

The second meeting of the Belgian Congo Specialists' Study Circle was held at 12, Avenue Mansions, Finchley Road, London, N.W.3., on Saturday, 14th April, 1951. There were present Mr. W.J. Thrasher (in the chair), Mrs. D.M. Green and Messrs. C.H. Compton, P.G. Creswell, O.C. Loader, A.G. Wood, J. Wright and R.H. Keach. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. A.M. Castiaux and L.G. Green.

The Secretary stated that the membership of the Study Circle was eleven and that a list of members names and addresses would be circulated with the next Bulletin.

Suggestions for a regular meeting place were discussed but no decision was reached and the matter was left in the hands of Mrs. Green and the Secretary.

There being no other business of a general nature, Mr. Thrasher gave his address.

He traced the history of the Mols and Van Engelen series from its inspiration at the Antwerp Exhibition of 1893 to its last surcharge of January, 1923, and showed on a number of sheets the whole series without shades or varieties.

Mr. Thrasher then proceeded to the second half of his talk, an introduction to the study of the five centimes value. He traced the frame and centre plates through the life of the series by means of the multitude of re-entrées and other plate varieties. At the conclusion of Mr. Thrasher's address other members made their contributions.

The detailed substance of the address and subsequent discussion are incorporated in the attached copy of Mr. Thrasher's thesis which is to form the basis of the first of the Section Books. This Section Book will soon be circulating amongst members and they are invited to enlarge upon the original text. When all members have seen the Section Book contributions will be incorporated into the text.

After the meeting, members were entertained to sherry by Mr. and Mrs. Green and then retired to dinner. A very sincere vote of thanks was offered to Mr. and Mrs. Green for their kind hospitality.

### Perforations

At the recent meeting of the Study Circle the two principal perforations of the 1910 - 1923 issues were mentioned and the thought was expressed that the perforation varieties are of little value unless they tell something of the history of the stamps in each representing certain printings. If the stamps in any printing could be perforated in any of a number of machines with varying settings of the needles and if these were used indiscriminately then the varieties were of little interest. In this connection members are referred to Prinnet (1949) Pages 9 and 10 where, after headings "Denteles 15", there is the note that the shades differ from those of stamps perforated 14.

### Queries & Answers

The following queries have been received and members are invited to supply the answers:-

1. 1900, 5 centimes, Green. At the last meeting there was some conjecture as to the date of the change over from Die I to Die II.

The Secretary has looked through his copies and finds his earliest clear cancellation on Die II to be 29th September, 1906. Perhaps other members can find earlier dates.

2. Congo and Ruanda, 1942, 50 & 100 francs values. Balasse refers to sheets of 100 whereas Prinnet mentions sheets of 50. Which is correct?
3. Can any member confirm that 100N2 exists in Type III, that 100N3 exists perforated 15 and that 102N3 exists perforated 14?
4. What is the cancellation shown on the 2,40 francs stamp illustrated on page 39, of Philatco Catalogue?
5. The 1948 Matadi-Leopoldville Railway Commemorative. By whom was it printed and on what date was it issued?

#### Extracts from Periodicals

A useful purpose can be served by the Bulletin in including extracts from articles on Belgian Congo in current periodicals and with that object in view members have been asked to advise the secretary which magazines they see regularly. The response so far has shown that the following periodicals are seen by members; Balasse Magazine, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Stamp Collecting, West End Philatelist, Stamp Collecting Fortnightly, Stamp Mirror, Philatelic Magazine, Philatelic Contact, Stamp Magazine, The Philatelist, The London Philatelist, The Stamp Lover, Stamps, Western Stamp Collector, Masonic Philatelist. Members will be asked in due course to act as correspondents to advise the secretary of any interesting articles that appear in certain of the periodicals that they themselves see. At the present time the allocation would be very unequal and any member, who receives any of the journals and has not informed the secretary to that effect, is asked to do so as soon as possible. Again if any member has the opportunity of seeing regularly magazines other than those listed above he is asked to inform the secretary accordingly.

