

Secretary:

Stuart S. Smith
Lychgates, Pinfold Hill
Curbar, Sheffield S30 1YL
England, UK

BULLETIN 104

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin Editor:

E. M. Lavitt
P O Box 900
Rockville, CT 06066
U S A

JUNE 1997

President E. M. Lavitt
P O Box 900
Rockville, CT 06066 USA

V. President and
General Sales
Secretary

R. H. Keach
25 Kingswood Road
Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE,
UK

CONTENTS

PAGES

1925 FLIGHT BY EDMOND THIEFFRY	Clowes	2-3
AN ADDITION TO THE HEIM-KEACH CANCELLATION LIST	H. Hoyt	4
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CANCELLATIONS OF BURUNDI (translated by N. Clowes)	Celis	5-9
QUESTION FOR THE MONTH		9
FUTURE BULLETINS		9
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING	Smith	10-12
PACIFIC EXPOSITION 1997		13
NEW MEMBERS		13
CHARLEROI MEETING		13
FORGERIES OF THE 1886 ISSUE --A REQUEST--		13
NEW LITERATURE--A HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICE		14
PRICES REALIZED-UNSOLD LOTS 1997 (2) AUCTION		14
SUPPLEMENTAL PAGES		
Postal Auction Sale 1997 (3)		

The 1925 flight by Edmond Thieffry, Brussels - Leopoldville

Seventy two years after the flight in question, it is time to consider again how much mail was carried from certain points: admittedly, the writer has a vested interest - see below.

In Bulletin 13 page 5 (Dec.1955) it is mentioned that Thieffry 'carried two letters which were stamped and cancelled at Leopoldville on 4 April 1925.' On page 41/2 (Sept 1981), apropos a display at Bristol, the comment is made that 'there was, of course, no cover from the Thieffry flight in 1925 (only three are known, and one of these is in the British Museum).'

In 'L'Epopée de l'Air au Congo' by Hénin (1961) ten pages are devoted to the flight, with unofficial mail carried (all or part of the way) quoted as

1. Brussels - Congo; 4 letters of which two survive, addressed to de Warnaffe and to Benoit.
2. Niamey - Zinder; a very limited amount.
3. Niamey - Birni n'Koni; apparently dropped in a weighted bag - not known if anything survived.
4. Zinder - Bouay M'Bassa (for Fort-Lamy); about ten covers of which the occasional example appears at auction.
5. Zinder - Brussels; one letter, no trace.

Incidentally, Henin was wrong in tarring all the mail with an 'unofficial' brush as most of that from Niamey and Zinder was surely officially sanctioned by the authorities concerned.

In his 'Catalogue de l'Aérophilatélie Belge', Vandebauw differs from other sources in that '....plusieurs lettres (on suppose qu'il y en eut 6) furent emportées de Bruxelles par E.Thieffry et postées a son arrivée a Léopoldville.'

Three specifically addressed covers have been reported - to the Governor-General, to Bruffaut and to De Smet - but only a copy of the last item is held by the writer.

The following cover was bought by the writer at a small auction in England in 1996; the vendor is believed to be Dutch, but dealer or collector not known. At the time of the purchase it was assumed (in view of the known rarity of Thieffry mail) that this 'Consulat Général de Belgique' item was some sort of souvenir, not flown.

CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE BELGIQUE



Antoine le

Commissaire de District

à Kinshasa

Congo Belge

*Edmond Thieffry
1925
Belgique*

There are no markings on the back, other than offsets of the Leo 4.4.25 cancellations, indicating that at least one other cover was similarly postmarked. The underlined 'par avion' was written at the same time as the address but the ink of 'remise le 4/4/25 par aviateur Thieffry, CD' shows that that wording was added afterwards, albeit probably by the same hand.

