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BULLETIN 185

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

Report on the BCSC 2019 - 2020

The rapid spread of Covid-19 virus in February 2020 and the serious threat to health, particularly to (most) of our member's generation, led to our President (with the full support of the officers) to cancel the AGM. He is to be thanked for this decision because in the weeks that followed it became a global pandemic, sadly with a high and still growing death toll. Our thoughts are with any of our members and their families who have been affected in any way. This year, in the place of the AGM this report will give members information that would otherwise have been presented at the AGM and subsequently appeared in this issue of the Bulletin.

President's Report - Thierry Frennet

In 2021 the BCSC will become 70 years old. To mark this achievement a two-day exposition on the philately and postal history of our region is planned for April. The 2021 AGM will be part of the event. Thierry was to have reported on this. Details will appear elsewhere in the bulletin and need not be duplicated here. In spite of the disruption caused by the present national lockdown Thierry can report that progress is satisfactory.

Officer's Reports

Report of the General Secretary - Charles Lloyd

Membership at the end of March 2020 was as follows:

Country	2018-9	2019-20
Belgium	59	59
UK	19	17
USA	13	16
France	3	3
Germany	3	3
Australia	2	2
Denmark	2	2
Netherlands	2	2

Country	2018-9	2019-20
Sweden	2	2
South Africa	2	2
Malta	1	1
Poland	1	1
Portugal	1	1
Spain	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	1
Thailand	0	1
Total	111	114

Membership has increased by 3 (2.7%), and we have welcomed our first member living in Thailand. Global distribution is maintained. As in previous years, three countries dominate membership - Belgium, 52%; UK, 15%; & USA, 14%. Thankfully, no deaths were reported to the General Secretary during the year. While we have been sorry to say goodbye to a few members, we are pleased to welcome others as new members.

The BCSC was created by a small group of enthusiasts in London in February 1951 and it remains as healthy as it has been in any of its 69 years of existence. While it is appropriate to compliment the officers for their team effort, it is the participation by all

members that makes this achievement possible. Everyone can contribute to the continuing success in all aspects of the BCSC's work, which includes bidding/selling in our auction, submitting items for expertisation and producing articles for the bulletin (to continue the objective set at the first meeting of increasing and sharing knowledge). There is one other way every member can help – publicize the BCSC and hopefully recruit new members.

Report of the General Treasurer – Charles Lloyd

This is a summary of our financial position, reporting on the funds held in UK and Belgian accounts at the end of this accounting year (29 February 2020). (Funds held at the end of the previous accounting year (28 February 2019) are given for information.)

I would like to thank Ludo Achten for his continued help, skill & effort in managing finances during the year. Our financial position is sound.

Held in	At 28/02/19	At 29/02/20	Change
Belgian based accounts (BNP Paribas Fortis and PayPal Accounts)	€10 665,27	€12 908,00	€2 242,73
UK based account (International Account at the TSB)	€1 440,69	€1 347,83	- €92,86
Overall position (at the end of the financial year)	€12 105,96	€14 255,83	€2 149,87

In January an American former member offered his Congo collection *gratis* to the BCSC to be auctioned with proceeds going to our funds. We accepted with thanks.

Subscription / Dues rates for 2021

Subscription rates / dues for 2021 remain unchanged.

Region	Subscription / Dues
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€ ----- -----)

Note 1: Our PayPal account will accept payments in €, US\$ and GB£.

Note 2: Members are responsible for the payment of all bank or PayPal charges

Note 3: It is usual for the AGM to approve this item. Because there was no AGM and no increases are proposed we can assume these rates are acceptable.

Report of the Auction Sales Officer – Marc Oblin

There were three auctions in 2019, with a total of 366 lots offered by 8 sellers and bid

for by between 16 and 22 buyers (in each auction). 213 of these lots (58.2 %) were sold. (A result much better than in 2018, when 40.2 % of lots were sold).

The total for sales was € 4,154.15. Some unsold lots were offered in following auctions and they sold quite well at the second attempt. The top price for year was 750 euros for the 1949 issue of 8 miniature sheets, the full set LH, [COB BL3A/10A] of which only 300 sets were printed. Their value in the COB is 1900 €.

Auctions still seem to be a success with our members, though too few bid regularly with just one in five participating in each auction.

Report of the Bulletin Editor - Charles Hénuzet

In this year three bulletins with a total of 64 pages were published. Each bulletin was accompanied by an auction sale.

We depend on members submitting the articles we publish in the Bulletin. Articles result from the research undertaken by members, which appears to have lessened in recent years. As a consequence, the number of articles received has declined. In the future, this may lead to the number of pages in each bulletin being reduced or, if required, three rather than four editions appearing in the year. In the coming year, I hope that newer members will come to my help and contribute new articles.

Secretary of the Expertisation Committee - Charles Hénuzet

148 certificates were issued (an increase from 91 for the previous year). 20 were free, being member's entitlements and 128 were paid for. The latter created a net income of €499 this year (€238,73 last year).

Members are entitled to 2 free expertisations per year. The prices for additional expertisations remain unchanged, being:

	€	£	\$
Single Stamp	4.00	2.50	4.50
Block of 4	5.00	3.50	6.00
Postal Stationery	6.00	5.00	9.00
Cover	6.00	5.00	9.00

Postage (at a specified level of coverage) is the responsibility of the member.

Payments are to be made to our Paribas or PayPal accounts in Belgium.

The stamps and certificates are always returned members by registered letter.

Authentication of valuable and rare stamps by an accepted authority (in this case the BCSC) assure the owner (and any future buyer) that he has a good copy. A certificate is issued with the expertisation.

Report of the Webmaster – Bruce Lockhart

The website has been maintained with some minor changes.

Three auctions were hosted in 2019, with good participation.

Under the heading “Realized Prices”, it is now possible to see the prices realized for the auctioned items. It goes back to auction 2018-1.

Here are some statics from 1st January to 31st December 2019:

There were 25,745 visits with an average time spent of 28 seconds.

This year the most hits came from the USA with Ukraine in fourth place

Top five counties for visits:

Position	Country	Visits
1	USA*	6,143
2	China	3,320
3	Belgium*	2,619
4	Ukraine	2,148
5	France*	1,946

Other countries: Where a member lives or for which there were 100+ visits

Country	Visits	Country	Visits
Australia*	153	Portugal*	86
Denmark*	24	Romania	120
Germany*	781	Spain*	130
Ireland	159	South Africa*	92
Italy	122	Sweden*	231
Malta*	1	Thailand*	72
Netherlands*	1,872	United Kingdom*	626
Poland*	100	Zimbabwe*	2

*Member(s) live(s) in this country

Time spent on site:

1-60 secs (92.14%); 1-10 mins (6.28%); 10-30 mins (1.49%); 30+ mins (0.08%)

Officers for 2020-21

The General Secretary had not received any nominations for other members to stand for office. All sitting officers are qualified to continue in office. No officer had indicated that he wished to stand down. Thus the composition of the committee is unchanged

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	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Bulletin Editor	<i>Charles Henuzet</i>

Bulletin distribution – Belgium	<i>Patrick Maselis</i>
Bulletin distribution – USA	<i>Ken Goss</i>
Bulletin distribution – UK and R of W	<i>Charles Lloyd</i>
Web Master	<i>Bruce Lockhart</i>
Auctioneer	<i>Thierry Frennet</i>
Auction Secretary	<i>Marc Oblin,</i>
Auction Secretary	<i>Charles Stockmans</i>
Auction Finance Officer	<i>Ludo Achten</i>

Membership of the Expertisation Committee is a matter for the Secretary and Chairman of that committee. Its membership is given here for information

Secretary and Chairman	<i>Charles Henuzet</i>
Members	<i>Thierry Frennet,</i> <i>Marc Oblin,</i> <i>Filip Van der Haegen</i>
Consultants	<i>Marc Frevelhausen</i> <i>Michel Hopperets,</i> <i>Luc Van der Marcken</i> <i>Jean Pierre Flamand,</i>

Date of AGM 2021

24th April 2021 starting at 10am. (It will be held as part of the BCSC 70th Anniversary Exposition)

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.

