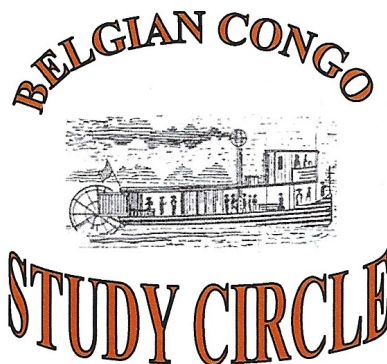


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BULLETIN 170

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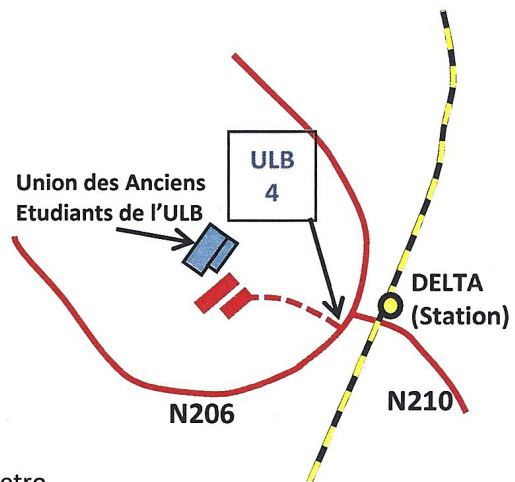
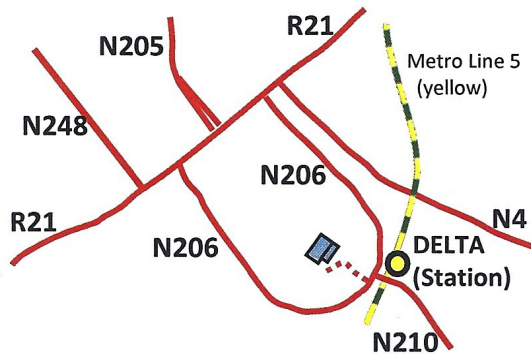
The Study Circle website
www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be

Calling Notice

Annual General Meeting of the Belgian Congo Study Circle

The 2016 AGM for the BCSC will be held on Saturday 12th March 2016
at

Union des Anciens Etudiants de l'ULB
Boulevard du Triomphe, 235
Acces N° 4 (ULB 4)
1050 Ixelles
BRUXELLES



By Car

Take the N206 (Boulevard du Triomphe / Triomflaan). You can enter if you are driving in either direction on the N206. Enter the university grounds at entrance "ULB 4". This is just 20m south from the junction with the N210. (You will see a petrol station "Lukoil" on the north-east corner of this junction.) The carpark is about 100m in from the gate.

By Metro

Take Metro Line 5 (yellow) in the direction Herrmann-Debroux until Delta. The station is on the N210, about 20m from the N206. Walk across the N206 and turn left. About 20m from here you will see entrance "ULB 4". Walk in. This is a road / footpath. The "Union des Anciens Etudiants de l'ULB" is about 100m along.

The programme will be :

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 09.00 A.M. to 10.00 A.M. | Welcome (coffee/tea and pastries) |
| 10.00 A.M. to 11.00 A.M. | AGM Business meeting |
| 11.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon | Member's displays* |
| 12.00 noon to 01.30 P.M. | Lunch [†] |
| 01.30 P.M. to 05.30 P.M. | Member's displays* |
| 05.30 P.M. to 06.30 P.M. | Open session (including over-run for displays) |
| 08.30 P.M. onwards | Portuguese Restaurant (as usual) [‡] |

* **Displays:** If you want to present a display, please notify Thierry Frennet as soon as possible to enable him to add this to the programme. There will be a data projector.

† **Lunch :** 40€ Please pay Patrick Maselis in advance
at
IBAN BE72 4699 2285 5116
BIC/SWIFT KREDBEBB

menu :

A three course hot, served lunch with wine.

This price includes the cost of coffee/tea & pastries when you arrive.

Please will members who have special dietary requirements contact Thierry Frennet no later than one week before the AGM.

‡ **Evening dinner :** All the members who wish to have the dinner please will they will let Thierry Frennet know by e-mail: hydro-services@skynet.be

Future of the BCSC Library

The BCSC library shall be transferred, on permanent loan, to the Belgian Academy of Philately.

In 2011, when Bernie Harris resigned as librarian Walter Deijnkens agreed to take on the office for a period of five years. Now, it is time to consider the future of the library and the Study Circle Committee has discussed what to do for the best. Even though Walter has been proactive, there is little demand for borrowing its books. This situation is unlikely to change if we recruit a replacement librarian.

The Study Circle has had a library for a relatively short time. Ray Keach bequeathed his collection of books to us and this gift is the basis of our library. Allan MacLaren, our first librarian (2002-8), lent about 3 books per year. Bernie Harris (2008-11) has told me that demand was equally low, at less than 2 books a year. Walter Deijnkens (2012-present) took most of the stock to each AGM. This produced a higher uptake, at 6 per year, though requests by mail did not improve at all. Mailing costs have increased significantly which has the potential to further deter borrowing.

One solution is to sell the books by auction and send those that remain unsold to paper recycling. A second solution is to transfer the library, on permanent loan, to the Belgian Academy of Philately. The latter has more appeal. This action keeps the collection of books intact. The Academy will house and care for the books. The transfer opens the library to a wider readership.

The Secretary of the Expertisation Committee has indicated that there are a few books that would be of value to that committee. These will not be transferred and instead put into the care of the Secretary of the Expertisation Committee.

[The bulletin archive and the stock of books we have for members to buy (eg Heim & Keach) will not be affected by the transfer of the book library.]

Today, the internet has significantly reduced reliance on books and sadly libraries of all types are in decline. In our newspapers, we read of the closure of many public libraries. By adopting this proposal, through consolidation we will continue to keep this material in the public domain.

If any member would like clarification about anything, please could he (or she) e-mail the General Secretary? If it an issue affecting the membership in general, it will be taken to the AGM.

Charles Lloyd (General Secretary)

Obituary

Donald R. Campbell 1930-2014

Don was born in Youngstown, Ohio in 1930 and after high school attended the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio where he majored and excelled in polymer chemistry and analytical methods. He was employed by General Tire and Rubber Company where he had a distinguished career as a research chemist and manager for many years and then eventually transitioned into the analytical laboratories of Ohio Edison.

He assisted with many notable developments in the tire industry and in highly specialized analytical techniques.

Don had a passion for chemistry, philately, literature, gardening, fishing, baseball, football and vintage movies. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He always managed to make time for family. He also had a wonderful, and sometimes dry, sense of humor.



Don began collecting stamps in the 1970's with interests in United States stamps, mostly commemorative and regular issue singles and plate blocks as well as some international stamps. As with chemistry and his other passions, he had the zeal to learn as much as he could about his subjects of interest. Don's passion for philately paralleled his enthusiasm for world history, geography and languages. He was fluent in German, Russian, French, and Italian; he taught himself Spanish at the age of 82. As his philatelic fascination matured he began to focus specifically on Belgian Congo and Rwanda-Urundi, and to a lesser extent German New Guinea and New Zealand. Don compiled and meticulously curated an extensive collection of Belgian Congo stamps augmented by covers, envelopes, and view cards. His commitment to building a specialized collection was propelled to an advanced level after becoming a member of the Belgian Congo Study Circle in 1997. Being a member was very inspirational and served as a pivotal point in his collecting, especially after retirement. His broad knowledge of languages, (developed to translate scientific articles) became invaluable for translating articles and correspondence for members of the BCSC as well as other philatelic societies. His interest and commitment to Belgian Congo and Rwanda-Urundi philately as well as the Belgian Congo Study Circle was with him to the end.

