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BULLETIN 153

December 2009

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The Study Circle website
 - particularly useful for viewing auction lots!
www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be

Saturday 20th March 2010 - General Meeting and A.G.M.

at

Hotel ERASME,
Route de Lennik 790 Lenniksebaan
B-1070 Bruxelles

Telephone: +32 (2) 523 62 82

Fax: +32 (2) 523 62 83

Email: info@hotelerasme.be

09.30 - Tea and Coffee will be served

10.00 - AGM

11.30 approximately – Members presentations and displays

12.30 approximately - Lunch in the hotel dining room**

1400 approximately – Members presentations and displays

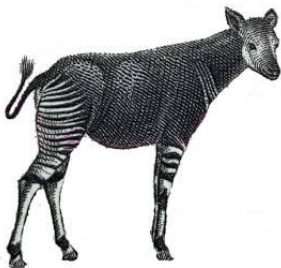
1600 - Close

*** For those participating, please note that a charge will be made to cover the cost of lunch and refreshments*

*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.

From the Hon. Secretary



Study Circle 'Officer' and administration changes.

Here are some reminders and details concerning a new bank account, administration and 'Officer' appointments.

Please read and note as this does concern you!

Belgian Membership Secretary

Belgian members are reminded that the new secretary is:

Patrick Maselis:
Kaaistraat 19
B-8800 Roeslare
Belgium.

Email : Patrick.Maselis@pocoloco.be

Annual subscriptions

Belgian membership subscriptions, 2010.

Since the last Bulletin was distributed the Study Circle's Belgian banking arrangements have changed and members should note the following details.

All future Belgian membership subscriptions should be paid directly into the Study Circle's new bank account:

Study Circle Bank account is with 'BNP Paribas Fortis'
IBAN BE51 0016 0051 5962
BIC GEBABEBB

U.S.A. membership subscriptions, 2010. There is no change to the existing arrangement and payment will continue to be made to David Schaubroeck.

U.K. and 'Rest of World', 2010. A further reminder - all those who previously paid to Stuart Smith, should now pay the new Treasurer:

Dr. Charles Lloyd
18 Linefield Road
Carnoustie. DD7 6DP
Scotland Email: charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

Expert Committee

It is with much regret we have to announce that our Expert Committee chairman Leo Tavano, is no longer able to continue in that position. Leo's contribution has been greatly appreciated and his expertise recognised, way beyond the confines of our own membership. We wish him well.

Until there is a further announcement following this year's AGM in March, the existing committee has been voluntarily complemented by the addition of Philippe Lindekens and now comprises: Charles Henuzet, Luc Vander Maercken and Philippe Lindekens.

Note – Submissions by post should now be sent and addressed to:

Charles Henuzet
Place Saint -Roche, 30
5620 Florennes
Belgium Email: henuzetcharles@hotmail.com

Alternatively they may be handed over in person to any of the committee members: Charles Henuzet, Luc Vander Maercken or Philippe Lindekens.

Auction lot payments

As noted above a new Study Circle account has been established and for those paying directly to the Auctioneer, these are our bank details:

'BNP Paribas Fortis'
IBAN BE51 0016 0051 5962
BIC GEBABEBB

Membership News

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to a new U.K. member – **Haydon Warren-Gash** and trust he will enjoy and benefit from his association with us.

U.K. - **Mr. Haydon Warren-Gash** 98 Overstrand Mansions
Prince of Wales Drive
London SW11 4EU
Email: haydonwg@hotmail.com

Residential and email address changes

Belgium - **Wim Lambrechts;** e-mail: wim-lambrechts@skynet.be

U.K. - **Michael Round;** e-mail: Michael.round.mus@btinternet.com

U.S.A. - **H. V. Maulding;** 165 Mendham Rd. E.
Mendham NJ 07945

Snippets of Information

Another interesting item appearing on 'eBay' – albeit over a year ago and fraudulent!



I am indebted to Joe Babicki who originally forwarded the above to me and who also added the following commentary.

- The stamp on this cover says 'Republic of Katanga'. Katanga's stamps always say 'Etat du Katanga' except for the earliest overprints that simply say 'KATANGA'.
- The supposed 'post office' canceller is not recognised as being in use in the 'Congo'. At this time they were normally circular in design.
- It is said that the stamp was created by a Belgian dealer, after that war period had ceased.

