

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN 100

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JUNE 1996

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RWANDA-POST OFFICES AND CANCELLATIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

Somewhat smaller than Belgium, without any industry or natural resources, with a poor educational system, Rwanda had only 10 post offices for over three million inhabitants on July 1, 1962, the date of its independence.

a. The German Colonial Period

During the German colonization, Rwanda was a part of German East Africa. Two post offices were opened:

---RUANDA from October 26, 1908 until June 1916

---KISSENJI from December 20, 1911 until June 1916

The RUANDA post office was located at Kigali and postal cancellations of these two offices are very scarce.

These two post offices were temporarily closed when the Belgian troops arrived in June 1916 under the command of General Tombour.

b. The Belgian Colonial Period

The first post offices under Belgian supervision opened in June 1916 (cfr. R H Keach). It was Kigali.

The second, Astrida, was opened approximately thirty years later.

The following is a list of the 10 post offices created during the Belgian colonial period with opening date and name change after independence:

ASTRIDA	Mar 3, 44	"Butare" *
BIUMBA	Mar 27, 51	"Byumba"
GITARAMA	Dec 20, 58	
KIBUNGU	Jul 14, 54	"Kibungo"
KIBUYE	Sep 2, 57	Jun 11, 16
KIGALI	Jun 6, 16	
KISENYI	Oct 23, 46	"Gisenyi"
NYANZA	May, 1953	
		changed to "Nyabisindu" **
RUHengeri	Jan 17, 49	
SHANGUGU	Jul 17, 52	"Cyangugu"

Notes: * Astrida so called in honor of Queen Astrid;
** Nyanza was the capital of the Kings of Ruanda. The last "Mwami" was "discharged" in 1961. The name Nyanza with too many reminders was replaced (at the end of 1960?) by the name of a suburb—Nyabisindu.

The names, spelled by the Belgian in the Swahili language were amended to give them their Rwandese spellings. Imported by the colonization, Swahili was not used by the people. The changes appeared on the cancellations during the second six months of 1964, except in Nyanza which received its new cancellation, Nyabisindu, around 1978. Some cancellations such as Biumba and Kibungu are rare.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE-July 1, 1962

The progress in education and the improvement of communications forced the authorities of Rwanda to open new post offices.

The Belgian hierarchy was kept:

--P.P. principal post office;

--S.P. sub post office;

--B.A. auxiliary post office

More recently, some "guichets annexes" or postal agencies were opened. (G.A.).

Gikongoro was the first post office opened after 1962, after the creation of ten "prefectures" or provinces so organized that Nyanza could no longer be the center of any province.

Gikongoro was opened on February 18 1964 in a small barracks building .

After the opening of this office we had to wait seven years for any further development of the post. Early in April of 1994, 43 post offices were opened.
(the list appears at the end of the article)

Meanwhile, the dictatorial character of the regime and the refusal to check (or control) the demographic explosion (the Ruanda population density is the highest in black Africa) has engendered famine and the dramatic impoverishment of the country. The civil war that erupted in the north on October 1, 1990 effectively ruined the country; in the postal services, as everywhere else, the authori-

ties have had to fall back on solutions of chance which are explained below.

III. AFTER THE 1994 GENOCIDE

In the evening of April 6, 1994, the aircraft of President Habyarimana was shot down. Thus began a double genocide: --the ethnic genocide of Tutsis, which had been programmed since the late 1980's; --the systematic murder—genocide—of the moderate Hutus which had been programmed since 1992.

The postal administration, in the same manner as other government services was closed on that evening. Some post offices in the South West region may have worked for a few days more.

On the 28th day of September, five and one half months later, two offices were reopened: Kigali and Kigali Airport. Until early December 1994 no stamps were on sale. Correspondence was franked with a meter machine. Some old (remainder) stamps were sold in the first week of December 1994. Some offices were visited by the author:

Butare	plundered
Gitarama	plundered
Kabarondo	the old building was built by a Tutsi and therefor was completely destroyed
Kibungo	plundered—actually occupied by a detachment of the army
Kigali	(gare routièrè) plundered
Kigali PVK	occupied by the Ministry of Defense. The post office boxes were transferred to Kigali
Nyabisindu	plundered
Ruhango	plundered—in very bad condition

IV GENERALITIES CONCERNING THE CANCELLATIONS

The cancellations in service before 1962 are not described here. Those used on July 1, 1962 are in Section V.A. with the same number as the Heim & Keach study—"Belgian Congo-Ruanda Urundi Cancellations" (*copies of which are still available from your editor or R. H. Keach*).

