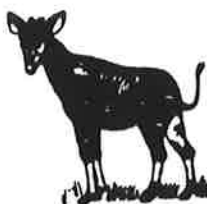


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UK

**BULLETIN 94**

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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**DECEMBER 1994**

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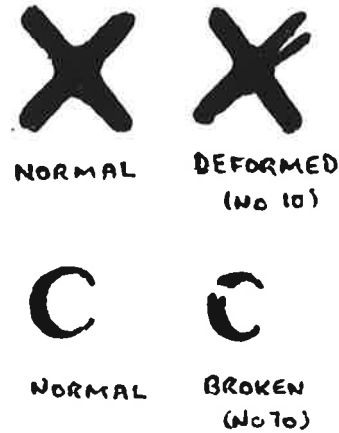
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I am indebted to our Belgian member Roland Ingels for the following observations, based on an examination of several part-sheets, on the overprinting plate used for CO 226, the 1fr50 National Parks stamp surcharged 5c.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). The horizontal distance between the "5" and the "c." is constant at 3mm throughout the plate, as is the vertical distance between the "5" and the "X", at 19mm. Between columns of the overprint, however, there are small variations. The distance between the right of "c." and the left of "5" in the adjoining overprint is 20mm between all pairs of columns except columns 5 and 6, where it is 22mm. At the bottom, the distance between the right of one "X" and left of the next one alternates between 24mm and 23mm, except that between columns 5 and 6 it is 25mm.



There are also constant plate varieties on the overprinting plate. If positions on the sheet are counted first from left to right and then from top to bottom, there are characteristic deformities of the lower cross, slightly different in each position, on nos 10, 19, 20 and 48. The "c" is broken on all positions in the seventh row, nos 61 to 70. The degree of the break varies from position to position, being most conspicuous in nos 65 and 70. The minor differences in the break are consistent from sheet to sheet.



These observations suggest that the overprinting plate was made up of four clichés or bloc-reports of 25 (5 x 5) positions each.

With a reference sheet to hand (perhaps lot 144 in the current auction) it would be possible to position single copies from half a dozen sheet positions or more. Without such a sheet, one could at least collect examples of the 'deformed x' or 'broken c' - these in addition to the well-known "petit lac" variety, Balasse 199V1, on the underlying stamp in position 42.

## **DIE PROOFS OF THE 3,50 MOLS OF THE CONGO FREE STATE**

In the die proofs of the 3,50 Frs there exist only a single die of the frame and a single die of the centre but each is found in three states.

### **I. FIRST STATE OF THE FRAME AND CENTRE DIES**

#### **I.A. The First State of the Frame Die**

The die proof of the frame measures 33.1mm x 22.5 mm.

The circles around the '3,50' at both left and right as well as the scroll enclosing the words "TROIS FRANCS CINQUANTE CENTIMES" is full of dots.

#### **I.B. The First State of the Centre Die**

The die proof of the centre measures 19.4mm (from the left extremity of the roof of the left hut to the right extremity of the roof of the right hut) x 9.3mm (from the foot of the first tree on the left to the top extremity of its foliage).

The engraving of the centre is surrounded by a dotted double rectangle of external measurements 33.1mm x 22.5mm, internal 31.8mm x 21.2mm, of which the corresponding sides are parallel and of which the width is a uniform 0.6mm. The external rectangle corresponds to the dimensions of the frame.

The roof of the left hut is short of engraving: the trunks of the trees are heavily engraved.

### **II. SECOND STATE OF THE FRAME AND CENTRE DIES**

#### **II.A. The Second State of the Frame Die**

The die proof of the frame measures 34.2mm x 22.6 mm. Compared with the die proof of the first state horizontal dimensions are a little greater, vertical dimensions the same. The dimensions can vary slightly depending on the treatment of the paper in the printing press (damping of the paper before printing produces a stretching of the paper vertically in the direction of the fibres and a shrinking horizontally; drying after printing induces a return to the original dimensions.

The circles around the '3,50' at left and right as well as the scroll is full of short lines.

In addition one sees:

-In the top margin two dots, at a distance of 0.1mm from the top frame line, one, minute, above the space between the letters E and P of INDEPENDANT, the other, larger, above the letter P of INDEPENDANT.

-in the bottom margin a minute dot 0.3mm below the bottom frame line under the first letter N of CINQUANTE;

-finally a sidepoint in the centre of the space reserved for the centre engraving, below the first letter E of INDEPENDANT, at the height of the figures 3,50.

#### **II.B. The Second State of the Centre Die**

The die proof of the centre measures 20.2mm x 9.4mm. These variations in dimensions compared with the proof of the die in its first state are similarly due to the treatment of the paper in the printing.

The dotted double rectangle surrounding the engraving has disappeared.

The roof of the left hut is shaded by additionally engraved lines and dots; the trunks of the trees are neat and the engraving of the sky and the ground are thicker.

In addition one sees:

-four setting dots which correspond to the four angles of the frame; in view of the difference in the final positioning of the centre within the frame the positions of these dots vary;

-two thin vertical guide lines midway above the upper frame and below the lower frame;

-two thin horizontal guide lines at mid-height to the left of the left frame and the the right of the right frame;

-finally, around the engraving of the centre a discontinuous and fragmented peripheral line which crudely reproduces in the centre design the inner contour of the frame-it is particularly visible on the left side of the centre; the significance of this peripheral line is obvious: before engraving the centre die the engraver marked on the future die the space available for the engraving.

