

Président
 Thierry Frennet
 Rue la Rue, 17
 1420 Braine l'Alleud
 Belgium
E-mail:
 Hydro-services@skynet.be

General Secretary
 Stuart S. Smith
 'Lychgates', Pinfold Hill,
 Curbar-Calver,
 Hope Valley, S32 3YL. England
E-mail:
 ssscongo@aol.com

BULLETIN 156

December 2010

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

Librarian
 Bernard J. Harris
 'Sunnymead', 140 Battle Road,
 Hailsham. BN27 1UB
 England.
E-mail:
 bharris@sunnymead140.plus.com

New ►

CONTENTS	Page(s)
Annual subscriptions	2
The Annual General Meeting – 19 March 2011	2
Message from the Editor	3
Membership News	
New members and address changes	3-4
Theo Hordies	4
September Meeting in Bruxelles	4
Addenda, 'Cancellations of Normal Post Offices', Heim Keach	5
Snippets of information	
- Members queries, can you help?	5-6
Post marks - BPCVPK No.9	6
-Harry Weber	
Belgian and French Congo Postal Relationships, Part !	
Part 1. – Frontier cross border mail	7-12
- Philippe Lindekens	
'Mols' plate combinations '15 centimes.'	
Postscript 'Combination III4+B3'	13
- Stuart Smith	
Identifying 'Mols' plate combinations '25 centimes'.	14-17
- Stuart Smith	
Edmund Dene Morel – 'The Dundee - Belgian Congo link'	18-20
- Charles Lloyd	
Auction 2010 (4) and results of 2010 (3)	Supplemental

The Study Circle website
www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be

Annual subscriptions - 2011

Subscriptions for 2011 remain unchanged as follows.

U.K.	£10	(£8 for those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Belgium	10€	
Other European	10€	
U.S.A.	\$20	(\$15 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Rest of the World	£12	(£8 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)

All 'Eurozone' membership subscriptions.

All 'Euro zone' membership subscriptions should be paid directly into the Study Circle's bank account:

Study Circle Bank account is with 'BNP Paribas Fortis'

IBAN BE51 0016 0051 5962

BIC GEBABEBB

U.S.A. membership subscriptions.

There is no change to the existing arrangement and payment should be made to David Schaubroeck.

U.K. and Europe outside the "Euro zone" & 'Rest of World'.

'U.K.' and 'Rest of World' subscriptions can be made by electronic bank transfer in 'Pounds sterling' to:

Belgian Congo Study Account

Sort code: 11-01-26

Account: 00647356

Note: A 'foreign bank' transaction charge may be applied by your bank

When using this method, confirmation of your transfer is presently necessary. Confirm to the Treasurer - Charles Lloyd by email to:

Charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

Subscriptions paid by cheque drawn on a UK bank should be sent to:

Dr. Charles Lloyd

18 Linefield Road

Carnoustie. DD7 6DP

Scotland

As has been the practice, you can still send 'Pounds sterling', or 'Euro' banknotes by post to Charles Lloyd, the Treasurer.

Saturday 19th March 2011 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

0900 - Tea and Coffee will be served

0930 - AGM

10.30 approximately – Members presentations and displays

12.30 approximately - lunch in the hotel dining room

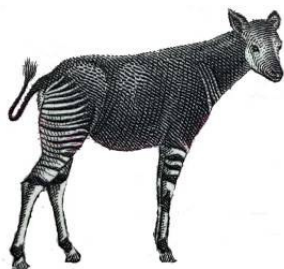
1400 approximately – Members presentations and displays

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.

From the Editor



This will obviously be the final Bulletin for 2010 during which period it has only been possible to produce three issues. Sorry about that but with a general shortage of material with which to work, it has nevertheless made my life a little easier.

I am happy to be able to report that President Thierry Frennet has indeed fulfilled his aim of hosting additional Saturday meetings in Belgium where our membership is strong and geographically concentrated. It is hoped that others from the neighbouring UK (*2 hours from St. Pancras to Bruxelles*) will be able to attend - given plenty of advanced notice of future meeting dates. For the handful of members within striking distance of St Pancras, it is very possible to have an interesting philatelically rewarding and adventuresome day out! As two is better than one, knowing the ropes and despite being from 'up country', I will happily join anyone in participating.

The auctions are a major activity of the Study Circle and in conclusion, I wish to draw attention to the new administrative arrangements of future auctions.

Auction administration

* Lots and any scans of items for sale should be sent to our President:

Thierry Frennet
Rue la Rue, 17
1420 Braine l'Alleud. Belgium
E-mail: Hydro-services@skynet.be

* The 'Auction list' will be prepared by Th. Frennet and Marc Oblin

* Bids, as at present, should be sent to Philippe Lindekens (Details published on the list)

* Lots will be sent to successful bidders by Charles Stockmans

* Invoices, etc. will be sent out by Philippe Lindekens

* Payments for lots acquired must be paid directly in to the club's bank account –

IBAN: BE51 0016 0051 5962

BIC: GEBABEBB

Any finance queries should be addressed to the 'Treasurer' and 'Finance Manager' – Ludo Achten.

Ludo Achten
Luikersteenweg, 386
3500 Hasselt. Belgium.
E-mail: ludoachten@hotmail.com

Note - British and American members continue to pay by arrangement to their respective managers.

Membership News

New Members

With this issue we extend a warm welcome to two new Belgian members, Marc Van Daele and Nic Vandermarliere; also to a former U.K. member Theo Schilderman who by accident went missing but has now returned to the fold along with Ray McGarrity in the U.S.A. It is hoped they are able to enjoy and benefit from their association with us.