Membership News

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

New member

UK

Gordon CHAMBERLAIN

Flat 2, Springbank
66 Ashley Road
Altrincham
Cheshire,
WA14 2 LR

Gordon's collecting area includes East Africa and Airmail covers. (He is also a member of the East African Study Circle and the British Airmail Society). For the Congo his collection contains postcards and covers from the Independent State to ca. 1970. As might be anticipated, this is strong in Ruanda-Urundi from its early days. As a 94 year's old philatelist Gordon finds it difficult to be as active as he once was!

My favourite Cover

Léo Tavano

BOMA – the 25 C. / 5 fr. Ochre of 1915

A registered letter from Albertville to Brussels postmarked 15-III-24

Registered mail rate: 75C. (Letter 50C. + Registration 25C.)

To address a continued shortage of 25C. stamps, at this time, a decision was taken to surcharge a stock of 5fr. ochre stamps. 50,500 stamps were surcharged. (These had the plate combination II2-A4 and both subtypes A4a and A4b can be found.) This provisional stamp was issued on the 4th January 1923.

Front: Showing 25C. / 5fr II2-A4a, position 19 – Perforation 15



A new issue, the Vloors, was being awaited and it's 25C. (red-brown) would replace the use of this provisional stamp. The first denominations of the Vloors series were issued on the 1st February 1923, these being the 10C., 15C, and 25C.

This explains why the provisional stamp is very common in the unused state, less common used and exceptionally rare on cover.

The copy on the envelope shown here has a 16½ mm distance between the inner bars and in particular is the **very rare perforation 15**.

Reverse: Vloors 2 x 5C. orange + 2 x 15C. brown. (N.B. In this scan the colours have not been reproduced faithfully.)



Results of the Belgian national competitive exhibition

LIEGE – LUXEMBOURG 24 OCTOBER 2015

ONE FRAMEWORK

FRENNET TH. 92% : Les cachets officiel sans date de l'Etat Indépendant du Congo

HENUZET CH. 75%: Le timbre Stanley-Deux formats. Une mauvaise explication.

LINDEKENS P. 80%: Les Cartes postales privées avant 1902

LINDEKENS T. 80%: Entier postal Stibbe n°3

AEROPHILATELY

FLAMAND JP 86% : La poste aérienne du Congo belge pendant la seconde mondiale de 1939 à 1945

POSTAL HISTORY

DEIJNCKENS W. 88% : Mandat gebied Ruanda-Urundi 1921-1945

HENUZET CH. 85% : Histoire postale du bureau de BOMA 1886-1960

LINDEKENS T. 80% : Congo - La force publique en 1940 -1945

The collection and distribution centers of Lukungu and Matadi PART. 2

Laurent Bierny

Figure 9 A lettersheet sent from Lukungu with a insufficient postage



The next example, Figure 9, is a wonderful lettersheet (a letter sheet is a sheet of paper folded, sealed and mailed without the use of an envelope) sent in October 1894 from Lukungu to Denmark. The double-circle postmark of Lukungu cancels the brown 50 cents stamp. On the back, there are transit marks of Matadi (October 29th 1894) and Boma (November 22nd 1894). At Boma, the letter was weighed at the post office and the weight found to be 18 grams. The franking had to be corrected for which two additional 25 cents blue stamps were applied then cancelled by the small circle date stamp of Boma.

Figure 10 A registered cover from Lukungu franked with Mols stamps



There is an obvious question about why there are two indications of weight on the letter. It is reasonable to assume that the sender who noted in handwritten letters "recommandée avec avis de reception", weighed the letter and affixed stamps to a total franking of 1.75 francs corresponding to a double rate (1 franc for 16 grams) registered letter (+ 50 cents) with acknowledgement of receipt (+25 cents). Before Lukungu, Francois-Xavier de Chièvre had worked as a sub-postmaster in the post office of Leopoldville in 1892. . As an official agent of the postal service, he was aware of all the established procedures and regulations in the Congo Free State. One of them was the obligation to put the weight and rate on letters weighing more than 15 grams. That's what he did but he did not have the correct equipment to do it. Once the letter arrived in Boma, it was weighed again with a letter scale and the postmaster of Boma wrote the correct weight on the cover : 12 grams. He also added on "AR" and "Recommandé" with the official rubber-stamps of the post office.

The second letter with Mols stamp (Figure 11) was sent from Lukungu in December 1896 and on which the sender wrote "Recommandée avec avis de reception". When it arrived in Boma, the letter was weighed and the postmaster put the weight on the letter as well as the number of registration and the AR cachet and framed Recommandé cachet.

Figure 11a

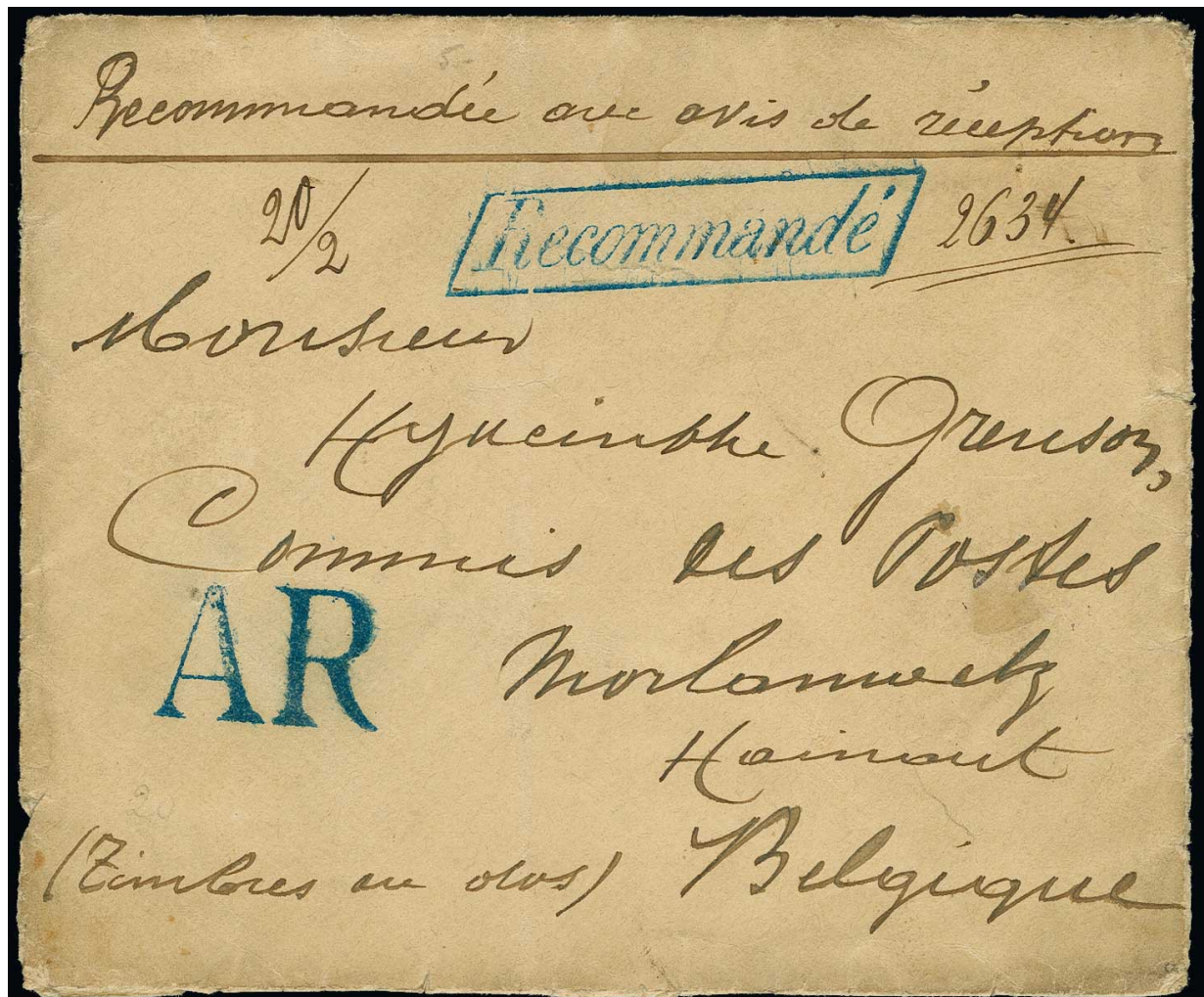


Figure 11b



All these documents show us strong evidence that only post offices were equipped with letter scales while stations as Lukungu and Matadi that played a role in the transmission of correspondence between Boma and Leopoldville were equipped with scales for other than postal use for as long as the double ring postmark was in use. The review of these documents gives us also an idea of how the agent of the post office of Boma was handling letters from Lukungu and Matadi.

