This should prove to be a good way to share your duplicate material with other members while also acquiring needed items for your collection.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In reply to Mr. Eisenstein's inquiry concerning repair labels (Bulletin 77/17) M. Jeukens has replied:

"...please find attached photo copies of a few examples of the use of these labels....(See J2 thru J5)

In both cases these labels were identical in aspect except for the wording inscribed in the framed double circle and references printed in the margin (dimensions also differ):

"Etat Independant du Congo|Postes"- 38.5mm-Aff. Etrang. N°  
.26P

"Belgish Congo BelgelPostes-Posterijen"-34.5mm-Mod. N°  
16P

The inner circle recieved the circular date stamp of the office where repair took place: departure, transit or arrival office according to the place of deterioration.

Labels were accompanied by a manuscript or printed comment locating and/or explaining the cause of damage paraphred by the Postmaster (but not always). The Post was responsible for the secrecy of correspondance and these comments were a way to prove that the letter had not been unduely opened.

To date I have not seen labels on mail from Ruanda-Urundi. Same procedure must have applied to those territories, maybe using labels with different wording and references. It could also well have been that the Congo Belge labels were in use over there.

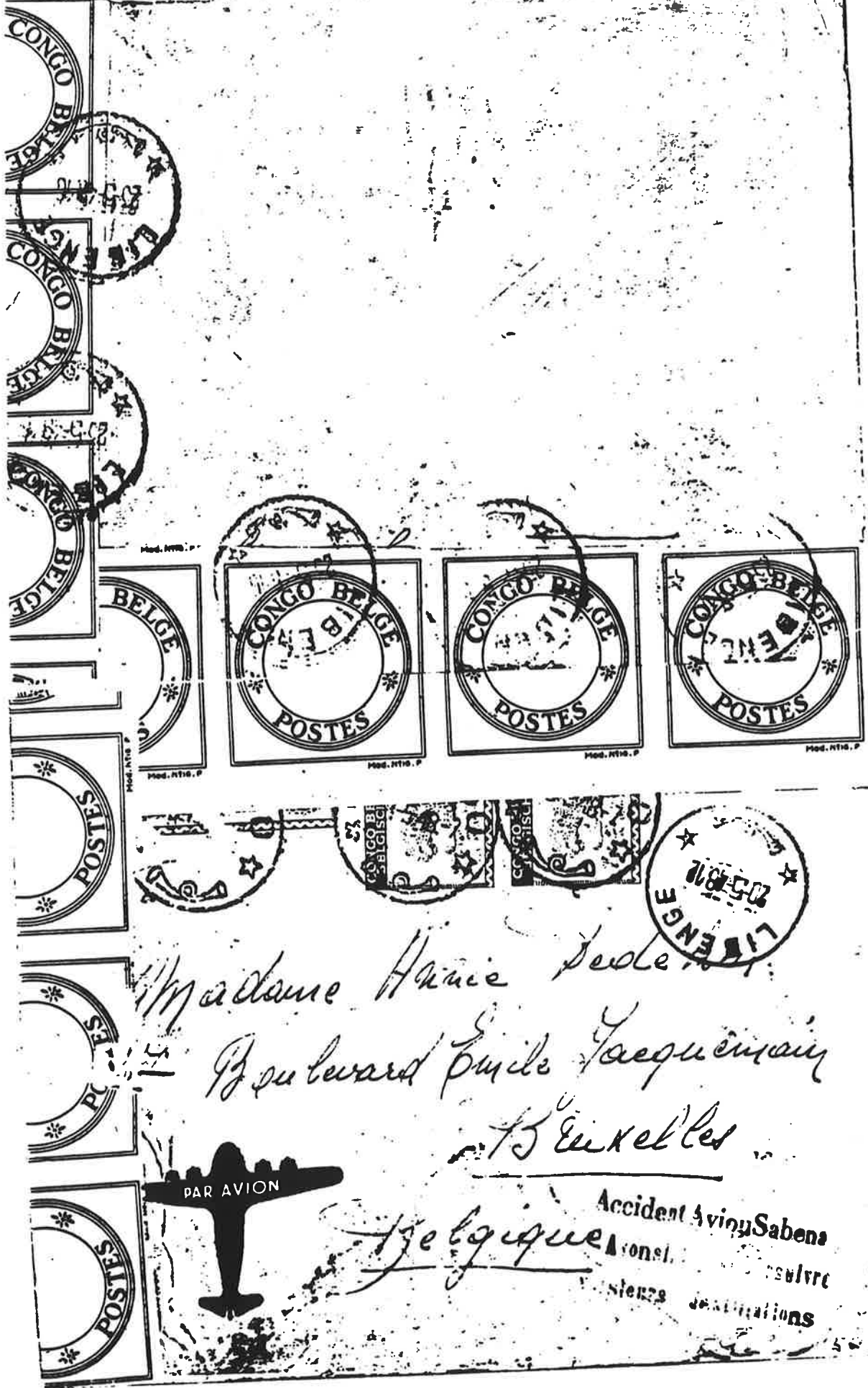
The cover shown in fig J1 is an example of a unilingual label which demonstrates that these were in use at least until 1948. M. Jeukens explains further as to fig J1:

"References are as with bilingual labels 'Mod. N°16.P.' but measurements 35 x 35 mm. The wording "Congo BelgelPostes" is printed in black on white paper.

The cover posted in Lusambo on May 8, 1948 was involved in the Sabena plane crash that occurred near Libenge on May 13. Salvaged it was sent to and recieved by the Libenge Post Office on May 20 and repaired on May 23, 1948. However you will notice the error in the date of the stamp which obliterate the labels: it reads 1949.

Here again you have a printed comment explaining the damage: "Accident Avion Sabena|Avons laisse suivrelvers leurs destinations"

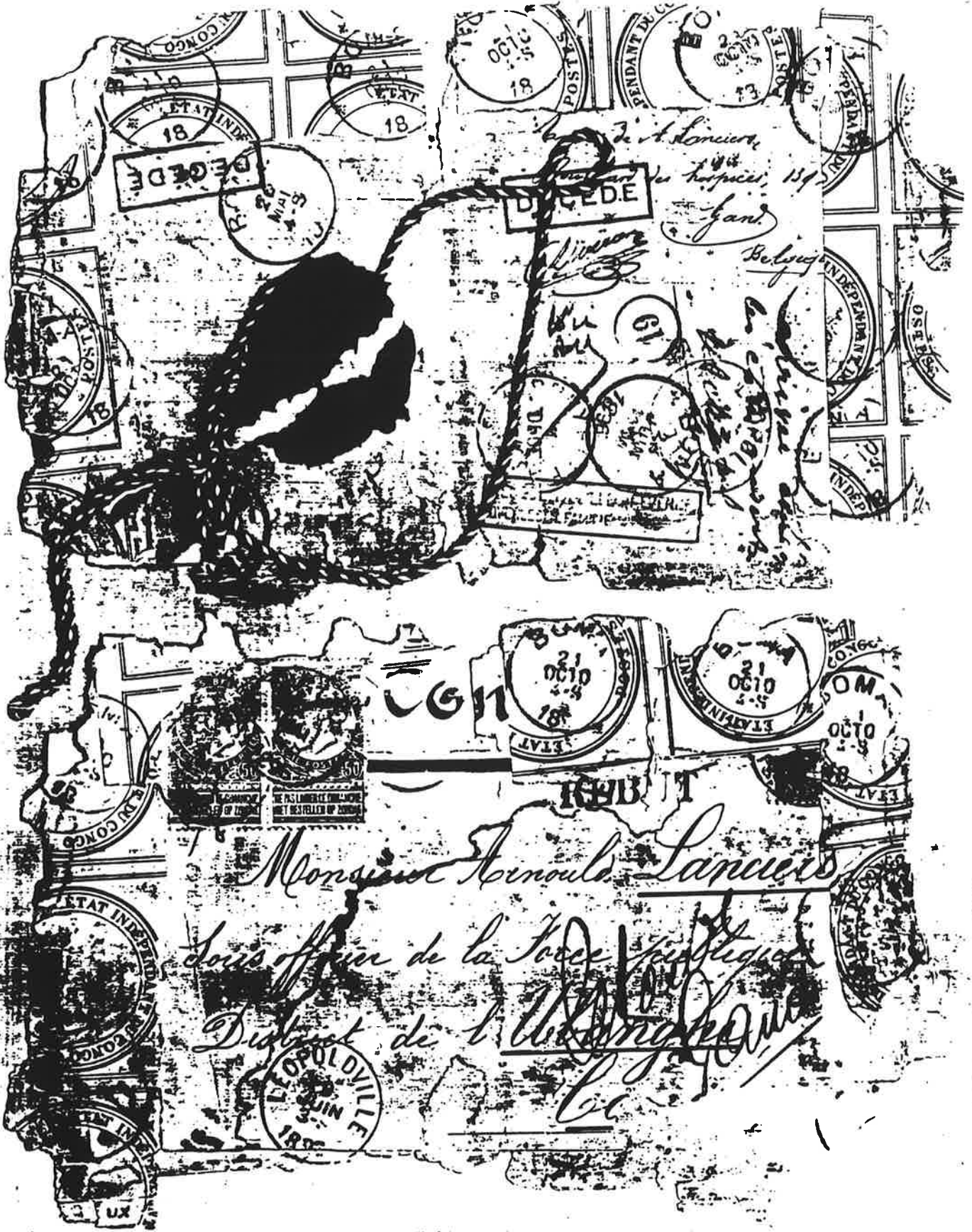
A. Jeukens



Madame Annie Seole  
 Boulevard Emile Jacquemain  
 Bèuxelles



Belgique  
 Accident Avion Sabena  
 Conseil  
 Services de destination



Lettre de Gand vers l'Etat Indépendant du Congo (District de l'Ubangi) - 4 Mai 1896  
retournée à Boma puis à Gand, le destinataire étant décédé

Cachet encadré (bleu-28x10mm) "Décédé" - Cachet (bleu-27x5,5mm) "Rebut"

Etiquettes de réparation (Aff.Etrang.N:26P) libellées "Etat Indépendant du Congo-Postes"  
appliquées à Boma le 21 Octobre - Cachet en cire marqué du sceau "Office Postal Boma"

Cachets encadrés noirs apposés au retour à Gand le 6 Décembre 1896

"Décédé" (28x10mm) & "Décédé, famille prévenue | Verleden, familie verwittigd" (42x10mm)

(these two items are photographically cropped)

