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BULLETIN 202 **APRIL 2026**

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

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

Dear Friends,

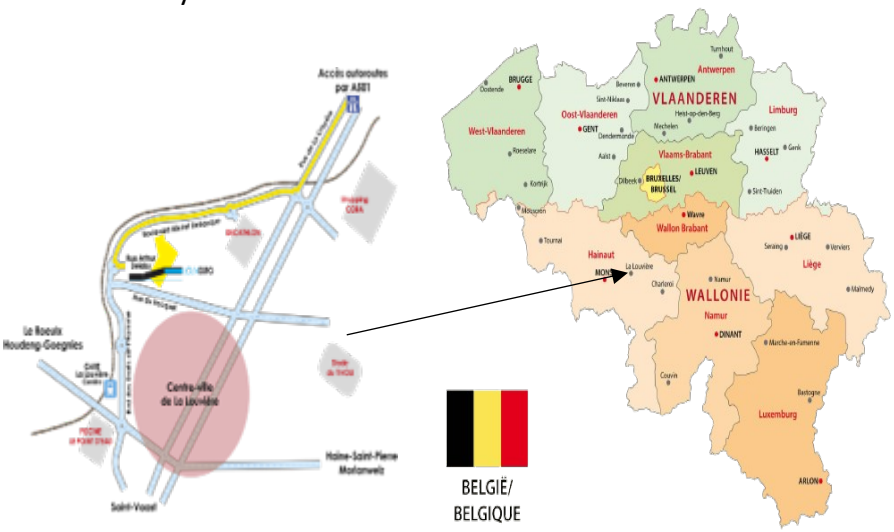
In 2026, on the 28th to 30th August, we'll celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Belgian Congo Study Circle.

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 (BCSC) 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

Annual Conference Day and AGM

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

Reserved the date, 28 to 30 August 2026, more details in this bulletin.

Dear Members, **LAST CALL**

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 henuzetcharles@hotmail.com or by post to the address 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 is not finalized. Early notification helps planning.

Name: ……

First name: ……..

Collection (display) title:
……..

Number of sheets: ……..

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

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

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 bulletin for details.

First news, we will have the duostamps, a max card and a erinophila stamp.

Dear members,
During the La Louvière meeting to mark our Anniversary, we will offer you the sale of 1) duostamps, 2) a max card and 3) one sheet of erinophilia.

First : The duostamps are for sale in sheet of 10, each with a value approved by the Belgian post office. The stamp design features the 20 francs Okapi of the 1942 Palm issue, each is valid for postal use in BELGIUM

Second : max card: featuring the 1933 2,50 francs Okapi & 3,50 Ffrancs Okapi and the 1942 Okapi 20 francs. All three are valid for postal use in BELGIUM

Third : erinophilia featuring Belgian Congo BL1.

	PRICE BY ITEM (Cost of delivery tp be added)
Duostamp 20 francs Okapi (@ Tariff for BELGIUM)	25 € X ..... = ...€
Max card, 3 stamps (@ Tariff for BELGIUM)	12 € X ..... = ...€
Erinophilia BL1	18 € X ..... = ...€

You can reserve them now and no later than 1st MAY 2026. available from August 28 / 2026.

To reserve any of these contact the editor ; henuzetcharles@hotmail.com
Pay: the account of Belgian Congo Study Circle; BE15 7320 7837 3930
Please contact Charles if this method of payment is not possible.

1) Duostamps sheet



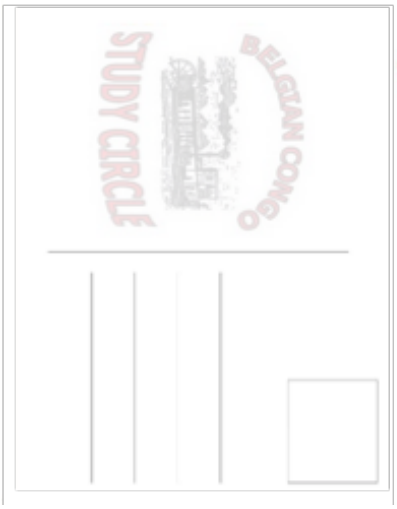
2)- Max Card

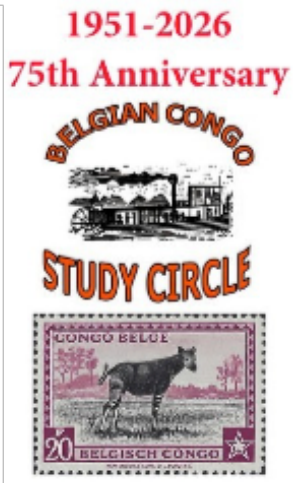
RECTO





VERSO





3) Erinophilia



DON’T HESITATE: RESERVE YOUR CHOICE!!

Hotel Information

Orange Hôtel
Chaussée du Pont du Sart, 238
7110 La Louvière
+32 64 77 33 00

The hotel's official website is https://www.orangehotel.be/contact/
We've secured a fixed discount code that gives you 15% off the total cost of your stay, regardless of the room type or length of stay you choose.
Discount code : **PHIL2026**
You must book directly through the hotel's website (however, to ensure we can track your reservation, please notify us of your booking by emailing: philhainaut26@gmail .com)
Under no circumstances shall the organizers or the federation be held liable for any inconvenience, theft of equipment, or other damage that may occur on the premises or during the trip to and from the venue.

Road directions to the Orange Hôtel

Coming from Paris (FR) – Lille-Lesquin (FR) – Tournai – Mons: take the E42 towards Brussels-Liège-Charleroi
Exit the motorway at **exit 21 (Le Rœulx-Binche).**
At the roundabout, take Rue de Houdeng towards La Louvière.
At the second roundabout, take the third exit, Chaussée du Pont du Sart, parallel to Rue de Houdeng.
The Orange Hôtel is on the right, at number 238.

Coming from Cologne (DE) - Liège – Namur – Charleroi (CRL): take the E42 towards Paris-Mons.
Take **exit 21 (Le Rœulx-Binche)**. At the roundabout, take the third exit towards La Louvière.
At the second roundabout, take Rue de Houdeng towards La Louvière.
At the third roundabout, take the third exit onto Chaussée du Pont du Sart, parallel to Rue de Houdeng.
The Orange Hôtel is on the right, at number 238.

Coming from Amsterdam (NL) – Antwerp – Brussels (BRU) – Nivelles: take the E19 towards Paris-Mons.
Take **exit 21 (Le Rœulx-Binche).**
At the roundabout, take the third exit towards La Louvière.
At the second roundabout, take Rue de Houdeng towards La Louvière.
At the third roundabout, take the third exit onto Chaussée du Pont du Sart, which runs parallel to Rue de Houdeng.
The Orange Hôtel is on the right, at number 238.

By train : STATION of LA LOUVIERE : It is a 10-minute walk from this train station

Message – Belgian review

Charles Lloyd

We are all familiar with the blocks listed in COB under the heading “A special issue of the Belgian Government in London in favour of subscribers of the magazine *Message*”: COB Belgian Congo BL3/10, Ruanda Urundi BL1/4. (6 years later, 300 sets of trimmed and overprinted remainders were sold in tribute to the UPU. These will not be considered in this article).
Charles Stockmans (https://www.congoposte.be) gives the number produced as 6,000 of each. To some collectors they are controversial because they were given as souvenirs and not sold directly to the public. However, they were printed by Waterlow and Sons (the contacted printer for this issue) on the instruction of the Belgian Government and as such would be accepted for postal payment.





An internet search on “*Message”* produces very little information. For a long time, I have been intrigued about the story behind these blocks and in late 2022 found a copy of *Message* for sale by an antiquarian book dealer. Unfortunately, it was Number 3 and not one of those that had been issued containing a *Message* block. Recognizing that few if any original subscriber’s copies would still exist, I approached the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh and was told it owned all copies, bound in three volumes. The librarian did not have a record of a reader ever requesting it! (With this discovery there is hope that other national libraries, such as the Royal Library of Belgium, will also possess copies under the classification “Periodicals”.)





Message issue 3. The cover was designed by Oscar Nemon, the famed sculptor, best known for his Churchill busts. He fled from Brussels to London at the outbreak of war in 1939 (As a Jew, he feared the consequence for himself should there be a German attack on Belgium.)

I hope that Belgian members will bear with me as I set the scene, from the fall of Belgium (in May 1940) to the full recognition of a Belgian Government-in-Exile by Britain (in December 1940), a history with which you will be familiar. Recounting these events is necessary because other members may not be aware of this history. *Message* was one consequence of the events and environment in this period

Events that led to the publication of Message

On 24 May 1940, with the military situation deteriorating, Belgian Prime Minister Hubert Pierlot recommended the King should join other monarchs in exile, to become a figure head for continued resistance. The King rejected this advice. He denounced the government but failed in his attempt to replace it with another under Henri de Man, a fascist inclined socialist. On 27 May, without consulting the government, King Leopold III surrendered the army. A day later Pierlot and his cabinet (still the constitutional government of the country) fled to France. The cabinet was split between a majority who wanted to remain in unoccupied France and others who wanted to relocate to London. Though he favoured London, Pierlot decided cabinet unity could be best served by keeping its base in France. A few junior politicians who had fled to England called for the creation of a Free Belgian Government in London, following the example of their French allies under General de Gaulle. Pierlot denounced this proclamation, but allowed Albert de Vleeschauwer (Minister of the Colonies) to travel to London and reassure Britain that the Congo would not fall into enemy hands, and also to end the challenge to his legitimate government. Mixed messages were being received by the allies. The British Government was confused about the stance of Belgian politicians. In France and Britain newspapers were highly critical of Leopold's action and claimed it was a betrayal. These factors had a negative impact on sympathy for the country and its refugees. (This contrasted with an open arms welcome to a quarter on a million refugees in WW1 and admiration for King Albert and *plucky little Belgium*.)