BELGIUM	RALF POLLET	Hertzvelde 99, 8200 - BRUGGE
	BART VAN ACKER	
	P MOMBERT	

70th Anniversary of Belgian Congo Study Circle Exhibition

Dear Friends,

In 2021, on the 24th and 25th April, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Belgian Congo Study Circle.

The “Musée Africain de Namur” and the “Cercle Royal Philatélique de Florennes” will celebrate it together with the B.C.S.C.

This outstanding events will take place in the beautiful city of Namur. We invite you to this International Philatelic Exhibition at “La Bourse” (Place d’Armes) in the city centre, at the foot of the “Beffroi” (Belfry). Let us discover it thereafter.

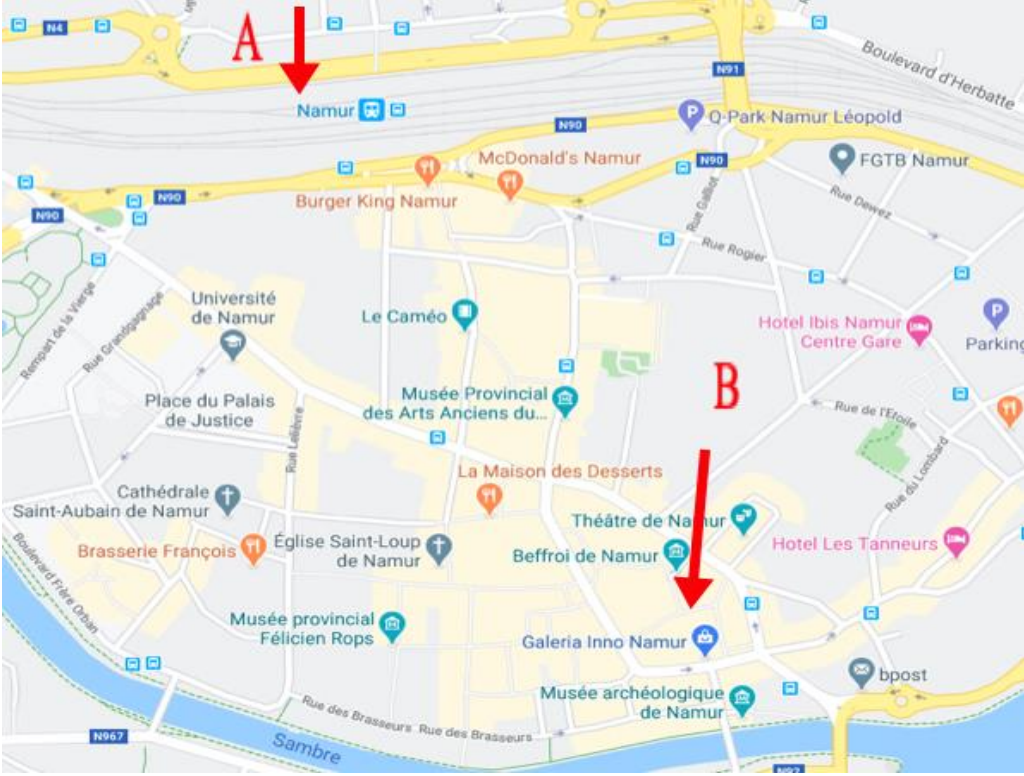
Sincerely yours,

Thierry



“La Bourse” is in the heart of Namur, at about a 5 minutes walk from the railway station.

Our AGM and an exhibition of our members’ collections will take place during the weekend of the **24th and 25th April 2021**.

