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UK
BULLETIN 99



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KEACH COLLECTION STOLEN

On February 24, while Ray Keach was away, thieves broke into his home and stole some 50 albums of Belgian Congo material plus approximately 300 full sheets of the Mols and other issues. Included in the sheets were two items, undoubtedly unique. One, the 1922 5c on 25 with an entire vertical row of missing perforations and a second, the 1922 Local (Boma) 10c on 5c with three horizontal rows of missing perforations. Most of the sheets had pencil notations in the selvage identifying the plate combinations. Taken also were many plate and die proofs and any quantities of these rare items coming on the market should be suspect.

The collections represented 50 years of acquisition and study. The loss is not only great on a purely personal basis but also an immense loss to the Study Circle..

Through the years Mr. Keach was most generous is sharing his material for study and in displaying it for the enlightenment of all interested in the stamps of the Belgian Congo.

Included in the collection was the virtual complete reconstruction of the sheets of each of the stamps of the Mols issues (1894-1922) and many, many rarities. A number of the items can be identified by their plate positions—the part imperf stamps from the collection were listed in Bulletin 81 as a part of the study of "Stamps with Missing Lines of Perforation."

There was a study of the forged Elizabethville overprints with a large number of copies of the various fakes.

Of note was a <u>unique</u> Acknowledgment of Receipt document with the 1886 25-centime blue affixed and also a handwritten Postage Due receipt franked with six stamps of the 1886 first issue.

A number of the rare stamps with inverted overprints were in blocks of four as well as single stamps.

The collection was generally mounted with hinges on facing pages separated by tissue. Keach attempted to acquire a mint copy, a used copy, blocks mint and

used, and a cover with postal usage of each stamp. The collection was exemplary in the completion of this effort.

The Albums were of various colours and there were some Gibbons and Rapkins albums among them.

Members should alert their dealers and they should individually watch for any unusual offering of Belgian Congo material particularly quantities of the various 1894-1922 (Mols) issues and of the sheets and the rarities.

One should notify the British Metropolitan Police at 011-44-1816-490841

EML

WARNING—FORGERY OFFERED

In 1992 a non-member submitted to us for certificate a very attractive 1909 registered cover bearing a pair of the 50c with typographed CONGO BELGE overprint inverted. Although the cover had passed through the post in the normal way the overprints were forged and this was made clear on the certificate.

The cover has emerged in a Harmers of London sale to be held on 27 March. I telephoned Harmers and the lot is to be withdrawn.

We can be sure that the owner will make further efforts to sell the cover, either directly or through other auction houses and members are advised to be sure of what they are buying when offered any stamps with the typo CONGO BELGE inverted; some are highly dangerous and not easy to identify.

RHK

JOAN KEACH

It is with profound sadness that we report the death of Joan (Mrs. Raymond)
Keach in January of this year. Although not a formal member of the Circle she was, in reality, a material contributor to its well being. She made so many of us welcome in her home over the years that the number is almost beyond counting. She hosted meetings

of the Circle, permitted her dinner hour to be interrupted, without complaint, by so many of us who telephoned at all hours to obtain knowledge and wisdom from Ray Keach.

I well remember the first time I visited Tadworth—so many years ago. I arrived in the morning and Ray and I plunged into the stamps of the Belgian Congo. At noon her cheery announcement—"put away the stamps—lunch" and again at four—"put away the stamps—tea"—made for a welcome beyond what one expected when visiting—to talk stamps. My experience was repeated so many times by our other members. Her generous hospitality made her home a most welcome center for the pursuit of knowledge of the stamps of the Belgian Congo. The Circle will miss her greatly.

We have expressed our deepest condolences to Ray Keach.

EML

1996 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As stated in the last bulletin the Annual General Meeting will be held at 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG (Phone 01372-46301) at 12:00 hours on Saturday the 4th of May. After a pub lunch there will be the afternoon.

The following reports will be submitted to the Annual General Meeting:

Treasurers Report

The Accounts for the year to 31st December 1995 (as shown on the last page of this bulletin) together with the following notes thereon: the bulk of the funds of the Study Circle are deposited in an Instant Access Account at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society—the pass book for which will be available for inspection at the meeting.

the main features of the accounts are:

- a. an increase in subscriptions paid in advance;
- b. a considerable increase in Stamps and Covers submitted for Expert Committee certificates
- c. Bulletin costs are up
- d. an increase in Expert Committee expenses, mainly due to the purchase of over 1000 AUTHENTICITY CERTIFICATES for future use;
- e. a rise of over £250 in postal costs due to the Circle absorbing the bulk of the postage on Bulletin Auction Lots:
- f. Finally, due to a change in Insurance Companies, two years premiums were paid this year.

