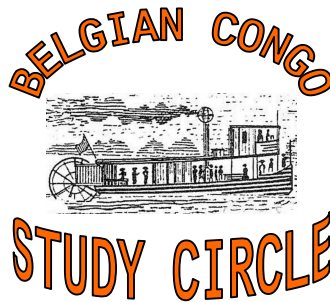


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BULLETIN 141

December 2006

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

From the Editor



Articles for publication – PLEASE HELP

In the last Bulletin I drew attention to the fact that I was at that time almost exhausted of 'Article material' with only a few bits and pieces for the next issue. I now confirm that all has been exhausted and that 'a next Bulletin' is but a wish. A few members have volunteered articles but these have not yet surfaced - will all those intending to and who can contribute, please help.

Bulletin 140 – 'A Thought, a question and your opinion sought.'

Of the responses received concerning the Study Circle logo design, it is agreed that the 'River Boat Steamer' is preferred and should remain; but it was suggested that the 'Okapi' might somehow be incorporated – so here it is as the signature of editorials.

Membership News

Subscriptions now due

Please note that subscriptions for 2007 are now due and by way of a reminder, the following identifies what is due and to whom it should be paid.

U.K.	£8		
Belgium	€10		
Other European	€10		
U.S.A.	\$15		
Rest of World*	£12 (* £8 to those receiving the Bulletin by email)		
Belgium	U.K. & Rest of World	U.S.A.	
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Success and honours at International Exhibitions

BELGICA'06

The Belgian International competitive Exhibition.

President **Walter Deijnckens, Patrick Maselis, Henk Slabbinck and Filip Vanderhaegen** - all members of the Belgian Philatelic Academy, exhibited at the 'Salon d'Honneur.'

Walter displayed 'Ruanda-Urundi 1916-1945', Patrick 'Etat Indépendant du Congo proofs of the first Mols', Henk 'The 1914-1918 Mols' and Filip 'La Création de la ligne aérienne Europe → Congo → Madagascar, 1920-1935.'

At Belgica 2006, Filip Vanderhaegen received a 'Gold' for his display of 'Les Premiers Raids Belges vers le Congo 1925-1935' in the 'Open Class' and at Bruphila 2006 (The Belgian National competitive exhibition) a further 'Gold' with felicitations of the jury for his display of 'Studie van de Eerste Luchtpostreeks van Belgisch Kongo'..



Johan Jantzen

It will be recalled that we reported previously on the success of our Danish junior member Johan Jantzen as the winner of the 'Post Danmark Cup' at 'Vejle Frim 05'. He repeated that success this year and now we congratulate him as the winner at 'Belgica 2006' of the Class 1C for 18 to 21 year olds. But not only that, the jury pronounced him as the 'World Champion of Youth Philately' in competition against 210 other competitors.



Exposicion Mundial de Filatelia

Patrick Maselis was awarded a 'Large Vermeil' with Congratulations from the jury for his book 'From the Azores to New Zealand.'

Stuart Smith as Editor of the Study Circle's Bulletin, was awarded a 'Large Silver' for the composite assembly of 'Bulletins, 2005.'

Events 2007

Saturday 17th March 2007 - 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.*

Joint Meeting with the 'East Africa Study Circle'

Saturday 3rd November 2007

At the 'Union Jack Club' in London

There is to be a joint meeting of the two Study Circles, prompted by a common interest in the '1st World War campaign in German East Africa'.

The date and location has been chosen so as to coincide with the ever popular 'Philatex Stamp Fair', held at the 'Horticultural Halls in nearby Victoria.

Each Study Circle has been invited to display 60 sheets of material of mutual interest. Those able and wishing to contribute in some way as well as those simply hoping to attend and support this meeting, are requested to let either Stuart Smith or Walter Deijnckens know.

Queries in the American Press

Member Vincent Sgier has sent in copies of two enquiries which have appeared in the American weekly publication 'Linn's Stamp News' - and from which the following extract has been taken. Members with interests in modern and current issues may be interested in the content. Should anyone wish to add to the commentary or query, please respond to me. I will undertake to pass on that information to the respective enquirers and also include it in a future issue of this Bulletin.