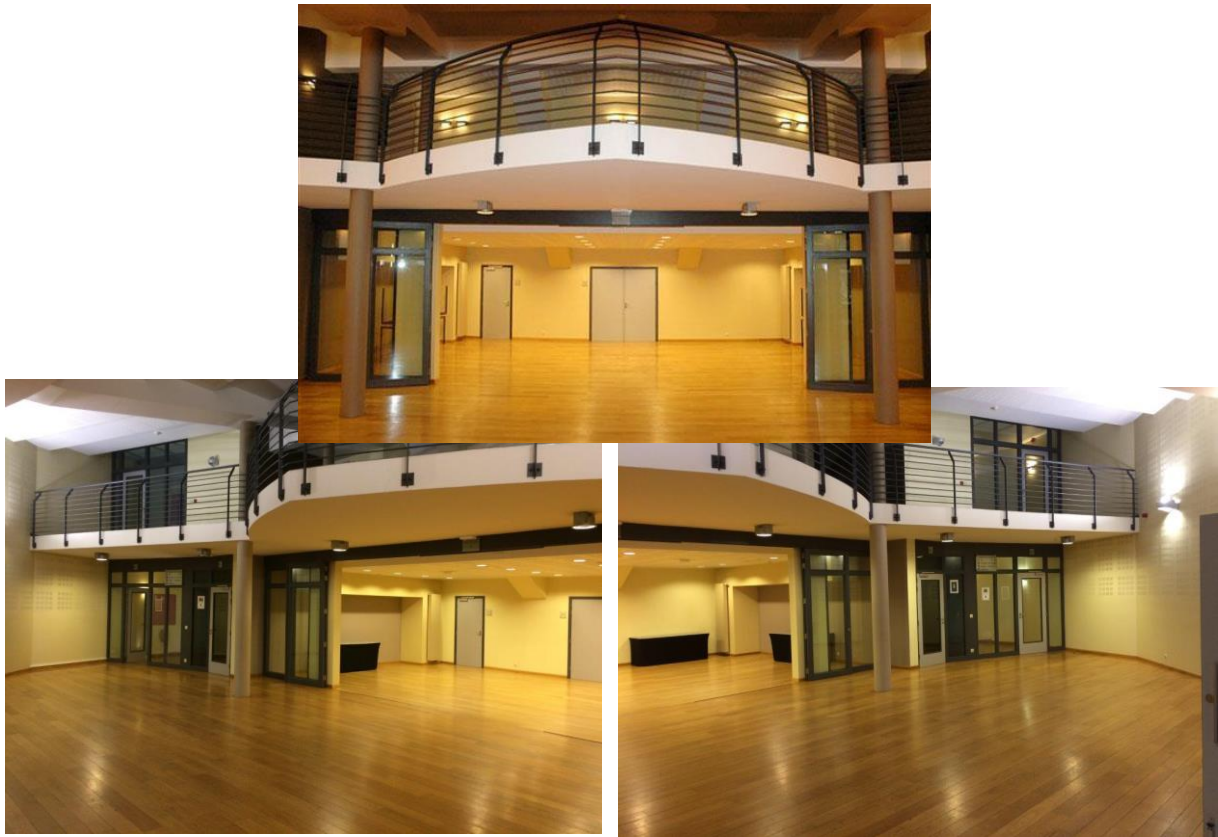


A : Central Station of NAMUR

B : LA BOURSE



Dining Room on the 4th Floor

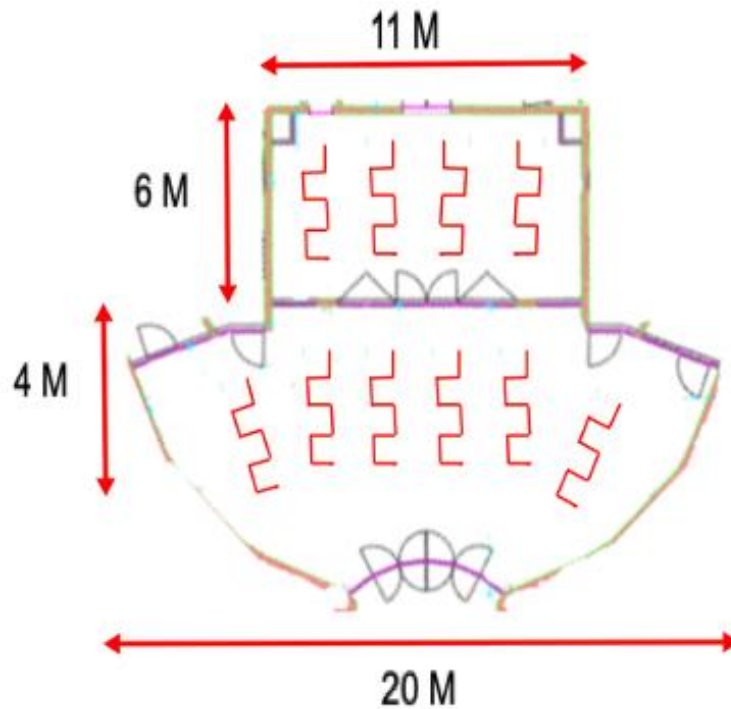


PLAN OF THE EXHIBITION

DISPLAY FRAMES (CADRES)

10 ROWS OF DISPLAY BOARDS, EACH WITH 8 FRAMES MOUNTED ON BOTH SIDES

(i.e. Total = 10 boards x 8 frames x 2 sides = 160 frames)



Meeting 24th and 25th April 2021

Dear Members,

I know that each of you has a very interesting collection and I am sure that you will wish to display it to fellow members during this outstanding meeting.

I hope that as many of you as possible will present a complete collection or a part of it. (Because one side of a display frame accommodates 16 sheets, any presentation should be 16 sheets or a multiple of 16)

We are looking forward to your registration. Please return this form as soon as possible to Thierry: by e-mail thierry.frennet@fthsprl.be by post to the address on page one.

Attention: We need to have your registration by September 15, 2020
Anyone who intends to come but has not finalized the content of his display, please register and give your provisional topic. We will contact you with our deadline for inclusion in the celebratory booklet.

REGISTRATION FORM (DISPLAYING)

If you wish to present a display, please return this information as soon as possible. We recognize that at this time your display may not be finalized. Early notification helps planning

Name: First name:

Collection (display) title:

Number of sheets:

Value of the collection: € (for insurance by the FRBP)

Your display will be installed in the frame(s) by yourself on Saturday morning from 7:30 a.m. and removed (again by yourself) on Sunday evening from 5 p.m. (Special arrangements are possible if these times are not possible for you - please contact Thierry.)

REGISTRATION FORM (ATTENDING WITHOUT DISPLAYING):

If you intend to be present on Saturday and/or Sunday without displaying. (Please delete as is appropriate if you will be with use on one day, only) please register here:

Name: First name:

This information is needed for security and for lunch numbers

REGISTRATION FORM (Annual Conference Day and AGM)

If you wish to be present at the AGM (on Saturday) please register here:

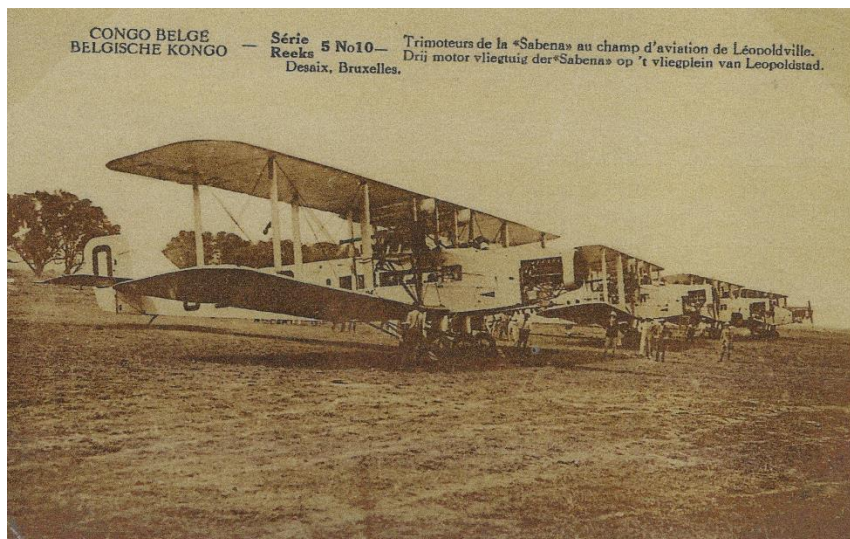
Name: First name:

If you are intend to come to the AGM, please e-mail Thierry at thierry.frennet@fthsprl.be and let him know, to ensure that the correct number of chairs are put out.

An interesting and unusual curiosity

Derek Wiltshire

Postcards of the Belgian Congo are not common in the stock of dealers in Scotland (where I live). To ask for a specific subject is often not successful. In response to my enquiry about covers / postcards related to Congolese airmails a dealer searched through a dusty box of material in old stock, not often brought out. He produced the following postcard.



This postcard was produced by E Desaix, a Brussels publisher. Four SABCA built SABENA owned Handley-Page W8f aeroplanes are parked in a line at Leopoldville, proudly on display. In total, ten were built for SABENA and delivered to the airline between February and June 1925. Six were sent to the Belgian Congo to equip the fledgling 2nd LARA. The Congolese planes were registered with the serial numbers O-BAHN to O-BAHS. As is well known, one of these (O-BAHO *Princesse Marie-Josée*) was flown by Edmund Thieffry on an epic delivery flight from Brussels to Leopoldville, arriving on the 3rd April 1925. The others were delivered by sea. We can be sure that this photograph was taken before 1928 because (by international agreement) a replacement global numbering system was adopted. These planes became OO-AHN to OO-AHS, respectively, in 1928. Although the serial number on the nearest aeroplane is partly obscured, it clearly has the original format. Was this a photograph of the first four to arrive in the Congo, taken for a proud airline and colony? Certainly, it would have been a popular subject for a postcard when it was first put on sale in the 1920s.

The reverse of the postcard was totally unexpected. On this side, Desaix has printed a monthly "Recognition Card" for pupils attending the school that has order it. The school would have held a stock of these cards. This certificate is of a type that might be familiar to a number of Belgian members who have an interest in Congolese postcards or aerophilately. This is not the case for those living outside the country

and I would be grateful for any information on this practice. How common was the practice in the 1930s? Does it still exist, or when did it cease to be?



(The card is light chamois. Unfortunately, my scanner has given it an unwanted blue tint.) For the benefit of those who do not speak French, here is my translation:



Rita Selesson attended Ensival Municipal Primary School for Girls and in September 1934 she was recognised for behaviour / attendance / work, by the presentation of this card. The teacher completed the card by adding the month and year, the student's name and signing it.

Today, Ensival is part of Verviers in the Province of Liège. In 1934 it was a municipality in its own right.

