

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin No. 16

November, 1961

MEETING - SEPTEMBER, 1961

By the kindness of Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Compton, a meeting of the Study Circle was held at East Horsley on 23rd September, eight members attending. No formal display was presented but most of the members present brought parts of their collections for the entertainment of the others and an enjoyable afternoon was spent by all. An informal dinner had been arranged at which members were joined by several of the ladies.

NEW MEMBER

At the September meeting we were pleased to welcome Dr. C.E. Gallagher as a new member.

FINANCES

At the 30th October there was only £1. 8s. Od in hand. Increased postal rates take a heavy toll of the funds and members are invited to donate a further 10/6d when this is convenient.

CIRCULATING PACKET

Some members have expressed interest in another circulating packet. The success of such a packet is of course dependent on the material subscribed to it. Whereas some members welcomed the large packet circulated in 1960, others felt that it was too large and that a more conventional club packet would be preferable. If material is available, another packet can be organised for the end of the year. Will members please let the Secretary know:-

1. If they will have something to add to the packet.
2. If they are prepared to mount material in club packets or prefer to submit album leaves and loose stamps as well as books.
3. If they prefer to receive a large or small packet.

Based on the response to the above questionnaire the Secretary will decide if another packet is likely to be successful and what form it should take.

As usual there will be no commission on sales.

SUD-KASAI

Stamps have been issued for the Autonomous State of Sud-Kasai and a philatelic agency has been opened in Brussels. In an endeavour to obtain the overprinted issue for subscribers to the New Issue Service the Secretary wrote to the agency requesting several complete series. In its reply the agency stated that the supply of stamps was exhausted. Enquiries of the post office at Bakwanga disclosed the fact that no stamps had been sent out to the post offices and the Secretary was referred to the agency in Brussels where the stamps were available. The letter from Bakwanga was franked with a 'Congo' overprinted stamp.

It is quite clear, therefore, that the overprinted stamps can only be considered as "prepared for use but not issued" or a spurious issue never intended to pay postage. Any used copies will have been cancelled to order either in Brussels or by special arrangement in Sud-Kasai.

LIST OF MEMBERS

A revised list of members is enclosed.

"1937" BOOKLETS

Mr. Loader's study of these booklets provides information additional to the notes in Bulletin No. 15.

Perforations

The normal method of perforation appears to have been a combination of small comb and line. The normal panes show an imperforate margin surrounding the eight stamps, and the sequence of the perforating was four movements by the comb perforator followed by an operation by a line machine to perforate the top or bottom line of the last pair of stamps.

In the case of the postage stamps, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, the line perforator varied, there frequently being an extra hole extending into the margin.

In the case of the air stamps perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 14, the line perforation does not extend into the margin.

An exceptional perforation of the postage stamps, seen only on one pane of the 75 c. Plate No. 2, has the perforation extending into the left and right margins. Apparently only the comb machine was used for this pane. This type of perforation is quite exceptional.

There are two or more crossed guide lines in the sheet used presumably for centring of the perforations and it is concluded therefore that the perforation was completed before guillotining of the sheet into panes.

Gumming

On panes of the air stamps the gum does not extend fully into the margin at both top and bottom of the panes. It appears that the booklet panes were printed in sheets comprising not more than two horizontal rows of panes.

The panes of postage stamps are gummed all over and no conclusion on the format of the sheet can be formed thereby.

Size of Plates

It is suggested that the physical size of the printing plate of the booklet panes was the same as that of the full-sized sheets.

The full-sized sheets of the postage stamps contain 75 stamps (5 x 15 or 15 x 5) Six booklet panes of 8 stamps with gutter margins would fit conveniently into the same plate size.

The full-sized sheets of the air stamps consist of four panes of 50 stamps. Sixteen booklet panes of 8 stamps with gutter margins would fit conveniently into the same plate size. The relative scarcity of plate-numbered panes of the air stamps compared with those of the postage stamps confirms the larger size of the plate of the air stamps.

CLASSIFICATION OF POST OFFICE CANCELLATIONS

Mr. Heim's enlarged and illustrated classification of the post office cancellations is enclosed. This will be of great value to the postmark collector and will form the basis of a check list of Congo Cancellations.

Enquiries have been made about the cost of the specially engraved protractors and these can be made available at about 12/6d each. Requests for the protractor should be sent to the Secretary.

NORMAL POSTAL CACHETS

Mr. L.G Green has copies of the following cachets (additional to those described in Bulletin No. 15).

Returned Letter Cachets

Composite Returned Letter Cachet

Similar to that described in Bulletin No. 15 but in a rectangle
46 mm by 72 mm.

Not on Board Ship

Pas a Bord Type I, 55 mm, x 30 mm. with second line in italics.
Retour a l'envoyeur
The cover bearing the above has a second cachet:-

Correspondance

Parvenue Type I, 49 x 8 mm.

Après Depart de Paquebot

The cover was addressed from Brussels to:-

M. Maurice Bette,
Garçon a Bord,
du Leopoldville,
a Matadi,

and was returned to Belgium

POST OFFICES

Mr. Heim has advised that information on the post office of Albertville, given in the supplement included in Bulletin No. 15, should be:-

S	1.7.96	22.7.96
S	18.1.10	3.3.22
P	3.3.22	6.4.55

The auxiliary office at Mufuka was closed on the 31st March 1960.

With the end of the Belgian Congo there appears to be no ready means of obtaining information on the opening and closing of the Post Offices.

Cancellations of Elisabethville 7 and Elisabethville 8, opened since June 1960, have been seen.

NEW ISSUESCongo RepublicCongo Overprints

There was omitted from the list given in the last bulletin the 0,20 value of the "Flowers" series.

