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**BULLETIN 182**

**JUNE 2019**

**Bulletin Editor**

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**The Study Circle website**  
**[www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be](http://www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be)**

## Report of the AGM of the Belgian Congo Study Circle held at Brussels on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

### Opening of the Meeting

The President, Thierry Frennet, called the AGM to order at 10:00 and welcomed us. A minute's silence was observed for the late Tony Belfield (UK), Michel Eraux (Belgium) and Jean Herreweghe (France). After this, Thierry reminded members that the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Study Circle will occur in 2021 and that we should commemorate this achievement. He proposed holding an exposition over two or three days, probably in May, with the 2021 AGM being held during the event. He had explored possible venues and found the historic town of Namur most welcoming. It has all the facilities we require and its museum staff are keen to help and mount displays of material related to the Belgian colony. This proposal met with enthusiastic support and Thierry was encouraged to pursue and develop his proposal.



*Back row: Bart Willekens, Filip Van de Hagen, Yves Winand, Dominique Bilmans, Udo Elste, Gudrun Öhrneman, Walter Deijnckens, Bruce Lockhart, Michel Hopperets, Dr. Marc Oblin, Jean-pierre Flamand*

*Front row: Charles Hénuzet, Ludo Achten, Rolf Öhrneman, Thierry Frennet, Charles LLoyd, Laurent Bierny, Rudi Louis*

### Adoption of the Agenda:

The agenda was adopted, as circulated. The General Secretary had not been notified of any matter to add under *Any Other Business*.

### Minutes of the AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018:

These were accepted as a correct and complete record of the meeting.

### Matters arising from the minutes:

None.

## Officers Reports:

### General Secretary

On behalf of the membership, the General Secretary thanked all officers and officials who have devoted much time and worked so diligently over the past year.

Current membership stands at 110, residing in 14 countries. Our global distribution is maintained. As in previous years, three countries dominate membership - Belgium, 52%; UK, 17%; & USA, 12%. Our membership has fallen, by just 4 (3.5%) this year. Regrettably, three of these losses were members who had passed away - Tony Belfield FRPS, Michel Eraux and Jean Herreweghe. While we have been sorry to say goodbye to some other members, we are pleased to welcome our new members. The Secretary suggested that if any member has a friend who collects Belgian Congo or is looking to change to a fascinating field, he should encourage him (or her) to join the BCSC.

May 2018 saw the European Data Protection Regulations (EDPR) come into force. We hold member's details securely and use these for legitimate Study Circle business only, such as circulating the bulletin.

The BCSC was created by a small group of enthusiasts in London in February 1951 and, in the Secretary's opinion, it remains as healthy as it has been in any of the 68 years' of its existence.

### Report of the General Treasurer

Changes made in 2019 (1. Payment of subscriptions and for auction purchases into our Belgian held accounts. 2. Sending of reminders) have been a success.

A summary of our financial position was presented, reporting on funds we held in UK and Belgian accounts at the end of this accounting year (28 February 2019) Those held at the end of the previous accounting year (28 February 2018) were presented for information. Our financial position is sound.

Held in	At 28/02/18	At 28/02/19	Change
<b>Belgian based accounts (BNP Paribas Fortis and PayPal Accounts)</b>	€8 252.63	<b>€10 665.27</b>	€2 414.64
<b>UK based account (International Account at the TSB)</b>	€1 336.56	<b>€1 453.10</b>	€ 116.54
<b>Overall position (at the end of the financial year)</b>	€9 589.19	<b>€12 118.37</b>	€2 529.18

### *Subscription / Dues rates for 2020*

Subscription / dues rates for 2020 will remain unchanged with the exception of a minor adjustment to the US dues for members receiving the bulletin by e-mail.

Currency exchange rates fluctuate and we should consider our charges periodically so that no matter where a member lives, he / she pays roughly the same. Of course, there must be a differential for the delivery of paper copies by post.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Subscription / Dues</b>	
Belgium	€18 (postal)	(€18 for the Bulletin by e-mail only)
Other European countries	€24 (---  ---)	(€18 -----  -----)
UK	£20 (---  ---)	(£15 -----  -----)
USA	\$29 (---  ---)	(\$20 -----  -----)
Rest of the World	€30 (---  ---)	(€18 -----  -----)

The proposal for the rates for 2020 was agreed unanimously by members present.

### **Report of the Auctions Sales Officer**

Marc reported that there had been 4 auctions in 2018, with a total of 405 lots offered by 7 sellers and bid for by about 20-25 buyers (in each auction). 163 of these lots (40.2 %) were sold. The total amount for sales was €3 208.36 (including buyer's premium and postal charges). Submission of higher priced items is welcome. There is no evidence that they sell less well. Some unsold lots are offered in following auctions and often they sell quite well at the second attempt. Marc advised potential bidders not hesitate from bidding at the reserve price (even if a higher bid is not contemplated) because sometimes a lot will sell at the reserve price, resulting in a bargain.

### **Report of the Bulletin Editor**

Four bulletins with a total of 116 pages had been published since Charles presented his previous report at the last AGM. There had been an auction accompanying each of these. He thanked all contributors. He reminded members that he depends upon them submitting suitable material to achieve the target of a quarterly publication, each with an adequate number of pages. During a discussion on possible developments, themed editions were suggested. These would be bulletins dedicated to one particular issue or topic: for example, the flowers issue of 1952. A group of members would collaborate to produce a number of articles on different aspects of an issue. Together, they should produce 25+ pages. Themed issues of the bulletin would be occasional with "normal" copies continuing. This was a welcome proposal. It is envisaged that, it would be up to a member to propose the subject, gather contributors and together the group would create the series of articles for the editor.

### **Report of the Secretary of the Expertisation Committee**

91 certificates were issued this year, of which 15 were free (being member's entitlements). While income is not of primary importance, this year expertisation created a net income of €184.14. Blank certificates in booklets (of 25) are bought periodically by the BCSC from a secure printer. Our stock is running low and we will restock this year with a number sufficient to last several years

Members are entitled to 2 free expertisations per year. The prices for additional expertisations have been increased by 1 euro per item. The following apply from now

	€	£	\$
<b>Single Stamp</b>	4.00	3.50	4.50
<b>Block of 4</b>	5.00	4.50	6.00
<b>Postal Stationery</b>	7.00	6.00	8.00
<b>Cover</b>	7.00	6.00	8.00

Prices are set in our default currency, the €, and converted into Sterling £ or into US \$ for those paying in our other two currencies. (NB values are rounded – please use values in the table.) In time, if exchange rates change significantly these prices will be reconsidered. The concession, “A reduction of 20% on the total fees (except postage) will be given for 10 or more certificates per sending” has ended. Payment for postage (at a specified level of coverage) remains the responsibility of the member. All payments are to be made to our Paribas or PayPal accounts in Belgium.