The second state of the centre die was used in combination with the second state of the frame die to produce proofs.

### **III. THIRD STATE OF THE FRAME AND CENTRE DIES**

#### **III.A. The Third State of the Frame Die and the Frame Plate Resulting from the Die**

The four large setting dots at the corners of the frame and the horizontal and vertical lines joining them are completely eliminated.

The central vertical guide lines and the horizontal guide lines persist but are somewhat fragmented.

The peripheral discontinuous line which follows the inner contour of the frame is also largely eliminated although traces persist.

In the upper frame of all subjects the plate from which the issued stamps were printed and prepared from the third state of the centre die is seen a large setting dot situated in a variable position in the first letter E or above the first letter E of INDEPENDANT. These setting dots were similarly engraved on the plate before it was entered.

The third state of the centre die and the centre plate prepared from it were used respectively in combination with the third state of the frame die and the frame plate prepared from it.

Dr. K. Goddeeris

translated from the French by R. H. Keach



First State



Second State



Second State



Third State



Second état - caractères du cadre



Second état - caractères du centre

## THE PRINCE'S POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS

### P R E L I M I N A R Y

In 1909, Free Independant State of Congo was given by King Léopold II to Belgium .This enormous territory was called BELGIAN CONGO .

The existing stamps and postal stationery were overprinted manually or mechanically in Brussels or in Belgian Congo. Seven different surcharges were manually used in Congo and eight in Belgium .The postal stationery cards were all overprinted in Congo.

After that, a special printing was done in Belgium in 1909 :

- 5.000 sets of stamps ( 100 sheets x 50 )
- Four different postal stationery cards . The exact amount of these cards is unknown but estimated by some specialists to 2.200 cards of each .

The legend says that this issue was done on request of the Queen, to have some sets for the Princes of Belgium . Practically, these stamps and cards were probably printed to avoid an out of stock situation in the Colony, looking forward to the unilingual issue . However, the name of "Princes issue " remained and is still used today by the collectors .

### F O U R   D I F F E R E N T   C A R D S

Four different cards were printed and overprinted mechanically in Brussels :

- 0,10 cts red on buff ( Stibbe catalogue n°24 )
- 0,15 cts orange on light buff ( n° 21 )
- 0,10 cts + 0,10 cts blue/light brown on grey ( n° 25 )
- 0,15 cts + 0,15 cts brown/ green on pink ( n° 23 )

The cards of " Princes issue " were not overprinted manually .

In 1910, due to a decrease of postal rates, these cards were again overprinted with a new value :

- 0,05 on 0,10 cts ( n° 32 )
- 0,10 cts on 0,15 cts ( n° 29 )
- 0,05 cts + 0,05 cts on 0,10 + 0,10 cts ( n° 31 )
- 0,10 cts + 0,10 cts : waving line on text ( n° 33 )

The number of overprinted cards is ,once again, unknown. Estimations were published on base of probabilities, but these figures are not reliable .

All these cards were sent to Belgian Congo .  
Due to the low number of cards, these cards are difficult to find, as well mint as used .  
Some of the reply cards were cut. . and both parts exist with cachets " carte incomplete " ( incomplete card ).  
( see Stibbe Catalogue ).

HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE THESE CARDS ?
------------------------------------

1) 0,10 cts card

- 
- Intense red colour .
  - 2 colour spots in the frame at the right side of the stamp (A)
  - Background of text more imprinted (B)
  - In the third line of the text, open letters (C)
  - In the word "adresse" ,second letter S misprinted and letter D open below (D)

2) 0,15 cts card

- 
- Intense orange colour
  - Open frame at right of letter S of word "centimes" (A)
  - Colour spot in the right upper corner (B)
  - Opening in the frame (C)
  - White spot in the lozenge (D)
  - Opening in the frame (E)
  - Colour spot below the second letter T of the word "Etat" (F)

3) 0,10 cts + 0,10 cts card  
-----

A) Demand card  
-----

- Chocolate brown colour
- opening in the frame left of the stamp (A)
- Letter C of word "Cote" open (B)
- The flowers and leaves are better printed and drawn (c)

B) Answer card  
-----

- Dark green colour
- Opening in the second letter S of the word " adresse " (A)
- Flowers and leaves are also better and deeper drawn . (b)

4) 0,15 cts + 0,15 cts card  
-----

A) Demand card  
-----

- Intense blue colour instead of grey-blue
- Letter T of word " postale" is broken (A)
- Opening in the frame at right of number 15 (B)
- Colour spot in the left upper corner (C)

B) Answer card  
-----

- The 3 lines below the word "independant" are stopped under letter N ( on the normal card under letter T ).



## THE SURCHARGE

The surcharge is always the same on all four cards, according to the drawing :



CONGO BELGE

The principal details are :

- the letter C of "Congo" flat on top .
- A notch in the vertical line of the first letter E of the word "belge" .

## CONCLUSION

Every collector should now have to check his own postcards.

You discover one or more of these scarce cards of the "Princes" issue.

This is my final wish to every collector of the Belgian Congo postal stationery .