Stuart Smith

LINN'S STAMP NEWS OCTOBER 16, 2006

"Democratic Republic of Congo

Q. "This stamp is inscribed 'République Démocratique du Congo' and is denominated '1.50 FC.' The stamp pictures German mathematician David Hilbert. There is a '2001' year date at the lower left of the stamp design. Can any reader of Linn's identify this stamp?"

A. "Your stamp purports to come from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Although the country changed its name to Democratic Republic of Congo in 1998, stamps issued since that time are still listed in Vol. 6 of the Scott standard catalog under 'Zaire'.

The Scott catalog editors have not listed any stamps for the country since 2002. The country is still wracked with civil war and insurrection, and its postal authorities have not responded to the 'Scott editors' questions about which stamps being issued in its name are legitimate and which are not. Other stamp catalog publishers (including Michel and Stanley Gibbons) and the Official Belgian Postage Stamp Catalog have also not listed new stamps of the Democratic Republic of Congo issued since roughly 2000 to 2002.

Your stamp might be a legitimate postal issue ... but at this time, no one can say for sure."

A. LINN'S STAMP NEWS, FORUM UPDATE – NOVEMBER 27, 2006

A reader reports of "a pane of six stamps similar in design to the 1.50 franc inscribed 'Personalities of the 20th Century'. The personalities commemorated on the stamps are Friedrich Nietzsche, Gustav Mahler, Jack London, Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Mann and Henri Matisse. The reader/contributor asks 'How many different panes were produced in the series?'

The Bulletin Editor says – "It isn't surprising that the several catalogues are no longer listing such issues!"

Democratic Republic of Congo

This stamp is inscribed "République Démocratique du Congo" and is denominated "1.50 FC." The stamp pictures German mathematician David Hilbert. There is a "2001" year date at the lower left of the stamp design.

I have searched the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue and Linn's Stamp Identifier and cannot seem to locate the country, let alone the catalog number for this stamp.

Can any reader of Linn's identify this stamp for me?

Mike DeLoe
32 Brook St.
Methuen, MA 01844

Your stamp purports to come from the Democratic Republic of Congo. This country was formerly known as Congo Free State (1886-1908), Belgian Congo (1908-60), Congo Democratic Republic (1960-71) and Zaire (1971-98). Although the country changed its name to Democratic Republic of Congo in 1998, stamps issued since that time are still listed in Vol. 6 of the Scott standard catalog under "Zaire".

The Scott catalog editors have not listed any stamps for the country since 2002. The country is still wracked by civil war and insurrection, and its postal authorities have not responded to the Scott editors' questions about which stamps being issued in its name are legitimate and which are not.

Other stamp catalog publishers (including Michel and Stanley Gibbons) and the Official Belgian Postage Stamp Catalog have also not listed new stamps of the Democratic Republic of Congo issued since roughly 2000 to 2002.

Your stamp might be a legitimate postal issue from this country. But at this time, no one can say for sure.



www.linn.com

OCTOBER 16, 2006 LINN'S STAMP NEWS 39



"Who is the 'Cachet artist?'"

Q. I have two hand illustrated airmail covers that I purchased two years apart. – one was mailed from Kinshasa to Far Rockaway, N.Y. in 1971 and the other is from Switzerland to the American Embassy in Khartoum, though the postmark (of the latter) is not legible. Neither cover has a 'return address'.

The hand-painted 'cachets' on both covers were clearly done by the same artist. My efforts have not revealed anything about who the artist is.


Has any reader ever seen any illustrations like these?
Can anyone identify the artist?



Cachet artist

I have two cacheted airmail covers that I purchased two years apart at different shows.

One cover was mailed from Kinshasha, Democratic Republic of the Congo, to Far Rockaway, N.Y., in 1971. The other cover was mailed from Switzerland to the American embassy in Khartoum, Sudan.



The handpainted cachets on these two airmail covers, one mailed from Kinshasha, Congo, and the other from Switzerland, appear to have been done by the same artist.

but the postmark is not legible. There is no return address on either cover.