#### Recent Auction Realisations

M = unused. U = used.

Plumridge 11th April; Balasse GP2 M but thin £4. 5. 0; GP4 M thin £2. 0. 0; 29N3 M £4. 15. 0; Air 17C1 M £1.15. 0; Ruanda 121C1 M £1.17. 6;  
Vessey 21st April; 72-80 M, £1.11. 0.  
Harmer 30th April; 72-80 M and R36-44E1 £7.10. 0.  
Harmer 7th May; 98C3 U, 104C1 U and 105C1 U £7.10. 0;  
64-71 U with large "Kigoma" handstamp £31; 64-71 U with small "Kigoma" handstamp £29.

#### Want Lists

As yet no Want Lists have been received from members; the secretary is therefore setting an example by giving his Want List of modern stamps, all Balasse numbers, M-unused, U-used.

Congo 132-133 U, 148 M, 151 U, 155-158 U, 193 U, 211 U;  
Dues 73N1 U, 76 N1 U, 77N1 U.

Ruanda 60-61S1 U, 56-57S2 M, 51-58S2 U, 50S3 M & U, 63S2 U, 65S2 M & U,  
67S2 M, 71S2 M & U, 78 U, 66 U, 81-89 U, 122-123 U, 116 U, 118 U.

Small Circle Cancellations

Collectors of Belgian Congo Cancellations are fortunate in having two very useful reference books, the Philatco Catalogue (Avidon) and Andre de Cock's book "Le Congo Belge et Ses Marques Postales". Neither book approaches completion and it is felt that a check list of all offices using each type of cancellation would be of assistance to collectors of cancellations.

The writer (Keach) has chosen the first and simplest of the cancellations, the small circle type 23 mms. diameter, and gives on the attached sheet composite lists from Andre de Cock's book and from his own collection. These are probably by no means complete and members are invited to add to the lists from their own observations so that lists that are reasonably complete can eventually be published.

The writer has observed different types of small circle cancellations, depending principally on the relative positions of date, month and time of collection, numbered 1 to 15 on the attached drawing. In addition, cancellations with the following varieties are not uncommon.

1. Time, date or month inverted.
2. Time omitted.
3. Last two figures of year omitted.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been provisionally fixed for Saturday 20th October, 1951, and members are asked to reserve this date. Mr. R.H. Keach will open the subject of the Mols 10 centimes value.

-----

SMALL CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS

Type 1.

Albertville  
Banana  
Banzyville  
Bena-Bendi  
Boma  
Bumba  
Chutes Francois-Joseph  
Coquilhatville  
Leopoldville  
Libenge  
Lisala

Luali  
Lukungu  
Lusambo  
Matadi  
M'Toa  
Nouvelle-Anvers  
N'Zobe  
Popocabacca  
Popokabaka  
Stanleyville  
Tumba

Tumba-Mani  
Tumbu-Mani  
Umangi  
Vivi  
Zobe  
Cataractes  
Isimbiri  
Sankuru  
Stanleyfalls  
Station de la Lufu  
Station de Matadi

Type 2.

Kinshasa

Type 3.

Irebu

Type 4.

Aba  
Albertville  
Avakubi  
Bambili  
Banana  
Bandundu  
Banza-Boma  
Basankusu  
Basoko  
Basongo  
Baya  
Bena-Dibele  
Boende  
Boga  
Boma  
Bumba  
Buta

Inongo  
Irebu  
Irumu  
Kafakumba  
Kalonga  
Kambove  
Kasindi  
Kasongo  
Kiambi  
Kinshasa  
Kipaila  
Kongolo  
Kuesi  
Leopoldville  
Lukafu  
Lukula  
Luluabourg

Matadi  
M'Baya  
Musofi  
Nouvelle-Anvers  
Pania-Mutombo  
Ponthierville  
Popokabaka  
Pweto  
Sandoa  
Stanleyville  
Thysville  
Toa  
Uvira  
Ambulant-Boma-Matadi  
Station de Kenge  
Gare de Matadi  
Sakania (with hours  
deleted)

Dima  
Dungu

Lusambo  
Madimba

Type 5.

