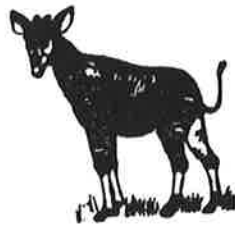


BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN 80

JUNE 1991

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PRESIDENTS COLUMNPRESENTATION TO RAYMOND H. KEACHRay Keach, 40 years service to the Belgian Congo Circle

The 40th Anniversary weekend at the Oatlands Park Hotel was indeed just that--the 40th Anniversary of the formation of our Study Circle.

In introducing founder member Mrs. Doris Green to mark the occasion with a presentation to Ray Keach I observed --We owe much to Ray as the prime mover, for the sustained momentum, devotion and commitment, not only in the earlier stages but over many years. To many of us he has been our mentor--always happy to help and pass on his very substantial knowledge. Nothing appears to have been 'too much trouble'."

He is a very caring and kindly gentleman and in saying this we should not of course forget his dear wife Joan who equally in her own inimitable way has permitted Ray's philanthropy and has tolerated and befriended many of us on so many occasions--be it with coffee, tea, supper, a bed, a glass of two of home brewed wine or even something a little stronger.

Mrs. Green made the presentation of what can best be described as a 'Multifacet Time Piece' inscribed in recognition of his 40 years service. She endorsed the Circles appreciation of all he has done but (what) we did not do then but will do now is to briefly document a summary of some of Rays contributions during the last 40 years--How the time flies.

(I am indebted to Mrs. Green for assistance in compiling this summary and apologize in advance for any omissions which are inevitable.)

Stewart Smith

Raymond H. Keach

Nov. '50

Contacted Doris Green suggesting the formation of a Congo study circle. Wrote to various known Congo collectors and a meeting was called.

- Feb. '51 The Circle was formally established. There were six members present-Mrs. D.M. Green, and Messrs R. H. Keach, A. G. Wood, J. Wright, W. J. Thrasher, P. G. Cresswell. Eleven other prospective members had registered interest of whom it is known Laurence Green and C. H. Crompton sent apologies for their absence
- Feb. 22 '51 First Bulletin sent out.
- Apr. '51 Agreed that there would be no official chairman and the Chair for each meeting should be the person organizing the afternoon discussion. Details of the subject were to be sent to RHK and forwarded to other members who in turn could add to it.
- May '51 The first section book distributed.
1952 Organized the first auction sale and club packet
- Oct. 1958 Organized an exhibition of members material at the Kingsley Hotel, London followed by dinner.
- Established the Circles Library.
1958-1975 The Circle continued to grow in activity and membership, under the direction of RHK. The work load increased significantly and as a result--
- Dec. '75 a management team of the Circle was arranged so as to spread the work load. A Bulletin Editor was appointed but RHK continued as General and Packet Secretary as well as Treasurer.
- 2 Oct. '76 Organized the Study Circles 25th Anniversary luncheon.
- 20 Oct. '76 Organized the Study Circles display to the Royal Philatelic Society.
- 1975-76 Compiled "The cancellations of the normal Post
Offices of the Belgian Congo 1886-1960 and Ruanda-Urundi 1917-1952" and "A Philatelic Bibliography of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi" with A. I. Heim (Addenda by RHK, 1983). Both works have proved of extreme value and assistance to Congo collectors

21 May '77 After a period of 25 years as Secretary and Treasurer (though still retaining 'Sales') RHK retired and was immediately elected as the Circles first official Chairman. (A title subsequently changed in 1983 to President.)

1977-78 The instigation and establishment and Secretaryship of the Expert Committee.

1981 Elected Honorary Life Vice-President

20 June '81 A founder member and first Chairman of the Waterlow Study Circle.

27 May '82 Exhibited over 500 sheets from his own collection to the Royal Philatelic Society.

1951-1991 Constant contributor to the Bulletin.

Ray joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 1968 and only a year later was elected a Fellow. At the Royal he was elected to the Library Committee in charge of the Journal collection a position he held for some 17 years. To the benefit of Circle members our own library now includes both originals or photo copies of virtually everything published on Congo philately or postal history.

The Royal Philatelic Society honoured Ray by presenting him with the Royal Medal in 1985

LETTER FROM RAY KEACH TO THE MEMBERS

Tadworth
10 May 1991

Dear Friends:

At our 40th Anniversary meeting Mrs. Doris Green, on behalf of you all, presented me with a beautiful and splendid clock inscribed RAY KEACH- 40 YEARS SERVICE-BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE. This was totally unexpected, a complete and delightful surprise. I wonder if it was justified but I am very grateful to you all for your thought and generosity.

For the first twenty-five years I was 'general factotum' of a small and rather static study circle and it was only after others, notably Peter Foden as Secretary and Ralph Jacquemin as Editor, took the reins that we blossomed into the effective organization that we now are. Our grateful thanks are due to them and to all the others who have given so much of their time and energy to our endeavours.

It is perhaps opportune to reminisce about our birth and early days..

Percy Cresswell, a member of the existing Belgian Study Circle and also a collector of Belgian Congo, and I were fellow members of the Kingston-on-Thames Philatelic Society. He invited me to a meeting of the BSC, then held at Harry and Doris Green's flat in London, not to attend their meeting but to meet Mrs. Green who collected Congo as well as her principal country, Saar. Doris showed me her Congo collection, marvellous by my standards, and we discussed the possibility of starting a society of Congo collectors. It was agreed that I should approach known collectors of which Doris gave me the names to ascertain if there was the interest to call an exploratory meeting. These persons gave me one or two others so that we had a dozen possible members including two from overseas, General Du Four and Arthur Heim.

I called a meeting, to be held at the Green's flat, for Saturday, 10 February, 1951 and able to attend were Doris Green, Percy Cresswell, William Thrasher, Geoffrey Wood, Joseph Wright and myself. It was agreed that a Congo group was desirable and the Study Circle was born. It was thought that because of our small size, only one officer, a secretary, was needed and, because I had convened the meeting I was elected to the post., We grandiosely called ourselves the BELGIAN CONGO SPECIALISTS' STUDY CIRCLE although the only then members who could have claimed the distinction of specialist were Joseph Wright and Jean Du Four: "specialists" was soon dropped from our title.

All our early meetings were held at Mrs. Green's flat where she welcomed us and gave us splendid teas. I fear that we took her generous hospitality for granted and were not as grateful as we should have been. A very belated thank you to Doris.

In the early days Joseph Wright, who had a wonderful collection, probably only surpassed by that of General Du four, was our mentor and most readily gave advice and help to all who solicited it. My early interest was in the Mols plate varieties, both those listed in the recently published Balasse Catalogue and the less obvious ones, and Wright freely lent me his complete sheets to allow me to position my own single copies and make notes so that I would be able to recognize positions in the sheet that I lacked. An early visitor to London was General DuFour and he brought to show us the best of his Mols collection. There were marvellous things: I recall the 10 francs with inverted centre and the unique water-colour essays of the first Mols stamps. General Du Four was staying near London for a few days and agreed to come for dinner at my house on the following Monday.

On leaving our meeting on Saturday evening he handed me his three albums saying 'take the stamps to study at your leisure and I will collect them on Monday'. Scared of the responsibility of such treasures we slept with them under the bed.

It was agreed that our purpose was the dissemination of knowledge of Congo stamps amongst our members and that we would be a purely amateur organization, not welcoming those who made their living from stamps or bought and sold stamps at a profit. This restriction has gradually been lifted and I do not think that we have suffered thereby, our professional and semi-professional members never having, to my knowledge indulged in trading at our meeting or obtrusively outside them.

In 1957 my job moved me from London to the north of England where I stayed for five years. This was a very difficult period for the circle, entirely due to me: we managed an annual meeting and the Bulletin appeared very infrequently, one consolation was that there was no call for subscriptions for several years.

