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BULLETIN 161

July 2012

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Other useful addresses – page 22

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

Receipts and payments account
Year to 31st December 2011

Income	Year to 28 Jan 2011	Year to 31 Jan. 2012
	£ Sterling	£ Sterling
Subscriptions received ¹	434.21	250.94
Subscriptions in advance – currently for 2013 & beyond ²	31.42	0.00
Transfer from BCSC Belgian account	1661.48	0.00
Commission on stamp/auction sales	0.00	0.00
Commission on UK packet sales	37.47	0.00
Books and document sales	0.00	15.49
Donation – from Hon. Treasurer ³	0.00	0.89
Bank interest	0.89	1.46
Total income	2165.47	268.78
 Expenditure		
Bulletin, Auction list		
UK & Rest of World production and printing	195.94	101.00
UK & Rest of World distribution	68.62	75.40
Annual meeting:		
AGM, incl. refreshments	395.24	367.12
Officers expenses	316.55	251.77
Secretarial & Librarian – postages, stationery, etc.	218.29	89.03
Carriage: transfer of Bulletin archive to Hon. Treasurer	0.00	39.85
Insurance	119.75	120.89
Total Expenditure	1,314.39	1,045.06
Surplus/Deficit	851.08	(776.28)
	=====	=====
Balance on hand at start of period	£1,089.86	£1289.23
On hand at end of period (#3)	£1,546.19 ⁵	£769.91

I certify that the 'Receipts and Payments Account' is a complete account of all transactions for the year ending 31st January 2012.

Charles H Lloyd

Honorary Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

- Belgian and American subscriptions are banked in Belgium and the USA, respectively. From 2011, some members living in Euro zone countries have paid their subscriptions into the Belgian account.
- 30€ is held on account for the future subscriptions of one member. This appeared in an earlier balance sheet
- Hon Treasurer was reimbursed £0.89 less than he was entitled to. Left in the account as a donation.
- Other balances held on deposit at 31st December 2011
 - in Belgium Not available
 - in USA \$951.94 (£606) [in 2010 \$1323. (= £853)]
- There was a typographic error for this total in the summary sheet presented at the AGM in March 2011. It was reported to be £1449.19 and not the correct amount, £1546.19.

From the Editor



In this bulletin I am completing the series of articles on the '*Identification of the Mols plate combinations*'. They appear to have helped those interested in such studies and for the benefit of future new members who might wish to follow the same course, it is now my intention to assemble the information and present as a single volume book.

This I aim to do shortly and hopefully in time to coincide with publication of the next bulletin. For those without a computer and who have only received the information as black and white photocopies, it should be particularly helpful as it will of course include the original coloured illustrations. Details of availability and price will be announced. However, should anyone know now that they may want a copy, it would be helpful information in deciding the likely print run. Just let me know without commitment. A copy will of course be lodged with the library.

Public Auctions: Starting with this issue, Vincent Schoubrechts has volunteered to provide advance notice of future major auctions that include important Belgian Congo related material. This will of course be confined to those already coinciding with the publishing date of each bulletin. He expects also to report on the highlight results of those sales as typified by the information provided in this issue of Feldman's 'Anatoly Karpov' sale. (See pages 10 and 11.)

From the Honorary Secretary.

Philippe Lindekens – retiring from office

For personal reasons Philippe Lindekens is finding it necessary to retire from the several Study Circle officer positions he currently holds. We are therefore giving advance notice of this decision which becomes effective in March 2013, on the occasion of the next AGM.

As a consequence, we are seeking a volunteer to take on responsibility for our 'Website' and also that of 'Invoicing' of the Study Circles auction purchases.

The latter obviously requires close liaison with other Belgian members already involved in the auction preparation and management team.

As yet there isn't a 'job description' available but if any member feels able to take on the role, would they make contact with Philippe and establish precisely what this involves.

It is understood that he will also be withdrawing his expertise as a '*Consultant*' member of the 'Expert Committee' – but I presume that is something the committee will be addressing.

Membership News

New Members

With this issue we extend a warm return welcome back to Roland Ammann and to our two new Belgian members trusting they are able to enjoy and benefit from their association with us.

<i>Belgium</i>	- Jean-Pierre Thiry	Rue de la Colline, 36 Bte 33 5000 Namur Email: jeanpierrre.thiry@gmail.com
	- Bruno Mazzeti	Rue Ribéra, 21 7340 Colfontaine Email: pixell@skynet.be
<i>Switzerland</i>	- Roland Ammann	c.p. 213 6600 Locarno 4 Email: ammannroland@msn.com
<i>U.K.</i>	- Nick Stanmore	50 Wicket Road Greenfield, Middlesex. UB6 8YL Email: nstanmore@cdccsoftware.com

Residential and E-mail changes

Belgium

- Dr. Henk Slabbinck

12A August Oleffelaan

8620 Nieuwpoort

Email: No address change

U.K.

- Mrs. Anne-Marie Button

Email: bryanandminou.button@me.com



Congratulations

It is with much pride that we congratulate Patrick Maselis with the honour of being invited to sign *'The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists'*, established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with the approval of His Majesty King George V. An invitation to sign the roll is regarded as the world's pre-eminent philatelic honour.

