

President

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 :

charleslloyd@blueyonder.co.uk

BULLETIN 166

SEPTEMBER 2014

Bulletin Editor

Charles Hénuzet
Place St-Roch 30
5620 Florennes
Belgium

E-mail : henuzetcharles@hotmail.com

Librarian

Walter Deijnckens
Mariettalie 18
2930 Brasschaat
Belgium

E-mail : walter.deijnckens@telenet.be

CONTENTS

	Page(s)
Displays given at the 2014 Annual General Meeting	2-5
My Favourite Cover	Ph. Lindekens 4-5
The Congo Churchill Commemoration Preliminary Proofs	CharlesLloyd 6-8
An Inward Cover to the Belgian Forces in Mwanza, German East Africa	Regis Hoffman 9-11
Membership and Study Circle News	11
New "bloc-report" variety of the 1886 10 centimes stamp	Charles Hénuzet 12-18
Marks 0,50 on mail in 1884	Eliane Deneumostier 19-23
From the Editor	23
Can you help ?	23
Results of the Belgian national competitive exhibition	24
Postal Auction 2014/1 results	25

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

Displays given at the 2014 Annual General Meeting, held at the Hotel Erasme

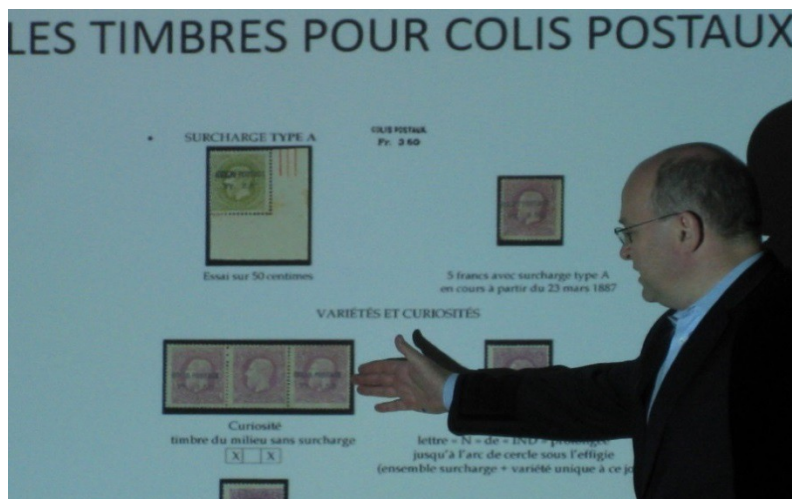
After the business meeting had been completed (at 11 am) and we had taken a short coffee break, members were treated to displays that others had brought with them. The quality never ceases to amaze me. Displays were both informative and enjoyable. Every year, the only problem encountered is one of time. There is more material to be shown than time to see it, which reveals that Belgian Congo philately is in very good health. Modern technology (Powerpoint presentations) and traditional methods (handing around album pages) were used. In both cases the commentaries were knowledgeable and entertaining. Our thanks go to Christian Vandebossche for photographing the presenters.

Patrick Maselis

The 1886 Issue

A general overview of this issue was presented – proofs, specimens, shades, perforations, full sheets, the 3,50 Fr overprint, cancellations, use on cover for domestic and international mail.

The highlights were: a proof of a plate (half pane), the perforation of the 5 Fr, full sheets of all values, a Vivi first day cancellation, a 10c used on cover for *Route des Caravanes*, the 3,50 Fr overprint on a document.



Patrick Maselis

The 1887 Issue

A general overview of this issue was shown – proofs, specimens, *nul* overprints, shades, full sheets, the 3,50 Fr overprints, cancellations, use on cover with both domestic and international destinations.

The highlights were: rejected designs, full sheets of the 25 Fr and 50 Fr, a fine block of six of the 5 Fr violet in used condition, the 50 c grey on very unusual covers and the 3,50 Fr overprint on a document.

(Reporter's comment: Patrick's presentations were mouth-watering, for which no brief report can do justice. The material has to be seen. This is a very good example of why members should attend an AGM or a local BCSC meeting, if the opportunity presents itself! If that is not enough, the company at meetings is excellent.)



Thomas Lindekens

Provisional Censorship in the Congo during WW2

Thomas defined *Provisional* as the difference in tape, given as *Aa* by Foden/Jeukens and the straight line *Censure Congo Belge*, given as *Baa*.

In time some provisional marks and tapes were replaced by official material sent from Leopoldville but the use of provisional material did continue throughout the war.

Gerald Marriner

Katanga 1960 – 1963

This display featured the postal history of Katanga. Mail from Elisabethville, Albertville, Baudouinville and Kamina was presented to illustrate (amongst other things) different postal rates, unusual destinations, registered and express mail. Also, there were items of stationery from various government departments, including a cover with its letter from the Katangese leader, Moise Tshombe.

One of the covers confirmed that underpaid mail from Belgium was taxed using Katangese definitive stamps as postage dues. Censorship of outgoing mail was necessary during this state of emergency and Gerald included a cover, sent from Elisabethville to Leopoldville, which the authorities had inspected. Katangese meter-mail is uncommon and the presence of this (from organisations in Elisabethville and Jadotville) was good to see. In a section

devoted to Albertville, Gerald produced a contemporary telegram and the use of Albertville *Congo* overprints on a registered letter (a very scarce and interesting item). Kamina completed the display, with registered covers having a *Kamina* hand-stamp in place of a registration label. To end, covers from Kamina Base included examples of refugee mail from Belgian nationals.



Bart Willekens

Cancellations that have not been recorded before

Items of previously unrecorded cancellations were put into three categories

1. never seen on cover
2. dates that are different to those recorded
3. cancellation on cover with a date



Philippe Lindekens

My favourite Covers for the Mols Issues 1895 – 1932

Philippe has been collecting the Mols issue for over 30 years; not only the stamps themselves, but also their use on cover and as postal stationery (to extend his knowledge of the postal history in this age). Philippe brought a selection of his Mols covers from the era in which Mols stamps were in normal use. He noted that our late editor, Stuart Smith, had invited every member to send his favourite cover with the explanation why it had been chosen, to share that pleasure with other members by its publication in the *Bulletin*. Philippe took up this challenge, selecting a favourite cover from each (Mols) year. The reasons for favouritism are various: rarity, franking, an old friend

sold it to me, *special* marks, notable auctions in the past (Stoeteman, Spink's, Sotherby's, Harmers, etc.), bought at the beginning of my collecting, etc. Philippe admitted that it is often difficult to make the choice when there are a lot of contenders.

From 1923 to 1932 there were no new Mols issues and as a consequence it is more difficult to find these stamps on cover. So saying, this does make choosing a favourite an easier task!

Details of the presentation:

- * Mols from the 19th century
- * 1900 – mixed franking with both 19th and 20th century issues, which are seen only at this time. Whereas Philippe has a cover with the 25c orange and 25c blue, he is still searching for a registered cover with both the 50c olive and 50c green
- * 20th century covers of the Congo Free State.
- * Overprinted *Congo Belge* on cover up to 1915
- * The bilingual issue
- * Surcharged stamps
- * Mixed franking after 1923 with the Mols and Stanley issues, up to 1932.

From all the 37 covers shown, Philippe was asked to select one to illustrate this report; his favourite of favourites! (This cover is also the latest in the series *My Favourite Cover*)



It is commercial mail, for which *La Compagnie du Kasai* used one of its printed envelopes.

It was registered and sent from Leopoldville on the 2nd November 1904, to Brussels.
Franking: Required for 895 g (see upper left) = 60th weight increment (ie 60 x 15g @ 50c per 15g) + 50c registration fee = 30,50 Fr. At 32,50 Fr, it is over franked. (Probably, this is the result of inaccurate weighing by the sender)

Stamps: A split vertical strip of nine (4th column – sheet position 4 to 44) of the 3,50 Fr vermillon + one of the 1Fr carmine. – Gudenkauf plating

Recommandé: Framed Registration in italic script with the oblique lines missing, which is characteristic of the Leopoldville mark. The letter was recorded in the register as number 2755 (handwritten with red ink)

There are red ink notes next to each stamp, eg “1 timbre à 3,50 fr” (1 stamp at 3,50 fr). These notes have been added to prevent the theft of the stamps during carriage of the letter from the Company office to the Post Office.

