

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN NO. 34

NOVEMBER 1979

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NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to: W. A. Craig, P. O. Box 3391, Fullerton, California 92634,  
J. Salman, Rue Gray 139, Boite 1, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Resignation: T. A. Gunn, Jr. 5548 Meletio Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230.

Change of Address: G. Celis, Rue Teniers, 14, 1030 Brussels, Belgium.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ralph Jacquemin gained a Gold Award, one of only three given, at BECKPEX, Fullerton, California, for his display of the plating study of 5c, 10c, 1fr and 5fr Mols.

MEETINGS

York was greatly enjoyed by those who were able to attend. The detail

of the 1923 Elisabethville Surcharges presented by Mr. R. H. Keach is one of the contributions to this Bulletin and to our chairman, Mr. A. G. Wood, we are greatly indebted for the organisation and social programme.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 12 January 1980 - at Bedford College, London. An in depth study of the 150 Centimes Moles.
- 10 May 1980 - London 1980 International Congo Study Circle Meeting. Details to follow.

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As you will see this is yet another "bumper issue" and we are greatly indebted to the subscribers to the Bulletin. Fortunately the material continues to come in and we do hope that everyone will continue to contribute. It matters not whether it is short or long, modest in content or detailed in study. I, for one, get just as much pleasure out of the questions and answers as the in depth studies.

Unfortunately pressures in other directions continue to make my task as Editor an almost impossible one. This very issue is again overdue through nobody's fault but mine. The material is available as well as the typing, but I cannot fulfill my role properly.

Therefore, with some regret but in facing facts, this is to be my last effort. Very many thanks to everyone and may the Bulletin go leaps and bounds.

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Finally we again remind members

- i) to support our Packet Secretary
- ii) to send any specific wants to Ray Keach
- iii) the "Expert Committee" is there to help you

#### INFORMATION PLEASE

##### THE COSTERMANSVILLE TOURISM 1938 PARKS MINIATURE SHEET

Mr. W. Deynckens has been studying the 1937 4,50fr Parks miniature sheet with the object of ascertaining how many sheets there were on the printing plate and of identifying each sheet; we hope in due course to have an article in the Bulletin on the subject.

I am following his good example and am endeavouring to do the same thing for the 1938 Costermansville sheet, printed in blue and brown.

To date I have had eight sheets to examine. Of these three are identical, another three are identical and the remaining two are different from each other and from the other six. Thus, there must have been a minimum of four sheets although the last two mentioned above need to be matched with others to demonstrate that the small flaws observed are constant from one sheet to another.

It seems highly likely that there were at least six sheets on the plate, probably eight, if the printing plate was of the same size as that used for the Parks stamps printed in sheets of 100.

The sheet is relatively uncommon and haphazardly to acquire sufficient sheets to be able to identify and confirm all the sheets on the plate would be a costly exercise. Most members have at least one of these sheets and I am seeking their co-operation in the study. Will members be so kind as to allow me to see their sheets? I promise not to retain them for more than 48 hours.

R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE

#### FLOWER STAMPS

I once took the opportunity to save the bottom row plus selvedge of some 1.50fr Flowers stamps. In one selvedge there are 8mm long, screened colour bars: Lilac - bluish green - light green - lilac - bluish green - light green, starting at the perforation between Nos. 92 and 93, terminating below the left leg of H in BELGISH on No. 97. There is abt. 15.7mm from the bottom frame of the stamp to the top of the bar, and abt. 16.2mm to their bottom. The sheet is trimmed through the lilac bars, abt. 16.3mm below the bottom frame line of the stamps. This sheet has No. 044906, and carried the CONGO overprint. There is an identical set of colour bars abt. 16 - 16.5mm above the lilac frame of the top stamps in the sheet. Exception: The light green bars are nearer to 16.2 - 16.7mm above the frame line, as the green background here is out of register. The top is trimmed abt. 16.6mm above the lilac frame.

My other bottom strip is trimmed 16 - 16.2mm below the bottom frame line, it shows no colour bars. It has No. 098815 and carried the 2F surcharge on the silver block.

My strip from 1.50 Ruanda Urundi is trimmed varying 16.2 - 16.7mm below the bottom frame line. It shows no colour bars.

Q: Would there have been two or more sets of three printing cylinders for Congo Belge, or were the sheets printed two or more on - e.g. two next to each other, or four in a block, with only one or some having colour bars above and below?

A. MOLANDER

(Editor's note: see illustrations, next page)

#### BERMUDA AND TRINIDAD CENSORSHIPS

(The following notes and request for further information has been received from Richard Heap. We are sure this will be of considerable interest to those of our members whose interests are in this field.)

Members possessing transatlantic censored covers of the second World War may be interested in where censorship took place, insofar as this can be deduced from the censor labels. The Imperial transatlantic censorship was based on Bermuda and Trinidad, which were considered



complementary to each other, and which covered the air routes. The Bermuda operation was started in January 1940- 17th for eastbound and 29th for westbound being the dates of the first interceptions. Some mail was sent to Liverpool for censorship, but Bermuda censorship can be recognized by the distinctive labels of type PC 102. Printed in red, they are found from 1940 until early 1941.



Between February and November 1941 the scanty evidence I have suggests that PC 90 labels without additional marks were used, but any information on this period would be welcome.

From November 1941 PC 90 labels were used, in different printing styles, including some with Form 167 additionally printed. These with manuscript, handstamped, and, from 1942, printed IC, all denote Bermuda censorship. The printed IC labels are comparatively scarce.

In Trinidad, where the transatlantic censorship was set up at a later date, the letters IE were used, and may be found from about January 1942.

I would be interested to hear of any covers members may have which show Bermuda censorship, as I am compiling a list of examiner numbers as part of a larger book on all aspects of Bermuda censored and war-time mail.

RICHARD HEAP

(Richard has also provided the following information which may also be met. Codes A or IS are Gibraltar; N, Kenya Uganda; Q, Nyasaland; R, Tanganyika; NN, Gambia; OO, Gold Coast; QQ Sierra Leone; DE, Southern Rhodesia.)

#### CONTROL NUMBERS

I am very interested in trying to compile a list of "control numbers" for post independence issues. I have quite a few myself, but would be interested to hear from anyone else who could give any more information, however small. One or two issues have "traffic lights" and any further information about these will also be useful (e.g. The World heavyweight Boxing Championship issue 1974).

ANDREW RAMSEY

CANCELLATIONS

The original listing of the cancellations was published in April, 1975 and there have been many addenda and corrigenda since then. What might be called a second edition, incorporating the changes up to the date of printing, was published in serial form in *POSTAL HISTORY INTERNATIONAL* during 1975-77 but there have been many changes since then.

Is there any demand for a new edition to be published by the Study Circle? Should it be different in contents, format, binding etc. from the first edition? Because of inflation, the cost would certainly have to be more than the two pounds charged for the original edition, but would depend very largely on the number of copies that could be sold.

If any members have views on this subject, perhaps they will let the Honorary Secretary have them.

R. H. KEACH

YOUR COMMENTS NOTED

With reference to Page 3, Bulletin No. 33, I read Mr. Keach's assumption about the method of transport the postal card of Prof. Smith might have travelled. Another such postal card from Lado gives the exact way this card was going to travel: 'Je ne veux pas laisser partir le bateau anglo-egyptien sans y mettre un petit mot pour toi.' I will not let the Anglo Egyptian boat leave without a word for you. The sender of this message is nobody else but Georges Braeckman, Secrétaire du Commandant Supérieur de l'Belg. Congo et de L'enclave a Lado.

This shows that the highest official in the enclave avoided the post going via the Congo but put it straight onto the boat, where it received the "retta".

A second Belgian Congo postal card reads... Redjaf/Khartoum is the shortest route; a courier may come from Cairo in a month. I forgot to route my previous mail and I am afraid it might have gone via Boma and Teneriffe... The card is signed H. Wera a Buta  
Uele Rubi, Congo.

MRS. HILDA JEIDEL

MAPS OF THE CONGO - there seems to be no difficulty in obtaining maps of either 1:3 000 000 or 1:4 000 000 scale if members are interested.

M. Celis reports that, to the best of his remembrance, the standard postage rate to Italy in early 1963 was 8fr for a 5gr letter (air mail).

Again from M. Celis - IMMOAF is the name of a company dealing with property management. He thinks they had a sub-office in Bujumbura.

Palms Issue - for some time we have known that there was one constant variety on the 1,25fr value Flemish/French, the red spot appearing in

the centre on the cheek of the African woman. A number of members wondered where on the sheet it fell. Mr. Vindevoghel now has a complete sheet of this stamp (10 x 10) and can confirm that the variety appears on number 65.

Concerning the 1975 International womens year issue of Zaire - there is a constant flaw on all values, stamp column 9 row 7. This flaw has the form of an apostrophe after the word "internationale".

ANDREW RAMSEY

EXTRACTS FROM THE PERIODICALS

The American Philatelist May, 1979 - The Katanga "Provisionals" - S. Carol.

Dr. Carol describes some crudely produced labels, more or less square with 'POSTES' at the top, 'REPU. DU' at the left, 'KATANGA' at the right and 'LIBERTE' at the bottom. In the centre is the value and, under that '1960'. He states that there are eleven values and illustrates the 2 francs and 50 francs. Covers cancelled Elisabeth (Elisabethville ?), 13.12.1960 are supposed to exist but Dr. Carol has not seen one.

Stamp Collector May 12, 1979 - Katanga's RR Stamps - Only 160 Survived - J. Babicki and O. Coormans.

Parcel stamps of the Chemin de Fer du Bas Congo au Katanga are described, the central design being the front view of a railway engine. Values of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 francs are illustrated and the stamps are said to have been issued in 1931. Forms bearing the cancelled stamps were forwarded with the parcels but were retained by the receiving railway station and ultimately destroyed. Any used copies that have survived must have come onto the market by illicit means but unused copies could be purchased from the railway stations. A second issue of such stamps is mentioned, these being of the same design but smaller in size and with values up to the 50 francs.

We reproduce from Norman Hills' book "Royal Train Journey's Postal History and Marks" the following which has been sent to us by Geoffrey Wood.

THE VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE TO  
SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND  
THE BELGIAN CONGO, FEBRUARY 1934 TO  
APRIL 1934.



The visit to South Africa by H.R.H. Prince George, and the extensive Tour of the Union which he undertook in the White Train involved the Post Office in special work in order to meet the postal, telegraph and telephone needs of the Royal Party and the Press.

A senior officer of the Postal Department accompanied the travellers,

and a special Post Office in the charge of two other members of the Department's staff was opened on the Pilot Train on 13th February 1934. On the same day, after the Tour by rail had commenced, the first mail from the Train to connect with the northbound airmail to the United Kingdom and Europe was handed over at Wellington, Cape Province, for onward transmission. The following details of correspondence and telegraph matter give an indication of the amount of work undertaken:-

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Despatched</u>
Letters, ordinary	approx. 1,200	approx. 5,000
Letters, registered	" 60	" 463
Parcels	15	8
Book packets	35	80
Totals	1,310	5,551
Direct mails	112	48
Telegrams transmitted	168,866 words	
Telegrams received	96,345 words	

The transmission of these telegrams to and from the Train, especially where small country stations were involved, imposed a heavy strain on the staff at the offices concerned, and the satisfactory results reflected creditably on the officials for the manner in which they dealt with this traffic.

The Tour extended from Cape Town via the Garden Route and the Eastern Province to Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, East London, Umtata, the Orange Free State, Basutoland, Natal, the Transvaal, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo. During the period of the visit to Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and the Belgian Congo, the special Train facilities continued to be provided by the Union, except that the Union stock of postage stamps, etc., was withdrawn and Protectorate and Belgian Congo stocks were issued.

Train Royal S.A.R. Prince George d'Angleterre

SAKANIA-ELISABETHVILLE 5-4-1934

Train Royal S.A.R. Prince George d'Angleterre

ELISABETHVILLE-DE OLO 7-4-1934

Two semi-official cancelling stamps were made by the Controller of Posts for Katanga Province. Used to cancel postage stamps of the Belgian Congo, they did not have the approval of the Minister of Posts for the Belgian Congo. Covers are known, few in number, with these "postmarks" on Belgian Congo stamps. (Sakania was the border station with Northern Rhodesia, Deolo being the other border station with Angola. The significance of the Royal journey continuing to the coast at Lobito rather than returning south, as other Royal visitors had done, lay in the fact that the Benguela Railway from Dilolo to Lobito had just been completed, with the help of British capital).