Aba  
Avakubi  
Banana  
Bandundu  
Basoko  
Bogoro  
Boma  
Bukama  
Buta

Kabalo  
Kabinda  
Kafakumba  
Kambove  
Kasongo  
Kiambi  
Kikondja  
Kindu  
Kinshasa

Luali  
Luebo  
Matadi  
Mikola  
Monveda  
Niangara  
Ponthierville  
Sakania  
Stanleyville

SMALL CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS (Contd.)

Type 5.

Coquilhatville  
Elisabethville  
Etoile de Congo

Kwamouth  
Leopoldville  
Libenge

Thysville  
Toa  
Kindu (with hours  
deleted)

Inongo  
Irumu

Likasi  
Lisala

Type 6.

Basankusu  
Dilolo

Irumu  
Mushie

Niangara  
Pweto

Type 7.

Bandundu

Bukama

Type 8.

Lukafu

Type 9.

Tshikapa

Type 10.

Gare de Boma

Gare de Luki

Gare de Lukula

Type 11.

Ambulant-Banana-Boma

Type 12.

Kirambo

Station de  
Songololo

Type 13.

Beni

Ibembo

Type 14.

Nyangwe

Type 15.

Uvira.

An introduction to the Study of the "Mols and Van Engelen" pictorial postage stamps of the Belgian Congo.

April 1951.

by W. J. Thrasher

It may not be amiss, as a prelude to our concerted study of the postal issues of the Belgian Congo, to refer briefly to the general background of our subject, and its principal aspects.

The geographic situation of this vast colony of a small European state - a huge jungle basin for the Congo River and its tributaries - is known to all as the "Darkest Africa" explored by H.M. Stanley.

This fellow-countryman of ours was largely responsible for the early colonization of this yet largely undeveloped land, but earnest endeavour to obtain British backing for the furtherance of his plans proved fruitless, and he found in Leopold II of Belgium a more responsive patron.

Thus, the earlier postal history provides us with the "Inward" and "Outward" labels produced by a German agent of Stanley's organisation for the transmission of mail to and from the Upper Congo.

The first postage stamps issued by the Free State on January 1st 1886, a few weeks after its recognition by the Great Powers in the Treaty of Berlin, comprised typographed engraved portraits of Leopold II adapted from some of the Belgian postage stamps then in use. The second issue of 1887 comprised a further series of one portrait design. These issues are regarded as the classics of this country.

The paper read by the eminent Belgian philatelist, Col. du Four, to our counterpart in Brussels, on the occasion of the Bepitec Exhibition last year, admirably describes, as its title proclaims, "The Genesis of the Mols and Van Engelen issues". In this he pays tribute to the pioneer work of our colleague Joseph Wright, whose contribution to the work of our own circle will undoubtedly be of outstanding value.

In 1894 an International Exhibition held in Antwerp saw the birth of the "middle issues" which first appeared in November of that year. These, with various alterations of colour and frame design on account of changes in political control, and through the vicissitudes and triumphs of warfare, served as the postal talismen of the Congo until January 1923. It is well known that the diorama painted by Mols and Van Engelen illustrating landscapes and scenery on the Congo, together with the native village and its inhabitants, also exhibited, were the basis for the subjects adopted for the pictorial postal series then adopted.

Would, however, this have ever been had not British enterprise in the firm of Waterlows, displayed their wares in a stand in that same exhibition, and probably well to the fore their productions of the previous year for British North Borneo. Having in mind a comparison of these with the then current stamps of Belgium and its colonial territory, can it be questioned that the Waterlow display was the inspiration for the adoption of the pictorial postage stamps - the subjects being consequential decisions ?

