

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

Honorary Secretary
Dr. Charles Lloyd
18 Linefield Road,
Carnoustie,
Angus, DD7 6DP. Scotland.
E-mail:
charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

BULLETIN 163

May 2013

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

Librarian
Walter Deijnckens
Mariettalie 38
2930 Brasschaat
Belgium
E-mail: walter.deijnckens@skynet.be

CONTENTS	Page(s)
Receipts and Payments account - 2012	2
Minutes of the AGM, 16 March 2013	3-7
From the Editor	8
Membership News	8
Can you help Wants and queries	9
Recent Public Auction results - Vincent Schouberechts	10
Air Mail routes to the Americas FAM 22. What was it all about? - John Wilson	11-13
Congo Belge – Hand overprints First day cancellations - Philippe Lindekens	14-18
Study Circle stock of books for sale	19
MonacoPhil 2013 – 5-7 December 2013	20
Auction 2013 (1) and results of 2012 (3)	Supplemental

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

Receipts and Payments (international) Account
For the year ending 28th February 2013 (Period 31st January 2012 – 28th February 2013)

Income	2011-2012 £ Sterling	2012-2013 £ Sterling
Subscriptions received		
2011 (in arrears)		28.80
2012		166.80
2013		155.00
In advance		15.00
Total	250.94	365.60
Commission on BCSC (UK) packet sales	0.00	28.61
Books and document sales	15.49	10.00
Bank interest	1.46	1.49
Auction debt (one payment)	0.00	15.00
Expertisation (one payment)	0.00	25.03
Total Income	268.78	445.73

Expenditure

Bulletin & Auction List		
- UK & Rest of World – production & printing	101.00	202.89
- UK & Rest of World – distribution	75.40	89.97
Annual Meeting:		
- AGM, including morning & afternoon refreshments	367.12	375.82
- Officers expenses	251.77	62.68
Secretarial & Librarian – postage, stationery etc. (2011)	89.03	
Secretarial – postage (2012)		1.50
Carriage: transfer of bulletin archive to the care of Hon Treasurer	39.85	0.00
Insurance	120.89	120.89
Total expenditure	1045.06	853.75

Surplus (Deficit)	(776.28)	(408.02)
Balance on hand at the end of the financial year	769.91	361.89

I certify that the “Receipts and Payments Account” is a complete account of all transactions for the year ending 28th February 2013

Charles H Lloyd
Honorary Treasurer

Notes to the account.

Some years ago, with the growth in the number of members outside the UK, it was decided to open accounts in the USA and Belgium for the convenience of members in those counties and minimise foreign transaction bank charges. More recently, the facility of payment into the Belgian account had been extended to members resident in other euro currency countries. Traditionally, members living outside these regions have paid subscriptions and for auction purchases in ‘Sterling’ to the UK by various means. For such members an alternative using ‘PayPal’ is now available. On request to Charles Lloyd (Hon. Treasurer), details will be sent

Whereas the existence of the three regional accounts is beneficial to individual members, periodic transfers between them is essential to avoid cash flow problems.

The International Account (held in the UK) pays directly for expenditure that affects all members:

- The production of the Bulletin, its printing and distribution to members, except those in Belgium & the USA.
- Insurance
 - to cover auction lots while held by the auctioneer and during transit to recipients.
 - to cover items for expertisation whilst held by the expertisation committee during transit between members of that committee and during return to a member who submitted it.
- AGM overhead expenses.

Our postal auction is a major funding resource. It allows members to both dispose of and obtain excellent philatelic material. Similarly, *Expertisation* produces significant funding and is an important service to members.

It will be seen from the 'Receipts and Payments' account, i.e. the *International Account*, that expenditure from this has not been met by its income. A deficit has been recorded for the last two years. In the coming year I expect expenditure to exceed £1000 but by transferring money from the overseas and other UK holdings, I anticipate there should be sufficient funding for the rest of this year.

By the time of the next AGM a clear picture will have emerged and a decision made at that time as to any necessity for an increase in membership fees.

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 16th March 2013 at 09.30**



From left to right:

V. Schouberechts, L. Achten, M. Oblin, M. Hopperets, L. Vander Marcken, C. Lloyd, B. Willekens, P. Janssen, S. Smith, Y. Winand, W. Deijnckens, C. Stockmans, T. Frennet, B. Lockhart, C. Henuzet, S. Vanden Eynde, C. Vandenbossche, F. Van der Haegen, E. Hoorens, L. Tavano, J-P. Flamand

Present:

T. Frennet (President), L. Achten, W. Deijnckens, J-P. Flamand, C. Henuzet, M. Hopperets, E. Hoorens, P. Janssen, C. Lloyd, B. Lockhart, M. Oblin, V. Schouberechts, S. Smith, C. Stockmans, L. Tavano, C. Vandenbossche, S. Vanden Eynde, F. Vander Haegen, L. Vander Marken, B. Willekens and Y. Winand

Apologies for absence:

L. Bierny, J. Heytens, H. Hoyte, J. Herreweghe, J. Kelland, H. Krieg, E. Lavitt, R. Strawser, P. Lindekens, T. Lindekens, P. Maselis, N-P. Overgaard, H. Warren-Gash.

The agenda was adopted as tabled with the President, Thierry Frennet in the chair.

Minutes of the 2011 and 2012 AGM's.