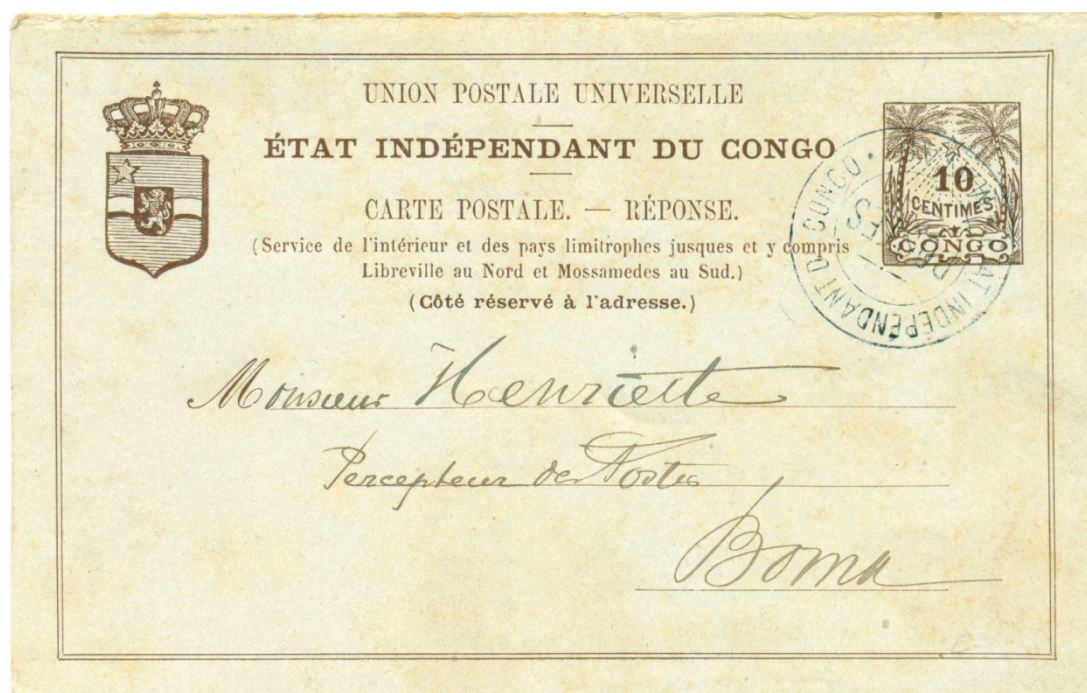
Based on all the studied documents, I can state that the agent of Boma applied the following modus operandi :

- In all cases, the agent of the post office of Boma, on which Lukungu and Matadi depended weighed the correspondence from those two stations.
- If the letter posted at Lukungu or Matadi had the correct franking, no indication of the weight on the letter was written even if this letter was a double or more rate (excepted for the registered letters that must have an indication of the weight even if it is under 15 grams)
- If the letter posted at Lukungu or Matadi had an indication of the weight, because it was likely to be incorrect due to the inaccuracy of the scales used at those stations, the agent in Boma needed to reweigh letter, write the correct weight on letter and complete the franking if necessary.
- If the letter posted in Lukungu or Matadi had an insufficient postage affixed, he did need to write the weight and complete the franking to the correct rate.

Type of mail with the double ring postmark

The double-circle postmark has been seen on envelopes, lettersheets and postal stationery. Because the vast majority of the mail with the double-circle postmark was posted either in Lukungu or Matadi, this postmark stamp (applied on the postage stamps) is a departure mark. Most of the mail with that postmark was sent abroad but sometimes it can be seen on domestic mail. Up to now, I have found three domestic items of domestic mail departing from Matadi and five from Lukungu. These numbers differ slightly from those published in the article “Les cachets sans date des stations de tri et de dépôt de Matadi et Lukungu” in the bulletin 10 of “Les Cahiers du Congo”. In the time that has passed since I wrote this article (in 2014), I have found new documents and it is possible that in the future, further discoveries will be made.

Figure 12 *Postal stationary N°6 written from "A 1/2 jour de Loukoungou" (a half day's walking distance of Lukungu) posted in Matadi to Boma*



Exceptionally, the postmark was affixed as transit mark. I know three items of mail with such a transit mark: one is international, one is domestic and one is an incoming mail. Earlier in this article, I mentioned a lettersheet franked with stamps of the 1886 issue and sent abroad. The lettersheet, posted in Lukungu, has a Matadi double-circle transit mark on the reverse (Figure 9). All but one of these items of mail with this postmark whether domestic or international were travelling in the same direction as the flow of the Congo River (that is from Upper Congo to Boma). The only exception is a single item of domestic mail going “upstream” (Figure 13). The letter was sent from Matadi at a time when the post office was open at Leopoldville where it arrived on September 11th 1891. The Matadi canceller was affixed on the 25 cents stamp on August 31st 1891. The double-circle postmark of Lukungu appears on the front of the cover as a transit mark.

Figure 13 Domestic mail cover with the Lukungu double-circircle postmark as transit mark



The only known incoming mail with a double-circle postmark as a transit mark is an item of postal stationery of the Oil Rivers Protectorate. It was sent on November 3rd 1892 from the capital of the protectorate, Old Calabar, to Boma. The addressee is Richard Mohun, an US commercial agent in Congo Free State. Mohun's post was at Boma but as he spent much of his time exploring the country's interior, he was absent when the post card arrived in Boma on November 13th 1892. The mail was forwarded "upstream": there are transit marks of Matadi and Leopoldville on the back and a light strike of the double-circle postmark of Lukungu as transit mark on the front.

To my knowledge, the only know example of incoming mail with a double-circle postmark

Figure 14



At the opening of the post office of Matadi on March 1st 1891 and Lukungu during the year 1896, their double-circle postmarks were replaced by small circle cancellation date stamps. The last date known for a document with the double ring postmark is July 1891 for Matadi and December 1896 for Lukungu. Due to its shorter period of use, Matadi is much rarer than Lukungu.

The postmark on single stamps

On single stamps of the 1886 issue, the double-circle postmark is rare. Both postmarks of Lukungu and Matadi are equally rare mainly because the double-circle postmark appears in 1889 at the time when the most commonly used stamps on covers (25 and 50 cents) of the second issue of 1887 were already available in Congo. Due to the size of the cancellation, it is not always possible to distinguish which cancellation (Lukungu or Matadi) it is. The Matadi postmark exists in black, blue (seen in 1889-1890) and violet (seen in 1891) but the black is seen much more often than either the blue and the violet ones. The Lukungu postmark exists in black and less often in violet, a colour said to have been used during the later days of use of the canceller(1895-1896).