## Report of the Webmaster

The website has been maintained with no major changes made this year. Four auctions were hosted with good participation. Here are some statics from January 1 to December 31 2018

<b>Location</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Visits</b>
Europe (44 countries)	14,892	U S A	6,323
Belgium	3,242	Ukraine	3,161
Netherlands	2,429	France	1,799
United Kingdom	1,713	China	1,265
Sweden	593	Russia	503
Africa		South America	206
(S. Africa 77, Congo 15)	288		
India	144	Australia	112

There are lots of hits from Ukraine and still no members! 2429 hits from Netherlands and only two members there.

### **Time spent on site:**

1-60 secs (92.67%), 1-10 mins (5.36%), 10-30 mins (1.77%), 30+ mins (0.20%)

## Officers for 2019-20

The General Secretary had not received any nominations for other members to become new officers. All sitting officers are qualified to continue in office. No officer has indicated that he wishes to stand down. The AGM approved reappointing all officers. They are:

President	<i>Thierry Frennet</i>
General Secretary	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Regional Sec. – Belgium	<i>Patrick Maselis</i>
General Treasurer	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Financial Officer	<i>Ludo Achten</i>
Regional Treasurer – World except UK	<i>Ludo Achten</i>

Regional Treasurer – UK  
 Bulletin Editor  
 Bulletin distribution – Belgium  
 Bulletin distribution – USA  
 Bulletin distribution – UK and R of W  
 Web Master  
 Auctioneer  
 Auction Secretary  
 Auction Secretary  
 Auction Finance Officer

*Charles Lloyd*  
*Charles Henuzet*  
*Patrick Maselis*  
*Ken Goss*  
*Charles Lloyd*  
*Bruce Lockhart*  
*Thierry Frennet*  
*Marc Oblin,*  
*Charles Stockmans*  
*Ludo Achten*

Membership of the Expertisation Committee is a matter for the Secretary / Chairman of that committee, and not the AGM. Its present membership was reported as a matter of record.

**Expertisation Committee:**

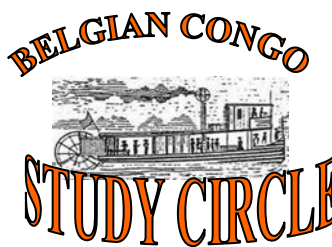
- Secretary / Chairman
- Members
  
- Consultants

*Charles Henuzet*  
*Thierry Frennet,*  
*Marc Oblin,*  
*Filip Van der Haegen*  
*Marc Frevelhausen*  
*Michel Hopperets,*  
*Jean Pierre Flamand,*  
*Luc Van der Marcken*

**Conferment of Honorary Membership**



**Charles Stockmans**



In recognition of his many years as a member of the Belgian Congo Study Circle (during which time he has given distinguished service in its management), and in appreciation of his contributions to expanding knowledge of the philately of the Belgian Congo, The Belgian Congo Study Circle confers upon

**Charles Stockmans**

Honorary Membership of the Study Circle. This proposal was accepted unanimously by members attending the AGM, held in Brussels on the 23 March 2019

Thierry Frennet  
 President

Charles Lloyd  
 General Secretary



The Belgian Congo Study Circle confers Honorary Membership upon members who have contributed significantly to the success of the Study Circle over many years, whether by increasing our knowledge of the philately of the Belgian Congo (and its successor territories), or by a better understanding of the postal service, or by taking on the responsibility of management over a long time. In recent years we have honored Hal Hoyte, Léo Tavano and David Schaubroeck. This year Charles Stockmans was proposed for Honorary Membership.

The following short oration was delivered

“Charles collects and studies a diverse range of Belgian Congo material. He has been a member of the BCSC for more than 25 years and for many of those years has worked with several auctioneers on our postal auctions.

Charles has been on the editorial board of *Cahiers du Congo*. His contributions to the study of Belgian Congo philately and postal history are significant. He has published two major reference books, “*Arretes et Ordonnances Concernant les Tarifs Postaux au Congo et au Ruanda-Urundi*” and “*Service des Postes du Congo Belge et du Ruanda-Urundi: Rapports Annuels 1908-1958*”, both of which were co-authored with the late Roger Gallant. However, most of us will know of his work through his website <http://www.congoposte.be/> which has a wealth of information and which he updates constantly. You will find some of his original research on his website.

It is fitting that we recognize this today by conferring Honorary Membership upon Charles Stockmans. The Committee asks this AGM to confirm its proposal.”

This proposal met with the unanimous support of the meeting. Unfortunately, Charles could not be present, the consequence of an accident. The President will present him with his certificate (above right).

### **Proposed date of the next AGM (2020)**

Provisionally, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **Closure of the business part of the AGM**

There being no AOB, the business part of the AGM closed at 10:57



*Members at the AGM (under subdued light for projection of reports and presentations). Gudrun & Rolf Öhrneman (above right) travelled by train from Stockholm to Brussels to attend the AGM. Rolf has been a BCSC member for 33 years.*



*Our collectors continued to discuss philately at the evening dinner as they enjoyed a refreshing drink.*



The day ended with a good dinner in the pleasant atmosphere of the Grand Place of Brussels at the restaurant “Brasserie du Cygne”. We were joined by a number of wives and several children. It had been a most enjoyable meeting and reunion.

## Membership News

### New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following recently joined members and trust they will enjoy and benefit from their association with us.

**USA**                      TRAVIS SEARLS                      10184 Nottingham Avenue  
Parker  
CO 80134

Currently, Travis specialises in Liberia and is a member of the Liberian Philatelic Society, of which he is also Secretary / Treasurer and the Editor / Publisher of the LPS Journal. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society.