The handpainted cachets on both covers were clearly done by the same artist. My efforts have not revealed anything about who the artist is.

Has any reader of *Linn's* ever seen any cachets like these? Can anyone tell me something about the artist?

Barbara L. Anderson
2108 Rainbow View
Urbana, IL 61802

Inward mail from unusual sources

'From China – wrongly routed'

By – Marc Symens



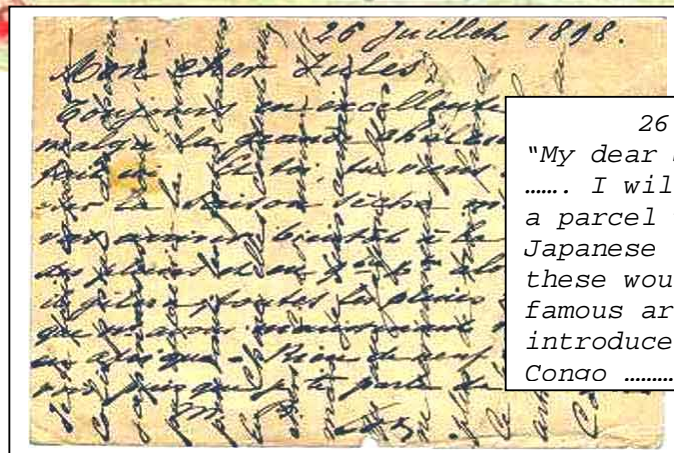
mal dirigé

Preface

Mail to the Congo originating from 'far away places' often makes fascinating reading. Furthermore the routing and consequential transit marks provide an interesting and instructive source of information. We have here, two such items of correspondence – the first from China and the second from Japan.

I am indebted to Walter Deijnckens who has provided translations of Marc Symens original article.

Editor.



26 July 1898
"My dear Jules,
..... I will send you
a parcel with
Japanese shirts,
these would be
famous articles to
introduce in to the
Congo etc

Route followed - taking approximately 3 months from writing and posting on 26th July to arrival at its final destination, 22nd October 1898.

Chinese Authority postal system

Tientsin, 26 July 1898 ('Pakua' 212221 canceller)^[1]
Shanghai 30 July 1898 (Dollar canceller)^[2]

British Colonial Authority postal system

In Shanghai it entered the British Colonial postal system and 4 cents (2 x 2 cents) 'Hong Kong' stamps were added.

Hong Kong, 3 August 1898
Aden, 26 August (- via the Suez Canal)
Lisbon, 14 September 1898
Boma, 1? October 1898
Zobe, 22 October 1898.

At some stage it received the '**mal dirigé**' 'wrong route' cachet, possibly suggesting that it would have been better directed via 'The Cape'.

1. **Pakua canceller.** The 'Pakua' is a '6 bar' dumb canceller made up of a combination of complete and interrupted lines. An interrupted line is coded '2' and a continuous line coded '1'.
2. **Dollar canceller** - Described as such, as it resembled the big Mexican dollar, often used in China at that time.

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

'From Japan to Boma'

The second card originates from Ta Lien (now Lüta), a large harbour near Port Arthur in Manchuria (now Lüshun) and is addressed to "Mr. Alfred Hahieu, Inspecteur d'Etat Indépendant du Congo, Boma, Congo, Africa." It is additionally directed as: *Faire suivre S.V.P + Via Shanghai.*



The card was published after the Russian – Japanese war of 1904-1905 and illustrates a view of the ships sunk and blockading the port. At the time the card was written, only two years had passed since hostilities ended with the Japanese finally capturing the port and surrounding territories from the Russians.



The following lists the route followed, and is notable in that the card travelled overland from the east to west coast of Africa. It was written 3rd June 1907 in an area of war torn disputed territory, and took approximately 4 months to reach its final destination.

Had it been directed from Aden via Lisbon, as was the previous card from China, perhaps it would have arrived a month earlier! Ed.