Until about 1990 the new post offices received metallic cancellers (cachets) from Belgium. Six different lay-outs (types) are known including a meter cancellation. From 1990 onwards, by reason of a shortage of funds, the new auxiliary post offices received a rubber canceller with the word "Poste" and the name of the town or village. Three different types are known. The canceller did not contain a date and the date is indicated by hand or by the use of a small linear cachet (as in use in all offices).

The following descriptions and information is not presumed to be exhaustive. We can only describe and explain what we have discovered.

THE TYPES OF CANCELLATIONS

- We give successively in the following pages:
- V.A. the list of cancellations in service before independence and still used after July 1, 1962;
 - V.B. the types of new cancellations which appeared after independence. They are classified in the order of their appearance under RW 1, RW2 etc. (RW for Rwanda)
 - V.C. the list of all post office opened since the German occupation with some vital and essential information.

General remarks

Correspondence was not abundant in Rwanda, the documents are few and the information is certainly incomplete. Our remarks and conclusions are derived from covers posted in the country between 1962 and 1994 and from some recovered stamps.

Foreigners lived mainly in the cities and only a few visited the small communities inside the country which accounts for why some of the cancellations are very scarce.

V.A. CANCELLATIONS FROM
 RUANDA URUNDI USED AFTER 1962
 (the letters KH refer to the Keach-Heim
 study)

ASTRIDA	KH 8B, 8F KH 10 C KH 11 D
BIUMBA ●	
GITARAMA	KH 11 B
KIBUNGU ●	
KIBUYE ● ●	KH 11 A, 11 B
KIGALI	KH 8A KH 10 C KH 11
KISENYI	KH 16
NYANZA ● ● ●	KH 8A1, 8A2
RUHENGERI	
SHANGUGU	KH 8A KH 10 C

• Biumba and Kibungu: the cancellations were modified in the second half of 1964, together with Astrida, Kisenyi and Shangugu, because the spelling of their names was changed (see section 1.b)

• The other office continued to use the old cancellations to be replaced, one by one, after long use:

GITARAMA
 KIBUYE
 KIGALI
 NYANZA
 RUHENGERE

** Kibuye: it appears that the cancellations were not changed until the end of 1979. The numbers for the years were only seen for the 50's, 60's and 70's. We have never seen other cancellations (see photo I) which shows the two Kibuye cancellations, Type KHII, used until 1994.

*** Nyanza: was changed to Nyabisindu in 1978(?) (cancellation type RW. 2).

The photo on the next page shows the two Kibuye cancellations, type KH II used until 1994

V. B. THE CANCELLATIONS OF RWANDA

Type RW I

We see here classic metallic cancellations with fine narrow letters:
 ---diameter 29 mm
 ---letter under the name
 ---posthorn 13mm, oriented to the right
 ---two small plain stars, on each side at 6mm from the posthorn
 ---Date in 1 line comprising day, month, year and hour

Note: the RW4 type seems to be the same but the two stars are different.