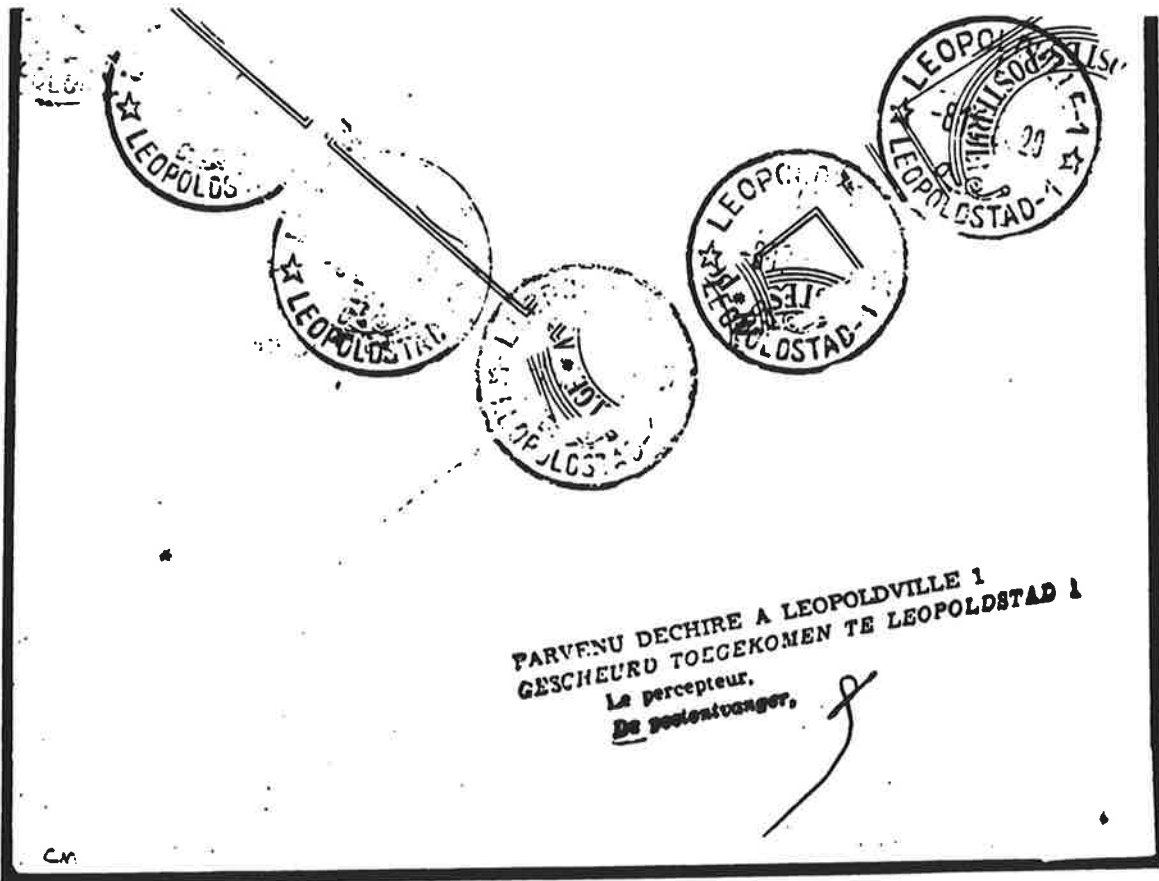


**Retiré du car courrier  
tombé dans la rivière  
Pongo le 6.11.55**

14. NOV. 1955

