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**BULLETIN 92**

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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**JUNE 1994**

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Sales Secretary

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## VICE PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN

### Congo Belge Overprints

The Abbè Gudenkauf has kindly sent for inspection two forgeries of the CONGO BELGE handstamp details of which should be recorded.

The first is a forgery of Brussels 1 with which it conforms very closely using the Maes (Balasse) gauge but the L and G are very marginally too close together. In the first O of CONGO the top left corner is angular instead of square and contrasts with the top right corner which is square, (as it should be). The lines of the letters are thicker and blacker than is usual with Brussels handstamps. Probably because of the increased thickness of the horizontal elements the upper loop of the B appears smaller than it should be. The centre horizontal bar of the second E is a little longer than it should be.

This forgery would have fooled me and I consider myself lucky that there is only one example of it in my own collection. It is very dangerous and examination of all copies of Brussels 1 is recommended.

The second forgery is of Local 1 and this is an old "friend". Most, but not by any means all of the Local 1 overprints have a break at the bottom of the right vertical line of the second O of CONGO and a break in the upper loop of the B. Most of us, when classifying these handstamps, immediately identify as Local 1 any with these breaks, then-and not always-confirming the diagnosis with the Maes gauge. The letters and their spacings in the forgery match very well with the genuine but the break in the O is very slightly too high; in the genuine the break is at the very bottom of the vertical leg of the letter whereas in the forgery it is very slightly higher. There are plenty of these

forgeries about so beware.

### 1949 U. P. U. Miniature Sheets

Seeking another document amongst my general stamp "junk" I found a copy of the original sales pamphlet for these sheets and a photocopy of the document (which was originally printed in blue and red) is appended. On the reverse side is the same text but in Flemish.

With the document was a coloured illustration of all the sheets. The colours of the frames being: 30c, 50c & 1,75F Congo and 75c Ruanda--pink; 1,25F and 2,50F (Flemish above French) Congo--blue; 75c Congo and 25c & 1F Ruanda--yellow; 60c & 2,50F (French above Flemish) Congo and 5F Ruanda--green.

As stated there were 300 each of the sheets, sold at 1217.15 F a set and it was possible to purchase them by making monthly payments. The leaflet does not tell the cost of the 'errors', those with unusually coloured frames, but doubtless they were available-at a price.

(See copy page 2a)

### 1 Franc 1921 Princess Typographed Overprint

According to all reference books and catalogues there was only one sheet of 50 of the 1 franc of the Princes' Printing with the typographed CONGO BELGE overprint that received the 1921 overprint but for some years it has been clear that either there was a second such sheet or there are most dangerous forgeries of the 1921 overprint on the Princes' stamps.

Several recent submissions for certificates of the stamp, particularly of those in multiples have made the 'Expert Committee' absolutely certain that there

1874

# HOMMAGE A L'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

EMISSION DE BLOCS-SOUVENIR PAR LES SOINS ET SOUS LE CONTROLE DU

1949

## COMITE DES ŒUVRES CULTURELLES

(A. S. B. L.) 23, BOULEVARD DU REGENT, 23, BRUXELLES

### CONGO BELGE

Timbres-poste de 1943 imprimés séparément sur feuillet de luxe de 50 mm. × 60 mm. Dentelés.

**Légende :**

Belgisch-Congo — Congo Belge

30 cent. bleu clair + 100 fr.

75 cent. violet et noir + 100 fr.

1,75 fr. brun noir + 100 fr.

2,50 fr. carmin + 100 fr.

**Légende :**

Congo-Belge — Belgisch Congo

50 cent. vert + 100 fr.

60 cent. brun + 100 fr.

1,25 fr. carmin et noir + 100 fr.

2,50 fr. carmin + 100 fr.

### RUANDA - URUNDI

Timbres-poste de 1943 imprimés séparément sur feuillet de luxe de 50 mm. × 60 mm. Dentelés.

**Légende : Ruanda-Urundi**

25 cent. lilas + 100 fr.

75 cent. violet et noir + 100 fr.

1 fr. brun et noir + 100 fr.

5 fr. orange + 100 fr.

Les 12 petits blocs portent l'inscription en français et en flamand « **Hommage à l'Union Postale Universelle 1874-1949** » + 100 fr. au profit du C.O.C.

Au total : une collection indivisible de 12 blocs-souvenir de 17,15 fr. + 1.200 francs, soit

**1.217,15 Frs**

*La présente offre ne s'adresse qu'à des collectionneurs sérieux, capables d'apprécier l'intérêt d'une telle série et qui en font l'acquisition comme ils souscrivent les tirages sur papier de luxe de leurs livres préférés. achats qui se sont toujours signalés comme d'incomparables investissements.*

*A première vue, la surtaxe de 1.200 francs peut paraître excessive à certains. Elle se justifie du fait que :*

*ce tirage de luxe est limité à 300 collections, et que ce chiffre ne sera en aucun cas dépassé.*

*Vu le caractère spécial de cette émission et en vue d'empêcher l'accaparement, les souscriptions individuelles seront seules prises en considération, mais il vous est loisible de souscrire par « lay-away ». Vous versez 217 fr. 15 à la commande et cinq versements mensuels de 200 fr., ou même dix versements mensuels de 100 fr., à votre choix. Les blocs ne vous seront envoyés qu'après le paiement complet.*

### Hommage à l'Union Postale Universelle

Les souscriptions au C.C.P. n° 70.21.24 seront honorées au fur et à mesure de leur arrivée et jusqu'à épuisement des 300 collections disponibles.

## COMITE des ŒUVRES CULTURELLES

a. s. b. l.

23, BOULEVARD DU REGENT A BRUXELLES

Sur demande envoi contre remboursement.

Uniquement par correspondance s. v. p.

Les souscripteurs sont invités à mentionner d'une façon très lisible leur nom et adresse sur le coupon des bulletins de versement ; le nom doit être précédé de la mention : Mr., Mme ou Mlle, suivant le cas.