E. Hoorens

B

C



*Côté réservé à l'adresse.*

Waterlow & Sons Limited London and Glasgow



B

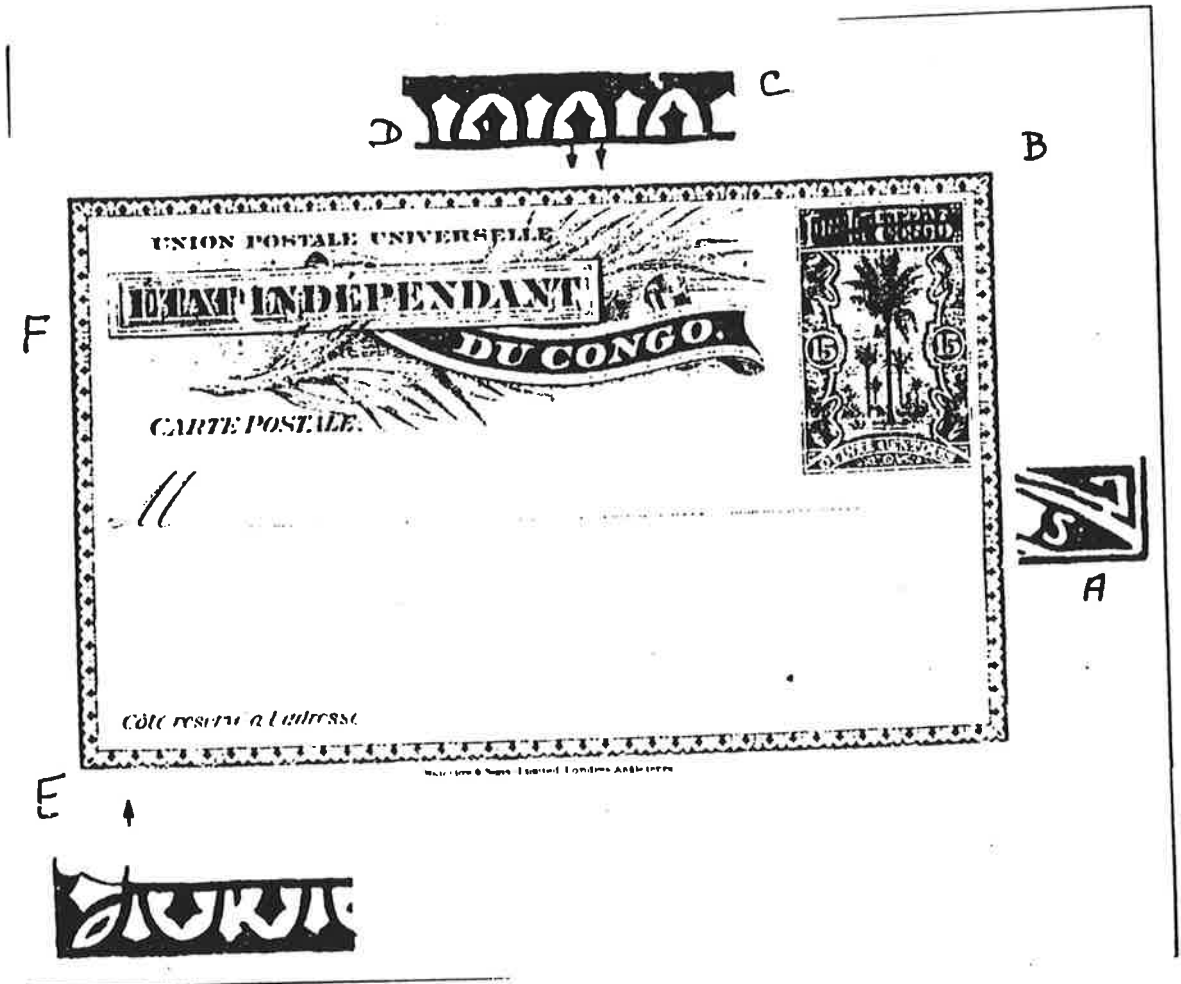
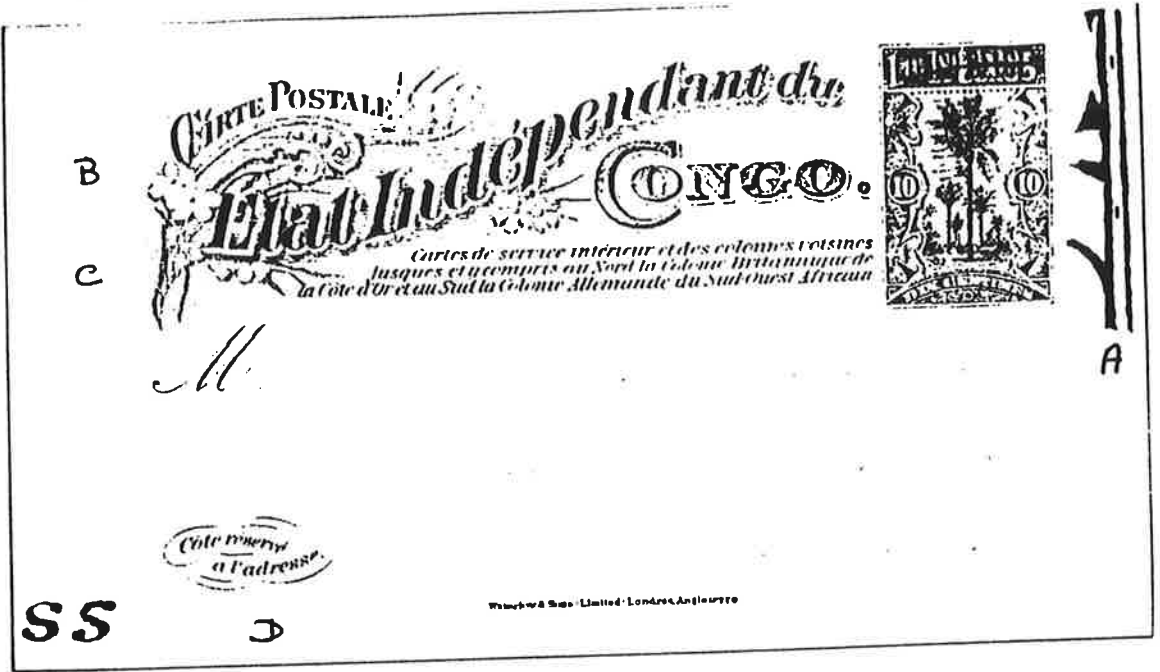


