

BELGIAN CONGO



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Georges Celis

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RWANDA -POST OFFICES AND CANCELLATIONS

We continue Dr. Celis' article.

TYPE RW 2

These cancellations are very different from the previous, mainly in the characters used.

---large, more or less thick, letters. Some characters are asymmetrical examples are the U, the N and the P;

---Space between the characters. A name like Gitarama needs one half of the canceller circle;

---plain stars, very small, which are reduced to a dot when worn out;

---letter under the name—however some offices received cancellers without any letter. *(in the charts that follow in the article Dr. Celis has indicated the letters used inside the cancellation which are known and has also indicated some situations where there is no letter (sans litt.) -examples are in photo 3*

These cancellations should have been used from 1972 on, probably in the following order: RWAMAGANA, KABAYA, NYANGA, VUNGA, etc.

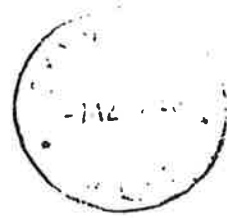
Offices using these cancellations, with the different letters which we have seen:

BUTARE	B C	
CYANGUGU	B	
GAKENKE	A	
GATSIBO	A B	
GIKONGORO	[sans litt.]	
GISENYI	A B	
GITARAMA	[sans litt.], A	
KABAYA	A B	
KADUHA	A	
KIBUNGO	A	
KIGALI	A B C D E F G H I J K RDES	
KIGALI AERO	B	(a)
KIGALI	L	(b)
KIRAMBO	A	
NYABISINDU	[sans litt.], A	(c)
NYAMASHEKE	B	
NYAMATA	[sans litt.], A B	
NYANGE	B	
RUBENGERA	A	
RUHANGO	A B	
RUHENGERRI	B	(d)
RUSUMO	A	
RWAMAGANA	B C	
VUNGA	A B	

- (a) the abbreviation AERO follows the name KIGALI (see photo 4)
- (b) office located in the bus station, in the center of Kigali (see photo 4) this office had a Kigali cancellation with the letter L;
- (c) this office is still using the mark "Nyanza". We have never seen a straight line mark "Nyabisindu";
- (d) cancellation used in the auxiliary post office of NDUSU (see photo 3)

NYAMASHERE RW-2

CYANGURU RW-1



RUSUMU RW-2



RWANDA-200F



RUSUMU 226

PAR AVION
PER LUCHTPOST
BY AIR MAIL

Madame Y. Celis
Rue Teniers 14
1030, BRUXELLES
BELGIQUE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

RNDUSU 749

RWANDA 70F



NOËL 1988



Au verso:

KABAYA RW-4 du 30.8.93
KIGALI RW-4 du 31.8.93
Rdés

Mme J. Mucenagire
La Carrière 21A
4623 MAGNEE
Belgique

La Vierge à la soupe
VERONESE
1528 - 1598
Lilla di Maser - Italie

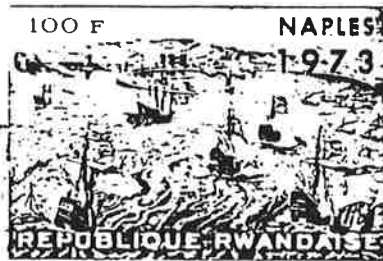


Gare
Routiere
de
KIGALI
RW-2

R Kigali Gare
084



Madame Y. Celis
Rue Teniers, 14
1030. BRUXELLES
BELGIQUE



Monsieur Francois Bouté
Poste Restante à BELLOT
77.510 REBAIS
FRANCE



R A6
KIGA028

101:1b

Photo 4

Aéroport de KIGALI: "KIGALI AERO" RW-2

TYPE RW 3

This type of cancellation is easy to identify:

---date without the hour

---letter after the name, separated by a hyphen

---narrow, small characters which are difficult to read.

Only two cancellations are known. These offices seem not to have used other cancellations.

The cancellations were used from the opening of the offices until April 1994.

