

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL COLUMNDOUBTFUL STAMPS

Abbe Gudenkauf has kindly responded to the notes under this heading in Bulletin No. 75

In 25 years he has seen, and this in a Brussels auction sale, one copy of Balasse 5N3 - the 1886 perforated 14 - which he considered to have a genuine cancellation.

The Abbe has seen copies of R15 N1 and R22 N1 with genuine TABORA cancellations although almost certainly CTO. These, perforated 14, are presumably with 'Grysolle' overprint and we see in General Du Four's book mention of these stamps cancelled-to-order with KISUMU-BPCVPK.

TYPOGRAPHED "CONGO BELGE" OVERPRINTS

In Bulletin No. 55, under the heading of '50 CENTIMES PRINCES' TYPO', I reported the discovery by the Abbe Gudenkauf of a block of four with the overprint misplaced downwards by a full stamp i.e. the top row would, at least initially, have been without overprint.

The Abbe now reports that he has found a copy of the 50c (original, not Princes') with the 'wrong' overprint, a copy of No. 28 in the sheet with the overprint that should have been on No. 23, again misplaced downwards by the height of a stamp.

Moreover, he states that Mr. Lindekens has found a copy of the 1F Princes', No. 4 in the sheet with the overprint that is normally found on No. 9. In this case the overprint is misplaced upwards by a full stamp and the bottom row would have been left without overprint.

On wonders what happened to these unoverprinted rows of stamps; the possibilities are 1) the newspaper office that did the overprinting may have noted the mistake and corrected by adding a single row of overprints from the typographing plate 2) the missing overprints may have been noticed by the post office in the Congo and the unoverprinted stamps had CONGO BELGE handstamps applied and 3) the stamps without overprint may have been sold over the post office counter - stamps without overprint were valid for postage until 31 July 1909, seven months after the introduction of the overprinted stamps. The mind boggles at what wonderful curiosities may have existed.

Of these stamps with the typographed CB overprint we know that one sheet of the 25c received a double overprint, two sheets of the 50c had the overprint inverted, one sheet of the 3,50F Princes' had the overprint inverted (and misplaced by one stamp) and that one sheet of the 10F Princes' had the overprint doubled.

It is unlikely that the three sheets now known to have had grossly misplaced overprints were the only three because relatively very few single stamps with

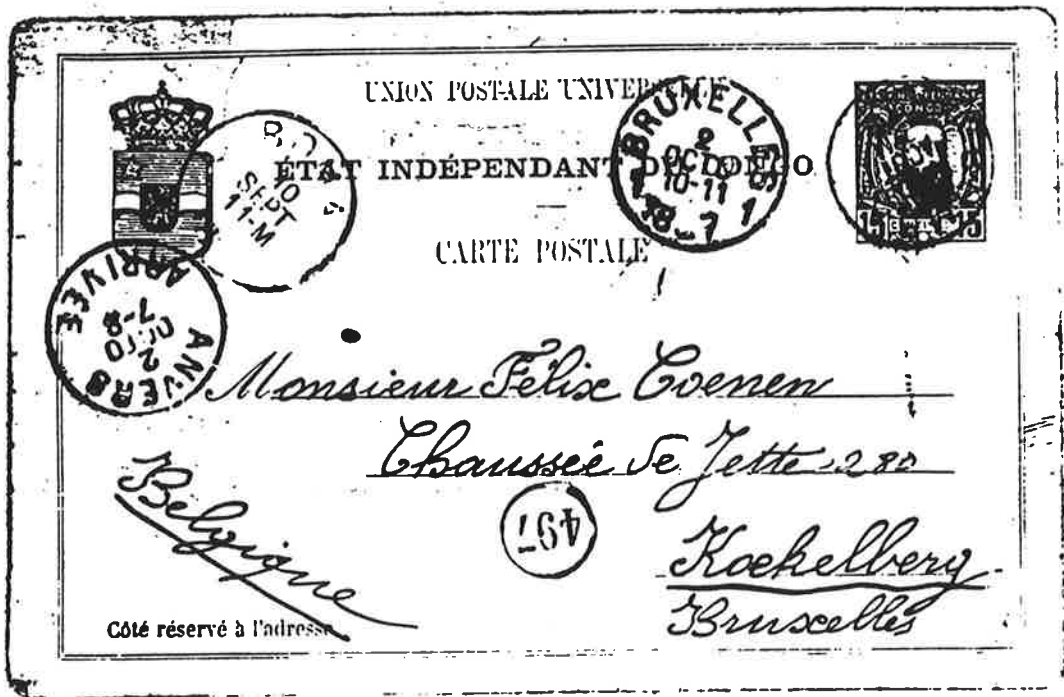
typographed overprint have been studied in detail. It is very desirable that all who have the knowledge and reference material position all these typographed stamps and then compare the overprint with what it would normally be. Most of us have not bothered to check the overprint unless we fear that it may be forged or if we wish to confirm that the stamp is from the original printing or Princes'.