With the arrival of a second senior minister in London (Camille Gutt – Minister of Finance), Britain felt able to recognize a temporary Government-in-Exile (The Government of Two). By August, under pressure from Germany, the Vichy French Government ended diplomatic recognition of the Pierlot Government. Anticipating being handed over to the Germans, those ministers who could, fled to Britain via Spain. Their arrival in October gave full legitimacy to a Belgian Government-in-Exile. In December 1940 an announcement was made:

> "His Majesty's Government do regard the four Belgian Ministers composing the Belgian Government in London as the legitimate and constitutional Government of Belgium and competent to exercise full authority in the name of the Sovereign State of Belgium."

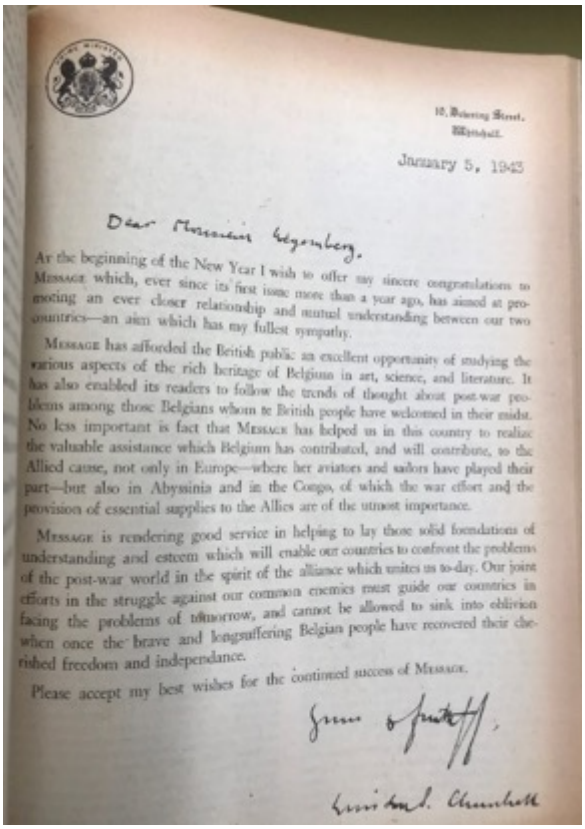
In 1940, there were at least 15,000 refugees and 4,000 Belgian military personnel in Britain. The influential and independent British social research project *Mass Observation* reported a growing feeling against Belgian refugees in the UK, closely linked to King Leopold III's decision to surrender. Damage to the image and reputation of Belgium existed and had to be addressed. The Belgian Government-in-

Exile took action. Education, spiritual needs, material assistance were organized for refugees by the *Central Services for Refugees*. The *Belgian Institute* was created in London to entertain exiles, to be a social and cultural centre for Belgians and sympathizers, and a place to host Belgian receptions. Propaganda was produced.

Message, the periodical

To improve understanding between Britons and Belgians, Paul Weyemberg (with Pierre Vermeylen) launched a monthly magazine, *Message – Belgian Review*. It was sold by subscription at £1 10s 0d per year (equivalent to £59 today) and had a cover price of 2s 6d (£5) per copy. The content included cultural articles, current affairs, announcements and news extracts from Belgium (patriotic actions/execution of patriots/denunciation of collaborators). It was aimed at an educated readership, people with influence. The *London Gazette* dated 4 December 1942 contained a list of recognized Belgian diplomats in the UK, in effect the Government-in-Exile. Paul Weyemberg and Pierre Vermeylen are present in the “Official staff of members of the Government of Belgium” section. They served under the *Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Justice*, Prime Minister Hubert Pierlot. (N.B. Both had direct contact with the Belgian leader.)

The first edition of *Message* appeared in November 1943 and was an immediate success. Demand appears to have exceed supply and subscribers were asked to pass their copies to others after reading them. (Rationing of paper and ink limited the number that could be printed.) It was 60 to 70 pages in length, of which ten to twenty were of advertising (from which some income was derived). No doubt it was backed financially by the government. It was influential and achieved its objective. In November/December 1945, Weyemberg published a personal letter sent to him by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

January 5, 1943

Dear Monsieur Weyemberg.

At the beginning of the New Year I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to MESSAGE which, ever since its first issue more than a year ago, has aimed at promoting an ever closer relationship and mutual understanding between our two countries—an aim which has my fullest sympathy.

MESSAGE has afforded the British public an excellent opportunity of studying the various aspects of the rich heritage of Belgium in art, science, and literature. It has also enabled its readers to follow the trends of thought about post-war problems among those Belgians whom the British people have welcomed in their midst. No less important is fact that MESSAGE has helped us in this country to realize the valuable assistance which Belgium has contributed, and will contribute, to the Allied cause, not only in Europe—where her aviators and sailors have played their part—but also in Abyssinia and in the Congo, of which the war effort and the provision of essential supplies to the Allies are of the utmost importance.

MESSAGE is rendering good service in helping to lay those solid foundations of understanding and esteem which will enable our countries to confront the problems of the post-war world in the spirit of the alliance which unites us to-day. Our joint efforts in the struggle against our common enemies must guide our countries in facing the problems of tomorrow, and cannot be allowed to sink into oblivion when once the brave and long-suffering Belgian people have recovered their cherished freedom and independance.

Please accept my best wishes for the continued success of MESSAGE.

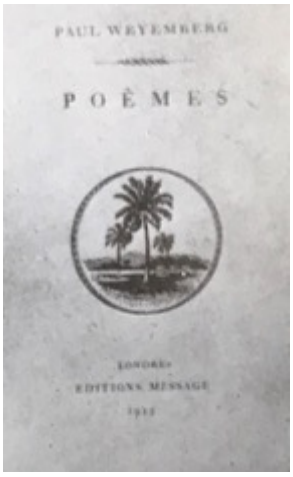
Yours sincerely,

Winston S. Churchill

N.B. This and other images are photographs taken from tightly bound volumes, hence there is an inevitable curl on the picture. (My apologies) However, it is readable. Note that the letter is on Prime Ministerial paper and signed by Churchill himself.

Weyemberg employed a high quality printer, Curwen Press, which specialised in fine art publications before the war. Their graphic and print quality was maintained during the war even though materials were in short supply and bombing damaged their facilities. In wartime its output specialized in periodicals and books for exiles. The following image is from an article about the Curwen Press that appeared in 1946:





Curwen Press printed periodicals and books for French, Belgian, Greek and Yugoslav exiles. Of particular interest is the book on the right: "*Paul Weyemberg. Poèmes, Londrès. Editions Message 1945*". The illustration on the frontispiece is the image used on the low values of the Waterlow & Sons stamps.

The Message blocks

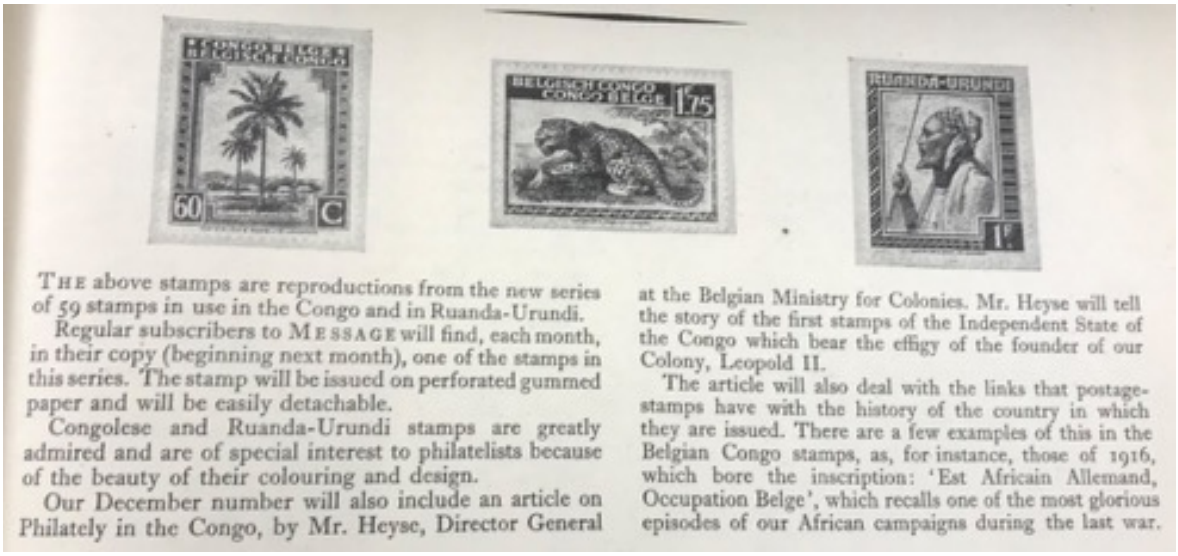




Collectors of Belgian stamps will be familiar with blocks issued in the 1930s. Here is an example: 18 October 1936, COB BL6A, "Youth philatelic exhibition and the inauguration of the new Charlroi town hall". Also, it is catalogued as a single stamp (COB 437). It was accepted for postal use with or without the selvage.

Apart from the absence of a line of perforations on the left side, this block is identical in format to the messages blocks: a single stamp printed centrally on gummed paper and perforated.

In issue 1 of *Message* (November 1943) there was a simple announcement:



THE above stamps are reproductions from the new series of 59 stamps in use in the Congo and in Ruanda-Urundi.

Regular subscribers to MESSAGE will find, each month, in their copy (beginning next month), one of the stamps in this series. The stamp will be issued on perforated gummed paper and will be easily detachable.

Congolese and Ruanda-Urundi stamps are greatly admired and are of special interest to philatelists because of the beauty of their colouring and design.

