

# BELGIAN CONGO



# STUDY CIRCLE

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NEWS AND VIEWS

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 May at Anvers, New Road, Esher, the home of our President, Mr. L. G. Green. The meeting will commence at 11:30 a.m., so that business can be complete before lunch. In the afternoon, there will be a talk and display on the 40 centimes value of the Mols series.

Members are reminded of Mr. Keach's afternoon display to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, 27 May.

The joint week-end meeting with the Belgian Study Circle will be on 18 - 19 September at the University of Southampton and members wishing to attend should note the dates in their diaries. Further information, including prices, should be available shortly.

MEMBERSHIP

Change of Address: E. A. Hirdler, 2206 Cypress Bend Drive South,  
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Ralph E. Jacquemin, 4132 E. Minnezona, Phoenix,  
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Both of the members listed above have hit "retirement row", Ed moving to a new climate and Editor Jacquemin moving his office to his home. This should give new freedom to spend more time on our hobbies - not in pursuit of "errands", because others think we have nothing to do!

New Members: Mr. W. H. Waite, 1 Throston Close, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS26 0UH, U. K.

Mr. J. Fosbery, 52 St. Leonards Road, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1JX, U. K. (Mr. Fosbery's name may be known to several members as a leading light in the philately of the Spanish Main, but he tells us he is a complete beginner as far as the Congo is concerned, although his considerable philatelic knowledge should prove to be of great value to the Study Circle.)

Mr. Edwin M. Lavitt, P. O. Box 600, Rockville, Conn. 06066, U.S.A.

A hearty welcome with the hope you will find satisfaction to the extent enjoyed by our present membership.

Rejoined: Mr. T. Sommerfeldt, Kongensgate 33, Postboks 203 Sentrum, Oslo 1, Norway. (Mr. Sommerfeldt was a member until recently and we are most pleased to welcome him back.)

AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that two of our members, namely Gene Adams and Joe Babicki, took Vermeil Awards at FILATELIC FIESTA. Both exhibits featured stamps of Katanga. Mr. Wallace Craig, an accredited A.P.S. judge and member of the BCSC, was a member of the jury.

PUBLICATION DATE

We are pleased to announce it will be the March issue of the Collectors Club Philatelist that will feature the outstanding article of Brian P. Hudson on the Revised Listing of the Mols Plate Combinations. The illustrations will be from photos of the Mols issues from the R. E. Jacquemin collection.

WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE

As mentioned in the September 1981 Bulletin, the Waterlow Study Circle was formed through the efforts of our member Mr. R. H. Keach. Since then, there has been the publication of two issues of The Journal of the Waterlow Study Circle, both quality publications that should be of interest to our entire membership. The initial project of the Study Circle is the circulation of questions to which its members are seeking answers from the broad membership of the Study Circle. It is hoped the 'Waterlow Questions' will highlight areas for general investigation, thus enabling a programme of study to be framed which would fit in with particular interests and thus be of value to members.

THE STICKNEY MACHINE ISSUES OF THE BELGIAN CONGOTHE STANLEY COMMEMORATIVES

The great march of the "1000 days" across Africa by Henry Morton Stanley had, in fact, been undertaken between 1874 and 1877, and Stanley did not return to the Congo until 1879 when, as the agent-in-chief of King Leopold II, he led a further expedition with the object of procuring sovereignty of large tracts of the Congo basin in the name of the International Association of the Congo. Thus, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Stanley's exploration of the Congo in 1928 appears somewhat strange. However, it was towards the end of 1878 that Stanley having been rebuffed when he offered the fruits of his earlier explorations to the British Government, had a number of meetings with King Leopold and finally agreed to act on his behalf. The issue of the commemorative stamps in 1928, therefore, can possibly be regarded as more directly relevant to the forging of the link between Leopold and Stanley which led to Stanley becoming the very personification of Leopold's involvement with Central Africa.

Although nominally a commemorative issue, the stamps, which were first issued on 30 June, 1928, were not withdrawn from sale until 1 July, 1938, a ten year life for the original series and some seven years for the later provisionals. It is clear that for much of this time the Stanley stamps were heavily used as definitives, filling the gap in time between the Vloors and Paysage issues. It may well have been that, as the stamps were produced in Belgium, the Postal Administration found it preferable to make fuller use of the Stanley issue, thus avoiding the necessity of ordering further supplies of the Vloors stamps from the American Bank Note Company.

Design: In the "Catalogue Willy Grubben" of 1933, it is reported that the source of the design is a photograph of Stanley kept in the Belgian Royal Palace. The original die was engraved by the Institut de Gravure de Paris, which itself had only commenced business during 1928. Unfortunately, in common with many other security printers, the Institut did not release the names of its engravers and it is not possible to determine the individual(s) responsible for the Stanley stamps.

From the master die, which would have been without figures of value, subsidiary dies were made, one for each value, which then had the figures of value and "c" or "Fr" added, before being used by the Belgian Government Printers at Malines, where the plates were made and curved into semi-cylinders in preparation for the printing of the actual stamps by means of the Stickney Rotary Press.

Numbers Issues: As given in the 1946-47 Philatco Catalogue, the numbers issued, original and surcharged, for each value were as follows:

<u>Catalogue Officiel No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>
135	5c greenish-black	3 079 000
136	10c violet	3 131 900
137	20c vermilion	2 034 400
138	35c green	2 018 500
139	40c red-brown	2 020 700
140	60c sepia	2 015 900
141	1fr carmine	5 000 000
142	1,60 slate	1 019 200

<u>Catalogue Officiel No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>No. Issued</u>
143	1,75 blue	3 239 200
144	2fr brown	565 000
145	2,75 purple	2 023 800
146	3,50 lake	1 123 800
147	5fr deep blue-green	525 300
148	10fr ultramarine	500 300
149	20fr claret	258 000
162	40/35c opt. red 4 May, 1931*	1 563 300
163	1,25/lfr opt. blue 15 Jan. 1931	539 600
164	2fr/1,70 opt. red 4 May, 1931	620 000
165	2fr/1,75 opt. red 15 Jan. 1931	1 515 300
166	3,25/2,75 opt. black 4 May, 1931	500 000
167	3,25/3,50 opt. black 4 May, 1931	500 000

\* Gibbons gives an issue date of 25 June, 1931, but this is not supported by the main Belgian catalogues. Similarly, Scott gives an issue date of 15 January, 1931 for all the provisionals, but this is incorrect.

In a report in the Belgian philatelic press in 1928, printing numbers for the Stanley issue were also given. In most cases, these are approximately half the quantities listed by Philatco, thus providing confirmation, if any is needed, that the issue ran to at least two and, in the case of the most utilised values, probably several printings, even if there is no means of differentiating between them. Three values perhaps call for comment; the lfr, for which the original printing is given as 1 000 000, only 1/5 of the total shown by Philatco, and the 1,60fr and 2fr, where the original printing numbers, 1 500 000 and 1 000 000 respectively, are actually higher than the printings per Philatco. It is clear, therefore, that the information as to numbers issued must be taken with a considerable pinch of salt, as is also indicated by the relative catalogue prices for certain of the stamps, notably the 1,25/lfr. It is also not apparent from the Philatco listing whether the numbers given for the 1928 issue are intended to be net of, or include, the numbers of stamps surcharged. Here too, the best indication must be the relative catalogue prices, bearing in mind that certain values were used in large numbers on commercial mail, and an examination of this aspect leads to the conclusion that the figures in the top table are, in fact, gross and that the numbers of surcharged stamps should be deducted in each case.