A most interesting field of research has been opened for us.

A LADO DOCUMENT

A member has acquired a postal card, illustrated below, with the stamp cancelled at BUMBA and addressed to Belgium. As can be seen on the message side the card was written at Mount Abra, near to Aba and in the extreme north-east corner of Belgian Congo. But, as attested by Abbe Gudenkauf, in 1897 when the card was posted, and indeed until 13 April 1908, Mount Abra was not in the Congo but in Sudan and consequently part of the Lado Enclave. The postal card is therefore a true Lado document.

Perhaps the main object of this note is strongly to recommend that owners of cards and letters with stamps cancelled BUMBA and IBEMBO endeavour to ascertain where they were written and they may find them to have come from the Lado or be associated with the Lado campaign. This increases not only their historical interest but also their financial worth.

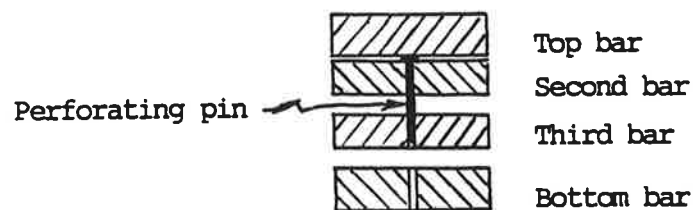


doubtedly their greatest stamp business was in recess-printed and it was surprising to learn that, over the years, they had bought from Grover only two line machines but no less than twelve of the much more complicated and expensive comb machines. It was explained, however, that a comb machine can be used for single-line perforating (but not the reverse) although obviously uneconomical to do so and it would appear that, to a considerable extent, Waterlow followed this practice.

Grover perforating machines are very robust and many machines supplied last century are still in regular use. It was clear that Grover manufacture and sell very few complete machines and their main business in this area is the supply of spare parts for existing machines, and particularly replacement 'heads' which will be described later.

Our particular interest was in the single line machines and the notes that follow apply particularly to them. The machines are normally motorized but they can be supplied to be connected to line shafting with fast and loose pulleys. Motorized machines have a treadle-operated clutching by which the operator switches the machine on and off.

The perforating 'head' comprises four steel bars, three of which are each drilled with a line of holes, drilled using a template, and through which the perforating pins pass, as indicated in the cross-section below:



The bottom bar is rigidly bolted to the base of the machine and does not move. The top bar, unperforated, is bolted to the second bar and simply retains the pins in position. In operation, which is automatic, the sheets of stamps are entered by hand into the head between the third and bottom bars; the third bar then falls and traps the sheets of stamps between itself and the bottom bar; then the top and second bars, with the pins trapped between them, fall and the pins cut the sheets of stamps and enter the matching holes in the bottom bar. The three top bars are then raised and the sheets of stamps are free to be moved for the next row of perforations.

Each of the four bars can be a single piece of metal, 30 inches long, or can be in short sections securely bolted together to form a single bar. Dowels passing through the bars ensure that the holes are kept in correct alignment.

The sheets of stamps are fed into one side of the 'head' and are pulled through from the other side, the operator on the receiving end adjusting the sheets in position so that the perforations are punched correctly between the rows of stamps. Although this is not a point raised with Grover's it is presumed that two operators are necessary, one feeding in the sheets and the other, the more responsible, receiving and adjusting them in position. The receiving operator

would be on the side of the head where there is the flat table.

The perforating pins are very similar in appearance and size to domestic headed pins but they are made of hardened steel and are not pointed but have their ends ground square.

The downwards and upwards movement of the bars are arranged to operate 60 to 80 times a minute; in other words, successive lines of perforation are punched at about one second intervals. It is clear that, with this frequency of operation, continued and concentrated attention by the operator is essential to ensure that each line of perforation is in the correct position; it is surprising that misplaced lines of perforation are not much more common.

The pins quickly suffer wear and it is essential in order to obtain clean holes that their square ends are kept sharp. With use of a machine on a daily basis the pins need to be 'dressed', i.e. reground, at the square ends about every fortnight.

If a pin is bent or slightly askew it can damage the bottom bar in the immediate vicinity of the hole and it is then necessary to remove the imperfection by planing or milling a thin layer off the top of the bar so that the surface of the plate is again uniform.

Rough perforations, as seen on some stamps, are due to worn pins, badly needing 'dressing'.

'Blind' perforations, rows of indented circles adjacent to rows of perforations, are due to too many sheets of stamps being entered into the machine and the operation of the machine thereby stalled.