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

- and a space filler from Somebody's diary
From Joseph Deruyck

Voici carte here

En 1.7.20 à juin 1922 la série de timbres P.A. fut en service. Retirés de la circulation en sept 1922. Remis en 4 juillet 1923 p. les lettres envoyées en Europe via Lakeside (Drake Casn - Boloma).

les ouvertures de ligne du Congo. Par hydroplane (dit Fels) (leco)

(Kinshasa) Gombe (caches express)	1 avril 1920
" Kisala (Sabena)	1 mars 1921
" Stanleyville "	1 juillet 1921
Leopoldville Luabo (consignat. de l'Etat)	25 avril 1925
Luabo Ngala "	10.7.1931
Boma Iléo "	9/12 février 1926
N'gali - S'ville "	mai 1928
Léolo Tchikapa "	juin 1927
Luluabourg-Lusambo "	dec. 1927
Leopr. Coquilhatville "	avr. 1928
Lusambo-Kabalo "	mai 1928
Coquilhatv. Stanleyv. "	5 août 1929
retour (jetons) "	10 " 1931

CONGO BELGE.
 ** Lignes exploitées. Nous donnons ci-dessous la liste des lignes exploitées par la SABENA; noter, toutefois, que les lignes Boma-Léopoldville et Lusambo-Kabalo ne sont plus exploitées actuellement.

Leopoldville-Luabo	ouverture avril 1925
Luebo-N'Gulé	" février 1926
Boma-Léopoldville	" mai 1926
N'Gulé-Elisabethville	" juin 1927
Luebo-Tchikapa	" décembre 1927
Luluabourg-Lusambo	" avril 1928
Léopoldville-Coquilhatville	" mai 1928
Lusambo-Kabalo	" avril 1929
Coquilhatville-Stanleyville	" avril 1931.

On étudie actuellement une ligne Albertville-Mwanza et prépare celle de Coquilhatville à Libenge et vue de la prochaine liaison Belgique-France-Congo. (Echangiste Universel).

L'ariette Post. 1931 10 juillet

Administrative Cancels

Wim Lambrechts



Most 'Administrative cancellers' have a centrally placed coat of arms of the district, surrounded by DISTRICT DU \diamond TERRITOIRE DE \diamond * CONGO BELGE *.

It is possible that such a canceller existed for each town and/or territory. The precise reason for their use is unclear; arguably they were implemented as an administrative approval stamp. Why we find these cancels on stamps is also questionable. Were they authorised for that purpose or are they the work of philatelists?



André de Cock illustrates them in his book, 'Le Congo Belge et ses Marques Postales'. He also reports on another canceller with the national flag at its centre. No explanation for either is given.

Out of interest, are there any others and would anyone like to explain the reasons for their use?

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

Editorial Postscript

The above brief contribution was forwarded to me for inclusion in the Bulletin which I am naturally grateful and happy to have been able to do. However 'Du Four' did cover this topic fairly extensively in his book 'Congo Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale' and for those interested, reference to that source should be useful.

Having 'surveyed that scene' it seems to me that as a follow up to Wim Lambrecht's re-introduction of the topic, it would be a good idea to see if Du Four's original published information can now be added to. Would Mr. Lambrechts or another of our knowledgeable members care to reappraise that documentation and write a special article for the Bulletin – *please!*

There does appear to be an overlap of usage – postal, fiscal or certification, and possibly some confusion in distinguishing between the relevance of 'Administrative' and 'Flag' cancellers. I for one would appreciate further information and clarification.





Specimen mark – ‘ULTRAMAR’

Philippe Lindekens

SPECIMEN

SPECIMEN

SPECIMEN

Most will be familiar or know of the ‘Specimen’ overprints on the range of Waterlow printed postal stationery typically as shown above.

However the postcard illustrated below was recently offered on eBay and I wonder how many have ever seen the ‘ULTRAMAR’ mark before. Unfortunately the mark itself is not clear and that shown in the inset is a computer enhanced version - apparently ‘Sans-serif’. Examples on stamps are known to exist, both serif and sans serif.



It is said to have emanated from the archives of the Goa, Portuguese Indian Postal Administration office. Cards and stamps sent to them and other member nations, by the U.P.U. - from approximately 1899 until 1942. Such specimens are of Philatelic importance as they provide confirmatory evidence that this and similar items were in fact distributed by the U.P.U.

It is also known that the most commonly known specimen mark from that source is the ‘ULTRAMAR’ handstamp, applied either in blue or violet. On receipt by the Portuguese Colonial Ministry, the following ‘specimen’ security marks would have been applied.

The earliest issues are handstamped ‘ULTRAMAR’; in 1925 they were handstamped ‘COLONIAS’; during 1927-1931 ‘ESPECIMEN’; from 1932-1939 ‘SPECIMEN’; finally during the period 1939-1942 as ‘AMOSTRA’.

Such marks are rare and most of them are unique in today’s world. They have been recorded by some experts and are listed in Marcus Samuel’s book on UPU Specimens.

Is any member fortunate enough to have any in their collection and if so would you please share them with us? - Editor

The Hertwig and Manduau Labels – 1883-1884

Patrick Maselis

Preface

This is the first of a two part article, previously published in the November 2009 edition of 'London Philatelist'. Part two is a continuation covering 'Manduau Postmarks' used on the southern route referred to below.