U.K. - **Theo Schilderman**

3 Main Street
Clifton upon Dunsmore, Warwickshire. CV23 0BH
Email: theo.schilderman@btinternet.com

Belgium - **Marc Van Daele**

Av. de l'Exposition 458 Bte 12
1090 Bruxelles

- **Nic Vandermarliere**

Ambassade de Belgique
Délégation Générale Flamande
6 Rue Euler, 75008 Paris
Email: nic.vandermarliere@delegationflamande.org

Residential and email address changes

Belgium - Walter Deijnckens

Email: walter.deijnckens@telenet.be

U.K. - John Bruhn
- Bernard J. Harris

Email: johnfbw@sky.com
Email: bharris@sunnymead140.plus.com

Spain - Tony Sanchez Ariño

Perdiù 4 – Torre en Conhill
46117 Bétéra - Valencia

Theo Hordies

With sadness we hear of the death of our long standing member Theo Hordies who had a special interest in the CONGO BELGE overprints, Bateau-poste cancellations and the Lado's postal history. To my knowledge he last attended the 2008 A.G.M. in Bruxelles and for those who only met him on the odd occasion we reproduce a photograph reminder. He was 88 years old and will be remembered. We extend our condolences to his family.



Meeting held in Bruxelles at 'Forest Station' on 11th September 2010

As reported previously a few local Saturday meetings have been held with an emphasis on specific Belgian Congo related topics. The second of these was held in Bruxelles and the subject chosen in advance by those who expected to attend. On this occasion I deduce it was 'Postal Stationery'.

Not many attended but the whole affair was very reminiscent of such similar occasions in the U.K. during the 1960's, 70's and 80's.

Thierry Frennet showed 'Registered' items from his collection, Philippe Lindekens concentrated on typographical CONGO BELGE overprints and not unsurprisingly, Jean-Pierre Flamand showed items from his extensive airmail collection. Thomas Lindekens talked about your editors favourites from the 1940's - 'Palm postal stationery'.

From the pictures sent it was obviously a coffee, Coke and Belgian chocolate biscuit affair.

I extend my good wishes to Thierry for continuing support and success in this initiative and I hope I can attend and contribute sometime in the future. Ed.



Familiar faces – Charles Henuzet and Wim Lambrechts, Thomas and Philippe Lindekens, Thierry Frennet and Pierre Flamand

Addenda - 'The Cancellations of Normal Post Offices, etc. Heim & Keach.'

Question – In anticipation that this work will once again be reprinted and updated, is any member recording and documenting these updates which regularly appear in the Bulletin?

Wim Lambrechts has copied to me illustrations of nine cancellers, each confirm an extension of their period of use, some earlier and some later. *[The size of illustrations is only approximate.]*



Office Elisabethville 6
Canceller type 12B (B)1-
New date 20.02.1960



Office Gandajika
Canceller type 10 (B) -
New date 14.04.1956



Office Kabongo
Canceller type 8A3 -
New date 11.12.1952



Office Kikwit 1
Canceller type 10 (A) -
New date 24.12.1956



Office Leopoldville 2
Canceller type 12B (A)1-
New date 12.02.1960



Office Luputa
Canceller type 10 (A) -
New date 30.08.1957



Office Matadi 1
Canceller type MB1-Dmt
New date 09.02.1957



Office Tshikapa
Canceller type 10 (B) -
New date 09.1959



Office Yakoma
Canceller type 11 (A)1 -
New date 15.10.1959

Snippets

Help – do you know the answer?

Once again we have an enquiry from a member, this time Roger Nailer is seeking answers. Sometimes we get them and sometimes we don't but if you can help, please let us know.

1, "The Dima post office opened 1st February 1909 and closed on 28th October 1931. The 1960 map doesn't illustrate the location, although using the co-ordinates provided in the Heim Keach book on cancellations, one might pin-point it."

Was this a village office or a temporary Station to serve say a construction site?

2. Were the postal stationery items of the Free State before 1897 printed by 'Atelier du Timbres' at Malines?

3. Why was 'Union Postale Universelle' printed on postal stationery intended for 'exterior' use but not on items for 'interior' use?

4. "The cover illustrated is an airmail item from Leopoldville to New York, censored both in the Congo and in transit en route in South Africa. Postage was correctly paid and the additional airmail cost, by the two Bradbury and Wilkinson airmail stamps."

Whilst this particular correspondence specified 'Direction via Capetown' much mail to the States travelled via South Africa - but why was that and can any member enlighten me further on the subsequent routing.



5. "The 'Détruisez la Jacinthe D'eau' slogan postmark is also illustrated in the Heim-Keach book but members might be interested to actually see an example on cover."

Why was there a need to exhort people to destroy this plant? Was it clogging up the waterways and docks or perhaps it was a hindrance in irrigation systems?



Post marks

BPCVPK No. 9

Walter Deijnckens has asked me to illustrate a cover from Harry Weber's collection which whilst 'Philatelic' is certainly an example of the very uncommon BPCVPK No.9 cancellation.

Should any other member have an example of the BPCVPK No. 9 canceller, perhaps you would let us know and ideally scan and copy to us.

Unfortunately the 'non jpeg' file into which it has been copied has not enabled me to reproduce well.



'Belgian' and 'French' Congo - Postal Relationships

Part 1

Philippe Lindekens

As a collector of Belgian Congo's postal history, I have always been interested in the postal communications and relationship between our Belgian colony and cross-border neighbours in the 'French Congo'.

After the Berlin convention in 1885 when the African continent was effectively divided up between the European colonizing nations, the actual relationship between the colonies was not particularly good.

"Chacun chez soi et Dieu pour tous" - "Each for himself and God for all?"

It is therefore uncommon to find covers to or from neighbouring *other nationality colonies*; also rare for mail transit cancels of those neighbours. Wherever possible, mail was processed internally as far as the national boundary sea port, for onward despatch to its intended destination. Very little mail was routed via a bordering colony to take advantage of the shortest journey to the sea.

After twenty three years studies in this field, I will show examples of cross border communication links that I have found.

Postal routes-

- i) *Frontier mail*** – Correspondence from the Belgian Congo and posted in French Congo.
- Inter colonial cross border correspondence.
- ii) *Manuscript directed*** - direction indicated on the cover by the writer e.g. '*via Matadi*'.
- iii) *Maritime*** - mail between Belgium and Belgian Congo, using the French 'Loango-Bordeaux' line with transits in Libreville and Gabon.