The signing ceremony will take place at St. John's Kirk, Perth, Scotland on 21 October during the 2012 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

Meetings of the Study Circle

A full report on the AGM and General meeting held in Bruxelles 17th March follows.

The 16th June meeting held in Bruxelles

I can confirm that the June summer meeting hosted by our President took place on the 16th. The *'Free State's Registration marks'* and *'Forged stamps of the 2nd issue'* were the topics.



Some familiar faces with doubtless fine and interesting material. Unfortunately the camera *focussing* didn't live up to the same expectation.

Ed.

Next meeting: 22nd September 2012 at 'Forest Station'

In a similar vein (*topic not yet decided*) there will be another meeting on the 22nd September. A further meeting is planned in November and details will be given in the next bulletin.

Minutes of the AGM in Bruxelles – Saturday 17th March 2012.

In attendance:

Thierry Frennet (*President and Chair*), Ludo Achten, Laurent Bierny, Joseph de Leeuw, Walter Deijnckens, Jean-Pierre Flamand, Charles Henuzet, Jacques Heytens, Emile Hoorens, Michel Hopperets, Philippe Lindekens, Thomas Lindekens, Charles Lloyd, Bruce Lockhart, Patrick Maselis, Eike Meyer-Burckhardt, Marc Oblin, Niels-Peter Overgaard, Vincent Schouberechts, Charles Stockmans, Leo Tavano, Marc van Daele, Christian Vandenbossche, Luc Vander Marcken, Bart Willekens, Yves Winand

Honorary Secretary's Report – Stuart Smith

In his absence a short statement was read. "Stuart found it necessary to stand down but in doing so had obtained the agreement of Charles Lloyd, the present Hon. Treasurer, to stand for this office also. He expressed the opinion that the duties of Secretary and Treasurer are interrelated and as on many previous occasions to have the same person holding both offices has a great advantage. He thanked the membership for their support over the 15 years that he had been Honorary Secretary. He confirmed also that the problem of the location & management of the Library had been resolved with Walter Deijnckens accepting the office of Honorary Librarian. He gave credit to Philippe Lindekens for the creation of the BCSC website and noted that it is invaluable for viewing auction lots. However, many of our website sections were out of date and required updating as a matter of urgency."

Honorary Treasurer's Report – Charles Lloyd

The 2011-2 balance sheet for the International Account was tabled. The Honorary Treasurer reminded the membership that although this is the primary account, there are subsidiary accounts in Belgium and USA that feature only as footnotes. A complete picture of the Circle's financial position is obtained when all three are considered.

He reported that whilst expenditure had been contained (falling by ~20%), income had dropped more substantially and the Circle is facing a financial problem. There is no alternative to increasing the annual subscription. He proposed an increase of £2 for UK and international members (or 2€ for those in European countries outside Belgium). It was observed that although this represents an increase of 25% for some, in absolute terms it is a small amount. It was noted that current subscriptions paid in Belgium and the USA are comparable (*subject to modification for different postal charges*) and anticipated that a similar percentage increase would be applied to all subscriptions. The proposal was put to a vote and agreed unanimously. ***Detailed on page 7 of this bulletin.***

Ludo Achten, the Belgian Financial Officer, was invited to report on the Belgian held account which includes our expertising and Euro zone subscription & the auction activities. Increased submissions for expertising resulted in a rise in this income. Although most members in Euro zone countries are now paying by direct bank transfer into the Belgian account, Ludo asked if payment to Belgium could be made mandatory to simplify the monitoring of payments. This was agreed, will be revised and become effective from 2013.

It was noted there were three exceptional cost items, transfers totalling 1524€. Payments had been made 2008, 2009 & 2010 and had not featured in earlier accounts, hence their exceptional status.

The sale of *Keach material* is held in a separate sub-account in Belgium. There appears to be some uncertainty over the outstanding balance and it was determined this will be resolved and reported under 'Matters arising' at the next AGM.

Ludo Achten & Charles Lloyd agreed that the current accounting year for the Belgian & International accounts will be brought in line with each other and close on the same date, 28th February 2013. This will allow time to collect 2013 subscriptions and prepare the accounts for the AGM. This year end date will be used in subsequent accounting years.

'*Asset Register*'. The Circles assets (*typically books, forgeries collection, stamp expertisation reference sheets, etc.*) are held in trust by a number of committees/members. Each was asked to prepare lists of what they held and send copies to both Charles Lloyd and Ludo Achten to facilitate the completion of the Circle's asset register.

Auctions – Philippe Lindekens

Philippe Lindekens confirmed that there had been three auctions in the year. The result for Auction 2011 (3) was not yet available. The other two produced a profit of 191€, which was 5% of sales.

Approval was requested and agreed at the 2008 AGM to charge a 5% sellers price on all material submitted for auction, but this has never been implemented. As such the income support to the Circle from all sales is unsustainable.

To put matters on an equal footing - Philippe Lindekens proposed a change in the auction rules to introduce a 5% *buyer's premium* on all lots sold, irrespective of whether they are on behalf of a current or deceased member. This will be in addition to the 5% commission chargeable to the seller. The proposal was agreed and will be introduced forthwith.

