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**BULLETIN 88**



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Will members who receive their Bulletins via Norman Clowes please note that certain self-contained sections are not numbered exactly as above. Copying was done in advance, from different masters, to improve reproduction.

## VP COLUMN

### TAXES CANCELLATION

Feeling obliged to submit an entry in the local philatelic society's postal history cup competition, I decided as a subject "The Payment of Postage Due, 1886-1960" and that necessitated some thought about the TAXES cancellations and their authenticity.

The earliest reference to the traditional eight different genuine TAXES and TAXE cancellations used in the Congo that I could immediately find was the 1925 edition of the Gelli & Tani Catalogue of Belgium and Congo. Gelli and Tani were very much respected and knowledgeable stamp dealers specializing in Belgium and Congo and the editor of the catalogue was Paul de Smeth, who was himself very highly regarded in Congo philately.

But what evidence have we now that all eight types, nine if you include the "T" cachet, are genuine and were used in Congo post offices?

Type 1, the T cachet, was intended, and used from early days until at least 1960, for the receiving post office of a package (that is the post office to which the package was first placed into the mail) to indicate to the post office that finally delivered it to the addressee that the package was underfranked and that postage due should be collected. The use of the cachet as a cancellation on postage stamps paying postage due appears to have been irregular; however, I have seen obviously honest covers of the 1940's with postage stamps used in place of Postage Dues, presumably because of a local shortage of dues, with the T as a legitimate cancellation. Of its earlier use for this purpose I had a couple of 1896 15c on a fragment of the back of an envelope with the stamps

cancelled with the MATADI straight-line mark and the T which looked authentic enough although impossible to prove. Loose stamps with the MATADI and T are common enough. Are there any, say pre-1910, covers with MATADI and T that would prove that his combination of cancellations was actually used?

Type II, TAXES in a rectangular frame 24 x 7mm, is attributed to Boma post office and is common enough on loose stamps. The Boma date stamp is much the commonest that we find on loose stamps up to about 1920 and it is clear that much more mail destined for overseas came from Boma than from any other place in the Congo. It is reasonable to presume that more mail from overseas was addressed to Boma than to any other place and that more underfranked letters were addressed to Boma than elsewhere. I have never seen Type II used on a cover and, much more impressive, nor had Mr. Frenay when he wrote his book "les Timbres-Taxe du Congo de 1886 a 1960" and, I am very sure, he must have made extensive enquiries of his friends in Belgium. Why are there no such covers? Or are there?

Type III, TAXES in a rectangle 27 ½ x 7mm, is attributed to Matadi. In his book Mr. Frenay illustrated many covers bearing this cancellation but let me first describe my own modest holding of such documents. The first, 1909, is from London to Tshumbiri on the upper Congo with the sole transit cancellation of Leopoldville; an important manuscript marking on the cover reads "taxe payee a Kin" with initials. The second, 1910, is from the U.S.A. to the same address but, sadly, it is only a cover front without transit cancellation.

The third, 1914, is even more interesting and, in this exercise, more important: it is a postal stationery card from Boma written by a native and addressed to Leopoldville. He wrote the message on the right side of the card and the address on the left instead of the reverse and the card, according to regulations, was therefore considered as a letter requiring the letter rate of 15c instead of the 5c stamp on the card. Two 10c stamps were therefore affixed as a postage due charge on the recipient and one of these stamps partly covers the Leopoldville arrival cancellation. The added stamps with their Type III TAXES could not have been applied at Boma and they must have been added and cancelled at Leopoldville

Returning now to Mr. Frenay's illustrated covers, there are two of 1911 from Belgium to Stanleyville each with the solitary transit cancel of Uvira--this because both covers were sent further in quest of the addressee and eventually, not having found him, returned to Belgium. There is a 1911 post card from Belgium to Basoko with no transit mark but Basoko arrival cancel. There is a post card from Sierra Leone to Lisala, 1912, with Boma and Leopoldville transits. There is also a cover from Sweden to Moenge (said to be via Bumba), 1910, with Matadi transit. Also a returned cover Libenge-Belgium-Libenge of 1911 with Leopoldville transit cancellation in each direction.

All of the above have Congo postage stamps serving as postage due and cancelled with Type III TAXES.

The native card and the 1909 covers which I have could only have had the TAXES mark applied in Leopoldville. The other cards described above could have had the stamps and TAXES applied at Matadi or Leopoldville, or indeed at any point between those two places or even beyond Leopoldville.

My contention is that the Type III

TAXES cancellation was held and used at Leopoldville, not Matadi, at least during the period 1909-1914 and maybe always, and that all underfranked mail addressed to the upper Congo (i.e. upstream of Leopoldville) was at that period taxed at Leopoldville. In the above covers there is no evidence against the contention and much, including the frequency of the Leopoldville transit cancellation in its favour.

One of Mr. Frenay's illustrations opposes the above contention: there is a "Mayne" cover from Matadi to Boma but I have no trust at all in Mayne's covers; every one of the many that I have seen reek of "jiggerypokery", most highly philatelic and generally worse than that. The cover is franked 30c at Matadi, has a Boma backstamp (not seen) and 60c of stamps used as postage due with Type III cancellations. From this one judges that the postage should have been 60c, a possible rate but so was the original 30c. I most strongly suspect that the stamps used as dues were subsequently added and cancelled 'par complaisance', as likely at Leopoldville or elsewhere.

Type IV, TAXE in a rectangular frame, is attributed to Banana and that is very well authenticated by at least some of Mr. Frenay's covers and, as far as I am concerned, by my two covers that were posted aboard ships at sea. There is no doubt about the validity of this one.

Type V, TAXES in seriffed letters and in a rectangular frame, and Type IV, TAXES in a frame 25 x 9mm, are both attributed to Sakania but neither is known on a document and both, judging by the copies on loose stamps that I have seen, are highly dubious. I would go further and say completely bogus. If someone can show them on travelled cover I will need to eat my words.

Type VII, unframed TAXE, is attributed to Bumba. Mr. Frenay illustrated a small piece of an envelope with a genuine

1908 Bumba cancellation and an adjacent stamp with Type VI TAXE cancellations, the cancel not tying the stamp to the cover. This then is most unconvincing as I could so easily provide a similar piece by sticking a still-gummed similar stamp onto a piece of a cover bearing a Bumba arrival cancellation. Then there is also a postal stationery card, 1911, registered Bumba to Switzerland with 45c of stamps including the invalid 10c stamp (without CONGO BELGE overprint) on the card itself. The valid stamps total 35c which, by my reckoning, was the correct franking for a registered overseas post card at the time. Although it is not clear on the illustration Type VII TAXE is struck on the demonezitized post card stamp (in addition to the Bumba cancellation). This is incomprehensible and, in my view, the TAXE mark was applied later, probably by a dealer, in an effort to embellish the card--a pity because it would otherwise have been a very attractive item..

I most seriously doubt the valid existence of type VII.

Type VIII, and unframed TAXES and attributed to the Uelle, without mention of any post town. Uelle is both river and district and these are in the far north east of the country with perhaps Dungu or Niangara claiming usage of Type VIII. I am as sure as I can be that this type is also completely bogus.

Type IX, TAXES in a rectangular frame 20 x 8mm and attributed originally to Elisabethville but later adopted as the standard type and used in all post offices authorized to collect postage due. This type is well documented and covers, particularly thanks to Credit Miniere and their South African correspondents' underfranking of letters, are common enough.

I am sure that members of the BCSC, particularly those who are attracted to these TAXES cancellations, will disagree and may take some offence at my opinion.

It is not my purpose to offend but to logically demonstrate the validity of my opinions and I ask those who espouse a contrary view to please produce documents to substantiate any claims of authenticity.

There is another point that has occurred to me: when only a few post offices were able to levy postage due what happened to underfranked mail that did not pass through these offices. Many such items must have existed; "local" mail between such post offices and mail entering the country through, for example, Uganda or German East Africa and not destined to travel as far as one of the principal post offices. Was there any arrangement for such underfranked mail to be charged or did it get through scot-free? Has any member any cover that may enlighten us?

#### 1921 10c SURCHARGE ON 1915 5c

In his current series of articles 'PLATING MOLS STAMPS' Mr. Hudson, in listing the perforations that are known to exist, has quite rightly ignored the illegitimate errors of the 1921 issue--the surcharges on the 1915 stamps. These stamps were produced by the application of the authentic surcharging plates, officially or clandestinely, and most of us wish to have copies in our collections even though we view them with some distaste.

This note is to report that the 10c/5c exists perforated 15 as well as the normal perf. 14. I have seen two singles and a block of 4 perf. 15 and they, from different sources, all have the surcharge shifted to the right so that the right obliterating bars touch or overlap the right perforations and it is highly likely that they come from the same sheet. There may well have been only a single sheet perforated 15.

## A CURIOUS OBLITERATOR

Mr. Maulding has sent for inspection and comment a cover bearing a 25/40c EAAOB stamp cancelled with two strikes of a curious hexagonal obliterator or of a single strike of a 'duplex' hexagon canceler.



Very easily faked, the cover has to be treated with the utmost suspicion unless other covers with a similar cancellation can be found.

The cover is addressed to Panzi, near Bukavu and has no other cancellation. The address of the sender is not given.

The obliterator is reminiscent of the home-made cancelers used on USA and Canadian stamps in the early days.

Has any member seen such a cancellation used on a Congo cover, or, even on an isolated stamp?

## CATALOGUE OFFICIEL 1994

It is expected that one of our Belgian members will again be kind enough to send to those who wish it copies of the new catalogue at the usual advantageous price. Requests, to be received not later than 31 July 1993, to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Surrey, KT20 5EE, Great Britain, UK. Non European members should indicate whether they wish air or sea mail shipment.

## POSTAL STATIONERY CURIOSITIES

Mr. André Vannerum has reported two interesting post cards which he has and their existence should be recorded.

The 1910 5/15c reply -paid card, Stibbe 31, with inverted handstamped wavy lines is well known and its existence is mentioned in the Stibbe Catalogue. Mr. Vannerum has a copy of the 1910 10c reply-paid card, Stibbe 33LT, with the wavy lines inverted on both the outward and reply cards.

He also has a 1912 picture card, view No. 67, without any printing on the address side; moreover, the picture is shifted upwards so that there is a plain unprinted band at the bottom of the view. It would be a curious coincidence if both the omission of printing of one side of the sheet of cards and the mis-spacing of the cutting happened during routine production of the cards and one is inclined to the belief that this card came from a proof printing of the view side of the cards and that the guillotining of the sheet to produce the individual cards was less careful than in the routine production. Obviously, view No. 67 must have been on the edge of the printing plate, which was somewhere reported as being thirty six cards; in other words there were two plates used for the seventy two cards.

RHK

## SECRETARY and TREASURER'S REPORT

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey at 12:00 hours Saturday 1 May 1993, 11 members being present.

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held 16 June 1992, as set out in the June 1992 Bulletin, were approved.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from our President P. S. Foden, who was unable to attend due to ill-health and who sent best wishes to all present and from Mr. E. W. Proud.

### 3. Accounts

The accounts for the year to 31 December 1992, as set out in the March 1993 Bulletin, were approved. The Treasurer tabled the Alliance and Leicester Building Society Bank Book, showing a balance at date of over £2500. The meeting unanimously approved and adopted the account.

