

Secretary:

L. G. GREEN
ANVERS, 29 NEW ROAD
ESHER, SURREY KT10 9PG
ENGLAND,
U.K.

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin Editor:

E. M. LAVITT
P.O. BOX 900
ROCKVILLE
CONN. 06066
U. S. A.

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President: Peter S. Foden
4 Muireston Green
Livingston, EH54 9EQ
Scotland, U.K.

Exchange Packet Secretary
B. P. Hudson
92 Oakley St.
London SW3, England, U.K.

Vice President and General
Sales Secretary

R. H. Keach
25 Kingswood Road
Tadworth,
Surrey KT20 5EE, England, U.K.

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VICE-PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Forged Die Proofs of Mols Stamps

At least twice in the past we have, in the Bulletin, warned members of these forgeries but, for the benefit of new members who do not have copies of early Bulletins it is well that the warning is repeated because the forgeries are still circulating and are being offered as genuine and at high prices.

The forgeries are litho-photographic reproduction of fragments of issued stamps and, because of their 'flat' appearance with inked lines set in relief, they are not a hazard to collector who is knowledgeable of die proofs of engraved stamps as opposed to die proofs of surface-printed stamps.

Such of these forgeries that have been seen are of two types; 1) finished die proofs of stamps of the 1894 issue with both casement (frame) and vignette (centre) on the same 'proof' and, 2) progressive die 'proofs' (of the unfinished design) of the frames of the 1910 issue. However, there may well be similar forgeries of other Mols issues. 'Le Negro Guide', 5th Edition (1945) lists them, not as forgeries, for all values of the 1894, 1909 Unilingual and 1910 issues, and they presumably exist.

The two types are illustrated below, a finished 'die proof' of the 1894 1 franc and two progress 'proofs' of the 1910 50 centimes.



Forged Die Proofs of the 1887 'Grossebarbe' Issue

One of our members has very recently bought, as genuine, forged 'die proofs' of the 1887 5 francs and the 1891 10 francs and members should be warned of their existence. They are found in various colors and examples are illustrated below.



.2.



The 10 francs is easily recognized as a forgery if it is compared with a genuine issued stamp. In the forgery, which exists as a stamp in the normal color as well as a die proof, the centre horizontal bar of the F of FRANCS is located much higher in the letter than in the issued stamp.

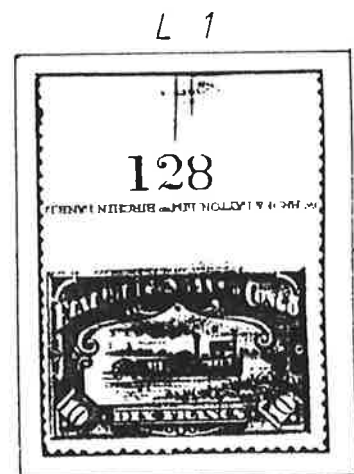
I can find nothing wrong with the design of the 5 francs die proof and only its similarity to the forged 10 francs proofs convinces me that it is a forgery.

These two forgeries are, of course, of dies of surface-printed (typographed) stamps which are 'flat' and do not have the inked lines in relief.

RHK

MOLS STAMP WITH MISSING LINES OF PERFORATION

The stamp illustrated at the right, recently acquired by your Editor, is a previously unreported marginally imperforate item. It should be added to the Keach list which appeared in the September 1991 Bulletin (No. 81) at page 31. 1898 10F perf 12 with Local 1 CONGO BELGE overprint. Since it is the plate number copy where are the others? Was it common for the Waterlow name to appear inverted? One wonders if there was more than one sheet. Every discovery seems to produce as many questions as answers.



D. 12

EDITORS NOTES

Attention is called to the last page of this bulletin which one may use to make reservation for the JOINT MEETING WITH THE BELGIAN CIRCLE AT THE WILLESLEY HOTEL Friday the 11th thru Sunday the 13th of September 1992.

The September Bulletin will include Dr. Wilcke's comments on the preparation of award winning displays, a report of a new Lado cover and our usual, most instructive, Vice Presidential column.

EASTERN ROUTES: MAIL DISPATCHED DURING THE PERIOD 1890-1940

ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO; CONGO BELGE; RUANDA-URUNDI; PORTUGESE EAST AFRICA; BRITISH EAST AFRICA; GERMAN EAST AFRICA; ZANZIBAR; TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

In the following pages we conclude the two part study of the Eastern Postal Routes with appropriate postally used examples to illustrate the article. We are indebted to Andre Jeukens for the study and to our President, Peter Foden, for his yeoman work in translating and editing this very fine example of philatelic research.

Surface and Maritime Routes via German East Africa and Zanzibar

Forwarding and receipt of Congo mail through Zanzibar and Daressalaam and across German East Africa (later the British Protectorate of Tanganyika Territory) operated either through the exchange office at Albertville (initially M'Toa or Toa) or through that at Uvira. In April 1921, Usumbura became the exchange office for the Belgian Mandated territories of Ruanda and Urundi, except for the Ruanda bank of Lake Kivu which still used Uvira.

The principal post office at Uvira was opened on 1 January 1906 and became an exchange office on 1 May 1912. Until this date, foreign mail had been sent via Daressalaam which had proved to be the fastest route. It had become usual for regional mail to be sent by runner to Usumbura, franked with German East Africa stamps, to be sent via the German postal service.

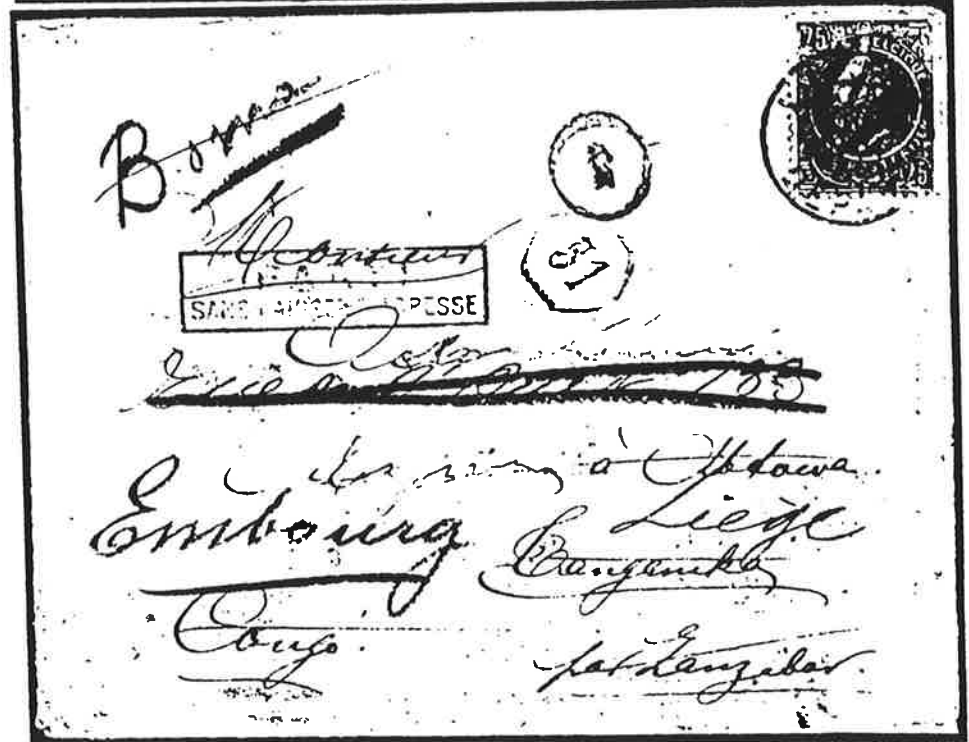
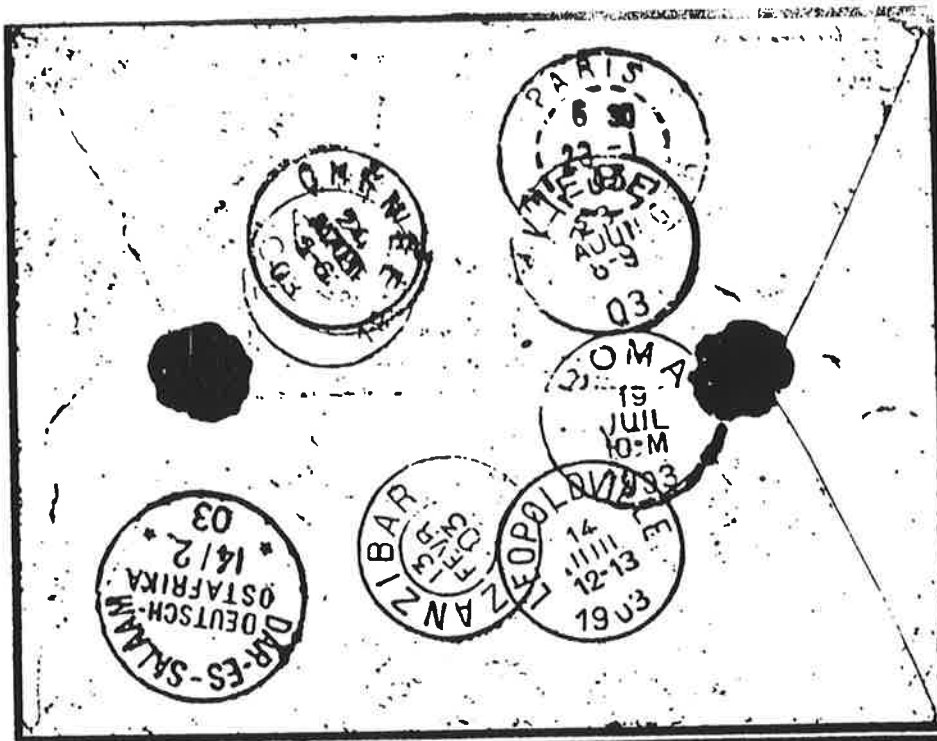
Progressively the exchange offices served the following post offices:-

Albertville-Albertville, Kaballa, Kabalo, Kamukisi, Kasongo, Kiambi, Kikondja, Kindu, Kongolo, Lokandu, Muyumba, Niemba, Nyangwe