Figure 15 *Double-circle postmark on 1886 stamps*



On single stamps of the 1887 issue, the postmark is rather common except for the 5 francs. On this second issue, Matadi is rarer than Lukungu. On the Mols issue, the Matadi postmark doesn't exist and Lukungu is a little bit less common on Mols than on the 1887 issue.

Figure 16 *Matadi postmark in black or blue on 1887 stamps*



Figure 17 *Lukungu postmark in black or violet on 1887 stamps*



Figure 18 *Lukungu postmark in black or violet on Mols Issue*



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the members of the BCSC who sent me pictures of covers or postal stationery of their collections. That has been of great help to make this study and to draw the right conclusions.

Belgian Congo Private Wrappers: the Social Backstories: Part 1

John K. Courtis FRPSL & Charles Lloyd

There were no post office postal stationery wrappers issued by the Belgian Congo authorities for the general public. This necessitated the use of home-made wrappers and wrappers printed for private use with the addition of adhesives. The author (JKC) has collected images of wrappers of this kind listed for sale on eBay daily since 2009 and now this database has slightly more than 5,000 different examples. Of these, there are 23 wrappers bearing the stamps of the Belgian Congo. The purpose of this paper is to identify and discuss some of these wrappers, their postage, destination and especially their social philately backstories. What was the nature of persons and organizations that existed in the Congo that printed material and mailed it in private wrappers? Many of the extant wrappers have a religious context, reflecting the role of the missions. Tracking down the backstory is often a feat in Google sleuthing – time, patience and lateral thinking generally produce results (and satisfaction!)

This is the first part of a two part article.

A Missionary Presence

Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA)

Sender - G Welles on behalf of Rev. Joseph E. Nicholson

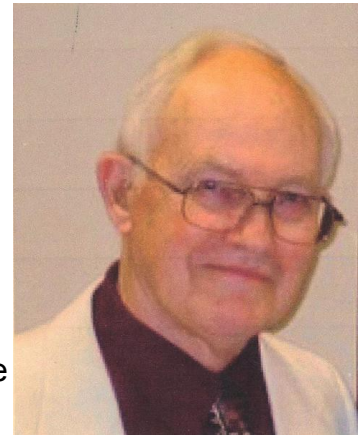
A three-lined black handstamp Rev. Joseph E. Nicholson // BOMA, CONGO BELGE // WEST AFRICA identifies the sender. The manuscript *G. Welles* was probably the person assigned to send missionary tracts to those on an address list. The wrapper was mailed to *Mrs. Dan Sherman, Avon Park, Florida, U.S.A.*



The wrapper is 145 x 252 mm, made using 0.07mm gauge horizontal kraft paper with a 20mm gum line seal. The postage paid was 40c, for which two 20c Mechelen definitives (COB 170) were used. These were cancelled by two Heim & Keach Type 7A BOMA postmarks dated 24 10 35. Why one should be 11.00 h and the other 14.00 h can only be

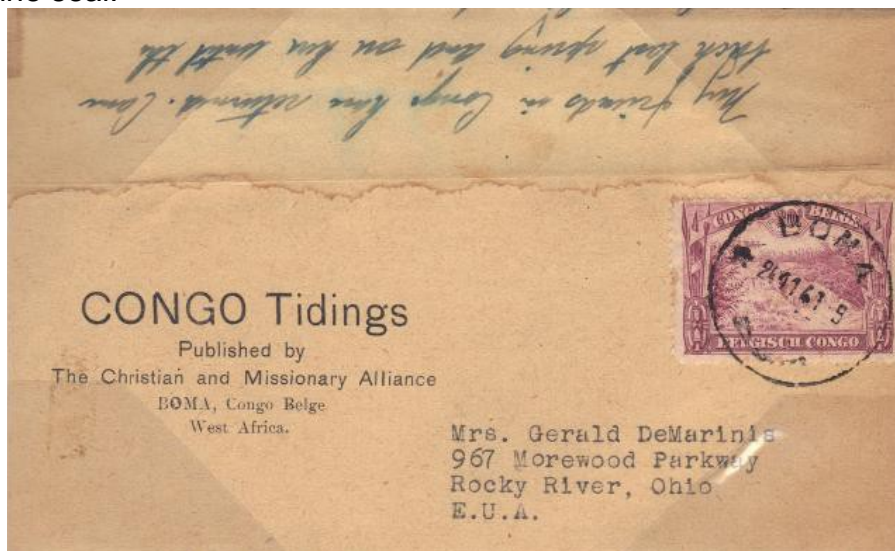
a matter of speculation. At this date the rate for printed matter to the USA was 50c per 50g increment. G Welles made a mistake by using the 40c rate that had been superceded by a higher rate on the 1st February 1934.

“Reverend Nicholson (19 May 1927-18 Feb. 2010) was born in the Belgian Congo to Rev. Joseph E. and Myrtle Nicholson, missionaries to the Belgium Congo. Surviving is his loving wife of over 60 years, Betty M. Nicholson. Reverend Nicholson and his wife served with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Zaire, Africa for over 20 years and he also pastored a Church in Valley Cottage, New York for ten years. Joe was gifted in writing and teaching God’s word. He also used his carpentry skills everywhere he went and many have benefited from his expertise. He was a humble, patient man, always appreciative and thankful. He genuinely loved people and always made time for everyone.” (*Obituary extract from a US newspaper*).

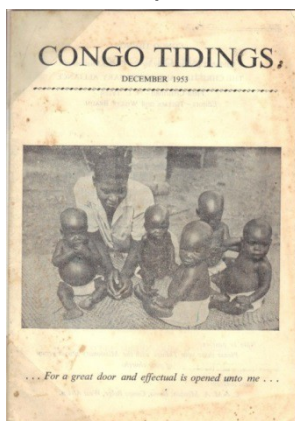


Sender - an unknown American

This wrapper is inscribed “CONGO Tidings // Published by // The Christian and Missionary Alliance // BOMA, Congo Belge // West Africa” and sent from Boma to Mrs. Gerald DeMarinis, 967 Morewood Parkway, Rocky River, Ohio, USA. It is 148 x 250 mm, buff in colour with a 12 mm gum line seal.



The postage paid was 20c, for which a 20c Mechelen definitive (COB 170) was used. This was cancelled by a (H&K) type 8A BOMA postmark dated 24 11 41 and timed at 5(:00). At this date the printed matter rate to the USA was 20c per 50 g. The franking is correct.



There is a handwritten message on the flap: “*My friends in Congo have returned. Came back last spring and are here until the sailing gets safer.*”

The CMA was founded in 1887 by the Rev. Albert Simpson (a Canadian Presbyterian minister) and created the Evangelical Missionary Alliance to undertake foreign missionary work. Its first mission station in the Belgian Congo was established in 1888.

Initially, it was closely associated with Pentecostalism and attracted many followers in the colony. By 1928 it was the largest and fastest growing Alliance church “overseas”. (The USA is the home of the movement.)

Congo Tidings was a magazine published semi-annually about its work at missionary stations in the Belgian Congo.

American Presbyterian Congo Mission (APCM)

The American Presbyterian Congo Mission has been a significant influence in Congo affairs. Its first mission was established at Luebo, Kasai in 1891 by the Revs. William Sheppard and Samuel Lapsley. Sheppard, an African American, had lobbied the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board to send him to Africa. The Board was reluctant to send African American missionaries alone and adopted the policy of sending equal numbers of white and black missionaries with same pastoral status. (At this date the southern states were racially segregated and this action was progressive, though it would raise eyebrows today.) Sheppard took an interest in ethnology and exploring as well as spreading the gospel, which earned him the epithet *Congo's African-American Livingstone*. His reports on the abuses committed by the State administration provided the crucial evidence for reformers which led to the creation of the Belgian Congo as a colony. Over time, the APCM became the largest Protestant denomination in the Congo. Hospitals, dispensaries and schools (elementary, normal, nursing and theological) were built. The Baluba-Lulua language was set in writing and a grammar compiled, which remains a classic today. After independence the APCM transformed itself into an indigenous church, the *Communaute Presbyterienne du Congo* but maintains a strong association with the southern Presbyterian Church in the USA.