This is the highest known number of 3,50 Fr Free State stamps on a single cover

Emile Hoorens

The 1 Fr postcard

Emile presented his study on the use of the 1 Fr carmine on light blue card (Stibbe 70). First issued in 1932 and withdrawn in 1952, the card was in use during a most interesting period. This was illustrated by the many examples Emile brought to the meeting.



Charles Hénuzet

File Copies of the Prince's Issue

Charles presented File Copies of the Prince's issue (COB 40P to 49P) and the specific varieties of this issue that allow us to differentiate them from the *normal* issue (COB 40 to 49). Charles hopes to prepare an article on this research for publication in the *Bulletin*, in the near future

Charles' contribution took us to the scheduled time for the end of the meeting (16:30). At this time, there was still material to be seen and there were many members who could have carried on for hours more, but this would have to wait until another day. We had to follow the old English maxim, *All good things must come to an end.*

The Congo Churchill Commemoration Preliminary Proofs

Charles Lloyd

I am indebted to Roger Badman for providing the material used in this article. Roger specialises in the work of the British printer Harrison & Sons, the producer of these preliminary proofs.

James Harrison established a printing company in London in 1750. In time it became Harrison & Sons, which started to print postage stamps in 1881. In 1911 the British Post Office decided not to renew its contract with De La Rue for the printing postage stamps, and awarded it to Harrison & Sons. De La Rue was affronted, a reaction that dominated its attitude to Harrison & Sons thereafter

Over time, Harrisons & Sons (Ltd) acquired a reputation for the quality of its printing and competitive prices. From the 1930s through to the 1990s the company printed most of Britain's postage stamps and very many for 168 other countries. The Harrison family connection ended in 1979 when the conglomerate Lonrho bought 100% of the stock. Under Lonrho the company continued to enjoy success, notably in the printing of banknotes. Unfortunately, in 1997 Lonrho reviewed its corporate structure and Harrison & Sons was found to be not part of the core activity. De La Rue seized this opportunity and bought the company. It is generally accepted that Harrison & Sons had become a thorn in the side of De La Rue by taking an increasing percentage of worldwide banknote production. While we know that there is no sentiment in business, the behaviour of De La Rue was particularly ruthless. An immediate restructuring of production facilities was carried out. Although stamp production at Harrison's High Wycombe factory continued until 2003 (when the factory was closed) the Harrison & Sons imprint did not appear on new printings and was phased out from the continued printing of the UK Machin definitive. De La Rue erased the name Harrison & Sons and a century of tradition as soon as it was practicable. From a commercial perspective, De La Rue had seized its opportunity and eliminated a major competitor. In the process the archive and records were destroyed, which from a philatelic perspective was an act of vandalism.



Figure 1: The three preliminary proofs for the Churchill Memorial Issue 1965 / 1966

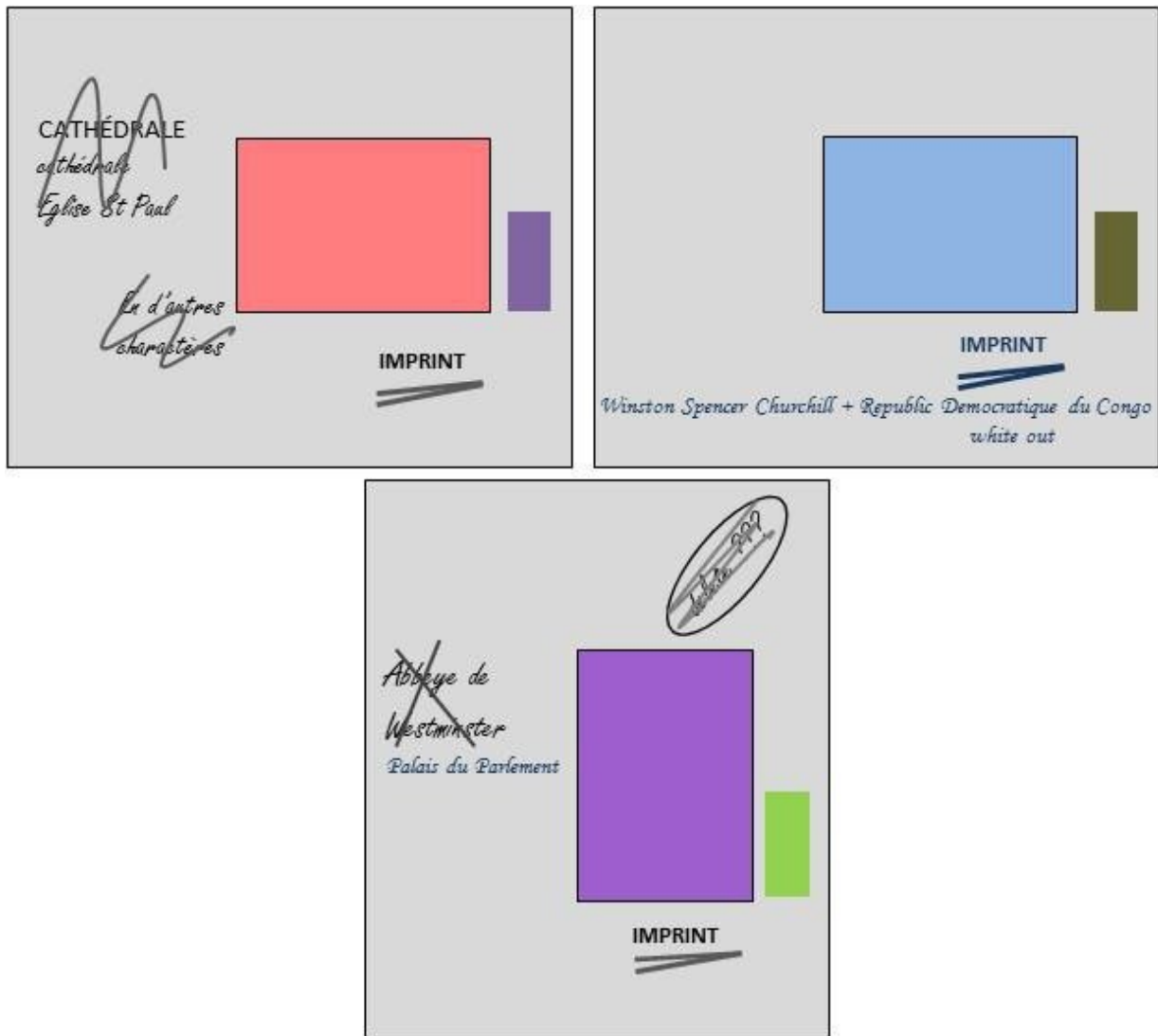


Figure 2: The annotations on the cards

The Silver Jubilee of King George V was commemorated by Great Britain and the British Empire with an omnibus postage stamp issue. Each of 55 dominions and colonies issued a set of four stamps that had attractive designs and were finely printed. The concept proved popular and the stamps were in great demand by philatelists. The sales income was a great benefit to the smaller colonies. Over the next 25 years five more omnibus issues appeared. However, after 1960 a great many more events were commemorated in this way. Winston Spencer Churchill was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II and much admired for his leadership. He died on the 24th January 1965 at the age of 90, an internationally respected statesman. The Crown Agents (which managed the stamp issues of the remaining colonies) decided that Churchill should be honoured with a memorial omnibus issue. These colonies were joined by a number of independent British Commonwealth and foreign countries producing stamps of their own design. For many countries the prospect of increased income from sales to collectors was the motivation to join in. Stamps memorialising Churchill were issued between May 1965 and January 1966.

Most of Britain's former African colonies did not participate in the Churchill memorial issue, which is not surprising because Churchill was a great imperialist, fighting in colonial campaigns as a young man (Indian NW Frontier 1896, Sudan 1898 & South Africa 1899) and as a politician who opposed Indian independence. The decision of the postal authorities in the DRC to issue a Churchill memorial commemorative set is interesting, given the near paranoia of its politicians to colonialism.