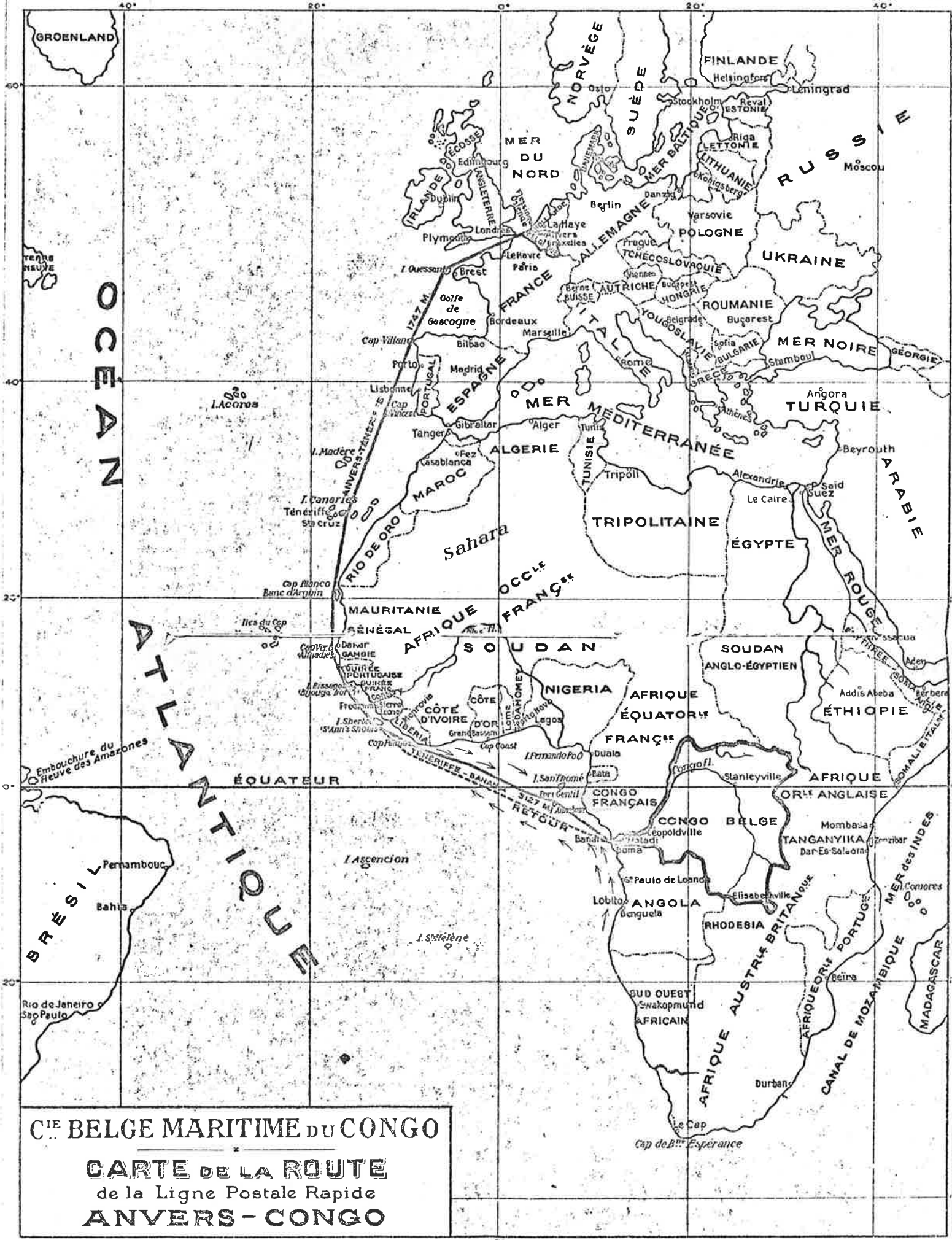
Mafeking was the last place of call in Union territory, and from



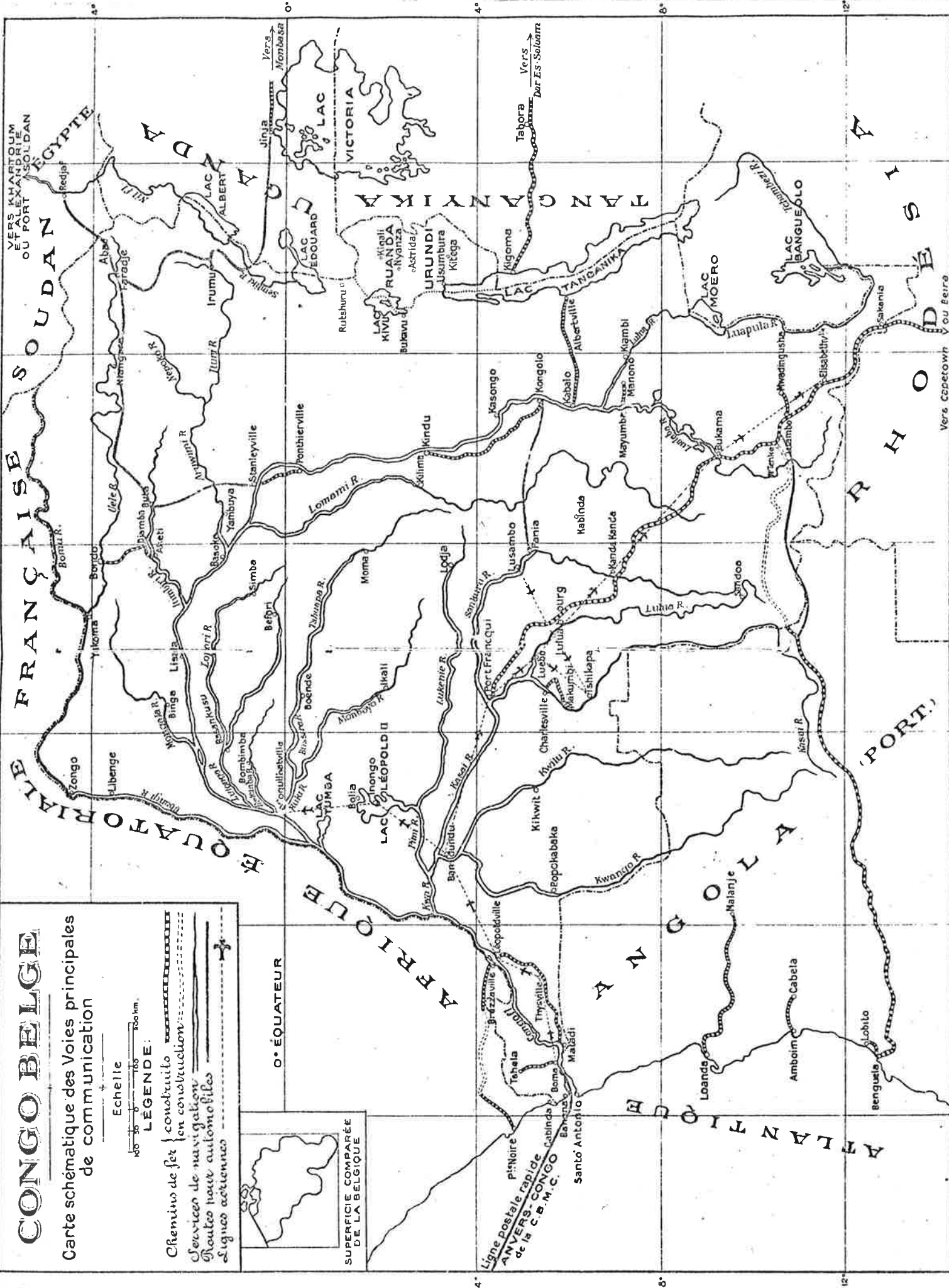
there the Royal Party went via Gaberones in the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia where the Royal Party was taken over by, and the postal, telegraph and telephone organisation was handed over to, the Rhodesian authorities.

MAPS - Mr. Deynckens came across these maps in a book called "Le Service Postal Rapide Entre Anvers Et Le Congo" and we are sure members will be interested in seeing them. There is no publishing date in the book but from the text, Mr. Deynckens has established that it must have been approximately 1928.





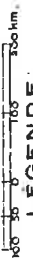
**CIE BELGE MARITIME DU CONGO**  
**CARTE DE LA ROUTE**  
 de la Ligne Postale Rapide  
**ANVERS - CONGO**



# CONGO BELGE

Carte schématique des Voies principales de communication de communication

Echelle



LEGENDE:

- Chemins de fer construits
- Services de navigation
- Routes pour automobiles
- Lignes aériennes



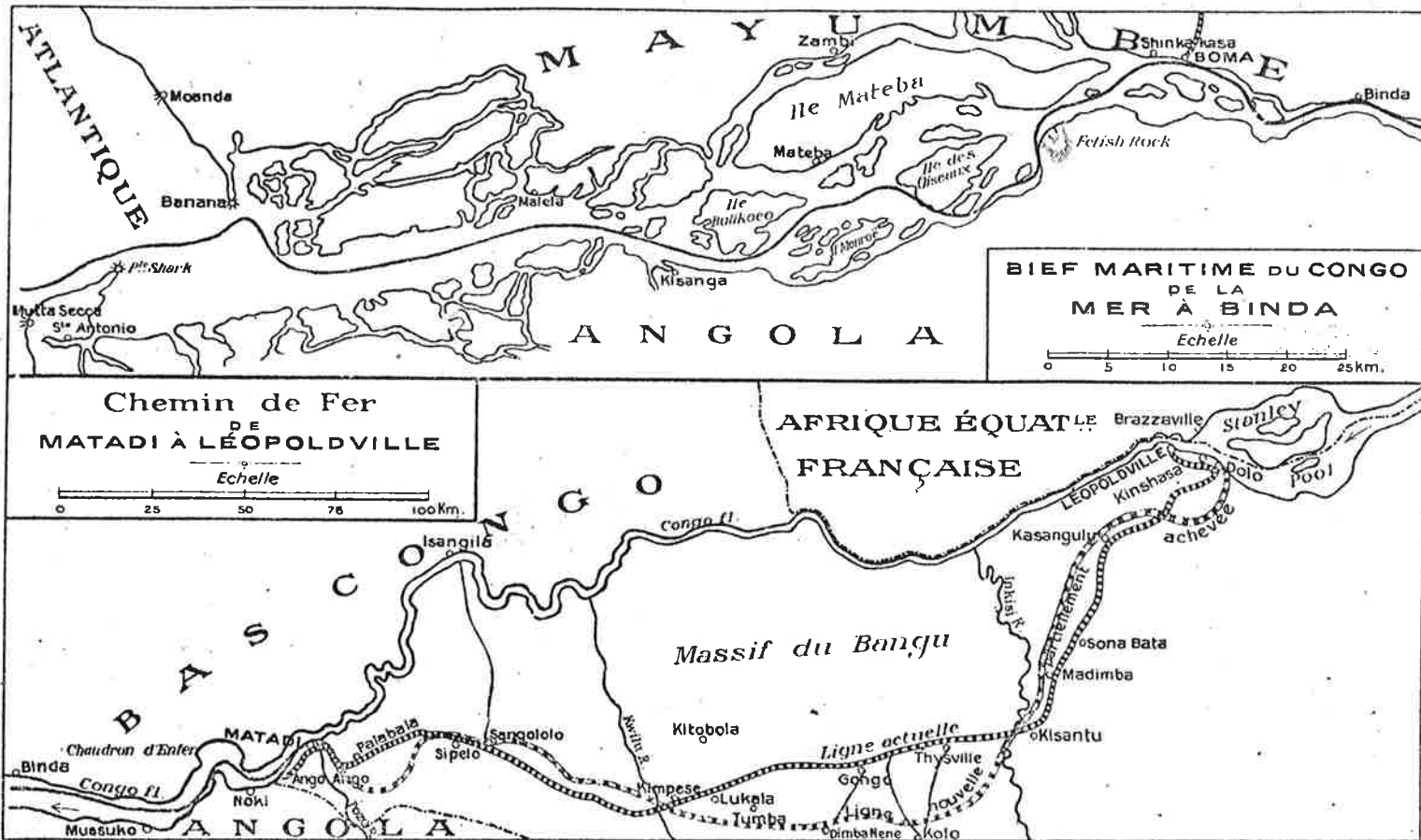
SUPERFICIE COMPARÉE DE LA BELGIQUE

VERS KHARTOUM ET ALEXANDRIE OU PORT SUDAN

0° ÉQUATEUR

Ligne postale rapide ANVERS-CONGO de la C.B.M.C.

Vers Capetown ou Beira



### EUROPEAN SHIPLINES TO AFRICA TILL 1895.

from W. Deynckens.

1) "British and African Steam Navigation Company" and "The African Steam Ship Company."

These two shipping lines had one departure every month from Liverpool to Banana taking from 45 to 50 days. In 1885, with the formation of the Independent State, they agreed with King Leopold II to call in Antwerp also with their ships. The first departure from Antwerp took place at 14 October 1885 with a ship called "Dunrobin Castle". Several ships were in service with this line. We have records of the following: the 'Afrika', 'Akassa', 'Ambriz', 'Benguela', 'Boma', 'Cameroon', 'Dunrobin Castle', 'Kinsembo', 'Lualaba' and 'Matadi'. Several of these ships are mentioned in the "Le Mouvement Geographique" where the shipowner advertised as follows:

Service Rapide Mensuel sous le patronage de l'Etat Independent du Congo.

Ligne Reguliere de Paquebots.

Poste de la British and African Steam Navigation Company Ltd et le African Steam Ship Company.

D' Anvers au Congo.

et a la Cote Sud-Quest d'Afrique.

Direct et sous transbordement. Steamer a designer, depart vers fin courant pour Madere, Fernando-Po, Banana, Boma et Saint-Paul de Loanda et/ou autres escales, s'il se presente de fret suffisant. Sauf imprevu.

Ed. Pecher & Co Anvers. Agents.

2) "Empreza Nacional" (Anglo-Portugees).

One departure every month from Lisbon.

Sailing time: 25 days.

3) "Mala Real Portguezza".