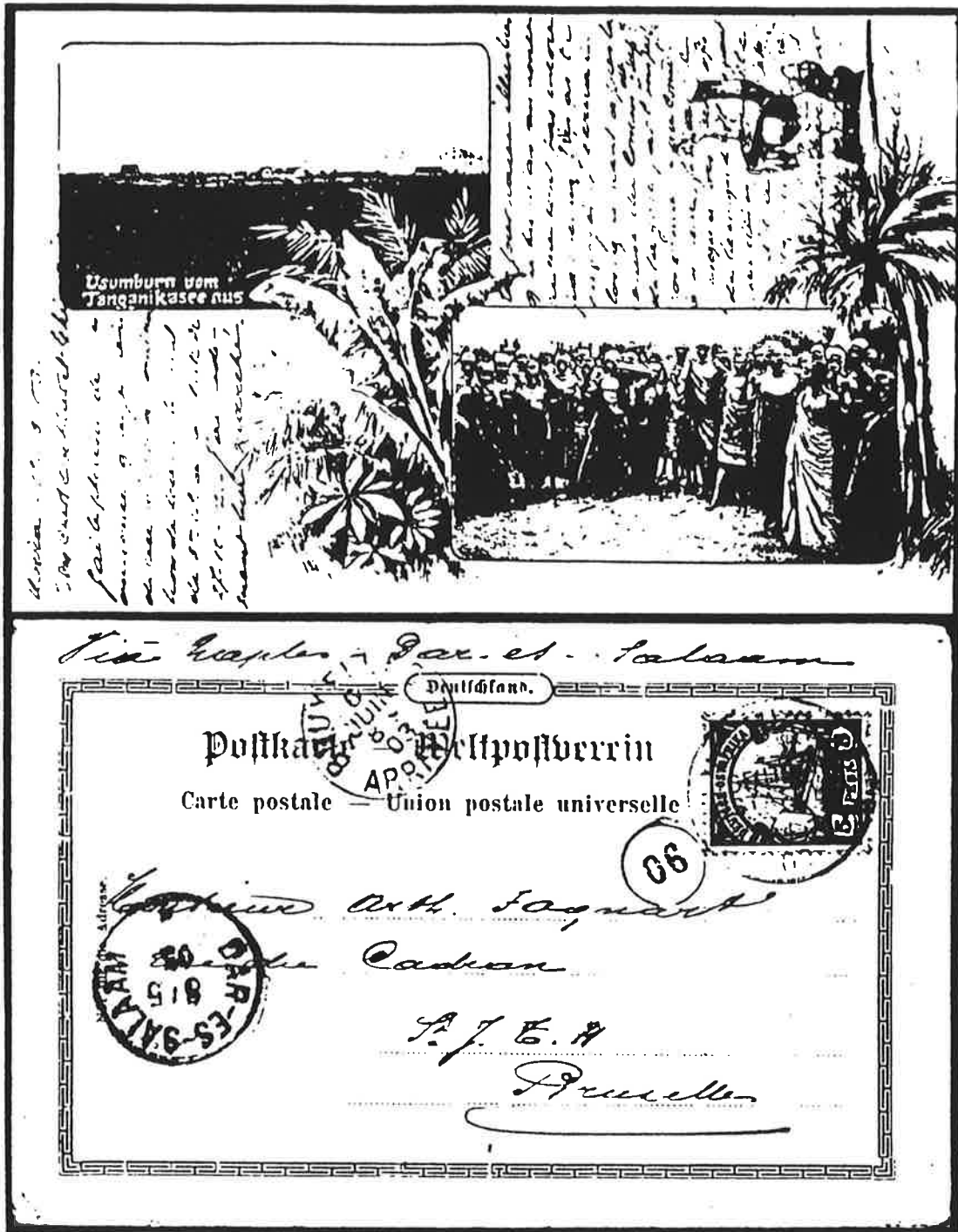
Uvira:-Uvira, Costermansville, Pena-Kalembe, Pinga, Rutshuru as well as the Ruanda bank of Lake Kivu

Usumbura:-Usumbura, Kigali, Kitega, Bukavu (3/23-7/27)

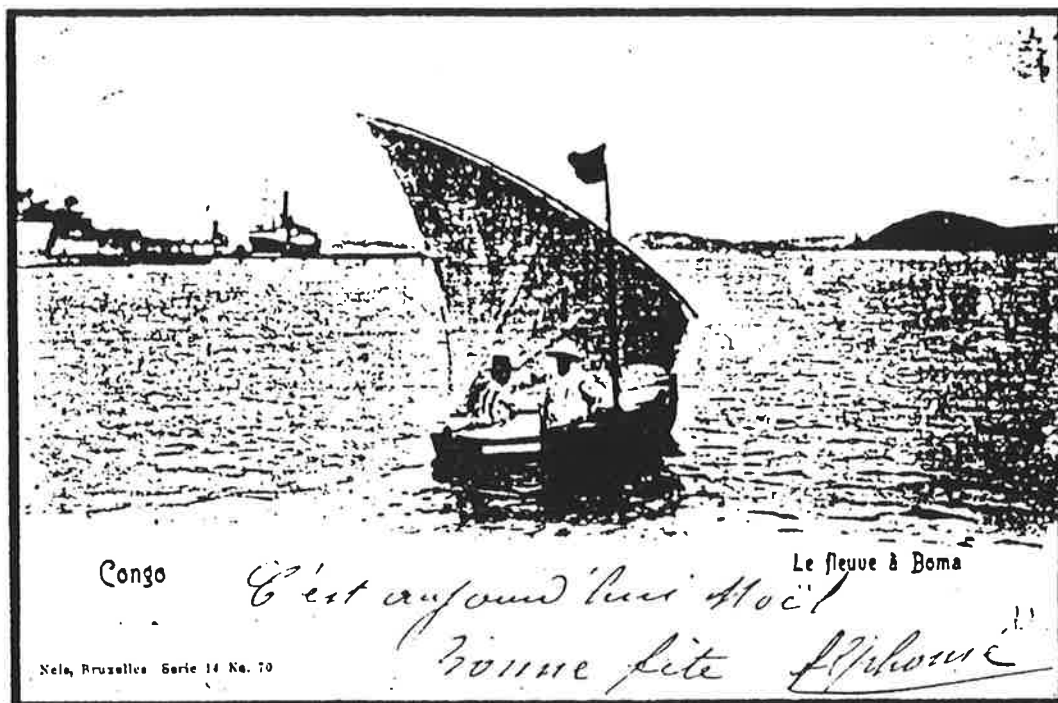
Until war was declared in 1914 Zanzibar and Daressalaam were normal ports of call for the shipping lines which operate through the Suez Canal and those which were routed to Cape Town were also extended to Zanzibar around 1890. The Deutsch-OstAfrika Linie, Union Castle and other British lines disputed the speeds of their respective services. Messageries Maritimes visited the two ports in its services between La Reunion and Marseilles. Also, the Mala Real Portugueza had set up a Suez route to Mozambique about 1890 but had to abandon this in 1897, having been unable to attract sufficient cargo.



Letter from Belgium (Liege) to M'toa (Toa) at Tanganyika--21 January 1903--directed via Zanzibar--Transit cancellations-Paris (23 January)-Zanzibar (13 February)-Dar-es-Salaam (14 February) arrival at Toa 11 March 1903.
 Cachet "Parti/Sans Laisser d'Adresse"-M/S direction to Boma as returned mail, senders address added and letter returned to Liege by Western route--Transit cancellations-Leopoldville (14 July)-arrival Liege (23 August); re-directed to Embouurg-transit Chenee (24 August 1903) postmen's route marks "5" (circular) and "51" (hexagonal)



Postcard written at Uvira (Congo Free State) and sent to Belgium-12 March 1903
 Carried by runner and posted at Usumbura (German East Africa 14 March 1903
 Route requested "via Naples-Dar-es-Salaam"
 Transit cancellation-Dar-es-Salaam-8 May 1903
 Arrival Brussels 6 June 1903--Postman's route mark "90)



Congo postcard, without any indication of origin, sent to Belgium, apparently from the eastern part of the Congo Free State and written 25 December 1905, franked and posted in German East Africa (Usumbura)-17 January 1906
Route requested "via Dar-es-Salaam"
Arrival at Ghislenghien 5 April 1906

(For the last card of this series see subsequent page 9 --viz a card from Baraka to Anvers)

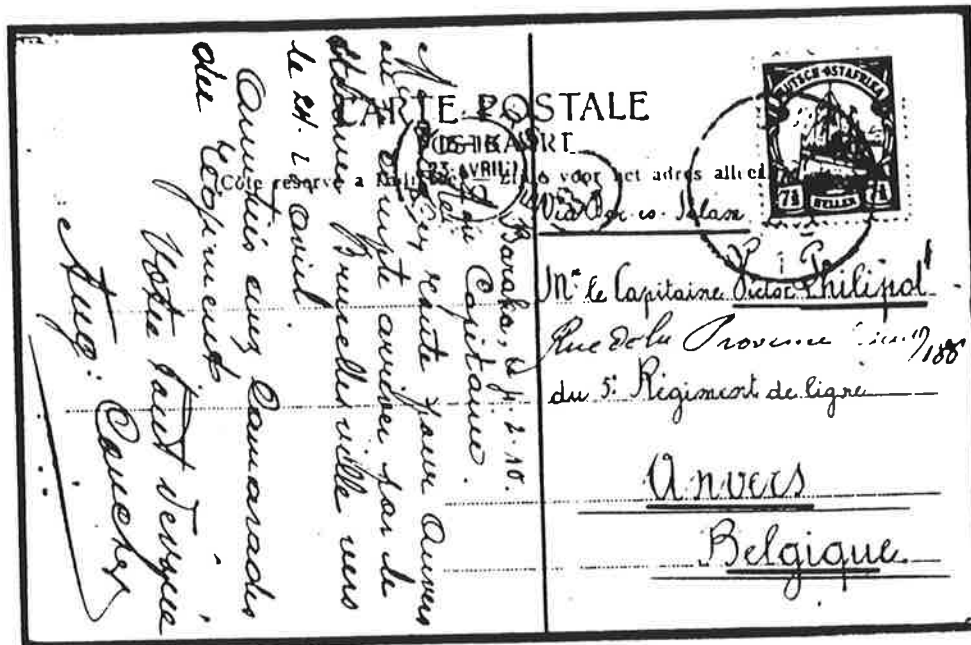
Surface and Maritime Routes in Tanganyika

From the beginning of 1917 and subsequently, according to available means of transport, mail sent by the Congolese armed forces on campaign in German East Africa went by the railway to Dar-es-Salaam where it passed through Base Office "B" of the British Expeditionary Force (I.E.F.).