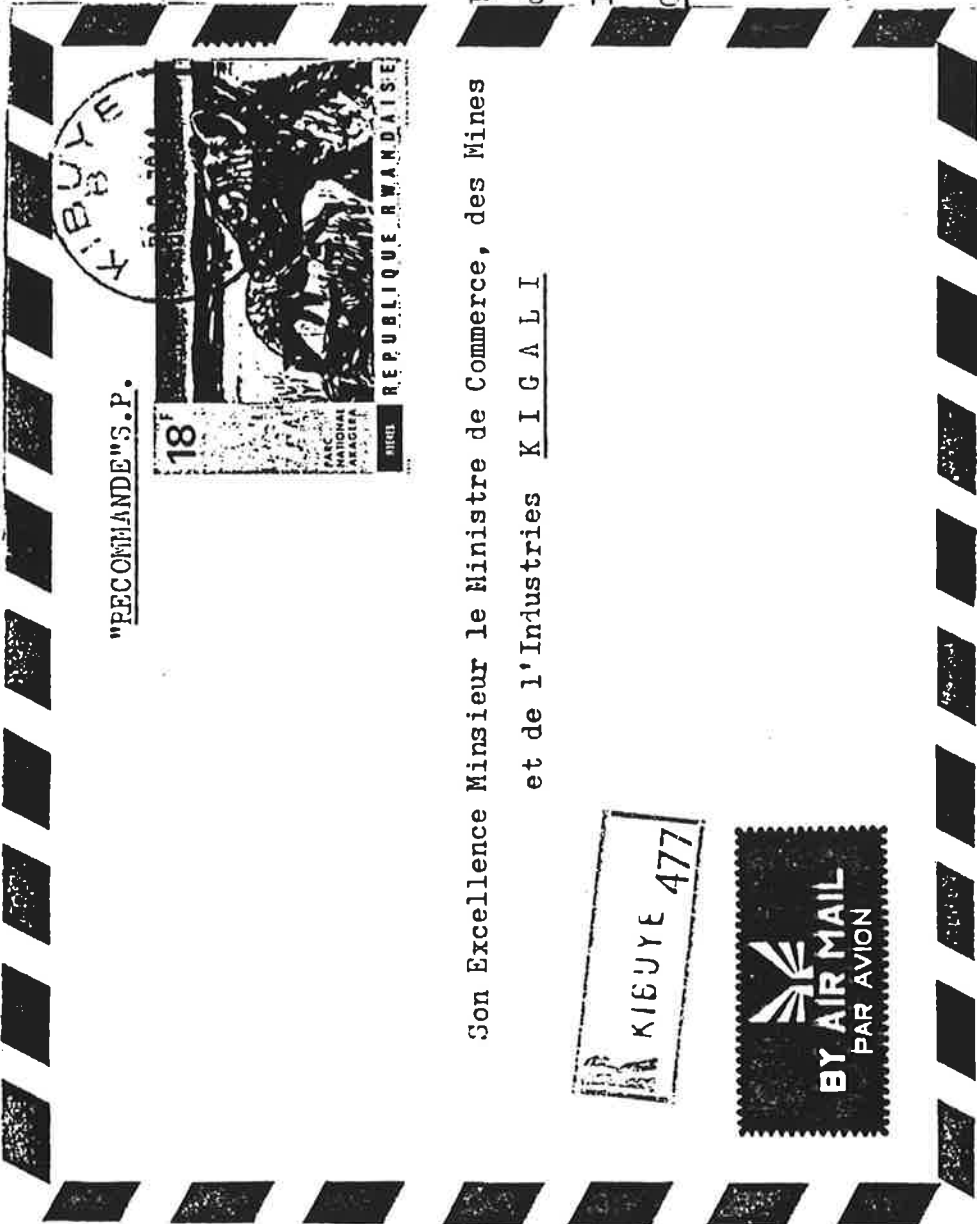
These cancellations were introduced during the last 6 months of 1964, for several reasons:

Modification of the name of some post-offices (see Par 1.b);

replacement of the old used material, mainly in Kigali where a new post office was built to replace the old one which had been in service until 1964. The old post office had only two counters, one for whites and one for blacks. The new post office required more space as it also housed the Ministry of Post and Communications in the same three story building. The Ministry had been located in Usumbura until Independence;

opening of the Gikongoro office on 18 Feb 1964.

Looking at the dates of usage we can ask ourselves if Gikongoro had its own cancellation in the first months. The replacement of cancellers was indeed done in the first 6 months of 1964, but we have a cover cancelled Astrida on 7 July 1964 and another cancelled Butare on 18 November 1964 which would lead one to believe the replacement was done between the two dates.



"RECOMMANDE" S.P.



Son Excellence Minsieur le Ministre de Commerce, des Mines
et de l'Industries K I G A L I

ESTRADE Arthur
de FLORECAR

KIBUYE 477

Illes 18
GIQUE



photo

KIBUYE: les deux timbres à date au type
KH 11, restés en usage jusqu'en 1994.

100.5

At Butare, a University town in Rwanda, the registered labels used thick letters with the letter B sometimes reversed.

At Kigali, the new cancellers were used together with the old until the old ones were replaced when they became unusable.