The Auctioneer and team were thanked for their work.

Librarian – Walter Deijnckens

During the year, Walter Deijnckens volunteered as and is now the Librarian. The books were transferred to his keeping in February. These are listed and all members should have a copy already. A new set of borrowing rules has been drafted. Padded envelopes will be supplied to ensure books are not damaged in transit.

The Honorary Librarian brought a selection of aero philately books to the AGM and gave a brief description of these. He intends to bring themed selections to future meetings to inform members about what is available.

The archive of Bulletins and the stock of books for sale in the possession of Bernie Harris, the former librarian were transferred to the Honorary Treasurer who agreed to take on requests for archived articles & sales of UK held book stocks.

UK Packet Secretary – John Kelland

A brief report summarising this activity was presented on behalf of John Kelland.

‘A packet of 16 booklets had been circulated to 16 UK members over a 3 month period. It contained 1200 stamps/items valued at £1100. 371 of these (31%) were sold for £493 (~45%)’.

Other matters

Philippe Lindekens informed the meeting that the stock of Heim and Keach was almost exhausted and sought views on a reprint. Several options were discussed and it was agreed reprinting should take place and that the existing format should be followed.

Patrick Maselis reiterated the need to maintain an updated website. It is the first point of contact for many potential members. He suggested that the ‘In Memoriam’ page should be a priority.

The President had received a letter from a UK member asking if the AGM could start at a later time (11am) to allow individuals living further away to travel on the day. Unfortunately, this does not appear to be a practical proposition. He also paid tribute to the outstanding contributions made by Stuart Smith as Honorary Secretary. As mentioned already, Stuart had decided to step down and had nominated Charles Lloyd as his successor. When put to a vote Charles Lloyd was elected. Charles Lloyd thanked the members for their confidence and hoped to justify this.

All other ‘Officers’ of the Study Circle remain as previously appointed.

Officers of the Study Circle – 2012

President	<i>T. Frennet</i>
Honorary Secretary & ‘Book sales’	<i>Dr. C. Lloyd</i>
Honorary Treasurer	<i>Dr. C. Lloyd</i>
Regional Sec. – Belgium	<i>P. Maselis</i>
Regional Sec. – USA	<i>D. A. Schaubroeck</i>
Regional Sec. – UK + other	<i>Dr. C Lloyd</i>
Bulletin Editor	<i>S. S. Smith</i>
Auction Secretaries	<i>Ph. Lindekens and C. Stockmans</i>
Auction Finance Officer	<i>L. Achten</i>
Librarian	<i>W. Deijnckens</i>
Packet Sec. – Belgium	<i>C. Henuzet</i>
Packet Sec. – UK	<i>J.F. Kelland</i>
Expertisation: <u>Chairman</u> and committee	<i>C. Henuzet, G. Gudenkauf, L. Vander Maercken</i>
- Consultants	<i>L. Tavano and P. Lindekens</i>

Annual Subscriptions – 2013

The following new subscription rates become effective for the year commencing 1st January 2013. Those members having already paid in advance for 2013 at the current rate will be credited as having paid in full.

Region	Subscription	
UK	£12	(£10 for those who receive the Bulletin, etc by e-mail)
Belgium	12€	
All other European countries	12€	
USA	\$22	(\$17 for those who receive the Bulletin, etc by e-mail)
Rest of the World	£15	(£10 for those who receive the Bulletin, etc by e-mail)

Payment due - 1st January 2013.

How to pay

Members living in the UK:

1. by electronic bank transfer to the Study Circle's account with the 'Halifax Bank':
Belgian Congo Study Circle Account
Sort Code: 11-01-26
Account: 00647356

When using this payment method, confirmation of your transfer is presently necessary.

Confirm by e-mail to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Lloyd (charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk)
or 2. By a cheque drawn on a UK bank and sent by post to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Lloyd at 18 Linefield Road, Carnoustie, Angus DD7 6DP, Scotland, U.K.

or 3. As has been the practice, you can still send Pounds Sterling bank notes to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Lloyd at the above address.

Members living in Belgium and other countries that are members of the Euro currency zone:

By direct payment into the Study Circle's bank account with the "BNP Paribas Fortis":
IBAN BE51 0016 0051 5962
BIC GEBABEBB

Members living in 'Other European countries'

Payment is to be made to the UK. You can use any one of the three methods available to the UK members. Payments made by electronic bank transfer must be made in Pounds Sterling. (Note that a *foreign bank* transaction charge may be applied by your bank). Cheques posted to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Lloyd, must be drawn on a UK bank and be in Pounds Sterling. As has been the practice, you can still send Pounds Sterling or Euro bank notes to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Lloyd. (Euro bank notes will be converted at the current exchange rate)

Members living in the USA

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

Members living in the Rest of the World

Payment is to be made by one of the options used by members living in '*Other European countries*'.

Any problems should be directed to Hon. Treasurer. Charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

Member's displays

Once again and undoubtedly the main attraction for those attending the annual meeting, we were treated to members displays. Unfortunately time was short and only a few were possible.