Founded in June 1889 from Lisbon to Lorenzo-Marques. It took the ship 15 days for the journey to the Congo. There were two ships ~~of~~ "Roi de Portugal" in service from 15 September 1889 and calling at Banana, Saint Paul de Loanda, Benguela, Massamedes via the Cape to Laurenzo-Marques. (ii) The second ship was called "San Thome" and passed Madeira on 7 June 1889.

4) "Nieuwe Afrikaanse Handelsvennootschap".

The Dutch owners were sending 5 to 6 ships per year to their own settlements in Africa. The journey took 22 days ~~sailing~~ only in Madeira. Of this company we have seen one cover (Mr. De Clercq collection) with written inscription: Par S.S. Afrikaan. It was cancelled 5 June 1889 at Banana and arrived in Bruxelles on 30 JUNE 1889. This ship arrived once in March 1889 in Rotterdam with some letters from H. M. Stanley on board. These were dated 28 June 1887, 13 December 1887 and 17 August 1888, i.e. from a period in Stanley's life when every body thought he had been eaten by the natives.

5) "Melle Belge Africaine".

This line was reported by a priest who has said that the company was founded in 1891.

6) "Walford & Co".

A Belgian shipowner from Gent. Founded in 1886 and bankrupt in 1888. They had three ships of which the first one "Brabo" left Antwerp on 23 August 1886 and arrived in Boma on 16 September 1886. The second one "Vlaanderen" and a third one "Lys" left Antwerp respectively on 8 May and June 1887 to arrive in Boma on 3 June and 21 July 1887.

7) "Woermann Linie".

This German shipowner proposed 1 departure every month from Hamburg. It took however 45 to 50 days before arriving. So far we have only traced back two ships: "Ella Woermann" on which Father De Deken went on board at 6 June 1892 at Vlissingen and the "Oscar" which was in Boma at June 1889. From a third ship of this line, namely "Edward Bohlen" we know that it was carrying the first mail from the Windhoek (South West Africa) and was at Walvis Bay on 30 April 1891.

8) "Les Chargeurs Reunis" of Le Havre and the "Compagnie Fraisenet" of Marseille.

These two companies set up a joint line and the first departure from Le Havre took place 5 July 1889 with a ship called "Ville de Maranhao". At two monthly intervals the 5th of January, March, May, July, September and November there was a departure from Le Havre, with debarquements in Bordeaux. From Marseille, departures took place every 15th of the months February, April, June, August, October and December. It took 26 days to reach Matadi.

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References.

- Compagnie Maritime Belge (Lloyd Royal) Antwerpen. 1895-1945.
  - Tome III of Mr. Salles.
  - Le Mouvement Geographique. 6<sup>o</sup> Annee.
  - Handbook of postmarks of South West Africa under South African Administration. By Ralph F. Putzel.
  - Twee jaar in Congo. By Pater Constant De Deken.
-

A STUDY OF THE NOVEMBER, 1915 10 CENT. MOLS IN SHEETS OF 50 STAMPS

by Walter Deynckens

Presentation

The central design depicts the victory over the Arab slave traders of Commandants Tobback and Chaltin. Commandant Chaltin is crossing the River Congo in his ship 'La Ville de Bruxelles' with a few canoes to attack the Arabs near to the Stanley Falls. The date of the action is 1892.

Perforation

With each combination of plates, perforation 14 is normal but 15 exists. With combination V2+D2 perforation 15 is uncommon, with V2+D3 even less common and with V2+E quite rare. With combination of plates V1+D2, perforation 15 has not been seen and may well not exist.

General

The stamps were printed by Waterlow and sons of London.

The paper used for the stamps was yellowish (cream) for centre plates D2 and E, white for D3.

Shade variations of the frames are minor and somewhat dependent on the colour of the paper. Stamps with centre plates D2 and E are normally carmine whereas those with centre plate D3 are carmine-pink.

Numbers of Copies Printed and Postal Use

In General Du Four's book 'CONGO: CINQUANTE ANS D'HISTOIRE POSTALE' the official figures for the numbers of stamps printed are given. The 1915 10 cent. comprised 1,200,000 copies of which no less than 990,000 received some sort of overprint.

We consider, however, judging by the numbers available on the stamp market, that the number of stamps overprinted was far smaller than the official figures indicate.

The 1915 10 cent. was in normal service from November, 1915 until 1 January, 1922. During all that period the overseas post card rate was 10 centimes and probably most of the unoverprinted 210,000 copies were used during that period.

On 1 July, 1921 the overseas post card rate increased to 30 centimes, hence the surcharging of the 1910 10 cent. stamp on 1 July, 1921 and of the 1915 10 cent. stamp on 1 January, 1922.

On 1 November, 1924 the internal post card rate increased from 15 to 30 centimes and the overseas post card rate from 30 to 45 centimes. The 30 centimes internal rate continued until 1 July, 1927.

General Du Four reported that no less than 493,250 copies of the 1915 10 cent. received the 30c surcharge but in our opinion, comparing the

relative numbers of the 1915 and 1922 stamps available, this number is too high.

In error, perhaps 2,000 copies of the stamp with 1922 30 cent. surcharge were surcharged again 0,25 in Elisabethville and issued on 4 January, 1923. In April of the same year perhaps 8,000 copies of the same 1922 30 cent. stamp received the second and unofficial 0,25 surcharge; these stamps were demonetized 1 January, 1933. The Elisabethville surcharged stamps were mostly used for printed matter, newspapers, periodicals etc. in excess of 20 grams.

The Tombeur RUANDA and URUNDI overprints were applied in July, 1916. General Du Four gave official figures of 500 overprinted locally and 5,000 later overprinted in Le Havre.

Stamps with the EST AFRICAINE overprint appeared in November, 1916 and, as the unoverprinted 1915 stamps, were demonetized on 1 January, 1922. Officially, 295,000 copies were overprinted (excluding those with the 30c. surcharge). If we consider how difficult it is to find a used copy of the stamps compared with the 1915 stamp, the catalogue price of the used stamp is much underrated; even mint, the stamp should be more highly priced. The same remarks apply to the EST AFRICAINE stamps with the 30c. Malines surcharge of which there were reported to be 176,250 copies. The difficulty of finding copies of this stamp makes us think that maybe many sheets of the stamp were destroyed after they were withdrawn from the post offices; there has never been any official statement to this effect.

#### Combinations of Plates Used

V1+D2 for 1915 issue and RUANDA and URUNDI overprints.  
 V2+D2 for 1915 issue, 1916 EST AFRICAINE, 1922 Malines surcharge and 1922 EST AFRICAINE Malines surcharge.  
 V2+D3 for 1915 issue and 1922 Malines surcharge; also for 1918 Red Cross and A.O.  
 V2+E for 1915 issue, 1922 Malines surcharge and 1923 Elisabethville surcharge.

V1 and V2 are the first and second states of Frame Plate V.

D2 and D3 are the second and third states of Centre Plate D. Centre Plate E is a new plate from the retouched die.

#### General Remarks on Frame Plate V

Frame Plate V was used to print the 1915 stamps which were different from the 1910 issue by the addition of the word DIX at the top and by the removal of ornamentation which encroached on the centre at the top and above the words BELGISCH CONGO. Eventually, to produce Centre Plate E, the centre die was retouched to fill the spaces made blank by the removal of the ornamentation.

Two states of Frame Plate V are recognized, Plate V1, used only for the earliest printings, being transformed to V2 by the addition of guide marks (traits de repere), vertical lines between stamps Nos. 8, 9, 13 and 14 and between 38 and 39 and dots between Nos. 8 and 9 and between Nos. 38, 39, 43 and 44.



Frame Plate Varieties of Plate V, Constant During States V1 and V2

Various fine guide lines can be found on many positions, although, in general, they became weaker during the use of the plate and some nearly disappeared during the printing from the plate V2.

- 1) a short vertical line immediately under the middle of the bottom frame line on Nos. 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44 and 45, this probably the relic of a guide line engraved on the plate before entering the impressions and not burnished out because of its proximity to the impression.
- 2) on Nos. 43 and 44 extensions of these same vertical guide lines, visible in the D of DIX, and on No. 49 in the second O of the upper CONGO.
- 3) a horizontal guide line visible at the top of the stamp, usually cutting one or both of the two top frame lines, on Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 24, 27, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 48.
- 4) a vertical guide line in the left margin of practically every stamp in the sheet.

There are particular varieties:

- Stamp No. 1 - a dot between the two top frame lines to the north-west of the C of the upper CONGO.
- 3 - faint dot in the bottom margin under E of BELGISCH.
  - 5 - a redness in the white space around the top of the I of BELGISCH, undoubtedly due to a slight dent in the plate. On some stamps, the redness is not visible, presumably due to more complete wiping of surplus ink off the plate.
  - 6 - dot and horizontal scratch (guide line?) in the margin, just outside the bottom right corner of the stamp.
  - 9 - dot in the margin just outside the bottom right corner of the stamp.
  - 10 - dot between the bottom frame lines under ON of the lower CONGO; redness in the white space above ON of the lower CONGO, presumably due to a slight dent in the plate.
  - 11 - dots in the right margin, one 5mm down from the top of the design and a second to the right of N of CENTIEMEN. In state V1 these dots were very fine but, in state V2, they became much larger, spots rather than dots.
  - 13 - spot in the bottom margin under B of BELGISCH, 2mm under the outer frame line and, therefore, sometimes appearing on No. 18.

- 15 - dot in the right margin to the right of N of CENTIEMEN.
- 18 - prominent diagonal mark in the vignette, under NG of upper CONGO; dot in the right margin, 7mm down from the top of the design; in the second state, V2, this became an elongated spot.
- 26 - very short horizontal line in the diagonal stroke of the N of the upper CONGO.
- 27 - short length of thinned outer frame line under GI of BELGISCH, presumably due to incomplete retouching of the original impression on the plate.
- 29 - top outer frame line over most of its length lightly doubled by re-entry (this may appear as a thickening of the frame line).
- 30 - short diagonal scratch (burin mark?) just outside the outer frame line to the left of DIX; there is also a short vertical scratch in the diagonal stroke of the N of the upper CONGO.
- 33 - coloured circle around the bottom left figure 10 is complete, presumably by retouching.
- 40 - spot between the frame lines to the left of the top of the bottom left figure 1; also two dots or spots in the left margin to the left of the bottom left figure 1.
- 43 - spot in the vignette,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the G of BELGE.
- 45 - very short horizontal line  $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm under L of BELGE.
- 48 - spot in the selvedge  $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the H of BELGISCH.

#### Frame Plate Varieties of Plate V, Specific to State V2

As stated previously under 'General Remarks on Frame Plate V', guide marks (traits de repere) were engraved on the plate, converting the first state V1 to V2.

Other and accidental varieties appeared with the second state V2.

Stamp No. 8 - two or three very small dots immediately outside the outer frame line under the C of BELGISCH appeared in the early life of plate V2 when in combination with Centre Plate D2 but these dots became a large spot on the outer frame line when in combination with Centre Plate E.

- 14 - spot immediately outside and touching the outer frame line to the right of the centre right figure 1.
- 18 - large elongated spot in the vignette  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the

right leg of the N of the upper CONGO.

- 32 - dot just outside the upper outer frame line, above the G of the upper CONGO.
- 37 - short vertical scratch between the left frame lines to the left of the first E of CENTIMES.
- 39 - dot in the right margin to the right of the second N of CENTIEMEN.
- 46 - faint dot in the left margin to the left of the C of CENTIMES.
- 48 - dot in the selvedge 5mm under the H of BELGISCH.

#### Frame Plate Varieties that Developed During the Life of Plate V2

- Stamp No. 28 - red dots in the H of BELGISCH. It seems that these dots appeared during the printing of the 1918 Red Cross stamps (plates V2+D3), some sheets having the dots and some not. 1915 stamps and those with Malines surcharge printed from Centre Plate D3 have not been seen with the dots and this suggests that the last stamps printed from Centre Plate D3 were the Red Cross. All sheets printed from Centre Plate E have the dots.
- 30 - the coloured circle around the bottom left figure 10 is complete. This closure of the circle appears to have occurred immediately before the printing of the Red Cross stamps (V2+D3) and has not been seen with 1915 or 1922 Malines V2+D3. All sheets printed from Centre Plate E have the circle closed. It is not possible to say if the closure of the circle was by retouching or accidental; if it was by retouching this would introduce a third state of the plate which we would call V3.
  - 50 - portions of a nearly vertical scratch running from a point between the O and N of the upper CONGO to the left side of the B of BELGISCH. The scratch does not cross the vignette and it could have been removed in that area by burnishing and such burnishing would have resulted in a third state of the plate. The scratch appeared during the printing of the 1918 Red Cross issue but earlier than the dots in the H of BELGISCH on No. 28. No 1915 stamps, with or without the 1922 Malines surcharge, have been seen with the scratch. All sheets printed from Centre Plate E have the scratch.

#### General Remarks on the Centre Plates

Centre Plate D, in its first state D1, was used to print the last 1910 stamps (in combination with Frame Plate IV). Prior to the 1915 issue, the centre plate was at least partly re-entered to produce the second state D2. During the course of the 1915 issue, the centre

plate was again re-entered, probably completely, to produce the third state D3.

Centre Plate E is easily recognized from D2 and D3 by the retouching of the sky.

#### Centre Plate D Guide Crosses

Black (blue in the case of the Red Cross stamps) crosses are to be found at mid-height in the left margins of some stamps.