Roger Badman has told me that a change in DRC government after the stamps had been commissioned led to the issue being cancelled. This is consistent with the political turmoil at that time. In June 1964, President Kasavubu appointed the pro-western Moïse Tshombe as interim Prime Minister until the elections scheduled in March 1965. In November 1964 Tshombe allowed Belgian & US forces to rescue hostages held at Stanleyville. This cost him the support of Kasavubu and General Joseph Mobutu, and was used by those who opposed him as confirmation that he was “an imperialist’s puppet”. After the elections, although Tshombe’s CONACO controlled the Chamber of Deputies, the opposition FDC controlled the Senate. A post-election paralysis of government was the opportunity Kasavubu needed to dismiss him (in October 1965). In reality, Kasavubu believed Tshombe wanted to become President and feared his growing power. He appointed another Katangese politician Évariste Kimba as Prime Minister, which did nothing to solve the crisis. Within weeks, Mobutu seized power in a coup and then set about removing all colonial cultural influence from the Congo in his policy of “national authenticity”. Ordering Churchill memorial stamps by the Tshombe administration in the first half of 1965 is a reasonable conclusion. Then, after Mobutu’s coup on the 25th November 1965, the order was cancelled.

Three designs were produced (Figure 1). Following Harrison & Sons practice, imperforate examples were stuck to cards. The theme of these is important events in Churchill’s life (World War II – The Battle of Britain; World War II – Victory in the Western Desert; Parliament – his long and distinguished career in the House of Commons). Only one of these has a denomination (12F), and was probably intended to show the font to be used. A paper swatch of an alternative colour is taped to the each card. There are pencil annotations in French. Because these are on a grey card they are not easily read on the scans, as printed in the Bulletin. Therefore, I have reproduced them in Figure 2. Most are crossed out. However, there are two that are not, *Palais du Parlement* and *Winston Spencer Churchill + Republique Democratique du Congo - white out*. Both are in ink and from a different hand. The first is inexplicable because this is the wording on the stamp. The second is intriguing because the instruction is in English. The name RDC was adopted in 1964 and used until the change to Zaire in 1971 – i.e. the name is correct. Was the font size used for Churchill too large, being as prominent as that of the country? It is my speculation that this instruction points to the possibility of submission to another state after the Congolese cancellation.

On each card IMPRINT is added and not crossed out. Because the printer’s imprint is already present what is this instruction? The designer’s name is not present as it is on another contemporary Congolese issue produced by Harrison & Sons. Was it an instruction to add his name? Neatly, this brings us on to the artist. 50 years have elapsed and Harrison & Sons records are gone. Roger Badman acquired these preliminary proofs in an auction a number of years ago and recalls that the designer was Belgian. Two Belgian stamp designers worked with Harrison & Sons in this decade. They are Oscar Bonnevalle (1920-1993) who created the IUT issue of 1965 [COB 586-593] and Jean Van Noten (1903-1982) who created the Flowers issue of 1971 [COB 778-781]. Both have passed away, nothing is recorded in our Bulletin and nothing can be found on the internet. However, Roger kindly contacted Jennifer Toombs, the internationally renowned British stamp artist, who designed the Churchill issue produced by Harrison & Sons for the Crown Agents (acting on behalf of 34 countries) and many other postage stamps for the company. She found these designs interesting and although she could not name the artist definitively, thought Oscar Bonnevalle the more probable because of the proximity in time to the IUT issue. (For this conclusion she will have drawn on her knowledge of company practices as well.) Sadly, many of the senior employees who might have knowledge are advanced in years but she will try to uncover any more information. I hope that some knowledge of this aborted issue might be held within the Study Circle membership. *If anyone has information, please contact the Bulletin editor.*

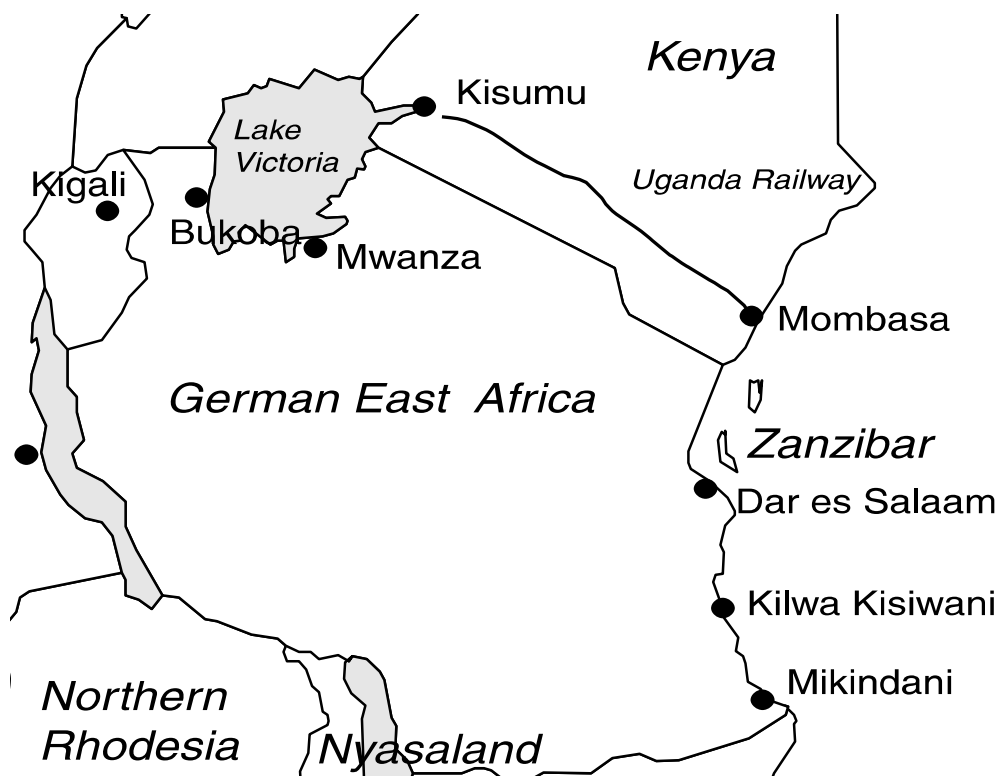
An Inward Cover to the Belgian Forces in Mwanza, German East Africa

Regis Hoffman

The cover from France in Figure 1 is addressed to the Commandant of the Belgian Occupation Forces in Mwanza, via Lake Victoria in East Africa. The cover is interesting for a variety of reasons:

1. Outward mail from the Belgian forces predominates; inward mail is much scarcer.
2. After arriving at its destination in Mwanza, it was re-directed to the Belgian headquarters in Dar es Salaam, German East Africa.
3. It bears an amazing variety of backstamps (see Figure 2) and travelled between civil and military post offices.
4. It was censored in Kisumu, Kenya evidenced by the scarce "POSTAL – CENSOR – KISUMU) triangular handstamp (only seven recorded examples of this mark).

The map highlights the East African towns through which the cover travelled.



The cover was carried via the Uganda Railway between the coast and Kisumu. A lake steamer transported it between the cities of Kisumu and Mwanza on Lake Victoria.

There is a manuscript re-direction to G (?) .H.Q Dar es Salaam (General Headquarters).

I am not quite sure of the meaning of the other manuscript marking in the upper right corner of the cover.

The table below summarizes the chronology of the backstamps.

Mark	Date	Comment
Paris, France	October 1917	Initial mailing
FPO 24 - Nairobi	Dec 1917	Indian Field Post Office
Kisumu	11 Dec 1917 ?	Kisumu, Kenya civil post office
Mwanza	15 Dec 1917	Mwanza, German East Africa civil post office
Mwanza	16 Dec 1917	Start of redirected to Dar es Salaam, German East Africa
Kisumu	22 Dec 1917	
Kisumu	24 Dec 1917	
Mombasa	27 Dec 1917	Mombasa, Kenya civil post office
BPCVPK #11	7 Jan 1918	Belgian Field Post Office in Dar es Salaam, German East Africa

Notice the two later dates for the Kisumu post office – 22 December and 24 December 1917. I postulate that the cover was censored at Kisumu (and the triangular censor mark applied) during that interval. The first date indicated when it left the post office for the censor office, and the second date is when it re-entered the post office after censorship.



Figure 1 . Inward cover from France to Belgian Forces at Mwanza (front).