Grover's stated that their machines can perforate up to six sheets of gummed stamps in a pack (this is doubtless true with modern machines with sharpened pins and skilled operators; it has been demonstrated in these columns that in 1916 Waterlow normally perforated a thickness of only two sheets and, presumably, this was found to be the optimum thickness).

Grover's were shown blocks of stamps, one with large holes and one with small; it was stated categorically that these could not have been produced with the same perforating head.

On being shown stamps with 'Rogue' irregular 12-14 perforation Grover's could not account for it and it is clear that Waterlow did not, at least always, purchase replacement heads from Grover and 'knocked-up' their own in their workshops.

R. H. KEACH

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Following the recent changes in the officers of the BCSC, I think it is helpful that I set out details of the future administration.

Bulletin. The Editor of the Bulletin is E.M. LAVITT, P.O. BOX 900, ROCKVILLE, CONN. 06066, U.S.A. - to whom all material for insertion in the Bulletin should be sent. He will produce a master copy of the Bulletin which will be sent to B.P. HUDSON, 92 OAKLEY ST, LONDON SW3 5NR. Mr Lavitt will distribute copies direct to members in the USA and Canada, and Mr Hudson will send copies to all other members.

Photocopies. (i) Copies of past Bulletins can be obtained from L.G. GREEN, 29 NEW ROAD, ESHER, SURREY, KT10 9PG, at a cost of 7p per page plus postage. (ii) Copies of all articles and books, other than the BCSC Bulletin, listed in the Bibliography (and including the Bibliography itself), are available from R.H. KEACH, 25 KINGSWOOD ROAD, TADWORTH, SURREY, at a cost of 7p per A4 page plus postage.

Subscriptions. Subscriptions for the calendar year should be sent direct to L.G. Green, 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG or via Mr E.M. Lavitt, Mr R.H. Keach (addresses as above) or Abbé Gudenkauf. The subscription rates for 1991 are as follows :

Members in USA and Canada	-	-	-	-	-	\$11 (US)
Members in Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	400 Belgian francs
Members elsewhere in Europe (including the U.K.)	-	-	-	-	-	£7.00
Members elsewhere overseas	-	-	-	-	-	£8.00

To save postage in sending out reminders, it would be appreciated if subscriptions could be sent in JANUARY each year without demand.

Expert Committee. This consists of R.H. Keach, Abbé G. Gudenkauf and P.S. Foden. Stamps or covers for expertising should be sent direct to R.H. Keach. Costs are as follows :

Single stamp	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1.50
Pair	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2.00
Block of four	-	-	-	-	-	-	£3.00
Postcard	-	-	-	-	-	-	£4.00
Large blocks of stamps and covers	-	-	-	-	-	-	cost dependent upon size

If an item is proved to be a forgery, the cost is halved. If the committee is unable to reach a decision, then there is no charge. But in all cases return postage is charged extra.

(Secretary's notes, continued)

Sales. Stamps and covers for sale should be sent direct to R.H. Keach, with indication of prices required. The Study Circle deducts 5% from all proceeds for BCSC Funds. Sales may either be to senders of wants lists or through auction in the Bulletin.

Treasurer. The Treasurer is L.G. GREEN, FCA, who will produce accounts to be submitted annually to a members' meeting (these will appear in the Bulletin), and who will also be responsible for reimbursing all expenses properly incurred either direct or through R.H. Keach.

Secretary. Mr L.G. GREEN, FCA is also Secretary, and as such he will be responsible for producing notes and notices of past and future meetings, and for keeping a register of members. Kindly ensure that any change of address is notified to him. All applications for membership should be sent to him for approval by the Officers.

Exchange Packet. This is handled by B.P. HUDSON, 92 Oakley St, London SW3 5NR. There is usually one packet a year, in September. For insurance reasons this may only be sent to U.K. members, but all members may of course contribute booklets for circulation.

Competition Secretary. This is Mr N CLOWES. The Competition is temporarily in abeyance, but it is hoped that it will be resumed at a later date.

BOOKS FOR SALE. The Study Circle has a sizeable stock of the following titles :

Cockrill Series Booklets (all by the Abbé G. Gudenkauf)

No. 41 : Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo	-	£5.00
		(1879-1922)
No. 43 : Mailboat Steamers on Congo Rivers and Lakes	-	£5.00
		(1896-1940)
No. 44 : Postal History of the Lado Enclave	-	£10.00
		(1897-1910)

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Part 4, BENELUX (3rd edition) £7.00

Etat Independant du Congo : Etudes by J.M. Frenay

(Specialised plating studies, one volume for each value). Already published, the volumes on the 50c, 1f, 3,50f, 5f and 10f - volumes on the remaining values in preparation. Price per volume £7.00 (including surface mail postage) or £8.00 (including airmail postage).

Please note that the Frenay volumes are available from R.H. Keach, postage inclusive. The Cockrill and Gibbons volumes are available from L.G. Green, postage extra.