Offices using the cancellations type RW I with the letters we have seen are:

- BUTARE A B C D
- BYUMBA A B *sometimes in violet-rouge*
- CYANGUGU A C
- GIKONGORO A B
- GISENYI A C
- GITARAMA A B
- KIBUNGO B C D
- KIGALI A D F I J K *
- NYANZA A B **
- RUHENGERI A B C

* Letter l was seen only on First Day Covers

** Introduced between the end of October 1969 and March of 1970

Photo #2 demonstrates Cyangugu RW-1 and Kibungo RW-1

Georges R. Celis

Editors note:

The forgoing article is the beginning of the full study of the 9 Rwanda cancellations. We are indebted to M. Emile Hoorens for the translation of the article and to Dr. Celis for a review to make such additions as he wishes from further discoveries since the article was originally written.

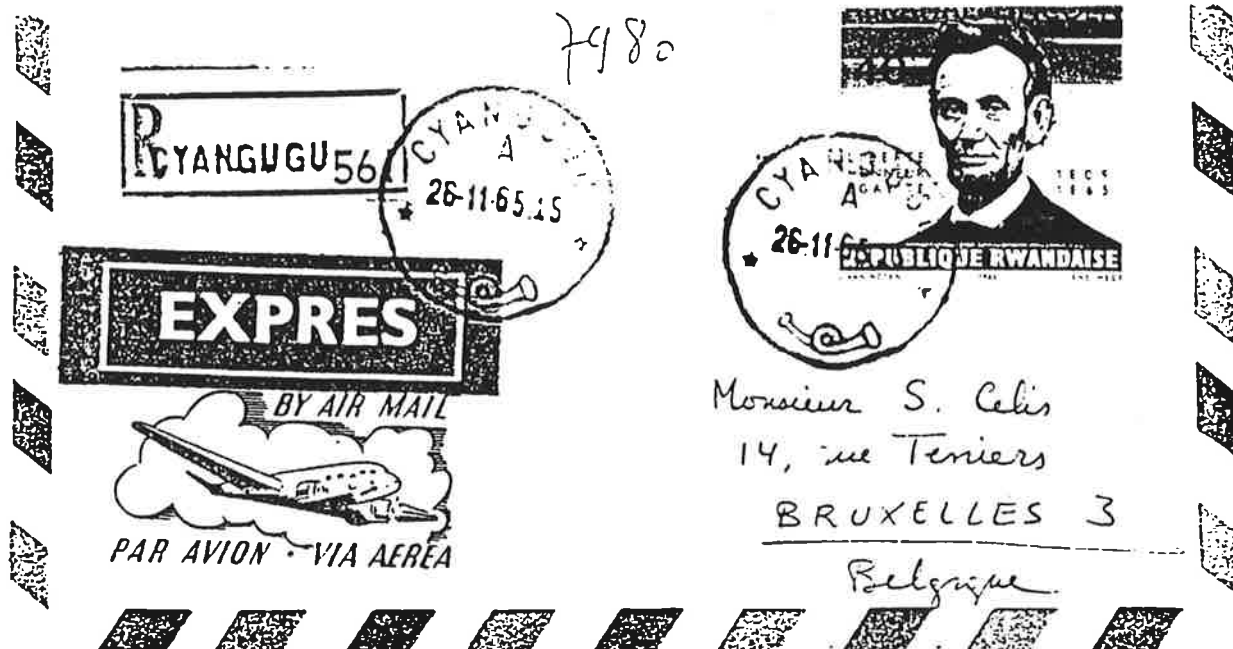
We will continue the article in the September Bulletin.

Dr. Celis spent many years in the area and is currently fully engaged in the rescue of many orphans of the ethnic violence. When I last spoke to him, if memory serves me correctly, he had just returned from Africa—where the violence and ethnic murders continue—with responsibility for some 33 orphans resting on his shoulders.

We have his treatise on the Burundi cancellations, which, when translated will appear in later Bulletins.

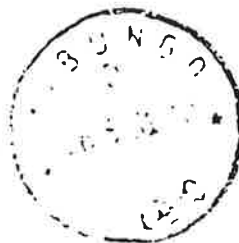
We are in his debt.