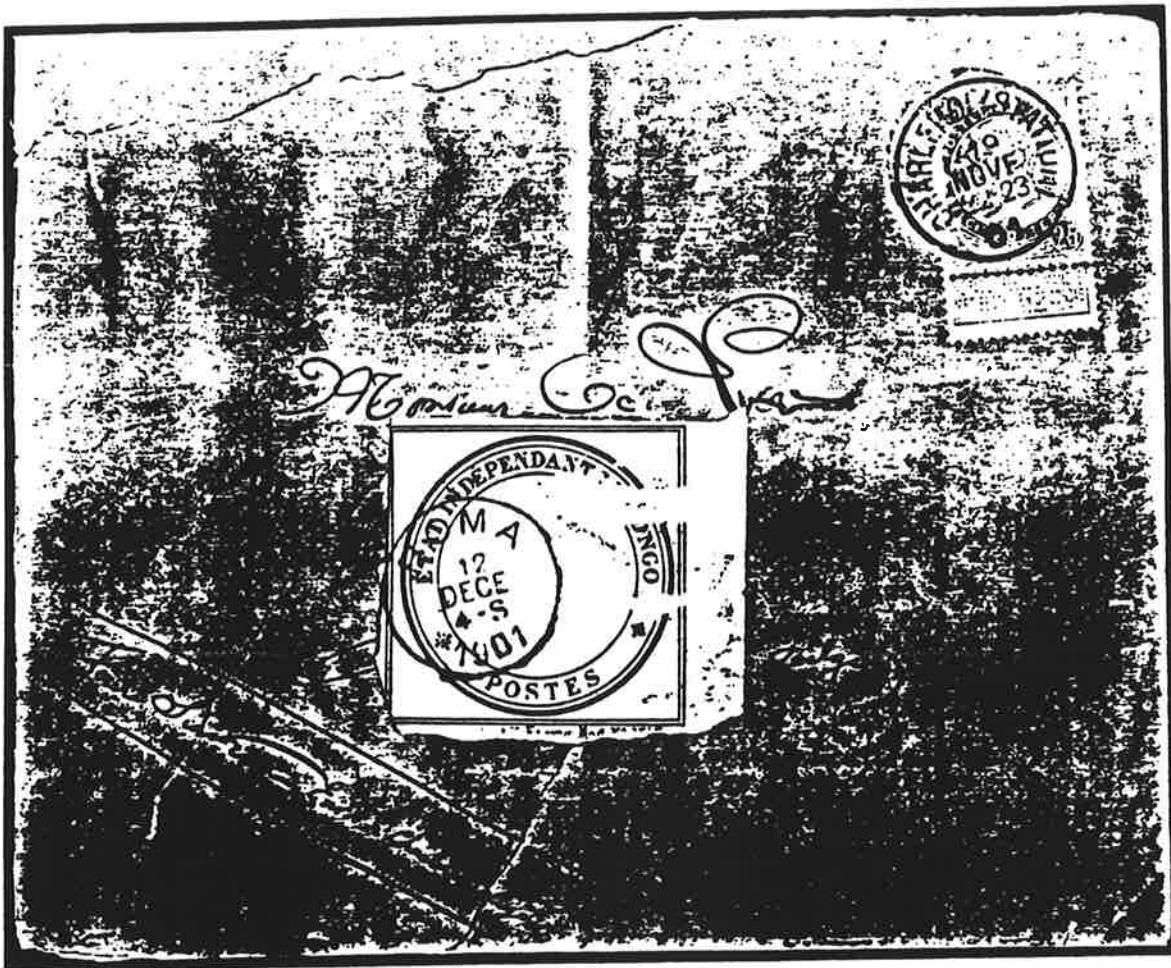
Lettre de Bomboma par avion pour Léopoldville - 4 Novembre 1955  
accidentée en route vers l'aéroport de Libenge