THE BCSC 1990 A.G.M. - a note on the displays by Michael Round and
Ray Keach

Assiduous readers of Peter Foden's A.G.M. report in the June Bulletin will have noted that Michael Round volunteered to make notes. Here, hopefully not too late to be interesting, they are.

Walter Deynckens opened the proceedings by showing the results of some 8 to 9 years' research into Ruanda-Urundi and Rwanda cancellations, avoiding the larger towns. His findings are summarised as follows : other members may know of, and may like to report, additions to the list.

ASTRIDA (post office opened 1944) : cancellation types 8A, 8B, 8E - also an unregistered cover with a TROUVE A LA BOITE strike (members present speculated that this was applied merely to disguise a delay in handling). In 1967 the P.O. name changed from Astrida to BUTARE : Walter showed types 11A,B,C,D,E and G.

KIBUY (opened 2.9.58), KIBUNGU/KIBUNGO (opened 14.7.54) and BIUMBA/BYUMBA (opened 1951) were all represented; of KISENYI (opened 23.10.46) we saw four types of Type 8, plus 11B, 11D, and 16. In 1965 the spelling changed to GISENYI. Other cancellations shown were GITAMARA (opened 20.12.58) types 11A, 11B; NYANZA (opened 29.5.53) two Types 8; RUHENGIERIE (opened 17.1.49) types 8A1, 8A2, 11B and 11C; SHANGUGU (opened 17.7.52) types 8A, 10C, and in its respelled form (from 1964) as CYANGUGU, type 11B; and RWAMAGANA (opened 2.2.72)

Peter Foden followed with a post-1923 selection of die proofs, plate proofs, presentation proofs and essays. Notable were a punched proof sheet of Ruanda-Urundi 1925 60c (CO 68) showing just the 3rd and 4th rows overprinted; publicity proofs of the Congo Spitfire pair in unissued colours (purple and brown) - these in perforated blocks of four; Congo and Ruanda-Urundi 1942 pictorials, also in unissued colours; and proofs from dies of an unadopted 1960 design, very similar in style to the Kivu issue, CO 325-6, showing Usumbura Cathedral, and misspelled BELGISH for good measure.

Ray Keach produced a dazzling array of Princes, including an un-overprinted 3f50 single with punched hole (a proof copy), an overprinted marginal block of four 3f50, imperf except for the left selvedge, and a block of four 40c handstamped, in which No. 41 showed a dropped overprint, No. 42 an inverted overprint, and Nos. 46 and 47 normal. Opinion was divided as to whether this was truly a Princes printing or not.

Stuart Smith produced paquebot and picture postcard material, plus some postage due covers and a couple of banknotes for variety ! The paquebot markings shown included the following : Leopoldville 4 and 5, Anversville 1, Thysville 1, Albertville 5, Philippeville, Bruxellesville 3, and Elisabethville 2.

Shrewd readers of these notes might detect at this point, even without being told, a sudden improvement in the quality and expertise of reporting. For it was at this point that Michael Round had to leave the meeting to fulfil another engagement, and Ray Keach very kindly took over as scribe. Though at this point apologies must be extended to Peter Foden, whose second display, of miscellaneous postal history, was not reported by either of us. The fifth display of the meeting was presented by Laurence Green, who provided a very comprehensive display of postage dues on cover, the display being divided into several sections :

(i) Mols stamps cancelled with TAXES and correctly used as postage dues on unstamped and underfranked letters; also included was one of the small mimeographed forms used at Elisabethville to inform holders of post office boxes that they had postage due to pay on a package, the form having stamps of the Malines issue to cover the postage due.

(ii) Postage due stamps of all three issues and of Ruanda-Urundi correctly used on understamped letters.

(iii) Postage due stamps used as normal postage stamps, presumably due to local shortages of normal postage issues - this occurred relatively frequently during the 1939-45 war.

(iv) Postage stamps, conversely, used as postage dues, presumably again due to local shortages though one wonders about this; a particular example shown was an 8f Masques used as a postage due at Leopoldville in 1956.

Ray Keach wound up the session with a display of the local 1922 10c/5c, a common stamp of which a substantial collection can be made. With the four different settings of the surcharge, the four different combinations of plates of the basic stamp (V1+E1, V2+E2, V3+E3 and V1+F), and the three distinct perforations (13½ - or, more correctly, 13.7 - 14, and 15) many different combinations of these three factors can exist (but by no means all). The display incorporated many different combinations of surcharge, plates and perforation but made no pretence to be comprehensive.

Also shown were many varieties, damaged figures and letter 'c', occurring at some positions in the surcharging plates. There were some curiosities : inverted surcharges, double surcharges one inverted, pairs with and without surcharge - but without doubt many of these were contrived for the benefit of collectors. Possibly the best and most honest curiosity shown was a complete sheet with three rows of perforation omitted. There were also copies of the so-called 'errors' - 5c stamps of the 1910 issue with the 1922 surcharge - but the speaker was not enthusiastic about them.

