

Although the Summer is considered the close season for the collecting of stamps, the Secretary has several reviews of current periodicals and it seems that a further Bulletin is now justified without waiting for the next meeting of the Study Circle.

The first Section Book is now circulating and several members have already seen it. Enclosed are notes of a series of articles by D.B. Armstrong which appeared in "Le Timbre Poste" nearly forty years ago. The notes do not pretend to be a summary in that much of the information contained therein is in the Balasse Catalogue or in other current literature.

It will be of great help to the Study Circle if members, who have informative articles from old periodicals, will, at their leisure, prepare notes for inclusion in these bulletins. There is, of course, no point in duplicating information included in the standard catalogues.

Of equal or of even greater value are notes by members of their own findings which may then be substantiated or queried by other members.

Composite Library List

Enclosed is a preliminary list of books owned by members of the Study Circle. It is felt that the list is far from complete and that it would be better to give members a further opportunity of adding to it before circulating a list which purports to be up to date.

The preparation of a list of articles which have appeared in periodicals is a longer job and it will be some time before this will be available for members. Once again, this list is far from complete and members who have not already done so are asked to let the Secretary have a list of articles in their possession. Only articles containing information not in the standard catalogues are required.

Le Philatliste Belge

A new series of articles on Belgian Congo by Mr. Avidon has started and a synopsis of the first instalment is given elsewhere. It is expected that the series will continue for, probably, two years. Members of the Study Circle may care to take this magazine while the serial lasts and M. Corbisier du Meaultsart, the Editor, has suggested that the best and cheapest arrangement is for members to order the periodical for 18 months at a total cost of 15/-. If, at the end of that time, the series is not completed then special arrangements can be made. The Secretary will be glad to arrange for subscriptions to be paid to "Le Philatliste Belge" if members interested so wish.

Les Cartes Postaux De Belgique, Congo Belge Et Luxembourg

This book edited by the Belgian Postcard Society, is mainly concerned with the postal stationery of Belgium but some 30 pages are given to the Belgian Congo. Essays and varieties of plate and overprint are included and all are priced. It is interesting to learn that the Princes' Printing included postal stationery but, apparently, the entire reprinting was typographed "Congo Belge". For all who collect postal stationery the book is a mine of information. Current market prices in Belgium are quoted and these are very

low compared with the fancy prices often asked for postal stationery in this country. Harris Publications have the book in stock; the price is 15/-.

EXTRACTS FROM PERIODICALS

The West End Philatelist, No. 428, July - August, 1951

"The Leasing of the Lado" by E.F. Hurt

The chequered history of the Lado Enclave in the second half of the 19th Century is given clearly and concisely. Both Congo and Sudan stamps were used in the Enclave while leased to the Congo (1895 onwards). Whichever stamps were used they were cancelled in manuscript "Lado" and dated and later received the Nile "Retta" cancellation of 132 or 324 dots in the form of a lozenge.

The Collectors Club Philatelist, May, 1951

"The Centre Plates of the 1915 Issues" by A.I. Heim

Mr Heim describes and illustrates the original and retouched dies used for the centre plates of the 5, 10, 15, 25, 40 and 50 centimes value. With the exception of the 25 centimes value these retouched centre dies are well-known to Congo Specialists and are illustrated in the Balasse Catalogue. In the original die of the 25 centimes value there is an unshaded line between the large rocks in the right foreground and the spray of the waterfall; in the retouched die this white space is shaded.

In addition to describing the dies, Mr. Heim has estimated their relative scarcity in the 1915 issue (neglecting the subsequent overprinted issues). In the following figures, for simplicity's sake, the dies are referred to as Dies I and II except in the case of the 5 centimes where they are Dies II and III.

