

BELGAPOST

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MARCH, 1999

The Journal of the
Belgian Study Circle



BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

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To Promote the Study of the Postal History and Stamps of Belgium

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

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BELGAPOST

Volume 12 No. 1

MARCH, 1999

Acting Editor: R. T. Harrison, 8 Grange Meadow, Banstead, SM7 3RD

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EDITORIAL

Another year starts and for our cover this year we have chosen the EPAULETTE design to commemorate its 150th anniversary. My request to members to submit articles for future editions seems to be bearing fruit and I am pleased to include in this issue several articles from members for the first time.

Sadly the death of our President, Jack Andrews, was followed shortly by the deaths of Jack Gibbs and Peter Russell whose obituaries are included in this issue. At the time of his death, Peter was working on a series of translations of articles written for us by M. Toulieff on the 1910 issue. The first article - The 1910 Montald 10 Cent - had just been completed and has been included in this edition as a tribute to Peter. Also included is a Cinderella article which, by coincidence is based on Van Dycke - the inspiration for the 1910 stamps.

In recent years we have prided ourselves on filling "BELGAPOST" mainly with original articles rather than articles taken from other publications. Please consider if you can contribute to the upkeep of this tradition.

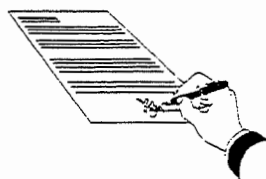
REG HARRISON

TREASURER'S REPORT

By the time this report is read we will be fast approaching 31st March - the end of our accounting year and the time to assess our financial affairs for 1998/99 and make plans for next year.

At present I envisage our expenditure will possibly exceed our income, making it necessary to review our membership subscription for 1999/2000. The key element is, however, our income from sales which is difficult to predict being subject to contributions from members. A full report on this aspect will be given at the AGM to be held on 24th April. Please try to attend this meeting especially as it will include an excellent lunch and auction.

REG HARRISON



Letter to the Editor

Bill McKinley writes, "On one of my Ostend-Dover sheets I noticed that from 1862 the Belgian Government had a monopoly on the carriage of mail between Ostend and Dover and vice versa. Can anyone tell me when this monopoly was cancelled? A simple question I hope!"

Answers direct to Bill please. We will print the agreed conclusion in "BELGAPOST".

REPORT OF MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE
7th NOVEMBER, 1998

Our secretary, Chris Howe, began the morning session which covered railway documentation and included a discussion on the subject of certificates needed to support an application, on social grounds, for an abonnement ie a railway season ticket. Based on the examination of the contents of a recent Circle auction lot, the possible route whereby the bilingual certificate DC1724 evolved into monolingual variants was considered. In particular the replacement of "Certificat/Getuigschrift" by "Attestation/Attest" in changes leading to the form C43. Parallels were then drawn with the development of the equivalent form DC1723 used by scholars. It was suggested that the text on the bottom of the lefthand edge was a contract or order number incorporating what appeared to be the month and year of printing with the print quantity. This was followed by a display of Avis de Reception which, with hindsight, I could have tackled in a similar manner to the abonnements.

Tony Geake followed on with a surprisingly complementary display tracing the evolution of the Bulletin d'Expedition - Verzendings Bulletin - Versandschein. This was a more comprehensive collection tracing the bulletin from its prestamp and Lettre de Voiture origins to the modern trilingual variants in all their various forms. As occurred with the season ticket certificates, individual companies were permitted to plagiarise the forms with these privately produced forms not always conforming strictly with the official format and content. Tony suggested that the majority of early forms held in collections today are those to foreign destinations.

My "would like in my collection item" was Mike Mobb's Carte Avis de Reception which, although illustrated in "entiers", is the first example I have seen. Mike also showed some "Frachtbrief" forms used for parcels to POWs during the First World War and a "Demande de Renouvellement de Carnet-Pensionne". Finally, Ken Carpenter showed some labels of uncertain origin and usage, together with some railway route maps.