KARENTERA	-A
RUSHASHI	-B



Rwanda
Kigali
2 da

Radio - Rwanda
P. 83 Kigali

Photo 5.

KarenTERA 4.11.83
Rushashi 21.2.85

TYPE RW. 4

These cancellations are similar to Type I, but the stars are different:

---large stars with empty center, very close to the posthorn (1mm);

---larger posthorn oriented to the right;

---narrow fine characters;

---letter under the name.

These cancellations are of poor quality. The letter is generally illegible and the characters of the names are frequently reduced to small lines and dots.

With this type of cancellation, the words AERO (for Airport) and Rdés (for registered) are located under the name.

Only the word AERO is followed by a letter A and is the only one we have seen.

These cancellations often appear in blue, a colour used in the 80's.

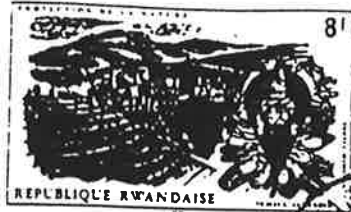
NOTE: this type of cancellation appeared around 1988. Our information is still far from complete as is also the following list:

BUGARAMA	A	
BUSORO	A	
BUTARE	A B C, Rdés	
CYANGUGU	B D	
GIKONDO	B	
GIKONGORO	A C	
GISENYI	A	
KABAYA	B	
KACYIRU	cf. KIGALI D (ou B?)	(*)
KIGALI	B (ou D?), Rdés	(**)
KIGALI	AERO A	
KIYUMBA	A	
MUKINGO	B	
NYABISINDU	A B D	
NYAGATARE	B	
RAMBURA	A	
RUHENGERI	A C	
RWAMAGANA	C D	
VUNGA	B	

No cancellation exists for Kacyiru. This office, located in the Ministry of the Interior at Kacyiru, had a Kigali cancellation.

Kigali Rdés (registry): seen of the reverse of covers coming from inside the country for transit in Kigali: Kigali B (or D?) was used in the "guichet annexe" G. A. of Kacyiru.

"LES ERYTHRINES"
(SAKE-RUKOMA)
B.P. 27
KIBUNGO (RWANDA)



BY AIR MAIL
MU NDEGE 

M. et Mme Celis
La Carrière 21 A
4623 MAGNEE
BELGIQUE

369

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



Recommande

RAMBURA
739

M. Georges Celis
La Carrière 21 A
4623 MAGNEE
BELGIQUE

BP. 27



Rw-4

101:3a

10a

Rw-4

Photo

RAMBURA
Rw-4
illisible!

Meanwhile, we can, almost certainly, exclude from the list of Type 4 the following offices which were using cancellations of other types until April 1994. We can presume that the canceller type 4 existed and may have been available but was kept in reserve.

Bulinga [cachet sans dateur]
Butamwa [cachet sans dateur, existence éphémère]
Bwakira [cachet sans dateur]
Gakenke
Gatsibo
Gishoma [cachet sans dateur]
Kabarondo [cachet sans dateur]
Kaduha
Karengera
Kigali [Gare Routière]
Kigali [Préfecture]
Kirambo
Masango (fermé avant 94) [cachet sans dateur]
Muhura (fermé avant 94)
Ndusu [timbre à date de Ruhengeri]
Nyamasheke
Nyamata
Nyange
Rubengera
Ruhango
Rukira [cachet sans dateur]
Rushashi
Rusumo

Finally there are four post offices of which we are uncertain:

Byumba
Gitarama
Kibungo
Kibuye [voir le § V.A]

Kibungo is also excluded. The author had a Post Office Box in Kibungo and a Type 4 cancellation was never seen. Further, doubt exists for the three others listed.

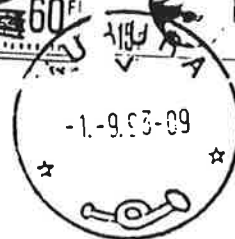
TYPE RW.5

This type of cancellation is known only for MUHURA guichet annexe of Byumba in the south east of that "préfecture (province).

