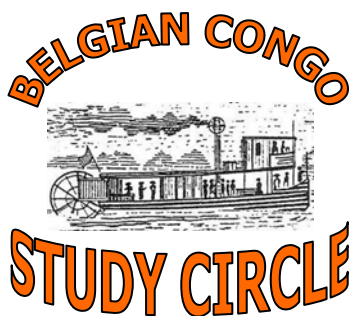


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BULLETIN 138

March 2006

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Receipts and Payments Account
Year to 31st December 2005

Income	Yr to 31 Dec. 2004	Yr to 31 Dec. 2005
	£ Sterling	£ Sterling
Subscriptions received (#1)	276.41	310.07
Subscriptions in advance	37.00	75.47
Commission on stamp/auction sales	149.69	780.58
Books and document sales	80.46	6.75
Bank interest (#2)	7.27	29.35
Total income	550.83	1202.22
Expenditure		
Bulletin, Auction list and Index (2005 only)		
– UK Rest of World printing & distribution	360.09	417.76
Bulletin, Index – Editorial and production costs (#3)	89.61	163.19
Cost of sales	69.62	0.00
Annual meeting and AGM – Liège 2004, Brussels 2005 (#4)	0.00	314.48
Officers expenses	42.30	270.27
Secretarial – postages, stationery etc	26.68	24.06
Insurance	128.94	161.75
Subscription to A.B.P.S.	16.80	16.20
Total Expenditure	734.04	1367.71
Surplus/Deficit	-£183.21	-£165.49
	=====	=====
Balance on hand at start of period	£2,128.99	£1,945.78
On hand at end of period (#5)		
- represented by balance held at H.B.O.S.	£1,945.78	£1780.29

I certify that the 'Receipts and Payments Account' is a complete account of all transactions for the year ending 31 December 2005.

Stuart S. Smith
Honorary Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

1. Subscriptions - only subscriptions from countries other than Belgium and the U.S.A. are included. Belgian and American subscriptions are banked in Belgium and the U.S.A. respectively. These are used to fund their Bulletin reproduction and distribution. Any surpluses are transferred periodically to the account presented above and will show and be identified as additional income. No 'surplus' transfers have occurred since 2003.
2. The British 'Inland Revenue' (Tax office) have now authorised payment of Bank interest on our account in full (i.e. there is no longer any liability to pay tax on interest received from this source.)
3. 2004 – does not include costs incurred and charged to U.S.A. account during the year when 2 Bulletins had been produced there.
4. 2004 - the President arranged for the annual meeting held in Liège, to be free of any room or refreshment charges.
5. Balances held on deposit at 31 December 2005

- in Belgium	€
- in U.S.A.	\$724.42

Saturday 18th March 2006 - General Meeting and A.G.M.

at

*Comfort Inn ERASME,
Route de Lennik 790
B-1070 Bruxelles*

Telephone: +32 (2) 523 62 82

Fax: +32 (2) 523 62 83

0900 - Tea and Coffee will be served

0930 - AGM

1030 approximately – Members presentations and displays

12.30 approximately - lunch in the hotel dining room

1400 approximately – Members presentations and displays

1600 - Close

*This popular and convenient venue offers accommodation at attractive rates.
The hotel is 300 metres from the **1B Erasme/Erasmus Metro terminus** - a short
rail link into the city.*

*Any member wishing to reserve accommodation should contact the Hotel direct
and state their attendance at the Study Circle's meeting.*

=====

BELGICA'06

16-20 November 2006

Heizel Exhibition Park, Brussels.

On the occasion of **Belgica'06**, the Belgian International competitive Exhibition for *Thematics, Open class and Single frame Youth class* – **BRUPHILA'06** will also be staged at the same venue and at the same time.

BRUPHILA'06 is the National competitive Exhibition for all disciplines.



From the Editor

As this years 'General' and 'Annual General Meeting' are earlier than usual, and there is a significant amount of 'Membership related information' - it was thought beneficial to have the Bulletin through your letter box in time to include a final reminder of the meetings - *and to give the editor a **month off duty** before starting the next one.*

Letters from the President

The Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin is in most cases the only connection between you the member, and the Circle. For the last three years our Bulletin Editor, Stuart Smith, has tried to improve the presentation. I believe he has succeeded in his efforts and we have therefore decided to enter our Bulletin into both the British A.B.P.S. specialist Society Bulletin competition as well as the 'España '06' 'Publications class' competitive exhibition being held in Malaga 7th to 13th October 2006. I am naturally curious to see the result and will be present on the first and last day of the 'España '06' exhibition.

