

BELGIAN CONGO



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Note from Editor: Due to space considerations in the previous Bulletin, we had to omit that further completion of the bibliography can be effected only with the help of members. If you know of any reference to Congo stamps or postal history not included in the original document or in the published addenda, will you please inform Mr. R. H. Keach and, if possible send a copy of the article for the Study Circle library archives. We also have need for a volunteer equipped with a complete run of Bulletins (or funds for same), a great deal of patience and hard work (not necessarily in that order) to give our membership a complete indexing. We know the effort will be most appreciated!

New Members: 119 J. Fitzgerald, 3325 West Ave. L-4
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NEWS AND VIEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held at 11:00 a.m. at Bedford College, London on 21 May 1983. Those present, of whom there were 9, including one very welcome visitor, Mr. Harry Green, were welcomed to the Meeting by the outgoing President, Mr. L. G. Green, who then passed the proceedings to the Secretary.

The Secretary noted that there were 7 apologies for absence and that the Study Circle had had another good year in membership, which had now increased to 67, even ignoring those who had so far defaulted on 1982/83 subscriptions and to whom no further documentation would be sent. In the normal way, such members would be omitted from future lists.

The accounts for the year had already been circulated and showed the Study Circle to be in an extremely healthy financial state, largely owing to the commission earned by the Sales Secretary which, taking into account the sales on behalf of deceased estates, where no commission is charged, reflected sales through the Society of material priced at about £15 000, a truly exceptional amount. The benefits of this again resulting in the proposal that subscriptions should remain at their present rate for the third year in succession, in spite of higher overall costs, most notably in postage of the Bulletin. It was noted that the balance on hand would permit the Study Circle to prefinance the copies of Abbe Gudenkauf's book on Mail Boats to the Congo in advance of sales to members and that an additional small stock of copies could be held for future sales to new members.

The Expert Committee had again had a very quiet year, with only a few members using its services. Obviously most members have either gained sufficient expertise over the years to be confident of their own knowledge, or the fact that so much of the material purchased was through the Study Circle had obviated the need for certificates in many cases.

The meeting then turned to the election of officers. As Mr. Green had completed two years as President, he stood down and those present elected the new President by acclamation - our Founder and Honorary Life Member, Mrs. D. M. Green, who had come up for the day with her husband, Harry, to be present at the meeting. Mrs. Green thanked the members present for the honour of being so elected and went on to say that, when she had first been approached to find out if she would accept nomination, she had been on the point of declining as she was no longer able to guarantee attendance at all meetings but, provided this was acceptable to the members, she would be delighted to take on the job. Mrs. Green then thanked the outgoing President for his services over the preceding two years and asked the Secretary to continue with the meeting.

All other office-bearers were re-elected, (as none of them had been unwilling to continue), however, Mr. Keach pointed out that he had taken on the role of Exchange Packet Secretary in addition to his other tasks, because of a temporary emergency, and that, if a volunteer could be found, he would prefer to give up this task. On Mr. Hudson volunteering, he was elected to this post. The current list of Officers of the Society is therefore:-

President - Mrs. D. M. Green
 Secretary/Treasurer - P. S. Foden
 Bulletin Editor - R. E. Jacquemin
 Exchange Packet Secretary - B. P. Hudson
 Vice President)
 General Sales Secretary) - R. H. Keach
 Secretary to Expert Committee)

Mrs. Green then thanked all the Officers for their past services to the Study Circle and, as the Bulletin Editor could not be present at the meeting, asked the Secretary to write expressing the Society's gratitude for the excellent management and production of its "Window to the World", the Bulletin.

Subscription rates for 1983/84 are thus unchanged, except for a revision to Belgian members paying in francs.

U.K. etc	£5
U.S.A.	\$11
Belgium	400 francs.

The programme for 1983/84 will again consist of two meetings, both at Bedford College, London.

15 October, 1983, when it is hoped that Mr. Spurgeon will display further interesting items from his comprehensive postal history collection.

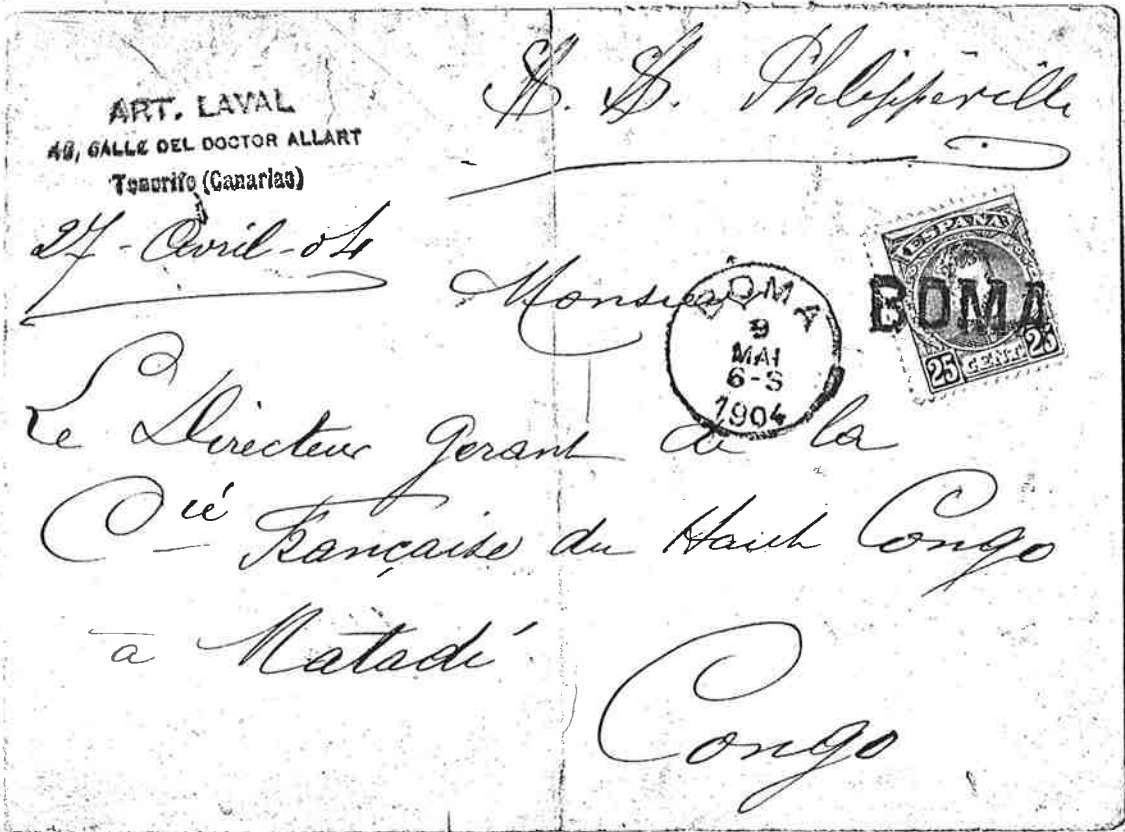
12 May, 1984, when the Annual General Meeting will commence at 12:00 noon, and the afternoon will be given over to a display of the Mols 1fr value by Mr. Hudson.

In addition, there is the joint week-end meeting with the Belgian Study Circle at Edinburgh over the week-end of 16-19 September, 1983.

The Abbe Gudenkauf's book "Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922)" was expected to be published within the next few weeks. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Abbe had very kindly donated the author's share of the eventual profits to the Study Circle for the formation of a special fund to cover any possible losses or damage to members' material as a result of transit for Expert Committee proceedings. Those present expressed their great gratitude to the Abbe and asked the Secretary to write to record this.

There being no further business, the President declared the formal meeting closed.