EML



Cyangugu RW -1

Kibungo RW 1



100:6

CONGO FREE STATE 1886 and 1887 ISSUES

Marginal Markings

I have been interested in the Marginal Markings that are found on Belgian Stamps and have studied them for some years. Some notes on those found on Belgian Congo stamps, incidental to that study may be of interest.

The numbering of the sheets of unwatermarked paper was introduced in 1858 as a security measure. The dated DEPOT marks commenced in 1882 when the accounting number stamp was altered.

1886 Issue

The accounting number was applied to the sheets before the stamps were printed. Some of the sheets used for this issue had been intended for another use which is why the original number was "barred" through.

After the stamps had been printed the sheets received the "Atelier du Timbre" cachet in black and when they were placed in store (storage) they were stamped with the DEPOT mark with the year. It is possible for the DEPOT mark to have a year before the date of issue.

With the Belgian stamps when the "Atelier du Timbre" cachet is in the same colour as the stamp—it formed part of the printing base. This change occurred during the printing of the 1884 issue in Belgium.

When the late Jacques du Four showed his gems from the 1886 issue at the Ostend meeting in September 1994 he had several strips of the 50 centimes in varying colours all with the same accounting mark in red "Timbres Poste a 50 Cmes No. 000070" with "Depot 1887" in black and which, he said, were colour trials for the 1887 issue.

1887 Issue

In the Balasse Sale #1003 of 18 April 1970 Lot 130 comprised two complete sheets of 150 in three panes of 50 of the unissued 25 F and 50 F stamps; the markings were:
25F sheet: Timbre Poste a 25 fr No. 000016
Depot 1890, and

50 F sheet: Timbres Poste a 50 fr No 000014 (?)
Depot 1890

The regulations of the 15th July 1886 which were operative from 15 September 1886 have proved most useful. They were reproduced in INFO-PHILA Nos. 15, 16 & 17 in 1985-86. I commend them to the interested person and advise that they be read most carefully.

A. G. WOOD

LITERATURE OFFERED

L'Emission des Timbres-poste ART INDIGENE du Congo Belge du 8 Decembre 1947 et du Ruanda Urundi du 18 Mai 1948-Francis Vanderveken (32 A4 pages).

Mr. Vanderveken has traced the origins of the figures and masks depicted on the stamps. He has unearthed information on the preliminary work prior to the printing of the stamps by L'Institut de Gravure. He also gives plating details for the 50 stamps in the sheet of 20 F Congo (mostly also applicable to 6,50F and 100 F Congo and to corresponding Ruanda values). The text is in French except for the plating details which are in English. A useful and very readable little book.

Available from the author (Avenue Lancaster 97, B 1180 Brussels or through R. H. Keach at 135 BF or £3.00 plus postage (30 BF to Belgium 43 BF to countries in the European Union other than Austria, Finland and Sweden, 58 BF to other European countries and 70 BF sea mail elsewhere).

R H. Keach

Waterlow & Sons Ltd.

by Alec A. Turner.

I have recently become interested in one particular aspect of Postage Stamp printing by Waterlow & Sons. Ltd., and would ask members of the Belgian Congo Study Circle if they can help me to evaluate this further.

As you will probably know Waterlows during the long period when they printed stamps for many countries, including adhesives for your own specialisations, produced numbers of "Samples" using the Dies and Plates, in their possession (and with permission). These Printers Samples were used by the Waterlow Representatives to show the ability of the Company to produce high quality work usually of Recess printing but later also by lithography.

One such of these items has recently attracted my attention and this concerns those samples, usually in colours differing from the issued stamps, either perf. or imperf. stuck on to card and having a number pre-fixed by the letters S.T. At present even the precise meaning of the letters of this pre-fix is unknown - possibly Specimen - Timbres?

Such items are frequently found as singles although cards from the Sample Books and showing multiple stamps are known. The S.T. numbers have so far proved unique to specific stamps/colours. Occasionally these stamps may be found as multiples e.g strips of three.

The numbering is sequential to the period of use but unfortunately this means that the stamps for any one country or area are spread over the lists. The Waterlow Study Circle is attempting to create a definitive listing. We have been helped considerably by the work done, initially by Marcus Samuel later revised by Geoffrey Wood, on the material available at the time Waterlows was taken over by De la Rue. The Marcus Samuel lists are in articles in the Essay Proof Journal. However each stamp needs to be positively identified (S.G.No. etc,) together with colour of the Sample stamp and format (from miniature sheets, composite sheets or full plate etc.). Confirmation of those shown in the listing would be welcome as well as any additions, amendments, revisions or comments. It is to be hoped that with the co-operation of Groups and Societies a definitive listing will eventually be produced.