Varieties of Overprint

Flowers	0,10	inverted
	0,10 on 0,15	Congo omitted
	0,40	inverted
	0,50 on 0,60	surcharge inverted
	0,50 on 0,75	surcharge inverted
	0,50 on 0,75	surcharge omitted
	1,00	inverted
	1,50	inverted
	2,00	inverted
	8,00	inverted
	10,00	inverted
	20,00	inverted
Animals	0,10	triple
	0,40	inverted
	0,40	triple
	0,50	inverted
	1,50	double
	1,50	inverted
	6,50	inverted
	6,50	inverted and in black instead of red
	10,00	inverted
Madonna	0,50	triple
	0,50	on reverse side
Surcharged	Inverted on the stamp with French inscription	
C.C.T.A.	Inverted on stamp with Flemish inscription	

1961 - Coquilhatville Conference

The Independence issue (10 values) was overprinted to commemorate the Conference.

The 0,20 value exists with double overprint.

30th June, 1961 - 1st Anniversary of Independence

Portrait of Kasa-Vubu in Sepia. Printed in Photogravure by Courvoisier. Perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

0,10	Yellow	0,20	Rose
0,40	Turquoise	0,50	Salmon
1,00	Violet	1,50	Brown
2,00	Green	3,50	Puce
5,00	Grey	6,50	Blue
8,00	Olive	10,00	Lilac
20,00	Orange	50,00	Greenish-blue
100,00	Yellow-green		

KatangaKatanga Overprints

Varieties of Overprint:

Flowers	0,25	inverted
	0,40	no obliterating line
	0,60	inverted
	8,00	inverted
Animals	0,20	inverted
	0,50	inverted
	8,00	overprint at top instead of bottom
Idols	1,50/1,25	inverted
	3,50/2,50	inverted
C.C.T.A.	3,00 French	inverted
	3,00 Flemish	inverted
	3,50/3,00 Flemish	inverted
Madonna	0,50	inverted
	1,00	inverted
Independence Issue	1,00	inverted
	2,00	inverted
	3,50	inverted

There are also various misplaced and double surcharge varieties of the 3,50/3,00 C.C.T.A.

1961 Definitives

There was omitted in the list given in the last bulletin the colour of the 0,50 value of the definitives. The colour is blue.

Postal Stationery

The Katanga overprint on the air letter is handstamped apparently with the same handstamp used for the Postage Due stamps. The overprint on the postcard is typographed.

1961 - Katanga Fair Printed by Courvoisier, Perforated 11½.

0,50	Red, Green and Black	1,00	Black and Blue
2,50	Black and Yellow	3,00	Carmine, Orange-brown and Black
5,00	Black and Purple	6,50	Black and Orange-yellow

11th July 1961 - 1st Anniversary of Independence

Portrait of Tshombe. Printed in Photogravure by Courvoisier. Perforated 11½.

6,50	Brown, Carmine, Emerald and Gold
8,00	ditto
10,00	ditto

1961 - Postage Dues

Postage due stamps of Belgian Congo overprinted 'Katanga' by hand.

Stamps of 1943, perforated 14 x 14½,

0,10	Olive
0,20	Indigo
0,50	Green

Stamps of 1957

1,00	Pale blue	2,00	Red
4,00	Brown	6,00	Grey

Sud-Kasai

1960 - Belgian Congo Stamps Overprinted:

Flowers 0,10; 0,15; 0,25/0,10; 0,50/0,10; 1,00/0,15; 1,50/0,15;
2,00/0,20; 3,00/0,20; 6,00/0,25; 6,50/0,40.

Olympic Games 2,00/0,50; 5,00/1,50.

C.C.T.A. 3,00 French Inscription

C.C.T.A. Overprinted 'Congo'

3,50/3,00 French Inscription

1961 - Definitives

Head of lion. Printed in Photogravure by Courvoisier. Perforated 11½.

1,00	Orange
1,50	Blue
3,50	Deep Red
4,00	Deep Purple-brown
10,00	Deep Green

L'EPOPEE DE L'AIR AU CONGO

Jose Henin's book covers the air posts to and from the Congo until the end of 1935. The first and special flights are described in admirable detail, practically and philatelically.

The book is beautifully produced and illustrated and it is a pity that like most continental publications it is only paper-backed. It deserves proper binding.

EXTRACTS FROM PERIODICALS

La Revue Postale Nos. 42 and 43 - Etat Independent du Congo - L'Emission de 1887-
General Du Four. The last two articles of the series covered the postal
stationery of the period, the numbers of the stamps printed and surcharged, the
relative scarcity of blocks and stamps on cover and the Lenoir reprints.

La Revue Postale Nos. 43 and 44 - Le Congo Vu Un An Apres L'Independence - Jean van Weddingen. The first instalment summarises the exodus of the Belgians from the Congo, the second the postal services during the early days of the Republic.

La Revue Postale No. 44 - La Navigation Interieure au Congo - General Du Four. The original articles authorising the carrying of mails on the River Congo are quoted, and the early river boat cancellations described.

Balasse Magazine No. 137 - Le Courrieriste du Catalogue Willy Balasse. Alterations and additions to the Balasse Catalogue are listed, comprising in the main revised dates of issue and colours of the stamps as ordered from the printers.

There are listed a range of purely imaginary variations of Nos. 104 and 105 (the Elisabethville surcharges) including surcharges on booklet stamps. It is feared that the writer, M.A. Leturoq has a fine collection of forgeries of these stamps.

Listed also are many trivial varieties of the overprint on Ruanda Urundu No. 116.