On Centre Plate D2, when in combination with Frame Plate V1, they are seen on Nos. 37, 42, 47 and 50. During the course of the printings with Frame Plate V2, the crosses became weaker and that on No. 47 disappeared completely.

On Centre Plate D3 they are seen on Nos. 7, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48 and 50. During the course of the printings of both 1915 and 1918 issues, the crosses gradually became weaker.

There can be little doubt that the crosses were engraved on the plate, and probably adjacent to every position on the plate, to facilitate positioning of the transfer roller (molet) for re-entering the plate to produce the second state D2 and again to produce the third state D3. After each re-entry, most of the crosses were removed by burnishing but, due to haste or carelessness, some remained.

#### Centre Plate Varieties of Plate D, Constant During States D2 and D3

- Stamp No. 4 - horizontal lines of all the canoes doubled.
- 7 - dot 1mm to the left of the left canoe.
- 9 - dots and scratches in the waterfall and in the cloud of smoke above the moored canoes.
- 12 - two short horizontal parallel scratches in the left margin at the height of the fourth canoe.
- 20 - small mark immediately to the left of the right canoe. This is probably a very minor re-entry. No. 19 has a very similar variety, but, in this case, the mark disappeared with state D3.
- 21 - four dots in an oblique line crossing or near the top frame line above C of the upper CONGO.
- 22 - thick oblique line  $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the first (left) canoe.
- 23 - large dot between the fourth and fifth canoes - the 'swimming native'.
- 24 - small mark to the left of the right canoe, generally similar to that on No. 20. On No. 24, the mark deteriorated to only a dot in state D3.

- 25 - S-shaped scratch at the top right corner of the vignette.
- 26 - dot  $\frac{1}{2}$ mm under the waterfall, vertically above the right end of the left canoe.
- 28 - three short horizontal parallel scratches in the right margin at the height of the fourth canoe, much weakened in state D3.
- 29 - three short horizontal parallel scratches in the left margin and two in the right margin, all at the height of the canoes. Those on the left were much weaker in state D3 and those on the right had almost disappeared.
- 30 - three short horizontal parallel scratches in the left margin at the height of the canoes; they had practically disappeared in state D3.
- 31 - prominent dots in or near the first O of the lower CONGO. During the use of Plate D2 (not seen with Frame Plate V1) a horizontal scratch appeared through the GO of the lower CONGO.
- 43 - dot above the first O of the upper CONGO.
- 45 - nearly horizontal curved scratch at the top right corner of the vignette.
- 47 - spot in the sky 5mm above the flag on the steamer.

Centre Plate Varieties Unique to Plate D2

- Stamp No. 46 - several separate nearly horizontal scratches in the bottom frame, two through the left figures 10, through CO, through NG, under GO and two through the right figures 10, were originally on the plate but they progressively weakened and had disappeared before state D3.
- 47 - several separate nearly horizontal scratches in the bottom frame, two through the left figures 10, through the E and through the right figure 1 were originally on the plate. They progressively weakened and had disappeared before state D3.

Centre Plate Varieties Unique to Plate D3

- Stamp No. 1 - doubling of the shading of the sky above the moored canoes.
- 2 - vertical doubling of the left canoe.
- 15 - doubling of the shading of the sky at the extreme right.

37 and 38 - an interrupted heavy scratch, starting at the right corner of the vignette of No. 37 and continuing to the top of the vignette of No. 38, appeared during the printing. It is uncommonly seen on 1915 and 1922 Malines stamps but is always present on Red Cross stamps.

47 - left canoe doubled and others thickened; plant at extreme bottom left of vignette doubled.

Most positions in the sheet have the shading of the sky and of the water thickened, presumably due to the re-entry.

#### Centre Plate Varieties of Plate E

Many impressions on the plate have the remains of vertical guide lines in the left margin. Most prominent are on Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 42, 47 and 50.

Other varieties are:

Stamp No. 7 and 8 - two parallel oblique scratches from a point above the right centre figures 10 on No. 7 to the left centre figures 10 on No. 8.

28 - horizontal scratch (trace of a guide line?) immediately above the top of the hill to the left of the waterfall.

35 - a prominent mark in the bottom margin under the C of CONGO and a horizontal black scratch above the mark.

Very many positions have nearly horizontal, sometimes multiple, scratches in the top or bottom margins. Most of these were very light and disappeared before the end of the printing.

#### Acknowledgement

My thanks go to Mr. Keach for correcting my English (very little correction - RHK), for giving me his views on some details and for supplying information about Frame Plate VI.

THE 1923 ELISABETHVILLE SURCHARGES

by Raymond H. Keach

This issue is almost certainly the worst authenticated, the most forged and the most difficult of the issues of the Belgian Congo.

The articles that follow are in the way of a 'symposium' in an effort, if not to simplify, at least to clarify the issue. Unfortunately, known facts are few and it is necessary to draw on the imagination.

First there is a translation of the section dealing with the subject in General Du Four's book 'CONGO - CINQUANTE ANS D'HISTOIRE POSTALE'. This is included for the benefit of those members who do not have copies of the book and also for those whose French is not as good as it should be!

Second there is an article by Walter Deynckens following discussions he has had with a M. De Wulf who was in Elisabethville in 1923.

Third there are some notes from the Abbe Gudenkauf following his perusal of M. Deynckens' article.

At the Study Circle meeting at York in July, the few members present were given these documents together with my own thoughts which made free use of the facts and suppositions in the three documents - plus my own imagination as to what happened in the light of those stamps and few covers that I possess. The subject was discussed at the meeting at some length and the fourth item in this saga tells of the 'conclusions' to which we came.

TRANSLATION FROM GENERAL DU FOUR'S BOOK

Page 276:

The decree:

"The Minister of the Colonies...

"considering the urgent and absolute necessity of providing the postal service with 25c. postage stamps,

"orders: A single item. The Governor General is authorized to apply the surcharge 25c. in black on the 5fr. stamp issued by decree of 15 July 1915 and on the 30c. stamp issued by decree of 15 May 1921.

"These stamps thus surcharged will, from today, be accepted for the value of 25c. in the payment of postage."

Brussels 4 January 1923

Pages 285 et seq.

## THE ELISABETHVILLE SURCHARGES

### Introduction

In spite of the 'Recuperation' surcharges, the Malines surcharges and the local surcharges, it is necessary to realize that the need for 25c stamps was very substantial, particularly at Elisabethville, where was posted much printed matter at this tariff.

The necessity is in some way shown by a wrapper around an issue of 'Journal du Katanga' sent 7 January, 1923 from Elisabethville to Boma; this wrapper bears, in place of stamps, a large cachet 'PAYE' and a small cachet 'Port/Paye/EBville' on three lines. These two marks were used after the end of 1922.

Moreover, as we have already said, the ministerial decree of 4 January, 1923 created, as well as the 25c/5fr stamp, the surcharge '25' on the 1921 30c (that is to say the 1910 10c stamp converted to 30c in 1921).

### The Surcharge Itself

This consisted simply of the figure '0,25' applied by handstamp in the middle of the stamp in black ink.

To form this overprint it was adequate to fit into a compositor the typescript characters, 0, 2, 5 and a comma.

It would be reasonable to think that the one cachet served for both 1921 and 1922 stamps. It is not true; one can ascertain small but real differences between the surcharges on the two stamps. The surcharge on the 1921 stamps is greyish black; the comma is located quite low relative to the figures; in addition, the figure 2 is located somewhat lower than the other figures. On the 1922 stamps the surcharge is black and the comma is located at mid-height of the figures, these quite well aligned. The individual characters are identical in both surcharges.

We offer, to explain these quite surprising differences, the following hypothesis: in order to proceed more quickly, two employees were set to work at the same time, one surcharging the 1921 stamps, the other those of 1922. Each was given a handstamp and an inking pad; the two handstamps were composed in the same way of typescript characters but with an alignment slightly different; one ink was black, the other greyish black.

One can otherwise suppose that the surcharging of the sheets of 1922 stamps was undertaken after that of the 1921 stamps was completed and that the compositor had been dismantled.

However, it happened, the stamps surcharged in this manner we have just described are undoubtedly authentic and comprised printings of 10,000 of each stamp produced officially following the ministerial decree. In fact, the surcharges are those on the sheets bought at



the time at the Elisabethville post office by M. Andre de Cock and also those of the sheets lodged as presentation proofs with the Ministry of Colonies.

Yet there exist quite numerous examples of both stamps which present a problem which is debatable; the surcharges have all the characteristics of the authentic surcharges but they are interchanged; the 1921 stamps bear the surcharge described for the 1922 stamp and vice versa.

One explanation has been offered that we produce objectively: after having completed the official overprinting (10,000 copies of each of the two stamps) they proceeded with a new overprinting for which, by chance, the handstamps and the inking pads were interchanged. This new printing, which was probably larger than the first, appears not to have been ordered by the competent authority. Was it made at the post office with the tacit agreement of the authorities and was it then quite in order? Was it made in a clandestine way and should it then be considered as a private illegal reprint?? How is the question to be settled now there are no witnesses to explain?

The stamps from the second printing are known paying postage on letters that have travelled normally. That is nothing to surprise us; the postman charged with handling it perhaps ignored the transaction, official or not; indeed, if they were valid for postal use there was no harm in it, the Treasury was not being cheated; on the contrary, the stamps sold for 30c were being used as 25c stamps. And after all, expertisation was not their business.

But philatelists, with reason moreover, are more critical than postmen. Stamps of the first printing have their letters of credence duly recorded; but the second printing? In doubt, we are inclined to agree that they should be considered as a 'second printing', without doubt less official and much less rare than the first.

#### The Stamps Surcharged

##### 0,25 on 30c on 10c of 1910

It appears that the sheets surcharged in the first overprinting were all from the same combination of plates III2+C2. There are found on the stamps all the varieties of these plates.

Moreover, the shade is always rose. We have met the deep carmine and carmine lake, but only with the second surcharge or ... with forged surcharge.

##### 0,25 on 30c on 10c of 1915

We have met the first surcharge only on the stamps printed from the combination of plates V+E and with the shade light rose. We have met the shade bright rose only with the second surcharge or ... with forged surcharge.

#### Curiosities of Surcharge

As all handstamped overprints, these can show all possible curiosities.

In fact, the work was carried out with much care. Only very few inverted surcharges are known, plus some pairs, one without surcharge, and that for both 1910 and 1915 stamps.

That is true, let it be clearly understood, for the stamps with the first surcharge. In those of the second printing there is more fantasy.

#### NOTE

According to the Balasse Catalogue, there were surcharged 10,000 copies of each of the Recuperation and Malines surcharged stamps.

According to General Du Four's book (page 311), he accepted the 'generally accepted' figure of 20,000 stamps, a figure which, in his opinion, included both first and second surcharges.

#### A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF THE ELISABETHVILLE SURCHARGES OF OF JANUARY, 1923 (Yvert Nos. 104 and 105)

by Walter Deynckens

Numerous articles have appeared in the philatelic journals on these Elisabethville surcharges. Mr. Keach, in his bibliography, recorded nineteen articles on the subject, mostly appearing in *Le Philatelistes Belge* and *La Revue Postale*. There has been an aura of mystery and doubt about the origin and method of the surcharging.

An entirely new slant on the subject was provided by a M. De Wulf during a discussion with the writer. M. De Wulf had been an employee of the Banque du Congo Belge at Elisabethville during the period 1922-23. M. De Wulf stated that, at the end of 1922, a postal employee came to the bank to borrow the one and only overprinting and cancelling compositor (a stamp into which loose type, figures and letters, was fitted) in existence there. This compositor, belonging to the bank, was used to print numbers on cheques, was fitted with a handle, had loose metal type and was, without doubt, rather large and heavy for surcharging stamps with the figure 0,25. From information provided by M. De Wulf we can be sure of two facts:

- 1) All the surcharging was done with this one stamp.
- 2) The surcharging was done very quickly because the bank wanted the compositor to be returned as quickly as possible for its normal use.

Because of the monotony and difficulty of the work, and because of the speed with which it had to be done, we can be sure that the job was done by more than one postal clerk.

At the meeting of the Universal Postal Union Congress held in Madrid on 30 November, 1920, a general increase in postal rates was agreed. These new postal rates were approved for the Belgian Congo on 31 January, 1921 and came into force on 1 March, 1921. This was the reason for surcharging some of the 1910 values, demonetized in 1915 when the

Brussels stocks of the stamps were captured by the Germans; later, current 1915 issue stamps were also surcharged to conform with the increased postal rates. At the same time, a new issue, that we know as 'Vloors', was being organised.

There was considerable delay in the preparation and production of the Vloors issue and, due to the great economic and industrial expansion of Elisabethville, the stock of some values of stamps was running low there. In particular there was the 25c. value, much used as the single letter rate for internal letters and for letters to Belgium, also for printed matter of weight exceeding 20 grams, newspapers etc. According to de Cock, several post offices in Katinga were allowed to accept newspapers without the required 25c. stamp, a handstamp 'PAYE' or 'Port Paye EBville' being applied to the newspaper wrapper.

PAYÉ

Port  
Payé.  
EBville

The great shortage of 25c stamps was relieved somewhat by the surcharging in January, 1923 of the 1915 5fr. stamp but, according to General Du Four, there were only 50,500 copies surcharged.