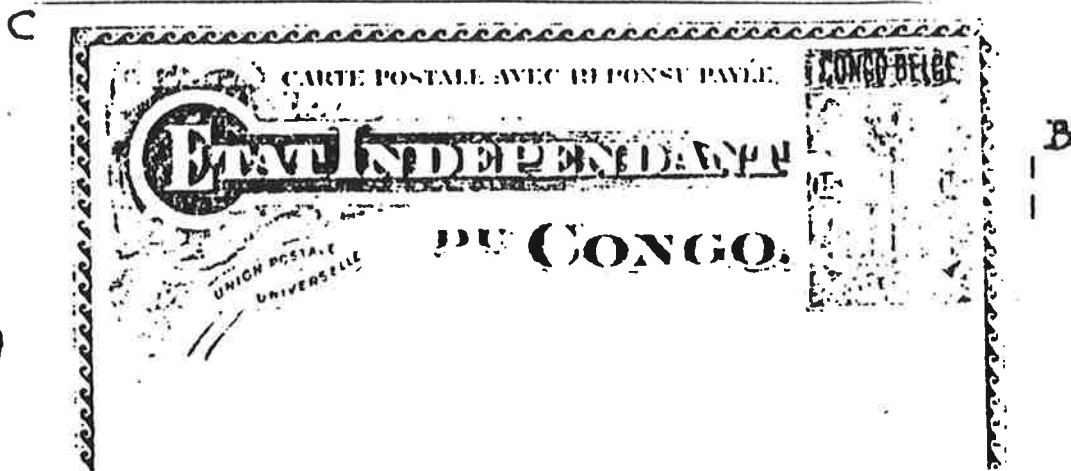
SS

A

*Côté réservé à l'adresse.*

Waterlow & Sons Limited London and Glasgow





## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due:

Belgium: 400FB payable to Abbé G. Gudenkauf, 130 rue de Savoie 1060, Brussels;  
USA: \$13 to E. M. Lavitt, PO Box 900 Rockville CT 06066

Great Britain and elsewhere in Europe £7.00 to L. G. Green, Anvers, 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG, England  
Africa, Asia and Australia £8.00 to L. G. Green.

## CERTIFICATES OF AUTHENTICITY

Stamps etc. for which certificates are required are requested to be sent to R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE to be received not later than 21 January 1995.

Members are reminded that they are entitled each year to two free certificates for single stamps (or equivalent) > Otherwise charges are £1.50 for single stamps but rather more for multiples, post cards, covers etc. depending on the size of the photograph required. Moreover when, apart from the free allocation, five or more subjects are submitted at one time there is a 20% discount on the bill. If an item proves to be a forgery the charge for the certificate is halved. Return postage is extra.

RHK

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Future Issues--The March issue will include Dr. Goddeeris' study of the Die Proofs of the 10F Mols, the second half of the Peter Lindekens article on "Cachets gommes", a summary by Norman Clowes of the subjects of the postal stationery cards 1912-1928, the commission papers found by E. Hoorens as to Lt. De Meulenaer dated 1901, a presentation of unusual and rare pieces and cancellations of the

Mols issue by Dr. G.R.Hoffman shown at the Ostende meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Wilcke, who seems to have followed his own advice on showing ones collection, in his receipt of a GOLD at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition Sept 30-Oct 2 for his exhibit "The Congo Free State" and to Ron Strawser for winning the reserve grand and a GOLD at the Houston (Texas) philatelic show Sept 9-11 for his exhibit "Usages of the Mols Issue of the Belgian Congo".

## 1995 PROPOSED MEETINGS

1. The Annual General Meeting -- Saturday 22 April 1995 at 12 mid-day at 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey. Accounts for the year to 31 Dec 1994 will be presented together with reports of officers, elections of officers and a new President. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

The AGM will start at 12 and will include any other business followed by lunch at a local pub. Thereafter, at 14:15 hours a meeting to which all comers are asked to bring up to 18 sheets to show, if they so desire.