Frontier mail

Belgian colonial mail posted in 'French Congo'

Over a period of time and as penetration of the centre of the African continent progressed, many colonial managed '*Stations*' were created along the shores of the river Congo - often where there were already local indigenous settlements. In many instances, these new '*Colonial Station*' sites had an existing working relationship twin settlement on the other side of the river.

A typically good example is Leopoldville and Brazzaville. Leopoldville was founded in 1881 by Stanley with its first post office in May 1889 whilst on the French side there is Brazzaville, founded some nine years previously in 1880.

Occasionally one finds postcards written on one side of the river and posted on the other side - in my opinion for three main reasons:

- Travelling from one shore to the other, tourists wanted such a facility to let their postcard recipients have a souvenir of their travels
- To save time rather than waiting for the next boat, when that on which they had crossed the river had already returned without them.
- To take advantage of preferential postage rates at a particular location.

Figure 1. The first illustrated example is a Belgian Congo picture postcard written in Brazzaville on 17th March 1909, shortly after the new Belgian colony was established. It arrived in Brussels on 10th May having been franked with a 10c '*Groupe Allégorie*' French Congo stamp and posted at Mobaye on the French side. At that time, the French Congo international postcard rate was 10c. whilst that in the Belgian Congo was 15c.

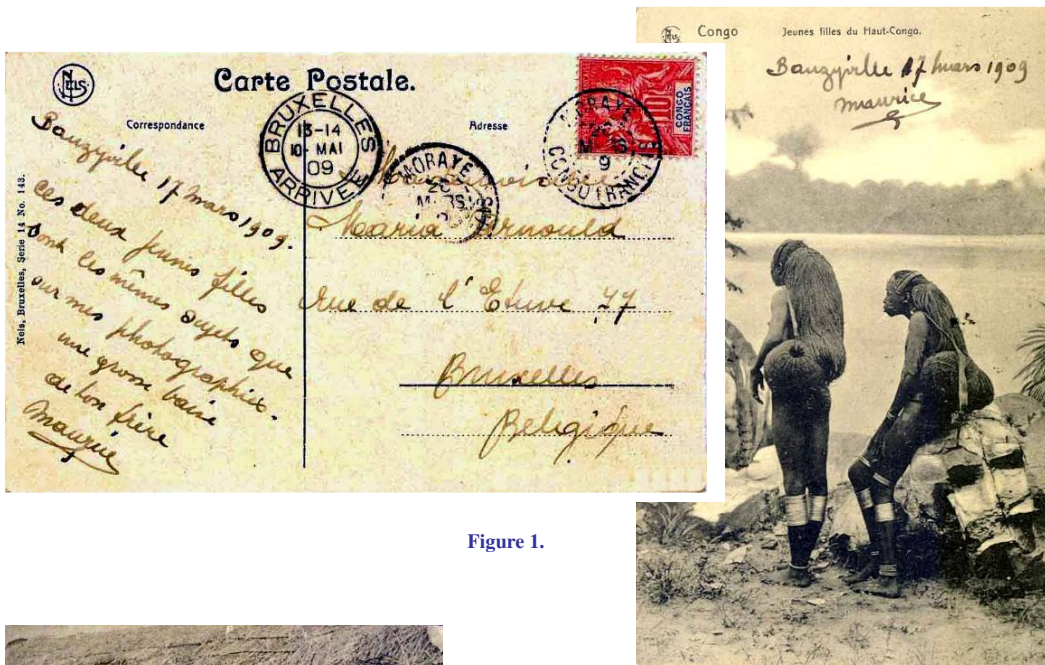


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Figure 2. This second example is a French Congo postcard, written at Libenge on 27th November 1909 and addressed to Bruxelles. Again there is a combination of stamps making up the 10c. rate with a saving of 5 cents over the Belgian Congo rate. The nearest ‘down stream’ Belgian Congo post office is at Libenge, some 370 km away, and I suspect that on this occasion the thought of saving 5 centimes was secondary to the inconvenience of waiting until back on the other side! Ed]

Figure 3. The last example from a visiting tourist is the ‘Compagnie Maritime Belge’ card written at Kin (Kinshasa suburb of Leopoldville) to Brussels franked with 35c. Middle Congo stamps for registration and posted on the other side at Brazzaville on 31st July 1920.



Figure 3.

Exp. Gossens H. P. P. P. Kin

There were of course occasions when the reverse situation occurred. **Figure 4** – is an example of an ‘Etat independent Congo’ postal stationery card written in Brazzaville on the 17th but not sent until the writer returned to Leopoldville, where it was posted on 22nd September 1897. It travelled via Boma and arrived in Rotterdam some six weeks later, 15th November.

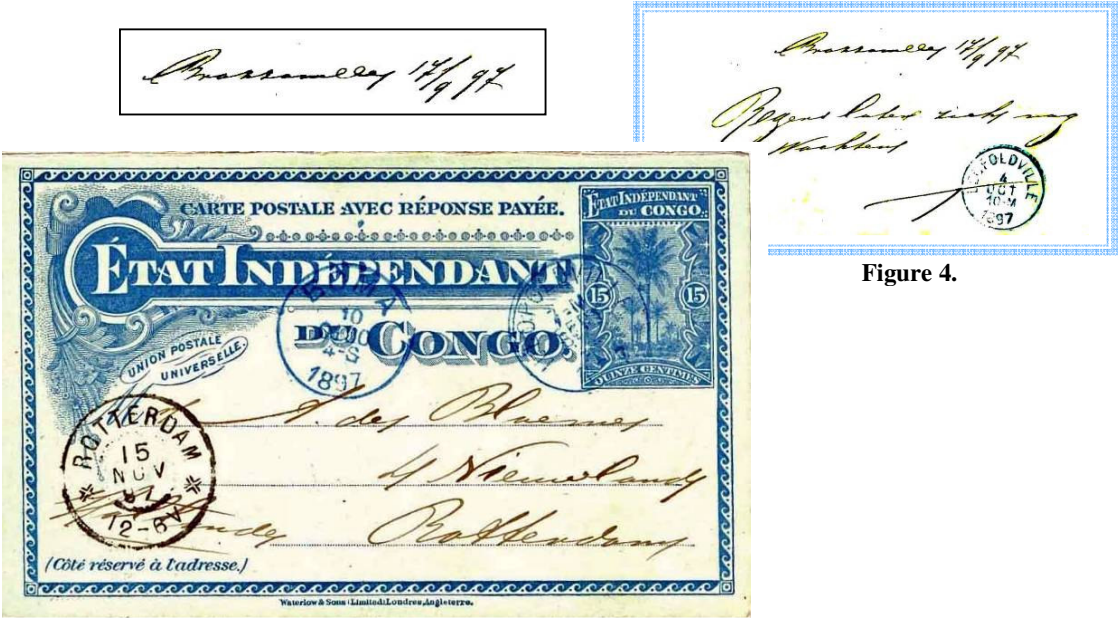


Figure 4.

Inter colonial cross border correspondence

It is interesting to note that postal rates between France as well as within the French colonies, was common to all.

- Letters up to and for each step rise at 15c per 15 grams
- Postcards to all destinations at 10c.
- International letter rate at 25c.

In the case of what we consider as Belgium's 'Independent State of Congo' – during the period up to 1910 there was an additional fee due to cover the maritime costs:

- Letters up to 20 grams at 50c to Belgium and other European countries.
- Registration fee of 50c.
- Postcards and Postal Stationery at 15c to all destinations.

As from 25th March 1889 there was an amendment to the above for mail to those countries with a common border with the 'Independent State', extending to Libreville in the north and Mossamedes to the south. Furthermore and with effect from 1st January 1899, these boundaries were extended to include the Gold Coast and the German colony of South West Africa.

- Letters – 25c.
- Registration fee - 50c.
- Postcards and Postal Stationery - 10c.

Correspondence from the 'Belgian' to 'French Congo'

Figure 5 - shows a 10c 'Independent State of Congo' postal Stationery card posted on board the French packet boat 'Taurus' of the 'Loango à Marseille' line, addressed to Libreville where it arrived on 1st April 1890.



Figure 5.

Figure 6. This is an interesting annotated 'Registered' letter from Leopoldville to Brazzaville. The sender hand stamped it 'Recommandé', and the post office did likewise, even though the envelope was under franked by 10c for such service. It was certainly not treated as a registered item and surprisingly neither of the two strikes was cancelled!



Figure 6.

Correspondence from the 'French' to 'Belgian' Congo

Figure 7 - illustrates a 'Postal stationery' card to a doctor aboard the steamer SS Philippeville of the C.M.B. line. It was posted in Brazzaville and arrived at Matadi 19th November 1899.



Figure 7.

Figure 8 - contained a letter, also posted from Brazzaville that arrived in Leopoldville the following day, 17th September 1901.



Figure 8.

Figure 9 - is a particularly interesting 'Stationery' card written and posted 23rd February 1902 from 'Konga' in 'Haut Oubangui'. There are transits of Brazzaville on 29th March, Matadi 1st April and Boma on the 4th. It was probably carried to Luki by the Mayumbe railway but bears no arrival mark as Luki's post office didn't open until 1903 - then as 'Gare de Luki'.



Figure 9.

Figure 10 - is an example of a post card bearing a 'letter rate to foreign country' franking of 25c whilst the imprinted 10c stamp on the 'Stationery' card would have been sufficient.

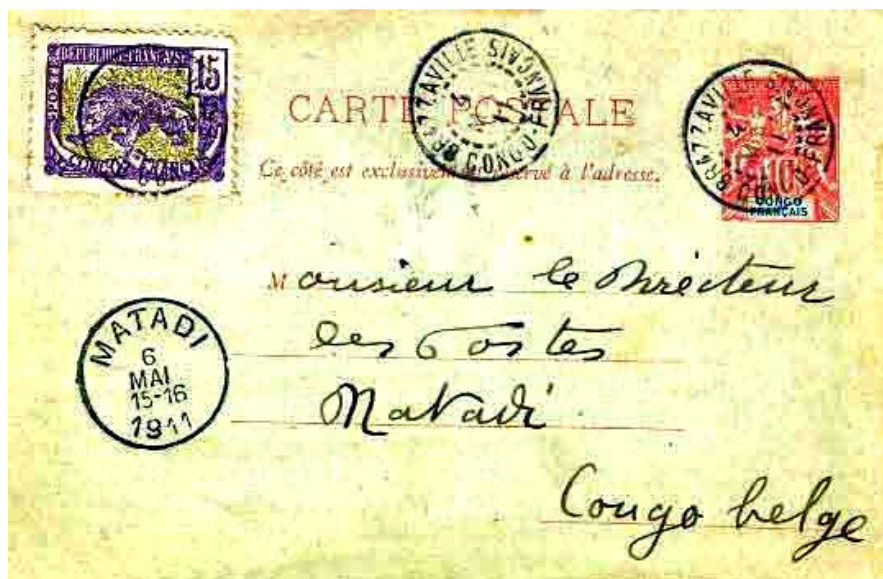


Figure 10.

Figure 11 - is indeed appropriately franked at 25c, that necessary as a letter to a foreign country.



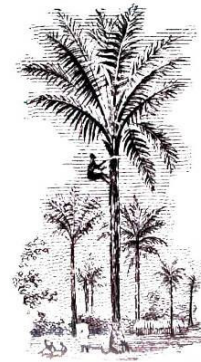
Figure 11.

The editor acknowledges receipt of other illustrations in support of this article.

'Identifying the Mols plate combinations'

15 centimes combination III4+B3

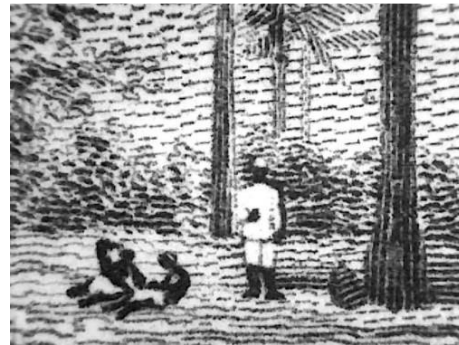
Stuart Smith



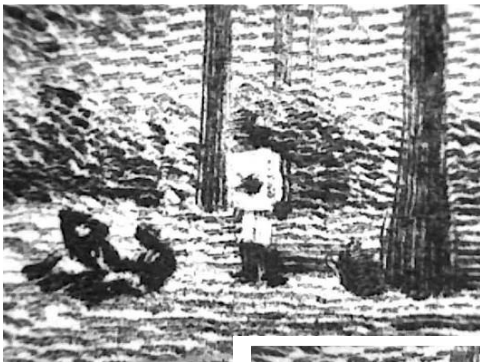
In Bulletin 127, I reported on plating characteristics of combination 'III4+B3'. At that time I didn't realise that the sheet I have is at the present time, the only recorded copy in the hands of a Study Circle member; but if any member has another, it would be useful to know.

Following publication in Bulletin #155 - 'Identification of 15 centimes plate combinations' - Jozef Deruyck contacted me about this combination, requesting clarification with illustrations of the doubling of the 'left side sky lines', the 'settler' and 'natives'. It is quite apparent that I should have included them in the article.

The extensive doubling of the centre plate which first appeared in this combination did of course remain and can be seen in stamps of later '1915 issue' printings incorporating this centre plate and 'B4'. In 'B3' they appeared for the first time and are therefore clearer. Doubling is extensive in columns 5 to 10, though not uncommon in the others.

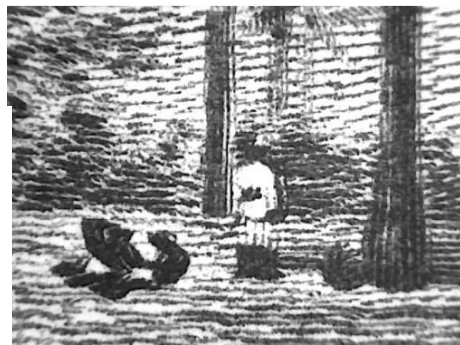


#11 – devoid of doubling

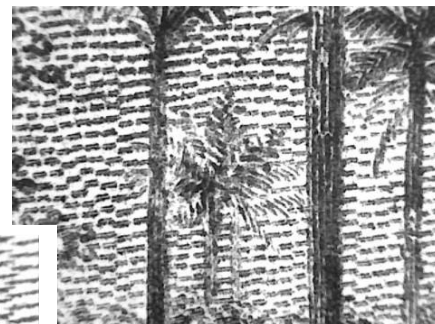


#10

The 'Settler' is doubled to varying degrees in approximately 70% of positions, but the 'Natives' only in #10, 20, 22, 34 and 44.



#44



#45

As illustrated, above, significant doubling of the left hand sky occurs in 29 positions of the sheet – predominantly though not exclusively in columns 5 to 10.

It is worth stating the obvious, in that if you have examples of the type of doubling illustrated here, on a '1910 issue' stamp, they are likely to be from this combination and therefore rare. I don't personally have any, nor have I seen any examples as single stamps - just my sheet!

I find the practicalities in production of this irregular mass doubling, difficult to comprehend.

Identifying the Mols plate combinations

Stuart Smith

This is the fourth of the current review and update of B. P. Hudson's original work first published in the Bulletin and that source of information is acknowledged. As stated previously, Brian's original article was effectively devoid of any useful illustrations so I have incorporated examples from my own collection in an attempt to complement the text and assist identification. Where relevant, additional up to date information is incorporated.

Dates prefixed 'F.C.' are those of 'File Copy' sheets previously held in the Waterlow archive.

25 Centimes *'Waterfalls at Inkissi'*



Plate combinations

COB	SG	Date of issue			
21	20	1894	Orange	I1+A1	Original frame and centre plates
22	32	1900	Blue	I2+A2	Frame lay marks added; centres re-entered
		(1908)		I3+A2	Frames retouched
57	63	1910	Cobalt	II1+A3	New frame plate; centres re-entered
			Blue, green-blue	II1+A4	Centres re-entered
		(1913)	Dark blue	II2+A4	Frames retouched
		(1914)	Deep blue	II3+B	Frames re-entered; new centre plate
				II4+B	Frame lay marks added
67	73	1915		III1+B	New frame plate
		(1916)		III1a+Ca	Frame retouched, new centre plate; - sky lines clear
				III2+Ca	Frame lay marks added
				III2+Cb	- sky lines corroded
		(1920)		III2+D	New centre plate
75	81	1918	Red Cross	III2+D	
99	105	1922	Malines surcharge	III3+D	Extra frame lay marks added
	73ba			Booklets (1)	Frame and centre plates, specific to booklets
				Booklets (2)	Frames retouched

Identification

1894. Orange *II+A1*

I+A1. [F.C. 2.10.1894, 13.12.1895, 16.3.1898]

Combination II+A1 is self evident by virtue of shade. Albeit subjective, this does vary and has been variously described as bright orange, orange, yellow-orange, bistre-orange and even mustard. The first printing was certainly a 'bright orange'; but specification of any of the shades is very subjective.

1900. Blue *I2+A2* [F.C. 5.3.1900, 2.12.1902] *and I3+A2*

I3+A2 is easy to distinguish from I2+A2 by the heavy retouching of the top frame line. In I2+A2 this line is thin and weak; in I3+A2 it is strong and thick. Stamps from I3+A2 without the CONGO BELGE overprint are very rare.