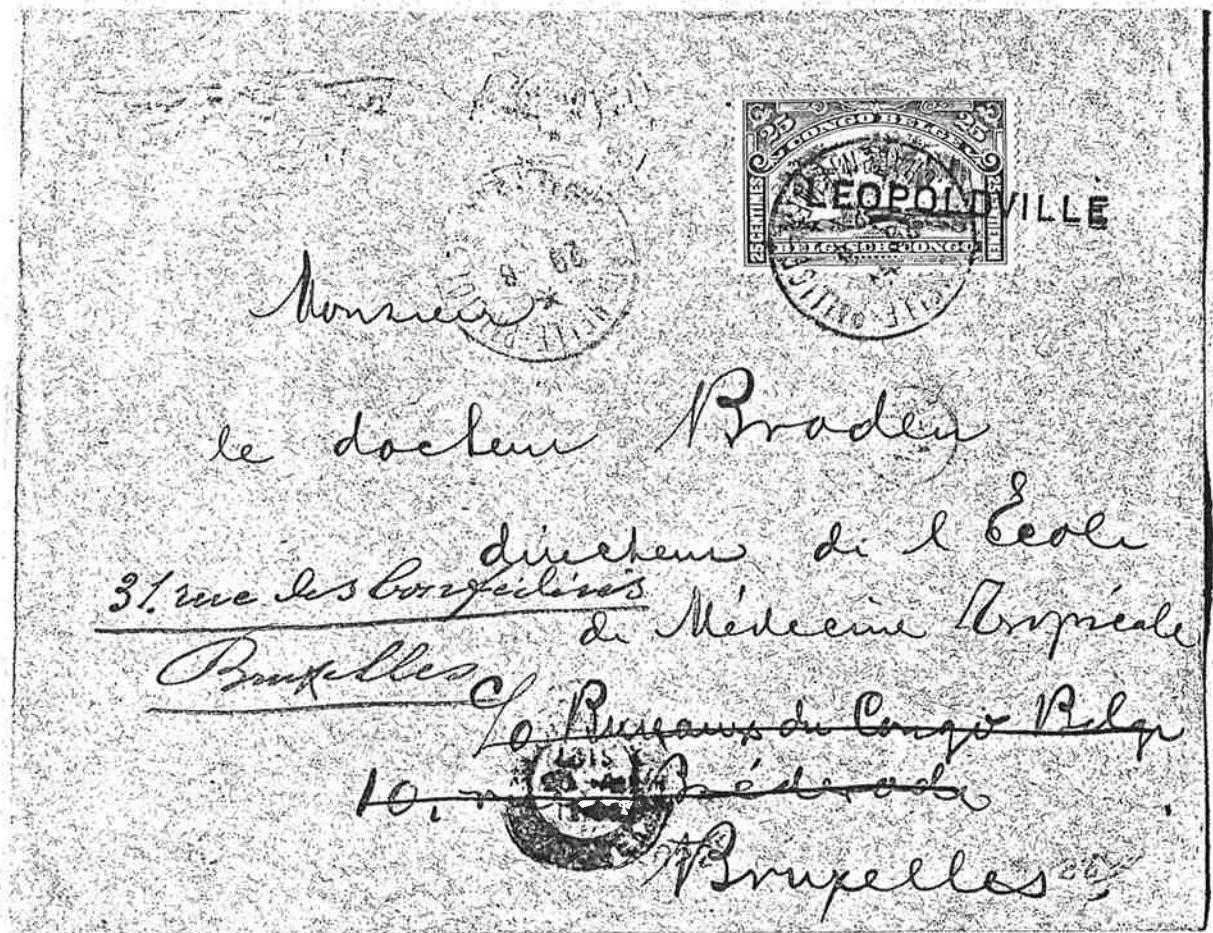
In the afternoon, the subject for presentation and discussion was the Mols 50 centimes value. The presentation was given by Mr. Hudson, who used pages from his own collection for illustration. For the first time, as well as a comprehensive display of the different combinations of plates, the perforations were shown and explained in detail, both sides having been updated in accordance with the very complete studies prepared by Mr. Hudson and which had previously been published in the Bulletin. At the close of the display, Mrs. Green thanked Mr. Hudson for the extremely interesting and lucid presentation.

MARITIME MAILComments-on-a-very interesting cover:

Contrary to the inscription written above by the sender, this letter was not carried by the PHILIPPEVILLE, the ship remaining then in Antwerp (from 11 April to 12 May 1904).

The cover was brought by the LEOPOLDVILLE 3 which left Antwerp on 21 April, landed at Tenerife on the 28, reached Boma on 9 May and arrived at Matadi on 12 May (Matadi arrival cds on the back: 12 May).

The rare use of the BOMA griffe is to show that the letter did not originate from that locality. The same use is well known, for instance, on several covers sent from Nyangwe or other places upstream which did not receive a NYANGWE cancel (1.1 or 1.2) and eluded the STANLEYVILLE one. They received the LEOPOLDVILLE griffe on arrival there.



Comments on a LEOPOLDVILLE 4 cancellation:

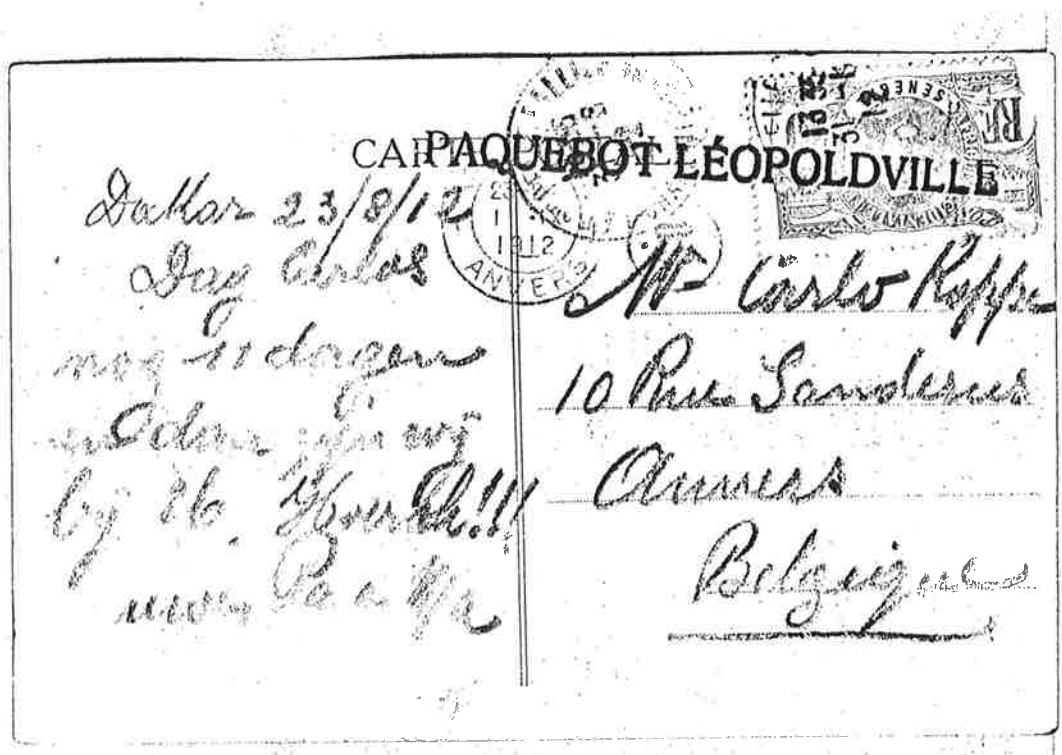
There was not much sense in writing home on the return trip from the Congo, as the ship itself was the quickest means to carry the message with the sender aboard.

There was however an exception to this rule when the mailboat landed at La Rochelle-Pallice, where mail handed over to the French Post would reach Belgium by railway before the ship came to Antwerp, two days being the normal time required for the steamer.

This cover, written aboard the LEOPOLDVILLE 4, was given to the purser who put his cancel (the griffe) and handed it over to the post office at La Rochelle on 29 June 1912.

The letter reached Brussels on 30 June as cancelled on the back.

The mailboat had left Matadi on 11 June and reached Antwerp on 1 July.



Comments on a second LEOPOLDVILLE 4 cancellation:

This is again an exceptional occurrence:

The viewcard was apparently written at Kakar after landing, on the return trip; the text "Dag Carlos nog 11 dagen en dan zijn wij U. Hoerah !!! uwe Pa en Ma." means indeed: "Good day, Carlos, in 11 days shall we meet. Hurrah! Your Father and Mother."

But the parents brought the card back aboard the mailboat and gave it to the purser who applied a PAQUEBOT LÉOPOLDVILLE cancel.

To ensure its arriving before the ship, it was also given to the French Post at La Rochelle-Pallice on 21 August 1912 and reached Antwerp the next day.

The ship reached Antwerp on 2 September.

THE INSTANTA PERFORATION GAUGE

Following Mr. Hudson's articles on the perforations of the Mols issue he and I have passed stamps one to the other and we have disagreed exactly what the perforations were with differences of as much as 0.2 on the gauge. On checking my gauge on a sheet with more or less regular perforations and by counting the number of teeth over a measured distance I found that my gauge was in error by about 0.2 in the 14 to 15 range.

My gauge being thirty or more years old I treated myself to a new one and compared the two; the old gauge is indeed in error to about 0.2 and the new gauge is as accurate as I could measure against a steel tape.

Members are warned not to use the old type gauge reading from 10 to 16 (as opposed to the new design with 10 to 18) without checking it if they wish to measure perforations more precisely than 0.5.

R. H. KEACH

THE "EXPEDITION DE FLEUVE ZAIRE" ISSUE (1979)

This issue consists of 8 stamps and 2 souvenir sheets and should have been issued during the first months of 1979. In fact, this issue is surrounded by a curious aura of mystery that has needed some philatelic research.

A first thing to notice is the fact that the official representatives of Zairian philately (the RODAN company) have not been concerned with that issue. It seems sure that it was decided between some members of the scientific expedition on River Zaire, and personalities of the President's office in Kinshasa.

A second thing to observe is the fact that this issue was not sent to subscribers having an account at the philatelic bureau of the postal administration in Kinshasa. But the stamps were available in that office, and numerous little traffickers offered the stamps in Kinshasa. The souvenir sheets were never openly sold and are not even mentioned in the "Catalogue Officiel de Belgique". They were found on the black market only.

Why? Two answers can be suggested. A fact that must be noticed is the very low face values of the stamps; the highest denomination shows 50k only, which represents about 14 U.S. cents or 9p at the official rates of exchange in 1979 (+ 5 U.S. cents on the black market).

The first possible answer is the mistake appearing on ALL the stamps: "Expedition de Fleuve Zaire" instead of "Expedition du Fleuve Zaire". The second one is the very bad appearance of the President's portrait shown on the left hand side of all the stamps (and of the souvenir sheets as well). Do these facts explain why the stamps were never normally sold over the counter? It is a reasonable explanation, since some stamps of a former issue were refused by the President's Office: 3 values of the "An V du Nouveau Regime" (24 novembre 1970) were never issued because of a red spot appearing behind the spectacles of the President's portrait that could give the impression he had a red eye suggesting the use of a drug. Now, the portrait on

this issue was better than the portrait on the "River Zaire" issue.

Philatelists have also observed that the stamps were printed in a rather curious way: the small denominations (1k, 3k, 4k and 10k) were printed in sheets of 14 stamps (2 columns of 7 stamps) while the 4 other ones are printed in sheets of 12 stamps (2 columns of 6 stamps). They are printed on a thick white paper, and the impression is very poor: they show numerous defects and very important variations in the colours (sometimes on one sheet).

Here are some examples:

- the colour surrounding the President's portrait on the 4k varies from blue to intense violet.
 - the 17k exists in light blue and in very dark blue.
 - the 3rd stamps on all the sheets of 10k present the mistake "ZAIRF" in the text.
- etc.

Anyway, all the stamps and the miniature sheets were accepted without restriction on mail, and they are still valid.

GEORGES CELIS

POST OFFICES OF THE CONGO c1955

GOMBE-MATADI. On the road to Manianga, 32 miles from Thysville. Here is a hospital, health mission, Lady Canons of St. Augustine and Brothers of Christian Schools. Agricultural school. The native chief, Lutunu Francis, who died on 22 May '54 was famous in this district. As a child he was received with Stanley by King Leopold II at the palace at Brussels and visited London and New York. To the north east of Gombe-Matadi near the village of Wombe, the Stanley Bridge is still in existence. This liana bridge across the Luazi, which was probably built by Van Gele, was used by all the pioneers bound for the Upper Congo, who still followed the caravan route. All that remains of the original bridge are the cable anchors and the hand rails consisting of strong steel cables. All those parts made of local material are replaced at regular intervals. Near Manianga steel wagon wheels 6' in diameter have been found. These were used by transports along the caravan routes.

GUNGU. On the left bank of Kwilu River. HQ of Territory of the Bapende people. R/T station. Trading centre. Government rest house. Road junction to Kikwit, Kikwa, Tshikapa, Kahembe and Mazabe. Near Gungu is a Bapende village where native dances are performed. The Dance of the Migangi, in which the dancers wear costumes of raffia, masks, and bells around their ankles; and the Dance of the M'Buya, which is a real improvised comedy in which the actors wear the traditional masks to the roles they are playing. Some of the dancers cover themselves with foliage, wear stilts and perform acrobatic dances.

GUMBA. Administravtive post and rest house.

IDIOFA. Territorial HQ. R/T station. Government rest house. School for maternity nurses. Trading centre, garage. Local management of Compagnie du Congo Belge. Catholic mission of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate.

IKELA. On the right bank of the Tshuapa river, 150 yds wide at this point, crossed by a motor ferry. HQ of the Tshuapa District. R/T station. River port on the Tshuapa served by Otraco steamers based at Coquilhatville (fortnightly service). Hospital. Rest house. Catholic mission assisted by a congregation of nuns. Centre of road network - the signpost in the centre of the settlement reads Opala 101 miles, Stanleyville 324 miles, Mondombe 75 miles, Bokungu 119 miles, Boende 285 miles, Lomela 118 miles, Lodja 249 miles, Luputa 665 miles, Katakoma 255 miles, Kindu 404 miles.

ILEBO. See Port Francqui.

INGENDE. On the Ruki River shortly downstream from the junction of the Busira and Momboyo Rivers below which the river is known as the Ruki. Terr. HQ. R/T station. Rest house. River port and stopping place for stern wheelers plying on the Busira-Tshuapa fortnightly service, and on the Momboyo-Luilaka (mail service every 28 days). No hotel.

INKISI. Alt. 1706 ft. Settlement on the Inkisi River and railway station. Telephone and telegraph office. Trading, agricultural and industrial centre. Garage and repairs. Hotel. River is crossed by a large iron bridge.

INONGO. Served by a steamer service from Leopoldville to Lake Leopold II via Inongo every 21 days.

IREBU. On Congo River where Irebu River joins it. Training centre for the armed forces. Hospital, telegraph, trading centre. Catholic mission primary school. North of Irebu the Congo forms a vast delta 9 miles wide.

IRUMU. Alt. 3074 ft. Previously HQ of the Kibali-Ituri district of the territory now replaced by Bunia. R/T station. Hospitals, trading centre, aerodrome used by Sabena and Sobelair. History - Irumu is situated on the left bank of the river Shari not far from the junction with the river Ituri. It was built after the revolt of the troops of Dharis column when its fort guarded the river crossing and the boat to Stanleyville. This very old settlement situated at a very unfavourable spot has rapidly lost importance since the development of the Kilo mines and their link via Bunia and Ndele with Kasenyi on Lake Albert.

ISANGI. Alt. 1380 ft. At the confluence of the Lomami in the angle formed by the left bank of that river and the bank of the Congo. Terr HQ, R/T station, hospital, trading and industrial centre. Seat of the management of the Compagnie du Lomami et du Lualaba, which is engaged in trade agriculture (palm, rubber and coffee plantations) and industry (rice mill and plant processing urena lobata and other fibers). Catholic mission. The Lomami was discovered by Hansens on 20th April 1884 when he travelled up the Congo in the "En Avant", a small paddle steamer which was the first power craft to be launched on the Upper Congo. Hansens concluded a treaty with Makoko, the paramount chief of the Mobangi in terms of which the latter recognised the suzerainty of the Congo Free State. The Lomami, which is navigable as far as Likoto runs past Wenge, a Catholic Mission of the Montfortain Fathers; Irema a protestant mission of the BMS and Opala, Terr. HQ and Catholic Mission of the Montfortain Fathers. Isangi was previously an Arab post and fairly extensive ruins of the old mosque are still in existence. The Topeke natives of this region are amongst the most profusely tattooed in the Congo; they leave neither noses nor lips untouched and file all their front teeth to points.

THE STICKNEY MACHINE ISSUES OF THE BELGIAN CONGOTHE CONGO NATIVES PROTECTION FUND ISSUE

The second series of stamps printed on the Malines Stickney Machine for the Belgian Congo was that issued on 16 January 1930, bearing a premium on behalf of the Congo Natives Protection Fund. Although the premium did not exceed 50% of the face value of the stamp in any case, thereby avoiding blacklisting by the F.I.P., nevertheless, particularly in the case of the higher value stamps, it was quite substantial and the series was never very popular nor, of course, was it used on mail except for philatelic reasons. Indeed, so poor were the sales that the original intention, which had been to keep the stamps on sale until 31 December 1930, was changed and the series remained on sale until 31 December 1931. The unpopularity of the series can perhaps best be indicated by the numbers printed and sold, as given in the 1946 - 1947 Philatco Catalogue:-

	<u>Belgian Congo</u>		<u>Ruanda-Urundi</u>	
	<u>Printed</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Printed</u>	<u>Sold</u>
10 + 5 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
20 + 10 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
35 + 15 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
60 + 30 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
1 fr + 50 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
1,75 fr + 75 centimes	402,500		97,500	15,000
3,50 fr + 1,50 fr	225,000		75,000	7,500
5 fr + 2,50 fr	225,000		75,000	7,500
10 fr + 5 fr	147,500	112,500 series	52,500	7,500

Clearly, as far as the Congo stamps were concerned, the 112,500 series is not the full story, but may well indicate a position similar to that shown for Ruanda-Urundi, so that perhaps 200,000 to 250,000 of the lower values were sold; this would be reasonable in view of the price differentials still reflected in the catalogue listings.

Further, as 112,500 series of Congo stamps would leave insufficient quantities of the top value to have provided the Ruanda-Urundi printing of 52,500, it must be assumed that the Congo printings are shown net of those for Ruanda-Urundi. In other words, the total numbers of stamps printed on the Stickney Machine would have been:-

10 + 5 centimes - 1,75 fr + 75 centimes	500,000 of each
3,50 fr + 1,50 fr and 5 fr + 2,50 fr	300,000 of each
10 fr + 5 fr	200,000 of each

These numbers must, of course, be treated as approximate in terms of the machine's actual throughput.

Designs: Only the Gibbons and Scott catalogues provide a list of the subjects, but their sources, if any other than the mind of the engraver, are unknown.

Inspection of the actual stamps adds some detail to the given descriptions:-

10 + 5 centimes	Native baby being weighed by nurse
20 + 10 centimes	Young native girl with mission nun
35 + 15 centimes	Doctor with tent surgery carrying out local medical inspections
60 + 30 centimes	Missionary with natives and local hospital
1 fr + 50 centimes	Native medical orderly vaccinating baby in mother's arms
1,75 fr + 75 centimes	First Aid Station, nurses and patients
3,50 fr + 1,50 fr	Native child being bathed by Belgian nurse
5 fr + 2,50 fr	Operating theatre in a local hospital
10 fr + 5 fr	Native pupils in mission school

In each case, the frames surrounding designs are copies of native patterns used on textiles, pottery, etc., by the various tribes.

At the lower left corner of the design of the 35 + 15c value is engraved quite clearly in small letters "I.G.", presumably standing for Institut de Gravure. The writer has been unable to spot any other value on which any such indication appears, which may mean that more than one engraver was engaged on the stamps.

Dies: The dies were engraved at l'Institut de Gravure, Paris, on steel. The actual dies used are in the Postal Museum at Brussels and consist of flat steel plates, some 10.5cm long by 7.3cm wide and 0.5cm thick. At the centre of one end of each, about 3mm from the edge, is a hole of about 4.5mm diameter, which would have been used to help hold the die in place when the transfer roller was rocked in on it. No die proofs or plate proofs of this issue are known. As for the other series for which l'Institut de Gravure prepared the dies, these were then sent to the Belgian Government Printers at Malines, where the plates (two for each value) were made and curved into semi-cylinders in preparation for printing on the Stickney Machine.

Colours: The colours of the stamps are as follows:-

Catalogue Officiel Number

<u>Congo</u>	<u>Ruanda</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Colour</u>
150	81	10 + 5c	Red
151	82	20 + 10c	Chocolate
152	83	35 + 15c	Green
153	84	60 + 30c	Purple
154	85	1 fr + 50c	Carmin
155	86	1,75 fr + 75c	Blue
156	87	3,50 fr + 1,50 fr	Deep Claret
157	88	5 fr + 2,50 fr	Red-Brown
158	89	10 fr + 5 fr	Grey-Black

Balasse also lists a (scarcer) rose-red shade of the 10 + 5c, and this is represented by two blocks in the writer's possession, although there must be considerable doubt as to its being a truly collectable shade, as it is most unlikely that there was more than a single printing of the stamp, during which the ink may have varied slightly in shade from time to time.

According to Balasse, Philatco, and the Catalogue Officiel, the 1,75 fr + 75c value is blue on azure paper. This is incorrect; the reason for the apparent surface-colour of the paper is, as explained in the introductory article on the Stickney Machine, that the paper was over-moistened, causing the colour to suffuse the paper resulting in pseudo-coloured paper.

Sheet Layout: The information given as to sheet layout is heavily dependent on a few large blocks of the lowest values. To that extent, it must be somewhat inconclusive until and unless complete sheets of all values either come to light or can be reconstructed. There is, however, little possibility of reconstructing Stickney Machine stamps except from large pieces, as the individual stamps show far too many minor variations due to the printing process for any genuine plate varieties to be evident, particularly after the plates have been curved. To date, no positional varieties have been recorded for any of the 1930 series. Further, the stamps are relatively costly and it must be remembered that there should be 150 different for each value. Serious study on this basis must therefore be postponed until interest is aroused in a researcher with adequate funds, a great deal of time, and a microscope. As shown above, quite large quantities of the stamps remained unsold, but their whereabouts is not known and it may well be that they were destroyed; they have not appeared in any quantity in dealers' stocks.

The material actually available for study consists of the following:-

Belgian Congo:- 10 + 5c/Block of 33/Numbers 9 - 15, 24 - 30, 39 - 45, 54 - 60,
and 71 - 75 (rose-red); Plate 1,
Sheet Number 023

/Block of 15/Numbers 11 - 15, 26 - 30, 41 - 45 (rose-red);
Plate 2, Sheet Number 490

/Block of 11/Numbers 13 - 15, 28 - 30, 41 - 45 (red);
Plate 2, Sheet Number 491

20 + 10c/Block of 22/Numbers 1 - 8, 18 - 23, 31 - 38

35 + 15c/Block of 45/Numbers 1 - 5, 6 - 10, 11 - 15, 16 - 20,
21 - 25, 26 - 30, 31 - 35, 36 - 38,
40, 41 - 43, and 46 - 48; Sheet
Number 482

60 + 30c/Block of 30/Numbers 6 - 10, 11 - 15, 16 - 20, 21 - 25,
26 - 30 and 31 - 35; Sheet Number 171

Ruanda-Urundi:- 10 + 5c/Block of 38/Numbers 8 - 15, 23 - 30, 38 - 45, 54 - 60,
and 69 - 75; Plate 1, Sheet Number 225

/Block of 31/Numbers 1 - 7, 15 - 22, 31 - 35, 48 - 52,
and 61 - 67; Plate 2

/Block of 24/Numbers 8 - 15, 23 - 30, and 38 - 45;
Plate 2, Sheet Number 344

/Block of 12/Numbers 32 - 35, 47 - 50, and 62 - 65

20 + 10c/Block of 15/Numbers 11 - 15, 26 - 30, and 41 - 45;
Sheet Number 281

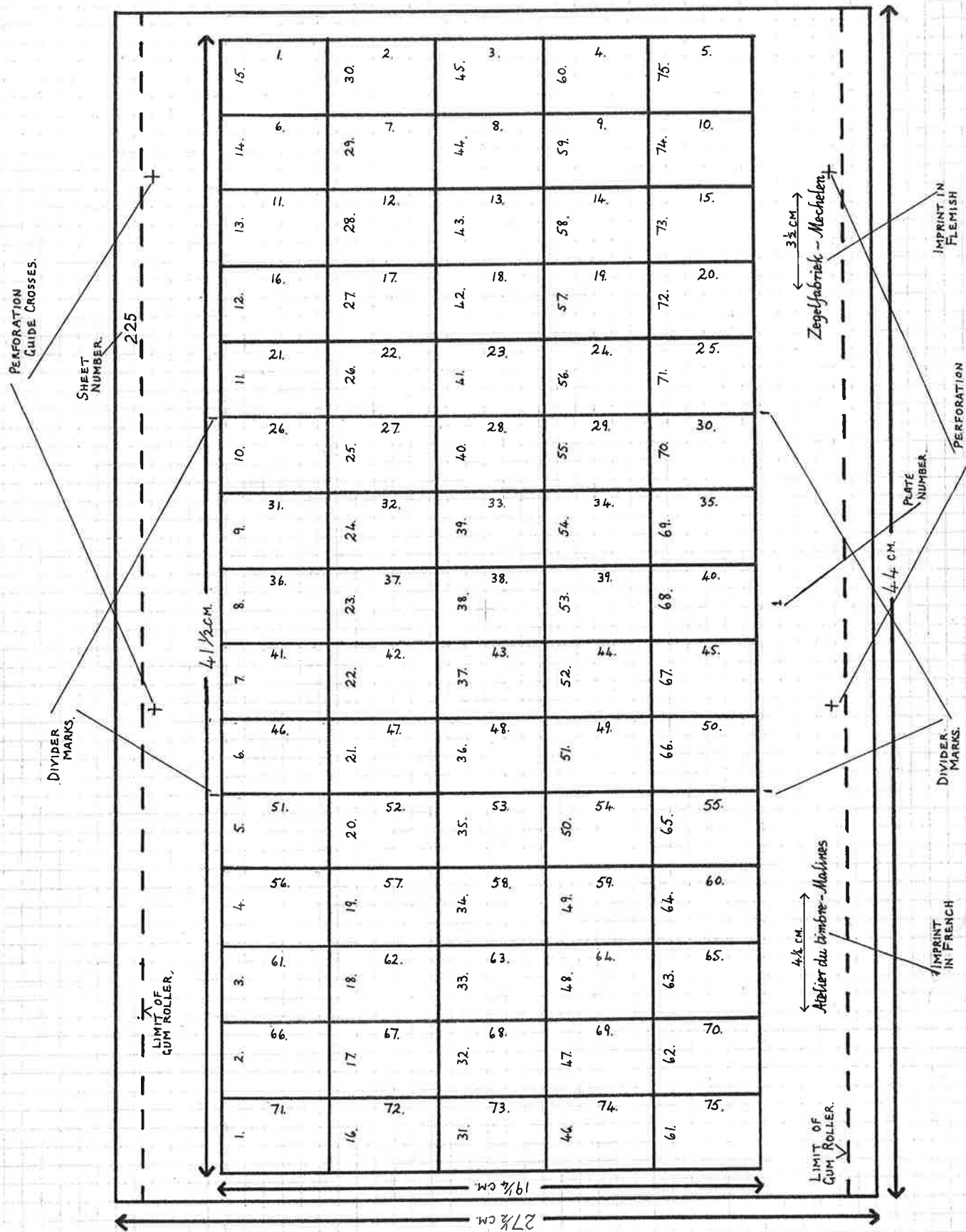
In fact, the Plate number appears only once, on the Ruanda-Urundi block of 38. In other cases where numbers have been ascribed, this has been done by comparing such points as perforation guide crosses, cylinder join marks, etc. These marks are also useful in determining which stamps are included in each block where corner margins do not occur.

As usual for the Stickney Machine, two plates, numbered 1 and 2, were laid out for each value and, after the plates were complete, they were then curved into semi-circles so that the two together fitted to form a cylindrical printing surface. The curving of the plates naturally caused some distortion in the direction of the curve and it was thus preferable that they were laid out in such a way that the shorter side of each stamp fell in the direction of the curve in order to minimise the effect of this distortion on the design. In the case of the Native Protection Fund issue, this meant that each plate consisted of 75 subjects set 15 x 5 in the case of the vertical designs; the horizontal

designs were necessarily laid sideways on the plate and, in the case of the two values of which blocks were available, it is clear that the tops of the stamps were to the right of the plates. As only a complete cylinder could print, each rotation of the press printed 150 stamps - 75 each from plates 1 and 2. The edges of the pieces studied indicate that, probably immediately after printing and gumming, the continuous web of paper was divided into single sheets of 75 subjects by means of a simple straight edge, as the borders are rough, rather than neatly cut. A sketch is attached showing the layout of a typical sheet, based on the material currently available.

It will first of all be seen that the sheets conform to the Stickney Machine norm of roughly 44 x 27.5cm. Much of the information is similar to that given in the previous "Stanley" article, but is included herein for completeness. The long sides of the sheet are trimmed, having formed the edges of the paper roll, while the short ends are rough, as described above. The gumming roller was some 2.5cm narrower than the width of the paper and thus there is an ungummed strip some 1 - 1.5cm in width right along the top and bottom of the sheet (for simplicity, all descriptions are oriented as for vertical format stamps). The actual stamps on the sheet occupy an area of some 41.5 x 19.25cm, so that there is a broad, 4 - 4.5cm, selvedge at both top and bottom and a narrower, 1 - 1.5cm, one at each side. Depending on the actual point of separating the sheet from the roll of paper, more or less of the line of ink which was held between the two semi-cylinders also appears. As these joins were not precise, the lines are different in each case and, given several marginal blocks, this assists in determining which plate each comes from. Further, on the 10 + 5c value, there is a clear difference in the perforation crosses at top right between plates 1 and 2. Plate 1 has distinct horizontal bars to the cross but the top vertical bar is faint and doubled, as ϕ , whereas on plate 2, the horizontal bar is doubled by an almost-converging line at the left, as ϕ .

The plate number appears centrally at the bottom of each sheet, about 1cm under position number 68, while the imprints appear in French "Atelier du timbre - Malines", 4.25cm in length, 2.5cm below, but centred to the left of, positions numbers 63 and 64, and in Flemish "Zegelfabriek - Mechelen", 3.5cm in length, 2.5cm below, but centred to the right of, positions numbers 72 and 73. The perforation guide crosses are 2.5cm above and below the top and bottom lines of



perforation and appear as shown, above the left hand sides of positions numbers 7 and 14 and below the left hand sides of numbers 67 and 74.

Just above the perforation separating numbers 5 and 6 and numbers 10 and 11, and just under that separating numbers 65 and 66 and numbers 70 and 71, are short vertical lines, described on the sketch as "Divider Marks". It is possible that these were also to assist in re-aligning the perforator, but the writer believes them to have been for the use of counter clerks in dividing the sheets, rather similar to arrows and other marks of this nature found on the stamps of other countries.

The sheet number, in black, is in large (0.5cm high) seriffed figures, always 3 digits (commencing with 0 if necessary) and appears in the top margin, some 0.5cm from the edge of the sheet, usually above number 12 or slightly to the left, reaching from the right hand side of number 11 and continuing partway above number 12. There are no "depot" or other marks extraneous to the printing process on any of the pieces studied.

The dimensions of an individual stamp are 27.5 x 39mm, while the printed surface is 24.5 x 34mm. As was usual in the process of rocking in the subjects using the Chapman Transfer Machine, which had a sidepoint which engaged in small indentations in the plate to ensure correct positioning of the impressions, the dots left by the ink which was held in these indentations (they could never be fully burnished out because of their depth and adjacency to the impressions) printed out as small dots, sometimes also showing traces of the guide lines on which they were centred, on the sheets. Each dot is some 10 - 11mm to the left of, and 2 mm above, the top left corner of the stamp to which it relates, so that stamps of the right hand column have no dot above them (as the dots appear above the next stamp to the left) and the left hand selvedge shows the dots which relate to the rolling-in of the left hand column. Unlike the Stanley issue, the sidepoint dot for each value is in approximately the same position relative to the stamp. Study of the dots, however, indicates that not all of the horizontal format values were oriented in the same direction. The sketch shows the position numbers applicable to those where the tops of the stamps are to the right of the sheet, namely the 35 + 15c, 60 + 30c, 5 fr + 2,50 fr, and 10 fr + 5 fr, but it is plain that the 1,75 fr + 75c and 3,50 fr + 1,50 fr were printed with the tops of the stamps at the left of the sheet, showing that the

plates were not all laid out according to any fixed pattern and, presumably, the transfer roller(s) must have differed also for this to be the case.

Further, on laying a straight edge along the tops or bottoms of the stamps in any row, it can generally be found that they are not quite straight. Usually the right hand corner of any stamp is slightly higher than the left, to a greater or lesser degree, sometimes as much as 1mm. This may be due either to distortion during the rocking-in of the subjects on to the plates or, perhaps, to the effect of curving the plates prior to printing.

Plate Varieties: As stated above, no interesting plate varieties have so far been seen on stamps of this issue. However, in view of the large number of positions available (9 x 150) and the relative smallness of the sample studied, it may well be that some do exist and await discovery in the future.