However, further research, in which Messrs Van der Haegen and Schouberechts of the BCSC have been involved, has produced new information and it appears that the mail carried by Thieffry consisted of eleven covers in addition to the small numbers detailed by Henin as having been picked up en route at Niamey and Zinder and which are outside the scope of these notes. Six of the covers may have been picked up at Oran.

Besides the cover illustrated above, the writer holds photocopies of two others, virtually identical, of which one is in the Fitzgerald Collection in the British Museum. The Leo 4.4.25 - 9 postmarks (applied on the day after arrival) match exactly those on covers illustrated by Henin and the involvement of a Consulat Général de Belgique somewhere, and of the Commissaire de District at Kinshasa, is largely explained by the following letter held by M. Schouberechts:

[Headed paper, Congo Belge/Arms/ District Urbain de Léo./ Cabinet du Commissaire de District]
Léopoldville le 6 avril 1925

Monsieur le Consul,

Ainsi que vous me le demandez par votre lettre du 29 janvier je remets à Monsieur le Lieutenant Thieffry le [sic] 6 enveloppes qu'il a apportées par voie aérienne. J'ai grande joie à pouvoir vous être agréable et vous prie de vouloir agréer, Monsieur le Consul, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Signé (illisible) '

The letter bears a consular arrival stamp, possibly with the date 8 May 1925.

It appears, therefore, that a Belgian consul, somewhere, arranged for Thieffry to carry six letters addressed to the Commissaire de District, which letters were postmarked in Léo and handed back to Thieffry who returned to Europe by sea, arriving at Antwerp at the end of April. There were Belgian consulates at three of Thieffry's stopping places - Oran, Gao and Niamey - and M. Van der Haegen has pointed out that Thieffry's book ('En avion de Bruxelles au Congo Belge') speaks of the warm welcome he received from a M. Giraud (or Guiraud) at Oran. It seems quite likely, therefore, that the letter of 6 April was addressed to Giraud but unfortunately the envelope has disappeared.

It is beyond the scope of this article to set out all the various theories expounded in members' recent correspondence on precisely what did happen to the mail on the day(s) following Thieffry's arrival at 11.05am on April 3. It will be helpful if research at the Congo Museum at Tervuren can identify the name of the Commissaire de District. At all events, it is hoped that readers will check their literature, notes and covers and write to

Norman Clowes, 20 Ogwen Drive, Lakeside, Cardiff CF2 6LL GB

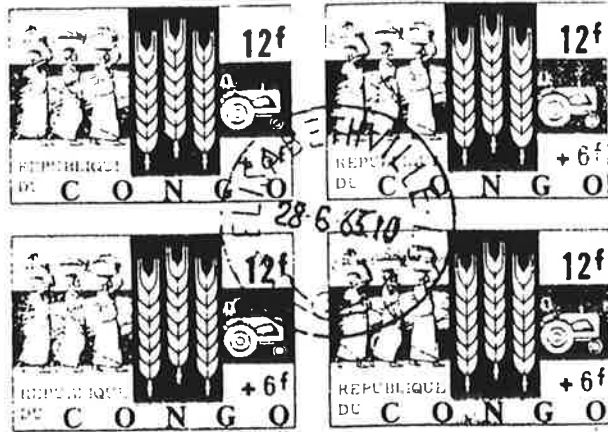
with any details which may help to solve the mystery. Copies of auction illustrations and descriptions would be particularly helpful as it is certainly possible that the three 'missing' covers of the 'Consulat Général de Belgique' type have some time appeared at auction.

NC

AN ADDITION TO THE HEIM KEACH CANCELLATION LIST

Member Hal Hoyte has sent a copy of a block of four of 12F Republique Du CONGO stamps which bear an Elizabethville postmark (date 28 6 65 10) which has not reported in the Heim Keach cancellation work. For those interested note should be made therein.