**BELGIUM**                      WAËL CHAHIM                      Rue de Mazy 37  
Gembloux 5030

Waël was born in Guadeloupe and from childhood has collected stamps of the island and of France. He has lived in Belgium for the past 15 years and is interested in the Belgian colonial experience in Africa which is seen through the philately of the colony. Waël collects both Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi from the first issues through to independence and also, the independent state of Congo until its name was changed to Zaire. (MNH and miniature sheets)

### Honour

We congratulate Gerald Marriner FRPSL on being awarded the Association of British Philatelic Societies Congress Medal for 2019. It was presented to Gerald at the ASPS Congress which was held this year as part of STOCKHOLMIA 2019. This recognises his considerable contribution over many years to the ASPS, and notably as the Chairman of the ASPS Congress Committee since 2008.

## Presentations by members at the 2019 AGM

### Pensions Stamps of the Worker's Pension Fund of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi

#### Laurent Bierny

Under colonial law the employed white population was classified as salaried while the indigenous population was classified as workers. The latter were considered to be domestic workers if they worked exclusively for the needs of the household or in the personal service of the employer. Pension stamps were a means of recording

pension contributions made by domestic workers. These stamps were 24x27 mm in size, bisected horizontally with a perforation to provide two distinct parts: one half for sticking on the worker's pension card, the other half for the employer's payment card. Both parts have the same design – the Belgian coat of arms and the value. They are Cinderella stamps listed in the Barefoot catalogue. Laurent displayed different denominations for several variations in this basic design and provided evidence for the numbers printed and their use. These stamps were in use right up to independence.

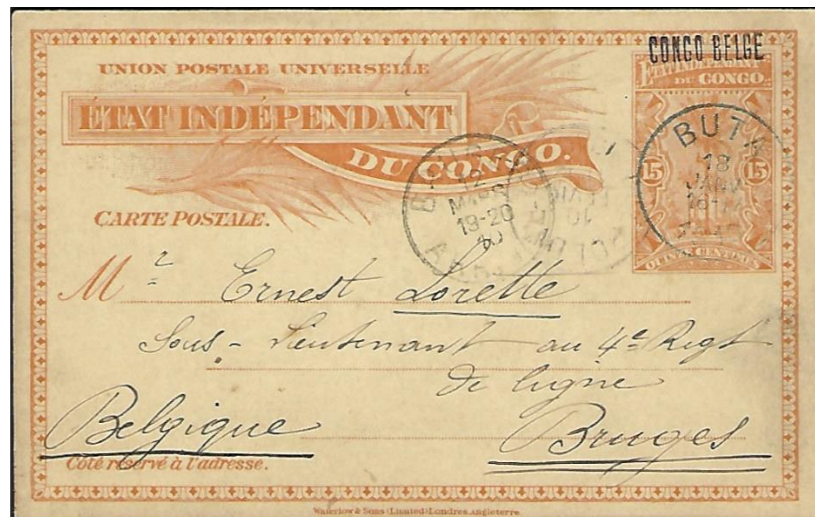


[Editor's note: In the Bulletin, there has been a single brief note on these Cinderellas. In Bulletin 64 (June 1987) a single used stamp, the only one a Belgian member possessed, was shown together with an appeal for information.]

## An Unremarkable Piece of Mail? Not Really!

### Charles Hénuzet

Charles brought a postcard that had been posted in 1910 on which an exceptional philatelic story was carried on the reverse side with a fascinating message written on the face. From the message, we read that it was written on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 1910 at Bambili (where a post office would not open until 1912). Consequently, the first postal cancellation was applied at Buta (260 km away) four days later. From there it was sent to the coast, passing through Leopoldville (1650 km distant) on the 10<sup>th</sup> February and onto Boma. It was carried on the Portuguese vessel *Cazenga* to Europe, reaching Bruges on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. The CONGO BELGE overprint (Local Type 7) was misplaced. Charles explained that although the intention was to cover the EIC inscription on the stamp, use of the handstamp was not easy and the correct position was not struck every time. When he read the message, Charles' attention was drawn to "Lado", the sender's new posting, which he described as being a "paradise". The 8<sup>th</sup> January 1910 was just 22 days after the death of King Leopold II and under the Lado settlement terms with Great Britain the enclave would transfer to British ownership on the King's death. Because so few Belgians had been posted to Lado and the message implied it was a return posting for the sender "Leo", Charles was able to identify that man as Capt. Leon Preud'homme, an officer with 5 years' service. He had been given responsibility for supervising the handover and would be the last Belgian commander of the Lado Enclave. He must have carried out the assignment well because in his later career he served alongside King Albert in the war, with the responsibility for overseeing the introduction of the heir to the throne, Prince Leopold, into military service. Preud'homme retired with the rank of General.



## Mail Carried by the French Carrier, Latécoère

### Filip Van der Haegen

*Société des lignes Latécoère* was created in the aftermath of World War 1 to link France with its colonies in Africa and South America. The first route was from its base at Toulouse to Barcelona which was extended to Casablanca in 1919 and on to Dakar in 1925. CMB vessels sailing between Antwerp and the Belgian Congo called at Dakar and mail delivery time could be shortened by using this air link. Filip showed fascinating covers to demonstrate the carriage of mail on this route. As well as letters between Belgium and the Congo, letters from other countries (e.g. Switzerland) were directed to it. The final destination for mail could be beyond the Belgian colony, notably to French Equatorial Africa. Obviously, its use was for the most urgent mail and senders were prepared to pay high tariffs for heavy letters. Filip reminded the meeting that the presence of airmail stamps (COB PA1-4) on these letters was usage of these stamps for their intended purpose, even though the letter might not be taken on an aeroplane in the Congo. Use of this carrier ended in 1935 when SABENA introduced its Brussels to Leopoldville service, after which colonial mail was taken by the national airline.



Bandundu (7 XI 26) to Hoboken:  
 Franking – Normal rate 0,90Fr  
 (0,50Fr / 20g to Belgium + 0,40Fr /  
 additional 20g). Registration  
 1,00Fr. Airmail 4,50Fr (20 – 50g).

N.B. There is a 40c stamp on the  
 back of the envelope. (Insufficient  
 room for it on the front!)

## The 50 Centimes Stamp of 1886

### Charles Hénuzet



In 1886 the issuing of stamps was a matter of urgency for the newly created EIC. To this end, the dies used by Belgium for the 1869 issue were modified. In the case of the 50c duty (COB4), "Etat Ind. du Congo" replaced "Royaume Belgique" on the Belgian stamp. The Belgian stamp was printed as six panes (of 50 stamps each) on each sheet but the EIC stamp was at first printed as a single pane (in one of three positions) to speed up production. Charles showed part of a pane of 50 stamps which had been printed with the plate in Position 2, deduced by vertical perforations to the right and left on the selvedge. Printing with the plate in position 3 is known. In total 60 000 stamps (1 200 panes of 50) were printed. It is not possible to estimate the numbers for each pane due to the limited number

of pane fragments that still exist. Turning to the shade of the stamp, Charles explained that the ink used at the time contained dyes based on heavy metal compounds. In time these would sink gradually in the tank, resulting in the colour of the stamp becoming lighter in later draws. Sheets of darker colour, which are less common, were the first printed. Also, the variety "CUNGO", which is found in position 5 on the pane and which is the result of an impurity deposited during the printing process, should not be found on stamps from earlier draws, which is the case.

## The Visit of Prince George (Duke of Kent) to Katanga in 1934

### Charles Lloyd

Charles had visited a neighboring philatelic society in Scotland the week before this AGM and (when there) one of its members who knew that he was a member of the BCSC asked about three covers with cachets for this visit, that he possessed. Charles' knowledge on this event was near zero and because they were intriguing he brought scans with him to the AGM. These covers are (of course) royal visit souvenirs. Prince George toured S. Africa, Rhodesia and Katanga, exiting via Angola. The timing of his arrival at Elisabethville was unfortunate because King Albert I had died only three weeks before and the country was still in mourning. Two of the covers bear the cachet "Train Royal SAR Prince George d'Angleterre" with either "Sakania Elisabethville 6-4-1934" or "Elisabethville Dilolo 7-4-1934". These were produced by the Controller of Posts, Katanga who did not have the approval of the Minister of Posts and the cachet must be regarded as semi-official. (See Bulletin 34.) Intriguingly, both have the same stamps (COB169, 170 & 171 = 60c) in identical



positions - two cancelled with the cachet and the third with a postmark. The postmarks differ (a type 7A at 08:00 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a Type 7C at 16:00 on the same day) as does the handwriting, implying that they were sold pre-franked (possibly with the cachet applied) then addressed and posted by the purchaser. The third cover is a fraud produced by an unscrupulous stamp dealer in Johannesburg to profit from public demand for souvenirs of the royal visit! Heim & Keach (page 28) describe the numerous errors that lead to this conclusion.



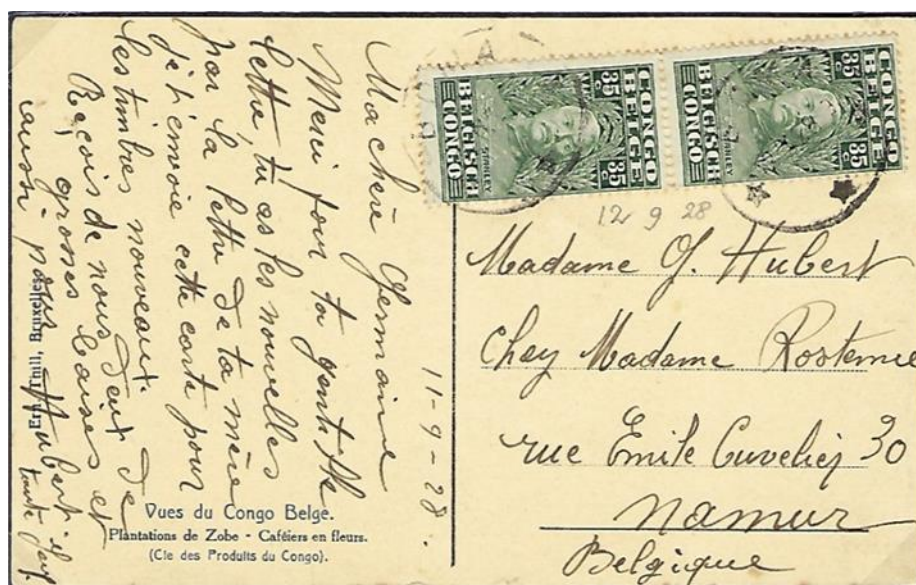
Left: The semi-official cachet souvenir cover

Below: The S African fraudulent "souvenir" cover.



## The 35c Stanley Stamp

Charles Hénuzet



A postcard franked with a vertical pair of 35c Stanley stamps, issued on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1928. In 1928, the tariff for a postcard to Belgium was 70c. The stamp to the left is a large format



(G), while the one to the right is a small format (P). They were cancelled at BOMA on 12-IX-1928 with a postmark 5E2-Dmyt (Heim & Keach classification).

Charles started his display with a postcard franked with a vertical pair of the 35c stamps (COB138) of the Stanley issue. The pair have both variations in height (G = 37mm & P = 35,5mm) that exist in rows throughout the sheet. It is rare to find such a pair or block on cover. At a previous meeting (see Bulletin 168) Charles had shown a block of 10 (2 rows of 5) on which both rows were of height P, which contradicts the proposition of Wright (Bulletin 6) and Foden (Bulletin 43) that height alternates on rows (i.e. PGP GP). This time, Charles presented panes that were GPPGP and PGPPG. This discovery is supported by a very early report by Wood (Bulletin 7 in 1952), that all Stanley values other than the 35c are PGP GP. In Keach's opinion "alternating spacing is normal, but occasionally other arrangements were used". Charles suggested that rotation the sheet before perforating might be one reason for the variation. We hope that through Charles' continuing research this controversy will be resolved and the cause of the difference explained.

## The Rhodesian Double-Heads Issue – Mols' Cousin Next Door

Charles Lloyd



*The £1 Rhodesia "Double – Head" stamp, SG166 rose scarlet & bluish black (Rhodesia Study Circle Type E) issued in 1910.*

A purchase of higher denomination classic Rhodesian stamps was a philatelic diversion for Charles and today (at our AGM) this presentation would be a diversion for his fellow BCSC members! He explained the reason for this out-of-territory display thus: When asked by Charles Henuzet if he intended to give a display this year, Charles (L) replied that he could not because he had spent (squandered?) his stamp budget on completing a one-of-each-value set of the Rhodesia "Double-Head" issue (which he began collecting 60+ years before!) It is a Waterlow & Sons product and a contemporary of our Mols issue. Replying, Charles (H) asked if could he see some scans! *To cut to the chase*, this display is the result. Charles (L) explained the Genesis of the issue. The British South Africa Company (BSACo) wanted to issue a definitive set of stamps bearing the territory's name, Rhodesia, engraved for the first time. To save money, the use of head-plates of King George V and Queen Mary from

an earlier abandoned project were set in a new frame-plate. Unfortunately, the King (an enthusiastic and knowledgeable collector) did not approve this attractive design for permanent use but would allow it to be used as a single value issue to commemorate a royal visit to Rhodesia. The directors of the BSACo decided to take a chance and not only print that commemorative stamp but also 17 other duties. (Fortunately, they were not sent to the Tower of London for this transgression.) The set appeals to both general and specialist collectors just as the Mols does. It has 4 perforation sizes, each value has significant shade varieties and a number of consistent flaws are to be found. Charles showed his now complete set along with several of the very distinct shade varieties. Having satisfied his long-standing craving for completeness, Charles intends to return north across the border.

### The 1931 and 1932 Overprints in blocks

**Bart Willekens**



*Part of the  
COB159  
sheet  
shown by  
Bart*

These are the surcharged Vloors and Stanley stamps. Bart displayed large blocks of the Vloors overprints including the only known sheet of the 40/35c (COB159) and the largest known block of the 50/45c (COB160). Bart pointed out that these 90-years old blocks are quite brittle along their perforation lines and unless gently handled such rare survivors would lose their uniqueness. It was a point not lost on those present who also possessed old blocks. Arguing that dealers in those days would buy multiples of colonial stamps (received as sheets / large blocks) which were put into stock to be broken up as demanded by customers, those overprinted stamps with new values urgently required for postal use are difficult to find in blocks of any large size, the stamps being sold individually over the postal counter.

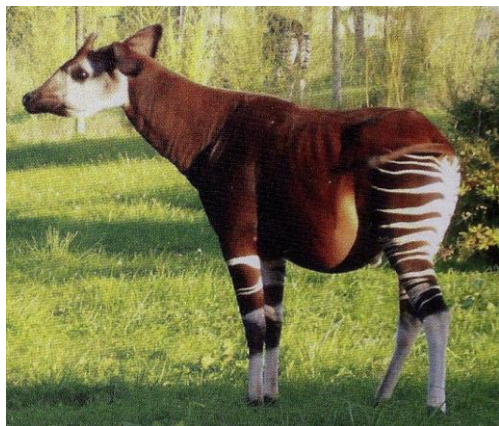


COB N° 159



COB N° 161

This is the case for the 2/1,75Fr (COB161) for which his largest block is one of 4 stamps. Also, stamps overprinted SPECIMEN are rare in multiples and he had managed to find one vertical pair (COB161A) only. In contrast, overprinted Stanley stamps are to be found in large blocks which allows both stamp and overprint to be studied in detail.



## From the editor

# Can you help ?

We need your help to have more articles for the bulletin or pieces for my Favorite Cover.

If you have only ONE page, this is welcome.

If not, we will must reduce the number of pages

of the bulletin.

## Forgery and fake use Charles Hénuzet

We think it is appropriate to report a discovery made on the auction site Ebay - CONGO STAMPS.

As you have surely already seen, we can find everything but this time a detail catches our attention:



Pêcheur de Timbres

**Renaud de Montbas – Expert**

12 rue de l'Eglise - 75015 PARIS - France  
Tél : 09 73 23 89 47  
rdemontbas@pecheuretimbres.com

Certificat n° : 111533

Je, soussigné, Renaud de Montbas,  
certifie avoir examiné le timbre suivant :

Pays : Congo Belge / Belgian Congo

Numéro : Stanley Gibbons # 5

Qualité : neuf (\*) sans gomme, TB / TTB / unused (\*), VF / XF

Description : dentelé 15 / perf 15



D'après notre analyse cette pièce est authentique / In our opinion this stamp is genuine in all respects.

Paris, le 9 avril 2019



COB N° 5  
Etat Indépendant du Congo



**Characteristics of this Forgery**

Only one (1) point between the letters "F" and "R"

Hair strand in the shape of a letter "Y"

The stamp is described as GENUINE and this is confirmed by a certificate of AUTHENTICITY made by the seller pseudonym "PÊCHEUR DE TIMBRE" expert named being Renaud de Montbas.

ATTENTION this is one of the most common **FAKES!**

**The fate of François Fournier's forgery remainders**

**Charles Lloyd**

I expect that every member has come across a lot in a non-specialist auction that is not on his/her want list and perhaps is even a new discovery, but when seen it becomes a *must-have* item. This was the case for the album page shown below. It is

a page from the 1928 "Album de Fac-similés, Edité par l'Union Philatélique de Genève". This page, page 24, has stamps, overprints and postmarks of the Etat Independent du Congo (erroneously headed Congo-Belge) and all are Fournier forgeries produced in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Needless to say, I bought it.)



Top row: COB 5a; strip of three COB 5; COB 5. Second row: COB 11; COB 13; COB 12. Third row: "Block" of 4 COB 11? (All 4 stamps are on one piece of paper. These stamps have a bluer shade than COB 11. It is possible that they were part of a series of trial printings made during perfection of the ink formulation. They could have been kept as a stock item not intended for sale.) Fourth row: Postmarks: Banana 1.3- DMTY; Boma 1-DMTY; Boma 1-DMTY (different date). Dimensions differ somewhat from those given by Heim & Keach; CP overprints Types A & B. All stamps are imperf and un gummed. Single stamps are overprinted "FAUX". Both multiples have "-FAC-SIMILÉ- FAC-SIMILÉ- FAC-SIMILÉ-" on the reverse, printed diagonally in rows 1cm apart. The upper half of each piece is gummed to the sheet.

Today's philatelist considers Fournier to be a skilful forger of stamps whose legacy is a curse on collectors. Yet in his 13 years of activity he was never charged with any crime, even though he openly sold fake products! He did not consider himself to be a forger: he was a printer of *facsimiles* of rare stamps. At that time, some genuine stamps were on sale at prices beyond the means of most collectors. Fournier



claimed he was providing a service for philatelists (with modest financial means) to fill spaces in their collections! Importantly, he never claimed that they were other than *facsimiles*. He was a perfectionist, ensuring that the design, paper, colour, perforations and gum were correct which made his stamp very difficult to distinguish from its original. A collector purchasing a *facsimile* from him would know its inferior status but enjoy the unblemished sight of a complete set mounted in his album. Perhaps, this insistence on fidelity was the cause of the eventual failure of his business. He did not and would not add an identifying mark.

Born in Switzerland in 1846, François emigrated to France and became a French citizen. In 1904, a year after returning to Switzerland he bought the stock of Louis-Henri Mercier, a bankrupt skilled forger, from the Office of Bankruptcy in Geneva and set about creating his own *facsimiles*. We must remember that the philatelic environment was different before the First World War to what it is today. *Facsimiles* were openly traded and their producers were accepted as part of the philatelic business. Unfortunately, unscrupulous stamp dealers (and probably collectors as well) were passing-off *facsimiles* as genuine stamps and this created a negative reaction. Combined with the adverse effect of the war and decreased demand for facsimiles the business declined greatly. An ill man in these years, he died in 1917, aged 70.

After Fournier's death, an employee, Charles Hirschburger, tried to reinvigorate the business but it could not recover. When Hirschburger died in 1927 his widow sold both stock (said to weigh about 400 kg) and production equipment to l'Union Philatélique de Genève. l'Union acted to stop this material falling into the wrong hands. In today's money the stock (if genuine) had a catalogue value of 1.4 billion euros (at 1927 catalogue prices)! Fournier sold his *facsimiles* to collectors at 0.1% of catalogue, making the value of the stock 1.4 million euros. (l'Union did not reveal what it paid.)

The equipment was donated to a museum and stamps over-printed "FAUX or "FAC-SIMILE" to mark them as fakes. l'Union produced a limited edition of 480 albums containing a representative selection of Fournier's work (with about 3,000 items in each). They were sold to dealers and collectors by subscription in 1928. It was a peg-fitting album (2 pegs) containing 171 pages. The same stamps, selected postmarks and overprints were mounted on printed pages for each country. The stamps were gummed to the pages by students of the Geneva School of Arts and Crafts. Also, one more extensive five volume set of albums was produced for its library. Finally, all the remaining unused material was burnt to ashes under the official supervision of the Bailiff of the Canton of Geneva.

Although we are able to identify the number of forgeries that have the FAUX or FAC-SIMILE overprints we will never know how many examples of each stamp were sold in the 23 years that Fournier and then Hirschburger operated the business. Fournier did have some scruples, or perhaps a regard for possible prosecution! He printed reproductions of stamps from counties that no longer existed or stamps that were no longer valid for postage. On both counts producing stamps of the Leopold II portrait

issues of the EIC was (in his view) acceptable because the EIC ceased to be in November 1908 and these issues were demonetised on 1 January 1901. Because the EIC page does not contain low denomination items, this does not mean they were not forged. Only a selection of facsimiles is present.

Forging stamps is an obvious activity and as we know experts can distinguish between a forgery and the genuine item, even if many collectors will be taken in. Perhaps, Fournier's other less well known activity can be regarded as more sinister. He operated a stamp "repair clinic". He may have seen this as similar to the restoration of paintings in fine art. But, the difference is obvious and glaring – the painting is unique whereas a stamp used for non-postal purposes was being altered to take on the appearance of a more valuable unused item. Because duplicate genuine stamps exist such "repairs" are, in fact, fraudulent. Removing "SPECIMEN" overprints, removing fiscal pen cancellations and re-gumming were undertaken.

Maybe we can leave the last word to Fred J Melville who wrote the following as the English language preface to the Album:

"Fournier is dead, but his works live after him, and, scattered broadcast in collections all over the world, constitute a great menace to Philately. The public-spirited action of the Philatelic Union of Geneva has effectively stopped any further dissemination of these dangerous counterfeits, and has provided the expert with the most useful means for distinguishing readily stamps that derived their illegitimate birth in the Fourier atelier.

Considering the vast quantity and variety of the "facsimiles" sequestered by the benevolent action of the philatelists of Geneva, one realises that the Fourier works were directed largely at the young collector, and future generations of junior philatelists will honour the Philatelic Union of Geneva for clearing the market of this threatening cloud of spurious stamps. With the junior in years, the adult **dilettante** will join in this rejoicing at the clearing of one of the worst of the Augean stables.

As for the experts they will know how to appreciate and value the important records of philatelic perfidy revealed and laid bare in the Fournier albums on which the Philatelic Union of Geneva is expending such care.

Fred. J Melville  
*President, Junior Philatelic Society London*<sup>1</sup>

This reveals (in colourful prose) the opinion of the philatelic establishment in 1928, which has not changed since then. 90 years later all philatelists condemn such fakery accepting no justification for the known existence of fake stamps (unidentified as such) within collections. I should add a rider that there are individuals whose speciality is fake printings and whose entire collections are 100% fake. Unfortunately, there are still a few individuals on the fringes of the hobby who do not adhere to this moral code, distinguishing the fake from the genuine.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1899 Fred Melville applied to join the Royal Philatelic Society of London but was rejected because he was under 18. As a consequence, he formed "The Junior Philatelic Society London", open to all. It rapidly grew to become possibly the largest British philately society. It still exists, now named the National Philatelic Society. Fred was a prolific philatelic author. He was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1921 and inducted into the American Philatelic Society's Hall of Fame in 1941.

# POSTAL AUCTION SALE 2019-1

## REALISED PRICES

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

## BID FORM (BCSC 2019-2)

To be sent to

Th.FRENNNET – Rue la rue 17 – B-1420 Braine-l'alleud – Belgique/Europe

Or by E-mail at : [hydro-services@skynet.be](mailto:hydro-services@skynet.be)

CLOSING DATE FOR BIDS – 14th August 2019

Name:

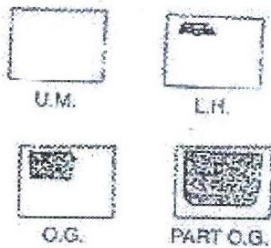
Date:

FULL ADDRESS:

Signature:

### Auction's rules

#### Abbreviations used

UM	= unmounted mint – unused with original gum in Post Office state, never hinged.	<b>GUM</b> 
LH	= lightly hinged – unused with original gum, mounted with a peelable hinge	
OG	= original gum – unused with original gum slightly disturbed or alternatively having a previous hinge	
Part OG	= part original gum – unused with original gum – large hinge remnants may or may not be present	

CB= CONGO BELGE ; COB= Catalogue Officiel Belge number ; RU= Ruanda Urundi ;  
 Designations of cancellations are in accordance with the Heim&Keech classification.

#### Bidding steps :

0	to	5 Euros	per	0.05 Euro
5 Euros	to	25 Euros	per	0.25 Euro
25 Euros	to	50 Euros	per	1.00 Euros
50 Euros	to	250 Euros	per	2.00 Euros
250 Euros	to	500 Euros	per	5.00 Euros
	over	500 Euros	per	10.00 Euros

**Postage on lots will be charged to buyers**

**See also our website : [www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be](http://www.belgian-congo-study-circle.be)**

Lot No.	Limit (Euros)	Lot No.	Limit (Euros)	Lot No.	Limit (Euros)	Lot No.	Limit (Euros)

Lot	Date	Description	COB #	Min Bid
<b>Philatelic Literature</b>				
1	1985	Histoire postale de l'enclave du Lado, by Abbé Gudenkauf, 132 pages, bound. <i>In French</i>		15
2	2010	Congo Belge, L'émission Mols-Van Engelen - Modification 1915, by Leo TAVANO, Liège (Belgium) 2010, 77 pages A4. <i>In French, with many pictures</i>		35
<b>Belgian Congo Mols Stamps</b> <i>[Note: the plating notes indicated are mostly certain, although some (rare) mistakes can happen]</i>				
3	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5c green, L1 overprint, perf 14, I2-B2 position 6, variety 14, LH	30L	4
4	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5c green, L2 "framed" overprint , perf 14, I2-B2 position 38, LH	30L	3
5	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 25c blue, L5 overprint, perf 14, I2-A2 position 23, two short perfs, cancellation DIMA 1.1 DMtY, used, variety	33L	6
6	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 40c blue-green, L2 overprint, perf 14, I2-A1a position 1, two short perfs, paraffin gum	34L	4,50
7	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 40c blue-green, L2 overprint, perf 14½, I2-A2 position 2, some short perfs, paraffin gum	34L	2,50
8	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 40c blue-green, L1 violet overprint, perf 14, I-A1b position 15, some short perfs, used	34L	2
9	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 10F green, L1 violet overprint, perf 12, I2-A1 position 28, Boma cancellation, used	39L	30
10	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5F carmine, L1 overprint, perf 14, I1-A1 position 8, used	38L	32
11	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5F carmine, L1 overprint, perf 15, I1-A1 position 20, some short perfs, used	38L	25
12	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5F carmine, L1 violet overprint, perf 15, I1-A1 position 34, used	38L	28
13	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 15c ochre, L5 overprint, perf 14, I-A3 position 2, cancellation Coquihatville 1909 1.2 DMtY, used	32L	2
14	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 50c olive, L5 overprint, perf 14, I2-A2 position 40, cancellation Boma 1.11 DMtY, used	35L	2
15	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 50c olive, L5 overprint, perf 14, I2-A2 position 2, cancellation Thysville 1.1 DMtY, used	35L	2
16	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5c green, L5 overprint, LH	30L	1,50
17	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 10c carmine, L5 overprint, LH	31L	1,50
18	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 15c ochre, L5 overprint, LH	32L	3
19	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 25c blue, L5 overprint, some short perfs, no gum	33L	2,50
20	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 40c blue-green, L5 overprint, LH	34L	3,50
21	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 50c olive, L5 overprint, LH	35L	2,50
22	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 1F carmine, L5 violet overprint, no gum	36L	9,50
23	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 3,50 F vermillion, L5 overprint, used, Boma telegraphic cancellation	37L	55
24	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5F carmine, L5 overprint, LH	38L	45
25	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5c green, L7 overprint, LH	30L	2



26	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 10c carmine, L7 overprint, LH	31L	2
27	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 15c ochre, L7 overprint, used	32L	1,75
28	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 40c blue-green, I2-A1 position 25, L7 overprint, LH	34L	5
29	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 1F carmine, L7 overprint, used	36L	6
30	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 3,50 F vermillion, L7 overprint, LH ( <i>paraffin gum</i> ), very good condition	37L	130
31	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 5F carmine, I1-A1 position 2, perf 15, L7 overprint, good condition, LH	38L	45
32	1909	1909 Issue Local overprint 50c olive, L4 overprint, overprint in the middle, LH	35L	3
33	1886	1886 issue 10c rose, LH <i>nearly UM</i> , very good condition	2	2,75
34	1909	1909 issue, 5c green, Brussels overprint B3, LH	30B	14
35	1909	1909 issue, 10c carmine, I4-A5 position 25, Brussels overprint B4, LH	31B	14
36	1909	1909 issue, 10c carmine, I2-A4, " <i>framed</i> " Brussels overprint B6, LH	31B	14
37	1909	1909 issue, 10c carmine, I3-B2 position 48, Brussels overprint B6, LH	31B	14
38	1909	1909 issue, 10c carmine, Brussels overprint B6, LH	31B	14
39	1909	1909 issue, 10c carmine, Brussels overprint B1, LH	31B	14
40	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, Brussels overprint B1, LH	32B	14
41	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, Brussels overprint B2, very LH <i>nearly UM</i>	32B	15
42	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, Brussels overprint B3, LH	32B	14
43	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, Brussels overprint B4, off centre, LH	32B	13
44	1909	1909 issue, 15c ochre, Brussels overprint B4, UM (fingerprints on gum)	32B	19
45	1909	1909 issue, 25c blue, Brussels overprint B4, LH	33B	14
46	1909	1909 issue, 40c blue-green, I2-A1 position 5, Brussels overprint B4, two short perfs, LH	34B	11
47	1909	1909 issue, 50c olive, Brussels overprint B1, LH	35B	14
48	1909	1909 issue, 5F carmine, Brussels overprint B1, LH	38B	160
49	1909	1909 issue, 10F green, Brussels overprint B1, OG	39B	200
50	1909	1909 issue, 10F green, Brussels overprint B5, perf 14½, LH	39B	220
<b>Belgian Congo - stamps</b>				
51	1942	1942 issue, 1,25F in unadopted colour (ochre), with punched hole and Specimen Waterlow & Sons Ltd overprint, UM. <i>Rare</i>	258	45
<b>Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi – Presentation books</b>				
52	1957	Small commemorative book " Souvenir du Congrès postal universel d'Ottawa 1957" with all series of stamps from 1952 (flowers) to 1956 (Mozart), included postage due stamps, Belgian Congo & Ruanda-Urundi, UM. <i>Rare</i>		45
53	1930 (?)	Official small book (green cover) " Administration des Postes Congo Belge" (presentation set to members of Postal Conferences), with series of stamps: Floors, Stanley, Colonial Campaigns (stamps issued 1923-1928) included Airmail stamps and postage due stamps issued between 1921 and 1928, Belgian Congo & Ruanda-Urundi, LH. <i>Rare</i>		30
<b>Postal Stationery</b>				
54	1886	postcards Stibbe 1 & 2 CTO (Banana 12 oct 1886, Boma 24 mai 1888)	Stibbe 1-2	2

