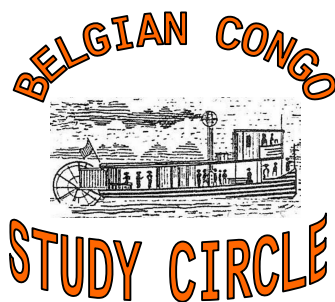


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BULLETIN 148

September-October 2008

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Our website address

www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be

From the Editor



I have little comment to add on this occasion other than to thank once again our contributors to the Bulletin.

Please note and help if you can.

With the exception of a few '*bits and pieces*' and a final 'Part 3' to Patrick Maselis' '*A Postal History of Slavery at the Congo coast*', the cupboard is bare and at this stage there is insufficient material to produce the end of the year Bulletin.

Membership News

U.S.A. Bulletin mailing officer – Edwin Lavitt

Unfortunately Ed is unable to continue as 'Bulletin mailing officer' to the American members. We are however very grateful that Ken Goss has agreed to fill the gap and it is from him that future mailings will be made.

Whilst the majority of American members now receive copy of the Bulletin and Auction list by e-mail, will those receiving copy by ordinary mail please note and be reminded of Ken's communication details:

Kenneth F. Goss
4667 Boone Drive
Fremont
CA 94538
e-mail: kfgoss@comcast.net

Sadly we have to report the death of two former Belgian members, Jean-Claude Courard last March and André Vannerum more recently.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to a new French member Dr Bernard Dure, who has recently joined the Study Circle. As always we trust he will enjoy and benefit from his association with us:

France - **Dr. Dure, Bernard**; *La nauze, 33133 Galgon*
e-mail: b.dure@wanadoo.fr

Residential and e-mail address changes

Belgium - **Slabbinck, H**; *12A, August Oleffelaan, 8620 Nieuwpoort*

U.K. - **Anton Kropman**; (- formerly in South Africa)
40 Coggeshall Road, Earls Colne, Colchester, Essex. CO6 2JP
e-mail: anton.marcl@gmail.com

- **Michael Wright**; e-mail: shawwright@elmic.org.uk

Competition successes and Congratulations

We have just received details of Belgian Congo Study Circle members' successes at the recent 'Marche-en-Famenne' National Competitive Competition, 27-28 September. The Jean-Claude Courard entries were made by his wife following his untimely death last March. They represented a fine legacy and tribute to him.

Traditional philatélie

96% - Patrick Maselis. 'Etat Indépendant du Congo'
86% - Charles Henuzet. 'Les 5 centimes Mols 1894-1922'
82% - Jean-Claude Courard. 'Etude et présentation des timbres no 100 a 103 surcharges typo de Boma 1922 Congo Belge'

Postal History

86% - Walter Deijnckens. 'Het gebruik van de sterstempels in Belgisch Congo 1921-1930'
81% - Jean-Claude Courard. 'Les marques de la censure civile sur le courrier du Congo Belge années 1940-1945'
73% - Jean-Claude Courard. 'Les marques de la censure militaire sur le courrier du Congo Belge années 1940-1945'

Aérophilatélie

87% - Filip Van der Haegen. 'La poste aérienne en relation avec Elisabethville'

Literature

73% - Walter Deijnckens. 'Foreign Censor marks and labels on Belgian Congo covers, 1940-1945'

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

Questions, Answers and can you Help?

Question – Are there any more examples of this label?

In the *provisionally* concluding article '**Addenda, World War II – Foreign Censor Marks on mail originating from the Belgian Congo**' appearing in this Bulletin, several new finds are reported and members are requested to enlighten us if they can add anything further. Of particular note is the Belgian Congo 'Censure label' used in Elisabethville and most surprisingly not identified or reported previously. (Refer page20) For ease of reference the illustration and comment in that article is repeated here.

Belgian Congo labels

"Illustrated is an example of a Censor label used at Elisabethville during March 1941 and not previously recorded in our present study."

Whilst we cannot establish with any absolute certainty what route it took, one thing is sure in that the letter passed through the Belgian Congo and was opened by a Censor in Elisabethville."



← 81mm x 13mm height →

A Postal History of Slavery at the Congo coast

By – Patrick Maselis

Part 2

4. Letters written by British subjects patrolling in the Congo area.

We know of 9 covers written by British subjects patrolling in the Congo area.

In chronological date order:

1. Congo River, 9th January 1864
2. Banana Creek, 9th April 1868
3. Cabinda, *Portuguese Congo*, end of July 1868
4. Banana, 4th July 1869
5. Turtle Cove, Shark Point, Congo River, 21st January 1870.
6. Landana, *Portuguese Congo*, 24th October 1871.
7. Kabenda *Portuguese Congo*, 26th November 1871
8. Black Point, *Pointe Noire in French Congo*, 2nd June 1872
9. Banana Creek, 6th June 1872

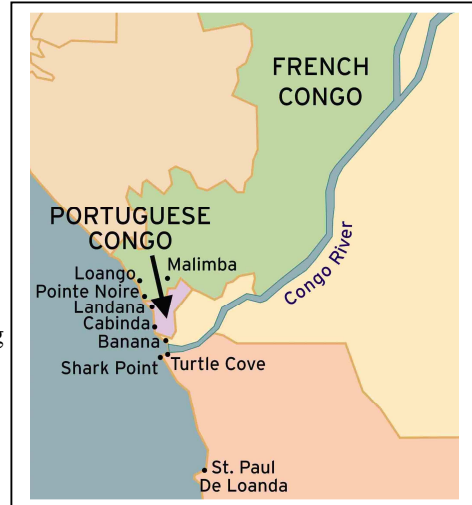


Figure 6, Cover 1: - Congo River, 9th January 1864

This letter was sent by Captain Long on H.M.S. Zebra from the 'Congo River' to Arundel in England. Un-franked letters from 'Officers' were taxed and charged 6d (6 pence) on arrival, - the so called officer 'Concession rate'. On the back there is a London transit mark 12 March 1864 and an Arundel arrival mark on the very same day.

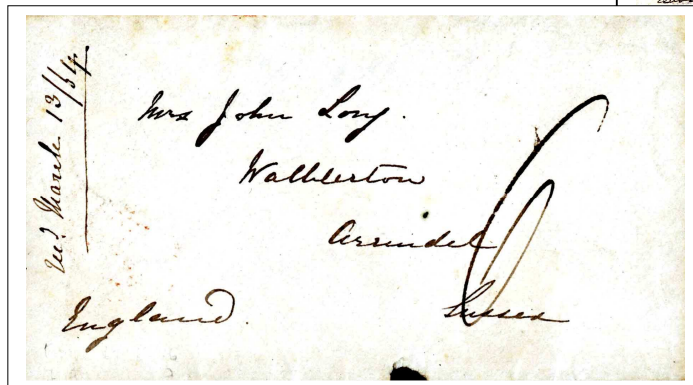
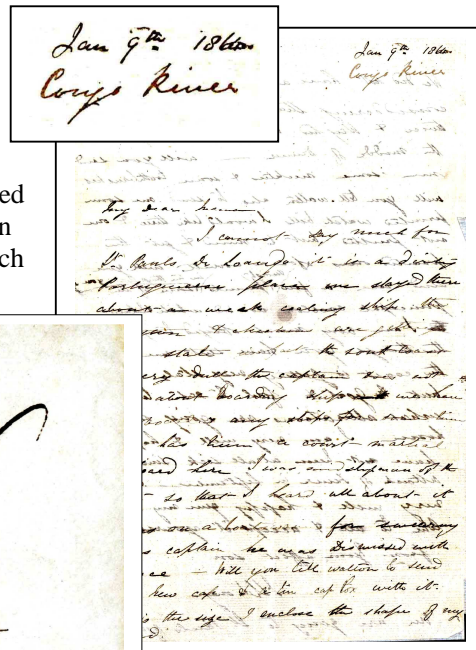


Figure 7, 'Cover 2 - Banana Creek, 9th April 1868.

This letter was written by Dr. Burke, an officer on H.M.S. Jaseur. We know that the H.M.S. Jaseur was in Banana from 16 March to 12 April, 1868. - further confirmed by the stamp of Kerdyk & Pincoffs, a Dutch factory in Banana.



On 9 April 1868, H.M.S. Jaseur met the H.M.S. Normandy in Banana, from where the Normandy set sail to Europe. It arrived in Rotterdam on 6 June 1868 and the cover bears a Rotterdam transit stamp of the same date. For these reasons it is reasonable to presume the cover travelled from Banana on H.M.S. Normandy.



From there, the letter was sent to London where it arrived on 8 June, confirmed by the London transit stamp on the back. It was taxed 6 (6d) by Holland as un-franked mail to England.

The rather indistinct Dublin 'H & K' Steam Packet dated transit stamp on the reverse confirms that the cover would have travelled from London to Holyhead using the L&NWR (London & North Western Railway) rail link before transferring to one of the official Irish Packet company ships for conveyance to Dublin. ^[1]



Figure 7

Figure 8, Cover 3 - Cabinda, end of July 1868

The letter was written on board H.M.S. Jaseur and the ship arrived in Cabinda, 24 July 1868. The African Steam Ship Company's 'Mandigo' called at Cabinda a few days later and it is assumed that mail from the Jaseur was entrusted to the captain of the Mandigo.

The Mandigo arrived in the U.K. on 31 August 1868, the same date as the London 'PAID' acknowledgement and transit stamp. The correspondence arrived at its final destination, Musselburgh in Scotland, the next day - arrival stamp on the back.

As stamps were usually not available, the majority of officers letters from Africa remained un-franked - this cover is very unusual in bearing 6 penny red stamps - '6d, officer 'Concession rate', This was acknowledged by the 'London Paid' mark and the stamps were cancelled on arrival by the London 'Victoria Docks' numeral '50'.



Figure 8

Figure 9, Cover 4 - Banana 4th July 1869

This letter was written by Commander Poland of H.M.S. Plover presumably on 4 July 1869, because the addressee noted this date on the left edge of the cover before posting it. We also know that H.M.S. Plover handed over mail to the Dutch ship 'Star' at Banana on 6 July 1869.

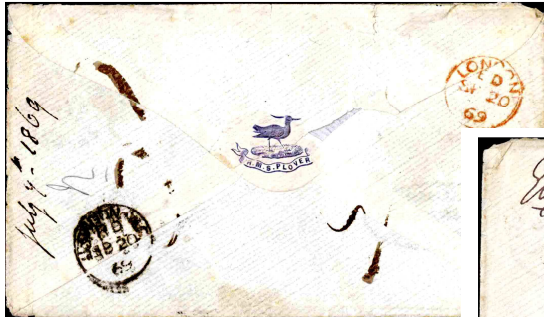


Figure 9

Further evidence that the letter left from Banana is the stamp of the Dutch company 'Afrikaansche Handelsvereniging' that had a big factory in Banana. It went with the 'Star' to Rotterdam – Rotterdam transit stamp 18 September 1869. It was forwarded to London, where it arrived 20 September 1869. As stated previously, un-franked letters from Holland were taxed 6d, i.e. twice the normal letter rate at that time.

Figure 10, Cover 5 - Turtle Cove, Shark Point, Congo River. 21st January 1870

The letter was written by officer Seymour on board the H.M.S. Crowler. It reached Liverpool 18 March 1870 - transit stamp on the back, and was forwarded to Redditch where it arrived the following day. It arrived in Alcester, its final destination, 19 March as recorded by a further stamp on the back. It was taxed 6d, the officer 'Concession rate'.

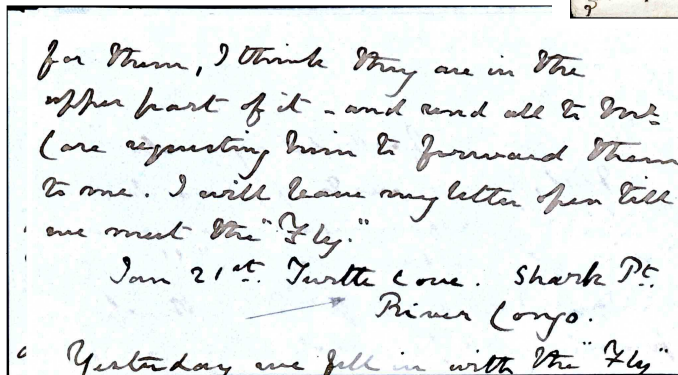
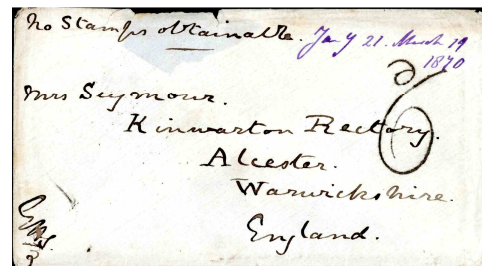


Figure 10

Figure 11, Cover 6 - Landana, 24th October 1871

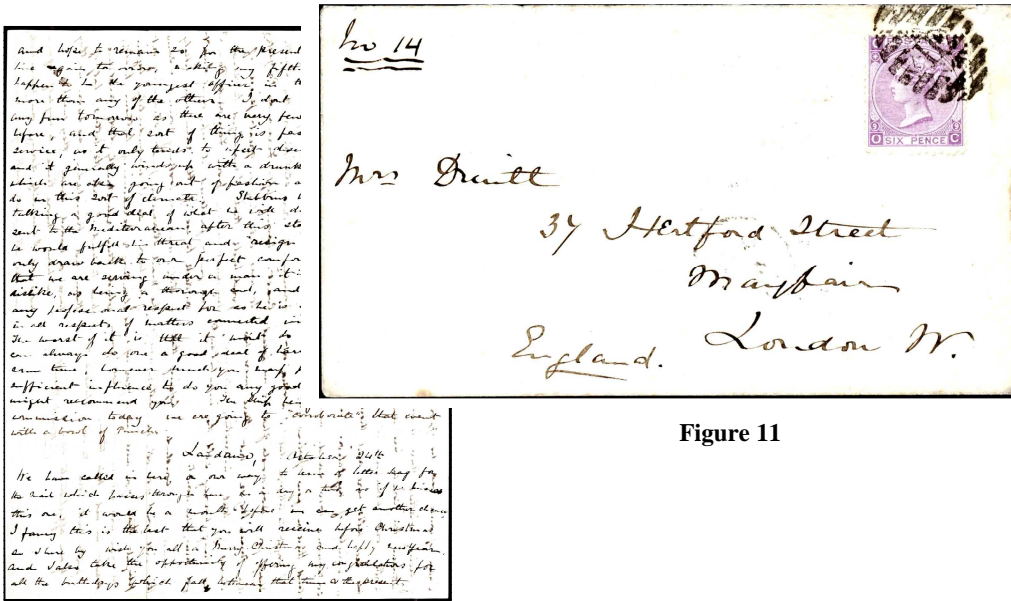


Figure 11

This letter was written by Sub. Lt. Drutt on the H.M.S. Seagull and is dated Landana, 24 October. According to the 'Seagull' log book, "it met the African Steamship Company's 'Soudan' on 28th October 1871."

The correspondence travelled on the 'Soudan' to Liverpool where it docked on 2nd December 1871 (Lloyds List). It was then conveyed by rail to London where it arrived the same day, receiving both London arrival and transit marks on the back of the cover, 2 December 1871. The cover is correctly stamped, 6d (6 pence) representing the usual officer 'Concession rate', tied by the London numeral '11' of Chelsea.

Figure 12, Cover 7 - Kabenda, 26th November 1871

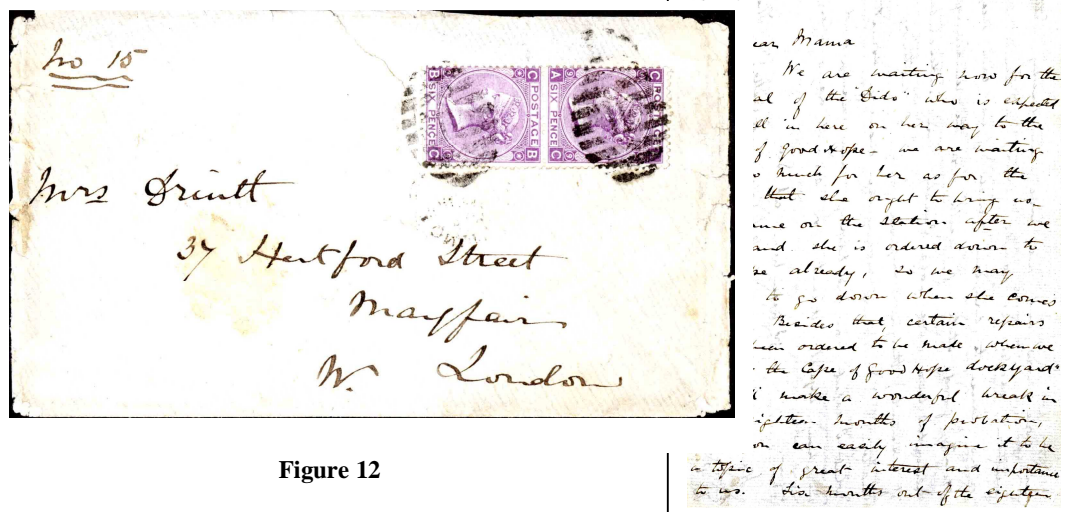


Figure 12

The letter is from the same officer as 'Cover 6'. It was written and mailed from Bonny in Nigeria and arrived in England 30 December 1871 – London transit and arrival stamps on the back. The letter is franked with two 6d stamps at double the officer 'Concession rate'.

Figure 13, Cover 8 - Black Point, 2nd June 1872

Here we have another letter from Sub. Lt. Druitt. It was sent from Black Point (now Pointe-Noire in French Congo) to London, where it arrived 11 July 1872. It has again received London transit and arrival marks on the back of the cover and was taxed 6d at the officer 'Concession rate'.

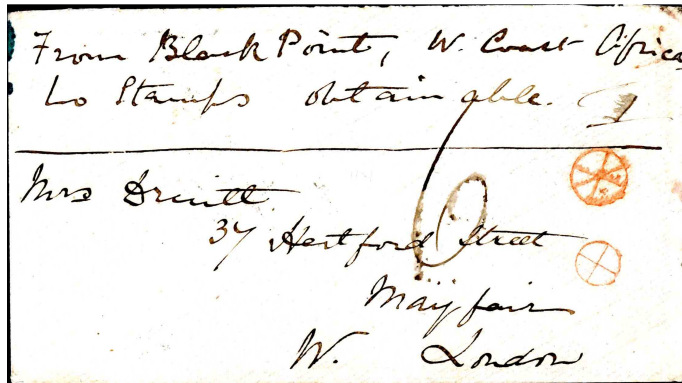
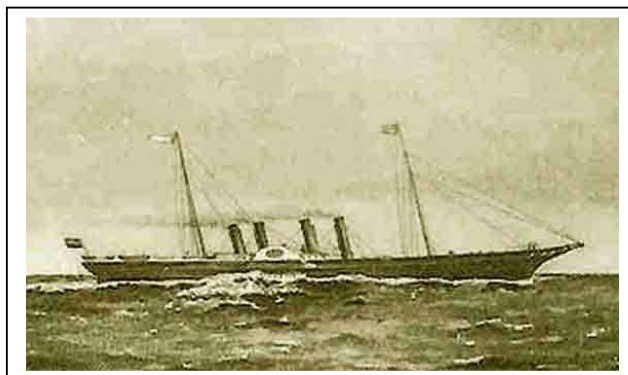


Figure 14, Cover 9 - Banana Creek, 8th June 1872

This fourth letter from Sub. Lt. Druitt shows two red 'Inspector marks' on the front and London transit and arrival marks on the back. These are dated 11 July 1872. The cover is taxed 6d in manuscript - the officer 'Concession rate'.



1. On 1st August 1848 the London to Holyhead railway line was established and at the time of this correspondence was in the ownership of the London & North Western railway company. As from 1849, the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company had been contracted to run a night mail service from Holyhead (Anglesey, North Wales) to Kingstown (Ireland), carrying Royal Mail on behalf of the Post Office. In 1868, 4 ships were working the crossing - R.M.S. (Royal Mail Ship) Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster.



R.M.S. Leinster

To be continued.

World War II - Foreign Censor Marks on mail originating from the Belgian Congo

Compiled by Stuart Smith

Preface

In the July 2004 edition of our Bulletin (131), Walter Deijnckens requested that we helped by pooling information for a study he was about to undertake of foreign censorship on correspondence originating from the Belgian Congo during World War II. He was amply supported and we have benefited from a series of articles on this topic

It should also be added that both Michael Wright and Emile Hoorens complemented the series with other topical material.

It was inevitable that the series would prompt the occasional communication with further information from members. That material has been kept on file and has recently been added to very significantly by Rick Oxenham from his 'Airmail' collection. I am particularly indebted to him and the other contributors - Hal Hoyte, Philippe Lindekens and Michael Wright.

The following is a brief title summary of articles and the countries represented in this study which should make it easier for cross checking, 'where and when'.

Bulletin	Date	Title/Countries reported	Author
131	July 2004	Original appeal	W. Deijnckens
131	July 2004	Two recent finds – can you help	E. Hoorens
132	Sept. 2004	Internment Camps, 1940-45	E. Hoorens
133	December 2004	<i>Refers</i> - French colonies, Free French, etc.	M. Wright & W. Deijnckens
134	March 2005	Poste Militaire – A stampless cover	A. Morvay
134	March 2005	French Equatorial Africa, Cameroon, etc.	W. Deijnckens
135	July 2005	Gold Coast	W. Deijnckens
136	October 2005	All originating from Ruanda-Urundi	W. Deijnckens
137	December 2005	Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nigeria	W. Deijnckens
139	July 2006	Northern and Southern Rhodesia	W. Deijnckens
140	Sept.-Oct. 2006	Censorship – New discoveries	E. Hoorens
140	Sept.-Oct. 2006	German Censorship	Tony Brooks
140	Sept.-Oct.	N. & S. Rhodesia, Nyasaland, S. Africa	W. Deijnckens
141	December 2006	Egypt including Military marks	W. Deijnckens
142	March 2007	Sudan including Egypt Military marks	W. Deijnckens
143	June 2007	USA, Canada, Bermuda, Trinidad	W. Deijnckens
144	Sept.-Oct. 2007	Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain	W. Deijnckens
145	December 2007	Great Britain	W. Deijnckens
146	March-April 2008	Australia, New Caledonia, India, Pakistan, Japan	W. Deijnckens
147	July 2008	Morocco, Gambia	W. Deijnckens

Addenda

Cover 1. ^[R.O.]

Cameroon - Reference Bulletins 133 and 134-

For those receiving copy in colour, we are able to illustrate a cover from Leopoldville to Cameroon confirming a previously assumed buff coloured **CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE** label, as well as marks already reported. It was posted and initially opened by the censor in Leopoldville, 14 December 1943 and subsequently on arrival in Douala, Cameroon.

This cover also extends the recorded period of use of the 'Large 2-circle '**CONTRÔLE POSTAL (TERRITOIRE DU CAMEROUN) Commission A**' mark to December 1943.



Cover 2 [R.O.]

→ Algeria - Reference Bulletin 134
 'The French Colonies'



We were previously unable to illustrate or record findings of any correspondence to Algeria. We now have one example of an airmail cover from Leopoldville to Algeria, February 1944.



It was directed via and opened in Brazzaville (transit date stamp and A/1 small circle hand stamp) and resealed using the label –
 'Libre Afrique Française / Contrôle Postal'.



Cover 3 ^[R.O.]

Gold Coast - Reference Bulletin 135

Registered correspondence: Stanleyville → Takoradi, Gold Coast → Lisbon → New York.
This is a fine and interesting item, illustrating the buff coloured **GOLD COAST / OPENED BY CENSOR** label.



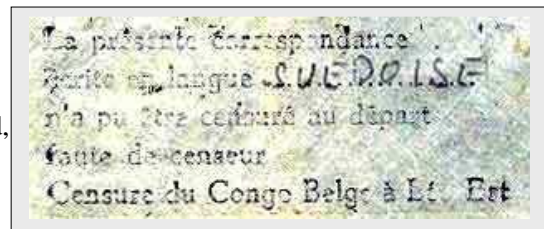
In 1940 the 'FAM22' Pan American South Atlantic route via Bathurst had not been established and here we have a rare example of commercial mail carried by SABENA to Takoradi in Gold Coast, then by BOAC flying boat to Lisbon for onward transmission by Pan American Airways to New York.

Cover 4 ^[P.L.]

'Correspondence emanating from Ruanda Urundi' - Reference Bulletin 136

Sweden

In our report on countries in mainland Europe there were no examples of mail addressed to Sweden. Whilst this correspondence is from the period when hostilities in Europe had just finished, the *Censor handstamp* must surely have been in use during the war - but has not been reported previously in our bulletin.



English translation –

This correspondence written in the Swedish language could not be censored 'at this office' for lack of a (*Swedish reading*) Censor

Belgian Congo Censor at Léo East

La présente correspondance écrite en langue SUEDOISE n'a pu être censurée au départ faute de censeur
Censure du Congo Belge à Léo Est



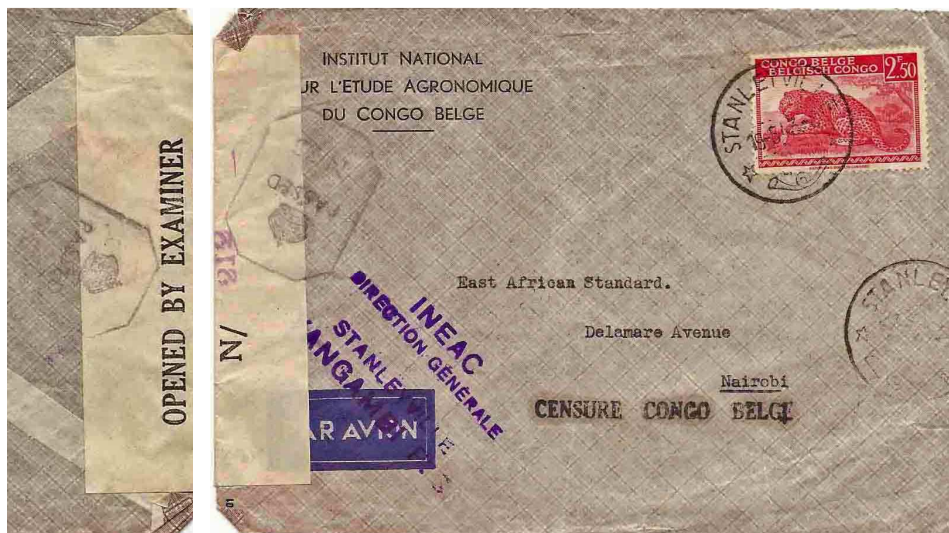
The letter originated from Kitega in Ruanda Urundi, 9th August 1945 and was transferred to Leopoldville for onward transmission to Umea in Sweden. As can be seen it bears the London applied the *Type VI* OAT mark.

Swedish, was not widely written or spoken in the Congo, which presumably created a problem for the censorship department. However the use of a specially prepared handstamp to declare the department's inability to read the contents does suggest that such an occurrence was not uncommon. What is surprising, is that we have never reported the existence of this handstamp previously. *Are there any other examples out there?*

Cover 5 [R.O.]

Kenya - Reference Bulletin 137-

N/ 212



To be added: - censor handstamp number 212

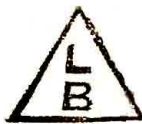
Covers 6 and 7 ^[R.O.]

Nigeria - Reference Bulletin 137

Both the label and civilian vertical octagonal censor mark were recorded in Bulletin 137 but it is interesting that apparently the censor has also applied a dated handstamp - **JUN 2 1943**

With regard to 'PP/25' - Michael Wright tells us "As far as I know by the time it was issued, most of the spread out censorship stations had been centralised in Lagos, only a few survived including 'PP 14' for Port Harcourt and 'PP 21' for Kano. I think we can take 'PP 25' as being in Lagos."

Whilst the envelope had previously been opened (brown sealing tape under the P.C. 90 label) no other transit or arrival marks are present.



Cover 7 originated from Elisabethville and was directed via the Clipper service to the U.S.A.

It was opened in Leopoldville and subsequently in Nigeria where it received the triangular *Type 4 (West African Study Circle classification)* censor mark.

The examples previously seen by us incorporated a letter over a number – the number being replaced by the letter 'B' in this instance.



Cover 8 ^[H.H.]

Southern Rhodesia - Reference Bulletin 139

We are able to illustrate another 'Triangle censor number'. Previously found were numbers 1 and 4 and here we have examples of N°3 in both red and purple. Each were on similar covers posted in Elisabethville, probably during the second half on 1940.



Northern Rhodesia - Reference Bulletin 139

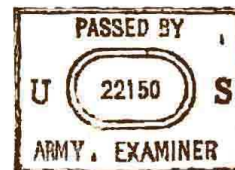
Hal Hoyte, who provided the above information also, reports "All known censored covers coming from outside Rhodesia and coming into Northern Rhodesia seem to have the code numbers 4 or 5, usually in manuscript and believed to have been censored in Ndola." In support of this he has examples emanating from Angola, Kenya and India.

Cover 9 ^[R.O.]

United States of America - Reference Bulletin 143

At first sight it appears that this letter, from a member of the American Forces, was posted from Miami.

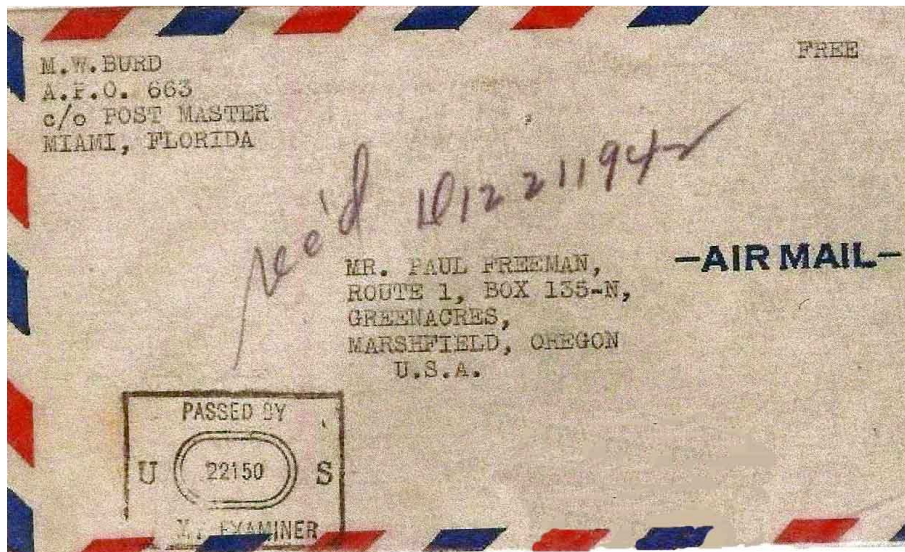
Not so - his Unit was based in the Belgian Congo.



The regulations stated - "Any first-class letter or post card from the military while on active duty to any person in U.S.A. or territories or possessions was free of postage charge."

To comply, regulations 'USPB #18418, 1st April 1942' stated that one should write 'FREE' in the upper right and 'name, rank and service to which the writer belonged' in the upper left.

We see here that M.W. Burd was at 'A.P.O. 663', which is known to have been based in the Belgian Congo from 27 March 1942 to 15 June 1943. In manuscript the letter was received in Oregon, 10/22/1942 - (22nd October 1942).



Cover 10 ^[R.O.]

Trinidad - Reference Bulletin 143

Cover 11 was addressed to Antwerp and carried on the first Pan Am flight which departed Leopoldville, 13th December 1941. With hostilities in force at that time, it is difficult to believe there was ever any chance of this correspondence being delivered to Antwerp.

**RETURNED TO SENDER
SERVICE SUSPENDED.**

America had not yet entered the war and perhaps the writer thought there might be a mail service between the States and Europe – who knows?

The 'Service Suspended' was indicative of the removal of mail links to Belgium and does not refer to the new Transatlantic Pan Am service between the Congo and U.S.A.

The letter was opened for a second time on arrival in the Caribbean and resealed using a label - 'P.C. 90 / Form 167'. This type was illustrated in Bulletin 143 and used by both the Bermuda and Trinidad censorship offices. Both used magenta coloured ink extensively for various instructional marks but this particular handstamp - 'Returned to Sender / Service Suspended', was applied in Trinidad.

It is noted that the letter writer had not declared who he or she was or an originating address.

The censor having established its origin probably returned the envelope and its contents under separate cover.



Trinidad ('P.C. 90 / Form 167' labels) - Reference Bulletin 143

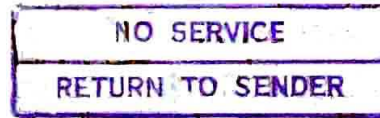
The following should be added to the table published:

<i>Mail routes</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Label Type</i>	<i>IE Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Illustration</i>
Leopoldville → New York	December 1941	Type A.	None	#5328	

Cover 11 [R.O.]

Belgium - Reference Bulletin 144

Egypt - Reference Bulletin 141



Previous reference to censorship on correspondence to Belgium was exclusive to 1945 – a time when there was an attempt to re-establish postal links which had been severed since early 1940.

Whilst researching other material I have come across correspondence from the Congo addressed to Belgium at a time when such links did not exist and the items were duly 'returned to sender'.



Cover 11 was censor opened on four separate occasions, initially by the Congolese in Kindu on 3 November 1941 from where it travelled with SABENA via Aba to Cairo.

The 'Group II' double circle mark, (classified by Peter A. S. Smith in 'Egyptian Stamps and postal history, 1999') incorporates the numeral '1' which we have not previously seen. On the reverse side, tying the Egyptian label to the cover is a '95 Arrow head' mark (Group not determined) which is new to us.

It travelled by BOAC to London where it was censored by examiner 4314 and stamped with '**NO SERVICE / RETURN TO SENDER**'. It was returned via Elisabethville, ?/5/1942 to the writer in Kasongo where it arrived, 14.5.1942.

Cover 12 [R.O.]

British Military censorship - Reference Bulletin 145

Internment Camp mail - Reference Bulletin 132

In the article on 'Internment Camps in the Belgian Congo', Emile Hoorens outlined the service and mailing rights provided to internees. A cover addressed to Switzerland was shown with the same 'N' Gule camp stamp' and he commented specifically that it had "no censor or transit markings" and that "the 8 francs postage does not tally with the airmail rate to Switzerland".





Addressed to Bremen in Germany, we have another letter postage paid at 8 francs. This suggests that 8 francs was indeed an accepted letter rate for 'Internees' and had been in operation over a significant period of time. The letter previously shown in Bulletin 132 was posted in December 1943; in this instance it was posted Elisabethville 30 July 1947, some two years after hostilities ceased and had been subjected to British Military censorship! This latter mark has not been previously seen in this study.

Great Britain ('Reel form' P.C. labels) - *Reference Bulletin 145*

Illustrated as figure 5 in Bulletin 145 was the 'P.C. 90' label, produced in 'real form'. The censor numbers known were listed, to which should be added '1881' seen on a cover addressed to Burnley from Leopoldville in March 1944.

Covers 13 and 14 [R.O.]

India - *Reference Bulletin 146*

Egypt - *Reference Bulletin 141*

The cover illustrated below is an early World War II period item of registered mail from Stanleyville to Porbandar, India. The typed instruction directed it via Broken Hill (Northern Rhodesia), Cairo and Karachi where it was opened and resealed with this previously unrecorded label.

It arrived in Porbandar 27 April 1940.



The front of the cover and triangular 'KARACHI PASSED CENSOR 8' mark were reported previously but the scarlet 'Lion and Unicorn OPENED BY CENSOR 8' label on the reverse had not been revealed at that time.



It was originally thought that the Egyptian double circle 'CENSORSHIP DEPT' mark contained the letter M; on closer inspection I am now of the opinion that it is numeric and possibly '110'.



Cover 14 [R.O.]

A second cover to Bengal, India was censored initially in Watsa and then probably on arrival by the British. It passed through Egypt without scrutiny other than receiving the large double circle 'R/M' mark during March 1944 - which is approximately one year earlier than previously recorded.



Cover 15
China

As far as is known, the cover illustrated here is not the property of any of our members. It was offered for sale on eBay and has been copied to me as a further addition to this study.

We are able to confirm that it travelled from Leopoldville to Cairo with SABENA and then by BOAC to Rangoon. CNAC (China national Airways Corporation) provided a service connecting Rangoon with Chungking in China and then on to Hong Kong. The correspondence would have been conveyed by that route. The airmail service to Shanghai ceased in late 1937 when the city was occupied by the Japanese so the journey to Shanghai would have been by sea.



The letter was written and delivered at a time before the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong (December 1941). Initially it was opened in Leopoldville, en route in Cairo and it is thought the green triangular **PASSED CENSOR 31** mark and Chinese handstamp were applied on arrival in Hong Kong. On the reverse side there is a Shanghai arrival stamp.

'French Colonial Censorship stations' - Reference Bulletin 147

In Bulletin 147 a table was provided to assist in the identification of 'Code letters' allocated to and used by French Colonial censorship locations. This has prompted comment from Michael Wright which refers, includes helpful information and some necessary corrections to that previously provided.

1. Conarky was in what was previously called French Guinea. It was incorrectly described as in Equatorial Guinea – the current name for what was the Spanish territory of Rio Muni and the island of Fernando Po.

2. Another similar list gives 'E' in the Ivory Coast as being a place called Ouagadougou, not Bobo; Ouagadougou was at that time in the Ivory Coast, but is now in the Upper Volta, which did not exist at that time. It is larger than Bobo and I think more plausible.
3. It is true that Ebolowa had no code letter for most of the time, but briefly it had a rough imitation of the typical double ring marks used in French East and West Africa, Togo and Cameroon, with letter C (and 2 small Gaullist crosses of Lorraine rather than stars and the ring.)

It is important to realise that certain small circles with a letter over a number which sometimes appear without the large double circles, cannot tell you by themselves whether the mark was applied in French East or West Africa, Togo or Cameroon, as each grouping started at the beginning of the alphabet.

Cover 16 ^[P.L.] **Belgian Congo labels**

Illustrated is an example of a Censor label used at Elisabethville during March 1941 and not previously recorded in our present study.



The letter on which it was used was posted in London and addressed to what is referred to as an 'accommodation address':-

^c/_o (care of) G.P.O.
F 145
London

← 81mm x 13mm height →

For reasons of security the location of the intended recipient was unknown to the writer and a system was in place whereby mail addressed to specified 'Box numbers' would be forwarded.

It is presumed that 'official records' indicated Mr Fangag's whereabouts (possibly in the Royal Navy), as in either Cape Town or Simonstown.

Whilst we cannot establish with any absolute certainty what route it took, one thing is sure in that the letter passed through the Belgian Congo and was opened by a Censor in Elisabethville.



For reasons we do not know, the letter was finally returned to the writer in Kilburn, London.

Covers submitted by

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| R.O. | Rick Oxenham |
| P.L. | Philippe Lindekens |
| H.H. | Hal Hoyte |

Parcel Post Coupon – Interpretation of instructional marks

By – Walter Deijnckens

Whilst 'Parcel Post Coupons' will not be of interest to everyone, the following notes may be helpful to those who are, as well as the many collectors of postmark related material.

In 2006 Mr. Leo De Clerq (RDP. FRPSL) presented a paper to the 'Royal Antwerp Circle of Postal History'. In it he explained the relevance of the various manuscript and handstamp marks found on the 'Bulletin d'Expédition' – the receipt confirming the posting, routing and subsequent safe delivery of parcels. I am able to illustrate and comment on examples from my collection sent from both Rwanda and Zaire.

Editorial comment: For practical formatting purposes it is not possible to illustrate full size coupons but confirm that these measure approximately 21.5 x 14 cms.

Bulletin 1 – from Gisenyi, Rwanda.

Posted Gisenyi, 6 April 1970 and directed via Kigali, 9 April 1970 to Assebroeck, Belgium.

COUPON
Peut être détaché par le destinataire

Numéro (s) du (ou des) **GISENYI 894 5155** CP 2

Pays d'origine: **Rwanda**

Valeur déclarée (Les unités en toutes lettres) **452 frs.**

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

de colis : **1** Nature de l'emballage

Nombre de déclaration en douane : **1**

Nature de l'emballage **PAPIER (s)**

Montant du remboursement (les unités en toutes lettres)

A porter au crédit de compte courant postal n° de M. tenu par le bureau de chèques d

A. M. **VERSTAPPE 85, ST JOSEF STR. 8320 ASSEBROECK**

(Lieu de destination) (Pays de destination) **BELGIQUE**

Poids de douane Voie **PA BATEAU**

Bureau d'échange **Kigali**

(1) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de douane du pays de destination
(2) Si l'expéditeur désire que son colis ne soit pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une annotation dans ce cadre et sur le colis.

B = abbreviation for Brugge.

V = applied by 'Customs' on arrival - Antwerp.

Transit marks of: Brugge Zeehaven and Antwerp Railway station.



Poids (Weight) – 9kg 300 g.

Voies (Transport means) – PA BATEAU (Overland/ by sea)

Taxe perçue (Payment) – Francs 452

Antwerp Railway Station

Bulletin 2 – from Kigali, Rwanda.

Posted Kigali, 24 April 1971 and sent to Brugge (Bruges), Belgium.

COUPON
Peut être détaché par le destinataire

Numéro (s) du (ou des) **KIGALI 17** CP 2

Pays d'origine: **Rwanda**

Valeur déclarée (Les unités en toutes lettres) **452**

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

de colis : **1** Nature de l'emballage

Nombre de déclaration en douane : **1**

Nature de l'emballage **CARTON (s)**

Montant du remboursement (les unités en toutes lettres)

A porter au crédit de compte courant postal n° de M. tenu par le bureau de chèques d

A. M. **Neuve Denise, Coll. Nonconstrat, 16, BRUGGE**

(Lieu de destination) (Pays de destination) **BELGIQUE**

Poids de douane Voie **366, 4**

Bureau d'échange

(1) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de douane du pays de destination
(2) Si l'expéditeur désire que son colis ne soit pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une annotation dans ce cadre et sur le colis.

Poids (Weight) – 10kg. Cardboard carton.

Voies (Transport) – **366, 4 ?**

Taxe perçue (Payment) – Rw. Francs 452

B = abbreviation for Brugge.

V = applied by 'Customs' on arrival.

Transit mark of: Brugge Zeehaven.

Bulletin 3 – from Butare, Rwanda.

Posted Butare, 10 May 1977 and directed via Kigali to Temse, Belgium.



BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

CP 2

Application des timbres d'affranchissement ou indication de la taxe perçue

Butare 178

Pays d'origine: *Rwanda*

Value déclarée: *3000 francs rwandais*

(Les unités en toutes lettres)

Nombre de colis: *1* Nature de l'emballage: *G. 462*

declarations en douane: *52*

certificats ou factures: *15*

ST NIKLAAS 19 V 77 M 15

AM: *Mme Marie de Rooy Vaccant*

40 Vesterlaan 24 B

(Lieu de destination) *B-2690 Temse (Pays de destination) Belgique*

Poids: *1 kg 200g*

Droits de douane (1): *50*

Voie: **AVION**

Acheminement: *477 Fr. RW*

Butare 205 77

Mod. 69-51

Poids (Weight) – 1kg 200 g.
 Voies (Transport) – AVION
 Taxe perçue (Payment) – 462 + 15 = 477 Rw. Fr. (for registered value of 300 Rwanda Francs)

Kigali transit mark.
 St. Niklaas Railway Station arrival mark, 18 May 1977.

On arrival the recipient had to pay B.Fr 50 for storage costs.

According to 1985 regulations all the post offices in Rwanda provided a 'Parcel Post' service. These are listed as follows:
 Butare, Byumba, Cyangugu, Gatsibo, Gikongoro, Gisenyi, Gitarama, Kabaya, Kibungo, Kibuye, Kigali, Kirambo, Nyabisindu, Nyamasheke, Nyange, Ruhango, Ruhengeri, Rwanmanaga, and Vunga.

The 'overland sea route' to and from Rwanda was via the Antwerp docks to Dar es Salaam and Kigali. By 'air' it was directed using 'Brucargo' in Brussels, to Kigali.

Bulletin 4 – from Lubumbashi, Zaire.

Posted Lubumbashi, 12 April 1975, to Verrebroek, Belgium.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION

CP 2

Application des timbres d'affranchissement ou indication de la taxe perçue

1210

LUBUMBASHI 284 B

(Les unités en toutes lettres)

Nombre de colis: *1* Nature de l'emballage: *Carton*

declarations en douane: *5*

certificats ou factures: *1*

Montant du remboursement: *2214*

(Les unités en toutes lettres)

(en chiffres arabes) *229,59*

A porter au crédit de l'expéditeur: *23*

de M. *1975*

tenu par le bureau de douane

AM: *Ornement A - schoolstraat 67*

2783 VERREBROECK BELGIQUE

(Lieu de destination) (Pays de destination)

Poids: *18 kg 600g*

Droits de douane (1): *492*

Voie: **PAR AVION**

Acheminement: *492*

Lubumbashi 284 B

Mod. 69-51

Poids (Weight) – 18kg 600g. Carton.
 Voies (Transport) – PAR AVION
 Taxe perçue (Payment) – 29.59 Zaire.
 'St. Niklaas Entrepôt' arrival mark, 22 April 1975.

Bulletin 5 – from Kananga, Zaire.

Posted Kanaga, 27 February 1981, to Beveren-Waas, Belgium.

COUPON
Peut être détaché par le destinataire

Numéro: KANANGA 1611

Valeur déclarée: _____

CP 2

Application des timbres d'affranchissement ou indication de la taxe perçue

Timbre du bureau: KANANGA 27-287

BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION

Nombre de colis: Un Nature de l'emballage: Carton

déclarations en douane: _____

certificats ou factures: _____

Montant du remboursement: VIJGEMAAKT

A porter au crédit du compte courant postal n°: 20 111 81 17

A M. et Mme. VERHULST HENRISEN

Kasteeldreef, 166

B-2750 BEVEREN WAES (Pays de destination) BELGIE

Poids de douane (1): _____

Voie: PAR AVION

Bureau d'échange: _____

(1) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination.
(2) Si l'expéditeur désire que son colis ne soit pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une annotation dans ce cadre et sur le colis.

Poids (Weight) – 2kg 400g. Cardboard carton.

Voies (Transport) – PAR AVION

Taxe perçue (Payment) – 30.03 + 0.90 (for 'FD tax') = 30.93 Zaire.

'St. Niklaas Entrepôt' arrival mark, 20 March 1982.

Parcels from Zaire were directed by one of two alternative routes - Matadi to the Antwerp Docks or alternatively via the Dilolo-Lobito terminus in Angola, to Antwerp. By 'air' they were routed from Kinshasa to 'Brucargo' in Brussels.

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

Officers and other useful addresses

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*** New details**

Refer also to the title page of this Bulletin for other addresses and the website.



Belgian Rarities Exhibited at Monacophil 2009

As part of the international exhibition '**MonacoPhil 2009**' and in conjunction with the traditional exhibition of '*100 timbres et documents philatéliques parmi les plus rares du Monde*' (100 of the world's rarest stamps and philatelic documents).

The Club de Monte-Carlo,
An institution that brings together the world's largest postal museums and collectors,
will be turning the spotlight on Belgian philately within a collective exhibition.

The watchwords will be the same as the previous edition, namely 'discovery' and 'academic philately'. Monacophil 2009 will reveal aspects of Belgian philately which, hitherto, have been largely unexplored or hardly touched upon.

The following themes will be dealt with:

- Belgian maritime covers: transatlantic, across Channel and Antwerp-Congo, by C. Delbeke (a theme never before studied).
- The so-called 'Roue Ailée - *Winged Wheel*' issue of 1915 by H. Slabbinck (the first complete publication of this extremely rare issue).
- Letters to foreign destinations despatched during the reign of Leopold I: issues of 1849-1864, so-called 'Epaulettes' and 'Medallions' and the issue of 1865 by J. Huys and P. Kaiser (the first attempt ever made to bring together ALL known foreign destinations).
- Proofs and essays of Belgian stamps (1894-2000) by J. Stes (the last publication on this topic dates from 1933).
- The green 1c, also known as the 'Green Medallion' (1861-1865): an in depth study by L. Van Pamel (this will be the very first study dedicated to this classic Belgian stamp).
- The postal history of the LADO enclave (1851-1910) by Leo Tavano and P. Maselis (the last publication on this topic dates from 1986).

This event, due to be held in the Principality from 4th to 6th December 2009, will also witness the publication of a fully illustrated anthology written in several languages. This work, a veritable touchstone for this theme, will highlight Belgium's best material in terms of historical interest, rarity and quality.

Several items, awarded major international prizes, will be exhibited by the most renowned collectors and experts in the sector. It is hoped that the 'Anthology' referred to above will be as exhaustive as possible, therefore, should you have a collection or material that may be of interest to this exhibition, please contact Mr. Patrick MASELIS at the following address:

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Belgium
e-mail: info@maselis.be