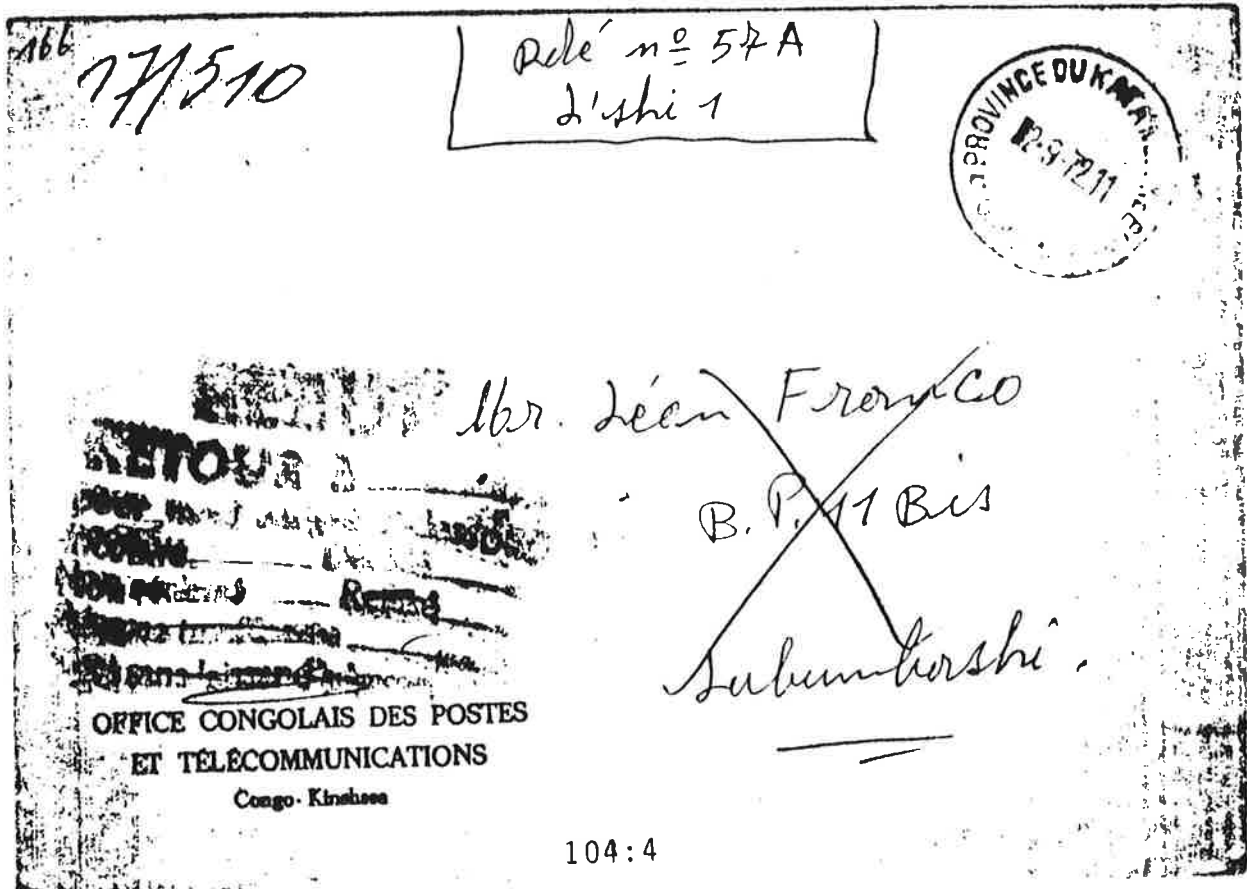
Described as E'ville 1 10 (.G.) E'ville 7 and 8. An example of marks made before 1960 and used afterwards.



Postmark on obverse of cover shown below

Mr Hoyt sends us the following cover which is most interesting. The canceller is unilingual and it could either have been made after 1960 which is most unlikely with the word "Province", but the design of the posthorn would indicate was made in the late 1940's or early 1950's before bilingualism came in. One may find it used on pre 1960 mail but here, used in 1972 we have a most unusual usage.