The postal administration in Elisabethville decided not to wait longer for the appearance of the new Vloors stamps and to surcharge locally current 30c stamps with the compositor borrowed from the Banque du Congo Belge. Official approval appeared as a decree in 'Moniteur Belge' of 4 January, 1923. In this decree surcharging of only the 1921 30c stamp (Yvert No. 89) is mentioned and there is no mention of the 1922 30c. stamp (Yvert No. 98).

Of the surcharging itself General Du Four had a history from an Italian clerk who was working in the Elisabethville post office at the time; the surcharges were applied by two post office clerks using two overprinting stamps (compositors) and two inking pads which, after a time, might have been switched. The truth, as disclosed by M. De Wulf, is simpler; the surcharging was done probably by several clerks but always with the same compositor and always with the same inking pad which gave always the same greyish black surcharge. There were, and to our belief accidentally, several sheets of the 1922 30c. stamp (no. 98) included with the sheets of 1921 stamps. The number of 1922 stamps was smaller than that of the 1921 stamps and that is still evident from their relative scarcity and the difficulty of finding examples. The surcharge in this first overprinting (Type A) was always greyish black and never black as stated in General Du Four in his book; the ink used and the relative heights of the figures and comma were the same in first overprinting for both 1921 and 1922 stamps.

For the second overprinting (Type B) M. De Wulf is very sure that the compositor was borrowed a second time from the Banque du Congo Belge but he is uncertain when that took place. In the Catalogue Willy Balasse, Tome III (1949), page 121 it is stated that the second surcharge appeared in April, 1923.

Thus, the second surcharging used the same compositor as the first but, the compositor having in the meantime been used for its normal purposes by the bank, the 0,25 had to be reset in it and probably the figures and comma were not the same units as were used previously so that the surcharge is not identical with the first. Moreover, the inking pad, or the ink on the pad, was different, black instead of greyish black, but such a change is not unreasonable after a lapse of three or four months. Official approval from Brussels was not obtained for this second surcharging or, if official approval was given, there is no record of it.

The second surcharging was mostly on the 1922 30c. stamp (No. 98) but a relatively small number of the 1921 stamp was included. The number of stamps that received the second surcharge was not, in our view great because of the difficulty of overprinting with the cumbersome stamp; this view is quite different from other opinions of the number of stamps that received the second surcharge.

The identification of the first and second surcharge is a matter of some difficulty but Genral Du Four has identified characteristics which make recognition possible.

First Surcharge (Type A)\*

Second Surcharge (Type B)\*

The characteristics of the First Surcharge (Type A) are:

- 1) the 2 is lower than the other figures 0 and 5.
- 2) the comma is low relative to the figures.
- 3) the surcharge is always greyish black.

With this First Surcharge we have seen copies of the 1921 30c. stamp (No. 89) with the plate combinations IIII+C2 (several loose stamps but from one sheet), III2+C2 (with the authenticity mark CBE/SS) and IV+D1 (a half-sheet which M. De Wulf bought at the post office in Elisabethville). In the case of the half-sheet, 18 of the 25 stamps have the flag of the figure 5 broken (shortened); this has not been seen on the IIII+C2 stamps. Of the 1922 30c. stamp surcharged, only plate combination V+E (with the shading of the sky extended) is known.

The characteristics of the Second Surcharge (Type B), the 'unofficial' surcharge, are:

- 1) the figure 2 is on the same level as the 0 and the 5.

\* New nomenclature (refer "Further Thoughts on the Elisabethville Issue by R. H. Keach)

- 2) the comma is high relative to the figures.
- 3) the ink is black, not greyish black.

This second surcharge was applied mainly to the 1922 30c. stamp (No. 98) V+E but there were a few sheets of the 1921 30c with the plate combination IV+Dl.

But why was there a second surcharging? And why, when, without any shadow of doubt, the surcharged stamps were sold over the counter in the post offices, was the issue not recorded in 'Moniteur Belge'?

Not much concerned, even today, with the wishes of stamp collectors, the postal administration is engaged in running a business as smoothly and profitably as possible. We have seen that the first surcharging was undertaken as an emergency measure; the second surcharging could have been made due to a continuation of that same emergency.

We do not have exact figures of the numbers of stamps surcharged. 10,000, or a multiple of this figure, are stated by many sources but how is the number to be divided between the two surchargings and between the two basic stamps? Most stamps found today are without doubt the First Surcharge in greyish black on the 1921 30c. The scarcest seems to be the Second Surcharge in black on the 1921 30c. There can be endless discussion of the number of copies with genuine surcharge but our belief is that there are fewer than is generally accepted. We consider that the following list approximates to the actual numbers of stamps issued:

First Surcharge of December, 1922, issued 4 January, 1923

On 1921 30c (No. 89)	7000 copies
On 1922 30c (No. 98)	500 copies

Second Surcharge, issued April, 1923:

On 1921 30c (No. 89)	500 copies
On 1922 30c (No. 98)	7000 copies

A final word about forgeries. This overprint is, without doubt, the most forged overprint of the Belgian Congo. We have seen complete sheets of the forgeries sold as genuine by well-known and respected auctioneers. We have seen forged inverted and double surcharges and pairs of stamps, with and without surcharge. After having studied hundreds of the surcharges we still find it a difficult job to identify the good and the bad. On used copies cancellations can be of some assistance; the earliest cancellation we have seen on a First Surcharge, and this on a 1922 30c, is dated 5 January, 1923 (M. W. Bekx). The Second Surcharge, that in black ink, cannot be cancelled before April, 1923 and the earliest date that we have found is 20 August, 1923.

The absolutely final word can only be a warning because, even after this article, very many doubts and guesses remain.

We are grateful to the following gentlemen for information that they

have provided: Abbe Gudenkauf and MM. De Wulf, Bekx and Keach.

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NOTES ON M. DEYNCKENS' ARTICLE

by Abbe G. Gudenkauf

The witness M. De Wulf is interesting but the only new fact he brings to light is that the Banque du Congo Belge in Elisabethville twice lent ~~one~~ the compositor to the post office and that it was twice used for the surcharges at the beginning of 1923.

M. Deynckens' explanation may seem at first sight more plausible ~~or~~ more logical than that of the General but we must then accept that the surcharge was applied on the numerous sheets involved in each printing with only one overprinting stamp?

Moreover, we should not discard lightly what the General wrote about the subject. He and his friends, Dr. Avidon, Messrs. Gelli and Tani, M. de Cock, M. Oscar Everaert and many others, were living when it all happened and were very attentive; they had as a witness an employee of the Elisabethville post office where the things occurred.

Let me stress some very important points: M. de Cock, for instance, was in Elisabethville and bought several sheets of the First Printing on the spot; he brought them to Brussels and General Du Four had the opportunity to compare these sheets with the sheets sent by the Elisabethville post office to Brussels for record purposes; as far as the surcharges were concerned, they were identical.

Somewhat later, we do not know precisely when, M. Gisquiere, very well known in the Ministry of Colonies and a very influential man, required that the Elisabethville post office would supply sheets also to him, even complete sheets cancelled-to-order; I saw many such sheets during the past 15 years in the Rue du Midi. The CTO cancel is always the small circle (Type 1.2).

I think that the post office had one compositor at its disposal and borrowed a second one from the bank, to permit two employees to work at the same time and allow the job to be done more quickly; the one surcharged the sheets of the 1921 stamp (the only one authorised in the decree of 4 January, 1923), the other the sheets of the 1922 Malines stamp.

If in the second overprinting shortly afterwards (the Vloors stamps were issued in February), at M. Gisquiere's request, the employees had not exchanged surcharging stamps, the second printing would be indistinguishable from the first; luckily for philatelists, it is apparent that the two employees had switched their overprinting stamps.

What the General called the first printing, when used, is always cancelled with the large circle canceller with one star at the base (Type 5C); I know of several letters in Baron de Moffarts' collection, first printing, sent by M. Everaert, who was later in Elisabethville and used the stamps of the first printing which he had received from M. de Cock.

The two stamps (the 1921 and the 1922) are nearly always offered or found together and nearly the same quantity of each must have existed in each of the first and second printings. The numbers suggested by M. Deynckens are not convincing; it must be admitted that we know nearly nothing about the numbers issued.

P.S. Referring to M. Deynckens nicely produced second drawing, (that on the right), I notice on my block of four of the 1922 stamp, first printing, that the 0 is broken at the top left (visible in three of the four stamps, that it is not visible on a similar cancelled stamp but the break is visible on a second printing 1921 stamp with inverted surcharge (and TAXES).

Conclusion: The true philatelist should be interested in the 1921 stamp only, i.e. the left hand surcharge, M. Deynckens' illustration, the other (1922) stamp is an error.

The second printing, made for M. Gisquiere in January, 1923, with many curiosities, is not worth having!

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE ELISABETHVILLE ISSUE

by Raymond H. Keach

I think that I am right in saying that, in 1923, Elisabethville obtained the stamps for its post office and for other offices in Katananga directly from Brussels and not indirectly from Boma. The main stocks of stamps were kept in Brussels and sent through Boma and Elisabethville to the various post offices as required.

One can well imagine that the postmaster in Elisabethville was told by Brussels in the autumn of 1922 that there were no more 25c. stamps available and they would have to 'make do' with the lower values until the new Vloors issue was available at the end of January, 1923. The Elisabethville postmaster, probably having consulted Boma, would telegraph Brussels saying that their stocks of 5c., 10c and 15c. stamps were insufficient if they had to use them for the 25c. rate, that they had more than ample stocks of 30c. stamps and could he have permission to surcharge these 30c. stamps with 0,25, local facilities being available for applying such a surcharge. IN THIS, THE POSTMASTER WOULD HAVE SAID 30 CENTIMES STAMPS AND WOULD NOT HAVE DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN THE 1921 'RECUPERATION' AND 1922 MALINES' SUR-

CHARGES. FOR HIM THEY WERE BOTH VALID 30c. STAMPS AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE KEPT HIS STOCKS SEPARATED.

There would have been several committee meetings in Brussels and finally the Minister of the Colonies would have telegraphed permission to the postmaster in Elisabethville AND THIS PERMISSION WOULD HAVE MENTIONED 30c. STAMPS, NOT SPECIFICALLY RECUPERATION OR MALINES.

At the same time as telegraphing Elisabethville, the Minister would have told one of his junior staff, maybe a clerk, to have the authorisation of the surcharged stamps included in the next issues of the official journals, MONITEUR CONGOLAIS and BULLETIN ADMINISTRATIF DU CONGO BELGE. The clerk would wish to be more specific in his wording and either 1) forgot about the Malines surcharged stamps or 2) did not care to consult the Minister again and hazarded a guess on the Recuperation stamps.

There was no air mail at that time and it would have been several weeks after publication of the journal that the postmaster at Elisabethville received his copy, long after he had surcharged the stamps, maybe after he had received the first consignment of Vloors stamps. He may have been surprised at the mention specifically of the Recuperation stamps to be surcharged but he would not have been concerned because, to him, they were all 30c. stamps and his accounting, with the reduction in value of the stamps, was unchanged and that would have been all he worried about.

The decree authorising the issue, and presumably the telegram from the Minister, made no mention of the number of stamps to be surcharged and it can be taken that, if the supply of 30c. stamps was adequate, the surcharging was to continue until the Vloors 25c. was available at Elisabethville. That being the case, and the postmaster wishing to reduce the value of the 30c. stamps on as few copies as necessary and probably not knowing exactly when the Vloors would arrive, the surcharging would have been on a more or less day-to-day basis according to the demand for the stamps and not in two well defined specific 'printings' as has always been supposed.

The evidence that we have leads to the conclusion that there were two compositors, one owned by the post office and one lent by the Banque du Congo Belge with, perhaps, the latter used for only a short period - let us realise that the stamps were on sale at the post office for only a few weeks.

As stated earlier, the postmaster at Elisabethville would not deliberately have distinguished between the Recuperation and Malines stamps - they were all valid 30c. stamps to him - and they would not have been separated in his store so that, when some sheets were removed from the store for the daily surcharging, the sheets could have been one or the other or a mixture and it is highly unlikely that the two clerks, at any one time involved in the job of applying the surcharges, would have sorted out the sheets into Recuperation and Malines surcharges.

Thus, the distribution of the two surcharges between the two stamps was pure chance. Not having access to enough material, I am quite



unable to hazard a guess as to the number of each stamp surcharged with each of the two surcharges but, with the very limited information available to me, the relative numbers given by M. Deynckens seem to me reasonable.

The Combinations of Plates of the 30c. Recuperation Surcharged

According to the General, in his book, only IIII2+C2 received what he designated the 'First Surcharge'.

General Du Four was always very kind to me and, obviously years ago, I sent him all my Elisabethville surcharges to identify first and second surcharges and the forgeries (there were more bad than good). Most of the Recuperation stamps that he identified as First Surcharge were IV+D1. I tell this tale not with any disrespect for the General because he was my mentor in these and other matters with the Congo and he pioneered studies of the Congo stamps. But on the matter of the Elisabethville surcharges I think that he was wrong and this because he did not have the evidence now available.