2. A meeting to be held Saturday 20 May 1995 in the afternoon in BRUSSELS to coincide with the BRUFILA Stamp Exhibition.

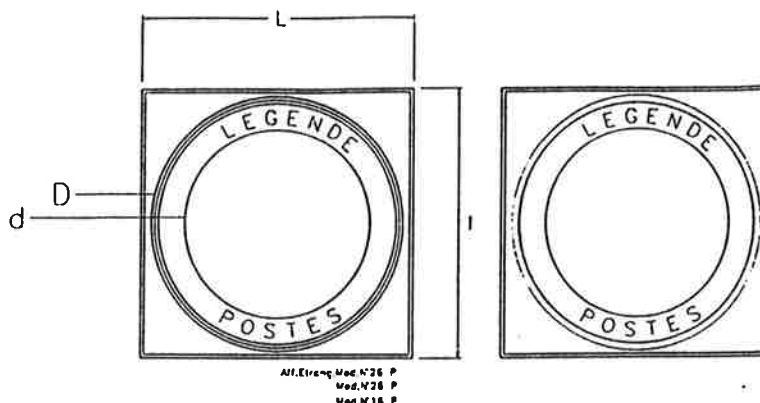
3. A week end meeting at Weston in England jointly with the Belgian Study Circle for the week end of 16/17 September 1995

Details of the Brussels and September England meeting will appear in the March Bulletin.

L. G. Green

# "Cachets gommés"

The present classification of the "Cachets gommés" (official term to design the repair labels) is based on the following modifications



## - modification of the "legend"

- Etat Independant du Congo, Congo Belge, Belgisch Congo Belge  
The bilingual version of the "cachet gommé" appeared very late, mid of the years 50, when the first bilingual stamp were issued in 1909.

## - modification of the "reference" (under the frame at the right side)

- without reference, "Aff.Etrang.Mod.N° 26P", "Mod. N° 26P", "Mod.N° 16P"

In the Independant Free State of Congo was the post submitted to the competence of Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the Colonies. This explains the first reference "Aff.Etrang. Mod.N° 26P".

These two standards allow me to distinguish 6 differents types of labels. The differences are coming from different orders and printings of one of the types, probably to avoid out of stocks. Differences were found in the frames, the mesures, and in the printing materials used by the printers. Anyway, I did'nt make a distinction for the different papers who were used.

Which were the dimensions of the sheets ? A big fragment of type 6 allows me to say that the left side was perfored (perf. 11), probably attached in booklets. Were the previous type also perforated ?. Nobody knows.

The described periods are based on the extreme dates of use met by the author until now. Each collector will be able to give more informations concerning the dates of use. The almost certain limit that we know is between type 3 and type 4 : in 1909, date of cession of "Independant Free State of Congo" to Belgium, becoming at that time "Congo Belge".

The cause of repair is generally indicated by the postman or by hand, or with a special cachet created for the circumstance. In that case, it is always to explains an accident concerning many letters such as planecrash, shipwreck, postal car, etc...  
It is only late in the years 50' that a special standard cachet appears in Leopoldville to signal damages to the mail.

**This classification was done on base of 10 labels "cachets gommés" detached from covers and about 15 complete covers.**

**This means that the probability to find new types, new labels or more general information is very high.**

**Several questions remain without answer :**

- **"cachets gommés" in Ruanda-Urundi, what were the legend and reference ?**
- **which labels were used after independance in Congo, Zaïre, Rwanda, Burundi.**
- **Measures of the sheets.**

**Many thanks to all members of the BCSC who have sent me copies of theirs covers and to Mr Hoorens for his english translation.**

### **Bibliography**

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- **" Le Congo et ses marques postales" par A. de Cock**
- **BCSC bulletins N° 77 (Eisentein) and N° 78 (A. Jeukens)**

# "Cachets gommés" "Packet Sealing Labels"

<< Le CONGO BELGE et ses MARQUES POSTALES.>>  
André DE COCK page 119



Fig. 108.



Fig. 109.

Mr Tondeur, ancient controller of the postal administration in Congo and actually Director in the Ministry of Colonies, defined the use of the "Packets sealing labels" in his very interesting conference on April 13th, 1927 over the post in Belgian Congo.

Mr Tondeur declared :

"Before the actual organization of the post, the mail from upper-Congo was not always received in Leopoldville in good condition.

" The mail items suffered very often from the poorly packaging, mostly insufficient, and were occasionally damaged by bad weather during their transport by pirogue or by bearer. The mail was not always handled with care aboard the ships or pirogues or in transit stations where the letters were retained sometimes several days waiting for an occasion to continue their trip.

And that's why letters arrived in Leopoldville open or damaged.

"It was not an exception, by opening of a bag, to see a caravan of ants or cockroaches escaping.

These insects loved probably the arabic gum and eated gum of the envelopes. Mail coming from upper Congo arrived eated up by rats. Some senders, to guarantee the closing of the letters, used sealing wax but, with the high temperature, the wax melted and the letters were glued an each other. It was impossible to separe the letters without lacerations.

"The post repaired the damaged letters as well as they could.

"It occured also that bearers of mail in upper Congo were attacked by unsubmitted tribes who massacred the bearers and destroyed the mail.

"And that is the reason why, in Europe, the families were anxious without any news from their parents or friends or amazed to received mail with tracks of violation.