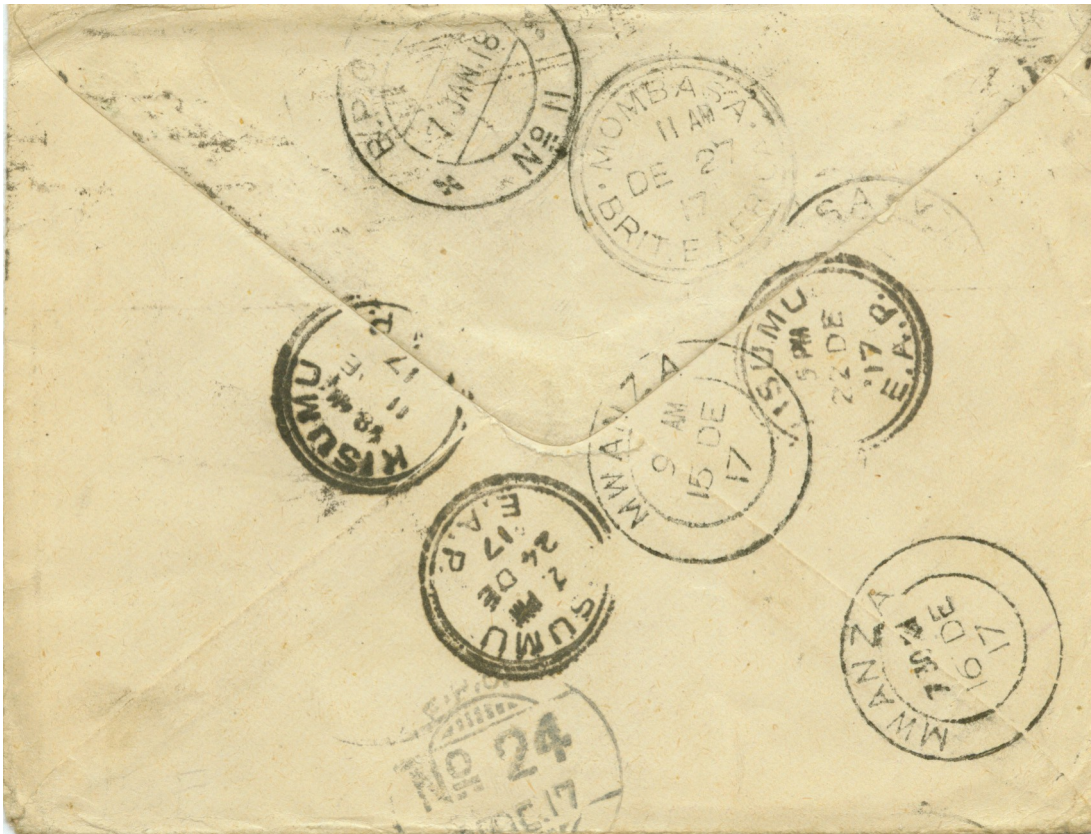


Figure 2. Inward cover from France to Belgian Forces at Mwanza (back).

Membership and Study Circle News

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following recently joined member and trust he will enjoy and benefit from his association with us.

UK

Peter Wingent

4 Twyford Court
Northlands Drive
Winchester,
Hampshire, SO23 7AL

Email

pwingent@googlemail.com

Peter is a specialist collector of airmails (1920 – 1945) and a noted author, having published two books on Imperial Airways African and Eastern Routes as well as articles on the development of airmails in Africa. The Belgian Congo is one of his favourite regions.

Change of Address

Belgium

Jean-Pierre Vandenaabeele

Residente La Réserve
Elisabetlaan 158D bus 03
8300 - KNOCKE

Vincent Schouberechts

Kardinaal Sterckslaan 53
1860 – MEISE
Email victoria2000@telenet.be

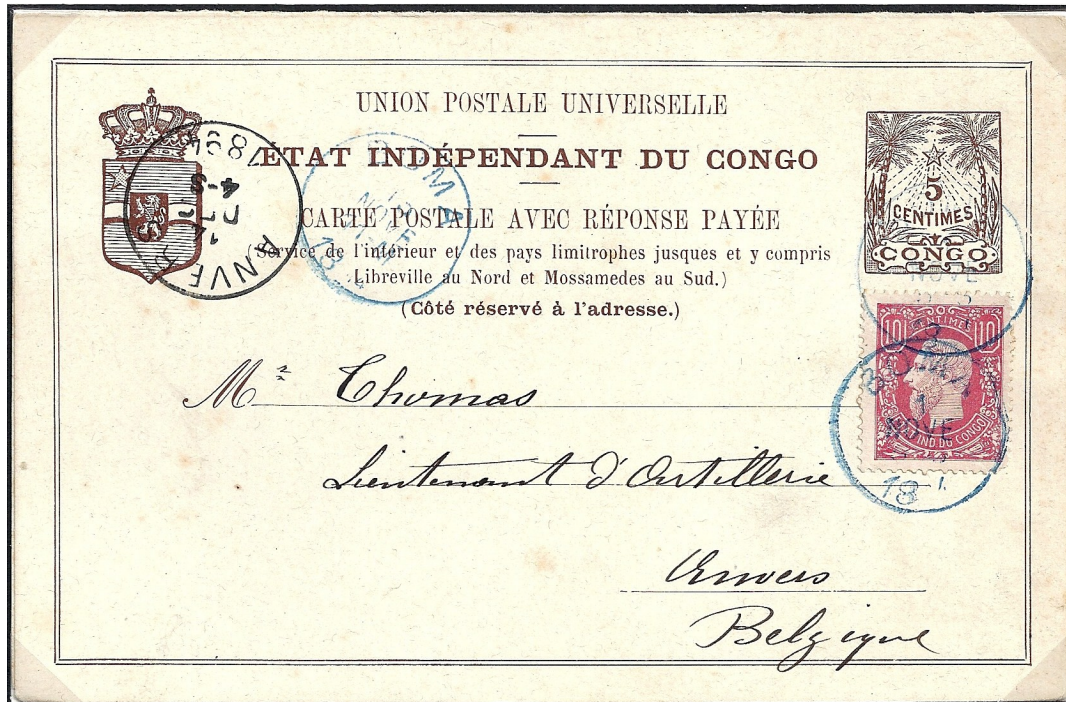
New “bloc-report” variety of the 1886 10 centimes stamp

Charles Hénuzet (Translated from Les Cahiers du Congo)

In his book “*Cinquante ans d'Histoire Postale*”, General Dufour points out that “bloc-report” varieties exist. In order to better understand this term, we feel that a few explanations would be welcome. As a study already exists, written by my friend Léo Tavano and myself (cf. *Etat Ind. Du Congo Nos bessons africains*), it would not be useful to tell the full story of how these sheets came to be put together.

Rate for overseas mail = 15 centimes

Postal stationery n°6 with additional postage of 10 centimes from 1886



Cancelled in Boma in November 1894 (1.2 DMTY), left Boma on 15 NOVE 1894 (type 1.2) and arrived in Antwerp on 14 December 1894 4-S after travelling aboard the Portuguese ship S-Thome.

What is a “bloc-report” ?

First of all, you have to remember that, after producing a full-size model of the stamp, the latter is reproduced 10 times by electroplating, in order to create a bloc-report. This sheet of 10 stamps is known as the “bloc-report” (Figure 1). Using a magnifying glass, it is possible to see that each of the 10 stamps has a special characteristic. This will make it possible to plate them and thus determine with a degree of certainty their respective positions in the final sheet.

Figure 1

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

In order to create the sheet, the bloc-report was reproduced 5 times so that 50 postage stamps could be obtained.

Figure 2

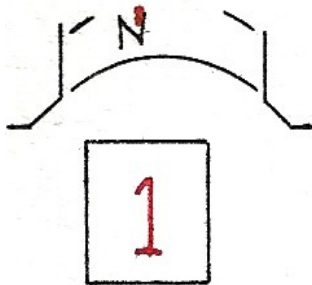
1				5
6			9	10
11				15
16			19	20
21				25
26			29	30
31				35
36			39	40
41				45
46			49	50

What is a bloc-report variety?