- Ta-Lien (Manchuria), 3 June 1907
- Moji (Japan), 7 June 1907
- Victoria (Hong Kong)
- Aden, 29 June 1907
- Mombassa (Kenya), 17 July 1907
- Entebbe (Uganda), 22 July 1907
- Fort Portal (Uganda), 31 July 1907
- Uvira (Congo), 26 September 1907
- Stanleyville, 28 September 1907
- Leopoldville, 11 October 1907.



**Man. Ta-Lien
3 June 1907**



Foreign Censor Marks – continued

Egypt

By – Walter Deijnckens



Preface

Egyptian censor marks are numerous in design and the classification used is that documented by Peter A. S. Smith in 'Egyptian Stamps and postal history, 1999'.

13 categories are recorded of which I have found 8 on the 35 Belgian Congo covers examined or reported on in this study.

Group II – incorporating a double circle with censorship number in the middle.

The outer circle varies in diameter slightly, but all are approximately 21 mm. Marks in black, violet and red ink have been seen. Illustrated in figures 1 and 2 are typical examples from this group. Details of others seen on covers originating from the Belgian Congo are listed below.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Group II Censor No.	Route	Date	Diameter Outer x inner
4	Aba → Bruxelles	Not identifiable	21½ x 7mm
71	Aba → London	March 1943	21½ x 7mm
96	Aba → Illinois	April 1944	21½ x 8mm
49	Leopoldville → Cairo	October 1944	21½ x 7mm
102	Costermansville → Cairo	February 1945	21 x 7mm

Group III –incorporating a double circle with the letter ‘M’ in the middle.

According to Smith ^[1] single circles also exist in this category, but none have been recorded on Belgian Congo correspondence in this study.

The letter ‘M’, the content and diameters vary in size. The several examples seen on mail originating from Belgian Congo are illustrated below and details given of their size, date of use and routing.

Group III – various types, identified by ‘Figure #number’

Figure	Route	Date
Figure 3	Leopoldville → Cairo	Nov. 1939
Figures 4	Aba → Illinois Costermansville → M.E.F. ^[1]	Jan. 1942 Mar. 1943
Figure 5	Aba → London	July 1942
Figure 6	Aba → Camphill (USA) Aba → New York Aba → New Jersey Aba → New Jersey	Oct. 1943 Oct. 1943 Nov. 1943 Mar. 1944
Figure 7	Aba → New Jersey Leopoldville → Brisbane	Mar. 1944 May 1945
Figure 8	Aba → New Jersey	June 1944
Figure 9	Leopoldville → Palestine	June 1945

1. M.E.F. = Middle East Forces



Figure 3
(26 x 10 mm)



Figure 4
(20 x 10mm)



Figure 5
(24½ x 9)

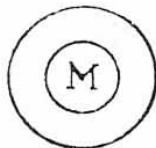


Figure 6
(20 x 10)



Figure 7
(21½ x 11½)

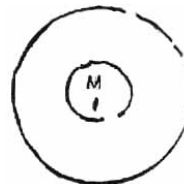


Figure 8
(26 x 10)



Figure 9
(28 x 16)

▼ As figure 8



As figure 4

Group IV

- various square and circular marks with Arabic translation. Censor number incorporated.



Figure 10

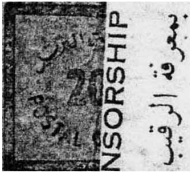


Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Illustrating 'Figure 14' ▲

Group IV – examples recorded

Group IV Censor No.	Figure	Route	Date
11	Figure 10	Leopoldville → Detroit	January 1941
11	Figure 10	Stanleyville → New York	January 1941
20	Figure 11	Stanleyville → New York	January 1941
61	Figure 12	Leopoldville → New York	January 1941
80	Figure 13	Irumu → Bruxelles	January 1941
62	Figure 14	Leopoldville → New York	April 1941
52	Figure 15	Aba → Illinois	April 1944

Group V – various designs and similar to those in Group IV except that there is no ‘Censor number’.