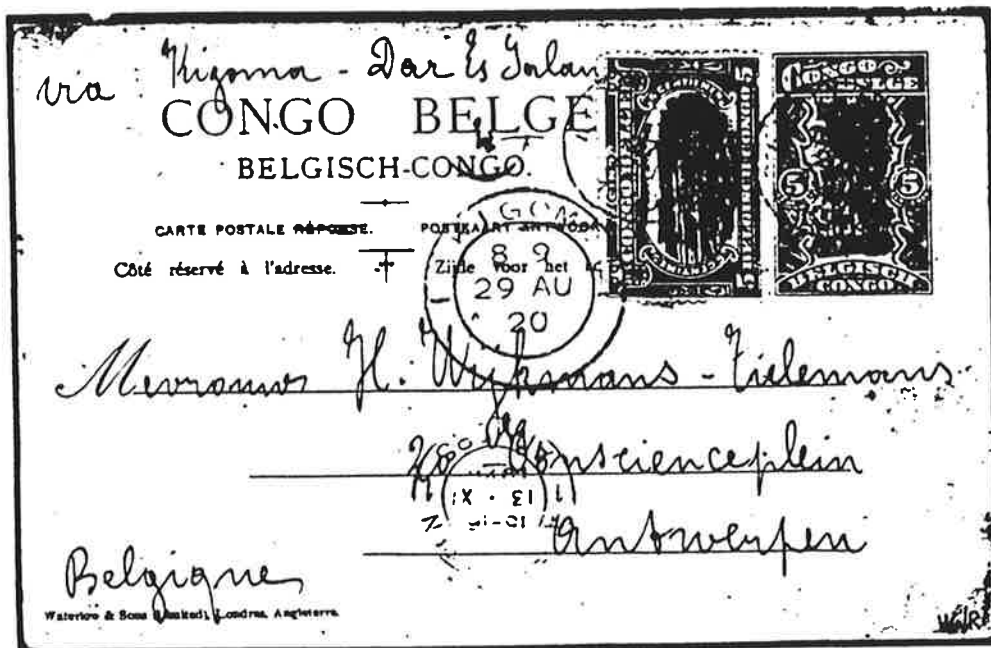
During the period of occupation, which marked the end of the military campaigns, mail from the eastern Congo and the occupied zone of German East Africa appears not to have used the eastern route, even when communication by rail was re-established and a Belgian port office was in operation at Kigoma. It was only after 30 May 1919, following signature of the final Accord in German East Africa between Belgium and Britain, that mail from the Congo and the occupied territories again required the use of the Dar-es-Salaam route. The inclusion of Kigoma among the stops of the fleet of the Cie des Grands Lacs Africains ensured connections with the Lake Tanganyika ports.

Under the British mandate, civil steamship services were gradually re-introduced to Dar-es-Salaam by the traditional companies, including the Deutsch OstAfrika Linie which carried mail from Hamburg. The agreement of 15 March 1921 between Belgium and Britain had confirmed that Belgian (Congo) mail would be carried free between Kigoma and Dar-es-Salaam; it was also established that the free zones extended to the railway termini. The Belgian post office at Kigoma, which had opened at the beginning of 1917, closed in 1921 but was reopened between 1926 and 1928 following new agreements with the British.

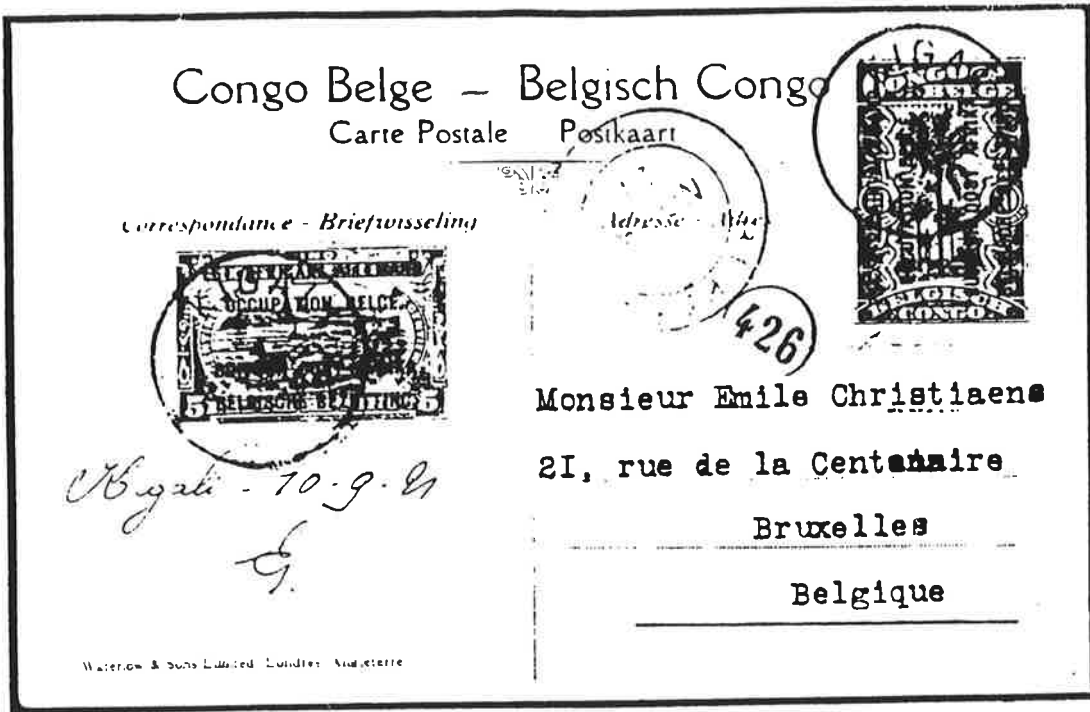
Occasionally, Ruanda mail was sent via Bukoba, on the west bank of Lake Victoria, in Tanganyika. It could then either be carried by boat to Mwanza in the south then to Dar-es-Salaam via Tabora, or, with regard to speed, to Kisumu in Kenya and on to Mombasa by rail. In practice, the sailings from Bukoba would determine the routes taken.



Congo postcard sent from Baraka (on the northwest bank of Lake Tanganyika) and sent to Belgium (Anvers)-4 February 1910. Franked and posted in German East Africa (Usumbura) 18 February 1910: route requested-via Dar-es-Salaam; arrival at Anvers 23 April 1910 postman's route stamp "78".

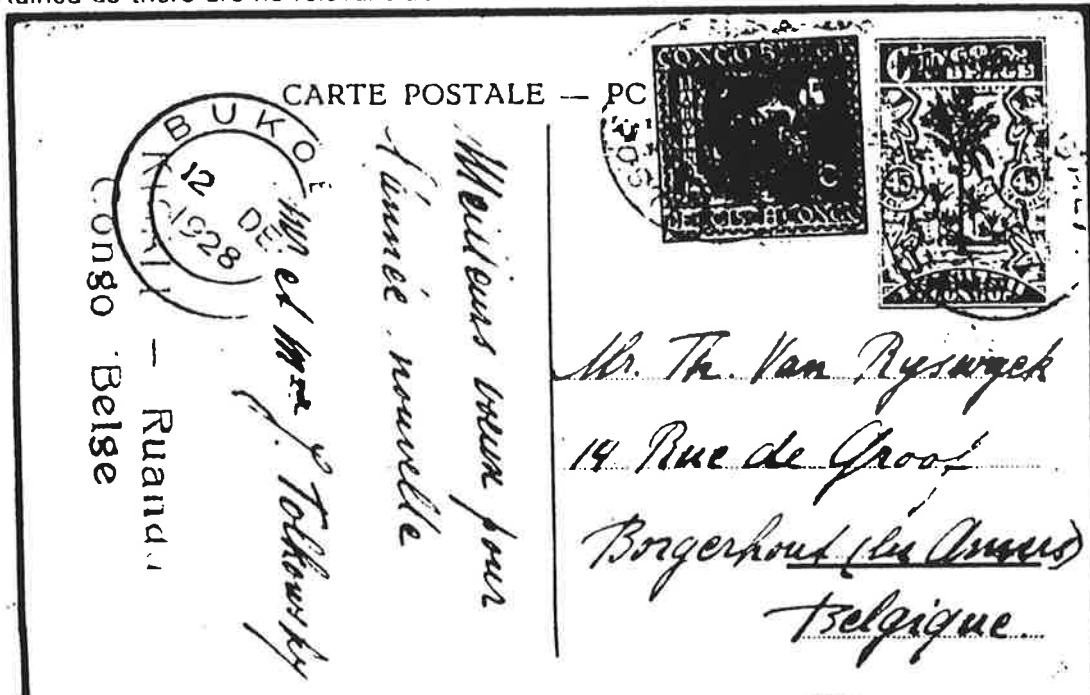


Postal stationery card written at Mpala (Lake Tanganyika) 20 August 1920. Posted at Albertville for Belgium (Antwerp)-27 August with manuscript routing "via Kigoma-Dar es Salaam"-Transit cancellations of Kigoma 29 August and arrival at Antwerp 13 November 1920-postman's route mark "4"



