

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

BULLETIN NO. 35

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RESIGNATION

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our new members, Mr. A. Smits, Mr. A. Morvay and Mr. N. Nahmod.

NECROLOGY

It is with deep regret that we announce the sudden death in October, 1979 of our member Mr. G. Petitjean - however, we sincerely welcome Mr. A. Petitjean, who has decided to continue his son's association with the Study Circle.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Members will find enclosed the Membership List as of 1 January, 1980. This list includes all recent changes of address as far as known to the Secretary. Please advise of any further changes required. For the first time, membership numbers, based on formal dates of entry to the Study Circle, are shown.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

With this Bulletin is a questionnaire for members to fill out in order to give us a better idea of their more specialised interests within the general field of Congo philately. Please return to the Secretary who will collate the obtained data.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Bulletin will now endeavor to meet deadlines and be published in March, June, September and December of each year. The separate Newsletter will no longer be published, but the features of this edition will be incorporated into future Bulletins. As your new Editor, I welcome criticism and comments, plus contributions so that our publication will become a publication of record, and in some small way, we may make the job of research a bit easier in the years to come for philatelic students of the Congo.

And as always we remind members:

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

JANUARY 1980 MEETING

Seven members were able to attend the meeting at Bedford College on 12 January. The morning session consisted of an enjoyable bourse and general query-answering session and after lunch we were entertained by a display of the Mols 15 centimes. Mr. Keach presented the stamps with ochre frames, 1896-1910, and 1921, and Mr. Smith then took over, despite suffering from severe voice loss, and showed the 1915 - 1918 issues. The 15 centimes was, of course, a stamp which saw considerable use and which was therefore reprinted many times and all the various combinations of plates which have so far been recognised were shown, including the recently discovered 1910 IIII+A6 and IIII+A7, as well as the brand new combination thought to be IIII+B3, which we hope will be the subject of a future Bulletin note. Copies with all "CONGO BELGE" handstamps except Local 8 and a few of the Brussels were on show, some having double perforation. There was also a pair, imperforate between, of the 1896 issue and the "RUANDA" and "URUNDI" handstamps including specimens of Kigoma, Havre and Grysolle types. Our thanks are due to both the presenters, but particularly to Mr. Smith, who had to travel a long distance in poor health to give his talk.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1980/81

Next year's subscriptions are, of course, a matter for discussion at the Annual General Meeting in May. However, members should be aware that, regardless of the current state of the general funds, an increase is probable. As an indication of the present level of costs, the preparation, duplication and mailing of the latest Bulletin No. 34, cost approximately 100 pounds, compared to an estimate of total subscription income in 1979/80 of 122 pounds. True, the commission from sales and, to a lesser extent, the small profit on sales of documentation, have subsidised the Bulletin and Newsletter and we expect this to continue; nevertheless, these items are of fluctuating nature and it has always been the intention that subscriptions would be the major source of funding for the Bulletin and that other windfalls would go towards further Study Circle activities. For this reason, therefore, some increase in subscriptions is now necessary, there having been no increase in subscription rates in terms of U.K. currency since 1976/77. The rates of 1980/81 subscriptions currently envisaged are (previous rates in brackets) -

Members in Europe	3 pounds	(2 pounds)
Members Overseas	5 pounds	(3 pounds)

Any comments received will be taken into account at the May meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCH - 10 MAY 1980

The AGM will be held at Bedford College, where a buffet lunch with wine has been arranged. The business session will be in the morning and, after lunch, there will be a series of members' displays. Several members have already indicated intentions of attending the Morning session, the Luncheon and the Afternoon session and any additions or amendments should be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible. It is proposed that displays should be of about 30 sheets, with a talk of no longer than 10 minutes duration. Please inform the Secretary whether, and what you will be displaying.

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE BUFFET SUPPER

The Belgian Study Circle is holding a buffet supper on the evening of 10 May (the same date as our AGM) at the Ladies Annex of the Athenaeum Club. They have extended an invitation to any member (or friend) of the Belgian Congo Study Circle who wishes to attend. The expected price will be 4.50 pounds per person. There will be a cash bar with drinks at club prices. Supper is arranged for 1930 - 2030 but the get-together will commence at 1830 and is expected to continue until 2130.

BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION CONGRESS 1980

As previously advised, Congress this year will be held in Cambridge, where our Secretary is a Vice-President of the local Philatelic Society, from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 August. Apart from attendance at Congress and the possibility of some interesting outings in the Cambridge area, we expect to hold some informal Study Circle meetings, possibly including joint meetings with either the Belgian Study Circle or the Sudan Study Group. The following members already hope to be able to attend - A.G. Wood, L.G. Green, A. Vindevoghel, R.H. Keach and P.S. Foden. Would any other members

who might be interested in attending Congress and/or the fringe meetings and outings please advise the Secretary as soon as possible, as hotel accommodations may soon be at a premium.

BRISTOL 1981

It is proposed to hold another joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle, similar to the most enjoyable weekend in York last year, at Bristol University on the weekend of 18-19 July, 1981. Would members who will be interested in attending, please let the Secretary know so that the University can be given preliminary information as to numbers.

KATANGA PROVISIONALS - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since writing the article in Bulletin No. 34, I have come across some further information about these provisionals - (1) the design for these seems to have been "borrowed" from a "phantom series" designed by a man named Counani. The producer of these Katangan items remains unknown. (2) I have now seen a photocopy of one of the "covers" of this issue and it bears an elongated octagonal cancellation reading (in three lines) "Elisabethville 13-12-1960 -Katanga-". The cover carried a 2fr and 3fr stamp of the provisional series. The "cover" was addressed to "S.O.D.I.M.A.T." Elisabethville, Katanga. Does anyone know what "S.O.D.I.M.A.T." is? Perhaps we can write to them (him?) regarding further information regarding this mysterious issue.

The following three photos illustrate some of the STANLEYVILLE "Republique Populaire" stamps written about by Georges Celis in the last Bulletin. Any member having duplicate copies of these issues should contact this writer.





Lastly, is a very poor copy of two stamps - a 5fr and 9fr of the Congo J. F. Kennedy series - overprinted in red: "Armee-Populaire de la Liberation de l'Est Congo" along with two crossed spears and a panga. Does any member have any information about these stamps? Who issued them? Were they actually used? Any information at all would be greatly appreciated.



Dr. Steven Carol

Note: Correspondents should write to Dr. Carol at the address given in the Membership List.

BELGIAN CONGO'FILE COPIES' OF WATERLOW & SONS 1894-1910 ISSUES

It was the practice of Waterlow & Sons, with each printing of stamps, to retain for their records a complete sheet of each value, a so-called 'File Copy', perforated and identical in every way with the sheets despatched to the customer except that each stamp in each sheet was demonetized by puncturing, more or less centrally, with a hole. In the case of the 1894-1909 issues of the Congo the hole was about 3mm. diameter and of the 1910 issue (1913 printing) 6mm. diameter.

Through the kindness of Mr. Robson Lowe I have been privileged to study 59 of these 'File Copies' printed between 1894 and 1913. The sheets are, in the main, badly stained, very much tattered and with some stamps missing, but nonetheless there is much new information to be gleaned from them.

Sadly, the sequence is incomplete. Obviously missing records are the first printing of the 15c and 40c of 1896 and the last printing of the 15c, the last printing of the 10c and 25c of 1900, the whole of the 1909 Unilingual printing or printings and all the early printings of the 1910 issue.

Each 'File Copy' has, except where specifically mentioned later, written in either pencil or ink in the selvedge a) the words 'File Copy' b) a Waterlow reference number, perhaps the sales order number but the numbers are not in date sequence c) a date, almost certainly that when the stamps were printed and ready for dispatch and d) the number of stamps printed.

In the following, the several printings are briefly described and then each value is considered in greater detail.

THE PRINTINGS135213 (Waterlow Reference No.), 2.10.94

5c blue, 30,000 (stamps), perforated 15

10c brown, 30,000, perf. 15

25c orange, 60,000, perf. 15

50c green, 30,000, perf. 15

1fr violet, 30,000, perf. 15

5fr carmine, 30,000, perf. 14½

184436, 11.4.95

1fr violet, 30,000, perf. 14

185985, 13.12.95

5c brown, 100,000, perf. 15

10c blue, 70,000, perf. 15

25c orange, 70,000, perf. 15

50c green, 60,000, perf. 14

110025, 10.11.96

- 5c brown, 60,000, perf. 14½
- 10c blue, 50,000, perf. 14½
- 50c green, 40,000, perf. 15½-16
- 1fr deep lilac, 10,000, perf. 15
- 5fr carmine, 8,000, perf. 15½-16

196771, 15.12.97

- 5c brown, 25,000, perf. 14½-15
- 50c green, 25,000, perf. 14½
- 1fr lilac, 10,000, perf. 15
- 5fr carmine, 7,000, perf. 14½

145741, 16.3.98

- 5c brown, 125,000, perf. 15
- 10c blue, 80,000, perf. 14½
- 15c ochre, 80,000, perf. 14½
- 25c orange, 80,000, perf. 14½
- 40c green, 15,000, perf. 15
- 1fr lilac, 20,000, perf. 15
- 5fr carmine, 20,000, perf. 15

132054, 10.1.99

- 15c ochre, 80,000, perf. 14
- 50c green, 80,000, perf. 14½
- 1fr lilac, 30,000, perf. 14
- 5fr carmine, 30,000, perf. 14

162195, 5.3.00

- 40c green, 75,000, perf. 14

167194, 5.3.00

- 5c green, 200,000, perf. 15
- 10c carmine, 200,000, perf. 15
- 15c ochre, 75,000, perf. 15
- 25c blue, (no number printed because of missing piece of selvage)
perf. 14½
- 50c olive, 200,000, perf. 14½

214101, 25.4.01

15c ochre, 100,000, perf. 15

1fr carmine, 75,000, perf. 13½-14

217518, 16.7.01

5c green, 250,000, perf. 15

10c carmine, 250,000, perf. 15

40c green, 125,000, perf. 14

50c olive, 175,000, perf. 14

99,211, 2.12.02

25c blue, 250,000, perf. 14½

1fr carmine, 200,000, perf. 13½-14

186503, 14.6.04

5c green, 200,000, perf. 14

10c carmine, 200,000, perf. 14

50c olive, 200,000, perf. 14½-15

138173, 5.3.06

5c green, 150,000, perf. 14

232091, 15.1.09

This is the Princes' Printing, in the different shades, 5,000 of each of the eight values, perf. 14.