Etiquette de réparation Modèle N°16P libellée "Belgisch Congo Belge-Postes-Posterijen"  
appliquée et oblitérée à Libenge le 8 Novembre 1955 avec justification imprimée  
"Retiré du car courrier|tombé dans la rivière|Pongo le 6.11.55"



Lettre de Luluabourg réparée à Léopoldville - 8 Décembre 1958  
Bandelette de réparation bilingue des Postes congolaises - Modèle n°16P  
Griffe bilingue imprimée sur 4 lignes  
"Parvenu déchiré à Léopoldville 1/Gescheurd toegekomen te Leopoldstad 1  
Le percepteur/De postontvanger" et paraphe

ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO

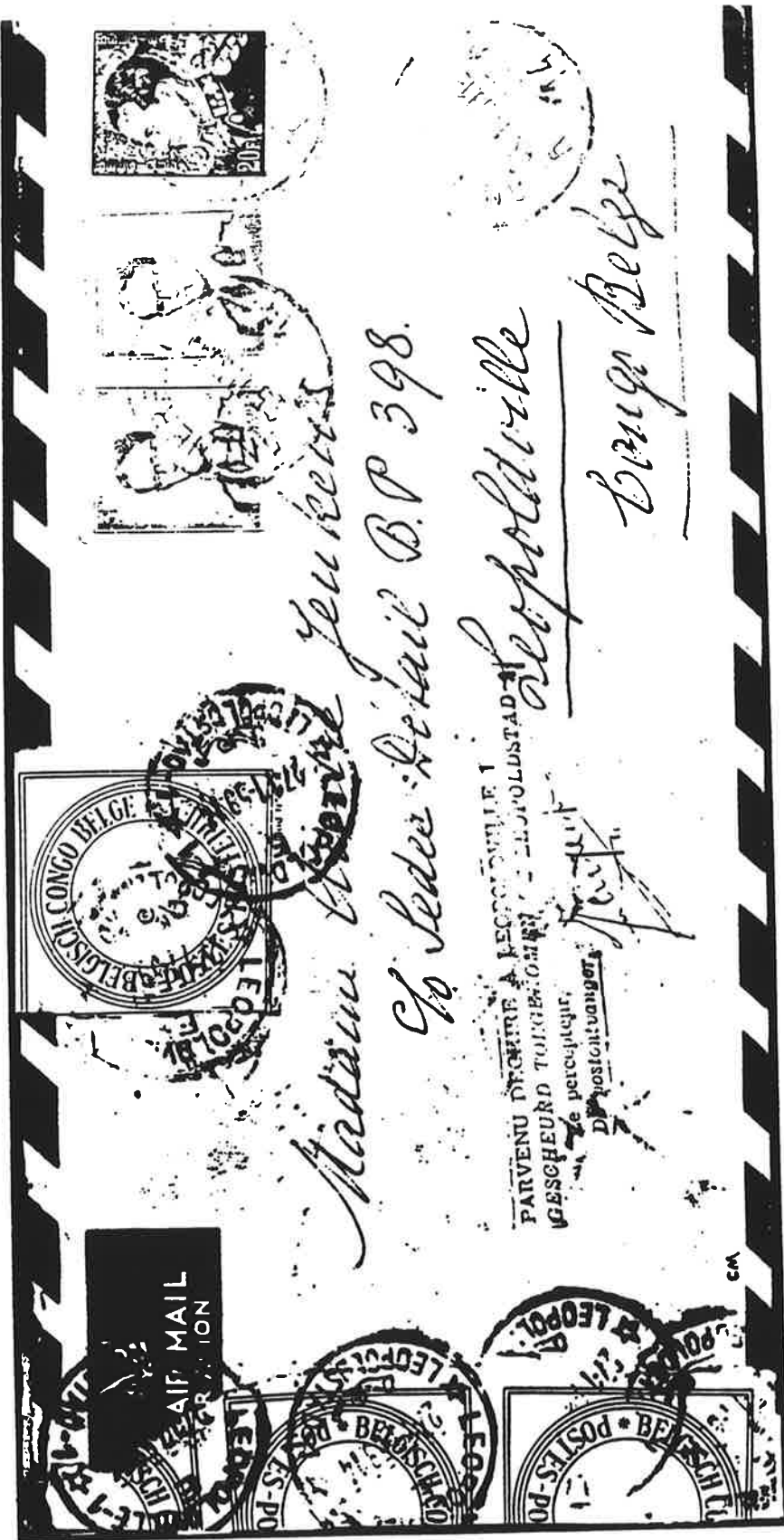


Lettre de Belgique vers l'Etat Indépendant du Congo (Boma) - 19 Novembre 1901  
 arrivée à Boma le 12 Décembre par le s/s Albertville-2  
 étiquette de réparation (Aff.Etrang.Mod.N°26/P) libellée "Etat Indépendant du Congo-Postes"  
 appliquée et oblitérée à Boma le 12 Décembre 1901



79/10E

(the right edge of this letter was photographically cropped)



Lettre de Belgique réparée à Léopoldville - 27 Novembre 1959  
 Bandelette de réparation bilingue des Postes Congolaises - Modèle n°16P.  
 Griffes bilingues imprimées sur 4 lignes  
 "Parvenu déchiré à Léopoldville 1/Gescheurd toegekomen te Leopoldstad 1/  
 Le percepteur/De postontvanger" et signature

QUESTION

Shown in the following figure is an 'Ambulant' cancellation which your editor acquired in New Zealand. The date, apparently, is 11.10.12 but Mr. Keach is at a loss to explain the number 1483. There has been conjecture that it is a Swiss cancellation but how it came to be affixed to a Belgian Congo stamp is a mystery. Is the conjecture correct. Can anyone shed any light on this cancellation?

ETUDES DU MOLS FRENAY