The President, Mr Stuart Smith, in a vote of thanks, expressed the appreciation of all present to the members who had displayed. He then closed the meeting.

NEWS AND VIEWSMEMBERSHIP

Parke Hunter Cox III of 5100 Alberene Rd. Richmond, Va. 23224 telephone 804 230 4808 has become a new member. Welcome.

Torbjorn Bjork has reported his new address which is: 508 Garden St. Hoboken, N. J. 07030. His telephone number remains the same--(201) 798-2196

40th ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Our Vice President reports that the date for the 40th Anniversary Meeting has been tentatively set for Saturday and Sunday the 3rd and 4th of May, 1991. Further details will be sent as soon as the location has been finalized.

NECROLOGYARTHUR I. HEIM

It is with great sorrow that we have to announce the death, on 7 July, at the age of 94, of our Past President and Honorary Life Member, Arthur Heim.

Arthur was one of the founders of the BCSC and had been a most loyal member for nearly forty years. For many of these years he made an annual visit to either the Annual General Meeting or Annual Week-end Meeting.

His original interest in the stamps of the Congo arose from his engagement, in the 1920's as a civil engineer, in the design of the first copper extraction plant to be installed in Katanga. He built a fine collection of the stamps which earned him a silver medal at the Brussels International Exhibition in, I believe, 1952. Because of failing eyesight-he was blind in one eye due to an accident when a child-he sold his stamps many years ago but retained his cancellations;- at the time probably the best collection of them that existed. In due course he decided to part with them too and he allowed me to take them over.

He retained his interest by building anew a simple used collection of Congo and Ruanda Urundi but, when it was virtually complete, parted with that too. By that time his one good eye had deteriorated badly but he kept some philatelic interest by collecting modern British stamps.

As a result of our mutual interest in the details of the cancellations Arthur and I corresponded right from the beginning of the BCSC in 1951 but I did not meet him until he came to the 1960 London Exhibition following which we became very good friends and he was a regular visitor at Beverly and, later, Tadworth.

Arthur married twice.. His first wife, Maxine, died many years ago and I never met her but I met Grace, his second wife, on several occasions. Arther never really recovered from her death which occurred a few years ago.

It is gratifying that he was with us only a few weeks ago when he made his annual pilgrimage to our Annual General Meeting and was able once again to meet his many BCSC friends. We shall miss him greatly.

I have expressed our sorrow to Theodore, one of his two sons.

R. H. Keach *

Arthur lived about 90 miles from Rockville and I had the pleasure of visiting him on a number of occasions. His enthusiasm for the stamps of the Congo was unflagging. At our last lunch I took a young Peruvian aspiring aeronautics engineer with me and Arthur's knowledge and grasp of present aviation engineering problems was formidable. For my young friend the meeting with a vital, thinking, nonagenarian (who had, among his other accomplishments, worked on the design of the New York Subway-before 1920) who spoke in current terms was truly inspirational. I, in turn, will miss our discussions of the Belgian Congo.

E. M. Lavitt

EWALD H. OLSEN

It is with great sorrow that we learn of the recent death of Ewald H. Olsen, on of our Danish members.

He was a member for several years and I corresponded with him intermittently over the period but I met him only once, at the BCSC meeting, in Belgium, a few years ago. We found him a charming man, very good company and, if no specialist, a very keen collector of the stamps and postal history of the Congo.

I have written to his widow expressing our sympathy.

RHK

The EAAOB Overprints.

The Abbe Gudenkauf has reported what are arguably the most important known items of stamps with the EST AFRICAIN...overprint: two vertical strips of 8 from the top eight rows of a sheet of the 25 centimes.

The top and 2nd rows of the sheet had the short, Type S, overprint, the 3rd row had the long, Type L1, overprint and the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th rows had the short overprint. One can hazard a guess that the bottom two rows also had the short overprint.

Traditional belief is that the short overprint and the long overprints L1- but not the two different L2- were applied to the sheets from overprinting plates of fifty comprising ten stereotypes (or maybe electrotypes) of a strip of five overprints, the ten strips of five being clamped into a frame or form.

In Bulletin No. 41 an alternative theory was stated: that the short overprint and the long overprints (Types L1 only) were applied to the sheets of stamps by a printing plated of only five cliches in a horizontal strip and that the overprinting plate was applied ten times to each sheet of stamps. The Abbe Gudenkauf's discovery provides very strong evidence for the new theory.