Our December number will also include an article on Philately in the Congo, by Mr. Heyse, Director General at the Belgian Ministry for Colonies. Mr. Heyse will tell the story of the first stamps of the Independent State of the Congo which bear the effigy of the founder of our Colony, Leopold II.

The article will also deal with the links that postage-stamps have with the history of the country in which they are issued. There are a few examples of this in the Belgian Congo stamps, as, for instance, those of 1916, which bore the inscription: 'Est Africain Allemand, Occupation Belge', which recalls one of the most glorious episodes of our African campaigns during the last war.

M. Théodore Heyse (see paragraph 4 in the image above) was present on the list of recognized Belgian diplomats in the UK, published in the *London Gazette* (4 December 1942). He was an eminent (colonial) jurist and to be found in the section of "Official staff of members of the Government of Belgium". From 10 June 1941 and throughout the war he served under the *Minister of the Colonies,* Albert De Vleeschauwer. One of his responsibilities was propaganda and providing an early article for Message would not be surprising.

In issue 2 (December 1943) an equally short note accompanied the presence of a block as a gift:



A sixty centime stamp of the Belgian Congo

THE stamp reproduced here is the first of a series of Belgian Congo stamps which our subscribers will find each month in these pages.

The stamp is issued separately on perforated gummed paper and is easily detachable.

All inquiries concerning the Congolese stamps should be addressed to MESSAGE, 110 Fleet Street, E.C.4. Please mark your envelope 'Congo Stamps'.

The second part of Mr. Th. Heyse's article on 'Philately in the Belgian Congo' will appear in our next number.

The statement that "The stamp is issued separately on perforated gummed paper and is easily detachable." is open to different interpretations. My first thought was that it refers to the perforation on the left across the sheet. It seemed logical that the presence of the line of perforation holes would be consistent with the tab on left being used to gum and secure the bloc onto a page in the magazine. However, if so, "detachment" would result in the freed bloc having perforations on the left edge which was contrary to what I had seen. Very few blocks are in this condition. (The linear perforation remains intact.) Answering this question was one reason to inspect the issues directly at the library. I found no evidence for the blocks being gummed in any edition. Thus, it must be that the blocks were simply slipped in between pages. The

description, “easily detachable” has to mean removal from the surrounding selvage to mount in a stamp album or for postal use.

Through the use of the definite article, “the”, the wording, “All inquiries concerning the Congolese stamps should be addressed to MESSAGE….”, implies it is these stamps. Had the comment referred to general inquiries the definite article would not have been used. (In this case by omitting the word “the”.)

The order in which the 12 blocks were issued was:

Date	Value	Inscription	COB
December 1943	60c	B.C. French prominence (COB 255)	BL8
January 1944	1Fr75	B.C. Dutch prominence (COB 239)	BL5
February 1944	1Fr	Ruanda Urundi (RU COB 135)	RU BL3
March 1944	2Fr50	B.C. Dutch prominence (COB 241)	BL6
April 1944	75c	Ruanda Urundi (RU COB 134)	RU BL2
May 1944	50c	B.C. Dutch prominence (COB 234)	BL7
June 1944	25c	Ruanda Urundi (RU COB 130)	RU BL1
July 1944	2Fr50	B.C. French prominence (COB 261)	BL10
August 1944	30c	B.C. French prominence (COB 253)	BL3
September 1944	5Fr	Ruanda Urundi (RU COB 141)	RU BL4
October 1944	75c	B.C. Dutch prominence (COB 236)	BL4
November 1944	1Fr25	B.C. French prominence (COB 258)	BL9
December 1944		Delayed until January	-----
January 1945	(2Fr)	[B.C. French prominence (COB 260)]	Not issued

Aware of the “language question”, equal numbers (4) of French and Dutchprominence blocks were produced. A thirteenth block had been in the early stages of production but its planned release in December 1944 was delayed:



THE Belgian Congo Stamp reproduced here is the thirteenth of a series of Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi stamps which our subscribers will find each month in these pages.

The stamp is issued separately on perforated gummed paper and is easily detachable.

All inquiries concerning the Congolese stamps should be addressed to MESSAGE, 110 Fleet Street, E.C.4. Please mark your envelope ‘Congo Stamps’.

Subsequently, an apology was printed:

Owing to recent events, an inevitable delay has occurred in the printing of this stamp. Our regular subscribers will find it in their January number.

“recent events” are are not specified! Waterlow & Son printed in London and a delay might have resulted from the V1/V2 missile attacks on the city in the second half of 1944. Wartime shortages could be another reason for delay.

The final years of Message

In the January 1945 there was an announcement in *Message:*

> “NOTE FOR PHILATELISTS
>
> It is unfortunately impossible for MESSAGE to continue at the moment the

publication of the Congolese and Ruanda-Urundi stamps.

Recent events and the fact that our Ministary of Colonies has now gone back to Brussels have prevented us from securing the next twelve stamps. We very much hope, however, that this delay will be a short one. Further details concerning the stamps can be obtained from MESSAGE, 110 Fleet St., London E.C.4. Please mark the envelope 'Congo Stamps'."

The 13th bloc (2F Belgian Congo) never appeared and we know now that negotiations to secure "the next twelve" failed. Most likely, the Ministry had ordered and funded the production of the (first) set of twelve blocs. Now, no longer a Government-in-Exile, the Belgian Government had reasessed the value of *Message*, which had been created as a public relations medium. Belgium had been liberated and victory was expected within months. Did the Belgium Goverment conclude that *Message* had fulfilled its purpose, one that no longer existed?

Message had been published monthly in London from November 1941 with a cover price of 2s 6d (which was normally printed in the form 2/6). The content was almost completely written in English. By August 1944 the subscription was being quoted in US dollars ($7.00) as well as British currency (£1 10s 0d), for a wider English speaking readership. With the coming of peace, the political and cultural environment had changed. Now, there was an aspiration in the editorial office for *Message* to be available in all major European cities. In July 1945 we see a third price, Belgian Francs (20 BFr), appearing on the cover. In December 1945 the annual subscription advertisement informed readers that subscriptions could be paid in any one of four currencies: British Stirling, US dollars, Belgian Francs, or French Francs. In February 1946, the editorial office was relocated to Brussels. With this, there was a new editorial policy. Content would be at "a more European level" and written mainly in French, though there was a reassurance that articles written by existing (English speaking) contributors would continue to appear.

Unfortunately, *Message* ceased to be published just a few months later, in June 1946 (with issue 55). There was no prior indication of closure and no farewell editorial. It was a sudden and unexplained event. Paul Weyemberg had remained its editor until the end. The transformation to a pan-European cultural and news magazine, funded by sales and advertising, had failed. Did the readers not renew their subscriptions because *Message* was no longer vital reading? Were an insufficient number of new subscribers recruited to replace those who left? It is likely that a number of factors contributed to the closure. What we do know is that in its time *Message* contributed a unique chapter to the philately of Belgium's African territories.

Addendum

When I was nearing completion of this article, I came across an short piece on the

Message blocks published in Poland[1]. It was published in *Wielkopolskie Wiadomości Filatelistyczne*, tom 49, rok 2012 (*Greater Poland Philatelic News*, volume 49, year 2012) on pages 106-9, in its section *ze świata* (*from the World*) and appears to have been written by one of the editors, Ludwik K. Malendowicz. Images of the blocks are shown and their origin explained. It is of interest to us to read the thoughts of a disinterested well-informed member of the philatelic press.

> "We should consider the legal status of these blocks and their philatelic value (market). It is obvious that the described blocks resemble our "Issues of the government in exile" (Fischer[2], number 338 with letters from A to U). However, in the case of "Message" blocks previously issued stamps were used, hence they can be treated as new printings, or commemorative publications.
>
> In Scott's current catalog, a set of Belgian Congo blocks is priced at $800, while a complete Ruanda and Urundi for $80. Various guides to investing in philately (online, of course) recommend purchase of these probably underestimated assets."

Clearly, Ludwik has no reservations about the status of these blocs as genuine (postally valid) issues, even though the opportunity for postal use was limited.

[1] The item was written in Polish, a language I do not speak. Today, we are fortunate to have internet language translation sites which remove such barriers to the transfer of knowledge.

[2] Fischer: *Catalogue of Polish Postage Stamps* published by Commercial and Service Company Andrzej Fischer

A Historical Article

Charles Lloyd

The following article was published in “Messages – Belgian Review”, issue 1, in 1943 by Belgians exiled in London. It must be read as a document in the context of its time, written to inform its non-Belgian readership about Belgium to raise the profile of the country and that many Belgians were continuing to contribute to the war effort. There are a word or two present that would not be used today for fear of causing offence but to censor these documents is inappropriate. Because many in the readership were not philatelists, Th. Heyse does not go into the detail that specialist collectors would appreciate. There are elements of (truthful) propaganda – Belgian participation in the 1914-18 African Campaign, charitable donations to the war effort, “rebirth of Belgium” – to build good will with British readers.

The author - Théodore-Jules-Joseph-Marie Heyse

Th. Heyse (1884 – 1963) graduated in 1907 with doctorates in law and political science. From 1910 he worked at the Ministry of the Colonies, progressively rising in rank. He specialized in colonial legal matters and his biography noted that in his reports he defended the legal rights of indigenous people, following up to ensure his recommendations were acted upon. From 1923 he was also (by ministerial decree) a teacher at what would become the University Institute of the Overseas Territories in Antwerp. He was a prolific publisher on colonial legal matters, international trade and documentation.

In his biographic entry in the 1973 *Biographie Belge Outre-Mer,* he is described as an ardent patriot. He accompanied the Government as it retreated to Bordeaux in 1940 and then onto London. He was always confident of victory. Because of his legal expertise, work ethic and encyclopedic knowledge he became general manager in the Ministry of Colonies in June 1941. Notably, we are informed that he headed information and communication services (which included propaganda). Little surprise that he should be an early contributor to “Message”.