Minutes of the AGM held on 19th March 2011 had not been circulated or tabled at the 2012 AGM. They were presented. A correction was requested to transfer the name of Leo Tavano from the list of 'Members' of the Expert Committee to the list of 'Consultants'. Following this correction, the 2011 minutes were approved

Minutes of the AGM held on 17th March 2012 were presented. The same correction was requested, accepted and the minutes approved.

Matters arising

None

Reports from the Officers

President

Philippe Lindekens has resigned from the positions he held. Thierry Frennet paid tribute to the significant contributions made by Philippe in many of the Circle's activities over a period of 15 years. Then, the President urged members to participate in competitions at all levels, local to international. Although it is gratifying to win, participation regardless of outcome is as important. Displaying interesting Belgian Congo material publicises our field and will attract new collectors, who in time may join us.

Honorary Secretary

Charles Lloyd reported that all existing office holders with the exception of Philippe Lindekens, had indicated willingness to stand for re-election and continue in office in 2013-4. The departure of Philippe created two vacancies. However, individuals had been identified to fill these positions. The officer holders and new appointees were confirmed.

Several members had achieved notable distinctions this year. Charles Henuzet and Thierry Frennet were elected as members of the *Belgian Academy of Philately* and Patrick Maselis had signed *The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists*. Stuart Smith was awarded a Traditional class 'Gold' [85%] at the 2012 *UK National Exhibition* for his study of the 15c Mols issue; At Unionphil 2013 in Bruxelles, Walter Deijnckens received a Traditional class 'Silver' [70%] for 'Stamps and post office cancellations of Rwanda Republic, 1962-2012; Thomas Lindekens received a Traditional class 'Large Silver' [76%] for his 1918 Red Cross Mols of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi; Philippe Lindekens was awarded a Postal History 'Gold' [91%] for his Study of the Postal relationship of the Belgian Congo, Mols issues, 1894-1914.

The Hon. Sec. praised the work of all the Officers who, together, contribute much time and effort to make the Circle the success that it is.

At the time of the AGM, membership of the Circle was 131, an increase of approximately 7% during the year. Although 80% of our members live in Belgium, UK or the USA, the Circle is truly international with members in 15 counties around the world. The distribution by place of residence is shown below.

Australia	2	Netherlands	1	Sweden	2
Belgium	63	Portugal	1	Switzerland	1
Denmark	2	Poland	1	U.K.	24
France	6	South Africa	1	U.S.A.	22
Germany	3	Spain	1	Zimbabwe	1

Honorary Treasurer

Charles Lloyd reported that although expenditure had been reduced, the flow of income into the international account continues to be less than the essential expenditure. This produced a deficit for the second year running. However, the balance sheet presented shows only part of our financial position as other necessary operational funds are held separately in each of the three main regions.

Overall, the Circle appears to have adequate resources for the current year. Funds will be transferred between accounts to ensure liquidity. In future a consolidated balance sheet is to be produced. This will include all income and expenditure in the Belgian, US and international accounts.

Subscriptions The Honorary Treasurer proposed the subscription rates for the year commencing January 2014, (and due on the 1st) should remain unchanged. The proposition was approved and is summarised as follows:

Subscriptions for 2014 and due 1st January remain unchanged as listed below.

U.K.	£12	(£10 for those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Belgium	12€	
Other European	12€	(10€ for those receiving the bulletin, etc. by email)
U.S.A.	\$22	(\$17 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email)
Rest of the World	£15	(£10 to those receiving the Bulletin, etc. by email.)

Auction Sales Officer

The analysis of sales in the 2012 auctions was presented as shown below. Marc Oblin, who presented this report, was concerned about the reducing participation rate and would like it to increase. Another member noted that good quality material tends to attract buyers and members should be encouraged to submit more of such material (to add to the good quality material that is already in every auction). Stuart Smith congratulated the auction team on their success, noting that the 648€ profit from the 2012 auctions will make a vital contribution to the Circle's other activities.

The BCSC Postal Auction data for 2012

Year 2012	2012-1	2012-2	2012-3	Total	BCSC
Total amount sold	1841.70€	4500.75€	1079.95€	7422.40€	
BCSC commission - seller	92.09€	223.99€	53.50€		
BCSC commission - buyer		225.04€	54.00€		648.62€
Number of lots	375	345	145	865	
Number of lots sold	136	145	56	337	
Number of sellers	9	11	6		
	36.3%	42.0%	38.6%	39.0%	
Number of buyers - Belgium	11	7	5		
Number of buyers - UK	6	5	5		
Number of buyer - USA	3	3	2		
Number of buyers - others	4	4	3		
Total buyers	24	19	15		
Total bidders	24	23	20		

Expertisation Committee

The Committee. It was agreed that the objective of the Committee should be to ensure that the opinion given is as accurate as is humanly possible.

There was a lively discussion on the composition of the Expertisation Committee. The committee has a Chairman (or Secretary - the original title used by Keach and Gudenkauf) and a core of nominated 'Members' supported by 'Consultants' to assist on specific specialist topics. The composition of the committee for 2013-4 is included in the list of 'Officer Appointments', to be found towards the end of the AGM report.

It is a matter for the President and BCSC Officers to appoint the Secretary of the *Expertisation Committee*. The Expertisation Secretary will 'Chair' that committee. It is the responsibility of the Committee Secretary, the President and BCSC Officers to ensure the committee has the appropriate expertise by way of members or consultants. The composition of the 'Expertisation Committee' was and shall in future be approved by those attending the AGM - as is the practice for all Officers.