The Robinson 'Hoard'

Recently I have had access to a hoard of Congo stamps accumulated by a Mr. Robinson, in the early 1920's employed in Elisabethville by the Anglo-Belgian Timber Company. The hoard comprised a number of complete sheets and large blocks of the 1915, 1921, 1922 and Floors stamps, plus several complete sheets of the 1923 Elisabethville surcharges; in addition there was a number of used stamps, many with TAXES and clearly taken from understamped mail. Amongst the used stamps were several Elisabethville surcharges, including TAXES, even blocks of four adhering to the backs of envelopes from which they had been torn.

I think that we must accept that the sheets and unused blocks were purchased over the counter at the post office and that the used stamps are genuine in all respects, not cancelled to order with special dates on the cancellations.

All the Elisabethville surcharged stamps, and there are approaching 300 of them, are Recuperation (1921), plate combination IV+D1, in the deep carmine (not what I call the lake-carmine, but certainly not the bright carmine) shade and include both types of surcharge. All the surcharges are in what I would call grey-black ink.

The very few used stamps, without TAXES and presumably used on internal mail, all have the large circle and star (Type 5C) cancel and the somewhat larger number with TAXES all have small circle (Type 1) cancels. It appears that the small circle cancellers were used for cancelling stamps used as postage due.

M. Gisquiere

As M. l'Abbe has stated, M. Gisquiere was a Brussels stamp dealer with much influence, perhaps the leading dealer in Congo stamps at the time.

He may have heard directly from the Ministry, before the official decree appeared in the official bulletin, of the imminent issue of the stamps. In that case, what would he have done? Realising that stocks would probably not be sent to Brussels for sale there (he would have obtained his stocks of Congo stamps normally from Brussels and not after they had been sent to the colony), he would telegraph either the postmaster at Elisabethville or his agent there for a certain number of sheets to be sent to him without delay; he would have known of the existence of only the one stamp and, if the order was to the postmaster, the number of sheets ordered would have been sent to him, one stamp or the other or a chance mixture. If he ordered through his agent in Elisabethville, who presumably would be a man who understood something about stamps, he might well have observed that some of the stamps on sale were surcharged on the 1921 issue and some on the 1922; in that case he would have posted to Gisquiere the two stamps in equal quantities, perhaps in total twice as many as Gisquiere ordered. Some could easily have been obtained, at Gisquiere's request, cancelled-to-order in the post office.

Perhaps he first heard of the issue from an agent in Elisabethville by telegram shortly after the stamps appeared in the post office; in that case there would have been the same ordering through the agent.

On the other hand, Gisquiere's first knowledge of the issue may have been the announcement in the official bulletin (published about the middle of January ?) in which case his order for the stamps would have been somewhat later; and he would have known only of the 1921 stamp.

M. Gisquiere's order for sheets of the stamp (or of both stamps if an agent had informed him of their existence) may well have been for so many that the supply immediately available at the post office was inadequate to provide them and, in a sense, he could have been sent a 'second printing'.

Used Copies with Dated Cancellations

Here, I am not following precedent, not using the terms 'First' and 'Second' printings, but now refer to M. Deynckens' left hand illustration and the left of the two illustrations in the General's book (the surcharge with the figure 2 low relative to the figures 0 and 5) "TYPE A". The other surcharge, with the figures fairly well in line and with the comma relatively high, I call "TYPE B". This obviates the controversial descriptions of First and Second Surcharges on respective stamps.

In the Robinson accumulation we have the Recuperation stamp IV+DL in deep carmine with Type A surcharge dated Elisabethville 2 January, 3 January, 9 January (a C.T.O. block), 10 January and 12 January, 1923; and with Type B surcharge dated 17 February, 1923.

Used stamps in my collection with what I consider genuine surcharges, with genuine cancellations and clear dates, not from the Robinson accumulation, are: (all cancellations are of Elisabethville except where stated to the contrary)

Recuperation III2+C2 Type B 13/1/23, 19/1/23 (large C.T.O. block)

IV+D1 (shades of deep carmine, not what I call lake-carmine)

Type A 26/1/23, 19/3/23

Type B 13/1/23 (apparently commercial cover from Sakania),

19/1/23, 4/4/23.

Malines V2+E Type B 20/8/23 (Gisquiere cover), 3/4/24 (Gisquiere cover from Lusambo).

Accepting that the above stamps are genuine and that the dates on the cancellations are the dates when they were applied, there appears to me no pattern of a sequence of application of Surcharges A and B to the Recuperation stamp. It is true that there are no Recuperation stamps with Type B surcharge earlier than 13 January, 1923 whereas there are, in all, five examples of earlier dates with Type A so that one could well believe that the earliest surcharging of the Recuperation stamps was with the Type A surcharge but the suggestion has in the past been - as I understand it - that the application of Surcharge B to the Recuperation stamps was much later, probably after receipt of the 25c Vloors stamps, thereby making it of doubtful authenticity.

It is unfortunate that the almost complete absence of used Malines stamps with the surcharge allows me to hazard no guesses as to the dates when the stamps were available for use.

With regard to the colour of the surcharge, most copies, both Type A and Type B, are in what I would call grey-black. Only Type B has been seen in Jet-black but, even in a complete sheet, undoubtedly surcharged using the same inking pad, the shade of the surcharge varies depending on the number of stamps that have already been struck since re-inking of the surcharge stamp. I consider that little consideration should be given to the shade of the surcharge.

### Summary

- 1) there were two surcharging stamps.
- 2) there were not two discreet 'surchargings', separated by some interval in time, but surcharging was continuous as there was demand for the stamps.
- 3) sheets of Recuperation and Malines surcharged stamps were further surcharged indiscriminately without any question of selection, each receiving Type A or Type B surcharge as happened by chance.
- 4) in Elisabethville at the time the large circle canceller (Type 5) was used for outgoing mail. The small circle canceller (Type 1) was used for a) stamps used as postage due and b) sheets of stamps cancelled-to-order. The small circle canceller was probably used at the counter in the post office, the large circle canceller in the postmen's office where the outgoing letters were sorted.

This does not pretend to be the 'last word' with this issue and further views, particularly if substantiated by covers with correct post-rates, will be much appreciated by our editor - and by us all.

FORGERIES OF THE 30c MALINES SURCHARGE

by Raymond H. Keach

The Abbe Gudenkauf has kindly sent for inspection two copies of the 1915 10c with inverted 1922 Malines 30c surcharge that are undoubted forgeries. They appear to me identical; one is unused and has the Nysten 'authenticity' mark on the back; the other is on a small piece, tied to it with a forged DIMA cancellation.

The surcharges are in shiny ink, as are the genuine. Because of the roughness of the outlines of the genuine surcharge it is difficult to identify features that are different in the forgeries. Tracing the outline of the figure 3 of the genuine surcharge and starting from the top left corner, we move to the right horizontally along the top of the horizontal bar, then diagonally down and to the left, then horizontally to the right for a short distance, then more or less vertically down until we meet the bottom curve; in other words, the right outline of the figure is composed mostly of straight or nearly straight lines. In the forgery there is no short horizontal straight section after the diagonal stroke; it is curved down to the vertical line which is therefore much shorter before the bottom curve.

Perhaps a simpler guide to the forgery is the upper dot under the letter C. In the genuine this is rectangular with the bottom right corner chamfered and the dot does not extend to the right extremity of the letter C. In the forgery this dot has a much longer chamfer so that it is almost triangular and is longer so that its right extremity, ending in a point, is immediately below the right extremity of the C.

I have an example of this stamp with a forged double surcharge, again with the Nysten mark on the back. Unfortunately, the detail of the figures 3, as described above, is obscured by the cancellation but the dot under the C is as described for the forgery of the inverted. The cancellation is a really splendid facsimile of BOMA type 5E2, identified as a forgery only by most careful measurement and the absence of a break in the circle between the right and bottom stars.

All three forgeries are to the usual very high standard of Nysten's work.

CONGO STAMPS OVERPRINTED "REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE" (STANLEYVILLE)

by Georges Celis

1. Introduction

These stamps bear witness to one of the most tragic periods in the history of the Congo (Zaire) after independence.

In 1964, the Congo tried in vain to get rid of the troubles caused by the secessions of Katanga and Sud Kasai; badly run, without a proper administration, the country remained disorganised; the old tribal rivalries remained as strong as ever. Taking advantage of the general discontent prevailing in the Congo, certain political figures supported by the Communist countries and by Tanzania tried to organise what they called the "Republique Populaire du Congo". These politicians came from regions traditionally hostile to Europeans, which helps to explain the highly racist and xenophobic character of the rebellion - Maniema, Stanleyville and Kwango-Kwilu.

Sustained by various beliefs - including a belief that certain medications made them invulnerable - and facing a Congolese army whose incompetence was legendary, the rebels put two-thirds of the country at war, establishing their headquarters at Stanleyville (actually Kisangani).

Incapable of organising themselves, and cut off from the outside world by their excesses and their carelessness, the rebels were unable to put up any resistance when Belgian paratroopers landed at Stanleyville on 24 November 1964, an operation which led to the rescue of most of the foreign hostages held in the region. However the rebels managed to execute a whole group of foreigners before disappearing into the forest.

It must be made clear that the rebels had no wish to proclaim a new secession, but simply hoped to replace the Government at Kinshasa.

Some time after the end of these unhappy events, Congo stamps overprinted "Republique Populaire" appeared on the philatelic market. Of the issues which arouse controversy, these certainly take pride of place! In 1965 a short article about them by J L A Ludwig appeared in Balasse Magazine no. 160. The author clearly had access to most of the documents which I recently borrowed from the philatelic agency RODAN, but some important facts escaped him or were not reproduced in the article. It is very much to be regretted that this happened, because if these points had been clarified much fruitless discussion about the status of these issues could have been avoided.

2. The Official Documents

Four basic documents set out clearly the status and origins of the "Republique Populaire" issues:

- (a) A requisition order signed by the President of the Popular Republic at Stanleyville, dated 28 September 1964.
- (b) A memorandum from the Stanleyville printing works, SCPRL, listing the numbers of stamps overprinted, together with a percentage allowance for waste.
- (c) A memorandum from the Stanleyville printing works, dated and signed 20 October 1964, listing the stamps sent to the Provincial Director of Posts.
- (d) A copy of the newspaper "Le Martyr", dated Saturday/Sunday 24-25 October 1964, describing the launching of these stamps and the important ceremony which this even gave rise to.

The international press at this time gave very detailed coverage to the events at Stanleyville, and particularly to the conditions in which the Europeans were held during the last weeks before the fall of Stanleyville; the events described throw much light on the circumstances surrounding this issue of stamps.

The documents in detail:

(a) The requisition order

This consists of a sheet of headed paper with the following words in the top left corner:

"Republique Populaire  
Gouvernement Revolutionnaire de la Province  
Orientale  
STANLEYVILLE  
Cabinet du President"

Added to this is a coat of arms in the Congolese colours. A reference number GB/NR 542 is given, together with the initials "T P". The document goes as follows:

"Requisition

Monsieur KORAN Marcel, of Belgian nationality, is hereby requested to provide his assistance in creating and printing postage stamps for the Popular Republic of the Congo.

The civilian and military authorities are asked to provide help and assistance to the bearer of this document.

Signed: The President of the Popular Republic C Gbenye"

The document also carries the stamp of the Presidency of the Popular Republic.

This document is of fundamental importance in that it shows clearly that the issue of the stamps of the Popular Republic was the result of a specific decision at the highest level.

(b) The printing memorandum

This document is of less significance than the others because it is not dated, signed or stamped. It consists of a sheet headed "The Modern Printing-Works of Stanleyville, SCPRL" with four columns of numbers on it, showing:

- (i) the face values of the stamps;
- (ii) the number of stamps of each value which were overprinted;
- (iii) the number of stamps received (ie received for overprinting by the printing works);
- (iv) the percentage of stamps rejected because of faulty overprints.

I could only consult a bad photo-copy of the memorandum, not all of which could be deciphered. The following is what was legible:

0.70	48,800	49,945	2%	(idols 1947)
7.50@	-	-	-	(idols 1947)
1	29,900	29,...	0.06%	(animals Congo 1964)
1.60	48,274	49,298	2%	(idols 1947)
2	48,694	...	..	(flowers 1964)
2.40	46,...	46,840	..	(idols 1947)
3	29,600	29,890	0.2%	(Kasavubu)
3.50	5,560	5,698	..	(flowers 1964)
4	27,890	28,490	..	(birds 1963)
4	48,500	49,898	..	(Kasavubu 1964)
5	49,400	49,890	..	(animals 1964)
6	48,300	49,895	0.2%	(sic) (independance 1964)
6.50	860	2,478	60%	(animals 1964)
6.50	1,198	-	100%	(sic) (flowers 1964)
7	74,790	74,898	0.01%	(birds 1963)
7	25	25	-	(UPU 1963)
8	49,200	49,848	2%	(birds 1963)
8	29,798	29,898	0.3%	(flowers 1964)
9	6,...	6,970	10%	(CEE 1963)
9	5,660	5,...	5%	(reconciliation 1963)
10	32,390	32,480	0.5%	(birds 1963)
12	7,6..	7,9..	..	(CEE 1963)
12	32,...	32,...	2%	(reconciliation 1963)
20	28,2..	28,...	0.02%	(birds 1963)
20	3,550	4,500	..	(UPU 1963)
25	17,705	17,9..	..	( Lovanium 1964)
30	22,225	22,5..	..	(Lovanium 1964)
50	...	43,...	..	(idols 1947)
60	23,...	24,...	..	( Lovanium 1964)

@ this stamp was obtained by surcharging the 70c. of the idols.

The document unfortunately gives no indication of who originated it.

Under the second column the total 814,565 stamps is given, and under the third the total is 824,495. The latter figure is the number of stamps delivered to the printing works, while the former is the number of stamps successfully and correctly overprinted.

The 6.50 flowers is known only with the overprint inverted.

(c) The memorandum of receipt

This memorandum, on headed paper of the Stanleyville printing works, is headed 'Stamps Printed' and shows the following table:

<u>Values</u>	<u>Set</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Value (sic)</u>
0.70	Idols	10,898	7,628.60
7.50	Idols	26,800	201,000.00
1.00	Animals	29,600	29,600.00
1.60	Idols	43,098	68,956.80
2.00	Flowers	49,300	98,800.00
2.40	Idols	41,247	98,992.80
3.00	Kasavubu	29,300	87,900.00
3.50	Animals	5,262	18,417.00
4.00	Birds	27,590	110,360.00
4.00	Kasavubu	49,200	196,800.00
5.00	Animals	49,100	245,500.00
6.00	Independance	48,000	288,000.00
6.50	Animals	860	5,590.00
6.50	Flowers	898	5,837.00
7.00	Birds	74,098	518,686.00
7.00	UPU	25	175.00
8.00	Birds	48,900	319,200.00
8.00	Flowers	29,298	234,384.00
9.00	Common Market	7,578	68,202.00
9.00	Reconciliation	5,060	45,540.00
10.00	Birds	31,960	319,600.00
12.00	Common Market	6,760	81,120.00
12.00	Reconciliation	32,110	385,320.00
20.00	Birds	26,792	535,840.00
20.00	UPU	3,400	68,000.00
25.00	Lovanium	17,679	441,950.00
30.00	Lovanium	22,200	666,000.00
50.00	Idols	38,630	1,931,500.00
60.00	Lovanium	23,448	1,406,880.00
		779,190	8,537,779.20

Under the table, the memorandum carries the following manuscript note:

"Received except for the values 6.50 flowers and 7fr UPU  
Stan., 20 October 1964  
Propost K... (illegible) + signature"

The 7fr has never been seen (and for good reason!), while the 6.50 is known only with inverted overprint.

One point is not explained: the discrepancy between these figures and those in the first memorandum. It probably arose from "leakage" as always happens in Zaire, however much supervision is exercised. On the other hand at least 20,104 stamps were used on postcards (see section 4), which reduces the total of 814,565 to 794,461, a figure very close to the total in the second table (the difference of 2% is minimal).



The 0.70 and 7.50/0.50 are counted together in the first memorandum; they are the same stamp, which received two different surcharges.

This document is usefully complemented by the article in "Le Martyr" of 24-25 October 1964 which is described in the following paragraph.

(d) The newspaper "Le Martyr"

On the first page, in four columns, the issue of 24-25 October 1964 reports "the inauguration at Stanleyville of new postage stamps" (sic). The second part of the article is on page 4. In view of its length I reproduce here only the most significant passages, using the original wording:

"It was in the important building of the Hotel de Postes that unfolded the inaugural ceremonies of the new Congolese postage stamps. ...

"Among the VIPs who enhanced this historic occasion with their presence were comrades Gaston Soumialot, Francois Sabiti, respectively Minister of National Defence and Public Works, Posts and Telecommunications, all the high officials of the Central Government (@), the Mayor of the City comrade Ngbatala Nicolas, ...

"In his introductory speech His Excellency Francois Sabiti, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications, expressed himself as follows:

'As you already know, we are here today to inaugurate the new postage stamps for franking correspondence.

'In the name of the revolutionary Government, I therefore officially proclaim the issue of stamps overprinted with the words "Popular Republic of the Congo", which henceforth will alone serve for the franking of mail both domestic and external.

'This measure, which foreshadows other measures to come, conforms with the ministerial decree no. 1 of 10/10/64, and reflects not only the excellence of the Popular Republic of the Congo but above all confirms its sovereignty.

'In effect, with the minimum delay, mail franked with the old stamps will no longer be admitted for circulation throughout the Republic, or to overseas destinations.

'By this initiative your Government intend to follow relentlessly their objective which is to keep the Congo of the Congolese, by the Congolese and for the Congolese, since these stamps will show to international opinion the true face of a people who struggle to regain, by primitive means and at much sacrifice, the prize of liberty which has been dangerously compromised.

'By the issue of these stamps, my fellow countrymen, we have already decided, in spite of the difficulties, to consolidate our independence which has been dearly bought by our brothers' blood and which for more than four years has been scoffed at by the traitors of the nation, supported by the lackeys of American imperialism. ...'

@ Note that the rebels already considered themselves to be of the 'Central Government'.

This speech ended with a lyrical peroration celebrating the "growing victories" of the regime and of the "Popular Army of Liberation"; in this part of the discourse, the stamps were forgotten!

After the Minister's speech, "Le Martyr" adds:

"After his speech, the Minister left the rostrum to the applause of the crowd and went to the Post Office counter where he became the first customer to buy the new stamps. He then went to a letter-box specially arranged to receive letters from this memorable day."

"Le Martyr" concludes the article with a further eulogy celebrating the procession and the drinks which wound up the ceremonies. The only problem is that the paper forgets to say exactly what day they took place on! But since the stamps were received on 20 October, and the paper is dated the 24-25th, it follows that the ceremony was between the 21st and the 23rd. The details provided by the study of the postcards (see section 4) confirm that 21 October was the day of issue.

### 3. The Overprinted Stamps

One must first of all point out that the stamps which were overprinted are those which were currently available from the province's post offices at the time of the "Popular Republic". I personally bought them from several Kivu post offices at the beginning of 1964. The overprinted stamps were therefore definitely obtained locally.

#### Idols of Belgian Congo (1947-48)

- |    |                            |        |
|----|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. | 0.70 green                 | (283)  |
| 2. | 1.60 blue-grey and blue    | (286B) |
| 3. | 2.40 green and black-green | (287A) |
| 4. | 7.50/0.70 green            | (283)  |
| 5. | 50fr orange and black      | (294)  |

#### Animals (30 June 1960)

- |    |      |       |
|----|------|-------|
| 6. | 3.50 | (407) |
| 7. | 6.50 | (409) |

#### UPU (28 January 1963)

- |   |            |       |
|---|------------|-------|
| 8.  | 20fr green | (476) |
| (note: the 7fr blue (474) was never received at the central post office.) |            |       |

#### Protected Birds (April and August 1963)

- |     |                          |       |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| 9.  | 4fr pink, blue and green | (488) |
| 10. | 7fr blue-green and black | (491) |
| 11. | 8fr yellow, orange & bl. | (492) |
| 12. | 10fr blue, pink & black  | (493) |
| 13. | 20fr olive and red       | (494) |

Reconciliation (20 June 1963)

- |     |                                |       |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------|
| 14. | 9fr red, blue, yellow & black  | (505) |
| 15. | 12fr lilac, blue, yellow & bl. | (506) |

Common Market (1 July 1963)

- |     |                    |       |
|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 16. | 9fr multicoloured  | (512) |
| 17. | 12fr multicoloured | (513) |

Lovanium (1 February 1964)

- |     |                    |       |
|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 18. | 25fr multicoloured | (527) |
| 19. | 30fr multicoloured | (528) |
| 20. | 60fr multicoloured | (529) |

"Recuperation" - Flowers (June 1964)

- |     |      |       |
|-----|------|-------|
| 21. | 2fr  | (534) |
| 22. | 8fr. | (535) |

(note: the 6.50 (394) was never received at the central post office.)

"Recuperation" - Animals (June 1964)

- |     |     |       |
|-----|-----|-------|
| 23. | 1fr | (536) |
| 24. | 5fr | (539) |

"Recuperation - Independance (June 1964)

- |     |          |       |
|-----|----------|-------|
| 25. | 6fr grey | (541) |
|-----|----------|-------|

"Recuperation" - Kasavubu (June 1964)

- |     |                          |       |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| 26. | 3fr rose-lilac and brown | (543) |
| 27. | 4fr blue-green and brown | (544) |

4. The Postcards

At the same time as the stamps, postcards franked with some of the stamps of the "Popular Republic" appeared on the philatelic market.

There exists (though I have not seen it) a memorandum of receipt from the central post office at Stanleyville which mentions a delivery of 5,026 postcards.

The examples seen of the cards carry the five overprinted Idols stamps cancelled with a very long rectangular cachet with the words:

"REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DU CONGO

STANLEYVILLE le 5 septembre 1964"

The cachet also carries a Congolese symbol (five small stars above, one large star in the middle). A date stamp carries the date 21.10.64 (the date of issue? - see the report above of the ceremony as described

in "Le Martyr").

These cards are numbered.

### 5. Conclusions

From a study of documents in the possession of philatelists, and of the contemporary press, the following emerges:

- (a) The stamps of the "Popular Republic" were issued on the instructions of the rebel Government in Stanleyville who hoped to take the place of the Government in Kinshasa. In his speech quoted above, the Minister Sabiti said - "Today, Congolese people, we are free from the regime of Leopoldville, thanks to the organisation and courage of the Popular Army".
- (b) The inauguration ceremony for these stamps, held in the presence of a large gathering of the rebel authorities of Stanleyville, confirms that the issue was indeed the result of a decision of these authorities and them alone, since at that time all the foreigners in the province were in prison or under house arrest.
- (c) The quantity of stamps issued excludes the possibility of "philatelic trickery". It is clear that the stamps were obtained locally.
- (d) The stamps were in circulation for exactly a month - from the day of the ceremony (probably 21 October 1964) until the capture of Stanleyville by Belgian paratroops at 8 am on 24 November 1964.
- (e) It is not surprising that the stamps have never been seen used, since only the local post was working and foreigners had no access to it, being all in prison or under house arrest at that time; this fact had been reported in the press for several months. Since the Congolese (Zaireans) do not collect stamps it is perfectly normal that these issues have never been seen used.
- (f) The stamps which found their way to the philatelic market were obtained from the central post office at Stanleyville. I do not know who obtained them.
- (g) When the province was taken by the paratroopers, it is certain that if anyone remained in possession of documents recalling the "Popular Republic", they would have destroyed them for fear of reprisals. (These were terrible, and it is said that more people were killed in reprisals by the Zairean army than had been killed by the rebels in the Stanleyville region.)

It follows that there is absolutely nothing which argues against the full recognition of these stamps. They were issued by a decision of authorities whose power extended at that time over two-

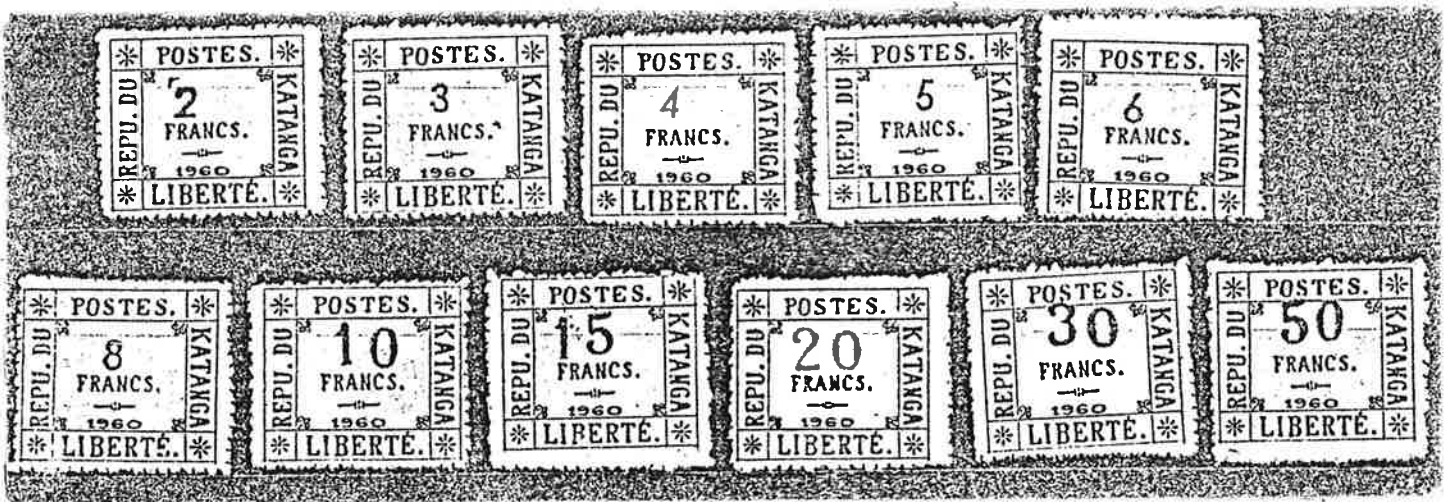
thirds of the Congo (Zaire), in the absence of foreign intervention, and their issue was the occasion for official ceremonies. Finally, they were valid for postage for a month. They bear witness to one of the most tragic periods following the independence of the Belgian colony.

If any reader can provide me with further facts - or used stamps! - I will be very much obliged to him.