For those fortunate enough of being able to visit the MonacoPhil 2009 exhibition, the items included here were merely a part of Patrick Maselis outstanding display.

Historical Context

In 1876, at the instigation of King Leopold II, the *Association Internationale Africaine* was founded for the purpose of organising a series of expeditions to the African hinterland. In 1878 Leopold II created the *Comité d'Etudes du Haut Congo* which in 1884 became the *Association Internationale du Congo*, known as the AIC, the purpose of which was to annexe new territories.

Although there was a small Portuguese, Angolan post office in Banana ^[1] the agents of the AIC preferred to put their mail directly aboard steamships stopping at Banana. It was partly franked using stamps of the country of the same nationality as the steamship on which they were carried.

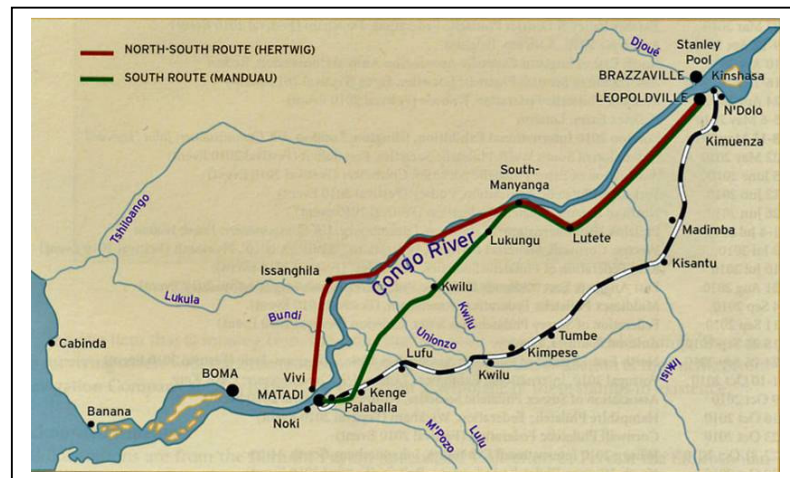
To carry mail from the further-flung regions of the Upper Congo to Banana, the AIC had developed its own mail system. This was a very difficult and dangerous task because of the hostile indigenous population and the numerous natural obstacles. Large sections of the river Congo were unnavigable. Between Banana and Leopoldville, at least 150 miles of its length were impassable to boats and numerous alternative routes were employed to overcome this problem. Where the river was unnavigable, letters were carried by native runners from one settlement to the other.

Supply routes to and from Leopoldville

During the period from December 1883 to January 1885, two routes were used.

North-South route: Issanghila-South Manyanga-Leopoldville

In August 1882, Stanley gave 2nd Lieutenant Valcke the task of constructing a causeway between Leopoldville and South Manyanga via Lutete which was finished by the end of that year. From South Manyanga to Issanghila supplies went by river, subsequently rejoining Valcke's route for the final section of the journey to Vivi.



All the Hertwig mail went via this 'North-South' route.

Southern route: Vivi-South Manyanga-Leopoldville

Commander Vetch undertook the construction of a causeway following an existing track which ran from South Manyanga to Vivi without going by river. Work commenced in March 1884 and was finished that summer. All the Manduau mail went via this route.

Postmarks and Labels of the AIC

Hertwig postmarks of the 'North-South route'

Hertwig was an AIC employee of German nationality, who was contracted on 1 December 1880. He arrived in the Congo for a second term in May 1883 and was first posted to Vivi as warehouseman. He was transferred to Issanghila at the end of 1883 where he stayed until August 1884. Whilst there and among other duties, he was in charge of forwarding mail. Without being asked to do so and entirely on his own initiative, he developed a series of three private handstamps. The first [figure 1(a)] was a 24mm diameter circle containing the word 'ISSANGHILA' with the double 'S' reversed and indicating the year as '1883'. The earliest recorded use of this mark [figure 2] dates from 31 October 1883. The second handstamp [figure 1(b)] bears the same name, this time with a dot after it and the numerals of '1884' slightly further apart. The third postmark [figure 1(c)] appeared in 1884. It is of 30mm diameter and bears the inscription 'MANYANGA'. In all three handstamps, the month and in the case of that for MANYANGA the year, were written in the middle, in pencil.