Annual Report. During the year, 59 certificates were issued of which eleven were free. This important service generated a welcome 135.90€ for the Circle's funds.

Prices for expertisation had been reviewed at the 2011 AGM and new prices were adopted then, but have not previously been publicised in the bulletin. These slightly increased charges are summarized below.

Charges for Expertisation

	Euro (€)	Pound sterling (£)	US Dollar (\$)
Single stamp	3.00€	£2.50	\$4.50
Block of 4 stamps	4.00€	£3.50	\$6.00
Postal stationery	5.00€	£4.00	\$8.00
Cover	6.00€	£5.00	\$8.00

Librarian

Walter Deijnckens reported a successful year in which seventeen books were requested by ten members. All were returned in good condition.

Packet Secretary - UK

John Kelland submitted his report. No packets had been circulated this year because not enough material had been received to make up a packet. He asked whether it is worth continuing the packet given internet sources for Belgian Congo philatelic material. Stuart Smith supported retaining the framework for a circulating packet because material for this becomes available sporadically when collections are dispersed after age or death intervenes. There was general agreement on this view. It was noted that good quality material in packets sells well.

Packet Secretary - Belgium

No activity

Bulletin Editor

Stuart Smith had produced three issues in 2012 whilst the target is four. However, each issue had good content volume. It is hoped to produce four this year but this is entirely dependent on the availability of suitable articles submitted. During the last two years some very fine contributions had been made and he was particularly grateful to those authors. Short 'single cover' or individual stamp or postmark related contributions are particularly welcome and members are requested to give some thought to helping out.

Officers of the Study Circle – 2013-2014

The following were nominated and elected.

President	<i>Thierry Frennet</i>
Honorary Secretary	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Regional Sec. – Belgium	<i>Patrick Maselis</i>
Regional Sec. – USA	<i>David Schaubroeck</i>
Regional Sec. – UK + R of W	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Honorary Treasurer	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Financial Officer	<i>Ludo Achten</i>
Regional Treasurer – Belgium	<i>Ludo Achten</i>
Regional Treasurer – USA	<i>David Schaubroeck</i>

Regional Treasurer – UK and R of W
Bulletin Editor
Bulletin distribution – Belgium
Bulletin distribution – USA
Bulletin distribution – UK and R of W
Web Master
Auction Secretaries
Auction Finance Officer
Librarian
Packet Sec. – Belgium
Packet Sec. – UK
Expert committee:

- Secretary and Chair
- Members
- Consultants

Charles Lloyd
Stuart Smith
Patrick Maselis
Ken Goss
Stuart Smith
Bruce Lockhart
Thierry Frennet, Marc Oblin, Charles Stockmans
Ludo Achten
Walter Deijnckens
Charles Henuzet
John Kelland

Charles Henuzet
Thierry Frennet, Marc Oblin, Luc Vander Marcken.
Léo Tavano, Michael Hopperets, Jean-Pierre Flamand

Future activities of the Circle

1. The AGM. Congestion in the philatelic calendar during March frequently prevents a number of members from attending the AGM. For this reason the 2014 AGM is to be rescheduled and subject to confirmation will be held on 5th April 2014. The venue has yet to be decided and will be investigated under the direction of the President. Members will be notified in due course. Continuing to meet in the vicinity of Brussels is desirable because of the excellent travel links. The ‘Tervueren, the home of the Museum of the Belgian Congo is to be considered.
2. It was noted that there is a major Belgian philatelic meeting at Liege on 17th October 2014, a date still to be confirmed. Belgian members might consider holding their *extra* meeting on that occasion.

3. Saturday 12 October 2013

The Autumn meeting will be held at: **Athénée Royal de Fragnée**
73 rue de Fragnée
4000 LIEGE
www.leodiphlex.be/html/urt.html

The topics for discussion: Undated cancellations and
Belgian Congo ‘Baudouin’ stamps

A.O.B. (Any other business) – None

The business meeting ended at 10:45 allowing adequate time to appreciate the five excellent presentations:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Stuart Smith | - 1st and 2 nd World War censored mail |
| Filip Vander Haegen | - Airmails from Ruanda Urundi |
| Emile Hoorens | - Early Postal Stationery from the Independent State |
| Leo Tavano | - The 1922 Boma overprints |
| Mark Oblin | - An early ‘Urundi’ illustrated postcard |

Members had been invited to attend the now customary evening get together at The Portuguese Restaurant in Bruxelles. Ten of us enjoyed an excellent meal in good company and looked after by ‘Le Patron.’



From the Editor



Please accept my apologies for the lateness in the appearance of this bulletin, almost entirely due to a shortage of available material for its publication.

Over the last few years there have been some excellent papers and I am greatly appreciative to those who have contributed in that way. Sadly my appeal in the last bulletin "*Help please! I make the proverbial plea for more 'bits and pieces' and 'articles' for inclusion in the bulletin*" – fell on deaf ears and essentially I had to wait for the AGM 'Minutes and Financial reports' to make its production worthwhile.

There is no doubt that the well intentioned and interesting *other Belgian publications* dedicated to our same interests is having an effect. Whilst I wish them well, it is a fact that for the official 'Belgian Congo Study Circle bulletin' to continue, we are all dependant on Study Circle membership and contribution support.

Membership News

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members and trust they will enjoy and benefit from their association with us. Permit a special welcome to our first member from Argentina.