Whenever a variety appears in a position between 1 and 10, it automatically reappears on the 10 centimes stamp in the following bloc-report. Therefore, if it can be seen in position 1, it will appear again in position 11-21-31 and 41 (Figure 2).

General Dufour points out that two varieties of the 10 centimes stamp exist in the bloc-report.

Bloc-report VARIETY 1: The right-hand vertical line of the "N" in centimes is doubled or thicker on the upper right-hand side. This variety can be seen in position 1 of the sheet



Fragment of letter ; postage 50 centimes

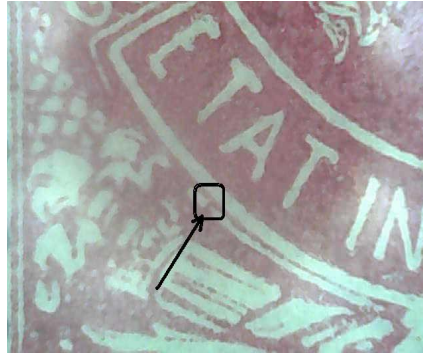
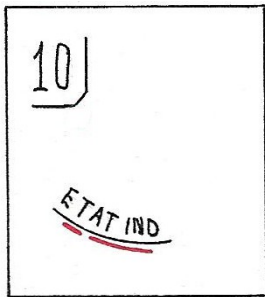


The 10 centimes located between the 2 stamps at 5 C, is the stamp pos. 11



The position in the sheet can also be determined, which may be 1-11-21-31 or 41. All you have to do is "plate" the stamps or use a 12x magnifying glass.

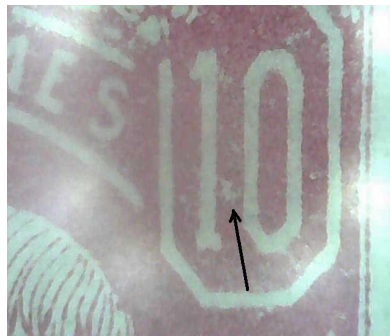
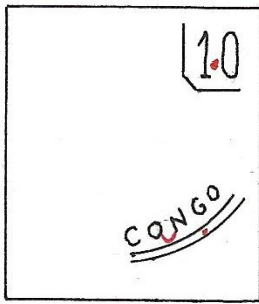
Position 1



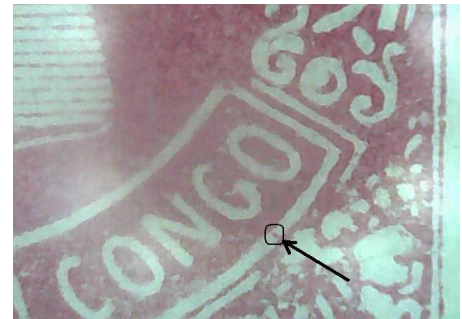
The intercadre below
the « A » of ETAT
is broken

Position 11

a)



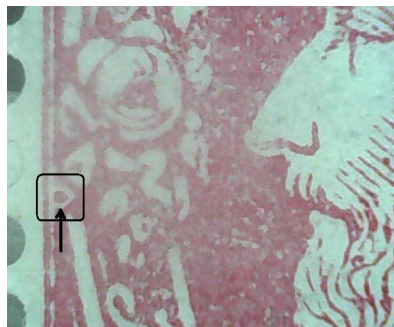
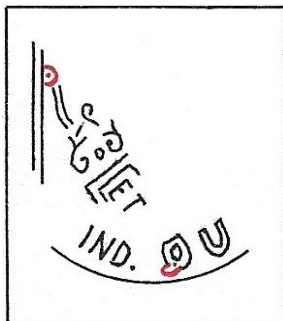
b)



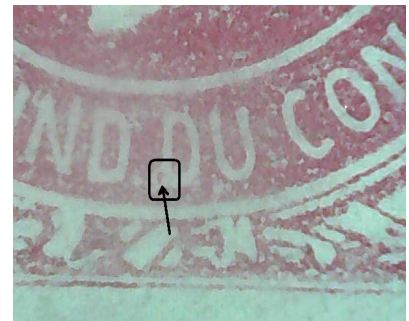
- a) In right-hand "10", there is a white spot between the "1" and "0" in the bottom third
- b) Below the "G" in Congo, there is a red-coloured spot in the inner border and a white line sometimes links the letters "O" and "N" in Congo.

Position 21

a)

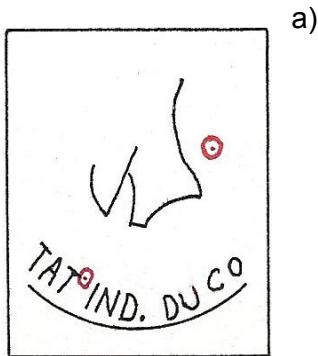


b)

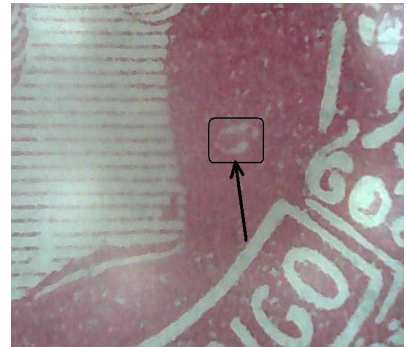


- a) Touching the left-hand inner border and in the extended flourish at the same height as the mouth
- b) In the base of the "D" of "DU", a large red spot can be seen in a white mark.
(This white mark is sometimes faint)

Position 31



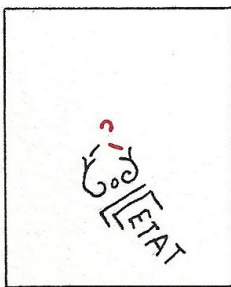
b)



a) Between the second "T" in "ETAT" and the "I" in "IND" large red spot in a white mark.

b) Behind the neck and vertical line of the "G" in Congo, there is a red spot in a white mark

Position 41

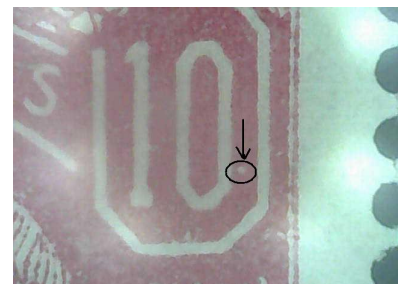
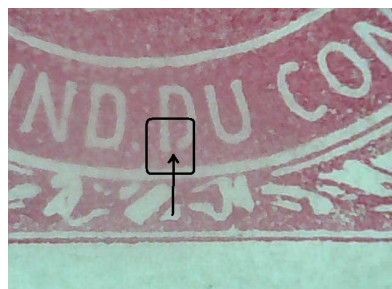
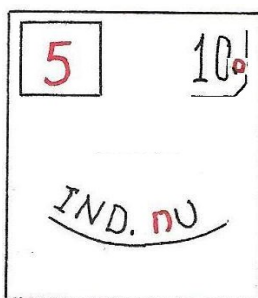


The ornament at the top left with internal frame the legend « ETAT IND.DU CONGO » is broken

Bloc-report VARIETY 2 : General Dufour only mention the broken « D » in « DU », but if you look closely, it is possible to see a second characteristic, which confirms that the bloc-report variety exists.