5 centimes -	of the total printed of 225,000	90% Die II 10% Die III
10 centimes -	" " " " " 210,000	50% Die I 50% Die II
15 centimes -	" " " " " 180,000	Die I relatively scarce.
25 centimes -	" " " " " 160,000	5% Die I 95% Die II
40 centimes -	" " " " " 85,000	25% Die I 75% Die II
50 centimes -	" " " " " 95,000	50% Die I 50% Die II

NOTE: Mr. Heim in sending to the Secretary a copy of the above journal invites comments, from members of the Study Circle, on his estimates of the percentage of each Die.

Le Philatliste Belge No. 54, July - August, 1951

"The stamps of Belgian Congo" by Dr. H. Avidon

This is the first of what promises to be a long and authoritative series of articles covering, in sequence, post-offices, stamps, obliterations and bibliography. This first article lists the post-offices in the province of Leopoldville with dates of their opening and closing and other useful information. The list is up to date and includes additions and alterations up to 1950.

Balasse Magazine, No. 75, April 1951.

"Contribution to The study of several values of the second issue of the Belgian Congo" by J. van Bleyenberghs.

Lenoir reprints of all values of the first issue except the 5 francs and of the 50c grey, 5 francs violet, 5 francs grey, 10 francs ochre, 10 francs grey, 25 francs grey and 50 francs grey of the second issue exist, having been taken from the original cliches of 10 stamps. The reprints exist imperforate and perforated and gummed. The 5 francs violet is said to be easily distinguished by shade but the other values are very difficult. In addition the reprints exist with false obliterations, usually Banana, Boma, Matadi or Leopoldville. These false obliterations also occur on genuine stamps.

Several interesting observations on the 50c brown and 50 c grey of the second issue are given pointing out the relative rarity of the latter.

THE GENESIS OF THE STAMPS OF THE THIRD ISSUE OF THE
CONGO FREE STATE, KNOWN AS "MOLS AND VAN ENGELEN".

By Col. J. Du Four

This is a copy of the 2nd paper that was read before the meeting of the "Cercle d'Etudes de Bruxelles" on the occasion of a special meeting that was called on the opening day of the Bruxelles Exhibition, at which all the members of the B.S.S.C. visiting the BEPITEC were invited to attend as guests.

On the 1st January 1886, a few weeks after the big powers had recognised, by the Treaty of Berlin, the existence of the Congo Free State, this State issued its first stamp.

This issue bears the effigy of its sovereign, King Leopold II. It was printed in Typographic engraving and was obtained from the same dies, previously adapted, as those in use at the time, for certain Belgian values.

The Second issue of which the stamps came out on October 20th 1887 were also the image of the Sovereign of the Free State, and were printed in typography. The stamps of this second issue, are the first to be really colonial, as they represent African details, such as the Congo Star, palm trees, etc. etc.

In 1894 a third issue was decided to be introduced. This was of a more artistic character. The stamps were line engraved, and were typically colonial.

At this period, the summer of 1894 an International Exhibition was organized in Antwerp, a section of it being dedicated to the State of the Congo. In this section could be discussed a diorama, the work of two Antwerp painters, Mols and Van Engelen, representing landscapes and scenery of the State, also an African village had been erected in the grounds, which was inhabited by natives from Central Africa.

From subsequent discussions that took place in the village and from the diorama, inspirations were gained for the subjects decided upon for use in the next issue of stamps.

The production of the stamps was entrusted to the firm of Waterlow and Sons from London, who actually had a stand at the Exhibition. There were six values required, the 5c. 10c. 25c. 50c. 1fr. & 5frs. Of these, the first five values were given up to designs depicting scenes taken from the Diorama, and consisted of the following subjects. (1) The port of Matadi. (2) The battle of the Stanley Falls. (3) The Inkisi Falls. (4) The Railway on the M'pozo. (5) An elephant hunt, The Sixth value had as its subject the images of the Bangala chief Marangui and his wife, who lived in the native village, and had been photographed especially on this occasion.

According to the firm's normal procedure, still applied as regards pictorial issues of the British Empire, the Artists attached to the firm, painted six watercolours in the sizes, values and colours of the projected stamps. These are little masterpieces as regards good taste and finesse.

