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BULLETIN 201 **DECEMBER 2025**

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The Study Circle website
www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be

Notice: Annual Subscription (US term Dues) – 2025

Region		Subscription
Belgium	18€	(18€ for those who receive the Bulletin, etc. by e-mail)
UK	£20	(£15 for those who receive the Bulletin, etc. by e-mail)
Other European counties	24€	(18€ for those who receive the Bulletin, etc. by e-mail)
USA	$29	($20 for those who receive the Bulletin, etc. by e-mail)
Rest of the World	30€	(18€ for those who receive the Bulletin, etc. by e-mail)

Payment is due on 1st January 2026. Individual notifications are not sent. Please take this notice as the invitation to renew your BCSC membership for 2026.

How to pay

***All members*:**

1. by direct payment into the Study Circle's bank account with the "CBC":
   IBAN BE15 7320 7837 3930
   BIC CREGBEBB
   If you are paying into the CBC account from outside the Eurozone, you are responsible for paying all charges. (Using PayPal will be cheaper)

or 2. by PayPal to belgiancongostudycircle@hotmail.com

The Study Circle PayPal account is held in Belgium but will accept payments either in Euros, or US Dollars or Pounds Sterling. You are responsible for paying PayPal charges. (These are small. Ensure you state that you are making a gift to a friend, for which charges are less)

Members living in the UK have two other options:

1. by electronic bank transfer to our account with the 'T.S.Bank Ltd.'
   Bank Sort Code: 87-68-23
   Account Name: "Belgian Congo Study Account"
   Account No: 78375760
   IBAN GB30 TSBS 8768 2378
   3757 60 BIC TSBSGB21013

or 2. by a cheque drawn on a UK bank, payable to "Belgian Congo Study Account" and sent by post to the BCSC Secretary, Charles Lloyd at 18 Linefield Road, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 6DP, Scotland, U.K. (He will deposit it in the TSB account.)

NOTES:

Any member who has a pre-existing arrangement to pay in a different way should continue to do this. If anyone else has a problem paying by any of the above methods, please contact the treasurer, Ludo Achten, (ludoachten@hotmail.com.

75th Anniversary
of
Belgian Congo Study Circle Exhibition
1951 - 2026

Dear Friends,

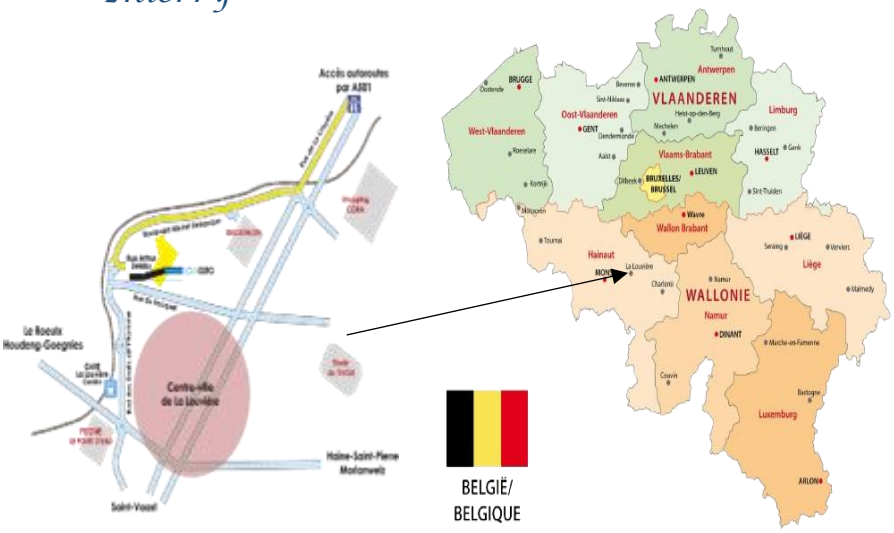
In 2026, from the 28th to 30th August, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Belgian Congo Study Circle.

This outstanding event will take place in the city of La Louvière. We'll welcome you at this International Philatelic Exhibition which will be held at "LOUVEXPO" during the national philatelic competitive exhibition.

The Royal Federation of Belgian Philatelic Circles (FRBP) has reserved an entire hall (75 frames) for us (Belgian Congo Study Circle) to promote philately in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

Sincerely yours,

Thierry



LOUVEXPO
Rue Arthur Delaby
7100 La Louvière
Belgium
Coordonnées GPS
Latitude : 50°28'56.57
Longitude : 4°10'53.86

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

Annual Conference Day and AGM

For 2026, we will have our AGM during the exhibition at La Louvière and not in March.

Please reserve the dates, 28 to 30 August 2026. More details will follow in the next bulletin

Dear Members,

I know that each of you has a very interesting collection and I am sure that you will wish to display it to fellow members during this outstanding meeting.

I hope that as many of you as possible will present a complete collection or a part of it.

(Because one side of a display frame accommodates 16 sheets, any presentation should be 16 sheets or a multiple of 16)

We are looking forward to your registrations. Please return this form as soon as possible to Thierry by e-mail: thierry.frennet@fthsprl.be or to henuzetcharles@hotmail.com or by post to Thierry at his address shown on page one.

REGISTRATION FORM (DISPLAY / COLLECTION)

If you wish to present a display, please return this information as soon as possible. We recognize that, at this time, your display may not be finalized. Early notification is appreciated as this helps planning.

Family Name: ……

First name: ……..

Collection (display) title:
……..

Number of sheets: ……..

Value of the collection: …… € (for insurance by the FRBP)

We will organize the exhibition so that all members who wish to do so can present their collection(s) or part of one of their collections.

Your display will be installed in the frame(s) by yourself on Thursday morning from 1 p.m. and removed (again by yourself) on Sunday evening from 5 p.m. (Special arrangements are possible if these times are not possible for you - please contact Thierry or Charles.)

For members who wish to do so, several hotels are available less than a kilometre from Louvexpo. For train travel, see La Louvière station, also less than a kilometre away.

As in 2021 in Namur, we have a surprise weekend in store for you! See our next newsletter for details.

Breaking News - we will be selling duostamps and a maxicard at the meeting.

During the Anniversary Meeting at La Louvière, you can buy the following from the BCSC:

First: Duostamp sheet. Its design features the 20 francs Okapi of the 1942 Palm issue. They are sold in a minisheet of 10 stamps and are approved by the Belgian post office for paying the postal tariff for letters in Belgium.

Second: Erinophilia: A sheet. Its design features the 1937 National Parks miniature sheet (BL1) with a commemorative cancellation. (Limited edition of 400)

Third: Maxicard. The design features three Okapi stamps. Two of these are from the 1930 issue - the 2,50 Francs, the 3,50 Francs. The third is from the 1942 Palm issue - 20 Francs. As with the duostamps, all three are approved by the Belgian post office for paying the letter postal tariff of letters in Belgium.