During the civil war of 1990-1993, this office was closed and later abolished (supprimé). There were thousands of refugees in Muhura during the 1990-1993 period who had come from the north of Rwanda.

Characteristics:

- classic metallic cancellation diameter 28.5mm;
- square characters, with similar height and width;
- Letter "Y" under the name. There is no explanation for the choice of this letter;
- very small empty stars (max. 2mm) located far from the posthorn.



Mme J. Muremayire
la Carrière 21A
4623 MAGNEE

BELGIQUE

Photo 7.

TYPE RW.6

Meter cancellations: Two types are known and those only from Kigali and used intermittently.

The text is "Kigali I—République Rwandaïse;
Some employees refused to use these machines for reasons tied to their beliefs.
The machines entered service in the 70's.

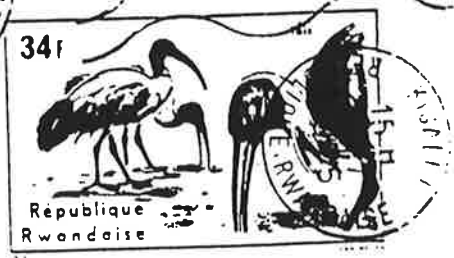
- M 1. KIGALI I placed low in the circle
REPUBLIQUE RWANDAISE placed on the top
5 wavy lines on the left of the circle
the hour and date on three lines
- M 2 KIGALI I on top of the circle
REPUBLIQUE RWANDAISE down in the circle
5 wavy lines at the right
the hour and date on three lines

Photo 8

date:
22.1.88



AVION AIR MAIL AVION AIR MAIL



AIR MAIL
AVION
AIR MAIL
AVION

Madame Y. Celis
Rue Teniers, 14
1030. BRUXELLES
BELGIQUE.

PAR AVION
VIA AIR MAIL

TYPE RW. 7

Cancellations applied with rubber cancellers;
Diameter 30mm;
two very small stars;

The date was indicated by the postal person, in the center of the cancellation, or manually with a small date-cachet.

These cancellations have no letters and were used only in auxiliary offices newly opened. Each post office received only one canceller.

This cachet was used in the following post offices:

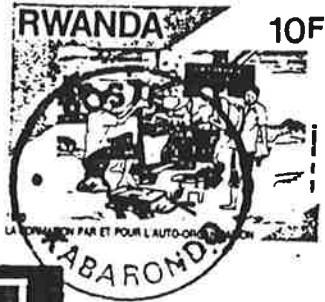
BUTAMWA
GISHOMA
KABARONDO
MASANGO
RUKIRA

Butumwa had a very short existence. It was closed for insufficient activity.

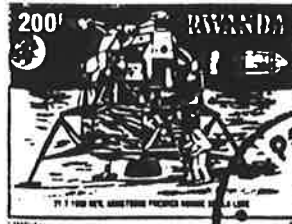


Photo 9

144



1969-1979
10^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA
CONQUETE DE LA LUNE



PAR AVION

Kadame Y. Celis
Rue Teniers 14
1030 BRUXELLES
BELGIQUE

Maison fermée
Avis remis dans
la boîte
le 24/8/91

Ch 2

R Kabarondo
213

Photo 10

KABARONDO RW-7 date à la main

au verso: KIBUNGO RW-1 du 20.8.91
KIGALI Rdés RW-4 du 2.9.91
SCHAARBEEK-SCHAERBEEK 1030 du 5.9.91

101:7a

TYPE RW. 8

Large rubber canceller with a diameter of 38mm. There are no stars.
Only BWAKIRA received this canceller.



Recommandé
RWAKIRA 475
PAR AVION
MU NDEGE
BY AIR MAIL

Honneur J. CELIS
Rue de la Carrière 21A
4623 MAGNEE
Belgique.

Photo II

Au verso: BWAKIRA RW-8 dans lequel la date a été ajoutée avec un petit dateur en caoutchouc de bureau: 30.12.92 KIGALI Rdés RW-4, date illisible.