94480, 10.10.13 (1910 issue)

5c green, 350,000, perf. 14

10c carmine, 350,000, perf. 14

These two sheets do not have the words 'File Copy' in the selvedge.

THE VALUES5c Blue

Only one printing of 30,000 stamps, agreeing with the number of stamps issued as quoted in the Balasse Catalogue and in General Du Four's book 'CONGO - CINQUANTE ANS D'HISTOIRE POSTALE'.

The file copy sheet must have been printed early in the printing of the 600 sheets, No. 6 in the sheet not having the pronounced black scar in the left of the frame.

5c Brown

The four printings comprise:

13.12.95	100,000, dull red-brown
10.11.96	60,000, pale red-brown
15.12.97	250,000, pale red-brown but not as pale as the 10.11.96 printing
16.3.98	<u>125,000</u> , bright red-brown
	310,000

According to the Balasse Catalogue there were 270,000, according to Du Four 280,000 but here there is a problem, and this applies equally to the 10c blue:

Whereas the first file copy of each of these two stamps is dated 13.12.95, contemporary philatelic journals report that the stamps were first issues, at least in Brussels if not at the Congo post offices, on 25 January, 1895. A travelled cover with the 5c brown cancelled in June, 1895 has been noted and it must be concluded that there was an earlier printing of the 5c brown and 10c blue not represented by a file copy.

whatever the number of this first printing, the total number printed is substantially in excess of the numbers given as issued by both Balasse and Du Four. It may be that the lower figures quoted represent the number of stamps sold, the balance of 30-40,000 plus the number of the earlier printing being either destroyed or sold as remainders when the stamp, replaced by the 5c green, was demonetized on 1 January, 1901. Remainders of the low values of the 1887-94 portrait issue, also demonetized on 1 January, 1901 were certainly sold to the stamp market and complete sheets are still plentiful. No record in the philatelic literature of sales of remainders of the 5c brown has been noted by the writer and complete sheets are rarely seen. It seems that the figures given by Balasse and Du Four are in error. The size of the total printing is unknown.

According to Du Four, there were three states of the centre plate, A1 in the original state as it was used for the 5c blue, A2 after the plate had been cleaned with resultant pronounced scratches on Nos. 3, 8, 46 and 47 and A3 after an attempt had been made to remove the scratch on No. 3 by burnishing. The file copies of the first three printings represented are state A1, of the last printing A2 although the scratch on No. 3 is considerably weaker than is sometimes seen (the writer is by no means convinced that the plate was burnished to produce state A3 and considers that the scratch weakened with wear of the plate).

A surprising thing is that on the file copy of the 15.12.97 printing No. 48 has no scratch across the top of the mountains although clearly visible in all other printings, including the 5c blue and the later 16.3.98 printing in brown. The absence of the scratch on this one file copy must be due to poor inking of the plate for the particular sheet. Let it be made clear that the 15.12.97 printing was from the same centre plate as was used for the other printings; it can be demonstrated that there is no question of an electrotype plate being used.

The brown mark in the white oval under the first T of ETAT on No. 45 first appeared in the 10.11.96 printing.

5c Green (1900)

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the four printings comprise:

5.3.00	200,000, Plates I1+B1
16.7.01	250,000, Plates I1+B1
14.6.04	200,000, Plates I2+B2
5.3.06	<u>150,000</u> , Plates I2+B2
	800,000

This figure of 800,000 compares with 602,000 (original plus overprinted stamps) given in the Balasse Catalogue and 900,000 quoted by Du Four. Du Four may well have been correct, one printing of 100,000 not being represented by a file copy. If there was such a printing it would probably have been between 5.3.00 and 14.6.04 from Plates I1+B1.

Of the I1+B1 printings that of 5.3.00 is in bright green, that of 16.7.01 in a duller shade of green but with more yellow in it; there is no noteworthy difference in shade between the printings from Plates I2+B2.

Present on the 16.7.01 printing but not that of 5.3.00 is a horizontal scratch above the mountains on Nos. 6 and 7; this would have been removed during re-entry to produce Plate B2.

The file copy of the 16.7.01 printing has written in the selvedge '23 good'; the significance of this comment is obscure.

10c Brown

There was only one printing of 30,000 stamps, agreeing with the figures quoted by the Balasse Catalogue and by Du Four.

Readers are reminded that the centre plate used for this stamp was completely re-entered during the course of this small printing of 600 sheets. The file copy is from the later part of the printing from re-entered centre plate A2 with doubled shading of the sky on Nos. 24 and 46.

10c Blue

The three printings comprise:

13.12.95	70,000, sky-blue, Plates I1+A2
10.11.96	50,000, greenish blue, Plates I1+A2
16.3.98	80,000, greenish blue but somewhat paler or duller, Plates I2+A2
	<u>200,000</u> , compared with 240,000 quoted in the Balasse catalogue and 250,000 by Du Four.

The shades of this stamp present some problems. The issued stamps

are found in a variety of different shades, the 'recognised' shades being sky-blue (identified as the 13.12.95 printing), deep greenish blue and blue-green, the last becoming paler in the final printing. The file copy of the 10.11.96 printing does not match the characteristic deep greenish blue shade, nor does the file copy of the 16.3.98 printing match the normal blue-green stamps. There are, however, in the writer's collection examples of the stamp that match well the two later file copies. The note on shades of green given later in connection with the 50c green may well apply here.

There can be little doubt that there was at least one, perhaps two, additional printings of the stamp - reference to this has been made in the 5c brown.

The first file copy to have the pronounced centre plate scratches on Nos. 18 and 25 is that of 16.3.98, confirming that these, probably resulting from cleaning of the plate, coincided with the conversion of the frame plate to I2 by the addition of guide marks. The 16.3.98 file copy also has the diagonal scratch across the moored canoes on No. 28, undoubtedly characteristic of the last printing although the file copy is not in the normal blue-green in which the variety is found.

10c Carmine (1900)

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the three printings comprise:

5.3.00	200,000, rose-carmine, Plates I2+B1
16.7.01	250,000, rose-carmine, Plates I2+B1
14.6.04	<u>200,000</u> , rose-carmine, Plates I3+B2

650,000, compared with 566,000 quoted in the Balasse Catalogue and 850,000 by Du Four. There is no file copy with the plates in the states I4+B3, associated with the frame in the characteristic carmine-red shade. This printing, which could very well have been of 200,000 stamps, would have been between 14.6.04 and 15.1.09.

(NOTE: General Du Four's book, with the addendum appearing in La Revue Postals No. 71, October, 1967, is incorrect in the plates used for the 10c of 1900. The first two printings, 5.3.00 and 16.7.01, are, as stated in the book, I2+B1. Both centre and frame plates were re-entered, probably completely, to produce I3+B2 for the 14.6.04 printing. Both frame and centre plates must have been re-entered yet again before the printing in carmine-red because a) the strong, short, horizontal arc cutting the outside bottom left frame line of No. 9 in Plate B2 had completely disappeared with the carmine-red printing and this was almost certainly due to re-entry (at the same time, two of the frame plate guide marks, present on I3, were removed from the plate) and b) the centre plate rolling mark in the top right corner of the vignette of Nos. 44, 45 and 46 (weaker on No. 47), absent on B2, appears on B3.)

15c Ochre

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the four printings comprise:

16.3.98	80,000, ochre, Plates I+A1
10.1.99	80,000, ochre, Plates I+A1
5.3.00	75,000, yellow-ochre, Plates I+A1
25.4.01	<u>100,000</u> , orange-ochre, Plates I+A1 with centre plate corroded
	335,000

This figure of 335,000 compares with the 1,125,000 quoted in the Balasse Catalogue and 1,135,000 by Du Four. The file copies of this stamp are obviously incomplete; the stamp is reported as having been issued in November, 1896 and the writer has genuinely used copies dated prior to the first file copy of 16.3.98; in addition, there is no file copy from late printings in pale yellow-ochre with the re-entered centre plate A2; practically all of the 'CONGO BELGE' overprinted stamps, about 190,000 of them, were from late printings with the re-entered centre plate.

25c Orange

The three printings comprise:

2.10.94	60,000, bright orange
13.12.95	70,000, yellow-orange
16.3.98	<u>80,000</u> , yellow-orange

210,000 compared with a total of 150,000 quoted by both the Balasse Catalogue and Du Four. The figure quoted in these sources of information may have been the number of stamps issued, the remaining 60,000 destroyed or sold as remainders when the colour was changed to blue in 1900. It will be noted that there is no file copy in the characteristic, if uncommon, orange-bistre shade. There could have been a change of ink during a single printing or the note on inks containing yellow dyes given later when considering the 50c green could apply to these orange stamps.

The upward extension of the left frame line on No. 1 first appeared in the 13.12.95 printing. The orange marks in the C of CONGO on No. 44, present on the 2.10.94 printing, had disappeared on the file copy of the 13.12.95 printing.

In the original printing of 2.10.94 there are very many light centre plate scratches, extremely useful in plating the stamps. Presumably due to wear of the plate, most were very much weaker and some had disappeared in the 13.12.95 printing and most had disappeared in the 16.3.98 printing. A diagonal centre plate scratch, normally across the S of CENTIMES. appeared on No. 30 with the 13.12.95 printing.

25c Blue

Unfortunately, the file copy of the 5.3.00 printing has missing the piece of selvage which undoubtedly bore the number of stamps printed and only the 250,000 included in the 2.12.02 printing can be accounted for. The number printed is given as 400,000 in the Balasse Catalogue and 550,000 by Du Four.

Both file copies are in about the same shade of blue and both are printed from Plates I2+A2. There is no file copy of the late printing or printings with the retouched frame plate A3 although there must have been approaching 100,000 stamps printed after the retouching.

Compared with that of 5.3.00, the 2.12.02 printing shows serious wear of the top frame line on most impressions and there is little wonder that Waterlow thought it necessary to strengthen the top and bottom frame lines.

40c Green

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the three printings comprise:

16.3.98	15,000, blue green, Plates I2+A1
5.3.00	75,000, blue-green (a rather deeper shade), Plates I2+A1
16.7.01	<u>125,000</u> , blue-green (the same deeper shade), Plates I2+A1

215,000 compared with 330,000 given in the Balasse Catalogue and 335,000 given by Du Four.

The stamp having been issued in November, 1896, at the same time as the 15c ochre, and the first file copy dated 16.3.98, it is clear that the first printing is not represented by a file copy and that first printing would have been from Plates I1+A1, before the guide marks were added to the frame plate.

Accepting Du Four's figure of 335,000 stamps printed, it is unlikely that the first printing was as high as 120,000 and there was almost certainly a fifth printing not represented by a file copy.

None of the file copies is in the much paler shade of green, thought to be part of the first printing.

The very pronounced dotted scratch on the centre plate across No. 31 and extending into the left selvedge and into No. 26 first appeared in the 16.7.01 printing. The prominent black scar in the selvedge to the left of No. 36 first appeared in the 5.3.00 printing. The black mark above the right end of the cabin of the canoe on No. 9, prominent with Plates I1+A1 is faint on the 16.3.98 file copy and had disappeared by 5.3.00.

50c Green

The five printings comprise:

2.10.94	30,000, deep blue-green
13.12.95	60,000, deep yellow-green
10.11.96	40,000, deep yellow-green
15.12.97	25,000, deep yellow-green but with rather more yellow in it
10.1.99	<u>80,000</u> , deep yellow-green

235,000 compared with 240,000 quoted in the Balasse Cata-

logue and 250,000 by Du Four.

The relatively uncommon but characteristic bright yellow-green stamp is not represented by a file copy. There could have been a small additional printing of which we have no file copy but I spoke to Mr. Lowe about shades of green. He told me that even now there are problems in colour printing in maintaining a constant shade of green and he told me the story of the 1859 Ceylon 1/9d green. This occurs in two shades, green and pale yellow-green, the latter rare in the imperforate condition and the former rare in the, later, perforated (but unissued) state. It was always considered that, in spite of there having been only 120 sheets of the stamp, the shades represented two separate printings. When the Perkins, Bacon records were donated to The Royal Philatelic Society, London and were available for study it was found that all 120 sheets were printed in a single morning and it is highly unlikely that the ink was changed during the printing. In those days, the printing press was fed with ink from a hopper or tundish; yellow-green shades were obtained by adding chrome-yellow pigment to green inks. Chrome-yellow is very heavy relative to most other pigments and, particularly if the hopper was filled with ink the night before in order to get a good start with the printing the following morning, the heavy yellow particles would tend to settle at the bottom and the ink used on the first sheets printed would have much more yellow in it than that on later sheets. This may well have relevance in the shades of the 50c green and, indeed, of the 15c ochre, 25c orange and 50c olive.

It is perhaps surprising that the deep blue-green shade represented less than 15% of the total printing.

The oblique centre plate scratch across the sky on No. 42 and the oblique frame plate scratch passing between the UA of CINQUANTE on No. 10 both first appeared with the 10.1.99 printing.

The group of centre plate dots above the A of ETAT on No. 29, important because they prove that the centre plate used for the 1900 issue with olive frames was the same as that used for the 1894 issue but after re-entry, first appeared with the 13.12.95 printing.

50c Olive

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the three printings comprise:

5.3.00	200,000, deep olive, Plates I1+A2 (Du Four I1+B1)
16.7.01	175,000, yellow-olive, Plates I2+A2 (Du Four I2+B1)
14.6.04	<u>200,000</u> , yellow olive with slate-black centres, Plates I2+A2

575,000 compared with 525,000 quoted in the Balasse Catalogue and 775,000 by Du Four.

Notably absent is a file copy in the lighter olive shade (not yellow-olive) from Plates I2+A2. This could be accounted for by the chrome-yellow pigment mentioned for the 50c green but it is strongly suspected that the total printing of 775,000 given by Du Four is correct and that at least one printing is not represented by a file copy - and that from Plates I2+A2.

The diagonal centre plate scratch on No. 6 appeared with the 16.7.01 printing and the scratching of the plate appears to have been more or less coincident with the conversion of Frame Plate I1 to I2 by the addition of guide marks. For the 5.3.00 printing the centre plate was very free from blemishes but many scratches, apart from that on No. 6, appeared in the 16.7.01 printing and these generally persisted.

1 Franc

It is as well to remind ourselves that this stamp was always ordered with a lilac frame and the wide variety of shades, gradually changing successively from violet through various lilacs to carmine, are all Waterlow's interpretation of 'lilac'. The lilacs vary widely from the deep lilac, approaching violet, to the carmine with some lilac in it. It is generally considered that the change from lilac to carmine coincided with the addition of guide marks to the frame plate and its conversion thereby from I3 (Du Four nomenclature) or, as the writer believes and will discuss later, from I1 to I2.

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the eight printings comprise:

2.10.94	30,000, violet, Plates I1+A1
11.4.95	30,000, violet (slightly deeper and with more blue in it), Plates I1+A1
10.11.96	10,000, deep lilac with brownish black centre, Plates I1+A1
15.12.97	10,000, rose-lilac, Plates I1+A1
16.3.98	20,000, rose-lilac, Plates I1+A1
10.1.99	30,000, lilac-carmine, Plates I1+A1
25.4.01	75,000, carmine with a touch of lilac in it, Plates I2+A2
2.12.02	<u>200,000</u> , carmine, Plates I2+A2

~~405~~,000 of which 275,000 can be considered as carmine.

According to the Balasse Catalogue there were 120,000 violet (including the lilacs) and 285,000 carmine, a total of 405,000. According to Du Four there were 120,000 violet plus lilac and 405,000 carmine. It would appear that the file copies represent all printings and the Du Four figure of 405,000 in carmine is actually the figure for all colours.

General Du Four considered that the state of the frame plate changed from I1 to I2 when a scratch, running from No. 45, more or less horizontally along the bottom margin of No. 44 as far as No. 43, was partly burnished resulting in bare patches in the 'column bases' at the bottom right of No. 43 and at the bottom right of No. 44. The scratch is said to have appeared early in the printings in violet and the burnishing before the last printing in violet. The third state of the plate, A3, resulted from the addition of guide marks prior to the printing in carmine.

Having the eight file copies and the writer's three sheets of the issued stamps (one in violet and two in carmine) it was possible to study the scratch through the succession of printings.

- a) The writer's sheet of the violet stamp has no imperfection in the area of the scratch and burnishing.
- b) The 2.10.94 file copy, in violet, has the scratch visible on No. 45 and in the c- or shell-shaped ornament immediately above and to the right of the right 'column base' of No. 44 but not elsewhere. There are light patches along the line of the scratch, the supposed burnishing, in the 'column bases' at the bottom right of No. 43 and at the bottom right of No. 44.
- c) The 11.4.95 file copy, in violet, is as the 2.10.94 copy but the scratch under No. 44 is faintly visible.
- d) The 10.11.96 file copy, in deep lilac, is the same but the scratch under No. 44 is visible only at the right.
- e) The 15.12.97 file copy, in rose-lilac, has the scratch under No. 44 for its whole length.
- f) The 10.1.99 file copy, in lilac-carmine, has the scratch very visible over its full length under No. 44 and its extension between Nos. 44 and 45.
- g) In the 25.4.01 and 2.12.02 file copies and in the writer's two sheets (all carmine) the only part of the scratch that is visible is in the c-shaped ornament of No. 44 but one sheet shows the extension into No. 45 just about visible.

The two 'burnishing marks' persist from 2.10.94 onwards.

It is appreciated that the scratch is more visible with the stamp printed in bright colours, rose-lilac or carmine, compared with the weaker violet and deep lilac and it seems certain that the scratch, over its full length, was present on the frame plate when the file copies of the 2.10.94 to 10.1.99 printings were taken. The writer's sheet of the violet stamp was printed before the plate was scratched (presumably during the first printing). The scratch under No. 44 and between Nos. 44 and 45 may have been burnished immediately before the printings in carmine or wear of the plate may have eradicated it.

There remains the problem of the light patches in the two 'column bases', the areas of supposed burnishing. It is inconceivable to the writer that Waterlow would have burnished the scratch within the engraving on the plate where it would have been virtually invisible and left unburnished the spaces between the impressions where the scratch was clearly visible and easily removed without damaging the engraving.

Although he cannot explain, even to himself, the cause of the light patches which, from their positions, must be associated with the scratch, the writer is of the opinion that the plate was not burnished and that it stayed in its first state until the guide marks were added prior to the first printing in carmine in 1901. Plate combinations given for the various printings do not therefore conform to those in Du Four's book.

5 Francs Carmine

Neglecting the Princes' Printing, the five printings comprise:

2.10.94	30,000 deep carmine
10.11.96	8,000, carmine with dull black centre
15.12.97	7,000, deep carmine but not as deep as the 2.10.94 printing
16.3.98	20,000, rose carmine
10.1.99	30,000, rose-carmine but rather paler and brighter than the 16.3.98 printing

95,000, agreeing with the figure given by Du Four and comparing with 93,000 in the Balasse Catalogue.

Not present on the 2.10.94 printing, a short oblique frame plate scratch appeared in the centre of the bottom margin on No. 41 in the 10.11.96 printing.

The Princes' Printing

With the exception of the 5 francs value, the plates used for this special printing were the same as those used for the last printings of the 'ordinary' stamps, apart from various additional scratches and other imperfections, presumably acquired during storage of the plates. The Abbe G. Gudenkauf has studied these imperfections in great detail and an article on them appeared in Balasse Magazine No. 192 et seq.

The centre plate of the 5 francs value was completely re-entered to give the second state A2.

The frame of the file copy of the 15c is not in the shade usually associated with Princes' stamps, having a good deal more yellow in it, but single Princes' stamps in this shade have been seen. The note on chrome-yellow included in the 50c green may well apply here.

1910 Issue

The two file copies available, one each of the 5c and 10c, dated 10.10.13, are obviously from a late printing of the issue, but not the last printing.

The 5c is from Plates IV+D1, before re-entry of the centre plate.

The 10c is from plates IV+D1, in carmine, not the usual bright carmine or carmine-lake.

PERFORATIONS

The perforations of the Waterlow & Sons stamps printed between 1894 and about 1905 are so complex that very few, if any, Congo collectors now study them. However, for possible future reference the perforations of the file copies were noted. This is of little significance because perforations other than those recorded for the file copies are known and Waterlow must have used several perforating machines for even a single value of some printings.

The 15c 16.3.98 file copy is curious. Generally perforated 13½-14 (there is some variation throughout the sheet), the bottom left stamp, No. 41, is perforated 13½ x 13½ x 12 ½ 13½; the bottom line of perforation was 'finished off' on another machine.

GUIDE MARKS

Reference has been made in this article to 'Guide Marks'. These are the 'traits de repere' in General Du Four's work on these stamps. They comprise one or two large dots and one or two thick, short lines engraved on the frame plates in positions between two columns of stamps. Their purpose is obscure; several reasons for their presence, none very plausible, have been suggested.

R. H. KEACH

NOTES ON THE FIRST 5 FR MOLS - PRINTING VARIETIES. (1894-1909)

Our aim is to give some help to those who want to plate this stamp.

Mr. Raymond H. Keach had recently the opportunity to examine various sheets coming from the Waterlow Printing Offices; he kindly gave the following very useful information. Five different orders were given by the Congo Free State.

1 - 2 octo 94	30,000	stamps - frame in deep carmine
2 - 10 nove 96	8,000	" - frame in dull deep carmine centres in dull brown-black.
3 - 15 dece 97	7,000	" - frame in bright deep carmine, but not quite so deep in colour as the 1894 printing.
4 - 16 march 98	20,000	" - frame in rose-carmine.
5 - 10 janu 99	30,000	" - frame in a paler and brighter rose carmine.
	<hr/>	
	95,000	" (as stated in the General's book).

Traditionally the two clearly different shades: deep carmine and rose-carmine were retained; the other ones are more difficult to assess; especially when the stamp is used.

58,500 of these stamps remained without overprint.

We know of four entire mint sheets; their frames are deep carmine.

Many cancelled large blocks of this stamp are known, even one entire sheet; they accompanied registered parcels coming from the African large corporations: Matadi-Leo railway, Kasai Cy, S.A.B., A.B.I.R. (Anglo Belgian India Rubber), etc... Rose carmine is much scarcer than deep carmine.

The 5 Fr was also used on telegrams and even, more rarely, upon arms permits, although this was contrary to regulations.

We know of half a dozen letters with this stamp, but most are 'philatelic' covers. Other larger letters were seldom kept; stamps were taken off them.

NB: In Brussels: CONGO BELGE hand overprint: on deep carmine
 (rose exceptional)
 typo " : on rose-carmine
 (deep carmine exc. -
 not more than one
 sheet probably)
 In the Congo: CONGO BELGE hand overprint: normally on rose-
 carmine (deep car-
 mine much rarer)

We studied the printing varieties of the 50 stamps, trying to find those which persisted in the Princes printing, which is a proof of their constancy.

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF AND A. VINDEVOGHEL

PRINTING VARIETIES OF THE 5 FR MOLS (CONGO FREE STATE) - 1894 - 1909

Most varieties are of the frame, in red.
 When they are from the centre, in black, it is underlined.

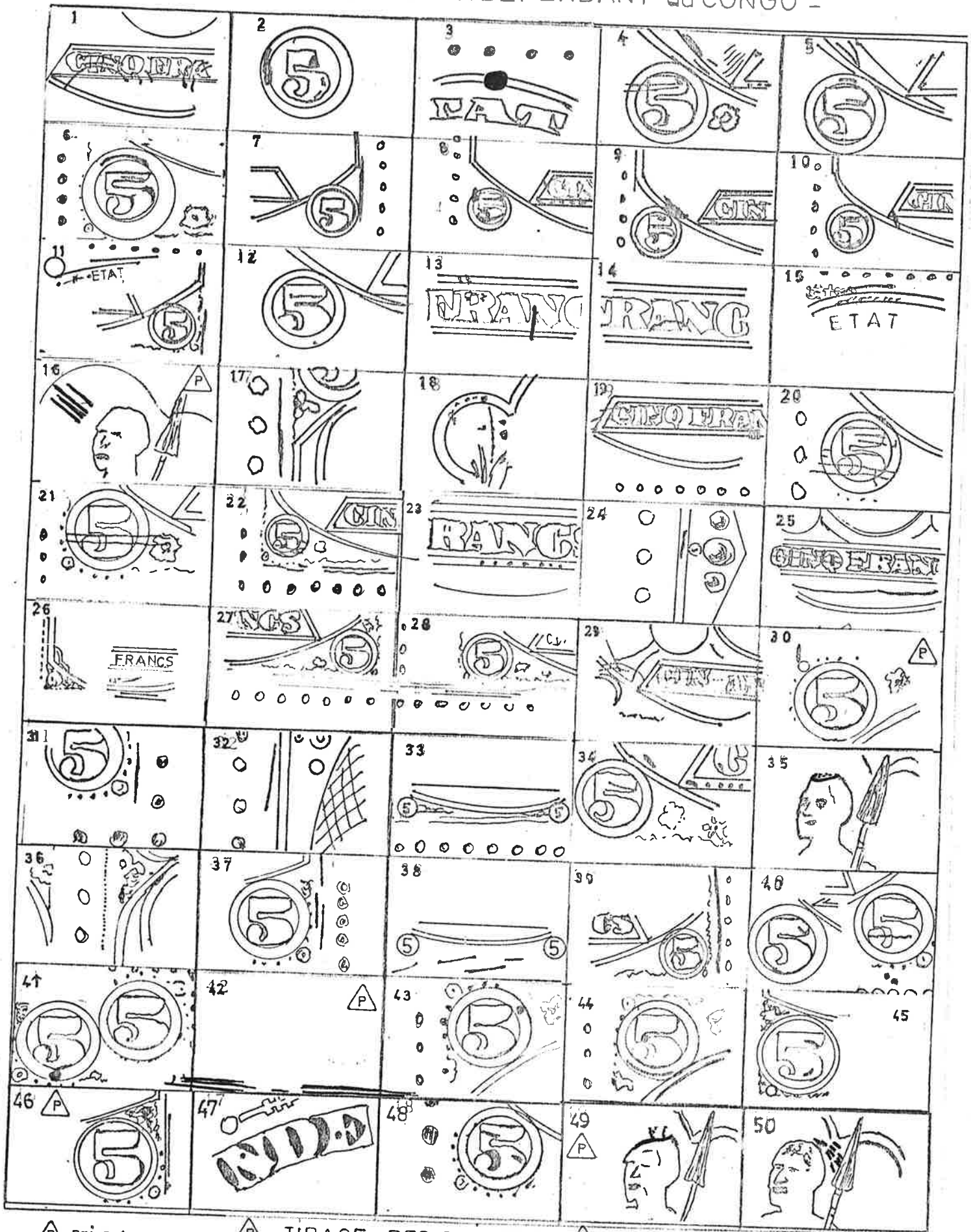
- No 1: Curved lines on CINQ FRA (This is Balasse variety 6)
- 2: Re-entry of bottom left 5
- 3: Black dot above A of ETAT
- 4: Two thin horizontal lines through bottom left 5 and heavy re-entry of the foot of the chalice (Balasse variety 7)
- 5: Re-entries in and above bottom left 5
- 6: Re-entries in and above bottom left 5
- 7: Nearly vertical multiple scratches ascending from bottom right 5, in the margin nearly horizontal black scratch above ETAT, in top selvedge, not in Princes
- 8: Re-entry of bottom left 5, re-entry of the foot of the chalice and red dots under CINQ (Balasse variety 8)
- 9: Re-entry of bottom left 5, re-entry of the foot of the chalice and horizontal line through NQ FR
- 10: Re-entry of bottom left 5, re-entry of the foot of the chalice and curved line in C of CINQ
- 11: Nearly vertical red scratch at bottom right corner. Nearly horizontal scratch (black) above ETAT, not in Princes stamps
- 12: Horizontal scratch in bottom left 5
- 13: Two nearly horizontal lines in bottom left 5
 Red dots in and above R of FRANCS
 Oblique black scratch above N of INDEPENDANT, not in Princes
 Vertical black scratch under Q of CINQ, not in Princes
- 14: Curved line in A of FRANCS
 Horizontal line above bottom left 5
- 15: Top frame line doubled above ETA (Balasse variety 9)

- 16: Oblique black lines descending from left to the chief's head, not in Princes
- 17: Vertical dotted line in upper left margin
- 18: Many red dots (as drops of blood) in the centre under DE of INDEPENDANT (Balasse variety 10)
- 19: Horizontal and slightly curved line above bottom left 5
Horizontal scratch through C of CINQ
Nearly horizontal scratch in the right foot of A of FRANCS
- 20: Several nearly horizontal lines, slightly descending from left, in bottom left 5
- 21: Two nearly horizontal lines through bottom left 5
Small oblique scratch in the margin, under A of FRANCS
- 22: Lines through and under bottom left 5
Two parallel descending lines under CINQ FR
- 23: Horizontal line of red dots under FRANC
- 24: Short vertical line between the two left frame lines, just in the middle
- 25: Horizontal double line through CINQ and horizontal lines through FRANCS (Balasse variety 12)
- 26: Nearly horizontal scratch in margin, under AN of FRANCS
- 27: Several horizontal lines in bottom margin under FRANCS and bottom of right 5
- 28: Several nearly horizontal lines in bottom margin under bottom left 5 and under FRANCS
- 29: Horizontal lines through CINQ and FRANCS
- 30: Vertical red scratch above top left 5, not in Princes
- 31: Nearly vertical scratch near bottom right corner, as in 11, light doubling downwards of the bottom of the red circle around bottom left 5
- 32: Nearly vertical scratch in left margin, just under mid-height
- 33: Two vertical scratches in margin at left of bottom left 5 and one horizontal line in bottom margin under CINQ FRAN
- 34: Re-entry in and above bottom left 5
Horizontal line of red dots under CI of CINQ
- 35: Variety of the centre: the top of the chief's head is not complete, as if he was partly scalped
- 36: Vertical dotted scratch in left margin, at the left of IN of INDEPENDANT

- 37: Several vertical scratches to the right of bottom right 5
- 38: Nearly horizontal scratches in bottom margin, under bottom left 5, under INQ F, and under RA of FRANCS
- 39: Long vertical scratch in lower half of right margin
- 40: Re-entry in and above bottom left 5; horizontal line through bottom right 5
- 41: Red dot in double circle, under left bottom 5
The little circle at the right and above top right 5 is not complete
Black scratches in bottom margin, on the right, not in Princes
- 42: Black scratches in bottom margin on the left, and on the right, not in Princes
- 43: Black horizontal scratch under bottom left 5, not in Princes
Red dot in double circle around top left 5, at E.N.E.
- 44: Re-entry of double circle around top left 5 and also little vertical line in that 5
- 45: Re-entries in and above bottom left 5
- 46: Double vertical red line at the right of bottom right 5, not in Princes
- 47: Red dots in first N and in first E of INDEPENDANT
- 48: Re-entry in and above bottom left 5
- 49: Variety of the centre: the top of the chief's head is incomplete generally as No. 35, not in Princes
Long oblique red scratch in left margin at middle height (not in Princes) and double vertical red scratch at the right of bottom right 5 (also not in Princes)
- 50: Variety of the centre: heavy re-entry of the chief's head, to the right (not the same in Princes, but the re-entry is visible)

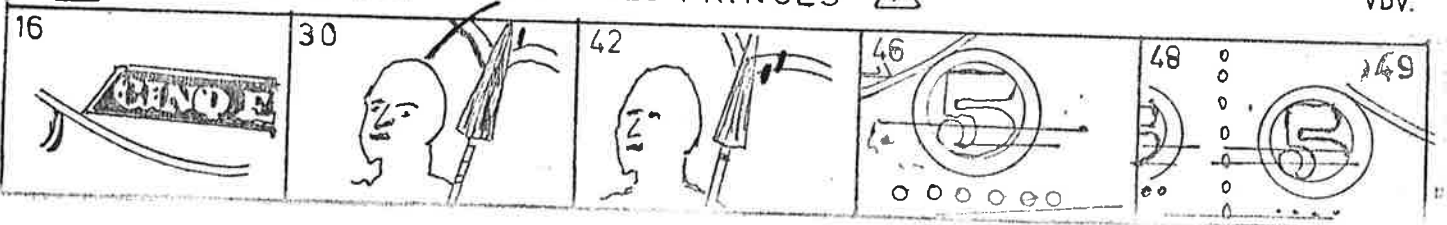
- No. 16 - Princes: Red dots in CI Q of CINQ
- 30 - " : Re-entry of the point of the lance (black)
- 46 - " : Several horizontal black scratches through bottom right 5
- 49 - " : Two horizontal scratches through bottom left 5

22.
-5Fr. ETAT INDEPENDANT du CONGO -



△ PRINCES DIFFERENTS. △ TIRAGE DES PRINCES △

VDV.



A LETTER FROM THE BELGIAN CONGO CONSULATE GENERAL

The following is a copy of a letter to a British officer from the Belgian Congo Consulate General at Nairobi in 1944 - he had been asking about facilities available if he spent his leave in the Congo.

CONSULAT GENERAL

DE

BELGIQUE

Nairobi, 25th May 1944

Dossier: 677/97

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 15th instant, I hereafter give you some information on the questions raised in your letter.

Weekly service from Disumu to Elisabethville and return.

Steamer round Lake Victoria, from Mwanza to Kigoma by Tanganyika Railways, from Kogoma to Albertville by steamer, from Albertville to Kabalo by train

Kabalo to (Kamina (road transport)-Elisabethville (train)
(or
(Bukama (steamer)-Elisabethville (train)

Weekly and return:

Steamer : Albertville-Kigoma-Uvira-Usumbura
Road : Uvira-Costermansville
Steamer : Costermansville-Goma
Road : Goma-Kabale (Uganda)
Road : Kabale-Kampala (twice weekly)

No public service otherwise.

Where there is no public service, motor car could be hired, but probably difficulties would arise owing to petrol restrictions and shortage of tyres, but if you have your own car, petrol will be available in the Belgian Congo.

Ameneties: Elisabethville: hotels, cinema, golf, tennis, swimming;
Albertville : hotels, but no amusement facilities;
Kivu District : scenery, tennis, swimming;
National Park : game.

There is a weekly road service from Goma to Ruindi (National Park) and return.

For time tables, fares and perhaps more details, I advise you to write to Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, Nairobi.

With regard to regulations and formalities for entering the Belgian Congo, military personnel of the Allied Nations do not require de customary visa but must be in possession of an identity card, leave pass signed by the O.C. Unit and yellow fever certificate.

I trust that the above information will be of use to you.

Lieut. A. B. Rowland,
JINJA.

Yours, faithfully,
(signed) P. Lamotte
Belgian Consul General.

FATHER HULSTAERT SENDS US SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM ZAIRE:

- 1) Several of the more recent issues (including the 1975 Virunga National Parks, the 1975 U.I.C.N. General Assembly, the 1977 Statuettes and Masks, both 1977 Provisional Series, the 1978 Fish and World Cup and the 1979 Mobutu) have only been obtainable in part at the Mbandaka 1 post office.
- 2) Even the Kinshasa 1 Philatelic Service could not provide its subscribers with the Fish 250K, World Cup 500K (both types), nor the Christmas 1978 Miniature Sheets.
- 3) When I visited his office on 15 December, 1978, the Director of the Philatelic Service told me that the Christmas Miniature Sheet was not in his stock and that he had never seen one. In the case of the World Cup M/Ss, some had been sent to subscribers (none of these were in the Mbandaka area). The Fish M/S had only been available to his "Directors" (whatever he meant by this term).
- 4) During my stay in the capital from 12-20 December, 1978, I was told by a stamp-collector friend that a new set (Explorations) was being offered for sale by youths in the streets of the city, but was unobtainable from either the main post office or the Philatelic Service. Up to the present (February 1979) I have never so much as seen them.
- 5) Apparently there are forgeries of the latest series of Provisionals in existence. I have copies of the 5K/30s, 10K/15S and 48K/10S.
- 6) On 3 February, 1979, a counter-clerk at the Mbandaka post office told me that a youth had come to his counter offering to exchange the World Cup 500K and Fish 250K Miniature Sheets for their value in normal current stamps. The post office employee turned down the proposal because he had no use for such high values.

Unfortunately I arrived too late and the clerk had no idea of the identity of the vendor, whom he described as a college student.

- 7) Some known varieties on the Provisionals:
 - a) Surcharge 10K/15S exists both in black and in red.
 - b) 10K/10S (monkeys) - the new value is in characters even smaller than those of the bottom row in the ordinary sheets; the top bar cancelling the old value extends just beyond the lower bar, very similar to the normal surcharge; the letters of the inscription are larger and slightly finer.
 - c) 30K/12K - in brilliant blue ink.
 - d) Inverted surcharges are already known of both series; they are being sold privately in Kinshasa.
- 8) New postal rates have been announced over the radio as being applicable from the beginning of January, 1979; the rates have more or less trebled. As no official announcement had been received at the Mbandaka 1 post office as late as 9 February, the new rates had still not been applied at that date.

Secretary's note: The foregoing description reminds me of a letter I had from Mr. Ramsey about 2 years ago, in which he said "the nearest post office to us is Kamana, but we find it easier to walk directly with the main post office at Kabinda. On one occasion, however, I went to Kabinda (a principal post office serving a town of 130,000 people) and the only stamps available were the 1K and 100K.

ANDERS MOLANDER

Mr. Anders Molander, No. 38 in our membership, was born in Sweden in 1934, lived in Denmark until 1954 as his father was a Swedish diplomat.

Tertiary studies in printing and advertising were in Sweden to 1960, and then he worked in Gothenburg and Eskilstuna. Becoming fed up with taxes and welfare state, he emigrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1970. Since 1973 he has been employed with a good printing company and is now purchasing officer for the firm. At the present, he is still single.

His interests include travel and photography and lately he enjoyed a trek to Nepal. Anders started collecting stamps about 1941 and then dropped all countries except exotic Africa about 1952. At a later date, he dropped most of Africa, retaining his interest in the Congo, thanks to having a good correspondent in Leopoldville in the 1950s. It was through the good efforts of the late Mr. E. Wise who introduced him to the use of the Balasse catalogue and to join the Study Circle in 1970.

His other collecting interests are Lagos, with some postmarks and the Sudan, mostly a catalogue collection. He has a keen interest in the stamps and postal history of these countries and his thematic interest is in stamp production.

At several annual local society displays, he recently gave a presentation on "How to Print a Stamp". In 1975 he garnered a bronze medal at a national exhibition near Sidney for the Mols issue, and then a silver for his Mols display at PANPEX '77 at Christchurch, New Zealand. Anders is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, has "apprenticed" to their expert committee and is doing parts of the photographic work in this effort. He is Honorary Secretary of the local Brighton Philatelic Society, the largest in Australia. He still maintains connections with Scandinavia by being a member of the Gothenburg Philatelic Society.

Editor's note: Mr. Molander's expertise in the printing world, also the basis of his thematic collection, was of great assistance to the Study Circle in considering the probable method used to produce the overprinting plates for the 1922 Malines surcharges.

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGOBANANA

Situated in the Territory of Boma. Lower Congo District. Telephone and telegraph office. Coastal telegraph station handling all telegrams from Congo to ships at sea between Antwerp and the Congo and vice versa. Catholic mission of the Fathers of Scheub and the Franciscan Sisters. State dispensary, lazaretto sanatorium. Government rest house. Also a pioneer's cemetery. Road to Boma. On Wednesdays a launch service on the river reaches Boma (7 hours) and Matadi (12 hours).

Banana is probably the oldest European settlement in the Congo. Offices existed here as early as the beginning of the 19th century, and a regular steamship service operated four times a year between Banana and Rotterdam in 1873. This service was owned by the "Association du Commerce Africain" founded in 1869 at Rotterdam by the shipowners Kudeyk and Pincoffs. The number of this company's offices had reached 10 in 1871 and 44 in 1877.

The Atlantic coast and the mouth of the river were settled long before Stanley arrived in Boma and before the foundation of the International African Association.

By crossing the river, Pointe Padron can be reached where in 1482 after discovering the mouth of the Congo, the Portuguese navigator Diego Cao erected a monolith (padrao) bearing the Coat of Arms of Portugal surmounted by a cross. From Banana point to Pointe Padron the estuary is 6 miles broad and reaches a depth of 260 fathoms.

BANNINGVILLE (Previously Bandundu)

Headquarters of the Banningville Territory which is part of the district of Kwilu (Kikwit). Situated on the right bank of the Kwango. Municipality. Radio telegraph station and radio beacon. Hospitals. Sanatorium. Otraco Agency. Trading centre. Garages. Workshops. Petrol. Aerodrome. Catholic Missions of the Jesuit Fathers and the Sisters of Charity. Primary school.

Banning, after whom the place was called, was one of the faithful assistants of King Leopold II. Through the press, he launched the idea of an International Geographical Conference as a preliminary to the International African Association. At the Berlin Conference of 1885 he was instrumental in securing the recognition of the Congo State.

Communications. River: Leopoldville 2-3 days. Kikwit (5days) Port Francqui (5days) Kenge (8days)

BANZYVILLE

Territorial headquarters on the left bank of the Ubangi; customs post; R/T station; hospital; rest house; trading centre.

Catholic Mission of the Capuchin Fathers.

Banzyville is a very pretty spot. When the river is low the water is barely 400 ft. wide. It flows between banks of quartzite which rise up to the hill where the settlement is situated. From the top of the hill, there is a fine panorama over the river and the two pools which

the river forms at this point, and over the hills on the French bank at the foot of which there is a small old settlement.

Beyond Banzyville the road assumes the aspect of a tropical highway under a dense vegetation of bamboos, and then enters a savannah known as "Kotakoli" and winds through a mass of large black rocks of strange appearance. It is said that these rocks were originally situated at the bottom of the large inland sea.

BARAKA

Situated on Lake Tanganyika at Burton's Bay. Territorial administration. Government rest house. Port for Albertville - Valundu - Usumbura steamer. Trading and industrial centre. (Cotonco ginnery)

Catholic mission of White Fathers.

Protestant mission of the Pentecostal Union at Mukuku nearby.

Opposite Baraka on the other side of Burton's Bay lies the Uware peninsula. This and the Kibanga plain to the south of the bay have been proclaimed a game reserve. The aeroplane of Thieffry crashed on the Kibunga plain while on a reconnaissance flight from Albertville. This accident caused the death of the Congo's pioneer airman.

Baraka was a strong point of Rumaliya, Arab Sultan of Ujiji. It was linked with the capital by dhows, and was taken by the troops of Dhanis in 1894.

BASUNKUSU

At the junction of the Maringa and the Lopori, at the left bank of the Maringa. Below the town these two rivers make up the Lulonga. Territorial headquarters: township. Radio telegraph station. Government hospital. Subsidized primary school run by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady ten Bunderen (for European children). Trading and industrial centre: oil mill; Banque du Congo Belge; local management of the Compagnie du Congo Belge; club; tennis; swimming bath. Hotel Castanheiro. Catholic missions of Foreign Missionary Society of Mill Hill and the Sisters of our Lady ten Bunderen. Government primary and trade schools. Residence of a Vicar Apostolic. River port and stopping place for steamers based at Coquilhatville and plying on the Maringa (every fortnight) and on the Lopori (every fortnight). Airfield where planes call on L/ville-C/ville/-Stanleyville and on L/ville-C/ville-Boende services.

Basankusu is a very old station founded by Le Marinel in 1889.

SCOTT/GIBBONS/CATALOGUE OFFICIEL - A COMPARATIVE LISTING BY A. HEIM

Mr. Heim has prepared a listing in three columns showing the catalogue numbers of all Belgian Congo stamps and including those over-printed for Congo, Katanga and South Kasai. The primary sequence is according to Catalogue Officiel. This could be of use to members who only use one of the three catalogues and occasionally have to deal with descriptions using another listing. About 10 pages. This can be supplied at 5p per page plus postage to any member interested.

TIMETABLES TO AND FROM THE CONGO IN 1913

A Belgian member has supplied the following schedules, however the names of ships are not mentioned:

Tableau du Service à l'Aller

Anvers	Samedi	18 Janv.	8 Fév.	1 Mars	22 Mars	12 Avril	3 Mai	24 Mai	14 Juin	5 Juill.
La Rochelle-Pallice	Lundi	20 >	10 >	3 >	24 >	14 >	5 >	26 >	16 >	7 >
Dakar	Lundi	27 >	17 >	10 >	31 >	21 >	12 >	2 Juin	23 >	14 >
Conakry	Mercredi	29 >	19 >	12 >	2 Avril	23 >	14 >	4 >	25 >	16 >
Grand Bassam	Samedi	1 Fév.	22 >	15 >	5 >	26 >	17 >	7 >	28 >	19 >
Banana	Mercredi	5 >	26 >	19 >	9 >	30 >	21 >	11 >	2 Juill.	23 >
Boma										
Matadi	Vendredi	7 >	28 >	21 >	11 >	2 Mai	32 >	13 >	4 >	25 >
Anvers	Samedi	26 Juill.	16 Août	6 Sept.	27 Sept.	18 Oct.	8 Nov.	29 Nov.	20 Déc.	
La Rochelle-Pallice	Lundi	28 >	18 >	8 >	29 >	20 >	10 >	1 Dec.	22 >	
Dakar	Lundi	4 Août	25 >	15 >	6 Oct.	27 >	17 >	8 >	29 >	
Conakry	Mercredi	6 >	27 >	17 >	8 >	29 >	19 >	10 >	31 >	
Grand Bassam	Samedi	9 >	30 >	20 >	11 >	1 Nov.	22 >	13 >	3 JAN. 1914	
Banana	Mercredi	13 >	3 Sept.	24 >	15 >	5 >	26 >	17 >	7 >	
Boma										
Matadi	Vendredi	15 >	5 >	26 >	17 >	7 >	28 >	19 >	9 >	

Pour autant que les circonstances le permettront.
La Compagnie se réserve le droit de modifier les indications de ce tableau à n'importe quel moment et sans avis préalable.

Tableau du Service au Retour

Matadi	Mercredi	19 Fév.	12 Mars	2 Avril	23 Avril	14 Mai	4 Juin	25 Juin	16 Juill.	6 Août
Boma	Vendredi	21 >	14 >	4 >	25 >	16 >	6 >	27 >	18 >	8 >
Banana										
Grand Bassam	Mardi	25 >	18 >	8 >	29 >	20 >	10 >	1 Juill.	22 >	12 >
Conakry	Vendredi	28 >	21 >	11 >	2 Mai	23 >	13 >	4 >	25 >	15 >
Dakar	Samedi	29 >	22 >	12 >	3 >	24 >	14 >	5 >	26 >	16 >
La Rochelle-Pallice	Dimanche	9 Mars	30 >	20 >	11 >	1 Juin	22 >	13 >	3 Août	24 >
Anvers	Mardi	11 >	1 Avril	22 >	13 >	3 >	24 >	15 >	5 >	26 >
Matadi	Mercredi	27 Août	17 Sept.	8 Oct.	29 Oct.	19 Nov.	10 Dec.	31 Dec.	21 Jan.	
Boma	Vendredi	29 >	19 >	10 >	31 >	21 >	12 >	2 Jan. 1914	23 >	
Banana										
Grand Bassam	Mardi	2 Sept.	23 >	14 >	4 Nov.	25 >	16 >	6 >	27 >	
Conakry	Vendredi	5 >	26 >	17 >	7 >	28 >	19 >	9 >	30 >	
Dakar	Samedi	6 >	27 >	18 >	8 >	29 >	20 >	10 >	31 >	
La Rochelle-Pallice	Dimanche	14 >	5 Oct.	26 >	16 >	7 Dec.	28 >	18 >	8 Fév.	
Anvers	Mardi	16 >	7 >	28 >	18 >	9 >	30 >	20 >	10 >	

Pour autant que les circonstances le permettront.
La Compagnie se réserve le droit de modifier les indications de ce tableau à n'importe quel moment et sans avis préalable.

A BURUNDI CANCELLATION?

Mr. Keach has recently sent me a 50fr Ruanda Urundi Animals stamp bearing a Usumbura cancellation of which he is suspicious.

Careful study of the cancellation leads to the following conclusions:

- 1) This cancellation reads exactly: USUMBURA 4 B
 5 - 10 - 63 - 10
- 2) There does not exist and there has never existed a post office "USUMBURA 4".
- 3) This cancellation is found on many stamps in packets sold at a low price.
- 4) Most stamps bearing this cancellation still have their gum; they are clearly 'cancelled-to-order'.
- 5) The 50fr Ruanda Urundi Animals stamp was demonatized at the date of the cancellation.
- 6) The 50fr Animals stamp surcharged "ROYAUME DU BURUNDI", surcharged in large letters, exists used with this cancellation although it was issued AFTER the date of the cancellation!
- 7) A curious fact: this cancel has letters of the same shape and type as some modern cancellations of Rwanda. The letters "U" and "A" are particularly characteristic.

Once again, we find ourselves with malpractice of which the origin is evidently not known. It reminds us of a stockbook of overprint 'varieties' in the hands of a dealer in the centre of Brussels; it contained a hundred or so forged BURUNDI overprints "ROYAUME DU ROYNUME" in pair with forged overprints "ROYAUME DU BURUNDI"; this stockbook contained also forged Albertville overprints "CONGO" on Katanga stamps, forged "KATANGA" overprints and forged 1941 overprints!

POSTAL ROUTES TO AND FROM THE CONGO PRIOR TO 1914

<u>Province of Katanga</u>	from 1893 - via Lusambo 1895-1904 - River Zambesi and Chinde from 1905 - via River Congo from 1906 - through Angola via Dilolo and Banguela from 1908 - via Rhodesia and Cape Town
<u>Province of Uele</u>	always - via River Congo ? - via Uganda from 1900 - via River Nile
<u>District of Kivu</u>	always - via River Congo from 1903 - via Uganda
<u>District of Uvira-Rutshuru</u>	always - via River Congo from 1903 - via Uganda from 1906 - via Dar-es-Salam
<u>District of Mayumbe (north of Boma)</u>	always - via River Congo - via Cabinda

A NEW TYPE OF CANCELLATION OF ZAIRE

Because of the wear and tear of some date stamps and in order to equip new post offices, the postal administration ordered new date stamps from Germany.

An attempt to ascertain a list of the items ordered has failed and, in order to get an idea, it is necessary to wait until such cancellations are seen.

It should be said that there is in the country a quite improbable number of types of date stamp. To those types dating to before 1960 have been added several types of cancellers made since independence. Nevertheless they are all more or less of the same type.

The new date stamps resemble altogether Swiss and German date stamps. They are 28.5mm outside diameter; the date includes no time.



The letters of the town name are only 2mm tall, which renders them absolutely illegible as soon as they are more or less clogged with ink. On the other hand, the date is given in characters 4.5mm tall.

Put into service towards the middle of 1978, these date stamps are known only for KINSHASA 1 and a new post office of GBADOLITE, the village of the President, situated very near MOBAYI-MBONGO (was Banzyville).

In view of the incredible state of some Zairean cancellers (some no longer have the date or have the date locked and unchangeable) it is probable that other date stamps will be replaced, but would that there were a semblance of organisation in the postal service!

G. Celis

CANCELLATIONS

Members will no doubt have read in Bulletin No. 34 Mr. Keach's query as to the demand for a new edition of "The Cancellations of the Normal Post Offices of Belgian Congo 1886 - 1960 and Ruanda Urundi 1917 -1962".

I imagine I can speak for the majority of members in saying that such a volume would be a welcome addition to our personal philatelic libraries. To date, however, I have received no reaction from yourselves, either as to desirability or to any proposals for changes to the first edition. This being the case, I take leave to make some proposals of my own. These proposals, however, should be seen as the ideal situation from my point of view;

some of you may have very different ideas and, in any case, certain suggestions may prove impractical either for technical or financial reasons. That being said, my proposals are as follows:

- 1) Any new edition should be in loose-leaf form, and preferably, printed on one side of the paper only. In just over 4 years, we have had numerous amendments and additions, and I am sure it will be many years before this flow dries to a trickle. The loose-leaf format would allow the replacement of pages where significant changes take place. In addition, it would be possible to add further sections, such as Telegraphic cancellations, or post office cachets, within the same binder. As far as the binder itself is concerned, my preference would be for PVC 4 or multi-ring type.
- 2) In order to allow for occasional extra pages within the edition, we should have to adopt a rather more sophisticated page number system than in the first edition.
- 3) The serial in Postal History International included some excellent maps which Mr. Keach prepared. I should very much like to see these included in the new edition. (I hope they were eventually returned to Mr. Keach as they involved a tremendous amount of work).
- 4) Illustrations - I should like many more illustrations of the actual cancellations on a town-by-town basis, as well as the general classification illustrations. Obviously, this would be a far greater undertaking and might well prove impossible. On the other hand, it could be tackled separately, in several stages, as an addition to the loose-leaf document. Even better, it could be done as a series of transparencies against which members could compare the cancellations in their possession.

There you have my main ideas. There can be no doubt that, in total, they will produce a document which will be considerably more expensive than was the "preprint". It is for you to decide whether such an "improved" version would be of advantage for continued usage, or to make such further or amended suggestions as you wish. In the current state of funds, however, it would not necessarily prove to be an excessive expense for individual members; provided a large enough majority of the membership was in favour of such a production, at least some of the cost could be borne out of our funds, which are, in any case, being built up with a view to contributing towards Study Circle publications.

Please remember, if you, the members, are unwilling to respond to queries as to such future activities, the Committee has to assume that any reaction there is, is broadly in the negative.

Peter Foden

NEW POSTAL RATES OF ZAIRE (1-1-79)

(Currency: presumably Makuta (K))

<u>ORDINARY MAIL</u>		<u>Internal</u>	<u>Overseas</u>
Ordinary letters	Under 20 grams	10	75
	20 to 50 grams	50	135
	Each additional		
	50 grams	15	60
Post cards		10	45
	Printed matter		
Journals and periodicals	Under 20 grams	15	30
	20 to 50 grams	25	60
	Each additional		
	50 grams	15	30
	Above 1000 grams & each additional		
	1000 grams	125	240
Small parcels	Per 50 grams	5	
	Up to 50 grams		30
	Each additional		
	50 grams		15
Registry Fee	Under 100 grams	50	75
	Each additional		
	100 grams	25	45
Express Rate		150	150
		120	120

AIRMAIL RATES

1) Interior Service			2) International Service		
	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rate</u>		<u>Letters, Post cards</u>	<u>Other Objects</u>
Letters, Post cards	-	-	Africa	per 5 gr	per 20 gr
Other objects	20 gr	5	Adjoining countries	6	6
Journals, Periodicals	50 gr	3	Other countries	18	15
			North America	198	159
			Central & South America	171	138
			Asia	60	48
			Europe	69	54
			Oceanica	240	246

LETTERS VIA AIRMAIL

gr	<u>AFRICA</u>		<u>EUROPE</u>	<u>ASIA</u>		<u>AMERICAS</u>		<u>OCEANIA</u>
	<u>Adjoining Countries</u>	<u>Other Countries</u>		<u>Near East</u>	<u>Other Countries</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>Central South</u>	
5	80	90	145	135	260	270	245	315
10	85	110	210	195	440	470	415	555
15	90	130	280	255	625	670	590	795
20	100	145	350	315	805	865	760	1035
25	165	225	480	435	1050	1125	990	
30	170	240	550	395	1230	1320	1160	
35	175	260	620	555	1415	1520	1330	

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

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA NO. 13

Corrections to Addenda and Corrigenda No. 12 (with apologies - RHK)

Under 'Alterations to Existing Designations' where designations are given as 7a1 and 8a1, change to 7A1 and 8A1 respectively.

Under 'Additional Cancellations' KAMITUGA 12B(A)1- should be 11(A)1-. LISALA 5D1-Dmyt/t should be 5D1-Dmyt/t.

Alterations to Existing Designations BANZYVILLE 8A1- to 8A1-Dmyt, BUSU-DJANOA 8A2-Dmyt/t to 8A2-Dmyt/t. SONGOLOLO 7A1- to 7A1-Dmyt. MONVEDA 2A1+1.3-tDMY to 2A1+1.3-tMDY.

Alterations to Angular Measurements

CATARACTES Add 200 315. LEOPOLDVILLE 1 8A6- change 178 to 176. LEUBO 8A1 change 322 to 317.

Additional Cancellations

BANZYVILLE	8A1-Dmyt/t	(dates) 42
BASONGO	1.2- TMDY	01
BASONGO	1.2- DMTY	*08
COQUILHATVILLE	8A2- Dmyt/y	
SONGOLOLO	7A1- Dmyt/t	32-3

Changes to Dates ABA 1.2-tDMY *14-21. BAFWASENDE 8A1- *36-8, 44-8. BANNINGVILLE 8A1- *38-48. BASOKO 5C1-Dmyt *21-34; 8A1- *40-5. BUTA 8B1 *46-7; 8B2- *45-8. CATARACTES 95. DILOLO 8A1- 36-9, 44. GOMBE 4.1-DMTY *17-21, 25. ITIMBIRI *96-7. KABALO 1.1-DMTY *14-6; 1.1-tDMY *16-22. KAMINA 11(D)1- *59-60. KASONGO 1 10(A)- *59. KILO 5A1-Dmyt *18-21. KINDU 8A2- *39-44. KINSHASA 1.3-DMTY *09-11. KWAMOUTH 1.1-tDMY *15-21. LISALA 8C1- 36-40, 46. LUALI 1.2-DMTY 00-3. LUBEFU 8A2- *60. LUBUTU 8A1 37-40, 45-6. LUKALA 8A1- *54-60. LUKUNGU 3A1 *89-96. LULUABOURG 8A1- *37-9, 43-7. LUDZI 8A2- *50-6, 60. LUPUTA 10(A)- *49-53. LUSAMBO *1.1-DMTY *00-8; 1.1-MDTY *09-12; 5D1-Dmyt *21-30; 7C1- *35-6. MADIMBA 1.1-tDMY *14-9, 23-4; 8A2- *47-57. MATADI 1.3-DMTY *91-6; 1.4-tDMY *13-20; 10(C)- *51-5, 59-60; 10(.C.)- *52-3, 58-60. MOANDA 10(A)- 54, 58. MOBA 8A2- 48-9. MUSHIE 7A1-Dmyt 24-8, 33-9. N'GULE 5D1-Dmyt *22-6; 5D1-Dmyt/t *28-32. NIANGARA 5C1-Dmyt 23-8. NOUVELLE-ANVERS 1.2-tMDY 14. PANGI 8A1- *47-54. PAULIS 8A1- *51, 55-6; 8B2 *45-56. PAULIS 1 10(B)- 58-9. PONTHERVILLE 1.1-DMTY *11-5, 22. SAKANIA 8A1- *35-49, 58-9. SONGOLOLO 7A1-Dmyt/t *29-31. STANLEYVILLE 1.2-DMTY 00,09; 8A2- *36-9, 44-5; 12B(E)1- *53-8. TENKE 7B1- *35-9. THYSVILLE 7A2- 28-37. TSHIKAPA 7A1- *28-34; F7C1- *26-9, 24-5, 44-7. UVIRA 1.1-tDMY 17; 4.1-DMTY *19-21, 28-30. WATSA 7A1- *28-36. YANGAMBI 1 - 11(B)1- 59-60. BIUMBA 8A2- 51-6. KIGALI 7C1- *35-51; 8A1- *48-55; 8B1- *44-5; 11(C)1- *55-61. KISENYI 16- *60-2. KITEGA 7A1-Dmyt *28-37; 8E1- *51-6, 60; 11(C)1- *58-61. USUMBURA *8A1- *36-45; 8A3- *39-45, 50-5; 8A6 *49, 53, 58-61; 10(-E.)- 54., 62. USUMBURA 1 11(M)1- *58-62; 11(N)1- *58-62; 13C(MANDATS)- *59-61.

TSHELA 8A2- 104 181 206 271 291 55, 59.

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Summary of Members' Interests

January 1981

Degree of Interest Degree of Knowledge

High	Average	Low	Probably a leader in this field	Above average	Average	Interested but still a beginner	Prepared to study/research	Prepared to lend or document material for research
5	10	8		4	10	3		4
6	11	4		6	7	7	5	8
11	8	3		6	9	6	8	9
8	7	5		6	4	7	7	9
15	3	1		4	9	6	9	11
11	5	3		5	7	9	8	10
1				1			1	1
1			1				1	1
1			1				1	1
1				1	1		1	1
2				1	1		1	1
1				1			1	1
1				1			1	1
3	9	8		1	8	5	1	4
3	9	7		2	6	5	2	5
2	7	10		1	5	8	3	5
4	9	7		1	7	6	3	4
1	10	8			9	5	2	4
4	8	6		1	11	3	3	7
6	6	6	2	3	8	3	4	6
2	3	5		2	5	3	3	4
3	2	5		1	6	1	2	4

1. POSTAGE STAMPS

a) Straight Catalogue Collection

b) Portrait Issues 1886-1894

c) Mols Issues

i) General

ii) Plate Reconstruction

iii) "Congo Belge" Overprints

iv) Princes Issue

v) Other - specify (see-vi to xii)

vi) Complete Sheets

vii) "Boma" Surcharges 1922/23

viii) "Est Africain" Overprints

ix) 1909 Unilingual Issue

x) Proofs Specimens Essays, etc.

xi) How Flaws were created during printing

xii) Perforation Varieties

d) Floors Issues

e) Waterlow & Sons Issues

f) Stickney Machine Issues

g) Masks & Idols

h) Commemorative Issues

i) Ruanda Urundi

j) Post Independence

i) Congo/Zaire

ii) Rwanda

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January 1981

Degree of KnowledgeDegree of Interest

	High	Average	Low	Probably a leader in this field	Above average	Average	Interested but still a beginner	Prepared to study/research	Prepared to lend or document material for research
<u>3. POSTAL HISTORY</u>									
a) Forerunners	6	5	10		1	4	9	1	
b) Mail Services	6	6	7	1		6	7	2	2
c) Postage Rates	5	7	7	1	1	8	6	5	3
d) Maritime Mail	6	7	5	4	2	3	8	4	3
e) T.P.O. Marks	3	9	7	1	1	6	8	2	2
f) Censor Marks	8	11	3	2	3	9	5	4	4
g) Air Mail Services & First Flights	6	4	12	1	3	7	4	1	3
h) Cancellations									
i) Post Office CDS	15	3	4	4	4	6	5	4	5
ii) Telegraph & Wireless	6	11	5	1	3	9	4	3	4
iii) Special	5	5	9		3	5	3	1	3
i) Lado Enclave	6	4	10	1	2	6	8	1	1
j) East African Campaign 1915-1916 and Occupation of German East Africa 1916-1922	6	9	5	1	2	8	5	4	3
k) Meter Marks	2	5	9	1		5	4	1	3
l) Post-Independence									
i) Congo/Zaire	4	2	8	1	1	5	1	3	6
ii) Rwanda	2	1	9		2	3	2	2	4
iii) Burundi	3		9	1	1	3	2	2	4
m) Other - specify									
i) Katanga	4		1	1		2	2	1	
ii) South Kasai	2	1		1		1	1	1	
iii) Albertville Provisionals - Use	1			1				1	
iv) Stanleyville Provisionals - Use	1			1				1	
v) O.A.F. Marks		1			1				
vi) U.N. Forces in Congo	1					1			

35/Sept 1

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