1)

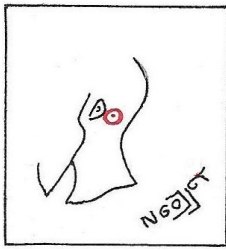
2)



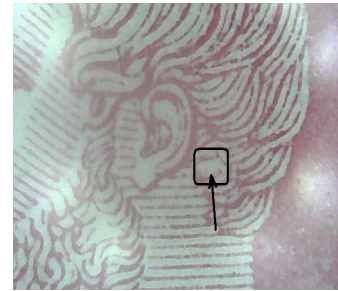
1) The base of the « D » in « DU » is broken

2) In the right-hand box, a white spot can be seen to the right of the «0» of «10» and its a low part

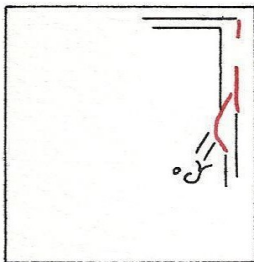
Position 5



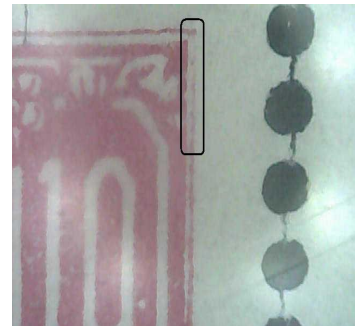
Behind the ear on the right,
white shell or missing hair



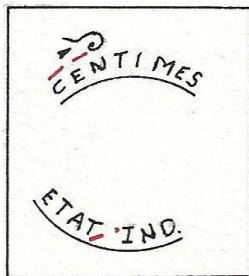
Position 15



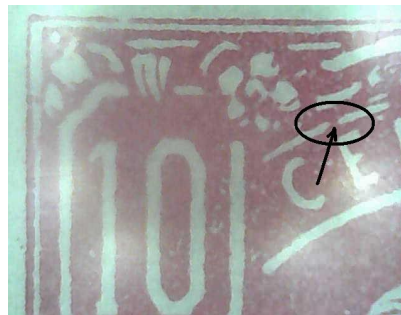
The upper right vertical corner
of the border is broken and a
bulge can sometimes be seen



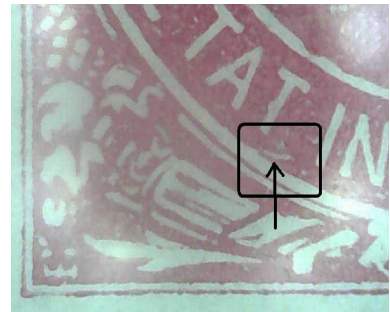
Position 25



a)



b)



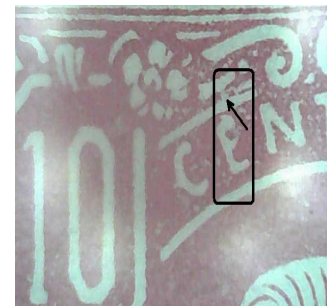
a) Above the "E" in "Centimes", the inner border is broken

b) At the base of the second "T" in "ETAT", white link extend slightly upwards towards the "I" in IND

Position 35



Above the "E" of "Centimes"
and the intercadre, a point
white connects the intercadre
and the ground above it

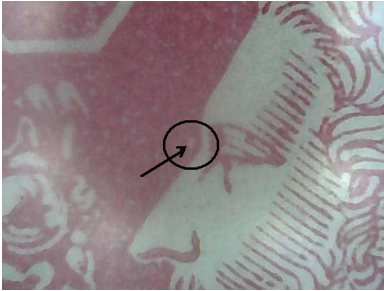


Position 45

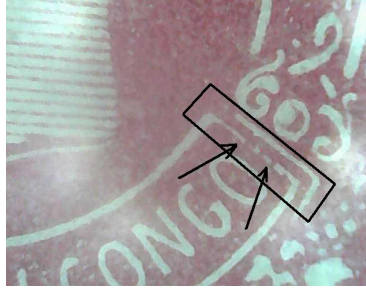


- a) white spot just in front eye
- b) the box is broken to the right of "CONGO".
- c) white spot just above and in the middle of the "M" in "Centimes"

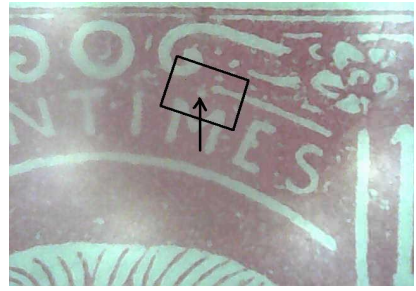
a)



b)



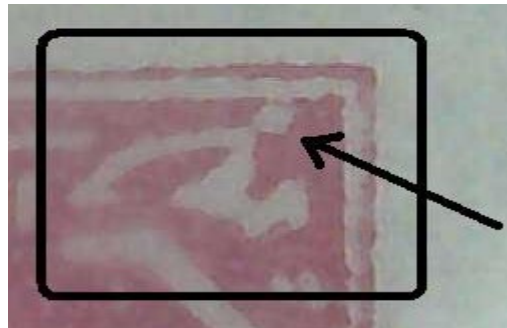
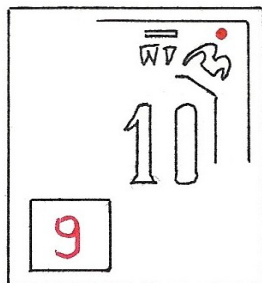
c)



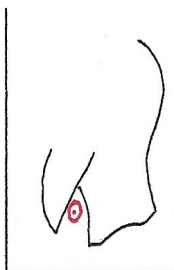
New bloc-report Variety

A THIRD BLOC-REPORT VARIETY exists in the sheet and can be seen in Position 9

A large white spot can be observed close to the scroll in the upper right corner.



Position 9



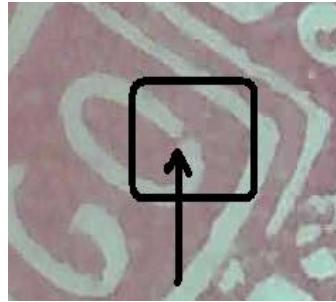
White mark, inside which there is a red spot between the beard and neck



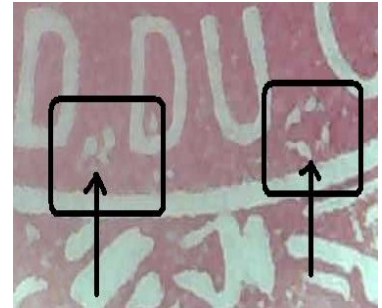
Position 19



a)



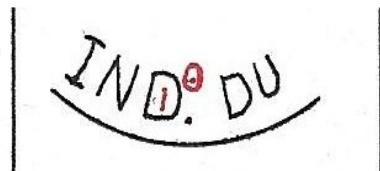
b)



a) Red line through the second "O" in Congo on the right

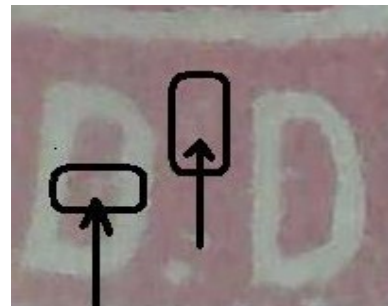
b) White mark, inside which there is a red spot between the "D" in "IND" and the "D" in "DU"

Position 29



Light white vertical line in the "D" in "IND".

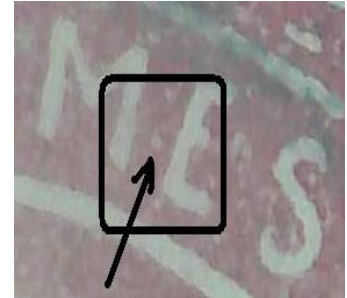
Very light white spot, inside which there is a red spot, between the "D" in "IND" and the "D" in "DU".



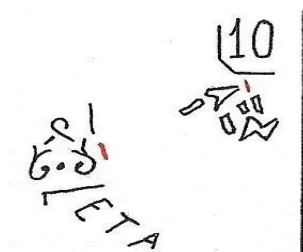
Position 39



White dot between letters "M" and "E" of centimes



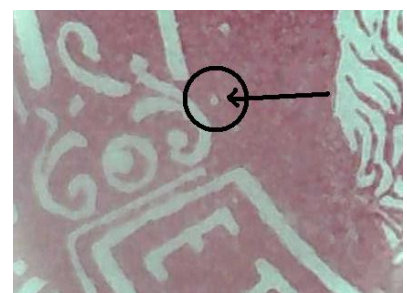
Position 49



a)



b)



a) White spot at the point of the arrow below the "10" on the right

b) White spot to the right of the flourish.

All the above details are visible, but it should be remembered that these are typographical errors and inking sometimes makes certain details less visible for this very reason.

Marks 0,50 on mail in 1884

Eliane Deneumostier (Translated from *Les Cahiers du Congo*)

Over the years, a great deal has been written about the many theories surrounding these blue and red postmarks, which resemble taxations. But no one has ever arrived at a definitive answer.

The Association's committee reached a decision concerning the address written on the letters posted from Belgium to the International Association of the Congo (I.A.C.):

VIA LIVERPOOL
MONSIEUR DELCOMMUNE ou à son ordre
(MR DELCOMMUNE or to his order)
BANANA POINT
CONGO RIVER S.W. Coast of Africa

Let us start from the beginning. In 1884, letters would leave Belgium (a U.P.U. member country) for the I.A.C., which was an international association and did not have a postal service.

For mail posted from Belgium, the rate for letters in the first weight step (15g) was 75 centimes, with an additional 75 centimes for every extra 15 g. Double postage was therefore 1.50 F, as can be seen on the letter shown here (Fig. 1).

On its arrival on the vast continent, where the Association was based, a major problem arose: how could the letter(s) be delivered to the addressees when communications were virtually non-existent? An official was appointed to collect mail after it was unloaded from the mail boats: Alexandre Delcommune, A.I.C. official and manager of the Belgian trading post at Banana (who had worked for the French company Daumas et Cie).

Aboard the "Heron", a small river boat owned by the association, Delcommune carried the mail from Banana to Vivi. But how did it continue its journey??

“ Pour remettre à(Forward to....) “



Figure 1

Handwritten inscription “ Via Liverpool “

Postmarks were added to the reverse, when the letter passed through LONDON on 5 August and when it was loaded onto the mail boat "AMBRIZ" in LIVERPOOL on the same day. The postmarks are stamped in red.

At this point, the usual problem of "taxation" crops up. Let us take a look at the different theories that exist.

Jean du Four writes "we then noticed that all the envelopes had the figure 0 50 or 1 00 handwritten in red or blue on the reverse, depending on whether it was a letter with stamps worth 75 centimes (single postage) or 1F50 (double postage). One single letter is an exception to this rule, but it was sent from Vivi by Delcommune himself to his friend Manduau (2.12.84). This inscription really is an A.I.C. Postmark".

Here is another letter WITHOUT any postmarks, which was posted with single postage from Belgium (Fig. 2).

In his brilliant work "From the Azores to New Zealand", Patrick Maselis adds another element: "According to Antonio Torrès from London, the colour red means "postage due" and blue stands for "postage paid". Therefore, this postmark was probably added by Delcommune himself or one of his A.I.C. Colleagues.

On arrival, the amount owed by the addressee was written in red. After the payment had been made, the same amount had to be written again on the envelope in blue.

However, some letters do not have a red or blue postmark. We can assume that these letters without postmarks could be sent direct to the addressee in Banana, without passing through Delcommune's hands and thus avoiding his additional charge.



Figure 2

We have also come across letters without postmarks, dated 7 July, 27 July, 17 August, 30 September and 1 November 1884.

In a personal message, Patrick Maselis informed me of another possibility: these tax stamps may have been added when mail arrived in Banana by the Portuguese post office, which was still operating (N.B. I have a cancellation dated 6 November 1884).

Let us take a look at the arguments “for” and “against” these theories.

==>
100



Figure 3

The theory concerning Jean du Four is plausible. In point of fact, if Delcommune took mail as far as Vivi and free of charge, what happened to it after that? Did he entrust it to the few A.I.C. officials who would be travelling “up country”, a private person and his ‘boys’ or carriers who would have to be paid, resulting in Delcommune having to pay charges on behalf of missionaries?

It would therefore seem normal to ask the addressees for payment in return.

As for Torrès, this theory does not hold water, as mistakes have been identified in the colour of the postmarks. Postmarks were even superimposed, which possibly led someone to use the wrong pencil in an attempt to correct this error (Fig. 3).

The view taken by Patrick Maselis is very likely to be true, as the Portuguese set great store by their post office in Banana, which they had established long before the Belgians had the same idea. But, in this case, the official would have added the famous postmark stamp.

BLUE MARK
050 ==>

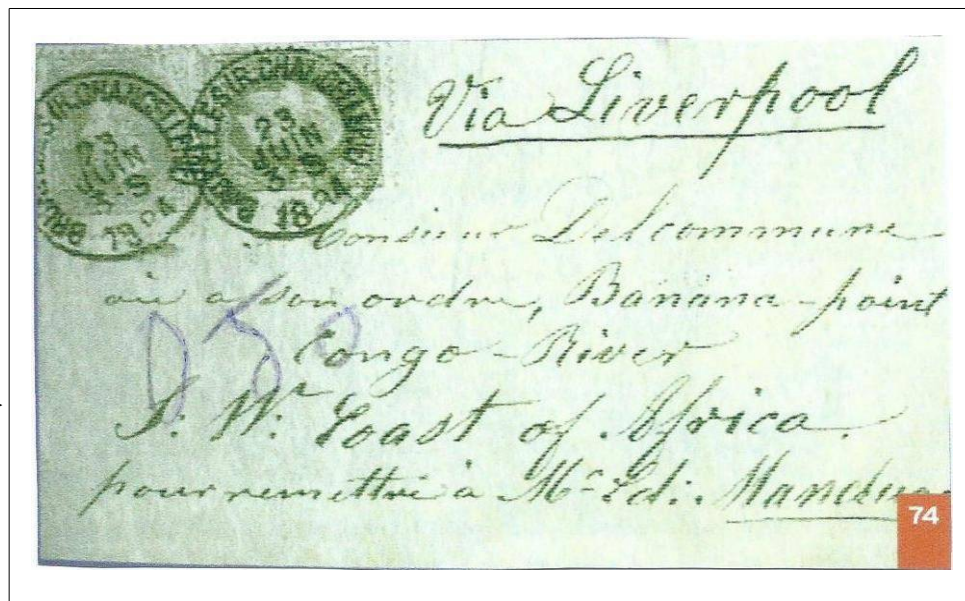


Figure 4

RED MARK
050 ==>

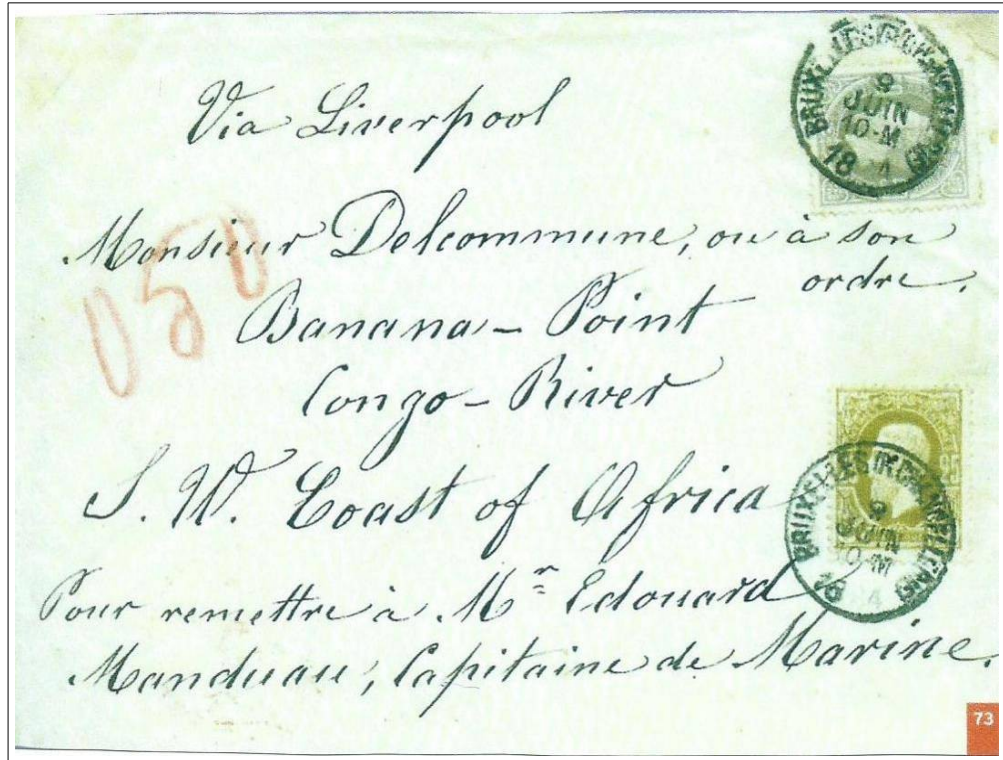


Figure 5

In conclusion, we can see that the reality was far simpler and a typical example of postal history. Here are a few examples of errors involving the use of red and blue postmarks (Fig. 4 and 5).