He returned to Brussels with the Ministry in 1945, but his post was abolished when the Ministry was reorganized in 1946 and he was made redundant. However, his academic appointment continued at Antwerp until he reached the age of retirement (65) in 1951. After that, he accepted an honorary appointment and continued to be a prolific publisher of research on history and bibliography, right up to his death!

It is clear that history and bibliography were his passions and philately is not to be found anywhere in his lengthy *Biographie* entry. It is evident that his two-part *Message* article was written for a readership with a limited knowledge of philately and in particular Belgian Congo philately. This article contains no knowledge that is new to us, apart from details of a donation to a 1943 charity sale. Perhaps, as he recognized and tells us in his opening words, “philately has a close relationship with

history". It is philately from a well-informed historian's perspective.

Philately in the Belgian Congo
Th. Heyse

Part 1 Message – Belgian Review Nº 1 (November 1943) pages 40 and 41

Philately has a close relationship with history, the knowledge of which it spreads by enabling ever more collectors to make a methodical assembly of coveted vignettes which call to mind, not only famous men, but ceremonies and events marking the life of the nation. The great occasions of national life can be followed from quite distant times: hence the success of commemorative stamps. Some people of course may prefer the revelations of folklore, of the arts, of production or industry; others collect landscapes and historic buildings, or examples of fauna and flora, and endless other things.

But however that may be, the stamp issues of the Independent State of the Congo and after 1909, of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, offer from every point of view a choice which, because of the novelty of the subjects presented, is as varied as it is interesting.

The first postage stamps of the Congo date from 1886 and show the head of the brilliant founder of the State, Leopold II, who appears in profile as in the Belgian issues of that time. But as long ago as 1887 there appeared a new series which was quite original, for it bore a full-face portrait of the king in his prime and with his long beard still dark.

The mauve five-franc stamp of the series (1886) and the yellow ten-franc stamp of the second (1887) have now acquired great value.

We should like to recall the Belgian Congo issue of 1915, which was brought into use in 1916 in Ruanda-Urundi, overprinted with the words in French and Dutch: "German East Africa – Belgian Occupation". This recalls our active participation in the African conquests of 1914-18. *La Libre Belgique* of 1917 reproduced these glorious mementos which, while comforting the oppressed Belgians, reduced German pride.

The first series of postage stamps to be issued in the Belgian Congo during the present war (authorized by the decree of 7 February 1941) is also of historic interest. It was printed in South Africa, and on each of the eleven different values, from the ten-centime grey to the ten-franc red, is a reproduction of the memorial to King Albert, erected at Leopoldville.

Through the initiative of King Albert, "The National Parks" were made the subject in 1938 of six ordinary stamps, ranging from the five-centimes black and violet stamp to

the four-francs fifty rectangular brown and green stamp, pictures of the forest bush of Mitumba being featured.
It was in 1894 that the Independent State of the Congo issued a series of engraved postal vignettes, particularly well finished and much admired by philatelists. They were distinctive because of the originality and skillful execution of the drawings; they gave an idea of what the still mysterious Congo was like, showing views of the Stanley Falls, the famous falls of the Inkissi, the Port of Matadi and the bridge of the M'Pozo. There were also scenes of native life; the palm tree and the wild elephant with its trunk raised for attack (one-franc black and mauve and black and red) added a picturesque touch to the collection which included all values from five centimes to 10 francs (stern-wheel steamer).

The stamps of the Independent State were used in 1909 after the Congo was taken over by Belgium. They were overprinted "Congo Belge" and are greatly sought after, particularly when the overprinting is done by hand.

The series of 1894 has a certain connection with that authorized by ministerial decree on 27 September 1941. Both issues were carried out by the firm of Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London. The series of 1942 used the palm tree of 1894 for the eight values ranging from five to sixty centimes; this is appropriate since palm oil remains one of the principal exports of the Belgian Congo.

The artistic distinction of the Belgian Congo stamps is also shown in an issue of 1923. A set of ethnological types by Emile Vloors was used, and the stamps were produced mainly by the American Bank Note Company. Another artist, Gustav Leys, engraved a group of native cattle, with large outspread horns: this was used for two other stamps of the series, the forty-five centimes and the sixty centimes, which were printed by Waterlows. This remarkable set, which had been ordered by the Minister Louis Franck, was terminated with a ten-franc stamp on which was a magnificent black elephant.

In 1931 there was an issue devoted to native races and folklore. Two of the values, two francs fifty and three francs twenty-five, show the okapi, that rare animal with its silky hair, a specimen of which was offered by Leopold III in 1937 to H.M. the King of England[3]. We find the elephant again in this series, but this time it is domesticated and at work.

In the same year Ruanda-Urundi was granted a similar series representing life of the region, showing the inhabitants and their chiefs and the native industries.

Let us return to the issues decided upon by the ministerial decree of 27 December 1941; appearing in 1942, it comprised thirty-nine stamps, ranging from five centimes to twenty Congo francs. Of these stamps, nineteen have French-Dutch inscriptions

[3] "The Mysterious Okapi" New York. *Belgian Congo at War,* 1942

and nineteen Dutch-French. The five-centime stamp is bilingual (19+19+1=39 stamps). Twenty values are issued for Ruanda-Urundi

The Belgian Congo series includes five types: the palm tree, the young native of the Coquilhatville district, the soldier, the leopard, and the okapi; the Ruanda-Urundi series also includes the palm tree, the leopard and the soldier; but the young native is replaced by the chief Watutsi, and the okapi by the head of a zebra from a photograph taken in the region. This twenty-franc stamp of Ruanda-Urundi, printed in yellow and black, is particularly successful.

The leopard and the zebra make their first appearance on stamps in these sets of Congo.

These series have been completed by the issue of fifty and hundred-franc stamps, both for the Belgian Congo and for Ruanda-Urundi[4]; the latter are larger in size. For the Belgian Congo the native girl and the soldier are reproduced, but in different colours and in an oval centre. For Ruanda-Urundi the soldier is used on the fifty-franc stamp (black and red) and the chief Watutsi on the hundred-franc (green and black), the centre of these being oval,

The 1942 series of ordinary stamps of the Belgian Congo has been given a favorable response by philatelists and celebrated representatives of the philatelic world have congratulated M. A. de Vleeschauwer, Minister for the Colonies, on the very happy choice of design and colour.

The stamps had an immediate success at the charitable sale organized by the Red Cross and St. John Fund in London during May 1943; a reproduction of one of the stamps in photogravure was used to advertise the “Stamp Appeal”.

The Minister for the Colonies gave to the sale one of the rare sets of non-perforated sheets from the 1942 issue, including fifty- and one hundred-franc stamps of the Belgian Congo. The complete set of 61 non-perforated stamps in blocks of four fetched an imposing £110[5], the whole being given to the Red Cross and St. John.

A unitary series of non-perforated stamps of the Belgian Congo and of Ruanda Urundi was offered to all subscribers of £25[6] or more to the Charity.
We will deal in a further article with commemorative stamps, stamps for aerial postage, for charities and postage due.

Part 2 Message – Belgian Review Nº 2 (December 1943) pages 34 and 35

[4] These issues were authorized by the ministerial decree of 27 August 1942 and of 6 July 1943.
[5] *Bulletin Editor: Today, this is equivalent to £7,007. In 2026 COB valued this lot at £1593 (900€)! Clearly, the winning bid was intended as a gift to charity and not a purchase for an investment.*
[6] *Bulletin Editor: Today, this is equivalent to £1,593. In 2026 COB valued this offer at £196 (225€)!*

A number of ordinary series Belgian Congo stamps were used in the Mandated territories overprinted “Ruanda-Urundi”; those issued since 1941 are indicated in the Index to Legislation annexed to the present article. Moreover, as a result of delay on the arrival of supplies, a number of stamps were surcharged with new values. Those of the Independent State of 1886 and 1887, “colis posteau, 3fr. 50”, are rare and fetch high prices.[7]

Aerial Postage comprises the stamps of the highest values. The first issue, 1920, was of four stamps, three of them rectangular in two colours showing a small aeroplane flying over a port, a trading station, a river. The 5-franc stamp, black and green, is vertical oblong and, singularly enough, offers a prison for universal admiration. Rectangular stamps of 15 francs and 30 francs followed in 1930. This time they showed a biplane flying over a stretch of country. In 1934 nine rectangular stamps of values from 50 centimes black to 50 francs violet were issued, completing the values for airmail stamps; they are all of the same type in a single colour and represent a more modern plane piercing the clouds in its flight over the Congo River.

Naturally, ordinary stamps are also accepted in payment for letters sent by airmail. Probably the 50-franc and 100-franc stamps authorized by the ministerial decree of 27 August 1942 and 6 July 1943, for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, which has no special airmail stamps, are intended for this purpose.

Commemorative Stamps. In 1925 a stamp was issued commemorating the African campaigns of 1914-1918 with a surtax of 0.25 fr. (25 c. + 25 c.). There are two types, one with French inscriptions and one with Dutch; they show men paddling canoes; some are overprinted “Ruanda-Urundi”. Other stamps commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Stanley’s exploration (1928), the death of King Albert (1934), and the fiftieth anniversary of the Proclamation of the Independent State (1935). The Stanley series is a beautiful one comprising fifteen values, from 5 centimes olive to 20 francs red border[8]. The mourning stamp for King Albert is also issued for Ruanda-Urundi (1 fr. 50 black and white). The 1935 series recalls the preponderant part played by the Dynasty in Belgian colonization and reproduces the likenesses of our four Kings on each of the seven values of the rectangular issue. Two of these are surcharged with a complementary tax of 50 centimes contribution towards the monument to King Albert (1936, 1 fr. 50 + 50 c. dark maroon and 2 fr. 50 c. + 50 c. blue).