Perforation: For this issue, a regular comb perforator gauging $11\frac{1}{2}$ was used. The perforation does not extend into the top or bottom selvages and, where apparent on the pieces studied, it does not extend into the right hand selvedge, but does continue through that at the left, indicating that the perforator was advanced from right to left across the sheet. As the side margins are much narrower than the short sides of the comb, it is clear that the sheets were separated from the roll, and from each other, before perforating. In total, there were 111 pins in the base of the comb, and 15 in each of the short sides and the vast majority of the stamps are well centred, perhaps not surprisingly given a 3mm gap between designs sideways and a 4.5mm gap vertically.

Overprints: The "RUANDA URUNDI" overprints are similar on all values, with the RUANDA at the top and the URUNDI at the bottom of each stamp. The overprint is in red on the 1,75 fr + 75c value, and in deep blue on all other values. The letters forming the words are uniformly 3mm in height and it appears that the same masters may have been used for each word, on both the vertical and horizontal format stamps, as RUANDA is always 17mm long and URUNDI 15mm long, while the general angles and distances of each of the letters relative to each other are the same; the only difference seems to be the vertical spacing between the words, 26.5mm on the vertical stamps and 17mm on the horizontal stamps, and the relative lining-up of the words - on the horizontal stamps, "URUNDI" is some 1mm further to the right as against "RUANDA". This slight difference, and the

constancy of the spacing in each case otherwise, would appear to indicate two things:-

- (1) The overprint was made from castings taken from a master mould which included both words and not, as might otherwise be supposed, from individual printer's type held in a forme;
- (2) Separate master moulds existed for the vertical and horizontal formats.

Further, although the spacing between the words of the overprint is constant, the overprints on adjacent stamps are not always in strict alignment and this also supports the argument that castings, rather than printer's type, were used.

The following additional comment refers to the overprinting plate used on the vertical format stamps, as no large pieces of overprinted horizontal format stamps were available for study. It can probably be assumed that only one overprinting plate of 75 castings existed for each format and that it was applied to one sheet at a time - i.e., after separation from the roll and perforating. The reasoning that a single plate was used is based on the fact that, on all the large pieces seen, which include similar positions from sheets of plates 1 and 2 in the case of the 10 + 5c value, two clear positional varieties of the overprint can be found:-

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Number 28 | All the letters of "RUANDA" are shorter, just over 2.5mm in height, giving the word a squashed appearance when compared to the normal overprint. (Seen on 10 + 5c and 20 + 10c values.) |
| Number 63 | The first "U" of "URUNDI" is broken at the base of the left leg with only a thin trace joining the leg to the bottom curve. (Seen on 10 + 5c and 1 fr + 50c values.) |

There is also a non-constant form of variety which is fairly common; this is a near-vertical line starting some 1mm above the top right of the "I" of "URUNDI" and extending upwards for up to 3mm, although the length is variable. This was probably caused by a fragment of material which became wedged on the base of the overprinting plate and, to a greater or lesser extent, was inked and thus printed out on the sheet. So far found only on single copies, none of which shows a precisely similar line, this variety has not yet been positioned, although a marginal copy of the 20 + 10c indicates that it should be looked for on numbers 15, 30, 45, 60, and 75.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATEST ZAIRIAN ISSUES

Important lots of stamps, and a large amount of money were robbed from the Central Post Office in Kinshasa. The philatelic office was closed for about two months. Some clerks "disappeared" from the office, while other ones were sent to other offices.

The Minister in charge of Posts and Telecommunications has refused to sign all the latest decrees for the latest issues; but as usual, those stamps appeared on the black market. Three issues are concerned by this:

Monuments (6 values)
Ores (8 values and 1 souvenir sheet)
Koch (4 values)

Officially, these stamps are not valid, since the issue decrees have not been signed; but in fact, some stamps acquired on the black market are already seen on mail!

Another information concerns the new cancellers put in use in 1982. The following post offices have not yet received new cancellers:

Bandundu 2	Luena
Kabare	Malele
Kamina 2 (recently re-opened with pre-1960 canceller!)	Matadi 2 (still has a pre-1960 canceller)
Kisangani 2	Mbanza-Ngungu 2
Kole (Kisangani) (would be closed?)	

No information could be yet obtained from the following post offices:

Kabongo
Mateko
Mokambo

For a few months, it has therefore been possible to obtain new issues with pre-independence cancellations, but this has been an exceptional feature.

GEORGES CELIS

'CARTE POSTALE INCOMPLETE' OVERPRINTS

The Davo postal stationery catalogue states that 'CARTE POSTALE INCOMPLETE' overprints of various sizes were applied to split reply-paid post cards and gives the sizes as '49½ to 62 x 3mm and 73½ x 4mm'. Higgins & Gage lists only two sizes, 52 and 62 mm long.

A member has unearthed in the Kinshasa post office archives six such overprinting stamps and these have the following overall dimensions:

a) 49½ x 2½mm (INCOMPLETE 20mm long)	d) 47 x 3mm
b) 49½ x 2½mm (INCOMPLETE 20½mm long)	e) 61½ x 3mm
c) 51½ x 2½mm	f) 74 x 4mm

There is no reason to presume that this was the total number of handstamps used. Information on other sizes of overprint will be gratefully received.

R. H. KEACH

THE 5 cm MOLS BILINGUAL 1915 - V + E

This time, we shall not disturb our friends of the BCSC with new combinations of plates; we just became aware that the centres also were changed during the three first printings of this value:

1. In April 1915 appears the first combination of plates, which we now call V1 + E1 (previously V1 + E). The frames are yellow-green.

Very typical is the light and neat grey-black printing of the centres.

Also the presence on nearly all stamps (but not on the first row) of the little black cross on the left of the frame, at mid-height (1)

FRESH ENTRIES (F.E.) are clearly legible on the left of the centres, of the lines depicting the water of the river Congo in No 25, 36, 39, 43, 45 and especially 48, where the doubling is more pronounced. (But please use a magnifying glass at least 12x.)

Light traces of Fresh Entries of the same lines appear also under the microscope in No 12, 13, 26, 27, 40, 41, 44 and 50.

N.B. The green dots of No 38 are also visible on some sheets at the beginning of the next printing... (see V1 + E1)

2. A second printing occurred in August of the same year: V2 + E2 (previously V2 + E). The frames are always yellow-green.

The centres here seem black and blurred.

The little crosses vanished from nearly all the stamps but remain legible on the first column, and on No 24 and 48. (1)

All the traces of preceding Fresh Entries disappeared, but some RE-ENTRIES are showing now on No 1, 2, 46 and especially 50.

The other varieties depicted on V2 + E2 are nearly all black scratches which appeared with E2 and remain visible in the next combination.

The oblique scratch under L of BELGE in No. 49 is green, as the guide marks.

- (1) The visibility of the little crosses + depends on the background they show clearly when in the left margin of the vignette, but faintly if on a deep green surface.
3. Surely during the year 1916, a third printing was done, after heavy retouching of the horizontal lines ornamenting the frames: we call it now V3 + E3. The frames are normally blue-green, rarely yellow-green.

The centres suffered some corrosion and they show, especially in the first column, many black dots in the water and thickened lines.

Reentries on No 2, 46 and 50 seem the same as on E2, but No 1 shows here a heavy and extended doubling on the left of the horizontal black lines depicting the Congo River.

Please look at V3 + E3 for the designs of the varieties appearing with this combination of plates:

- Imperfect retouching is shown here with the external frame line included.
- Varieties shown on No 2, 4, 25, 33 are from the centres, black. The other ones are from the frames, in green.



As these stamps received several overprints and surcharges, plating them is often useful.

We therefore indicate the constant varieties, nearly all present on the three printings V + E.

The mark || indicates that no trace of a side-point is visible on the stamps of the first left column, and on several others.

- No. 1: Curved green lines under left 5 and B of BELGISCH.
- 2: Green short horizontal line in the centre on the right of the E of CENTIMES.
- 3: The side-point is here under the top line of the little white rectangle: unique.
- 4: Three little green dots forming an oblique line in the left white rectangle.
- 5: The side-point is high and is a little horizontal line. Little green line above the top right corner. Black oblique scratch normally through 2nd E of CENTIEMEN.
- 7: little dot outside the top right corner.
- 8: Little green horizontal line under C of CONGO, in the bottom margin.
- 9: Little oblique black scratch in bottom margin under I of BELGISCH.
- 11: Green point in right margin.
- 12: Famous black scratch.
- 13: Fresh Entry just above BELGE of the green background.
- 14: Green dot in upper right corner.
- 15: Fresh Entry of the top left corner and black scratch on the right.
- 16: Dotted scratch through bottom of last E of BELGE.
- 17: Black scratch.