TYPE RW. 9

The canceller was made of rubber. It is a large cancellation with two concentric circles. Diameter 40 mm.

The references are between the two circles: "Poste" above on top and the name on the bottom. There are no stars.

This type of cancellation was used only in BULINGA. The date was applied separately in the center.

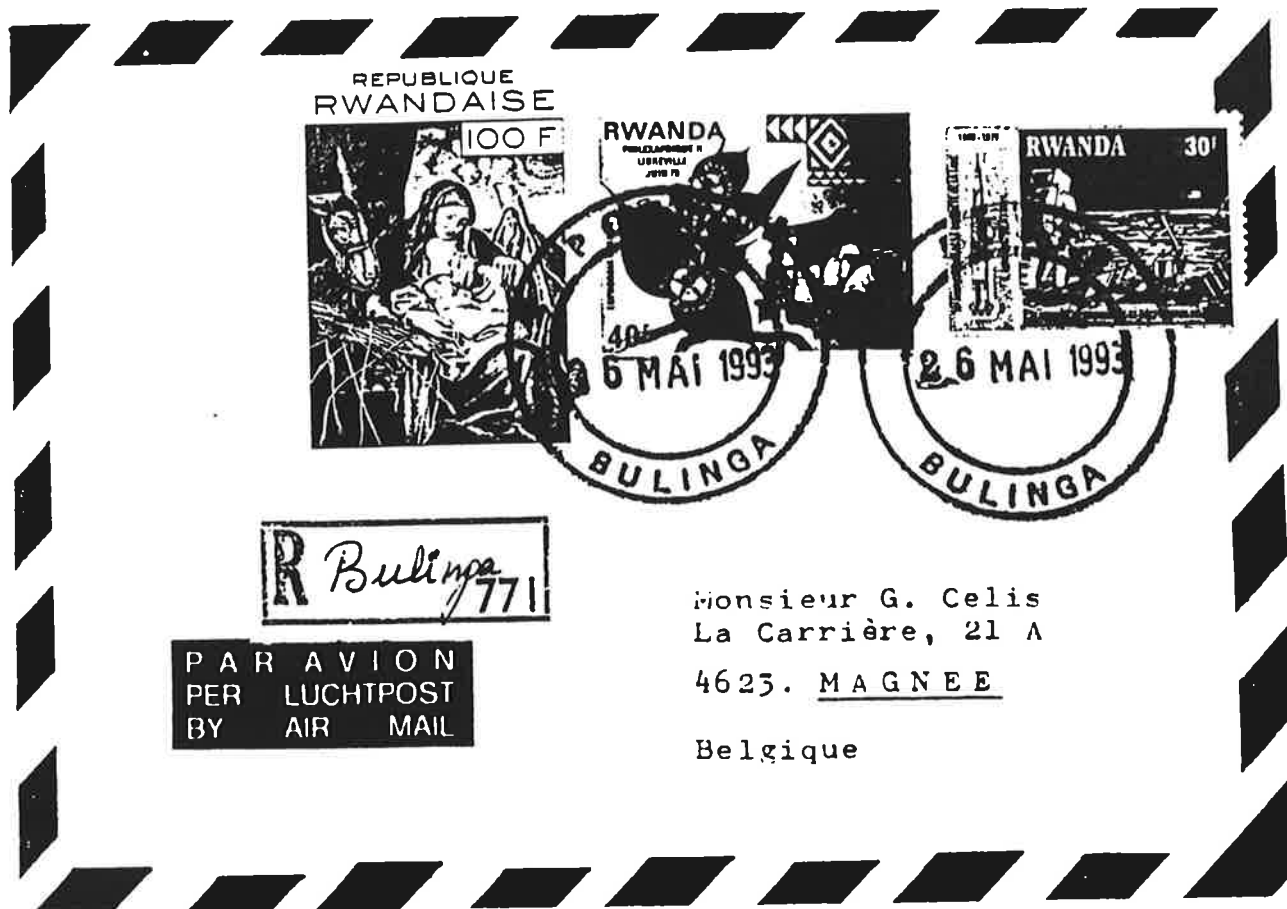


Photo 12

Au verso: GITARAMA (sans litt) Rw-2 du 27.5.93
KIGALI Rdés RW-4 du 4.0.93

V. C. SUMMARY

The tables below represent:

---the name of all post offices in Rwanda since the German period;

---the status of each office

---the opening and closing dates

---the type(s) of cancellations used.

In small letters: the old names of the post offices, German or Belgian.

In capital letters: the actual names

In block letters: the post offices theoretically open early 1994. Some of these offices in the North East were already closed, more or less permanently, during the civil war which started on October 1, 1990.

BYUMBA

GATSIBO

KIRAMBO

MUHURA (uncertain status, discarded ? abandoned?)

NDUSU

NYAGATARE (uncertain status—abandoned—discarded?)

RUHENGERI

ABBREVIATIONS—TRANSLATIONS

P.P. principal post office

S.P. sub post office

B.A. auxiliary post office

G.A. postal agencies (guichets auxiliaires)

• chief town

fermé closed

supprimé suppressed-abandoned

<i>Astrida</i> (cf BUTARE) P.P. 21.4.44	(v. livre de Heim-Keach)
<i>Biumba</i> (cf BYUMBA) P.P. 27.3.51	(v. livre de Heim-Keach)
BUGARAMA B.A. 29.4.88 fermé en avril 1994	- - - 4 - - - - -
BULINGA B.A. 1990 ? fermé en avril 1994	- - - - - 9
BUSORO B.A. 29.4.88 fermé en avril 1994	- - - 4 - - - - -
BUTAMWA B.A. 2.8.90, supprimé en 92 (?)	- - - - - 7 - -

* BUTARE cf. Astrida fermé en avril 1994	1 2 - 4 - - - - -
BWAKIRA B.A. 20.7.89 fermé en avril 1994	- - - - - 8 -
* BYUMBA cf. Biumba fonctionnement irrégulier depuis octobre 90, fermé en avril 1994.	1 2 - - - - -
* CYANGUGU cf. Shangugu fermé en avril 1994	1 2 - - - - -
GAFUNZO t. à d. de CYANGUGU B.A. 9.9.88 supprimé avant 94	
GAKENKE S.P. 1.10.84 fermé en avril 1994	- 2 - - - - -
GATSIBO S.P. 1.6.73 fonctionnement irrégulier depuis octobre 90, fermé en avril 1994.	- 2 - - - - -
GIKONDO G.A. ouvert vers 89-90 (?) fermé le 6 avril 94	- - - 4 - - - - -
* GIKONGORO P.P. 18.2.64 fermé en avril 1994	1 2 - - - - -
* GISENYI cf. Kisenyi fermé en avril 1994	1 2 - - - - -
GISHOMA B.A. 1990 ? fermé en avril 1994	- - - - - 7 - -
* GITARAMA P.P. 20.12.58 fermé en avril 1994	1 2 - - - - -
KABARONDO B.A. 1988 ? fermé le 6 avril 94, (totalement détruit)	- - - - - 7 - -

KABAYA S.P. 15.6.73 fermé en avril 1994	- 2 - - - - -
KACYIRU: voir KIGALI [KACYIRU] t. à d. de KIGALI	
KADUHA S.P. 18.7.86 fermé en avril 1994	- 2 - - - - -
KARENGERA S.P. 9.7.84 fermé en avril 1994	- - 3 - - - - -
* KIBUNGO cf. Kibungu fermé le 6 avril 1994	1 2 - - - - -
<i>Kibungu (cf KIBUNGO)</i> P.P. 7.7.54	cf. le livre de Heim-Keach
* KIBUYE P.P. 2.9.57 fermé en avril 1994 (voir § V.A)	- - - - -
* KIGALI juin 1916 fermé le 6 avril 94 rouvert le 28.9.94	1 2 - 4 - - - - -
KIGALI 1 cf. KIGALI: même bureau	- - - - - 6 - - - - -
KIGALI AERO G.A. fermé le 6 avril 94 rouvert le 28.9.94	- 2 - 4 - - - - -
KIGALI [gare routière] t. à d. de KIGALI G.A. 1990 ? fermé le 6 avril 94	- 2 - - - - -
KIGALI [Kacyiru] G.A. 1992 (?) t. à d. de KIGALI fermé le 6 avril 1994	- - - 4 - - - - -
KIGALI [Préfecture] t. à d. de KIGALI G.A. 1992 ? fermé le 6.4.94, puis supprimé	- 2 - - - - -

KIRAMBO S.P. 4.7.74 fonctionnement irrégulier depuis octobre 90, fermé en avril 1994.	- 2 - - - - -
<i>Kisenyi</i> (cf GISENYI) P.P. 26.10.46	cf. le livre de Heim-Keach
<i>Kissenji</i> (cf GISENYI)	Afrique orientale Allemande: voir le § I.
KIYUMBA B.A. 18.7.86 fermé en avril 94	- - - 4 - - - - -
MASANGO B.A. 23.3.89 fermé en avril 94	- - - - - 7 - -
MUDASOMWA t. à d. de GIKONGORO G.A. 1990 (?) Supprimé peu après.	
MUHURA G.A. 1990 ? fonctionnement irrégulier depuis octobre 90; le nom de ce bureau n'apparaît plus sur un document émis par l'Office National des Postes, datant de 93.	- - - - 5 - - - - -
MUKINGO S.P. 18.7.86 fermé en avril 94	- - - 4 - - - - -
NDUSU B.A.? t. à d. de Ruhengeri fonctionnement incertain depuis octobre 90, fermé en avril 1994.	- 2 - - - - -
NYABISINDU P.P. 2.10.86; cf. Nyanza fermé en avril 94	- 2 - 4 - - - - -
NYAGATARE S.P. 9.9.88 le nom de ce bureau n'apparaît plus sur un document émis par l'Office National des Postes, datant de 93.	- - - 4 - - - - -
NYAMASHEKE S.P. 24.5.72 fermé en avril 94	- 2 - - - - -
NYAMATA S.P. 7.7.78 fermé en avril 94	- 2 - - - - -

NYANGE S.P. juin 73 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - - - - -
<i>Nyanza</i> (cf. NYABISINDU) S.P. avril 53	cf. le livre de Heim-Keach	1 - - - - -
RAMBURA S.P. fermé en avril 94		- - - 4 - - - - -
<i>Ruanda</i>	Afrique Orientale allemande voir le § I.	
RUBENGERA S.P. 1.10.84 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - - - - -
RUHANGO S.P. 4.6.71 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - - - - -
* RUHENGARI P.P. 14.1.49 fermé en avril 94		1 2 - 4 - - - - -
RUKIRA B.A. 21.7.90 fermé en avril 94		- - - - - 7 - -
RUSHASHI S.P. 21.7.82 fermé en avril 94		- - 3 - - - - -
RUSUMO S.P. 26.11.86 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - - - - -
RWAMAGANA S.P. 22.1.72 P.P. 2.10.86 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - 4 - - - - -
<i>Shangugu</i> (cf CYANGUGU) P.P. 17.7.52	cf. le livre de Heim-Keach	
VUNGA S.P. 7.8.74 fermé en avril 94		- 2 - - - - -

POST OFFICE NETWORK

It is unknown if auxiliary post offices and postal agencies reported to the principal or to sub-post offices.