Illustrating – figures 20, 26 and 27

Group V – examples recorded

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Date</i>
Figure 16	Leopoldville → New York	January 1941
Figure 17	Leopoldville → New York	April 1941
Figure 18	Leopoldville → New York	April 1941
Figure 19	Leopoldville → Cairo	October 1944
Figure 19	Kolwezi → Cairo	May 1945
Figure 20	Costermansville → C.M.F. (see above)	November 1944
Figure 21	Leopoldville → Cairo	November 1944
Figure 22	Costermansville → Cairo	February 1945

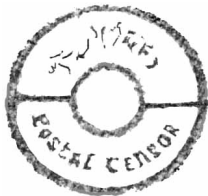


Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20

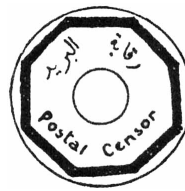


Figure 21



Figure 22

Groups VI, VII and X cover a range of numeric hand stamps, identifying individual censors. In most cases these compliment other applied 'mark's previously illustrated..

Group VI

Figure 23. Boxed hand stamp with printed prefix letter, followed by a hand written number.
'B 3732' is the only item recorded in this study and appears on Leopoldville → New York, April 1941.

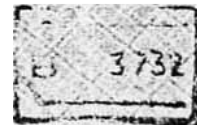


Figure 23

Group VII

Figure 24. Un-boxed hand stamps similar in design to the two illustrated.

The following have been recorded:

E2535;	Stanleyville → New York.	January 1941
E3540;	No details documented	
E5405;	Irumu → Bruxelles.	January 1941
S582;	Leopoldville → New York.	April 1941
S1109;	Leopoldville → Detroit.	January 1941
S1164;	Leopoldville → New York.	April 1941
SSS2;	Leopoldville → New York.	April 1941

E3540

S 1109

Figure 24

Group X

Figure 25. Numeric hand stamp only, that is without a prefixed letter. These are known in black, blue and red inks. The numbers recorded are as follows:

552	Aba → Illinois	January 1942
123	Leopoldville → Cairo.	November 1944
2124	Costermansville → M.E.F.	November 1944
3077	Leopoldville	October 1944
4216	Aba → New Jersey	March 1944
7226	Aba → Illinois	April 1944
008479	Leopoldville → Palestine	June 1945

2 1 2 4

7 2 2 6

Figure 25

Group XIII

Figure 26. Pentagon shaped censor mark with number.
The numbers recorded are as follows:.

#		
2	Leopoldville → Cairo.	November 1944
4	Costermansville → C.M.F.	November 1944
4	Costermansville → Cairo	February 1945
4	Kolwezi → Cairo.	May 1945
4	Leopoldville → Cairo	May 1945
7, 10	Costermansville → R.A.F.	November 1944
9	Leopoldville → Cairo.	November 1944



Figure26

Military Censor Marks

‘Deputy Chief Field Censor’



Figure 27

There are several types of ‘Military Censor Marks’ and the one illustrated here was used by the Royal Air Force. This service was established as a means to improve the speed with which letters were handled, following general complaints about slowness of the ordinary military mails.”^[1]

The subject of ‘Military Censorship’ in Egypt is extensive in its own right, and for this reason will appear as a separate article in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Censorship Labels

We have only seen an example of one type of ‘civil’ label. An example is illustrated as a part of the title of this paper as well as on the two covers identified as ‘Figure 2’ and that under the ‘Group IV’ heading.

Summary and Conclusions

Many of the covers inspected have several censorship marks on each of them and it has not been practicable to cross refer such information within the confines of the tables so far provided. As this information may be useful for members wishing to add to, or research the subject further, the following table may be helpful.

It should be noted that the information provided only refers to ‘Censorship’ by the Egyptian authorities, that is on arrival in Egypt. No reference has been made to marks applied en route to or subsequently forwarded – for example Belgian Congo censorship, and ‘transit marks’ applied in Sudan or on arrival in the U.S.A.