Patrick Maselis:

Patrick was able to display stamps and proofs from the Courvoisier Belgian Congo & Ruanda-Urundi archive. It was a fascinating and unique record. Of the multicoloured stamps, imperforate colour separated proofs as well as the complete stamp was shown.

Included:

*The 1949 UPU issue (*imperforate shades, photographic proof & proofs of un-issued designs*).

*The 1952 Flowers, including a 3.50 Fr denomination which was subsequently changed to 7 francs when actually issued.



*The proposed but un-issued different types of King Baudouin portrait stamps - similar to those issued in Belgium.

*A commemorative for the 5th Congress of the Science of the Sun as well as fiscal 'Pension' stamps.

*The 1959 Wildlife - in both issued and un-issued colours along with some inscribed Ruanda-Urundi.



*The 1959 Madonna - also in both issued & un-issued colours.

*Dedicated Ruanda-Urundi designs, including the Usumburu Cathedral and 1961 high value animals.

Laurent Bierny:

Laurent showed a most interesting collection of pre-colonial covers for both incoming & outgoing mail. Of particular interest were letters bearing a Cinderella stamp. This was the 5 Mitacos, featuring an elephant standing next to a palm tree in front of the rising sun. It is believed these stamps were printed originally as a more convenient paper currency since the Mitaco itself was a large piece of metal. There was a lively discussion as members considered the likely origin of these stamps and the CONGO overprint that appears on those attached to envelopes.



Laurent has subsequently prepared an article on the topic which will be featured in our next bulletin.

Jacques Heytens:

Postmark collectors in particular were intrigued as Jacques explained his approach to identifying Heim-Keach classified postmarks using a novel protractor placed on the hardcopy postmark and its image scanned into a personal computer. The latter allows enlargement for closer examination. Photoshop is the preferred programme.

Luc Vander Marcken:

Luc presented a comprehensive and in depth review of the postal history of the Belgian Congo during the Second World War. Space limits its reporting *and I admit to spent time looking at material at the expense of note taking!*

Included in the display were both military and civil censored mail, undercover mail sent via Portugal, mail from Belgian colonial forces in East Africa (*there to confront Italian forces*) and subsequently in West Africa (*there to defeat Vichy French forces*) then an epic truck drive across Africa from Nigeria to Egypt (*little known to many present*).



Belgian colonial pilots manned a Spitfire squadron attached to the RAF and SAAF. A diverse range of covers and pictures recorded their contribution to the war effort.



Colonial medical staff manned field hospitals/casualty stations not only in Africa but also in Burma and contributed to the war time philately. Mail from the US military postal service in the Congo was accompanied by the fantasy “US Detachment” overprints. It was a ‘tour de force.’

Although we could have continued to enjoy material brought by several other members, we had to call the annual meeting to a close around 4pm.

In the evening many members rounded off a most enjoyable day together with the now traditional meal at the Portuguese restaurant in central Bruxelles.

Charles Lloyd

Recent Auction results

This is the first in a new series, summarising the results achieved at recent public auctions of Belgian Congo and related material. It is also hoped and intended that we will be able to give news of future auctions of similar quality material and at this stage can already advise that more of the Anatoly Karpov Belgian Congo collection will be offered in December.

We are indebted to Patrick Maselis and Vincent Schouberechts for this contribution.

The David Feldman April auction held in Geneva offered some fine and important items from the renowned chess player Anatoly Karpov. Many truly amazing record high prices were realised. Arguably, their association with Karpov's celebrated status had a significant influence. All the examples illustrated below typify the results.



Mixed franking – April 1891
4,400€



Strip of three – one overprint omitted
4,800€



5 Franc block of 10
8,000€



10c. 'printed paper' rate – VERIFIÉ
3,000€



10 Franc block of 25
5,000€



10 Franc block of 4 perf 12
4,600€



10 centimes – inverted centre, perf.15 on document
28,000€



10 Franc with local overprint – imperf. top sheet margin
3,400€



25c. re-engraved - type II
1,600€

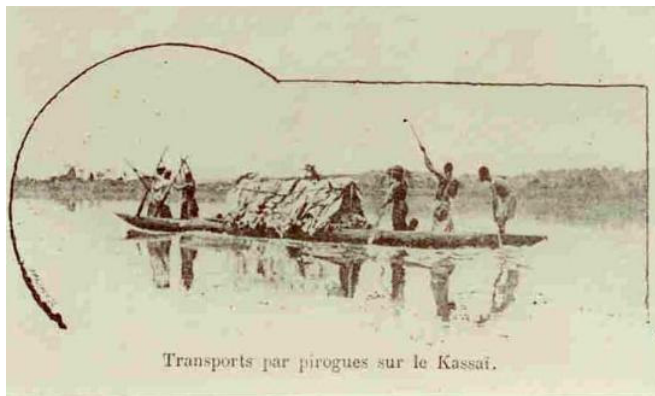


1915 booklet pane – File copy
1,300€

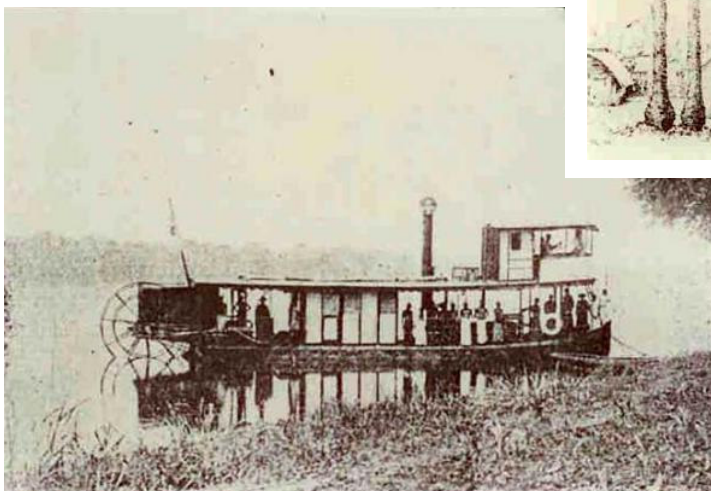


1937 imperf. booklet pane
4,200€

1894 Antwerp Exhibition – more illustrations



In Bulletin 160, Jean Herreweghe provided us with four illustrations of cards that had been issued in a souvenir album entitled '*Congo Diorama, painted by Robert Mols and Piet Van Engelen*'. These prompted a response from Eric Michiels who has more to add which, included those previously illustrated, are copied from the exhibition catalogue and reproduced here.



Dar-es-Salaam Field Post Office No. 11

- another example comes to light

In Bulletin 157 Regis Hoffman wrote an informative article on this elusive mark since when another example on a picture postcard from Honfleur and now in the 'Deijnckens' collection, has come to light.

**F. P. O. No. 11
DAR-ES-SALAAM.**

The picture postcard illustrates the arrival of a steamer from Le Havre. This was 'departure cancelled' on 23rd October 1917 and received the Mombasa arrival/transit mark dated 22nd December. The violet FPO 24 was applied the following day and the card then forwarded to Kilossa.

What an acquisition!



Identifying the Mols plate combinations

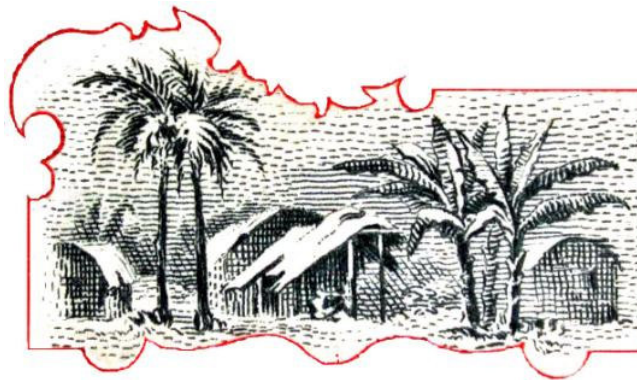
Stuart Smith

This is the final instalment and completes the series of reviews and updates of B. P. Hudson's original work. In doing so I am covering the remaining three values, each printed by Waterlow and Layton as distinct from Waterlow & Son.

The design of the 3.50 francs and subsequent 3 franc values was based on a drawing of a native village in the jungle by Lieutenant Masui - previously published in the book 'D'Anvers a Banzyville'. (See original sketch illustrated on page 11)

'File Copy' sheets do not exist.

3.50 Francs



The 3,50 francs value is the scarcest and its principal use was for parcels; it was also used for registered packets but rarely on telegram forms. When found on a normal-sized cover, this probably suggests over-franking and therefore philatelic rather than bona fide postal usage.

Plate combinations

COB	SG	Date of issue			
27	28	4 May 1898	3.50 fr. Vermillion	I1+A	Original frame and centre plate
			[Perf. 14¼]		
27A	28a		'Compound' - [Perf. 14¼x12 or 12x14¼]		Refer ' <i>An Enigma</i> ' - <i>compound perforations</i>
47P		1909		I1+A	'Princes' printing on watermarked paper.
			[Perf. 14]		
61	68	1910	3 fr. Vermillion	II1+A	New frame plate, including Printers name on selvages and on watermarked paper
61	68	1910	3 fr. Vermillion	II2+A	Frames retouched
92	98	1921	3 fr. Vermillion	II1+A	
92	98	1921	3 fr. Vermillion	II2+A	

Identification

There are no significant frame shade variations in any of the 3.50 or 3 francs printings and except where identified otherwise were perforated 14¼

1898. II+A

Both centre and frame plates present a clean appearance and the flaws that are visible show little change in successive printings.

'An Enigma' - compound perforated stamps.

Catalogue Officiel Belgique, Stanley Gibbons and Scott, list compound perforation variants of both this and the 10 francs value. However there appears to be no evidence that these were ever issued by the post office for public use; as such they are regarded as *Printers token fantasies*.

Tavano & Henuzet. *État Indépendant du Congo, l'Émission Mols – Van Engelen. 1894-1908.*

“The origin or provenance of these compound perforated stamps has never been determined. Examples known are of individual stamps and very rarely in pairs or blocks of four, and none of these help us solve the problem.

Those specialists who have studied the material are not in agreement as to which of the following two opinions account for their existence:

- Some remnant perf. 12 essays were partially perforated 14¼.
- The printers produced these as novelties for collectors.

Expertisation of these compound perforation varieties is very difficult.”

II+A. The Princes

By the time of the ‘Princes’ printings a number of additional flaws appeared and these remained in the subsequent 1910 issue. There are no lay marks on either plate.

The Princes were printed on watermarked paper and is characteristically perf. 14. There is a discernible difference in shade with the centres distinctly ‘brownish-black’ rather than the original ‘grey-black’ of 1898 issue. There is also a variation in the format size which measures 34¼ x 22¼; That previously was 33¾ x 22½ [sub state Ia+Aa] or 34x22½, [sub state Ib+Ab].

Princes ‘typo’ stamps can also be identified by the constant varieties in the typo overprint. [2]

CONGO BELGE overprints

The ‘Princes’ stamps were from the original combination II+A, as were all Congo Belge overprints.

COB	SG	Combination		
37B	28	I1+A1	Hand overprint - Bruxelles:	B1, B2, B3, B5, and B6.
37L	43A	I1+A1	Hand overprint - Local in the Congo:	L1 to L7.
47	53 ^[*1]	I1+A1	Typo overprint	
47PB	53	I1+A1	Princes – Hand overprinted in Bruxelles	B2 only
47PT	53 ^[*1]	I1+A1	Princes – Typo overprint	

3, 50 francs -imperforated



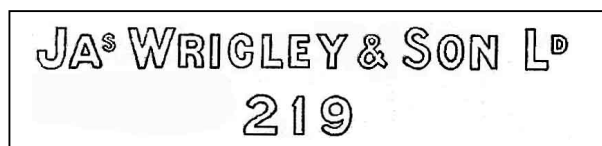
“The only imperforated Mols stamps of this value known to have been placed in the market were two sheets of the CONGO BELGE overprinted Princes printing – one of which had a single left vertical line of perforation. This latter was discovered in the Congo by Monsieur Bruneel in August 1909.”

A further sheet without the overprint from the ‘Harrison archive’ was broken up and sold a few years ago by Robson Lowe. It is believed to have originated as the property of the Waterlow Bros. & Layton engraver who had kept the sheet as a souvenir and must therefore be regarded as a ‘Proof’.”

R. H. Keach
Ibid. Vol.121. 2001

Watermarked paper

During 1905, a new batch of paper was acquired by Waterlow & Layton and used for the printing of both the ‘Princes’ and subsequent bilingual 1910 issues. The paper, which was not exclusive to the company, was watermarked in large outline letters **JA^S WRIGLEY & SON L^D – 219**. This identifies the name of the paper manufacturer and the number 219 is a reference to paper quality.



Only a few stamps in the sheet bear any part and the reader is referred to Charles Henuzet’s article on the topic in Bulletin 139, 2006.

3 Francs

Frame plate ‘II’

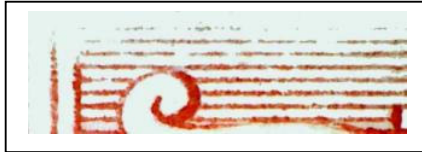


1910. III+A and II2+A

Frame plate ‘II’ is apparent by virtue of the new design. In ‘III’ the top panel is rather weak, especially in the top line. In ‘II2’ these lines were partly retouched and in some positions the retouching shows clearly with marked thickening of the lines or even burin escapes. However this is not necessarily very obvious in others and some difficulty may arise. If the definition and intensity of the horizontal lines leave one wondering, ‘II2’ is sometimes identifiable by a thickening at the top of the left and/or right vertical frame lines.

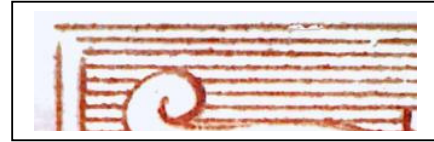
Typical examples:

Frame II1



Position #1

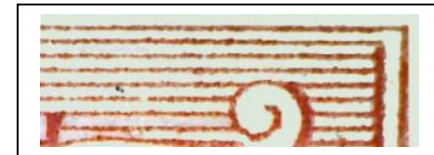
Frame II2



Position #1



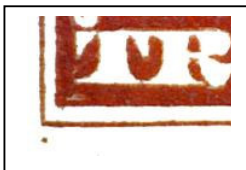
Position #4



Position #4

It is worth recording that in all positions of the sheet except #28 and those on the bottom row, i.e. positions 46 to 50, a frame plate guide dot appears a little below the bottom left corner. These dots vary in size and location. In rows 4, 5, 6 and 9 they are close to the corner; in rows 1, 2, 3 and 8 they are relatively far away. In positions 1, 3, 4, 5, 38, 39 and 40 a short line passes through or close to the dot.

Typical examples:



Dot close to corner
Row 4, #18



Dot further from corner
Row 2, #6



Line through dot
Row 1, #1



Line close to dot
Row 1, #3

References

1. In their 6th Edition catalogue, Stanley Gibbons continues to erroneously state that typograph overprinted stamps of both 3.50 and 10 francs values only exist on *Princes* printed stamps.
2. Ibid. Gudenkauf, Volume 25, 1976.

I am again indebted to Léo Tavano for reviewing and contributing additional information on these as well as the 10 francs value.

Identifying the Mols plate combinations

Stuart Smith

The 10 francs value is the highest of the ten Mols values and its design was based on a photograph published in an 1897 book entitled 'L'État Indépendant du Congo a l'Exposition Bruxelles-Tervueren'. The paddleboat steamer is that of the 'Baron Dhanis' at anchor on the river Lualaba in Upper Congo. In the design of the stamp, the boat has raised its anchor and is seen steaming proudly down the river. (See original on page 11) As with the 5 francs, large multiples are known that were genuinely postally used, typically for sending high value registered packets from the Congo to Belgium. As well as on mail it was used frequently on telegraph forms [where it would normally be cancelled by an octagonal telegraphic canceller] and on gun permits which cost 20 francs and on which a pair of 10 francs would be manuscript cancelled with a signature. Although complete permits are now a valuable rarity, pen cancelled stamps are far from scarce.

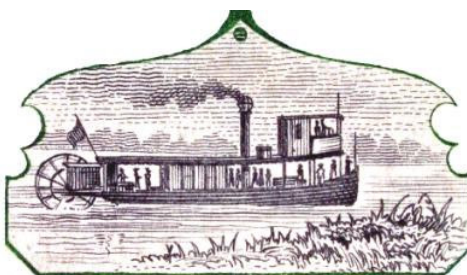


'Telegram'
Telegraphic cancel



'Arms Permit'
Fiscal manuscript cancel

10 Francs



'Baron Dhanis' paddleboat steamer

Plate combinations

COB	SG	Date of issue			
29	29	4 May 1898	10 fr. Green [p.14¼]	I1+A1	Original frame and centre plate
29b	29c		[p. 12x14¼]		Refer ' <i>An Enigma</i> ' – <i>compound perforations</i>
29c	29b		[p. 11x14¼]		
29a	29a	1905 <i>Earliest recorded used 1907</i>	[perf. 12]	I2+A1	<i>Printers name added in selvedge and watermarked paper introduced</i>
49P		March 1909	[perf. 14]	I2+A1	'Princes' printing.
63	69	1 Dec. 1910	[perf. 14]	II+A1	New frame plate
63	69		[perf. 14]	II+A2	Centres retouched
80	86	1918 (Red Cross)	[perf. 14]	III+B	New frame and centre plates

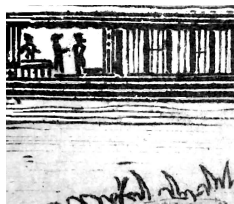
Identification

1898. *I1+A1 and I2+A1*

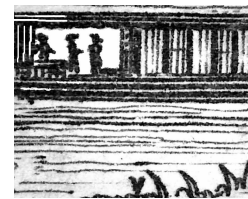
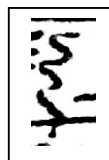
I1+A1. Stamps are perf. 14¼, albeit some perf. 14 examples are known but these are extremely rare.

‘White sea’ variety

Of relevance is the ‘*White sea*’ variety which appears only on positions 10 and 35 of centre plate ‘A1’.



Centre plate ‘A1’ - #10 and 35

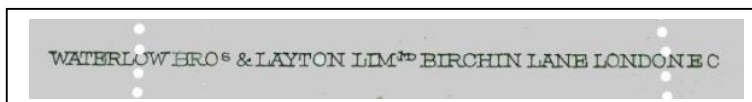


Centre plate ‘A2’ - #10 and 35
(of the 1910 issue)

In these positions, not only are the lower horizontal lines under the middle of the boat lacking and faint, but also the little vertical squiggle 2mm below the stern of the boat is almost invisible.

These lines were retouched during the printing of the subsequent 1910 Bilingual issue to form centre plate ‘A2’.

I2+A1. The second frame state was created as a result of the printer’s name being added in a central position on all four selvedges - a feature that was retained on the subsequent bilingual 1910 issues. The overall length was 53 mm and that on the 1910 issue varies from 59 to 60mm, depending on its position. The latter also has slightly taller lettering.



Combination ‘I2+A1’	←	53 mm	→
Combination ‘I1+A1 and A2’	←	59 ↓ and 60 mm ↔	→

However the most readily identifiable feature of ‘I2+A1’ is that the stamps are perf. 12 and whilst not so visually prominent the printing is on watermarked paper. ^[2]

Variety - *The Inverted Centre*

COB	SG	Date of issue	[perf. 14¼]	Plate combination
29C	29d	1905		I2+A1

Inverted centres

Only one sheet of this variety entered the market place and at the present time, seven mint/unused examples have been recorded.

They originate from the 1905 combination ‘I2+A1’, confirmed by their horizontal frame size format measuring 34 mm. (I1+A1 = 34 mm).

The inverted centre variety differs in that they are perforated 14¼ - unlike the perf.12 general issue and those of the ‘Princes’ that are perf.14.



Illustrated is of frame #31, centre #20. Other known and recorded examples are from frame positions #1, 2, 4, 5, 10, and 36.

An Enigma - compound perforated stamps.

Catalogue Officiel Belgique, Stanley Gibbons and Scott, list compound perforation variants of both this and the 3, 50 francs value. There appears to be no evidence that these were ever made available by the post office for public use; as such they are regarded as *Printers token fantasies*.