Furthermore I have been invited to attend the F.I.P. open meeting of 'Postal History' in Washington, Saturday 3rd June 2006 but am unable to be present. I do hope one of our American members is able to take my place. See details of the invitation below.

As a result of all this there is a matter I would like to raise.

I would particularly like to see that all our members report to us anything noticed relevant to our field of collecting interests – namely Belgian Congo, Katanga, Zaire, Ruanda-Urundi etc. Equally if you spot a particular item in an auction in your country, or if you are entering a competitive exhibition, please report the results. Anything you find interesting, no matter how small, is very likely to be of interest to other of our members.

The Circle is doing well with 130 members across 16 countries and a very lively postal auction gives the Circle a very good and strong reason to continue what we are doing.

Visit our and member associated websites as they are updated regularly and for those with an email address the Bulletins are available electronically in colour. This particular facility is proving ever more popular, with nearly 20% of our members having made this choice.

Walter Deijnckens

An invitation to American members from our President

**Meeting at Washington Convention Center
Saturday 3rd June at 2pm in Room 149B**

Leo De Clerq, chairman of the F.I.P. Postal History Commission, invites a 'delegate representative' of the Belgian Congo Study Circle to an 'Open Meeting at the Washington Exhibition 2006'.

Agenda

- 14.00 Introduction and presentation of the Panel
1415 Outcome and conclusions of the F.I.P. meeting held in Singapore, September 2004
1445 Mr. Malcolm Groom, Australia.
Social philately - *Exhibiting Social Philately and History studies. Opportunities for Postal Historians.*
1530 Break
1545 Dr. Harvey Tilles, U.S.A.
Special studies - *Preventing the Reuse of Postal Material.*
1630 Discussions
1645 Preparation for the meeting of commissioners, Malaga
1700 Meeting closure

Dear American members,

I extend an invitation from a member of the Belgian Congo Study Circle to be our official delegate at the above meeting and prepare a report for me on what is meant by 'Social Philately'. I feel this may be interesting to all of us who participate in competitive exhibitions.

At this time I do not have precise details of the location of the meeting other than at a 'Washington Convention Center.'

Whilst only one member will be able to fill the 'Delegate' position, the meeting is open to all members as observers.

Whoever is able to accept this invitation will simply present himself to the chairman, Leo De Clerq, and declare that he is representing me.

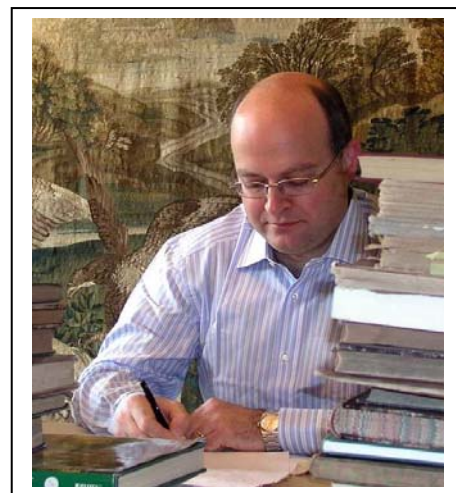
Walter Deijnckens

News of Members

F.E.P.A. Philatelic literature Award

Patrick Maselis – *'From the Azores to New Zealand'*

It is not surprising to hear that Patrick's book *'From the Azores to New Zealand'* has already received acclaim and recognition by F.E.P.A. 'Federation of European Philatelic Associations'. For the very first time a Philatelic Literature award has been accompanied with a medal and this happened on the occasion of their Board Meeting in Portugal on 21 January 2006.



Patrick Maselis

The 'Belgian National Commission' had proposed his recently published book be considered and it was honoured accordingly.

As members know the book was originally published in Dutch, French and English. Once again we offer our congratulations and are now able to announce that further editions in Portuguese and Spanish are in the pipeline.

Successes at the Danish National Stamp Exhibition, 'Vejle Frim 05'

Johan Jantzen

Of particular note is the success of our young Danish member Johan Jantzen who having joined the Study Circle in 2003 at the age of 18 has recently achieved a significant success in the Danish National Stamp Exhibition. His display of five frames titled *'The Congo Free State & Belgian Congo 1886 – 1923'*, earned him 89 points and was the winner in the 'Post Danmark Cup'.

Frame 1 – comprised of the two Leopold II issues

Frame 2 – Mols 1894

Frame 3 – 1909 Congo Belge overprints

Frame 4 – 1910 and 1915 Mols

Frame 5 – 1921-1923 various surcharges

Across the various 'Youth Championship' categories, there were thirty competitors and Johan earned more points than any other entrant in any category.



Johan tells me he has been collecting stamps since he was 6 years old and Belgian Congo since he was 12. He adds that joining the 'Study Circle' has helped considerably and cost him a lot!

'Vejle Frim 05' was his 3rd exhibition entry. In 2004 he was 2nd in the 'Post Danmark Cup' with 82 points and earlier in 2005 he had participated in a local show earning 84 points. Johan has now set his sights on the 'Youth World Championship' being held in Brussels, jointly as part of Belgica 2006. We all extend both congratulations and every success at Belgica in November.

Karl Sørensen

We also offer our congratulations to Karl Sørensen, another of our Danish members, who also competed at 'Vejle Frim 05' in the 'Traditional category' under the title *'Belgian Congo 1886-1960.'* He too was very successful, earning a very honourable 77 points and receiving a Vermeil medal.

Norman Clowes

It is with very great regret that we have to inform members of the death of Norman Clowes. We extend to his wife Dorothy, son David and daughter Janet our deepest sympathies.

Norman, a Graduate of Cardiff University, retired 'Overseas Manager' at the Midland Bank in Cardiff, 'Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society in London', died 13th February following a short period of illness. As reported in the last Bulletin, Norman became unwell last autumn and let it be known that he would no longer be able to continue as a member of the Study Circle.

His *Aero-philately* contributions to the Circle are well documented and his knowledge and expertise was shared with us all.

It was he who volunteered the Indexing of our Bulletins - a massive undertaking that will remain an everlasting legacy. Only 18 months ago and very fortunately, I was able with his help to record this work as a 'Word document', which will enable its continuation with future updates to be maintained.

Inevitably Norman had other philatelic interests of which 'Japanese Prisoner of War Mail' was but one. I have it on good authority that like everything else he did, it was extensive, thoroughly researched and a very fine collection.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our new Belgian members and trust they will enjoy and benefit from their association with us:

Belgium - **J.P. Flamand**; *Rue de la Semaillière, 20. 1420 Braine l'Alleud*
- **D. Jonsen**; *Hennepstraat, 22. 8400 Oostende*
- **A. Strangier**; *Place G. d'Arezzo, 19/6. 1180 Bruxelles*

Addresses

Address change or correction. Amend to read –

Belgium - **Michel Hopperets**; *Avenue des Muguets 8, B- 4280 Hannut*

U.K. to France - **David E. Hockett**;
43 Ave. de la République, F-17240 St. Ciers-du-Taillon, Charante Maritime.
e-mail: david.hockett@tesco.net

U.K. - **Hal Hoyte**. E-mail: Temporarily out of operation

- **John Kelland**. E-mail: g.kelland@btopenworld.com

- **Roger Nailer**. Amend to read: E-mail: rogernailer@eircom.ne

Rep. S. Africa - **Anton Marcus**; amend to read: E-mail: Anton-marc@wbs.co.za

Market Place – information

The President, one of several interested and undercover members present at the ‘Auction Maison Balasse’ on Saturday 21st January 2006 reports:
 “Belgian items went sky high but fortunately ‘Belgian Congo’ were rather more reasonable”.

Here he comments on some of the items that caught his eye.

‘Reasonable’ is a relative term and **Lot 1268** realised a staggering **€2800!**

This was EP N° 15, from Tumba-Mani to Flawinne but on arrival then forwarded with additional postage added as an EXPRESS item to a passenger on board the s/s Albertville in Antwerp. It subsequently received a manuscript *Bateau parti/Remis a la Poste* in red ink and was forwarded to Clichy in France.



Lot 1268

There were a number of private ‘Marks/Griffes’ on postal stationery

Lot 1277 was a picture postcard, bearing the 1910 10 centimes Mols cancelled Sakania 5 January 1911. On the reverse as seen in the illustration was the rectangular ‘Chemin de Fer du Katanga Chinzenda’ of 4 January 1911.

Not a bad buy at **€70**.