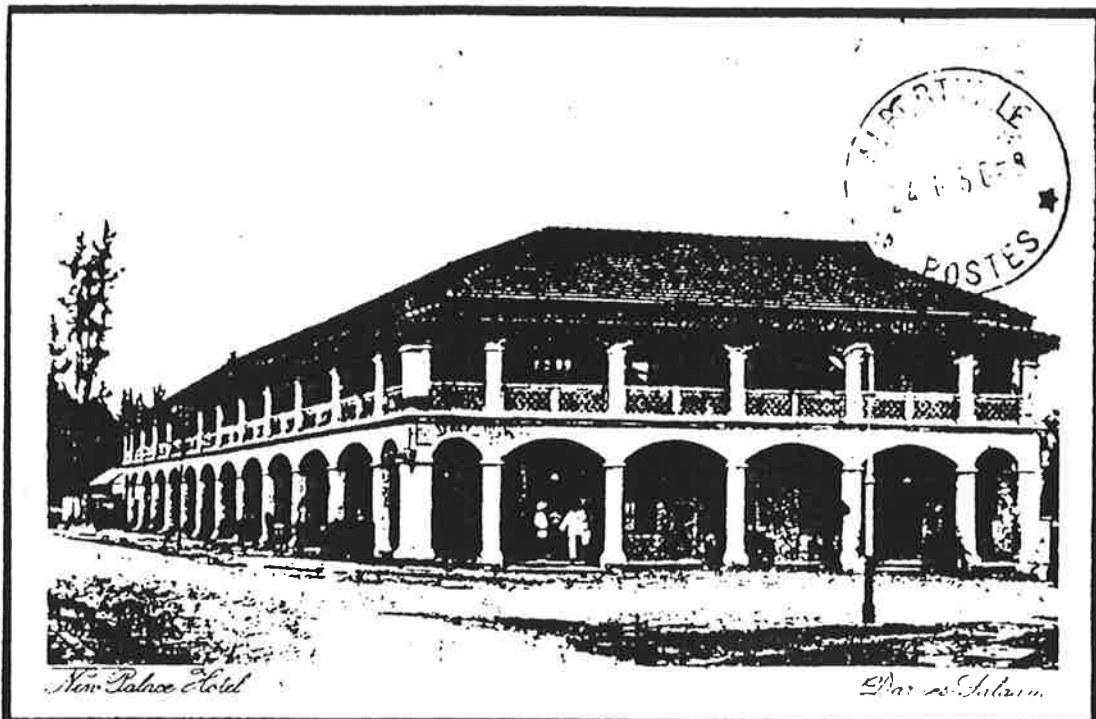
Postal stationery card sent from Kigali to Belgium (Brussels) 11 September 1921; carried via Uganda and Tanganyika. Transit cancellation Bukoba (Tanganyika) 16 November 1921. Brussels postman's mark "426.

The remaining routing (whether Bukoba-Kisumu-Mombasa or Bukoba-Mwanza-Dar-es-Salaam) cannot be ascertained as there are no relevant transit cancellations.

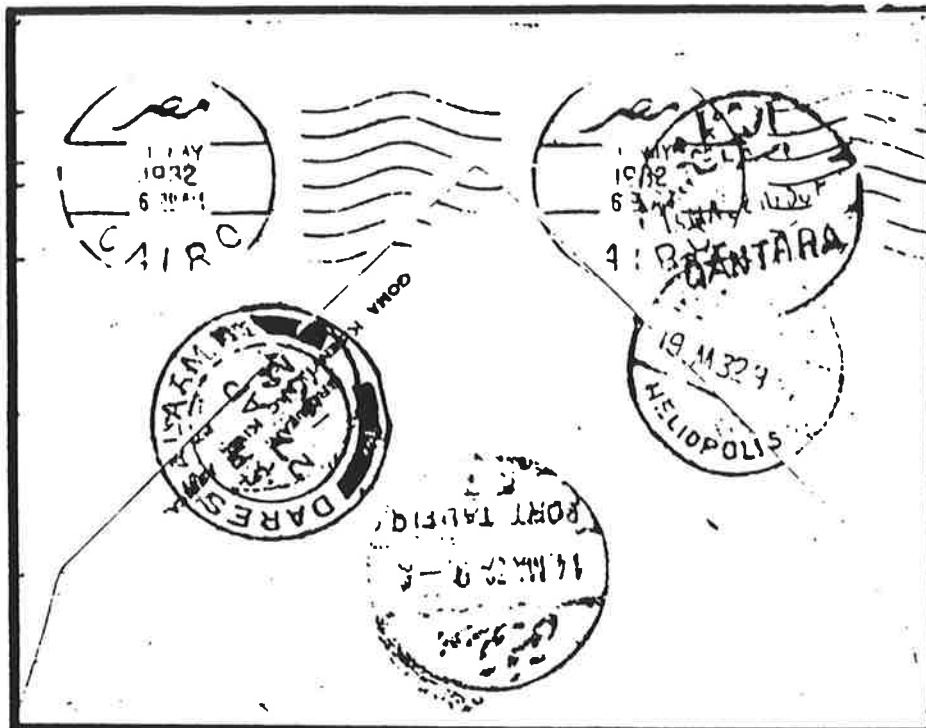


Postal stationery card sent from Kigali to Belgium (Borgerhout)-3 December 1928. Carried via Uganda and Tanganyika-Transit cancellations Bukoba 12 December 1928.

The remaining routing (whether Bukoba-Kisumu-Mombasa or Bukoba-Mwanza-Dar-es-Salaam) cannot be ascertained as there are no relevant transit cancellations



Postcard from Dar-es-Salaam to Greinerville (Katanga)-21 June 1930
 Transit cancellations Kigoma (23 June) and Albertville (24 June)
 Final delivery by private means.
 Greinerville was a station, 15km from Albertville on the Albertville-Kabalo railway, which did not have its own post office.



27. Rue de ~~la~~ Grand,
 Heliopolis,
 Le Caire,
 Egypte.

M^{rs} J. V. Sfaris
 90 7/10 V Sfaris

~~At Headquarters~~
~~Palestine - Transjordan~~
~~Palestine Jerusalem~~

CONGO
 BELGISCH
 CONGO

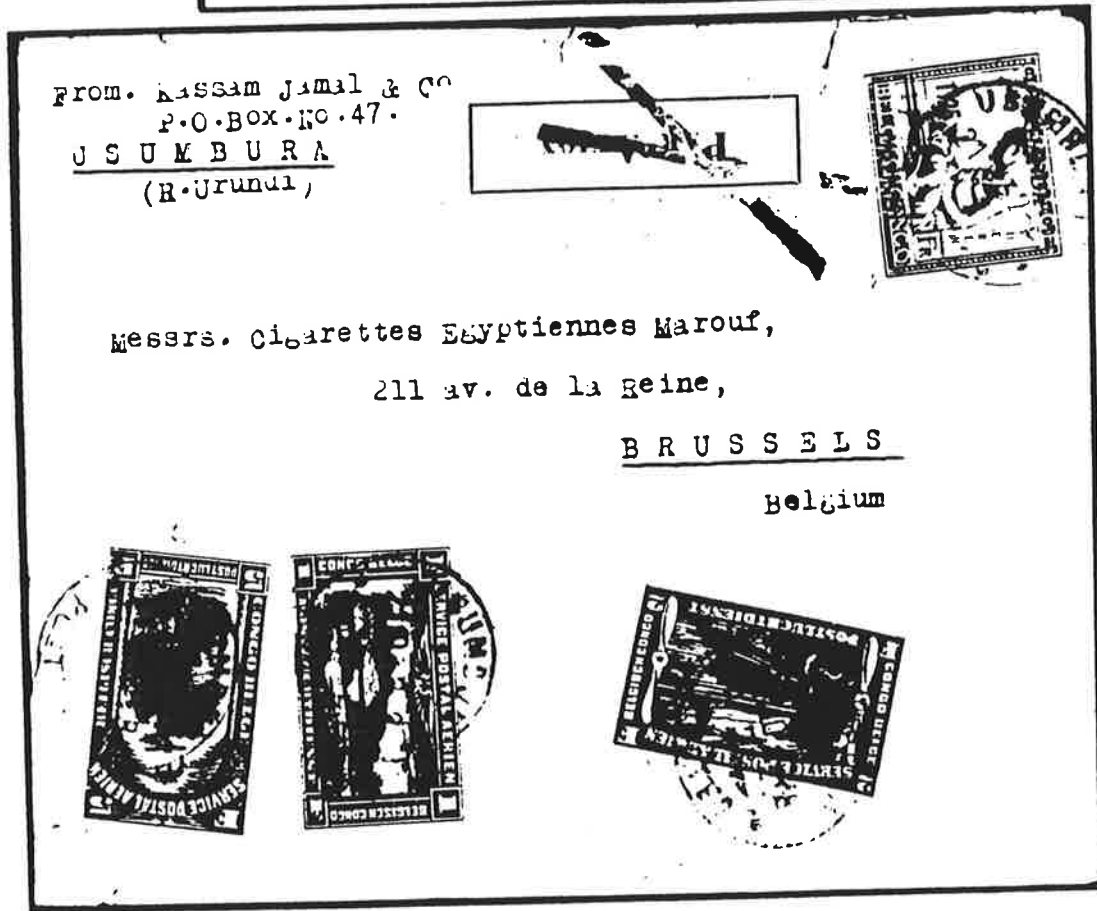
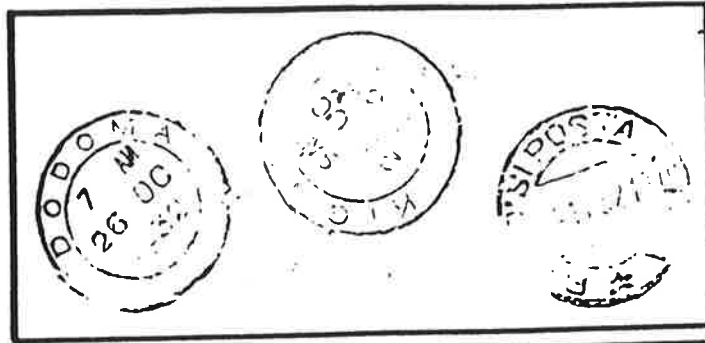
Letter from Costermansville to Palestine-20 April 1932
 Sent via Dar-es-Salaam, transit cancellation 27 April
 then Port Taufiq (14 May) and Qantara (15 May)
 Arrival at Jerusalem 17 May 1932.
 Redirected to Egypt, arrival Cairo the Heliopolis, both 19 May 1932

Air Mail in Tanganyika

From March to December 1931, Mwanza was the terminus for Imperial Airways flights from Cairo, via Khartoum, Juba and Kampala. Mail from the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi could be carried on these flights; the usual route being Lake Tanganyika on the steamers of the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer des Grands Lacs (C.F.L.) from Uvira, Albertville or Usumbura, through Kigoma, then by rail Kigoma-Tabora-Mwanza. This distance took almost two weeks and for this reason, as well as the fact that the air service through Mwanza was relatively short lived, not very much mail was carried by this route.