Route	Date	Censorship – by ‘Group classification’											
		II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	X	XIII	M	L		
Aba → Bruxelles	N.K.	#4											L
Leopoldville → Cairo	Nov. 1939		X										
Leopoldville → Detroit	Jan. 1941			X				X					L
Stanleyville → New York (x2)	Jan. 1941			X				X					
Leopoldville → New York	Jan. 1941			X	X								L
Leopoldville → New York (x2)	Apr. 1941			X	X	X		X					L
Irumu → Bruxelles	Jan. 1941			X				X					
Aba → Illinois	Jan. 1942			X					X				
Aba → London	July. 1942		X										
Aba → London	Mar.1943	#71											
Aba → Camphill (USA)	Oct. 1943		X										
Aba → New York	Oct. 1943		X										
Aba → New Jersey	Nov.1943		X										
Aba → New Jersey	Mar.1944		X					X					
Aba → New Jersey	Mar.1944		X										
Aba → Illinois	Apr.1944	#96		X					X				L
Aba → New Jersey	Jne. 1944		X										
Leopoldville → Cairo	Oct.1944	#49				X		X					L
Leopoldville → Cairo	Nov.1944					X		X	#2,9				L
Costermansville → RAF	Nov.1944								#7,10		M		
Costermansville → C.M.F.	Nov.1944					X			#4		M		
Costermansville → Cairo	Feb. 1945	#102				X			#4				L
Kolwezi → Cairo	May 1945					X			#4				L
Leopoldville → Cairo	May 1945								#4				
Leo. → Brisbane	May 1945		X										
Leopoldville. → Palestine	Jne. 1945		X						X				

M = Military censor mark

L = Mail opened and sealed by the Egyptian authority with a label.

1. **Group II** marks were introduced during mid-September 1939 and used until the end of the war.
2. **Group III** are characterised by the letter ‘M’ in the middle. They were introduced late September 1939 and are fairly common. However a sub-group having no inscriptions between the circles and came into use in 1944-1945 and are relatively uncommon.
3. **Group IV** were introduced from January 1940, have different shapes but always a number in the centre.
4. **Group V** marks are similar to those of Group IV but have no number in the middle.
5. **Group VI** marks are small rectangular ‘hand stamps’ bearing both a letter and numbers, but apparently had a short period of use - July 1940 to July 1941.
6. **Group VII** without the rectangular frame were similarly short lived – September 1940 to October 1941.
7. **Group X** has a number only (no prefix letter) and the range is from 1 to 999. The lowest was first introduced in September 1941 and the latest is July 1945.
8. **Group XIII** as a ‘pentagon containing number’, came into use towards the end of the war – from September 1944.

1. **A.S. Smith ‘Egyptian Stamps and Postal History’**

In preparing the article the author acknowledges the information and assistance provided by Emile Hoorens, Alan Morway, Jean Oth, Stuart Smith and Michael Wright.

Tabora Post Office Cancellers 1916 – 1917

By – Leo Tavano

Preface

The following is a compilation of previously published information in support of a paper with new findings given by Leo Tavano at the annual meeting of the Study Circle in Brussels, 18th March 2006.

Tabora

Figure 1.

TABORA

Figure 2.

Tabora was established as a German Colonial civil post office on 15th July 1895. During World War I, the Belgian army occupied and took over the management of this office on 19th September 1916 until 24th February 1917. It was issued with a canceller on 16th November 1916 and on the same day the 'Military Office' also received its own B.P.C. – V.P.K. N^o. 1.

Prior to that time, mail was cancelled in either Albertville or Muanza according to the final destination to which it was addressed:

- i) Albertville: Tabora→Albertville→Elisabethville→The Cape.
- ii) Muanza: Tabora→St.Michael→Muanza→Kisumu→Mombassa

Figures 1 and 2. During the interim period (19th September to 15th November) and prior to its issue, various 'straight line cachets' were applied as an 'Office mark' to indicate the origin of the mail posted there. These are rare and probably privately prepared.



Figure 3.

Figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 illustrates a typically authentic but *philatelic* example of both the civil and military cancellers on a Belgian Congo postal stationery card of the period and in the absence of any transit marks, one concludes that figure 4, dated 20th February 1917 is but another.



Figure 4

The ‘civil’ canceller exists in two formats which were classified by Du Four ^[1] as ‘Type A’ and ‘Type B’.

Type A Issued 16 November 1916 and withdrawn 24 February 1917

Figure 5.