92/2a

## EDITORS NOTES-ERRATA

When your editor was preparing the March Bulletin, following the printing out of the final draft for corrections, his computer literally destroyed itself with much electrical sparking and unholy noise. Accordingly corrections were not made and errors abound--I am indebted to Keach for his review--the corrections follow:

Pages:

91:2 left column line 17 'was' not 'wa'

91:2 right column line 13-full stop after 15 should be a comma.

91:3 left column third line up from the last-- 'con' should be 'can'.

91:4 top left line 0:93 is '0:930'

line 8 'and' not 'at'

line 27 between the word 'rebels' and the words 'this time' insert 'succeeded'

line 34 'belonging' not 'belong'

91:4 right column 'cancelers' not 'cancellers'

91:5 top line of text--'registered' not registred

were two sheets and stamps from the two sheets can be identified by the 1921 overprint. In one sheet the 1921 is strong with well-formed serifs to the figures 1; in the other sheet the 1921 is weaker with poorly formed serifs to the figures 1. The weaker overprints may be due to poor inking of the printing plate, inadequate pressure on the plate during the printing process or wear of the printing plate. Copies of the normal 1921 1f stamp on the 1910 issue may be found with similar weak overprints. Fortunately one stamp of a pair with weak overprint has a small variety of the 9 found in only one position of the sheet that proves it to be genuine.

In 1988 the Expert Committee considered one of these stamps to have a forged 1921 overprint and gave it a 'bad' certificate. It may have come from the sheet with weak overprints and the owner has been asked to resubmit the stamp to give the Expert Committee the opportunity of admitting its possible error. Members of the committee take much time and effort to reach accurate conclusions on all stamps submitted but they are not omniscient and certificates can only be 'opinions'.

Present owners of copies of the stamp will be disappointed that their treasure is only half as rare as previously thought but it continues to remain a scarce stamp-unless several more complete sheets appear on the market.....

#### 1898 10 Francs with Inverted Centre

Some months ago there were rumours in Brussels that there was, in London and likely shortly to come on the market, the best part of a complete sheet of this rare stamp.

So far there has been no sign of the stamps and enquiries of those likely to be 'in the know' have all proved negative. Less than 10 copies are known to exist although there must originally have been

50 of them. Perhaps the remainder of the sheet will, at some time in the future appear but apparently not now.

#### Membership

In 1981, when we had been in existence for 30 years, our then secretary, Peter Foden, went through our records to compile a list of all who had been members of the study circle and gave each a number in sequence of when he or she joined.

A list of members, with their 'membership numbers' was issued in September 1981 and this showed, of the 102 who had joined the Circle in its 30 years, 59 had retained their membership. As was to be expected, with the passage of time, some of the most prominent members had died, notably Jean Du Four, Joseph Wright, Joseph Knight, Corbvisier de Maewsart, William Thrasher, Percy Cresswell, Oliver Loader and Doug Thomson.

Since then, sadly, of the 59 members in 1981 Messrs Beales, Bekx, Bovens, Compton, Baron de Moffarts, Heim, Jeukens, Lomax, Petitjean, Spurgeon, Pointon and Vindevoghel have died. 14 others have resigned for one reason or another.

The following, with their 'membership numbers', who were members in 1981 still appear in the present list of members: (1) Mrs. D. M. Green, (2) Keach, (6) Wood, (8) L. G. Green, (19) Nicholls, (23) Hoyte, (32) Foden, (37) Mrs. Jeidel, (38) Molander, (41) Jacquemin, (45) Smith, (46) Celis, (50) Slabbinck, (51) Abbè Gudenkauf, (56) Doucet, (64) Peelaerts, (66) Hirdler, (71) Mawdesley, (74) Dobson, (77) Hudson, (78) Deynckyns, (79) Derwyck, (80) Ramsey, (81) Kropmam, (88) Morvay, (90) Nahmod, (91) Cooremans, (92) Babicki, (97) Strawser, (98) Proctor, (99) Setchfield, (100) Clowes and (102) Adams.

Considering this list, I do not think that the Circle can, in any way, complain about the loyalty of its members.

#### H. R. LANCASTER

With deep regret we record the sudden death of Ray Lancaster. He was a loyal member of the Circle for about 10 years.

Although we occasionally corresponded over the years I think that I met him only once, some years ago at our week-end meeting in Bristol where we found him most pleasant, charming and good company.

He was a collector of the stamps of other countries as well as those of the Congo.

A letter of condolence has been sent to his widow.

RHK

#### **TAXE ANNULÉE**

I have a large collection of both Belgian and Belgian Congo TAXE stamps, many on covers.

In Belgium when TAXE stamps were placed on covers incorrectly or unnecessarily-- the practice was to place a TAXE ANNULÉE mark in blue, sometimes on the cover and sometimes on the TAXE stamp itself.

These marks are not common, and I have found later types of the TAXE ANNULÉE mark incorporating the Flemish equivalent 'STRATFORT' again on Belgian Stamps.

Presumably, the purpose of these marks was to authorize the postman not to collect the money equivalent from the addressee and to enable the value of the stamp to be recovered by the affixing Post Office (which had erroneously affixed the TAXE stamp at the outset..ed).

I have one example of the same type of mark "TAXE RECTIFIÉE-STRATFORT VERETERD".

Does anyone know if this type of mark was used in the Belgian Congo in any form--if not then the question remains--how were incorrectly affixed TAXE stamps dealt with. If anyone has any such covers with cancelled TAXE stamps or stamp, the writer would be most grateful to receive photocopies of their use.

L. G. GREEN

#### **20F 'OKAPI' FURTHER NOTES ON ITS DISCOVERY BY EUROPEANS**

The Okapi-Okapia johnstoni- was reported by H. M. Stanley in 1878. The pygmies in the Congo had described a big animal with zebra stripes but definitely not of the horse species.