Joseph Wright died in 1958 and his widow asked me if I would deal with his collection for her. The obvious thing to do was to hand the collection to an auctioneer with Mrs. Wright getting the proceeds in a few months. I told her that there was an alternative: the most valuable items had to go to public auction (I was unable to put fair prices on them and it is probable that the then members did not have the spare money to buy the real treasures) but that 'ordinary' stamps, of which there were many thousands, would certainly fetch a better price if sold singly, in complete sheets, and blocks, as individual items to our members although this procedure would mean that the payments to her would extend over, probably, two or three years. She fortunately agreed to the second course and, financially, she certainly benefited. We too benefited greatly and I think that this exercise kept the BCSC going during the 'dark period' to 1962.

Since then many of the widows and legatees of our deceased members-one remembers Compton, Cresswell, Loader, Thrasher, Thomson and Wise-as well as ex-members who have decided to part with their Congo collections, have asked us to sell their collections and we have always obtained more (up to 300%) than the professional valuation of the collection.

Although right at the centre of such activity I have sometimes wondered if the BCSC with its amateur image, should indulge in such 'trading' which had become an important and integral part of what we do.

So far it has greatly benefited both vendors and buyers who have been able to obtain 'small' items they want (not, I hope, too cheaply) without taking much that they do not want and there has been benefit to all except the stamp dealers and auctioneers. Our trading is 'impersonal', not directly between vendor and buyer and the unpleasantness of face-to-face selling and the resultant bargaining is avoided. Overall I think it is a good thing, to be continued and encouraged.

Long life and prosperity to the BCSC and all its members.

All the best.

Ray Keach

AUCTION SALES

We have had a succession of thirteen quarterly postal auction sales. To give me a rest there is no list of lots of a further sale with this Bulletin but it is expected there will be an autumn sale, the list appearing in the September Bulletin. I already have some lots for inclusion but others will be welcomed. Please tell me what you have before sending.

Total sales from the thirteen auctions have amounted to about £30,000 from which the Study Circle has benefited by the 5% commission (10% for non-members who have offered us material).

In each sale few lots were left unsold and many of those sold subsequently at about 80% of valuation. Very, very few lots were returned as unacceptable or not in accordance with the descriptions so it is presumed that buyers were satisfied with their purchases. Many lots fetched much more than expected but there were a few bargains. With such a wide variety of stamps and postal history and such a variation in the value of lots it has surprised me that so many members have submitted no bids at all. This is understandable for those with very large or highly specialized collections but that hardly applies to most of us. Maybe some of us avoid postal auction sales, either on principle or because of previous unpleasant experiences of them. If anyone has such fears I can assure them, with Geoffrey Wood having acted as auctioneer, that there has been and is no fear of bids being 'rigged'.

SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at Oatlands Park Hotel, Weybridge at 13:45 on Sunday 5 May 1991. There were 14 members present.

In his introduction the President, Mr. S. S. Smith, welcomed those present. Those who were attending for the first time were Monsieur J. Du Four from Brussels and Mr. Ron Strawser from the U.S.A.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held 5 May 1990, set out in the Bulletin of June 1990 were approved. The account for the 9 months to 31 Dec. 1990 had been set out in the Bulletin 79 of March 1991. The Treasurer explained that a 9 month account had been prepared to bring the accounts into line with calendar year subscriptions now in force.

The President asked for any comments or questions--Peter Foden queried the tax position of the Circle--the Treasurer explained there was no tax liability, as the interest earned from the Building Society was NET of tax. The Treasurer explained he had recently cleared the matter for another and much larger unincorporated Fund, of which he was Treasurer--he would however get a clearance from the local Inspector of Taxes for the sake of good order.

Adoption of the accounts for the 9 months to 31 December 1990 was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

The Secretary reported that the current membership of the Circle was 80 fully paid up members and a further 14 unpaid to date. Interestingly the membership was made up of 29 members in North America, 28 in the UK, 28 in Belgium and 9 in other countries. An up to date list of members is enclosed in this Bulletin.

The Treasurer recommended and the meeting accepted that the rates of subscription should remain unchanged for the next year. Costs (assuming 4 bulletins) at about L1200 would exceed subscriptions and other income by about L300/L400 (excluding Sales Commissions which had been well over L500 in the last two years, but expected to diminish in future)--the Circle's reserve funds currently stand a little above L1750 on deposit with the Alliance & Leicester Building Society.