<i>Argentina</i>	Néstor E. Coppes	Gascón 141, 3° A - C1181ACA Buenos Aires Argentina Email: ncoppes@gmail.com
<i>Belgium</i>	Patrick Janssens	Acacialei 19 2930 Brasschaat Email: -p.janssens@zelottyde.be
	Jean-Pierre Vandenabeele	Prins Karellaan 9 8300 Knokke-Heist Email: j-p.vandenabeele@skynet.be
	Stephan Vanden Eynde	Hauwerstraat, 41 9255 Buggenhout Email: fa577182@skynet.be
<i>U.K.</i>	Keith Robinson	176 Wath Road Elsecar, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire Email: keithandmavisr@mypostoffice.co.uk
<i>U.S.A.</i>	Harold Ford	PO Box 871009 Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087 Email: tsh212511@aol.com

And finally we apologise to our American member William Holabird whose membership lapsed many years ago, re-joined us last year and should have been included in the last issue.

William S. Holabird III	3175 Speer Blvd Denver Colorado 80211
--------------------------------	---

E-mail changes

<i>Belgium.</i>	- M. Frevelhausen	Email: fd355612@skynet.be
<i>Denmark</i>	- Karl Sørensen	Email: ds1379039@vip.cybercity.dk

Can you help ?

We do occasionally receive requests for help, both with stamps wanted and queries about various varieties and missing information. Rarely if ever do I personally hear whether any of our members have been successful so I don't know the success rate. Whatever, the following have appeared on my desk since our last publication. If you can help, please do.

Wants

Luc Smalle on email: lnlsmalle@gmail.com is looking for the following:

Used Belgian Congo flowers overprinted 'CONGO' 4 Fr., 20 Fr., 50 Fr., 100 Fr.

Katanga overprinted masks in unmounted mint blocks of 4: 1.50 Fr., 100 Fr.

Katanga overprinted Flowers, unmounted mint: 15c, 20c, 2 Fr., 8 Fr.

Any unusual varieties of Democratic Congo, Katanga, Sud Kasai, Stanleyville or Albertville

Queries

John Kelland writes:

"The Study Circle covers all aspects of Belgian Congo stamps up to Independence but no further. The Belgians baled out very quickly and much of the administration collapsed, presumably the postal system also began to fall apart and now, fifty years later, appears only to exist in places like Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. [Mostly but not entirely so – refer bulletins #154, page 8 and #160, page 4. Ed.]

As a postmark collector it is very difficult to find colonial post marks for many of the numerous post offices that opened in the last ten years of the Belgian era and even more difficult in post colonial times. What happened to the postal system at that time? I have read a number of books on what happened in the country, but post is never mentioned. Books by people who have ventured down the Congo river in much more recent times have mentioned derelict post office buildings, Lisala for example but nothing about when it all happened.

I would be very interested in any information members may have about the demise of the postal service."

As an example of a small post office that did survive at least until 1981, I have an interesting cover with two 5 K Zaire stamps and an Elisabetha 8 May 1981 postmark. The letter was addressed to 'Av. Bongisa, Massina' in Kinshasa. A note from the postman says the street in Massina does not exist and in another district, Kinyssoni III, the property is empty. Further notes say 'unknown at address', 'Return to sender in L/shi' and 'See disposal'. Finally on the reverse there is 'Return to Lubumbashi' – mistakenly directed back to the wrong post office.



The envelope has probably been steamed open and the contents removed leaving us with the unanswered questions; did it get back to Elisabetha 1500 kilometres away in the territory of Basoko and how did it end up in the hands of a collector?

Recent Auction results

We are once again indebted to Patrick Maselis and Vincent Schouberechts for this interesting summary of highlight results from last February's 'Maison Williame Auction'. By way of a reminder - the prices stated carried an additional 20% buyers premium!

As always, exceptional items fetched high prices when the quality was there too. This copy of a Hertwig label with the *interrupted line under 'O' of POSTAL* variety that fetched 2.000 EUR.



Postmark specialists!

This piece with 3 different stamps of the first Leopold II issue and franked with the 'VIVI' cancellation was sold for an incredible 3.900 EUR. One has to wonder what price would have been realized if the original cover had still remained intact.

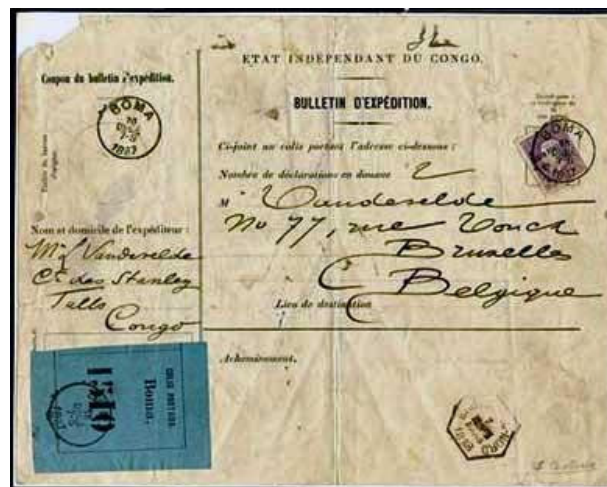


CONGO BELGE - local 8.

A used block of four of the 10 centimes Mols issue cancelled Matadi 13/8/09 with the famous *Compagnie Chemin de Fer du Congo* local type 8 overprint - fetched 4.900 EUR.