In addition to the two questions posed already, there are three others:

- Is the proposition correct, that this is a prize of some sort?
- Was it awarded to one student in each class or just one in the school?
- What was the criterion for the award – academic performance, or good attendance, or good behaviour, or all together?

Such was the progress in aircraft development in the 1920s that in 1926 the Belgian Government issued a specification for an all-metal trimotor replacement of the W8f. (The W8 was developed from the WW1 British Handley-Page 0/400 bomber, old though reliable technology in 1926.) The Fokker F.VII was selected and from 1930 SABCA built 29 model F.VIIb/3m aircraft, under licence for SABENA. OO-AIU, OO-AIX, OO-AIY and OO-AIZ were transferred to the Congo in August 1934. From January 1933 the W8f planes were progressively withdrawn from service as they were replaced by more modern types.

The date of the award is 1934. At this date the popularity of this postcard would have been low because it featured an obsolete old fashioned plane. At that date, postcards featuring the new and modern Fokker VIIb/3m would have been in demand. It is possible that Desaix would have had a stock of unsalable postcards which he repurposed into presentation cards, of which this is one. There might be others in existence that have different pictures.

I would appreciate any comments. Because I am not on the internet, please send these to our Secretary, charles.lloyd@blueyonder.co.uk. He will forward them to me.

From the editor



I am always pleased to receive original articles to publish in the bulletin, for you to share your knowledge and discoveries with your fellow members. If one or more members would like to publish their research I welcome this. If needed, we can help you to format / translate your article.

Articles on all matters are welcome: stamps, post cards, postal stationary, postal history, letters, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Also, REMEMBER: The 70th Anniversary BCSC Exhibition 24 - 25 April 2021

Attention: The Exhibition of members' collections

We need to have your registration by September 15, 2020. A booklet will be published containing informative articles on the displays to be presented by our members. This will take time to prepare!

(Anyone who intends to come but has not finalized the content of his display, please register and give your provisional topic. We will contact you with our deadline for inclusion in the celebratory booklet.)

We hope to see a great majority our members during the week-end of our Anniversary. It will be a very great opportunity to meet each other, socialize and discuss our hobby.

Security punch holes in the 1942 Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

"Palms" Issue - Part 1

Charles Lloyd

The surprise invasion of Belgium in May 1940 and the subsequent occupation of the country cut-off the Belgian Congo from its source of postage stamps, then being printed at Mechelen. The stock held at Leopoldville was limited and the decision of Governor-General Pierre Ryckmans to declare allegiance (of the Congo) to the Allied cause meant that an alternative source was required. Initially, in late 1940, the Belgian Consulate in Cape Town placed an order with S.A. Litho Ltd. (a Cape Town company) to print a set of 11 values. This company designed a stamp which featured the King Albert Monument in Leopoldville (a suitably patriotic subject) and produced a good quality printing, though perforation was problematic. The printing was supervised by a Belgian Congo postal official, M. De Bruyn, who took the plates home each day after printing! Printing took several months to complete, after which De Bruyn returned to the Congo, presumably taking the plates with him. These stamps were put on sale in February 1941 and were followed by three provisional overprinted stamps in July.

Clearly, the print run (48,700 sheets of 100 stamps for each value) was insufficient because a new definitive issue took its place in May 1942. This was the "Palms" issue produced by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. of London. It has puzzled me as to why a second printing of the King Albert monument stamps did not take place. I can speculate, only. Were those plates De Bruyn took from the printer damaged / destroyed / lost? Was perforation a continuing problem? Did someone in authority consider the quality of the design poor? At this time, the Belgian Government in Exile, sitting in London, wanted to curb Ryckman's power and independence. Did it consider that the ordering and approval of postage stamps was one of its responsibilities? For whatever reason, the King Albert Monument stamps were demonetized after just 19 months in use. Their replacement, the Waterlow Palms issue is one of high quality in terms of the designs, engraving and printing.

It was the practice for Waterlows to demonetize every stamp printed and not intended for sale, by punching a demonetising "security" hole in the centre. There was a second security punched hole, larger than the former, positioned at the corner of the stamp such that it cut through four adjoining stamps. The latter appears not to have been applied routinely.

It was necessary to print trial sheets to check that there were no imperfections. They are the printing shop proofs. For this check, these sheets do not require perforation. They were examined by printer and engraver with sites for correction circled in ink. When plates were corrected and a revised proof approved, the margin of the sheet was signed and relevant printing details added (see Figure 11 in Part 2). These stamps may be described, quite fairly, as "printer's waste". Each stamp received a

security hole to prevent use. They have reached the philatelic market legitimately by the company selling them or by an employee removing and keeping this “waste”.

There are perforated proof sheets, “file copies”, kept for reference.

There is a third security punch hole used by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., on their publicity proofs. Examples of their finest engraved stamps were printed in colours different to those of the issued stamps for presentation to potential customers to display the quality of their work. These stamps are overprinted “SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS LTD” and perforated with a small demonetizing hole.



Figure 1: Imperforate printing shop proof with both central and corner demonetising security punched holes (left). Perforated file copy proof with a central demonetising security punched hole (centre). Publicity proof with a small demonetising security punched hole (right). [Unfortunately, I have yet to own one of these. This example was for sale on E-bay.]

I was pleased to buy both imperforate and perforated security punched stamps last year. When I examined them, the range in size of the security punch holes stood out.



Figure 2: The range in size of the security punch hole: 2.4 mm (left), 3.3 mm (centre right) and 5.9 mm (right). The hole in the 1.25F stamp (enlarged, centre left) has an irregular torn appearance with an annular impression of rumpled paper surrounding it. The diameter of this distorted area is 4.4 mm. Did the punch jam preventing the cut, though there was sufficient stress in the paper to tear it, or was the punch and die mismatched? Around the circular hole in the 75c stamp distortion also exists but this is less with the diameter of the distorted ring being 4.0 mm.

There are a number of possibilities to explain the range in size:

- There were a number of punches in the printing shop. A standard size was not specified. Perhaps each man had his own punch.
- While the act of demonetizing was considered essential to the Company, there was less concern about how it was done.

- Wartime exceptional circumstances existed.
- Some of these are forgeries.

Naturally, the fourth possibility was of concern. Adding a punch hole could dramatically increase the value of a common mint stamp. It is a simple task. Here is an example (Figure 3) that I have produced (to illustrate my point) by using my office two-hole file punch:



Figure 3: My creation of a *faked* security punch hole. The 5.5 mm ($\frac{7}{32}$ inch) hole is circular and has a clean cut. NB. This stamp cannot be passed off as genuine because the presence of a security punch hole is inconsistent with the used state of the stamp.

The sharpness of my *faked* security punch hole contrasts with the torn or mixed torn/cut appearance of holes in many of the proofs. I had assumed, wrongly as it transpired, that a company with Waterlow's reputation would not be so careless and consequently, the quality of the hole might indicate whether the proof is genuine.



Figure 4: The range in quality of the security punch hole. From the left: Security punch holes in a 25c (perfect - circular and sharp cut), a 5F (circular, cut in some places and torn in others), a 1.25F (torn with an annular impression of the punch or edge of the die) and a 10F (very poor - torn and irregular) stamp. All are imperforate printing shop proofs.



Figure 5: Waterlow publicity proofs from Southern Rhodesia (SG35, 1935) and from the Mozambique Company (SG204, 1918). Both have genuine Waterlow security punch holes. Both holes are of low quality, not having sharp edges and a perfect circular shape.

