

BELGIAN CONGO SPECIALISTS' STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 7

July, 1952

POSTAL AUCTION SALE

The Postal Auction Sale, started late in April, has at last completed its itinerary with the result that 38 of the sixty-four lots were sold, a most gratifying result indeed. A list of the items including the bids therefore is appended. Of the total of thirty-three lots of the Mols and Van Engelen issues only nine remained unsold.

A second similar sale appears justified and all members are asked to send to the Secretary material that they wish included therein with September 30th as the closing date. At the same time will any Home Member who does not wish to see the lots please advise the Secretary so that his name can be omitted from the circulation list.

1928 STANLEY ISSUE

Following the notes in the last of the Bulletin Mr. Wood has looked at the part sheets of this issue that he possesses and has found the following vertical spacings of successive lines of perforation starting at the bottom; 5c, 10c, 20c, 1 fr. 60., 2 fr. 75, and 3 fr. 50. all  $35\frac{1}{2}$ , 37,  $35\frac{1}{2}$ , 37 and  $35\frac{1}{2}$ . His sheet of the 35c has the following spacings;  $35\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $35\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $35\frac{1}{2}$ , 37 and  $35\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Secretary has looked at his solitary sheet of the 10c and that is  $35\frac{1}{2}$ , 37,  $35\frac{1}{2}$ , 37 and  $35\frac{1}{2}$ .

From the evidence so far at our disposal it appears that the alternate spacing is normal but that occasionally other arrangements were used although the units are  $35\frac{1}{2}$  and 37mm.

ETUDE SUR LES FAUX TIMBRES D'EUROPE

Both Mr. Wood and the Secretary query the truth of the statement in the translation of M. de Haene's article that the perforation of the 5 centimes blue of 1894 is either  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 15$  or  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ . They are quite sure that they have genuine copies of this stamp without the compound perforation.

1915 - 25 CENTIMES

Some years ago Mr. Wright discovered the two centre plate dies of the 1915 issue and communicated his findings to our Belgian friends. The discovery was announced in the Balasse Magazine No. 57 and in the supplement to Balasse Magazine No. 61, corrections to the Balasse Catalogue were made incorporating the two dies. Members will be interested to note the prices quoted.

1915 - Catalogue Nos. 67 N1, N2, N3 & N4 are to be considered as Type II but there should be added under the "perforated 14" No. 67 N5, Type 1, prices at 200 frs. mint and 25frs. used; also under "perforated 15" No. 67 N6, Type I, priced at 400 frs. mint and 150 frs. used. The booklet sheets are Type II.

1916 - Tombeur - The 25c value is always Type I.

1916 East Africa - Nos. R31N1, N2 & N3, S1 & S2, are to be considered as Type I and under "perforated 14" should be added R31N4, Type II, surcharge Type B, priced at 200frs. mint and 100 frs. used.

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1918 Red Cross & A.O. - The 25c is always Type II.

1922 Surcharge: Existing items in the catalogue should be considered as Type II but there should be added under "perforated 14" No.99N5, carmine surcharge, Type I, priced at 1000frs. mint and 500 frs. used and No.99N6, red surcharge, Type I, unpriced mint and priced at 1,000 frs. used.

(At the same time the Balasse Magazine says that the price of 95NI, should be altered to 1,000 frs. mint).

1922 East Africa - The items in the catalogue should be considered as Type II but there should be added under "perforated 14" No.R49N4, Type I, priced at 50 frs. mint and 50 frs. used.

#### MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

It is noted in the Philatelic Press that Mrs. D.M. Green gave a display of Belgian Congo to the City of London Philatelic Society on 7th April.

The April, 1952, issue of The Masonic Philatelist contains an article on "Photography and Philately" by Mr. A.I. Heim. There are suggestions of how photography can help in the study of stamps. The article is largely illustrated by stamps of the Congo.

#### RESIGNATION

Mr. A.M. Castiaux has found it necessary to resign his membership of the Study Circle. His main philatelic interest is Belgium and he cannot find the time to cope also with the Congo. It is hoped, however, that in the future Mr. Castiaux's interest in the colony will return and that he will rejoin the B.C.S.S.C.

#### 1951 KATANGA COMMEMORATIVE

A cover received through the kindness of Major Corbisier du Meaultsart bears a pair of the 6 fr. 50 value of the Katanga Commemorative. The righthand stamp of the pair has a prominent colourless patch over the E of "BELGISCH" and although I have not found another example this may well be a constant variety and it would be of interest to hear from any other member who may find another copy.

#### 1948 IDOLS SERIES

Mr. Compton reports having acquired a copy of the 20c Ruanda in pearl grey instead of the usual prussian blue. The Secretary has a copy of the corresponding Congo stamp in the same shade.

A probable explanation is that the stamp was originally blue and has been faded by the sun. This value with the other three lowest values is often seen either unused or cancelled to order in cheap cellophane-covered packets in stationers' windows, where they receive the full benefit of the sun's rays. The 25c is also found in a pale carmine and this has probably suffered the same treatment.

SECTION BOOKS

It appears that the ring type binders are not satisfactory for the section books as the leaves of the 10 centimes book are tearing at the holes. Although it might be an advantage to have this type of binder as the eventual home for the section book it has been suggested by one of our members that spring back binders would be much more suitable for passing around from member to member. This seems a very sound suggestion. The Secretary has one spring back folder of suitable size himself and if other members have folders they can spare suitable for quarto sheets perhaps they would be kind enough to send them to the Secretary.