P. P.	S. P.	B. A.	G. A.
* KIGALI	Nyamata Rushashi	---	Aéroport Gare routière Gikondo Kacyiru Préfecture
* BUTARE	---	Busoro	---
* BYUMBA	Gakenke Gatsibo	---	---
* CYANGUGU	Bugarama Karengera Nyamasheke	Gishoma	---
* GIKONGORO	Kaduha	---	---
* GISENYI	Kabaya Rambura	---	---
* GITARAMA	Kiyumba Ruhango	Bulinga Masango	---
* KIBUNGO	Rusumo	Kabarondo Rukira	---
* KIBUYE	Nyange Rubengera	Bwakira	---
NYABISINDU	---	---	---
* RUHENGARI	Kirambo Mukingo Vunga	---	Ndusu
RWAMAGANA	---	---	---

GEORGES CELIS
RUE DE LA CARRIÈRE 21 A
4623 MAGNEE
BELGIQUE

Your Editor again specially thanks M. Emile Hoorens for the translation of this "tour de force" on the cancellations of RWANDA

List of Members

In the past we have published lists of members only rarely. It is proposed that in the future we publish such lists annually. The intention is to include the addresses and home telephone numbers of members.

However, some members may not wish their addresses or telephone numbers to be disclosed and deference will be made to their wishes.

Will you please inform L. G. Green or R. H. Keach if:

- a) you do not wish your address to be included
- b) you do not wish your telephone number to be included and you think that L. G. Green, E. M. Lavitt or R. H. Keach already has it
- c) you wish your telephone number to be included and are not sure that L. G. Green, E. M. Lavitt or R. H. Keach has it.

Otherwise all addresses and as many home telephone numbers as are known will be included in the first list, expected to be distributed with the December Bulletin.

Certificates of Authenticity

Stamps, cancellations, covers and post cards for which certificates are required are requested to be sent to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE, England to be received not later than 30 October.

Members are reminded that each is entitled each year to two free certificates for single stamps or the equivalent.

For additional submissions the cost is very moderate: £1.50 for a single stamp and rather more for blocks, covers etc because of the increased cost of the photograph. Moreover for five or more charged submissions entered at one time there is a discount of 20%.

General Sales

I have for sale on behalf of his widow Peter Foden's very extensive collection of Belgian Congo, Ruanda Urundi and the later independent countries.

The most valuable and what I consider the most interesting items will be sold in our auction sales: part of the collection was in the April sale, part in the sale of which the list of lots is included with this Bulletin and there are several more sales to follow.

However, apart from items to be included in the auctions, there are vast numbers of "ordinary" stamps, covers and items of postal stationery which are available to members. If you wish to fill gaps in your collection or wish to extend it to additional facets of collecting Congo we may be able to help. Wants lists, in as much detail as you think fit and including blocks, Balasse varieties etc, are invited. Although I can interpret most catalogue numbers those of Catalogue Officiel, Balasse and Stibbe are preferred.

R. H. Keach

ADDRESS CORRECTION

The correct address and telephone number for Stuart S. Smith, who becomes our Secretary/Treasurer on Jan. 1, 1997, is:

Lychgates, Pinfold Hill, Curbar

Sheffield S30 1YL England

Telephone 01433-631133

EDITOR'S NOTES

In the December bulletin we will present further information on the ST numbers which has been provided by our former Bulletin Editor-Ralph Jacquemin—a personal observation on the 5c and 50c 1894 issue by Rolf Öhrneman who was born in Matadi and spent some 10 years there, hopefully the beginning of the study by Georges Celis of the cancellations of Burundi (which translation has been undertaken in response to the plea by your Editor-by Norman Clowes) an auction list from Brian Hudson and, one hopes, reports of new discoveries in the field of Belgian Congo Philately and, quite possibly, a reprint of the Article by the late Peter Foden which appeared in The Journal of the Waterlow Study Circle on The WATERLOW BROS. & LAYTON ISSUES OF THE BELGIAN CONGO a portion of which appeared in the May 1996 Waterlow Study Circle Bulletin..

Your Editor is off to London on the 17th and will look forward to meeting with many of our English members and a trip with Ray Keach, through the “Chunnel” to Brussels there to meet with some of the Belgian members. Wholly a “Belgian Congo” trip without any of the heat, rain or insects.