

BELGIAN CONGO



STUDY CIRCLE

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Birmingham Meeting A number of members and spouses managed to attend the joint meeting with the Belgian Study Circle over the weekend 14-16 September. Unfortunately, due to a delay in the issue of final arrangements, some members who had hoped to attend were unable to do so, however, we were most pleased to welcome Mr. E. Hirdler, who had come over from Miami specially for the meeting.

As has come to be the norm for these extended meetings, most members had brought along any material relevant to the subjects under discussion and the separate BCSC meetings, which were held in a most relaxed and informal atmosphere, were both extremely pleasant and instructive.

The session on the 1921 "Recuperation" issue was led by Mr. Keach, with contributions by Messrs. Hirdler and Green. Proofs and essays were displayed by Messrs. Foden and Keach. Unfortunately, a number of members left early on the Sunday, largely in order to be able to drive home in daylight as the weather was such as to make driving conditions most unpleasant, however, those who remained were very pleased to spend the additional time investigating the "Centimes Postal Rates" as presented by Messrs. Keach and Foden.

On this occasion, there were two joint sessions, dealing with mails of the First and Second World Wars respectively. For WWI, our colleagues of the Belgian Study Circle took the lead, with several fine displays. Although the BCSC members could not compete with the quantity of material shown - our President's absence was particularly notable in this respect - nonetheless some interesting material was shown, mainly by Messrs. Green and Keach, with some additional sheets from Messrs. Hoyte and Foden. In the session dealing with WWII, however, the Congo was well represented, while covers to and from Belgium were, understandably, sparse. Again Mr. Green took the lead for the BCSC and showed a large variety of the different types of censor marks and routes taken by mail from the Congo, his display being amply supplemented by material from the collections of Messrs. Hirdler Foden and Keach.

Our thanks are due to Jack Gibbs, who made all the arrangements for this successful meeting.

Next Year Preliminary arrangements are already in hand for another joint meeting in September 1985, to be held in Canterbury.

1986 This will be the Centenary of the issue of the first Belgian Congo stamps and the suggestion has been made that we should hold a major meeting and display in Belgium that year. Any ideas from members should be sent to the Secretary.

Publications Available The Secretary has limited numbers of copies still available for sale of:-

"Mailboat Services from Europe to the Belgian Congo (1879-1922) by Abbe G. Gudenkauf (L4)

"Du Congo Belge au Congo, du Ruanda-Urundi aux Rwand & Burundi, la Philatelie de Transition" by G. Celis (L3)

"Les Timbres du Congo Surcharges a Boma en 1922-1923" by Abbe G. Gudenkauf (L1)

Full Circle Protractors for measuring cancellations (L $\frac{1}{2}$)

In each case, actual postage costs will be additional.

October Meeting Nine members managed to attend the meeting in Bedford College on 20 October and we were also very pleased to welcome as a guest Mr. Harry Green, who had once again accompanied our President to the gathering. A further, very welcome guest, was Mr. Francis E. Kiddle, a Council Member of the British Philatelic Federation, who had come along to present the Federation's Award of Merit to our member Mr. R. H. Keach for his services to philately. Seldom has any such award been better deserved.

Mr. Kiddle was able to stay for the display, the subject being the Surface Printed Portrait Issues, 1886 - 1894. Happily, the display was led by Mr. Keach, who also gave a most interesting and informative talk on the printing methods and other detail of the issues. Further material was shown by Mr. L. G. Green, and, between them, the presenters gave a comprehensive display of the stamps, including many complete panes, specimens and virtually all the Du Four varieties of the report-blocks and plates. Also shown were examples of most of the known forgeries of the high values. All in all, this was a most enjoyable afternoon for those present.