The members are reminded that the excellent plating studies of the Mols issues from the 40 centimes (which has just been issued) thru the 10 Francs by M. Frenay are still available. The price is 8 Pounds each by air mail or 7 Pounds each by surface mail. They may be ordered from Ray Keach. (Your Editor has indulged an extravagant whim (an extravagance he does not regret) by purchasing two each of these works, one of which he has bound in hard cover and the other he gladly covers with his translation and other notes.

PREVIEWS OF COMING BULLETINS

We will present; 1. THE RESULTS OF THE LAST AUCTION; and articles on: 2. THE SECOND WORLD WAR CENSORSHIP IN THE BELGIAN CONGO; 3. COVERS SHOWING GERMAN CENSORSHIP OF BELGIAN CONGO MAIL; 4. THE SECRETARYS' REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE; 5. A PAPER BY A. JEUKENS ON MAIL ROUTES-1900-1940-ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO - CONGO BELGE - RUANDA-URUNDI; 6. CINDERELLA STAMPS OF THE CONGO.

AUCTION SALE

Attached is a list of lots of the POSTAL AUCTION SALE 1991 (1) as pages A1 thru A4. Please forward your bids promptly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You are reminded that subscriptions are now due. Members in USA and Canada \$11 (US) to Edwin M. Lavitt P O Box 900 Rockville, Conn. 06066; Belgium- 400 Fr. (Belg) to Abbe Gudenkauf 130 Rue de Savoie 1060 Brussels; members elsewhere in Europe including the UK 7 pounds to R. Keach or L. Green and other overseas members 8 pounds to R. Keach or L. Green

MORE ON THE PERFORATIONS OF THE MOLS ISSUES

In preparation for a future meeting of the Waterlow Study Circle, at which it is hoped, with the collaboration of other study circles covering Waterlow-printed stamps, to pursue further the perforations used by Waterlow & Sons and endeavour to agree on uniform descriptions of them, I decided to study in some depth the perforations of the Mols stamps by accurate measurement of stamps in complete sheets.