### 4. Secretary's Report

Membership of the Study circle was now 105. Details of new members and resignations for the year to March 1993 were given in the March 1993 Bulletin. Since then three new members have joined: W. P. Trahar, 6 Maus St. Highton, Victoria Australia 3211; Dr. David H. Trapnell Wallsworth Hall, Sandhurst, Gloucester G12 9PA England UK and Madame Van Rampelbergh, Avenue Louis Le Poutres, Bruxelles, Belgium

### 5. Expert Committee's Report for 1992

During the year 160 certificates were issued, 136 declaring that the items was genuine and 24 that it was forged. Only two items were received on which the Committee was unable to reach a confident decision on their authenticity and which, therefore, no certificate could be issued.

We regret to report that requests for certificates were received from only 16 members and one non-member-an American dealer. Only nine members took advantage of the decision reached at last year's Annual General Meeting that each fully-paid member would be entitled to two free certificates for single stamps (or equivalent) each year and this is very disappointing.

The provision of Certificates of Authenticity by specialized philatelic societies, such as ours, is highly unusual-I know of no other-and, with 'our' country very well endowed with forged and faked stamps, cancellations and covers, and our certificates so reasonably priced relative to others, it is

surprising that members do not make more use of the service. A 'good' certificate is money well spent; a 'bad' certificate serves as a valuable warning to the recipient to take every precaution in buying expensive stamps.

R. H. Keach

Hon. Secretary, Expert Committee

### 6. Report of Sales for 1992

Three auction sales were held during the year. Total sales, including sales of unsold lots, amounted to £8300. Very few lots eventually remained unsold.

Our grateful thanks to Goeffrey Wood for continuing as auctioneer. One of his problems is the lack of clarity of some bids and members are requested to make their offers perfectly legible and clear.

General Sales have totalled £5300, a satisfactory, if not brilliant, result of a year's work.

I am grateful to Abbé Gudenkauf, Brian Hudson and Peter Foden for undertaking so much of the identification of Mols stamps; with my eyes deteriorating through old age, many stamps would have gone unidentified and therefore unsold if their generous help had not been available.

As has been our position for many years, we have been largely dependant on one of our benevolent Belgian members for stamps available for sale. Not only has he offered us his own duplicates but he has obtained for our choice the stamps of others, members and non-members, and even the stocks of Belgian dealers.

All members are asked to disgorge their Mols duplicates; there is much demand for them, even the commonest, and the BCSC takes only 5% commission on any sales.

R. H. Keach, Sales Secretary

### 7. Report of Packet Secretary

The 1992 exchange packet, which circulated in the late autumn, drew a disappointing response in terms of material supplied: 4 vendors sent in 10 booklets to a total value of £645. As always, however, there was good demand from buyers. 13 asked to see the packet and purchased £293 or 45% by value of the items offered. After the Secretary's postage costs a net commission of a little over £7 was generated for the Study Circle.

The 1993 packet will be circulated in October, with contributions sought in a notice in the September Bulletin. Members wishing to see the packet are reminded that to avoid confusion, they should notify the Packet Secretary of their wish to do so when the notice appears. Contributions are

eagerly sought, and it is hoped there will be more vendors in 1993 than there were in 1992.

#### 8. Bulletin Editor's Report

In the past year the Bulletin was duly published in each quarter. We remain indebted not only to our regular contributors Messrs Keach, Foden, Green, the late André Jeukens but also to new authors of offerings, discoveries and insights.

We are also most grateful to M. Hoorens and Norman Clowes for so promptly reproducing and forwarding the UK and Continental issues.

We began the publication of Hudson's truly monumental work and look forward to its completion.

We have sent a questionnaire to all American members, to be returned to your Editor, in which they report on their special Belgian Congo interests in an endeavor to make the Bulletin as broad reaching as possible. It has been well received and such a questionnaire will accompany the June 1993 Bulletin to all UK, European and Overseas members.

The new format, provided by your Editor's computer and printer have been well received.

Finally, I wish to report that we now send one copy of the Bulletin to the Collectors Club in New York and one copy to the American Philatelic Research Library for their permanent collection.

As a footnote: we always need and can use articles, reports of new discoveries, questions, answers, comments and suggestions.

Edwin M. Lavitt, Bulletin Editor

#### 9. Future Subscriptions

It was agreed to continue the Subscriptions for 1994 at the present rate viz: £7 for the UK; 400 BF for Belgium and Europe; \$13 for the USA and Canada and £8 for other Countries outside Europe.

#### 10. Election of Officers

Peter Foden's term of office has now ended and Jacques Du Four was duly elected President to serve for the next two years.

The following were duly re-elected:

Secretary and Treasurer	L. G. Green
Bulletin Editor	E. M. Lavitt
Packet Secretary (UK)	B. P. Hudson
Sales	R. H. Keach
Expert Committee	Abbé Gudenkauf, R. H. Keach P. Foden B. P. Hudson (to be co-opted on cancellations)

#### 11. Future Meetings 1994

There was discussion on the proposed meeting in Belgium in 1994 to celebrate the centenary of the Mols issue. It was understood that the Belgian Study Circle might be interested in joining the BCSC at such a meeting. Geoffrey Wood undertook to take the matter up with them. Provisional agreement to hold a meeting in or near Ostend in October 1994 was made. The Secretary reported that Monsieur Hoorens was looking into this possibility and would, in due course, contact our President M. Du Four.

Mrs. Doris Green had suggested that we should join the Belgian Study Circle at their annual lunch in London at the Bedford College. They always have a meeting at the College after lunch and we too could have such a meeting. The suggestion was agreed to. It is thought the date will be March 12 1994. Further details will follow in a later Bulletin.

#### 12. Financial Report

It was found that despite a general reduction in charges for the Expert Committee Certificates, and the additional cost of distributing free to members the "Heim and Keach" book on Cancellations up dated by D. Van der Hauwert, there was a small surplus in the Accounts to 31 December 1993 of £164.49.

It was agreed: 1. that the articles currently being produced in the Bulletin, by Brian Hudson, on Plating the Mols Stamps be bound into Booklet form following their completion. The booklet will be distributed free to members, who notify that they want them and are prepared to pay the postage. Details will appear in later Bulletins; and, 2. Attempts will be made to expand the quarterly Bulletin, but this of course can only occur if more material is made available to the Bulletin Editor.

#### 13. Insurance

Discussion was had with respect to the risk of financial loss if shipments go astray in the post--in fact there was such a loss in the amount of £45.85 in March of 1993 which was borne by the BCSC.

E. Lavitt undertook to investigate the possibility of insurance through the American Philatelic Society and Hal Hoyte undertook to investigate to possibility of obtaining such insurance from the organization which insures the Rhodesia Society.

#### 14. American Philatelic Society

It was decided to accept the offer of the

American Philatelic Society to become an Affiliated Member Organization provided that the APS would waive its requirement for a copy of formal By-Laws as the BCSC has existed for over 40 years without such formalities.

E. Lavitt pointed out that there is no fee for such affiliation, the APS requires the membership list of the BCSC and gives the BCSC its list of all its members who are interested in the stamps of the Belgian Congo.

#### 15. Other Business

It was recorded, a little sadly, that our deceased member, André Jeukens, has been posthumously awarded VERMEIL for his book "La Censure Au Congo Belge-Guerre 1939-1945" by the Federation Royale Des Cercles Philateliques De Belgique;

Norman Clowes has asked that we inform the membership that his "update" to the Bulletin Index referred to in the Editor's note in Bulletin 87 will be prepared up to and including Bulletin 90 due in December 1993.

It was agreed that a free copy of future Bulletins be provided to the American Philatelic Library;

It was agreed to continue the policy of not carrying advertising in the Bulletin and to decline the request of Stanley Gibbons Co. to insert such material in future Bulletins.

The Formal Meeting was thereupon duly adjourned.

L. G. Green Hon. Secy-Treas.

#### Display of Mols Cancellations--Brian Hudson

In the afternoon Brian Hudson displayed his collection of cancellations on Mols stamps. This consisted of some 2000 items in 5 albums, the purpose being to show good strikes on single Mols stamps of as many different cancels as possible, 'different' including differences in year-date and date-data arrangement as well as in the canceler.

The bulk of the collection was accounted for by the so-called normal post office cancellations, as listed in the monumental reference work by Arthur Heim and Ray Keach. Among the scarcer cancels displayed were Type 1 Banza-Boma, Banzyville, Bena-Bendi, Bena-Dibele, Beni, Bolobo, Cataractes, Chutes Francois-Joseph, Itimbiri, M'Baya, Mikola, Monveda, Nyangwe and Songolo, a score of so of Type 2 'griffe' cancels and Type 5 Pena-Kalenge and Wamba. The display ended with a selection of telegraphic, railway, river, maritime and East Africa campaign cancellations.

An interesting feature (see last Bulletin) was

that the 220 pages of the display had been prepared using a personal computer, a technique which gave a neat result but at the same time greatly speeded up the work of preparing and (whenever necessary) amending the pages.

(The display was not only remarkable for the many truly rare cancellations but the superb quality of both the stamps and the cancellations. So many were "socked on the nose" as to make one forget the obvious great amount of time and effort which must have been expended in its assemblage. Your Editor was privileged to be among the viewers.)

### **CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY**

Stamps, cards and covers for Certificates Authenticity are requested to the received by R. H. Keach not later than August 31, 1993, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth Surrey KT20 5EE, England, UK, to be processed early in September.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT , EACH CALENDAR YEAR, THEY ARE ENTITLED TO TWO FREE CERTIFICATES FOR SINGLE STAMPS OR EQUIVALENT FOR OTHER ITEMS.

Apart from the free certificates, prices are very modest: £1.50 for a single stamp, £2.00 for a pair, £3.00 for a block of four and £4.00 for a post card. For larger blocks of stamps and for covers the charge is dependant upon size. Moreover, when, apart from the free certificates, five or more items are submitted at one time, charges are reduced by 20%.

If a stamp turns out to be forged the fee is halved.

For post cards and covers 'cheap' certificates incorporating a photocopy instead of a photograph, can be supplied for £1.50 but it is necessary that requests for such certificates be made at the time of submission of the items.

Which stamps deserve certificates? All stamps the authenticity of which the owner is not completely certain and particularly 1) 1F values of the early portrait stamps and, 2) overprinted or surcharged stamps where the overprint or surcharge enhances the market value of the stamp.



Forged cancellations abound, particularly on stamps of the first two issues.

There is satisfaction in having assurance that your stamps are genuine. And when, inevitably in due course, the stamps have to be sold they will be more readily and profitably marketed if those of which forgeries exist have been certified as genuine.

R.H.Keach

Secretary, Expert Committee

(I have found that the BCSC Expertising Service has been readily accepted by leading auction houses in the US and by reputable dealers. I was both unhappy to learn that a particularly desirable cover I acquired was forged and happy to have saved the price thereof--the dealer did not question the opinion of the expert committee--Ed.)

### Mr. P. D. WRIGHT

It is with great regret that we have to record the death on 11 March of Peter Wright who was a member of the BCSC for many years. Although we intermittently corresponded I think that I met him only once, when we held a meeting in Buxton, when it was clear that, although quiet, he was a very friendly man whom we were all glad to meet.