The ‘Type A’ cachet was made by the British in Nairobi and is readily identified by the instructional ‘time, day, year’ block, being obliquely inclined in relation to the Tabora town name and the two radial lines positioned between the two circles. It was the only canceller used regularly at Tabora and has been found on the following:

- I. On Congolese stamps of the 1915 issues.
- II. Sometimes on the demonetised 1910 issues.
- III. On the ‘Tombeur-Pambani’ overprinted stamps (rare).
- IV. On the E.A.A. overprints, but uniquely on the printings with the *smudged* surcharges, issued 12 December 1916.



Figure 5.

Blue ink was used throughout the period but black ink was introduced from about 12th December 1916.

Philatelic memorabilia

Figures 6 and 7.

In addition to use as the official mail canceller, it was also extensively applied in the preparation of *philatelic memorabilia* – typically as a last day of occupation canceller - 24 FE 17



Figure 6

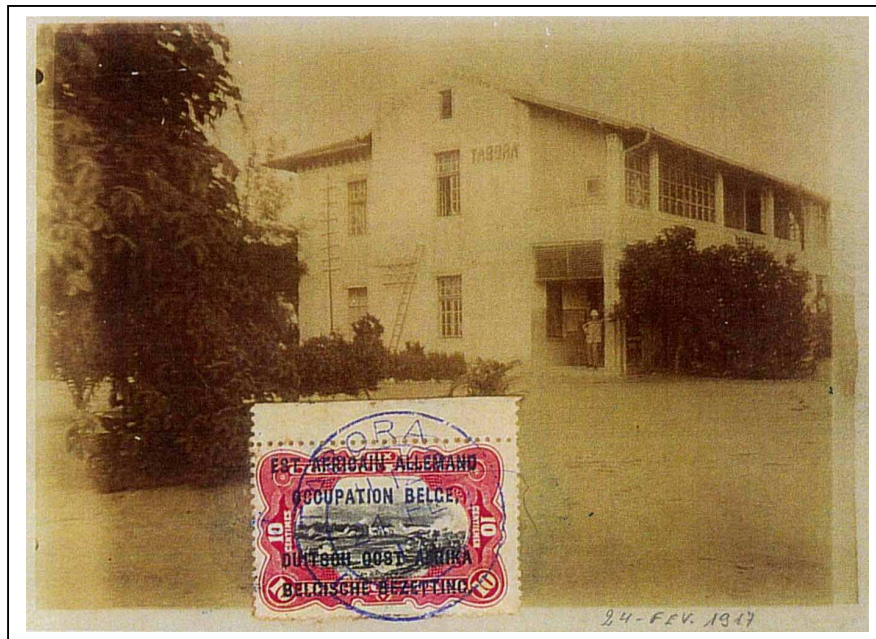


Figure 7 Tabora Post Office

In this capacity it was also used to create 'fantasy cancellations' such as "the glorious 19th September 1916" - when the Belgians first entered Tabora. The canceller of course had not been made at that time but it made a nice souvenir.

Figure 8.

Other bogus and pre-issue dated cancellations were produced and in addition to that illustrated in figure 8 others have been seen on:

- I. The *Pambani** issued, Tombeur stamps
- II Stamps provided at Tabora - *philatelically compliant*
- III EAA OB stamps issued 12 December 1916

**Pambani* – is situated at the foot of Lake Victoria, to the south of Mwanza.



Figure 8

Figures 9 and 10 - illustrate examples of these ‘fantasy’ cancellations. It will be noted that the first line of the ‘time, day, year’ block has been reformatted to incorporate the ‘year’ in place of the ‘time’ slug. There is also a small gap between the ‘9’ and ‘1’ in ‘1916’.



1916, 19th September
Figure 9.



1916, 24th October
Figure 10.

Figure 11.

During the period of Belgian occupation, the ‘Type 1’ canceller suffered some minor wear and dependant on the force of application and degree of inking, 3 small ruptures of the outer circle may show themselves. These are most easily seen when blue ink was used.