For one line of perforation vertically and for one horizontally I counted the number of teeth and measured the distance, hopefully to the nearest 0.1 mm, between the outermost holes, divided the number of teeth by the distance in mm and multiplied by 20 to give the average perforation over the height or width of the sheet. If the difference between the two measurements was less than 0.05 I took the average of the two as the average perforation of the sheet. If there was a difference of 0.05 or greater --there was something 'odd' which had to be investigated. For this exercise I used only sheets with full gum and ignored sheets, such as 'File Copies', the treatment of which, after perforating, could have affected the perforation.

Some friends in the Study Circle, those who are not particularly interested in the perforations, will ridicule the exercise and wonder why I have not spent my spare time in a more profitable way. I do admit, it was very time consuming and trying on the eyes but I think the work worthwhile if it assists those who are interested in the perforations to decide what perforating machine were used by Waterlow & Sons during the Mols period. In saying 'perforating machines' I mean of course 'perforating heads' because it is the replaceable head of the machine that decides what is the perforation of the stamps.

Counting the holes should be precise but, because the eye can tend to wander and miss a hole or count one twice, one must use great care and constant checking. For measurement I used a much valued plastic 30 cm rule, kindly donated by our worthy President, although I, and I am sure he also, would not care to vouch for its absolute precision. During the period of the work the temperature remained fairly constant so the length of the rule would have varied very little and the resulting measured perforations, if not absolutely correct, would have been relatively correct.



Having measured the average perforation of each sheet with 'regular' perforation-I ignored sheets with irregular 12-14 and 14 1/2-15 perforations altogether-I assessed the year in which the sheet was printed. Having available those dates that were written on such 'File Copy' sheets that came onto the market a few years ago and knowing the dates of issue of the first printings of some other stamps I was able to state with certainty the year in which many of the sheets of stamps were printed. Knowing the combinations of plates and the states of the plates, and in some cases, interpolating between dates on 'File Copies', I was able, I think, to date most of the remainder of the sheets to within one year. In one or two cases, particularly during the 1900 to 1908 period, I could be wrong by two or even three years but, as far as this exercise is concerned, I do not think that such errors are significant.

#### 'REGULAR' PERFORATIONS 1894-1921

It must be stressed that these 'regular' perforations are, in the main, not regular by today's standards, the holes not being in true alignment and the spacing between adjacent holes varying considerably so that the perforation of a single stamp, as measured with the INSTANTA gauge, varies in the sheet and from the measured average.

#### Perforation 12 1/2

No complete sheet of this uncommon perforation was available for measurement. Judging by a block of four, the largest multiple available, the measurement is 12 1/2 or a little less. the date of the printing of the block is unknown but clearly was between 1901 and 1908.

#### Perforation 13.65 to 13.70

<u>Date</u>	<u>Measured Perforations</u>
1909	2 x 13.65 (i.e. two sheets, each of 13.65)
1911	13.67
1912	13.65, 13.69
1913	13.67, 13.69
1914	13.68
1915	13.66; 2 x 13.69
1920	13.68
1920	13.70

#### Perforation 13.84 to 13.85

1899	13.85
1900	13.85
1901	13.84

Perforation 13.96 to 14.08

This is a very wide range and obviously represents many different perforating heads, probably several in use at one time. With all 0.01 steps between the two limits being found, I was unable to divide this wide range into two or more smaller ranges

1895	14.04 (very rough and irregular) This is clearly a 'unique' perforating head of which I have only a single sheet as an example.
1901	14.00, 14.01, 14.04, 14.07
1904	14.03
1905	14.00, 14.03
1906	13.96, 13.97, 13.99, 2 x 14.00, 14.01, 3 x 14.02, 14.03, 14.04
1908	2 x 14.05
1909	13.97, 5 x 13.98, 2 x 13.99, 4 x 14.00, 3 x 14.01 2 x 14.02, 14.03, 14.04
1911	2 x 13.99, 2 x 14.01, 3 x 14.02, 2 x 14.04
1912	13.99, 2 x 14.01, 2 x 14.02, 4 x 14.03, 14.04
1913	13.97, 14.00, 3 x 14.01, 5 x 14.02, 4 x 14.03 2 x 14.04, 14.05
1914	14.02
1915	2 x 13.99, 14.00, 14.01, 14.02, 4 x 14.03 4 x 14.04, 7 x 14.05, 2 x 14.06, 14.07
1916	2 x 14.02, 4 x 14.03, 3 x 14.04, 2 x 14.05 14.06, 14.07
1917	14.02, 14.05, 2 x 14.07, 14.08
1918	14.01, 14.04, 3 x 14.05, 14.07
1919	14.06
1920	14.01, 5 x 14.02, 14.03, 14.05
1921	14.08

Perforation 14.13 to 14.23

Again, this is a very wide range representing several perforating heads and I found it impossible to subdivide it into small ranges fitting into the dates.