These essays, after having been duly approved of by the proper authorities were passed on to the engravers who reproduced them as faithfully as possible on steel dies, one for the centre, and one for the frame, as the centre and the frame were to be of different colours. One can still read on the borders of these watercolours, notes and recommendations for the attention of the engravers, and written by those responsible for the final appearance of the stamps.

With these dies, proofs were printed, always in the colour intended for the stamps. These were again submitted for approval. As a result, a few minor corrections were made in the dies, consisting chiefly in the addition of small details to different parts in the frames.

This done, the dies previously hardened, were imprinted on rollers, or small steel cylinders on which the image appeared in relief.

These rollers after also having been hardened, were used for the making of the plates, two plates per value, one for the centre and one for the frame. The plates are copper sheets on which the roller by pressure, hollowed the design as often as there were to be stamps on the sheet, and in their case, that meant fifty times.

After this, there remained only to ink the plates so as to make the ink penetrate into the grooves, and apply them with a slight pressure to a sheet of paper, formerly damped, to obtain fifty frames and centres of the required stamp.

In 1896 the necessity arose of adding two values to the issue. One of 15c and one of 40c.

The convenient subjects of the diorama being exhausted, and the native villagers having by then returned to their country, it was by means of photographs that these two required subjects were chosen. The 15c. had for its subject fruit picking from coconut palms, and for the 40c was chosen a drawing of a native canoe on the Kasai.

The firm of Waterlow and Sons again submitted watercolour essays in the sizes and colours of the projected stamps. These, after having been agreed upon, were as the former values, made out in dies by the engravers. These dies were again modified before being finally accepted, and the most important alteration that was made, being the position of the letter E in the word ETAT on the 15c.

The British collector, Mr. Joseph Wright, is the possessor of several essays of the frame dies, in ochre and in black for the 15c. and of frame and centre dies in green and black of the 40c. He even possesses for the 15c. fragmentary drawings in china ink, of the frame. These drawings were most likely made up to assist the engravers in their task.

Finally in 1898 it was considered necessary to complete the serial by the introduction of the two high values, the 3-50 frcs and the 10 frcs. The first was especially intended for the sending of parcel posts and the second as tax payments of hunting permits, but for unknown reasons this time the stamps were produced by another British firm of stamp engravers. Messrs. Waterlow Brothers and Layton.

Was this change in the supplier, the firm which in the future was strictly limited to the 3-50 frcs. (3 frcs) and 10 frcs due to a confusion in names? One day, maybe we shall know with certainty the reason of this extraordinary decision.

The subjects of these two high values were taken from (1) a pen drawing of a native village on the road of the caravans, the (2) second from a photograph of one of the Congo River paddle steamboats.

We do not, up to the present day, ^{know} anything with reference to the essays of these particular stamps, only proofs of dies and plates in various colours. We

mention that amongst these some really curious specimens exist. Proofs of the frame and centre dies of the 3-50 frcs printed separately on the same sheet and proofs of plates made out of the frame of the 10 frcs and the centre of the 3-50 frcs.

There are furthermore, for all the values issued in 1894 proofs with the centre in Black and the frames of different colours to those adopted for the actual stamps. These have been seen as follows:- 5c wine red, 10c. pale lilac, 25c. pale blue, 50c. light orange, 1 fr. Bister. and 5 frcs Green.

According to Mr. Wright, these are in reality "Publicity Issues" made by Waterlow & Sons, which were exhibited to their clients for publicity.

We have just outlined the procedure used for obtaining the stamps, known in Belgium as the "Mols and Van Engelen" Issues. You will recall that prints of the dies are taken on the rollers and that the rollers transfer the prints to the plate.

For the issue of these stamps, the roller has more than one relief, at least two of these are of different values. The frame reliefs were very close to each other. It therefore occurs that during the imprinting of the frame of one value on the plate the roller continued its motion, after completion of one design and marked the plate with several lines of the relief of the other.

It is in this way that we have discovered lines of the engraving of the frame of the 5 frcs on the 25 c and vice-versa, also lines of the 50c. on the 10c. and vice-versa. It was logically concluded that the frames of the 25c and the 5frcs were on the same roller, at the same time the frames of the 10c. and the 50c.

We have called these varieties in printing "parasitic engravings" because this accidental engraving imposed itself in the normal print as a parasite.

It is to Mr. A. Maes that we owe this interesting discovery.

Up to date in our knowledge, this type of variety is exclusively proper to the issue of the stamps attributed to Mols and Van Engelen. Maybe nevertheless certain bi-coloured engraved stamps of British Colonies may offer a repetition of this variety and maybe one of the people present or other British collectors will have the good fortune of discovering another example of a British "Parasitic Engraving".

20th July, 1951

NOTES FROM A SERIES OF ARTICLES

BY D.B. ARMSTRONG IN "LE TIMBRE POSTE"

10th January, 1912 to 10th July, 1913.

The following notes are of information included in the above series of articles which is not included in the Balasse catalogue or which is not in agreement with information given in the catalogue.

1886 Issue

The first official notification of this issue was on the 1st July, 1886, and there is a possibility that the stamps were not issued in the Congo until this date. (It will be interesting to know if any member has any of the first issue with cancellations prior to the 1st July, 1886 - Ed.).

The designs were taken directly from the Belgian Issue of 1869. The "Belgique-Belgie" inscriptions and the values on the original dies were removed and steel impressions made in reverse; on these impressions "Etat Independant du Congo" and the values were engraved. Impressions taken from these second blocks were used to make the cliches for the printing plates.

The initials of the designer and engraver (H.H. and A.D.) appear in the lower corners of the 5 c. and 10 c. values and on each side of the Fleur de Lys on the 50 c. value, whereas on the 25 c. value the initials of the designer only (H.H.) appear under the rectangle containing the word "Centimes".

The impressions were made in various shades of aniline ink on coarse, thin and smooth papers.

Postal Rates - Internal - Letters.	25 centimes (15 grammes)
Postcards	10 centimes
Reply-paid postcards	15 centimes
Printed Matter	5 centimes per 50 grammes
Foreign Letters	50 centimes (15 grammes)
Postcards	15 centimes
Reply-paid postcards	25 centimes
Printed Matter	10 centimes per 50 grammes (minimum charge 25 cents)
Registration Internal	25 centimes
Foreign	50 centimes
Acknowledgment	25 centimes

1894

In the official notification of this issue on the 27th November, 1894, both blue and brown 5 c. and brown and blue 10 c. values were listed. It is said that Brussels stamp dealers bought the entire stock of the 5 c. blue and 10 c

brown from the Congo Administration Office and that if any of these stamps reached the Congo it must have been in very small numbers.

All stamps of the issue were available in complete sheets at the Congo Administration Office in Brussels either mint or cancelled to order. These cancellations were usually "Boma" in pale blue ink.

One sheet of 10 c. blue with centre inverted was issued at the Congo Administration Office in Brussels and most of these errors passed through the hands of a London dealer.

1896

On the 1st April, 1896, the Inland Postal Rate for letters was reduced from 25 to 15 c. for 15 grammes and on the 24th November, therefore, the first 15 c. adhesive stamp was issued.

Postal Rates 26th February, 1897.

Internal - Letters	15 centimes (15 grammes)
Postcards	10 centimes
Reply-paid postcards	20 centimes
Printed matter	5 centimes per 50 grammes

Foreign as far as Libreville in the north and Mossamedes in the south.

Letters	25 centimes (15 grammes)
Postcards	10 centimes
Reply-paid postcards	20 centimes
Printed matter	5 centimes per 50 grammes

Other countries.

Letters	50 centimes (15 grammes)
Postcards	15 centimes
Reply-paid postcards	30 centimes
Printed matter	10 centimes per 50 grammes (minimum charge 25 centimes for printed papers, 10 centimes on commercial announcements).

1908 Overprints

Handstamps were prepared by M. de Dasebek, an engraver in Brussels.

The Brussels handstamps were checked very carefully by MM. Emile Sauset and Gaston who initialled the margin of each sheet.

The Handstamp dies were set in frames and were of the type which incorporated an ink pad. These were found to be not very satisfactory so the frames and pads were removed and the dies were fitted into wooden holders and used with the normal type of ink pad.

The typographed plates were prepared and the stamps overprinted by La Presse Libre, Brussels.

Parcel Post Stamps

On the 28th February, 1887, an agreement was signed by the Congo Free State Government and by the Belgian State Railways, covering a parcel post service between the two countries. Parcels were limited to 11 lbs. in weight and to a maximum size of 60 decimetres circumference by 20 decimetres long (18 ft. and 6 ft. respectively!). From the Congo to Belgium there was a fixed rate of 3 francs 50 of which 1 franc was for the Congo Postal Authorities, 2 francs for the sea transit and 50 centimes for the Belgian Authorities.

There was at that time no stamp of suitable value and the current 5 francs stamp was surcharged. Whereas in Belgium the special railway stamps had to be used for parcels to the Congo, parcels from the Congo could be prepaid with postage stamps other than the special 3 francs 50 value. The Colis Postaux Overprints on 1886, 1887 and 1892 issues were all handstamped with rubber stamps at the Congo Administration Office in Brussels.

Postage Due

The use of postage stamps overprinted "Taxe" or "Taxes" was authorised for paying postage due in a government circular dated 31st October, 1906. The overprint was applied after the stamp had been affixed to the package and it is impossible therefore to obtain the Congo Taxe stamps unused (!).

LIST OF ARTICLES ON BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA URUNDI

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1926	33	Postage Due Stamps Before 1923.
	103	Taxes Overprints.
	123	Essay for "Colis Postaux".
1928	310	A Variety of 25c. on 5 franc Ochre "Boma Overprint".
	312	Forged Inverted Overprint 5c. on 50c. Brown.
	208	Forgeries of the 10 fr. Ochre, 1891.
1926	113)	The Imperforate Stamps of the 1886, 1887 and 1894
	150)	Issues - R. Poncelet.
	84)	
1928)	137)	5 fr. Lilac of 1886 - R. Poncelet (32 stamps of 50
1929)	32)	plated).
1928	142)	H. Stanley and D. Livingstone.
	147)	Stanley Stamps.
	178)	
1928	69	Forgeries of the 5 fr. and 10 fr. 1887 - 1891
		- F. Serrane
1929	206	The Postcards of the Belgian Congo (1908 - 1910) -
		E. Christiaens.
1928)	50)	
1929)	128)	Cancellations of the Congo - H. Claverean.
	157)	
	188A)	
1930	218	The "Boma" Surcharges, 1922-23 - O. Everaert.
	152	Forged Ruanda - Urundi Surcharge on the 1 fr. 25 Floors.
1928	256	1909 Handstamps.
1931	15)	Congo Belge Overprints - H. Claverean.
	59)	
	308	1886 50c. "Cungo" Variety.
1931)		The Belgian Congo and Its Postal Markings - Andre de
1932)		Cock.
1933	202	Two Types for Some Values of 1915 Issue - Reprint of
		the Article in Gibbons (now covered by Balasse).
1934	107	Current Stamps of the Congo and Ruanda Being Cancelled
		at Brussels with Leopoldville and Usumbura Date Stamps.
1935	89	The 5 fr. Mols - A. Magonette (more complete than
		Balasse).
1936	85	The Sheets of the 1886 Issue - R. Poncelet.
1938	178	5 fr. Mols. Notes on Display by M.R. Geffin to
		the Societe Philateliste Belge.

BALASSE MAGAZINE

LIST OF ARTICLES ON BELGIAN CONGO AND RUANDA URUNDI

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
2	April, 1936.	"Un Incompris" Belgian Congo - Jean du Four.
3	August, 1936.	Belgian Congo - E. Corbisier de Meaultsart.
8	December, 1937.	Mols and Van Engelen Issues - Jean du Four.
9	March/April, 1938.	Ditto 5 and 10c.
10	June, 1938	Ditto 15, 25 and 40c.
11	September, 1938.	Ditto 50c. and 1 fr.
12	December, 1938.	Ditto 3fr.50, 5 and 10fr. and errata. 5/40c. with Congo Belge Overprint.
13	March, 1939	Mols and Van Engelen Addendum - Jean du Four 30c. on 10c. East African Overprint Inverted. 1886, 5fr., perf. 14.
14	June, 1939	General Tombeur Issue - Jean du Four. 1921 Recovery Issue.
21		The Sheet of the Leaves (15c. Green Die I) - A. Maes.
22		Supplement. Details of Watermark. "Wrigley & Son Ltd."
25		Ruanda Urundi Floors Type. Booklet Sheets, 5c. - Ch. Jonckr.
26		ditto 10c. and 15c.
28		ditto 25c.
27		Study of Several Peculiar Marks - A. Maes. Ruanda Urundi. Contribution to the Study of the Overprints - F. Longree.
29)		
30)		
31)		
32)		
33)		The Great Future of the Stamps of the Congo -
34)		Kilo-Moto.
39)		
40)		
41)		
68)		
30		1921 Recovery Issue. Parasitic Marks - A. Maes.
31)		The First Issue of the Congo - Jean du Four.
32)		
33		The Forerunners of the Congo - O. Evaraert.
33)		The Small Figures of the Railways - Vicinaux.
34)		
35)		
33		Ruanda Urundi. Overprints on the Floors Types.
34)		The 10 centimes with Centre Inverted - A. Maes
35)		
38)		
39)		
41)		Perforation Technique - A. Maes
43)		
56)		
58)		
59/60)		The Congo Military Post 1939/45.

NO.

DATE

59/60)
68)

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63

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Study of the Small Circle Cancellations on the Two
First Issues of the Congo - Jules Van Bleyenberghé.
The Compound Perforations of the 3fr. 50 and 10fr.
Mols - Jules Van Bleyenberghé.
The 10 centimes Blue with Inverted Centre - A. Maes.
The Postage Due Stamps of Ruanda Urundi - J.F. Zaale.

#3

BELGIAN CONGO SPECIALISTS' STUDY CIRCLE

PRELIMINARY COMPOSITE CATALOGUE OF BOOKS OWNED BY MEMBERS

Most members have Balasse, Philatco (Avidon), Prinet and Gibbons Catalogues and these are not included.

The sequence of details of each book are:- title, author, date of publication, language and owners (according to list of members).

1. Grosses Handbuch des Falschungen Belgisch-Congo-Billig - 1939 - German - 1,6,11,12.
2. Belgian Congo and Belgian East Africa - H. Mallet-Veale - 1925 - English - 1.
3. The Belgian Congo - T. Stewart Adair - 1925 - English - 1.
4. Les Surcharges Congo Belge - Gelli & Tani - 1943 - French - 1,12.
5. Le Congo Belge et ses Marques Postales - A. de Cock - 1931 - French - 1, 6.
6. Le Timbre à 1 franc de 1894 - J. Crustin - 1944 - French - 1.
7. Le Négro Guide - L. Gailly - 1945 - French - 1.
8. Catalogue de la Poste Aérienne de Belgique et du Congo Belge - Fr. Godinas - 1938 - French - 1.
9. Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique, Congo Belge et Luxembourg - Soc. Belge de l'Entier Postal - 1950 - French - 6,11.
10. Vade Mecum du Collectionneurs de Timbe Poste de Belgique - Y. Burniat - ? - French - 11, 12.
11. Catalogue Illustré des Essais du Congo - Grubben - 1933 - French - 10.