From the evidence seen in Figures 3, 4 and 5 we can conclude that the quality of the hole (degree of roundness & sharpness) cannot be used as a factor in determining

whether a proof stamp is genuine or not. The next consideration is the diameter of the security punch hole.

Both the imperforate printing shop proofs and the perforate file copy proofs have security punch holes with a quality that ranges from perfect through to very poor, as seen in Figure 4. It appears that demonetizing was important to Waterlow & Sons, but the company was much less concerned about how this was done. Because the quality of the holes in the publicity proofs (figure 5), which were intended for potential customers is poor, to blame exceptional conditions in wartime for the poor quality of the “Palms” punch holes is not supported by the evidence.

While the Waterlow publicity proofs are only a passing interest in this study, it is worth noting that the diameters of the punch hole in the Southern Rhodesia stamp (1.8 mm) and in the Mozambique Company stamp (1.7 mm) are close to that of the Belgian Congo stamp (1.6 ± 0.3 mm).

The sixty-seven stamps in my possession were scanned and saved as JPEG files at 600 dpi (more correctly termed ppi) on a full size image. From these files, the images could be magnified on the computer screen, typically to x18, which enabled holes to be measured to 0.05 mm. Diameters were measured in both orthogonal directions and these measurements averaged. For reporting, an accuracy of 0.1 mm is given. The results for the printing shop proofs are:

Centre hole diameter

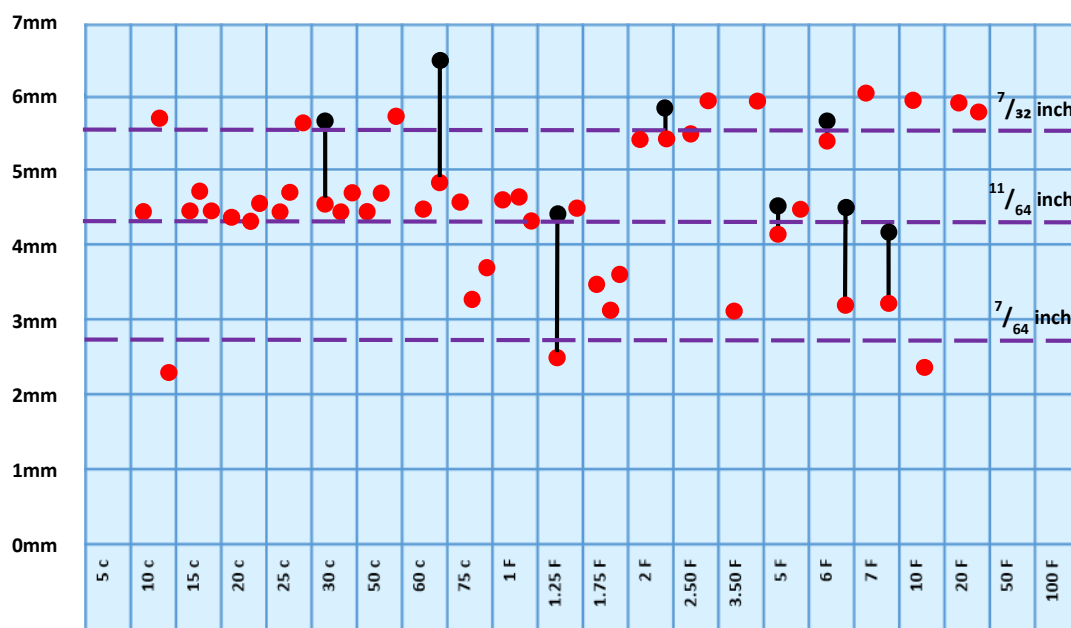


Figure 6: The diameters of security punch holes in imperforate printing shop proofs (also referred to as printer’s waste). Black circles are the diameters of circular punch impressions found surrounding holes in eight stamps. These are joined by vertical black lines to the size of their respective hole diameters, which are the red points. Three purple dashed lines representing British Imperial sizes have been added. In 1942 the inch (= 25.4 mm) was used as a unit of length in the United Kingdom.

The holes range in size from 2.3 mm to 6.6 mm, though there are significant clusters around 4.5 mm and 5.7 mm. These correspond to the British Imperial measurements of $\frac{11}{64}$ inches and $\frac{7}{32}$ inches, respectively. At this time in the United Kingdom, manufacturers of simple mass produced tools, such as paper punches, used stock steel bars available in fraction sizes of an inch. [For items requiring greater precision, measurements were in thousands of an inch, a term invariably abbreviated by engineers to “thous”. (1mm ~ 40 thous).] Over 83% of the 47 holes lie close to sizes of $\frac{11}{64}$ and $\frac{7}{32}$ inches. Careful re-examination of the remaining eight did not reveal an annular indentation to any significant extent. Thus, they remain anomalous.

Centre hole diameter

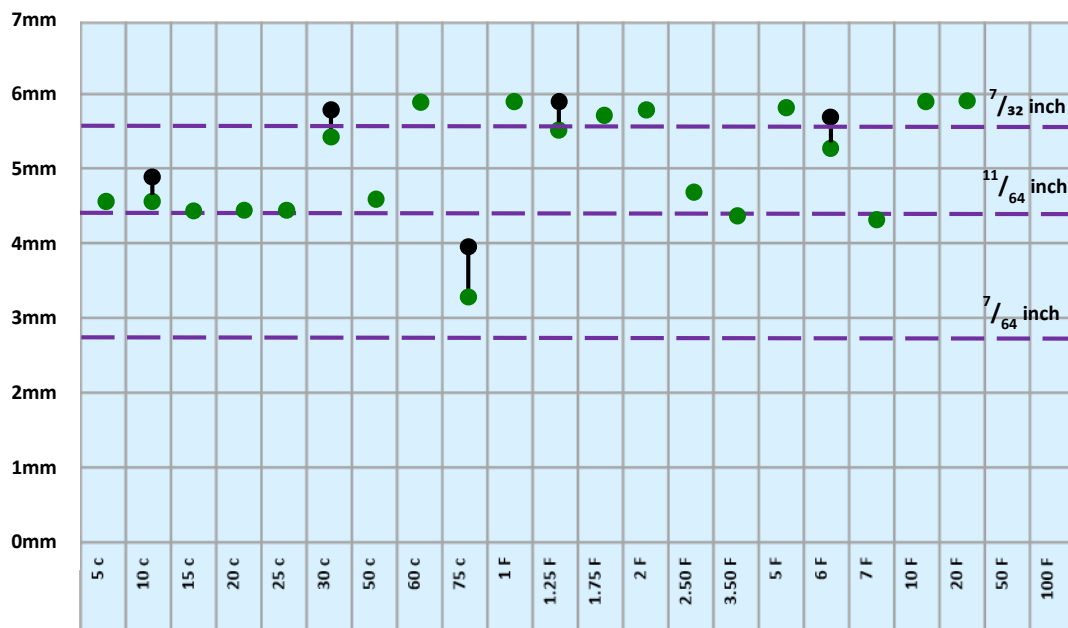


Figure 7: The diameters of security punch holes in file copy proofs. Black circles are the diameters of circular punch impressions found surrounding holes in five stamps. These are joined by vertical black lines to the size of their respective hole diameters, which are the green points.

For these file copy proofs, there are also clusters around two sizes and which is more pronounced. This leads to the conclusion that two punch sizes were in use. In times gone past, it was the practice for tradesmen in the United Kingdom to own their hand tools. (It was a tradition going back more than a hundred years when tradesmen moved from employer to employer to work.) At the time of printing the Palms issue, maybe, Waterlow & Sons did not require a standard size to be used.