In thanking the contributors, Reg Harrison suggested that this little understood and many faceted aspect was worthy of further study and hinted heavily that contributions to "BELGAPOST" would be welcomed in this area. Reg speculated whether special international agreements and contentions governed the onward transmission of railway parcels or whether the regular UPU regulations sufficed.

During the interval for lunch a number of routine matters were discussed, when it was agreed that next year's weekend meeting would take place from 15th-17th October, 1999.

Following lunch, Reg Harrison presented the 1893 Fine Barbe issue which saw the introduction of the Sunday Labels or bandalettes. These were also the first bilingual stamps produced by the Belgian Post Office. Although introduced as a result of religious pressure to eliminate Sunday working, Reg suggested that the bandalette was of limited success; often ignored by the postman and having no validity abroad. The practice would have been phased out by 1914 even had the war not intervened. The existence of the bandalette presented significant technical problems as far as perforation was concerned, which were largely overcome. Reg commented on the scarcity of the 2c yellow on cover and the fiscal use of higher values in the series. The display included blocks of stamps, together with a detailed study of the 1c value. All values were shown on cover indicating their postal function. Although priced in the COB catalogue as 'singles' on cover, one must guess at prices for multiples on genuinely franked covers. In summary, an interesting series of stamps bearing many varied cancellations but looking for varieties on the 2c pale yellow is trying on the eyes!

CHRIS HOWE

REPORT OF MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE
7th DECEMBER, 1998

The meeting was clouded not only by the recent death of Peter Russell but also by the unexpected death of the morning's intended speaker, Jack Gibbs. Members stood in silence as a tribute to both Peter and Jack.

John Connolly had brought some of his Medallion material to support Jack Gibbs' display and was able to partially step into the breach. John explained the mechanism whereby double perforations had occurred and other members widened my education by explaining the perforation process in detail. An interesting display of the important issue which requires much patience and study. Our thanks to John for his contribution at such short notice.

During the afternoon, John Hammonds quickly dispelled any notion that he was a beginner to Belgian philately; newcomer perhaps but in no sense a beginner. In introducing a number of aspects from his collection he commented that although Belgium is a small country everything philatelic is done in a big way. The first element was commemoratives from between the wars which John felt were generally undervalued from the design viewpoint and had much to offer.

The second element looked at Orval Abbey "in the round" with commemoratives, private issues and printed stationery cards. This 1928 series of six views in brown and six in black employs the 35c Lion Heraldique. John's set had the angel in the bottom righthand corner. There is a second set in green and blue without the angel, with cards in both sets being sold at a premium of 25c. This section was followed by precancels, which were a revelation to me. Precancels in general are unique in as much as they are finite, being discontinued in February 1997. Some of John's were unique as well. The early newspaper preos in particular were new to me. The St. Niklaas provisional precancel of 1955 will also have me looking carefully through every dealer's stock of 'common definites' in the future! The subject of -10% was addressed scientifically with an attempt to categorise the types of overprint and was well supported with covers.

In my view, the best section came last. The development of the postmark of Antwerp Station from the 70 in a lozenge of dots through Antwerpen Station, Antwerpen Gare and, finally, Antwerpen 6. Perhaps this could be the subject of a future "BELGAPOST" article. Can anybody throw any light on the Belgian use of the English word "station" prior to the use of the French "gare"? Finally the gem of the display - certainly described as such by Ken Dore. A cover to the UK with 10c, 15c and 25c values from the 1894 Antwerp Exhibition with the Exhibition cancellation.

John's display was well thought out and gave an indication of the variety of facets of Belgian philately which can be tackled outside the studies of classic stamp issues.

CHRIS HOWE

AGM, LUNCH, AUCTION - SATURDAY, 24th APRIL 1999

The AGM will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and will be followed by an auction which should include some interesting items. Lunch will be held at the nearby Vecchio Alpino Ristorante and all members and guests are warmly invited to attend. Any member who wishes to join us for lunch should contact **Reg Harrison (tel. 01737 356266)** as soon as possible in order to ensure a reservation at the restaurant.