The first *charity stamps* appeared in 1918 with a surtax in the aid of the Red Cross. They were also sold in Ruanda-Urundi with a surcharge A.O. indicating the Red Cross and the surtax. This comprises nine values, for both the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi, the highest being 10 francs + 10 francs blue and green. These surtaxes are printed on values already in circulation, but the colours are different

[7]All the information on this subject is found in Stanley Gibbon’s Simplified Stamp Catalogue, London, 1943 – Belgian Congo, pp. 95-100.

[8] *Editor: Obviously, this is a printing/ translation error. “red border” should read “lilac”*

from those of the old values. Two other series of charity stamps with surtax are more original: the 1930 series issued in aid of the *Native Protection Fund* and the 1936 series in aid of the *Queen Astrid Fund for Black Babies*. The first of these comprises nine stamps showing various scenes of missionary and social activity and sanitary installations: the 10 fr. + 5 fr. bears a charming picture of little Negro boys at school listening attentively to their teacher. The second series (three values) is in honour of Queen Astrid who accompanied King Leopold III on his tours through Central Africa. The Queen is shown standing upright wearing a sun helmet surrounded by her little protégés. Both these series also exist overprinted “Ruanda-Urundi”.

In 1939, shortly before the commencement of hostilities, the remarkable series of four stamps with surtax in aid of the *Zoological Garden at Léopoldville* was issued. The 1 fr. + 1 fr. Shows a group of marabous and vultures on a lonely plain. The other values, very suitably, represent specimens of Congolese fauna; the antelope, the chimpanzee, crocodiles and lionesses.

The four V stamps authorized by Ministerial decree of 30 October 1941, are allegorical in type. The postal value of each, including two for Ruanda-Urundi, is 10 francs, but the price of the stamp is increased by a surtax of 40 francs for the “Colonial War Effort Fund”. These stamps bearing the Belgian Lion, affirm our faith in the rebirth of Belgium with the help of the Congo and through victory of the United Nations. The issue is limited to 50,000 of each of the two Belgian Congo stamps and 25,000 of each of those for Ruanda-Urundi, making a total of 150,000 stamps[9].

A word about the *postage due* stamps which like most stamps of this sort, are rather dull. They were issued in 1923 and confined themselves to indicating the sum to be paid (*te betalen*) in colour in a white oval surrounded by a floral border. These small rectangular stamps were overprinted “Ruanda-Urundi”. A fresh issue was decided by Ministerial decree of 24 January 1943. It comprises values of 10 c., 20 c., 50 c., 1 fr. and 2 fr. (orange). The design of the 1943 stamps is based on that of 1923, but the amount payable is white on a coloured ground and the floral border is simpler; they were printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. of London and are also in use in Ruanda-Urundi with the usual overprint. (Order of 7 August 1943).

We hoped to end this study by pointing out some references to the Congo in stamp issues of Belgium itself. But our investigation in this field have only brought to light a single example. The annexation of the Congo forms the subject of a 2-franc Belgian stamp of the 1915 series, which was printed in London by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. and issued to commemorate the martyred cities; the 1-franc value in the same series represents the liberation of the Scheldt, without which our overseas communications would have been very precarious.

We trust that we have sufficiently demonstrated the interest presented by the philately of the Congo.

[9] Ruanda-Urundi, pp. 883-885; Addenda pp. 1161-1162, 1167

List of issues *(i.e. Ministerial decrees and Orders)*

1. Ministerial decree of 7 February 1941 (B.A., 1941 p. 254). Issue of a series of postage stamps of 10 centimes grey to 10 fr. brick red. Albert Monument.
   The 1 fr. 75 and 2 fr. 75 stamps are overprinted Ruanda-Urundi in black.
2. Order No. 310bis/P.T. of 12 July 1941 (B.A., 1941, p. 1227) 420,000 1 fr. 50 stamps, issued under the Ministerial decree of 22 December 1937 are surcharged 5 centimes.
3. Order No. 345/P.T. of 30 July 1941 (B.A., 1941, p. 1340) 100,000 1 fr. 50 stamps issued under Ministerial decree of the 22 December 1937, are surcharged Ruanda-Urundi, 5 centimes.
4. Ministerial decree of 30 October 1941 (B.O., 1941, p. 109). Issue of 4 war stamps with surtax of 10 and 40 francs.
   100,00 Congo, green and blue.
   50,000 Ruanda-Urundi, red and azure.
5. Ministerial decree of 27 December 1941 (B.A., 1942, p. 35). New Ordinary Issue.
   5 centimes to 20 francs, Belgian Congo – 20 values.
   5 centimes to 20 francs, Ruanda-Urundi – 20 values.
6. Order No, 29/P.T. of 28 January 1942 (B.A., 1942, p.129). 30,000 stamps value 1 fr. 75 issued under the Ministerial decree of 7 February 1941 shall bear the surcharge of 0 fr. 75, 20,700 stamps value 2 fr. 75, same series, shall bear the surcharge 2 fr 0.
7. Order No. 50/P.T. of 6 March 1942 (B.A., 1942, p. 232). Issue of new postage stamps:
   120,000 1 fr. 50 stamps issued under Ministerial decree of 10 January 1934 shall be surcharged 50 centimes.
   100,000 1 fr. 75 stamps issued under Ministerial decree of 7 February 1941 shall be surcharged 75 centimes.
   100,000 2 fr. 40 stamps issued under Ministerial decree of 22 December 1937 shall be surcharged 2 fr. 50.
8. Order No. 135/P.T. of 27 April 1942 (B.A., 1942, p.498). Issue of new postage stamps;
   50,000 0 fr. 90 stamps issued under Ministerial decree of 22 December 1937, shall be surcharged Ruanda-Urundi 75 centimes.
   50,000 10 fr. Stamps issued under Ministerial decree of 7 February 1941 shall be surcharged Ruanda-Urundi 2 fr. 50.
9. Ministerial decree of 13 March 1942 (B.O., 1942, p. 160) Issue of two stamped post cards, Belgian Congo:
   1 franc: yellowish green
   2 francs: red on blue
10. Order No. 172/P.T. of 20 May 1942 (B.A., 1942, p. 579)., withdrawing certain postage stamps from circulation

All Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi postage stamps now current, except airmail stamps, duty stamps, and stamps issued under the Ministerial decree of 27 December 1941 will cease to be valid on 31 August 1942.

11. Ministerial decree of 27 August 1942 (B.O., 1942, p. 299). Issue of a 50 franc stamp (Negresses) and a 100 franc stamp (soldier).
12. Ministerial decree of 24 January 1943 (B.O., 1943, p. 98). Issue of five Belgian Congo duty stamps.
13. Ministerial decree of 23 July 1943 (B.O., 1943, p. 295). Issue of two stamped post cards of one and two francs, Ruanda-Urundi.
14. Ministerial decree of 6 July 1943 (B.O., 1943, p324). Issue of a series of two postage stamps of 50 and 100 francs, Ruanda-Urundi.
15. Order of 7 August 1943 (B.A., 1943, p. 1102). Issue of new tax stamp for Ruanda-Urundi, 5,000 stamps of the values issued under decree of 24 January 1943 shall be overprinted Ruanda-Urundi.

From the editor

Your article(s) could be here



Since 1951, this journal has existed, containing informative reading thanks to members who contribute articles (of 1 or more pages).

Today, we look forward to receiving your articles. ALL subjects are interesting.

We can help with the layout and language is not a problem.

Also, don't forget the exhibition of the Belgian Congo Study Circle to Louvexpo.

The exhibition will be a success only if the members work for the circle exhibition.

Membership News

New members:

BELGIUM	PASCAL FRANCOIS
NETHERLANDS	AD GEELHOED

News discoveries

Bart Willekens

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation "KITEGA 8A1" (1-4-46)H&K: 46-7



Description of the card: "Q(u)aeritur testimonium baptismi" (request for a birth certificate) sent from Mugera / KITEGA (Ruanda-Urundi) to ARUSHA T.T. (Tanganyika Territory) The card is franked with a 2-franc leopard stamp and cancelled with an unclear circular post horn date stamp "KITEGA 8A1-Dmy / 1-4-46." There is no "t" after the "y". So, there is no time indication.



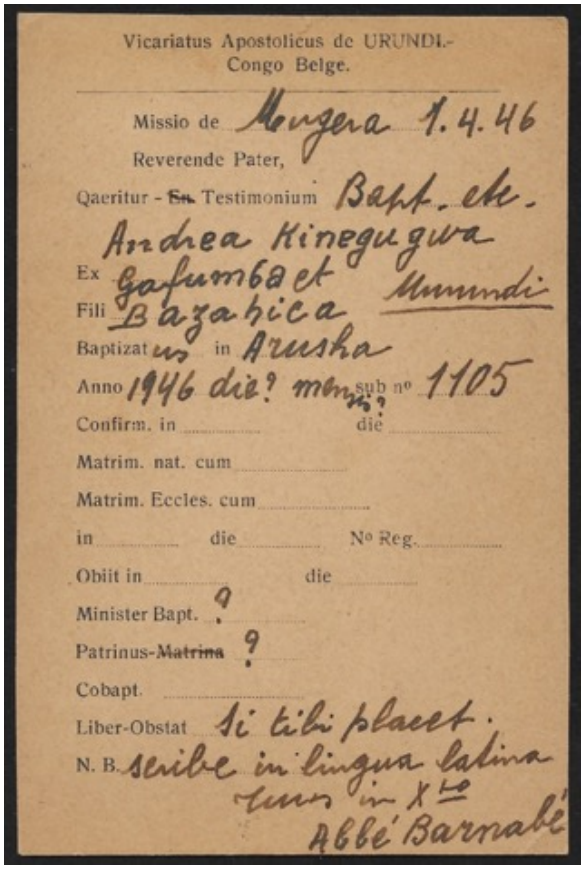
Philatelic significance:
According to Heim & Keach, BCSC edition 2024, the KITEGA 8A1-Dmy postmark had so far NOT been recorded on document. This example is. It also proves that the damage to the canceller is done on 1-4-46 or earlier.