In January 1932 Imperial Airways extended its route to Cape Town, as part of an overall London-Cape Town service, and its itinerary was changed: Dodoma, well situated on the railway at mid-point between Dar-es-Salaam and Kigoma, replace Mwanza. From June 1932 the service became regular. Air mail from Ruanda-Urundi, southern Kivu and northern Katanga normally used this route until the establishment of a regular international service to the eastern Congo towards the end of 1935. Mail was supposed to be marked "via Dodoma" but even without this, payment of the air mail surcharge seems to have been sufficient for mail from the regions to have been sent by this route. Such mail could also connect via Dodoma and Cairo with Imperial Airways service to the far east which commenced in December 1934.

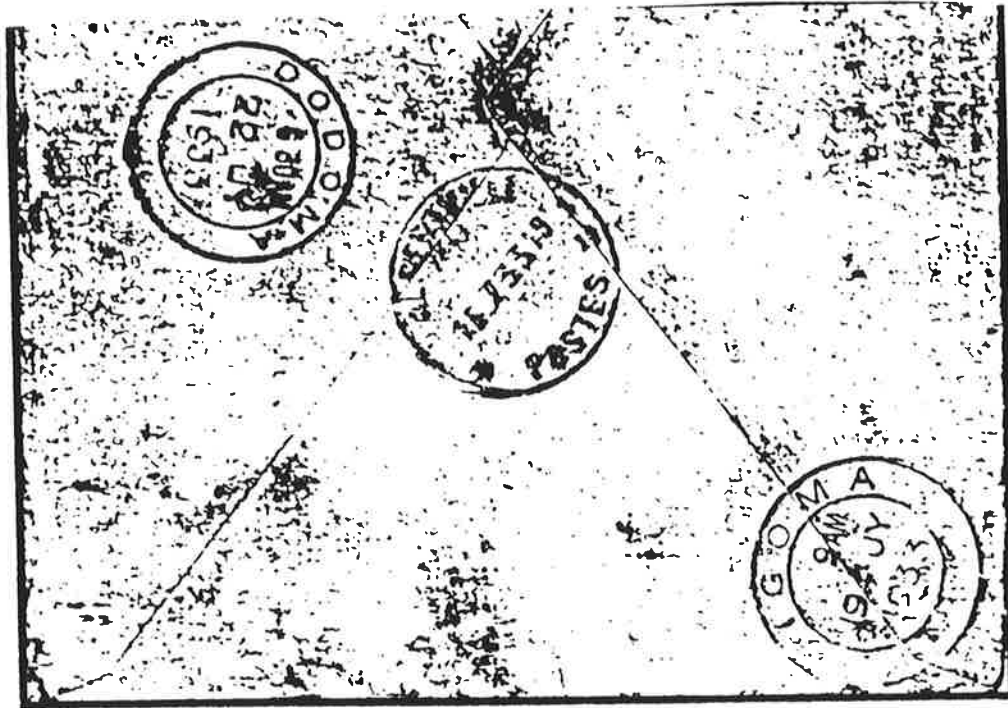
Until May 1935 Italy refused overflying rights to Britain and France and would only allow Imperial Airways the right to land at Brindisi for its flights between Cairo and Europe. Mail for the continent was taken from the plane and traveled onwards by rail. During the period when overflying was not permitted covers enplaning at Dodoma frequently received a small octagonal cachet "By Air to/Brindisi".



Air letter from Usumbura to Belgium (Brussels) -21 October 1932, carried by Imperial Airways Dodoma-Brindisi.

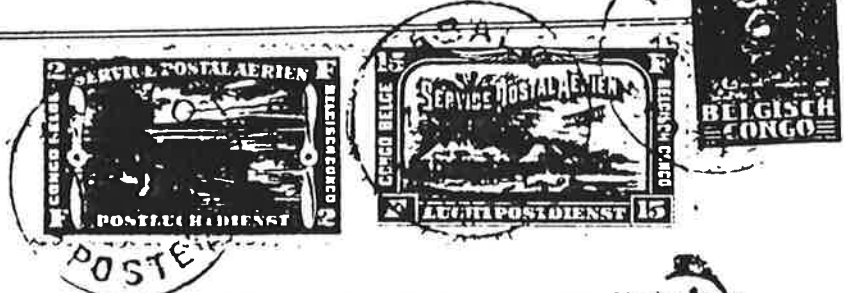
Transit cancellations at Kigoma (24 October)-Dodoma (26 October) Brindisi Posta Aera 4 November 1932

St. Andrew's cross applied at Brindisi to cancel air mail etiquette and route the letter by surface means for its ongoing journey.



PLANTATIONS DE KATOMPE AU KATANGA
 (Anc. LA MERCANTILE ANVERSOISE)
 Société Anonyme
 KATOMPE (Par KABALO)

1000 A...



S.A. des Plantations de Katombe au Kata
 115, Avenue de France

ANVERS.

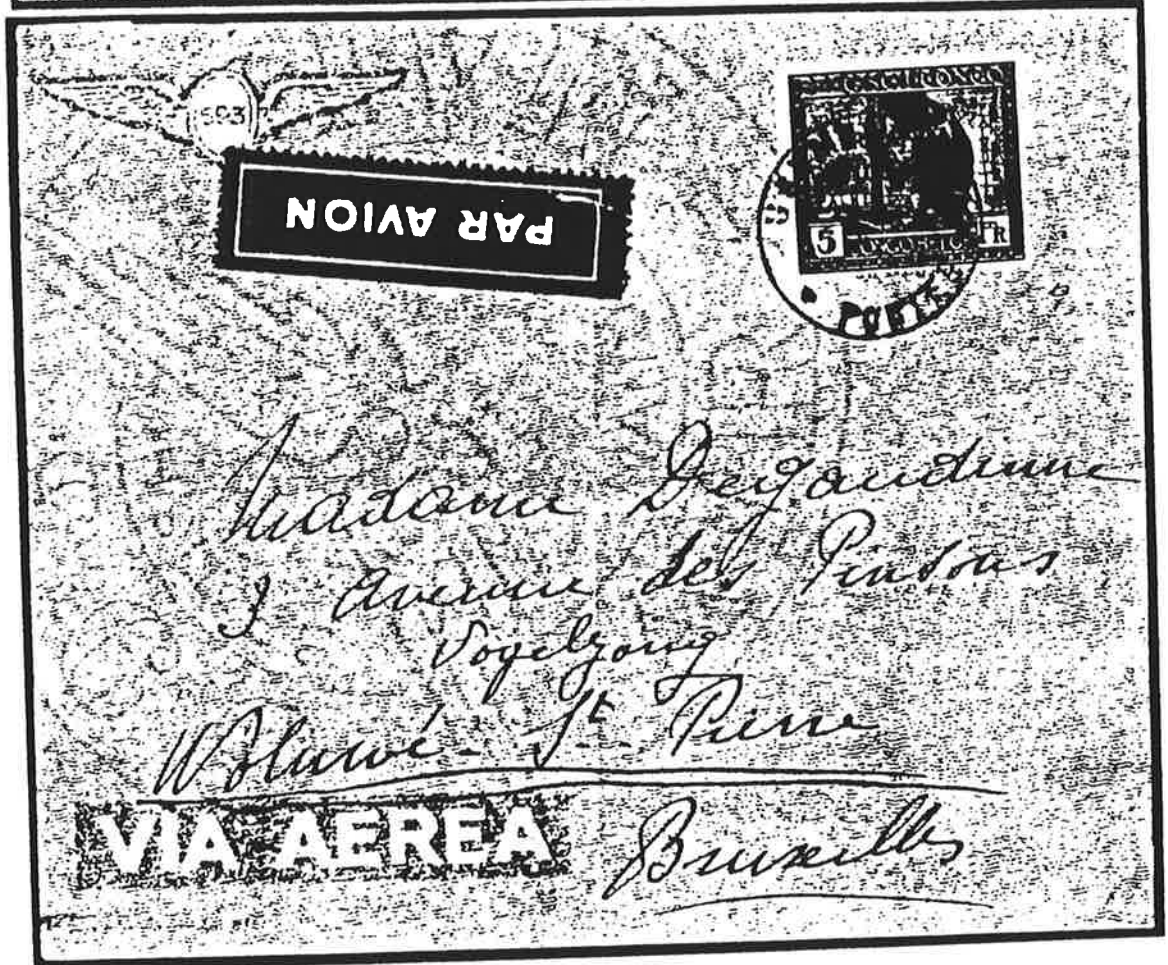
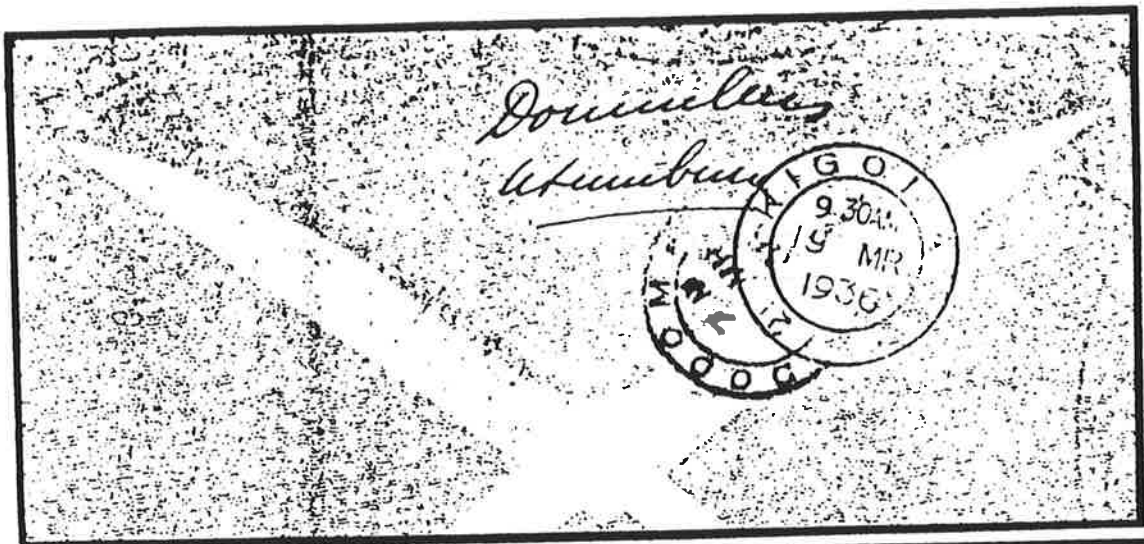
A V E R S



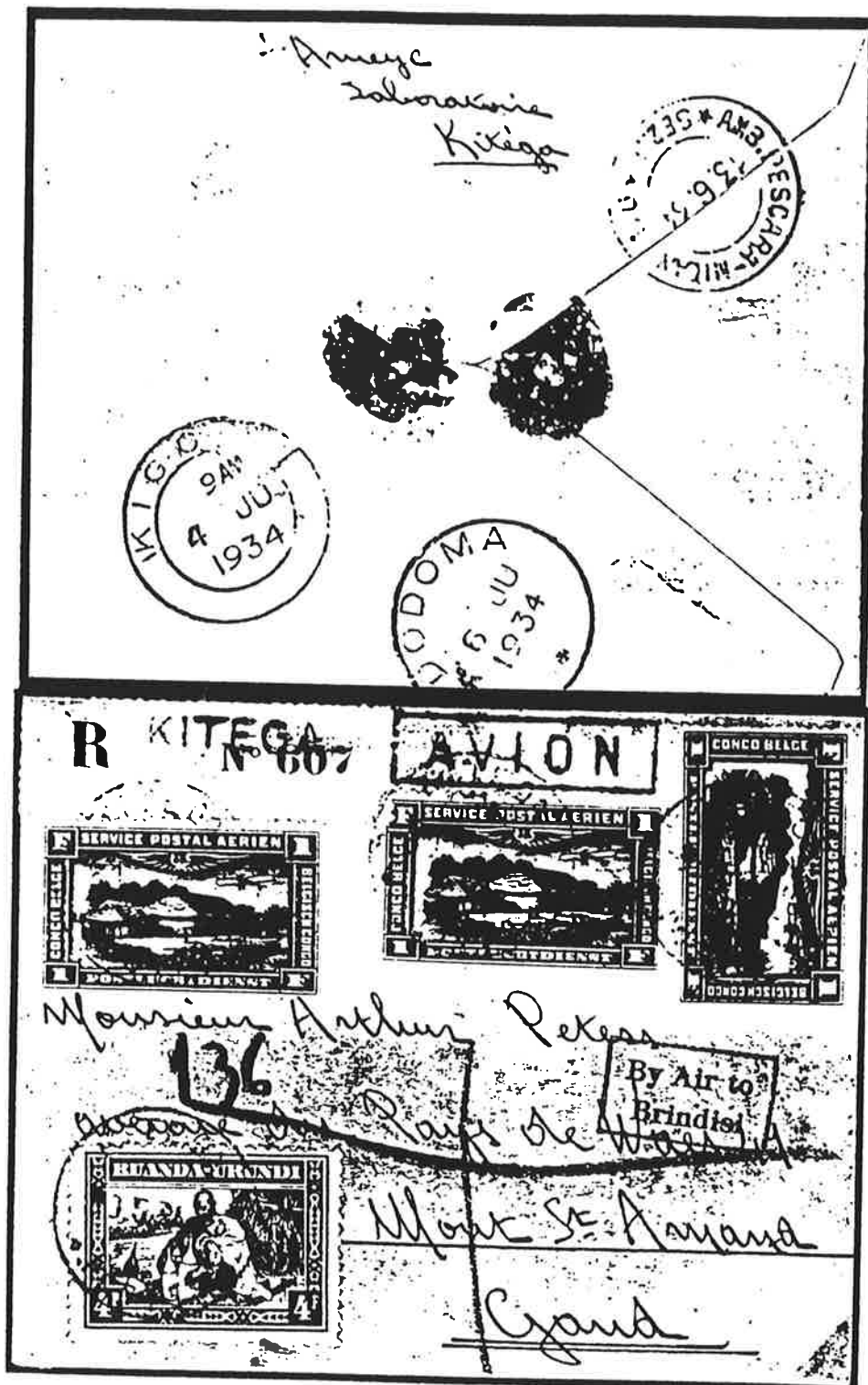
Air letter from Kabalo to Belgium (Anvers) 13 July 1933-Requested to travel by air from Dodoma (Tanganyika)-Carried by rail to Albertville-transit cancellation-15 July, then by mail steamer (C.F.L.) on Lake Tanganyika and rail to Dodoma. Transit cancellations Kigoma (19 July) and Dodoma (22 July 1933) where the letter would wait for the next Imperial Airways Cape Town-London flight.



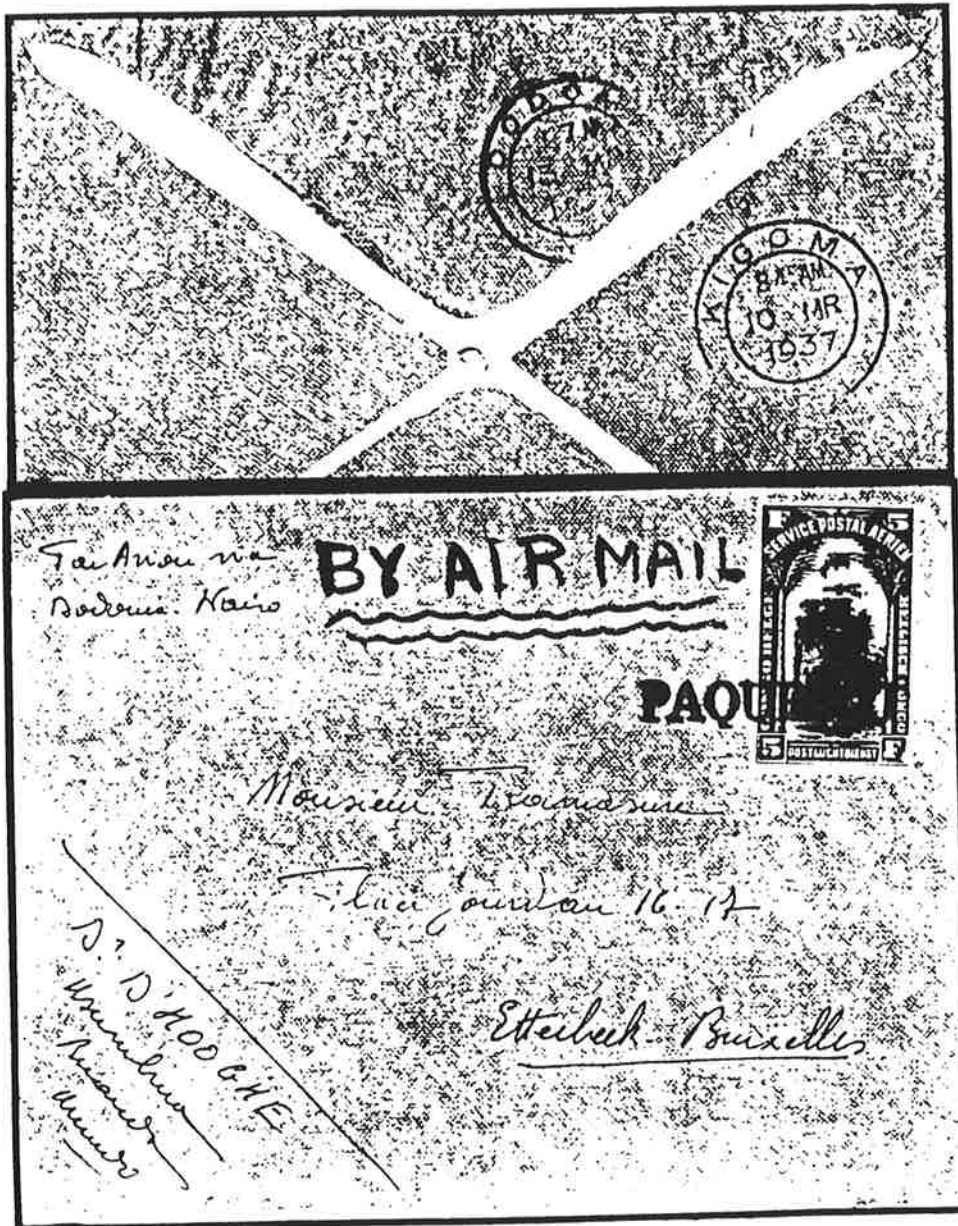
Registered letter from Italy to Belgian Congo (Uvira)-8 August 1933.
 Travelling post office marks Turin/Bologne (8 August), Bologne/Foggia (8 August), Naples/Bari (9 August). Transit cancellations-Brindisi registry transit (10 August) the arrival Alexandria (registered/air mail) 12 August, further Imperial Airways flight to Dodoma (16 August) rail to Lake Tanganyika, Kigoma (20 August) the C.F.L. steamer to Uvira-arrival 25 August 1933.



Air letter from Usumbura to Belgium (Brussels) - 17 March 1936
Directed to Imperial Airways by Congolese Post Office. Carried by C.F.L. steamer to Kigoma (19 March) then by rail arriving at Dodoma (21 March) to await the next Imperial Airways Cape Town - London flight. There was a regular Sabena air mail service between Europe and the Belgian Congo from 1935 and this could be reached at Stanleyville by mail coming from the eastern Congo. However the connecting service Usumbura-Costermansville-Irumu-Stanleyville, was not in operation until 27 November 1939 .17.



Registered air letter from Kitega to Belgium (Ghent) -30 May 1934
 Sent by C.F.L. steamer to Kigoma (4 June) and by rail to Dodoma (6 June) to catch the Imperial Airways northbound service.
 Rectangular cachet (violet-23x13 mm) "By Air to/Brindisi" applied at Dodoma.
 Transit cancellations of travelling post office Pescara/Milan 13 June 1934.



Air letter from Usumbura to Belgium (Brussels)-March 1937
 Requested to travel via Dodoma (Tanganyika) and Cairo (Egypt).
 Carried on mail steamer (C.F.L.) on Lake tanganyika to Kigoma. Adhesive cancelled by Kigoma port "Paquebot" on strike (black-42mm). Transit cancellations Kigoma (10 March) and Dodoma (13 March 1937) where the cover caught the northbound Imperial Airways flight.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Stamps, cancellations, post cards and covers for certificates will be welcomed, to be received not later than 31 August, 1992 by R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE.

Members attention is drawn to the report of the Annual General Meeting in which it was announced that; a. members may, free of charge, submit annually for certificate two single stamps and b) 'cheap' certificates with photocopies in place of photographs are available for post cards and covers.

SALES OFFERS

There are available at 1/3 Catalogue Officiel nice used copies of the following early high values: 1887 5F violet (£77.60), 1889 3,50F/5F violet (CP4) (£74.75) and 1892 5F grey (£18.40). Also 1886 5F unused without gum at 1/5 catalogue (£34.50). If you lack any of these stamps you should ask to inspect them.



Violet

Violet

Grey

Illustrations are to indicate centering.

Complete sheets of EAAOB 15c, IV₂+C₁, overprint L2, and EAAOB 30c/10c are available at 1/3 (£4.17 each).

Over the past two years a member has sent his vast accumulation of the 1894-1922 Mols stamps to be offered for sale and those who reconstruct sheets of these stamps from single copies have been very grateful for this opportunity to fill gaps in their reconstructions.

All known wants of the existing 'platers' having as far as possible been filled, there remains a large number of the stamps and the owner has agreed that the price may be reduced from 1/3 to 1/5 of Catalogue Officiel (1/10 for imperfect copies-unused without gum or thinned) for any members who may be interested, even for only a few stamps, to start reconstructions of the Mols: many of us find it the most fascinating aspect of Congo collecting. Thanks to the very considerable assistance of two of our colleagues all the stamps have now been allocated to combinations of plates and positioned in the sheet. Packets of the stamps have been prepared, each containing of one stamp as many positions in the sheet as are available or, if applicable, positions

of the different combinations of plates and are offered in individual packets. Most of the packets are a mixture of unused and used.

There are available, according to Catalogue Officiel No. (same as Balasse No.) with the approximate number of different positions in brackets: 16(15), 19(22), 20(31), 21(31), 22(25), 23(13), 24(45), 25(47), 26(18), 43(20), 44(24), 45(18), 46(10), 50(39), 51(41), 53(22), 54(59), 55(69), 56(37), 57(79), 58(11), 59(16), 60(13), 64(66), 65(51), 66(113), 67(103), 69(42), 70(37), 71(16), 85(18), 87(18), 89(41), 90(27), 92(13), 95(12), 96(10), 97(26), 98(24), 99(38), 100A(18) & 101(11); RU 30(14), 36 (13) & 48(10).

There are smaller numbers of different positions of many other values.

For purchasers the Study Circle will provide its normal service for completing reconstructions if that is desired.

BCK Railway Parcel Post Stamps

These are now listed but not priced in Catalogue Officiel. Three of the four series can be supplied at the following prices:

First series, large format, used	2500 F
Third series, small format with surcharges, unused	1600 F
Fourth series, small format with second surcharges, unused	1400 F

A number of way-bills, which accompanied the parcels and on which the stamps were stuck, are available at prices between 1800 and 3000 F the price depending on the number and variety of the stamps on them. There are also a number of fragments of way-bills bearing the stamps at 600 to 1200 F. The stamps on these documents are mostly of the third issue but there are a few of the fourth issue.

The current buying price for francs is about 59/£.

Postage extra. All sales requests to: R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England UK

Mrs. F. Spurgeon has asked that we sell her late husband's very good collection of postal history and this ensures that we will have many desirable items in our next three or four auction sales. As has always been our practice with deceased members' collections, sold on behalf of their widows, we will be charging no commission on sales from the collection.

Literature

Catalogue Officiel Belge It is hoped that our Belgian friend will be able once again to obtain for us copies of the 1993 edition at advantageous prices. Requests for copies are required to be received not later than 31 July. Non-European members please state if they wish sent by air mail.

Etat Independant du Congo: Etude du 15 Centimes Mols--J. M. Frenay This new volume in Mr. Frenay's series of monographs on the plating of the first issues of the Mols stamps is necessarily more substantial than those for the higher values and it is, in my opinion, even an improvement on earlier volumes. For anyone who plates these stamps or is interested in them it is indispensable. Price £15.00 by sea mail, £17.50 air mail.

La Censure au Congo Belge (Civile & Militaire-Guerre 1939-1945 - A. Jeukens (58 A4 pp) In a truly comprehensive manner Mr. Jeukens includes official edicts and instructions concerning censorship in the various districts of the Congo and to its forces in other parts of the world. He illustrates the different types of Congo censor sealing tapes and all the known types of Congo censorship markings. An essential book for all interested in the postal history of the Second World War. Price £9.00 by sea mail, £10.00 by air mail.

Les Timbres-Taxe du Congo de 1886 a 1960 - J. M. Frenay (120 A4 pp) Mr. Frenay gives the several successive official instructions concerning the methods by which postage due had to be paid and, with illustrations of a very large number of unpaid and underpaid covers, shows how the various markings were used. Price £12.50 by sea mail, £15.00 air mail.

Requests for any of the above books to L. G. Green or R. H. Keach

Secretary and Treasurer Report

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey at 1400 hrs Saturday 16 May 1992, 6 members being present.

1. Presidents Introduction

"Fortunately, the President of the B.C.S.C. really only has a nominal role in its activities, so there is no 'Presidential Report' as such. However, I should like to welcome those present to the 1992 Annual General Meeting.

I think it is quite clear, both from the financial results for 1991 and from the regular appearance and high quality content of the Bulletin over the last twelve months, that the Study Circle has had another successful year, its 41st.

This is, of course, due to the work done by the Circle's Officers and I welcome this opportunity to thank them for their magnificent effort on its behalf:

Laurence Green as Secretary/Treasurer;
Edwin Lavitt as Bulletin Editor;
Ray Keach as General Sales Secretary and as Secretary of the Expert Committee and;
Brian Hudson as Exchange Packet Secretary

These are the "official" names, but I should also like to thank all those who gave additional assistance "behind the scenes"-with Bulletin copying and distribution; with expertising; with identifying and positioning stamps and other material for sale; and all those who contribute articles to the Bulletin and/or material for sale-the many facets which reach the widest membership and maintain the continuing strength of the Study Circle."

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held 5 May 1991, set out in the June 1991 Bulletin were approved. Arising out of these minutes the Treasurer reported that he had filed the Circle's Accounts with the local tax inspector, who had confirmed that no further tax was payable-(Tax had of course been deducted from the Building Society interest.)

3. Accounts

The Accounts for the year to 31 December 1991 as set out in the March 1992 bulletin were tabled. The Treasurer produced the Alliance and Leicester Building Society Bank Book to confirm the 31 Dec. 1991 balance. The meeting unanimously adopted the account.

4. Secretary's Report

Membership of the Study Circle was now 102, made of 36 members in the USA and Canada, 30 in the UK, 29 in Belgium and 7 in the rest of the world.

New Members are:

D. S. GLOVER
10 ROCKWOOD PARK
SAINT HILL
EAST GRINSTEAD
W. SUSSEX RH19 4JX UK

A. G. HOPWOOD
14 BEAUMONT RISE
MARLOW
BUCKS
5L7 1EB UK

D. C. MOSS
20 FRANKBY ROAD
MEOLS, WIRRAL
MERSEYSIDE L47 ONB

M. DE TROYER
KRUISCOUTER 39
1730 ASSE
BELGIUM

Resignation: T. Bjork--Hoboken--USA

6. Expert Committee Report for 1991

During the year 194 certificates were issued, I think a record number. The great majority of subjects have been stamps, mostly single copies but with a few multiples, with few submitted for the cancellations on them. However, thanks particularly to one member, there has been increased submission of covers and post cards.

Although our charges for post cards (£4.00) and covers (£4.00 and upwards depending on size) are modest enough compared with those of other certificating bodies, they are expensive for items worth only a few pounds. I have therefor in the past year, and without consulting anyone, introduced a cheap type of certificate for post cards and covers incorporating a photocopy instead of a photograph at a price of only £1.50, the same as for a single stamp. These 'cheap' certificates are not recommended for valuable covers which deserve a photograph and I have, indeed, refused to provide them twice recently.

If my action is approved at the Annual General Meeting I propose to announce the introduction of the cheaper certificate in the June issue of the Bulletin.

Although I am unable to quantify it, certificates certainly made a contribution towards Study Circle funds.

It is pleasing to note that our certificates have been referred to for lots offered in several recent public auction sales.

R. H. Keach, Secretary to the Expert Committee

7. Report of Sales for 1991

Four postal auction sales were held during the year. Total sales, including after-sales, amounted to £7800.

General sales amounted to nearly £8800, probably a record figure.

From these sales the Study Circle received about £800 in commission but this is by no means all profit, substantial postage costs having been incurred. From the commission on auction sales should be deducted the cost of duplicating the lists of lots and the extra postage due to the increased weight of the Bulletin.

The only loss in the post was a serious one-a 5000 Belgian franc note. The intended recipient was very generous and offered to bear half the loss himself; moreover, he afterwards donated a couple of Princes' stamps to be sold further to offset our loss so that, in the end, our loss was less than £20.

We have a small hoard of stamps belonging the Study Circle and donated by present and past members and which are sold when there is the opportunity. During 1991 sales amounted to £6.21 which went into the general fund.

R. H. Keach, Sales Secretary

8. Packet Secretary's Report

A record volume of material was submitted for the packet-26 booklets from 6 vendors, with a total sales value of £942. The packet was circulated to 13 members, and sales totaled £361, nearly 40% of the material on offer. This must be considered a good result. Net commission to the Study Circle, after postage costs, was £10.42. Provided there is sufficient demand, there will be another packet in 1992.

Brian Hudson, Exchange Packet Secretary

9. Bulletin Editor's Report

Your Editor continues to have the pleasure of assembling and editing the Quarterly Bulletin.

We believe its printing quality and legibility has been improved by the addition of a Laser Printer in its production and we hope to try the recommended two column printing of articles with some of the submissions in the coming September issue for comments of the members.

The December cover, drawn from the eclectic collection of the Editor, was a credit to the Laser Printer of our Bulletin copier who did a fine job of reproducing the many colors faithfully.

There has not been sufficient use of the Questions and Answers column and it is to be hoped that the members will take greater advantage of this feature.

We are particularly indebted to our Vice President, Ray Keach, for his columns, to Andre Jeukens for his very fine study of Postal Routes and to Peter Foden for his editing and translation, to Andre Vindevogel for 'The Conquest of the Cameroon', to Doris Green for the 'Belgian Occupation of German East Africa' and to Norman Clowes and M. Hoorens for their efforts in reproducing the Bulletin in the UK and Europe and to all others who have contributed to its success.

Again, as always, your Editor asks for articles, notes, photos, observations, questions, reports of discoveries etc. to be shared by all our members.

Edwin M. Lavitt, Bulletin Editor

10. Future Subscriptions

It was agreed to continue these for 1993 at the present rates, i.e. UK £7, BELGIUM 400 Francs, it was however decided to increase the annual subscription for the USA and CANADA from \$11 to \$13. (Editors note: this amount is still less than the cost of the Bulletin with the present increases in US postage).

11. Stock of Philatelic Books

It was decided to try and reduce the large and valuable collection of Belgian Congo Books by offering some in future Auction sales.

12. Re-election of Officers

The President was elected last year for the usual two years and therefore continues in office until the next Annual General Meeting.

It was agreed that all the other officers be re-elected:

Secretary and Treasurer L. G. GREEN

Bulletin Editor E. M. LAVITT

Packet Secretary (UK) B. P. HUDSON

Sales & Bulletin Sales R. H. KEACH

Expert Committee ABBE GUDENKAUF; R. H. KEACH; P. FODEN and B. P. HUDSON to be co-opted when required on cancellations

13. Future Meetings

There was discussion on the joint meeting (with the Belgian study Circle) to be held at the WILLESLEY GREEN HOTEL, CRANBROOK, KENT 11th TO 13th SEPTEMBER 1992. Details have been sent direct to all members, except those in the USA and CANADA. (A copy of the Belgian Study Circle information is enclosed with this Bulletin to all USA and CANADIAN members--for further information contact E. Lavitt)

It was agreed to have a small Sherry party on Saturday 12 September.

Further joint meetings with the Belgian Study Circle were discussed with provisional agreement on meetings in the north of England in 1993 and in Belgium in 1994.

(Secretary's notes concerning the joint meeting are included at this point--Ed.

"We hope to get in a full programme of 7 displays starting at 9 A.M. on Saturday and finishing at tea-time on Sunday. We already have offers for three displays, Andre Jeukens on Registration Labels, Hal Hoyte on East African Campaign and it wouldn't be a BCSC week-end without Ray Keach on Mols. It has been suggested that our Joint Session with the Belgian Study Circle might be Forgeries and Fakes (any volunteers?).....Three more displays wanted.....Please let me know what volunteers there are. I am told that the display boards will take a maximum of 108 Album pages.

...if you are coming from overseas, Gatwick airport is very much closer than Heathrow and if you are coming by boat to Dover you may find it convenient to take the train from Dover to Ashford. We will endeavour to provide transport from Gatwick or Ashford.

Willesley Hotel is not an easy place to get at without a car, so please let me know if you will want help with transport. The Willesley Hotel telephone No. is 0580-713555 or 713556.

It would be appreciated if BCSC members who are coming could let me know, as well as BOOKING DIRECT WITH NICK MARTIN" (emphasis added--Ed).

L. G. Green

14. Financial Report

The Treasurer had expressed some concern at the continuing growth of the Circle's money--the present position as at the 15th of May (assuming outstanding subscriptions etc. were paid) would be about £2900 in hand. There was general agreement that it was not desirable for the Funds to continue growing and there was considerable discussion as to what should be done about the matter.

The Sales Secretary warned that, as far as could be foreseen, there was likely to be a very considerable reduction in the frequency and value of auction sales: there have recently been several collections or part-collections which we have had the opportunity to sell but there is no knowledge of any further substantial offerings for our auction sales. He reminded the meeting that in the past when, on many occasions, we have been asked by the widows of deceased members to dispose to best advantage of the collections we have charged the widow with no commission, only the bare cost of the sale, the cost of photocopying of auction lists and of postage; he trusted that practice would continue and it was agreed that it would. The Sales Secretary said that he knew that at least two members had requested that, on their deaths, their collections should be entrusted to us for sale. It was also likely that direct sales would reduce because of lack of material available to us.

It was eventually agreed that the following steps be taken:

- (a) It is expected that the updated HEIM-KEACH book on Cancellations will soon be ready and will be distributed FREE to all members, who requested B. P. HUDSON, 92 OAKLEY ST. LONDON SW3 5NR UK--to send them a copy. One is to watch future Bulletins which will announce when they are ready for dispatch. It is hoped that this will encourage even further interest in cancellations;
- (b) Underwriting part or all of the costs of future publications on Belgian Congo Philately;
- (c) (INSURANCE) The Study Circle has an insurance policy to cover stamps in its care. In the past there have been a few, fortunately minor, losses in the post of stamps sold through the Circle.

Whereas the Circle has accepted no responsibility for such losses it has made ex gratia payments to the owners so that they have not been out-of-pocket.

Because of the high value and infrequency of the circulating packet (for GB members only) it would be very expensive to insure and members in the circulation list have to accept responsibility for the packet while it is in their possession and in the post to the next member.

When items are submitted for certificates all reasonable care is taken of them and, when passed from one member of the Expert Committee to another, registered post is invariably used unless--and this has happened once or twice--it is a single item of small value and which can easily be replaced.

At the present time auction sale lots and items sold through general sales are dispatched by ordinary (not registered) post up to a value of about £50 and the Study Circle has been prepared to compensate owners of the stamps if the package was lost in the post; there have been a few losses but none substantial.

Henceforth, and as long as the Study Circle has the funds available, the £50 limit is raised to £100 so that stamps and covers, not already covered by the owner's insurance policy, will, if a receipt of posting has been obtained as is available for inspection if sent for or with certificates or sent to or received from the circle's 'sales department' be covered by the Study Circle, if lost in the post, to a maximum value of £100.

Sales and auction packages of value exceeding £100 will be sent by registered post to destinations within the UK or will be insured to the appropriate value if sent to other countries where insured letters are acceptable; for the

USA, to which there is no insured letter service, the expensive insured parcel service will be used unless the recipient request otherwise (some US members have insurance policies which cover their stamps when sent to them from overseas by registered post).

Packages between members of the Expert Committee will be covered by the Study Circle up to a value of £1000-- (if over £1000-stamps would be sent in separate packets to meet the limitation)

d. It was further agreed that henceforth each member, each year, shall be entitled to submit two stamps for certificates of the total value of £3-without charge, other than return postage.

If any member has any particular comments or suggestions with respect to the above items agreed to at the Annual General Meeting please send them on to the Secretary L. G. Green

15. After the lengthy disposal of the administrative matters the meeting attended to the serious business of the enjoyment of Ray Keach's fine display of the 1 Franc Mols and Peter Foden's 1894 die proofs.

First shown were Peter Foden's die proofs of the 1894 issue, these coming from Waterlow's record book of their die proofs, with the proofs of the vignette (centre) of particular interest in that, unique amongst all the Waterlow record proofs, they show how the die was prepared by the engraver. There are three proofs of the vignette, one comprising only the elephant and the native, the second only the surrounding engraving, the trees, grass etc. and the third --the two combined into the complete vignette. The elephant and the native must have been engraved by hand on one die, the remainder engraved by acid etching on a second die and the two combined by the use of transfer rolls onto a third die. It is reasonable to suppose that a similar procedure was followed for at least some other of the Congo vignette dies, for example the 5 francs, but the Waterlow records provide no proof of that.

Next Ray Keach demonstrated the treatment by Waterlow of the printing plates with the very many repairs made to the solitary centre plate and to the first frame plate used for the 1910/15 stamps. He showed a complete sheet or a sheet reconstructed from single stamps for each state of the centre and frame plates (the reconstruction of 1915 II₄ + A₅ sadly lacking one position).

The general section of the display followed, the object of the collection having been an effort to accumulate an example, unused and used, of each combination of plates used in each major shade, perforation and, where applicable, each overprint together with the same in blocks and on covers. Inevitably the display was far from complete in all aspects.

Unusual items included were several 1894 violet stamps with different Brussels and local CONGO BELGE handstamps and a solitary lilac stamp with Brussels handstamp. There were three pairs imperforate-between, 1915, 1918 Red Cross and 1922 local 10c/1F and the 1922 local surcharge with imperforate bottom margin; other such perforation curiosities exist. The 1921 stamp with the normally recognized double overprint (the two overprints shifted vertically) but a second such curiosity was shown, this having the two strikes of the 1921 shifted only slightly sideways; this is not obviously apparent, requires a magnifying glass to see and can very easily be missed. The 'unusual' 1921 stamps with the overprint applied to the 1909 stamp with typographed CONGO BELGE and to the stamps from the Princes' Printing, the latter also in a block of four, the property of Peter Foden, were included.

Perhaps the most complicated, and therefore the most interesting, 1 franc stamp is that with EST AFRICAIN overprint. Although many examples of the stamp, including blocks and complete sheets, all identified, were available for inspection, the speaker was unable, at this stage of his collecting, to make an adequate presentation of the stamp in its many varieties of overprint. A better presentation in the future was promised. A copy with the word EST clearly double and a used copy with the scarce short overprint excited particular interest.

The meeting then concluded with all present well satisfied with the disposal of the lengthy administrative agenda and philatelically sated by the displays.

LGG