If, in the overprinting press, the sheets were moved manually for each row of surcharge it would have been easy for the operator to move the sheet by two heights of the stamp and thereby miss a row. On the other hand if the overprinting press had a mechanism for moving the sheets of stamps forward in steps equal to the height of a stamp, such as happens with a comb-perforating machine the machine must have malfunctioned so that the sheet of stamps advanced by two steps without the overprint being applied. The missing row of overprints was noticed in the checking of the sheets and the sheet was returned to the printing room for completion but, instead of the original -short-, a line of long overprints was added.

In passing it should be mentioned how scarce are multiples of the 25c with the short EAAOB overprint. Before the appearance of the strips described I had heard of no multiple larger than an unused pair.

RHK

1915 10c with Inverted Centre

Mr. Clowes has sent a cutting from the catalogue of a sale in Zurich which includes the only known block of four of the 1915 10c with inverted centre from the third issue of booklets together with the enlarged reproduction of the block. If sold-it seems to appear fairly frequently in auction sales and one wonders if it is not withdrawn-it will doubtless fetch a price outside the range of most of us.

With this stamp it must be remembered that there must originally have been four panes of ten although only one pane is recorded and that is now split-up. There are rumours that the other three panes are quietly sleeping in a Brussels bank vault.

RHK

'Tales of the Unexpected'

Under this heading in Bulletin No. 75 Mr. Hoyte described and illustrated a document with EST AFRICAIN stamps cancelled with the stright-line TABORA. The Abbe Gudenkauf has written that the document is a telegram; the item is rare, only about tent of them being known.

R. KEACH

THE SENDING OF STAMPS FROM OVERSEAS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Stamps sent from abroad to the United Kingdom for sale (and perhaps as gifts too) are subject to Value Added Tax. In this context an import duty of 17% of the value, actual or assessed by H. M. Customs is imposed. Strangely this does not apply to stamps more than 100 years old, these being classified as antiques. The tax does not apply to stamps sent for inspection and return such as is the case with items sent for Certificates.

In my experience, unregistered packages and small registered letters are not inspected by British Customs but larger registered packages usually are and the tax is imposed upon the contents.

Recently I had an unexpected quite small registered package from a member in the USA and a substantial sum was demanded of me before I could recieve the packet. Not knowing if the contents were for sale or certificate I presumed the former, refused to pay the tax and asked that the package be returned to the sender. As it happens, the stamps wer for certificates and had I known this I would have accepted the package, paid the duty and would have expected to be reimbursed by Customs in due course. The member apparently stated in and accompanying letter that the stamps were for "certificates and return" and the imposition of VAT by Customs was an error.

Will overseas members sending stamps for certificates and wishing to send them registered please:

- a) in an accompanying letter state clearly that the stamps are sent for 1. examination; 2. Certificates of Authenticity and 3. return, and;
- b) advise me separately and in advance that such a packer is being sent so that I may know how to react when it arrives.

Overseas members sending stamps for sale and wishing to send by registered post please write to me in advance telling me of the contents and value and await my reply before posting.

R. H. Keach

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE

Stamps, cancelations, covers etc. for which certificates are required are requested to be sent to me to be received as early in October as possible. I already have several post cards and covers and shall particularly welcome stamps in order to fill vacant spaces in the photographic 'frames'.

The costs of certificates are as announced in Bulletin No. 67.

Items should be sent to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 5EE, England

POSTAL AUCTION SALES AND PRICES

Attached is the list of prices realized in POSTAL AUCTION SALE 1990 (3)

Also a list of lots for forthcoming POSTAL AUCTION SALE 1990 (4) Nearly all of these lots are of prime interest to the cancellation collector but the last few lots are of stamps, some of particular interest.

As always the lots are sold subject to the approval by the buyer that they are in strict accordance with the description on the list.

It is proposed that the 1991 (1) sale shall be of a general nature and members are invited to send lots to be included to R. H. Keach, to be received not later than 20 November 1990. Vendors may specify reserve prices or give their valuations. Overseas vendors are requested to inform R. H. Keach of what they are offering well in advance so that he may tell them how best to dispatch the lots.

UNUSUAL LABEL

Pages 77/17 and 77/18 describe and present a photo copy of a cover in the possession of our member Harry A. Eisenstein. Ralph Jaquemin reports that the label is unknown to him and both he and its owner would very much appreciate comments from our members. Please send your views to E. M. Lavitt and we will publish the answers, if any, in our next bulletin.

PREVIEWS OF THE DECEMBER BULLETIN

We will present, among others, articles on: 1. PERFORATIONS OF THE 'PALMS' ISSUES; 2. ANOTHER STATE OF THE 5 CENTIMES CENTRE PLATE B; 3. MORE ON THE PERFORATIONS OF THE MOLS ISSUES; 4. AN UNUSUAL 'AMBULANT' CANCELLATION and, quite possibly 5. AN UNUSUAL 'FLOTILLE' CANCELLATION.

EDITORS NOTES

Your new bulletin editor particularly thanks Ralph Jacquemin for his assistance in the transition.