When Sir Harry Johnston in 1899 was appointed governor of Uganda he met Stanley in London before leaving for his post and promised to investigate the mysterious animal in the Huri forest which borders Uganda. During his first expedition Sir Henry met the Swedish Lieutenant Karl Eriksson who reported that many times he had eaten meat from an animal called "okwapi" by the natives. After the meeting with Sir Harry--Karl Eriksson became so interested in the animal that he made his own expedition into the Huri. First he found a cranium and pieces of the hide of a specimen which the pygmies had eaten. The following day, when Eriksson inspected some "deadfalls" (pit traps) he found a dead Okapi (together with a leopard which quickly ran away). As the leopard had not yet started to eat the carcass the body was in good condition. Eriksson then sent all his collected material to Sir Harry who in turn forwarded it to the British Museum where Ray Lancaster (Lankester) examined the submission. In 1901 the species was duly named "Okapia johnstoni".

## The Okapi on Stamps

As indicated, the animal is of the dense forests of central Africa. Its relatives--three different species--occupy the savannas and uplands of the continent. We now examine the different 'Okapi' emissions: 1931--2,50 and 3,25F, 1942--20F and 1959-- 5F. It is only the 1959 issue which shows the Okapi as a forest animal--the others fail to do so. However there is a particularly beautiful issue from Zaire in 1984 which shows the animal in its correct environment but note the 1971 issue from Burundi which is incorrect as to the animal's habitat.

Also, one may find this interesting animal portrayed on an emblem of the 1955 issue commemorating the International Congress of African Tourism in Elisabethville as well as being the emblem of our Society.

Rolf Öhrneman

*Mr Öhrneman, to whom we are indebted for the above article, was born in Matadi in the Congo and spent his first 10 years there. We look forward to further articles from him.*

## **STUDY CIRCLE MEETING 12 MARCH 1994**

*(with notes on the 1921 'Recuperation' issue)*

Having been invited by the Belgian Study Circle to join them for lunch at Regent's College on Saturday, 12 March, the BCSC hastily convened a meeting of 'home' members. Present were our president, M. Jacques Du Four, our Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. L. G. Green, Mrs. D. M. Green and Messrs Hudson, Smith and Keach.

After a very pleasant and somewhat extended lunch members of the BCSC withdrew to the bar to hold their independent meeting at which Ray Keach was to display the 1921 'Recuperation' issue. The intention had been to have a reasonably comprehensive display of the issue but, the interval between lunch and

the expected arrival of tea being shorter than anticipated, Keach decided to reduce the scope of the display, discarding altogether the learned and complicated first part, viz. the combinations of plates of the stamps and the deterioration of the overprinting plates, which would have needed much talk and little viewing, and to present only the 'froth', some fifty-odd pages taken from the 'general' collection of the issue, which required relatively little talk but considerably more viewing. Although too polite to say so, the listeners were doubtless delighted with the shortening of the time for talk.

Of the "normal" stamps, those overprinted on the 1910, shown were all known plate combinations of the stamps and probably all known perforations of each combination, all in singles, many in blocks and some on covers, although lack of space prevented as comprehensive showing as was possible. The speaker drew attention to the scarcer and more spectacular items in the display:

- 1) stamps with inverted surcharges, the 15c/50c from the sheet sold at the Lusambo post office and the 30c/10c of which only two copies, both used as postage dues at Elisabethville, are presently reported;
- 2) stamps with double overprint, the 1921 on the 1F, a single from the sheet with the two images separated vertically and a pair from the sheet with the images separated horizontally;
- 3) imperforate-between pairs of the 5c/40c, 10c/5c, 30c/10c and 10F. The other known pair, the 15c/50c, was regrettably missing;
- 4) some combinations of plates of some values, which although common in the original 1910 issue, are scarce to rare, even very rare, with the surcharge. Notable are 10c/5c III<sub>1</sub> + B<sub>3</sub> and III<sub>1</sub> + B<sub>4</sub>, 25c/15c III<sub>1</sub> + A<sub>5</sub> (latest nomenclature), III<sub>1</sub> + A<sub>7</sub>, III<sub>2</sub> + B<sub>2</sub> (maybe) and III<sub>3</sub> + B<sub>3</sub>,

30c/10c IV<sub>3</sub> + B<sub>1</sub> (maybe) and 50c/25c II<sub>1</sub> + A<sub>3</sub>. Included were, almost certainly unique, complete sheets of the 10c/5c III<sub>1</sub> + B<sub>4</sub> (with corroded centre plate) and 50c/25c II<sub>1</sub> + A<sub>3</sub>.

Of the 'abnormal' stamps, those overprinted or surcharged on the 1909 and 1915 issues, thanks to contributions by our President and by our Secretary of the 10F values, examples of all known were shown. The speaker expressed his personal distaste for the stamps; according to the government decree authorizing the 1921 issue it was quite correct to overprint and surcharge any remainders of the 1909 CONGO BELGE overprints and 1909 Unilingual stamps and to send them to the Congo post offices for use but none was sent to the post offices or sold at the philatelic bureau in Brussels. These stamps were completely unknown to the philatelic world from 1921, when they were produced, to 1930 for the 5F, 1935 for the 1F and 10F, 1938 for the 5c/40c and 1939 for the 15c/50c Unilingual. The stamps were presumably "confiscated" and stored away for a rainy day by some government official. One even wonders how sheets of the 5F and 10F with LOCAL CB overprint came to be in the Brussels stocks.

Surcharges of the three stamps of the 1915 issue was quite illegitimate and it is beyond the realm of credibility that exactly twelve sheets of each value were 'accidentally' included with the 1910 stamps. They did not appear on the philatelic market until 1943.

However, stamp collectors are the most credulous of creatures, always happy to dip into their pockets for any novelty offered to them.

After the viewing of the sheets there was a little time before tea and Keach put on the frames the sheets originally intended for the first part of the display and offered no formal comment but discussed

them informally with viewers explaining various details as questions were raised.