Annual Exhibition The annual exhibition of the Cercle Philatelique de Kinshasa (CEPHIK) will be held from 19 to 23 February 1985. This will be devoted to the history of Zaire's air mails, which will be illustrated by means of photographs and philatelic material. CEPHIK also intends to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first regular air mail service between Belgium and the Congo, under the patronage of Sabena and the Belgian Embassy. A commemorative envelope will be on sale and mail can be cancelled at a temporary post office at the Exhibition. This mail will receive a commemorative cancellation and will be carried to Brussels on a special Sabena flight. It is hoped that there will also be an issue of stamps to commemorate the Anniversary.

Membership Changes

Resignation: R. C. W. Perry, Preston, U.K.

Change of address: J. L. Kalp, Chorleywood, U.K.

New members: R. Colacino, Putney, Australia
 E. H. Olsen, Odense, Denmark
 J. Hamels, Valencia, Spain
 P. Wright, Liverpool, U.K.
 P. Lindekens, Brussels, Belgium
 H. V. Maulding, Mendham, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Bulletin Index With this Bulletin and issued as a separate, is the Index for our first 50 issues. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Norman Clowes for this gigantic effort. A job extremely well done!!

ZAIRE - NEW POSTAGE RATES

The postage rates were changed on 15 August, 1984. The previous rates had been in force since 17 August, 1981, except for a change which only affected international mail. This was in September, 1983, when the basic rate for an ordinary letter was increased by 1.50z to 7.50z for the first 20 grammes, while the airmail surtax was increased by 1.50z to 7.50z for each 5 grammes. Thus the cost of mailing an ordinary letter to Europe was increased by 3.00 to 15.00 zaires.

This increase has been made necessary by the devaluation of the Za-iroise currency. Since August, all the postage rates have been amended:

	Internal	Foreign
Ordinary letter		
up to 20 grammes	5.00	7.50
between 20 and 50 grammes	11.50	10.00
each additional 50 grammes	5.00	7.50
Poste restante service	7.50	
Registration fee	5.00	5.00
Express fee	2.00	2.00
Advice of receipt	2.50	2.50
Sent free for internal mail; plus the airmail surtax for foreign mail.		
Airmail surtax (per 5 grammes)		
1) Africa		
a) Adjacent countries		1.00
b) Other countries		2.50
2) Europe		7.50
3) Asia		
a) Near East		7.50
b) Middle East		10.00
c) Other countries		12.50
4) America		
a) North America		30.00
b) Central & South America		25.00
5) Oceania		35.00

The rates for money orders, cheques and postal parcels have also been altered. Readers who desire further information should write to CEPHIK. The complete list of the new tariffs will be published in the CEPHIK Bulletin.

J. P. NOEL

A CURIOUS POSTAL STATIONERY FAKE

I recently thought that I had found an error, a 1912 postal stationery picture card, serial No. 48, without the inscription on the picture card. Close inspection shows that the inscription, normally in the sky, had been very carefully erased, the lighter patch appearing as another cloud.

R. H. KEACH

S.S. ALBERTVILLE 2 AND ALBERTVILLE 3

We have previously thought that cancellations and cachets were each used on only one Compagnie Maritime Belge ship and that when a ship was replaced by another of the same name the new ship received new cachets and/or cancellers. The Abbe Gudenkauf has discovered that this is not universally true.

He has a post card and a cover each with the S.S. ALBERTVILLE straight line cachet, seriffed and 50mm long. Each document was posted aboard ship, one arriving at Southampton 26 October 1903 and the other at La Rochelle 26 February 1909. The former must have travelled on the S.S. ALBERTVILLE 2, which was removed from service in April 1904, and the latter on the ALBERTVILLE 3.

R. H. KEACH

THE JADOTVILLE-KITWE ROAD

The mail coming from and going to Jadotville has known many problems during the Katanga secession. The Jadotville-Elisabethville road has often been cut off either by the rebellious or by the U.N. Troups. Therefore, big companies set up a way to have the mail sent to the staff who had remained in the area and to forward letters to the families in Europe. One of the firms that did this was Sogelec. It organized the transport and routing of the mail by jeeps. The departure was fixed in Jadotville. The jeeps had to drive through bush paths until they reached Kitwe, in Rhodesia. There, the mail was stamped with Rhodesian stamps and sometimes sent frank. I have found a letter obliterated in Solwezi, 18 September 1961. How did it get there? The returning of the mail took the same road. The circulars sent to the families in Europe tell very clearly how they had to do. The letters had to be sent to the R.C.B.C., firm settled in Rhodesia. There, the jeeps took the mail to Jadotville where it was distributed. The only thing the circular doesn't tell is the tariff to apply to a letter by airmail from Belgium to Rhodesia. We cannot compare it to the tariff applied for Congo because at that time, there was a preferential tariff between Belgium and its ex-colony (6fr 50 for one letter). That is the reason why the letters shown in the example are taxed in gold-francs when they come out from Belgium.

The witnesses of this adventure are categorical: they have never paid the tax. Did the Sogelec pay for them? Seeing the African situation and context at that time, I think that the tax was never paid.

If the reader of this letter had any further information about this subject, would he be so kind as to send it to the author of this article.

P. BRANDELEER

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

T 0,9502



M^{rs} M^{me} ^{de} Boston

Société Sogebel

B/o R.C.B.P.C PO BOX N^o 819

Katwe NORTHERN RHODESIA



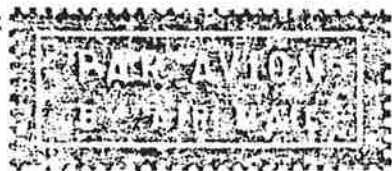
M^{me} Madame Raquin
Legrans

39 rue d'Anvers

Reliance de France

PO de WANKR.

Belgique



SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE AFRICAINE D'ÉLECTRICITÉ

(SOGEELEC)

Société Congolaise à responsabilité limitée

Service du Personnel

ADRESSE TÉLÉGR. TRACTIONEL
TÉLÉPHONE 11.42.10 (20 LIGNES)
REG. COM. BRUXELLES 46.670

BRUXELLES 4.

31, RUE DE LA SCIENCE 21 septembre 1961.

Notre Réf. :
N° de la note :
N° de sortie :
A RAPPELER dans la réponse
QUE VOUS ADRESSEZ AU
" Service du Personnel "

Monsieur, Madame,

Nous sommes heureux de vous signaler que nos services d'Afrique nous ont télégraphié ce jour pour confirmer que tous les membres du personnel étaient en bonne santé et que la correspondance à eux destinée devait être adressée comme suit :

Monsieur
c/o R.C.B.P.C.
P.O Box 819
KITWE North Rhodesia.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, Madame, l'assurance de notre considération distinguée.

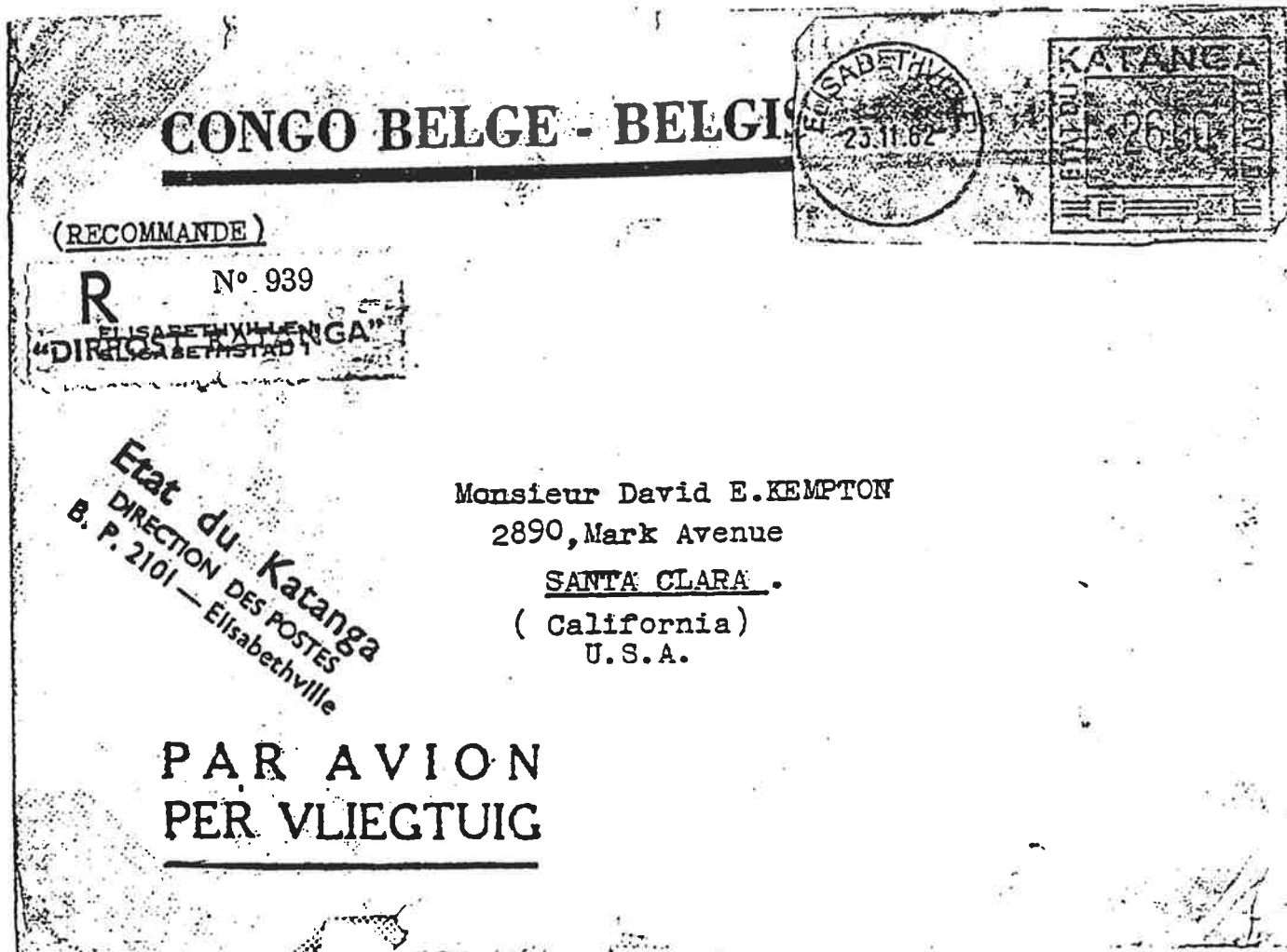


EDITOR'S NOTE: Evidently Bulletin 53 stirred up a lot of interest in Postal Meters, because I have received the following, all most appreciated:

From M. E. Adams:

Under the Type I - Francotyp, I have an F34 for Elisabethville (1) dated 23.11.62.

For Type 2 - Universal, I submit a U45 for Elisabethville and dated 22 VII 63. On this cover type, I had one dated earlier in 1963.



POSTAGE METERS WERE USED BY THE POST OFFICE WITH THE IMPRINT READING "KATANGA". THIS METER STRIP IS FROM A FRANCO TYP MACHINE INTRODUCED IN 1960, AT ELISABETHVILLE.

REGISTERED AIRMAIL RATE OF 26
FRANCS. DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1962



THE SECOND METER TYPE KNOWN IS A UNIVERSAL MACHINE THAT WAS USED BY THE CONGO BANK FOR MAILING STATEMENTS. THE IMPRINT STILL READS KATANGA SEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE SURRENDER.

JULY 22, 1963

2 FR. INTERNAL RATE

From P. Brandeleer:

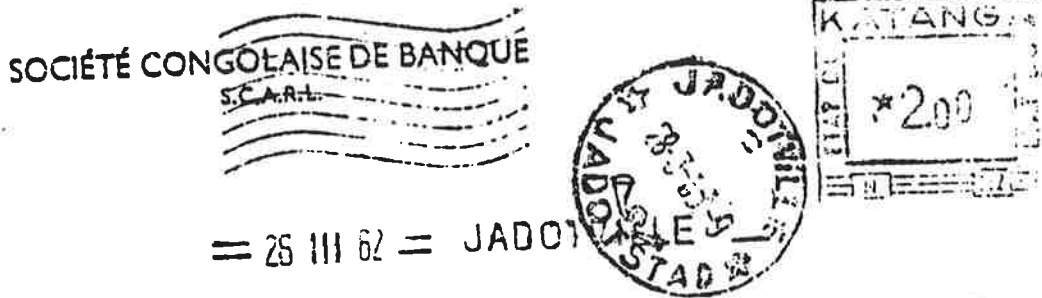
Meter Marks - Katanga State

Here is some information in order to complete Mr. Hoyte's article:

1. SATAS Machine

N 152 Jadotville

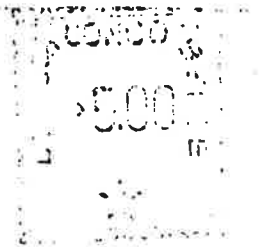
The dates appearing in 6 documents go from 21st February 1962 to 27th June 1962. Most of the stamps are obliterated.



2. FRANCO TYP Machine

F 36 Jadotville ancient type

BANQUE BELGE D'AFRIQUE
S. C. R. L.
R. C. LEOPOLDVILLE No 135
R. C. USUMBURA No 858

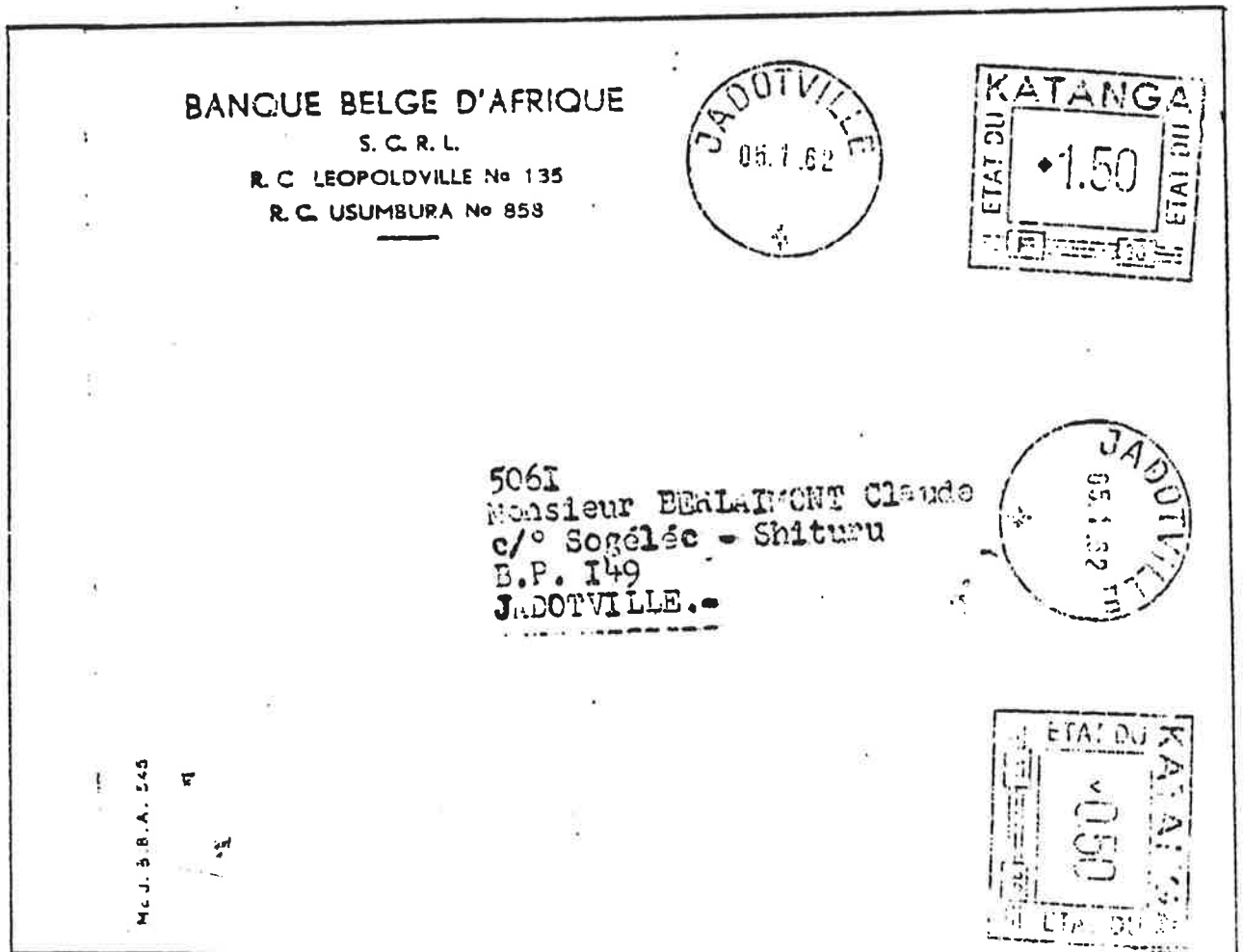
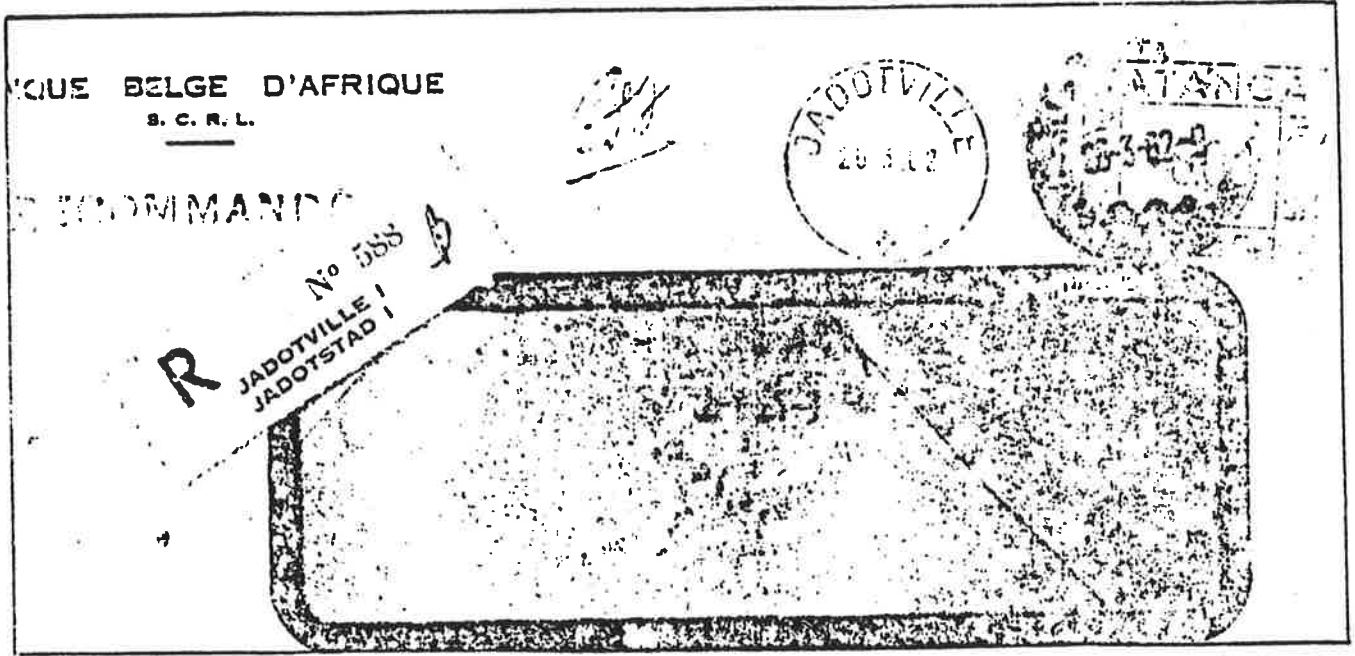