Frame plate 'I2'



Frame plate 'I3'

The 'Princes' printings are I3 + A2. They can be recognised by the brighter shade of the frames and the centres which are brownish-black - rather than the grey-black of the original 1900 issue. Princes 'Typo' overprinted stamps can be recognised by constant varieties* in the 'typo' overprint.

(*Gudenkauf, Bulletin #25)

CONGO BELGE overprints

Excepting 'Princes stamps', the 'typo' CONGO BELGE overprint was applied to both combinations. The Bruxelles hand overprint was applied to 'I2+A2' using handstamps B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and B6. The Bruxelles hand stamps used to overprint the 'Princes, I3+A2' stamps were B2 and B5. The 'Local' handstamps 1-7 were applied to 'I2+A2' and Local 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 to 'I3+A2'.

1910. *III+A3, III+A4* [F.C. 7.11.1911], *II2+A4, II3+B* [F.C. 10.10.1913] *and II4+B*

The first four combinations of the 1910 issue are easy to tell apart. In III+A3 there is little doubling in the centres and the frames are a distinctive Cobalt colour. In III+A4 the centres show extensive doubling, particularly of the trees, the natives and the rocks in the waterfall; the frames exist in several shades of 'blue' and sometimes slightly greenish blue – but never Cobalt. The horizontal shading in the bottom panel is weak.



Centre 'A3' [#11]



Centre 'A4' [#11]



Centre 'B' [#11]

In II2+A4 this shading has been retouched by hand, showing many irregularities and the frames are deep or Prussian blue, usually though not always darker than the shade of III+A4. In II3+B, the frames are again deep or Prussian blue with the bottom panel lines stronger though still showing some signs of retouching; the new centre plate is strong, clear and unblemished.

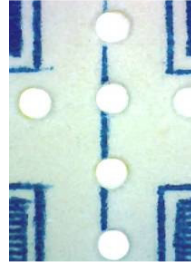


Frame III [#30]

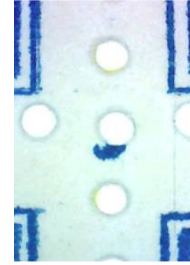


Frame II2 [#30]

II4+B can be differentiated from II3+B only in the positions where the new frame plate lay marks are visibly either absent or present. These are a vertical line between 7, 8, 12, 13, and a dot between 37, 38, 42 and 43.



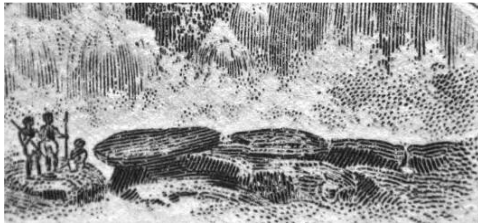
'Vertical line'
7/13



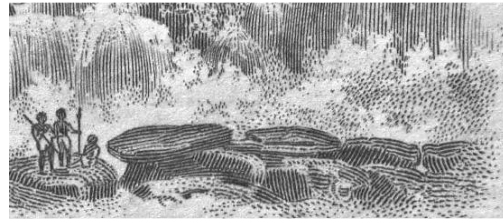
'Dot'
37/43

1915. III1+B [F.C. 20.4.1915, 20.8.1915], **III1a+Ca** [F.C. 228.11.1916], **III2+Ca, III2+Cb, III2+D** [F.C. 22.1.1920], **III3+D and Booklets**

The frame is a new design incorporating the words 'VINGT CINQ'. The first combination III1+B can be recognised by the use of the un-retouched die for the centre plate. It shows a white space between the large rock in the foreground third from the right and the dotted shading in the lower part of the waterfall. In centre plates 'C' and 'D' and in the 'booklet' stamps the space is filled in with further dots.



Centre 'B'



Centres 'C', 'D' and 'booklets'

III1a+Ca, became III2+Ca through the addition of lay marks in the form of vertical lines between 17 and 18 and between 32 and 33, and dots between 17 and 18 as well as between 27 and 28.

III1 and III2 cannot be told apart in other positions of the sheet.

Coincidentally with the introduction of the new centre plate 'C', frame plate 'III1' became 'III1a' by the small retouch to the arm of the scroll in the upper left hand frame. This occurs in position #34 as illustrated. In all other respects the two states are identical. This characteristic of #34 remains in the subsequent state, i.e. 'III2'.
Ref. *Leo Tavano. Bulletin 134*
Combination III1a+Ca is rare without the E.A.A.O.B. overprint.

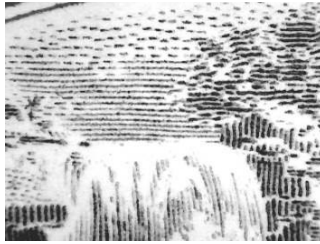


Frame 'III1' [#34]

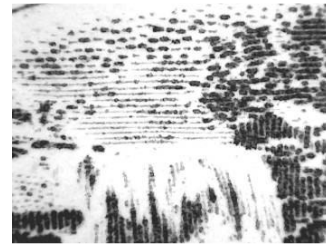


Frame 'III1a' [#34]

III2+Cb is differentiated from III2+Ca in many but not all positions [S.S.S.], by the corrosion of the horizontal lines in the sky, which become a series of dots and dashes instead of straight lines.



Centre plate 'Ca' [#8]



Centre plate 'Cb' [#8]

III2+Cb. From a sheet in my collection I have noted the following:

A lack of corrosion should not positively confer allocation to 'Ca'. The corrosion referred to and attributed to centre plate 'Cb', whilst prominent in stamps from columns 3, 4 and 5, is far less apparent and barely exists in stamps from columns 1 and 2.

S.S.S.

A new centre plate was introduced with III2+D, which in turn became III3+D with the addition of further lay marks in the form of a vertical line between 14, 15, 19 and 20, and a dot between 39, 40, 44 and 45. III3+D is thought to exist only with the 'Malines' surcharge.