THE CAPTURE OF STANLEYFALLS BY COMMANDER TOBBACK

General du Four has sent an extract from the "Diorama du Congo" a book published in 1894, presumably in connection with the Antwerp Exhibition and now very rare. The extract tells the story of the picture on the 10 centimes value of the Mols issues and the following is a very scrappy translation.

It was one of the great episodes in Congo history when Commanders Tobback and Chaltin obtained a well earned reputation for bravery. The former of these explorers withstood for two days an Arab attack; his task was difficult and dangerous. He was not sure of his men, among whom there was no white man; the least slip and he was lost. With an admirable composure he prepared the counter attack. At that moment Chaltin arrived from Basoko with the Government boat "La Ville de Bruxelles", this unexpected help saving the situation.

At the head of a small army Tobback and Chaltin marched resolutely against a large troop of Arabs armed to their finger tips even with Winchester repeaters. Thanks to those wonderful acts of bravery not only did they succeed in holding the enemy, but they also gave him a thorough beating.

The right of the tableau is occupied by the Arab town; the left by the Arab island taken on the first day and the station of the Congo State. During the attack a cannon fired a shell which set the Arab town on fire; immediately the soldiers of the Congo State disembarked and the town was taken by assault. The Arabs left behind them more than eight hundred dead and quantities of ivory and rubber; many Arabs were taken prisoner and more than 1,100 slaves were freed.

The background of the tableau represents the Stanley Falls themselves.

NEW ISSUES

The promised floral definitives have now appeared and the following values are on sale at the time of writing:-

25c, 50c, 1fr, 1fr 50, 3fr and 6fr 50, having exotic flowers in natural colours on stamps of small vertical format. Members who are interested in modern issues will doubtless have copies already or will have read the lurid descriptions in the popular philatelic press. The stamps are printed in photogravure and are perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$ .

The writer's view is that as Courvoisier productions they compare very unfavourably with the Swiss Pro Juventute and with the modern Portuguese Colonies.

Sixteen more values are expected to complete the series.

ADDITIONS TO BALASSE CATALOGUE

Mr. Wood adds the following:-

25 centimes 1916, with East African overprint, perforated 14,  
centre Die II with imperforate bottom margin.

15 centimes 1915 issue, centre Die II with a clear double impression  
of the centre, one of which is albino. The albino impression is  
difficult to spot but the impression of the main trunks of the trees  
is quite distinguishable in the albino print.

The Balasse Magazine No.79 includes the following addition to the catalogue:-

No 30L ER15 centimes red-brown with local "Congo Belge" overprint.

The Balasse Magazine No.81 includes the following addition to the catalogue:-

Catalogue Page 69. No. 34P, 40c. Brussels V exists.  
Catalogue Page 165. No.238, 1 fr. 25 imperf. horizontally.

The Balasse Magazine No.68 includes the following addition to the catalogue:-

Catalogue Page 57. 50c. Brussels IV exists.

EXTRACTS FROM PERIODICALS

\* AMERICAN PHILATELIST - MARCH, 1952

Pioneers of the post - E.F. Hurt.

Mr. Hurt gives a brief history of the various expeditions to the Congo leading  
up to Stanley's opening up of the river during 1879 - 1885. He then deals  
with the posts during that period with special reference to Hertweg and the  
"Inland" and "Homeward" labels which were used for the direction of mail from  
the Upper Congo.

\* Balasse Magazine No. 81. April/May, 1952.

Des Frappes Parasitaires Dites "Etrangeres" - A. Maes.

M. Maes explains the presence of the parasitic marks on the 10, 25 and 50  
centimes and 5 franc values of the 1894 issue. He deduces information on the  
transfer rolls and on the rocking-in operation.

\* Le Philatelite Belge Nos. 59 & 60, May-June, July-August, 1952.

Les Timbres du Congo Belge - Dr. Avidon's series of articles continues with  
Chapter 2, The Bibliography. This bibliography appears to be very compre-  
hensive and should form a very sound basis on which can be founded a composite  
library of members of the Study Circle.

RECENT AUCTION REALISATIONS

Harmer - May 26th, 1952

1886-5 franc perf. 15, large part O.G.. £12. 0. 0d.

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Harmer - May 26th, 1952

1915 - Stamp Booklets complete, one with blue cover and one with buff cover, £8. 0. Od.

Harmer - July 1st, 1952

1915 - Proofs in Black £2. 7.6d.

1941 - Memorial Set, mint imperf. pairs £12. 0. Od.

Harmer - July 14th, 1952

1886 - 5 franc perf. 15, fine used £12.10. Od

1918 - Red Cross and A.O. imperf. pairs £10. 0. Od.

1941 - Memorial Set, mint imperf. pairs £7. 0. Od.

Ruanda - Balasse 114 imperf. mint vertical pair and 115 imperf. between, mint vertical pair £5.10. Od.

Harmer, Rooke, May 15th, 1952

1944 - 12 miniature sheets £6. 5. Od.

Harmer, Rooke, June 12th, 1952

1898 - 3½ francs, Plate Proof in blue and bistre £2. 0. Od.

Harmer, Rooke, July 3rd, 1952

1923 Die Proofs in issued colours, 13 including one duplicate £16. 0. Od

1923 Die Proofs, 20 in various colours £22. 0. Od.

Vessey, May 17th, 1952

1918 - Red Cross used £3. 7. 6d; 1892 - 5 franc grey used 15/-d.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It is confirmed that the next meeting of the Study Circle will be on Saturday, 20th September, and once again Mrs. Green is kindly allowing us the use of her flat. Mr. Compton will be speaking on the 40 and 50 centimes values of the Mols series and all members are asked to note the date in their diaries.

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