Parcel post dispatch form

Only two copies of this 'dispatch form', with parcel stamp cancelled at Boma on 18 December 1887 have presently been recorded. It fetched an amazing 12.000 EURO.



Cherrystone auctions, New York – January 2013

10 francs with inverted centre

A copy of the 10 Francs with inverted centre was sold in New York at Cherrystone auctions. This example was originally in the ownership of General Du Four. It had no gum and as can be seen was well centered and appears to have been about the right price at \$62.500 + buyer's premium!

A similar copy was sold last year during the Anatoly Karpov sales in Geneva, on that occasion fetching \$95.000 + buyers premium; but that example had gum on the back. That is the record price ever paid for a Belgian Congo stamp.



Air-Mail Routes to the Americas

This is possibly the final contribution of John Wilson's very informative series of articles about FAM 22.

Putting it bluntly he says *"I think I have exhausted this subject; I have certainly exhausted myself, but I hope not the readers of my articles on the topic."*



FAM-22. What was it all about?

John Wilson

It has become clear that the story of the Pan American Airways wartime flights between Miami and Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo was, initially, largely written in the absence of much factual evidence, with the result that a whole generation of airmail collectors grew up believing in what was, essentially, a fantasy. The romantic idea of a PanAm Clipper making its lonely way across thousands of miles of ocean carrying the mail between continents can be dismissed in the light of recent detailed research using primary source documents located on both sides of the Atlantic and by the application of some common sense to the question posed in the title of this article.

There can be little doubt of the single-minded ambition of Juan Trippe, the President of Pan American Airways, to make his airline the dominant player on the world stage. Having effectively achieved control of the Caribbean and South American markets and spanned the Pacific, his eyes turned to the crossing of the South Atlantic into Southern Africa and beyond towards India and the Far East in order to complete a round-the-world airline service using Pan American's new Boeing 314 Clipper flying boats. The ideal pivot point for such a service would be Leopoldville, since this was already linked into Southern Africa by the Belgian airline SABENA and would make an ideal jumping-off point for a trans-Africa route to the Indian Ocean at the continent's narrowest point. Much has been made of an agreement reached in 1941 between Pan American and SABENA at Leopoldville but study of the actual contract shows that this simply appointed SABENA as ticket agents for Pan American in the Congo, and the supporting correspondence reveals acrimonious exchanges between the two companies, eventually leading to termination of the contract by Pan American on the basis that SABENA were giving preferential treatment to their own passengers. However, it did give Pan American their first foothold in Africa.

This was the plan so far, but war in Europe changed the situation and as detailed ^[1], Trippe was either drawn into or willingly participated in the scheme to provide military assistance to the British war effort in North Africa by providing trans-Atlantic transport of men, material and trans-Africa transport from the West coast of Africa into the Middle East. The shortest route from West Africa would be across the Sahara from Accra or Takoradi in the Gold Coast to Khartoum and on to Cairo, but the presence of French Vichy forces in Senegal, both air and naval, posed a potential risk. Accordingly both the British and American military, in a splendid example of left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing, carried out independent aerial surveys of a trans-Africa route further South on the African coast and too far from Senegal to allow the French to mount raids. This route was known as the 'Congo Route' and began in Leopoldville and followed the Congo River across Africa to the East Coast and the existing

BOAC route from Durban in South Africa up to Khartoum, Cairo and the pathway to the Middle East and India.

Trippe's plans were interrupted by the US Military as early as August 1941 as shown in a letter from the Manager, Pan American Atlantic Division dated 26th January 1943 and headed "Army Contract No. 21207"^[2]. In this letter we find a summary of the situation in 1941:

"With respect to the airline operation contemplated by the contract it was the intention that Pan American should apply to the Civil Aeronautics Board for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity covering the route between the United States and the Belgian Congo and that the operating costs should be covered by the customary fixing of a CAB mail rate. The first step was taken but no CAB rate was ever established because it was subsequently decided to cover the operating costs by means of a straight charter between the Army and Pan American."

In August 1941, this was the moment when the operations to Leopoldville were lost as a civilian airline route and taken over as a military project by the United States Army. Note that this is considerably before the attack on Pearl Harbour and the entry of the United States into the war. The fact that the CAB did not see it necessary to set a mail rate suggests that there was no need, since the Miami to Leopoldville service was not intended to carry civilian mail. However, some civilian mail was actually carried, as detailed in the conclusions to this article.

The letter goes on thus:

"Contract 21207 terminated in the latter part of 1942....." which confirms that the Army contract flights to Leopoldville ended as described^{[3][4]}. However, the "Capetown Clipper", NC-18612 did not return to civilian service but remained as part of the Special Mission fleet of four aircraft as detailed by Col. W.F. Vollandt to Pan American Airways dated November 7, 1942^[5]. It instructs Pan American that they are now to operate NC-18612, "previously employed under Contract 21207", over a new route from Miami to Fisherman's Lake "or over such other routes and between such other points as may from time to time be directed by the Commanding General, the Air Transport Command....."