# "Cachets gommés"

## LISTING OF DIFFERENT SITUATIONS already seen.

**Shipwreck of "Ville de Bruges" (15/04/08)"** : Boma 09/07/08 - type 2A - (Coll. Gudenkauf)  
cachet sur 3 lignes :

"Courrier retiré du vapeur  
Ville de Bruges naufragé  
Louis Brion"

**This letter stayed two month under water**

**Opened by error and sent back to the post**

- Uvira 04/08/1911 - type 3 - (Coll. Lindekens)

note manuscrite : "Uvira le 4 aout 1911  
ouvert par le soussigné  
et remis à la poste" + signature

**Verified by censorship**

- Stanleyville 27/04/1915 - type 3/4(?) - (Vente Club92 1991)

griffe tampon caoutchouc : Vérifié par la censure

**Cover unclosed or getting open on the way**

- Albertville 22/12/1936 - type 5B- (Coll. Lindekens)

note manuscrite : "Parvenu ouvert à ABville d'Uvira"

**Train accident**

- Kabalo 07/08/1948 - type 5C - (Coll. Lindekens)

cachet sur 3 lignes : "Envoi récupéré après  
incendie train Albertville  
Kabalo"

**Plane crash Sabena**

- Libenge 23/05/48 - type 5C - (Coll. Jeukens)

cachet sur 3 lignes : "Accident Avion Sabena  
Avons laissé suivre  
vers leurs destinations"

**Damage by ungluing from othe enveloppe**

-Basoko 16/03/54 - type 5C - (Coll. Lindekens)

note manuscrite : "déchirée en la décollant à une autre enveloppe  
à laquelle elle adhèrait" + signature postier

**Postal bus accident**

- Libenge 08/11/1955 - type 6 - (Coll. Deynckens)

cachet sur 3 lignes : "Retiré du car courrier  
tombé dans la rivière  
Pongo le 06/11/55"

**DECHIRURE (cachet gommés et griffe explicative)**

- Léopoldville 1 - 1958/1959 - type 6- (Coll. Jeukens)

cachet sur 4 lignes : "PARVENU DECHIRE A LEOPOLDVILLE 1  
GESCHEURD TOEGEKOMEN TE LEOPOLDSTAD 1

Le percepteur  
De postonvanger"

+ paraphe



# CLASSIFICATION

TYPE	LEGENDE	REFERENCE	CERCLES EXTERIEURS	L x I	D x d	DATES	
1	1A ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO • POSTES *	—	2 fins	39 x 38	36 x 26	1894	
	1B • POSTES *		39 x 38	36 x 26 <sup>3/4</sup>	1889 – 1896		
2	2A ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO • POSTES *	Aff.Etrang.Mod.N° 26P	2 fins	39 <sup>1/2</sup> x 38 <sup>1/2</sup>	36 x 26 <sup>1/2</sup>	1900 – 1908	
			1 gros	39 x 38	36 x 26 <sup>1/2</sup>	1901	
3	CONGO BELGE • POSTES *	Aff.Etrang.Mod.N° 26P	2 fins	38 <sup>1/2</sup> x 38	36 x 25	1911	
4	CONGO BELGE • POSTES *	Mod.N° 26P	2 fins	38 <sup>1/4</sup> x 37 <sup>3/4</sup>	35 <sup>1/2</sup> x 25	1913	
5	5A CONGO BELGE • POSTES *	Mod.N° 16P	2 fins	37 x 37	34 x 24 <sup>1/4</sup>	1923	
				5B • POSTES *	37 x 36	33 <sup>1/2</sup> x 24	1927 – 1936
				5C • POSTES *	35 <sup>3/4</sup> x 36	32 x 22	1947 – 1954
6	BELGISCH CONGO BELGE • POSTES – POSTERIJEN *	Mod.N° 16P	2 fins	35 <sup>3/4</sup> x 36	32 <sup>1/2</sup> x 21	1955 – 1960	

# Cachets gommés

type 1A



type 1B



type 2A



type 2B



type 3



type 4



type 5A



type 5B



type 5C



type 6



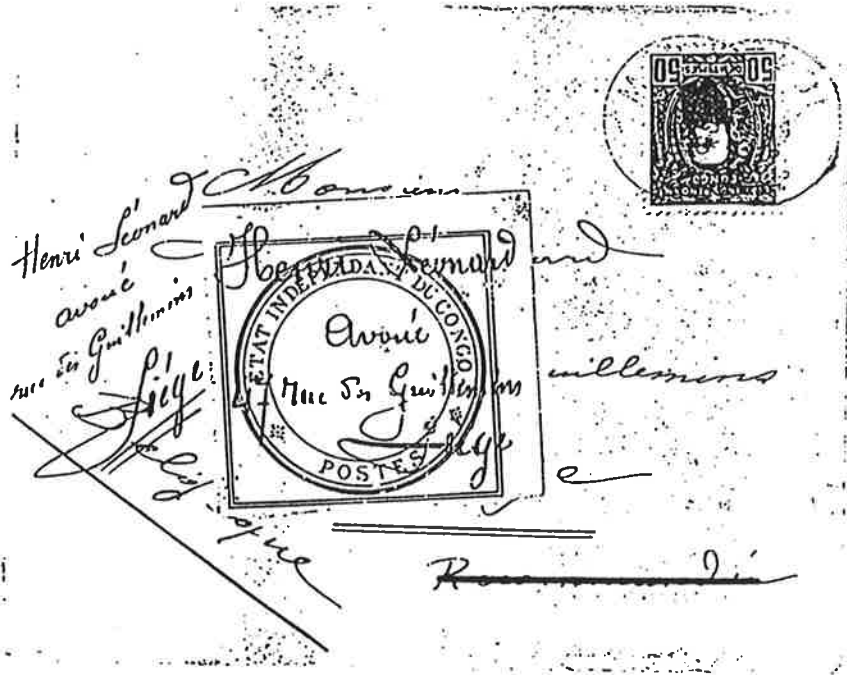
# Cachets gommés - type 1A

## "ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"

1894

no reference and 2 thins circles

Letter sent from Matadi in March 1894 to Liege/Belgium. No comment was done about the use of a label. The use of a label could be justified for an unclear address. There is no date on the label. The cause of the damage could also be melting wax who glued two letters together.