Lot 1277

Lot 1302:
 EP N° 62 written in Molino, 9th October 1925 with a type 5 Albertville cancellation. It bears the rectangular Mark/Griffe - ‘Flotille Lac Vengeur’ of the C.F.L. company.

€280!



Lot 1302

Lot 1332

A letter from Kigoma cancelled
B.P.C.V.P.K. 28 July 1917, N°
11. On the reverse is a fine
hand stamped censor mark
'CENSURE MILITAIRE' of
Kigoma, 5 August 1917.
Censor signed 'P. Greindl'.

€65



Lot 1332

Lot 1333

Registered letter to 'Belgie
Legerposterij, 8 at St Adresse
with B.P.C.V.P.K. 5 Aug. 17
N° 11

As illustrated and on the
reverse – Censor mark:
'OUVERT PAR LE
CENSURE
MILITAIRE/KIGOMA LE
5/8/1917.
Le Major et le 1° Regim
Muller

€180



Lot 1333

Lot 1338

EP 12.
East African 10c. with
B.P.C.V.P.K. 3 June 1918. N° 17
to Libenge with censor mark:

'VU POUR LA
CENSURE CONTROLE
49° DI ...'

Signed

€44



Lot 1338

The Portuguese Post Office in Banana

By – Patrick Maselis

Preface.

The substance of this article was previously published in 'Belgian Postal History, Bulletin 52'. Permission from the author to reproduce here is acknowledged and appreciated.

Introduction: A brief postal history of Angola.

From the 16th century under the government of Don Manuel I, and until nationalisation in 1797, postal communication between Portugal and its colonies was a monopoly in the hands of the *Gomes de Matta* family. The running of the service was conducted for the financial benefit of the Matta family who were themselves richer than the royal family.

In 1798, the Portuguese postal service between it and overseas territories was nationalised. Theoretically therefore, there were some Angolan post offices in existence from 1797, but in the absence of official verification, we know only that:

- Three post offices had been opened at some time in the first half of the 19th century - Loanda, Benguela, and Ambriz.
- The oldest recorded letter carried a Luanda cachet, dated 1809
- In 1849, a '2nd class' post office had been opened in Cabinda.

1st and 2nd class post office

The difference between these is that a 1st class office provided a facility to 'register' and 'insure' mail.

The BANANA post office

- We can say fairly safely, the Banana office opened as a '2nd class' office at the same time as Ambriz, that is some time between 1870 and 1875.
- The oldest reference to the office is recorded in '*Bulletin officiel d'Angola n°43, 22 October 1881*'. The two offices had by then already been promoted to '1st class'.
- In 1882 the Angolan government purchased a plot of land in the north of Banana for a large post office – '*Angolana, Vol.II, p.725*'.
- From about 30 December 1882, it is stated that all Portuguese boats of 'Empreza Nacional de Navegação' sailing between the west coast of Africa and Portugal, must call at Banana for post on both the outward and return voyages.
- The post office was officially closed on 5 May 1885 – refer '*Statement n°194, Bulletin Officiel d'Angola*'.
- In a communication from 'Nuno de Freitas Queriol', a Portuguese government representative, it is said that the Banana post office will be transferred to the E.I.C. authorities.
- It is believed that the post office had in fact already been closed before the official statement was made, possibly in December 1884. A post office had previously been opened in Sao Antonio, which took on the remaining work from Banana, until the Belgians were able to operate their own service.
- The last letters from Banana with Portuguese cachets/cancellers are dated 17 November 1884.
- The first Belgian postmaster was Charles Massart who took office in Banana on 14 October 1885 and served until 1890.

Postal Tariffs

Local - letters weighing up to '1/2 ounce'

Until 1849: '40 reis' was charged though letters charged at 37½ reis are also known.

After 1849: '25 reis'

Overseas/foreign

Weight	Tariff	
Upto 1/2 ounce	80 reis	The fee for 'Registered' mail was 480 reis.
up to 3/4 ounce	120 reis	
up to 1 ounce	160 reis	
up to 1½ ounce	200 reis	

Cachets/post marks – *three different postmarks known*

Type I – in use at the oldest post office until about 1883



CORREIO DE BANANA

It is not known when this double circle cachet was first introduced. Illustrated below is the only known letter bearing this postmark - January 1883.