So – Trippe's civilian route from Miami into the Congo never happened, and the entire, but short-lived service on this route was operated entirely as a military operation, and even after the flights ended in late October 1942, the aircraft flying the route was retained in military service, as can be checked by the re-appearance of NC-18612 in the Special Mission flight schedules from November 1942 onwards. Why was it so short-lived? The answer may lie in the History of the Army Air Forces^[6] which contains the following:

*"The Congo route, as it became known, now took the form of an alternate airway into the Middle East. Bases were constructed at Point Noire in French Equatorial Africa, at Leopoldville and Elisabethville in the Belgian Congo, and at Nairobi in Kenya. In the dark days of 1942 this alternate route offered insurance against loss of the central African airway, but the rising fortunes of Allied military operations soon robbed it of value. Even before the fall of Tunisia in the spring of 1943 **the Congo route no longer possessed military significance.**" (My emphasis)*

And again:

*"Air Transport Command had next to find the personnel to man the bases on the coastal route. One source of manpower was found in the 14th Ferrying Group, previously assigned to the Congo route, the alternate airway to Khartoum and the Middle East by way of bases in French Equatorial Africa, the Belgian Congo, and Kenya Colony. The group's headquarters had been set up at Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo, and one of its three authorized squadrons had been activated when Allied successes in the north **rendered the Congo route superfluous.**" (My emphasis)*

And again:

*“From Accra on the west African coast to Karachi in India, the main air route extended nearly 6,000 miles, while auxiliary lines, exclusive of **the now inactive Congo route**, brought the total mileage to over 10,000”.* (My emphasis)

At this point, those who hang their hats and their reputations on the existence of ‘Timetables’ will be saying *“But my precious timetables say that this was a mail route”*. Bearing in mind that this was a secret military operation, what better way to try and disguise its presence than by pretending that it was a purely civilian mail service. Certainly Juan Trippe would support the printing of schedules and ‘timetables’ because that laid down a marker for his post-war ambitions to establish his round-the world flights. A comment ^[2] reads:

“When Contract 21207 was issued the War Department marked it “Secret” which has interfered with the proper distribution of copies to those vitally concerned with its execution”.

In other words, the secrecy was extended even to Pan American staff who were trying to run the service. What a way to run an airline or indeed a war!

Conclusions.

The twelve round trip flights from Miami to Leopoldville that took place intermittently between December 1941 and October 1942 were part of an entirely military operation and had no significant civilian purpose. Previously held views on the so-called ‘FAM-22’ mail route are just plain wrong, and I am sure that the subject of timetables and their use during WW2 will be addressed by someone in due course.

Despite the entirely military nature of these flights, some civilian mail was carried, much to the annoyance of the US Post Office Department as shown in a letter dated June 5th 1942, from the Second Assistant Postmaster General to Mrs. Archibald, Assistant Vice President of Pan American Airways which says:

“With reference to inbound and inter-country mails carried by your planes on FAM-22, it is pointed out that waybills have not been received for the purpose of submitting claims to foreign countries.....this Department is in receipt of a letter from the Postal Administration of Belgian Congo requesting that the claims against said country be submitted as soon as practicable.”

Whilst it can be done, mail carried on the actual flights from Leopoldville is difficult to identify and rare, since on a revenue basis it only comprised 0.6% of the total revenues generated by the Pan American military flights across the South Atlantic during 1942 - refer Ref 3.

References.

- [1] Bender, M. and Altschul, S. *‘The Chosen Instrument’*, (Simon & Schuster, New York. 1982).
- [2] ASM 0341 Box 333 Folder 9. Richter Library, U. of Miami.
- [3] Wilson John. *‘Pan American, FAM-22, Special Missions, 1942 and 70 years of misunderstanding.’* (Air Post Journal, Journal of the American Air Mail Society, December 2011; Cameo, Journal of the West Africa Study Circle, January 2012; *ibid*, March 2012)
- [4] Wilson, John, *‘FAM-22; Fact or Fantasy?’*, (Air Post Journal; Journal of the American Air Mail Society, May 2012)
- [5] ASM 0341 Box 24 Folder 41. Richter Library, U. of Miami.
- [6] Craven, Frank W. and Cate, James L. *‘The Army Air Forces in World War II Volume VII’*. First published by the University of Chicago, 1958. New imprint by the Office of Air Force History, Washington D.C., 1983.

CONGO BELGE - Brussels and local hand overprints First day cancellations 'Boma, 1st January 1909'

Philippe Lindekens

On November 15th, 1908 the Congo Free State became Belgian Colony after the death of King Leopold II. On November 16th, a decree decided to overprint the stamps. On November 24th, the engraver Daxbek was given the job of producing 15 overprint stamps. 8 were used by M.M. Flamine & Saussez at the Ministère des Colonies in Brussels to overprint the Belgian stock and the 7 others were sent to the Belgian Colony - probably on the 'Afrique' of the Bordeaux à Matadi French Paquebot line.

La Revue Postale, 1977

Roland Ingels

The Congo Free State Mols stamps with CONGO BELGE overprints were available at the post offices on 1st January 1909; all Mols stamps already held in post offices at the end of 1908 had been overprinted, using 7 different hand cancellers, now referred to as types L1 to L7 whilst type L8 had been manufactured for its own use by the Matadi Railway Company – 'Compagnie des Chemin de Fer du Congo'.

Not surprisingly, some philatelists in Congo had the good idea to arrange to have those newly overprinted stamps cancelled on the first day of use; equally some Belgian philatelists had the same idea and had sent Brussels CONGO BELGE overprinted stamps to colleagues in the Congo towards the end of 1908 for the same purpose - *First Day Cancellations*.