Franking and postal rates:
The total franking of 2F corresponds exactly to the rates in effect at that time for an international postcard (printed matter).

Context:

Mugéra was fully active in 1946 as one of the most significant Catholic missions in Ruanda-Urundi. By that time, it had almost five decades of missionary presence (since 1899), an established seminary (since 1926), functioning schools and medical services, and served as a central religious institution within the Apostolic Vicariate of Urundi. Thus, in 1946 Mugera stood as a key Catholic and educational center in the Kitega region.

This card concerns a request for a birth certificate from the Vicariatus Apostolicus mission in Mugera, Ruanda-Urundi, dated 1946, addressed to the Brother Superior of the Catholic mission in Arusha.


Vicariatus Apostolicus de URUNDI.-
Congo Belge.

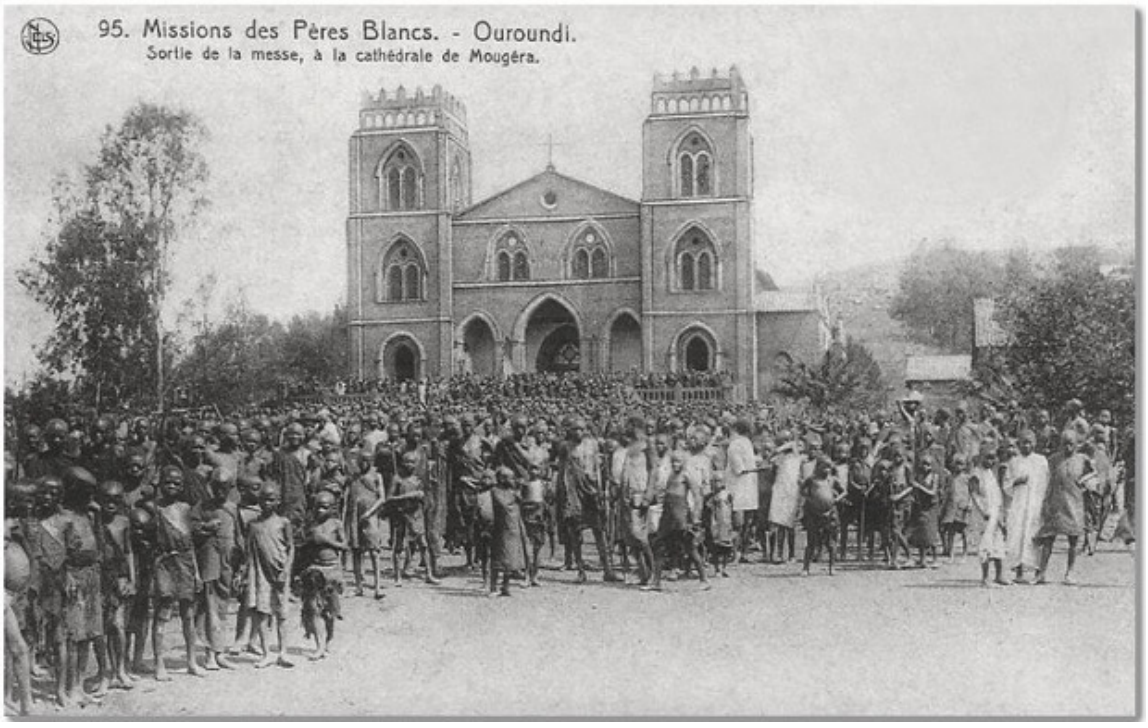
Missio de Mugera 1.4.46

Reverende Pater,

Qaeritur - ~~Sn.~~ Testimonium Bapt. ete.
Andrea Kinegugwa
Ex Gafumba et Urundi
Fili Bazahica
Baptizat us in Arusha
Anno 1946 die? mens? sub nº 1105
Confirm. in ..... die .....
Matrim. nat. cum .....
Matrim. Eccles. cum .....
in ..... die ..... Nº Reg. .....
Obiit in ..... die .....
Minister Bapt. ?
Patrinus-~~Matrina~~ ?
Cobapt. .....
Liber-Obstat Si tibi placet.
N. B. scribe in lingua latina
tuus in X^to
Abbé Barnabé

Conclusion:

This card documents a new usage on postal item of the postmark “KITEGA 8A1-Dmy”



Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “**KITEGA**” (29-9-61) H&K: *51-6, 60



Description of the card:

Hand-painted illustrated card showing the floral motifs used for the 75c stamp of the 1953 flower series. Namely the Ochna flower and fruits. It concerns a maxi card. The stamp is cancelled by a circular date stamp “KITEGA 8E1 / 29-9-61.”

Philatelic significance:

According to Heim & Keach (BCSC, 2024 edition), the latest recorded date of use for this KITEGA postmark was earlier (1960) than the present example. This card extends the recorded period of use to 29 September 1961.

Context:

The card is hand-painted and signed “A. Zeinberg” (reading uncertain). The artist could not be identified and was possibly a local amateur artist or missionary associated with the Kitega mission or… a talented stamp collector!



Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “NGAGARA 10(A)” (7-10-58) H&K:*59



Description of the cover

Commercial airmail printed matter cover sent from Ngagara (Usumbura), Ruanda-Urundi to Columbus, Ohio, USA.
The envelope bears three stamps: 20c flower issue (*Vellozia*), 2F flower issue (*Anselia*), 40c mask definitive (Ruanda-Urundi).

All stamps are cancelled with a circular date stamp “NGAGARA 10(A)” dated 7-10-1958.



A faint handstamp “IMPRIMÉ” (printed matter) appears on the envelope, indicating the postal category.
The cover is addressed to Don R. Falkenberg, President of the Bible Meditation League, in Columbus, Ohio.



Philatelic significance:

The NGAGARA circular date stamp (H&K type 10(A)) was previously recorded only from 1959. This cover clearly demonstrates an earlier documented use dated 7 October 1958, thereby extending the known period of use of this cancellation.

Franking and postal rate:

Total franking: 2F60. The rate corresponds to: 1F printed matter rate + 1F60 airmail surcharge for overseas printed matter during this period.

Historical context:

Ngagara was a suburban district of Usumbura.

Conclusion

This cover documents a new earliest recorded use of the NGAGARA datestamp

(H&K type 10(A)), dated 7 October 1958, predating previously recorded examples from 1959.

Ruanda-Urundi – Cancellation “NGOZI 11(C) (25-03-59) H&K: * 60-1



Description of the cover:

Registered airmail cover sent from Ngozi, Ruanda-Urundi to Geneva, Switzerland (30-03-59).

The envelope bears the Red Cross series (1957) a 10F mask definitive and a 7F floral stamp depicting *Gerbera*.

Cancelled by a circular datestamp “NGOZI” dated 25-3-1959 corresponding to H&K type 11(C).

The cover is addressed to Z. S. Hantchef, 38 boulevard des Tranchées, Geneva, Switzerland. On the reverse appears the sender’s typed address: Exp. Dr. Th. von Pachmann, NGOTZI (Ruanda-Urundi), Congo Belge.

Transit markings include Usumbura dated 26 March 1959.

The cover bears a registered label “R No 253”. Unlike the usual format of registered labels, the name of the post office is absent!



Philatelic significance:



The NGOZI circular datestamp (H&K type 11(C)) was previously recorded only for the years 1960–1961. This cover demonstrates a clearly earlier documented use dated 25 March 1959, thereby extending the earliest recorded date of this cancellation by approximately one year.

Invalidated Red Cross stamps: Three Red Cross semi-postal stamps appear on the envelope. These stamps had lost their postal validity on 1 February 1959. On this cover they were crossed out in red pen and subsequently neutralized with large oval “NUL” handstamps, indicating that the postal authorities did not accept them as valid postage.

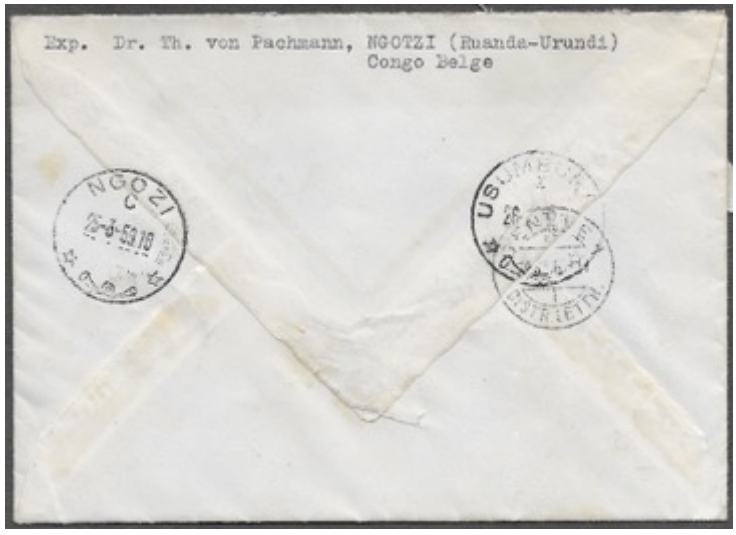
Franking and postal rate: The correct franking of 17F is provided by the 10F definitive stamp together with the 7F floral stamp depicting *Gerbera*. This corresponds exactly to the required rate consisting of the 5F letter rate, the 6F registration fee and the 6F airmail surcharge calculated at 3F per 5 grams.