- I. - wear to the left of ‘T’
- II. - wear between the ‘B’ and ‘O’
- III. - wear between ‘O’ and ‘R’
- IV. - wear to the right of ‘A’
(not apparent in this illustration)



Figure 11

Type B

On 24th February 1917, the Belgian troops withdrew from the Tabora office and handed over administration to the British. A new canceller was created which is classified as ‘Type B’ and the ink used is always Blue-violet.

According to Du Four “*the ‘Type B’ canceller was sent to Tabora to supplement that already in use, but arrived too late.*” The accuracy of this statement is dubious as both the new ‘Type B’ and the previous ‘Type A’ are recorded as having been used on the 24th. Arguably it would now appear to have been created simply for philatelic commemorative purposes, and Keach has already said that in his opinion the canceller was nothing more than a “*common forgery*”^[2].

From circumstantial evidence, and in support of Keach’s opinion, it is interesting that no examples exist of the ‘Type B’ canceller having been used on mail that actually passed through the post. Furthermore it is known only with a single date, ‘24 FE 17’.

Figures 12 and 13.

The 'Type B' canceller is very similar in design to that of 'Type A' except that the previously inclined instructional 'time, day, year' block, is set square relative to the word TABORA and the two radial lines. The readers attention is specifically drawn to figure 12, in which the position of the 2 aligned radial lines are situated across the centre of the 'day' line '24 FE'.

In his presentation to the Study Circle, Leo Tavano expressed the view "*in my opinion the original 'Type A' cachet was itself modified at the time the Belgians handed over the office to the British. The modification created the 'Type B' cachet.*"

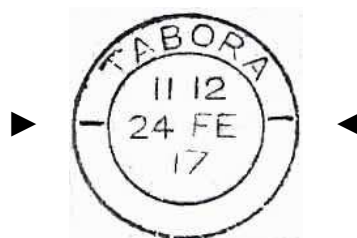


Figure 12



Figure 13

The majority of 'Type B' cancellations are dated '24 FE 17' but other bogus examples also exist commemorating "*the glorious 19th September 1916*". In this case and unlike those created by the 'Type A' canceller, (c.f. figures 9 and 10) the 'time day year' retain their correct format.

Figure 14 illustrates a '1916' example. Those known are on the 'Tombeur' issues and appear less common.



Figure 14

Type B – variant.

Figures 15 and 16. ^[1]

In comparison to that illustrated in figure 11, there also exists a variant of the 'Type B' cachet and whilst still dated '24 FE 17', the position of the 2 radial lines has dropped such that they are now aligned across the base (previously 'middle') of the 'day' line '24 FE'.

This second format is known on stamps overprinted 'E.A.A. – OB' of the type 'L2'. However the 'L2' overprint was produced by a single very distinct plate of 50 clichés, and these were not put into circulation until May and June 1917 – some 3 months after the canceller date!



Figure 15

Type B – facsimile.



Figure 16

Figures 17 and 18.

This forgery/facsimile of the ‘Type B’ canceller was erroneously illustrated by Andre de Cock ^[3] who assumed it to be a genuine example of the Tabora canceller. It has the following characteristics:

- I. The two radial lines are too thick
- II. The sloping leg of the letter ‘R’ is curved
- III. It always uses the same ‘time, day and year’ as that illustrated here.



Figure 17



Figure 18

As illustrated, this bogus canceller is shown on the 1918 AO overprinted Red Cross issue, which of course had not been issued at the time.

Figure 19.

A second forgery is illustrated in figure 19 and once again (as figure 9) is dated 19 September 1916. In this instance it is effectively a ‘double whammy’ as the stamp bears a forged URUNDI overprint on sheet position #29 of combination II+A3. The authentic surcharge only exists on the 1915 40 centimes combination II+A2.

The only genuine article is the original stamp!

Can we now join with one accord and finally agree that this so called ‘Type B’ canceller and its several variants, really is bogus and was created solely for philatelic purposes?



Figure 19

1. DuFour, ‘Congo, Cinquante Ans d’Histoire Postale’
2. Keach, ‘B.C.S.C Bulletin no. 111.’
3. De Cock, ‘Le Congo Belge et ses Marques Postales’