At the time, philatelists were always intent on having such First Day cancellations and First Day Covers – now the purists think differently, certainly if the stamps or covers haven't travelled. Be that as it may, those now obtainable are relatively uncommon and searching for such items is for me an interesting part of postal history.

Brussels hand overprint

Most stamps with a Brussels overprint are type 'B2' and as of now I cannot remember seeing any other type with a first day cancel.

The 1st day cancel exists on all values as illustrated by the examples shown below. However and perhaps of some significance in the case of the 3,50 fr. value, all have a commonality in that the stamps are displaced to the top right corner and therefore apparently from the same sheet. In a similar vein and in the case of the 1 franc value, I have personally only seen examples with the scarce perforation 15. CTO on the 1st day was clearly a commercial operation!





'I1+B1



'I2+A4'



'I+A1a'

Some stamps had the overprint applied on the earlier plate combinations such as those illustrated above with combination 'I1+B1' on the 5 centimes value, 'I2+A4' on the 10 centimes and 'I+A1a' on the 15centimes.

CONGO BELGE with the Brussels 2 overprint and Boma 1st January 1909 cancel are very difficult to buy as complete sets and it is usual to try to assemble with single stamp purchases - just step by step.

From what I have seen we should perhaps consider that only one sheet of this set was cancelled with this *First day Cancel* and thus only 50 stamps for each value. The following is a summary of my findings but of course – *you may be able to add something new!*

Brussels 'B2' overprints recorded by me

Value	plate	perf.	perf.
5c.	I1+B1	14	14
10c.	I2+A4	-	15
15c	I1+Aa	-	15
15c.	I1+Ab	14	-
25c.	I2+A2	14½	-
40c.	I2+A1	14	-
50c.	I2+A2	-	15
1 Fr.	I2+A2	-	15
3,50 Fr.	I+A	14½	-
5 Fr.	I1+A1	14	-
10 Fr.	I1_A1	14½	-

Blocks do of course exist, though these are obviously much scarcer. These have been certainly cancelled to order and never travelled on cover to Belgium. Illustrated are some from the collection of another BCSC member:



Combination 'I2+A4' perf. 15
Positions #3/15



Combination 'I1+B1' perf. 14
Positions #39/50



Combination 'I2+A2 perf. 15
Positions #13/25

Locally applied hand overprint

We can also find local CONGO BELGE overprints using a Boma January 1st, 1909 canceller but these are rarer than the Brussels B2 overprints. I have already obtained 9 of the 10 values with different local overprints.

Unlike those with the Brussels overprints, these appear with a complete range of 'usage time' inserts. Typically I have seen 6-7, 8-9, 9-10, 14-15 and 16-17 - a complete time spread across the post offices normal daily operation.



Of those illustrated above, the 5 franc value is from another private collection. The 10 franc with barely visible signature, is probably from a 'Permis de Port d'Armes'.

Of some note is another recorded example, in this instance the commercially applied Kwamouth telegraphic cancellation, on a 'L5' overprinted hand stamp. It is clearly not CTO.



Value	Plate	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7
5c.	I2+B2	X			X			
10c	I4+A5	X			X			
15c	I1+A2/A3	X			X			
25c	I2+A2	X					X	
40c	II2+A1	X						
50c	I2+A2						X	
1 Fr	I2+A2	X					X	
3, 50 Fr	I+A	X						
5 Fr	I1+A1	X						
10 Fr	I1+A1 perf. 12		X		X			

The table represents a summary of all items recorded by me with a **Boma first day cancellation**, including the 5 francs value referred to which is in another private collectors possession.

Obviously this is not a complete record of what is out there and I invite you to check your collection and let me know what you find. It would be helpful to fill the gaps in the above table.

1st day cancelled Postal Stationery from Boma.

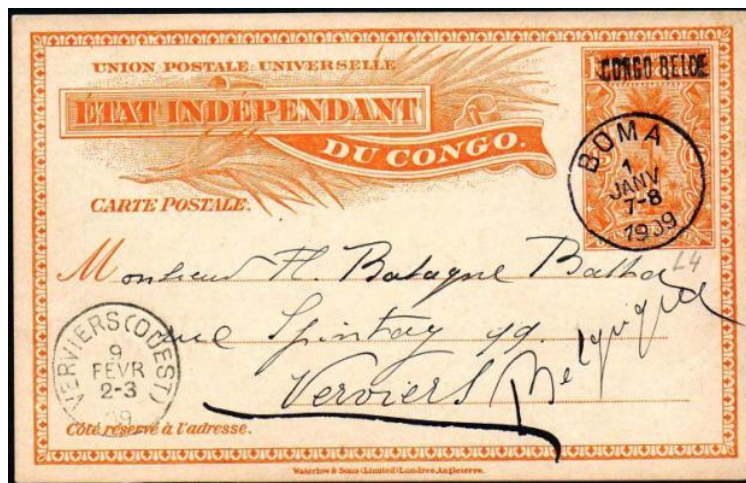
In my collection, I have three different items of postal stationery bearing the same 'Boma 1 January 1909 cancellation and each in the time period '7-8'. The cards were each purchased on different occasions and from different sources - EBay and Belgian auctions.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, they not only originated from 'Pierre' but were all addressed to the same intended recipient – no doubt a stamp collector.