Any information would be greatly appreciated by:-
Alec A. Turner, 10 Lower Park, Minehead,
SOMERSET. TA24 8AX.

EPJ refers to the Essay Proof Journal

<u>STAMP</u>	<u>COB No.</u>	<u>COLOUR OF SAMPLE STAMP</u>	<u>S.T. NUMBER NEEDING CONFIRMATION</u>	<u>S.T. NUMBER CONFIRMED</u>
<u>Belgian Congo</u>				
1894 5c	14	Black and claret	477 to 482	
1894 10c	15	Black and mauve		
1894 25c	21	Black and light blue		
1894 50c	24	Black and orange		
1894 1F	26	Black and olive-bistre		
1894 5F	28	Black and green		
1895 40c	23	Black and brown	1219	
1898 10F	29	Black and violet(?)		
1910 15c	56	Black and violet	756	
1910 40c	58	Black and brown		
1910 5F	62	Black and green		
1910	63	Black and blue	967	
1925 60c	124	Blue	1236	
1942 50c	234	Brown	2008 or 2009	
1942 1,25F	238	Black and ochre		2006
1942 2F	260	Grey-green	2003 or 2004	
1942 10F	245	Crimson	2003 or 2004	
1942 20F	246	Black and bistre	2008 or 2009	
1942 Spitfire	268	Violet	2011	
1948 Railway	296	Purple-brown and green		
<u>Ruanda Urundi</u>				
1942 75c	134	Sepia and green		2005
1942 20F	145	Black and violet		2007
1942 Spitfire	148	Brown	2010	

Information Required

- 1) Confirmation of S.T. Numbers
- 2) Knowledge of any other Waterlow sample stamps i.e. stamps printed in colours different from those of the issued stamps but of 1898 3,50F and 10F (COB Nos. 27 and 29) only those with WATERLOW & SONS LTD SPECIMEN overprint.

1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at 29 New Road, Esher at 1200 hours 4 May 1996.

The minutes of last Year's Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 1995 were approved

Treasurer's Report

The Pass Book of the Circle's account with the Alliance and Leicester Building Society were submitted for inspection.

It was agreed that the reduced subscription be confirmed for 1996 as follows:

£5 per annum for UK members and European members other than Belgium;

250 Belgian Francs per annum for Belgian members;

\$11 for United States and Canadian members;

£6 for members in other countries.

Members who have not yet paid their 1996 subscriptions are asked to do so as soon as possible. (emphasis added—editor)

Commissions on sales will continue at the reduced level of 3% on all sales (auction, packet and general) for members.

The Circle will continue to absorb the first £2 of mailing costs in the sending out of Auction lots.

The Treasurer reported that there was a small surplus to date for 1997, but, it was expected that there would ultimately be a small deficit for the year.

Corrigenda

On page 99:3 of the March 1996 Bulletin it was reported that the local tax inspector has agreed that there is no tax liability for the year ending 31 December 1995—this should read 31 December 1994.

Packet Secretary's Report

UK members were invited in September to submit material for a circulating packet.

Only one member did so, and to my surprise, only three other members even asked to see the packet. The packet was therefore cancelled through lack of interest.

As he indicated last year, the packet secretary is resigning from this posting at this year's Annual General Meeting. Any volunteer to take over the function will be much appreciated.

Brian Hudson

Auction Secretary's Report 1995

1995 was another successful year. Four auctions were held with a total of nearly 1500 lots covering all aspects of Congo philately. Over 90% of the lots were sold raising £26,250 for the vendors. Well over half the Study Circle's membership participated in the auctions.

The auction secretary was unable to handle the March 1996 auction which was conducted by the Vice-President and which dealt with apart of the large collection of Peter Foden who died in 1995. The auction secretary will handle the June auction, for which a great deal of material has been submitted in the normal way. Further auctions will probably be held at six month intervals thereafter.