The Treasurer asked for approval from the meeting for the expenditure out of Circle funds of L200 of the use of the 'CEDAR' room for the two days at the Oatland Park Hotel and also approximately L100 for the Sherry Party (Actual cost L91.66). Approval was duly given.

Such was the enthusiasm of the Treasurer for collecting money at Oatland Park that the Circle made a profit of L4 on Teas and Coffees, and one member was asked to pay his subscription twice (apologies have been sent). It was, nevertheless, agreed that receipts would not in future be sent out for subscriptions unless paid for in cash or specifically asked for.

The Bulletin Editors report follows:

I have had the pleasure and privilege of editing the past three bulletins and remain particularly grateful to Messrs. Ralph Jacquemin, Ray Keach and Laurence Green for their assistance in assuming my duties.

The Bulletin is now printed on both sides of each page (for obvious postal savings). Two master copies are made with one being sent to Mr. Norman Clowes for reproduction and distribution in the British Isles and points not served by Monsieur M. E. Hoorens who gets the second master and reproduces it for distribution to the Continental members.

We have begun a Question and Answer column. Members have been most helpful in providing answers to any inquiries.

We have had a series of most interesting articles, including M. A. Jeukens 'Tour de Force' on Censored Covers, and, of course, must exhort the membership to "keep up the good work":.

Mr. Clowes and others have been kind enough to make recommendations to improve the physical quality of the Bulletin which, to the extent possible, will be put into effect.

Our FAX NUMBER is 203 870 8623 if one desires to make use thereof.

As the American 'Collector of Revenue' I can report we now have 20 paid up members in the US and Canada. In addition, I have obtained the names and addresses of some fifty to sixty members of the American Philatelic Society who have indicated a special interest in the stamps of the Belgian Congo and who are not currently members of the BCSC. Each and every one of these people will be contacted with an invitation to apply for membership in the Circle.

Your Editor asks only that the members continue to send fotos, notes, articles, observations, questions, suggestions etc. which, we trust, will cover all aspects of Belgian Congo Philately, to be shared, with pleasure, by all.

EDWIN M. LAVITT

The report of the Expert Committee follows:For the period 1 April 1990 to 31 December 1990

During the nine month period the committee issued 108 certificates, thought to be a record number for the period. 102 of the subjects submitted were considered to be genuine and six forged or faked. In addition to the Certificates issued, two items were submitted on which the committee was unable to reach a decision.

During the period all items submitted were from members of the BCSC. A disappointing feature is that only seven members submitted items for certificates.

Most, maybe all, of us have in our collections unrecognised fakes and forgeries. Nearly all Congo overprints and surcharges and the great majority of the earlier cancellations have been forged. Any item that is valuable, unusual or abnormal deserves independent consideration. The cost of our certificates is very modest e.g. L1.50 for a single stamp and 20% discount for five or more submitted at one time, not to mention half-price when an item is found to be a forgery.

R. H. KEACH
HON. SECRETARY, EXPERT COMMITTEE

The report of the 'Sales Department' follows:

Report for the Period 1 April 1990 to 31 December 1990

General sales during the period have amounted to about L5200 providing commission of L260.49. Probably something like half the commission has been offset by the cost of postage but there has been a useful contribution toward the general funds.

We have been very fortunate recently in having access to the substantial stocks of two Brussels dealers one now deceased.

During the period we held three postal auction sales. Nearly all lots were sold, either in the sale or subsequently. Total sales amounted to L6067.50 with more than L300 commission to the the Study Circle (of which L65 was not received until 1991). This is, of course, not all profit and offset against it needs to be the cost of duplication of the lists of lots and prices realized and the additional postage in distributing copies of the Bulletin.

R. H. KEACH
General Sales Secretary

The report of the Exchange Packet Secretary follows:

There was only a small Exchange Packet in the year 1990. It is to be hoped that 1991 will proved more material for this endeavour.

B. P. HUDSON
Exchange Packet Secretary

The meeting continued with the election of Officers. The President, Mr. S. S. Smith retires having completed his two years of office. I would like on behalf of the members to thank him for the considerable amount of work that he has done, and well done, during his tour of office.

It was proposed and seconded and unanimously approved that Peter Foden Be elected President for the next two years.