Articles for the coming issues are needed and will be most welcome.

It has been suggested that we offer a Question and Answer column in the bulletin. Whether the question concern particular stamps, general issues or broad subjects with respect to the Congo, they may well be of interest.

Please send any you may have to the Editor at your early convenience.

Your editor had the great pleasure of recently spending an afternoon with our Australian member Anders Molander at his home. His courtesy and hospitality were a highlight of a trip to the World Orchid Conference in Aukland, New Zealand (with associated travel in Australia.)

Among his many gems was an early cover from the Congo to Western Australia. One of the pleasures of our hobby is "speculation"--such as--who went and why did he go from Western Australia to the Congo?--from, figuratively, one end of the earth to another. How many-if any-other such covers still exist? If so, where are they?

(A note--I found only one dealer, having searched in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia and in Aukland, New Zealand who had any stamps of the Belgian Congo) and he had only two pages from a world wide collection.) Such are the joys and sorrows of the 'hunt'.

Stamps of the Congo tell magical stories--whether they be the scratches and imperfections so assiduously studied by the Plater--the beauty of design and color of the flowers and animals--the bits of history presented by the photo cards etc..

All of which leads your editor to the question--What additions, subjects, discussions, etc. would you like added to the Bulletin. Please send your ideas and views. They will be most helpful.

DO NOT FORGET THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING NEXT SPRING

Edwin M. Lavitt
P O Box 900
Rockville, Ct. 06066
U S A

BELGIAN CONGO.

77/17

1952. Flowers in natural color.

Photogravure. Granite paper. 3f. olive green and pink (Costus).

Perforation 11½.

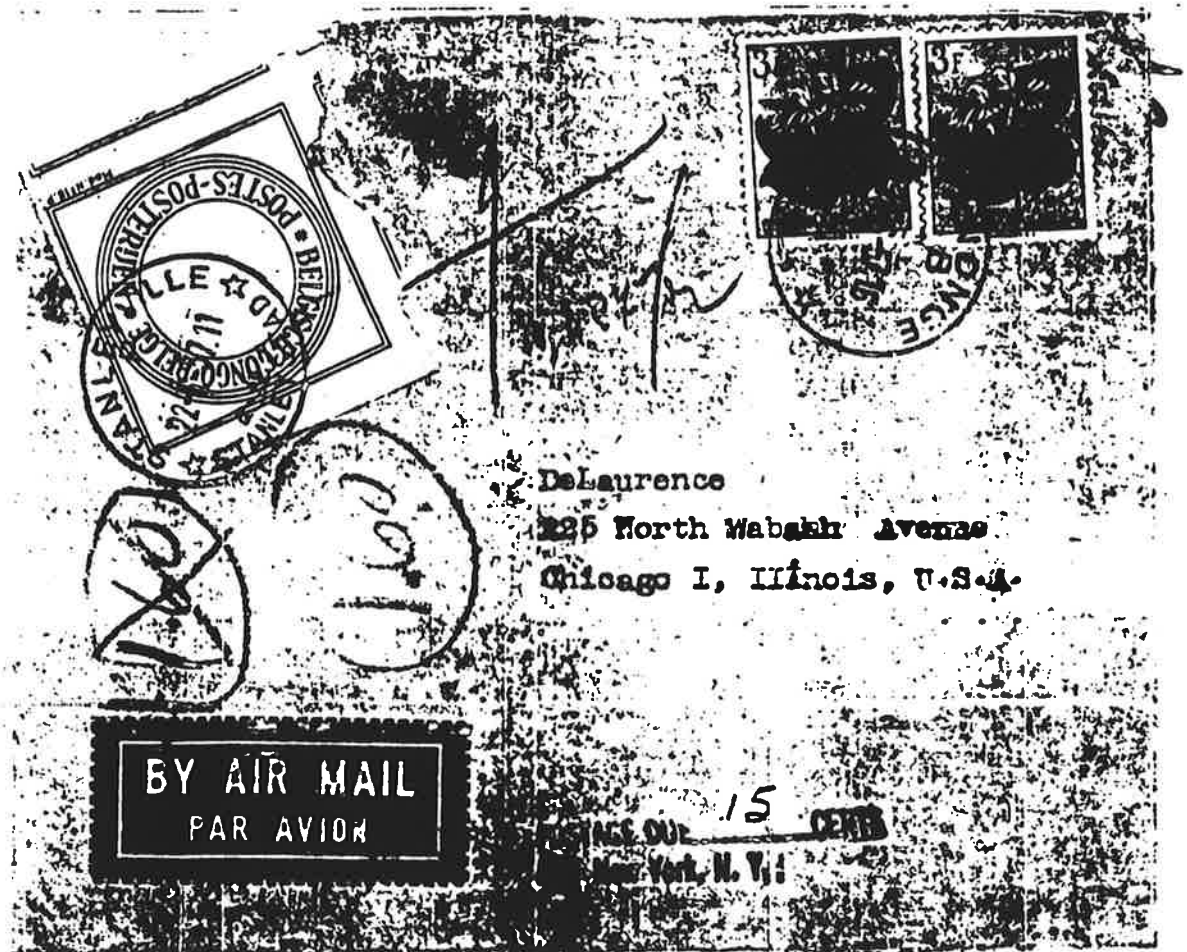
Letter damaged in mail and the postal officials sealed the envelope with "BELGISCH CONGO BELGE/POSTES-POSTERIJEN" (pair black on white. (LABELS-Pair).