Figure 1. Hertwig handstamp types a, b and c

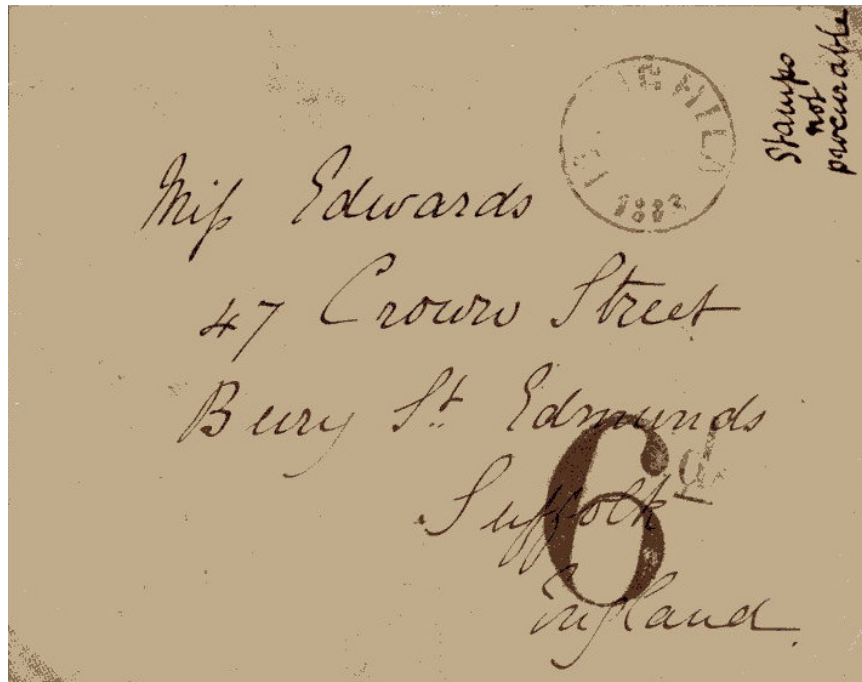


Figure 2.

Hertwig Labels

In early 1884 Hertwig also created a set of labels with the intention he said “of making it easier to sort the mail”. We believe that Hertwig was perhaps a philatelist who deplored the lack of postage stamps on mail emanating from the Congo and decided to create his own. In order to avoid problems with the authorities – the private issue of postage stamps was strictly prohibited – he called his stamps ‘*sorting labels*’. He made three dies (engravings on wood blocks) with which he could print labels, one by one, onto envelopes or on to pieces of paper. For the latter he made use of any paper that was to hand, usually the back of bills of exchange or unwanted maps.

Three types of label are known, with colour variations depending on the source of paper.

Type 1: Homeward Label



Figure 3.

The first prints were on greenish blue paper, the later ones on paper of a yellowish brown colour as illustrated in figure 3. The imprint is also known to have been applied directly on to a cover illustrated here as figure 5 - posted in May 1884.

On the two other covers known, the label is pasted directly onto the cover. (Refer figures 4 and 7 below)

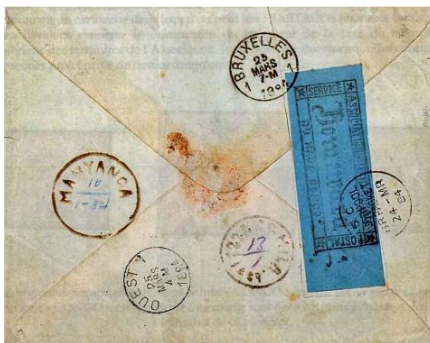


Figure 4.

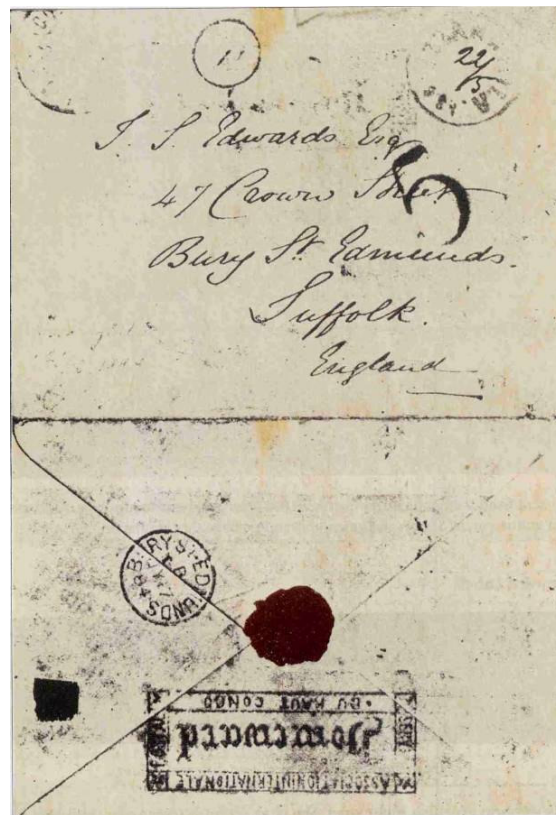


Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Type 2: Inland Label with additional text ‘DU HAUT CONGO’

This imprint [Fig. 6] has been found on both green and yellowish-brown paper. As yet it has not been found on a cover which has travelled, although five unused envelopes bearing the imprint of the stamp are known. The story of their discovery makes very interesting reading. One day Romain de Smedt, an important collector from Ghent, received a letter from a stamp dealer franked with a Belgian stamp and with the imprint in black ‘INLAND/DU HAUT CONGO’ in the top right-hand corner. He immediately asked the dealer where the envelope came from and the dealer said he had found it in a lot of old papers and as these were of no use or importance to him he had disposed one of them. He added there were a few more, all of which the collector obviously purchased. De Smedt preserved the envelopes exactly as they were, but cut up the original envelope he had received preserving only the imprint together with a fragment containing part of his address.

Type 3: Inland Label with additional text ‘DU CONGO’

Figure 8. On cover this label has only been found as an imprint although we know of several individual labels. On the letter the imprint has been applied to the front of the envelope as seen in figure 9. The back of the envelope bears the Issanghila 1884 handstamp with the handwritten endorsement ‘17/5’.



Figure 8.

The letter was addressed to a Lieutenant Haneuse in Liege, formerly the station commander in Manyanga. At the time it was sent to him, he was on leave in Belgium. It is possible that Hertwig, who was still in Issanghila, kept the letter until his colleague returned to his post which would explain why it bears no transit mark and why no postage due annotation was applied.

Hertwig worked under Stanley's subordinate, commander Louis Valcke, who wrote a long letter to André De Cock, curator of the Postal Museum, on the subject of these labels, confirming that this was something Hertwig came up with entirely off his own initiative. Applying labels or striking imprints on mail was also contrary to instructions given by the AIC.

Valcke also confirms that these were applied in order to make it easier for Hertwig to sort mail that passed through his hands. Their use coincides with the period in which Hertwig was stationed in Issanghila. The labels were also cancelled with four types of posthumous markings which have never been found on any other item of mail and were possibly requested by an unknown philatelist.

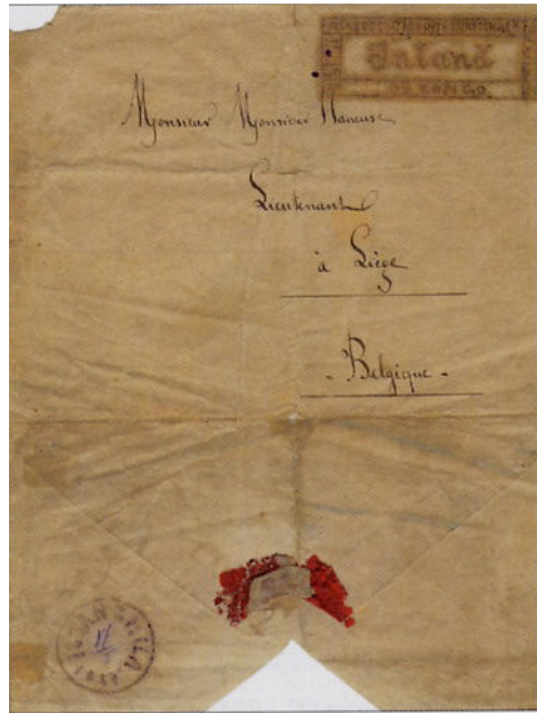


Figure 9.

All four types are shown in figure 10: Boma, Issanghila, Post Office Vivi and Post Office D III.

On the first three, the year 1884 is incorporated.



Figure 10.

The following list of covers with Hertwig labels and/or handstamps, have been recorded:

1. Letter bearing the 'Issanghila' handstamp, dated 31 October 1883
2. Letter with the 'Homeward' label; The 'Manyanga' handstamp, dated 10 January 1884 and with the 'Issanghila' handstamp, dated 31 January 1884.
3. Back of letter with the 'Homeward' label, bearing the same handstamps with the same transit dates as the previous letter.
4. Letter bearing the 'Issanghila' handstamp, dated 21 February 1884.
5. Letter with the 'Inland' label and bearing the 'Issanghila' handstamp, dated 17 May 1884.
6. Letter with the 'Issanghila' handstamp, dated 22 May 1884.

1. **B.C.S.C. Bulletin #138/10**

Identifying the Mols plate combinations

Stuart Smith

Preface

In my capacity as both Bulletin editor and General Secretary of the Study Circle, the most common request when welcoming new members and offering help is “*I am interested in the Mols but is there any published work on how to easily recognise the several plate combinations of each value?*”

There is an easy answer but long winded one in that Keach, Foden, Hudson, et al, have all contributed and published their findings in the Bulletin. However it is generally recognised that building on Du Four’s earlier work, Brian Hudson was instrumental in providing the most comprehensive series of articles. Sadly they predated the time when what had been written, was subsequently only available by photocopying. Where a voluminous quantity of photocopying is involved, it can be a laborious exercise and relatively expensive.

