

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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NEWS AND VIEWSJOINT MEETING WITH BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE AT BRISTOL, 17 - 20 JULY 1981.

The weekend meeting was attended by 8 members, 4 of whom were accompanied by their wives, and a most enjoyable time, both socially and philatelically, was had by all. Although the BSC meetings commenced on the Saturday morning, the BCSC members had free time until the joint meeting in the late afternoon, a fact much appreciated by those from overseas and more distant parts of the U.K., who took advantage of the late start to fit in some sight-seeing.

In all, there were 4 sessions on Congo philately:

Air Mail Services between Belgium and the Congo - joint meeting.

A considerable amount of material was shown under this heading, covering most of the significant Raids and services between 1925 and 1960. There was, of course, no cover from the Thieffry flight in 1925 (only 3 are known, and one of these in the British Museum), but the Latecoere service, Dakar - Casablanca - Toulouse, was represented, as was the 1930 Fabry Raid, including a cover sent from the Congo to Europe by the return flight, the much rarer direction. A display of great interest, covering the various alterations to the air services due to the disruption caused by the 2nd World War, was given by Mr. I. M. Warn, who specialises in WWII Air Mail and, living at Bristol, had been invited to the meeting as a guest. The Congo material on show was presented by Messrs. Foden, Keach and Pointon.

Proofs, Essays and Colour Trials.

Mr. Keach gave a most interesting display and talk on these, which included many progressive die proofs from the Mols issues, as well as some die proofs of the 1942 Palms issue which had never been seen before by any of those present. The Waterlow Publicity Proofs were also on show, as well as a good number of Waterlow Bros. & Layton colour trials of the 1898 3,50fr and 10fr values. Also on show were several postal stationery essays and specimens. The imperforate issues of the 1918 Red Cross issue, although probably not proofs in the strict sense, were also on display and Mr. Keach pointed out that, at least for the 10fr value, the surcharging plate was different, with different spacings, than that which had been used for the perforated stamps.

Portrait Issues - 1886 to 1894.

Mr. Green led the discussion on the portrait issues, amply illustrated by many sheets from his extensive collection of these. Many of the "Colis Postaux" varieties were shown, doubled, inverted, blue and "brulee" surcharges, etc., as were a large proportion of the report block and plate varieties listed in Du Four. Several complete panes were on display, as well as a sheet, complete but in two parts, of the 50c grey of 1894. Mr. Green also showed many stamps with the "Spécimen" and "NUL" cancellations and, for the latter, explained the possible reasons for its use in each case. To complete the display, the postal stationery covering the same period was also shown.

Boma 1922-23 Local Surcharges.

This display was given by Mr. Vindevoghel, who has a quite outstand-

ing collection of these provisionals, including two proof sheets of surcharges printed on white paper. Every known combination of plates for each stamp was shown with all the different types of surcharge, including many complete sheets showing the various positional varieties of the surcharges. Also shown were a large number of inverted, misplaced, double and treble surcharges, many of them previously unknown to most of those present. In the case of inverted surcharges, Mr. Vindevoghel had succeeded in reconstructing large proportions of several complete sheets and those were also on display.

After the programmed meetings, Mr. Bovens, our most recently joined member, showed sheets from his own collection, in which he is attempting to obtain one of each of the portrait issues stamps, including colis postaux, with each of the possible cancellations up to 1900. Although, as was to be expected, there were many gaps, the progress already made in this project was quite amazing and greatly impressed those present.

As a follow-up to this meeting, the Belgian Study Circle is having a further meeting on Airmails between Belgium and the Congo at Bedford College, London on Saturday 10 October, 1981, at 1415 hours and any BCSC member who would like to attend will be made very welcome.

Finally, those who attended Bristol would like to thank Mr. Wood, who made all the arrangements and ensured the smooth running of the meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce the following new members:

R. Bovens, 99 Rue du Midi, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

M. E. Adams, 44 Bigelow Road, Waltham, Maine 02154, U.S.A.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

Joe Babicki, 4530 Carpinteria Ave., #15, Carpinteria, CA 93013, U.S.A.

W. H. Hoyte, 22 Victoria Road, Oswestry, Salop SY11 2HS

B. P. Hudson, 92 Oakley Street, London, S.W. 3

A. Jeukens, Avenue des Volontaires 327, Boite 17, 1150 Brussels, Belgium

WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

With this issue of the Bulletin, we give details of the formation of the Waterlow Study Circle. While the BCSC is one of the forming members, we would strongly recommend individual memberships to all who have a serious interest in the Mols, Leys and Palms Issues. As it will be impossible for us to reprint all documentation of this effort, we will from time to time give reviews for those who may have an interest. Here is a listing of what we now have on hand:

Some Notes on Stamp Printers and their Methods of Printing with Specific Reference to BSA Co Stamps by Colin Hoffman (1st draft - Oct 1979, Revised - Nov 1980.)

The Printer's Marks found on the B.S.A Co. issues 1897-1922
and S.R. issues 1924 printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited by
Colin Hoffman

Waterlow Questions for Circulation/Comment prepared by Colin
Hoffman (June 1981)

All three of the publications deal in depth with the stamp issues and set the tone for future studies. This new philatelic enterprise certainly shows great promise.

THE AMERICAN MEETING AT SUNDOWN TOWN ON THE SHORES OF LAKE JOY

A meeting of nine of the American members of the BCSC was held at Sundown Town, a western estate 20 miles south of Reno, Nevada owned by the parents of Alan Morvay, on July 3, 4 and 5, 1981. In attendance were Joe Babicki, Arthur and Grace Heim, Ed Hirdler, Sr., Bill Holabird, Ralph and Patricia Jacquemin, Ray McGarrity, Alan Morvay, Nathan Nahmod and Ron and Bethel Strawser. Since many arrived a day early or left a day or two after the meeting, the most generous and cordial hospitality of Jacques and Ethel Morvay was necessarily extended over many days and was greatly appreciated by all.

After a short message of welcome by Alan Morvay, he yielded the chair to Jacquemin who introduced each speaker over the next three days with appropriate comments. The agenda follows:

Friday Morning - Arthur Heim: Founding and development of the B.C.S.C. The changing shape of Congo philately through the last several decades.

Ralph Jacquemin: Plating of the Mols issues explained with a showing of his award winning collection as the talk progressed.

Friday Afternoon - Ed Hirdler: A formal presentation of the first and second portrait issues and the events leading to them.

Ralph Jacquemin: Recognizing the various printings of the Mols issues. References were given to previous Bulletins where these are outlined.

Arthur Heim: The Heim-Keach cancellation study revisited. The ensuing discussion concensus was that it should be revised and reprinted.

Saturday Morning - Joe Babicki: Intriguing aspects of collecting Katanga. Joe showed the legitimate postal use of Katangan postage stamps by showing his award winning collection.

Bill Holabird: The changing postal history of the Congo areas during the independence struggle.

Saturday Afternoon - Alan Morvay: Alan explained the missionary mill of the Congo, giving us some of the highlights of research project.

Ed Hirdler: The Princes Printing - stamps and postal stationery.

Ralph Jacquemin. The art of exhibiting - some of rules and limitations.

Sunday Morning - Ed Hirdler: Unusual items of Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi.

Arthur Heim: Around the table discussion on World War II censor covers

The meeting was concluded with an open discussion on the future of Congo philately.

Several of the presentations were from prepared text, which, with some revisions for editorial reasons, will be provided in future Bulletins.

Words simply do not describe the beautiful scenery, the marvelous food and the most comfortable accommodations - all a tribute to the careful planning of the Morvays. Those who were in attendance expressed the regret that our overseas members were not there, and all hoped future meetings might be accomplished, but it was doubted whether any could "top" this first meeting!

We also wish to express our appreciation to Ed Hirdler, who had the foresight to keep notes on our first American meeting.

LITERATURE COMPETITION

In Bulletin No. 40, we announced we had applied for entry in the 14th Annual National Philatelic Literature Exhibition of the American Philatelic Society to be held September 24-27, 1981 at the STAMPSHOW 81, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. Happily, our publication was accepted and two handsome blue three ring binders (bearing a lighter blue Star of the Congo as suggested by Ray Keach) have been sent to Atlanta.

Your Editor will be attending STAMPSHOW 81 to conclude his term of office as Vice-President of the American Philatelic Society. His bid for office as a Director-at-Large was not successful, even though he tallied an outstanding number of votes for an unknown on the national level.

A full report on this national meeting will be given in the next Bulletin.

OUR NEW STATIONERY

All members of the Belgian Congo Study Circle should express thanks and appreciation for the design of our new letterhead. The logo will be used as the first page of future Bulletins. Your Editor feels this is a welcome addition to enhance the research articles of all of our contributing members.