Booklet panes

The three printings of the booklet stamps can be distinguished by shade - though easier to make with mint rather than used stamps. Stamps from the first printing are blue, sometimes with a greenish tinge, and with brownish-black centres. Those from the second printing are deep blue with deep black centres. Those from the third printing are dull blue with grey centres and are on grey rather than white paper. During the second printing, the frames were retouched and show little retouches marks in various places. From the start of the second printing onwards there is dense, fine corrosion in all centre plate positions of panes β and δ but not in panes α and γ .

Unless the stamp is positioned, distinguishing III+Ca, III+D and first booklet panes can be difficult. In III+D the frames give a blurred impression, have a greenish tinge, often show faint corrosion dots round their edges, and show wear in the top right horizontal panel; while the centres are light in shade and are relatively unblemished. If there is a vertical guideline just outside the lower vertical frame line, the combination is III+C or III+D. If the bottom frame line is partly thickened or doubled, the stamp is a booklet stamp. From the second printing onwards, all stamps in panes ' β ' and ' δ ' are marked by heavy centre plate corrosion around the edges of the vignette.

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

<p>1921 Recuperation</p> <p>III1+A3 (Rare and unknown 'used'.) III1+A4 II2+A4 II3+B II4+B</p>	<p>1922 Malines</p> <p>III1+B III2+Ca III2+Cb III2+D III3+D</p> <p>It is now known that the surcharge exists in three colours – previously two. They are: carmine-rose, carmine-red and vermillion [uncommon].</p>	<p>1922 EAA Malines</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>III1+B</td><td>L1 (g, t)</td><td>red</td></tr> <tr><td>III1+B</td><td>L1 (t)</td><td>carmine</td></tr> <tr><td>III1+B</td><td>L1 (o)</td><td>red and carmine</td></tr> <tr><td>III1a+Ca</td><td>L1 (o, .)</td><td>carmine</td></tr> <tr><td>III1a+Ca</td><td>L2</td><td>red and carmine</td></tr> </table>	III1+B	L1 (g, t)	red	III1+B	L1 (t)	carmine	III1+B	L1 (o)	red and carmine	III1a+Ca	L1 (o, .)	carmine	III1a+Ca	L2	red and carmine
III1+B	L1 (g, t)	red															
III1+B	L1 (t)	carmine															
III1+B	L1 (o)	red and carmine															
III1a+Ca	L1 (o, .)	carmine															
III1a+Ca	L2	red and carmine															
<p>1916 Tombeur (Ruanda Urundi)</p> <p>III1+B*</p> <p>* Kigali, Grysolle and Havre.</p>	<p>1918 Red Cross and AO</p> <p>III2+D [F.C. 27 Dec. 1917]</p>	<p>1916 East African</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>III1+B</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>III1+B</td><td>L1, L1-T, L1-G</td></tr> <tr><td>III1a+Ca</td><td>L1, L2</td></tr> <tr><td>III2+Ca</td><td>L2</td></tr> </table>	III1+B	S	III1+B	L1, L1-T, L1-G	III1a+Ca	L1, L2	III2+Ca	L2							
III1+B	S																
III1+B	L1, L1-T, L1-G																
III1a+Ca	L1, L2																
III2+Ca	L2																

The author thanks Léo Tavano for contributing to and reviewing the draft of this article.

Edmund Dene Morel
- the Dundee and Belgian Congo link

Charles Lloyd

Each year the Dundee and District Philatelic Society produces a souvenir cover or illustrated postcard to recognise a person or event that has both a major significance and a local connection. This year, the Society of which I am 'President', has recognised the 50th anniversary of Congo independence since there is a significant Dundee connection with the country. The Congo at the time of the Independent State of the Congo and Dundee are linked through a remarkable man, Edmund Dene Morel.

Morel was a leading campaigner for reform in the Independent State. As might be expected, this was not popular with a small but powerful section of the Belgian establishment and others who benefited from the status quo. To undermine Morel's campaign, these people portrayed him as anti-Belgian in Belgian papers over which they had influence. Being anti-Belgian was far from the truth. He was anti-Leopold and pro- 'the Belgian Solution', namely the creation of a well run Belgian colony.

Unfortunately, this misjudgement persisted for many years. More recently Jules Marchal, the respected long-serving Belgian diplomat and historian has endeavoured to give a balanced judgement of the man, to rehabilitate him in the eyes of detractors through scholarly research.

Although Edmund Dene Morel may be unknown to many, he is a key figure in the creation of the Belgian Congo. In Congo history he is indeed a remarkable and significant person.

Edmund Dene Morel (*christened Georges Eduard Pierre Achille Morel de Ville*) was born at Paris in 1873, to a French father and English mother. Following the early death of his father, mother and son moved to England. To support his mother, he took a job as a shipping clerk in the Liverpool offices of the Elder Dempster Line, which had extensive interests in West African shipping and to supplement that income wrote, as a free-lance journalist, on the business of shipping and trade. In the mid-1890's the company required a representative in Antwerp to oversee its Congo operations. French speaking Edmund was perfect and he continued his journalistic enterprise at Antwerp, reporting a day-to-day factual account of cargoes. This earned a reprimand from the Secretary of State for the Congo Free State, who accused him of releasing confidential information to the press. Morel was puzzled and on re-examining his story, he realised that the value of trade goods sent to the Congo was barely one fifth that of the rubber and ivory arriving at Antwerp. He concluded that this trade could not be supported by normal waged labour. He set about gathering evidence and became aware of missionary reports of forced labour and the harsh means by which it was enforced.