I wrote to Mrs. Wright expressing our regret and sympathy. She has since replied saying that Peter had requested that, if possible, his Congo stamps should be sold through the study circle and I have told her that we will do all that we can to help and ensure that the stamps fetch the best price possible.

RHK

### EDITORS NOTES--FUTURE ISSUES

Congratulations to member and former Bulletin Editor, Ralph Jacquemin for his VERMEIL at the Sandical Exposition in San Diego California Feb 19-21, 1993. His exhibit entitled "1,047 trains and 1,003 elephants" must have been most fascinating.

Future issues will contain articles on a recent discovery of a 25c Mols blue with re-engraved frame, on cover, which may be unique; Philatelic Consequences of the 1977 rebellion in Katanga; a newly discovered plate variety on the 50c value of the 1920 Air Mail series; a comparison of the Abbé Gudenkauf's study of The Mail-boat Services to the Belgian Congo and a reference work published by the Royal Philatelic Society (London); a newly discovered red registration label (1e 1da--Dec 1992 Bulletin); Parasitic Markings on the 1894 Mols Stamps; Peter Foden's article on "Airgraphs" the next installment of the Hudson work and much, much more.

DO NOT LET THIS LIST DETER ANY AND ALL OF YOU FROM SENDING DISCOVERIES AND ARTICLES. We have had a request for a discussion of the various colors to be found on the Colis Postaux overprints. Can your Editor have such an Article?

There is a questionnaire to our UK, European and overseas members with this bulletin. Your Editor asks that you take the time to complete it and return it to him at P O Box 900 Rockville Ct 06066. (Our American members have already completed theirs) We hope, by this means to try to include articles which will reach the interests of all the members. We will publish a summary of the replies which we know will be of great interest. Our members cover the field of Belgian Congo Philately as a snow in the Arctic covers the ground.

EML

## PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN THE BELGIAN CONGO----P. S. Foden

Some years ago, one of our American members asked me whether I knew anything about mission stations in the Congo. At the time, the answer was in the negative, and I still claim little knowledge on the subject. However, a forthcoming short display to another society encouraged me to put together as much as I could find from my own resources; perhaps sufficient as a basis for others to take up if they so wish.

Collecting a country like the Belgian Congo, one is soon aware of just how much we owe to the missionaries.

First of all, they were often the first, if not the only, letter-writers from some extremely remote areas.

Second, they were, and are, indefatigable correspondents, often to (and from) other, equally remote places.

Third, the missionary societies became aware, quite early on, that their stamps and covers from out-of-the-way places had a value to philatelists and they were more than happy to augment their funds by saving material and placing it on the market for our delectation.

Perhaps, reading some of the letters, one is struck by the lack of any real interest in the content, but, on the other hand, a lone soul many hundreds, if not thousands of miles from civilised company, may be entitled to the belief that the important thing is simply to keep in contact with others. (An attitude I find it very easy to understand and forgive if it provides me with an interesting cover).

So, what I have tried to do is draw up a list of all the Protestant mission stations in the Congo of which I can find evidence. It has a number of flaws. Certainly it is incomplete; some of the spellings are suspect, as different covers show different manuscript versions of what is, patently, one place; locations, except where these have a known town or village name, are unknown - where possible, I have used cancellations, or senders' addresses to try to associate missions with post offices, although in some cases the reference may only be to the Province, but it is practically impossible to be certain; the intention was to list only proper - i.e. religious - missions, many of which have hospitals or schools attached, but to omit non-denominational medical missions, but again the degree of success is uncertain. All I can really say is that this is a base on which further building is possible.

It may well be asked why the list is restricted to Protestant missions. There are several reasons which make good sense to me, if to no-one else. In one sense, every Catholic church in every town and village in the Congo is a mission in its own right, but this makes the task of trying to list them virtually impossible, particularly as mail emanating from them appears to be much less self-conscious in terms of return addresses or pre-printed envelopes.

But, most important to me is the simple fact that most of the covers which have passed through my hands happen to have originated in the U.K. and U.S.A. markets, so that the Protestant missions have been far better represented. Limited as the present listing is, any attempt by me to do one on the same basis for the Catholic missions would have been foredoomed to outright failure, so I leave that task to someone with access to the right sort of information and material.

In the meantime, if any member wishes to assist by adding to or correcting the present listing, please send any information direct to the Bulletin Editor.

References: - "The Christ of the Congo River" by W. Y. Fullerton D. D.

"Guide du Voyageur au Congo Belge & au Ruanda Urundi"  
1st Edition, 1950.

#### PROTESTANT MISSION STATIONS IN THE BELGIAN CONGO - CIRCA 1948.

A. B. F. M. S.      American Baptist Foreign Mission Society  
                            Kikongo (Banningville)  
                            Léopoldville  
                            Sona Bata (Matadi)  
                            Tondo (Coquilhatville)

A. I. M.             Africa Inland Mission  
                            Aba  
                            Aru  
                            Aungba (Djalasiga)  
                            Bafuka (Niagara)  
                            Blukwa  
                            Bogoro  
                            Dungu  
                            Kasengu (Nioka)  
                            Maitulu (Watsa)  
                            Moto (Watsa)  
                            Mukedi (Idiofa)  
                            Oicha (Irumu)  
                            Ruwenzori

A. E. B.             Africa Evangelistic Band

A. G. M.           Assemblies of God Mission  
                     Andudu (Watsa)  
                     Betwonga (Paulis)  
                     Gombari

A. P. C. M.        American Presbyterian Congo Mission  
                     Kasha (Luputa)  
                     Luebo  
                     Luluabourg

B. M. S.           Baptist Missionary Society  
                     Bandu (Elisabetha)  
                     Bolobo  
                     Busu Djanoa  
                     Kibentele (Songololo)  
                     Kimpese  
                     Léopoldville  
                     Ligasa  
                     Lukolela  
                     Maganga (Stanleyville)  
                     Matadi  
                     Ngombe Lutete (Thysville) (ex Wathen?)  
                     Tondo (Coquilhatville)  
                     Upoto (Lisala)  
                     Yahuma  
                     Yakusa (Stanleyville)  
                     Yalemba (Basoko)  
                     Wayika (Kindu)

B. A. M. S.        Berean African Missionary Society

C. B. M.           Congo Balolo Mission  
                     Bongandanga  
                     Gwenze (Budjala)  
                     Lulonga

C. E. M.           Congo Evangelistic Mission  
                     Kabondo Dianda (Bukama)  
                     Kabongo  
                     Katenta (Tshofa)  
                     Mwanza

C. G. M.           Congo Gospel Mission

C. I. M.           Congo Inland Mission  
                     Djoko Punda (Charlesville)  
                     Mukedi (Kikwit)  
                     Nyanga (Tshikapa)

C. & M. A.        Christian & Missionary Alliance  
                     Boma

C. M. S.           Church Missionary Society  
                     (or Ruanda General & Medical Mission)  
                     Ibuye (Ngozi)  
                     Shyira (Ruhengeri)

D. C. C. M.      Disciples of Christ Congo Mission  
                          Bolenge (Coquilhatville)  
                          Lotumbe (Coquilhatville)  
                          Lusambo  
                          Monieka (Coquilhatville)  
                          Wema (Coquilhatville)

E. P. I.            Ecole de Pasteurs et d'Instituteurs

E. S. A. M.        Evangelization Society African Mission  
                          Kama  
                          Lubutu  
                          Shabunda

F. A. G. M.        Friends' Africa Gospel Mission

F. S. G. M.        ? Friends' Society Gospel Mission  
                          Luisa

G. E. M.            Garanganze Evangelical Mission  
                          Albertville  
                          Bunkeya  
                          Dilolo  
                          Kabalo  
                          Kasaji  
                          Kiambi  
                          Manono  
                          Muyumba  
                          Fweto

H. A. M.            Heart of Africa Mission  
                          Bambili  
                          Billi  
                          Egbita (Paulis)  
                          Ibambi (Wamba)  
                          Niangara  
                          Foko

I. M.                Immanuel Mission  
                          Mambasa

L. M.                Luanza Mission  
                          Luanza (Elisabethville)

M. B. D.            Mission Baptiste Danoise

M. B. N.            Mission Baptiste Norvégienne  
                          Bondo  
                          Buta  
                          Monga

M. B. R. C.        Mission des Baptistes Réguliers du Canada

M. E. N.            Mission Evangélique Norvégienne

M. E. U.            Mission Evangélique de l'Ubangi  
                          Bokada (Libenge)  
                          Gbado (Lisala)  
                          Karawa (Lisala)  
                          Tandala (Libenge)  
                          Wasolo (Lisala)

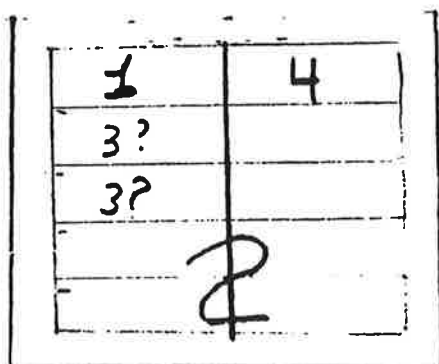
M. L. M.	Mission Libre Méthodiste Muyebe (Usumbura)
M. L. N.	Mission Libre Norvégienne
M. L. S.	Mission Libre Suédoise Masisi Uvira
M. M. C. C.	Mission Méthodiste du Congo Central ) (or Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission) )
M. M. S. C.	Mission Méthodiste du sud du Congo ) Elisabethville Jadotville Kabongo (Kamina) Kambove Kanene (Kamina) Kapanga Lodja Minga (Lusambo) Mulungwishi (Elisabethville) Sandoa Wembo Nyama (Lusambo)
N. S. M.	North Sankuru Mission
S. B. M.	Svenska Baptist Missionen
S. B. M. P.	Société Belge de Missions Protestantes
S. D. A.	Seventh Day Adventists Elisabethville Gitwe (Usumbura) Kamina Kirundu
S. M. F.	Svenska Missionförbundet Matadi Vivi
U. A. M.	Unevangelized Africa Mission Kitsombero (Lubero) Sake
U. F. M.	Unevangelized Fields Mission Banjwadi (Stanleyville) Bongondza (Kole) Boyulu Ekoko (Bumba) Maganga (Stanleyville) Wanie Rukula
U. P. M. G. B. I.	Union Pentecostale des Missionnaires de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande
U. T. M.	Unevangelized Tribes Mission Baraka
W. M.	Wescott Mission Lusambo

- W. G. T.                      Worldwide Grace Testimony  
    Kama (Kindu)  
    Usumbura
- Mennonite Brethren Mission
- Open Plymouth Brethren  
    Mulongo
- Salvation Army  
    Léopoldville

Additionally, the central Council of Protestant Churches was based in Léopoldville.

Note: Place names in brackets are those of the post-offices, where known, where the mission name is not that of a town or village.  
    Peter S. Foden

### 10c 1915 INVERTED CENTRE



One booklet pane of the 10c 1915 with inverted centre is known. 3 other panes must have originally existed, since all 3 printings of 1915 MoIs in booklet format were from plates of 40 stamps - 2 panes horizontally and 2 panes vertically - then separated to produce 4 panes of 10 stamps each.