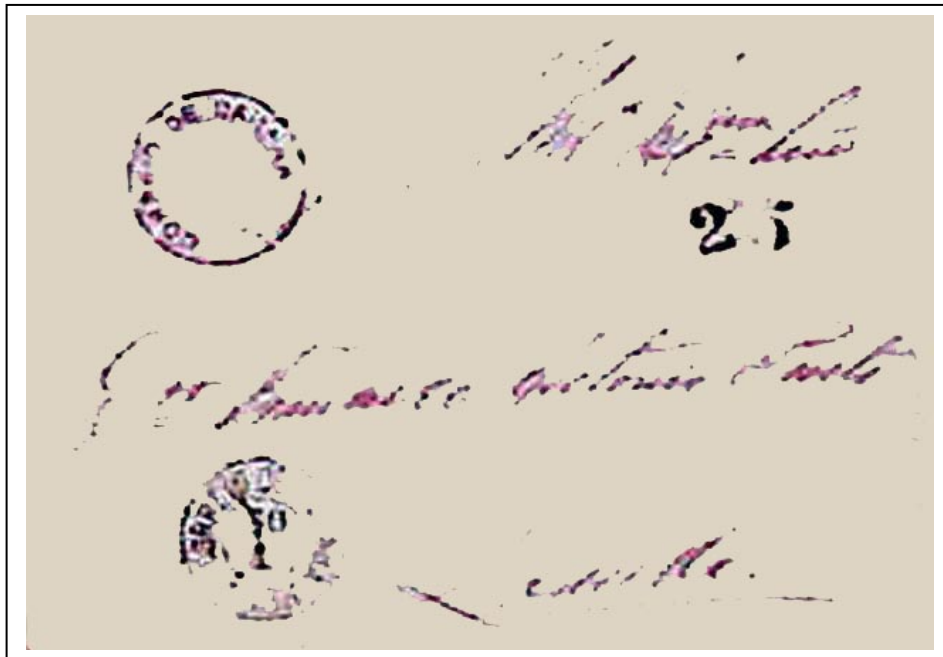


Figure 1

Figure 1 illustrates a letter written by João Luis da Rosa, a Portuguese shipping agent who later established several trading stations in the future Belgian Congo. Included with the correspondence was a plan of Banana which identifies, amongst other things, the location of the Post Office.

It was written in Boma and is dated 4 January 1883. The undated circular **CORREIO DE BANANA** cachet is a transit mark applied to the letter in Banana which was then conveyed by *Steamer* to Loanda, where it was received, 30 January 1883. The postage charge of **25 reis** was paid on delivery by the recipient.

Type II and Type III

– used at the new office during 1883 – 1884

In succession to the ‘Type I’ postmark, two others based in style on those in use locally in Angola are classified as ‘Type II’ and ‘Type III’. Type II incorporated the ‘year’ and ‘Type III’ omitted it.

Type II

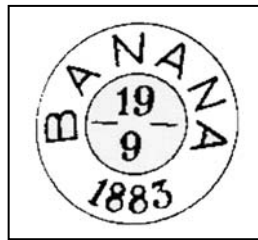


Figure 2

The ‘Type II’ canceller has been recorded in use during 1883 only -the earliest date being 19th April. Several examples exist on individual Angolan stamps typified by that illustrated in figure 2.

Type III

The ‘Type III’ canceller superseded Type II and is apparently the same stamp with the year removed - thus facilitating its use during 1884. It has only been recorded in use during 1884 and the latest recorded date is 17th November of that year.

At this time ‘Congo postage stamps’ had not been introduced and use of the Banana cachet was limited to the cancellation of correspondence franked with Angolan stamps or unstamped mail originating from the Congo.



Figure 3

Figure 3: A letter written by the explorer Dr. Zintgraff addressed to 'L'Institut National Géographie'. It was posted at the Banana post office and bears a 100 reis Angolan stamp cancelled on the last recorded date of 17th November 1884 - as are figures 5 and 6. It arrived in Bruxelles 20th December.

Figures 4 and 5 both illustrate particularly fine strikes from different correspondents, coincidentally both dated 17th November.

Figure 4: A letter from 'Dundas Bathurst' to his mother in England, written in Kinshasa, 25th October where stamps were not available. It was directed via Lisbon and received the Banana cancellation. The 8^d postage due was applied in London and paid by the recipient.