The other officers were all willing to continue and were re-elected as follows-

General Sales Secretary-Mr. R. H. KEACH
Exchange Packet Secretary- Mr. B. P. HUDSON
Expert Committee- Mr. R. H. KEACH (Secretary), ABBE G. GUDENKAUF and Mr. P. S FODEN
Bulletin Editor--Mr. EDWIN M. LAVITT
Secretary/Treasurer- Mr. L. G. GREEN

Discussion of the 1991-92 programme followed and it was agreed so far as locations were concerned--Nov. 1991 at L. G. Green ESHER- May 1992 at Ray Keach (probably the 1Fr Mols) and September 1992 joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle. Further details will be included in the September Bulletin.

Report of the 40th Anniversary meeting at Weybridge follows:

An ambitious programme of 8 presentations was undertaken over the week-end and some fabulous material was shown. I am very conscious of the fact that descriptions of the presentations are necessarily limited and do not do justice to the material shown.

(I had hopefully asked exhibitors, if they could kindly let me have a brief write-up of their shows for the Bulletin and where, we have not had response to date, you will have to rely on my memory.)

1. Monsieur Jacques Du Four--Prepostage Covers and the 1886 and 1887 Portrait Issues

We were very glad to welcome Jacques Du Four and to see his famous material of pre-postage covers and the Portrait Issues (wisely esconced for the balance of his visit in the hotel Safe)-some material I believe in the category of family heirlooms. Most of us never get the chance to see INWARD and HOMEWARD labels. I have a great affection for the Portrait Issues and it was wonderful to see a show as rich in stamp as in postal history. I was glad to see the rare Perf 14 5 Franc of the first issue and so many fine blocks. Unforgettable.

(M. Du Four has promised an article on his showing together with photographs thereof, for a later issue. Editor)

2. Peter Foden-Essays, Proof and Publicity Proofs

Peter showed a remarkable collection of Essays and Proofs covering a long period, with some Specimen surcharges as a bonus. Some of the MOLS early proofs struck me--workmanship so fine.

3. Mrs. Doris Green-Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

We were all delighted that Doris Green was able, after all, to get up to Weybridge, by taxi, from BOURNEMOUTH, if only for a relatively brief visit and, of course, for her display. We did see much of this material at Bournemouth 4 years ago, and were glad to have the chance to see it again. A marvellous show of this fascinating period, and beautifully presented.

(Your Editor was privileged to be at Bournemouth 4 years ago and was so impressed with Doris' presentation that he insisted that Mrs. Lavitt (who is not a collector) see and hear her. Mrs. Greens review of the history of the period, punctuated by covers from the Congo from the actual participants in the Campaigns-(some of extreme rarity)-made Mrs. Lavitt observe that were she to become a collector she would follow Doris' footsteps in making history come alive through stamps, documents, photos and covers).

4. Monsieur Andre Vindevoghel-1921 Congo Belge Surcharges and the Belgian Campaign in the Cameroons

Andre showed us some rare material on the 1921 Recuperation issue, particularly blocks and his plating of the high values surcharged CONGO BELGE.

He also showed maps of the routes taken by the small Belgian forces in the Cameroons during their campaign there during the Second World War--so far he has not come across any covers of this period, though some must exist and we have now been alerted to look for them.

5. Ray Keach -The 50 centimes MOLS value

The display was of a working collection built with the object of including for each stamp the different combinations of centre and frame plates, the different shades of both centrals and frames and the different perforations together with the different overprints and surcharges applied to the basic stamps, together with blocks and covers to illustrate use of the stamps. Plate varieties were not included in the display.

Compared with some other values the different combinations of centre and frame plates used between 1894 and 1922 are few and straight-forward and complete sheets were shown to illustrate them. There is however one unresolved problem: as has been reported in the Bulletin- there appear to have been two states of the centre plate, at present considered as A5 (1915 50c with unshaded smoke). Two examples of No. 41 in the sheet were shown, one with no doubling of the centre design and one with the shading of the sky very clearly doubled, obviously evidence of re-entry.

The perforations are considered to be of importance because they permit an interesting and substantial collection to be developed from common stamps and some perforations on overprinted stamps appear to be very rare and to be sought: moreover, the different perforations can be compared with those of other values and indeed, with the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons for countries other than Belgian Congo.

Of the more unusual items included in the display there were:

1894 A used stamp with imperforate right margin

1909 CONGO BELGE handstamps: there was a varied display, by no means comprehensive and completely lacking in examples with Local 8 and Brussels 8 overprints. Some combinations of shade, perforations and overprint appear to be really rare and we do not yet know what exists.

1909 CONGO BELGE typo a single and block of four of the inverted overprint were included together with a forged inverted overprint on a travelled cover.

1916 RUANDA and URUNDI: there were examples of the local, Havre and 'Grysolle' including the local in blue and Grysolle inverted.

1921 'Recuperation' the stamp with the inverted surcharge from the sheet supplied to the Lusambo post office was included. Also complete sheets, one with the surcharge applied to the 1909 Unilingual stamp, with three of the four states of the surcharge, the states resulting from the successive disappearances of dots under the left letter C.

1922 'Malines' this was perhaps the most comprehensive and important part of the display. Two great rarities were included: the surcharge on the 1915 stamp with original centre plate (with no shading of the smoke) as a single and block of four, and the stamp from the later printing with the shaded smoke but perforated 15 instead of the normal 14. Also shown were stamps with inverted surcharge, both in matt and shiny ink, and including one on a cover. Perhaps more important were blocks and pairs with one horizontal row with surcharge doubled and a block of 20 from the bottom of the sheet with the surcharges on the bottom two rows very oblique. These pieces tell us much as to how the surcharges were applied.

1922 EAAOB 'Malines' there was an example with the surcharge inverted. Towards the end of the EAAOB overprinting with the long Type L2a overprint the L of BELGE on overprint No. 39 became very damaged with much of the L of BELGE missing. This variety is normally attributed to only the 15c and 25c (including 25/15c) values. A sheet of the 5/50c with the variety was shown although the fault is not in its ultimate state when parts of the adjacent G are also missing.

RHK

6. Andre Jeukens-BELGIAN CONGO CENSORSHIP-WORLD WAR II-CIVILIAN AND MILITARY

In the March 1991 Bulletin Andre Jeukens wrote up at length World War II Censorship-and in this display he showed some of the material on which the Article was based. Beautifully mounted and written up, this was a fascinating show, based on quite a lot of original research, both by Andre and Peter Foden.

7. Laurence Green-POSTAGE DUE COVERS USED IN THE CONGO AND BELGIAN POSTAGE DUES ON BELGIAN CONGO COVERS

I have large collections of postage dues and I showed the majority of my Belgian Congo Postage Due Covers and the Belgian Covers on mail from the Congo. This covered the period from 1886 to 1970 and showed postage due development over the period in the two countries. Not surprisingly the postage due rates were identical in the two countries, at least until 1940, and perhaps later. Also shown were a few RUANDA-URUNDI Postage Due Covers between 1962 and 1970 as neither RWANDA nor BURUNDI issued postage due stamps on their own.

Notable was Raymond Keach's rare QUITTANCE with first portrait issues dated 1886, and advice notes from 1923 with both Malines and BOMA surcharges.

Walter Deynckens--NATIONAL PARKS ISSUES AND INTERNAL MAIL IN THE CONGO

Walter took us unto fairly unknown territory. His report follows:

Two collections were presented.

The first was a study on the National Parks issues. The several issues around the National Parks started with an issue of a 4 stamp sheet. The value of the stamps is 4,50 fr. Selling date from the 20th October 1937. 8 different sheets filled the centre and frame plates. These sheets were presented with their varieties.

A second issue was printed and sold from the 1st of March 1938. The values of 5c, 90c, 1,50 fr., 2,40 fr., 2,50 fr., and 4,50 fr. were explained by covers and other mail. Full sheets of 100 stamps of 5c, 1,50 fr., 2,40 fr., and 2,50 fr., were shown.

The following issue was that of 3 October 1938. It consisted of the previous values but put together into a sheet with different colours. 6 different sheets filled the centre and frame plate and they were shown with their varieties on stamps, sheets and covers.