COUNTRY MEETING, EXETER - 15th/17th OCTOBER

An information sheet on this event was included with the last "BELGAPOST". An informative and enjoyable weekend is promised and any member who has not registered is urged to contact **Tony Geake (tel. 01392 877662)** especially if hotel accommodation is required. This has become our major meeting of the year, combining both philatelic and social activities, and all are welcome.

MEMBER NEWS

Vincent Schouberechts is busy in his work especially with the special sale scheduled to take place at BRUPHILA '99. He travels to London frequently in connection with his work (and his love of books!) but found time in July 1998 for his marriage to Helene - our congratulations and best wishes for the future to them both.

Otto Sellinger whose articles on Registered Post appeared in "BELGAPOST" last year has become a corresponding member of the L'Academie de Philatelie de Belgique.

Jean Bruwier is liaising with the organiser of BRUPHILA '99 for a BSC meeting to coincide with this event. It is planned for Friday, 1st October, in the afternoon and further information will be given when available. Jean also came across to London in October for the funeral of Peter Russell.

Jean-François Lebon was at our meeting in London in January and has contributed an article for this journal. He submitted an entry "Specific Belgian Postmarks for Newspapers 1838-1905" to WAVRILEX in June and was awarded a Large Silver Medal with Commendations. This will now enable him to compete at BRUPHILA '99 in September. Congratulations, Jean-François.

Jean-Claude Porignon reports that he is almost fully recovered from his hospital treatment that included four months in intensive care. He has had a change of career and employment but has not forgotten us and recently recruited a new member to our Circle. Welcome back, Jean-Claude, and we hope to hear more about your collecting activities.

Ed Hirdler has recently recovered from having had two pacemakers fitted, the first being a total failure. Best wishes, Ed, and we hope you will soon get back to your collecting themes, especially stamped covers.

Alan Swale is continuing to add to his collection on the postal history of Moresnet (see 'Wanted' elsewhere in this journal) and recently paid his first visit to England in three years. He has also written an article which appears in this edition.

Brighton & Hove '98 - At this meeting (21st/22nd November) a number of our members were present including **Christine Blakey**, **Jeffrey Kalp**, **Iain Stevenson**, **John Hammonds** (ABPS General Secretary) and **Reg Harrison**. Awards went to Iain for exhibits in the Revenue and Cinderella categories (non-Belgian) and, to **Bill McKinlay**, a Silver in the Thematic National Class for his exhibit 'Wheels'. Congratulations.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Circle and hope they will enjoy their membership:

Mrs. Jo Jacobs - Ilminster, Somerset. General collector.

D. C. Ball - Nottingham. Railway Parcel stamps and their cancellations.

PORTISHEAD '99 - 14th/15th AUGUST, 1999

Our Circle has been asked by the Bristol and District Federation of Philatelic Societies, who are organising this event, if we would like to hold a meeting during the event at low cost. In view of our considerable membership in the West Country this has been agreed and it is planned to hold the meeting on the afternoon of **Saturday, 14th August**, to include the topic of Railway Cancellations. Further information from **Tony Geake** (tel. 01392 877662) OR **Chris Howe** (tel. 01305 889481).

OBITUARY - DR. JACK GIBBS

It is with sadness that I report the death last October of Jack Gibbs following a short stay in hospital. Jack was born in Torquay in 1917. He was educated at Victoria College, Jersey, where he was Head Boy, from whence he was awarded a scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford. He was conscripted into the Army during the Second World War and was Mentioned in Despatches. He sustained a head injury which resulted in him being returned to England for convalescence.

Jack then returned to Exeter College - where he had gained an Honours Degree in Spanish and French prior to the war - to continue his studies and research. He was awarded the title Bachelor of Letters and Doctor of Philosophy. His career continued at Birmingham University where he was Senior Lecturer and Acting Professor in the Department of Spanish.

Jack's three main philatelic interests were Belgium, Channel Islands and Spain. It is the first - Belgium - that concerns us here although when his other meetings clashed with those of the BSC, we were sometimes deprived of his company.