CANCELLATION: "YANONGE/B/17- 6-57.16"

"STANLEYVILLE/22-3-57.11/STANLEY STEAD".

backstamped; "NEW YORK (id1) N.Y./JUN/27/1957/3/AIR MAIL FIELD P.T.S."

On front "POSTAGE DIE 15 CENTS/AMF New York,N.Y."



June 17, 1957,

June 22, 1957.

June 27, 1957.

Yanonge to Chicago, Illinois via Stanleyville and New York.

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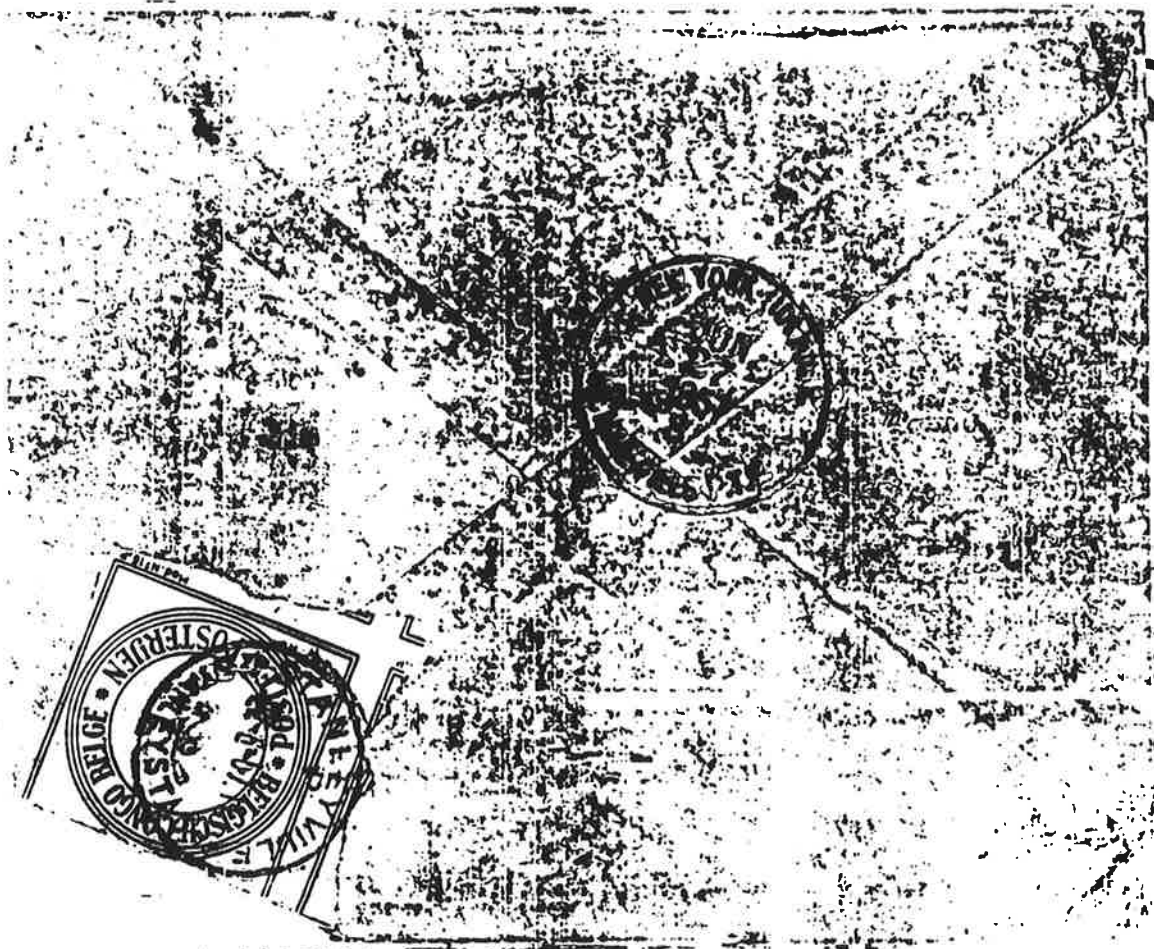
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