To produce a more robust conclusion a greater sample size is needed. Proofs are advertised for sale on the internet. (Printing shop proofs, file copy proofs and a publicity proof - as singles, pairs or blocks.) These are investigated in Part 2 and the discussion and conclusions will be presented.

To be continued

4 fr. aerograms of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi Correction and new discovery. Part 3

Ch. Hénuzet

Conclusions

In view of the study of the watermark, it is simple to classify the aerograms:
Simply differentiate the watermark at 25 mm or 28.5 mm or 27.5 mm.

The procedure is as follows;

- determine the type of watermark - i.e. 25 millimetres - Type 1 (a-b-c) H or V
- i.e. 28.5 millimetres - Type 2 (a-b-c) H or V
- i.e. 27.5 millimetres - Type 3 (a-b-c) H or V

After studying all the aerograms available, a 25 mm spaced watermark was never seen in types 2 and 3 papers. The same is true for the 28.5 mm and the 27.5 mm spaced watermarks, only ever seen in Type 2 and Type 3 papers, respectively.

From this. we can create the table shown to the right, developed from Stibbe's listing:

Below - Very early usage

KAMITUGA 22 – 8 – 55 12

Type 8A2 22 août 1955 12 (heures)



(Aerograms were introduced on the 1st July 1955.)

N°	WATERMARK		COLOUR
1a	H	25 mm	Dark grey blue
	V		
1b	H	25 mm	Blue grey
	V		
1c	H	25 mm	Greenish blue
	V		
2a	H	28,5 mm	Celeste
	V		
2b	H	28,5 mm	Light turquoise
	V		
2c	H	28,5 mm	Yellow turquoise
	V		
3a	H	27,5 mm	Blue
	V		
3b	H	27,5 mm	Grey blue
	V		
3c	H	27,5 mm	Light blue
	V		

Note to table: N° 1 (25 mm) / N° 2 (28.5 mm) / N° 3 (27.5 mm) = Paper types
a / b / c = the three paper colours for each paper type
H / V = watermark lines run horizontally or vertically, respectively
Thus, an aerogram is described by 3 parameters. E.g. N°3b H

The decree instructing withdrawal of these aerograms on 31 August 1960 was repealed, due to the shortage of the replacement Congo aerograms and they continued to be used, at least until 1st July 1962, when the territories of Ruanda and Urundi were split to become RWANDA and BURUNDI.

N°3b H (see tabulation) cancellation of LEOPOLD ^{VILLE} STADT KALINA -7-4-62 10
H

Probably, one of the last dates of use without the Congo overprint.



From the beginning of Independence on June 10, 1960, there were aerograms with the "CONGO" overprint.

Paper changes color in daylight



Stibbe N°5: N°3b H with CONGO overprint, written at MATADI on 3/7/1960, and cancelled by "roulette" on arrival (in Belgium).

On April 14, 1964, all postal rates were repealed by the President of the Republic of Congo Joseph KASAVUBU.

An example of the Republic of Congo with a postage supplement. Aerogram uprated with a 8 frs (COB # 492) stamp of the Republic of Congo.

Stibbe N°4: N°2c H with CONGO overprint, cancellation SEKE - BANZA 18-11-64 9



The aerogram, above, takes us to the overprinted 4 fr Belgian Congo aerograms.

There are two different types of overprints which are: "CONGO" and "KATANGA".



These are overprints were applied by hand:
Mechanical composer for "CONGO" or
rubber stamp for "KATANGA"

"CONGO" overprint positioned in the centre under the plane for the on the 4 franc imprinted stamp,

"KATANGA" overprint applied over the vignette caption "BELGISCH-CONGO BELGE" of that stamp,

Of course, like all overprints applied by hand and despite an apparent rigour in work, you can always find small linear or vertical displacements.



To be continued

Postal Auction Sale 2020-1

Prices Realized

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1		38	4.25	75	
2		39	5.25	76	7.00
3		40	6.25	77	
4		41		78	
5		42		79	
6	21.00	43	7.25	80	6.25
7	15.25	44	8.00	81	10.25
8		45	7.25	82	3.50
9		46	12.00	83	3.50
10		47	4.50	84	7.00
11		48	15.00	85	4.50
12	4.50	49	22.00	86	8.00
13	1.00	50	21.00	87	1.50
14		51		88	2.75
15		52	390.00	89	1.00
16	7.25	53	960.00	90	3.75
17		54	100.00	91	4.75
18	37.00	55		92	5.00
19		56	570.00	93	4.00
20		57	100.00	94	0.75
21		58		95	1.05
22		59	72.00	96	5.25
23		60		97	2.25
24		61	12.25	98	2.25
25		62		99	2
26	24.00	63	20.00	100	6.00
27		64	33.00	101	6.00
28		65		102	6.50
29		66		103	82.00
30		67		104	2.50
31	7.75	68		105	
32		69		106	4.00
33	8.25	70		107	4.00
34	12.00	71		108	
35	9.25	72		109	70.00
36	5.25	73		110	
37	6.00	74			

Bidding form - BCSC 2020-2

To be sent to

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

Or by E-mail at : thierry.frennet@fthsprl.be

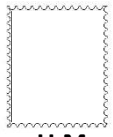
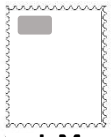
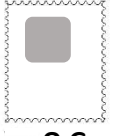
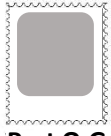
CLOSING DATE FOR BIDS – 15th AUGUST 2020

Name : Date :

Full Address: Signature :

Auction Rules

Abbreviations used

U.M.	= unmounted mint – unused with original gum in Post Office state, never hinged.	GUM	
L.M.	= lightly hinged - unused with original gum, mounted with a peelable hinge.		
O.G.	= original gum - unused with gum slightly disturbed or alternatively having a previous hinge	U.M	L.M.
Part O.G.	= part original gum – unused with original gum. Large hinge remnants may or may not be present.		
		O.G.	Part O.G.

CB – Congo Belge; COB – Catalogue Officiel Belge number; RU – Ruanda-Urundi;
Designation of cancellations are in accordance with the Heim & Keach classification

Bidding steps

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

Postage on lots will be charged to buyers

See also our website: www.Belgian-congo-study-circle.be

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

To submit more bids, please send them entered on a 2nd (& more) copy/copies of this bidding form.