Senders - Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Longenecker

Inscribed “Greetings from Congo sent by Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Longenecker // A.P.C.M., Luebo // Belgian Congo”.



The postage paid was 50c, for which three of the Mechelin definitives [a 10c (COB168), a 15c (COB169) and a 20c (COB170)] and a 5c National Parks (COB197) were used. These were cancelled by a (H&K) Type 8A LUEBO postmark which appears to be dated ??11 -9 and timed 11(:00), which is a puzzle. With very few exceptions (of which Luebo is not one) the arrangement of the digits is Dmyt. Where visible, this postmark suggests ymDt or yDmt! In the period in which this item could have been sent, the postal rate to the USA was 50c for printed matter classified as a greetings card in an open “envelope”.

The franking is correct.

Mr Longenecker failed to write an address sufficient for delivery.

Miss Carrie Lee Campbell, Monument Ave, Richmond VA was not enough and the US Post Office applied a purple handstamp "DEFFICIENCY IN ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY 7 (code number?) RICHMOND VA". Was "Ask 2204" applied at a dead letter office?

Sender -Miss V A Allen

The size of this wrapper is 120 x 200 mm and it is made with a 0.09 mm gauge paper. There is no gum line.

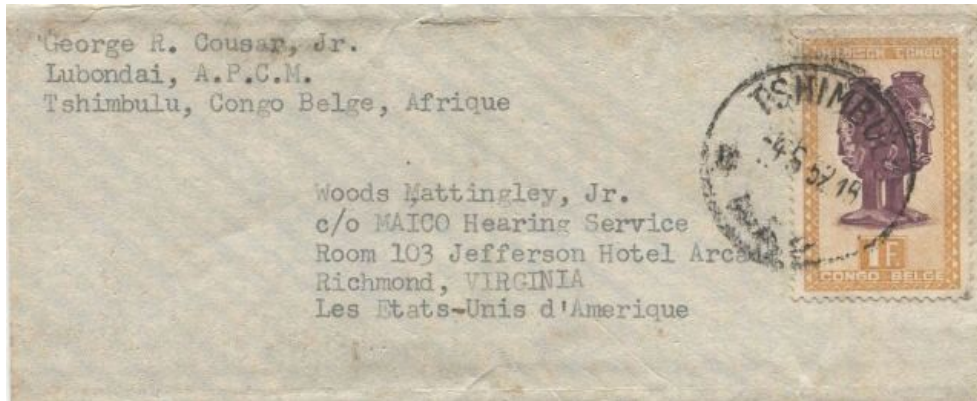


This missionary wrapper declared that it contained a "Souvenir calendar of the // American Presbyterian Congo Mission // sent (to you) with the compliments of //(Miss) V. A. Allen, A.P.C.M., Bibanga // Luluabourg, Sac Privé // Congo Belge" (Miss Virginia Allen was a long serving missionary with reference to her being at Luebo in 1927 and 1954.) On the lower left corner there is a statement: "IMPRIMÉS – Printed matter". The wrapper was mailed from Luluabourg to Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Hanks, Salem, Va, Les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, who may have helped to fund the mission. (Because Salem is one tenth the size of Richmond, a citizen would likely be known to the postal service and even an address less complete than on the previous wrapper did not lead to non-delivery!)

The postage paid was 70c, for which 3 stamps of the Palms issue were used - two 10c (COB 229) and one 50c (COB 234). These were cancelled by a (H&K) type 8A LULUABURG postmark dated ?? ?? 48. Because the wrapper contained a calendar, we can assume it was posted towards the end of 1948, at which time the postal rate to the USA for printed matter was 70c per 50g, which suggests the correct postage was applied by the sender.

Sender - George R. Cousar Jr.

Postage has been paid using a 1Fr Native Arts (COB 285) stamp which has been cancelled by a (H&K) Type 8A TSHIMBULU postmark dated -4.8.52 and timed at 18(:00). At this date the charge for printed matter to the USA was 80c for the first 50g with 40c for each additional 50g (or part thereof). Depending on the weight, either he over or under paid (by a little)!



So who was George R Cousar and what was his relationship with the American Presbyterian Congo Mission? Today we can answer such a question with the help of the internet. He was a missionary physician and surgeon in the Belgian Congo from 1927 until 1960 (when he was 69). In 1947 the International Leprosy Association listed him as a member at Lubondai, Belgian Congo. Lubondai is about 10km from Tshimbulu which is the site of the mission and hospital, "l'Hôpital Saint François de Tshimbulu", shown here. Was the Lubondai outpost a leper colony? It is tempting to believe this. The proposed identity of the recipient, Woods Mattingley is a little tenuous. George Cousar's home town was Richmond where a Bernard Woods Mattingley was the city water treatment chemist. Of significance, he was very active in the church and was the superintendent of the Sunday school and chairman of the evangelistic committee.



Was he a fund raiser for Cousar's work? We can discount the possibility that the correspondence was about a hearing aid by the nature of the mailing – a wrapper. Wrappers are used to send printed matter; in this case possibly pamphlets to help fund raising. The address MAICO Hearing Service, Virginia, USA, is prefaced "c/o" which suggests another individual on the evangelistic committee was the secretary and his was the contact address.

The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS)

This brown vertical weave wrapper is inscribed on three lines with CONGO NEWS LETTER // A.B.F.M.S. LEOPOLDVILLE-OUEST // CONGO BELGE and PERIODIQUE. The postage paid was 80c, for which a 30c Palms stamp (COB 253) and a 50c Native Art stamp (COB 282) were used. These were cancelled by a (H&K) Type 8A LEOPOLDVILLE postmark. The date and time cannot be read and the strike is double. A white address label reads "Mrs. Alton Miller, Babson Park, Mass. EUA".



In the absence of a date on the postmark we can arrive at a window for postage from the stamps that were used. Assuming the franking (80c) is correct, this rate applied to printed matter sent to the USA from the 1st July 1949 until the Palms issue was withdrawn on 1st January 1953. The content was less than 50g.



The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) together with the American Baptist Missionary Union (ABMU) formed the American Baptist International Ministries, a Protestant Christian missionary society founded in 1814 in the USA. A presence was established in the Congo in 1878. It engaged in medical and educational work as well as winning converts. As with other missionary societies, at times it was in conflict with the colonial administration who suspected that some of its activities might undermine civil authority. Also, there was an element of "turf war" with the Catholic Church over winning conversions. The title of their periodical "Congo News Letter" can be confused with that of the Congo Reform Association, "The Congo News Letter". The latter was a secular campaigning paper that ceased publication when its objective had been achieved with the creation of a colony under the rule of the Belgian government and not the king.

To be continued

Victorien Liégeois Hero ? Forgotten ?

Charles Hénuzet (first published in Les Cahiers du Congo)

Sometimes an amazing document emerges when a postal item, found incidentally and with quite an insignificant appearance, is examined closely. I will relate the story of an ordinary man who worked briefly with others in the Congo and died without demanding anything of anyone, and who was of the type who served without questioning the purpose.