- 18: Two side-points, the above one thicker.
- 19: Fresh Entry of the top right corner.
- 20: Fresh Entry of the top right corner (more extended) and black point above mountain.
- 21: Green dot in right margin.
- 22: Three side-points.
- 23: Two side-points in oblique, the left one thicker.
- 24: Green horizontal line outside upper left corner. Black dots under GO of CONGO and the right 5.
- 25: Fresh Entry of bottom left corner.
- 26: Two little green points in the S of BELGISCH, at mid-height. Not in V3.
- 27: Two nearly horizontal black scratches on the right of the C of CENTIEMEN.
- 29: Black dotted scratch in the bottom of last E of BELGE.
- 31: Black point above the little house which has a roof like a Swiss chalet.
- 32: Two black dots obliquely above the same house.
- 33: The large black dot above CO of CONGO appeared during E1.
- 34: Traces of Fresh Entry of top frame line: not on V3.
- 35: Several little green dots in the right bottom of B of BELGE.
- 36: Green dot on vertical guide-line in right margin.
- 37: Little green dot in the left white rectangle.
- 40: Burin mark between 2nd and 3rd horizontal line in top frame above NGO.
- 43: Very little black horizontal line between the mountains and green dot in C of BELGISCH.
- 45: Under left 5, little green horizontal line between bottom frame lines.
- 46: Well known green variety.
- 47: Two side-points, the bottom one thicker.

- - - - -

A further article will apply this to the 10c/5c BOMA.

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF and ANDRE VINDEVOGHEL

5 c. Mols 1915

25.
V1 + E1

#49
(Centres neat)


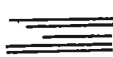
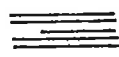
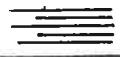
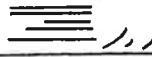




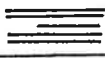
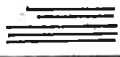




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	+	+	+	+
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+	+	↙ green dots	+	+
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5 c. Mols 1915

V2 + E2

(Blurred Centres)

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+		+	BE	IL
+	RE. <u> </u>			RE. <u> </u>

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		G 		
$\frac{6}{6}$		$\frac{9}{9}$		
5			CQ	
$\frac{4}{4}$			$\frac{4}{4}$	
			H	
$\frac{2}{2}$				$\frac{2}{2}$
N	N $\frac{3+4}{3+4}$			NGO
				$\frac{2}{2}$
LG $\frac{3}{3}$	$\frac{8+10}{8+10}$			
		E		
$\frac{9}{9}$			$\frac{3+4}{3+4}$	$\frac{2}{2}$
		/		
$\frac{9}{9}$	$\frac{7}{7}$		$\frac{7}{7}$	
				
			$\frac{2}{2}$	
				(9)

<p> 5B</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>□</p>	<p>□ → □</p>	<p> </p>
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49/29.

SCARCITY OF THE 'SMALL CIRCLE' CONGO CANCELLATIONS (23 mm. diam.)

We refer to the study Mr. Keach published a few years ago and try her to refine Mr. De Cock and General Du Four's estimates, taking into account our much more detailed knowledge of the various individual cancels.

1. We suggest to reserve the appellation E (extremely rare) to the cancels not known on covers which travelled normally through the Post, but known on several single stamps.

We consider genuine those which conform in their letters and figures to the style of the other certainly genuine obliterations. A powerful argument is also when all the cancels we meet agree in the same angular measurements; we have sometimes seen the trace of the genuine cancellor on the posthumous 'record cards'.

E: BANZYVILLE

BATEAU-POSTE No 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20 (1)

BENA-DIBELE

BENI

BOLOBO

GARE DE TEMVO (2)

KIPAILA F (3)

LULUABOURG

M'BAYA

MIKOLA F (4)

(1) We retain here only the cancellations type a or b which have the date and year or the date with hours (but without year) in their centre. Many cancels, deprived of their central letters and figures, were applied after 1900 to single stamps and even covers (c.t.o. and forgeries). Letters and cards with genuine BATEAU-POSTE cancels are E, this for all numbers from 1 to 20; we know of 5 such pieces.

(2) This is a station on the Mayumbe railway, where each station had premises reserved for the Post and a proper cancellation. This was not the case on the Matadi-Leo railway, where cancelling devices for each station were used on railway documents. Very rare postal uses exist, even here, but they must be proved on cover.

(3) F means we know of forgeries of this cancel.

49/30.

- (4) We saw three different cancellations of MIKOLA and we do not know which is the genuine one.

N.B.: We consider both cancels "CATARACTES" and "ITIMBIRI" as regularly prepared in the same style as the other ones, but not used in Africa on the spot, because LUKUNGU and BUMBA 1.1 were used in fact. They are comparable to stamps which were not issued (as No 13A and 13B).

2. We call T (very rare = tres rare) the cancels we met on a few covers and on something like a dozen single stamps.

T: ALBERTVILLE 1.1
ALBERTVILLE 1.3
AMBULANT BANANA-MATADI
BANANA 1.3bis (136 -268) recently discovered.
BATEAU-POSTE No 18, 19
BAYA
BENA-BENDI 1.1 F
BOMA 1.1 in red
BOMA 1.2 in red
BUMA 1.3 (known in 1911)
CHUTES FRANCOIS-JOSEPH F
ELISABETHVILLE 1.4 (known in 1924)
GARE DE BOMA
GARE DE LUKULA (GARE DE LUKI however is not even rare)
IBEMBO 1.2 used at Buta (after 15 Sept. 1907)
LEOPOLDVILLE 1.3
LUALI 1.1
LUKUNGU used at Lukungu (before 26 Nove. 1896)
MUSHIE
MUSOFI used at Sakania (1 March 1910 till the beginning of May 1910)
MUSOFI Used at Kambove (1 Octo. 1910 till 11 March 1911)

49/31.

NYANGWE 1.1 F

PONTHIERVILLE 1.1 in lilac (May-June 1912)

VIVI F

3. We consider as really R (rare) the following cancels known on several covers and on something like two dozen single stamps:

R: AVAKUBI 1.1 when spoilt (1913-14)

BANANA 1.2

BANANA 1.6

BANZA-BOMA

BAMBILI

BA TEAU-POSE No 2, 8, 13 and 14 (No 11 is not rare)

BASOKO 1.2

BENA-BENDI 1.2

BOENDE 1.1

BOGA used at Irumu (after 1 Febr. 1913)

BOMA 1.4 (known in 1899 only)

COQUILHATVILLE 1.1 on cover.

DILOLO

KALONGA

KASINDI

KIAMBI

LUALI 1.2

LUKULA 1.1

M' TQA

NOUVELLE-ANVERS 1.1 on cover.

NYANGWE 1.2

N'ZOBE

POPOCABACCA 1.2

SANKURU

TOA
 TUMA-MANI
 UMANGI 1.2
 ZOBE

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF and R. H. KEACH

KATANGA - 1906

1. The CHINDE Route (1892 - 1907)

This was the main channel used to bring men, supplies and mail to the Katanga Province.

The STAIRS expedition followed it first in 1892.

The few Belgians in the Free State sent their mail through the Stephenson Route via Chinde. Recently the BCSC Bulletin told of a p.s. card of British Central Africa sent from LOFOI, the Congo station soon to be replaced by Lukafu, a much better location. The sender was a H. Delvaux, a Belgian NCO. Dated Lofoi 30.4.99, the cancels were: KALUNGWIZI 23.5 - ABERCORN 9.6 - CHINDI 11.7 - ZANZIBAR 31.7 - VILVORDE (Belgium) 23.8 (3 months).

Because the easiest Route ended there, the Comite Special du Katanga made its base at Pweto; in 1903 the first post office in the province opened there. At the end of the same year, a regular mail route by relay, of native runners was opened between Pweto and Kabinda - Lusambo (in 20 days).

The CHINDE Route was still in use at the end of 1906 as the picture card shows, but the Stephenson Route was then abandoned for a more direct one through Fort Jameson.