It is the writer's opinion that Waterlow & Sons in London, the printers, shipped Congo stamps directly to the Congo during World War II (since Belgium was completely occupied by the Germans), and recognized the problem of possible loss of ships at sea to wolf packs. Accordingly they divided printings into several packets to spread the risk that an entire printing might be lost with one ship. Only one pane in its booklet, along with many normal booklets, arrived at the desired destination. No used copies have ever been seen. (*a most interesting theory--there is authority to the contra--perhaps we should hear another view Editor*).

The sketch shows that pane, or rather what is presently known with respect to that pane, at this writing.

The upper left stamp with corner margins intact is pictured in du Four's 'CONGO Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale', page 225 and identified here as "1".

The block of 4, with all margins, from the bottom of the pane was sold at Auction in Zurich June 1, 1990, item '2' in the sketch.

Item 3, from its centering probably position 3 but possibly position 5 was sold at Auction by Cherrystone (USA) 4 or 5 years ago. It has the left margin intact.

Finally, item 4, the upper right corner margin single, position 2, was sold by Ivy, Shreve & Mader (New York) in 1992.

Does any member have, or know of, the existence of any of the other 3 positions from this pane?

E. A. Hirdler

# BELGIAN CONGO MAIL ROUTES

## SOUTHERN ROUTE

For this study we will consider as the Southern Routes those crossing the Katanga southern frontier and leading to Portuguese ports of the Indian Ocean south of the river Zambesi; also to the ports of the British Territories in South-Africa through Rhodesia and one to German Southwest Africa.

The Portuguese Railways of Angola, linking Lobito to Dilolo, have been considered as part of the Western Routes. The period considered in this study ends in May 1940.

### 1. Land and Sea Routes

The interest generated by the Cape Town - Ndola Railways being extended to the North grew considerably when the line reached Elisabethville by the end of 1910.

Up to then, the best part of the local mail came from the Comité Spécial du Katanga (CSK) and from its staff. The CSK head-quarter was located in Lukonzolwa, on the Western side of lake Moero. For its postal operations the CSK used the Pweto post office, specially opened for that purpose in July 1902. The Pweto office was also responsible for the postal exchanges with Lukafu, center of the mining activities, before Lukafu itself became an office in July 1908. At that period, the transport of mail between Antwerp and Pweto lasted about 3 months, of which one third for the part covered by runners.

An other route to Pweto had been established by the first expeditions and remained in use from 1892 to 1904. Starting from Chinde, Portuguese port on the Zambesi estuary, it followed the rivers Zambesi then the Shire to cross lake Nyassa up to Karonga. It then took the so-called 'Stephenson Route' up to the southern end of lake Tanganyika. From there it joined Pweto. This route took as long as the one via Matadi. It was replaced by a more direct one, passing through Fort Jameson in Rhodesia and going North to Kalongwezi on the eastern side of lake Moero.

Between 1902 and 1906 the port of Beira on the Portuguese coast south of the Zambesi was also utilized: a route linked Beira to Broken Hill in Rhodesia, via Salisbury and Bulawayo.

In 1904, when the rail coming from Cape Town reached the Zambesi at Livingstone, the mail using this way also took 3 months from Congo to Europe. It was carried by runners on a distance of more than 1000 miles from Livingstone.



This last itinerary was oriented full North to reach the mining center of Kambove in the Congo via Kansanchi, frontierlocality in Rhodesia. Until 1908 the choice between Kambove and Elisabethville as site for the Katanga province's capital was made difficult, mainly due to the initial project to extend the rail Broken Hill-Kansanchi up to Kambove. With this perspective a Post office was opened in Musofi near the Congolese frontier, south of Kambove: it would operate as Exchange office for the region. Musofi closed in May 1910. In the meantime the lay-out of the railway had been modified and it was now passing by Ndola. Sakania inherited the position of Musofi as Exchange office.

Long before the rail reached Katanga, correspondants in this region used to have their mail carried by runners to the nearest Rhodesian Post office: Ndola, franking their envelopes with Rhodesian stamps. The gain in time was considerable: in 1906, transport by road from Ndola to Broken Hill - just reached by the railway - took about 10 days and 6 more by rail down to Cape Town. By the end of 1909 this timing had been reduced to one week, starting from Ndola !

The arrival of the rail in Elisabethville confirmed the major interest of this site. The CSK head office left Lukonzolwa and moved into the place, soon followed by other companies. The extension of the rail to Bukama on the river Lualaba was programmed. Completed in 1918, it allowed communication with North Katanga's agricultural regions. The line was extended further North with Port-Francqui as terminus on the river Kasai, but this took another 10 years. In its southern part this feeding line drew the flow of merchandises to the best port available in the South: Cape Town. By that period, the transport from Bukama to Antwerp via Cape Town and Southampton did not take more than 25 days !

The rail, starting in Rhodesia, progressed as follows to Katanga and later on to Kasai:

Rhodesia Railways	Livingstone	1904
	Ndola	1909
Cie du Chemin de Fer du Katanga (CFK - 713 km)	Sakania	12/1909
	Elisabethville	12/1910
	Kambove	1913
	Bukama	7/1918
Sté des Chemins de Fer Léopoldville- Katanga-Dilolo (LKD - 1123 km)	Bukama	4/1923
	Port-Francqui	7/1928

The building of the LKD began simultaneously in Port-Francqui and in Bukama. The junction took place near Lulua-Gare (km 763 from Bukama) on the 13 February 1928.

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° °

In Katanga, the postal Administration had to cope with disputes at Government level about the location of its 'capital' and hesitations of the Rhodesia Railways.

In March 1910 Musofi passed its attribution as Exchange office to Sakania. The Bukama Post office was displaced to Sankishia from June 1916 to October 1917 pending fixation of the CSK terminal. All these hesitations impeded the delivery of postal equipments; the same canceller had sometimes to be used in different offices: Musofi's in Sakania and Kambove, Lukafu's in Elisabethville. Except for Pweto which main task in the beginning had been to deal with the CSK mail, Exchange offices were opened according to the progression of the rail; they dealt with with the Katangese mail from following Post offices which opened progressively:

Pweto (7/1902 → 9/1909)

Pweto, Lukonzolwa, Lukafu

Musofi (7/1908 → 3/1910)

Musofi

Sakania (3/1910 →)

Sakania, Kalonga, M'Baya (Baya), Mikola, Mokambo,  
+ the CFK stations between Sakania and Elisabethville

Elisabethville (4/1910 →)

Elisabethville, Bukama, Dibaya, Dilolo, Etoile du Congo, Jadotville, Kabongo, Kabinda, Kafakumba, Kambove, Kamina, Kasenga, Kipaïla, Kipushi, Kolwezi, Likasi, Luishia, Lukafu, Luputa, Moba, N'Gule, Pania-Mutombo, Pweto, Sampwe, Sandoa, Tenke

Separate bags for Likasi were constituted in Brussels-1 and transmitted via Elisabethville

Kambove (11/1913 → 10/1918)

Kambove, Bukama

Bukama (10/1918 → 1/1929)

Bukama (Shankishia)

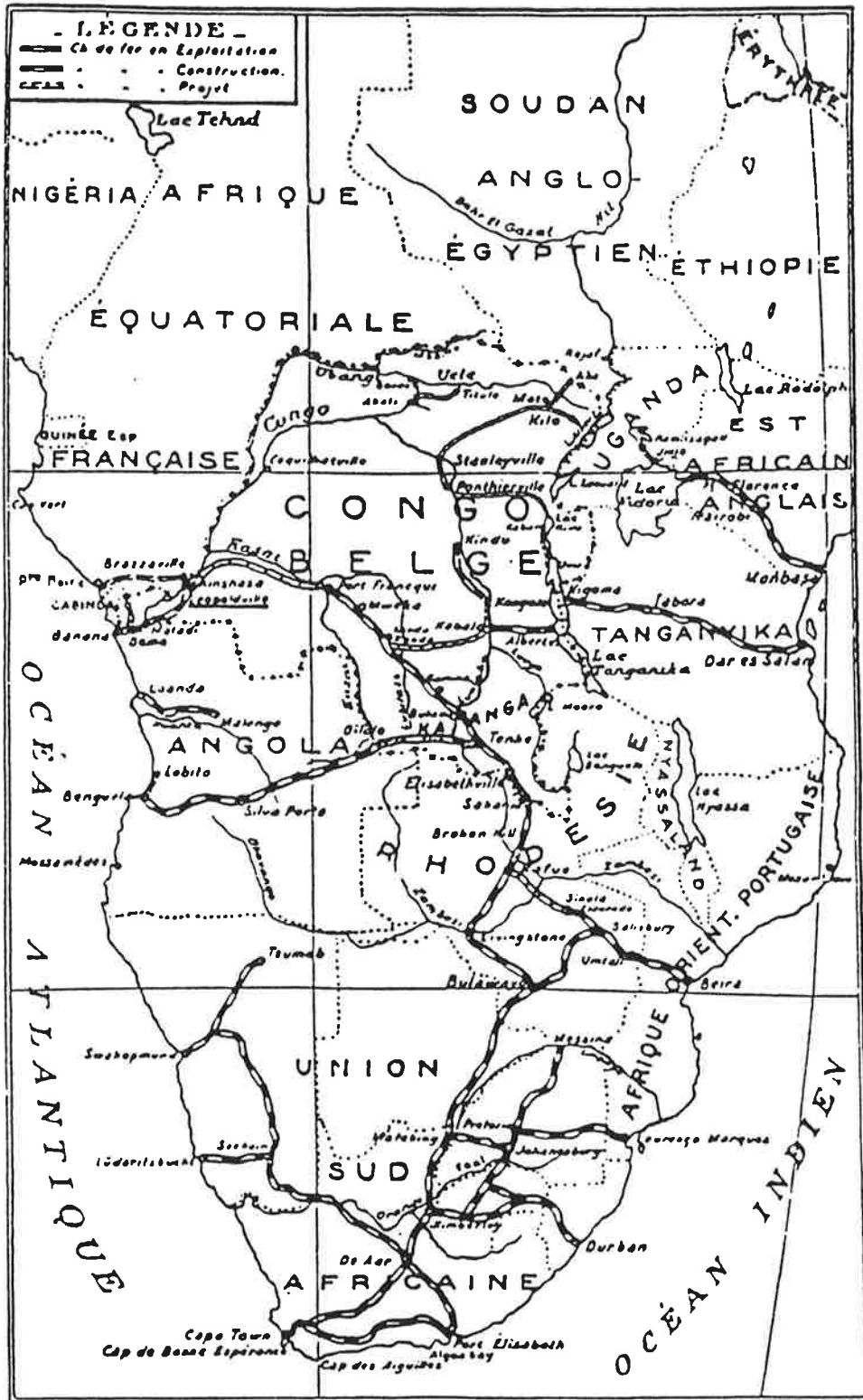
+ the LKD stations (southern section)

The European Exchange offices for the Katanga were Brussels, London, Southampton, Paris and Lisbon. Since 1909, Katangese mail was currently transported via Cape Town by the 'Castle Line' (British) sailing from Southampton, or by the 'Empreza Nacional de Navigação' (Portuguese) which boats were linking Lisbon to Mozambique via Cape Town.

In 1931 the junction was made at the frontier with Angola between the Benguela Railways (Lobito-Teixeira de Souza) and the LKD line linking Tenke (north of Jadotville) to Dilolo-Gare via Kolwezi. As said above, in the study this route has been considered as part of the 'Western Routes' but the newly opened axis gave access in Lobito to British, Belgian and Portuguese lines sailing to Europe and that more rapid itinerary was soon followed, against that of Cape Town. Transport from Southampton to Elisabethville via Lobito was now lasting only 2 weeks !

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AFRICAN RAILWAYS - 1930



DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AREAS

## 2. Air Routes

On January 20, 1932, 'Imperial Airways' proceeded to a trial in view to establish air connections between London and Cape Town. It followed the itinerary: Cairo, Khartum, Juba, Kampala, Kisumu, Dodoma, Broken Hill, Salisbury, Bulawayo, Cape Town. Cape Town was reached on February 2 and the flight started back to London the very next day.

In June 1932 the line became regular, cutting by two the time needed by the shipping companies. As far as Katanga was concerned, mail took 3 days to Broken Hill by rail, the flight between Broken Hill and Cairo took another 9.

From August 1932 the 'Aéro Club du Katanga' organized weekly flights between Elisabethville and Broken Hill with a gain of 2 days. In September 1932 this operation was transferred to the 'Société de Transport du Katanga' (STK).

In 1934, flying to Europe took no more than a week and frequency had doubled. Business developed with the Rhodesias and the Union of South-Africa as well as with the Far-East after regular liaisons had been established in December 1934.

In November 1935 the French 'Régie Malgache' took over from STK. The air service Tananarive-Broken Hill-Elisabethville gave connection to 'Imperial Airways' and 'Sabena/Air Afrique' flights between Elisabethville and Brussels. Apart from the ease of postal traffic to the Far-East or South-Africa, these last facilities greatly diminished interest for 'Imperial Airways's service to Europe. Katangese air routes had taken the shape that would last up to 1940.

A.J. Jeukens  
September 1992

*This article is the last of the many, which over the years, the late André Jeukens wrote for the Study Circle Bulletin. It is clear that his knowledge and erudition will be sorely missed by the Society. Ed.*

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS

by B.P. HUDSON

### Part 5: 25 centimes

#### Introduction

Parts 1 to 4 of this series were issued with Bulletin 85 and 87, part 1 providing a general introduction and parts 2 to 4 covering the 5, 10 and 15 centimes. Part 5 and future parts should be read in conjunction with part 1.

The 25 centimes, the fourth lowest of the ten Mols values, is seldom found on postcards but is common on letters. From 1886 to 1896 and from 1921 to 1924 25 centimes was the postal rate for letters under 15 or 20 grams sent internally in the Congo; from 1910 to March 1920 and from March 1921 to 1924 it was the lowest rate for letters sent to Belgium; and from 1910 to 1921 it was the lowest rate for letters sent to other overseas countries.

As with the other Mols values issued in 1894, the design of the 25 centimes was based on one of the paintings in the diorama exhibited by the artists Robert Mols and Piet Van Engelen at the 1894 Anvers Exhibition, which in turn was based on a photograph taken by Lieutenant Wyns. It shows the waterfalls at Inkissi which are on the route between Matadi and Stanley-Pool and are of imposing appearance, falling 30 metres into a narrow gorge. The word 'Inkissi' means evil spirit, and derived from the number of natives who perished by falling into the torrent. As a result, few local natives would dare to approach the falls; the three natives on the rocks in the foreground did not appear in the original photograph and were added by the artists.

#### Main issues

In the following table the number on the left is the Catalogue Officiel number. The right-hand column shows the number printed, excluding those that were subsequently overprinted or surcharged, as listed by General Du Four in 'Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale', and drawn from official and other sources. But as the General warns, these numbers have to be treated with caution and in many cases, as has now been confirmed by study of Waterlow's file copy sheets, understate the true figure. This is particularly true of the figures given for the unoverprinted 1910 and 1915 issues which are undoubtedly far too low.



PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

Belgian Congo

21	Nov. 1894	25c orange	État Indépendant	150,000
22	May 1900	25c blue	État Indépendant	382,000
33B	Jan. 1909	25c blue	Congo Belge Brussels	1,700
33L	Jan. 1909	25c blue	Congo Belge local	65,400
43	Jan. 1909	25c blue	Congo Belge typo	100,900
43P	Mar. 1909	25c blue	Princes unoverprinted	100
43PB	Mar. 1909	25c blue	Princes Brussels	250
43PT	Mar. 1909	25c blue	Princes typo	4,650
57	Jan. 1910	25c blue	Bilingual	290,000
67	Nov. 1915	25c blue	Bilingual with 'vingt cinq'	160,000
75	May 1918	25c+25c blue	Red Cross	150,000
90	July 1921	50c/25c blue	Recuperation surcharge (on 57)	392,950
99	Jan. 1922	50c/25c blue	Malines surcharge (on 67)	145,350

Ruanda Urundi

12	July 1916	25c blue	Ruanda Tombeur (on 67)	2,750
19	July 1916	25c blue	Urundi Tombeur (on 67)	2,750
31	Nov. 1916	25c blue	Est Africain (on 67)	295,000
39	May 1918	25c+25c blue	A.O. on Red Cross	150,000
49	Jan. 1922	50c/25c blue	Malines on Est Africain (on 67)	94,150

Plate combinations

1894	II+A1	Original frame and centre plates
1900	I2+A2	Frame lay marks added; centres re-entered
	I3+A2	Frames retouched
1910	III1+A3	New frame plate; centres re-entered
	III1+A4	Centres re-entered
	III2+A4	Frames retouched
	III3+B	Frames re-entered; new centre plate
	III4+B	Frame lay marks added
1915	III1+B	New frame plate
	III1+Ca	New centre plate; sky lines clear
	III2+Ca	Frame lay marks added
	III2+Cb	Sky lines corroded
	III2+D	New centre plate
	III3+D	Extra frame lay marks added
	Booklets (1)	Frame and centre plates for booklet panes
	Booklets (2)	Frames retouched

There have been the following changes from the nomenclature first introduced by Du Four:



## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

- (1) He was unaware of the addition of lay marks which created frame plate II4 (see Bulletin 68).
- (2) He was unaware of the existence of III1+C, the 1915 frame plate without lay marks (see Bulletin 23).

### Identifying the plate combinations

1900. I3+A2 is easy to distinguish from I2+A2 by the heavy retouching of the top frameline. In I2+A2 this line is thin and weak; in I3+A2 it is strong and thick. Stamps from I3+A2 without the CONGO BELGE overprint are very rare.

Princes printings, which are I3+A2, can be recognised by the brighter shade of the frames and by the centres which are brownish-black rather than grey-black as in the 1900 issue. Princes typo stamps can also be recognised by constant varieties in the typo overprint - see page 10 of part 1.

1910. The first four plate combinations of the 1910 issue are easy to tell apart. In III+A3 there is little doubling in the centres and the frames are a distinctive pale green-blue. In III+A4 the centres show extensive doubling, particularly of the trees, the natives and the rocks in the waterfall; the frames are blue, sometimes slightly greenish blue; and the horizontal shading in the bottom panel is weak. In II2+A4 this shading is retouched by hand, showing many irregularities, and the frames are dark blue, usually (but not always) darker than the shade of III+A4. In II3+B the frames are deep blue, with the bottom panel lines stronger though still showing some signs of retouching; the new centre plate is strong, clear and unblemished.

II4+B can be differentiated from II3+B only in the positions where the new frame plate lay marks - a vertical line between 8,9,13 and 14, and a dot between 38,39,43 and 44 - are visibly either absent or present.

1915. The first plate combination, III1+B, can be recognised by the use of the unretouched die for the centre plate. It shows a white space between the large rock in the foreground third from the right and the dotted shading in the lower part of the waterfall. In centre plates C and D and in the booklet stamps this space is filled with further dots.

III1+Ca became III2+Ca through the addition of lay marks in the form of vertical lines between 17 and 18 and between 32 and 33, and dots between 17 and 18 and between 27 and 28. III1 and III2 cannot be told apart in other positions of the sheet. III2+Cb is differentiated from III2+Ca by the corrosion of the horizontal lines in the sky, which become a series of dots and dashes instead of



## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

straight lines. A new centre plate was introduced with III2+D, which in turn became III3+D with the addition of further lay marks in the form of a vertical line between 14,15,19 and 20, and a dot between 39,40,44 and 45. III3+D appears to be found only with the Malines surcharge.

The three printings of the booklet stamps can be distinguished by shade (though the distinctions are easier to make with mint than with used stamps). Stamps from the first printing are blue, sometimes with a greenish tinge, with brownish-black centres. Those from the second printing are deep blue with deep black centres. Those from the third printing are dull blue with grey centres and are on grey rather than white paper. During the second printing the frames were retouched and show little retouch marks in various places. From the start of the second printing onwards there is dense, fine corrosion in all centre plate positions of panes  $\beta$  and  $\delta$  but not in panes  $\alpha$  and  $\chi$ .

Unless the stamp is positioned, distinguishing III+Ca, III+D and first booklet stamps can be difficult. In III+D the frames give a blurred impression, have a greenish tinge, often show faint blue corrosion dots round their edges, and show wear in the top right horizontal panel; while the centres are light in shade and are relatively unblemished. If there is a vertical guideline just outside the lower vertical frameline, the combination is III+C or III+D. If the bottom frameline is partly thickened or doubled, the stamp is a booklet stamp.

### Varieties

The following sections list the varieties of plate combination, shade, overprint and perforation known for each issue of the 25 centimes. The list covers 'normal' stamps only; errors and curiosities such as inverted overprints and imperf-between pairs are excluded.

The list is based on my own collection and that of Ray Keach. If members have varieties which are not on the list I would be glad to hear of them so that the list can be updated and made as comprehensive as possible.

Shades of stamps or surcharges are given only where shade varieties are considered to be significant, and are abbreviated thus:

bi=bistre ca=carmine or=orange r=red y=yellow

The middle column indicates the overprint or surcharge type. For handstamped Congo Belge overprints, B = Brussels, L = Local. For Tombeur RUANDA and URUNDI overprints, K = Kigali, G = Grysolle and H = Havre. For the nomenclature of EAA overprints, see page 11 of part 1 and Bulletin 46





PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

For details of the perforation varieties, see page 13 of part 1. Each perforation variety is followed by a two-letter code in brackets. This code gives my judgement of the relative scarcity of the variety in question. The first letter indicates the scarcity of unused copies of the stamp, the second the scarcity of postally used copies. Stamps cancelled by favour or with forged cancels are not taken into account in arriving at the scarcity factor for used stamps. The codes are as follows:

- A: Very common
- B: Common
- C: Fairly uncommon
- D: Scarce
- E: Rare
- X: Probably unknown

1894 25c orange

I1+A1 or	p14(DD), p15(BB), p12-14(DD), p14½-15(CC)
I1+A1 y-or	p14(CB), p15(AA), p12-14(DD), p14½-15(CC)
I1+A1 or-bi	p14(DD), p15(BB), p12-14(DD), p14½-15(CC)

The classification of shades is, of course, highly subjective.

1900 25c blue

I2+A2	p12½(DD), p13½(BA), p14(CB), p15(AA), p14½-15(AA)
I3+A2	p14(EE)
I3+A2 Princes	p14(EX)

1909 Congo Belge handstamp

I2+A2	B1	p14½-15(EE)
I2+A2	B2	p15(DE), p14½-15(DE)
I2+A2	B3	p14½-15(EE)
I2+A2	B4	p15(DE), p14½-15(DE)
I2+A2	B5	p14½-15(DE)
I2+A2	B6	p13½(EE), p14½-15(EE)
I2+A2	L1	p13½(CC), p14(DD), p14½-15(BB)
I2+A2	L2	p13½(CC), p14½-15(CC)
I2+A2	L3	p13½(DD), p14½-15(DD)
I2+A2	L4	p13½(DD), p14(DD), p15(DD), p14½-15(DD)
I2+A2	L5	p13½(DD), p14(DD), p15(CC), p14½-15(CC)



PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

I2+A2	L6	p13½(DD), p14(DD), p14½-15(DD)
I2+A2	L7	p14(DD), p15(DD), p14½-15(DD)
I3+A2	L1	p14(BB)
I3+A2	L2	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L3	p14(DD)
I3+A2	L4	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L5	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L6	p14(CC)
I3+A2	L8	p14(EE)
I3+A2 Princes	B2	p14(EX)
I3+A2 Princes	B5	p14(EX)

Other combinations may well exist. Forged overprints are found; I have one on I2+A2 p14½-15.

1909 Congo Belge typo

I2+A2	p13½(BB), p14½-15(CD)
I3+A2	p14(BA), p14½-15(CA)
I3+A2 Princes	p14(DD)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate. I have a forgery on I2+A2 p14½-15.

1910 bilingual

II1+A3	p13½(CB), p14(AA), p15(DD), p14½-15(BA)
II1+A4	p13½(DB), p14(AA), p15(CB)
II2+A4	p13½(DC), p14(BA)
II3+B	p14(BB)
II4+B	p14(DD)

1915 bilingual

III1+B	p13½(DD), p14(AA), p15(DC)
III1+Ca	p14(CB)
III2+Ca	p13½(DD), p14(BA), p15(DC)
III2+Cb	p14(BA), p15(DB)
III2+D	p13½(DD), p14(CB), p15(DD)
1st booklet	p14(AA)
2nd(1) booklet	p14(BA)
2nd(2) booklet	p14(DC), p15(EE)
3rd booklet	p14(AA), p15(DD), p14x15(DD)

1918 Red Cross

III2+D	p14(AC), p15(CD)
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1921 Recuperation

III1+A3	p14(DX)
III1+A4	p13½(DD), p14(AA), p15(DB)
II2+A4	p13½(CC), p14(BB)
II3+B	p14(AA)

PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

II4+B p14(DD)

1922 Malines

III1+B	r	p14(ED)
III1+B	ca	p14(ED)
III2+Ca	r	p14(DC)
III2+Ca	ca	p14(CB),p15(DD)
III2+Cb	r	p14(DD),p15(EE)
III2+Cb	ca	p14(CC)
III2+D	r	p14(DD)
III2+D	ca	p13½(CC),p14(AA),p15(DD)
III3+D	ca	p13½(DD),p14(BB)

Forgeries of the surcharge are known; I have examples on 1st and 3rd booklet stamps, p14.

1916 Tombeur (Ruanda, Urundi)

III1+B	K	p14(EE)
III1+B	G	p14(EX)
III1+B	H	p14(CX),p15(DX-Ruanda only)

1916 Est Africain

III1+B	S	p14(DD)
III1+B	L1(g)	p14(BC)
III1+B	L1(t)	p14(BD),p15(DE)
III1+B	L1(o)	p14(AB),p15(CD)
III1+Ca	L2	p14(CA),p15(DD)

1918 Red Cross AO

III2+D p14(AC),p15(CD)

1922 EAA Malines

III1+B	L1(g)	r	p14(EE)
III1+B	L1(t)	r	p14(DD)
III1+B	L1(t)	ca	p14(AB)
III1+B	L1(o)	r	p14(EE)
III1+B	L1(o)	ca	p14(ED)
III1+Ca	L1(o)	ca	p14(DD)
III1+Ca	L1(.)	ca	p14(DD)
III1+Ca	L2	r	p14(AC),p15(EE)
III1+Ca	L2	ca	p14(BB),p15(DD)

In total, 145 varieties of the 25c are listed above.

GUIDES TO POSITIONING

I assume that the reader has a complete sheet of the plate combination he wishes to reconstruct, and will make his own plating notes as he studies

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

individual positions. The guides do not list all the constant plate varieties, but describe the more important ones, particularly the 'generic' varieties which appear in more than one position in the sheet, and also describe the more difficult positions in each sheet where the plater is most likely to experience problems.

### I1+A1 to I3+A2

I1+A1 has no lay marks; I2+A2 and I3+A2 have frame plate lay marks in the form of a dot between 8,9,13 and 14 and a vertical line between 38,39,43 and 44.

Stamps from the blue 1900 issue are generally quite easy to position because of the number of frame plate varieties, particularly the doubling round the left scroll in many positions, and the sections of horizontal guideline close to the top frameline. These varieties are also present on the 1894 issue, but the pale orange colour of the frames makes it much less easy to see them. They should be looked for in the 1894 stamps as carefully as possible, since even the slightest view of them is a great help to positioning, but in many cases the identification of the orange stamps depends on centre plate flaws.

These fall into two categories: horizontal and vertical guidelines crossing the edge of the vignette, and slanting scratches, typically 1 to 2mm long, which appear in various places in most positions and were presumably caused by cleaning. The guidelines are not of much assistance since they often appear in much the same place, eg the vertical guideline which in many positions passes through the trunk of one of the trees on the left. The scratches, however, vary from position to position and are a good guide. I will not list them all here, but one group is worth mentioning, namely the near-horizontal scratches which appear on CINQ CENT in the top centre of the stamps. On stamps which show doubling of the left scroll (see below), these scratches appear on 10,27,29,30 and 34; on stamps where the left scroll is not doubled, they appear on 11,20,26,28,32,33,35,37,39,40,42 and 49.

In some of the later printings of I1+A1 the centre plate scratches are faint and these stamps can be truly difficult to position, especially if the frames are pale.

The most prominent frame plate varieties are however visible on both orange and blue stamps. There is a parasitic entry in the form of a curved line crossing the left scroll in 18,23 and 43; 23, the most marked, is Balasse V10. The left scroll and frameline are prominently doubled in 14,24,27,29,34,44 and 47. All these are Balasse V7 except for 29, Balasse V8, where the right edge of the upper left rectangle is also doubled, and 34, Balasse V9, where the left edge of this rectangle is doubled. There is doubling (sometimes slight) of the left scroll only in 2,5,8,10,15,18,19,22,30,43,46 and 50. The guideline over the top frame is dotted over its whole length in 33 (Balasse V6); there are coloured scratches in the VI and left 25 in 45 (Balasse V11); and there is a big spot between the centre left frames in 46 (Balasse V12).

No.2 is described by Balasse as having the top frameline doubled and is denominated as V5. Several other positions, however, show the same feature. Indeed most positions have sections of guidelines at various heights above the top frameline, and if a reference sheet is available these guidelines are a great help to positioning. The blue stamps (and to a lesser extent the orange ones) also often show short horizontal coloured scratches in the top or bottom margins.

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

In the latest printings of I2+A2 the top and bottom framelines became worn and many of the varieties in these parts of the stamps disappeared, including the guidelines. In some cases this can make them hard to position, and it is necessary to look for flaws in the body of the design. Two groups of flaws are helpful here. On the frame plate, there is dot in the T of VINGT (in different positions) in 1, 3, 8, 9, 14, 21-4, 27, 31, 32, 34, 42-4 and 48. On the centre plate, the short sky dashes under the G of VINGT are doubled in 1, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 24, 29, 41, 43 and 48. Centre plate A2 has few other varieties.

In I3+A2 the main frame plate varieties of I2 are still visible, but not many of the minor varieties, particularly those around the top and bottom framelines. However the heavy retouching of the top and bottom framelines led to many irregularities - short burin escapes etc - which make positioning straightforward if a reference sheet is available.

### II1+A3 to II2+A4

These plate combinations have both frame and centre plate lay marks. On the frame plate there is a vertical line between 7, 8, 12 and 13 and a dot between 37, 38, 42 and 43; on the centre plate there is a dot between 8, 9, 13 and 14 and a vertical line between 43 and 44.

Numerous varieties make stamps from these issues easy to position. The most helpful groups of varieties are the following. The NW corner is doubled up in 23, 25 and 37 and doubled to the left in 42. Doubling is visible between the left framelines or in the left CENTIMES in 1, 7, 15, 19, 21 and 46. There is vertical doubling of the bottom hatching on the right in 22-5, 27 and (to a lesser extent) 28. There is a horizontal guideline between the top framelines in 11-3, 17, 27, 28, 31-5, 38-40 and 46. There is a vertical guideline outside the left frameline at the bottom in 4, 8-10, 15, 25, 29, 30 and 35.

Centre plate A3 is relatively free of doubling but shows corrosion dots and sections of horizontal line at the bottom of the vignette in most positions. Centre plate A4, by contrast, is heavily doubled. The heads of the natives are doubled upwards in 2, 5, 24 and 46 (Balasse V1); to the left in 18 (V2); diagonally upwards to the left in 17, 30 and 45 (V3); diagonally upwards to the right in 49 (also V3); and a long distance to the right and a little up in 48 (V4). The small rock on the left bank at the top of the waterfall is thickened or doubled to different degrees in all positions and this one feature provides a good confirmation of a stamp's location in the sheet.

II2+A4 includes the centre plate varieties of II1+A4, and in addition shows irregular retouching of the horizontal bottom hatching in all positions. The horizontal hatching to the left of the upper right rectangle, and the hatching in the rectangle itself, are retouched in most positions; the most conspicuous examples of the former are 1 and 20 (Balasse V13) and of the latter are 24 and 44 (Balasse V14).

None of the sheet positions in II1+A3, II1+A4 or II2+A4 present any real difficulty for the plater.

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

### II3+B and II4+B

II3+B is also an easy combination. The centre plate lay marks have disappeared but there are frame plate marks in the same places as before: a vertical line between 7,8,12 and 13 and a dot between 37,38,42 and 43.

The new centre plate is clean and shows few flaws. In the re-entered frame plate the lines of hatching are stronger and clearer but still show numerous signs of the retouching found in II2. V13 and 14 are still visible, and in addition Balasse classifies 39 as V15 (retouching of bottom hatching - also present in many other positions) and 26 as V16 (heavy doubling of the left side of the upper right rectangle, also present to a lesser extent in 21).

The best way to position stamps from this combination is to look for irregularities in the bottom hatching and match them up with a reference sheet. But there are also many varieties in other parts of the frames. For instance, the NW corner is doubled up in 23,25,26 and 37 and doubled to the left in 42. There is one or more dots in various places close to this corner in 4,10,17,20,35,36,40,41 and 45. The bottom frameline is partly doubled in 2,22-4,26,27 and 45. No position in II3+B is classified as difficult.

II4+B was formed by the addition of a vertical line between 8,9,13 and 14 and a dot between 38,39,43 and 44, but is otherwise indistinguishable from II3+B.

### III1+B to III3+D

These plate combinations cover a large number of issues from 1915 to the Malines surcharge of 1922. Stamps from these issues are mostly positioned by reference to frame plate rather than centre plate varieties. The frame plate varieties are numerous, though not all of them survived the long period during which the plate was in use.

III1 has no lay marks. III2 has vertical lines between 17 and 18 and between 32 and 33, and dots between 17 and 18 and between 27 and 28. III3, known only with the Malines surcharge, has in addition a vertical line between 14,15,19 and 20 and a dot between 39,40,44 and 45.

In examining a stamp from frame plate III the first place to look is the top right corner. This is doubled upwards in 1-3 and 6-9. 1 has two dots over the top left corner; 2 a slanting scratch over that corner; 3 a faint scratch in the top margin over INGT; 6 a dot in the bottom right M; 7 a dot in the top right 'T-junction'; 8 several dots off the top left corner; and 9 (where the doubling of the top right corner is very slight) a short diagonal dash just in the left margin level with the T of CENTIMES.

The next place to look is the bottom left vertical frameline. If there is a vertical guideline just outside it, the position is 13,14,17-9,20,24,27,29,35-7,41,42,44-6 or 49. In 13,27,41 and 44-6 the space between the guideline and the frameline is relatively wide. These guidelines show clearly in III+B; a few are rather faint in III+C; in III+D, unfortunately, most have disappeared.

Other prominent frame varieties are as follows. The top left corner is doubled in 16,30 and 32. 10 has a " mark between the framelines in the bottom left corner. 11 has a short vertical line outside the top left corner. 15 has a horizontal line

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

on the M of the left CENTIMES (except in III1+B). 17 has a heavy mark on the left foot of the M of the left CENTIMES. 22 has a cluster of dots on the central knob of the left scroll (except in III1+B). 26 has two horizontal marks in the bottom margin under the E of BELGISCH. 27 and 28 have a spot in the right foot of the N of CINQ (not visible, or barely visible, in III+D). 29 has a short dash under the left foot of the N of the lower CONGO. 34 has a smudge in the top of the S of BELGISCH. 35 has a long vertical scratch in the left margin. 40 has a dot on the left frameline by the ES of CENTIMES. 50 has a near-horizontal scratch in the top margin near the right end.

There are many other less conspicuous frame plate varieties. I find the most difficult positions to be the following. 4 has a long blue diagonal scratch passing through the upper left 5, but in later printings this disappears and one is guided by a small scratch in the top margin over the NG and a dot to the left of the bar of the H of BELGISCH. 12 has a faint line to the left of the upper left corner, and several faint marks in the bottom margin. 20 has a tiny dash in the white line above the I of BELGISCH. 23 has a horizontal mark crossing the right framelines level with the T of CENTIMES. 33 has a small dash  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm over the top right corner. 37 has a short faint horizontal dash over the top left corner (early printings) or two dots in the top margin over the N of CINQ (later printings). 43 has a faint dot diagonally off the top right corner, and a horizontal guideline at this corner, a little under 1mm long, which turns down at its right end. 47 has four dots forming a diamond shape over the top right corner. 48 has smudging over the G of BELGISCH, and a trace of a guideline between the top frames over the G of VINGT.

Because of the disappearance of some of the earlier frame plate varieties, stamps from III+D can be hard to position. Where there are no obvious flaws, it is necessary to look at the faint blue corrosion dots which appear on these stamps around the framelines and on some of the letters. With a strong enough magnifying glass the patterns of these dots can be seen and matched against a reference sheet.

There are several centre plate varieties from these combinations which are worth noting. On centre plate B, made with the unretouched die which left a white space over the third rock from the right, the tree trunks are doubled in 25 and there is a heavy horizontal mark in the sky in 49. On centre plate C there is a long horizontal guideline crossing the middle of the stamp in 28, and in 30 there is a similar line together with two diagonal lines meeting at the centre to form a large star. In centre plate D there are transfer roller marks in the form of little dashes in the spray to the left of the natives: in one position in 6-8, in another in 1, 2 and 10, and in both positions in 9.

### Booklet stamps

In many of the booklet stamps the bottom frameline is thickened or doubled, a feature not found in any stamp from frame plate III. There is doubling in  $\alpha$ 4, 8,  $\beta$ 4, 6, 8,  $\gamma$ 3, 4, 8 and  $\delta$ 6 and 10, and there is thickening or near-doubling in  $\alpha$ 2,  $\beta$ 2, 7,  $\gamma$ 6, 10 and  $\delta$ 2, 4 and 8. Doubling is found particularly at the right end of the bottom frameline which shows many variations in shape from position to position.

Numerous other varieties in the frame plate are found, particularly around the four corners of the stamp, and there are no positions which present serious difficulties for the plater. There are fewer centre plate varieties, but it is worth

## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 5

mentioning a slanting line to the left of the natives (a4); a spot in the same place (a6); horizontal marks on the right of the main waterfall (x2); and a large spot over the S of BELGISCH (85).

From the second printing onwards, all stamps in panes  $\beta$  and  $\delta$  are marked by heavy centre plate corrosion around the edges of the vignette. This corrosion helps to identify the printing, the pane and the position of the stamp. It should be noted that it is found in all second and third printing stamps, including those from the second printing before the frames were retouched.

The retouching is evidenced by small burin marks in virtually every position. Many of these are on the top frameline close to the left or right corner; others are around the letters of CONGO BELGE or the left or right scrolls. They are easy to find and provide a good means of distinguishing 2nd(1) from 2nd(2) booklet stamps, and of positioning the latter together with 3rd booklet stamps.

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## PLATING MOLS STAMPS

by B.P.HUDSON

### Part 6: 40 centimes

#### Introduction

The 40 centimes is usually found on mail with other stamps; it did not have much usage on its own. Between 1896 and 1921 it was the rate for an internal registered letter under 15 grams, and between 1920 and 1921 it was also the rate for a registered letter to Belgium under 20 grams. It was also, between 1886 and 1909, the rate for registered internal postcards.

The 40c was not issued in 1894 with the first five Mols values, but two years later in 1896. Unlike those five values, therefore, its design was not based on one of the Mols and Van Engelen paintings exhibited in Anvers in 1894. Instead it was based on a watercolour which appeared in the magazines 'La Belgique Coloniale' and 'Le Congo Illustré' showing a large dug-out canoe on the river Kasai, containing one sitting and six standing natives.

#### Main issues

In the following table the number on the left is the Catalogue Officiel number. The right-hand column shows the number printed, excluding those that were subsequently overprinted or surcharged, as listed by General Du Four in 'Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale', and drawn from official and other sources. But as the General warns, these numbers have to be treated with caution and in many cases, as has now been confirmed by study of Waterlow's file copy sheets, understate the true figure. This is particularly true of the figures given for the unoverprinted 1910 and 1915 issues which are undoubtedly far too low.

#### Belgian Congo

23	Nov. 1896	40c green	État Indépendant	236,000
34B	Jan. 1909	40c green	Congo Belge Brussels	1,000
34L	Jan. 1909	40c green	Congo Belge local	34,100
44	Jan. 1909	40c green	Congo Belge typo	64,000
44P	Mar. 1909	40c green	Princes unoverprinted	100
44PB	Mar. 1909	40c green	Princes Brussels	250
44PT	Mar. 1909	40c green	Princes typo	4,650
58	Jan. 1910	40c green	Bilingual	180,000
68	Nov. 1915	40c lake	Bilingual	85,000
76	May 1918	40c+40c lake	Red Cross	150,000



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85	July 1921	5c/40c green	Recuperation surcharge (on 58)	109,400
97	Jan. 1922	25c/40c lake	Malines surcharge (on 68)	108,000
102	Jan. 1922	25c/40c lake	Boma surcharge (on 68)	337,500
132-3	June 1925	25c+25c carmine	'Campagnes Coloniales'	300,000

### Ruanda Urundi

13	July 1916	40c lake	Ruanda Tombeur (on 68)	2,750
20	July 1916	40c lake	Urundi Tombeur (on 68)	2,750
32	Nov. 1916	40c lake	Est Africain (on 68)	170,000
40	May 1918	40c+40c lake	A.O. on Red Cross	150,000
47	Jan. 1922	25c/40c lake	Malines on Est Africain (on 68)	44,000
77-8	June 1925	25c+25c carmine	'Campagnes Coloniales'	300,000

The commemorative 'Campagnes Coloniales' issue of 1925 does not, of course, have a face value of 40 centimes, but is included here because it used the 40c design.

### Plate combinations

1896	I1+A1	Original frame and centre plates
	I2+A1	Frame lay marks added
1910	II+A2	New frame plate; centre lay marks added
1915	II+A2	
	II+A3	Centres re-entered
1925	III+B	New frame and centre plates (sheets of 100)

There have been no changes from the nomenclature first introduced by Du Four.

### Identifying the plate combinations

1896. Frame plate I2 was formed by the addition of a vertical line between 7,8,12 and 13 and a dot between 37,38,42 and 43. I2+A1 cannot be differentiated from I1+A1 in other positions of the sheet.

1915. To form A3, the centre plate was re-entered with a retouched die. In A2 there is a white spot on the side of the boat under the second group of natives; in A3 this spot has disappeared. Another difference is that the horizontal lines making up the reflection of the prow of the boat are shorter in A2 than in A3.

### Varieties

The following sections list the varieties of plate combination, shade, overprint



## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 6

and perforation known for each issue of the 40 centimes. The list covers 'normal' stamps only; errors and curiosities such as inverted overprints and imperforations between pairs are excluded.

The list is based on my own collection and that of Ray Keach. If members have varieties which are not on the list I would be glad to hear of them so that the list can be updated and made as comprehensive as possible.

Shades of stamps or surcharges are given only where shade varieties are considered to be significant, and are abbreviated thus:

bl=blue ca=carmine g=green p=pale r=red

The middle column indicates the overprint or surcharge type. For handstamped Congo Belge overprints, B = Brussels, L = Local. For the four Boma surcharges, A, B, C and D, Gudenkauf's nomenclature is used (see part 1, page 10). For Tombeur RUANDA and URUNDI overprints, K = Kigali, G = Grysolle and H = Havre. For the nomenclature of EAA overprints, see page 11 of part 1 and Bulletin 46.

For details of the perforation varieties, see page 13 of part 1. Each perforation variety is followed by a two-letter code in brackets. This code gives my judgement of the relative scarcity of the variety in question. The first letter indicates the scarcity of unused copies of the stamp, the second the scarcity of postally used copies. Stamps cancelled by favour or with forged cancels are not taken into account in arriving at the scarcity factor for used stamps. The codes are as follows:

- A: Very common
- B: Common
- C: Fairly uncommon
- D: Scarce
- E: Rare
- X: Probably unknown

1896

I1+A1 bl-g	p14(CC), p15(DD), p16(DD), p14½-15(CC)
I2+A1 pg	p14(DD), p15(CB), p12-14(EE), p14½-15(DB)
I2+A1 bl-g	p12½(DE), p14(AA), p15(AA), p16(CC), p12-14(CB), p14½-15(BB)
I2+A1 Princes	p14(EX)



## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 6

Although the distinctive pale green shade is associated with early printings, I1+A1 has so far been found only in blue-green, and pale green stamps which can be differentiated between I1 and I2 are all the latter. It therefore seems that the first printing was blue-green with I1, followed by a printing in pale green with I2, followed by blue-green printings with I2 which made up the bulk of the 1896 issue (and probably accounted for all stamps subsequently overprinted with CONGO BELGE).

### 1909 Congo Belge handstamp

I2+A1	B2	p14(CE), p15(DE), p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	B3	p?(EE)
I2+A1	B4	p14(DE), p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	B5	p?(EE)
I2+A1	B6	p14(DE), p12-14(DE)
I2+A1	L1	p14(AA), p15(DD), p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L2	p14(BB), p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L3	p12½(DD), p14(CC), p15(DD)
I2+A1	L4	p14(BB), p15(DD), p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L5	p14(AA), p15(DD), p12-14(CC), p14½-15(DD)
I2+A1	L6	p14(AA), p12-14(CC)
I2+A1	L7	p14(AA), p15(DD), p12-14(CC)
I2+A1 Princes	B2	p14(EX)
I2+A1 Princes	B5	p14(EX)

Forged overprints are common.

### 1909 Congo Belge typo

I2+A1	p12½(DD), p14(AA), p12-14(BB), p14½-15(AA)
I2+A1 Princes	p14(DD)

Some forgeries are found, one of which is dangerously accurate.

### 1910 bilingual

II+A2	p13½(CC), p14(AA), p14½-15(BC)
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### 1915 bilingual

II+A2	p13½(CC), p14(AA), p15(ED)
II+A3	p14(AA), p15(BB)



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1918 Red Cross

II+A3 p14(AC), p15(CD)

1921 Recuperation

II+A1 Typo p14(DX), p12-14(DX), p14½-15(DX)  
 II+A2 p13½(BB), p14(AA), p14½-15(CC)

1922 Malines

II+A2 r p13½(ED), p14(ED)  
 II+A2 ca p14(ED), p15(ED)  
 II+A3 r p14(AA), p15(CB)  
 II+A3 ca p14(CA), p15(CB)

1922 Boma

II+A2 B p14(DD), p15(EE)  
 II+A2 C p13½(DD), p14(CC), p15(EE)  
 II+A2 D p14(CC)  
 II+A3 A p14(AA), p15(EE)  
 II+A3 B p14(BC), p15(CC)  
 II+A3 C p14(AA), p15(BB)  
 II+A3 D p14(CB), p15(CC)

Forged surcharges are found; I have an example on II+A3 p14.

1925 Campagnes Coloniales

III+B French p12½(AB)  
 III+B Flemish p12½(AB)

1916 Tombeur (Ruanda and Urundi)

II+A2 K p14(EE)  
 II+A2 G p14(EX)  
 II+A2 H p14(CX)

There are many forgeries.



## PLATING MOLS STAMPS PART 6

### 1916 Est Africain

II+A3	L1(i)	p14(DD)
II+A3	L1(.)	p14(DD),p15(DD)
II+A3	L1(o)	p14(BB),p15(CC)
II+A3	L2	p14(CB)

### 1918 Red Cross AO

II+A3		p14(AC),p15(CD)
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### 1922 EAA Malines

II+A3	r	L1(o)	p14(BB)
II+A3	ca	L1(o)	p14(CD)
II+A3	r	L2	p14(CC)
II+A3	ca	L2	p14(AB),p15(DC)

### 1925 Campagnes Coloniales (RU)

III+B	French	p12½(AB)
III+B	Flemish	p12½(AB)

This gives a total of 112 varieties of the 40c.

## GUIDES TO POSITIONING

The following pages assume that the reader has a complete sheet of the plate combination he wishes to reconstruct, and will make his own plating notes as he studies individual positions. The guides do not list all the constant plate varieties, but describe the more important ones, particularly the 'generic' varieties which appear in more than one position in the sheet. They also describe the more difficult positions in each sheet where the plater is most likely to experience problems.

### I1+A1 and I2+A1

While there are many frame and centre plate varieties in these combinations, many of them are rather inconspicuous and this is not always an easy stamp to position.



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In looking for frame plate varieties, it is better to start at the top left corner. The corner shows a short extension either upwards or to the left in 6, 10, 20, 31, 40 and 45. It shows a similar feature, but in the form of a dot close to the corner, in 15, 25, 28, 30 and 32. There is a burin escape above the top frameline close to the corner in 10, 17, 21, 26 and 38; in 1 the burin escape is below the top frameline. There is doubling or thickening of the lower of the top two framelines, at the point where it touches the 'shield' surrounding the 40, in 5, 7, 30, 36, 40-3, 48 and 49. Other positions (eg 2 and 3) shows signs of thickening, due to retouching, at various places on the upper frameline. 8 has two dots resting on the two top framelines 5mm from the corner. 33 has the left vertical frame faintly doubled near the top. 35 has this frame markedly doubled (Balasse V3). 36 has green marks in the white oval line round the left 40, and in the 0 of the 40.

Having looked at the top left corner, the next place to look is the top right corner. If the top horizontal framelines are thickened where they meet the corner, the position is 25, 37, 39 or 44. In 44 the upper sections of the vertical framelines at the corner are also thickened.

The most helpful centre plate varieties are, in many cases, rather small ones. In most positions there are tiny scratch marks in the sky lines close to the head of the second last native on the right, or above the head of the last native. These marks vary from position to position and are a good way of confirming a stamp's location. In 5 there is a black dot just behind the backside of the fourth native from the right; in 27 there is a small dot just SW of his left fist; in 47 there is a dot close to the middle of the reflection of the last oar; and in 48 there is a dot  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm NE of the third last native's head (the head being all that shows of this native). In the fourth and fifth rows, ie nos 16 to 25, there are signs of doubling in the upper right sky lines. There is a pronounced curved dotted scratch crossing the upper left part of 31, but only in later printings of I2+A1.

The more difficult positions are the following. In 4 there are two faint green dots close together between the bottom framelines under the right 0 of 40. In 13 there is a green dot in the A of ANT. There is also a faint black scratch crossing the NE corner; 22 shows the same feature. 14 has a diagonal black scratch through the N of IND. 16 shows short traces of black vertical guideline in the water under the bundle behind the first group of natives, and under the boat's stern. 24 has a green near-horizontal line crossing the right frames by the GO of CONGO; in early printings, however, this line is not present, making this a very difficult position to identify - the only guidance comes from the doubling of upper right skylines, and thickening of the top frameline over the left 40. In 29 there is a small green dash in the top margin over DU, and slight doubling of the lines just to the left of the second last native's head. 39 has the thickening of the right end of the top framelines, but can be distinguished from 37 only by the fact



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that 37 has a dot to the left of the second last native's head while 39 has not.

### II+A2 and II+A3

These plate combinations have no frame plate lay marks, but they have centre plate lay marks in the form of a vertical line between 7 and 8 and a dot between 37 and 38.

1915 stamps from II+A2 are relatively easy to position, because of the number of frame plate varieties, but 1910 stamps from the same combination can be more difficult: the same varieties are there, but the paler colour of the stamps makes some of them less easy to detect.

As with the 1896 issue, the best place to start is the upper left corner. If there are signs of re-entry in the white oval frame around the NW 40, the position is 6 (Balasse V4), 10, 12, 18, 19 or 24. If there is a short arc between the NW frames close to the corner, it is 2, 6, 15, 27, 31 or 46. If the NW corner is extended up by a short line or dot, it is 2, 3, 6, 14, 17, 22, 35, 41, 45 or 46. In 1 and 20 there is a dot just to the left of the corner. 7 has sections of guideline between the upper left vertical frames. 21 has a horizontal guideline above the corner. 25 has various dots and short vertical lines on it. 30 has a short line just over it, and a dot just to the right of the line. 33 has a short vertical line in the corner, 37, 44 and 50 a similar line above it, and 46 a short horizontal line just above it. 49 has long vertical line inside the left frameline.

Turning to the upper right corner, there is a horizontal guideline here, extending into the right margin, between the top framelines in 4, 9, 15, 21, 26, 36 and 48, and level with the top frame in 8, 17, 21, 31, 38, 40, 42 and 44. Another centre plate variety worth mentioning is a transfer roller flaw in the form of a coloured spot 1½mm above the head of the second last native in 36, 37 and 38. Many positions have sections of guideline in the top margin above the frameline.

The most prominent variety on centre plate A2 is the near-vertical line 2mm long above the head of the second last native in 34 (Balasse V1). Otherwise the earliest printings of this centre plate are rather free of flaws and can be difficult to position. With later printings of the 1910 issue, and all printings of the 1915 issue with II+A2, the centre plate is affected by small black corrosion dots, particular in the sky and the water, which make the confirmation of a stamp's position straightforward, since the pattern of dots is different in each position.

Centre plate A3 still shows Balasse V1, and in addition its later printings show a prominent diagonal scratch which crosses from under the stern of the boat in 33 to the upper right sky in 35. In 35, this variety is Balasse V2.

The most useful centre plate variety in A3 is found in the reflection of the prow of the boat. If the outline of this reflection is uneven, with the fourth line down shorter than the third and the fifth, the stamp comes from the first three rows, ie nos 1 to 15. If the outline is even, it comes from rows 7 to 10. It seems that after the first three rows were entered, this imperfection was noticed and corrected on the transfer roller. Whatever the explanation, it is a feature which allows all stamps from II+A3 to be narrowed down to 15 or 35 possibilities respectively. In addition, most positions from A3 show scattered corrosion in the water below the boat which is a sure guide to position in the absence of more prominent varieties.



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Apart from the earliest printings of the 1910 stamps, few positions from these plate combinations present any real difficulty. The most difficult are probably 29, 39 and 44. 29 has a faint coloured dot in the top margin above the tip of the fifth frond from the left. 39 has a coloured dot level with the top frame and 0.8mm to the right of the right corner. If this dot is cut off by the edge of the stamp, as it often is, the best guide is a tiny dot in the border of the upper left 'shield' close to where it touches the left framelines. 44 has a faint vertical line above the NW corner, and a horizontal guideline faintly visible between the top framelines above the left shield.

### III+B

The Campagnes Coloniales issues, which used the centre plate design of the 40c with a heavily modified frame plate design, were printed in sheets of 100, with stamps with the French inscription alternating with those with the Flemish inscription. The stamps are not easy to position, and it is inadvisable to try to do so if a reference sheet is not available. The problem is not a lack of varieties, but the fact that the frames tend to show numerous transient varieties in the form of scattered red dots, caused no doubt by ink splashed during the printing, which are hard to distinguish from the constant plate varieties which indicate sheet position.

The frame plate has lay marks in the form of horizontal lines between 32 and 42 and between 38 and 48, and dots at the right and left ends respectively of those lines.

A few positions have prominent varieties, one of which is mentioned by Balasse: a long thin vertical crack on the frame plate, crossing the middle of 64 (Flemish inscription). Other noticeable frame plate varieties are doubling of left top frameline (5 - French), vertical doubling of the lower right corner (17 - Flemish), and doubling of the right bottom frameline (82 - Flemish). Centre plate varieties include a near-vertical black line above the second group of natives from the left (1 - French), blotches in the sky over the second last native from the right (23 - French), a wavy horizontal line on the B of BELGE (25 - French), and a long irregular scratch above the centre and right part of the sky (88 - Flemish).

I have been unable, unfortunately, to find many 'generic' varieties on the plate, ie varieties found in more than one position. There is a red guideline cross visible in the middle of the right frond in 16, 17, 36, 46, 49 and (faintly) 79. The lines of the water SW of the boat's prow are doubled in 26 to 30.

There are quite a few difficult positions. The most difficult are 33 and 53, both Flemish, where the only distinguishing marks seem to be the tiny centre plate dots at about mid-height in the left and right margins of the stamps.

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