Effect was given to all the agreed charges set out in the June 1995 budget (Bulletin 96).

The local tax inspector has agreed there is no tax liability for the year ending December 31, 1995.

Secretary's Report

The Circle membership remains virtually unchanged, a little up at 107. Changes since June of 1995 are:

We welcome the new members:

- J. Blair, Yandina, QLD, Australia 45 C1;
- R. L. Beerman Greenwich, Ct. 06831 USA;
- G. Gettel Minneapolis, MN 55402;
- L. Janssens, Brussels, Belgium
- J. T. Lindholm Fergus Falls, MN 56537 USA;
- M. T. Lindrup, Kobenhavn N. Denmark;

Thierry Lallevee, Lyon, France

David A. Schaubroeck, Franklin TN USA

Henri Smets Belgium.

P. Storm Van Leeuwen Niewkerk aan Den Ijssel, Holland

R. H. Wilson Richmond VA USA

M.St J. Wright London, England

RESIGNATIONS

H. A. Eisenstein USA

D. Fryer England

J. Hamels Spain

P. M. Lucibello Italy

L. J. Price USA

E. W. Proud England

G. Russell England

E. N. Lurch USA

DEATHS

Peter Foden Scotland Mrs. H. Jeidel South Africa

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our President, Brian P. Hudson continues in office until next year.

The returning officers are:

Bulletin Editor Packet Secretary

E. M. Lavitt

Packet Secretar

B. P. Hudson

Auction Sales Other Sales

B. P. Hudson R. H. Keach

Other Sales
Secretary - Treasurer

L. G. Green

Expert Committee

R. H. Keach

Abbé Gudenkauf

B. P. Hudson

Vice-president

R. H. Keach

Respectfully submitted:

L. G. Green Hon. Secretary

MEETING AT PETERBOROUGH

The Secretary has already supplied details of the Joint Meeting with the Belgian Study Circle to be held on the week-end of September 7th through the 9th 1996 at the

Peterborough meeting—continued:

Swallow Hotel, Peterborough, England to all who have expressed an interest.

If any other member, not already contacted, desires further information or to make a reservation please contact the Secretary, L. G. Green at 29 New Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9PG, England, as promptly as possible.

THE POSTAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND BELGIAN CONGO DURING W.W. II-1939-45 part II

Introduction

This article, written by Mr. Henri Smets, follows that written by Emile Hoorens on the same subject which appeared in the December 1995 Bulletin (number 98).

Here Mr. Smets gives us more examples and information about the postal relations between Belgium and the Belgian Congo during the war years.

One will observe on many items presented the name of M. André Vandawalle. He was a Belgian officer in the "Force Publique" serving from 1937. He ended his military; career in the Congo in 1965 as military attaché of Prime Minister Tshombe. He was also the commanding officer of the "Ommegang" forces which liberated Stanleyville and the hostages held there in 1964 which was accomplished together with Belgian Para-troops and the U. S. Air Force

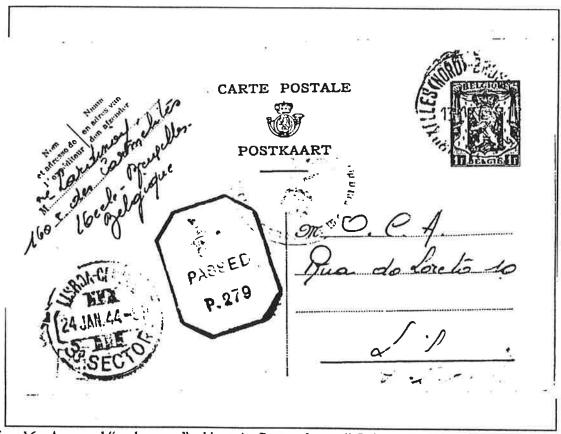


Fig. 16. A second "undercover" address in Portugal was "O.C.A., Rua de Loreto, IO Lisboa. O.C.A. means "Office du Colis Alimentaire."

This card was received in Lisboa on Jan. 24, 1944 and sent to the U. K. Where it was censored and the cachet "P. 279" was applied.

CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE 98, Chaussée de Vieurgat l'intermédicire de la Croix Rouge allemande BRUXELLES Door_tusschenkomst von het Dultsche Roode Kruis BELGIS Durch Vermittlung Deutschen Roten rnational de la Croix-Rouge à Genève ain rale Comité van het Roode Kruis te Geneve ANT gnale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf riénom -Rue - Straat Nom - Naam - Name Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname Rue - Straat - Strasse Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft Province - Provincie - Provinz Pays - Land - Land ... Le destinataire répondra De bestemmeline antwon De bestemmeling antwoordt op keerzijde. Empfanger antwortet umseltig.

Fig. 17: Red Cross Message coming from TROOZ, sent on Nov 11, 1942 to Boende and further to the first military Brigade Belgian Congo Military Post Box 101, Middle East Forces. On the message we observe the square arrival cachet of the B.P.M. 101 ON Dec. 4, 1943. Censored by the Red Cross and some words were cut off. The message was in transit one year and three weeks. It had also been censored in Belgian Congo and in Egypt. Although the Red Cross messages were all printed in the upper right corner "through the German Red Cross" this transit is not confirmed by a cachet or a censorship mark. It appears that the German authorities trusted the Red Cross.

ROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE Par l'intermédiaire Vleurgay. de la Croix Rouge allemande BRUXELLES Door tusschenkomst ROOD KRUIS VAND van het Duitsche Roode Kruis ROTED **Durch Vermittlung** des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes omité International de la Croix-Rouge à Genève aan het Internationale Comité van het Roode Kruis te Geneve ANTRAG an das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf DEMANDEUR ANFRAGESTELLER Nom - Naam - Name Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname .. Rue - Straat - Strasse Eles. Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft Province - Provincie - Provinz ... Pays - Land - Land Message à transmettre - Mededeeling Mitteilung (25 mots au plus pour des nouvelles strictement personnelles et familiales.)
(hoogstens 25 woorden voor streng persoonlijke en familieangelegenheden.)
(hôchstzahl 25 Worte nur für personliche und Familiennachrichten.) DESTINATAIRE CDQUILHAT

Figure 18: Message sent to M. Vandevalle by his parents on April 14, 1942. On arrival in Coquilhatville it was transmitted to B. M. 4 (Military Bureau no 4) in Léopoldville. The cachet "Postes Militaires Congo Belge I" dated October 15, 1942 may be seen at the top of the document.

CROIX-ROUGE DE BELOICUTE
9, rue d'Egmonf
BRUXELLES
Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Prisogniera de guerre civis et sullinges

Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Franchise DE PORT
Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Franchise DE PORT
Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Franchise DE PORT
Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Bruxel Britania Art. 49 de la convention de Beneva-Aires

Art. 40 de la convention de Beneva-

Figure 19: The messages were not sent in closed envelopes, except in Belgium where the Red Cross sent the Letters "Postage Free" pursuant to the Buenos Aires convention—Article 49

Your Editor is very much indebted to M. Emile Hoorens, not only for his contribution of the previous article in this series but also for the translation from the French to English of this present article—the second and final one in the series. Your Editor will be glad to transmit to M. Hoorens any questions or requests with respect to these two, most interesting, studies of some of the postal history of the period.

'Intermedici Choussée de de la roix Rouge -- BRUXELLES ROOD KRUIS VAN **BRUŞSEL** BELGISCHES ROTES BRUSSEL des REQUÊTE au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge à Genève REQUEST aan het Internationale Comité van het Roode Kruis te Geneve ANTRAG and das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf DEMANDEUR Nom - Naam - Name...... Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname. H - Straat - Strasse Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft Province - Provincie - Provinz Pays - Land - Land Message à transmettre (hoogstens 25 woorden voor streng personalijke en familiesangeleg (hôchstzahl 25 Worte nur für personliche und Familiennachrichten.) Date - Datum ... DESTINATAIRE Nom - Naam - Name..... Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname Rue - Straat - Strasse Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft Province - Provincie - Provinz. Pays - Land - Land Le destinataire répondra au vers De besternmeling antwoordt op Emplanger antwortet umseitig.

Figure 20: A Vandevalle message of October 15, 1944



Nell'ulteriore corrispondenza riferire sempre II N. del foglio

00162982

- 3 LUG. 1942

Destina	tario VANDEWALLE André
Indirizzo	BOENDE Congo Belge
	2
Millente	SAIVE Angèle
	992 Grand Route TROOZ
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Belgique
Rec Sep rad	ervato alla corrispondenza cu lettre et messages Croix Rouge ctembre Décembre Envoie message dio. T'attends avec confiance.
	Per disposizioni internazionali non superare le 25 parole

Figure 21:

Mon. 3

During the war, the Vatican and its diplomatic or Apostolic delegation transmitted familial news (maximum 25 words) from or to many countries, some involved and some not involved in the war.

The messages we have seen were never censored. The marks are: Uff. Inform 2 with the papal arms.

DÉLÉCATION APOSTOLIQUE LÉOPOLD VILLE (Conge Beige) A three line cachet of the "Delégation Apostolique/Léopoldville Congo Belge" It is very surprising to note that some information was sent via radio stations (see text in figure 20) This certainly is a most unusual procedure in war time. All the Vatican messages were typewritten and never written by hand

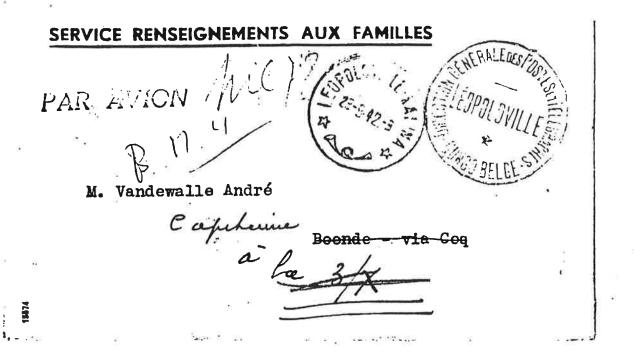


Figure 22: The Vatican messages were sent in Belgian Congo in envelopes bearing the inscription "Service Renseignements aux familles" -- (Family information service"



Figure 22A: The reverse of the envelope of figure 22 shows the effort of the postal service to find the addressee:—Léo, Sept 29, 1942; Coq, Oct 1, 1942; Boende, Oct 7, 1942; Coq, Oct 13, 1942; Léo, Oct 14, 1942; Poste Militaire no. 1, Oct 14, 1942 and finally Poste Militaire no. 1, Oct 15, 1942

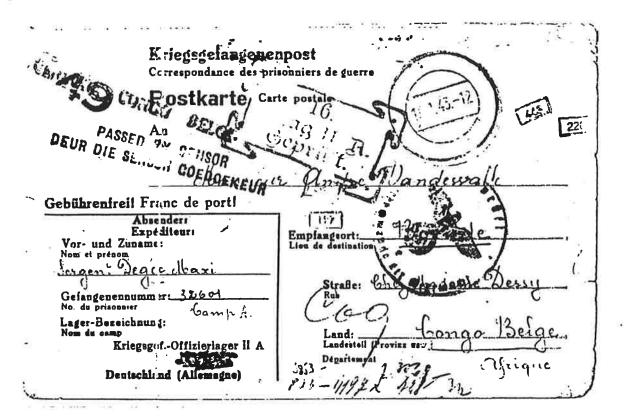


Figure 23: Postal relations were also possible between war prisoners and their family or relations even if their correspondents were actively fighting in Germany. This was an application of international convention which allowed each prisoner to receive or to send two cards and two letters each month. After being twice censored by the Germans this card was also censored in South Africa and in the Belgian Congo—taking 6 months in transit—arriving July 31, 1943

Kriegsgefangene Correspondance des pr	4\
Postkarte Cart	- 1 201
An Monneur V	anderwalle Andre
Gebührenireil Franc de port!	P.D.W. Bureau 9
Absenders Expéditeurs Vor- und Zuname: Nom et prénom Wagner Rogn	Emplangaort: MALIKA - FARIDA
Gefangenennummer: N21771 B	Straße: CAIRO
Lager-Bezeichnung: Nom du camp siehe Rückseite	Earid: E G V P T Landesteil (Provins naw.) Département
Deutschland (Allemagne)	

Figure 24: Postcard sent in March 1944 to P.O.W. Bureau 9 in Cairo Egypt.

The message on the reverse says: "Parents Vandewalle are well and are waiting for news and return"

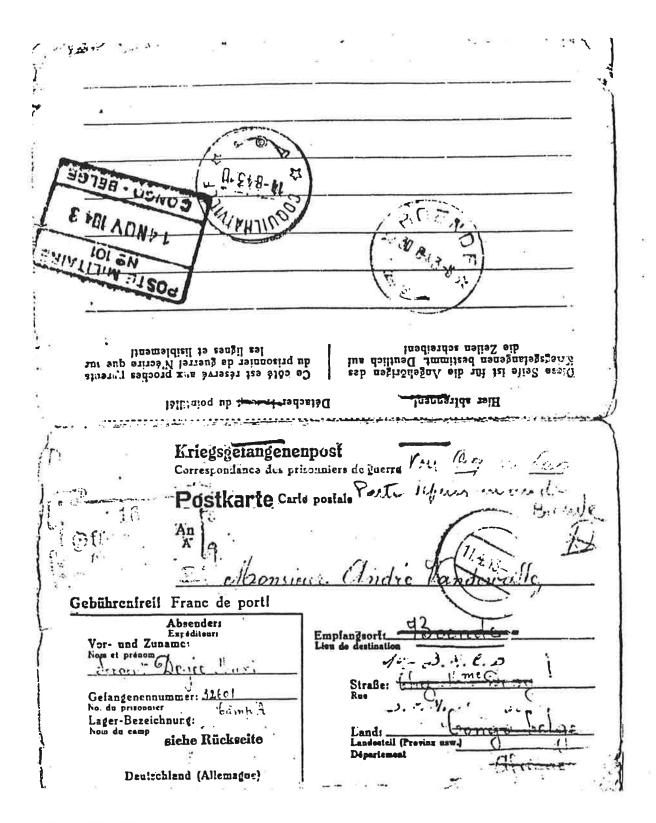


Figure 25: This card was written on May 7, 1943 but bears a cancellation April 11, 1943 ??? It was censored only once in the German prison camp. The cancellations on the back of the answer card demonstrates that the time of travel (of the card) between Boende and the Middle East was two and one half months

THE REOPENING OF NORMAL POSTAL RELATIONS WITH EUROPE

The postal relations between Belgium and the Belgian Congo were re-opened on Sept 2, 1944. The first flight was organized on September 13, 1944 and it carried more than 20,000 letters and cards..



Figure 26: Although the post was allowed again, this card was still censored in the Belgian Congo, the United Kingdom and in Belgium. Written on September 4, 1944 it did not arrive in Brussels until early February 1945.

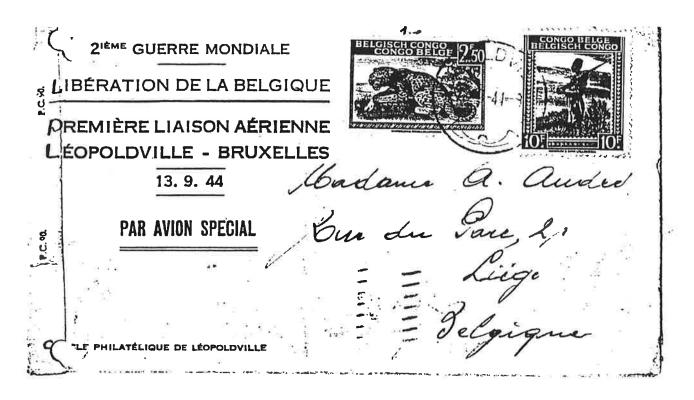


Figure 27: To commemorate the first flight on September 13, 1944 the philatelic club in Léopold-ville printed special envelopes which arrived in Belgium after February 20, 1945. All the envelopes were censored in the U.K.

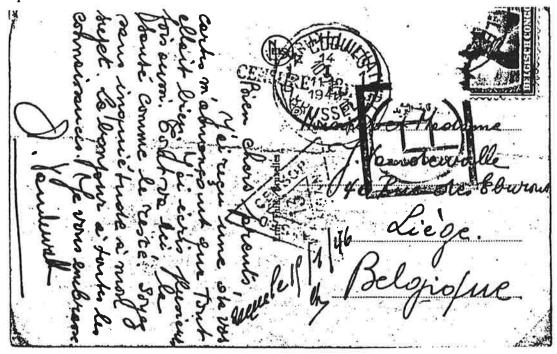


Figure 28: Clearly not all letters or cards reached their destination in Belgium. Many were lost or at the very least, delayed. This card posted in Coq on February 10, 1941 was censored in the Belgian Congo, in Sudan and in Egypt. It was delayed -- lost? deliberately forgotten?, certainly carelessly handled as it arrived in Liége on January 15, 1946 as was noted on the reverse of the card by the person who received it.

Henri Smets

EAAOB OVERPRINT

In February of 1995 I asked Ray Keach to "please, please, please help me make sense out of the EEAOB overprints. I should like to share his reply with all who are interested. Ed.