Die Proofs: Complete series of die proofs of the 1928 series exist on white paper, one value on each sheetlet, both in black and in the adopted colours. The writer has never seen such a proof and some indication of their scarcity can be seen from the 1949 Balasse Catalogue, where a series of proofs in black is priced at 50 000 Belgian francs and a series in the issued colours at 75 000 Belgian francs. By comparison, a complete set of the Princes issue without overprint is priced at 100 000 Belgian francs in the same catalogue and consideration must be given to the much greater popularity of the Mols stamps with collectors generally.

The listed proofs all have the figures of value and the fact that they exist in the issued colours is proof that they emanated from the Maline works and not from the Institut de Gravure. No proofs from the original master die, without figures of value, have been seen, but, if the sec-

ondary dies were also produced by the Institut de Gravure, it may be that only these and not the master die were supplied to the Malines works for plate-making.

Sheet Layout: In giving the following information, it is perhaps best to detail the material available to the writer and upon which the conclusions are based. This consists of:

Complete sheets of 5c (Plate 2) and 10c (Plate 1)  
 Blocks of 8 or larger (up to 35) of all values except 1,75fr, 10fr, 20fr and 1,25/1fr.  
 Plate number blocks or pairs for all values except 60c (Plate 1) 1,75fr (Plate 2), 2,75fr (Plate 1), 3,50fr (Plate 1), 10fr (Plate 1), 20fr (Plate 1), 40/35c (Plates 1 and 2), 1,25/1fr (Plate 1), 2/1,60fr (Plates 1 and 2), 2/1,75fr (Plate 2), 3,25/2,75fr (Plates 1 and 2) and 3,25/3,50fr (Plates 1 and 2).

It will be remembered that the cylinder used in printing from the Stickney Machine consisted of 2 plates, each of which had been curved into the shape of a semi-cylinder. In the Stanley issue, these plates were numbered 1 and 2 for each value of the series and each plate contained 100 impressions in 5 horizontal rows of 20, so that a complete revolution of the cylinder printed 200 stamps - 100 from Plate 1 and 100 from Plate 2. It is probable that, immediately after printing and gumming, but before perforating, the continuous web of paper was cut, simply by means of pressure against a straight edge, into sheets of 100 stamps corresponding to a single plate. From the complete sheets available, the sketch on the following page is a reasonable facsimile of a typical sheet, showing the heights of the stamps as they would appear according to the perforation setting most frequently found. Further information on the perforation appears in a following section.

As with all the Stickney Machine printings of the Congo and Belgium, the dimensions of the sheet are approximately 44 x 27½ cm. The top and bottom of the sheet, which were the sides of the original roll of paper, are trimmed, but the sides present a rough appearance due to the method of separation of the continuous roll referred to above. The gumming roller being slightly narrower than the paper width, a space of about 1 - 1½ cm. along both the top and bottom margins remains without gum. At the ends of the sheets, depending upon the exact line of separation from the reel, can normally be seen more or less of the irregular line of ink which was trapped in the small space between the two semi-cylindrical plates; this can often be of use in determining from which plate marginal blocks come, as the two lines of colour are generally quite different from each other.

The actual dimensions of the printed area of each stamp are 19 x 33 mm. In all cases, the Plate Number, either 1 or 2, appears only once on the sheet, approximately 1 cm. beneath the margin between positions 90 and 91, thus making it necessary to collect pairs for the purpose of showing the Plate Numbers. The printer's imprint appears twice in each sheet, some ¾ cm. below the bottom row of stamps, once in French as "Atelier du timbre - Malines" under positions 83 and 84, and once in Flemish as "Zegelfabriek - Mechelen" under positions 97 and 98; in each case, the imprint is centred between the two stamps, that in French being 4.2 cm. in length and that in Flemish 3.6 cm. On both the complete sheets available for study, 2 perforation guide crosses



are inscribed, one 3.3 cm. above the top row frame line and 13.1 cm. from the left-hand edge of the sheet and the other 3.5 cm. below the bottom row frame line and 30.2 cm. from the left-hand edge of the sheet. The position of the top guide cross is further confirmed by a large block of the 20c value; however a Plate Number block of 8 of the 1fr value (Plate 2) has a perforation cross 3.5 cm. beneath the bottom frame line but towards the right of position No. 89 - i.e. some 19.3 cm. from the left-hand edge of the sheet if the assumption that the plate number appears in the same position for all values is valid. Clearly, therefore, the plate markings were not absolutely standard.

On both the complete sheets, the sheet number, which was added automatically at the time of printing, is some 0.5 cm. from the top edge of the paper and generally above the left-hand side of position No. 16, although not in precisely the same place, which leaves some question as to the limitations of the gearing mechanism connecting the numbering machine to the printing cylinder revolutions. Perhaps the numbering machine was connected further along the production line when some elasticity of the paper was possible. The numbers themselves, 015 in the case of the 5c and 089 for the 10c, are 0.5 cm. in height and are in black ink. There are no "depot" nor other marks extraneous to the printing process on any of the sheets or blocks studied.

The plate was first marked out lightly in rectangles of 22 x 36 mm. each, to allow for a 3 mm. margin between stamps both vertically and horizontally, and the intersections were punched in more deeply to hold the sidepoint of the Malines Chapman Transfer Machine. Even after burishing of the plate, these "sidepoint dots" were still quite deep enough to retain ink during the printing process and are clearly visible on the printed sheets except where they have been excised by the perforations. Often the small cross formed by the original intersecting lines can also be faintly seen, the lines radiating vertically and horizontally from the dot. A surprising fact, however, is that the positions of the dots relative to the stamps are not uniform for all values, even allowing for minor differences in the width of margins between stamps and variable paper shrinkage, and it may be of some advantage to consider each value in turn in this respect.

5c - on the complete sheet (Plate 2), the sidepoint dot is 1.3 mm above and 10.7 mm. to the right of the top left corner of each impression (about 2 mm. above the last leg of the N of CONGO BELGE) except in the last vertical column - i.e. Nos. 20, 40, 60, 80 & 100. This infers that, as was usual, the dot above each stamp was used for laying-in the position immediately to its right. The dot in respect of a stamp in the left-hand vertical column would presumably have fallen on a part of the plate which was trimmed off before the plate was curved, as the gap between the design and the left-hand sheet margin is not wide enough to have allowed for rolling-in these positions otherwise. On a large block of 30 stamps the dot is some 1.5 mm. above and 11 mm. to the right of the top left corner, so that, although the piece has no plate number, it is reasonable to suppose that it belongs to the other Plate (No. 1). Also judging by the position of the dot, another block of 10 belongs to Plate 2 and this is confirmed by the presence of several minor plate varieties. The two Plate No. blocks available also conform to the above measurements.

- 10c - on the complete sheet (Plate 1), the dot is 1.6 mm. above and 10.6 mm. to the right of the top left corner of each impression, in a very similar position to that for the 5c. None of the pieces inspected show any significant variation from these measurements.
- 20c - the largest piece available shows measurements of 1.8 mm. above and 10.6 mm. to the right of the top LH corner. There is insufficient evidence to assume that both plates had the same measurements but several small blocks and single stamps conform to the above.
- 35c - this is an interesting value in that the sidepoint dot is some 1.8 mm. above and a similar distance to the left of the top LH corner of each stamp (or 1.2 mm. to the right of the top right corner of the adjacent stamp where it is more often visible on single copies). There seems to have been some difficulty in laying out the 35c plates, as on the block with Plate No. 1 there are clear signs that two dots, about 1 mm. apart horizontally were punched between the two central columns of the stamps. In addition, there are several other small dots which appear in similar positions in relation to certain rows of stamps and, whilst it is clear that these were not made by a variety on the die, their very regularity infers that they also indicate a plate-setting function.
- 40c - from the blocks available, although the sidepoint dots are generally similarly positioned to those of the 5c, there is a slight variation which can probably be used to identify the plate from which stamps come. Measuring from the top LH corner of each stamp to the dot, the results are:
- |         |               |                |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| Plate 1 | Above 2.0 mm. | Right 11.1 mm. |
| Plate 2 | " 1.8 mm.     | " 10.8 mm.     |
- 60c - the only useful piece available for study is the Plate 2 block in which the dots appear 1.7 mm. above and 10.7 mm. to the right of the top LH corners of the stamps. Single copies and other blocks measured conform to this.
- 1fr - rather similarly to the 35c stamps, the sidepoint dots are above and to the left of the top LH corner of each stamp.
- |              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Plates 1 & 2 | Above 1.5 mm. | Left 2.2 mm. |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
- As for the 35c, this has the effect that the dot is more commonly found above and very slightly to the right (0.7mm) of the top right corner on single copies. Again, like the 35c there are other less distinct dots, notably 7 mm. below the bottom RH corner of each stamp of the bottom row, which almost certainly had to do with the marking out of the plate
- 1,60fr - as with the 5c value, the dot is again some 1.5 mm. above and 10.8 mm. to the right of the top LH corner of each stamp (excluding the final vertical column). The material available does not permit any conclusion as to minor variations between plates.
- 1,75fr - one of the most interesting stamps to examine from this



aspect. Like the 35c, the dots are in the corners of the margins between stamps but for this value a block of 10, constituting the two final right-hand columns is available and adds some new light. It is clear from this block that no stamp in the final column has a sidepoint dot to its immediate left; it must be assumed, therefore, that, where the dots appear in this position, they do not relate to the adjacent stamps, but to those in the next again column to the right - i.e. the dots must be some 24 mm. to the left of the stamps to which they relate. Also for this value the original measurements for laying out the plate must have gone sadly awry, as on several blocks and single stamps the sidepoint dots are clearly doubled vertically with between 0.3 mm. and 1.0 mm. between the dots in individual cases; the plate block of Plate 1 does not show this problem which may, therefore, distinguish these stamps as emanating from Plate 2. Again there is a row of small dots some 7.5 mm. below the lower RH corner of each stamp in the bottom row but this too is absent from the final two columns, providing additional evidence of a link between these and the sidepoint dots.

- 2fr - again, like the 35c, 1fr and 1,75fr, the dots are in the corner margins between stamps, some 2 mm. above and 1 mm. to the right of the stamps next on the left. Here too there is the row of small dots visible some 6.5 mm. below the lower RH corner of each stamp in the bottom row.
- 2,75fr - this value reverts more or less to the example of the 5c, the dots being about 1.8 mm. above and 9.9 mm. to the right of the top LH corners of the stamps.
- 3,50fr - again this value conforms with the majority with the dots some 1.7 mm. above and 10.7 mm. to the right of the top LH corners of the stamps.
- 5fr - also similar to the majority with the dots about 1.5 mm. above and 10.5 mm. to the right of the top LH corners of the stamps.
- 10fr - again similar to the majority, but with the dot both slightly higher - 2.0 mm. above - and further to the right - 11.5 or 12.0 mm. from the top LH corner of the stamp. Insufficient material is available to be conclusive but the 12.0 mm. seems to be typical of Plate 2; the 11.5 mm. may thus be from Plate 1.
- 20fr - as for the 5c with the dot typically 1.6 mm. above and 11.0 mm. to the right of the top LH corner of each stamp.

What general conclusions may be drawn from the above? No detailed description of the Chapman Transfer Machine has as yet been seen by the writer, but its general application is clearly the same as for all transfer roll machines. No doubt, the Stanley stamps being rather narrow in format, there would have been some leeway for the positioning of the roller dies on the width of the roller. Too, as we know from the parasitic entries on the Mols stamps, it was common practice for printers to put more than one roller die on the circumference of the same transfer roll. Taking these points into account,

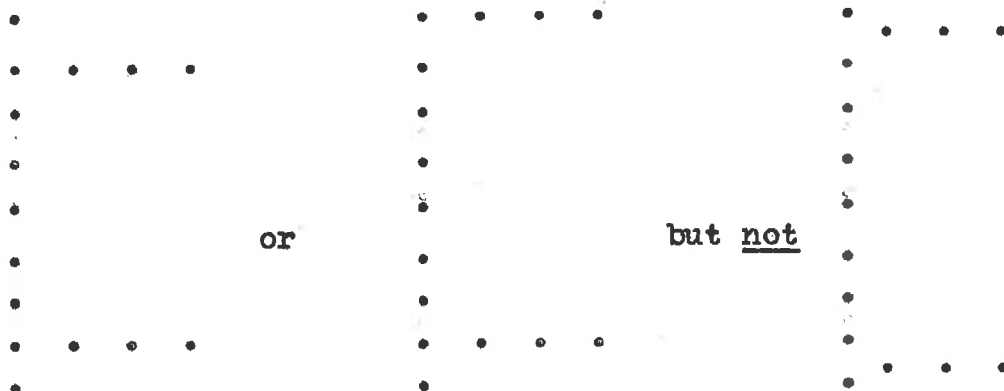
it is possible to deduce that the 35c, 1fr, 1,75fr and 2fr values, in all of which the sidepoint dots are in the margins between stamps, could have been laid down from the same transfer roll, whilst perhaps three further transfer rolls, on which the dies were either more centrally, or more laterally, located, were used for the remaining values. It is perhaps also of particular significance that the same four values (35c etc.) were the only ones where additional laying in marks had to be added to the plates and where, in at least two instances, the measurements had to be reworked and additional dots inscribed.

Plate Varieties As mentioned in the introductory article on the Stickney Machine printings, the existence of numerous non-constant varieties due to wet and dry prints makes any attempt to plate the stamps a thankless task, although there are many minor scratches in the margins between stamps which are more or less constant and can be used to recognise some positions. The cause of these scratches is unknown, but they may be small stress lines due to the method of curving the plates under pressure.

The only significant plate varieties so far discovered on the Stanley stamps are those previously noted in earlier issues of the Bulletin:

- 10c - Plate 1 No. 1 - re-entry resulting in a partly doubled C of CONGO (top) and B of BELGE.
- re-entry with all letters of upper CONGO partly doubled; the diagonal white line of the N has an interrupted coloured line down the middle. Plate 2 and thought to come from between Nos. 27 and 40 (both inclusive).
- 1,60fr - prominent "scar" running from Stanley's right nostril along the right cheekbone and finishing level with the right-hand end of the right eye. Position and plate as yet unknown.

Perforation: At its simplest, the Stanley issue can be described as Perf. 14, comb. It is necessary, however, to go a little more deeply into this subject, as it is solely the perforation which is the cause of the greatest surprise of these stamps, the fact that, otherwise alike, each value exists in two different heights; although the printed area in each case is 19 x 33 mm., the dimensions of individual stamps are either 22 x 35.4 mm. or 22 x 37.1 mm., the former being the more common (probably somewhat in excess of 60% of the total). The problem seems to have occurred due to the basic essential ~~spacing of the perforations~~ - this is that, although the spacing of the short rows of pins can be altered to give greater or smaller intervals between the rows, nevertheless, the short row pins must still be aligned with one or other of the pins on the long row as shown:



The reason for this is of course obvious. The whole point of comb perforation is to produce regular intersections so that the stamps will separate more cleanly. However, this limitation in the setting of the perforator was apparently overlooked at the time of laying out the plates for the Stanley issue, since the width of margin between stamps vertically means that, in order to perforate at an even distance between each stamp in a vertical column, the short horizontal lines of pins would have had to extend opposite the gap between pins on the long vertical side - an impossibility for a comb perforator. Thus, whereas a perforation which had  $25\frac{1}{2}$  holes down the side of each stamp would have been correct for the plate layout, the only way in which the perforator could in fact work was by using a mixture of 25 and 26 hole spacings to achieve the best possible compromise.

As can be seen from the complete sheets and vertical blocks (2 x 5) which are available for study, the most usual setting of the perforator resulted in 130 pin-holes per vertical column and, taking the top horizontal perforation as belonging to each stamp and ignoring that at the bottom of the stamp to avoid double counting, the layout is:

1 Hole	- extending into the margin at the top
25 Holes	- Stamps Nos. 1 - 20 (35.4 mm. high)
26 Holes	- Stamps Nos. 21 - 40 (37.1 mm. high)
25 Holes	- Stamps Nos. 41 - 60 (35.4 mm. high)
26 Holes	- Stamps Nos. 61 - 80 (37.1 mm. high)
25 Holes	- Stamps Nos. 81 - 100 (35.4 mm. high)
2 Holes	- the line forming the bottom line of perforation of Stamps Nos. 81 - 100 and one hole extending into the margin at the bottom.

This setting has been seen for the 5c, 10c, 20c, 1,60fr, 1,75fr, 2fr, 2,75fr and 3,50fr values. (See Fig. A).

Other settings do, however, exist and the fact that these have been found on some of the same values would seem to indicate that either two perforators were in use or that slightly different settings were used at different times for additional printings - quite possibly both reasons applied. In the case of the settings where only 129 pin-holes form the vertical column, it may well be that differential paper shrinkage was the cause of the revised setting; certainly the part sheet of 35 centimes stamps measures only  $26\frac{1}{2}$  cm. in height, compared to the usual  $27\frac{1}{2}$  cm. The other known settings are:

3,25/2,75 fr	1;25;26;25;25;25;2	(See Fig. B).
35c	1;25;25;25;26;25;2	(See Fig. C).
1fr	1;25;25;25;25;25;2	(See Fig. D).

In addition, a plate number block of the 1,25/1fr value has been seen in which the two bottom rows show perforation 25;26;2 (consistent with Fig. D) and plate number pairs of the 10c and 5fr values exist with the bottom row composed of "tall" stamps (consistent with either Fig. B or Fig. D). All other plate number blocks or pairs are consistent with Fig. A or, possibly, Fig. C. It would be of assistance if other members would examine any further positional blocks of the Stanley stamps in their possession with a view to extending the list of values known with each perforation setting.

One further small mystery remains in discussing the perforation of the Stanley stamps; although a comb perforator was used, the perforation

FIG. A.



130  
HOLES.

FIG. B.



130  
HOLES.

FIG. C.



129  
HOLES.

FIG. D.



129  
HOLES.

was, in all cases seen, extended into and through both the left and right margins of the sheets, whereas it would be normal for only one side margin to be perforated through; nor could it have occurred during a continuous operation from one sheet to the next, as the margins between sheets were considerably narrower than the width of a stamp. A possible explanation is that, as the stamps are of a rather difficult size for handling, and as the top and bottom margins, both of which are imperforate, are very wide (some  $4\frac{1}{2}$  - 5 cm.), the side margins were deliberately perforated through in order to enable the counter clerks to remove the top and bottom margins for greater ease of separation of the stamps, but the writer would appreciate any other explanations which members can suggest.

Surcharges: All the surcharges were applied typographically at Malines and there can be no doubt that they were produced to serve genuine postal needs following changes to the main postage rates. In this connection, it is interesting to note that, in 5 of the 6 cases, the surcharges increased the face value of the underlying stamps although, to date, no forged surcharges have been reported for this issue.

It has not been possible to establish which machine was used to perform the overprinting, but the Malines works was well-equipped for jobs of this nature and, although no significant positional varieties of surcharge have so far been noted on the Stanley stamps (such varieties being useful in determining the size of the overprinting plate) it would seem probable that a complete sheet of 100 stamps was surcharged at a single operation. From vertical blocks of 10 (2 x 5) of the 2/1,75fr and 3,25/2,75fr stamps it is clear that the surcharge is uniformly positioned on each stamp of the block. Apart from confirming that the surcharging plates were of at least this size, this serves as a further reminder that the difference between "short" and "tall" stamps is one of perforation only and that the actual spaces between stamps are regular except, perhaps, where paper shrinkage occurs.

Unfortunately, the material available for study is insufficient at present for more serious investigation of the surcharges. It is some tribute to Malines security that errors, such as inverted or misplaced surcharges, have never been reported for this issue.

Postal Use: As has been mentioned above, the Stanley stamps saw substantial postal use over a period of some 10 years and the values, both of the original series and the later provisionals, were clearly intended to serve the main postage rates, internal and overseas. Although a complete record of the Congo postage rates between 1923 and 1946 is not available, most of the more important rates are known, within broad limits of dates.

- 5c and 10c - mainly used to make up rates, but were also the additional weight stage charges for certain types of printed matter Inland and to Belgium, as well as being used for newspapers.
- 20c - the basic rate for printed matter to Belgium.
- 35c )  
40/35c) - the basic rate for printed matter to all other foreign countries (raised to 40c probably during 1930). By surcharging the remaining stocks of the 35c value it was possible to maintain the requirement by the

U.P.U. for a green stamp to pay this rate and this is presumably the reason why this was preferred to a further print of the 40c value, apart from the economics of using up the 35c stamps which no longer were of use after the increase in rates.

- 40c - originally a make-up rate, for instance between the Inland and Foreign postcard rates, this value was also used after 1930 to pay the overseas printed matter rate.
- 60c - the postcard rate, both internal and to Belgium, from about 1929 to 1933, and may also have been the additional weight stage rate on letters to the same destinations until 1930.
- 1fr )  
1,25/1fr) - the postcard rate for all other foreign destinations from 1927 to 1930 when it was uprated to 1,25fr for the same purpose, again maintaining the U.P.U. colour requirement. At the same times, these rates also represented the basic (first 20gm) letter rates for Internal and Belgian destinations.
- 1,60fr - originally the double-weight charge for letters to Internal and Belgian destinations.
- 1,75fr - the main overseas letter rate (up to 20gm) from 1927; also the registration fee for overseas destinations (excluding Belgium) during the same period (1927-1930)
- 2,00fr - in 1928, the rate for a registered letter to Belgium (postage 1,00fr plus registration fee 1,00fr); this was the same for Internal mail.
- 2/1,60fr )  
2/1,75fr) - Around 1930, the basic overseas letter rate was increased to 2,00fr, as was the overseas registration fee. With the vastly increased requirement for this value, the remaining stocks of two stamps which no longer represented important postage rates were surcharged. The U.P.U. requirement for a blue stamp was met in the case of the 2/1,75fr, although it takes a stretch of the imagination to see the 1,60fr as blue.
- 2,75fr - believed to be the double weight letter rate (21 - 40gm) for mail to foreign destinations (excluding Belgium), between 1927 and 1930.
- 3,50fr - in 1928, this was the express letter fee to all foreign destinations (including Belgium), and was also the inclusive registered letter rate (1,75fr + 1,75fr) for other foreign countries.
- 3,25/2,75fr )  
3,25/3,50fr) - from about 1930, 3,25fr was the new double letter rate for overseas mail - hence the use of stocks of the 2,75fr stamp for surcharging. Equally, with the revision of the postal rates, registered letters to Internal and Belgian destinations also cost 3,25 fr (postage 1,25fr plus registration fee 2,00fr).

This increased usage and the fact that the express letter rate had also been increased, made it logical to utilise the stocks of the now redundant 3,50fr value for surcharging.

- 5fr )  
10fr )  
20fr )
- although these values are common on covers throughout the ten years currency of the issue, they are seldom seen without other stamps present on the same cover and seem to have been used mainly on heavy items of mail where postage greatly in excess of the basic rates was required.

The writer regrets being unable to be more exact as to the dates of change of postal rates during this period and is aware that some of the rates given above may still be in error, based, as they are, on deductions made from the covers available. The entire subject of Congo postage rates subsequent to the Mols period is one of great interest which has been inadequately researched to date, although moves are now afoot to remedy this neglect.

In closing, it is necessary, as usual, to thank those stalwarts, Messrs. R.H.Keach and A.G.Wood, who assisted both with loans of material and with good advice.

P. S. FODEN

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#### UNUSUAL COLOURS OF THE CONGO CANCELLATIONS FROM 1886 TO 1924

We are not interested in the two regular colours, blue and black, and in their various shades.

We want to know more about the other colours which were used contrary to regulations: violet, red, green, brown and lilac.

A first survey indicates three very different periods: the Congo Free State, till the end of 1908, when regulations were nearly always followed; a period of some laxness at the beginning of the Belgian colony from end of 1908 to the end of 1912; after 1912 when deviations were exceptional and are mainly to be found in the more exuberant province of Katanga.

#### 1. Under the Congo Free State

BANZA-BOMA            1.1 violet            4 March but 1903, 04 or 05? (because this cancel, on single stamps, rarely shows the year)

BOMA	1.1	red	End of 1886, beginning 1 November
	1.2	red	Beginning of 1887, till April
	1.1	violet	22-23 July 1891
	1.10	violet	9 June 1908
COQUILHAVILLE	1.2	violet	12 December 1908
LUKUNGU-POSTES	3A1	violet	July 1895
LUSAMBO	1.1	violet	9 June 1908
MATADI-POSTES	3A1	violet	December 1890

## 2. In the Belgian Colony up to 1912

ALBERTVILLE	1.2	violet	June 1910
	1.3	violet	25 August 1909
BASANKUSU	1.1	violet	November 1908 - April 1910
BUMBA	1.2	violet	19 January 1910
BUTA	1.1	violet	24 February 1909
DIMA	1.1	violet	25 February 1909, 1 August 1910
KALONGA	1.1	violet	22 March 1911
LEOPOLDVILLE	1.9	violet	March-May 1910
	1.10	violet	March-May 1910
LISALA	1.1	violet	May 1909
MATADI	1.4	violet	August 1910
MUSHIE	1.1	violet	1910
NOUVELLE-ANVERS	1.2	violet	October 1909
PONTHIERVILLE	1.1	brown	1 May 1912
	1.1	rose-lilac	3-5 June 1912
POPOKABAKA	1.1	violet	September, 1908, August-November 1909, November 1912

## 3. In the Belgian Colony after 1912

BANDUNDU	1.1	violet	15 September 1924 - 24 August 1926
BOMA	1.11	violet	9 June 1918
BUTA	1.1	violet	11 May 1918



KABINDA	1.1	violet	August 1917 - January 1918
KONGOLO	1.1	violet	12 February 1914
SANDOA	1.1	violet	1921-24

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

WATERLOW BROS. & LAYTON ?

In the Perkins, Bacon records is a file labelled 'Waterlow' containing copies of letters from P-B to Waterlow Bros. & Layton during the period 1905-07. It is clear from the correspondence that some letters are missing and there are no letters from W B & L.

P-B letter of 25 August 1905 quoted for printing 2,500 sheets of each of four monochrome stamps in sheets of 100, stamps 36 x 18 mm, at 3.15.0 pounds per 1000 sheets, W B & L providing the plates and the watermarked paper.

P-B letter of 16 September thought they would be too busy to make the plates but quoted an additional price of 32/- per 1000 sheets for gumming, perforating, interleaving and packing the sheets.

P-B letter of 20 September acknowledged the order for the plates and for the printing of the stamps and asked for the dies as quickly as possible, preferring W B & L to harden the dies because they would know the content of the steel.

There is no indication to which stamps the above correspondence referred. The following later correspondence refers to Brazilian stamps presumably fiscals.

P-B letter of 2 August 1906 quoted for 10,000 sheets of 100 of a blue 300 reis stamp; printing 75/- per 1000 sheets, paper 10/- per 1000, gumming, perforating, interleaving and packing 32/- per 1000 and consecutively numbering each sheet 1/6 per 1000 with delivery time of six weeks.

P-B letter of 25 February 1907 quoted 20 pounds for making three original dies (blank) and transferring three casement plates and one centre plate (50 on) on W B & L steel and 11.11.0 pounds for printing 1500 sheets of stamps in two colours.

P-B letter of 27 February stated that they would require four plates 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 11" for the Brazilian stamps and asked W B & L to supply at their convenience and there is a query about lowering the bottom star in the design.

It is clear from the above that Waterlow Bros. & Layton subcontracted plate making and printing of some stamps to Perkins, Bacon although it is presumed that officially the stamps were engraved and printed by W B & L.

Other correspondence in the file refers to contracted work on bank-notes.

R. H. KEACH

THE "POST MILITAIRES" CANCELLATIONS (See Gen. Du Four, p. 477)

We found recently strikes of 12 different 'Postes Militaires' cancellations struck - as was the case with the ordinary cancels - on half postal stationery cards (those overprinted 60c in 1931).

Comparing them with cancels known on covers and on single stamps in various collections, we arrive at the following conclusions. The measurements in mm. are taken from the middle of the impression of the circle on the left, to the middle on the right, along the diameter. The end of the large bottom curve of the S of MILITAIRES is here considered the end of the first angular measurement; another measurement is taken from the vertical of the P of Postes, but to the centre of the black large dot under the 19.

- A. 25 mm 233-296° Known on EAAOB stamps on envelope - antidated 1-XI-16  
Known on postal stationery card sent from Tanganika Lake end of 1922  
Known on several p. s. cards sent from Lake Nyanza (in Rwanda) at the beginning of July 1923
- B. 23,5 mm 231-297° Struck at Tabora on telegrams sent from there or arriving there in January and February 1917. Censure mark?
- C. 24 mm 240-298°
- D. 24,75 mm 239-296°
- E. 24,75 mm 237-294° Known on many p. s. cards which have not travelled with a curious date in 1918  
inscribed 25 (twice)  
7 - II  
18
- F. 24,75 mm 232-297°
- G. 23,75 mm 236-291° (bottom of the L broken)  
Known on a cover sent by Hubert Leschat from Kigoma on 14-XI-16 to Tabora - no other cancel - name of the addressee deleted.
- H. 24,50 mm 234-298° (P and T of POSTES very meagre)  
Known on cover sent on the 1-XI-16 (antidated) to Caporal Leen in France.
- I. 24 mm 241-298° Known on several covers to Watsa at the end of May 1941 - also on many single stamps : a number 4 nearly at the centre of the cancel.
- J. 24 mm 235-294° Known on several single stamps overprinted EAAOB with the date 8-I-17.
- K. 24,75 mm 237-297°

L. 23,75 mm 242-300°

A forgery seems to exist mainly on 1915 stamps with a false Nysten overprint RUANDA. The date is always 11-X-1916 (hours 7-8). The measurement: 24,75 mm - 230-293°.

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

NAME CHANGES IN BELGIAN CONGO AND IN ZAIRE (1950 - 1980) AND LINGUISTIC PROBLEMS.

Six changes occurred in Congo (Zaire), since 1950:

- 1) The Costermansville case (1952)
- 2) The introduction of bilingual cancellers (1953)
- 3) The Elisabethville case (1961)
- 4) The first set of name changes in 1965
- 5) The 1970-72 changes
- 6) The second set of name changes in 1971

1) The Costermansville Case.

After the book of Messrs. Heim and Keach, Costermansville was changed to Bukavu in 1952. The examination of old Costermansville cancellers provides two dates:

- a first one is not very reliable, since some of the rolling bands of the canceller moved (canceller without fixing needle): 5.53.
- a second one (type 10B, H&K, a 1940 - 1969 canceller) shows 19.3.52.

Without contradictory information, this could be considered as the date of withdrawal of Costermansville cancellers.

2) The Introduction of Bilingual Cancellers.

This has proved to be clearly a political decision, since many unilingual cancellers (type 10B, H & K) were technically built in such a way that they could be used from 1950 till 1979. Many of them were never put in use and sent to the "dead store" in the Central Post Office in Kinshasa (Leopoldville).

The examination of withdrawn cancellers provides the following dates:

Elisabethville	2.9.53	"Postes" canceller, H & K 7C
Kindu Port Empain	31.8.53	Symmetrical Posthorn, H & K 8B
Nouvelle Anvers	3.9.53	1940-69 canceller, H & K 8A
Thysville	27.8.53	id.
Coquilhatville-B	27.8.53	1940-69 canceller, H & K 10B
Elisabethville-C	31.8.53	id.
-D	31.8.53	id.
Jadotville-A	3.9.53	id.
Leopoldville-1-K	27.8.53	id.
-P	27.8.53	id.
Stanleyville-1-A	31.8.53	id.
-H	7.9.53	id.
-I	31.8.53	id.
Kamina-Base-Militaire	4.9.53	1950-70 canceller, H&K 8A
Albertville-D	31.8.53	1950-79 canceller, H & K 10B
Leopoldville Kalina-E	2.7.53	id.

The list results in the following conclusions: unilingual cancellers were withdrawn between 27.8.53 and 7.9.53. The last date of the list is probably a coincidence.

Bilingual cancellers were introduced at the same dates in the Congo.

### 3) The Elisabethville Case.

When Katanga seceded, the Katangan administration began to replace the bilingual cancellers of the colonial time by unilingual cancellers. But only a part of the Elisabethville bilingual cancellers were changed. Eight cancellers are presently known; they show no posthorn, the stars are replaced by copper crosses (the traditional "money" of Katanga) and the classification letters occupy the place normally taken by the posthorn (at the bottom). They were used by the mail distribution service and by some offices of the posts' direction. The following letters and figures are known: A, B, D1 to D6.

The reason why the other cancellers have not been changed is not known.

### 4) The First Set of Name Changes in the Congo (1965)

In 1965, President Mobutu decided to change some town names in the country. Here is the first list of name changes:

Bakwanga	Mbuji-Mayi
Banningville	Bandundu
Coquilhatville	Mbandaka
Elisabethville	Lubumbashi
Leopoldville	Kinshasa
Leopoldville Kalina	Kinshasa Kalina (1)
Paulis	Isiro
Stanleyville	Kisangani (2)

(1) Kinshasa-Kalina was changed again in 1971, when authorities finally observed that Kalina is not a local name, but the deformed name of an Austrian officer: Kallina, that drowned in the Congo rapids in Kinshasa at the beginning of the colonization. (2) Stanleyville was changed, but nobody seems to have ever noticed that the name "Stanleyville" also appears on other cancellers: "KOLE-(STAN.)". One of these cancellers is still in use in 1981.

Here is a list of observed dates on old bilingual cancellers (the classification letter is under the French name):

Banningville C	30.7.66	H & K 12
Coquilhatville A	25.7.66	id.
G	25.7.66	id.
I	25.7.66	id.
J	25.7.66	id.
Coquilhatville-2 A	19.7.66	id.
Elisabethville B	7.7.66	id.
Elisabethville Cl	7.66	id.
F	5.7.66	id.
Elisabethville-4 A	7.7.66	id.
Elisabethville-6 E	11.7.66	id.
G	13.7.66	id.

Elisabethville-7-B	20.4.66	id.
Leopoldville-9	6.7.66	id.
A	6.7.66	id.
Stanleyville-1 A	8.9.66	id.
E	8.9.66	id.
H	8.9.66	id.
J	8.9.66	id.
L	30.8.66	id.
M	7.9.66	id.
O	8.9.66	id.
R	31.8.66	id.
Stanleyville-3 A	31.9.66	id.
Stanleyville-4 B	10.9.66	id.
Stanleyville-5 B	5.9.66	id.
Banningville E	1.8.66	H & K 13
G (or C?)	20.6.66	id.
Bakwanga-1 D	25.7.66	H & K 11A
Elisabethville-1 D1	5.7.66	Katangan model
D2	7.7.66	id.
D3	8.7.66	id.
D4	5.7.66	id.


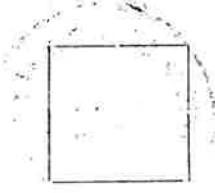
This results in the following conclusions:

All the bilingual cancellers of the eight places listed above were withdrawn in July, August and September 1966 (depending on the towns).

Cancellers showing the new names were introduced at the same dates.

Let us notice that in some small post offices (suburbs of Kisangani and Mbandaka) cancellers are not used every day, and regular gaps occur in the dates of use.

No data was available for Paulis, but it probably was at the same period.

SERVICE DES POSTES	
 REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE <b>ALLER</b> Direction des Postes Kinshasa 2e Section { 2e Bureau { 3e Bureau	 <b>RETOUR</b> Bureau des Postes à LUBUMBASHI 4
(1)	
(1) Biffer la mention inutile	



Timbre du bureau  
intervenant en premier lie

REPUBLICQUE DU ZAIRE 22K

LULUABOURG  
N  
1792-73-9

*avisé le 17/12/73*

Acquit bénéficiaire

Reçu la somme indiquée d'autre part. *CCP*

*Kananga*, le *24/12/73* 19 *73*

(Signature) *[Signature]*

Arrivée  
No  
*[Signature]*

Mod. 61. P

EXUNOM/T ARCHIDIOCESE  
BP 70  
KANANGA BCZ 563563  
REP. DU ZAIRE

LULUABOURG  
N  
1792-73-9

Timbre du bureau payeur

Bilingual canceller and unilingual canceller (1970) used together. The private canceller of the addressee shows the new name.

New model cancellers were not ordered all together; the year of making is engraved in the metallic body of the cancellers and the following years have been observed: 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972. This makes the study of the cancellers extremely difficult, since for a given post office, it sometimes occurs that different cancellers were ordered at different times.

There is no explanation of the fact that Albertville and Jadotville did not receive new cancellers in 1966. A simple omission?

Here is the (poor) data obtained from the examination of the old bilingual cancellers and the dates engraved on new cancellers; better information demands the examination of used stamps of that period.

a) Names changed in 1970-71

Albertville-1KK	7. 2.71	changed to Kalemie-1
Albertville-3RB	20. 2.71	changed to Kalemie-3
Jadotville-1 F	14.10.70	changed to Likasi-1
Jadotville-2 B	20. 2.71	changed to Likasi-2

No information about Albertville-2, but this should allow us to conclude that these cancellers were changed in February 1971.

b) Cancellers replaced by unilingual ones

Banzyville

probably 1970 or 1971

Baudouinville		probably 1970
Kamina-Base Militaire - 1 B		4.8.70
Kamina-Base Militaire - 2		probably 1970 or 1971
Leverville		probably 1970 or 1971
Luluabourge - 1		probably 1970
Luluabourge - 2		between 1970 and 1972
Luluabourge - 3		?-10.72
Nouvelle Anvers		probably 1970 or 1971
Ponthierville		probably 1970 or 1971
Fort Francqui		probably 1970
Thysville - 1		probably 1970
Thysville - 2		no information

In some rare cases, bilingual cancellers remained in use, even when unilingual cancellers were delivered. Three cases are provisionally known:

Baudouinville	(H & K 12)
Luluabourge - 1 N	(H & K 12)
Luluabourge - 1 Bch	(H & K 12)

These three cancellations were observed on money orders in 1974 - 1975; they have not yet been observed on mail, and Luluabourg - 1 Bch has certainly never been used for anything else but money orders.

#### 6) The Second Set of Name Changes.

On 27.10.71, President Mobutu decided to change the name of the country and all the still unchanged names of towns of the colonial time.

Baudouinville	Moba
Banzyville	Mobayi-Mbongo
Cattier	Lufu-Toto
Elisabetha	Lokutu
Kilomines	Bambumines
Kinshasa Kalina	Kinshasa Gombe
Leverville	Lusanga
Luluabourg	Kananga (3 post offices)
Moerbeke	Kuilu-Ngongo
Nouvelle Anvers	Mankanza
Ponthierville	Ubundu
Port Francqui	Ilebo
Sentery	Lubao
Thysville	Mbanza-Ngungu (2 post office)
Tshumbe Ste Marie	Tshumbe (or Tshumbe Gwambokoto)
Vista	Nsia Mfumu
Wolter	Lulla

Among these 20 post offices, 9 of them received new cancellers with the new names in 1974. Here they are, with the information that could be obtained:


Baudouinville	Moba	7.74 (probably)
Kinshasa Kaline	Kinshasa Gombe	beginning of July 1974
Luluabourg 1	Kananga 1	10.7.74 (probably)
Luluabourge2	Kananga 2	" "
Luluabourg 3	Kananga 3	" "
Moerbeke	Kuilu Ngongo	18.7.74



Port Francqui  
Thysville 1  
Thysville 2

Ilebo 13.7.74  
Mbanza-Ngungu 1 18.7.74  
Mbanza-Ngungu 2 probably 18.7.74

**SERVICE DES POSTES**



Direction des Postes      Bureau des Postes

Kinshasa

2e Section { 2e Bureau (1)  
                  3e Bureau

(1) Biffer la mention inutile

ALLER      RETOUR

19.7.74

#### 1974 Cancellor, Unchanged Griffes

Finally, the following post offices still using old cancellers at the end of 1981:

Banzville	unilingual (1969-1972 type)
Cattier	(a H & K type 10B)
Elisabetha	unilingual (1969-1972 type)
Kilomines	id.
Leverville	id.
Nouvelle Anvers	id.
Ponthierville	id.
Sentery	id.
Tshumbe Ste Marie	id.
Vista	id.
Wolter	id.

One name has not been changed by the Zairian authorities, probably because of its Anglo-Saxon origin: Kwamouth ("Kwa - mouth"), a little town situated at the place where the river Nkwa enters the Congo River.

#### Complementary Notes

More than 50% of town names are incorrect, and in many cases their spelling does not respect the modern conventions of the transcription of Bantu languages.

The "griffes" were changed in 1966 with the cancellers, and in some cases in 1970-71.

The griffes were not changed in 1961, and some cases in 1970-1971, and in 1974.

In 1952, the Costermansville griffes were changed at the same time as the cancellers.

This results in some curious covers:

- mixed frankings (Congolese and Zairian stamps)
- registration label with the old name, and cancellations with the new one.

GEORGES CELIS

NAME CHANGES IN BURUNDI AND RWANDA AFTER INDEPENDENCE

One of the main characteristics of both countries is the cultural unity of each of them. They both speak a unique language: Kirundi in Burundi and Kinyarwanda in Rwanda; these two Bantu languages are closely related.

Name transcriptions were made by Germans (prior to 1916) and by Belgians. These transcriptions do not always respect the local languages, and sometimes, they don't respect modern orthographic conventions of Bantu languages. Therefore, some cancellers were changed after independence. Some special cancellers were bilingual in Usumbura (French and Flemish).

<u>BURUNDI:</u>	Usumbura - 1	Bujumbura - 1
	Usumbura - 2	Bujumbura - 2
	Usumbura-aerogare	Bujumbura-aerogare
	Kirundo-(R.-U.)	? no information (1)
	Kitega	Gitega
	Muhinga	Muyinga

(1) (R.-U.) was added to avoid confusion with Kirundu in Congo; the mention "R.-U." (for Ruanda-Urundi) should be suppressed.

A special mention should be done for a "Usumbura 4" cancellation sometimes found on "cancelled-to-order" stamps of the independence period; no such office or cancellation has ever existed in Burundi. It is completely bogus.

<u>RWANDA:</u>	Astrida	Butare (1)
	Biumba	Byumba
	Kibungu	Kibungo
	Kisenyi	Gisenyi
	Nyanza	Nyabisindu (2) (1971 or 1972)
	Shangugu	Cyangugu

(1) Astrida was named after Queen Astrid of Belgium. It was changed soon after independence; the "griffe" was changed a little before the cancellers, and consisted of a locally made griffe.

(2) Nyanza is a Rwandan name, but this was the traditional hill occupied by the Royal Court of Rwanda. A few years after the Republic was proclaimed in Rwanda, it was decided to change the name of the place; Nyabisindu is the name of an administrative commune of the neighbourhood of Nyanza.

GEORGES CELIS

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

**BUMBA.** Territorial Hq. Altitude 1,252 feet. Native township. Radio and telegraph station. School: lazaretto. Trading and industrial centre. Airfield and optional stopping place on Leopoldville-Stanleyville service. Catholic missions.

As the port for the Vele district, Bumba is an important river station. All the produce of the region, which reaches Aketi via the Chemin de fer Vicinaux du Congo is carried to Bumba by Otraco river services. After receiving the waters of the Itimbiri River, the Congo reaches its greatest width, more than 12½ miles opposite this station. It is studded with many large islands, which obstruct the view. The troublesome and warlike Budja people live in this territory.

In addition to its communications by river, Bumba is the point of origin of the "Route Royale Congo-Nil" which runs via Aketi and Buta to Aba and Juba on the Nile. The distance from Bumba to Juba is 823 miles. The Itimbiri River which is navigable as far as Aketi joins the Congo 18 miles above Bumba.

**BUNIA.** Altitude 3,937 feet. European population - 481. Native population - 5,000. Hq of the Ituri District and of the territory. Telephone and telegraph office. Hospitals, trading centre. Regional office of the Vicicongo. Garages. Hotels.

Bunia is situated in the centre of the Chieftaincies of the Babira, a tribe among whom there are still women who wear light discs of various sizes in apertures in their upper lips. They have been called the "Duck billed women". In their youth their upper lip is perforated and the hole is progressively enlarged by the insertion of small sticks and then discs of successively larger sizes, until the perimeter of the lip is reduced to a thin band. When the disc is withdrawn or when the lip band breaks, the face becomes a repulsive sight all the more so because the upper incisors have been extracted so that the disc rest on the canine teeth. It would therefore not be astonishing if, as certain old notables maintain, the custom owes its origin to the raids which the Arab slave traders conducted among the women, but took no notice of those that were mutilated.

It should be noted however that the Walese women, their immediate neighbours, also have both lips perforated, but they only wear ornaments of wrought iron or brass; they also wear a decorated stick through the septum of the nose. It might therefore be that the latter case is one of ornamental mutilation. In a short while "Duck bill women" will only be a memory, because the younger women have completely abandoned the practice of mutilation.

There are drives from Bunia to: a) Bogoro. 51 miles return to the top of the escarpment where there is a fine view of Lake Albert and the plains and hills of Uganda. b) Kasenyi. 60 miles return on Lake Albert where a trip by motorboat can be made to the mouth of the Semliki which is alive with crocodiles and hippo. c) Mount Koyo and its caves. d) via Gety to the Sinde Falls.

**BUNYAKIRI.** On the Bukavu to Stanleyville, Bunyakiri is linked to the road by a 500 yard avenue. It is a trading centre with a rest house and a dispensary.

Classic Philatelists, P.O. Box 5637, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, purchased from Higgins & Gage their catalogue rights and stock of postal stationery a few years ago, and currently claim to have the largest stock in the world. Their catalogue for Belgian Congo was last published in 1974. Ed Hirdler recently received a retail price list offering from them (not complete) for MINT cards they currently have in stock. It is shown below along with the corresponding Davo numbers for your convenience. Prices are in U.S. dollars.

<u>Davo</u>	<u>H&amp;G</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Davo</u>	<u>H&amp;G</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Davo</u>	<u>H&amp;G</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Davo</u>	<u>H&amp;G</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	1	2.50	26	28	-	46	47	2.25	71	74	-
2	2	2.50	27	29	1.25	47	48	2.25	72	75	-
3	3	1.25	29LL	29A	-	48	49	2.00	73	76	-
4	4	1.00	28LL	29B	-	48a	50	2.00	74	77	6.50
5	5	1.00	30LL	30	-	50	51	2.00	75	78	-
6	6	1.75	31LT	31	3.00	49	52	2.75	76	79	-
7	7	1.75	or TT			49a	52a	-	77	80	-
8	8	10.00	31LL	31a	-	51	53	-	78	81	-
9	9	10.00	32LT	32	-	51a	53a	2.75	79	82	-
10	10	1.25	32LL	32a	-	52	54	5.50	80	83	-
11	11	1.50	33LT	33	3.00	53	55	5.50	EST AFRICAINE		
12	12	2.00	or TT			54	56	7.50	ALLEMAND		
13	13	2.50	33LL	33a	-	55	57	3.50	1-6	Not Listed	
12E	14	8.00	34	34	1.50	56	58	-	By H&G		
13E	15	8.00	35	35	1.50	56a	58a	7.00	7	I-1	-
14	16	1.00	36	36	1.00	57	59	3.50	8	I-2	-
15	17	1.00	37	37	1.00	57a	59a	-	9	I-3	-
16	18	1.75	38	38	1.00	58	60	5.00	10	I-4	-
17	19	1.75	38a	38a	-	59	61	5.00	11	I-5	15.00
18	20	1.25	40	39	-	60	62	5.00	12	I-6	15.00
19	21	-	40a	39a	-	61	63	-	13	I-7	15.00
20L	22	-	39a	40	2.00	62	64	-	14	I-8	15.00
24T	23	-	39a	40a	-	62	65	-	15	I-9	30.00
24L	23a	1.50	41	41	-	63	66	2.50	16	I-10	30.00
21T	24	1.25	41a	41a	-	64	67	1.50	17	I-11	15.00
21L	24a	1.50	41b	41b	-	65	68	1.50	18	I-12	15.00
22L	25	-	42	43	4.00	66	69	5.00			
25T	26	2.50	43	44	5.00	67	70	7.00			
25L	26a	-	44	45	1.25	68	71	-			
23T	27	3.00	45	46	1.25	69	72	-			
23L	27a	-	45a	46a	-	70	73	-			

Hirdler comments that, over the past decade, picture postcard collecting has become a major hobby in the USA and, like stamps, condition is important. For such collectors, the view is what is collected -- they don't care whether it is a postcard or a postal card and, in fact, prefer it mint because if it hasn't been mailed, it is less likely to have suffered damage, soiling, or bending. Most such collectors specialize by view subject matter (topics), and many thousands seek cards picturing blacks (negroes). Unfortunately, these collectors who have no interest in the message side of the card, are competing with us philatelists. We in the Study Circle have become accustomed to very low prices for the relatively common mint view cards such as Davo 42, 43, 61 and 62, but are unlikely to find these cards cheaply any more.