Lot	Description	COB #	Min. Bid €
Postage due stamps & covers			
1	In a small stockbook : 165 postage due stamps, from issue 1908 to 1957 issue, but mostly Mols stamps. Used, no gum, LH or MNH. All kinds of TAXE or TAXES cachets.		29,50
2	1909 issue of postage due stamps, 5c green, 10c carmine, 25 c blue type II, 40c green blue, 50c olive, all with local overprints and various tax(e)s cachets + 15c typo overprint. Used. <i>Some rust spots on 2 stamps.</i>	TX7, 8, 10a, 11, 12, 19	12,00
3	Postal stationery. Belgian double postcard (King Albert I, type Houyoux) from Cureghem, Belgium, to Lisala (8 juin 1927), insufficiently franked (30c, tariff 45c). Postage due stamps of 1923 issue 5c + 10c + 15c. <i>Rather rare.</i>	TX66, 67, 68	45,00
4	Cover from Charleroi, Belgium (23 VI 1913) to Elisabethville via Cape Town. Handwritten note: "A taxer à l'arrivée" (<i>To be taxed on arrival</i>) + large black T cachet. Postage due stamps of issue 1910 10c carmine and 1909 issue 40 c green-blue, unfortunately these were not cancelled. On reverse : arrival cachet of Elisabethville 21 juil 1913. Rare	TX 21 + 32,	50,00
5	Cover with 1923 Vloors issue 25c red-brown (3) from Elisabethville 30.4.26 to Paris, with black T cachet but no postage due stamps + 2 postcards both with beautiful Boma cancellation 19 avril 1911 on 1910 issue 10 c carmine and postage due stamps.	110 (3), TX 32 + 34	4,00
6	1958 issue 3F carmine (x2) on cover from Lukolela 17.8.58 to Chicago Illinois USA, large black T and handwritten note <i>0,49 f or (i.e. 0.49 franc-or)</i> . American post office purple cachet (<i>17 cents were presumably equal to 0.49 franc-or at that time</i>).	346 (2)	6,50
7	Cover without franking from and to Coquilhatville, postage due stamps 1915 issue 50c lilac brown and 1F olive with Taxes cachets, large black T.	TX46 + 47	45,00
Free State & Belgian Congo stamps			
8	1894 issue, full set, used except for 40c blue-green (LH)	14/29	70,00
9	1894 issue 5c blue, 10c red-brown, 15c ochre, 5f carmine, no gum or gum adherences but beautiful items	14, 17, 28	12,00
10	1894 issue 25c orange (pair) + 10 F green cancellation Matadi, perf 12, used	21, 29a	12,00
11	1894 issue 10F green, perf 14¼ used	29	15,00
12	1894 issue 5c red-brown, 10c blue, 25c orange, 1F violet, LH	15, 18, 21, 26A	11,00
13	1894 issue 3,50F, cancellation Boma 5 oct 1903	27	40,00

14	1909 issue 5F carmine, local overprint, cancellation Boma	38L	20,00
15	1909 issue 10F green, local overprint, telegraphic cancellation Boma 16 DECE 1910	39L	27,00
16	1909 issue local overprint 5c green, displaced L1 overprint, used + 10c carmine double L2 overprint, LH	30L,31L	8,00
17	1909 issue local overprint L5 15c , 25c , 40c, 50c, all L5, used except 25c blue LH (2 short perfs.)	32L, 33L, 34L, 35L	7,00
18	1909 issue typo overprint 3,50F vermillion, Boma Cancellation 2 DECE 1913	47	7,00
19	1909 issue typo overprint full set used, except 5c green & 10c carmine, LH	40/49	35,00
20	Five different unusual cancellations on Mols stamps : Pania-Mutombo, Pweto, Lukungu, Bumba, Lusambo.		4,50
21	Beautiful cancellations (some are rare : Bolobo, Sandoa, Mushie, Poko, Kigoma...) on 16 stamps, mostly Vloors stamps		5,50
22	1923 and 1925 Vloors issues, 5c orange, 15c brown-gray, 40c violet, 60c carmine, 75c gray-blue, in blocks of four (UM & LH)		2,00
23	1950 issue full set, used + Cover with 6,50 F from Inkisi to Chicago Illinois, USA & 1955 issue full set, used + non-commercial FDC with full set (Leopoldville 26-7-55, first day of issue)	298/9 + 337/8	4,50
24	1952 Flowers issue, full set, used (except 15c LH) + 1,25 F block of four used + 5 covers with beautiful frankings included 1 registered cover and 1 internal mail cover (Matadi to Matadi)		9,00
Postal Stationery			
25	Lot of 5 illustrated postcards 1912 issue, Palmtree 10c carmine, used (5), view # 2, 11, 13, 18, 21. One card has an additional 10c stamp.	Stibbe 43	6,00
26	Lot of 5 illustrated postcards 1912 issue, Palmtree 10c carmine, used (5), view # 38, 42, 50, 69, 71	Stibbe 43	6,00
27	Lot of 2 illustrated postcards 1912 issue, Palmtree 10c carmine, new (view # 15) + CTO Sandoa 1922 with additional stamp (view # 55)	Stibbe 43	2,00
28	Lot of 4 illustrated postcards 1912 issue, Palmtree 5c yellow-green, used (2, view # 9, 25), unused (2, view # 34, 56)	Stibbe 42	2,50
29	1922 issue illustrated postcard, Palmtree 15c blue-green, (view # 113), used, cancellation Kambove 18 aout 1922, with handstruck mark VERIFIE, because has been sent as printed matter.	Stibbe 61	10,00
30	Illustrated postcard 1912 issue, Palmtree 10c carmine, with issue 1921 15c/50c olive stamp applied to the original, used, cancellation Elisabethville 13-1-22	Stibbe 43	2,00
31	Illustrated postcard 1922 issue, Palmtree 30c dark carmine, view # 94, used, cancellation Kinshasa 25-VII-22	Stibbe 62	3,00
32	1897 issue postcard, Palmtree 15c orange, used, from Stanleyville 1906 to Copenhagen, Denmark. Spectacular (8 cachets! In particular, transit cachet of Leopoldville)	Stibbe 15	6,00

33	1892 issue, King Leopold 15 c blue (Matadi 1893 to Helsingbord, Sweden) transit mark of Boma.	Stibbe 11	18,00
34	1892 issue, King Leopold 10 c carmine (2) : CTO (1) + Cancellation Ibembo 1897 (1) Leo and Boma transit marks, to Copenhagen, Denmark, slightly folded + tiny tear	Stibbe 10	14,00
35	1897 issue, postcard Palmtree 15c blue, used, from Bumba 1897 to Copenhagen, Denmark. Arrival mark in Copenhagen and transit mark of Lisbon, Portugal + Double postcard Palmtree 10c red-brown + 10c green (repaired) with additional issue 1894 5c stamp	Stibbe 17b + 16b	9,00
36	1909 issue, Palmtree 10c red, local overprint L1, CTO Kasongo	Stibbe 24L	4,00
37	1909 issue, Palmtree 10c red, local overprint L1, from Kasongo 15 MARS 10 to Meiringen, Switzerland, 1894 issue 5c green as additional stamp.	Stibbe 24L	10,00
38	1909 issue, Palmtree 10c green, local overprint L7, answer from Zollikofen, Switzerland 9-VI-10 to B. Congo, 1894 issue 5c green as additional stamp.	Stibbe 22La	19,00
39	1910 issue Palmtree 15c brown, local overprint 7, large 5, additional 1910 issue 10c green, from Ponthierville to Switzerland	Stibbe 31LLA	7,50
40	1897 issue postcard, Palmtree 15c red-orange, used, from Boma 1899 to Namur, Belgium. Additional stamp: 1894 issue 5c red-brown.	Stibbe 14b	5,00
41	1910 issue Palmtree 15c brown (answer part of a double card), from Zollikofen 9-X-09 Switzerland to Kindu. Leo- & Stanleyville transit cachets.	Stibbe 17c	15,00
42	1910 issue Palmtree 5 c red, cancellation Thysville 1911 to Tumba. Internal mail	Stibbe 36	5,00
43	1910 issue Palmtree 5 c red, cancellation Ponthierville 1911 (only on the additional stamp) to Switzerland. Additional stamp 1910 issue 5c green. Transit marks of Stanleyville & Leopoldville.	Stibbe 36	5,00
44	1912 issue illustrated postcard, Palmtree 10c carmine, view # 68, Niangara 15 Mai 1913 to Florence, Italy, forwarded to Milan. Nice Khartoum transit mark 15 Jun 13 & arrival mark Firenze. Nile route to the Mediterranean.	Stibbe 43	4,00
45	1911 issue Palmtree 10c carmine, to Meiringen Switzerland, red Ponthierville cancellation 3 juin 1912. Transit mark (Leopoldville) and arrival mark.	Stibbe 40	4,00
46	Ruanda-Urundi 1918 illustrated postcard issue 5c green, view # 2, new	Stibbe 11	1,50
47	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 illustrated postcard issue surcharge 15/5c green, view # 44, new	Stibbe 17	2,00
48	Ruanda-Urundi 1922 illustrated postcard issue surcharge 15/10c carmine, view # 34, used, from Usumbura to Belgium + additional 1916 issue 15c green stamp	Stibbe 18	8,00
Selected items			
49	Forerunner (1884) Hertwich's label "Inland du Congo" (COB #3), black on gray, no gum, slightly thinned and torn on upper side. With (part of) black round Issanghila 1884 mark.		250,00

50	1886 issue 5F violet, variety position 38 (COB 5-V), cancellation BANANA 16 Janv 1887. One short perforation. With BCSC certificate	5-V	250,00
51	1887 issue 5F violet, surcharge colis postaux/Fr.3.50, used, with Pierre Kaiser certificate	CP1	395,00
52	1923 Vloors issue 5c orange-yellow, 10c green (block of 4), 15c gray-brown (block of 4), 20c olive-green (block of 4), 25c red-brown (block of 4), all with SPECIMEN in red and small punch hole, UM	106/10	40,00
53	1923 Vloors issue 3F olive-brown + 1925 Vloors issue 30c olive (block of 4) and 50c red-orange (block of 4), all with SPECIMEN in red and small punch hole, UM	115, 119 123	18,00
54	1923 Vloors issue 25c red-brown (spectacular block of 9), sheet corner, boxed red cachet "Return to RECORD A SPECIMEN DEPT.", with SPECIMEN in red and small punch hole, UM	110	30,00
55	1928 Stanley issue, two full sets (large and small size), mostly used, a few LH + two covers: a registered cover from Elisabethville to Berlin, Germany and a beautiful 5 colours cover from Boma to Locarno, Switzerland.	135/49	23,00
56	1931 Stanley with surcharge issue, two full sets (large and small size), used or LH + horizontal pair of 2F/1,75 F on registered cover from Aba 1933 to Cairo, Egypt (arrival mark on reverse).	162/7	20,00
Belgian Congo - Stamps and Covers			
57	1942 issue lot of 6 covers included a registered one + one postcard. Beautiful frankings and cancellations of Inkisi, Bolobo, etc		8,50
58	Lot of 3 airmail covers "100 flights Belgium-Congo via Sabena" (1938) + First flight cover flight Ponthierville-Elisabethville 31-10-1936		6,50
59	Lot of 2 airmail covers first flight Belgian Congo - USA (1941), Leopoldville to Belem (Brasil) and to Miami, Florida		4,00
60	Postcard with ship SS Elisabethville, sent from Antwerp 11.3.16 by feldpost to Germany		4,50
61	Pioneer flight cover (Raid De Looz -Corswaren-Mahieu) 22-10-35 from Leopoldville to Denmark. Transit cachet Copenhagen Luftpost on reverse	186 (x2)	18,00
62	Airmail cover from Costermansville 21.2.35 to Germany		9,50
63	Commemorative airmail cover from Brussels 23.2.35 (special "3 stars" cancellation) to Leopoldville and back (Leopoldville 26.2.35) to Belgium		6,00
64	Registered airmail cover from Leopoldville to Aarhus, Denmark. Red linear mark "Courrier aérien SABENA/accidenté/ ORAN 28 janvier 1937"		30,00
65	Airmail cover from Leopoldville 18.10.41 to Sweden. Open by censors in B. Congo and in Great-Britain (tapes). Violet boxed mark: "NO SERVICE/RETURN TO SENDER". Two archive punch holes on left side.		25,00
66	Post free stamps used by Indian Forces in Congo in 1962, cancelled FPO 660 15-1-62. Full set. CTO (FDC?) COB value : 40 euros		5,00
67	1928 Stanley issue: two covers franked with (1) 2F brown (Cancellation Kasenyi 29.5.31, to the USA) and (2) 1,75 F blue (+ 25c Vloors) cancellation Matadi 5.5.31 to Stockholm, Sweden	110, 143, 144	8,00
68	Two airmail covers: (1) Elisabethville 7.9.35 to Germany, boxed handstamp AVION in black & (2) Coquilhatville 1.9.35 to Belgium.		8,00

69	1915 issue 1F olive on registered cover (Kinshasa 5 MARS 1921) to Leopoldville (internal registered mail). Arrival cachet on reverse.		30,00
70	1938 issue 5c violet complete sheet of 100 stamps, in 2 panes, UM		1,50
71	1941 issue: two censored covers: (1) from Thysville 15.2.42 to London, Congolese and British censor tapes; (2) from Leopoldville to Boston, Mass., USA. Congolese and American censor tapes. Five stamps have been cancelled with large black 0 meaning they were obsolete. Interesting		29,00
72	1941 issue, some used stamps + two covers: (1) censored cover from Jadotville 15.2.42 to New York, South African censor tape + black handstruck mark Passé censure Elisabethville ; (2) from Leopoldville 12.12.41 to Auburn, Mass., USA, first flight Belgian Congo - USA.		13,00
73	1941 issue 15 c lilac brown vertical pair, sheet corner, imperforate, UM + 2,50 carmine-red vertical pair, sheet margin, imperforated on 2 sides.	215, 221	5,00
74	1941 issue 2,50 carmine-red vertical strip of 3, sheet margin, imperforate on 2 sides, UM. One short perf at left side of the inferior stamp	221	3,50
75	1941 issue 2,75 violet-blue vertical strip of 3, sheet margin, imperforated on 2 sides, UM. Upper stamp with displaced perforation.	222	5,00
76	07.1941 issue 75c/1,75 F displaced surcharge, UM	225	2,50
77	1930 issue, full set, LH. Very good condition	150/8	18,00
78	1942 issue, 14 different imperforate stamps, mostly UM, with various kinds of punch holes; obviously "from the workshop" items.		40,00
79	1931 issue Vloors with surcharge, full set, LH	159/161A	11,00
80	1931 Stanley issue, full set, used	162/7	3,00
Ruanda-Urundi			
81	1942 "Spitfire" issue, full set, UM	148/9	2,50
82	1959 African animals issue 1961 issue, full sets, UM	205/16	2,00
83	1949 UPU issue, 4 small miniature sheets, full set, LH, COB value : 550 euros ++, RRR	BL1A/4A	220,00
84	1942 issue, airmail cover with 6 different stamps, from Usumbura 1.10.1945 to Paris, France. Transit cachet Leopoldville on reverse		18,00
85	Airmail cover Usumbura 23.6.35 to Belgium. Handstruck mark PAYE and boxed handstruck mark AVION (twice). Large X handstruck mark on aerial stamps.		29,00
86	Airmail cover Usumbura 6.4.55 to Göteborg, Sweden.		2,00
87	Airmail cover Usumbura 16.11.37 to Aalborg, Denmark		5,00
88	Rwanda (république du Rwanda), in a small stockbook : 28 full sets between 1962 and 1967, mostly UM (a few used sets) (+ 6 covers, round the years '80) + 40 other mismatched stamps of Rwanda.		10,00
89	Belgian Official Catalogue, vol 2 : Former Belgian Colonies, edition 2017 ; Catalogue officiel Anciennes Colonies Belges Edition 2017 ; Officiële Postzegels Catalogus, Belgische ex-koloniën, uitgave 2017. Very good condition		7,00