Further to those original articles other works have addressed the topic - but the problem has again arisen because the recently published outstanding and authoritative books for the period to 1910 by Leo Tavano and Charles Henuzet, are already out of print. There is copy in the library BUT if studying this topic is of continuing interest, one needs the books/publication in ones own library.

It was the intention of a group of Belgian members to prepare, update [there are always further findings] and publish Hudson’s original work as a single volume book. Unfortunately their efforts have yet to materialise and I have decided to reproduce an abridged version covering that part which refers to identification of ‘plate combinations’. Except where appropriate and necessary, I intend omitting references to the identification and positioning of individual stamps. An assumption has been made that those seeking guidance in this field are familiar with the terminology such as *re-entry*, *doubling*, *guide lines*, *lay marks* [*traite de repère*], etc.

It is hoped that this new series of articles will fill a gap and make available information for those interested in the identification of printing ‘Plate Combinations’. However, it should not be assumed that it will necessarily be possible to allocate to a specific combination in all cases. Some times the researcher will have to be content by allocating to a group.

As the series progresses it is inevitable that someone will know or be aware of something omitted. Please tell me so that before completion, the series can be updated and improved prior to combining as a single volume work – available on demand to all who request it.

Almost all that follows has been extracted from B.P. Hudson’s original work previously published in the Bulletin, and that source is acknowledged. However, Brian’s original article was devoid of detailed illustrations so I have incorporated examples from my own collection in an attempt to compliment the text and assist identification. It should not be assumed that the colour/shade is necessarily or absolutely correct as these may have been adjusted for purposes of clarity in preparing this and subsequent articles.

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

Plate combinations

The frames and centres were printed from separate plates and for new printings sometimes new plates were made but more often the old plates were repaired or re-entered. The nomenclature of the plates used for each value is as follows. The successive **frame plates** are labelled **I, II, II** etc. and the **centre plates A, B, C** etc. When any deliberate change was made to a plate such as re-entry, retouching, lay marks, etc. – this is regarded as creating a new state of the plate and successive states of the same plate are labelled I1, I2, I3, etc. Sometimes the plate changed noticeably for accidental reasons, typically the appearance of numerous corrosion dots – and where the distinction is considered worth making, these are called sub-states of the plate and are labelled I1a, I1b etc. The full designation of the plate combination is shown by adding frame and centre label thus: I+A1a, I+A1b and so on.

5 Centimes



First printing in un-issued colour

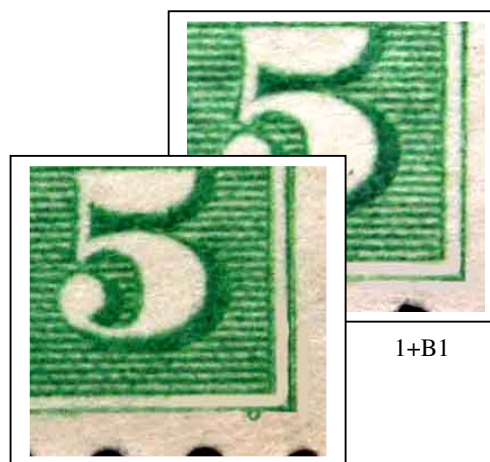
Plate combinations

COB	SG			
14	18	1894	I1+A	Original frame and centre plates
15	24	1895	I1+A	Original frame and centre plates
16	30	1900	I1+B1	New frame and centre plates
16a	30a ^[1]		I2+B2	Frames and centres re-entered
50	56	1909	II+B2	New frame plate
54	60	1910	III1+B3	New frame plate; centres re-entered and lay marks added
			III1+B4a	Extra centre lay marks added
			III1+B4b	Centres corroded with fine dots
			III1+B5	Centres re-entered
			III1+B6	Centres partly re-entered
			III2+B6	Frames retouched
			III2+B7	Centres again re-entered
			III2+C	New centre plate
			IV+D1	New frame and centre plates
			IV+D2	Centres re-entered
64	70	1915	V1+E1	New frame and centre plates
			V2+E2	Frame lay marks added; centres re-entered
			V3+E3	Frames retouched; centres re-entered
			V3+F	New centre plate
			VI+F	New frame plate
64	70a		Booklets (1)	Frame and centre plates for booklet panes
64	70a		Booklets (2)	Centres re-entered

Identification

1894. I1+A and B. Centre plate 'A' has fine grey impressions of the centres whereas those from plate 'B' are black and coarse. It is sometimes necessary to make this distinction because of the number of 5c turquoise-blue stamps that are faked copies of the 5c green, chemically altered to change the colour. As well as having darker centres the fakes have paler frames than the genuine stamps.