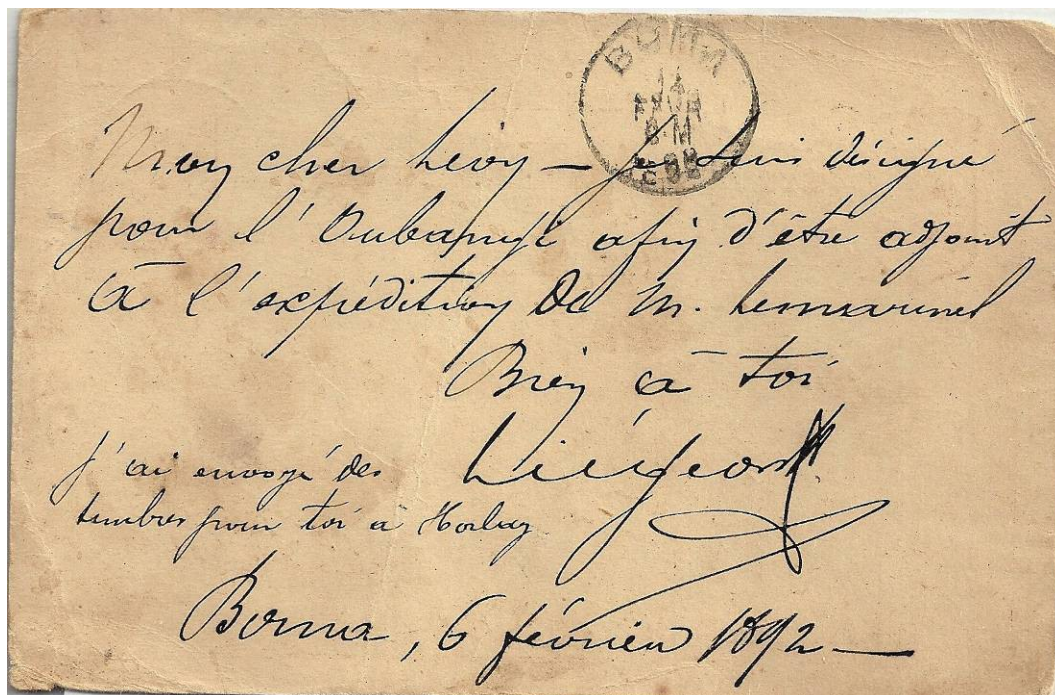
Figure 1 Postal stationary N° 5 cancelled at BOMA 9th February 1892 8 - S (Type 1.2 DMTY) with a hexagonal postmark within which is the number 43; this hand stamp (43) belonged to the postman who delivered mail on the walk (route) that included this address.



The front of the postcard gives us a little information, but what of the reverse ?

Figure 2

The reverse



It was written on the 6th February 1892, and bears the postmark of BOMA, 12th February 1892 8-M (Type 1.2 DMTY). This postmark informs us that this item of mail was loaded onto a boat at Boma on that day. On this date, one of two Portuguese vessels (the CAZENGO or the ANGOLA) is likely to have carried mail bound for Europe. At this time, there was not yet any well-established maritime company and mail could go either on board a passenger boat or a vessel that combined the carriage of passengers and goods. [The Compagnie Maritime Belge (CMB) inaugural voyage by the SS Léopoldville 1 departed Antwerp on the 2nd February 1895 (*Stockmans and R. Gallant, Delbeke*).] In 1892, it was the convention to use existing maritime companies flagged by several nations. Then and until much later into 20th century, the outward voyage from Antwerp to the Congo took more or less 25 days and the homeward voyage about 30.

Figure 3 *Lt. Victorien Liégeois*

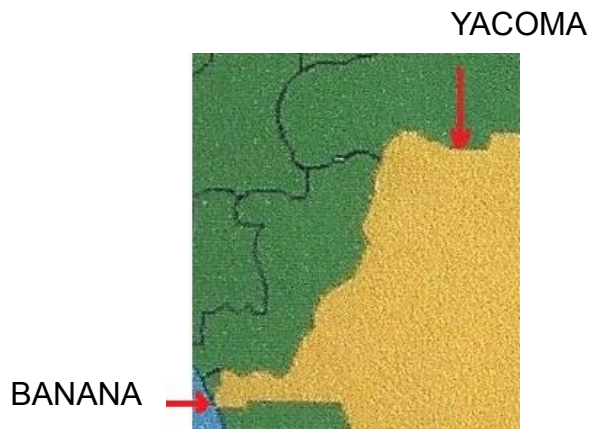


LIÉGEOIS, V.
Signeux (Breid), 1867; Cettema, 1892.

The card is signed «Liégeois» who writes to his friend «Léon» GHEUR at that time a Second Lieutenant in the 11th Regiment of the Line. In the first decade of the 20th century GHEUR would also go to the Congo and serve with distinction in Katanga. (*Walraet M, Inst. Roy. Colon. Belge, Bibliographie Coloniale Belge T IV (1955) col. 334-5*)

The biography Victorien Liégeois records his arrival in the Congo on the 6th February 1892, his death at Dungu on the 15th August 1892 and his burial at Cettema, the first name of Yakoma village. (*Coosemans M, Inst. Roy. Colon. Belge, Bibliographie Coloniale Belge T I (1948) col. 601-2*)

Where is this story ?



To fully understand correspondence and records of the time, it should be noted that some place names are not written always in the same way. Here are a few examples: Mokoangay will become Kwango; Bangassou will become Bangasso; Dongo is also spelled Dungu (and lies near Yakoma – Ubangi) and Ubangi is also spelled Ubangui.

Now, one can read on the card:

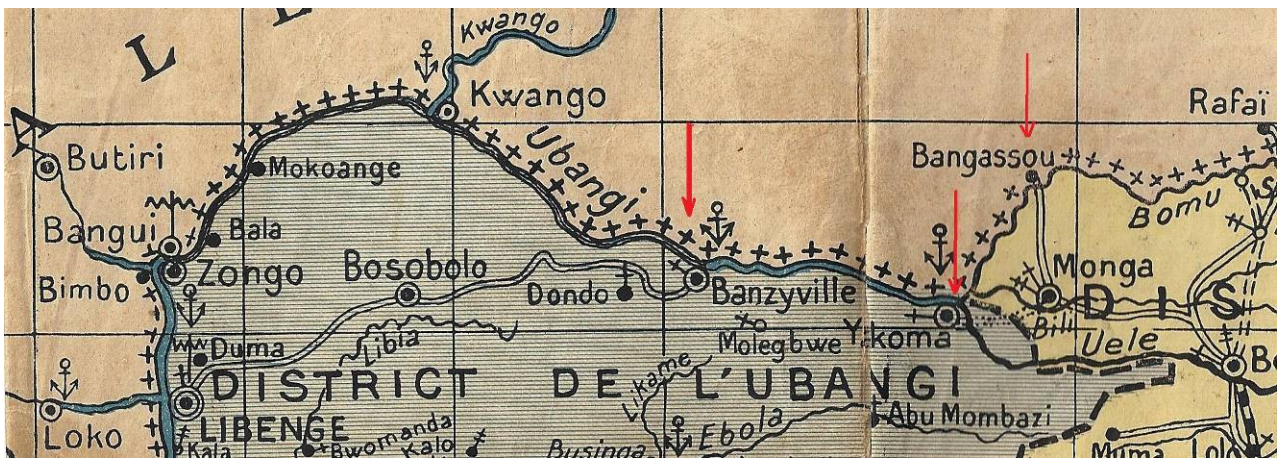
“To Ubangi to be the deputy in the expedition of M. Le Marinel”. Paul Le Marinel led an expedition to explore the north bank of the Ubangi in April 1891 and was at Bangasso in March 1892. (*Lado: Postal History of the Enclave, P. Maselis, V. Schouberechts, L. Tavano*) It was here where Liégeois intended to join him.