No postage stamp was affixed as it was a communication from the "Office congolais des postes et télécommunications".



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CANCELLATIONS OF BURUNDI 1962 - 1996

Georges R Célis

Translated (with occasional paraphrasing) by Norman Clowes
(continued from page 103:13)

II.B OFFICES OPENED POST-INDEPENDENCE BUT SUPPLIED WITH
EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURED PRE-INDEPENDENCE

KARUZI	KH.11.b	A	28. 2.72	S.P. 1971 (?) (a)
KAYANZA	KH.8.	T.T.	11.10.65	S.P. 1964 (?) (b)
	KH.11.a	B	20. 9.65	(b)
MWARO	KH.11.b	B	12. 7.69	S.P. 1969 (?) (a)
RUMONGE	KH.8A1		27. 7.67	S.P. 1967 (?) (c)
USUMBURA-AEROGARE-LUCHITHAVEN				
	KH.13C	A.	14. 6.69	S.P. 1963 (?) (d)
		B.	20. 5.67	(d)

See illustrations 6 and 7 for MWARO and KAYANZA

Notes

- (a) One problem is that the cancellers are typically pre-independence, yet KARUZI does not appear in the schedule to Order 69/418 of 24 August 1959. Whether the decision to open the office was taken between that date and independence (and not put into effect), or taken later, either way the equipment was ordered from the same manufacturer. (See the note below concerning 'first day of issue' postmarks)
- (b) Datestamp from the trust territory period: KH.8.[T.T.]. In point of fact this datestamp is of the same manufacture as types KH.10.b and KH.11.b except that the letters 'T.T.' replace the posthorn: the small solid stars are characteristic, as is the shape of the letters (e.g. the N in KAYANZA)
- (c) The stars and the posthorn are characteristic of the colonial period. A fishing port on Lake Tanganyika, about 45 miles from the capital, RUMONGE was the country's third town. As traditionally Burundians do not eat fish, Zairean fishermen were in the majority until the civil war of 1972: they were then treated extremely harshly.
- (d) The first date seen is actually 11.11.64. This office was opened with bilingual equipment dating from the trust territory period. The name was changed to BUJUMBURA AEROGARE in August 1969 (type BU.2), then to BUJUMBURA AEROPORT IN THE 1980s (type BU.4).

NB The two BURUNDI-JOUR D'EMISSION datestamps are of type KH.11.b. They were brought into use at independence, the type indicating that they were probably prepared by the Belgian administration. The Philatelic Bureau was (at least until 1972) in Avenue Lumumba, opposite the Bujumbura 1 post office. The datestamp with serial letter A was used at postal headquarters and that with B at the philatelic agency. See illustration 8 for the latter.

II.C BURUNDIAN DATESTAMPS, TYPES BU.1 to BU.11

TYPE BU.1

This is a round USUMBURA cancellation, even though the datestamp was manufactured and put into use in 1965, more than three years after independence. The datestamp was made from a thin layer of flexible rubber, glued to a soft backing plate about 5mm thick. It became progressively distorted, with the shape widening and becoming more or less egg-shaped. (See illustration 9)

Characteristics are:

- varying diameter, from 33 - 35mm horizontally and 32 - 33mm vertically;
- rectangular backing plate, about 52 x 39mm, the corners of which sometimes show on envelopes;
- very thick, large letters; 3½ - 4mm
- right-facing posthorn at the bottom, between two hollow stars;

This datestamp was used exclusively to cancel the round stamps of the 'Gold Coinage' sets which were issued in two groups - ordinary (C.O. 146-153) in September (?) 1965 and airmail (C.O. PA 17/24) on 15 November 1965. These stamps have a metallic surface in raised printing on card and, as a result, it only needed a wipe to remove normal postmark ink quite easily. Furthermore, it was not possible to get a legible strike from metal datestamps on the raised surface. So the flexible canceller was urgently made for use only on those two series, with a pad containing volatile ink - black normally but tending towards violet in December.