Until 1923 Waterlows held the Belgian colonial postage stamp contracts, when the De Vloors issue printed by the American Bank Note Company commenced the modern epoch. We may happily recall their return with the fine engraved series of 1942, only to find that the recent issues emanate from France.

It is evident that during the last years of the 19th Century, as now, Waterlows were using their best efforts to expand their business in this direction, with the separate frame and subject engraved plates and bi-colour printing process. The original Waterlow studies in watercolour, prepared for submission to and approval of the postal authorities, followed the usual methods of the nineteenth century. It will be recalled that the watercolours of Turner, our most distinguished artist in that sphere, were painted not as pictures as such, but as the original conception for the engraver's reproduction.

The actual production of the stamps, involving the preparation of dies for the central pictures and the coloured frames, their transfer to plates, subsequent changes in or renewal of one or other, and the necessary touching up and repair, all necessitated the skilled hand of the craftsman. In the analysis of their workmanship we find the basis for much of our studies. This is, to my mind, a most important factor, and one to be kept in the forefront in any philatelic study of such issues. The major characteristics of them have already been investigated and recorded, and it is by the analysis of lesser traits that the former can be proved and augmented - and sometimes may even be corrected.

We shall soon find that a general comparison of the various issues of each value, and a tabulation of the changes under their dates of issue, forms a good nucleus for commencement and handy basis for more detailed considerations.

This may then be followed by study of the phases of each value, and subsequently by expansion to particular issues of individual stamps. Since, in some cases, the use of the centre plate extends through several periods during which the frame plates were repaired, altered, or changed, and in others the centre plates were retouched or renewed whilst the frame plates continued still in service, the field in this respect is extensive. Add to this the use of those stamps as provisional or temporary issues by overprinting and surcharging, in themselves subject to numerous type and error variations, together with the reprints for the special benefit of the Belgian Princes, their cancellation by innumerable and varied postmarks, their adoption for adjacent territory, not to speak of their conversion to postage due labels, and variation mount in unending numbers.

The great attraction to many of us must be that complication by noteworthy perforation and watermark varieties is limited, and our studies will almost be confined to printing idiosyncrasies.

Generally throughout these issues, the stamps were printed in sheets of 50 - five horizontally by ten vertically for the 5c, 10c, 25c, 40c, 50c, 1fc, 3fc, 50c, and 10fc. values and ten horizontally by five vertically for the 15c and 5fc values. Booklets of 5c, 10c, 15c, and 25c were issued in 1915 and 1922.

Considerable variation exists in reference books as to the numbers produced and it is clear that precise official records are undisclosed.

If we now turn to the lowest value of the series, namely that of 5 centimes, produced for the postage of printed matter weighing up to 50 grammes within the Congo, and having a view of the Port of Matadi as its pictorial centre, we have the various issues as outlined in the following sequence.

The pictorial centres were printed first, and in black throughout except for the special Red Cross Charity issue of 1918, with the frame designs in colour printed afterwards.

The line perforations of the issues from 1894 to 1900 are various from 11 to 16, as well as mixed and compound. The perforations are usually 14 or 15. None of the variations of perforation of the later issues appear to define separate printings.

Amendments have been made to my original script as a result of the discussion and further information forthcoming from members of the study group present at the meeting on April 14th, and as further additions will undoubtedly follow, each phase is briefly sectionalised for expansion.

Issue of May 25th 1894

Frame design incorporating the words "Etat Independant du Congo" and "cinq centimes" printed in blue. Perforations various - 11 to 16.

Balasse records 30,000 printed - Prinnet 25,000.

Issue demonetized January 1st 1901.

It may be noted that Mr. D.B. Armstrong, writing in "Le Timbre Poste" in 1912, stated the numbers printed as 100,000. It was said that the entire stock of these stamps and the 10 centimes red-brown stamps of the same issue date were bought by Brussels dealers from the Congo Administrative Office, and few only could have reached the Congo. Stamps were cancelled to order in Brussels, generally bearing a "Boma" obliteration in pale blue ink.

Recorded varieties of frame plate

No. 16 - vertical hair line in left border (Balasse 14 V.13).

Recorded varieties of centre plate

No. 10 - vertical guide line (Balasse 14 V.3).

Nos. 44 and 45 - vertical re-entry (Balasse 14 V.1).

No. 48 - hair line over mountains (Balasse 14 V.2).

Other varieties of centre plate

No. 8 - spot near bottom left centre.

No. 14 - diagonal plate scratch near top left corner.

No. 24 - small plate scratches towards left.

No. 27 - vertical re-entry.

No. 32 - near vertical plate scratch.

No. 36 - two curved plate scratches.

No. 41 - two vertical plate scratches near left.

No. 46 - curved plate scratches near bottom.

No. 47 - ditto ditto.

Issue of January 25th 1895

Frame design as previously but printed in reddish brown - in three distinct shades from separate printings.

Balasse records 270,000 printed - Prinnet 300,000.

Issue demonetized January 1st 1901.



Recorded and other varieties of centre and frame plates generally as before.

Additional varieties of centre plate

- No. 2 Re-entry of centre (leftwards).
- No. 6 Black spot (centre plate) adjoining left border.
- No. 8 Diagonal scratch on centre plate.

Issue of May 25th 1900

Frame design as previously, but printed in green to accord with Universal Postal Union Regulations.

It would appear that a new plate was prepared for printing the pictorial centres of this issue, since some of these have characteristics which are not found in the previous issues, whilst those in the previous issues do not occur in this one.

The same frame plate however as used previously was used throughout this issue, although the later printings show its complete re-impression from a retouched die. There are small circular marks near the top and bottom right hand corners on every stamp and numerous re-entries of the border lines, but the vertical line in the left hand corner of stamp No. 16 (although less definite than previously) can still be seen. Stamps of this later printing are referred to as having Type II frames, those of the earlier printing - Type I.

The total issue of both types is recorded by Balasse as 450,000 excluding 151,000 subsequently overprinted CONGO BELGE in 1909, but by Prinnet as a total of 900,000. The issue was demonetized August 1st 1909.

It appears that the major portion of the later printings (with frame plate Type II) was overprinted in 1909. Comparatively few of the earlier printings (with frame plate Type I) were thus overprinted.

It should also be noted that stamps from the later printings (with frame plate Type II) are found apparently printed in a blue colour sometimes almost exactly that of the issue of 1894. These are colour changelings evidently faked for illicit profit making. Bogus cancellations on these are often of the circular Boma type, and have been found "dated" prior to 1900.

Recorded varieties of frame plates

- Type I            No. 16 vertical line in left border.
- Type 2            No. 16 as above but less distinct and with re-entry in left frame lines.
- No. 6 re-entry in left frame lines.

Others noted

- Type 2            No. 46 top border line incomplete at right.
- Re-entries in border lines - more or less distinct in all stamps.

Recorded varieties of centre plate

- No. 34 Balloon in sky variety.  
No. 42 Horizontal re-entry.  
No. 47 Horizontal re-entry.

Note:- I do not find the horizontal re-entry on No. 37 (as recorded by Balasse) of equal distinction.

Others noted

- Nos. 6 and 7 Hair line in sky above mountains (continuous across the adjoining stamps).  
Nos. 27 and 45 Additional dots adjoining mountains at left.  
Nos. 6, 25, 37, 41, 42 and 50 as last but more scattered.  
No. 36 as last plus broken line in mountains.  
No. 49 spot in water in lower left side.

Horizontal re-entries in most stamps with frame plate Type I

Note:- This is a matter worthy of investigation. These re-entries are not apparent in printings with frame plate Type II, but the balloon in sky variety exists in both printings.

January 1909. Stocks in hand of the 1900 issue overprinted CONGO BELGE following the formal recognition of the country as Belgian Colonial territory.

The overprints demand special study, but it may be here noted that seven of the eight Brussels handstamps, the eight Congo handstamps, and the two sizes of Typograph overprint are found on stamps of the 5 centimes value, mostly of the later printing with frame plate type II.

A small number of the 1st 1900 printing (frame plate Type I) received the Brussels and Congo handstamped overprints, whilst it is recorded that a few of the earlier red-brown 5c stamps received the Brussels handstamp overprint in error.

Numbers issued:-

|                    | <u>Balasse</u> | <u>Prinet</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Brussels handstamp | 4,500          | 6,000         |
| Congo ditto        | 124,600        | 124,600       |
| Typograph          | 22,900         | 22,900        |

Issue suspended in 1916 - January to April in various districts.

The frame and centre plate varieties found in the original issues also exist in the overprinted issues.

March 1909. The special De Prince reprints.

The story of these is well known - and few collectors are in a position to have gaps in their collections filled in such a "fairy prince" manner.

The 5c value thus reprinted was from the second frame plate, 100 examples being left without the CONGO BELGE overprint, 250 receiving the Brussels handstamped overprint, (mostly of Type II but some of Type V) and 4,650 having the typographed overprint.

These reprints are usually said to have been printed in the colour of the subsequent 1909 issue, the shade of the green frame colour being slightly different from that of the original printing, and the centre being in a brownish black ink. Comparison of the frame colours indicates however a slightly deeper and bluer green in the case of the De Prince reprints than that used in the June 1909 issue. It is distinctly different from the paler yellowish green of the 1900 issue.

The perforations were regularly 14.

It may be noted that whereas all authorities have heretofore recorded four stamps in each sheet as receiving the larger size Typograph overprint, Prinnet has recently added a fifth in the overprinted reprints. As, however, Prinnet retains the record of four larger size in the normal printings and the same type cliches were unquestionably utilised, the correctness of this addition is much in doubt.

June 1909. The "single language" issue incorporating the words CONGO BELGE in an amended frame design printed in green as before, and with the pictorial centres from the same plate as used in 1900 printed in black.

#### Varieties of centre

No. 34. "Balloon in sky" (as in 1900 issue).

No. 41 Two accidental diagonal lines adjoining the boats on the left (additional to the previous issue).

Nos. 42 and 47 Horizontal re-entries as in the 1900 issue. Balasse does not include these in his schedules but this is surely inconsistent.

Numbers printed recorded by Balasse and Prinnet as 200,000.

Issue suspended in 1916 (January to April in various districts).

January 1910. The bi-lingual issue incorporating the words CONGO BELGE - BELGISCH CONGO in a further amended frame design printed in green.

The centre plate of the previous issues was used again, and although Balasse indicates that a further plate was brought into use, it seems that it was in fact the same plate renovated, and re-impressed in part at least.

This view is supported by the recurrence of the "balloon in sky" variety on stamp No. 34, although less distinct than previously, whilst the numerous distinct additional re-entries notably on stamps Nos. 8, 9 and 37 could well be caused by re-impression.

On the other hand, the diagonal lines on stamp No. 41 are not recorded in this issue, and were presumably burnished out.

Stamp No. 2 has a fine hair line across the top of the stamp, and No. 8 (possibly a defect caused during use and apparent only in the later stages) has a small thick line in the water.

The frame plate also received considerable attention from the engravers in re-touching during the latter stages, and the colour is in three shades of green.

Balasse records the numbers printed as 390,000 and Prinnet 700,000 including those subsequently overprinted.

The issue was suspended in 1916 (January to April in various districts).

Within recent years, as a result of extensive study by Dr. Avidon, it has been found that of the stamps of this and the subsequent issue in 1915 (which were perforated 14 and 15) those perforated 15 are much less common. As a result the difference has achieved catalogue status, although the difference in perforation does not apparently indicate separate printings.

November 1915. A revised bi-lingual issue, having the value in words incorporated in the frame design at the top, in addition to the numerals at the bottom.

This issue became necessary owing to the capture by the Germans of stocks of the previous issue when they occupied Belgium in the first World War.

New frame and centre plates were made, and the issue is recorded by Balasse as 225,000.

A special printing of 600 stamps (600 sets of each value) was made in black, also booklet sheets of ten stamps in the normal green colour, in addition to the usual panes of 50 stamps. Three printings were made in the booklet sheets - the first on cream paper, the second on white paper, and the third on greyish paper.

Two types of centre exist in the printings from the normal pane plates - the later one having a small triangular black mark in the mountains above the church.

In the later printings from the earlier centre plate, numerous stamps have a blurred double impression, and there are numerous re-entries and re-touches in the frames.

The issue is generally perforated 14 with a smaller number perforated 15, and was demonetized on January 1st 1922.

The issue of 1915 was overprinted for use in Ruanda and Urundi, firstly for the troops engaged in the campaign and subsequently for the occupation forces.

May 15th 1918. The special bi-colour Red Cross Charity issue, printed with green frame and blue centre, and surcharged in carmine. 250,000 of the 5c value printed - also a similar number overprinted A.O. (Afrique Orientale) for use in German East Africa under occupation.

The second centre plate of the 1915 issue was utilised for the issue, and a limited number were produced imperforate - the remainder being perforated 14 and 15.

There are two shades of green for the frame colour.

The issue was demonetized January 1st 1922.

July 1st 1921. Following the recovery of stocks of the 1910 issue captured by the Germans on the occupation of Belgium in 1914, which had been declared obsolete in 1916, they were adapted for re-issue by overprinting with another value (viz. 10 centimes in the case of the 5 centimes 1910 stamps).

This overprint comprised four bars obliterating the figures 5c on the original stamp, with the figures 10c immediately above each set of bars.

365,000 stamps were thus overprinted, as well as a small number of the 1915 issue - in error.

The same varieties as in the original issues are naturally found, and the colour in two shades of green, perforated 14 and 15.

This issue was demonetized on January 1st 1933.

January 1st 1922. After the utilization of the recovered 1910 stocks, stocks of the 1915 issue (which had remained in Belgium temporarily withheld from circulation) were similarly adapted for use. The red overprint in this case comprised the figures 10c applied over the word "cinq" at the top of the frame.

246,000 stamps were thus overprinted, including those of both the first and second centre plates of the 1915 issue, and perforated 14 and 15.

This issue also was suspended on January 1st 1933.

Some of these overprinted stamps were additionally overprinted for use in German East Africa, and were demonetized on January 1st 1932.

January 12th - September 27th 1922.

Stocks of the same stamps, viz. the 1915 issue retained in the Congo were also overprinted locally, this comprising two pairs of bars obliterating the figures 5, and 10c centrally on the stamps.

In all 147,500 stamps were thus overprinted, from both the original centre plates, perforated 14 and 15.

There are four types of this overprint, having varied spacings between the cancelling bars and the figures, and in two shades of red. These were issued on specific dates, viz. January 12th, May 26th, September 9th and September 27th.

A variety of the overprint occurs on stamp No. 25, where the "c" is missing from "10c", whilst there are also inverted, displaced and double surcharges, and pairs with and without surcharges.

This issue was also demonetized on January 1st 1933.

Thus we have outlined the history and character of one value only in the series. There is much to be sought and explored, and the other values will be found to be of at least equal interest.

Whilst most of the information quoted will be general knowledge to students of these issues, it seemed desirable to record the basic facts upon which to build.

In conclusion I would especially be glad of comment upon the view I have expressed regarding the centre plate issue of 1910.