2. The KAMBOVE - LIVINGSTONE Route (1903 - 1907)

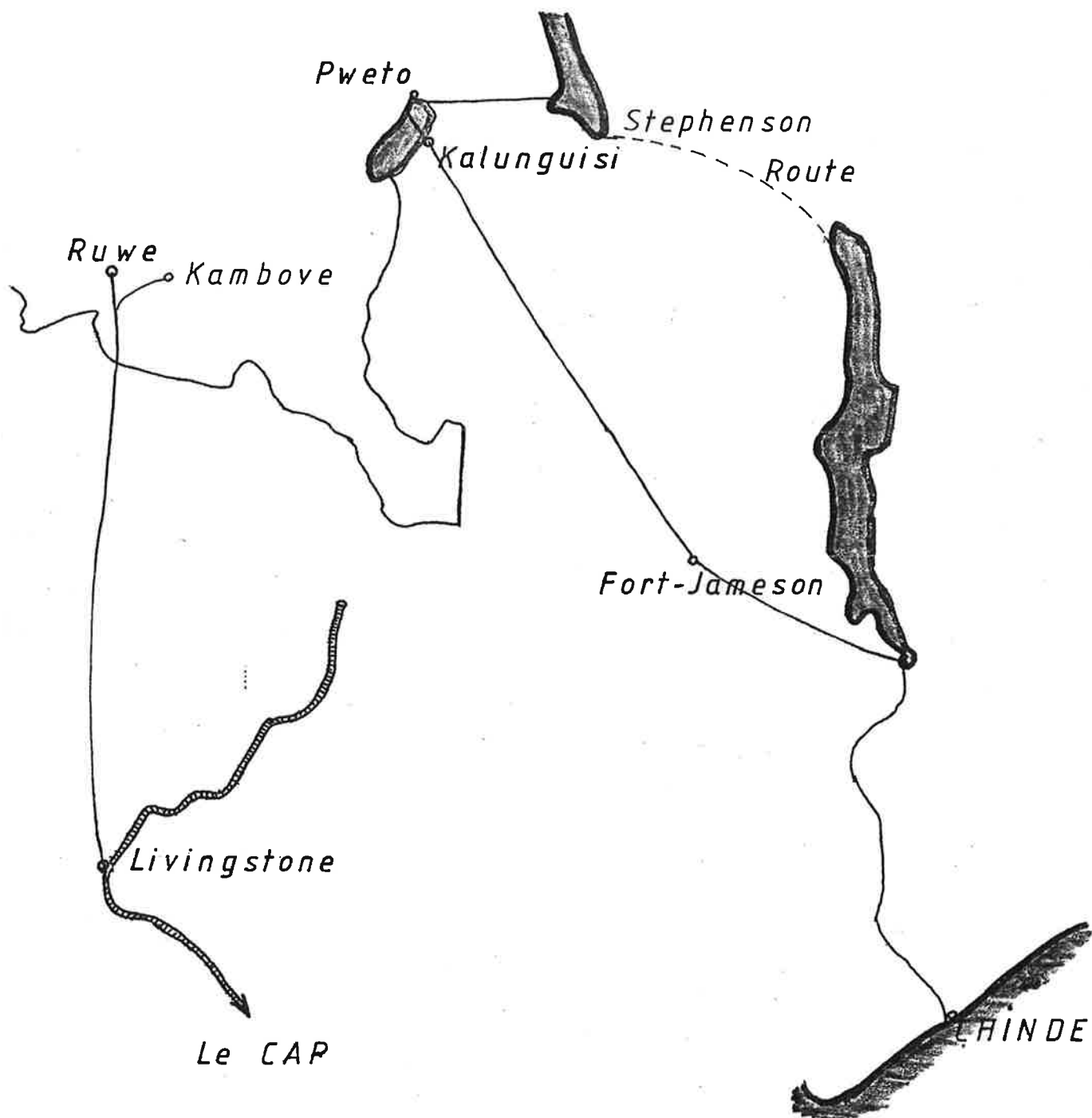
In a small and interesting book written by Major R. R. SHARP - "En prospection au Katanga il y a cinquante ans." and published in Elisabethville in 1956, we read on page 23 the following sentence:

"Mail arrived at Kambove once a week, with notable regularity, when you know it came from Livingstone, more than a thousand miles away, by relays of native runners." (This alludes to the year 1904)

You will find a witness of this route herewith. The Ruwe gold mines were discovered in 1903 and eagerly worked from the beginning.

ABBE G. GUDENKAUF

KATANGA 1906.



Le CAP

1000 miles.

Chinde Route 1892-1907



Pweto 1 sept. 06
 Kalunguisi 5 " "
 Fort Jameson 28 " "

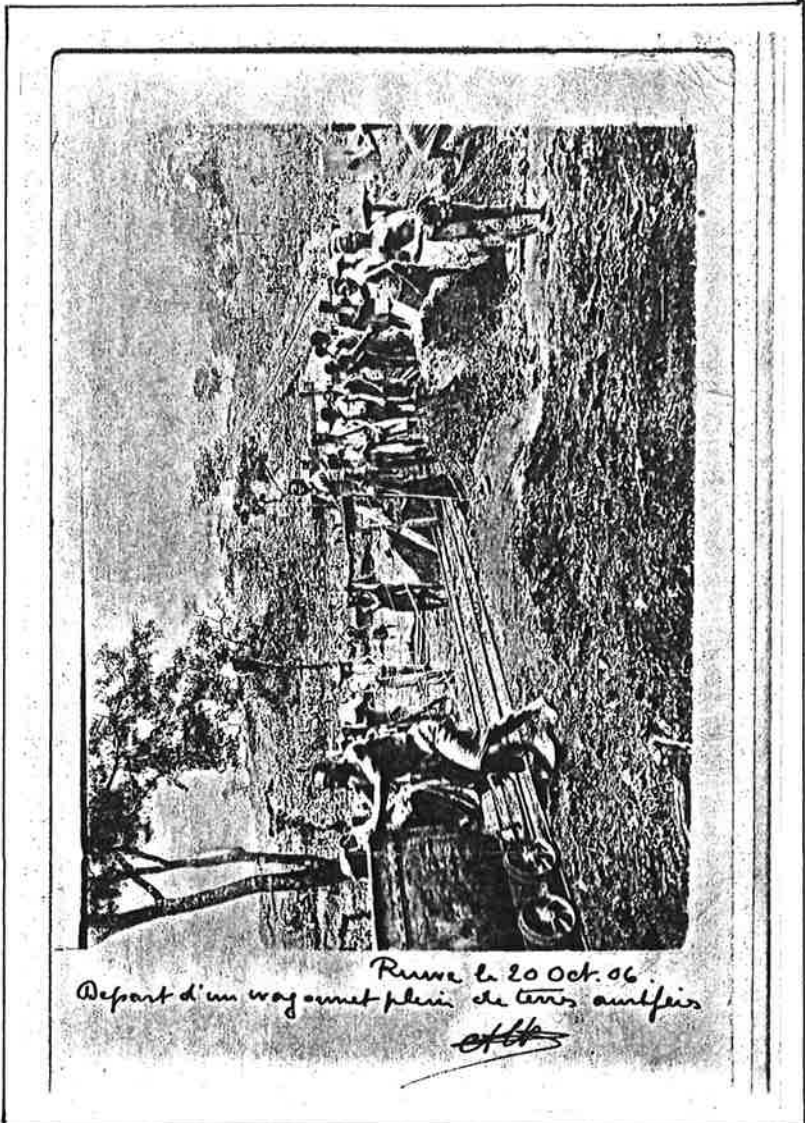
*Sur le Steam "Queen Victoria" - Lac Nyasa
 De gauche à droite, assis: Baettig, D'Levis
 Madame Lewis - Dursant; - debout, de gauche
 à droite Camagnini - Cookson - Colaci
 et Ferrari -
 Pweto 1^{er} Sept. 1906*

CARTE POSTALE
 POSTKART - 11

Côté réservé à l'adresse. — *Do not put adre. alléa.*

Mademoiselle E. Wille
 35 Rue Joseph de Keyser
 St Josse ten Noode
 Bruxelles

Kambove - Livingstone Route 1903-07.




Ruwe 20 oct. 06

Liv. 7 dec. "

*Ruwe le 20 Oct. 06
 Depart d'un wagonnet plein de terre aux fins
 et c.*

CARTE POSTALE
 POSTALE 12 06
 (Côté réservé à l'adresse. — *Van de boon (of) adres alleen*).



*Mademoiselle P. Wille
 35 Rue Joseph de Keyser
 St Josse ten Noode
 Bruxelles*