In the case of mixed frankings on envelopes, the non-metallic stamps were to be postmarked normally - but the system did not always work. The special canceller was in use while the round stamps were current; around four months theoretically. Dates seen occur during the period 16.9.65 to 17.12.65. The time slug is invariably 10 and the figures 65 are larger than the others.

This canceller was used jointly with the types KH.11.a of Usumbura 1 having serial letters B, G and L.

TYPE BU.2

Metal datestamps, with the following characteristics:

- diameter 28mm;
- small, straight and rather narrow letters (only the M manages to exceed 2mm in width, and that only slightly);
- hollow stars;
- sharply drawn posthorn with a wide bell facing right.

These datestamps were brought into use from August 1969 onwards at the country's main post offices:

4 out of the 12 opened before independence:

KITEGA

NGOZI

USUMBURA 1 (including USUMBURA 1 - MANDATS - POSTWISSELS)

USUMBURA 2 as well as

1 opened after independence:

USUMBURA-AEROGARE-LUCHTHAVEN.

Of course, besides the removal of wording in Dutch there were alterations from KITEGA to GITEGA and from USUMBURA to BUJUMBURA.

The BUJUMBURA 1 MANDATS datestamp is used at one of the positions in the main Bujumbura 1 post office where, as well as money orders and allowances, surcharged mail is handled (except on two or three main allowance days) and also registered letters at busy periods.

Theoretically, the 'Kirundo (R.U.)' and 'Muhinga' cancellers should also have been altered to 'Kirundo' and 'Muyinga' but we have never seen the latter versions in this BU.2 type. (cf type BU.4)

There now follows a list of known cancellations, with dates noticed, all struck in black except where otherwise indicated:

BUJUMBURA-1

The datestamps were brought into use from August 1969, on dates which varied according to the serial letters (letter N has not yet been seen). The dates quoted have been observed, nothing more.

A	23. 9.69	16.11.88	mauve en 88	
B		29.12.80	bleue	
C	17.12.70			
D	15.10.69	17.12.86	mauve	
E	14. 1.72			
F	19. 2.79			
G	20. 9.69			
H	16. 5.70			
I	19.11.79		bleue	
J	22.11.78			(illustr 10)
K	9. 2.70			
L	9. 1.78			
M	1. 4.75			
O	12.10.69			
P	16. 5.77			
Q	9. 1.78		mauve	

BUJUMBURA-1-MANDATS

17. 9.69

BUJUMBURA-2

A 3.10.69

BUJUMBURA-AEROGARE

A 20. 9.69 - 3.12.84 (a) (illustr 11)

GITEGA

A 9. 1.70
B 9. 1.70 - .89 (b)

NGOZI

12. 2.87 mauve clair

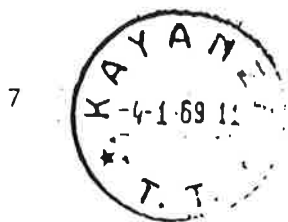
(a) Brought into use in August 1969, along with a bilingual rubber stamp for registration etc.

(b) KITEGA rubber stamp unchanged; datestamp in poor condition.

ILLUSTRATIONS 6 - 11



MWARO (type KH.11.b) 6.8.70 on registered letter to Brussels; serial letter B



8

KAYANZA (type KH.8) T.T. as a backstamp, 4.1.69



BURUNDI - JOUR D'EMISSION (type KH.11.b) 1.7.62

USUMBURA (type BU.1) 19.11.65 on registered letter to Brussels bearing 'Gold Coinage' stamp



BUJUMBURA 1 - J (type BU.2) as a backstamp 22.11.78

BUJUMBURA - AEROGARE (type BU.2) 20.9.69 on registered letter to Brussels

TYPE BU.3

Metal datestamps giving a standard type postmark with
AMBULANTS BURUNDI

in the top half. Characteristics are:

tall, very narrow letters;
posthorn in the bottom half, with a small hollow star on each side;
diameter 29mm;
serial letters under the name (we have only seen B).