In the end, it was Doctor Robert Abensur that got to the bottom of the problem and Patrick Maselis took care of passing on the message via Claude Delbeke's BPH magazine (N.B. this magazine is no longer published).

NO MARK

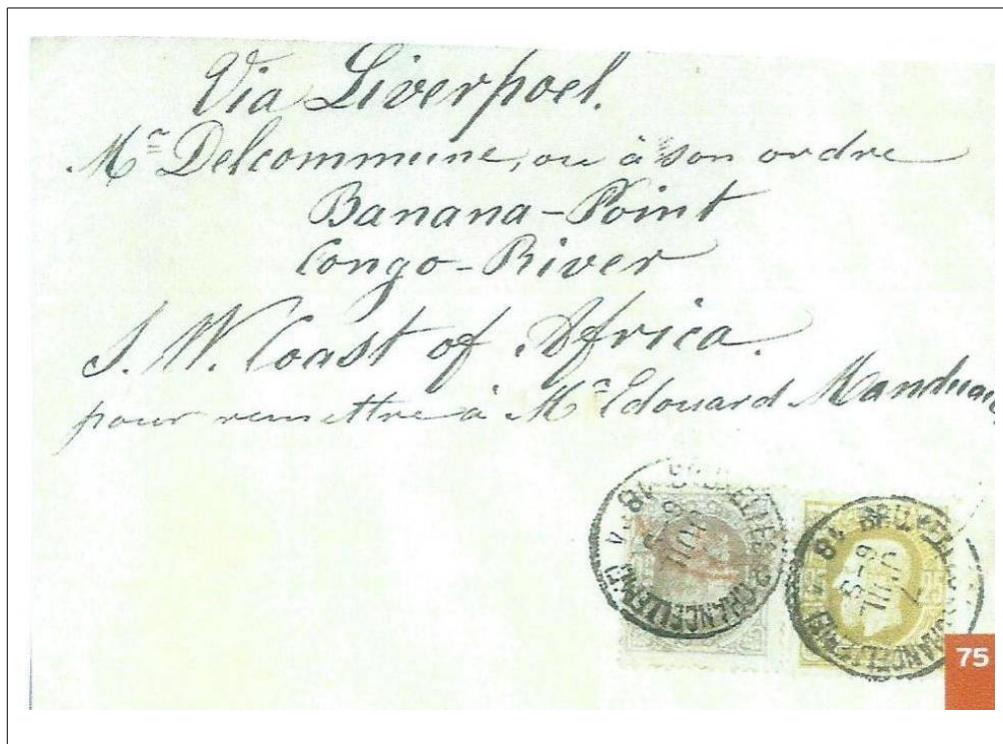


Figure 6

Here, at last, is the solution to the conundrum as summed up here :

BERN CONVENTION – 1874

When the UPU was created, its aim was to regulate postal relations with countries that had not joined the Union in a uniform manner. With this in mind, the Bern Convention devised the “Table C”. Each UPU member country was entitled to produce a table (“Table C”), which showed the additional charges to be paid when posting mail to these countries outside the union. Red or blue postmarks must have been used to show that this fee had been paid.

On unstamped letters from non-member countries, the charge (postage for overseas mail or postage paid in addition to the rate within the union) must have been written IN BLUE PENCIL by the post office where they first arrived in the union.

On stamped letters posted to countries outside the union, this overseas postage must have been written IN RED PENCIL, by the exchange office in the country of origin.

The blue postmarks were therefore added in London to mail sent from the Congo, while the red postmarks were added in Brussels to mail travelling to the Congo.

From the editor

“We are sorry that we cannot offer a postal auction to accompany this Bulletin. This is for reasons beyond our control. We do not want to delay the publication of the bulletin until the postal auction is ready. When circumstances change we will send the auction list to you by e-mail or by post.

If you have lots to put into our auction, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Charles Lloyd (charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk) who will advise you on sending your material.”



Can you help ?

Wants

“Jean-pierre Thiry (jeanpierre.thiry@gmail.com) has been conducting research on the SW *Ville de Bruxelles* which was launched on the 5th July 1888. It was ready for trials on the 25th October in the same year. [*Histoire de la navigation au Congo*. André Lederer (1965) p86]. In the same book, illustration number 14 shows the vessel in the harbour at Leopoldville and dated 1887. Jean-pierre assumes that this is its shell under construction. He asks for help to further his research and to confirm information he has already.”

Results of the Belgian national competitive exhibition *BRABANTPHIL 14*
at Aarschot 3 – 5 October 2014 with the Belgian congo Study Circle members :

Postal History :

Lindekens Th. 90% with : La censure du Congo Belge 1940-1945

Lindekens Ph. 87% with : Etude des relations postales du Congo Belge, Mols 1895-1914

Traditional philately :

Danneels fr. 81% with : Germania uitgiften deel II – gebruik buiten het Duitse Rijk 1900-1921

Deijnckens W. 77% with : Koninkrijk Burundi 1962-1961

One Frame :

Hopperets M. 87% with Congo Belge Courrier vers la Belgique via les pays frontaliers 1900-1910

Lindekens Ph.82% with Congo Belge – cachets gommés 1886-1960

Aerophilately :

Flamand Jp 87% with Historique de la liaison aérienne Sabena Belgique/Congo Belge
et retour de 1925 à 1960

POSTAL AUCTION SALE 2014-1

REALISED PRICES (Euros)

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	505,00	55	0,00	109	6,00	163	0,00
2	12,00	56	5,25	110	4,00	164	6,00
3	350,00	57	0,00	111	17,00	165	0,00
4	64,00	58	2,50	112	0,00	166	0,00
5	86,00	59	5,50	113	0,00	167	0,00
6	86,00	60	2,25	114	0,00	168	7,50
7	11,25	61	9,50	115	1,00		
8	4,00	62	3,00	116	0,00		
9	4,25	63	13,00	117	15,50		
10	4,25	64	6,50	118	0,00		
11	3,50	65	12,50	119	0,50		
12	16,00	66	4,75	120	0,00		
13	5,25	67	7,75	121	0,00		
14	5,25	68	7,75	122	0,00		
15	24,00	69	6,75	123	0,00		
16	4,75	70	0,00	124	0,00		
17	4,75	71	6,00	125	0,00		
18	2,75	72	0,00	126	4,25		
19	2,50	73	1,00	127	0,00		
20	3,00	74	0,00	128	0,00		
21	12,00	75	10,25	129	110,00		
22	24,00	76	5,25	130	0,00		
23	30,00	77	3,00	131	0,00		
24	3,75	78	5,00	132	0,00		
25	0,00	79	11,25	133	0,00		
26	31,00	80	3,00	134	1,00		
27	0,00	81	3,00	135	35,00		
28	12,00	82	3,00	136	0,00		
29	25,00	83	4,50	137	0,00		
30	28,00	84	4,50	138	2,55		
31	30,00	85	6,25	139	2,25		
32	16,00	86	11,25	140	0,00		
33	15,00	87	6,25	141	0,00		
34	32,00	88	5,25	142	0,00		
35	26,00	89	5,25	143	0,00		
36	8,00	90	10,25	144	0,00		
37	8,50	91	5,25	145	0,00		
38	12,50	92	5,25	146	0,00		
39	0,00	93	13,50	147	0,00		
40	26,00	94	0,00	148	41,00		
41	38,00	95	0,00	149	132,00		
42	0,00	96	0,00	150	0,00		
43	12,75	97	3,00	151	0,00		
44	16,25	98	3,00	152	0,00		
45	0,00	99	3,00	153	3,00		
46	16,25	100	3,75	154	4,50		
47	6,25	101	3,75	155	0,00		
48	5,75	102	3,00	156	3,00		
49	4,25	103	3,00	157	0,00		
50	5,00	104	3,00	158	0,00		
51	5,75	105	3,00	159	0,00		
52	0,00	106	3,00	160	0,00		
53	4,50	107	0,00	161	0,00		
54	4,00	108	0,00	162	0,00		