THE KATANGA "PROVISIONALS": A MODERN PHILATELIC MYSTERY

by Dr. Steven Carol

On July 11, 1960, the State of Katanga proclaimed its independence in the midst of the chaotic events that had befallen the former Belgian Congo during the latter's attainment of its freedom twelve days earlier. As serious philatelists well know, during the two and a half years of its existence, Katanga issued some 81 basic stamps, 12 postage dues, and seven pieces of postal stationery. A recent "discovery" by this author, has added a new, and to this point relatively unknown series to the postal emissions of Katanga.



Sometime during 1960 Katanga prepared a series of 11 postage stamps as the first definitive series from that country. Up to this point in time stamps from the former Belgian Congo were being utilized being overprinted "KATANGA". From the printing, paper, and poor perforating of this definitive issue--which I have named the "Provisionals"--it seems that this series was prepared on the spot in Katanga, rather than in Belgium or Switzerland, where all known Katangan stamps had been prepared. Compared to later issues produced by the well known Swiss firm of Couvoisier, this series appears quite crude.

Perhaps the intention of Katangan officials was that this series should be used as replacements, as overprinted stocks ran out. They were not used, when of course the Katangan "Arts" series was released February 15, 1961. Thus the series remained prepared, printed but unissued. However there may have been a political reason for their non-release. These stamps are inscribed "REPU.(BLIQUE) DU KATANGA", whereas the Arts set is inscribed "ETAT DU KATANGA" as are the Independent Overprint series, and all other issues are simply inscribed "KATANGA." Those familiar with history of the Congo (now known as Zaire) will recall that throughout the period 1959 to 1963, Moïse Tshombe, the leader of Katanga, advocated that the Congo be a loose confederation of 6 provinces--each with broad administrative powers (including posts??). Even after Katanga's secession, numerous conferences were held, including those at Tananarive (in March 1961) and at Coquilhatville (in April-May 1961), with the hope of restoring

the unity of the Congo on the basis of a confederation or federation. Tshombe's use of the terminology "ETAT du Katanga" or simply "Katanga" supports the view that even if he rejoined the Congo (on his terms-- that is confederation) each area would be allowed to issue its own postal paper. Having stamps released inscribed "REPUBLIQUE"--would indicate a final break--with no hope of reconciliation or a deal whereby Katanga could maintain some autonomy. This obviously Tshombe was not prepared to do. Thus we have an additional factor explaining the non-release of this series of stamps.

No doubt much more information about this series needs to be unearthed for the benefit of all collectors. Among the unanswered questions that still remain are--where were these printed (i.e. the exact city or town and name of printer)? How many sets were prepared?? What happened to them after the decision was made not to release them??

Any philatelist with additional information about these "Provisionals" is invited to contact the author. The information will be utilized in a forthcoming handbook on Katanga.

#### BURUNDI, RWANDA, ZAIRE : TOO MANY ISSUES?

by Georges Celis

There are myths which die hard! One of them is the myth that the former Belgian colonies issue too many stamps. It is not long since an article appeared on the subject of the Officiel catalogue, attacking the "prolific African issues" and actually suggesting that they should be omitted from the catalogue! (See 'La Revue du Timbre', October 1978.)

It is illuminating to check, with the actual figures, what the real state of affairs is. The results are clear and unequivocal: since the end of June 1960, when Zaire became independent, Belgium has issued on average about 540 francs face-value of stamps each year, while the figures for the ex-colonies are approximately as follows:

Zaire	285	francs	per	year
Zaire (incl. break-away states)	400	"	"	"
Burundi	1200	"	"	"
Rwanda	600	"	"	"

Zaire has therefore issued many fewer stamps, at much lower cost, than Belgium! Rwanda is of the same order of magnitude, and alone of the three Burundi's issues are clearly excessive, although it must be said that their frequency has been considerably reduced since 1974.

It was the years 1960 and 1961 which gave Zaire philately a bad name; as well as the stamps of the new Congo Republic, there were the surcharged Belgian Congo sets and the stamps of the break-away states Katanga and Sud Kasai. Many stamps were issued, and the status of some of them was doubtful. All this is past history: Zaire now issues fewer stamps than the average European country, and the status of all of them is quite above-board.

Unhappily, however, the reputation of those difficult years remains, although there is no longer any justification for it.

(1) Calculation of Face Values

To avoid all argument, face-values have been converted into Belgian francs at the official exchange rate. The effect of this is to make the stamps much more expensive than they really were. For several years the banks of Rwanda and Burundi operated a parallel and legal market offering more than two local francs for one Belgian franc, although the official rate was one for one. In Zaire there has always been a black market in which the local currency has been exchanged at rates varying between one-half and one-fifth of the official rate.

For those who live in these countries, therefore, the stamps have never been nearly as expensive as the figures given above. The fact that European dealers have speculated in some of the issues is another matter. The only acceptable measure is what one pays in the country itself. Here are the detailed figures:

	<u>1960-1977:</u>	<u>total face value</u>	<u>annual average</u>
Belgium		9415.20 bel. fr.	538 bel. fr.
Congo/Zaire		4988.00 " "	285 " "
" " plus break-away states		7106.20 " "	406 " "
Rwanda		9378.00 " "	605 " "
Burundi		13640.20 " "	1192 " "
" (including imperf.)		22436.20 " "	1948 " "

(2) Number of Stamps Issued in Belgium, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire

(The figures apply to the period 30.6.1960 to 30.7.1977)

	<u>Belgium</u>	<u>Zaire</u>	<u>Zaire +</u> <u>secessions</u>	<u>Rwanda</u>	<u>Burundi</u>
Stamps	722	539	704	828	736
Miniature sheets	19	13	14	74	98
Air, postage due etc	218	-	12	11	444
Total	959	552	730	913	1278
Annual average	56	33	43	61	85

Conclusions

In round figures, Zaire has issued less than 60% of the numbers issued by Belgium. Including the break-away states, it has issued 24% fewer stamps than Belgium. Rwanda has issued 11% more stamps per year than Belgium. Burundi - the one notable exception - has issued 51% more stamps. (Imperforated issues are not included in these figures.)

THE CANCELLATIONS OF THE NORMAL POST OFFICES OF BELGIAN CONGO AND  
RUANDA URUNDI.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA NO. 12

Alterations to Existing Designations BEFALE 8A2- to 8A2-Dmyt.  
COQUILHATVILLE 8A2- to 8A2-Dmyt. GOMBARI 7A1- to 7A1-Dmyt.  
KASENGA 8a1- to 8a1-Dmyt/t. KIPUSHI 7A1- to 7a1-Dmyt. KUTU  
8a1- to 8a1-Dmyt. LEOPOLDVILLE 1 10(-N)- to 10(-N)-Dmyt.

Additional Cancellations

BAUDOINVILLE	8A2-	184 220 241 312 333	(dates)	50-1
BEFALE	/8A2-Dmyt/t			51
BOENDE	MD1-Dmyt			59
BUDJALA	8A2-Dmyt/ty		(no date)	
BUKAMA	7A1-Dmyt/t			29
COQUILHATVILLE	8A2-Dmyt/y		(no date)	
ELISABETHVILLE 5	12B(A)1-			60
GOMBARI	7A1-Dmyt/t			30
GUNGU	8A1-Dmyt			36
IRUMU	2A2		4 x	12mm
KAMITUGA	12B(A)1-			60
KIPUSHI	7A1-Dmy			40-1
KUTU	8A1-Dmyt/t			43
LEOPOLDVILLE 1	8A9-	169 209 232 255 320 339		45 Hyphen be- fore Roman I
LEOPOLDVILLE 1	10(-N)-Dmyt/y		(no date)	
LIBENGE	1.2-MDY			*01
LISALA	5D1-Dmyt/t			30



**Changes to Dates** ABA 8A3- \*45-8; 8A4- \*45-53, 59-60. AKETI 7A1-28-35; 7A2-Dmyt \*33-9, 43; 8A2-Dmyt \*39-48; 8A4- \*46-53. ALBERTVILLE 1.2-DtMY/t \*12-4; 7C1- \*35-9, 47; 10(-F.)- \*52-3. ANGO 8A2- \*47-51. AVAKUBI 1.1-MdTY \*09-10. BAFWASENDE 8A1- \*37, 44-8; 8A3- 56-9. BAMBILI 7A1-Dmyt 31-2, 46; 8A1- 47, 51. BANALIA 8A1- 37, 42-6. BANANA 7C1-Dmyt 32-3. BANDUNDU 7A2- 30-2. BANGA-TSHELA 7C1- \*33-45, 50-5; 8A2- \*48-56. BANNINGVILLE 8A3- \*48-53 (not 46). BANZYVILLE 8A3- \*46-52; 12A1- 54-6. BASANKUSU 5C1-Dmyt 21-7, 32-5; 7A2-Dmyt/t 32-3; 7C1 33-6; 11(B)2- 58-60. BASOKO 5C1-Dmyt/t \*25-7, 31-2. BASONGO 1.1-DMYT \*02-4; BINGA 8A2- \*58-9. BOENDE 1.1-tDMY \*14-6; 7A1- \*27-37; 8A1- \*37-45. BOKOTE 8A1-Dmyt/t \*50-4. BOKUNGU 8A3- 53-8. BOMA 1.10 \*07-10; 7A3- \*30-1; 11(B)1- 55-8. BOMBOMA 8D1-Dmyt 36-7, 43; 8D1-Dmy \*44-7. BONDO 5D1-Dmyt/t 25-6; 7A1- \*30-8; 8A1-Dmyt \*38-47; 8A2- \*48-59. BUKAMA 7C1- \*34-50; 8A3- \*50-3. BULUNGU 8A1- \*38, 42-4, 54-6. BUMBA 8A1- \*35-48. BUTA 1.1-tDMY \*14-26; 7A1- \*26-35; 8A1- \*40-9; 8A3- 50-5, 59; 8B2 \*45-7. BUTEMBO 10(-B.)- \*52-5, 59. COQUILHATVILLE 7A3- \*27-30; 7A4- \*31-6; 7A5- 32-7; 7A7- \*31-7; 8A1-Dmyt \*37-46; 8A4- \*41-7; 12B(BCH)1- \*55-6, 60. COSTERMANSVILLE 7A2- \*30-49; 10(A)- 47-8. DEKESE 8A1-Dmyt \*36-45; 8A2- \*49-58. DI-BAYA 8A1- \*36-42. DIMA 7A1- 26-31. DORUMA 8A1- \*49-54, 59. ELISABETHVILLE 7A3- \*27-9; 7A10- \*27-33; 7C2- \*38-44; 7C4- \*35-40, 46-7; 8A1- \*36-46; 8A2 \*37-48; 8A4- \*41-3; 10(I)- \*48-51. ELISABETHVILLE 3 12C1- \*53-9. FARADJE 8A4- \*55-8. GOMBARI 7A1-Dmyt \*31-6 (not 30-6) GOMBE 4.1-DmTY \*18-21, 25. GUMBA-MOBEKA 7A1-Dmyt \*29-30, 35-7; 8A1- \*38-47. GUNGU 8A1-Dmyt/t 37-40. IBEMBO 1.2-MDTY \*06-7. INGENDE 8A1-Dmyt 36-42, 46. INKISI 8A1- \*38-45. INONGO 1.1 tDMY \*15-26; 7A1- \*26-8, 32-7; 7A3- 31-7. IREBU 1.1-tDMY \*13-4. IRUMU 7A2- \*31-9; 8A2- 38-48. ISANGI 8A1- \*36-40, 46-7. JADOTVILLE 7A1- \*31-6; 7A5- \*35-8. KABALO 8A1- \*40, 44-50, 55-60; 10(-A.)- \*53-4. KABARE 8A2- \*47-54, 58-9. KABINDA 1.1-tDMY \*12-25; 1.1-DtMY \*16-8; 7A1-Dmyt \*29-37; 8A1- \*38-49. KAMINA 7A1-Dmyt \*27-39; 8A2- 39, 46-51. KAMUKISI \*22. KAPANGA 8A1- \*54-9. KASENGA 8A1-Dmyt/t 36-45. KASENYI 7A1- \*28-33. KASONGO 1.1-DmTY \*05-14, 22; 1.1-DtMY \*10, 15; 8A1- \*45-54; 8A2- \*45-7, 51-6; 8A3- 47-51, 55-7; 8C1- \*36-8, 42-6. KASONGO-LUNDA 8A1- 36-42. KIKONDJA 1.1-DmTY \*15, 21. KILO 5E1-Dmyt/t \*25-7. KINDU 8A1- \*38-42. KUTU 8A1-Dmyt 36-45. LEOPOLDVILLE 8B1- \*45-6. LEOPOLDVILLE 1 7A10- 35-7; 7A11- \*28-31; 7A19 \*24-8; 8A3- \*44-8; 12B(W)1- \*59-60. LEOPOLDVILLE 2 7A1-Dmyt 25-9. LEOPOLDVILLE-KALINA 10(B)- \*48-53. LIBENGE 1.2-tDMY 14-6, 21; 7A1-Dmyt \*27-36; 8A3- 47-50, 55-6, 60. LIKASI 7A2- 31. LIKATI 8A1-Dmyt \*51-4. LISALA 1.1-tDMY \*15-21, 25-6; 8A1- \*36-45. LOANGO-DUKULA 5C1-Dmyt/t 23-4. LOKANDU 5D1-Dmyt 22-4, 28, 32-3; 8A1- 39-48. LOMELA 8A1- \*37-45.

Changes for offices later in the alphabet and those in Ruanda Urundi will follow in the next Bulletin.