1910	14.15, 14.17, 14.19
1911	2 x 14.16, 14.19
1912	14.16, 2 x 14.17, 2 x 14.18, 14.19
1913	14.13, 14.17, 14.18, 14.19, 14.20, 14.21
1914	14.20
1915	14.14, 2 x 14.16, 6 x 14.17, 2 x 14.18, 7 x 14.19 6 x 14.20, 4 x 14.21
1916	2 x 14.16, 3 x 14.18, 2 x 14.19, 2 x 14.20, 14.21, 14.22
1918	14.17, 14.18, 3 x 14.20, 14.21, 14.22, 14.23
1919	14.17, 14.18, 14.20
1920	14.17, 3 x 14.18, 2 x 14.19

1921            14.21

Perforation 14.93 to 15.03

Again a very wide range. It will be noted that before 1912 only one sheet (14.94 in 1901) has a perforation less than 14.96 but perforations higher in the range persist from 1895 to 1920.

1895	2 x 15.02
1896	14.97, 15.03
1897	14.98
1898	14.96
1899	14.98
1900	15.00, 15.01
1901	14.94
1909	14.98, 15.01
1911	14.96
1912	2 x 14.94, 14.95, 3 x 14.96, 14.98
1913	14.93
1914	14.93, 14.97
1915	14.93, 2 x 14.96, 3 x 14.97, 14.98, 14.99
1916	3 x 14.96, 14.98, 2 x 14.99, 15.01
1918	2 x 14.97, 2 x 14.98, 14.99, 15.01
1920	14.98

Perforation 15 3/4 (nominal 16)

Only a single sheet of this perforation was available for measurement. Printed in 1899 the perforation measures 15.77. A few other small multiples conform.

Accuracy

As stated above the 30 cm plastic rule used for linear measurements is not a precision instrument but, with the heights and widths of the sheets being very much the same from sheet to sheet (stamps of vertical format being turned through a right angle) any inaccuracy in the rule will apply similarly to each sheet.

Accepting the rule as accurate, it is thought that the zero could be positioned on the first hole with an accuracy of + or - 0.1 mm and the centre of the last hole could be measured to the same accuracy. With such accuracy the calculated perforation would be + or - 0.02 and I think that a claim of + or - 0.03 is justified

Paper Shrinkage

If a stamp alters its size by shrinking or stretching of the paper its perforation will be changed. We know very well that paper can shrink or stretch in one direction or another when it is soaked in or even dampened by water but the sheets of stamps examined, because of their full gum, cannot have been subjected to such treatment, I do not know if, with other climatic conditions or with time, paper can alter its size and, without such knowledge, I presume that it cannot to any appreciable extent; stretching or shrinking by 0.1% would result in a change of measured perforation of between 0.01 and 0.02.

Conclusions

The following 'regular' perforating heads were used by Waterlow & Sons for the Mols issues:

Perforation 12 1/2: almost certainly one head around 1905

Perforation 13.68 + or - 0.03 (nominal 13 1/2): two or more heads during the period 1909 to 1921

Perforation 13.85 + or - 0.01: one head during the period 1899 to 1901

Perforation 14.04 (circa): one head with very irregular holes in 1895

Perforation 14.06 + or - 0.06 (nominal 14): several, maybe many, heads during the period 1901 to 1921

Perforation 14.18 + or - 0.05 (nominal 14 or 14 1/4): several, maybe many, between 1910 and 1921

Perforation 14.98 + or - 0.05 (nominal 15): several, maybe many, between 1895 and 1901 and between 1909 and 1920

Perforation 15.77 (circa) (nominal 15 3/4 or 16): one head in 1899

RHK

## APOLOGY

The Sales Secretary apologizes for the late publication of the results of the last Auction which, as indicated, will appear in the next bulletin.