1900. 'I2+B2' is differentiated from '**I1+B1**' by the 'small green circle' immediately under the bottom frame line in the SE corner and by the 'small dot' above the top frame line in the NE corner. The 'small dot' is not always clear but the lower 'small circle' appears on all positions except #30. #30 can be identified by the short green vertical scratch in the right margin, 1/2mm outside the frame line and level with the top of the '5'.



I2+B2

I1+B1

Princes Printing. The ‘Princes printing’ can be recognised by the brighter green shade of the frames and by the centres which are brownish-black rather than grey-black as the 1900 issue. They are always perf.14. Most Princes printed stamps have the typo ‘CONGO BELGE’ overprint.

1909. II+B2 Identification of this newly designed frame plate is self evident. Of interest is the fact that on this plate, lay marks appear for the first time: a green dot between positions 8, 9, 13 and 14, and a vertical line between 38, 29, 43 and 44. [Visible in the illustration below along with the additional lay marks of ‘B3’ and the subsequent dots associated with centre plates ‘B4a’ and B4b]

1910. IIII+B3 show fine clear centres and the horizontal shading lines at the tops of the frames are thin but also clearly defined. The frames are blueish-green; in all later combinations they are green to yellow-green. Specific to stamp positions, the centre plate has the following lay marks: a dot between 7, 8, 12 and 13; a cross and dot between 8, 9, 13 and 14; vertical lines between 42/43 and between 43/44.

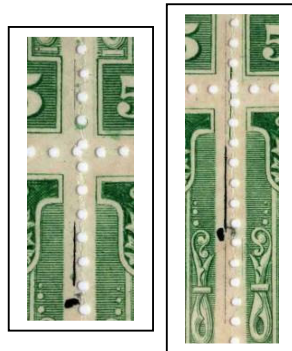
IIII+B4a is like IIII+B3 except in shade which is yellow-green. Also, the shading lines at the top centre are fainter.



Centre B3 – fine clean lines

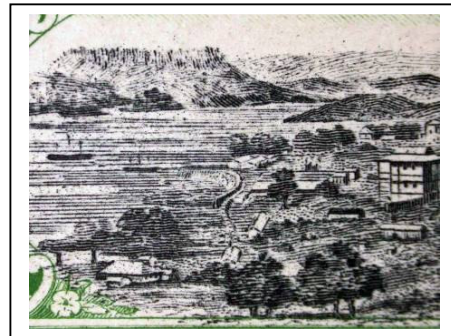
There are additional centre plate lay mark dots between 42, 43 and 44.

IIII+B4b. Most ‘B4b’ centres are peppered with fine corrosion dots, particularly on the river.



#42 ↔ 43

#43 ↔ 44



Centre B4b - corroded

IIII+B5. The centres are heavily re-entered with signs of doubling in all positions, especially on the mountains and lines of the river. Many corrosion dots from ‘B4b’ are also still visible, though coarser and thicker. The shading lines in the top centre of the frame plate have almost disappeared.



IIII+B5

Frame shading lines almost disappeared

IIII+B6. ‘B6’ has coarser centres than ‘B5’, especially in the horizontal river lines and show slight changes in doubling in rows 6 to 9. ‘B6’ can really only be differentiated from ‘B5’ in these rows and then only after positioning the stamp.

III2+B6. The top frame lines were crudely retouched by hand and this state of the frame plate is easily recognised.



Frame plate III2 – top frame lines crudely retouched

III2+B7. ‘B7’ centres give a worn appearance but are generally cleaner than ‘B6’.

III2+C. The new centre plate is now quite different with no doubling and virtually no flaws.

IV+D1. The top horizontal shading of the frames is strong and even. The centres are clear without doubling though darker than ‘B3’ or ‘C’.

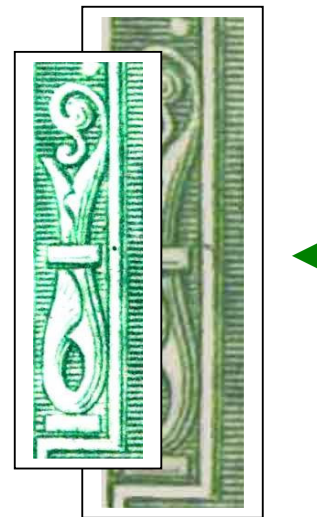
IV+D2. The centres are coarser. Where there are dots between the river lines in ‘D1’, they are larger in ‘D2’.

Note: IV+D1 and D2 were introduced late in the life of the 1910 5c stamp and most sheets printed from them were overprinted with the ‘Recuperation’ surcharge.

1915. VI+E1. The frames are yellow-green and the centres fine, clear and greyish. There are no lay marks in this combination.