The overprint issues of values and of Ruanda Urundi were presented on stamps and even on full sheets. Varieties, replaced and inverted overprints completed this collection.

A second, rather young collection, was presented. The collection was 'internal mail usage' which was demonstrated by covers and postal stationary.

A few points were especially highlighted. Included were covers which presented an arrival cancellation which went further than the departure location; covers with reduced postal charges for native inhabitants; and covers with reduced postal charges for delivery within a radius of 2 km.

Special covers were presented with tax stamps used to complete the postage rate in Ruanda Urundi. Taxe percue, trouve a la boite and obsolete cancellations were shown together with a cover marked: 'retire du car courrier tombe dan la riviere Pongo le 6.11.55.

The collection contained several internal covers sent to the Nieuwe Afrikaanse Handelsvennootschap in Buta and several covers to the Substitut du Procureur du Roi at Kabinda over a period of 20 years.
(WDeynckens)

9. Ron Strawser--PROOFS--EMPHASIS ON THE 'VLOORS

Ron presented an extensive collection of Proofs with particular emphasis on the 'Vloors'. He has promised an article on the same in the near future.

Our new President, Peter Foden closed the meeting with generous tribute and thanks to those who had contributed.

The Secretary would also like to thank the pleasant staff at Oatlands Park Hotel for all their good service.

L G GREEN

CATALOGUE OFFICIEL BELGE

We hope again to be able to obtain copies of the 1992 edition of Catalogue Officiel at an advantageous price. Non-Belgian members who wish a copy should send their orders to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE to be received not later than 31 July, non-European members stating if to be sent by air or surface mail. The French edition will be sent unless the Flemish is specifically requested. The reduced price applies only to a bulk purchase and late applicants will not be able to benefit from this offer.

LITERATURE

Recently published are two little books: E. I. C. -LE 5 CENTIMES DE 1886 and E. I. C. -LES 10, 25 & 50 CENTIMES DE 1886.

These excellent works deal exhaustively with the Lenoir reprints of the first issue as well as the varieties that exist on the issued stamps. They should be part of the library of every Congo collector. Priced at 125 F they are available from L. G. Green at L2.10 each plus postage.

Our 'bible', General Du Four's book, CONGO-Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale' is now in very short supply and copies, when they appear in Belgian auction sales, fetch 7000 F or more. Because some of our members are unable to obtain or cannot afford to buy this essential book permission has been given us to provide BCSC members with photocopies. The cost, as of all photocopies, is 7p for an A4 page, about L18 for the complete book of 500 + pages.

Photocopies of the Heim-Keach book on the cancellations and of the Congo philatelic bibliography as well as copies of past Bulletins can be provided at the same price.

Copies of the excellent Frenay books on the plating of the ETAT INDEPENDANT Mols stamps (so far, 40 c to 10F with the lower values expected shortly) are available, L7 including postage to Europe, L8 air mail to the rest of the world, for each volume

All requests to L. G. Green, 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey, GB.

FUTURE BULLETINS

Will include, among others, 'Acknowledgement of Receipt' as used in 1990, A Universal Postal Union Collectors article on the "Belgian Congo-Ruanda Urundi Surrounds," " Mols Stamps with missing lines of perforation", "Mail Routes 1900-1940", Covers with O. A. T. markings

V-P COLUMNCONGO BELGE FORGERIES

The Abbe Gudenkauf has drawn my attention to a dangerous forgery of the CONGO BELGE handstamp Local 6.

A characteristic of 50 to 60 per cent of the copies of this overprint is the presence of a black mark inside the C of CONGO as indicated below.



The mark may be very pronounced, often attached to the main outline of the letter or be a thin line, the intensity of the mark being dependent on the amount of ink on the overprinting stamp and the pressure applied to it. If an overprint, in width and spacing of the letter, conforms to L.6 on the Balasse gauge and has the mark in the C, the overprint can safely be presumed to be Local 6.

If there is no such mark within the C much greater care has to be taken in assessing the overprint. Fortunately (for our examinations) the forgery has a much shorter horizontal bar in the L of BELGE: in the genuine the horizontal bar of the L extends about 0.7mm from the vertical stroke of the letter whereas in the forgery the extension is less than 0.5mm.