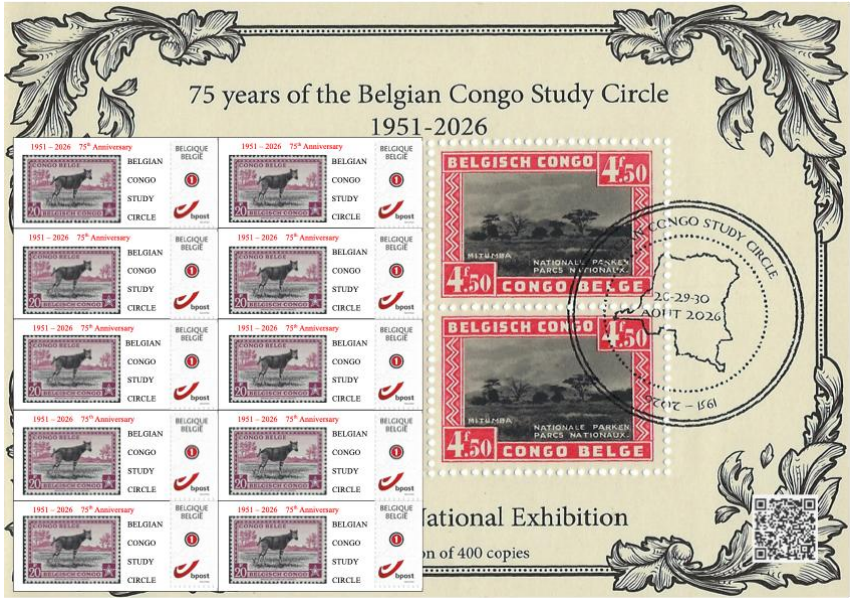
	PRICE PER ITEM (There will be postage charges in addition to purchase price)
Duostamp sheet (10 stamps) @ tariff for BELGIUM	25 € X …… = ……€
Erinophilia sheet	18 € X …… = ……€
Maxicard (3 stamps) @ tariff for BELGIUM	12 € X …… = ……€

You can reserve any of these now, but no later than 1st MARCH 2026.
They will be available from August 28 2026.

Please send the reservation form to the editor, preferably by e-mail
henuzetcharles@hotmail.com

Please pay into the bank account of Belgian Congo Study Circle; BE15 7320 7837 3930, or its Paypal account, belgiancongostudycircle@hotmail.com

1. Duostamps sheet



2. Erinophilia sheet



3. Maxicard

Recto





Verso



The Mols special printing in black

Charles Lloyd

The “special printing in black” of the 1915 Modified Bilingual Mols issue is an intriguing enigma.



An example: The 15c COB 66 and its corresponding special printing in black.

All that is present in the Catalogue Officiel Belge is a short note following the listing of the 1915 printing (COB 64 to 71):

“**Speciale oplage in zwart / Tirage spéciale en noir**	**	*	O
(⩘:15;🗗 600)			
De reeks / La série	750.00	400.00	---- ”

Almost nothing has been published to tell us as to why this printing was produced. I have come across seven sources of information - COB, du Four (1962), Keach (1973 and 2001) Paper Heritage (2018), Lockhart (2022) and Srockmans (2025) – all of which give near identical information.

It is appropriate to start with the earliest of these, du Four (1962):

“Printing in black *– A few sheets of all values were printed entirely in black, frames and centres. They are perforated 15 and gummed. The centres are type 1 in the 10c, 25c and 50c, type 2 in the 5c, 15c and 40c. The frame of the 1F is of the Type “unretouched upper edge ornament”. ……. The comparison of the types allows us to situate this print in 1917. We do not know for what reason it was executed.”*

Over the following decade Keach (1973) failed to uncover anything new:

"So-called "plate proofs", imperforate in the issued colours, and all in black perforated 15, are not uncommon. They are not plate proofs in the accepted sense of the term, but special printings made for some unknown reason. If they were plate proofs they would have been printed before the stamps were issued but we know this not to be the case, as in general, the plates are not in the states or, indeed, in some cases, not the same plates that were used for the early printings of the 1915 issue……..."

No additional information came to Keach's attention over the next 28 years! (Keach, 2001)

"The reason for these imperforate stamps - and indeed for the perforate black "proofs" which were a special printing ordered by the Belgian Post Office - remains a mystery."

The most recent reference to these stamps appears on Stockman's website (2025)

Special editions: The reason why these special editions were ordered by the Ministry of the Colonies remains a mystery. Given the plates used to make these editions, they were not made by the printer for approval by the Minister of the Colonies."

This is the position as it is today; our understanding has not advanced in 63 years!

Images have appeared on the internet on Paper Heritage (2018), Bruce Lockhart's (2022) and Charles Stockman's (2025) websites. The example I show, a multiple, was unexpected given the small numbers printed (600).



All stamps in this series of 8 values (5c, 10c,15c, 25c, 40c, 50c, 1Fr, and 5Fr) were printed in black by Waterlow & Sons. A print run of just 12 sheets of each value (= 600 stamps, each) is a remarkably small number for any issue that is in a finished state. Was it a trial for an abandoned project or printed for a less than obvious reason, the records for which are lost? Certainly, two eminent experts agree: Both Du Four (1962) – "*We do not know why it was executed*" - and Keach (2001) – "*The reason for these imperforate stamps - and indeed, for the perforated black 'proofs' which were a special printing ordered by the Belgian Post Office - remain a mystery*".

My reason for writing this article is to ask the membership if they have come across

any previously unreported facts or can suggest a plausible reason for the printing! Today, we have powerful resources available to us, the internet with its search engines, which were not available to Mols experts of the past. It is entirely possible that something will emerge to help answer questions. Also, it is an opportunity for me to offer suggestions for which do not have hard evidence but rely on reasonable assumptions.

But first, we must note that these stamps were produced at a time of exceptional adverse circumstances. We know from du Four's study of the plates used that the stamps were printed during 1917. This was the 3rd year of the war when Germany occupied 2598 of the 2636 communes of Belgium (over 98%). Historians describe 1917 as the worst year of the war for the allies in terms of casualties, mixed fortunes on the battlefields and economies. The Belgian Government-in-Exile, the 2nd Becquaville Government ((916-1918), was located at Le Havre with Jules Renken as its Minister of the Colonies. It would be his decision to order the printing. However, while there is no documentary evidence to confirm that he did this, it is a reasonable assumption he did.

I put forward an idea for consideration. At the outbreak of war Germany dominated the supply of dyes for printing inks used by stamp production companies. The war disrupted international trade and shortages of dyes were inevitable. Immediately, ink manufacturers in Britain worked to develop substitute dyes notably, for red and green, but progress was slow. Trial printings (of GB stamps) with experimental inks were undertaken. It is conceivable that Waterlow & Sons trialed this mono-colour black printing (as there appeared to have been no problem with the supply of black ink) to demonstrate to the Minister of the Colonies that there was a fallback position should Waterlow & Sons fail to secure suitable inks of other colours.