# Cachets gommés - type 1B

## "ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"

1889 - 1896

no reference and 1 circle



BOMA 21 juin 1889

94:19

# Cachets gommés - type 2A

"ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"

"Aff Etrang. Mod N° 26P"  
1900 - 1908

2 thins circles



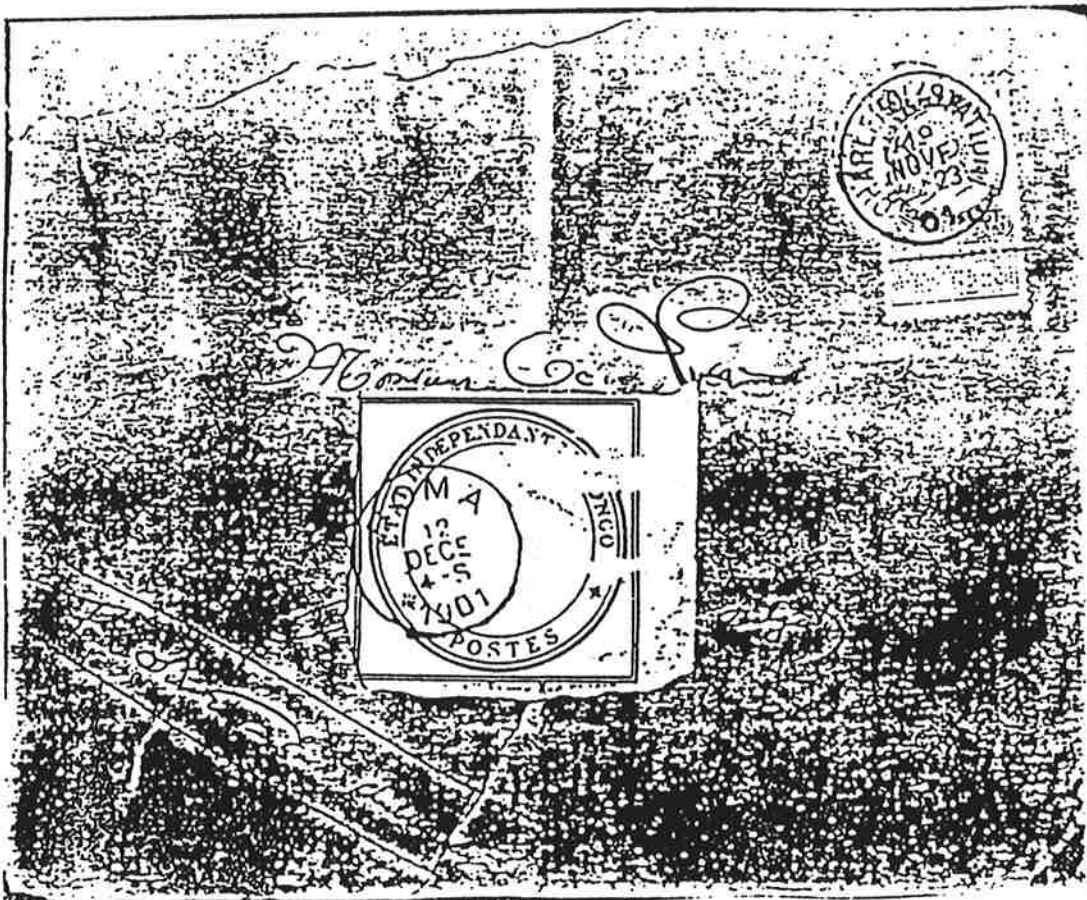
# Cachets gommés - type 2B

"ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"

"Aff. Etrang. Mod. N° 26P "  
1901

1 circle

Letter from Belgium/ Charleroi (station) on 19/11/1901 to Congo. Arriving at Boma Dec 12 with S/S Albertville -2 and repared on the same date.



# Cachets gommés - type 1B/2B

## "ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"

Letter from Ghent/Belgium (May 4th, 1896) to Ubangi district, then returned to Boma and later to Ghent, the addressee being deceased in the meantime. Square cachet (blue 28x10mm) "DECEDE" and blue cachet "REBUT" (27x5.5mm)

Sealing labels type 1B and 2B fixed in Boma on Oct. 21, 1896 and wax-cachet market "Office postal Boma"

Square black cachets applied in Ghent by return on Dec 6, 1896.

(coll. Jeukens)



# Cachets gommés - type 2A

"ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO \* POSTES"  
1908

## SHIPWRECHT ON CONGO RIVER

Letter sent from Buta on March 3rd, 1908 to Brussels. Letter carried by S/S "Ville de Bruges" who sunk on April 4, 1908. Letter was recovered after two months in the river.

Cachet on 3 lines : "Courrier récupéré du vapeur  
Ville de Bruges naufragé  
Louis Brion"

Repair was done in Boma on July 9th, 1908 and arrived in Brussels on Aug 2nd, 1908.



