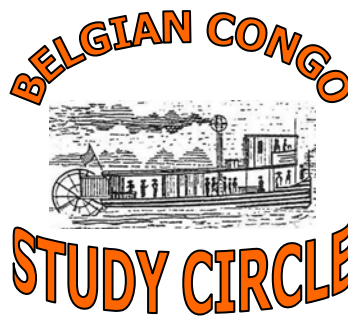


President
Walter Deijnckens
Mariettalie 38
2930 Brasschaat
Belgium
e-mail:
walter.deijnckens@skynet.be



General Secretary
Johan Delbeke
Gemeentestraat, 206/201
3010 Leuven
e-mail:
Johan@africanphilately.com

BULLETIN 139

July 2006

Bulletin Editor
Stuart S. Smith
'Lychgates', Pinfold Hill
Curbar-Calver,
Hope Valley, S32 3YL
England
e-mail:
sssCongo@aol.com

Librarian
Allan J.D. MacLaren
'Moray', 43 Millar Street,
Carnoustie. DD7 7AT
Scotland
e-mail:
allanjdmaclaren@blueyonder.co.uk

CONTENTS	Page(s)
Membership news	2
Wants	3
Minutes of the A.G.M. 18 March 2006	4-7
Presentations by members	8-10
An Incredible Journey - Roger De Landsheer	11-12
Mols Watermarks - Charles Henuzet	13-14
Postcards re-used! - Philippe Lindekens	15-16
Compagnie des Chemin de Fer - Upper Congo and the Great Lakes - Rudi Vertommen	17-20
Foreign Censor Marks – continued Northern and Southern Rhodesia - Walter Deijnckens	20-22
Questions and Answers	23
Book Reviews	24
Auction 2006 (3) and results of 2006 (2)	Supplemental

B.C.S.C. website: <http://users.skynet.be/lindekens/>

News of Members

Thomas Lindekens

- featured in 'Stamp Magazine'

It will be recalled that in our *October 2005 Bulletin* we welcomed Thomas Lindekens as our youngest ever member. As reported elsewhere and as a reminder to those attending our March 2006 general meeting in Brussels, Thomas was one of the contributors when he presented a display - *'The 1918 Red Cross Charity issue of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi'*. Since then, we are pleased to report that so interested were the editors of this ever more popular British monthly 'Stamp Magazine', that in their May issue, Thomas's collecting interests were incorporated as a feature article.

'STAMP MAGAZINE' is definitely worth reading! Ed.



Rick Oxenham, Ron Strawser and Filip Van der Haegen

Rick, our only New Zealand member whose particular interest is in 'Airmails', reports that his 5 frames (80 pages) exhibit was rewarded with a Large Silver medal at the *'Taipen International'* and a Vermeil at last year's *'Auckland National'*. In a similar vein but from another continent, Ron Strawser (U.S.A.) received a large Vermeil for his 'Mols' entry at *'Washington 2006'* and Filip Van der Haegen (Belgium) received the same for his collection *'La Création de la ligne postale Aérienne, Belgique → Congo → Madagascar 88'*. We are very pleased for them and offer our congratulations.

Dr. K. Goddeeris

It is with very great regret that we advise of the death of our Belgian member, Dr.K.Goddeeris.

New Member

We extend a warm welcome to a new Belgian member, André Cauteren and trust he will enjoy his association with us.

- **André Cauteren**; *Prinses Jos.-Charlottelaan, 87 9100 Sint Niklaas*

Addresses

Address change or correction. Amend to read –

U.S.A. - **Daniel Rabiner**; E-Mail; drabiner@hvc.rr.com
- **David Schaubroeck**; *PO Box 282, Harrisville, Michigan 487400-0282*

**** Please note that as a result of his move, David Schaubroeck is currently without an email facility. As soon as this is reintroduced all members with an email address will be notified.**

Belgium - **Frans Danneels**; E-mail: Danneels,frans@skynet.be
- **Joseph Deruyck**; E-mail: deruyck.j@skynet.be
- **Alain Stragier**; E-Mail: stragier@skynet.be
- **Michel Hopperets**; E-Mail: michel.hopperets@skynet.be

U.K. - **Alan Littell** ; E-mail : alan.littell@btinternet.com

Members wants – can you help?

Alan Littell asks if anyone can help to fill some gaps in his 'Postal Stationery' collection. If you are able to, please contact him direct at either his postal or email address.

Alan Littell; 68 De Frene Road, London. SE26 4AG
Email: Alan.Littell@btinternet.com

Postal Stationery - Belgian Congo

'Stibbe' number.	'View' numbers.
42 mint	41 & 71
43 mint	5
52 mint or used	almost all
53 mint or used	5, 6, 46, 47, 48, 49, 61, 62, 69, 70, 72
54 mint or used	almost all
61 mint	77
62 mint	104
62 used	74, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 84, 86, 87, 89, 90, 91, 95, 103, 106, 107, 109, 110, 112, 114, 119, 120, 121, 122
66 mint or used	5, 8, 19, 25, 31, 34
67 mint or used	any except 4, 14, 16, 17, 21-29, 35, 36, 39-42, 45, 47- 49

Postal Stationery - Ruanda-Urundi

12 mint or used	any except 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 42, 45
17 mint or used	all except 37 & 50
18 mint or used	all except 16, 25, 31, 32, 36, 43
19 mint or used	all except 9, 13, 15, 18-20, 26, 32, 40, 41, 44.
20 mint or used	all except 11 & 13

Duplicates

I also have a number of duplicates, as listed below. All items are 'Mint' unless otherwise indicated.

- * *postally used*
- ** *cto (cancelled to order)*

Postal Stationery - Belgian Congo

'Stibbe' number.	'View' numbers.
42	20
43	7**, 9*, 25*, 34**, 46*, 48, 49, 55*, 64, 65
52	47
53	4, 10, 13, 43, 44, 55
61	75*, 79, 87, 99, 105, 115

Postal Stationery - Ruanda-Urundi

11	48**
12	9

Minutes of the Belgian Congo Study Circle AGM, 18th March 2006



In attendance – everyone appears on either one or the other!

Upper photograph and viewing from left to right –

Bernard Harris, Thierry Frennet, Emile Hoorens, Jean-Pierre Flamand, Philippe Lindekens, Marc Oblin, Luc Vander Marcken, Charles Stockmans, Michael Wright, Michel Hopperets, Johan Delbeke, Leo Tavano, Charles Henuzet, Walter Deijnckens, Thomas Lindekens, Christian Vandenbossche, Roger Gallant, Stuart Smith

Lower photograph, viewing from left to right -

Stuart Smith, Emile Hoorens, Eric Michiels, Jean-Pierre Flamand, Christian Vandenbossche, Thomas Lindekens, Philippe Lindekens, Charles Henuzet, Michel Hopperets, Walter Deijnckens, Thierry Frennet, Luc Vander Marcken, Leo Tavano, Michael Wright, Johan Delbeke, Roger Gallant, Marc Oblin.

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

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Hotel Erasme, in Brussels on Saturday 18th March 2006. In attendance were Messrs: W.Deijnckens, J.Delbeke, J.P.Flamand, Th.Frennet, R.Gallant, B.Harris, C.Henuzet, E.R.Hoorens, M.Hopperets, E.Michiels, Ph.Lindekens, T.Lindekens, Dr.M.Oblin, S.S.Smith, C.Stockmans, L.Tavano, C.Vandenbossche, L.V.Vander Marcken, and M.Wright.

Apologies were received from L.Achten, A.MacLaren and Dr.C.Lloyd

Minutes of the AGM 2005

The minutes of last years AGM as previously published in the Bulletin were approved.

There were no matters arising.

General Secretary's report – (Michel Hopperets)

Membership of the Circle is presently 122, an increase of 8 in comparison with the same time last year. The distribution is shown below.

	2005	2006		2005	2006
Belgium	49	51	New Zealand	1	1
U.K.	25	26	Norway	1	1
U.S.A.	24	27*	Poland	0	1
Denmark	5	5	South Africa	1	1
France	1	2	Spain	1	1
Kenya	1	1	Sweden	2	2
Luxembourg	1	1	Switzerland	1	1
			Zambia	1	1

* Subject to confirmation

Due to 'in house computer difficulties' and therefore an inability to communicate efficiently with members, Michel recommended that another member be considered as General Secretary. He was willing to carry on but felt that in the best interests of the Study Circle an alternative should be found. Refer '*Officer Appointments*'.

Presidents Report – (Walter Deijnckens)

As reported to last years AGM, the historical geographical rotation of *Presidency* between the U.K, Belgium and U.S.A. in turn for a two-year period, has now been broken. Appointment of this position is now considered on an annual basis, along with all the other '*Officer Appointments*'.

The President also said it would be helpful and appreciated if some new or older members would volunteer taking on more active '*officer*' roles so that succession can be secured.

Treasurer's Report – (Stuart Smith)

The 'accounts' for the year ending 31 December 2005, as published in Bulletin 138 were approved.

The Treasurer reported that finances remain stable but it will be noticed that on a year-to-year basis, the funds available to the Treasurer are gradually dwindling. Cash flow is under constant review and maintenance of the existing membership fee is dependant on the transfer of excess funds from accounts held in Belgium and the U.S.A.

It was recommended and accepted that the subscription levels for 2007 remain as at present i.e.

U.K.	£8
Belgium	€10
Other European	€10
U.S.A.	\$15
Rest of the World*	£12 (*£8 to those receiving the Bulletin etc by email.)

The Circle has a stock of books for sale valued at approximately £800. These are held by and in the safe keeping of the Librarian. Additionally there is an extensive library of books available on loan to all members.

Auction Secretary – (Philippe Lindekens)

A comprehensive and detailed financial report of auction sales for 2005 was presented. The following is a summary:

Number of lots offered	783
Number of lots sold	601
Average number of buyers/sale	28
Total value sold	€23,282
Commission due to BCSC after the deduction of costs	€786.08

It is the intention and anticipated that the present 4 auctions per year will continue during 2006 and 2007.

Payment for auctioned lots;

U.K. and Commonwealth members - will now receive their lots from Bernard Harris and payment should be made to him. Whilst bidding will be in Euros (€), UK and Commonwealth members will be invoiced in (£) pounds sterling. Payment should be sent to Bernard Harris.

U.S.A. (payment in \$) – E.Lavitt, P.O.Box 900, Rockville, CT 06066

Belgium & all other European countries (payment in €Euros) – Ph.Lindekens, Rue des Trois Ponts 38, B-1160 Brussels

Expert Committee – (LeoTavano)

During the year, 40 certificates had been issued to 11 different members. This cost the Study Circle €2 in postal charges but this was recovered from the members. Effectively the service operates as a non-profit making activity, for the benefit of members. *(It should be noted that in providing this service, the 'Expert Committee' gives freely of its own time and expense. Thank you to all involved).*

Leo Tavano reported *'The purpose of Expertisation is to help all collectors with the precise classification of their stamps – and for them to have confidence and avoid falling into the trap of buying incorrectly described or unauthentic items.'*

Sadly from my perspective, the role of the 'Expert' is sometimes upsetting and discouraging. For example in another Club I have had to certify stamps as 'bad' when they have been sold to the collector as being authentic. It is an unpleasant position to be in.'

N.B. Members are entitled to 2 free certificates per year but members must pay postage. A reduction of 20% on the total fees (except postage) will be given for 10 certificates or more per sending.

Librarian – (Allan MacLaren)

Whilst the Circle offers a library facility it is noted that it is little used by members. The library is a lifetime assembly and was donated by Ray Keach to the Circle. Not only are these books available on loan to any member of the Study Circle for a small fee to cover postage etc. but also copies of articles published in all previous Bulletins can be obtained from the Librarian on request and at a nominal charge.

Members are reminded that there is an index (Index to Bulletins 1- 133), compiled by Norman Clowes and Stuart Smith). The Index covers every subject published in the Bulletin and for those desirous of finding information on matters relating to their own specific interests, it is quite likely that such subject matter can be found in a back copy of the Bulletin.

Immediately after the meeting two more publications were donated by the authors for inclusion in the library. We are grateful to and appreciate receiving copies of:

'Etat Indépendant du Congo L'émission Mols – Van Engelen 1894-1908' Henuzet and Tavano, Liege 2005

'De Geschiedenis van de postdienst in Belgisch Kongo (1886-1960) Deel 1. Gallant 2006

***The Librarian is also able to provide details of the stock of books available for sale.
(List previously published in Bulletin #131)***

Packet Secretary (U.K.) – (Hal Hoyte)

No official report was provided but the UK secretary reported that he believed a new 'Packet' was presently being put together and should circulate later in the year.

Packet Secretary Belgium - (Charles Henuzet)

A Packet was circulated during 2005, was well received and contributed a little towards our funds. Another Packet is under consideration and subject to the availability of material will be circulated at some time in the future.

Members wishing to be included on the distribution list or contributing to future booklets are invited to contact Charles Henuzet.

Bulletin Editor – (Stuart Smith)

It was confirmed that the Bulletin is available electronically, and an increasing number of members have now chosen to receive it this way. For down loading purposes it should be noted that the original prepared Bulletin (Word document) could be upto a maximum of 4MBytes in size. Whilst varying, issue to issue, it is always available in an Adobe pdf file format at about 2MB's.

Officers of the Study Circle

The following were elected: -

President	<i>Walter Deijnckens</i>
International General Secretary	<i>Johan Delbeke</i>
Regional Sec. – Belgium	<i>E.R.Hoorens</i>
Regional Sec. – USA	<i>D.A.Schaubroeck</i>
Regional Sec. – UK + rest of world	<i>S.S.Smith</i>
Bulletin Editor	<i>S.S.Smith</i>
Auction Secretary	<i>Ph.Lindekens/ C.Stockmans</i>
Librarian/Book sales	<i>A.J.D.MacLaren</i>
Packet Sec. – UK	<i>W.H.Hoyte</i>
Packet Sec. – Belgium	<i>C.Henuzet</i>
Chairman Expert Comm.	<i>L.Tavano</i>

Future Meetings:

1. The next General and AGM meetings will again be held at the Erasme Hotel, B-1070, Brussels on Saturday 17th March 2007.

Overseas members who want to join in will find that the hotel is very conveniently situated and provides good service at reasonable prices.

Any other business



Stuart Smith

**Presentations at the Annual Meeting
Brussels March 2006**

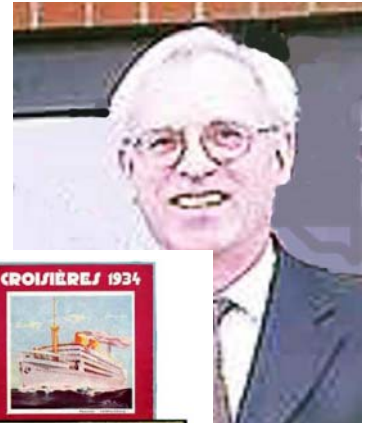
Those attending the annual meeting were entertained by some fine presentations. In order of presentation the following is a summary. The president opened the proceedings in the morning session and Thomas Lindekens, that in the afternoon.

Walter Deijnckens – ‘How to present in ‘Open’ and ‘One Frame’ competitions’

At the international ‘Belgica 06’ exhibition, *Open* and *One Frame* disciplines are present.

An interesting, and educational 6 page illustrative talk on ‘s/s/ Leopoldville 5 cruises’ were shown - to illustrate that in the ‘Open class’, up to 50% of related but non-philatelic material could be incorporated as part of an entry.

In a ‘One frame’ entry of 16 pages, Walter explained the requirement for specifically philatelic material, on a single item topic. For this purpose the display was dedicated to the 1935 issue depicting the 4 monarchs - ‘50th Anniversary of the Independent State’



Emile Hoorens – ‘Postal relationships between Belgium and the Congo during the 2nd World War’

During this period a postal relationship did not exist. Consequently mail was sent to a neutral country or one not involved in the conflict. That correspondence or message was subsequently forwarded to friends and family in the Congo.



Several countries were involved in the system, for example Portugal, its Colonies, Switzerland and the U.S.A. (until 7 December 1941). The card illustrated is from a Belgian missionary based in China passing on news to the family in the Congo.

Michael Wright - ‘Overseas censorship of Belgian Congo mail during W.W.2’

Michael showed covers of outgoing mail with control or censor marks and/or sealing tapes, most of which contributed Walter Deijnckens articles currently being featured in the Bulletin.

Mail to the USA, originally via Gold Coast or latterly via Nigeria was included as well as mail to or via British Territories on the eastern side of Africa – Sudan, Tanganyika, Rhodesia and New Caledonia. Transit mail included a cover from Angola to Uganda.

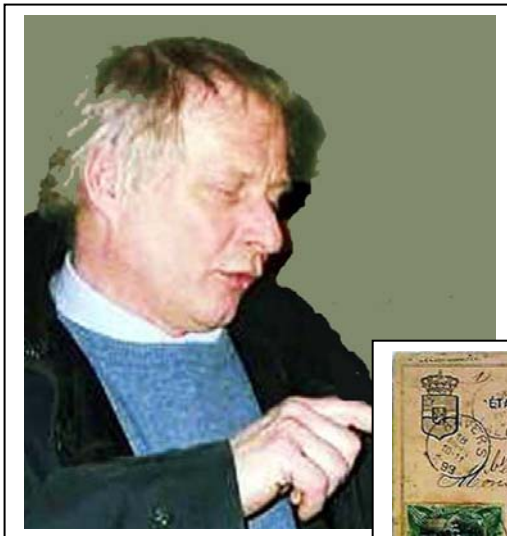


Thomas Lindekens – ‘The 1918 Red Cross Charity issue of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi’

Thomas talked of and circulated a large number of sheets from his collection, dedicated entirely to this Mols issue.

Beautifully written up and presented was a range of commercially and fiscally used material on both covers and documents, as well as blocks and mint sheets, including the 10 franc Waterlow File copy.

He showed how attractive such a subject can be with just about every imaginable surcharge positional variety.



Thierry Frennet – ‘Complimentary Mols on Imprinted Postal Stationery’

Thierry presented a fine display of Postal Stationery used both internally and sent to foreign parts, all necessarily ‘postage upgraded’ by the addition of further postage stamps.

Of note were examples of registered mail including a fine Lado Enclave item.



Philippe Lindekens – ‘Correspondence from and to the Congo, carried by foreign ships’

Philippe presented a number of interesting examples of mail carried variously by British, Dutch, Portuguese and German ships, bearing both manuscript and cachets marks of the several vessels.





Charles Henuzet – ‘Cancellers on the first issue of 1886’

By illuminated address - Charles described the different design and canceller formats used in Boma and Banana on the first definitive stamps depicting Leopold II. He drew attention to and alerted us to contrived forgeries applied on genuine stamps of that period.



Leo Tavano – ‘German East African cachets: Kisumu, Tabora and Karema’

Against a background of Marylyn Monroe, Leo presented an illustrated, in depth study of the various ‘Karema’ and ‘Tabora’ cancellers used during the East African campaign in 1916 and the months following. An inventory of known examples of the ‘Kisumu Belge’ cachet was given.

N.B. ‘Karema’ the first of these topics is included as an article in this Bulletin. ‘Tabora’ will follow.



Bernard Harris – ‘My role as a U.K. Belgian Congo stamp collecting Ambassador’

Bernard, as a relatively new convert to Belgian Congo philately, showed examples across a broad spectrum from his collection, illustrating what he shows to local Stamp Clubs in an attempt to encourage further converts and membership of the Study Circle.



An Incredible Journey
Letter from the Independent State to Japan
via Russia – and back again!

By – Roger De Landsheer

Preface

In 1896, a treaty between Russia and China existed, by which Russian soldiers provided protection of the Kharbin railroad and stations.

On 5th September 1905, Russia and Japan signed the 'Treaty of Portsmouth' thus ending 2 years of conflict. As part of the treaty, Russia conceded to Japan - Port Arthur, the Liao-Tung peninsula, Southern Sakhaline, the protectorate of Korea and South Manchuria.

Had it not been for the intervention of President Roosevelt and the American mediators, the concessions would have been much more severe for the defeated Russia. Not until 1945 was the Manchurian territory returned to China.



From - A. Huguemin in Popokabaka to Louis Goering, Port Arthur, Mandchourie

Let us chart the covers journey:

1st August 1904

The letter was posted in Popokabaka in the Eastern District of Kwango

(With regard to the spelling of the canceller we find '*Popocabacca*' in use from 1st July 1896 and '*Popokabaka*' from 15th July 1898.)

15th August 1904

The letter arrives in **Boma**, the then capital of the Independent State of Congo, which remained its position until October 1929.

4th September 1904

Arrival/Transit; **Brussels.**

3rd February 1905

From Brussels, the letter was subsequently conveyed by Trans-Siberian railways across Russia to **Kharbin**. The cachet/canceller is in Cyrillic characters and reads **GLAVNAYA POLEV KONT** meaning ‘Principal Military Post Control’ – the very rare cachet (on Congo mail) of the Tsarist army.



26th March 1905

Arrival/Transit; **Yokohama, Japan**.
There are also two other Japanese transit marks dated 3rd and 18th April 1905.



17th May 1905

Registered receiving/ transit of the **Mortlake district of London**.



22nd May 1905, Lisbon.

▶ **13th June 1905, Boma.**

▶ **17th July 1905, Brussels**

▶ **19th July 1905**

**La Chaux De Fonds,
Switzerland**



This was an incredible journey and the several ‘Post Offices’ are to be congratulated on pursuing *Mr. Huguemin* for whom it was intended.

However, that is not the end of the story as the letter has continued to travel. Having previously been purchased by l’Abbé Gudenkauf in America, who brought it back to Brussels, it has again moved on to its present resting place in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Mols Watermarks and their varieties

By – Charles Henuzet

Waterlow Brothers and Layton secured the printing contract for the production of the 3.50 Fr. and 10 Fr. Mols. In 1905 and for the 10 fr. perf.12 printing, this required a new batch of paper, which was watermarked.



The watermark identifies the name of the paper manufacturer and number 219, the latter being a reference to paper quality. Such paper was not exclusive to Waterlow Brothers and Layton. The abbreviated name **JA^s** was widely used at the time - an abbreviation of 'James'.

Four variations of the watermark exist, created by the positioning and alignment of the paper at the time the stamp impression was made.



Normal



Inverted



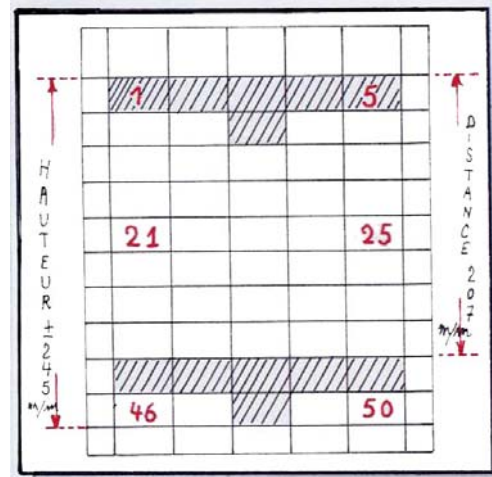
Upright reversed



Inverted and Reversed

As shown in the first illustration, the overall length is 187mm whilst the height is 40mm. Capital letters measure 15mm in height and the smaller, 12mm.

The watermark repeats constantly every 207mm and as the sheet of paper is 295mm in height, the watermark appears twice in every sheet of stamps – *providing the centring is perfect!*



Which stamps are watermarked?

For ‘Etat Independant du Congo’ there are only the 10 Fr. Mols, perforated 12. Combination I2+A1. (COB 29a)

This applies also of course, to the same combination overprinted CONGO BELGE.

Of the ‘Princes printing’ the watermark occurs: 3,50 Frs. Combination IIc+A1c (COB 47 PT)

10 Frs. (perf.14) Combination IIb+A1b (COB 49 PT)

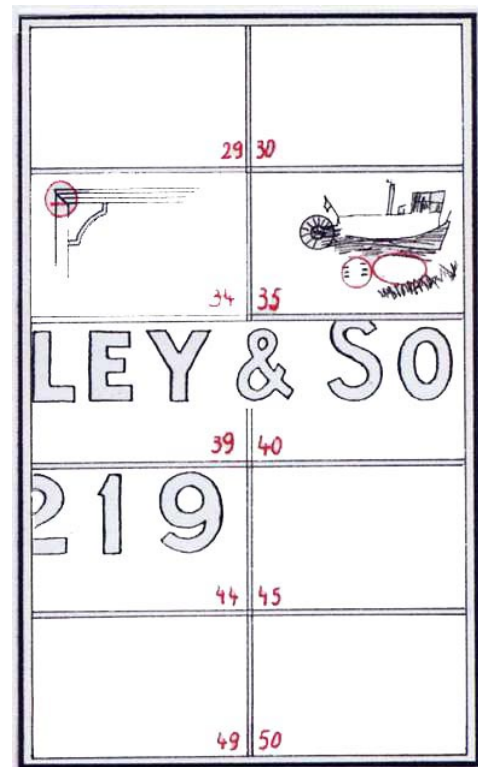
For the 1910 ‘CONGO BELGE-BELGISCH CONGO’, the watermark is present in all 3 and 10 francs stamps, both with and without the 1921 overprint: 3 Frs. Combination III1+A1c (COB 61)

3 Frs. Combination II2+A1c (COB 92)

10 Frs. Combination II+A1 (COB 63)

10 Frs. Combination II+A2 (COB 94)

Illustrated is a nice block from the bottom right hand corner with the various positional varieties indicated and the watermark identified.



Passing the message on by re-use of postcards

– a precursor to the photocopier!

By – Philippe Lindekens

It would not have been uncommon for the European settler or trader living or travelling in the Congo Free State to have been unable to find in every village or town, a post office or a shop in which to buy his picture postcards or postal stationery. Consequently we very occasionally find (*but it's not easy!!*) cards already having passed through the postal system being re-used with a new message, to a new addressee and with a new franking.¹

Those to which I refer are not examples of mail having been 'forwarded', because the addressee has moved on, but a complete re-use of an old card to a totally different person at a totally different address.

Usually to make everything clear, the second sender scratched out or manuscript erased reference to the first addressee and put his new message to the new address in another ink.

In 20 years of collecting, I have seen only 2 items and illustrate them here:

Postal Stationery, 10c. – Stibbe 4a

First use: internally to Dr. Sims, M.D. (*Master of Divinity*)

Second use:

- Readdressed, re-franked (*15 centimes*) and posted to the U.S.A.



The card was written at Bonyamanya, 4th July 1893 and addressed to Leopoldville; there are no transit marks and it was simply cancelled on arrival 2nd August 1893. The '10c. Stationery Card' represents the rate applicable for internal mail.

It was then further franked at 15 centimes for re-use, and addressed to the U.S.A. with an overwritten message. In red ink the first addressee's name and address were crossed out and a new name and address added.

In its 'second usage' the 'Stationery Card' was posted in Leopoldville on 13th Aug. 1893 and travelled to Boston, where it arrived 1st October; transits at Boma, 21st August and New York, 30th September 1893.

The 15 centimes franking is the correct one for *Postal Stationery* to foreign countries; but having been re-franked the card has now lost its *Postal Stationery* status and is simply a *Post Card* - with or without

picture. It is worth noting that in 1893 there was no specified postage rate for a POST CARD - other than that as a letter, for which the rate was 50 centimes.

In reality the 'Postal Authority' in both Leopoldville and Boma (receiving and transit marks applied) accepted and permitted this card for conveyance without any further *Postage Due*.

Having left the Congo's territory the postage rate for a *Postcard* in the UPU is 15c. and therefore this card completed its travels legitimately.

A very nice Postal History item! ¹

Angolan Picture Postcard

First use: Internal (10 centimes), Banana to Leopoldville.

Second use: Readdressed, re-franked (15 centimes), posted from the Congo to Belgium, and then forwarded to France.

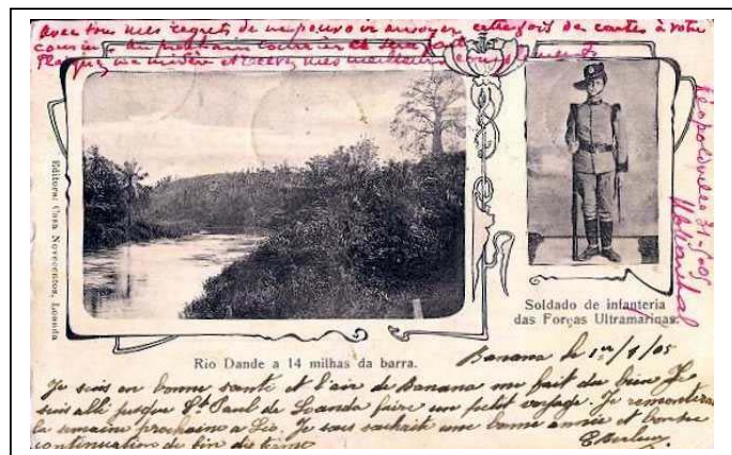
This item is an Angolan *Picture Postcard* written in Banana on 1st January 1905.

As was usual at the time, the writer's message and address have been written in the brief space provided on the picture side. Black ink was used and whilst Angola was next door! - it isn't often that one finds a foreign postcard used in the Congo.

The postage rate for an internal postcard was 10 centimes, with which it was correctly franked. It was received by the Banana post office 3rd January and arrived in Leopoldville, 7th January; transit Matadi 5th January.

Using red ink a new message has been added, along with the address of a new recipient. It was re-franked correctly at 15 centimes and posted from Leopoldville, 1st June 1905 to Brussels where it arrived 25th June.

It was finally readdressed and forwarded to Luchon, France where it arrived 1st July of the same year.



N.B. If you see in a dealer's boxes, postal stationery or postcards with unusual franking or even in inferior condition – don't forget to check them before moving on. Perhaps you may be lucky enough to find such items!

1. Reading between the lines, so to speak, both items illustrate a convenient way of letting a friend know what another friend had written. Today we would simply photocopy or forward by email. (Editor)

Compagnie des Chemins de Fer of the upper Congo and the Great Lakes C.F.L.

By – Rudi Vertommen

*A study of the mail transport system between
Albertville, Kigoma, Uvira and Usumbura on Lake
Tanganyika.*



Lake Tanganyika is the largest in Central Africa and thought to be the second oldest and second deepest in the world, after Lake Baikal in Siberia. Two main rivers flow into the lake along with a number of smaller streams and rivers. The lake borders four countries – presently called Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia of which the 'Congo' occupies 45% and Tanzania 41%. The first Europeans to find it 1858 were Richard Burton and John Speke, whilst searching for the source of the Nile.

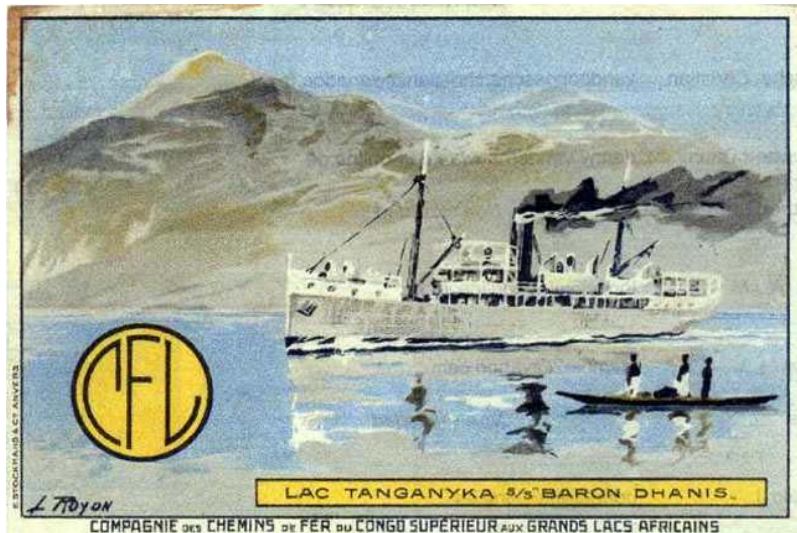


Figure 1. - C.F.L. Promotion Post Card

Shipping

On Lake Tanganyika, it was the C.F.L. that provided transport for both people and merchandise, between the towns of Albertville, Kigoma, Uvira and Usumbura. According to Jean Dufour in his book '*Congo: Cinquante Ans Histoire Postale*' the following steamships were in service:

Baron Dhanis
Duc de Brabant
Tanganyika
Urundi
Vengeur – previously 's/s Alexandre Delcommune'

Cachets/Cancellers

Figure 2 illustrates the '*Universal canceller*' which was for general use on all the ships operating on Lake Tanganyika. It measures 26mm in diameter. A second rectangular type was also used, specifically dedicated to the vessel. Illustrations of those used on the '*Baron Dhanis*' and '*Vengeur*' are illustrated later.



Figure 2

It is difficult to verify on which ships the 'Universal' cachet was used, or whether it was in fact applied in Albertville as a harbour transit cancellation to mail being forwarded to Kigoma or Usumbura.

The three examples shown are all on Vloors stamps – the only stamps on which I have seen it used.



C.F.L. 24 July 1926



← C.F.L., both dated 2 November 1927 →



Figure 3 - is a cover addressed to Anvers and possibly from Albertville. It bears two Ruanda-Urundi stamps with the C.F.L. cancellation, 13 December 1928. On the back there are transit marks of both Kigoma and Dar-es-Salaam.



Figure 3

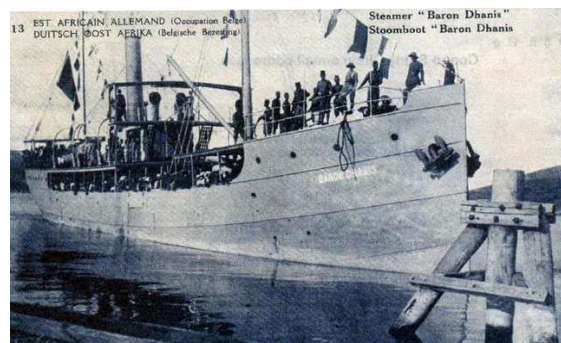
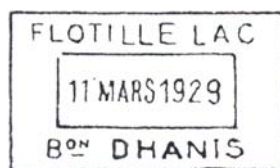


Steamships

The 's/s Baron Dhanis'

Illustrated in figure 1 is a C.F.L. promotional postcard of the 'Baron Dhanis'. Figure 4 is a similar item whilst figure 5 was widely reproduced as an ordinary postcard but in this case is an example of the Ruanda-Urundi Postal Stationery item (Stibbe #11, picture 13).

On the 'Baron Dhanis' a special, and 'ship specific' canceller was used – *the second type of canceller referred to by Dufour?*



Figures 4 and 5



Vloors stamps with the 'Baron Dhanis ship canceller'; applied during the late 1920's

Figure 6 features another cover posted on board the 'Baron Dhanis', 11 March 1929 and again transit cancelled on the reverse at both Kigoma and Dar-es-Salaam. It arrived in Antwerp 9 April and its final destination Brasschaat, 10 April 1929.



Figure 6.

I referred previously to 'Dufour's list of steamships in service on Lake Tanganyika but of the five named, no cancellations have been found of the *Duc De Brabant*, *Tanganyika* or the *Urundi*.

The 's/s *Vengeur*' – formerly the '*Delcommune*'

Figure 7. The 's/s *Vengeur*' had been active during the First World War in the campaign against the Germans – participating as part of the fleet along with '*Mimi and Toutou*'!
Tillo Behaeghe in his book '*Aimé Behaeghe*' says:

"The sunk Delcommune was raised, repaired and brought back in service under the name Vengeur, but it remained a fragile and slow boat with a capacity of only 14 tons."

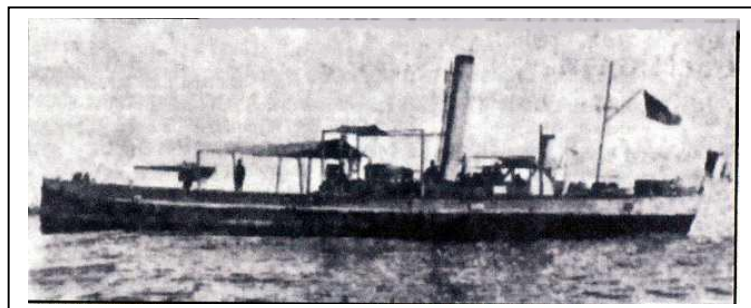


Figure 7.

Figure 8 carries the 'Vengeur' cachet in the same style as that used on the 's/s Baron Dhanis'.



Figure 8

The card is a 'Stibbe 62' with picture No.100. It was written in Molira, (situated on the southern most point of the lake) on 9 October 1925 and addressed to Liège. It bears a fine strike of the 'Flotilla Lac Vengeur' 13 October 1925 and the stamp was cancelled at Albertville on the same date.

References

- Abbé G. Gudenkauf: *Mailboat steamers on Congo rivers & lakes 1896-1940*. BCSC 51
 Tillo Behaeghe; Aimé Behaeghe; *De eerste piloot in Centraal Afrika 16 Januari 2003*.
 Jean Dufour: *Congo: Cinquante Ans d'histoire Postale 1962*.
 Wikipedia De Vrije encyclopedie ; <http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanganyika>

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

Foreign Censor marks – continued

Northern and Southern Rhodesia

By – Walter Deijnckens ^[1]

NORTHERN RHODESIA

Covers examined: 9

Mail originating from: Tshikapa, Elisabethville (3), Lusambo, Sandoa, Jadotville, Irumu, Sakania

Addressed to: Florida, New Jersey (2), New York (3), Philadelphia, Massachusetts (2),

Censored (Marks):

- Double triangle, censor nos. 5 and 7
- Boxed [Crown/PASSED/O/] with manuscript 4 and 5
- PASSE CENSURE ELISABETHVILLE
- Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE

Labels:

- Opened by Examiner / O/**
variously endorsed with and without censor numbers and marks (See illustrations)
- NORTHERN RHODESIA. / Examined by/ Censor No. 8**
- Censure Congo Belge** (Elisabethville)

Other covers examined – 1: Refer Bulletin #136 'Ruanda Urundi'

Figure 1.

Triangular censor mark #5

Recorded use on route:

Tshikapa → St Petersburg, Florida, June 1942.

Label - PC 90 'Opened by Examiner O/'

Recorded use on route:

- i) As above
- ii) Refer 'Bulletin 136, Ruanda Urundi'
- iii) Elisabethville → Philadelphia, July 1942

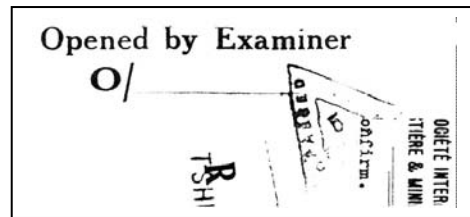


Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Label - PC 90 'Opened by Examiner O/'

Manuscript 5

Recorded use on route:

Irumu → New Jersey, August 1942

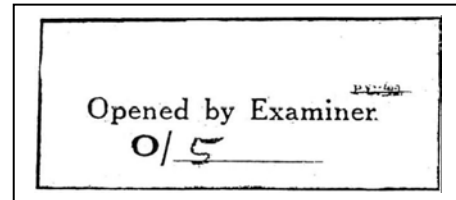


Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Triangular censor mark #7

Dimensions: 22.6mm x 23mm height (ht)

Recorded use on route:

Elisabethville → Burlington, New Jersey,
(Possibly November 1941.)

Label - Examined by / Censor No

Recorded use on route:

As above.

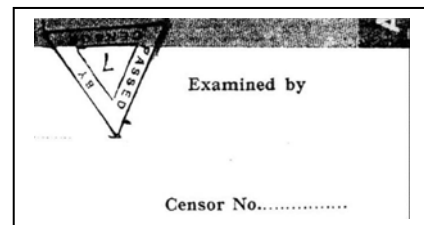


Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Label – as illustrated

Recorded use on route:

Sakania → Mass. U.S.A., May 1941

← 46mm →

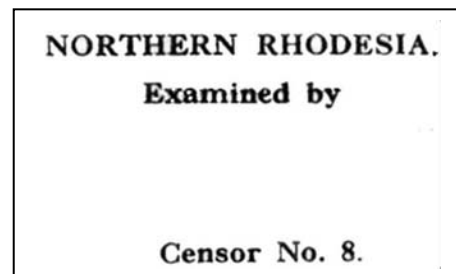


Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Recorded use on routes:

- i) Lusambo → New York via Cape Town, July 1942.
- ii) Elisabethville → Philadelphia, July 1942
- iii) Sandoa → Wellesley, Mass. via Dilolo and Elisabethville, July 1942.
- iv) Elisabethville → New York, August 1942
- v) Jadotville → New York via Elisabethville, August 1942.



Figure 5

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Covers examined: 6

Mail originating from: Usumbura (Ruanda Urundi), Elisabethville (4), Lusambo.

Addressed to: Bulawayo (4), Salesburg (Rhodesia).

Censored (Marks):

- a) Triangle, censor nos. 1 and 4
- b) Rectangular boxed [PASSED BY CENSOR / Crown / No 2370]
- c) Boxed [Crown/PASSED/ DE/1]
- d) PASSED BY CENSOR (Rubber stamp)
- e) Passé Censure ELISABETHVILLE

Labels:

- a) **OPENED BY CENSOR**
endorsed (i) with censor triangle and (ii) boxed British Empire type mark.
- c) **Censure Congo Belge** (Elisabethville)

Other covers examined – 1: Refer also to Bulletin #136 'Ruanda Urundi'

Figures 1 and 5

Triangular censor marks #1 and 4

#4 - recorded used on route:

Elisabethville → Bulawayo, October 1940

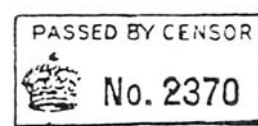
#1 - recorded used on route:

Usumbura → Salesburg (Rhodesia), October 1941.



↑24 mm x 23 mm ht.↑

Fig.1



↑← 40mm x 17mm ht. →↑

Figure 2.



Figure 3.

Figure 2.

Rectangular boxed

[PASSED BY CENSOR / Crown / No 2370]

recorded used on route:

Elisabethville → Bulawayo, October 1940.



↑ ← Not possible to size → ↑

Figure 4.

Figure 3.

Br. Empire style

[Crown/PASSED/ DE/1, DE9 and DE/29]

recorded used on routes:

DE/1 Elisabethville → Bulawayo, October 1940.

DE/9 Lusambo → Salesburg (via Elis.) August 1942.

DE/29 Elisabethville → Bulawayo, February 1943.

Figure 4.

PASSED BY CENSOR – (rubber stamp)

recorded used on routes:

Elisabethville → Bulawayo, March 1940.

Figure 5

Blank Label - OPENED BY CENSOR

recorded used on routes:

Usumbura → Salesburg (Rhodesia), October 1941

Lusambo → Salesburg (via Elisabethville) August 1942

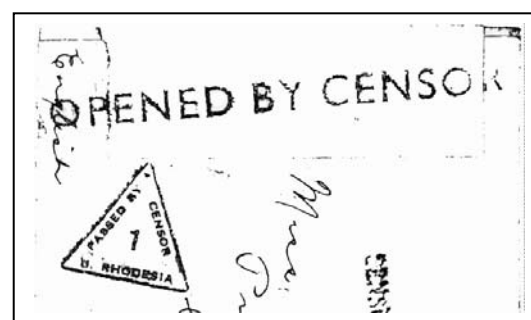
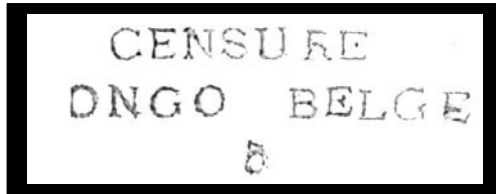


Figure 5.

(1) In preparing the article the author acknowledges the information and assistance provided by Hal Hoyte, Alan Morvay, G.K.Nicholls, Jean Oth, and Stuart Smith.

Question



I recently acquired this cover because of its interesting routing. I have noticed, however, that the censor mark at the top left of the cover is quite different from any shown in Appendix 5 of Andre Jeukens' book 'La Censure au Congo Belge'. Has it been seen before, with or without the number 5, which suggests it might also exist with other numbers? The cover has postmarks of Nizi and Elisabethville before going to South Africa. There is also a Belgian Congo sealing tape hidden under the South African one, which also obscures the first C of Congo.

Michael Wright

Answer

In Bulletin 134 page 8, Emile Hoorens in his article titled 'Transmission Impossible' drew attention to and asked 'Who, where and why was the one line cachet 'Acheminement impossible' applied?'



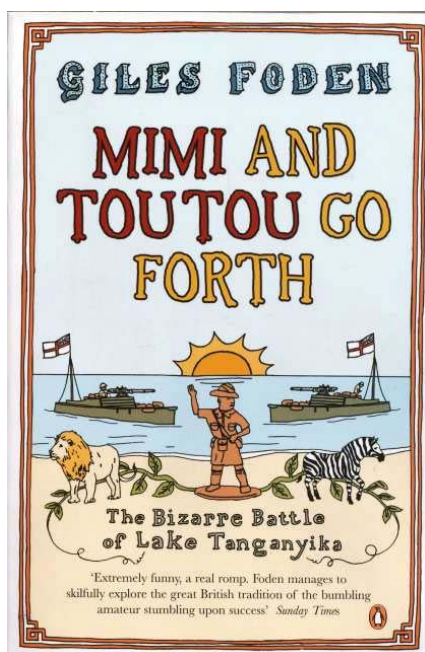
Thanks to the, Editor of the 'Civil Censorship Study Group we have a probable explanation.

The allied invasion of North Africa 'Operation Torch' began on 8 November 1942. In Germany this created some nervousness of further invasions in Southern France so the Nazis extended their occupation to the whole of that country and this led to a disruption of mail services. The Germans recognised that mail leaving Switzerland was passing through Southern France and they immediately sought to censor it. The Swiss alive to this possibility, stopped sending mail out via France and issued a proclamation on 14 November that mail for belligerent countries would be returned to sender and for neutral countries would be held at border points, pending clarification of the situation. The suspension was lifted on 26 November, but that appears to experts on the subject, to have been somewhat premature as after that date, many outbound letters were also 'Returned to Sender' by the Swiss. It took until 21 January 1943 for an official announcement that outbound ordinary surface and airmail was available again. Registered surface mail was reopened on 12 February and registered mail on 18 February 1943.

It appears that Emile Hoorens cover was probably caught up in the disruption and I think it safe to assume that similar suspensions of inbound services would have occurred. The French language marking suggests Paris as the likely place of using the handstamp. I have seen a cover from California 19 December 1942 by airmail to Switzerland which was returned from New York 'No Service Available' which adds weight to the evidence that mail into Switzerland was interrupted in the same way as their outward mail.

Graham Mark

Book Shelf



'Mimi and Toutou go Forth' by Giles Foden.

Published by Penguin. ISBN 0-141-00984-5

U.K. £7.90, Canada \$19

It was a casual exchange of emails with the deputy editor of 'Stamp Magazine' that led me to this fascinating book by Giles Foden.

If you enjoy a light relief read, with both a 1st World War historical and geographical link to activities in the Congo, this is an absolute must! It is best described by a quote from one of the reviewers-

"It was the First World War and Britain was in trouble. Keiser Wilhelm had put two warships on Lake Tanganyika in Central Africa, giving him control of the region, and it was vital for Britain that those ships be destroyed, But who could be trusted with such an important mission?"

Step forward Le Commander Geoffrey Spicer-Simson – a man court-marshalled for wrecking his own ships, an inveterate liar and a wearer of skirts. Since no one else was available, Spicer-Simson was dispatched with a crack team – half of them at least as unhinged as their leader – on a dangerous mission to drag two gunboats through the Congo, and engage an enemy with a few surprises still up its sleeve ..."

S.S.S.

'Etat Indépendant du Congo – l'Emission Mols – van Engelen'

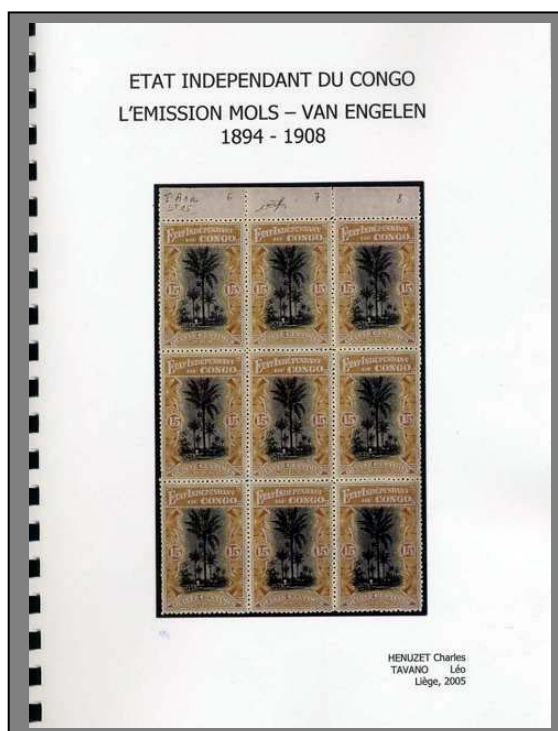
By – Charles Henuzet and Leo Tavano

Do not presume this is just another 'plating study' by these two authors - it is much more. For all interested in the 'Mols' issues, it effectively brings *Jean Du Four's* wonderful work up to date.

However, and as the title states, do note that the content is confined almost exclusively to material issued during the 'Independent State' era.

It is logically presented, profusely illustrated and includes very informative chapters on such topics as a history of the Waterlow family, Arms Permits, Publicity Vignettes and archival File copies.

S.S.S.



The book is available directly from the authors whilst a copy has been presented to the library and is available on loan from the librarian – *subject to the usual conditions.*