Very soon, on order of King Léopold II, numerous expeditions would be mounted with defined objectives, among which they were :

- 1 ° To precisely mark the borders with the neighbouring colonies of other powers.
- 2 ° To advance to LADO and find a faster route to return to Belgium from the north-east of the Congo along the course of the Nile, i.e. to navigate the Nile to reach the Mediterranean.
- 3 ° To find a way towards Lake Albert.

As seen on the map, the Ubangi River is formed by the confluence of the Mbomou (Bomu) and Uele Rivers at YAKOMO, and is a tributary of the Congo River. The Ubangi River marks the border between the Congo and the Central African Republic (a former French colony) for over 500 km. The distance between Banzyville and Yakoma is about 140 km.

Figure 4 The location of the destination of Liégeois and the sites of his ambush and burial



Commander Hennebert has narrated the short career and the sad fate of the sender of this post card:

Liégeois (Victorien) Second lieutenant (Bleid, Province of Luxembourg 21st March 1867 - Dungu 15th August 1892) Son of Pierre Liégeois and Marie-Catherine Mathieu.

Enlisted as a soldier in the 5th Regiment of the Line, he was promoted to the rank of Warrant NCO on the 9th June 1887 and then transferred to the 11th Regiment of the Line. He was promoted once again and commissioned as a second lieutenant on the 25th June 1891.

Shortly after that, he entered the service of the E.I.C. and departed from Antwerp for the Congo on the 6th January 1892. Upon arrival in Africa, he was posted to the Ubangi-Uele and reached Banzyville at the beginning of August. From here it was a four day trip in a pirogue upstream to Yakoma. He was accompanied on this stage of his journey by two soldiers and a dozen paddlers. The destination on the third day (the 15th August) was the Gîte d'étape at Dungo, where a soldier of the Yakoma station was mounting guard. Just before nightfall, as the pirogue approached a small promontory on the left bank close to Dungo, some tribesmen launched a hail of spears at the pirogue. Both escorting soldiers fired at their attackers. The sound of their shooting was heard by Sergeant Delava who was nearby on his way from Yakoma with thirty soldiers to take command at Mokoanay. The sudden arrival of this contingent put the attackers to flight. Delava found Liégeois lying in his pirogue with three spears in the chest and a fourth in his thigh. His servant had been hit in the head and had died instantly. One of the soldiers had suffered a spear wound in the foot. The paddlers, some of whom had been wounded also, had fled but returned after they had seen Delava and his men. Liégeois was carried, still conscious but

in excruciating pain, to the Gîte d'étape and treated with dedication by Delava. He lingered for two hours, surrounded by his grieving comrades, before succumbing from his wounds.

Delava returned to Yakoma with Liégeois. On the 17th August Liégeois was buried in the presence of Commander Hennebert, the entire Yakoma garrison and the native employees of the E.I.C. After this, Hennebert began his investigation to apprehend the culprits. Chief Bo of the local tribe protested the innocence of his people, blaming natives from the French post at Timasa. Such was the ferment that the Commander called upon reinforcements from Banzyville. They arrived soon, under the orders of Lieutenant Théodore Masui. The evidence pointed to Chief Bo who was taken to Yakoma. At first he denied any involvement but after some time admitted his guilt and was sentenced to death. (*Hennebert G., Death of Liégeois. Bull. Assoc. Vet Pass. May 1932, Masui T., Of Antwerp to Banzyville. Chron. Inst. Uélé. Inst. royal colon. belge 1946 p. 317*).

From the Editor

As the consequence of illness, there has been a delay in completing the listings for Auction 2015-3.

Everyone involved in this work gives his apologies. We do not want to further delay the delivery of Bulletin 170 and for this reason we are sending it as an e-mail attachment to all members who have e-mail addresses.



Those who subscribe for a paper copy will have this delivered, together with the auction as soon as we have the latter prepared. It is expensive to have two separate mailings. Of course, members with e-mail subscriptions will be sent the auction then.

POSTAL AUCTION SALE 2015-2

REALISED PRICES

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	23,25	35	16,00	69	0,00
2	20,25	36	11,25	70	0,00
3	12,00	37	10,00	71	0,00
4	22,00	38	1,00	72	46,00
5	32,00	39	21,25	73	0,00
6	27,00	40	82,00	74	19,25
7	12,25	41	1,00	75	0,00
8	3,00	42	5,00	76	24,00
9	8,25	43	5,00	77	8,25
10	51,00	44	0,00	78	102,00
11	41,00	45	0,00	79	0,00
12	12,25	46	0,00	80	0,00
13	30,00	47	0,00	81	38,00
14	0,00	48	0,00	82	5,25
15	20,25	49	0,00	83	41,00
16	0,00	50	0,00	84	38,00
17	5,00	51	0,00	85	14,00
18	0,00	52	9,00	86	22,00
19	0,00	53	5,25	87	38,00
20	5,00	54	3,00	88	12,00
21	8,00	55	1,00	89	20,00
22	1,55	56	2,55	90	0,00
23	1,30	57	7,00	91	0,00
24	4,00	58	20,00	92	2,55
25	3,50	59	5,25	93	2,05
26	5,75	60	0,00	94	3,75
27	2,05	61	8,75	95	3,75
28	10,00	62	10,00	96	4,00
29	2,05	63	0,00	97	4,50
30	4,05	64	3,05	98	4,00
31	4,05	65	3,05	99	5,75
32	9,25	66	0,00	100	13,25
33	20,00	67	0,00	101	18,25
34	10,25	68	3,50	102	10,25

INFORMATION : Scans of the lots will be made available on the BCSC website.

Bids to be received not later than **MARCH 1th, 2016**

to Th. Frennet, rue la Rue 17 – B 1420 BRAINE – L'ALLEUD Belgium/Europe

or by E-mail at « hydro-services@skynet.be »