He decided that he had to publicise the matter. Attempts to silence him (with bribes) proved futile. These only increased his determination. His position at Elder Dempster became untenable and he resigned in 1901 to take up journalism as a full-time profession. With the help of ethical businessmen,



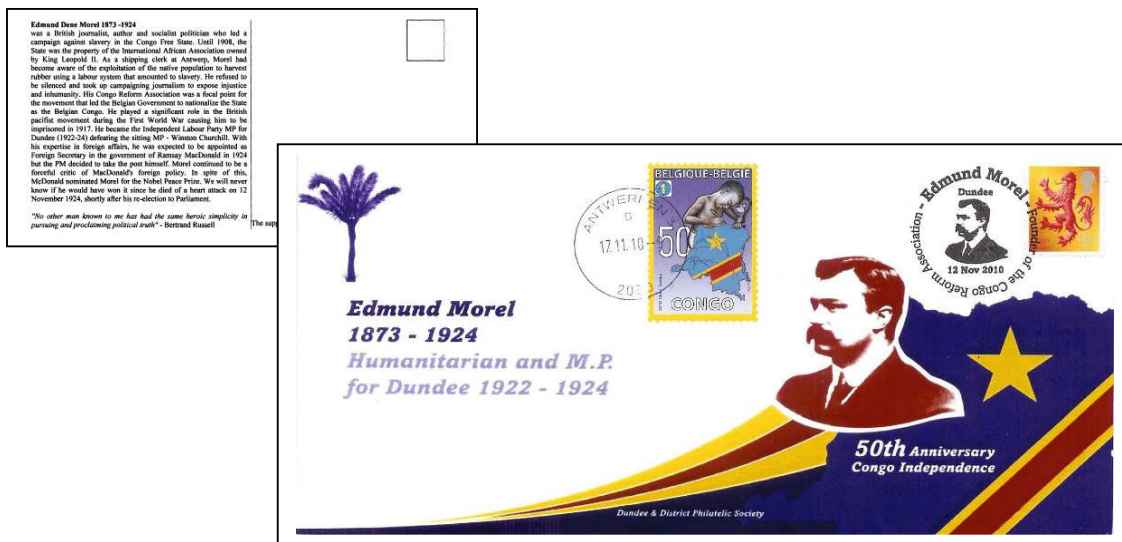
Charles Lloyd, Lord Provost Letford of Dundee and Jim McGovern, M.P. at the launch of the card on 12 November - the date of Morel's death.

some anonymous, he started the West African Mail, a trade and shipping paper. He was a prolific writer, campaigning against Leopold and editing his paper at the same time. His motivation has puzzled people. He was not a reformer driven by religious beliefs and was neither a grass roots socialist nor a politician. He had nothing to gain personally. However, he did believe strongly in Free Trade and that this would lead to development and raise the living standards of Africans.

It is apparent that his writings were meticulously researched and accurate. He wrote with passion without deviating from the facts in his possession. He found support in British humanitarian societies, Members of Parliament, the Church and missionaries. Morel was a supreme organiser who publicised missionary reports in a way they could not, and protected his sources. As his reputation grew, dissident insiders in the State leaked information to him. In Morel they saw a means for publicising actions that upset or offended them. Belgian Members of Parliament, notably socialists such as Emile Vandervelde, found mutual benefit in joint action and information sharing.

Although “The Congo Question” was raised in the British House of Commons, the British Government was unwilling to put pressure on the King of a friendly nation. Nevertheless, in 1903 the British Foreign Office sent His Britannic Majesty’s Consul for the Congo, Roger Casement, to investigate the rubber trade and submit a report. Casement was a respected and experienced Africa diplomat. His report was damning, substantiating Morel’s findings. Morel and Casement had a common cause and it was the latter who urged Morel to focus his efforts by forming a pressure group. The Congo Reform Association (CRA) met for the first time in Liverpool on 23rd March 1904. His efforts were immense and the CRA grew rapidly drawing support across society. He deployed all the methods we associate with today’s mass action causes. The Society spread to the USA and France.

Pressure on Leopold intensified who tried to fight back, but with limited success. Finally, in July 1904 Leopold was forced by the Belgian Parliament to agree to a Belgian Commission of Enquiry. It reported in March 1905 with findings similar to those of Casement. Publication of the report did not take place but it provided Parliament with the tool to act. As we know, the Belgian Congo came into existence in November 1908. It was the solution Morel supported; the creation of a Belgian colony. He believed that given the circumstances prevailing at the time, the Congolese would be best protected under Belgian rule. The CRA remained active to monitor change. When Morel was satisfied that reforms announced in Brussels in 1909 were effective, he agreed to dissolve the CRA. This decision was helped greatly by the accession of Albert I to the Belgian throne in 1910. The new king supported reform. The CRA was dissolved on 16th June 1913. Only one campaign issue remained unresolved, that of African land ownership which Morel recognised to be highly significant for indigenous peoples.



With commemorative Dundee cancellation and Antwerp cancelled Belgium 50th anniversary Independence stamp.

If members would like this commemorative card, I can supply it as long as the limited stock is available. A small number have been reserved specifically for B.C.S.C. members and the following is presently available.

1. With commemorative '*Dundee cancellation*' £2 or 2.00€ or US\$2.00
2. With commemorative '*Dundee cancellation*' and signed
by Lord Provost Letford and Jim McGovern MP £4 or 5.00€ or US\$5.00
3. With commemorative '*Dundee cancellation*' and Antwerp
cancelled Belgian commemorative stamp £6 or 7.00€ or US\$7.00

To protect these from our post office (which can be over-enthusiastic with cancellation), I will send them to you in an envelope or deliver by hand at the 2011 AGM in Bruxelles. Postage is 'UK' £1; 'EU' and 'Rest of World' £2.00 or 2.00€ or US\$2.00.

Please e-mail your requirements to: charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

By post to:

Dr. Charles Lloyd
18 Linefield Road
Carnoustie. DD7 6DP
Scotland, UK

Payment:

UK Members - can pay by cheque (made payable to C H Lloyd) or by electronic transfer to the "Belgian Congo Study Account", at the Halifax bank,

Sort code: 11-01-26

Account number: 00647356.

If by electronic transfer please also notify me by e-mail, so that I have a record of the payment. The Bank does not routinely identify the source from whom it was made.

Euro Zone Members - can pay by electronic transfer to our Belgian account:

IBAN: BE51 0016 0051 5962

BIC: GEBABEBB

Rest of the World Members - can pay by sending '£' Pounds sterling', US\$ or € notes by normal airmail post to me at the above address BUT please e-mail when they are despatched.