We do not know what it was used for, having handled only the following example:

AMBULANTS BURUNDI B 17.5.84

In 1992 we could not get any explanation and the datestamp seemed to have been completely forgotten.

(to be continued)

QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH

Member Hal Hoyte asks "When in World War II did civilian censorship end in the Belgian Congo. He submits a Photostat of a cover from LOBITO censored at Elisabethville 21-8-45. Does anyone have a cover with a later censorship date?"

The answers should be interesting and immediately raise the question did censorship continue until the war ended in the Pacific? If so why? Was it just an example of beurocracy refusing to die?
Answers to the Editor.

FUTURE BULLETINS

With the September issue we will publish the first of four important studies of the booklet panes of the 1915 issue which appeared in 1916. The study by Dr. K. H. Goddeeris will appear as supplementary pages so that members will be able to detach each study from the bulletin and ultimately have the complete work at their finger tips.

We will start with the 5c and go on to each subsequent value in each of the subsequent issues.

We will also illustrate a series of turn of the century Portuguese and Angola covers used in the Congo which are most unusual from the collection of M. Hoorens and we hope to have an article on some portion of the aerophilately of the Belgian Congo from M. Van der Haegen.

We further intend to publish a list of the relative availability and rarity of the various Handstamped Congo Belge Overprints. Your Editors experience has shown that it is much too easy to say one overprint is easier to find than another. On some of the supposed more common overprints some values are really quite hard to find. A table reflecting my experiences may be of interest although it is admittedly empirical in nature.

Then too we should have new discoveries and more articles from all our members.

EML

Minutes of the Congo Study Circle AGM, 17th May 1997

The Annual General Meeting was held in London at the Presidents home. Saturday 17th May 1997. In attendance were the President Brian P.Hudson and Messrs Laurence Green, Ray Keach, Hal Hoyte, Ed Lavitt, Michael Wright and Stuart Smith.. Apologies had been received from Mrs.Doris Green, P.Ellis and D.E.Huckett. It was a hot and sunny day and my pre-meeting lunch at a yester-year favourite haunt, had no longer anything to commend it and I shall not return: but the company at Oakley Street was congenial and made up for it.

President: Brian chaired the meeting and I fulfilled my roll, as one does, by recording the minutes. Whilst still picking my way through the way of the Circle - I am learning its foibles - and no doubt will in time become competent. If I had been offered financial employment in this capacity I could legitimately have requested a job spec., but as things stand there is no such thing and I don't intend writing one!

The meeting followed a formal and prepared agenda and my predecessors *Secretarial and Treasury minutes* were approved - with relief. It is said that he has now taken on a new lease of life and cannot believe his luck - which is understood.

It was further agreed and a resolution passed that our existing account with the Alliance and Leicester be closed (they do not have a conveniently located branch in the Peak District) and a new account be opened with what was then the Halifax Building Society and which only two weeks later is simply the HALIFAX. I believe with our financial support and confidence in them, this new bank has a good and secure future.

It was agreed that we should proceed in having Brian Hudson's excellent *Mols Plating Study* published as a stand alone book. Ray Keach is to explore known publication possibilities whilst Brian agreed to modify and amend the text where appropriate.

With the exception of the U.S.A. postage costs incurred in distributing the Bulletin overseas are too far short of the respective subscription levels. As a consequence it was agreed to raise these, where appropriate, for the year beginning 1st January 1998.

Britain	£5.00
Belgium	B.Fr 300
Rest of Europe	£6.00
U.S. A. and Canada	\$11.00
Rest of the World	£8.00

In addition to the Hon. Secretary Treasurer, the Circle effectively has two other locally based National (*assistant secretaries*) i.e Ed Lavitt in the States and Emile Hoorens in Belgium. As at present Ed Lavitt will continue as Editor, distribute the Bulletin and collect subscriptions from our North American members and Emile Hoorens has agreed to do the same in Belgium.