55	1889	postcards Stibbe 4 & 5 unused	Stibbe 4-5	1,50
56	1889	postcards Stibbe 6 & 7 (double cards), unused	Stibbe 6-7	2,25
57	1892	postcards Stibbe 8 & 9, unused	Stibbe 8-9	5
58	1892	postcards Stibbe 10 CTO (Matadi 23 DECE 1892), 11, 12 & 13 unused (full set)	Stibbe 10/13	3
59	1897	postcards Stibbe 14, 15, 16, 17 (full set), unused	Stibbe 14/17	3,50
60	1900	postcards Stibbe 18 CTO (Banana 7 avril 1908)	Stibbe 18	1
61	1900	postcards Stibbe 19 (double card), unused, <i>pristine condition</i> , rare	Stibbe 19	9,50
<b>Mols stamps – full sheets</b>				
62	1910	1910 Bilingual issue, 15c Ochre, full sheet, perforation 14, frame III1 + centre A.7, missing small piece of sheet margin below stamp position 50 , UM	56	12
63	1910	1910 bilingual issue, 15c Ochre, perforation 14 frame III1 + centre A.8 , tiny brown spot on upper margin, UM	56	12
64	1910	1910 bilingual issue, 15c Ochre, full sheet, perforation 14, frame III1 + centre A.9, missing small piece of sheet margin on corner position 1, tiny brown spot, UM	56	12
<b>Vloors - stamps</b>				
65	1923	1923 Vloors issue, 10c green, with specimen in red and punch hole, UM	107	4,50
66	1923	1923 Vloors issue, 15c grey brown, with specimen in red and punch hole, UM	108	4,50
67	1923	1923 Vloors issue, 15c grey brown, with specimen in red and punch hole, block of 4 UM	108	12
68	1925	1925 Vloors issue, 20c green, with specimen in red and punch hole, block of 4 UM	118	10
69	1925	1925 Vloors issue, 30c olive, with specimen in red and punch hole, block of 4 UM	119	10
70	1925	1925 Vloors issue, 40c lilac, with specimen in red and punch hole, block of 4 UM	121	10
71	1925	1925 Vloors issue, 60c carmine, "from the workshop" item, with large central punch hole, block of 4, imperforated, sheet margin, no gum. Rare	124	24
72	1925	Ruanda-Urundi, 1925 Vloors issue, with Ruanda Urundi overprint, specimen in red and punch hole, UM	73	4,50
<b>Belgian Congo or Ruanda Urundi - stamps</b>				
73	1942	1942 issue, palm trees, 10c olive, 15c red brown, 20c blue, 25c lilac (sheet margin), 30c blue (sheet margin), 50c green, all "from the workshop" items, with punch hole, imperforated, UM or OG	229/34	23
74	1942	1942 issue, 75c dark violet (folded), 1F dark brown (sheet margin), both "from the workshop" items, with punch hole, imperforated, UM. <i>Note: A fold in such stamps is acceptable, because these stamps were rejected in the printing process for some reason [for example (as in this case) a fold].</i>	236 + 237	7
75	1942	1942 issue, leopards, 1,75F dark brown (folded), 2,50F carmine (short sheet margin, folded), both "from the workshop" items, with punch hole, imperforated, UM	239+ 241	7

		<i>Note: A fold in such stamps is acceptable, because these stamps were rejected in the printing process for some reason [for example (as in this case) a fold].</i>		
76	1942	1942 issue, 10F brown, sheet margin, "from the workshop" item, with punch hole, imperforated, UM	245	4
77	1928	1928 Stanley issue, 5F blue-green, <i>small size</i> , UM	147	1
78	1942	Ruanda-Urundi, 1942 issue, full set, UM	126/47	11
79	1910	1910 postage due stamps issue, bilingual, 5c green, type 3, OG + 10 c carmine, type 9, OG + 15c ochre, type 9, no gum + 25c blue, type 3, LH	TX 31/34	1
80	1909	1909 issue, Brussels overprint 3, 5c green, I2-B2, position 2, OG	30B	13
81	1909	1909 issue, Brussels overprint 3, 5c green, I2-B2, position 44, OG	30B	13
82	1909	1909 issue, local overprint 2, 25c blue, used (2 stamps, one with some short perfs)	33L	1,75
83	1909	1909 issue, 25c blue, local overprints 3, 4 & 6, used (3 stamps)	33L	4
84	1909	1909 issue, local overprint 6, 25c blue, with boxed taxes overprint, no gum	33L or TX 20	2,50
85	1922	Postal Stationery, Illustrated postcard palm tree 15/10c red-brown, views 33 & 45, unused	Stibbe 53	4
86	1922	Postal Stationery, Illustrated postcard palm tree 1F red-brown, view 46, unused	Stibbe 67	2
87	1909	Postal Stationery, postcard palm tree 10c red, unused	Stibbe 26	5
88	1937	Six airmail covers between 1937 and 1960, beautiful frankings.		6
<b>Catalogue</b>				
89	2016	Belgian Official Catalogue, volume 2: Former Belgian Colonies, edition 2016; Officiële Postzegelcatalogus, volume 2: Belgische ex-koloniën, uitgave 2016; Catalogue officiel de Timbres-Poste, volume 2: Anciennes Colonies Belges, edition 2016.		6