BANQUE D'AFRIQUE
B. B. A.
S. C. R. L.



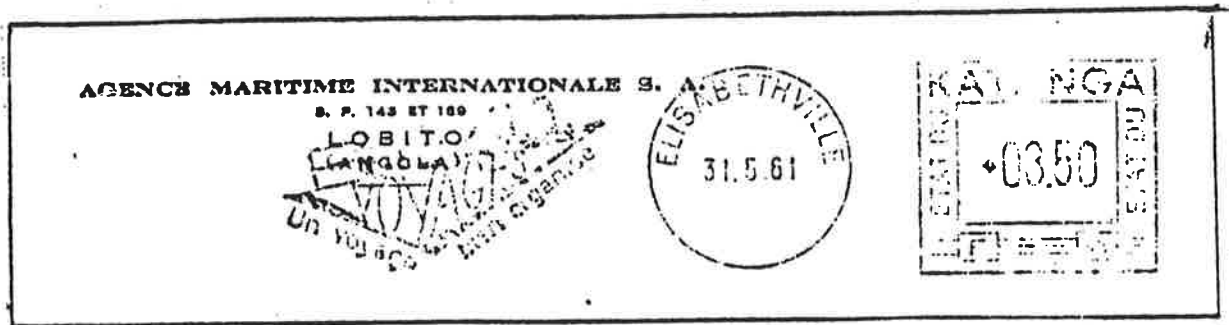
F 36 Jadotville new type

The dates appearing in 12 documents go from 5th January 1962 to 20th November 1982. Most of them have also been obliterated and some have a double postage.



F 45 Elisabethville

Three letters dated between 31 May 1961 and 6th July 1962.



From W. Deynckens:

Type 2 Hasler

B 43 with special address mark (in frame) + Type MC cancellation of Leopoldville 1
 L. Hasson
 R. C. Leo 774 P. O. B. 8-70-3
 11 Avenue des Congolais 11
 Leopoldville
 Congo Belge
 25 - 1k
 1958
 18 - 19
 Leopoldstad

Type 3 Universal machine

U 31 Leopoldville 241 x 58
 U 37 Kangolo 9 I 59

Type I3 Hasler

B 118 Kinshasa 1 16.12.74
 additional date
 B 81 Kinshasa 1 19.11.76

LIST OF THE POST OFFICES WHICH HAVE HAD THEIR STATUS CHANGED BY THE KATANGUESE GOVERNMENT.

This information completes Mr. Keach's article - "Katanga Post Offices published in Bulletin No. 53. This news comes from the Katanga official report (The Katanga Moniteur).

- The sub-post office of Kaniama has become a principal post 1st April 1961.
- The sub-post office of Mitwaba has been annexed to the principal post of Jadotville 16th June 1961.
- A sub-post office has been created in Kabimba 1st July 1961.
- The sub-post offices of Kasaji and Kasenge have been annexed to the principal post of Kolwezi 1st November 1961.
- The sub-post office of Baudouinville has become a principal post 1st May 1962. The auxiliary post of Kamipini has been annexed to the principal post of Baudouinville the same date.

P. BRANDELEER