The Red Cross stamps were therefore superfluous and invalid and were consequently neutralized by the postal authorities.

Historical context:

The cover is addressed to Z. S. Hantchef who served as Director of the Medico-Social Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva. Dr. Hantchef was involved in international medical coordination within the Red Cross movement and published studies on blood transfusion and international medical cooperation.

Conclusion:



This cover establishes a new ERD (Earliest Recorded Date) for the NGOZI datestamp type 11(C), dated 25 March 1959, predating previously recorded examples from 1960–1961. The cover also illustrates the postal invalidation of Red Cross stamps used after their withdrawal date, marked by red pen crosses and oval “NUL” handstamps.

POSTAL AUCTION SALE 2025-3
REALISED PRICES

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	3,50	**36**	0,75	**71**		**106**	2,00
2	6,25	**37**		**72**	18,00	**107**	
3	3,25	**38**	1,75	**73**	29,00	**108**	
4	4,35	**39**		**74**		**109**	
5	4.35	**40**		**75**	137,00	**110**	2,00
6	4,95	**41**		**76**		**111**	
7	9,25	**42**		**77**	75,00	**112**	
8	4,30	**43**		**78**		**113**	
9	1,70	**44**		**79**	78,00	**114**	
10	2,25	**45**		**80**		**115**	
11	3,25	**46**		**81**		**116**	
12	6,25	**47**		**82**	6,00	**117**	
13	1,70	**48**		**83**	66,00	**118**	
14	2,75	**49**		**84**	2,50	**119**	3,00
15	3,19	**50**		**85**		**120**	
16	2,50	**51**		**86**		**121**	
17		**52**	125,00	**87**	6,50	**122**	
18	42,00	**53**		**88**	4,75	**133**	
19		**54**		**89**	5,50	**124**	
20	36,00	**55**		**90**		**125**	
21		**56**	2,00	**91**		**126**	
22		**57**	2,00	**92**	2,50	**127**	30,00
23	25,00	**58**		**93**		**128**	10,25
24	98,00	**59**		**94**		**129**	10,25
25		**60**	5,00	**95**		**130**	
26	65,00	**61**	3,30	**96**			
27		**62**	3,15	**97**			
28		**63**	2,55	**98**			
29		**64**	5,80	**99**			
30	30,00	**65**		**100**			
31		**66**		**101**			
32	18,00	**67**		**102**			
33		**68**		**103**			
34		**69**	3,00	**104**	4,00		
35	8,00	**70**	10,00	**105**			

Bidding form - BCSC 2026-1

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 – 15th MAY 2026

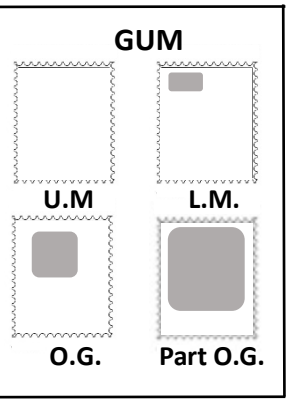
Name : …… Date : ……..

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 2026/1 Description	COB #	Min. Bid €
Postal stationery (Catalogue numbers are those of the 2021 catalogue edited by BCSC & Société belge de l'entier postal, available upon request to our president)			
1	Ruanda-Urundi 1916 issue, card 10c carmine, Tombeur overprint RUANDA, card 10c carmine, unused, slightly stained, pin hole on the right side, view 56 (Kitobola)	2	30.00
2	Belgian Congo 1897 issue, 15c blue, with blue "BOMA carte incomplete" boxed overprint, unused	17	3.00
3	Belgian Congo 1897 issue, 15c brown, with black "BOMA carte incomplete" boxed overprint, used, from Leopoldville 11 aout 1900 to Antwerp (arrival cachet 10 sept 1900).	17	5.00
4	Ruanda-Urundi, 1918 issue, card 5c green, with KIGALI large cachet without circle, May 1919, some rust stains, view 24	11	12.00
5	Ruanda-Urundi, 1918 issue, card 5c green, view 21, USUMBURA cachet, CTO	11	2.00
6	Ruanda-Urundi letter-card 1958 issue, 3F carmine on green-blue, used (CTO), cancelation Usumbura-C. 19.6.58	1	2.00
7	Belgian Congo, colourized picture postcard, with 1910 issue 5c green, Matadi cancellation 7 aout 1910 to Antwerp 29.VIII.10		5.00
Stamps & Covers			
8	1909 local overprint issue, 1F carmine local overprint L1, 2 short perfs + 5F carmine L1, used	36L1 + 38L1	25.00
9	1909 issue typo overprint, full set + both types of the 25c blue, used, *a few missing perfs on 1F carmine, fine telegraphic cancellations on 50c & 5F*	40/49 + 43a	32.00
10	Postage due stamps 1908 issue 40c blue-green DIMA cancellation	TX5	2.00
11	Postage due stamps 1908 issue 1F violet + 1F carmine (*a few short perfs for the 1F carmine),* used	TX6A + TX6Aa	12.00
12	Postage due stamps 1910 issue full set LH or UM (5c-25c-1F-3F are UM)	TX31/40	60.00
13	Incoming mail: cover from Arlon 27-12-35 (Belgium) to Jadotville		7.00
14	1886 issue 10c pink + 50c olive, LH	2 + 4	2.75
15	1910 issue 3F red, cancellation Boma	61	2.75
16	1921 issue 25c/15c block of four, UM	88	3.25
17	1936 issue, full set UM	192/3	6.50
18	1930 issue, full set, in blocks of four, UM or LH	150/8	75.00
19	1910 issue 5c green + 15c ochre, perf 15, in blocks of four, LH & UM	54-56	0.75
20	1934 issue 1,50F black on piece maritime cancellation "Courrier de haute mer paquebot Elisabethville"	184	1.00
21	Airmail 1934 issue, 9 stamps with rather rare cancellations : BEFALE, BENI, BASOKO, MOERBEKE, TSHIKAPA, LEOPOLDVILLE-KALINA, BANGA-TSHELA, POKO (vertical pair)		4.00
22	1910 issue 5c green, 15c ochre (perf 15), 40c blue-green (*gum adhesions for the 40c*), in blocks of four UM	54-56-58	2.25
23	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	20.00
24	1923 & 1925 Vloors issues, blocks of four: 10c green, 20c olive-green, 25c red-brown, 30c pink, 45c violet, 60c carmine, 20c green, 50c orange-red, 75c rose, 1F50 blue; UM, LH or no gum	107-109/11-118-123/24-130	1.25
25	1931 issue, 2,50F in miniature sheet of 8, 2,50F blue, UM	178A	3.00

26	1915 issue, 5F orange, block of four, UM	71	4.50
27	1947 issue, 100F red-rose & black, strip of 3, UM	295	5.00
28	Airmail 1934 & 1936 issues, 39 stamps: one full set used + several duplicates (many with chosen cancellations) + pairs + 3,50F /3F red-brown in block of four UM,	PA7/15 + 17	3.50
29	1921 issue 5c/40c (1x4), 10c/5c (3x4), 30c /10c (3x4), UM or LH, all in blocks of four	85/6, 89	5.00
30	1921 issue 30c /10c perf 14 & 15, both in blocks of four UM	89	2.25
Ruanda-Urundi Stamps			
31	1924 Vloors issue, full set LH, *2 short perfs on 5F*	50/61	6.00
32	1924 Vloors issue + 1929 issue + surcharged 1929 issue, full sets used	50/61 + 79/80 + 90/1	5.50
33	1930 issue full set UM	81/9	38.00
34	1941 "Meulemans" issue, full set UM	114/7	31.00
35	1941 "Meulemans" issue, full set used	114/7	10.50
36	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
37	1931 issue full set LH + 1937 issue full set LH	92/106 + 111/3	3.00
38	1918 Red Cross issue full set LH or UM	36/44	35.00
Belgian Congo Stamps & Covers			
39	1931 issue, 75c carmine-red in miniature sheet of 8, UM	175	2.00
40	Postage due stamps 1921 issue 30C/10c carmine block of four, cancellation IRUMU	TX59A	0.75
41	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	10.00
42	1894 issue 5c blue, 5c green, 10c blue, 10c red-brown, 25c blue, 40c blue-green, 50c olive, 1F carmine, 1F violet, used		12.00
43	1894 issue, 3,50F vermillion, used	27	38.00
44	1894 issue 5F carmine, used	28	11.00
45	1909 "unilingual" issue, full set LH	50/3	13.00
46	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
47	1938 miniature sheet "international congress of tourism", used (special cancellation Costermansville 6 Oct 1938)	BL2	17.00
48	1915 issue 5c green miniature sheet, type C, UM	64	2.50
49	1915 issue 15c blue-green miniature sheet, type C (?), UM, missing corner of the sheet	66	2.25
50	**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	600.00
51	1928 Stanley issue, full set LH + 5c gray-green strip of 3 UM (small format) & 10c violet strip of 4 UM (large format)	135/49	11.00
52	1930 issue, full set LH **included #150a rose-red**	150-58 +150a	15.00
53	1939 "Leopoldville zoo" issue, full set LH	209/13	8.50

54	1942 issue, 50F & 100F, used	247/8	1.50
55	1887 issue 50c red-brown, BO(ma) cancellation	9	9.00
56	1887 issue 50c red-brown, BANANA cancellation	9	9.00
57	1894 issue,10F green perf 14 1/4, MATADI cancellation 190?	29	12.00
58	1894 issue,10F green perf 14 1/4, BANANA cancellation ??-??-1900	29	12.00
59	1894 issue 5F carmine (3), used. One stamp is flawless, *the 2nd is thinned, the 3rd misses one perf*	28	14.00
60	1894 issue 5F carmine MATADI 1908 cancellation	28	11.00
61	1894 issue 15c ochre UM (1), LH (2), used (13), *for cancellations, shades, different perforations, varieties; good condition*	20	7.00
62	1910 issue 25c blue (29), used (28) or no gum (1) *for cancellations, shades, various perforations, varieties, etc. Good condition*	57	1.25
63	1887 issue, 5F grey, used	12	30.00
64	1894 issue 3,50F vermillion, used	27	38.00
65	1894 issue 5c green, 5c red-brown, 10c carmine, 25c orange, 50c green, 1F violet, LH. *Good condition*	15/16-19-21-24-26A	11.00
66	1941 issue, ca. 50 used stamps, nearly full set (10 F is missing), some fine cancellations	214/23	2.00
67	1887 issue 5c yellow-green (8), 5c green (2); 10c rose (3); 10c deep rose (2), 25c blue (5); 25 c dark blue (1). UM, LH, no gum or used. Good to very good condition	6/8 + 6a/8a	4.25
68	1887 issue 50c grey no gum, very good condition; 50c red brown (3), used (2), LH (1) with small defects (thinned, missing perf, rust stain)	9, 9a, 10	5.00
69	1887 issue 5c green used + 10c rose LH **both with varieties of the report block; 10c with one missing perf**	6a,7	7.00
Katanga			
70	Airmail cover from Elisabethville 11.11.62 to Brussels with 03.1961 issue stamps. Very good condition	52 pair,54, 55, 61	19.00
71	09.1960 African Animals issue, full set (included both versions of 8F), used	6 to17	8.00
72	09.1960 African Animals issue, 20c inverted overprint, UM	7	4.00
73	07.1961 Air Katanga issue, full set UM	75/78	2.00
74	07.1961 Air Katanga issue, full set UM	75/78	2.00
75	07.1961 Air Katanga issue, full set in blocks of four, UM	75/78	7.00
76	09.1960 issue 1,50/1,25F & 20F, UM	18+20	8.00
Ruanda-Urundi Stamps, Covers, Postal History			
77	Airmail cover from Astrida 23.12.61 to Brussels with stamps of 12.1961 issue	225/8	5.00
78	Airmail cover from Astrida 3.2.62 to Menton (France) with stamps of 12.1961 issue	226/9	6.00
79	Airmail cover Usumbura 22.1.57 to Brussels, stamps from Mozart 1956 issue, full set	200/1	7.00
80	Aerogram 1955 issue 4F green, type V, unused	1	0.75
81	Aerogram 1955 issue 4F green, type V, used, cancellation Astrida 23.10.55	1	3.00
82	1956 Mozart issue full set on FDC	200/1	7.50
83	Postage due stamps 1919 issue, full set with Kigoma cancellations, on pieces	TX1/8	50.00
84	Fine collection of R.U. stamps on album pages beginning with 1918 Red cross issue, complete between 1942 to 1961 issues + postage due stamps from 1924 to 1959 issues. Good quality. UM, LH or used. COB : about 140 €	between 36 & 230 + TX 9/26	18.00
South Kasai			
85	1961 issue elephant & leopard overprints, full set UM	16/17	0.50

86	1961 Olympic games of Rome issue, with surcharge 2F/50c +25c, used	18	4.50
87	1961 flowers issue, 50c/10c vertical pair UM, variety of the surcharge (see COB) : *without diaeresis on* I of KASAÏ on the inferior stamp. *Quite unusual*	4	1.50
88	1961 miniature sheet President A.D. Kalonji, imperforated. LH on the miniature sheet, not on the stamp.	BLK1	2.00
Belgian Congo Stamps			
89	1938 issue 1,50F variety "little lake" in pair with normal stamp	199-V	2.00
90	Fine (nearly) complete collection of Belgian Congo post-Mols stamps on album pages, beginning with 1923 Vloors issue to 1960 issues + all airmail stamps + miniature sheets BL1 & BL2 + postage due stamps 1923 to 1957 issues. All full sets, LH or used, *rather good quality. Some fine cancellations*. COB: about 400 €		60.00
91	1947 issue, 100F in block of four, UM	295	8.00
92	1953 issue, full set, in block of six, UM	325/6	7.00
93	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	21.00
94	1947 issue 20F UM, block of 8, sheet corner	293	5.50
95	1938 issue miniature sheet, used (special cancellation 06.10.38)	BL2	17.00
96	1949 issue, 4F violet-blue, block of four sheet corner, UM + 1957 Red Cross issue full set (3), UM	297(4) + 341/3 (3)	2.75
97	Incoming mail : Airmail cover from South Africa (1942) to Sakania. South African censor tape. Elisabethville transit cachet on reverse		3.50
98	Registered cover from LUSAMBO 22.3.31 to Bath, England	163 (x2), 165	10.00
99	Airmail cover (internal mail) from KABALO 18.11.32 to Kindu	171, PA 8 (x 4)	11.00
100	Censored cover with South African label and handstruck linearmark Censure Albertville	261	18.00
101	Registered Cover from Kindu 14.11.38 to Kindu (internal mail), with 1931 issue 20c block of ten	170(x10), 173, 177	
102	Airmail cover from Stanleyville 26.10.38 to Kindu (arrival mark on reverse 27.10.38). Internal mail	181, 197 (x3), 199(x2)	13.00
103	Airmail cover from Teheran (Iran) 16. 1.50 to Kigali, Ruanda-Urundi. On reverse: transit mark Watsa 14.2.50, arrival mark Kigali 21.2.50. Uncommon		16.00
104	1938 issue full set on cover (FDC) with special mark Leopoldville 15-3-38	197/202	4.50
Ruahda-Urundi Stamps			
105	1916 issue 40c carmine-brown vertical pair, rare perf 15, sheet margin, UM (tropical gum)	32	39.00
106	1916 issue, 5c green,10c carmine, 25c blue, 5F orange, all type B & UM	28/29,31,35	3.50
107	1916 issue, 25c blue type B overprint, sheet margin, UM	31	2.50
108	1916 issue, 25c blue type B overprint, sheet margin, LH	31	2.00
109	1916 issue, 40c carmine-brown, type B overprint, UM	32	7.00
110	1916 issue, 50c lilac-brown, type B overprint, UM	33	10.00
111	1916 issue, 15c green type B overprint, UM	30	1.50
112	1916 issue, full set type B overprint LH, with 1F sheet corner with sheet #137	28/35	22.00
113	1941 issue, full set UM	114/7	32.00
114	1961 African Animals issue, full set, blocks of four, UM	216A/B	2.00
Belgian Congo Stamps			

115	1948 issue 2,50F blue & yellow-green, 48 used stamps, some fine cancellations	296	2.00
116	1949 issue, 4F violet-blue, 136 used stamps, included some pairs	297	4.00
117	1950 issue 3F blue chosen cancellations (14 stamps, all different cancellations)	298	2.00
Congo Republic			
118	Collection of about 220 stamps (years 1960-80), included several full sets UM, LH or used, good quality		15.00
Belgian Congo Stamps			
119	1930 issue, full set, LH or UM	150/8	14.00
Ruanda-Urundi			
120	1944 issue full set UM	150/3	3.25
121	1955 issue full set UM	196/9	4.50
122	**Kigoma cancellations on pieces**: Ruanda-Urundi 1919 postage due stamps issue,5c, 10c, 15c, 25c, 50c, 1F with boxed TAXES overprint + B. Congo 1915 issue 40c & 5F orange with boxed TAXES overprint	TX1/4+6/7	24.00
Belgian Congo Stamps			
123	Belgian Congo 1894 issue 50c olive perf 15 (50), full sheet UM. *Pristine condition and rare perforation*	25	125.00
Philatelic Books			
124	**Le Congo Belge et ses marques postales**, by André De Cock, 2d edition 1986, hardback & dust-jacket, R- Editions, Antwerp, 217 pages (included leaflet with values). Very good condition. *About all kinds of postmarks in B.Congo philately*		10.00
125	**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*		22.00
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*		4.00
1`27	**Catalogue Willy Balasse Congo Belge**, 1949. Paperback book. *Correct condition. In French*		9.00
Non-philatelic books about Belgian Congo (mainly history books)			
128	**Stanley**, by Pierre Daye, paperback book, 3d edition 1936, 271 pages, *correct condition (for its old age). In French*		5.00
129	**Stanley, lettres inédites**, by Albert Maurice, paperback book, 220 pages, 1955, Office de publicité éditeurs Brussels, *good condition for its age. In French. Letters from H. M. Stanley*		4.00
`30	**Congo terre d'héroïsme**, by Albert François, paperback book, 2d edition 1943 Office de publicité éditeurs Brussels, 92 pages. *Good condition. A little book summarizing the history of Congo till WW II*		3.00
131	**Le Congo d'aujourd'hui**, by Désiré Denuit, paperback book, 1st edition 1948 Office de publicité éditeurs Brussels, 94 pages. *Good condition. About evolution of Congo during the 40's & WW II*		2.50
132	**Léopold II fondateur d'empire by Lt-Colonel Liebrechts**, 1932, paperback book, 260 pages, good to very good condition, with pictures in black & white. *A history of the building of Congo by Leopold II*		8.00
133	**Histoire du Rwanda, de la préhistoire à nos jours**, by Bernard Lugan, 1997, paperback book, 604 pages, Editions Bartilat, *excellent condition, in French*		8.00
134	**Histoires de diamants, La Société Minière du Bécéka au Congo**, by Odile De Bruyn, 2006, 164 pages, Editions Racine, excellent condition, many pictures, in French. *The story of diamonds in Belgian Congo*		4.00
135	**"CMB",** 50-page hardcover book written on the Compagnie Maritime Belge with several pictures. Year of publication not mentioned, must be around 1970. *Very good condition*		4.00