Brian Hudson

The accounts for the year to 31 December 1995 were published in the March 1996 Bulletin. The accounts were accepted and approved at the meeting.

Report of Expert Committee for 1995

The committee has had a satisfactory year, issuing no less than 314 certificates, nearly a record.

Unsatisfactory is that only 15 members made use of the service in spite of the fact that each member is entitled to two free certificates each year.

A particular attraction for having certificates with photographs for valuable items was made manifest to the undersigned when, following the theft of his stamps, both the police and the insurance company requested photographs of the missing stamps. The writer was able to provide more than one hundred certificates but regrets very much that he did not have more. Most stamps and all documents are unique items and a photograph provides certain identification.

R. H. Keach

Hon. Secretary to the Expert Committee Report of General Sales for 1995

General sales were very active but unprofitable during the year as much of the material sold was the property of deceased members Vindevoghel and Maber which, sold for the widows, has no commission payable. Commission on other sales amounted to £203.40 but most of this was absorbed by postage costs.

Peter Foden's large collection was received for sale among members and this is expected to provide a busy 1996. The most interesting items will be entered into our auction sales but it is hoped to sell the mass of ordinary stamps directly against members' want lists.

Sales from the study circle's stock of stamps, kindly donated by benevolent members, have amounted to £69.97, a very useful donation towards the general funds.

R.H. Keach

Hon. Secretary, General Sales

Bulletin Editors Report

The Editor noted that the four bulletins each were some thirty to forty pages (including the auction lists). He thanks particularly Messrs. Keach, Green, Öhrneman, Lindekens, Clowes, Hoorens, Dr. Goddeeris, D. T. Swart, Hudson and all the others who helped in its production.

Your Editor desperately needs someone to translate articles written in French into English. It is much too much to expect Messrs. Keach and Hoorens, in addition to their other efforts on behalf of the Belgian Congo Study Circle, to continue to do this task. There are a great many articles of interest to our members in the Philatelic literature written in French. Volunteers please.

This matter is so important your Editor takes the space to include his communication addresses for any offers of help.

Edwin M. Lavitt
PO Box 900
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TEL: 860 875 8200
FAX: 860 872 4420
EMAIL: EMLAVITT@AOL.COM
Election of Officers

Brian Hudson continues as President for the second of his two years in office.

The retiring officers were re-elected as follows:

Bulletin Editor	E. M. Lavitt
Auction Sales	B. P. Hudson
Other Sales	R. H. Keach
Asst. Secretary Belgium	E. M. Hoorens
Secretary/Treasurer	L. G. Green

until Dec 31, 1996
from Jan 1, 1997

S. S. Smith

Lychgates
Pinfold Hill
Curbar
Sheffield S30 1YL
England
Tel: 01433-63133

Expert Committee	R. H. Keach
	Abbé Gudenkauf
	Brian P. Hudson
	P. Lindekens
Packet Secretary	D. E. Hockett
	18 Derwent Drive
	Milton
	Tewkesbury
	Glos. GL20 8BB
	England

Future Meetings

Peterborough

It was decided with regret not to join the Belgian Study Circle's meeting in September, as so few of our members had expressed a desire to attend.

Belgian Study Circle 1997

We understand that the Belgian Study Circle is having a special meeting in Belgium to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their founding. We will publish details in a later bulletin.

Conclusion of Meeting

After lunch, the President, Brian Hudson showed two albums of fine covers from the collection of the late André Jeukens which will be offered in future Bulletin Sales. Mr. Laurence Green showed some 30 covers from his collection of Belgian Postage Due stamps on Belgian Congo covers.

Following discussion of the exhibits, the meeting adjourned.

Laurence G. Green
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer

BOGUS 50c "DIE PROOF" REAPPEARS

Mr. Keach reports that he saw offered a "Die Proof" of the 1910 50c. It is clearly bogus. When he called it to the attention of the European Auction house they immediately withdrew it from the sale.

Your editor reported seeing a set sold as part of a collection (in New York) in bulletin 98/5.

They never existed for this issue. They are litho-photographic reproductions of fragments of issued stamps and, because of their flat appearance with inked lines set in relief their appearance is substantially different from die proofs of surface printed stamps. SEE Bulletin 84 for an illustration. If any member acquires such an item it should be submitted for certificate.

An illustration of the 10c fake follows:

