

Secretary:

L. G. Green
Anvers, 29 New Road
Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG
England
UK

BULLETIN 91

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

Bulletin Editor:

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

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President: Jacques Du Four
OMPHI, Galerie du Centre
Bureau 329, 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Exchange Packet Secretary
B. P. Hudson
92 Oakley St.
London SW3, England, UK

Vice President and General
Sales Secretary

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

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VICE-PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN

'Tombeur' 5 Francs

Abbé Gudenkauf reports having inspected an unused copy of the 5F with URUNDI local overprint, of the authenticity of which he is confident, perforated 14 instead of the normal 15.

Because of the extreme scarcity of the 5F with either RUANDA or URUNDI local overprint and because not more than a single example of each position in the sheet has been identified it has very reasonably been presumed that only a single sheet of the value received each of the two overprints and those two sheets were perforated 15. The Abbé is of the opinion that the perforated 14 stamp was obtained 'by favour', the officer who held the overprinting stamps having obliged a fellow officer who had one or more copies of the 1915 stamp in his wallet after all the overprinted stamps had been sold. It sounds very possible.

The Abbé provides the useful information that the overprints were applied at Pambani and that the overprinting was done by a Lieutenant Pirsch.

1922 15c Pictorial Postal Stationery Cards

In his series of articles in 'L'Entier Postal' in 1947 Dr. Stibbe showed that there were at least two printings of the 5c and 10c pictorial postal stationery cards.

Mr. Vannerum has now produced evidence that there was more than one printing of the similar 15c 1922 picture card, and probably of the 30c card as well. He has sent photocopies of two examples of card No. 115. On one card the French legend 'La Ministère des Colonies à une mission protestante' is 56½ mm long and the Flemish legend 'De Minister van

Kolonien bij een protestantsch zending' 67 mm long whereas on the second card the respective lengths are 59 mm and 63 mm.

Comparison of pairs of other cards in this series may very well provide interesting results.

1922 'Malines' 5c/50c Perf. 15

I have in the past, in these columns, commented on the extreme scarcity of this stamp. Listed in the 1947 edition of the Balasse Catalogue and priced, for both unused and used, the same as other values of the issue perforated 15. I searched diligently for a copy for more than 40 years and then an unused copy with shiny surcharge came my way: I duly reported it in the Bulletin.

Now I have found a used copy, also with shiny surcharge, and cancelled Coquilhatville.

Although probably not as rare as I first thought it is certainly an elusive stamp worthy of careful search and I shall be glad to learn of other appearances. It may well exist with matt surcharge.

There are, as yet no reportings of the same stamp, perforated 15, with EST AFRICAINE overprint although that too is included in the Balasse catalogue. The existence of this stamp is less likely because, as far as I am aware, the EAST AFRICAINE stamp, without surcharge, is not known perforated 15.

R. H. KEACH

SALES

I shall shortly and maybe before the publication of the June Bulletin be sending for public auction the very substantial remainders of Peter Wright's collection of Congo and Ruanda Urundi. Will members please accept this as the last opportunity to send me wants lists, specific or general,

to fill their gaps from this collection. There are a few pieces of postal stationery including numbered picture cards.

Offered are 50 used copies of 1915 25c, all from combination of plates III, +B and providing a complete reconstruction of the sheet, at £3.00 plus postage. There are several such reconstructions available. R. H. Keach, 25 Kingswood Road, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5EE England UK

THE BCSC AUCTION

With this issue Brian Hudson has undertaken the double task of describing the Auction lots, preparing the list and processing the bids--for which we give our thanks.

The BCSC is yet again indebted beyond measure to Ray Keach who has, over these many years, examined the offerings, described them with that unique knowledge which is specially his and completed the lists for publication.

Goeffrey Wood then undertook to receive and sort out the bids and, in the case of two or more equal bids, to "toss the coin" to determine the winner.

They have performed these tasks for so long that we may have taken their work for granted. If so we are remiss and we now correct that oversight.

We have greatly benefited from their work and we should not let them retire without a note of appreciation and thanks for this very real contribution to the vitality of the Belgian Congo Study Circle.

Well Done!

MEETING AT OSTEND 16-18 SEPTEMBER 1994

In the last Bulletin we referred to our proposed meeting to celebrate the centenary of the MOLS stamp, and can now report that the meeting has been booked at the IMPERIAL HOTEL-OSTEND.

Bookings have been made for Friday 16 September and Saturday 17 September, the meeting ending Sunday afternoon--18 September.

The prices agreed with the hotel are 1250 Belgian Francs per person per night for a twin room, double occupancy, and 1600 Belgian Francs for a single room, in both cases with a bathroom. This price includes breakfast, V.A.T., and Service. The hotel is close to the sea and the Casino, 5 minutes from the shopping centre, and several restaurants nearby. There is a restaurant for breakfast in the hotel, but not for other meals.

As block bookings at this favourable rate have to be confirmed in early June, will all members who are proposing to come to the meeting kindly let me know (L. G. GREEN 29 NEW ROAD, ESHER, SURREY KT10 9PG ENGLAND-0372-463101) not later than 20 May 1994;

(a) whether they will be coming to the meeting;

(b) whether they wish to take advantage of the hotel bookings, and if whether for a twin-bedded room for two people or for a single room;

(c) whether they wish to join a dinner on Saturday night at a nearby restaurant.

Would members staying in the hotel kindly settle their accounts with the hotel management on leaving.

We understand that parking is difficult in Ostend, and though there is some garage accommodation near the hotel, it is very limited. It may be wise for non-residents in Belgium to leave their cars at home.

Travel to Ostend from the U>K> is either by JETFOIL Ramsgate to Ostend--about 100 minutes for the crossing, or by air to Brussels and then by train to Ostend.

It is proposed to have the following Sessions:

(a) on Saturday morning a long introductory

session commencing at 0:93 with tea at 10:45;

(b) on Saturday afternoon two short sessions at 1400 and 1600 hours;

(c) on Saturday evening a short session at 20:30;

(d) on Sunday morning two sessions at 0900 at 1100;

(e) on Sunday afternoon a business session including the Annual General Meeting of the Study Circle, covering election of officers and the approval of the accounts for the year to 31 December 1993.

Details of the subjects for the sessions and their Presenters will be included in the June Bulletin

L. G. Green

SHABA (KATANGA) --PHILATELIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE 1977 REBELLION

We still remember the tragic events that occurred in the south-west of Shaba in 1977 and in 1978: rebels, coming from Angola, attacked Zaire in 1977 but they did not succeed in reaching Kolwezi. In 1978, a second attack occurred in the same area and the rebels, this time, in reaching Kolwezi. Europeans were killed: and the Zairian government called for help. Troops from Belgium, France and Morocco rapidly arrived in Kolwezi and the rebels were defeated. Later, it would appear that Europeans were murdered by troops belong to the Security Forces of President Mobutu who wanted to oblige (compel) Western Europe to help him against the rebels.

During the 1977 war, six post offices were destroyed by the rebels: Dilolo, Kapanga, Kasaji, Kisenge, Mutshatsha and Sandoa.

They were rebuilt and finally reopened in 1981: the official re-opening date was 29.3.81 but we know a) KASAJI was probably already re-opened in 1979 although we do not know what

cancellations were used there in 1979 and 1980 and b) KAPANGA reopened on 13.4.81.

New date stamps and "griffes" (in 2 sizes) were put into service. DILOLO received at least 3 cancellers, the other 5 post offices--2 each.

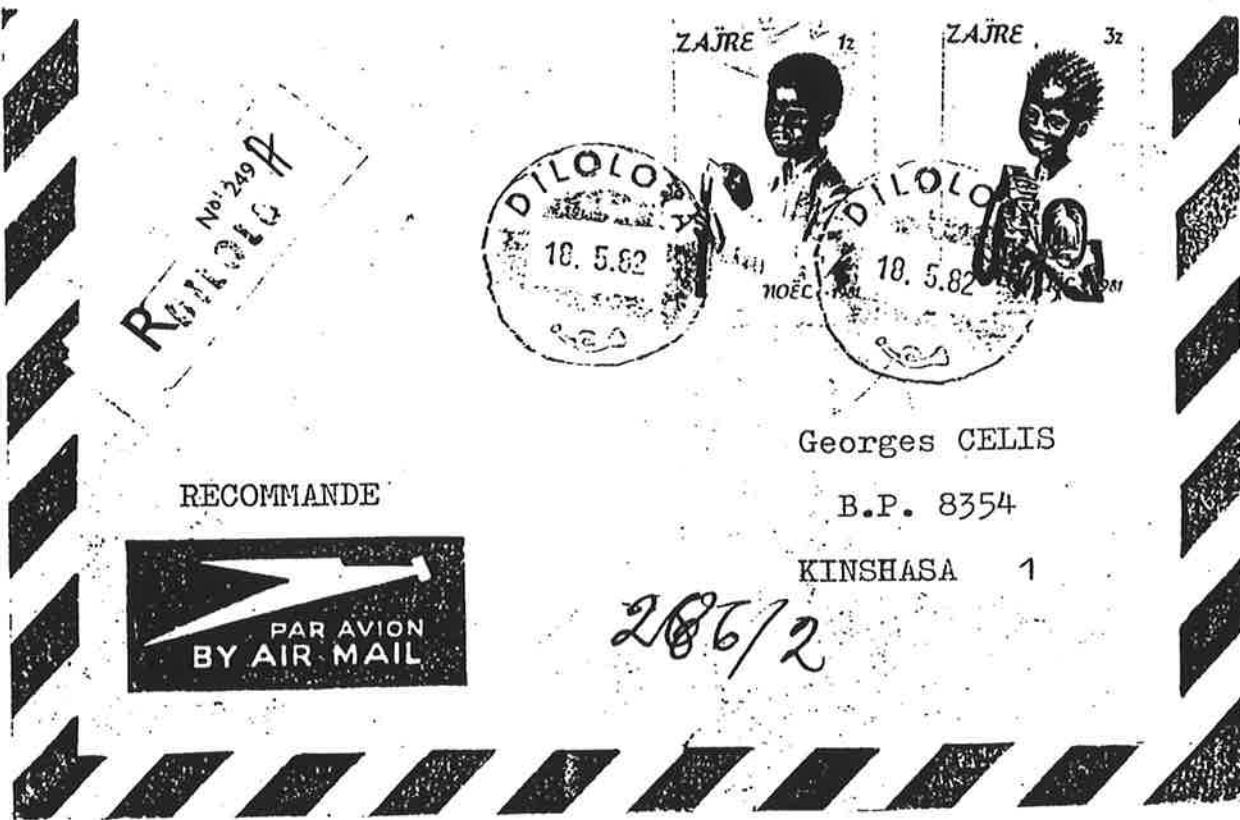
These cancellers were locally made in Lubumbashi by a private company of Italian origin; the cancellations are easy to recognize because they include no figure for the time. Some other towns received similar cancelers after (probably) 1969, and even after 1982, e.g. KITENGE and MOKAMBO. It should be noted that during the 1970-72 period KASAJI was already using cancelers of this type.

In 1982 all Zairian post offices received new cancellers of large size (34.5mm in diameter); in Kinshasa they were put into service in March 1982, in other post office in September-October 1982. This means that the cancellers sent to the above Katanga post offices in 1981 were in use for only a short period, from March-April 1981 to September-October 1982; about 18 months in a devastated area. Most of these cancellations are very rare.

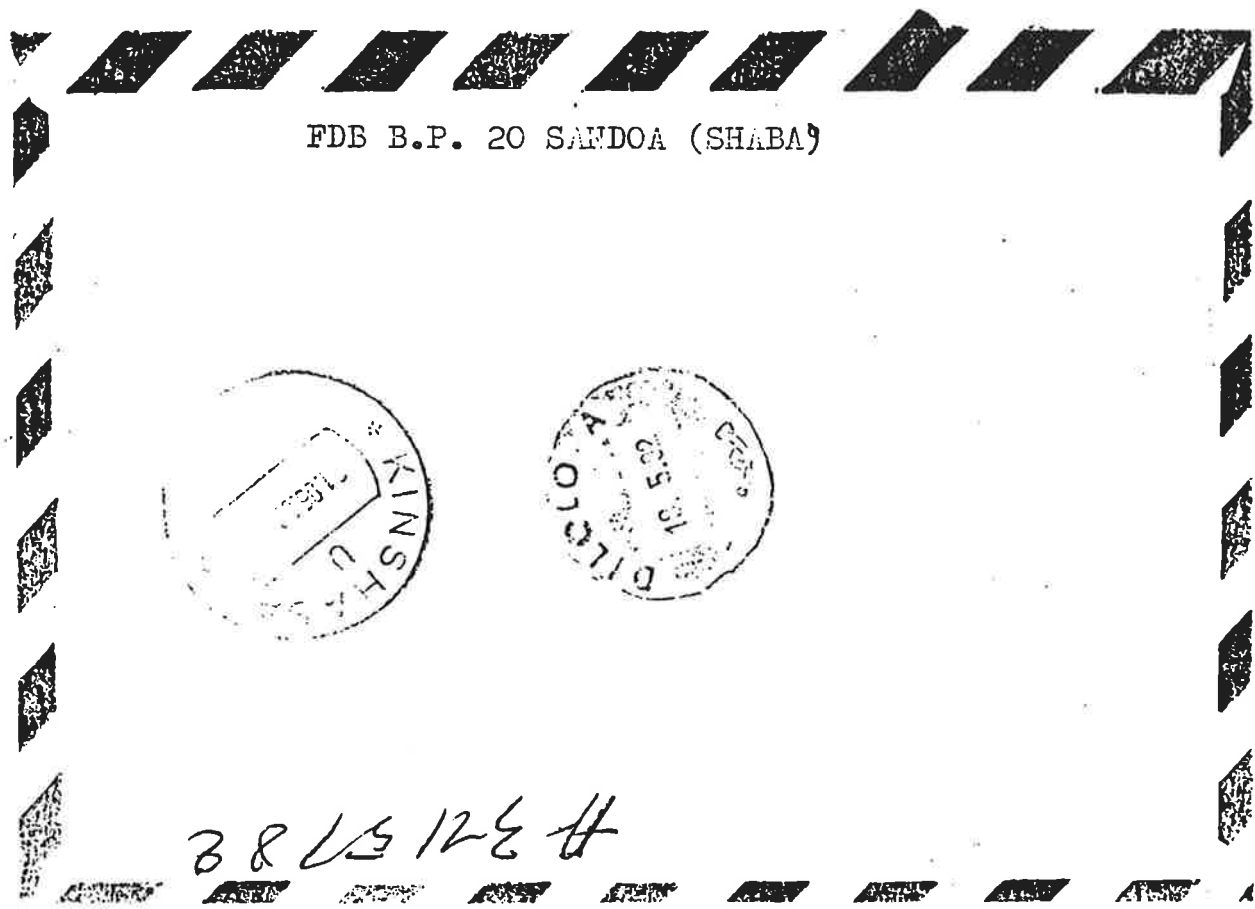
Georges Celis

(KITENGE should not be confused with KISENGE - Kitenge is located in the north-east of SHABA)

(The following two pages contain reproductions of some of these covers from the Celis collection--The Dilolo cover illustrating the large size cancellation and the Kapanga covers are examples of very rare cancellations from a remote post office.- Editor).



DILOLO A : registred letter with exact franking (1 + 3 z)
 On the back: large size date stamps were in use
 in Kinshasa 1 since the 10th of March, but not
 yet in the interior of Zaïre.



21

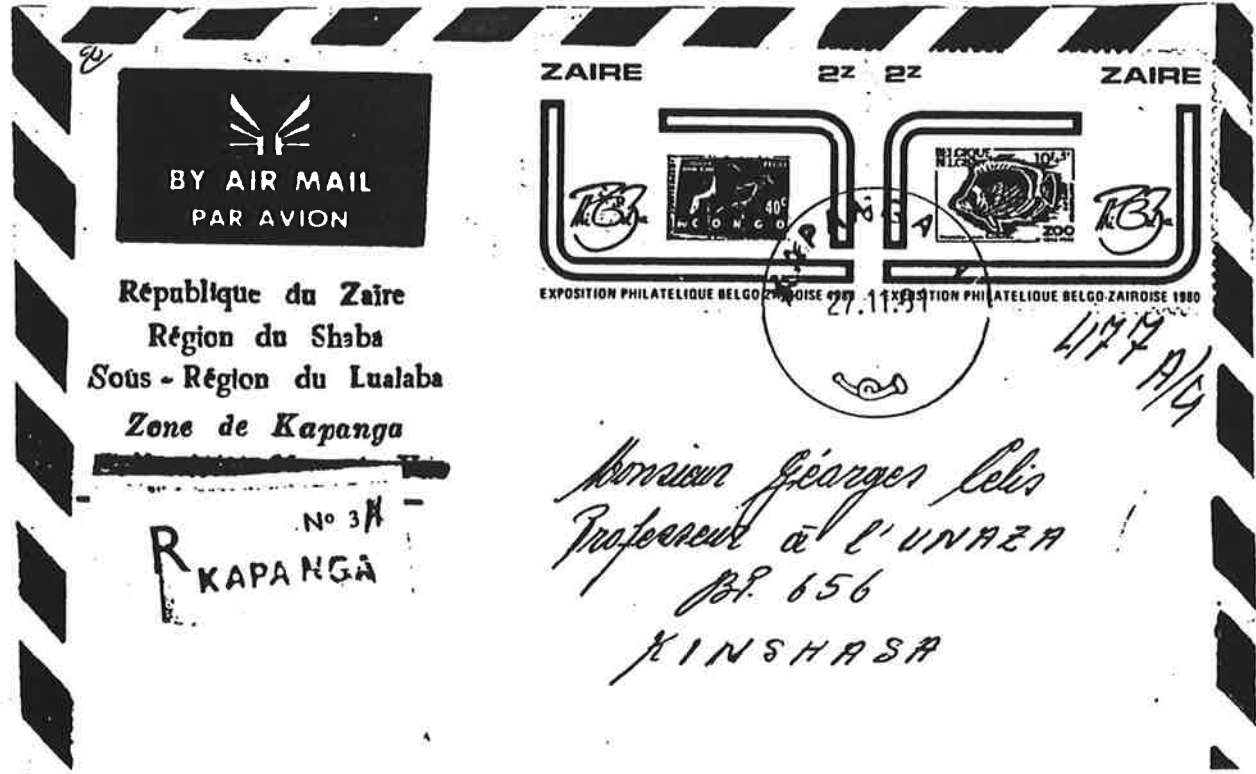


17-2-82
KINSHASA

7326/1

R KAPANGA No 5M

Monsieur George CELIS
B.P. 8354
de et à
KINSHASA 1.



KAPANGA A and KAPANGA B : rare cancellations from that remote place. Correct frankings. Arrival stamping on the back.

BELGIAN OCCUPIED GERMAN EAST AFRICA

Several members have written asking for the locations of BPCVPK numbered cancellers during the East African Campaign.

Abbé Gudenkauf and Mr. Vindevoghel have kindly prepared the following information which is a complete and accurate as our present knowledge permits. Military cancellations other than BPCVPK numbers are included for completion.

FIRST CAMPAIGN: TABORA -occupied by Belgian troops 19 September 1916

Tabora was handed over to the British Army 25 February 1917

<u>BPC NO.</u>	<u>USED AT</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>DATES SEEN</u>
	KISUMU 27 Aug 16 and Mar 17	A	Black	
1	TABORA 16 Nov 16-24 Feb 17	B	Blue	16 Nov 16-24 Feb 17
4	KIGOMA 19 Nov 16- 30 Apr 17	C	Violet Black Blue	19 Nov 16 - 22 Feb 17 22 Dec 16 - 30 Apr 17 10 Feb 17 - 12 Mar 17
5	KIGALI Nov 16 - Mar 17		Black	
8	KIGOMA		Black	25 Mar 17
2	Unknown on cover	D	Black	23 Dec 16 on isolated cover
3	Unknown on cover	D	Blue	31 Oct 16 on isolated stamps
10	Unknown on cover	D	Black	2 Sep 16 & 10 Dec 16 on isolated stamps

Notes

A- Initially, in August 1916, the canceller "KISUMU BELGE" was used and two such covers are known. It was then replaced by the canceller "KISUMU BPCVPK"

B- No other canceller was in regular use at Tabora but some of the batch of covers which reached Kisumu on 21 October 1916 had received the TABORA "griffe" (straight line cancellation) in violet ink.

C.- At Kigoma three different "griffes" were also used as cancellations: Type B, according to the Du Four classification, was the most commonly used of the three.

D- BPCVPK Nos. 2, 3 and 10 are known CTO (cancelled to order) on RUANDA and URUNDI overprinted stamps.

At Muanza the old German canceller (with three stars) was used from September 1916 until the end of that year. From January until the end of March 1917 a Belgian "POSTES

MILITAIRES" with angular measurements 230°-293°, well known on the Dupont mail, was used.

During this period the rarest cancellations on cover are BPCVPK No. 5 and BPCVPK No.8. "KISUMU BPCVPK" is also rare because from the end of November 1916 the mail to Europe normally traveled via Cape Town and not via Mombasa.

Forgeries exist of KISUMU BPCVPK and of BPCVPK Nos. 1, 3 and 4.

The genuine KISUMU BPCVPK is always in black and the letters of KISUMU appear smaller. If the month is OCT the shape of the letter C is different in the forgery.

In the Nysten forgery of BPCVPK No. 1 there is no nick in the outer circle just to the left of the K of VPK which is always present on the genuine cancellation.

The genuine BPCVPK No. 3 cancellation has the figure 3 shaped thus: **3**
in the forgery the shape is different.

In the genuine BPCVPK No. 4 numerals 1 are without serifs; in the forgery the figures 1 have serifs at their tops.

SECOND CAMPAIGN:MAHENGE occupied by Belgian troops 9 October 1917

Mahenge was handed over to the British Army 25 November 1917.

For a clear classification the campaign can be considered effectively to have ended at the end of December 1917.

<u>BPC No.</u>	<u>USED AT</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>DATES SEEN</u>
4	KIGOMA	Black	After March 1917
4	KITEGA	Black	December 1917
5	KIGALI	Black	April to December 1917
6	UDJIDJI	Blue	April to December 1917
8	USUMBURA	Black	September to December 1917
9	see note below		
11	DODOMA	Blue	July to October 1917
11	DAR-ES-SALAM	Black	November and December 1917
12	TABORA	Blue	July to October 1917
13	RUAHA RIVER CAMP*	Blue & Black	August to November 1917
14	KILOSA	Black & Blue	September to December 1917
15	KILOSA	Black & Blue	September to December 1917
16	KILOSA	Black	September to December 1916

Belgian Occupied German East Africa cont.

FPO No. 11 DAR-ES-SALAM is known in violet seen at the end of December 1917.

*The Ruaha River Camp was located between KILOSA and MAHENGE.

BPCVPK No. 9- Several registered covers with BPCVPK No. 9 are known used from RUTSHURU to KWIDJWI ISLAND in Lake Kivu in May 1917: they did not travel through German East Africa.

During this campaign of MAHENGE the rarest cancellations on cover are BPCVPK No. 8 and FPO No. 11; also rare are BPCVPK Nos. 6 and 13.

AFTER MAHENGE - until the end of the year

<u>BPC No.</u>	<u>USED AT</u>	<u>COLOUR</u>	<u>DATES SEEN</u>
2	Unknown on cover	Black	1 Mar 1918 on isolated stamps
4	KITEGA	Black	January to April 1918
5	KIGALI	Black	January to May 1918
6	UDJIDJI	Blue	From March 1918
7	Unknown on cover	Black	6 Nov 1918 on isolated stamps
8	USUMBURA	Black	January to May 1918
10	GOTTORP	Black	February 1918 to March 1919
11	ALBERTVILLE	Black	June to November 1918
15	KILOSA	Black	January 1918
15	DAR-ES-SALAM	Black	January to April 1918
15	LUGUFU	Black	From May 1918
16	KILOSA	Black	January 1918
16	TABORA	Blue	From May 1918
17	UDJIDJI	Black	February to August 1918
19	Unknown on cover	Black	28 Nov '18 on isolated stamps
20	Unknown on cover	Black	28 Nov '18 on isolated stamps

Belgian Occupied German East Africa cont.

During this period (after MAHENGE) the rarest covers are those cancelled BPCVPK No. 6.

In the above tabulations no mention is made of BPCVPK No. 18. Although the canceller must have existed neither cover nor isolated stamp has been seen with it.

The above tabulations have been prepared using all the documentation available to the authors. It does not pretend to be fully comprehensive or accurate in every detail. If members have covers, stamps or other documents giving information which is at variance with that given or with dates outside the ranges stated will the please inform the authors, either directly or through the Bulletin Editor. Every scrap of information helps.

EDITORS NOTES

With this issue of the Bulletin we should like to begin a regular column describing *what* our Belgian Congo Stamps tell us--ie more than simply paper, perforations, gum etc. and your Editor invites articles on the subjects--particularly as to the "Masks" set--what does each mask represent--from what tribe--from what area and so forth.

We will begin with the 20F 1942 stamp, which provides us with the logo for our Society, which pictures an Okapi.

This issue contains Norman Clowes periodic *TOUR DE FORCE* viz the INDEX now covering volumes 1 to 90 of the Bulletin. A Herculean task, most ably performed, for which goes the thanks of all our members.

Because of the size of this issue we have held over for future Bulletins the articles on Airgraphs, Missions, Books on Zaire, the results of our survey of members particular collecting interests and others.

Nevertheless we are always seeking your articles and studies. Please send them along together with any special requests you may have. Note: the very extensive study by Abbé Gudenkauf and André Vindevoghel above is the result of such inquiry.

EML

20F 1942-THE OKAPI

This animal was described by Grace Flandrau in her book The I Saw the Congo (Harcourt, Brace published in 1929) as follows:

"The okapi, said to be a species of forest giraffe, was not discovered (by Europeans) until 1902, and it was eight years later before the first one was shot (horrid thought) by a white man. The beautiful color of these creatures eludes description--a rich purplish brown with overtones of gold is the nearest I can come to it; they have pale tannish stomachs and light strips around the legs and thighs. (The one I saw) was the size of a colt. He had a long neck, high forequarters, great ears, the beginnings of tiny horns, and soft, gazelle like eyes. And he had a strange passion for chins. He could not be dissuaded from following you about, his slender nose thrust forward, reaching for your chin, which he took very gently between his teeth and investigated with a very rough little tongue. A most beautiful, affectionate and fearless creature"

Certainly a proper logo for the BCSC--as philatelists--do we not consider ourselves gentle yet fearless investigators of that which we pursue.

EML