Figure 4

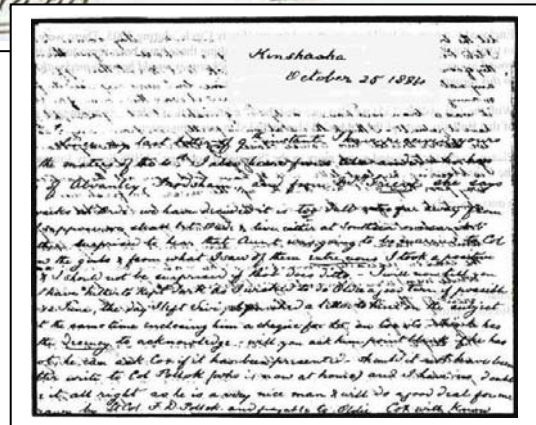


Figure 5

The 'Bathurst' correspondence has provided a very interesting insight into the day-to-day living conditions of those intrepid Europeans, committed to the activities of the A.I.C. (Association Internationale du Congo).

Figure 6a is a letter, this time to his father, written on 20th August 1884 in Kinshasa. It was directed to London via the Portuguese post office where it received the Banana cachet dated 19th September. The absence of stamps prompted the application of the tax stamp (Portuguese) and the 8^d postage due was both applied and collected in London.

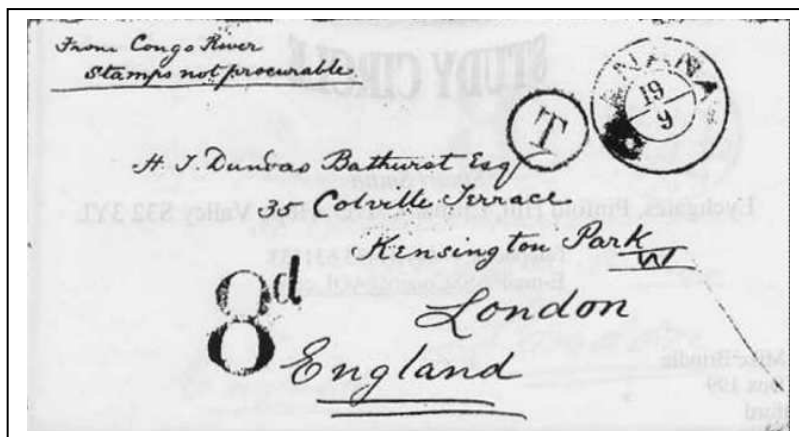


Figure 6a

Figure 6b Included in the letter is a sketch of the lodgings in Kinshasa of two A.I.C. agents - Bathurst and Swinburn. Bathurst comments on the 'conveniences of their accommodation' – "I have now got my bed finished, a jolly thick mattress of banana leaves, as they do not get so hard as grass mattresses."

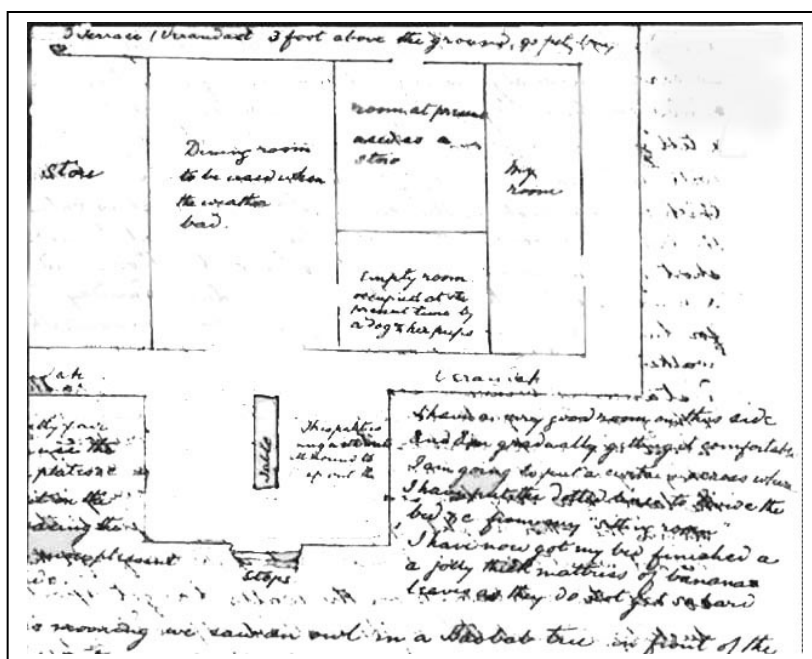


Figure 6b

Acknowledgements

Bontinck R.P. 'Les mystères de la Post Portugaise de Banana'.
 Deneumostier-Saive Eliane. 'Les Cahiers du Congo' N° 67. 2002, p3
 Frazao L. 'Discours pour l'Académie Européenne de Philatélie'. Porto, 2004, p2
 Pinto Correia E.M. 'Historia postal de Angola.' Clube Filatelico de Portugal, Lisboa, 1999, p.8