Also, du Four (1962) describes a closely related even smaller special print-run in adopted colours carried out just after the black special printing:

"***Printing in the adopted colours*** *– One or two sheets were printed in the adopted colours; these sheets were neither perforated nor gummed…..We believe we can deduce that this print was executed in 1917, but after the black print. It can be classified as a plate test before a new print run or as a special print run."*

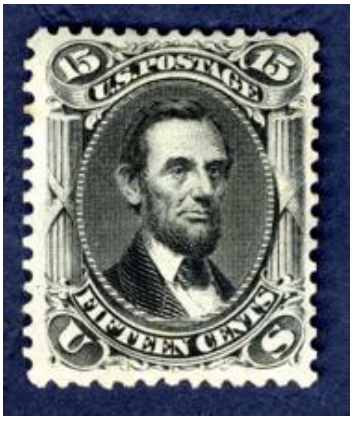
Was this second special (adopted colour) printing, done in the main using the same plates, a part of the project? This time using possible replacement inks made with British dyes.

It is also conceivable that the purpose of the black trial (special) printing was economy driven to see if cost cutting by using a single ink produced an acceptable result, visually. For such a demonstration a print run of 12 sheets in a finished state would be adequate for comparion.

There is a third possibility which is quite speculative and a touch romantic. Could this be an essay for a "mourning" (US term "memorial") issue to be printed and released should the Germans emerge victorious at the Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Battle of

Ypres) in November 1917 and overrun the remainder of free Belgium. We are all familiar with the 1934 Belgium and Congo King Albert mourning stamps. Mourning stamps are not common but a reasonable number exist. They may be black entirely (such as the King Albert Congo stamp) or have a black frame / margins (such as the 1935 Belgian Queen Astrid set).

As might be expected, nearly all mourning stamps commemorate the lives of famous people. I give you an early example (below) which shows that the concept was well established before 1917. It is the USA 15c black issued in April 1866 and intended to pay the cost of a 1st class letter to Europe. President Lincoln had been assassinated a year previously. It is possible that the 1st anniversary of his death and the choice of colour are coincidental, as US postal authorities suggest, but it is widely believed by philatelists that the memorial link is undeniable.





I have come across one issue of stamps mourning the loss of territory. It is a set of 19 Cinderella stamps issued privately in Germany in 1920. They feature “The Lost Colonies”, that were seized in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles. Patriotic Germans could buy and stick one onto a to letter to remind all who handled this letter of Germany’s losses. I have reproduced the one most relevant to us, Deutsch-Ostafrika. A black frame surrounds imperial images.



An example: a block of four of the “clandestine printing” 6D value

Finally, we must consider whether these black Mols were an unauthorized/trial printing and released to/stolen by unauthorized persons. An investigation is

necessary because Waterlow & Sons were the victim of a crime involving stamps of a contemporary colonial issue. Suspect stamps of the 1910 Rhodesian “double-head” issue started to appear on the philatelic market in the early 1920s. From their perforations they were clearly fraudulent, but so good was the printing that an illicit printing from genuine plates was assumed. They became known as the “clandestine printings”.

Subsequent research pointed to theft of genuine but imperforate sheets from the printing room by an employee. The culprit did not illicitly print them. Consequently, this was a case of theft rather than forgery. Sheets of 7 values of the 1910 Rhodesian double-head issue were stolen (Hoffman, 1980). The name given to them in the 1920s, “clandestine printings”, may be wrong but has remained in use.

The motivation for the crime was to sell them on the philatelic market and, for us, this is worrying in the light of a statement by Behrman (1964), published in the Rhodesian Study Circle Journal:

> “*It was believed it was the same employee who stole stamps of other countries a few years later for which he was convicted”*

Was one of these other countries the Belgian Congo? A slight correction to the statement is required. The culprit was not charged with this offence, “*having been arrested on a more serious charge of a similar nature (? banknotes), for which he was tried and sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment”*. (Hoffman,1980)

It has been determined that their printing took place between 1910 and 1912 and that the sheets were removed from the printing works at this time. It is not known when the thief sold them to a dishonest French dealer. In 1919/20 a package of sheets was sent from France to a London auction house. These were rouletted and possibly a few were imperforate. Two renowned Rhodesia philatelists objected to their inclusion in a sale and the package was returned to Paris.

It was to be 8 years after the theft from the printer’s workshop before they were offered directly to the philatelic trade. In the first half of 1920, a London dealer approached the British South Africa Company (then still the administrator of Rhodesia) asking if a rouletted 3/- stamp he had been offered was genuine. In turn. the Company contacted Waterlow & Sons for its opinion. The printer confirmed the printing was genuine but the perforating was not its work. This dealer was not the only one to be offered rouletted stamps by an anonymous man. Now, with evidence, Waterlow & Sons decided to pursue a prosecution but (not surprisingly) the culprit had disappeared. First mention of rouletted double-head stamps appeared in the philatelic press in 1926 and by 1929 many were in the hands of collectors.

In 1920, when Waterlow & Sons confirmed (to the BSACo) that these rouletted stamps were not genuine, the Company (fearing they might be fraudulently used in Rhodesia for fiscal purposes) instructed relevant employees in Rhodesia to find out if any had been used for this purpose. None were found. Moreover, no used copies

have been found ever. (Johnstone, 2000). It has been concluded the philatelic market alone was targeted.

How do these two printings, black Mols and rouletted double-head, compare? It is indisputable that both were printed at the Waterlow & Sons printimg works using genuine Waterlow & Sons plates. The Rhodesian stamps were printed by 1912 at the latest and the Belgian Congo in 1917 at the earliest. Given these dates and Behrman's proposition that the thief stole the stamps of other countries a few years after the Rhodesians, it is highly likely that the thief would have been in jail when the black Mols were printed. The Rhodesian stamps were taken before perforation and the thief did not have access to a perforating machine, hence he resorted to quite crude rouletting. By contrast the black Mols have perfect, sharp perforation holes set at a separation used for this issue (perf. 15). The Mols issue was a distinct (special) printing whereas the double-head sheets were taken illicitly from a genuine print run. It has been essential to show that the black Mols do not have features or a history shared with the clandestine roulettes. They do not, and we can confirm their genuineness.

Although the case for the preparation of a "mourning" trial printing is plausible, I am inclined to believe that printing in a single colour (black) was a trial in the face of a possible shortage of coloured inks.

Unfortunately, most of Waterlow & Son's records were lost in fires when the company was bombed in the 1940 London Blitz. I suspect that any information held by the Belgian Government-in-Exile is likely to have been destroyed during the return to Brussels. But I live in hope of a miracle discovery! Finally, does any other member have another suggestion?

References

Stockmans C (2025) congo-cahiers-du congo.prg/Stockmans/1915017.htm

du Four J I962) Congo – Cinquante Ansd'Histoire Postale. Editions de la Review Postale Page 113

COB (2025) Catalogue Officiel des Timbres-Poste de Belgique Vol 2 (Anciennes Colonies) CPBNTP Brussels

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Keach R (2001) Bulletin of the BCSC No 121 page 8. "Perforation curiosities and their Fakes".