THE EAA OVERPRINTS OF 1916 AND 1922

In November 1916 the eight stamps of the 1915 definitive issue were overprinted "EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND OCCUPATION BELGE DUITSCH OOST AFRIKA BELGISCHE BEZETTING" for the use of the Belgian forces occupying Ruanda Urundi. A similar overprint was applied in January 1922 to the five stamps of the set which were overprinted with the 'Malines surcharge'. Neither of the EAA sets received much genuine postal usage: fairly large numbers of mint copies were supplied direct to the philatelic trade in Brussels, and used copies - which are also common - were mostly cancelled by favour locally, usually with the 'KIGOMA' cancellation.

Nevertheless the EAA stamps are full of philatelic interest. As with all the Mols issues individual stamps can be positioned in the sheet without much difficulty, and careful study shows that several different EAA overprinting plates were used, including many constant plate varieties. The different plates can be recognised on individual stamps, and the known combinations of frame, centre and overprinting plates together with surcharge and perforation varieties mean that there are not 8 but 53 different stamps to be collected from the 1916 set, and 24 rather than 5 stamps from the 1922 set.

An excellent article on these issues by R H Keach and A Vindevoghel appeared in 'Stamp Collecting' on 7 October 1976. It comprehensively examined the various overprinting and other varieties and ended with a table of known combinations of plates. A similar table, updated to include subsequent discoveries, is appended below.

The current article is an attempt to take the study further, by listing in more detail the overprinting plate varieties, and by addressing - and suggesting an answer to - the mystery posed by the earlier article, namely why so many different overprinting plates should (apparently) have been used for a relatively small issue of stamps. In making this study I have been enormously assisted by the kind loans of 30 complete EAA sheets from Ray Keach and 4 sheets from Geoffrey Wood, to supplement the 5 sheets and several hundred individual copies in my own collection.

I should begin by recapping on the different overprinting plates described and labelled in the 1976 article:

Plate S. This is the relatively uncommon 'short' overprinting plate in which the space between OCCUPATION and BELGE is an upright rectangle in shape rather than a square. It is found only on the 5c, 15c, 25c, 50c, 1fr and 5fr values. In addition three examples are known on the 10c value, discovered only in the last two or three years.

Plate Sa. This is a variety of plate S, found only on the 5c, in which all stamps in the 4th column have a closed C which makes 'OCCUPATION' read 'OCCUPATION'.

Plate L1. This is the first of the 'long' overprint plates, and is characterised by the downward extension of the 'T' of OCCUPATION in all stamps in the 2nd column (or in the 4th row in the case of the stamps of vertical format). Plate L1 is found on the 15c, 25c, 50c and 5fr values of 1916 and on the 50/25c of 1922.

Plates L2, L3, L4. This group of plates is found only on the lfr. L2 shows a closed C - OCCUPATION - in all positions of the 1st column, and L3 shows a similar variety in the 2nd column. In L4 the 1st C of OCCUPATION is partly closed - OQC - in the 1st column.


Plate L5 is found on most values, and particularly (for some reason) on used copies. It is characterised by a constant variety, a damaged 'L' in BELGE thus , found in positions 1, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 34 in the sheet of 50. There are also other constant varieties of which more will be said later.

Plate L5A is a late state of L5 in which the L of BELGE in position 39 (18 in the vertical stamps) is very badly damaged: only the top part of the vertical stroke is left, and the adjacent E and G are also damaged. L5A is found on the 15c and 25c of 1916 and the 5/50c and 50/25c of 1922.


Plate L6 shows some of the same varieties as L5 but in different positions. The damaged L is found in positions 1, 9 and 11, and the same L damaged in a different way thus  is found in position 21. L6 is found only on the 5c and 10/5c with centre plate F.

Plate L7 is a plate or group of plates with no distinctive varieties. It is found on most values, particularly on mint copies.

The 39 complete sheets available for my study divide as follows: 3 of S, 3 of L1, 18 of L5, 2 of L5A, 2 of L6 and 11 of L7. I also had blocks and single copies of L2, 3 and 4.

The two main groups of overprinting plates

On detailed examination of the overprints it becomes clear that they fall into two distinct categories. The first category consists of L5 and L6 while the second consists of S and all the other L plates. The main differences between the two categories are as follows:

(i) In L5 and L6 the impression is always clear and distinct and the shade is a medium blue. In the others the impression is blotchy and the shade is usually deep blue, ranging (in the 5c) to deep violet blue. The degree of blotchiness varies, but the S of EST always has a fuzzy outline compared with the clear, strong outline of the S in L5 and 6. This one feature enables L5 to be distinguished from L1 or 7 on single copies irrespective of whether they show one of the constant overprinting plate varieties.

(ii) In L5 and 6 these constant varieties appear at random positions in the sheet of 50. In the other plates all such varieties are repeated in every position in the column (or in the row in the case of the vertical stamps). Clearly L5 and 6 were made up individual clichés assembled in the frame, while the others were made up of bloc-reports each of five adjacent clichés with the varieties appearing at a constant position in each bloc-report.

(iii) In L5 and 6 there are slight variations in the alignment of the overprints in the sheet and in the horizontal and vertical spacing between them. Pairs of sheets can be found, however, in which these variations are matched exactly. In the other

overprinting plates, by contrast, the horizontal spacings are always identical from row to row, but the vertical spacings and alignments vary considerably. Moreover no two sheets can be found in which these variations in vertical spacing show any similarity.

The curious variations in the spacing between overprints will be analysed in more detail below. Meanwhile it is clear that the method of construction and printing of plates L5 and L6 must have been fundamentally different from that of the other plates, namely S, L1 to 4 and L7. The meaning of these differences becomes clear as one studies each group of plates in turn.

Plates L5 and L6

The repetition of constant varieties at random positions in the sheet calls to mind at once the typographed CONGO BELGE overprints of 1909. In that case the overprinting plate was constructed as follows. One of the original handstamps was used to make a series of moulds (probably five) in a papier-mâché matrix, and from each mould about twelve individual clichés were cast in lead. 50 of these clichés were then chosen and arranged to form the 10 x 5 overprinting plate. Two distinctive features resulted: in five positions on the plate, represented by the first castings from the moulds before they subsequently shrunk, the overprint is slightly larger than elsewhere; and five distinctive variations in the letters of the overprint, corresponding to defects in each of the five moulds, are repeated up to 10 or 11 times at random positions in the sheet.



The EAA L5 and L6 overprints do not show the variations in size. But they do, as noted above, show the second characteristic. Clearly the plate was assembled from individual clichés consisting of castings or electrotypes taken from a series of master moulds or patterns. Moreover it seems that L6 was constructed by dismantling and reassembling the clichés of L5, apparently with some additions and subtractions, in just the same way as the CONGO BELGE overprinting plate was reassembled for the Princes issue.

Plates L5 and L6 in fact show numerous constant varieties, and not only the well-known 'damaged L'. Some like the damaged L are repeated throughout the sheet, and therefore reflect a variety in one of the master patterns, while others resulted from minor damage to the letter in the course of printing. The first type of variety is found on all printings early and late, while the second type is not usually found on the earlier printings. By examining the varieties in both L5 and L6 it is possible, at any rate to some extent, to show how the latter plate was constructed from the former.

There are three main repeated varieties as follows:

- (i) The damaged L already mentioned - nos 1,11,12,14,15 and 34 on L5 and 1,9 and 11 on L6. (These numbers refer of course to the sheets of horizontal stamps; in the vertical sheets no 1 becomes no 41, 2 becomes 31, 6 becomes 42 and so on.)
- (ii) A dot between the U and I of DUITSCH, near the top of the letters thus U'I. On L5 it is found on nos 3,4,6,8,16,19,24,36

and 39. On L6 it is found on 2,3,6,8,12,16,18 and 31.

(iii) Uneven tops to the first E and both Ts of BEZETTING. The E has a dip in the middle  and the tops of the two Ts are shaped like this . This variety is somewhat less conspicuous than the other two repeated varieties, and is found on 5,18,32,33,41,42 and 48 on L5 and on 4,14,29,30,34,35,44 and 45 on L6. It is more visible on some positions than on others, but the characteristic shape of the first T can be seen on all.

A fuller list of varieties found on L5, covering both the repeated varieties and varieties caused by damage during printing, is as follows.