In passing, it may be mentioned that the Local 6 handstamp appears to have suffered damage during its period of use, the damage affecting several of the letters but particularly the top right corner of the C which eventually disappeared so that on the stamp there was an uninked space between the top of the upper curve of the letter and the short upper right stroke.

RHK

INSURANCE ON STAMPS SENT OVERSEAS FROM THE UNITED STATES

It is your Editors understanding that when one sends an item "insured" via the Post the "insurance" is limited to \$25.00. Some weeks ago an item appeared in the stamp publication "Linn's" recounting a tale of horror and woe with respect to a lost packet, which the sender thought was fully insured, sent-if memory serves me correctly - to Australia.

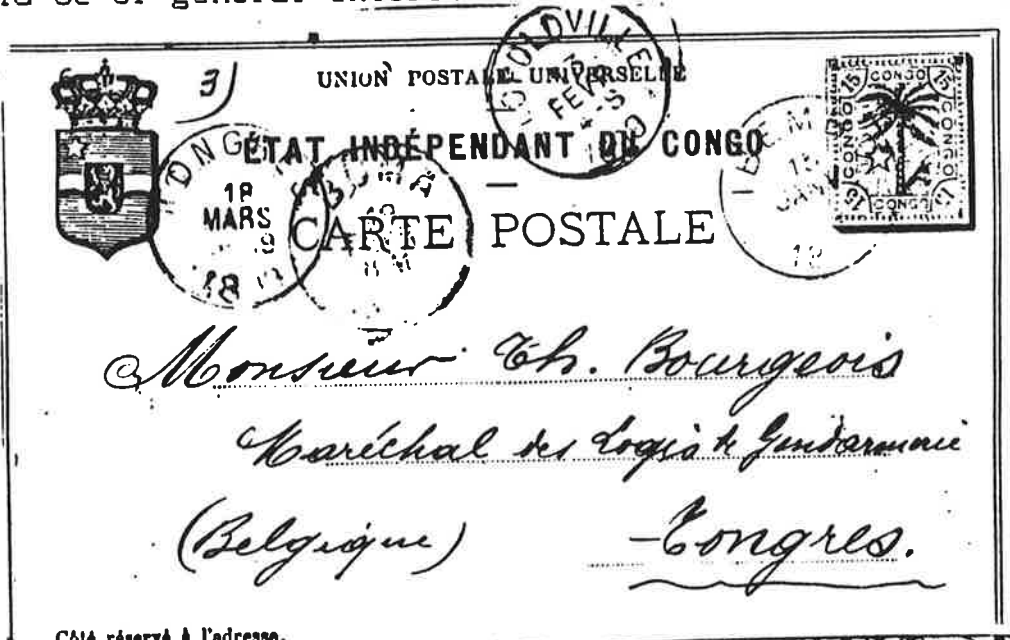
According to the local Postal Authorities the use of Express Mail International Service does provide some insurance. The Postal Regulations provide "Merchandise (other than negotiable items, currency, or bullion--Ed.) is insured against loss, damage or rifling up to a maximum of \$500". But the problem arises if the stamps are returned by the recipient to the sender (as in the case of items sent to the Expert Committee for certificate.) In that case the limitation of postal insurance by the British Postal Service comes into play.

There is a possible alternative available to American Philatelic Society members, who have appropriate insurance thru the Society. They are insured, according to W. Danforth Walker, Insurance Plan Manager, when the stamps are sent overseas and returned by registered mail. Your Editor suggest that APS members consult Mr. Walker with any questions.

If private insurance is available, details thereof sent to the Editor should be of general interest.

TWO LADO COVERS

Our new member John C. Olson has kindly supplied fotocopies of two Lado covers, one of which, he reports, has the only known usage to Denmark. If there are others in existence he would appreciate any information regarding them. (Since it is known there were many Danes in the area it would follow that others may well lie unknown in collections--Ed.) (Replies to the Editor will, we are sure, prove of general interest) He notes that the cover to Belgium took 126 days to reach its destination.



Côté réservé à l'adresse.