Paper Heritage (2018) Paperheritage .co.uk/articles.congo/Congo_Belge.htlm "Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi (principally 50c Mols railway)"

Lockhart B (2022) congobelge.com/Congo_Belge.htlm

Behrman J. (1964) Journal of the Rhodesian Study Circle, No 52 page 6 "Clandestine printings of the Rhodesian double-heads."

Hoffman C (1980) *Ibid* No112 Page161. “Rhodesia: The double-head clandestine printings”

Johnstone I.J. (2000) *Ibid* No 195 Page 62. “The earliest record of the double-head clandestine roulettes”

From the President



Dear Friends,

It’s with great pleasure that I inform you of the Belgian Congo Study Circle’s membership in the Royal Federation of Philatelic Societies of Belgium.

We unanimously voted in favor of this membership at our AGM last March, and it’s now official.

Thus, we become the first foreign philatelic society to join this federation, which will bring us many advantages at our upcoming exhibitions.

This is a new perspective on our circle for many philatelists who are not yet familiar with it.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday season.

Thierry

Membership News

New member:

USA	CARL BARNA	2564 Millbrook Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049

Changes of address:

BELGIUM	LUDO ACHTEN	Luikersteenweg 356, 3500 Hasselt
UK	ERIC COULTON	43 Record Road, Emsworth, PO10 7NS

Can you help?

Wants:

Some members undertaking research appeal for information. Can you help? If you

can, please will you send this to the bulletin editor.

S/S Marietta

Can anyone help me with information regarding the ship S/S Marietta?

Here are images of a registered letter sent from this ship in Bandundu/Banningville on March 30, 1937.

Please share your findings with the Editor.

Thanking you in advance,

Bart Willekens



Our member, Bart Willekens continues his research on the cancellations of Belgian Congo and Ruanda – Urundi and will bring news of his discoveries as they are made.

Railway Parcels Stamps and Postal History

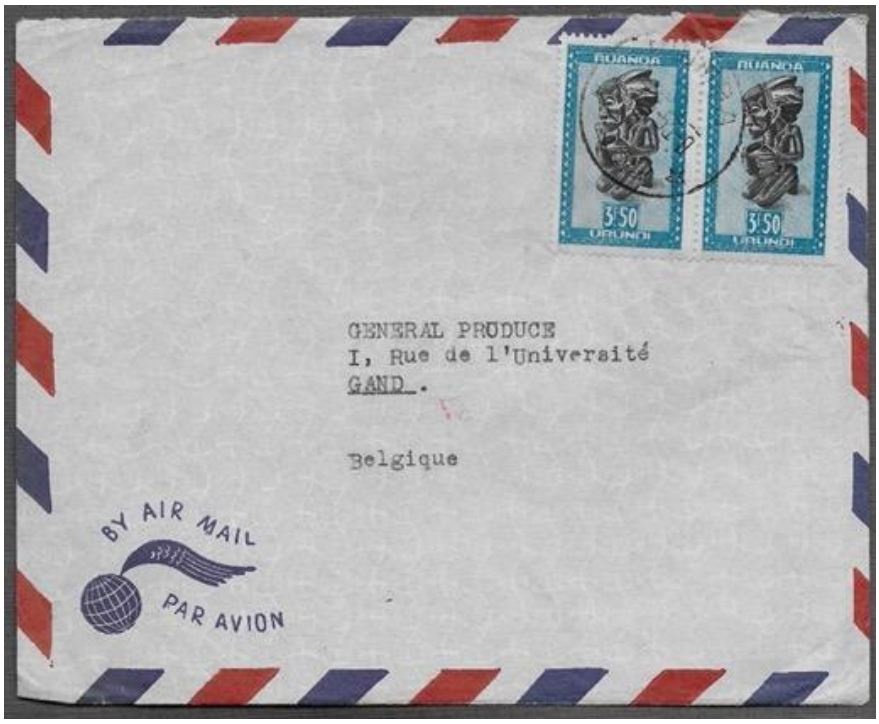
Our new American member, **Carl Barna**, would like to contact other members who share an interest in railway parcel stamps (both Belgium and the Congo) and postal history regarding railway and river transported mail in the Congo. You can contact him by e-mail, cbarna@hotmail.com

News discoveries

Bart Willekens

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation "BIUMBA 8A1" (21-1-53) H&K: *51, 55, 59-61

For the explanation regarding identification of the 8A1 cancellation see page 201/16.



Description of the cover: airmail letter sent from BIUMBA (Ruanda-Urundi) to Gent Belgium. The cover is franked with 7 francs and Cancelled with a circular date stamp "BIUMBA 8A1*21-1-53."

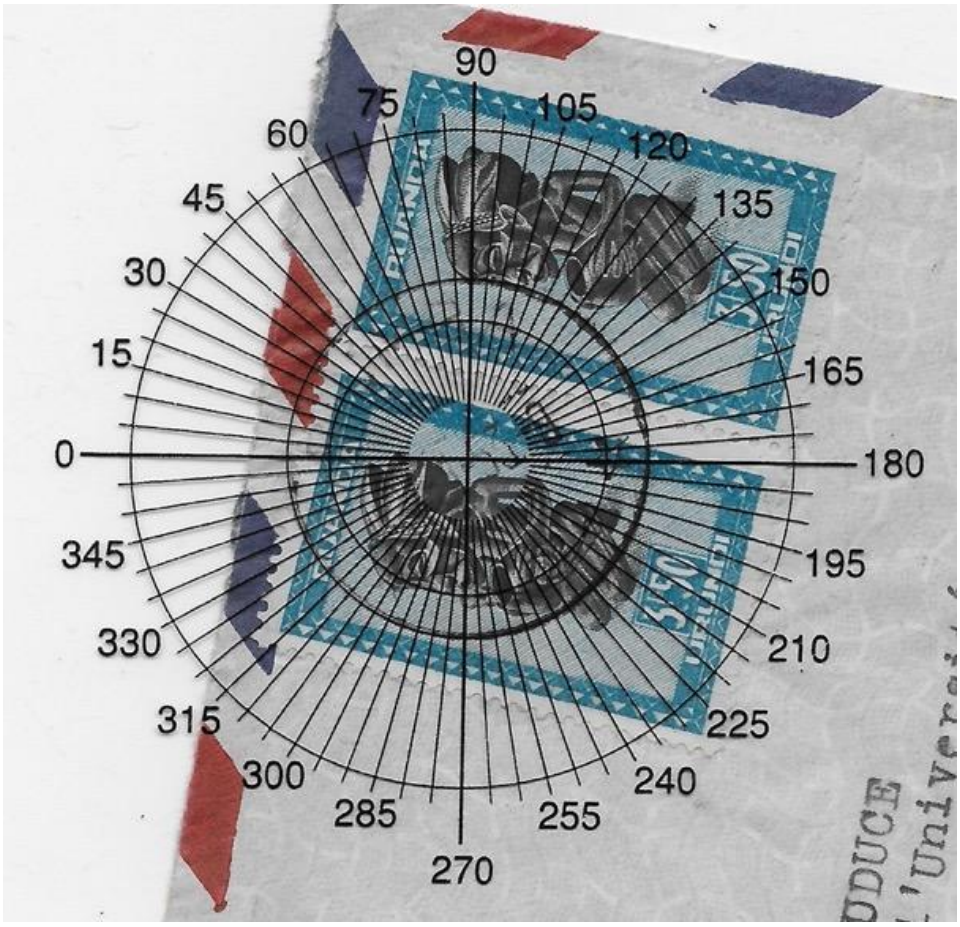
Philatelic significance: According to Heim & Keach, BCSC edition 2024, the BIUMBA POST HORN 8A1 postmark has, so far, been recorded only in 1951, 1955 and from 1959 to 1961. This cover, unmistakably dated 21-1-53, therefore represents an extension of the known period of use.



Franking and postal rates: The total franking of 7F corresponds exactly to the rates in effect at that time for an airmail letter up to 10g to Belgium. (01.06.52 to 31.06.53).

Context: In 1953, Biumba (Byumba) was a provincial capital town in northern Ruanda, part of the Belgian-administered trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi, serving as a local administrative and regional hub. It was an important town for governance, trade, and connecting northern districts to the rest of the territory.

Conclusion: This envelope documents a new usage of the "BIUMBA 8A1" postmark and thus represents a valuable addition to postal history research.



The methodology used for defining the postmark type is according to "Heim & Keach" 4th edition 2024. (Edited by the Belgian Congo Study Circle). Table Page 80 Ruanda Urundi.

Start with the 0° radial line on the left upright of the first B of BIUMBA and find the middle of the final A of BIUMBA (approx. 103°). Then measure the angular distance to the middle of the first star (179°). Next, measure the angular distance to the start of the post horn (205-206°). The next reading is the angle to the end of that post horn (270-271°) and finally that to the middle of the second star (298°). For this Biumba cancellation the difference between 8A1 and 8A2 can be seen from the angular distance to the middle of the stars (underlined below). The other measurements are too close to each other to use to differentiate the types.

H&K reference data

BIUMBA 8A1: 102 179 206 270 298 *51, 55, 59-61 (Dates known on letters)

8A2: 104 190 205 271 286 *51-60

This is a new discovery: Now an 8A1 cancellation has been found on letter dated 1953

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “Astrida 10(-C)” (15-5-59) H&K: *53-8



Description of the cover:
Registered airmail letter sent from Astrida (Ruanda-Urundi) to *Chicago 1, Illinois, U.S.A.*
The cover is franked with 21 francs.
It bears a red registration label “R No 597 ASTRIDA”. It was cancelled with a circular date stamp “ASTRIDA 10 (-C)* / 15-5-59.”
*Type 10 indicates that the -C appears on the same line following Astrida. There is only one possibility for this postmark -C

Philatelic significance:

According to Heim & Keach, BCSC edition 2024, so far, the *Astrida-C* postmark had been recorded as being in use only from 1953 to 1958. This cover, unmistakably dated 15 May 1959, therefore represents an extension of the known period of use.





Franking and postal rates: The total franking of 21F corresponds exactly to the rates in effect at that time for a registered airmail letter weighing between 5 and 10 grams. (*See Stockmans, Cahiers du Congo*): 5F letter rate (up to 20g) + 6F registration fee + 10F (2 × 5F/5g) airmail surcharge.

Context: During the Belgian administration, Astrida (today Butare, Rwanda) was an important regional centre with a post office, hospital, and educational institutions. The 1959 date places this piece in the final phase before the independence of Rwanda and Burundi (1962). The cover illustrates both the efficient postal service of late Ruanda-Urundi and the precision of the colonial postal tariffs.

Conclusion: This envelope documents a new, late usage of the “Astrida 10 (-C)”

postmark and thus represents a valuable addition to postal history research.

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “KIBUYE 11 (B)”(29-5-62) H&K:*58-60



Description of the cover: An airmail letter sent from KIBUYE (Ruanda-Urundi) to Washington, U.S.A. The cover is franked with a 7F flower and a 3,50F surcharged RU stamp, cancelled with a circular post horn date stamp “KIBUYE 11 (B) / 29-5-62”. Type 11 indicates that the “B” appears below the town name. There is only one possibility for this “B” postmark, so no further investigation of the angles was necessary.

Philatelic significance: According to Heim & Keach, 4th edition 2024, the KIBUYE 11 (B) postmark had so far been recorded only from 1958 to 1960. This cover, unmistakably dated 29-5-62, therefore represents an extension of the known period of use.

Franking and postal rates: The total franking of 10,50F corresponds almost exactly to the rates in effect at that time for a airmail letter weighing between 5 and 10 grams. (*See Stockmans, Cahiers du Congo*): 5F letter rate (up to 20g) + 5F/5g airmail surcharge.







Context: Kibuya, on the shore of Lake Kivu, is the headquarters of Western Province

and a beach resort. The 1962 date places this piece in the final phase before the independence of Rwanda and Burundi (also 1962). The cover illustrates both the efficient postal service of late Ruanda-Urundi and the precision of the colonial postal tariffs.

Conclusion: This envelope documents a new, late usage of the “Astrida 10 (-C)” postmark and thus represents a valuable addition to postal history research.

We also print the back of the cover here (above), as this will be discussed further. If you own an H&K book, you can look up why.

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “KISENYI 8E1” (8-11-55) H&K: *52-4

Description of the cover: AR airmail letter sent from KISENYI (Ruanda-Urundi) via BUKAVU and LEOPOLDDVILLE, to Chicago 1, Illinois, U.S.A. (AR: Registered letter with Acknowledgment of receipt) The cover is franked with 20,50 francs. It bears a red registration label “R No 865 KISENYI” and cancelled with a circular special post horn date-stamp “KISENYI 8E1* / 8-11-55”*****. Type 8E1 means that the post horn is equal-ended with triangular shaped ends.







Philatelic significance: According to Heim & Keach, 4th edition 2024, the KISENYI

postmark has, so far, been recorded only from 1952 to 1954. This cover, unmistakably dated 8-11-55, therefore represents an ***extension of the known period of use.***

Franking and postal rates: The total franking of 20,50F corresponds exactly to the rates in effect at that time for a AR airmail letter weighing not more than 5 grams. (*See Stockmans, Cahiers du Congo*): 4,50F letter rate (up to 20g) + 6F registration fee + 5F AR + (1 × 5F/5g) airmail fee.

Context: KISENYI (also spelled *Kiseni* or *Gisenyi*) was — and still is — a town in northwestern Rwanda, near Lake Kivu, right by the Belgian Congo border.

Conclusion: This envelope documents a new, late usage of the “KISENYI 8E1” postmark and thus represents a valuable addition to postal history research. It combines philatelic rarity with historical significance.
The postmarks on the back provide additional confirmation regarding the date.



We believe that all the results presented above deserve to be added in a future update of the Heim & Keach catalogue.

POSTAL AUCTION SALE 2025-2									
REALISED PRICES									
LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	1,05	41		81		121	9,25	161	
2	1,30	42		82		122		162	3,00
3	22,25	43		83		123		163	
4	5,25	44	67,00	84		124		164	20,25
5		45	30,00	85		125		165	17,25
6	5,25	46	16,00	86		126	9,00	166	
7	12,75	47	16,25	87		127	2,00	167	
8	2,55	48		88		128	2,00	168	
9	1,30	49		89		129	16,25	169	
10	1,05	50		90		130		170	
11	2,25	51	31,00	91	16,25	131		171	
12	80,00	52	14,25	92	3,25	132		172	10,00
13	35,00	53	36,00	93		133		173	33,00
14	4,25	54	17,00	94	12,00	134		174	
15		55	30,00	95		135	2,00	175	
16	27,00	56	15,00	96		136		176	
17	9,25	57		97	0,80	137		177	2,50
18		58	17,00	98	32,00	138		178	6,00
19		59	14,25	99		139		179	5,00
20		60	25,00	100		140	19,25	180	
21		61	4,55	101		141		181	41,00
22		62	2,25	102		142		182	16,00
23	4,50	63	2,00	103		143		183	6,00
24	2,25	64		104	12,00	144		184	
25	9,00	65	2,00	105	7,25	145	1,50	185	
26	31,00	66	2,25	106		146		186	
27		67	18,25	107	7,00	147		187	
28		68		108		148	9,75	188	
29	5,25	69		109		149		189	4,00
30	2,75	70	39,00	110	19,25	150	12,00	190	
31		71	39,00	111		151		191	3,00
32	200,00	72	128,00	112		152		192	
33		73		113		153			
34		74		114		154			
35	35,00	75	2,05	115		155			
36	4,25	76		116		156			
37		77		117		157			
38	12,25	78	3,75	118		158			
39	0,50	79		119		159	12,25		
40	30,00	80	36,00	120		160	20,00		

Bidding form - BCSC 2025-3

To be sent to

Th.FRENNET – Rue la rue 17 – B-1420 Braine-l'Alleud – Belgique/Europe

Or by E-mail at : Thierry.frennet@fthsprl.be

CLOSING DATE FOR BIDS – 20th JANUARY 2025

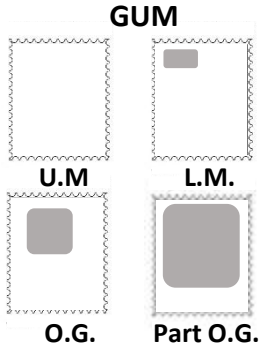
Name : …… Date : ……..

Full Address: …….. Signature : ……

Auction Rules

Abbreviations used

U.M.	= unmounted mint – unused with original gum in Post Office state, never hinged.
L.M.	= lightly hinged - unused with original gum, mounted with a peelable hinge.
O.G.	= original gum - unused with gum slightly disturbed or alternatively having a previous hinge
Part O.G.	= part original gum – unused with original gum. Large hinge remnants may or may not be present.



CB – Congo Belge; COB – Catalogue Officiel Belge number; RU – Ruanda-Urundi;
Designation of cancellations are in accordance with the Heim & Keach classification

Bidding steps

0	to	5 €	per	0.05 €
5€	to	25 €	per	0.25 €
25€	to	50 €	per	1.00 €
50€	to	250 €	per	2.00 €
250€	to	500 €	per	5.00 €
	over	500 €	per	10.00 €

Postage on lots will be charged to buyers

See also our website: www.Belgian-congo-study-circle.be

Lot No.	Limit (Euros)	Lot No.	Limit (Euros)	Lot No.	Limit (Euros)

To submit more bids, please send them entered on a 2nd (& more) copy/copies of this bidding form.

Lot	SALE 2025/3 Description	COB #	Min. Bid €
	Postal Stationery		
	Note: Postal stationery (Catalogue numbers are those of the 2021 catalogue edited by BCSC & Société belge de l'entier postal, which is available upon request to our President)		
	E.I.C.		
1	1897 issue card with paid reply, 15c blue + 15c brown on azure, used, Banana to Germany (Bavaria)	17	3,50
	Ruanda-Urundi		
2	Ruanda-Urundi 1918 issue, cards 5c green on yellow & 10c brick red on light blue, unused	7 + 8	6,00
3	Ruanda-Urundi 1918 issue, card with paid reply 10c + 10c brick red on light blue, unused	10	3,00
4	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 issue, card 15/5c green, unused	13	4,00
5	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 issue, card 30/10c red, unused	14	4,00
6	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 issue, card 15/5c + 15/5c green, unused	15	4,50
7	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 issue, three cards 15/10c red, with view (views # 16,34,49), unused	18 (x3)	6,00
8	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 issue, card 15/5c green with view (#7), unused	17	2,00
9	Ruanda-Urundi 1932 issue, cards 60c green & 1F carmine, unused	21+22	1,50
10	Ruanda-Urundi 1932 issue, cards with paid reply 60c + 60c green & 1F + 1F carmine, unused	23+24	2,00
11	Ruanda-Urundi 1943 issue, card 2F red on light blue (palmtree), unused	26	3,00
12	Ruanda-Urundi 1948 issue, full set, cards 1F/60c green & 2F/1F carmine + cards with paid reply 1F/60c + 1F/60c green & 2F/1F + 2F/1F carmine, all unused	27/30	3,00
13	Ruanda-Urundi 1951 issue, cards 1.20 F green & 2.40 F carmine, unused	31/32	1,50
14	Ruanda-Urundi 1951 issue, cards with paid reply 1.20 F + 1.20 F green & 2.40 F + 2.40 F carmine, unused	33/34	2,50
15	Ruanda-Urundi 1959 issue, card 1.50 F /1.20 F green, unused	35	2,75
16	Ruanda-Urundi letter-card 1958 issue, 3Fcarmine on green-blue, unused	1	2,50
17	Ruanda-Urundi letter-card 1958 issue, 3Fcarmine on green-blue, used (CTO), cancelation Usumbura-C. 19.6.58	1	2,50
18	Ruanda-Urundi 1916 "Tombeur" issue, card 5c yellow-green on buff, purple overprint URUNDI, with view # 9, unused. Type t3	1	35,00
19	Ruanda-Urundi 1919 postage due stamps issue, full set with taxes surcharge and KIGOMA cancellations, on pieces (CTO ?)	TX1/8	32,00

20	Ruanda-Urundi 1919 postage due stamps issue, full set with taxes surcharge and KIGOMA cancellations, on pieces (CTO ?)	TX1/8	32,00
	Stamps and Covers		
21	1894 issue 50c olive (50) full sheet, UM	25	140,00
22	1909 local overprint issue, 1F carmine local overprint L1, 2 short perfs + 5F carmine L1, used	36L1 + 38L1	26,00
23	1909 issue local overprint L1 5F carmine LH, adherences	38L	14,50
24	1909 issue typo overprint, full set + both types of the 25c blue, LH,v. good condition	40/49 + 43a	85,00
25	1909 issue typo overprint, full set + both types of the 25c blue, used, a few missing perfs on 1F carmine, nice telegraphic cancellations on 50c & 5F	40/49 + 43a	33,00
26	1964 Local Stanleyville issue, full set UM + card with same stamps cancelled by large decorative handmark AND round Stanleyville 21.10.1964 firt day cancellation (COB = 275 €)	Stanleyville Carte #2	52,00
	Postage Due Stamps		
27	1908 issue 40c blue-green DIMA cancellation	TX5	2,25
28	1908 issue 10F green, perf 14 1/2, used	TX6D	30,00
29	1908 issue 1F violet + 1F carmine (a few short perfs for the 1F carmine), used	TX6A + TX6Aa	13,00
30	1910 issue full set LH or UM (5c-25c-1F-3F are UM)	TX31/40	65,00
	Incoming mail, EIC and Belgian Congo Stamps		
31	Incoming mail : cover from Arlon 27-12-35 (Belgium) to Jadotville		7,50
32	Incoming mail : airmail cover from Blankenberghe, Belgium, to Jadotville. Handwritten "Via Imperial Airways". On reverse : Brussels & Elisabethville transit marks, Jadotville arrival mark		18,00
33	1910 issue 3F red, cancellation Boma	61	3,00
34	1886 issue 10c pink + 50c olive, LH	2 + 4	3,00
35	1910 issue 40c blue-green ("tropical gum") + 1F carmine, blocks of four, UM & LH	58+60	8,50
36	1910 issue 5c green (2x4), 15c ochre (2x4), in blocks of four, UM or LH	54-56	0,75
37	1921 issue 25c/15c block of four, UM	88	3,50
38	1915 issue, 5c green (2x4), 10c carmine (1x4), 25c blue (2x4), all in blocks of four, many LH	64, 65, 67	1,75
39	1915 issue, 5c green (4x4), 10c carmine (1x4 + 65a 2x4),15c green (1x4), 25c blue (1x4), 40c carmine-brown (1x4), 5F orange (1x4), all in blocks of four, UM or LH	64/8,71 + 65a	22,00
40	1947 issue, 100F red-rose & black, strip of 3, UM	295	5,00
41	1923 & 1925 Vloors issues, blocks of four : 10c green UM, 20c olive-green LH/UM, 25c red-brown LH/UM, 30c pink no gum, 45c violet UM, 60c carmine UM, 20c green no gum, 50c orange-red no gum, 1F50 blue no gum	107-109/11-118-123/24-130	1,50

42	1931 issue miniature sheet of 8 stamps (from booklet) 75c carmine-red, UM (tropical gum)	175	1,50
43	1931 issue, 2,50F in miniature sheet of 8, 2,50F blue, UM	178A	3,00
Ruanda-Urundi Stamps			
44	1929 issue, full set used + 1931 issue full set used	79/80, 90/1	1,00
45	1924 Vloors issue, full set LH, 2 short perfs on 5F	50/61	6,50
46	1924 Vloors issue, full set used	50/61	5,00
47	1930 issue full set UM	81/9	39,00
48	1941 "Meulemans" issue, full set UM	114/7	32,00
49	1941 "Meulemans" issue, full set used	114/7	10,50
50	1925 issue full set UM + 1934 issue LH + 1936 issue, full set LH + 1925 Vloors issue 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 75c & 1F, LH	77/8, 107/10, between 62 & 71	1,00
51	1931 issue full set LH + 1937 issue full set LH	92/106 + 111/3	3,00
52	1944 issue "Messages" miniature sheets full set of 4, stamps UM but hinges on sheet border	RU BL1/4	125,00
Belgian Congo Stamps and Covers			
53	1910 issue 5c green + 15c ochre, perf 15, in blocks of four, LH & UM	54-56	1,00
54	1910 issue 5c green, 15c ochre (perf 15), 40c blue-green (gum adhesions for the 40c), in blocks of four UM	54-56-58	2,75
55	1915 issue, 5F orange, block of four, UM	71	4,50
56	1921 issue 1921 overprint on 10F green (3, included 1 with a missing perf), used	94 (x 3)	2,25
57	1935 Kings' issue, 15 chosen cancellations on 50c (4) - 1,25F (6) - 1,50F (2) - 2,50 (3)	185/7-189	2,00
58	1921 issue 5c/40c (1x4), 10c/5c (3x4), 30c /10c (3x4), UM or LH, all in blocks of four	85/6, 89	5,00
59	1921 issue 30c /10c perf 14 & 15, both in blocks of four UM	89	2,25
60	1921 issue 10c/5c & 50c/25c both block of four, LH, displaced surcharges	86+90	5,00
61	1922 issue 5c/50c red-brown + 30c/10c carmine, blocks of four, sheet margins, UM	95+98	2,00
62	1922 issue 5c/50c (1x4), 25c/40c (3x4), 30c/10c (1x4), 50c/25c (1x4), blocks of four, used. Fine Tshikapa cancellations on 5c/50c red-brown.	95-97/99	3,00
63	1922 issue small hoard of 14 stamps, used or LH, fine cancellations, red & vermillion surcharges, etc.	95/99	2,50
64	1922 "Boma" issue small hoard of 33 stamps, used, LH or UM, included some blocks of 4	100/3	5,50

65	1886 issue, 5c, 10c, 50c (all with Banana cancellations) + 1887 issue 5c yellow-green (4), 5c green (1), 10c pink (1), 25c blue (5), used or no gum. Included one fine Matadi blue cancellation	1-2-4-6-6-7-8	11,00
66	1894 issue 5c blue, 5c green, 10c blue, 10c red-brown, 25c blue, 40c blue-green, 50c olive, 1F carmine, 1F violet, used		13,00
67	1894 issue, 3,50F vermillion, used	27	40,00
68	1894 issue 5F carmine, used	28	11,50
69	1909 issue typo overprint 25c blue typo overprint type 2, pos 31, no gum	43a	3,00
70	1909 issue typo overprint 5F carmine typo overprint type 2, plate I1 + A1, pos 20, used	48	10,00
71	1909 "unilingual" issue, full set LH	50/3	13,50
72	1889 issue 3,50/5F grey, boxed "Colis-postaux Fr 3,50" surcharge, LH, off-centre, missing perf on inferior left corner. (COB>240 €)	CP5	13,00
73	1887 issue 5F grey, Boma 13 JANV 1894 cancellation	12	29,00
74	1889 issue 3,50/5F grey, boxed "Colis-postaux Fr 3,50" surcharge, fine BOMA cancellation, one short perf at inferior left corner (COB>240 €)	CP5	24,00
75	1889 issue 5F violet surcharge "Colis postaux 3,50 Fr" Regummed. With certificate BCSC	CP4	135,00
76	1938 miniature sheet "international congress of tourism", used (special cancellation Costermansville 6 Oct 1938)	BL2	18,00
77	Registered cover with 1894 issue 5c, 10c (2), 25c, 50c , from BANANA 2.8.1900 to Germany. A few pale rust spots	16(2), 19, 22, 25	75,00
78	1930 issue, full set, LH or UM	150/8	15,00
79	Ruanda-Urundi 1918 issue, full set, UM. Several stamps w/ sheet margins or sheet corner; 25c: 1 missing perf	36/44	75,00
80	Ruanda-Urundi 1944 issue full set UM	150/3	3,50
81	Ruanda-Urundi 1955 issue full set UM	196/9	5,00
82	Burundi 1962 flowers issue, full set UM	1/7 + 3A	6,00
83	Airmail cover from air disaster Rome 13 FEB 1955. On reverse violet 3 straight-lines mark "Postes Rome Gare Avion/correspondance recouvrée/dans le désatre d'avion du 13 FEB 1955". Transit marks Leopoldville & Luena. No (more) stamps		18,00
Miniature Sheets			
84	1915 issue 5c green miniature sheet, type C, UM	64	2,50
85	1915 issue 15c blue-green miniature sheet, type C (?), UM, missing corner of the sheet	66	2,25
86	1937 issue 75c carmine red miniature sheet with plate # 1, UM	175	3,25
87	1937 issue 1,25F red-brown miniature sheets (2) with plate #1 & #2, UM	177	6,50

88	1937 issue 1,50F grey miniature sheet with plate # 1, UM	177A	4,75
89	1937 issue 2,50F blue miniature sheet with plate # 1, UM	178A	5,50
90	Miniature sheets UPU, full set LH (hinges in the margin: stamps are UM) Congo + Ruanda-Urundi (12 miniature sheets) COB value : + 2500 €, Rare	BL3A/10A + BLU1A/4A	700,00
91	1937 issue, miniature sheet, variety "light bulb" (on stamp #4), LH (stamps are UM)	BL1-V	3,00
92	1915 issue 5c green miniature sheet, type C, UM	64	2,50
Belgian Congo Stamps and Covers			
93	1928 Stanley issue, full set LH	135/49	11,00
94	1928 Stanley issue, 5c grey-green, strip of 3 (small format) + 10c violet strip of 4 (large format), UM	135/6	0,50
95	1939 issue, full set LH	209/13	8,50
96	1942 issue, 50F & 100F, used	247/8	1,75
97	1930 issue, full set LH included #150a rose-red	150-58 +150a	16,00
98	1887 issue 50c red-brown (2), BO(ma) & BANANA cancellations	9	17,00
99	1894 issue 5F carmine (3), used. One thinned stamp, another w/1 short perf	28	12,50
100	1894 issue 5F carmine MATADI 1908 cancellation	28	12,00
101	1894 issue, 10F green perf 14 1/4, MATADI cancellation 190?	29	12,50
102	1894 issue, 10F green perf 14 1/4, BANANA cancellation ??-??-1900	29	12,00
103	1894 issue 15c ochre UM (1), LH (2), used (13), for cancellations, shades, different perforations, varieties, etc; Good condition	20	7,50
104	1894 issue 10c blue LH (1), used (3), no gum (3) + 25c orange OG (1), used (3) for cancellations, shades, different perforations, varieties, etc. Good condition	18 + 21	5,00
105	1910 issue 25c blue (29), used (28) or no gum (1) for cancellations, shades, various perforations, varieties, etc. Good condition	57	1,50
196	1915 issue 25c blue (48), used for cancellations, shades, various perforations, varieties, etc. Good condition	67	2,00
107	1887 issue, 5F grey, used	12	32,00
108	1894 issue 5c green, 5c red-brown, 10c carmine, 25c orange, 50c green, 1F violet, LH. Good condition	15/16-19-21-24-26A	12,00
109	1894 issue 3,50F vermillion, used	27	39,00
110	1950 issue 3F blue chosen cancellations (18)	298	2,00
111	R.-U. 1916 issue 40c carmine-brown vertical pair, rare perf 15, sheet margin, UM (tropical gum)	32	40,00
112	R.-U. 1941 issue, full set UM	114/7	30,00

113	R.-U. 1961 issue, full set in blocks of four, UM	216A/B	2,00
114	1947 issue, 100F in block of four, UM	295	8,50
115	1953 issue, full set in block of six, UM	325/6	7,00
116	1941 issue, 50c violet, 75c rose, 1,75F orange, 5F olive-green, 10F red, all blocks of 4 + 2,50 carmine-red block of 8, all UM	216/18-220/21-223/24	23,00
117	1947 issue 20F UM, block of 8, sheet corner	293	6,00
118	Incoming mail : Airmail cover from South Africa (1942) to Sakania. South African censor tape. Elisabethville transit cachet on reverse		5,00
119	Airmail cover 1st flight Leopoldville-Brussels, by Boeing 707, 21th of January 1960, red boxed handmark on reverse. Returned to the sender (belgian handmarks)		3,00
	Collections and Philatelic Books		
120	Congo Republic collection of about 220 stamps (years 1960-80), included several full sets UM, LH, used		16,50
121	"CMB", 50-page hardcover book written on the Companie Maritime Belge with some pictures. Year of publication around 1970. Very good condition		5,00
122	Catalogue Willy Balasse Congo Belge, 1949. Hardcover. Correct but more or less worn condition. In French		13,00
123	Courrier récupéré *Recovered mail by Henri L. Nierinck. Hardcover book with dust jacket, 367 pages, 1984. Bilingual French & English. About airplane crashes 1918-1978 and their postal history consequences.Very good condition		25,00
124	Catalogue de l'aérophilatélie belge. Edition 1982, by Emile Vandenbauw, 314 pages, paperback book. Very good condition. About aerophilately in Belgium included airmail relations between Belgium and Congo, from 1909 to 1980		15,00
125	Congo cinquante ans d'histoire postale by Jean Dufour, 1962. 507 pages, Bound book (hardcover). In French. Very good condition. The "Bible" of Congo philately, numbered 202/300. Quite hard to find		125,00
126	Tarifs postaux internationaux 1892-1988, by E. & M. Deneumostier, 1988, 159 pages. Spiral bound. In French. Medium condition. About the postage fees between Congo and Belgium, and between Belgium and the whole world as well		25,00
	Non-philatelic Bools About the Belgian Congo		
127	Congo Belge et Ruanda-Urundi. Guide du Voyageur. Edited by Info Congo. 4th Edition 1958. 798 pages. Hardcover book, in French. Very complete book, with plenty of information, pictures and fold-out cards, mainly intended for tourists in 1958. For those who want to understand what life was like in fifties Belgian Congo.		30,00
128	Congo belge, portrait d'une société coloniale, by Hilde Eynikel, 309 pages. Editions Duculot 1984. Paperback book, in French. Pristine condition, as new. Description of community life in Belgian Congo from the beginning till independance		8,00
129	Congo Mythes et Réalité, 100 ans d'Histoire, by Jean Stengers, 283 pages, Editions Duculot 1989. Paperbook. Pristine condition, nearly as new. Historical study about Belgian colonisation in Congo		8,00