1. Damaged L in BELGE.
3. Dot between UI; nick in bottom of second C of OCCUPATION.
4. Dot between UI; missing top left corner of E of EST (not early printings).
5. Uneven tops of TT; extended point to bottom middle of M of ALLEMAND (not early).
6. Dot between UI; small nick out of bottom right of E of BELGISCHE.
8. Dot between UI; uneven tops to Z and E of ZETT; smudge between bottom legs of H of BELGISCHE.
9. Concave base of E of ALLEMAND.
10. Horizontal bar of L of BELGE thickened and close to G.
11. Damaged L in BELGE; smudge between upper uprights of H of DUITSCH.
12. Damaged L in BELGE; nick in top of first T of ZETT.
14. Damaged L in BELGE.
15. Damaged L in BELGE; spot between lower uprights of N of OCCUPATION
16. Dot between UI; small bulge on top right of E of ZETT.
17. Deep nick in centre top of T of DUITSCH; nick just right of centre in top of second T of ZETT.
18. Uneven tops of TT; small nick in top left of E of ZETT; dot between G of BEZETTING and the full stop.
19. Dot between UI; uneven tops of UIT of DUITSCH; uneven top to Z of ZETT (not early).
20. Nick out of top left of E of EST (absent in early printings, marked in late printings); extended point to bottom middle of M of ALLEMAND (not early).
24. Dot between UI; nick out of top left side of D of DUITSCH.
29. Uneven top to E of ZETT; small nick out of top middle of 2nd T.
32. Uneven tops of TT.
33. Uneven tops of TT. This variety is most pronounced in this position.
34. Damaged L in BELGE (with damage worsened in late printings).
35. Dot between E and L of BELGE, at bottom of letters (faint in early printings); nick in top middle of first T of ZETT.

- 36. Dot between UI; space between centre and right foot of M of ALLEMAND partly blocked up (not early).
- 39. Dot between UI; damaged bottom of G of BEZETTING (not early); badly damaged L in BELGE (late printings).
- 41. Uneven tops of TT.
- 42. Uneven tops of TT.
- 44. Uneven tops of EZE of BEZETTING.
- 45. Damaged lower right leg of R of AFRICAIN (not early).
- 47. Upper right space of N of ALLEMAND partly filled up (not early).
- 48. Uneven tops of TT.
- Addendum: 27. Deep nick out of upper right of G of BEZETTING (not early).

Many, but not all, of these damaged clichés were transferred to L6. The most damaged clichés 20 and 39 were (perhaps for that reason) weeded out. 11,15,24 and 34 were also removed. New clichés were substituted including at least one which shows one of the repeated varieties, namely position 12 with the dot between UI.

Varieties on L6 which are not found on L5 include the following:

- 12. Dot between UI; uneven top of E of ZETT.
- 21. L of BELGE damaged in a different way (see page 2).
- 20. Nick in top middle of first T of ZETT.
- 26. Big nick out of top left of U of DUITSCH.
- 36. Hole in top middle of T of OCCUPATION.

The following table shows positions of L6 which can clearly be identified as clichés from L5. The number shows the position on L5 from which the cliché came. An X indicates that the cliché in question definitely did not come from L5.

14	3	4	5	10
6		8	1	
12	X	17	18	9
19		16		X
X				
X		27		
36				
X				

It can therefore be seen that the clichés were reassembled in a fairly random manner, but that they were not on the whole moved far from their original positions - of those that can be identified, most are within one row of the position they had in L5.

No 16 on L6 has, as mentioned in the article in 'Stamp Collecting', a deep nick in the upper right part of the G of BEZETTING (not to be confused with the nick in the same place but of different shape in no 27 on L5 and 28 on L6). This nick was not present even in late printings of L5, when the cliché was in position 19. However other varieties confirm that 19 on L5 and 16 on L6 are indeed the same cliché.

Spacing of L5 and L6

On each sheet overprinted with L5 and L6, the spacing between overprints varies slightly. The horizontal distance between the right upright of D of ALLEMAND and the upright of the E of EST 6f the adjacent overprint varies between $8\frac{1}{2}$ and $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm, and the vertical distance between the bottom of the B of BELGISCH and the top of the EST below varies between 5 and 6mm. (All distances are measured from the centre of the thickness of the letters.) In addition, there are small variations in the alignments both horizontally and vertically of the overprints, and some overprints on some sheets are a little askew from the horizontal.

Some sheets are identical to one another in terms of these variations while others are different. The following table illustrates this. For each of the sheets available to me, the figures show the vertical distances in millimetres between the left hand stamps in the first six rows. Where these figures are the same for two sheets it can be assumed (and I have checked on a sample basis) that the horizontal and vertical variations throughout the sheet are the same.

<u>L5</u>	5c	V3+E	5.9	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.2		A	
	5c	V3+E	5.9	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.2		A	
	5c	V3+E	5.9	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.2		A	
	10c	V2+D2	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.9		B	
	15c	IV1+C1	5.2	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.5		C	
	15c	IV1+C1	6.1	5.9	5.3	5.5	5.4		D	
	15c	IV1+C1	5.9	6.0	5.3	5.9	5.1		E	
	(L5A)	15c	IV1+C1	5.2	5.8	5.4	5.6	5.5		C
		1fr	II3+A5	5.3	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.9		F
		5fr	II1+A2	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.3		G
		5fr	II2+A3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.3		G
		5fr	II2+A3	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.3		G
	<u>(L5A)</u>	10/5c	V3+E	5.9	5.3	5.5	6.0	5.2		A
30/10c		V2+D2	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.9		B	
30/10c		V2+D2	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.9		B	
30/10c		V2+D2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.5		H	
50/25c		III+C	6.0	5.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	(red)	I	
25/40c		II+A3	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.5	(carm.)	J	
5/50c		III3+B	5.4	5.9	5.2	5.2	5.7	(matt)	K	
5/50c		III3+B	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.7	6.1	(shiny)	L	
<u>L6</u>	5c	V3+F	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.4		M	
	10/5c	V3+F	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.4		M	

The 20 sheets therefore show 13 different 'settings' of the overprinting plate, labelled A to M in the righthand column. Sheets with

the same setting are always of the same value (with or without the 1922 surcharge), but sheets of the same value do not necessarily show the same setting. The 15c value, for instance, is found with three different settings.

The explanation I suggest for these phenomena is as follows. The 50 clichés were placed in a frame which was then tightened for the first printing of the overprint. Between each printing of L5 the frame was loosened and then tightened again before the next printing. The result of this loosening and tightening was to alter slightly the spacing between individual overprints. Some values (eg the 15c) took several printings while others (the 5fr perhaps) were overprinted in one batch only.

The last batch to be overprinted was the 5c V3+F. Before these were done, the overprinting plate was dismantled and reassembled with some of the clichés weeded out and replaced from a stock of spares. As far as one can tell from the evidence of just two sheets, there was only one setting of L6.

In 1922 a quantity of overprinted sheets of the 5c, 10c, 25c, 40c and 50c received the Malines surcharge. From the evidence of the settings it is clear that this surcharge was applied to sheets previously overprinted, rather than that the surcharge and the EAA overprint were together applied in 1922 to 'virgin' sheets.

Plates S, L1 to 4 and L7

The constant varieties found in this group of overprinting plates occur in all ten positions of the column (or the row in the case of the vertical stamps). I have described above the conspicuous varieties the closed C on Sa, L2, L3 and L4, and the extended T on L1. But if one examines the sheets closely a host of further varieties can be found, all with the feature that they are repeated throughout the column in question.

The varieties apparent on the sheets available to me are listed below. In some cases they are present on all the sheets of the value in question, while in others they are present on only some of them. I also checked all my single copies for the varieties, and found that generally stamps which showed the variety tended to be in a minority. (The number in brackets after the plate designation shows the number of sheets available to me).

- S (3) col.3: small dot between I and N of AFRICAIN.
col.4: dot between C and U of OCCUPATION (not on 15c sheet).
col.5: dot in G of BELGE.
- L1 (3) col.1: smudge in second E of BELGISCHG (all sheets); dot between B and E of BELGISCHE and lower part of B of BEZETTING filled in (15c sheet only).
col.2: extended T in OCCUPATION.
col.4: extended full stop after BELGE.
col.5: dot in D of ALLEMAND.
- L7 5c V2+E (1)
col.1: dot between F and R of AFRICAIN, smudge in D of MANO.
col.2: dot between N and D of ALLEMAND.
col.3: dot between B and E of BELGISCHE.

col.4: dot between E and Z and in G of BEZETTING.
 col.5: dot between S and T of EST, vertical mark between
 I and N of AFRICAÏN, dot between N and G of BEZETTING

L7 5c V3+E (1)

col.3: nick out of top right of I of BEZETTING. R

L7 15c III5+C1 (2)

col.3: diagonal mark in corner of 2nd L of ALLEMAND.
 col.5: dot between A and L of ALLEMAND.

L7 25c III1+B (1)

col.2: dot between E and S of EST.
 cols 3 & 5: same varieties as 15c.

L7 1fr II2+A5 (1)

col.1: dot between I and S of BELGISCHE.
 col.3: dots between A, F and R of AFRICAÏN and between
 M and A of ALLEMAND.
 col.4: dot between C and A of AFRICAÏN and in C of BELGISCHE

No varieties were found on the following: 10c V2+D2 (1), 5fr II1+A2 (3) and 50/25c III1+C (1) (all L7).

I also had access to photocopies of large blocks of the 1fr EAA in the possession of Mr Vindevoghel. They show the following varieties repeated through the column:

II2+A5 col.4: dot in first C of OCCUPATION and between E and L of BELGISCHE.

col.5: dot between I and S of BELGISCHE.

II2+A5 col.1: dot between E and L of BELGE.

col.2: dot between Z and E of BEZETTING.

col.3: dot between T and I of BEZETTING.

col.4: dot between L and E of ALLEMAND.

II2+A5 col.3: dot between T and I of BEZETTING.

In addition Mr Vindevoghel has sheets or large blocks of L2, L3 and L4 which show varieties in other columns including some of those listed above, notably the dot between T and I of BEZETTING in col. 3 and between I and S of BELGISCHE in col.5.

Before long I shall suggest an explanation for this multiplicity of varieties.

S, L1 to 4, L7: spacing between overprints

In this group of overprints, unlike L5 and 6, the horizontal spacing between columns is constant throughout the sheet although it may vary from sheet to sheet. For each of the sheets available to me the following table shows the distances in millimetres between adjacent overprints in the five columns, defined in the same way as before.

<u>S</u>	5c	V2+E	9.5	8.6	9.6	8.9
	5c	V2+E	9.5	8.6	9.6	8.9
	15c	III5+C1	9.5	8.6	9.6	8.9
<u>L1</u>	15c	III5+C1	9.4	9.3	9.8	9.0
	25c	III1+B	9.4	9.3	9.8	9.0

<u>L1</u>	50/25c	III1+B	9.4	9.3	9.8	9.0
<u>L7</u>	5c	V2+E	8.5	8.4	9.2	8.2
	5c	V3+E	8.9	7.9	8.3	9.9
	10c	V2+D2	9.5	8.5	9.2	8.2
	15c	III5+C1	9.0	8.2	9.3	9.1
	15c	III5+C1	9.0	8.2	9.3	9.1
	25c	III1+B	10.0	8.2	9.3	9.1
	1fr	II2+A5	8.2	8.8	9.1	9.0
	5fr	II1+A2	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8
	5fr	II1+A2	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8
	5fr	II1+A2	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.8
	50/25c	III1+C	8.5	8.9	9.4	8.7

S and L1 therefore appear always to show the same 'setting'. Different values of L7 always show different settings, but among sheets of the same value and plate combination the setting is the same. This corresponds with the earlier finding that constant varieties in these overprinting plates tend to be associated with particular values. There is one interesting exception to this: columns 3 and 5 on the 25c L7 (III1+B) show the same varieties as on the 15c (III5+C1), as demonstrated on page 8, and the table above shows that the spacing between the columns is the same on both sheets except that the first column is 1mm wider.

When it comes to the vertical spacing between overprints, and the alignment between successive rows, a very different picture emerges: there is no consistency at all, either within each sheet or between sheets. The vertical spacing between overprints varies between 5 and 6½mm, and the alignment varies to the extent that the B of BELGISCHE can be anywhere from left of the E of the EST below to vertically above the T.

Even sheets of the same value and obviously from the same printing batch do not show consistency in the vertical spacing. I have before me two sheets of the 5c V2+E with the short overprint S. The sheets are numbered 492 and 493 and were probably overprinted consecutively. Yet the vertical spacing between the leftmost stamps in the last six rows is (in mm) 5.2, 5.1, 5.5, 5.1, 5.9 in the first sheet and 5.4, 5.9, 6.1, 5.5 and 5.3 in the second.

We therefore have, in these overprinting plates, a number of difficult questions to answer. Why are all the varieties bloc-report varieties repeated in all the positions of the columns? Why are there no plate varieties as such found in only one position of the sheet and repeated in other sheets? Why were so many different overprinting plates apparently used for such a relatively small issue of stamps? Why is the vertical spacing never the same between sheets? Why do the repeated varieties appear and disappear in such numbers? It is difficult to believe that the printers went to the trouble to remove very minor blemishes from all ten positions in a column, and it is impossible that accidental blemishes should have simultaneously appeared on all ten positions.

I believe that the answer is that the stamps were not overprinted sheet by sheet but row by row. In other words, there were no 5 x 10 overprinting plates as there were with L5 and L6, but much smaller blocks of five clichés in a row which were applied to each row of the

sheet successively.

This simple solution explains all the unanswered questions. The sheet appears to have been moved by hand under the overprinting block, which explains why the vertical spacing and alignment varies randomly from row to row. Foreign bodies on the block created varieties, typically dots between letters, which are repeated from row to row but which in many cases appeared and disappeared in the course of the printing. Sa, L2, L3 and L4 are in no sense separate overprinting plates - they are just products of a period during the overprinting when a piece of material was lodged in one of the Cs of OCCUPATION. Likewise for most of the other varieties. The only exceptions perhaps are the extended T in column 2 and the elongated full stop in column 4 of L1: these appear to be permanent features of the clichés, found on all stamps overprinted by L1 (which is now a 1 x 5 'block' rather than a 10 x 5 'plate'), rather than a foreign body present during a part of the printing only.

It only remains to explain how these blocks were made up. S - the short overprint - clearly originated from a separate master pattern. All the others could have come from the same master pattern, though I suspect that for L1 at any rate, different clichés were used to make up the block than those used for the L7 blocks. The extended T etc may have been corrected by hand to create the L7 blocks, but the fact that L1 was applied to several different values, both of the 1916 and 1922 issues, makes this unlikely since it means that L1 was in use over a prolonged period.

The different settings of L7 may represent different blocks of five clichés, or may be the same five clichés held in a frame which was loosened and tightened between printings like L5 and L6, thereby creating changes in the horizontal spacing. I do not know what the answer is. Except for the 15c and 25c the same variety is never found in two different settings, which suggest that generally new blocks of five were made for each batch of overprinting, but that the block for the 25c was made by taking the block for the 15c and replacing the left hand cliché.

Summary and conclusion

For convenience I have retained the nomenclature of the 1976 article, although it is now no longer particularly logical.

Four main types of EAA overprint were applied: L5/6, S, L1 and L7. L5 and 6 were applied in overprinting plates of 50 clichés while the others were applied row by row in blocks of 5 clichés only. L5/6 and L7 both show different 'settings', perhaps due to loosening and re-tightening between printings, for different values of the overprinted stamps; in the case of L5, some values show up to three different settings each. L6 was made up partly (though not wholly) from the clichés which composed L5.

On individual stamps S can easily be distinguished from the others. L5 and 6 can be distinguished from L1 and 7 by the clearer impression and outline of the letters, particularly noticeable in the S of EST. L1 can be distinguished from L7 by the elongated T in column 2 and full stop in column 4. Other columns cannot always be distinguished, although for at least part of the printing of L1 there were identifiable varieties in columns 1 and 5 (see page 7), and

several values of L7 also show such varieties (see page 8).

The table in the appendix shows the known combinations of overprinting plates, values, perforations etc. If any member of the study circle can add to this list I would be glad to hear from them. I would be also glad to hear of any settings of overprinting plates (L5,6) or blocks (S,L1,L7) over and above those listed above. These are fascinating stamps, and they deserve more attention from specialists of the Congo than they have hitherto received.

B P Hudson

THE EAA OVERPRINTS OF 1916 AND 1922

Appendix

X = perf 14 only
 XX = perf 14 and 15
 S = scarce
 R = rare

<u>Value</u>	<u>Plates</u>	<u>Surcharge</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>L1</u>	<u>L5</u>	<u>L6</u>	<u>L7</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
<u>5c</u>	V2+E		X				XX	
	V3+E				XX		X	
	V3+F					XS		
<u>10/5c</u>	V2+E							R
	V3+E				XX			
	V3+F					XX		
<u>10c</u>	V2+D2		R		XX		XS	
<u>30/10c</u>	V2+D2				XS		S	
<u>15c</u>	III5+C1		X	X			XX	
	IV1+C1				XX		S	
<u>25c</u>	III1+B		S	X			XS	
	III+C				XS		R	
<u>50/25c</u>	III1+B Red			S				
	" Carmine			X			X	
	III+C Red				X			
	" Carmine				XS		S	
<u>40c</u>	II+A3				X		XX	
<u>25/40c</u>	II+A3 Red				X		X	
	" Carmine				XS		X	
<u>50c</u>	III3+B (lilac-brown)		X	X			X	
	" (red-brown)				X		X	
<u>5/50c</u>	III3+B Shiny				X			
	" Matt				X			
<u>1fr</u>	II2+A5		R				X	
	II3+A5				X		S	
<u>5fr</u>	II1+A2		XS	XX	XX		X	
	II2+A3				S			

Notes

Sa (short overprint with OCOU in 4th column) is found on 5c EAA V2+E perf 14 (scarce).

L2,3,4 (OCOU in 1st or 2nd columns) are found on 1fr II2+A5 perf 14 (scarce).

L5A (badly damaged L on position 39) is found on 15c IV1+C1, 25c III+C, 50/25c III+C and 5/50c III3+B shiny surcharge, all perf 14.

25c III+C is found both as III1+C (no TRs) and III2+C (frame TRs added). Most identifiable stamps from 1916 and 1922 are III1+C; I have III2+C only with 1916 L5 perf 14.

5fr II1+A2 L7 may well exist perf 15. I have several perf 15 copies which are indistinguishable between L1 and L7.

OBSOLETE CANCELLERS

Mr. Georges Celis has had the opportunity to inspect a number of obsolete and withdrawn circular date stamps and other postal markings and has sent details of 36 of the cancellers. They are of varying manufacture and with some variation in the detail of the band-type date line

Cancellers Marked With Trademark DN Inside a Large Letter G

- a) With month roller band from 1 to 12 and with available first figures of the year 4, 5 and 6 (could have been employed from 1940 to 1969 with the normal Dmyt date line). Cancellers: ANKORO 8A2, BOKOTE 8A1, LEOPOLDVILLE 1 10(H), LUEBO 8A4, LUPUTA 10(A), MITWABA 8A1, MOERBEKE 8A2, PONTTHIERVILLE 8A2, STANLEYVILLE 1 10(-F) and YANGAMBI 8A1.
- b) With month roller band from 1 to 12 and with available first figures of the year 5, 6 and 7 (could have been employed from 1950 to 1979). Cancellers: ALBERTVILLE 12B(G)1, BANANA 11(B)1, BANNINGVILLE 12B(B)1, BOKOTE 11(B)1, BOMA 11(F)1, ELISABETHVILLE 4 12B(B)1, GOMA 1 11(D)1, JADOTVILLE 12(H)1, KIKWIT 10(-B.), LULUABOURG 1 12B(E)1 and POKO 11(A)1
- c) With separate roller band for each figure of the month (two bands) and only one band for the year, 45 to 54 inclusive.
Canceller GOMBARI 8A1.

Cancellers Marked "Van Dommele, COURTRAI"

- a) With month roller band from 1 to 12 and with available first figures of the year 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
Cancellers: KINDA 10(-A) and LULUABOURG 4 similar to 11(A) but with the word SENAT under the posthorn (last canceller never used).
- b) With month roller band from 1 to 12 and with available first figures of the year 6, 7, 8 and 9.
Canceller ISIRO 1 (8), post-Independence.
- c) With month roller band from 1 to 12 and with available first figures of the year 7, 8 and 9.
Cancellers: KABINDA 11(B)2 and LULUABOURG 1 11(M), both post-Independence.

Canceller Marked "Made in England" and "112334"

THYSVILLE TELEGR, circular type and seen used cancelling stamps; probably used for postal purposes at times. The canceller has one month roller band from 1 to 12 and two bands for the year, each from 0 to 9.

Cancellers Without Any Maker's Marking

ANGO 8A1 has the month on two bands and the available first figures of the year 3, 4 and 5.

NIANGARA 8A3 has the month on two bands and the year on a single band, 40 to 49 inclusive.

JADOTVILLE 13B(T.T.), believed to be a telegraphic cancel, has two bands for the month and two bands for the year, each band 0 to 9.

THYSVILLE
THYSS TAD a bilingual 'griffe' with overall length of the lettering of the type used on registration labels.

R. H. KEACH

KATANGA ESSAYS

In 1961 De La Rue & Co. took over the stamp business of Waterlow & Sons. Included were essays for never issued Katanga stamps.

This year De La Rue sold its stock of less significant Waterlow essays and proofs to Stanley Gibbons. I wrote to De La Rue for more information about the Katanga essays, but no files for these exist and what De La Rue called the "Waterlow Old-Timers" are now gone.

Why these essays were originally created may remain a mystery, unless a BCSC member has a suggestion for other sources of information.

The matting for these essays has the inscription "COPYRIGHT OF THIS DESIGN IS THE PROPERTY OF ARMAND DRURY & CO. LTD & WATERLOW & SONS LIMITED". The essays' outside measurements are 1 1/16" by 1 7/16". Each consists of a tinted photograph with highlights, details, etc. painted on. The denomination is specified as "Katangan Francs" which might be considered unusual since other countries have no stamps reading "British Pounds", "Belgian Francs", "American Dollars", etc.

In the listing below, the writer has assigned colors using the Michel color guide. Since color preception is an individual matter, others may disagree on the assignments.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
10c	brown-lilac	Manganese Kisenge
20c	cornflower-blue	Concentrateur Kolwezi
1 F	dark carmine-brown	Kamoto Mine
1,50 F	black-gray & indigo	Usines de Lulu
2 F	blackish brown	Usines de Lubumbashi
3,50 F	orange-brown	Mines de Manano
5 F	dark carmine	Lubudi
6 F	orange-red	Mine de Musoni
6,50 F	blackish blue-green	Mines de Luena
8 F	dull gray & olive-green	Mines de Shituru
10 F	blackish blue	Galerie Mine Shinkolobwe

Again, the writer invites suggestions on possible sources of further information.

JOE BABICKI

A BOGUS EST AFRICAIN ... OVERPRINT

M. Cooremans has sent for inspection a 1915 5c stamp overprinted with EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAN OCCUPATION BELGE in italic letters and in French only. The basic stamp is from the third printings of the booklets, issued long after the 1916 EST AFRICAIN stamps were issued, and the stamp cannot therefore be an essay. Although interesting, the overprint must be purely bogus.

R. H. KEACH



THE 1921 SURCHARGES

In 'Congo: Cinquante Ans D'Histoire Postale', page 261, General du Four said the following about the 1921 surcharges:

"The overprinting plates were made up, at least for the centimes values, of bloc-reports of five elements reproduced ten times to make the plate. This is evident from detailed examination of the surcharges, and in particular of the relative lengths and the end-points of the groups of bars."

Ability to identify the 'bloc-reports' of the surcharges is of great help in plating single copies of the stamps, since it immediately reduces from 50 to 10 the number of positions in the sheet from which the stamp might come. This article will describe, as far as is possible, the features of the surcharges that enable the five positions in each bloc-report to be identified.

For the horizontal stamps the bloc-reports of five clichés were placed vertically in two rows of five to make the surcharging plate. For the vertical stamps they were placed horizontally in five rows of two. Thus if the five clichés in each bloc-report are labelled respectively type A, type B, type C, type D and type E, the plates looked as follows:







<u>Horizontal stamps</u>	A A A A A B B B B B C C C C C D D D D D E E E E E A A A A A B B B B B C C C C C D D D D D E E E E E	<u>Vertical stamps</u>	A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E A B C D E
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5/40c, 10/5c, 15/50c

These three surcharges include two groups of four horizontal bars obliterating the old values. An examination of the bars show that they all came originally from the same group of five master clichés, since for each value the bloc-report varieties are the same. In other words, the master clichés for the 10/5c surcharge plate were made by taking the 5/40c master clichés (assuming they were constructed first) and substituting '10c' over each group of bars for '5c' between them; and to make the 15/50c bloc-reports, each '10c' was replaced by '25c' with two bars beneath. Whoever prepared the surcharge plates had a fine sense of economy.


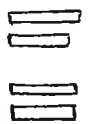
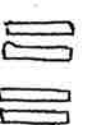
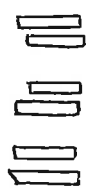
The characteristics of the two groups of four bars in each position of the bloc-report are as follows:

Types A & B All bars are even, accurately aligned and square-ended. These two types are indistinguishable.

		<u>left</u>	<u>right</u>
<u>Type C</u>	Left bars: 2nd and 4th longer on left than 1st and 3rd. All bars angled on right; 3rd also angled on left. Right bars: 1st shorter on left, none angled.		
<u>Type D</u>	Left bars: 2nd much shorter on left. Right bars: 2nd longer on left with downward bulge at left end.		
<u>Type E</u>	Left bars: all have upward bulge at right end, particularly the 3rd. Right bars: 2nd and 3rd angled on left; 1st and 2nd shorter on left than 3rd and 4th.		

25/15c

In this surcharging plate all five types are particularly easy to distinguish, which is just as well for the platers because the underlying stamps - which can come from any of nine different plate combinations - can be hard to position. The surcharge includes four pairs of horizontal bars, two on the left and two on the right, which I shall refer to as the NW, NE, SW and SE bars.

<u>Type A</u>	SW bars staggered: the lower is to the left of the upper. Other bars even.	<u>A</u>		SW
<u>Type B</u>	NE bars: upper bar is longer at right than lower. SE bars: lower bar is thicker throughout its length than upper.	<u>B</u>		NE SE
<u>Type C</u>	NE bars: lower bar has upward pointing bulge at left end. SW and SE bars: upper bar longer at right than lower.	<u>C</u>		NE SW, S
<u>Type D</u>	All bars regular and evenly aligned.			
<u>Type E</u>	NW bars: lower bar shorter at left, and a little longer at right, than upper. NE bars: upper bar much shorter at left. SE bars: lower bar just longer at right and angled at left.	<u>E</u>		NW NE SE

30/10c

Types A, B, C and D are indistinguishable. In type E the gap between the first two vertical bars on the right is narrower at the top than at the bottom.

50/25c

In type A the last vertical bar on the right is a little shorter at the bottom than the others. Types B, C, D and E are indistinguishable. It appears that unlike the three lower values, the vertical bars in the 30/10c surcharging plate were not 're-used' to make the 50/25c plate.

The surcharging plates also show varieties on individual positions due to accidental damage or wear in the course of printing:

- 5/40c 10. Top of c broken. c
25. Top of c broken. c
- 10/5c 38. Right O broken within at bottom. O
42. Left c damaged at upper left. c
- 15/50c 10. Bottom of right c missing. c
12. Break in lower horizontal line under right 15. ==
31. Upper left bars joined on left. ==
41. Missing dot under left c.
45. Right part of right c missing. c
47. Missing dot under left c.
48. Missing dot under left c.
50. Right part of right c missing (like 45; the same fault is found, less noticeably, on 35 and 40).
- 25/15c 6. Red spot in middle, half way between 25's.
12. Missing dot under left c.
33. Nick in top of bottom right horizontal bar. ==
- 30/10c 19. Missing dot under right c.
23. Middle vertical bar on right shortened at bottom.
28. Left c thickened or filled in (not unique).
31. Break in leftmost vertical bar near bottom. U
36. Missing dot under right c.
37. Missing dot under right c.
39. Missing dot under right c.
50. Nick in bottom left of leftmost bar. U
- 50/25c 3. Nick in top right of leftmost bar. P
10. Missing dot under right c.
13. Shallow nick in bottom left of middle bar on right. U
27. Missing dot under left c.
28. Missing dot under right c.
30. Missing dot under left c.
35. Missing dot under left c.
40. Missing dot under right c; left bar in right group noticeably short at bottom.
42. Nick out of bottom left of right 5. 5

Many of these varieties are not present in the early printings

of the surcharge. The order in which the dots went missing was as follows:

15/50c: 41 left; 48 left; 47 left.

30/10c: 36 right; 39 right; 19 and 37 right.

50/25c: 27 left and 28 right; 30 left; 35 left, 10 right and 40 right.

Franc values

It is likely that the '1921' surcharging plates for the 1fr, 3fr, 5fr and 10fr were similarly constructed from 10 bloc-reports of five each. Close study of the surcharges reveals one or two apparent similarities between corresponding positions of each bloc-report. For instance, rows 1 and 6 of my sheets of the 1fr and 3fr show a characteristic bulge on the left part of the 9. In general, however, differences between cliché types are too slight to be a reliable guide in positioning the surcharges.

B.P.Hudson

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

BASOKO. Territorial HQ on right bank of Aruwimi where it joins the Congo. Township. R/T station. Hospital. Trade and industrial centre (rice mill).

The Rev. Granfell who undertook several exploratory journeys during the early days of the Belgian Occupation is buried in the cemetery. Catholic missions of the Priests of the Sacred Heart and the Franciscan Sisters; dispensary; leper asylum; schools; local economy based on growing palms.

During its famous journey across Africa from 1874 to 1877, Stanley's expedition was attacked opposite Basoko by a flotilla of fifty boats and the ensuing engagement was one of the fiercest the expedition had to fight. After the attack, Stanley wrote in his diary, "The twenty eighth engagement fought against these furious fools of this savage country inspired us fear of everything resembling man...". The first reconnaissance of the Aruwimi was undertaken by Stanley in Nov 1883. At that time, the natives were fleeing from the Arab slave traders. In 1888 after a second reconnaissance of the Aruwimi by Dhanis, the station of Basoko was founded by Roget. Its purpose was to safeguard navigation on the Congo and to defend the region against the armed bands of Tippu Tip. Captain Roget succeeded in driving the Arabs out of the country around the Aruwimi. During the years 1891 and 92, Chaltin operating from Basoko, managed to prevent the Arabs from crossing the Aruwimi. It was from Basoko, too, that Chaltin set out on the 8th March 1893 for the Lomami with a column of 250 to destroy the Arab camps at Tshari and Riba Riba. He also started from there to relieve the Stanley Falls station which was commanded by Tobback and besieged by the Arabs of Rachid. Once the Arab campaign was over, the station of Basoko lost much of its importance. Seen from the river it still looks like the fortress it was in the days of the Congo Free State.

BASONGO. Situated on the left bank of the Kasai, 4 miles downstream from the confluence of the Sankuru. Government settlement. Basongo was a very old post and was Territorial HQ until 1950 (now moved to Port Francoqui). Since the construction of Port Francoqui, and Brabanta, Basongo has lost importance. Trading centre. Dispensary.

BAUDOINVILLE. Terr. Hq. Radiotelegraph station. Catholic mission of the White Fathers and the White Sisters of Our Lady of Africa. Residence of the Vicar Apostolic of the Tanganyika District. Large seminary; hospital; schools; orphanage; Noviciate of the Native Sisters of our Lady of Africa.

This is one of oldest Mission stations in the Congo. The White Fathers reached Lake Tanganyika with the first anti-slavery expeditions which founded the posts of Karema and M'pala. The Baudouinville mission was defended against the Arabs by Capt. Joubert, previously a Papal Zouave, whom Storms appointed Commander of the post of M'pala, which had been founded in 1882 and where a monument has been erected in memory of Captain Joubert.

BENGAMISA. Trading and industrial centre (cotton ginnery and oil mill) Rest house. Catholic mission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart; primary school; dispensary. At this place there are carvers of Bengamisa chairs and Koran supports.

BENI. Altitude 3848 feet. European pop. 136; Native 2500; Terr. HQ. RTF; Hospitals. Trading centre; 3 garages; 2 transport contractors. Travel agency shun. Several hotels. At Saint Gustave, near Beni, at the turn off to the road to the Ruwenzori, the Catholic Mission of the Assumption Fathers and the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption; residence of the Vicar Apostolic, schools, hospitals and leper asylum. Just north of Beni on the road to Irumu, the native chief will arrange Pygmy dances. These dwarfs obviously expect to be rewarded and so does the Chief. Travellers can make an excursion to the Ruwenzori, and continue to the Ishango camp in the Albert National Park. Access to this section is subject to a permit available from the Asst. Conservator at Mutsora, or at the barrier, where a guide is available.

BIKORO. On Eastern shore of Lake Tumba. Terr. Hq. Catholic mission; and a few miles south at Tedo, is the Protestant Mission of the Baptist Missionary Society. Every 28 days there is an Otraco service to Lake Tumba.

BILI. Is on the left bank of a stream of that name which flows into the Bomu, and is a trading and industrial centre linked with Titule by a fortnightly service of the Cicicongo. At Bili are both missions of Crozier Fathers and Ursuline Sisters (schools) and a Norwegian Baptist mission. Before being occupied by the Belgians, Bili was the residence of the Azande chief of that name. He was at war for a long time with the Congo Free State, and caused Bouvalet and Devos, representatives of the State, to be murdered. He did not surrender until after his defeat by Chaltin on 17th March 1896.

BILILI. On the left bank of the Kwili River.

BINGA. Is on the southern bank of the Mongala, and is a stopping place of the Coquilhatville-Businga service on the Mongala River. Seat of the Management of the Societe des Cultures au Congo Belge, which is engaged in growing palms, coffee, rubber and cocoa. There an oil mill, a coffee and a rubber factory, a saw mill and a stock farm. Hospital for natives; Catholic Mission of the Fathers of Scheut, and the Lady Canons of St. Augustine.

BISHUSA. Near Bunia. A station occupied by an agricultural and forest officer; bacteriological laboratory; rest house; starting point for excursions, notably to Mount Korovi. Nearby are the magnificent falls of the Au.

BOENDE. Is approached by a motor ferry across the Tshuapa River. It takes two cars and the crossing takes 15 minutes by day and 30 minutes by night. District and Terr. HQ. RTF station; hospital; maternity home and Rest House. Trading centre for the Societe pour la Production des Produits Coloniaux. Cegeac garage. River port on the Tshuapa. There is a fortnightly Otraco service between Boende and Coquilhatville. The aerodrome is a stage on the Leopoldville-Coquilhatville-Stanleyville and also the Leopoldville-Coquilhatville-Basunkusu-Boende air services. Hotel Gomal. Catholic Mission of the Sacred Heart and of Our Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.. Primary and trade schools for boys; primary school for girls; school for female nursing assistants.

BOGORO. Trading centre and rest resort. Rest House. Hotel Lagora. Protestant mission of the African Inland Mission; dispensary. It is on the top of a rise sloping down to Lake Albert over a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with very fine views. Part of the road down the slope is One Way and is controlled by telephone. Kavali, from which Stanley first sighted the Ruwenzori, is near Bogoro.

THE 1917 BOOKLETS

The Abbe Gudenkauf has found in old issues of BULLETIN ADMINISTRATIF ED COMMERCIAL DU CONGO BELGE reference to the booklets. Translations are given below.

Bulletin of 25 June, 1915, page 609

NOTICE TO TRADERS

The postal administration of the Colony will issue shortly books of postage stamps of 2 distinct types.

The first includes:

50 stamps at 5 cm
30 " " 10 cm
30 " " 15 cm
20 " " 25 cm

The second:

40 stamps at 5 cm
30 " " 10 cm
50 " " 15 cm
50 " " 25 cm

These booklets will be sold at prices representing the nominal values of the stamps included, 15 F and 25 F respectively.

The back of the cover and a certain number of internal pages will be reserved for advertisements; these will be charged at 100 F for a full page and 50 F for a half page.

4000 booklets of the first type and 2000 of the second will be ordered

Quick sale of the booklets of stamps appears assured; they will be made up in such a way that handling of them should be easy and the stamps contained protected from damage.

The dimensions of the pages will be about 12 centimetres high; advertisements can therefore include quite detailed text.

The value of such publicity will not escape the merchants; the booklet of postal values will be in the hands of most residents of the Colony and particularly those who are required to reside in stations in the interior far removed from all post offices; the advertisements will be constantly in front of them and will constitute a permanent advertisement for the businesses interested.

Advertisements will be accepted in all the post offices of the Colony until and including 15 September; the order for the booklets will be placed as soon as the post offices have sent to Boma the advertisements received up to the stated date.

Boma, le 16 juin 1915
Le Vice Gouverneur Gal E. HENRY

Bulletin of 25 February, 1917, page 156

NOTICE

I have the honour to bring to the notice of the public that there are put on sale, in all post offices of the Colony, booklets of postage stamps containing:

The first:	The second:
50 stamps at 5 cm	40 stamps at 5 cm
30 " " 10 cm	30 " " 10 cm
30 " " 15 cm	50 " " 15 cm
20 " " 25 cm	50 " " 25 cm

The booklets are made for very easy handling and the sheets of stamps contained are separated one from another by oiled paper guaranteeing their good preservation.

Boma le 14 Fevrier 1917
Le Gouv. Gal : E. HENRY

THE U.S.A. DIPLOMATIC BAG

I have a small piece of what appears to be American postal history on which perhaps a member can provide information.

It is a cover, apparently from a member of the U.S. Embassy in Leopoldville (the sender's name and address: W. Chang, Leopoldville, FSS, Department of State, Washington 25, DC), bearing two 1,50fr Flower stamps (3fr the then Congo internal postal rate) cancelled WASHINGTON 7 July, 1960 and addressed to Chicago. No postage due was paid.

There is a pencilled note on the cover, presumably added by an earlier owner, 'Stamped in country of origin as required, sent in diplomatic bag and posted on'.

It would appear that the American Post Office accepted from the Department of State in Washington mail bearing foreign stamps to the value of the local postal rate for delivery inside the U.S.A.

I have spoken about this to an eminent philatelist, generally very knowledgeable of postal history, but he has not heard of such an arrangement and it would appear that such treatment of mail was unique to the U.S.A.

Can an American member help?

R. H. KEACH

ADDENDUM CONCERNING THE ARMS PERMITS WITH THE 10 F MOLS (See Bulletin No. 30)

From the beginning of February 1909, when the stamps with typographed overprint CONGO BELGE arrived in the Colony until the end of April of the same year, when stamps ceased to have been used for this purpose, some permits received two copies of the 10 F Mols with Typo overprint (perforated 12).

We know of one, with the date March 13th and the little administrative cancel with a flag "District de Matadi". It is a type A permit. There is also an administrative handstamp "CONGO BELGE", also known on postal stationery cards, struck here on the words "Etat Independant du Congo." The stamps received, much later, a genuine Dima cancellation of January 30th 1912.

A fortiori we must expect permits with the local overprint CONGO BELGE, available from the first days of January 1909.

Another permit, type B, appeared on the market with date: February 5th 1905, concerning three guns for the steamer "Henry Reed" of the Mission A.B.M.U.

ABBE G. GUNDENKAUF

THE RIVER T.P.O.'S OF THE CONGO - Addendum to General Du Four's book, page 412.

We are told by the magazine "Le Mouvement Geographique" that, at the end of March 1896, a public service of mail transport was organised on the Congo rivers.

On March 31, 1897, the same source underlines the fact that traveling post offices are now present on the steamers plying on the Congo and its main tributaries. These 20 steamers are listed on page 414.

From the large collection of the Baron de Moffarts, we learn many things about the BUREAU-POSTE cancellations and first their different angular measurements, taking the first angle from the vertical part of the B to the vertical of the E of POSTE, the second to the left vertical stroke of the N of No. Only clearly legible and measurable cancels were considered; between them there is complete consistency. (2) : number of copies examined

No. 1	195 - 303	(2)	No. 8	187 - 306	(4)	No. 15	190 - 312	(1)
No. 2	186 - 305	(6)	No. 9		(0)	No. 16	- 317	(1)
No. 3	192 - 307	(2)	No. 10	196 - 316	(1)	No. 17	187 - 308	(1)
No. 4	194 - 307	(7)	No. 11	183 - 305	(11)	No. 18	186 - 299	(1)
No. 5	192 - 303	(5)	No. 12		(0)	No. 19	192 - 306	(1)
No. 6	192 - 308	(1)	No. 13	200 - 316	(7)	No. 20	191 - 310	(1)
No. 7	190 - 304	(1)	No. 14	190 - 312	(5)			

Genuine covers with such cancels seem extremely rare; the Baron has No. 8 (used on the FLORIDA in October 1898), No. 4 (not legible but very probable) in 1900, No. 11 (certain) but illegible due to chemical cleaning, also in 1900. Some forgeries made with covers which really travelled may delude us.

The type a (with the year immediately under the day) is found on Nos. 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12.

The type b (with hours M and S instead of the year) on Nos. 1, 4, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20.

No. 7 and No. 17 are dubious, because the shape of the 7 is quite different from the usual style of this cipher in the other cancelling devices then in use in the Congo.

Cancellations with the year (type a) have dates between 29 December 1896 and the end of 1898.

Some cancellations of type b are found on stamps in use after 31 December 1900: especially Nos. 4, 10, 11, 13, 14.

The whole system of these T.P.O. cancels disappeared early this century; it seems before 1904. Many cards are known written aboard the steamer plying then on the Congo rivers, but always without the BATEAU-POSTE cancellations. The handstamps depicted on page 415 and the manuscript

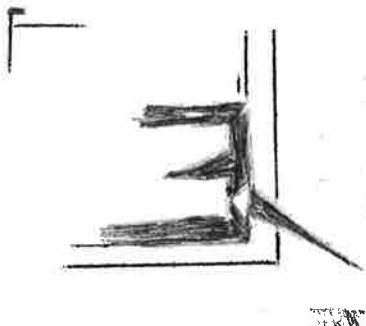
cancel such as "Archiduchesse Stephanie" with a date do appear. (But are they genuine?)

For those interested in the wreck of the "VILLE DE BRUGES" in April 1908, we must deplore that there is a forgery of the violet mark applied to the salvaged covers

"Courrier retire du vapeur
Ville de Bruges naufrage
Louis Brion."

ABBE G. GUNDENKAUF

1915 25 CENTIMES, FRAME PLATE IIII, CENTRE PLATE B, POSITION 32



As well as the vertical doubling of the top left corner of the frame shown on page 162 of General Du Four's 'Cinquante Ans d'Histoire Postale' there is another constant variety which occurs on this position, apparently during an early printing with the first centre plate.

A small triangular white patch is formed to the right of the top of the second leg of the second N of CENTIEMEN and, in addition, a wedge of colour to the right of this, two millimetres long, in the margin, and going in a direction just South of East.

I have this variety on the 1915 stamp, the Malines 50c surcharge of 1922 and the Malines surcharge on the EST AFRICAIN overprinted stamp. It will be interesting to learn what other examples can be found.

A. G. WOOD

(Note by RHK: I have no less than 54 copies of position 32 of the 25c Frame Plate III, 17 of which are in combination with Centre Plate B. Not one copy has the variety described above).

ESSAYS OF THE 1928 RUANDA URUNDI PICTURE POST CARDS?

The writer has acquired copies of the 1928 Ruanda Urundi 45c picture card, on white glazed paper instead of the normal buff, with overprints quite different from those on the issued cards. One has RUANDA-URUNDI diagonally in red 4mm sans-serif letters; the other has RUANDA-URUNDI horizontally in two lines in black 4mm sans-serif letters. They may be essays - or the overprints may be completely bogus!

Information on the existence of similar cards will be welcomed.

R. H. KEACH

ADDENDA CONCERNING THE PRINCES ISSUE. (See Bulletin No. 25)

It seems that three complete sets of Princes sheets with Brussels overprint were sold in Brussels during the year 1977; I saw two of them and had the opportunity of studying them. One of the sets sold for 325.00 F.

It appears that Brussels overprint type 5 is not so rare on the 10c and surely not exceptional on the 1 F. Of the 25c and 40c the overprints B2 and B5 appear on the same sheet; one overprint is inverted on the 15c and eight on the 40c sheet.

The varieties peculiar to the printing, were checked on the sheets, and the following information was ascertained:

- 10c: please add a variety for No. 35 in the sheet: a red oblique scratch in the bottom margin, under the A of INDEPENDANT.
- 15c: please add for No. 24: an oblique black scratch in the centre, normally 3 mm above the S of centimes.
please add for No. 27: two horizontal black scratches in IME of centimes.
please delete variety no No. 25.
- 40c: the varieties described for No. 2 and No. 3 are not constant.
- 50c: the variety described for No. 34 is not constant.
- 1 F: the varieties described for No. 6 and for No. 24 are not constant. Please add a neat black dot in the right margin of No. 49, at the height of the C of FRANCS.
- 3,50F: the scratch mentioned in No. 17 is not typical of the Princes issue. Please delete the varieties on No. 31 and No. 41.
- 10 F: the curved black scratch above in the right top corner of No. 49 continues into the left top corner of No. 50.

It seems that a complete set of the Princes with typo overprint mint is much rarer than the same with Brussels overprint; I dare even say that a used complete set of the Princes with typo overprint is rarer than a mint set with Brussels overprint.

Cancellations: please add to the cancellations found on Princes typo stamps in postal offices opened after April 1909: KABINDA - KAPAKUMBA (both in Katanga) - KUESI (exchange office with Uganda) - MUSHIE.

The Albertville cancellation found on Princes stamps is not the same as that used earlier in 1896-97: it is another one of the 19th century with the 8 converted in 9: Mr. R. H. Keach calls it 1.2. The other one, called 1.3, is also found on Princes stamps.

Varieties of typo overprints, unique to Princes are Nos. 1, 15, 17 and 49 (horizontal format).

We have strong reason to believe that the 1 F Princes typo with 1921

overprint, that rare bird, must have existed in two sheets, not one. We saw two copies of No. 43 in the sheet.

THE PRINCES POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS.

They have been especially studied with great care by Mr. Roland Ingels, who made the fascinating discovery that all the Princes cards received the same typo overprint CONGO BELGE, with the upper part of the C of CONGO rigidly horizontal and a slight indentation in the upper vertical stroke of the first E of BELGE.

This, added to the red-orange color, makes it easy to recognise cards 21P and 29P (Davo catalogue). Please note that the large speck in the right upper corner is not always present on Princes cards and may be found on ordinary ones.

For cards 23P and 31P, the deep blue color of the outward card is clear. Following Mr. Ingels, we may add the large blue dot in the top left corner and the cut in the outer right frame at the height of the 15 in the stamp.

To distinguish the reply cards, where the color is the same as that of the ordinary cards, I found that the triple horizontal brown line underlining DEPENDANT ended under the T in the ordinary cards and under the last N in the Princes; the extremity of that ornament got loose and disappeared.

Cards 24P and 32P present no problem with their deep carmine-red shade. Following Mr. Ingels, please add the two red dots in the white space between the vertical lines of the right frame, higher than the 10 on the stamp, the distance between the dots measuring exactly 5 mm.

There are different shades of chocolate-brown, more or less reddish, for the outward part of the cards 25P and 35P. I agree with Mr. Ingels that the capital C in the word Cote (bottom left) suffers from a deep cut; as he acknowledges, this variety, although rare, is found on ordinary cards; it is always there on Princes cards.

In my opinion, the green shade is deeper on the Princes reply cards than on the ordinary ones; but when in doubt, follow Mr. Ingels and see how the foliage is complete on Princes cards in the top left corner, while it is always incomplete on ordinary cards.

ABBE G. GUNDENKAUF

PROVISIONAL ISSUES OF THE INDEPENDENCE

Word has been received from Mr. Georges Celis that he has prepared about 100 copies of a stenciled study on all the provisional issues of the independence of our ex-colonies.

This study covers the following subjects:

- Congo provisional issues (1960)
- provisional issues (1965)
- Rwanda provisional issues (1962-64)
- Burundi provisional issues (1962-63)
- Katangan issues (Tshombe's regime) 1960-63.
- North-Katanga issues (Albertville, 1961-62)

South Kasai issues (1961)
 Stanleyville issues (1964)
 Lisala issue (1960)
 Post-independence postage-due stamps
 U.N.O. stamps in Congo
 Stationery of those countries
 A list of the Congolese post-offices
 Rwandan post-offices
 Burundi post-offices
 Railway stamps of Congo and Belgian Congo
 by Omer Cooremans

Complete explanations are given for all the secessions' issues, and lists or overprints errors are given.

The study has approximately 75 pages (their size is the same as the Bulletin), and they are written without interlinear spaces. Price: 2 dollars a copy. (Free dedication on request!!!)

This the a first printing, with the hope it will suggest some possible addenda to interested persons for a further printing.

THE TEXT IS IN FRENCH. I hope to do an English translation in the near future.

GEORGES CELIS

WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE

On 20th June 1981, a group of members of a number of One-Country Study Circles met in London and decided to form a specialised multi-country Study Circle, which may well be one of the first of its kind.

The Waterlow Study Circle has been formed to investigate specialised subjects relating to the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd and Waterlow Bros & Layton for all countries.

The idea of such a Study Circle was the brainchild of Ray Keach, of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, and at the inaugural meeting, he was elected Chairman. Colin Hoffman, of the Rhodesian Study Circle, who had also been involved in setting up the Waterlow Study Circle, was elected Secretary.

Membership of the Waterlow Study Circle will be open to Study Circles or individuals interested in Waterlows; Study Circles who have joined include the Belgian Study Circle, the Belgian Congo Study Circle, Rhodesian Study Circle, and Sarawak Specialists Society, and it is hoped that all Study Circles whose countries include stamps printed by Waterlows will join. In addition to affiliation membership by Study Circles the 15 enthusiasts present on Saturday all joined, representing the four Study Circles already mentioned and the Portugal Philatelic Society, New Zealand Philatelic Society, India Philatelic Society, China Philatelic Society, the Cinderella Philatelic Society and the American Revenue Association. It is expected that many members of the different Study Circles will also join as individual members.

The WSC has decided that an initial project will be to circulate questions to which its members seek answers from the WSC. A paper outlining this project, specifying the categories in which questions are

thought likely to arise, and setting out some sample questions, was circulated at the meeting and the information received as a result of this will be used to plan the programme of study and investigation for the WSC.

Many of those interested in the WSC live overseas - as a result the WSC will be essentially a "correspondence" society. Apart from circulating questions and answers, it will also circulate papers prepared by its members and even its meetings of which three are planned for the first year, are weighted towards this concept; all displays must be accompanied by explanatory papers for circulation to members.

It is intended that all affiliated Study Circles will have free access to any material on Waterlows published or distributed by the WSC, so that any Study Circle which includes Waterlow stamps should have a valuable source of material for its journal. It is also considered that, in this way, the WSC will be able to reach a very wide range of people interested in Waterlows, who may not otherwise have wished to join the WSC.

On 20th June, Colin Hoffman presented the first display and paper to the WSC on the Printer's Marks found on Rhodesian Stamps printed by Waterlows. Examples of these marks were shown and the paper, which was circulated, illustrated these marks and summarised the questions which had arisen in the Rhodesian Study Circle in relation to the function and purpose of these marks.

The next meeting of the WSC will be on Saturday 31st October 1981, when representatives of the other Study Circles will present displays and papers on the printers marks found on the Waterlow stamps of their "countries". It is hoped that this will lead to an in-depth investigation by all Study Circles interested in Waterlows into the question of these printers marks and that a consensus of opinion may result as to the purpose and function of these marks, a question which it does not seem possible, at present, to answer in the absence of any authoritative information from the printers themselves on this point.

An initial joining fee of 2 pounds (plus an A4 sae) will bring you the notes on the Waterlow Questions; annual subscriptions will be fixed at the next meeting and advised to members who can then decide if they no longer wish to continue their membership. Please write to Colin Hoffman at 9 Oaker Avenue, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8XH.

COLIN HOFFMAN