Mr. Florent Bastagne
Rue Spintay 99
Verviers
Belgium

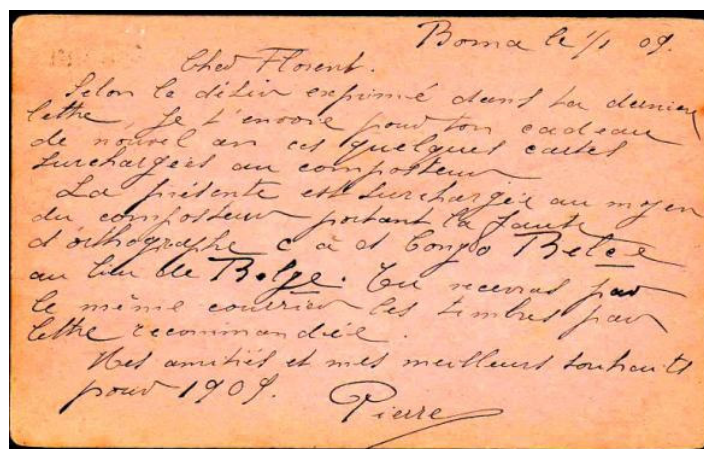
They travelled together on the Paquebot 'Bruxellesville (2)' and all arrived at Anvers on the same day.

Each of the cards has the type 'L2' overprint and very surprisingly the same message, which undoubtedly confirms a philatelic interest!





«Boma 1/1 09
 Cher Florent,
 Selon le désir exprimé dans ta dernière lettre, je t'envoie pour ton cadeau de nouvel an, ces quelques cartes surchargées au composteur. La présente est surchargée au moyen du composteur portant la faute d'orthographe càd Congo Belce au lieu de Belge. Tu recevras par le même courrier, les timbres par lettre recommandée. Mes amitiés et mes meilleurs souhaits pour 1909.
 Pierre »



Translated into English:

Boma 1/1 09

Dear Florent
 According to the wishes expressed in your last letter, I am sending to you your New Year gift, these few cards overprinted by the handstamp. This 'handstamp' overprint - with the misspelling that is Congo Belce in place of Belge. You will receive the stamps by registered letter.
 Regards & Best wishes for 1909.

Pierre

As described in the text, the sender has already detected the fault which is always the main characteristic of the Local 'L2' overprint – the letter 'G' of BELGE is deformed and appears as 'C'.



Publications held in stock by the Study Circle and available from the ‘Honorary Secretary’ -

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

Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922) – G. Gudenkauf	£6.00
Postal History of the Lado Enclave (1897-1910) – G. Gudenkauf	£9.00
Mailboat Steamers on Congo Rivers & lakes (1896-194) – Postal History and Cancellations – G. Gudenkauf	£6.00
Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo (1886-1960) and Ruanda Urundi (1917-1962) 3rd Edition - Heim and Keach.	£10.00
Full 360° circle protractor for angular measurement of cancellations.	£3.00
Copy of map (104x85 cms) positioning all existing post offices and means of transport between them.	£5.00
Étude du 5 franc Mols, État Indépendant du Congo – J.M.Frenay	£8.00
E.I.C. le 5 Franc de 1886 – E..Deneumostier	£5.00
Arretes et Ordinances Concernant les Tarifs au Congo Belge et au R. U. 1886-1962 (Letter rates including air mail and small packets, 1886-1952) – Stockmans and Gallant	£15.00
Ditto – Parcel post rates	£15.00
Service des Postes du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi, Rapports Annuels 1909-1958 - Stockmans & Gallant	£15.00

Postage and packing will be charged as an extra for all items.

Please note that the above prices are exclusively ‘Members only’ rates

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

‘Index to Bulletins’ – available directly from the Bulletin Editor

Stuart Smith
Lychgates, Pinfold Hill,
Curbar-Calver, Hope Valley. S32 3YL
Email: ssscongo@aol.com

Index to Bulletins 1-156 and Allied Material (1951 to 2010)– N. Clowes & S. S. Smith	
U.K. inland <u>post and packing included</u>	£7.00
As an email attached ‘pdf’ file	Free of charge



MonacoPhil
2013

MUSÉE DES TIMBRES ET DES MONNAIES
11, TERRASSES DE FONTVIEILLE
98000 MONACO

5 - 7 DECEMBER 2013

Like all previous editions, MonacoPhil 2013 will be an event not to be missed. As always, it will be a truly international gathering. This year's guests of honour will be **SWEDEN** and **PHILATELIC LITERATURE**, which has AIJP as its patron.

100 world rarities will be exhibited from the collections of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, various postal museums and Members of the Club de Monte-Carlo.

Two of these gems are shown below: the **ROYAL BELVEDERE ALBUM**, the first album ever for postage stamps (about 1854) and the **MOST ATTRACTIVE THREE COLOUR FRANKING** known of the first issue of Sweden on a cover sent on 4 May 1857 from PITEÅ via Stettin and Ostend to Great Britain. The cover is franked at the correct rate of 36 skilling banco.

> Mail from Sweden to Great Britain could be sent by a number of routes, where the route via Germany or Belgium was the predominant in the early period making use of ports on the North sea such as Ostend. later on mail was sent from Göteborg to Hull by private ship or to Lowestoft by mail packet. There were also routes via Denmark direct or via Denmark and Hamburg.



< The Royal Belvedere-Album (about 1854).



SIÈGE SOCIAL: Club de Monte-Carlo - c/o Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies - 11, Terrasses de Fontvieille - 98000 Monaco - Principauté de Monaco

www.monacophil.eu