However two used examples of perf. 12x14¼ stamps have been recorded – dated respectively Boma 15 October 1907 and 7 December 1908.

Tavano & Henuzet. *État Indépendant du Congo, l'Émission Mols – Van Engelen. 1894-1908.*

“The origin or provenance of these compound perforated stamps has never been determined. Examples known are of individual stamps and very rarely in pairs or blocks of four, and none of these help us solve the problem.

Those specialists who have studied the material are not in agreement as to which of the following two opinions account for their existence:

- Some remnant perf. 12 essays were partially perforated 14¼.
- The printers produced these as novelties for collectors.

Expertisation of these compound perforation varieties is very difficult.”

The ‘Princes’.

‘Princes’ printings are of the same combination and can be recognised by the ‘brownish-black’ rather than ‘grey-black’ shade of the centres, as well as by the distinctly darker green frame shade. Most significantly stamps are always perf. 14 and virtually all non-Princes 10 francs with ‘Typo’ overprints are perf. 12.

CONGO BELGE overprints

COB	SG	Combination		
39B	45B	I1+A1 [perf. 14¼]	Hand overprint - Bruxelles:	B1, B2, B3, B5, and B6.
39L	45Aa	I2+A1 [perf. 12]	Hand overprint – Local	L1 to L8

The ‘Local 8’ hand stamp was prepared and used by *Compagnie du Chemin du Fer du Congo*. Only two examples have been recorded on the 10 francs value. Illustrated is from position #20



39La	45A	I1+A1 [perf. 14¼]	Hand overprint - Local	L1, L3, L4, L5 and L7.
49	55b	I2+A1 [perf. 12]	Typo overprint	
49a	55 ^[*1]	I1+A1 [perf. 14¼]	Typo overprint	
49PB		I2+A1 [perf. 14]	Princes - Hand overprint	B2 only
49PT	55 ^[*1]	I2+A1 [perf. 14]		

‘COB 49a’ typograph overprinted ‘CONGO BELGE’ stamps are from the remaining stock of those originally perforated 14¼. As only one used example has been recorded [Gudenkauf] it is likely no commercial quantity found their way to the Congo. Of these, mint stamps are relatively scarce and blocks of four are very rare.



1910. II+A1 and II+A2

The new bilingual design immediately identifies a stamp to be either one or other of these two combinations.

Historically, stamps from the two have been categorised/distinguished from each other, based on an interpretation of the colour of the paper on which they were printed – typically described as yellowish or bluish. Hudson expressed the view that “*the great majority of stamps are on plain paper which is*

neither bluish nor yellowish. A more useful distinction lies in the shade of the frames, which are yellow-green in early and blue-green in later printings.” This latter statement is now known to be very misleading and incorrect as stamps from both combinations were printed in each of the shades described.

Myrtle green on Greyish-Yellow paper.
 Deep Myrtle green on bluish paper.

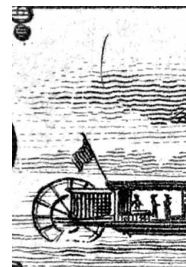
The retouching which created centre plate ‘A2’ is apparent in only about half a dozen positions in the sheet and it is only the presence (A1) or lack of (A2) the ‘White sea’ variety on stamps in positions 10 and 35 as illustrated on the previous page and/or the ‘Curved line scratch’ [Courbe] in the sky of position #27 (A2) that easily establishes which combination applies.

II+A2

Illustrated is the ‘Curved line scratch’ [Courbe] in the sky of position #27.



Position #27



Depending on the printing issue, the stamp ‘format size’ varies as does the ‘shade’, and at the present time there appears to be no consistent relationship which enables us to attribute to either one combination or the other.

1918 ‘Red Cross’. III+B [F.C. 27.12.17]

The Red Cross stamps were not printed by Waterlow Bros and Layton but by Waterlow and Sons. It was therefore necessary to prepare new dies and new plates. These appear to duplicate the 1910 design, but closer examination shows many small differences, particularly in the shrubbery under the bow of the steamer.



Unlike the earlier 10 franc issues, frame ‘III’ has lay marks: vertical lines between 13, 14, 18 and 19 and between 33, 34, 38 and 39. It also has dots between 18 and 19 and between 33 and 34. Otherwise the plates are clean and free from flaws as well as having been printed on un-watermarked paper.

Combinations recorded on surcharged/overprinted ‘Belgian Congo’ stamps.

1921 Recuperation		
I2+A1	perf. 12	(Local 1 ‘C.B.’ overprint)
I2+A1	perf. 12	(Typo ‘C.B.’ overprint)
II+A1	perf. 14	Yellow and Blue-green
II+A2	perf. 14	Yellow and Blue-green

1918 Red Cross and AO	
III+B	perf. 14, imperforated.

References

1. In the their 6th Edition catalogue, Stanley Gibbons continues to erroneously state that typograph overprinted stamps of the 10 francs and 3.50 francs values only exist on *Princes* printed stamps.
2. Charles Henuzet, ‘Mols Watermarks’, *B.C.S.C. Bulletin 139*, 2006.

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