Red Cross overprint

Issued in the Congo
23rd May 1942

By – Walter Deijnckens

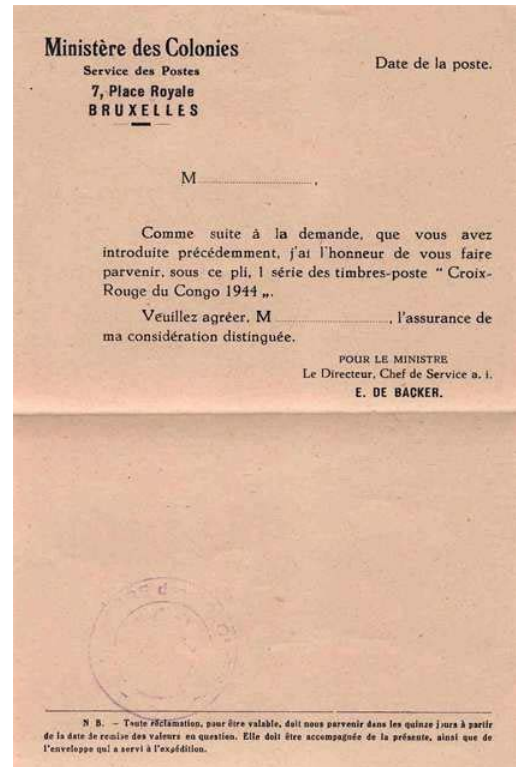


Four values of the Waterlow & Sons definitive range of stamps issued 23rd May 1942 in the Belgian Congo were subsequently overprinted

‘Au profit de la Croix-rouge – Ten voordeele van het Roode Kruis’ – with alternative language priority in French or Dutch.

However the stamps only became available to collectors in Belgium on request and limited to three sets.

The ‘Ministère des Colonies’ supplied the stamps by post, accompanied by a small note.



This was not done until the 18th April 1946 - some 2 years after their availability in the ‘Congo’.



X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

1960 – Mail; Red Cross assisted

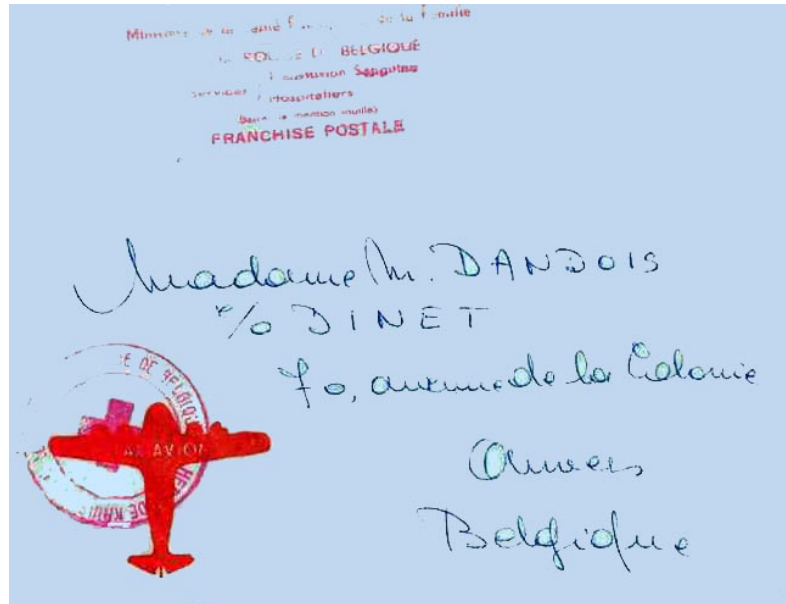
By – Walter Deijnckens

Reference has previously been made with regard to the difficulties in ensuring the safe transfer of correspondence emanating from the Congo at the time of Independence – 1960^[1]. The following adds to the story.



Between the 9th and 28th July 1960, Sabena evacuated to Zaventem no fewer than 34,484 passengers from the Congo ^[2]. Approximately 20,000 Belgians remained in Lubumbashi when the province of Katanga demanded its independence and probably about 30,000 whites remained and suffered badly under the rule of the so-called ‘Free Congolese’.

Sending letters home during these turbulent times was a risk and as illustrated employees such as Mr. Dandois engaged by the AMI shipping agent in Leopoldville, gave this letter to an evacuee who in turn handed it over to the Belgian Red Cross on arrival in Zaventem. The Red Cross in turn placed it in the official post. The letter arrived at its destination on 8th August 1960.



The Belgian Red Cross had postal freedom and used a special cancellation to verify their handling of this item.

[1] B.C.S.C. *Bulletin* 137. p9

[2] P.Verlinden. *Weg uit Congo*. p150

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

COB 281 Masks/Idols – *Shade differences* - Walter Deijnckens.

Except for studies by Francis Vanderbeken – ‘*L’Emission des timbres-poste, Art Indigène du Congo Belge*’ 8th December 1947, and ‘*Ruanda-Urundi*’, 18th May 1996 – I do not know of any other studies of this series.

Several articles about the ‘Idols’ have previously been published in the Bulletin, but there has not been any references to differences in shade of this value.

Mr Vanderbeken did mention a colour difference between a ‘mauve’ 40 centimes value of the Congo (COB281) and the violet 40 centimes Ruanda-Urundi (COB 158).

We can now confirm that the Congo COB 281 exists both in violet and mauve, whilst the Ruanda-Urundi COB158 is a more pronounced and darker mauve.



This latest observation supports the theory of at least one additional print run. Those receiving copy of this Bulletin electronically will easily see and recognise the differences reported.

Postal rates enquiry – *the 1960's?*

Walter Deijnckens makes a point, asks a question and **CAN YOU HELP?**

Many of our members terminate their collection at the time of the Congo's independence in 1960 or in the case of Ruanda Urundi in 1962.

However one must recognise that after these dates postal activity and history carried on and many splendid covers can be found. The problem is, that precise information about 'postal rates' of this period is scarce, and I call on members to help in determining them in the République and Zaire.

At the present time two examples in particular puzzle me.

First is the cover illustrated in figure 1, posted probably 1982 in Lubumbashi - (note the double circular red canceller). This was an airmail letter to Bruxelles with two 6,50^Z stamps totalling 13^Z.

The second cover shown in figures 2a and 2b, (face and reverse sides) dated 25 May 1985 is an airmail letter from Kinshasa to Geneva - franked with a total value of 160^Z.

The covers are 2 or 3 years apart and inflation was pretty well out of control. It may be difficult to be very specific, but perhaps a member somewhere possesses postage rate tables of the period. If so please let us know.

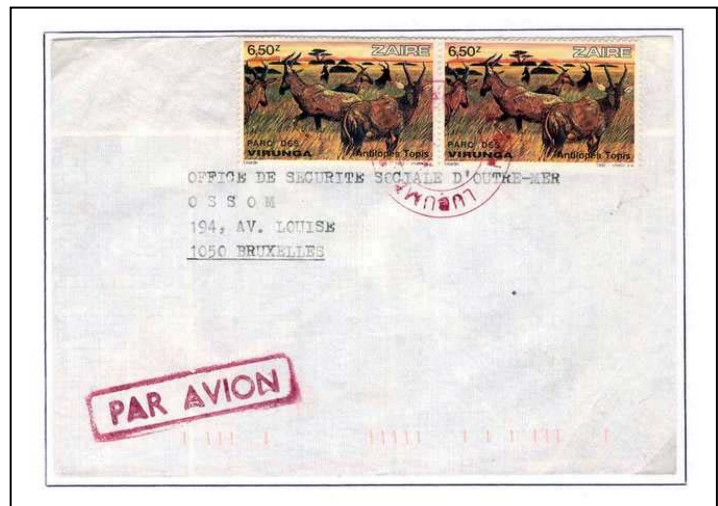


Figure 1.



Figure 2a (Face)



Figure 2b (Reverse)

Members Wants et al

No members 'Wants lists' have been received in time for this Bulletin but a letter from John Kelland may be of interest to 'Postmark collectors'.

"I collect Belgian Congo postmarks and have a surplus of over a 1000 covering 100 plus different post offices. If any members also have a surplus, I would be happy to exchange/buy/sell/swap with them.

In the first instance please communicate with me by Email:

g.Kelland@btopenworld.com

John Kelland"

Subscription payments and other useful addresses

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& Bulletin Distributor***

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