ALL PRICES in EUROS

B.C.S.C. - AUCTION 2015-3

Number	Date	Description	#COB	Minimum Bid
Mols stamps - Plate reconstructions and full sheets				
1	1894	1894 issue, 5c blue, full reconstruction of plate I1 + A1, 50 stamps (29 LH/OG and 21 used)	14	120
2	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, typo overprint, full reconstruction of plate I + A2 and A3, 50 stamps (19 LH/OG, 31 used).ex-Keach	42	40
3	1909	1909 issue, 3, 50 vermillion, typo overprint, nearly full reconstruction of plate I1 + A1, 47 stamps, 5 LH, 42 used), including tax and telegraphic cancellations	47	140
4	1909	1909 issue, 1F carmine, typo overprint, full reconstruction of plate I2 + A2, 50 stamps, 8 LH, 42 used), including tax and telegraphic cancellations	46	60
5	1909	1909 issue, 50c olive, typo overprint, full reconstruction of plate I2 + A2, 50 stamps, 8 LH, 42 used), including tax. Ex-Keach	45	18
6	1894	1894 issue, 10 F green perf 12, partial reconstruction of plate I2 + A1, 32 stamps (1 LH and 31 used). Ex-Keach. High value. Some tax and telegraphic cancellations.	29a	230
7	1894	1894 issue, 5 F carmine, full reconstruction of plate I1 + A1, 50 stamps (6 LH, 44 used). Ex-Keach. High value.	28	240
8	1894	1894 issue, 50c olive, full reconstruction of plate I1/2 + A2, 50 stamps (5 LH, 45 used). Ex-Keach.	25	20
9	1894	1894 issue, 25c blue, full reconstruction of plate I2 + A2, 50 stamps (14 LH, 36 used). Ex-Keach.	22	20
10	1894	1894 issue, 10c brown red, full reconstruction of plate I1 + A1/2, 50 stamps (30 LH, 20 used). Ex-Keach. High value.	17	125
11	1894	1894 issue, 5c green, full reconstruction of two plates I1 + B1 and I2 + B2, 100 stamps (47 LH, 53 used). Ex-Keach.	16 + 16a	20
12	1909	1909 issue, 5c green, typo overprint, nearly full reconstruction of plate I2 + B2, 49 stamps (45 LH, 4 used, #33 is missing), including tax. Ex-Keach	40	45
13	1909	1909 issue, 25c blue, typo overprint, nearly full reconstruction of plate I2 + A2 and full reconstruction of plate I3 + A2, 96 stamps (26 LH, 70 used), including tax. Ex-Keach	43 + 43a	40
14	1909	Unilingual issue, full reconstruction of all 4 sheets of the set. 200 stamps (94 LH, 106 used). Ex-Keach	50/53	180
15	1909	1909 issue, 5F carmine, typo overprint, nearly full reconstruction of plate I1 + A1, 46 stamps (7 LH, 39 used), some T2 overprints. High value. Ex-Keach	48	200
16	1894	1894 issue, 5c green, two half-sheets = full plate I1 + B1, 50 stamps (40 UM, 10 LH)	16	25
17	1910	1910 issue, 10c carmine, full sheet UM, plate combination III2 + A7, perf 15	55	7
18	1910	1910 issue, 5c green, full sheet UM, plate combination IV + D2	54	7
19	1909	Unilingual issue, 10 c carmine, two half-sheets = plate II+ A5 reconstructed, 50 stamps (48 UM, 2LH). Some tiny rust spots.	51	18
20	1909	1909 issue, 5c green, typo overprint, full sheet combination I2 + B2, some tears	40	100
21	1915	1915 issue, 40c carmine brown, two full sheets of 50, plate combinations II + A2 and II + A3, 100 stamps (94 UM, 6LH)	68	180
22	1894	1894 issue, 10c carmine, full sheet, plate combination I2 + A4, 50 stamps (40 UM, 10 LH), some oxidation on a few stamps but beautiful sheet	19	38
23	1909	1909 issue local overprint L5, 10 c carmine, block of 20 stamps, plate combination I2 + A4, 20 stamps (15UM, 5 LH)	31L	34
24	1909	1909 issue local overprint L1, 10 c carmine, block of 26 stamps, sheet corner, plate combination I2 + A4, 26 stamps (21 UM, 5 LH)	31L	40

		Mols Stamps		
25	1923	registered cover with 1915 issue 1F olive elephant , from Bukama 29/03/1923 to Fiume	70	40
26	1909	1909 issue, 1F carmine, typo overprint, perf 15, position 30, LH	46a	7
27	1909	1909 issue, 1F carmine, typo overprint, perf 16, position 3, LH	46b	8,50
28	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 c carmine, I4-A5, typo overprint, vertical pair pos 30-35, used, cancellation Matadi 18 juin 1909	41 PT	35
29	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 c carmine, I4-A5, typo overprint, pos 25, used, a few short perfs	41PT	10
30	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 25c blue, I3-A2, typo overprint, pos 5, no gum	43PT	16
31	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 25c blue, I3-A2, typo overprint, pos 17, used, one short perf	43PT	10
32	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 1 F carmine, I2-A2, typo overprint, pos 10, used	46PT	12
33	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 1 F carmine, I2-A2, typo overprint, pos 47, used, telegraphic cancellation	46PT	12
34	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 1 F carmine, I2-A2, typo overprint, pos 42, used	46PT	12
35	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 3,50 F vermillion, I2-A2, typo overprint, pos 22, used	47PT	18
36	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 3,50 F vermillion, I2-A2, typo overprint, pos 48, used, PWETO cancellation	47PT	19
37	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 10, used	48PT	19
38	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 26, used	48PT	19
39	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 30, used, Matadi cancellation, one short perf	48PT	17
40	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 35, used	48PT	19
41	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 45, used	48PT	19
42	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 5 F red, I1-A2, typo overprint, pos 46, used, Elisabethville cancellation	48PT	20
43	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos 2, used, Matadi telegraphic cancellation, one short perf	49PT	12
44	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos3, used, Matadi cancellation	49PT	13
45	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos 9, used, Matadi telegraphic cancellation	49PT	13
46	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos 14, used, Boma cancellation	49PT	13
47	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos 22, used, Matadi (uncomplete) cancellation	49PT	13
48	1909	1909 Princes Issue, 10 F green, I2-A1, typo overprint, pos 50, used, Boma telegraphic cancellation	49PT	13
49	1909	1909 Issue, 50c olive, I2-A2, Brussels hand overprint B5, pos 24, perf 14, LH	35B	11
50	1909	1909 Issue, 1F carmine, I2-A2, Brussels hand overprint B1, pos 13, LH	36B	35

Congo Free State first issues				
51	1886	1886 issue, 25c blue, position 34, well-centered, LH	3	12
52	1886	1886 issue, 25c blue, well-centered, LH	3	12
53	1886	1886 issue, 25c blue, well-centered, used, Banana	3	9
54	1886	1886 issue, 25c blue, position 12, used	3	8
55	1887	1887 issue, 50c red-brown, LH (nearly UM)	9	25
56	1887	1887 issue, 50c red-brown, used	9	7
57	1894	1894 issue, 10 F green, Boma cancellation, variety "eau blanche" (white water)	62	7,50
Belgian Congo issues				
58	1921	1921 issue, full set, LH/UM, very good condition	85/94	8
59	1910	1910 issue, 5 F carmine, beautiful Matadi cancellation	62	7,50
60	1935	1935 issue + 1936 issue Belgian Dynasty, full sets, superb condition, UM	185/91 + 192/3	30
61	1938	1938 issue, full set UM, superb	203/8	20
62	1939	1939 issue, full set, UM, superb	209/13	25
63	1941	1941 issue, full set, UM, superb	214/24	22
64	1921	Airmail 1921 issue, 50c + 1F + 2F in blocks of four, 5 F green, all with sheet margin and marginal inscriptions	PA1/4	10
Ruanda-Urundi issues				
65	1918	1918 Red Cross issue, full set UM/LH, superb	36/44	30
66	1941	1941 issue (surcharges), full set, UM, superb	114/7	25
67	1941	1941 issue (surcharges), full set, UM, superb	118/20	1,75
68	1941	1941 issue 10 c gray, overprint Ruanda-Urundi, UM, superb	121	7,50
69	1941	1941 (february), 1,75 F orange, overprint Ruanda-Urundi, perforated and imperforated, UM, superb	122 + ND	9,50
Congo Free State Mols issue				
70	1894	10F green, used stamps (7), good condition, plate combination I1 +A1, positions 7-12-16-17-39-44-49	29	30
71	1894	10F green, good condition, pen cancellation, pos 24	29	8
72	1894	10F green, good condition, pen cancellation, pos 33	29	8
73	1894	5c green, # 16a (with small circle under 5), UM, sheet margin, I2 + B2, pos 21	16a	4
74	1894	5c green, # 16a (with small circle under 5), UM, sheet margin, I2 + B2, pos 16	16a	4
75	1894	10c red-brown, 4 used stamps, combination I1 +A2, positions 13, 15, 20, 45	17	15
76	1894	3,50 F vermillion, used, beautiful cancellation Leopoldville, position 40	27	30
77	1894	5 F carmine, used, position 4	28	9,50
78	1894	10 F green, position 40, used	29	9,50
79	1909	1909 issue 1 F carmine, typo overprint, position 25, LH, perf 16 . superb	46b	9
80	1909	1909 issue 5c green, typo overprint, combination I2 + B2, position 17, UM. superb	40	8

All officers of BCSC, we say you a good year, a great health and lots of good finds