"The short (S) overprint (Catalogue Officiel (CO) TYPE A) is easily identified: The shortness applies only to the line "OCCUPATION BELGE and the shortness is by only about 4mm but it is concentrated in the space between the N of OCCUPATION and the B of BELGE so that with the short overprint the space between the N and B is a vertical rectangle and with all long overprints (L1 & L2) it is a square. (CO describes the measurement as 21½mm)

Separating L1 and L 2 is not so easy. (C O describes the measurement for this space on the "long" overprint as 22mm)

Study complete sheets closely with a good light and a good glass.

Some of the sheets have the L of BELGE on Nos. 1,11,12,14, and 15 (Stamps Nos. 41, 43, 33, 13, & 3 on the 15c and 5F vertical is damaged viz.:



These are sheets of L2 (or L2a as I prefer to describe them.)

Sheets of the 5c from plates V₃+F will have Nos 1 & 11 with the L of BELGE damaged in the same way but No 21 has the L damaged in

These are overprints L2' (I prefer L2b).

a different way; thus:

Study all the L2a and L2b overprints and you will find that every letter is neat with sharp edges. This is typical of all L2 overprints.

The remainder should be in the family of L1 overprints. Study them and you will see that many have blurred letters with rough outlines and sometimes with the ink smudged, generally downwards, typical of L1 but not always the case.

Now compare your L1 and L2 overprints looking at the letter S of EST. With L2a and L2b the letter is more rounded and somewhat wider than in L1. L2 letters are marginally taller than L2.

This immediately will probably not be apparent. As with all things philatelic you have to persevere before things become clear.

Now we need to split the L1 into subtypes. The easy one is L1T and this overprint has the T of OCCUPATION in the second vertical column (4th horizontal row in the case of the 15c and 5F) extended downwards below the other letters but only by a little.

The next to seek is L1G and this is not quite so easy. The G of BEZETTING in the 4th vertical column (2nd horizontal row in the case of the 15c) has a bit broken off its upper right as in the following example:

Now to the difficult one, L1I. The I of BEZETTING in the 3rd vertical column (3rd horizontal row of 15c) has a nick near its top viz:

The nick is not as wide as I have shown it and it is sometimes filled with ink so you need to look very closely at all 10 vertical (horizontal in the case of the 15c and 5F) positions.

Having sorted out L1T, L1G, and L1I the remaining sheets are L1 which may be from one or more overprinting plates (of five subjects); as yet we just do not know.

In articles on the subject in the Bulletin you will find mention of L1(a), L1(b) and so on but these are all transient and I would not bother about them until you have mastered completely the L2's and the other L1's."

RHKeach

EDITORS NOTES

In June we will publish an article by Georges Celis on the Postal History of Rwanda. He lived and taught there for may years, was there at the beginning of the internecine troubles and was careful to observe, among other things, the impact of the changing times upon its postal affairs. It is, without doubt, one of the most interesting and complete articles on the subject which your Editor has been privileged to review. We will also have extensive auction material and other articles of general interest.

EML

BELGIAN CONGO STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 1995

	Year to 31 Dec 1994	Year to 31 Dec 1995
Income		**
Subscriptions received	£713.96	£716.20
Subscriptions in advance	£ 86.00	£ 195.68
Commissions on stamp sales	£ 627.86	£ 675.06
Expert Committee certificates	£ 90.90	£ 334.45
Books and document sales	£ 93.99	£ 35.50
Sales of stamps donated to the Study Circle	£ 144.72	£ 68.97
Interest received (net of tax)	£ 83.46	£ 90.16
Miscellaneous (net)	-	£2.99
Total income	£ 1840.89	£ 2119.01
Expenditure		
Bulletin costs	£ 854.86	£ 1033.60
Expert Committee expenses	£ 92.60	£ 293.57
Costs of commission sales	£ 35.14	745
Miscellaneous expenses (net)	£ 37.93	(a)
Costs of books and copies for sale	£ 70.52	£ 44.88
Postage	£ 113.85	£ 365.35
Postal maurance	£ 101.64	£ 272.10
Meeting expenses Ostend/Weston-Super-Mare	£ 67.71	£ 46.60
2nd edition of cancellation book	£ 57.00	
Subscriptions to Waterlow Society and ABPS		£33.00
Total expenditure	£ 1431.25	£ 2089.10
Surplus for the period	£ 409.64	£ 29.91
Balance on hand at start of period	£ 2383.66	£ 2793.30
Balance on hand at end of period	£ 2793.30	£ 2823.21

Certified correct Laurence G. Green FCA, Hon. Treasurer