# Cachets gommés - type 3

"CONGO BELGE \* POSTES \*"

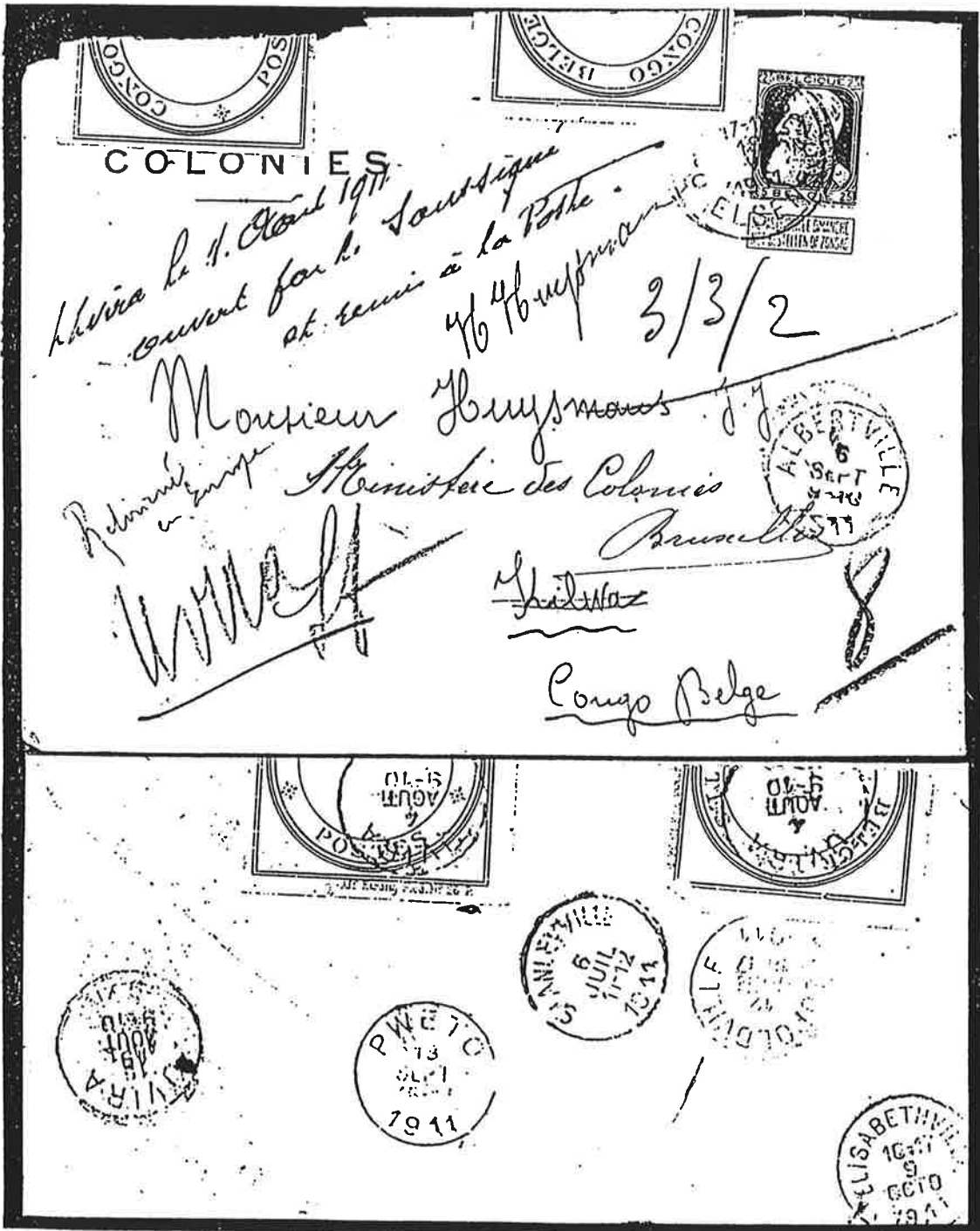
"Aff:Etrang.Mod.N°26P"

1911

Opened by an other person than the addressee ; for this cover, they had the same name.

INDICATION MANUSCRITE : "Uvira le 4 Août 1911 - Ouvert par le soussigné et remis à la poste" +  
signature.

"Retourné en Europe" et correction de l'adresse



94 : 23

ALLER : lettre partie de Bruxelles-1C-Elsene le 18 mai 1911 à destination de Kilwa. VOIE DU FLEUVE  
CONGO : Léopoldville (19/6), Stanleyville (6/7) et Uvira (4/8)

RETOUR : VOIE DU CAP : Uvira (19/8), Albertville (6/9), Pweto (19/9), Elisabethville (9/10)

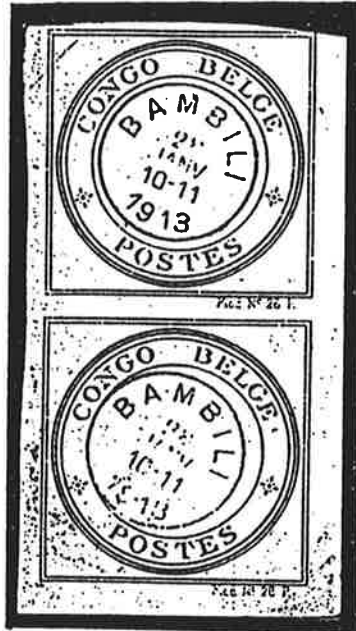
# Cachets gommés - type 4

"CONGO BELGE \* POSTES"

"Mod N° 26P"

1913

2 cercles extérieurs fins



Bambili 28 janvier 1913



Elisabethville 29 mars 1913

Stanleyville 12 mai 1914

plus de 13 mois entre les 2 oblitérations ?!!

To be Continued in the March Bulletin

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P. LINDEKENS