Will our Belgian members specifically note the new arrangement for their subscriptions for 1998 which, when due, should be paid to Emile Hoorens.

Everywhere else, including other European Countries, will be serviced directly from the U.K. and Norman Clowes will add "*the other European Countries*" to his existing Rest of the World mailing list.

The *General Sales Secretary* reported a busy year but without profit to the Circle. Most of the effort was in the sale of the late Peter Foden's stamps, but assistance was given to the selling of Andre Vindevoghel's collection. It should be noted that sales on behalf of widows are free of commission and the Circle provides this service for their benefit.

Brian Hudson who has so meticulously managed our *Auction Sales*, confirmed his intention to withdraw from this roll after the June auction. The Circle is therefore to find a new describer and auctioneer. These sales have become a major feature of the Circle's activities and in no small measure reflect the work put in by Brian. It is appropriate that on behalf of our members I record a great debt to him for his contribution and considerable time involvement.

The *Expert Committee* reported a satisfactory year with 173 certificates issued. It should be noted that only 11 members took advantage of the service and of these one received 61 certificates, a second 40, a third 30, a fourth 18 and a fifth 11. **It is a pity that more members do not think it worthwhile to apply for the two free certificates to which they are entitled annually.**

Inevitably there were a very few items submitted of which the members of the committee considered that they did not have the necessary knowledge to form a firm judgement. In those cases certificates had to be refused.

During the year Ray Keach suffered a burglary and in addition to the loss of his stamp collection, two or three albums of photographs of items previously submitted for certificates were also stolen. Apart from the loss to our archives it is most inconvenient not to be able to refer to these records when preparing certificates for the new submissions.

The meeting was informed that some sheets in the late Peter Foden's collection had been the Expert Committee's reference source. A request was made that these sheets be purchased by the Circle for future reference purposes at an approximate cost of £100. This was approved.

Having abandoned his Orchids, the *Bulletin Editor* duly appeared having travelled X thousand miles to present his report :-

"We greatly miss the contributions of our late members - Jeukens, Vindevoghel and Foden but the void has been filled by the timely study of Dr. Georges Celis of Rwanda and Burundi, with further contributions from Hudson, Hoorens, Turner, Wood, Smets, Keach and others."

"We are indebted to Hoorens and Clowes for translations of articles written in French and to both for their service in reprinting the Bulletin on the European format and forwarding them to

other parts of the world."

"We have been able to warn our members of dangerous forgeries and each issue has carried an extensive Auction list with items which touch on the interests of all our members."

"With the coming of computer technology it is hoped to be able to add some colour to the pages of future Bulletins and finally I express my thanks to our past contributors and my hopes for further articles and studies by our members."

Future Activities and Meetings. With a depleting number of members able to attend 'Stamp discussion sessions' here in the U.K., it was decided not to arrange any specific mid year meeting during 1997 - though it was interesting to note that those attending the AGM just hadn't sufficient time left to devour the display brought along by Hal Hoyte and a modest amount of material available from Brian's collection. It is clearly a fact that there is a wealth of material we would all like to view and discuss but with such a widely dispersed membership - getting together under one roof at one and the same time is effectively expensive and difficult to arrange.

Election of Officers. The following were appointed and or reelected -

President	Ed Lavitt
Secretary Treasurer	Stuart Smith
Regional Secretary - Belgium	Emile Hoorens
- U.S.A.	Ed Lavitt
Bulletin Editor	Ed Lavitt
Sales Secretary	Ray Keach
Auction Secretary	To be appointed
Packet Secretary	D.E.Huckett (to be confirmed)
Expert Committee -	Abbé G.Gudenkauf
	P.Lindekens
	B.P.Hudson
	R.H.Keach

The new President took to the Chair like an 'Orchid to the Chelsea Flower Show', thanked all those present for their unswerving contribution to the Circles activities and particularly those who were now retiring from office. Having nothing further to do and being exhausted we all retired to the serene surround of a dining table for Strawberries et.al.

Respectfully
Stuart S. Smith Hon Secy/Treas

PACIFICA 97

Congratulations to each of our three members who received Grand Vermeil awards at the Pacific 97 show:

Regis Hoffman whose exhibit showed examples of the Allied forces mail of the East African Campaign of WWI. The rough breakdown is roughly one frame each of the Nyasaland Field Force, Belgian forces, and Indian Expeditionary Forces, with the remaining pages filled by British forces, POW and internee mail and civil censorship.

Some highlights of the Belgian section included a cover with the 'Kisumu B.P.C.V.K.' mark (ex Pennycuick,) a cover from the Allied prisoner of war camp at Tabora, GEA, (during its occupation by Belgian forces), and a post card mailed from Albertville, Belgian Congo the last week of July 1914. It was sent by steamer across Lake Tanganyika, then down the German railroad to Dar es Salaam. By then, the war had broken out. The card was taken to Zanzibar (by an agreement with the British to allow the shipment of mailbags out of German East Africa) where it received a triangular British censor mark.

Ron Strawser whose exhibit was composed of 80 pages in five frames. It contained over 200 postal cards with over 90% being used. It started with three used copies of the Jan. 1886 cards and went through 1960. Also included were a number of the Carte incomplete cards and cards overprinted Ruanda, Urundi and those with the occupation of German East Africa overprints. Highlights included a domestic usage of the July 1886 card and another of the same card used to Russia, essay cards of the 1888 and 1889 issues, one of two reported usages of the 1897 15 centime reply card from Belgium returning to the Lado Enclave, three used copies of the 1900 issue 10+10 centime card, various Waterlow specimen cards, and various Prince's cards.

D. T. SWART who had sent his exhibit from his home in South Africa and was justly rewarded for his "Belgian Congo-a Postal History 1872-1960". The very strong exhibit began with forerunners and some very special crash mail and postal cards.

It is refreshing that Belgian Congo material is beginning to get the recognition it deserves at these quality international shows.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Th. Frennet	Brussels Belgium
F. Bourgoignie	Middelkerke, Belgium
P. Christoffersen	Ols-ty-tke, Denmark.
C. Hainsworth	Emerald, Queensland, Australia
D. R. Campbell	Lead, South Dakota, USA
J. Delbeke	Stony Brook, NY, USA

CHARLEROI MEETING

As usual the Belgian Members proved superb hosts and the meeting at Charleroi was very well attended. M. Frenay displayed a large collection of German East Africa campaign material liberally interspersed with many rare covers and usages which was enjoyed by Messrs. Frevelshousen, Deynckens, De Ruyck, Lintrup, Frennet, Smets, Janssens, Henuzet, Gallant, Keach, Lavitt and Hoorens plus Mr. and Mrs. Deneumostier as guest.

Two of our members Deynckens and Van der Haegen (whose specialty is aero-philately) served as judges of the excellent exhibition.

It is worth noting that in the Charleroi show the entire center of the large hall was occupied by the exhibits with the dealers and bourse relegated to the side--quite different from the usual American show where the dealers and bourse take the center and relegate the exhibits to the side.

At dinner in Brussels Messrs. Bilmans, Gallant, Schouberechts, Frennet, Celis, Lavitt, Keach and Hoorens continued the lively and informative discussions of the Belgian Congo Material.

THE FORGERIES OF THE 1886 ISSUE

I have asked Mr. Keach to join me in a new study of these forgeries. I would hope to be able to shed additional light on the excellent works of Billig and of Deneumostier. We ask that you send your Editor any forgeries you may have for study, photographic reproduction and return to you. We will start with the 5 and 10 franc issues. Your help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

**Edwin M. Lavitt
PO Box 900
Rockville CT 06066
Tel: 860 875 8200
Fax: 860 872 4420**