RHK

## MEETING AT OSTEND

Friday 16 Sept. to Sunday 18 Sept. 1994  
Schedule of events and notes

Friday the 16th arrival of members staying at the hotel

### Saturday the 17th 1st session:

9:30 Genesis of the Mols Issues---J. Du Four

10:45 Tea

### 2nd session

11:00 1910 and 1915 Issues--R. H. Keach

12:30 Luncheon break

### 3rd session

14:00 Genesis of the 3,50 and 10F Mols issued by Waterlow Bros & Layton--  
Dr. K. Goddeeris

15:45 Tea

### 4th session

16:00 Open session at which any participant may show up to 15 sheets

17:45 4th session concludes

19:30 Dinner at a nearby restaurant

### Sunday the 18th 5th session

09:30 Unusual pieces and cancellations of the Mols issues--Dr. G. R. Hoffmann

10:45 Tea

### 6th session

11:00 Study of TAXES overprint 1886/1923--J. M. Frenay

12:30 Luncheon break

### 7th session

14:00 Annual General Meeting of the BCSC

15:45 Tea --conclusion of all formal activities



**OSTEND MEETING cont.**

some notes:

1. the display room is reportedly rather small--there will be 6 frames provided, each capable of taking 15 sheets. Many presenters may well be showing more than 90 sheets and they should plan to put up their display in two parts--if necessary;
2. parking at the hotel is reportedly better than at first thought--probably @ 300BF/day;
3. if any attending wives desire to visit Bruges it may be possible to organize such a visit for Saturday;
4. will all members, who will be staying at the hotel, and who have not already confirmed this in writing, please let me know before the end of June.

L. G. GREEN

**REPORT OF HON SECRETARY-TREASURER**

**Secretary's Notes**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the **IMPERIAL HOTEL, OSTEND, BELGIUM** at **14:00 hours SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 1994.**

The agenda will include:

1. Annual accounts for the calendar year 1993 will be submitted for approval;
2. Reports of the officers--which will be presented at the meeting and included in the December Bulletin;
3. Election of Officers--the Treasurer/Secretary would like to retire from these duties at 31 Dec 1994 and nominations for a replacement are invited;
4. Our Chairman, M. Jacques Du Four was elected for a two year term in May 1993 and therefor continues in office until the 1995 meeting;
5. A discussion of future allocation of duties among the officers by the Chairman.

**Membership**

The circle membership remains virtually unchanged at 104--

We formally welcome the following new members:

F. Broeckaeart  
Klaproosstraat 9  
1981 Hofstade, Belgium

T. Holdies  
Ave Emile Vanderveelde 68  
1200 Bruxelles, Belgium

Madame Van Rampelberg  
Av Louis le Poultre 8  
1060 Bruxelles, Belgium

D. Cornelis  
Stevoortse Kiezel 180  
3511 Hasselt, Belgium

Y. Laoureux  
451 Rue De Camine  
4000 Liege, Belgium

W. P. Trahar  
6 Maus St  
Highton, Victoria, Australia

Dr. D. H. Trapnell  
Walsworth Hall  
Sandhurst  
Gloucester GL2 9PA England

Clinton A. Many  
6436 Parkland Ave  
Brook Park, OH 44142-1137, USA

Christopher Walter  
1 Cosgrove Road  
Willington CT 06279 USA

**Resignations**

Steven Pearson USA

**Closed Albums**

I regret to report the death of the following members:

E. C. Baiwir--Belgium  
H. R. Lancaster --UK  
A. G. Pointon--UK  
P. D. Wright--UK  
A. Vindevoghel--Belgium

**Change of address**

S. S. Smith  
Lychgates, Pinfold Hill  
Curbar, Sheffield S30 1YL, UK

Ron Strawser  
19811 Brandon Oaks Way  
Katy TX 77449 USA

Income and Expenditure Account---Year to 31 December 1993

Income	Year to 31/12/92 £	Year to 31/12/93 £
Subscriptions received	649.67	737.85
Commissions on Stamp Sales	811.44	801.50
Expert Committee Certificates	182.85	161.20
Books and document sales	143.60	11.10
Interest received--net of tax	<u>83.94</u>	<u>82.68</u>
	1871.50	1794.33
Expenditures		
Bulletin Costs	882.18	1069.36
Expert Committee Expense (including £35 cost of replacing torn stamp in 1993)	96.69	159.61
Commission on Packet Sales Costs	156.75	123.07
Misc. expenses--net	5.30	2.72
Cost of Books and Copies for Sale	43.52	2.14
Postage	109.43	91.39
Cost of 41st meeting at Weybridge	72.50	
B P F	35.00	17.40
Postal losses		234.11
Insurance		26.00
2nd Editions Cancellations Book	<u>305.64</u>	<u>57.00</u>
	<u>1707.01</u>	<u>1782.90</u>
Surplus for the period	164.49	11.43
Balances on hand at start of period	<u>2207.44</u>	<u>2372.23</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>2372.23</b>	<b>2383.66</b>

Notes to the accounts

1. The bulk of the funds of the Circle are deposited in an Instant Access Account with the Alliance and Leicester Building Society--the pass book will be available at the next Annual General Meeting.
2. The main feature of the Accounts is Postal losses-£234.11-After many years of successfully carrying our own insurance risk on stamps sent through the post, this was the year when four letters went astray, and the owners were compensated by the Study Circle. We have accordingly tightened up some procedures and taken out some insurance coverage at cost of £26 per annum.
3. We have decided to rejoin the British Philatelic Association at an annual cost of £17.50 which fee is based on the number of UK members rather than on the total membership (as in the past).
4. Bulletin costs were higher, primarily due to the cost of including Brian Hudson's plating studies for the immediate benefit of the members.
5. The current funds of the Circle (31 May 1994) stand at £2800.

Laurence G. Green, Hon Treasurer

**SALES**

The following complete sheets are available:

EAAOB 15c plates IV<sub>2</sub>+C<sub>1</sub>, overprint L2 @ £5 (1/3 catalogue)

EAAOB 30c/10c, overprint L2, with a single cancellation covering four stamps @ £5 (1/3 catalogue)

Reconstructed sheets from used copies: 1915 25c III<sub>1</sub>+B @ £3 and 1915 1F II<sub>1</sub>+A<sub>4</sub> @ £7.

Also partially reconstructed sheets of many Mols stamps @ 1/3 or 1/5 catalogue depending on the stamps.

ENQUIRIES TO R H KEACH

## BOOKS ON ZAIRE REVIEWED

As most readers will know, the non-philatelic literature on Congo is extensive; there is far more to it than the explorations of Henry M. Stanley and Conrad's Heart of Darkness. Literature on modern Zaire is perhaps not so plentiful, but the following books can be recommended to anyone seeking up-to-date background.

Africa, Dispatches from a Fragile Continent by Blaine Harden (published in 1990 by W. W. Norton, NY and in 1991 by HarperCollins, London) is a collection of writings by the bureau chief of the Washington Post, containing a 35 page description of a river journey to Kinshasa. (Other countries covered in the book are Ghana, Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia and Liberia.)

The Irish travel-writer Joseph Hone has contributed two titles to the literature on Zaire. Children of the Country is an autobiographical description of a cross-continental journey made in the mid-1980's, at least half of which is spent in Kinshasa waiting to get out; Duck Soup in the Black Sea contains five chapters on Zaire and one on Rwanda: both titles published by Hamish Hamilton, the second of them in 1988.

All these books are highly readable, if pessimistic;

Michael Round

## AIRGRAPHS

Peter Foden has sent some notes given to him by the late André Jeukens with M. Jeuken's translation of the original official notice of 15 September 1944 describing the Airgraph service and the conditions which applied to it, all of which adds to information about Airgraphs published in a previous Bulletin. Photocopies of three of M. Jeukens examples of Airgraphs are appended to this article and copies of the

original notice in French and Flemish are appended to the Bulletin circulated in Europe.

M. Jeukens commented further: "One can believe that all the Airgraph forms from the Belgian Congo were centralized at Stanley-ville, then airmailed to be microfilmed at Cairo, via British Overseas Airways Corporation (B.O.A.C.), with whom the Congo had an agreement covering the transport of military mail to and from the Middle East. In the opposite direction, Stanleyville must have been the dispatching centre for the Congo.

The way Airgraphs were franked, with the postage stamps affixed at the back, explains why these never show on the photocopies (of the face): only the datestamp of the place of posting.

It still remains to discover at what date the Airgraph service was extended to Belgium."

*M. Jeukens translation follows:*

### AIRGRAPHS

Notice is hereby given to the Public that new facilities known by the name of Airgraphs will be introduced in the Congolese postal service, starting next September 15.

The exchange of this category of correspondence will be restricted at this first stage to postal communication with Great Britain.

### Object of the Service

The new means of correspondence is intended to reduce delays in written communication with Great Britain; also to reduce in large proportion the volume of postal air freight that is presently required in the planes linking our two countries.

### Description of Service--Tariffs

The Congolese correspondent will write his message and the address of the receiver on a special form obtainable in every post office in the Colony.

Completed forms will be directed to a particular center where they will be photographed on miniature films which, in turn, will be transported by air to the United Kingdom.

On receipt of the films in the UK, enlargements (13x10cm) will be made, put in special envelopes and delivered by Post to the receivers,

Tariff per Airgraph posted in Belgian Congo has been fixed at Frs. 6.00; it will be represented by postage stamps affixed to the back of the form on the spot indicated for this purpose.

### Observations

The success of this new service will depend to a great extent upon the sender: he is requested to write his message in a very legible way, with blue or blue-black ink, according to instructions printed on the form.

There is no restriction concerning the number of words allowed on the form. However very narrow writing is not desirable. The text can be typed but the address must be written in block-letters, as large as possible.

If two or more forms are needed to complete a message, they must be filled and stamped separately as if they were different messages.

Forms must be held flat and not creased. After their completion senders will hand them to a post office counter. In no circumstance should they be put in a letter-box.

Airgraphs written on non-official forms will not be admitted for transportation.

### Service between Great Britain and Belgian Congo

The postal administration in Great Britain will accept Airgraphs for Belgian Congo and send them, in the form of films to a particular center where enlargements will be made. Those enlargements will be directed to a designated Congolese post office. This last office will put the messages in special envelopes for further transmission or local delivery.

\*  
\*            \*

The photography on films and the enlargements will be executed by a specialized firm.

Léopoldville, September 1, 1944  
The Chief of Postal Services and  
Telecommunications,

L. Wéry

*End of M. Jeukens translation*

### A. G. POINTON

It is with regret that we have to announce the death on 30 April of 'Brutus' Pointon. He had been seriously ill for an extended period and spent his last few months in a nursing home.

Although, as he readily admitted, he was not an expert on the stamps of the Congo, he was a member of the study circle for many years, certainly more than twenty five, and with his wife frequently attended our annual week-end meetings. We shall greatly miss them.

Probably Brutus' greatest Congo acquisition was a block of 15 of the 15c Princes' typo which we happily identified.

I have written to his widow on behalf of all of us.

RHK

MME P. DE SCHUYTER  
AVENUE DU RABOT 3  
GAND  
BELGIE



173940

VAN DE VELDE G.A.  
B.C.K. JADOTVILLE CONGO-BELGE

Bien Chers, Jadotville 30-3-45

Par dernier courrier avion, nous n'avons reçu que la carte de  
202 de Maurice. Nous avons bien reçu votre lettre du 14-2,  
mais espérons recevoir bientôt de vos bonnes nouvelles. Nous  
sommes heureux d'apprendre que vous êtes tous et toutes les  
familles en bonne santé et que vous voyez régulièrement Ma-  
malje à qui nous écrivons par même courrier. Malgré nos  
nombreuses lettres et cartes, vous avez enfin appris que nous  
attendons le petit frère pour mi-avril, nous l'appellerons  
Alex en souvenir de Papatje, La petite Simone dont nous es-  
pérons pouvoir envoyer très prochainement quelques photos se-  
pente à merveille. Elle pèse 13175, mange bien, dort beau-  
coup, semble très espiègle et intelligente Elle parle déjà  
bien, a de l'ordre et semble déjà vouloir aider sa Maman.  
Mario a très bien choisi. Nous sommes tranquilisés quant à vo-  
tre travail. Bien notre cordial bonjour à tous et de gros  
baisers de Simone et de nous deux à vous trois. Miché Pastur

airgraph



92/11

Airgraph (n°173940) accepté à Jadotville pour la Belgique (Gand) - 31 Mars 1945  
Formulaire expédié au Centre du Caire pour traitement sur microfilm  
Cachet bilingue (Ø20mm) de la Censure Egyptienne "Censorship Dept|5"  
Retransmission ultérieure par les Postes Britanniques sous enveloppe à fenêtre "Airgraph"  
Oblitération "Postage paid|4 May 1945" - Pas de cachet d'arrivée

Colonne Adressée  
pour le service  
à l'usage des  
personnes  
et des  
établissements  
de l'étranger

MONSIEUR MARIO DE SCHEVRA  
AVENUE DU RABOT 3  
GAND  
BELGIQUE



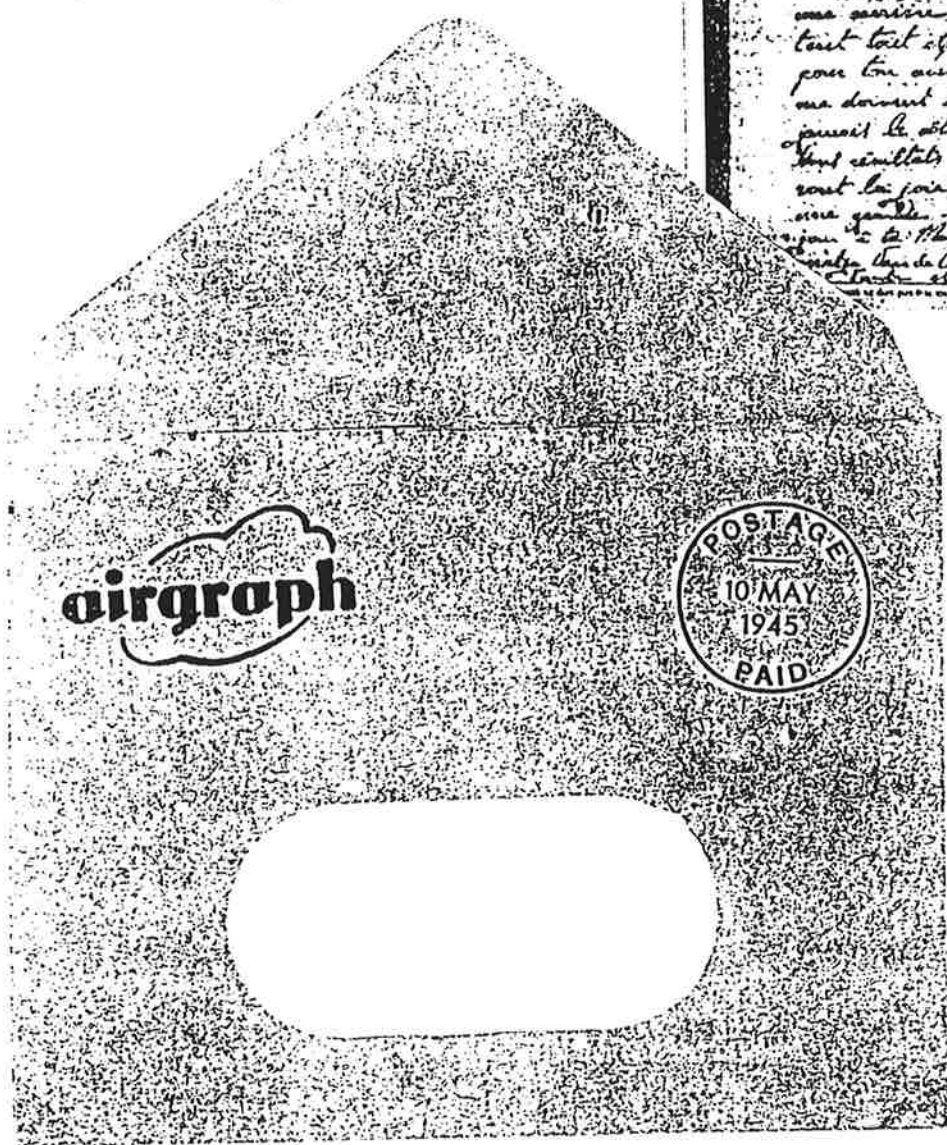
182982

Près des correspondances en route. Retour le dimanche à l'adresse, sans déduction de taxe de port.

Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur  
VAN DE VELDE G.A.  
Ingénieur B.C.K. JADOTVILLE  
CONGO-BELGE

Jadotville le 9-4-45

Cher Mario,  
Les difficultés d'acheminement  
de la correspondance, ne nous ont pas encore  
permis la livraison individuelle. Presque  
nous pouvons envoyer, courriers avertis, lettres  
et photos. Par la dernière lettre de tu Maman,  
nous avons appris que toutes les familles étaient  
en bonne santé, que ton Papa avait repris  
beaucoup de travail et que tu avais choisi  
une carrière magnifique. Ces nouvelles te permet-  
tent tout espoir et les plus grandes possibilités  
pour ton avenir. Toutes les branches de ton programme  
me doivent être considérées comme utiles. Il faut  
poursuivre la voie pratique des questions étudiées. Les  
travaux similaires que tu obtiendras avec nous nous per-  
mettent de faire de tes parents et de nous-mêmes  
une grande satisfaction personnelle. Pour le bon  
jour de ta Maman ton Papa, Tante Lucette et Ma-  
rinette, de ta tante et de tout le monde de la  
famille et de tous les amis.  
Ton père et mère  
Gaston



92/12

Airgraph (n°182982) accepté à Jadotville pour la Belgique (Gand) - 18 Avril 1945  
formulaire expédié au Centre du Caire pour traitement sur microfilm  
Cachet bilingue (Ø20mm) de la Censure Egyptienne "Censorship Dept|23"  
Retransmission ultérieure par les Postes Britanniques sous enveloppe à fenêtre "Airgraph"  
Oblitération "Postage Paid|10 May 1945" - Pas de cachet d'arrivée



Chaque des deux côtés de  
ce formulaire est destiné  
à l'envoi de lettres  
ou de postales  
à destination de la  
Belgique



MONSIEUR P. DE SCHUYTER  
AVENUE DU RABOT 3  
GAND  
BELGIQUE



Ligne des destinataires au verso. Rapports de change à l'envoi, voir réglementaire, en fonction de votre pays.

Point d'origine de l'expéditeur

VAN DE VELDE G.A.  
B.C.K. JADOTVILLE  
CONGO-BELGE

Jadotville le 11-4-45

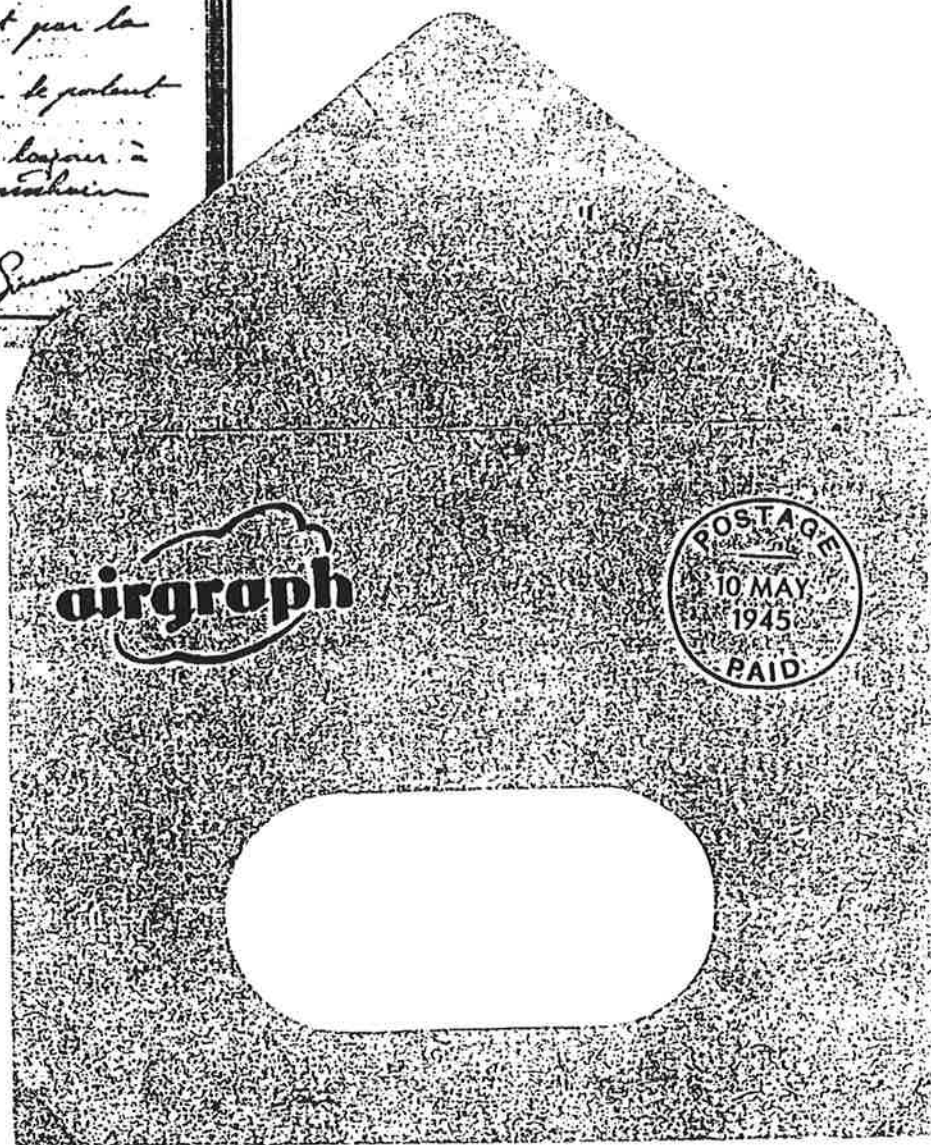
Mon Cher Timon,

Ce jour, nous même pourrais j'irais  
à Maroua. Voici la raison: l'accouchement  
du petit Alex est pour fin cette  
semaine. Nous avons obtenu Maroua  
comme Maroua et j'ai comme l'ancien.  
Pour éviter toutes difficultés nous attendons  
dans vos accords à ce sujet par la  
voie la plus rapide.

Alix et Simone le souhaitent  
à merveille.

Bonne nuit cordiale bonjour à  
tout. Nous espérons par prochain  
avion

Alix et Simone



Airgraph (n°182980) accepté à Jadotville pour la Belgique (Gand) - 18 Avril 1945  
Formulaire expédié au Centre du Caire pour traitement sur microfilm  
Cachet bilingue (Ø20mm) de la Censure Egyptienne "Censorship Dept|23"  
Retransmission ultérieure par les Postes Britanniques sous enveloppe à fenêtre "Airgraph"  
Oblitération "Postage Paid|10 May 1945" - Pas de cachet d'arrivée 92/13

ANDRÉ VINDEVOGHEL

It was with the deepest regret that we heard of the death of our Past President, André Vindevoghel.

He had been a keen member of the BCSC for very many years, regularly, with his wife, attending our annual week-end meetings and, on many occasions, contributing articles for our Bulletin.

In recent years he suffered severe heart problems but in spite of all his troubles he remained amazingly cheerful. He was a great man with a wonderful sense of humour and was a good friend of us all.

André's collection of Congo, some sections of which he generously displayed at our meetings, was one of the best that has existed, with many rare and precious pieces, carefully acquired over his many years of searching and study.

His departure is a sad loss for each and every one of us but overwhelmingly for Jacqueline, his wife, to whom our sincere sympathy has been extended.

RHK

(Editor's note: I had the privilege of meeting André twice and he was a very special gentleman in every way. His philatelic knowledge of the Congo was manifested as recently as in his book, reviewed in Bulletin 89, and in his joint article with Abbé Gudenkauf in the last issue. These pages will miss him greatly).

CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY

Subjects for certificates are requested to be received not later than 15 August.

Members are reminded that they are entitled, in each calendar year, to two free certificates for single stamps (or equivalent for multiples, post cards and covers).

The charges for other certificates are modest enough: £1.50 for a single stamp and progressively more for larger items with an overall reduction of 20% when five or more subjects (other than the

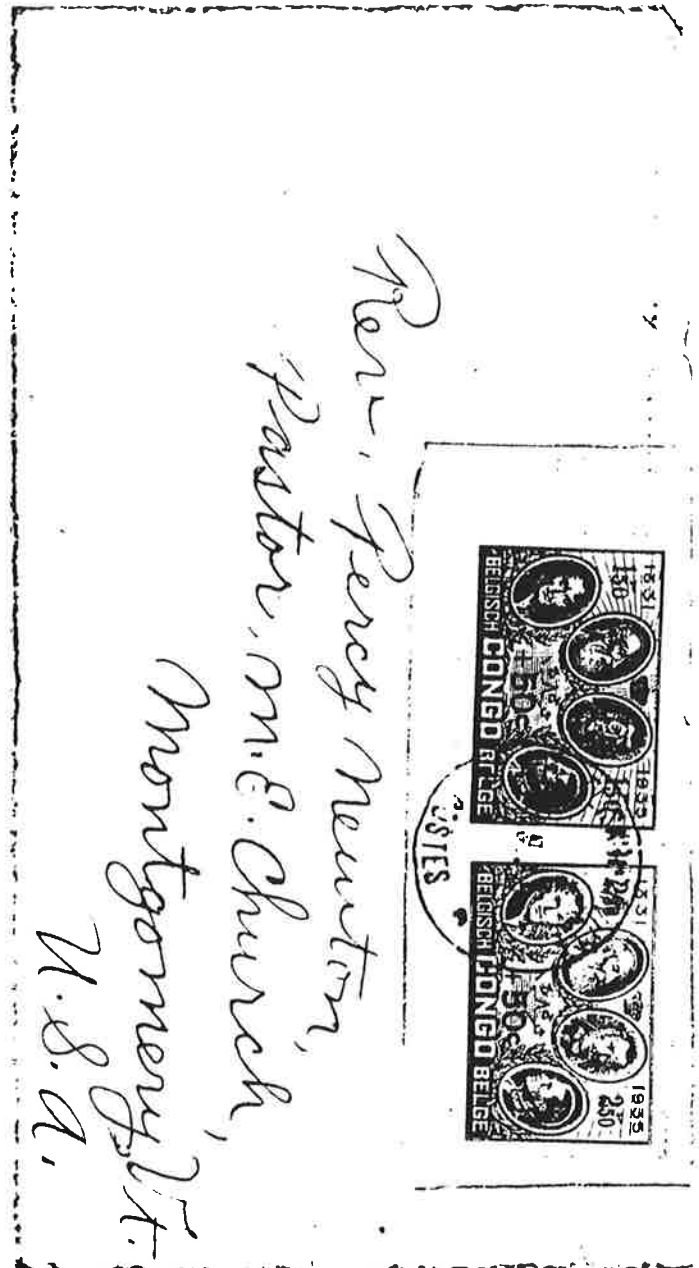
free pair) are submitted at the same time. If a stamp is found to be forged the fee is halved.

Stamps and most cancellations and covers can confidently be judged.

Submissions to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Rd, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England.

**A COVER AND ITS STORY**

For the story of this cover please go to the following page





CONGO MISSION CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CAPE TOWN AREA

Elisabethville 2 Sept. 1936

Bishop, J. M. Springer D. D.  
Residence,  
Umtali, So. Rhodesia.

Rev. Percy Newton,  
Montgomery, V. T.

Mission Treasurer  
Edward Irving Everett,  
B. P. 522,  
Elisabethville,  
Congo Belge.

Dear Brother,

Out here in the Congo we have a group of Christians who have been gathering for worship out of doors since we started services in their compound at Lubumbashi in 1927. They meet ~~at~~ a large anthill three times a week, except when rains interfere. They are absolutely too poor to build their chapel, which, to be authorized by the government must be of burned bricks with an iron roof, as the ground given us by the government is on a main road and a mud and wattle shanty will not do.

The stamps on the outside of this envelope will be very valuable, as they are the only two out of a set of seven to be surcharged 50 Centimes. The 50 c. extra on each stamp was put on to raise money to erect a memorial to King Albert, at Leopoldville. These stamps and this letter are addressed to you in the hope that you may find someone interested in stamps who will give you a dollar or more for them (really for the chapel) the money to be sent to the Treas. Board Foreign Missions, 150 Fifth Ave., New York City to help build the chapel at Lubumbashi. It will be a splendid help, and our faithful people will greatly rejoice.

If, however, you find that you cannot get a dollar for the stamps, would you kindly cut them out of the envelope, leaving a very wide margin of paper, and return them to me. It will cost you 5¢ postage, but your letter will be gladly welcomed in this far-off country.

Yours in His Royal Service,

*Edward Irving Everett*

Comment: One can but presume that the Mission got the dollar for the cover as, obviously, the stamps were not cut off and returned to the Congo. As to their value--we trust Mr. Everett was a much better judge of his people than of future philatelic profits--but in his inability to see the philatelic price future--he had and has much company. One last observation--There was a photo in the envelope of the worship service under the open skies--much much better, I think, than an iron roofed structure in that climate. Such are the wondrous ways of life. A "common" cover with an "uncommon" story and one which is a joy to possess. EML