Note: The most useful variety in all three ‘V’ plates [V1, V2 and V3] is the tiny green guide dot which appears in the left hand white vertical line, right of the torch. These dots occur in all positions except the first column of the sheet and #42. Impressions differ and the degree of clarity, varies.

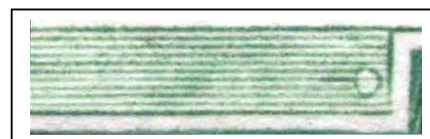
V2+E2. Frame plate V2 is the same as ‘V1’ except for the addition of lay marks in the form of vertical lines between 13, 14, 18 and 19 and between 33, 34, 38 and 39. There are also dots between 18 and 19 and between 33 and 34. The centre plate is similar to ‘E1’ but blacker and blotchier. There is more black corrosion around the river and mountains.



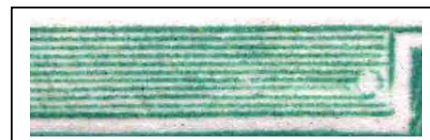
V3+E3. The frames are usually a distinctive blue-green shade although the earliest printings were yellow-green.

There was extensive retouching of the upper frame lines on the right, just to the left of the small circle above the last E of BELGE, the shape of which varies slightly from position to position.

The lines here are uneven whereas in all other 1915 5c stamps they are straight and parallel. The centre plate was badly corroded especially in column 1 where heavy black spots appear in the river area. There is corrosion above the mountains and elsewhere in the other columns. This plate combination was also used for the 1918 ‘Red Cross’ issue.



Frame ‘V2’

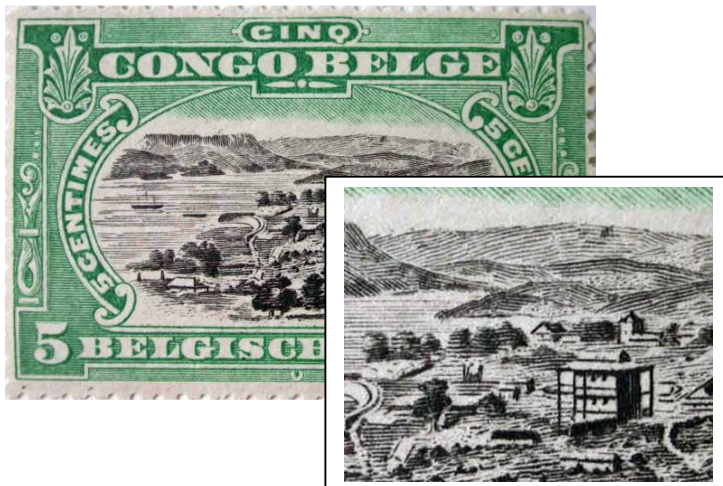


Frame ‘V3’

V3+F. This combination of plates was used only for stamps with the EAA overprint, with or without the Malines surcharge.

Centre plate 'F' is easily recognised by the black spot on the mountain, but is otherwise clean and free of flaws.

VI+F. A new frame plate was created and the frames of this combination are a plain green with the centre plate 'F' showing the spot on the mountain.



Centre plate 'F' – black spot on mountain

Combinations recorded on surcharged/overprinted 'Belgian Congo' stamps.

1921 recuperation	1922 Malines	1922 Boma	Type*
III1+B3 blue-green		V1+E1	B and C
III1+B4b	V2+E2	V2+E2	B, C and D
III1+B6	V3+E3 yellow-green	V3+E3 yellow-green	C and D
III2+B6	V3+E3 blue-green	V3+E3 blue-green	B, C and D
III2+B7	VI+F	VI+F	A, B, C and D
IV+D1			
IV+D2			

* Abbé Gudenkauf classification

Booklet pane stamps.

There were three printings of the booklet stamps and these can be told apart by their shades. However, identification of a single stamp as being from a booklet pane is not often easy - particularly in the case of those from the first printing which can be hard to tell from V1+E1 and V2+E2 as they are similar in shade.

Those from the 2nd and 3rd printings do have very definite shade characteristics, which once seen and identified, are usually subsequently easily recognised.

The first indicative feature to look for is the absence of the small dot in the white vertical line between CENTIMES and the scrollwork. However it must always be remembered that this dot is also absent on position #42 and all stamps in the first column of frame plates V1-V3; only positioning the stamp will determine which! A second indicator would be if there are traces of horizontal green guide lines in the top margin, it is probably a booklet pane stamp.

Most easily identified [*by shade*] are stamps from the 2nd and 3rd printing. 2nd printing stamps are a bright blue-green with deep black centres, showing little corrosion. The 3rd printing is a dull green with dull grey centres and was printed on coarse grey, rather than white paper. All perf.15 booklet stamps are from the 3rd printing.

1. Stanley Gibbons. *Benelux Part 4, 6th Edition. January, 2010*