Jack joined this Circle in 1954 when he named Jack Andrews as a referee, stating at the time that his interests were the 1914-18 War and TPOs. Over the years, he kept these interests but also progressed to other areas eg Classics, Airmails and Postal History. He contributed to the Circle studies and frequently travelled with Jack Andrews to meetings when they used the travelling time to discuss and compare notes on philatelic matters. The "Two Jacks", as they were frequently called, were both active in the Birmingham Philatelic Society, of which Jack Gibbs was Secretary for a period.

Jack was a mine of information on many subjects, especially relating to the First World War, and always had a story with which to fascinate his listeners. Always good company, he will be missed by us all particularly at our "country" weekend meetings.

It is sad, but perhaps appropriate, that the "Two Jacks" should die within such a short space of time after many years of joint study and friendship. We send our condolences to his partner, Margaret, at this time.

REG HARRISON



OBITUARY - PETER RUSSELL

It is with sadness we report the death of Peter Russell on 7th November, 1998. He was born in the Isle of Wight in November 1924 but his father moved with his family three years' later to Brussels where he worked in the British Embassy. In 1940, the family left ahead of the German invading troops via Dunkirk shortly before the British Army was evacuated. Peter therefore spent his childhood in Belgium for which he retained a lifetime love.

His family returned to the Isle of Wight where Peter met Nancy - his future wife. At the age of 18 he joined the 6th Airborne Division and ended up being dropped in error behind the enemy lines during the invasion of Normandy. Towards the end of the war he witnessed a tragic event in the village of Bande, about which he was by nature modest. Peter was planning to attend a special meeting in Bande but unfortunately his deteriorating condition did not permit it.

By profession, Peter became a nuclear physicist gaining a First Class Degree at Imperial College, London.

In his work he was meticulous and a perfectionist, which showed in his philatelic studies. Although collecting a wide range of issues, it was the 1915 Small Heads which latterly occupied his energies, continuing much of the study work started by Geoffrey Wood, Josef Deruyck and others. Because of his family connections on his mother's side, he was interested in the postal history of Grammont. At the time of his death, Peter was working on a translation of an article on the 1910 St. Martin issue, which appears elsewhere in this issue as a tribute to him.

Peter joined the BSC in 1981 and was a regular attender at our London meetings. Although initially retiring, he contributed to our activities including articles on the 1915 issue. He was largely responsible for producing Volume 4 of "BELGAPOST".

The Circle was represented at Peter's funeral by Reg Harrison, John Connolly and Jean Bruwier, who in recent years had corresponded with Peter on matters of World War 2 interest. Peter will be much missed and we pass our condolences to his wife, Nancy, and family.

Following a collection, a donation was sent by the Circle to St. Raphael's Hospice who cared for Peter during his final illness.

REG HARRISON



ST. MARTIN AT THE GATES OF AMIENS
SHARING HIS CLOAK WITH THE POOR



A. VAN DYCK

Saint-Martin
Sint Maarten

(Eglise de Saventhem — Kerk van Zaventem)

The following article by S. Toulieff was originally translated by Jean Bruwier but then extensively changed and modified by Peter Russell in the light of new detailed information available. It is printed here as a tribute to Peter Russell.

Type CARITAS for the benefit of the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund (1910)

10c Type MONTALD

by S. Toulieff

Summary

The CARITAS set was issued in 1910. It consists of two different designs, respectively drawn by MONTALD and LEMAIRE. Four values of each design were issued (1c, 2c, 5c and 10c). It follows that a study of this often neglected stamp is divided into eight parts. Relevant comments about the two 1911 surcharges will be made when appropriate.

At present two studies have been completed. These are for the 10c Type MONTALD and the 10c Type LEMAIRE. The former is the subject of the present article. The latter, edited by R. Vervisch and published in limited edition in Belgium, will appear in "BELGAPOST" later.

The study of the 2c Type LEMAIRE is well advanced and has been reserved by the author for future publication in "BELGAPOST". It follows that five complete studies remain to be completed.

Historical Account

On 1st June, 1910, the Belgian Post Office issued eight charity stamps on the occasion of the Brussels International Exhibition. These were made of two sets of four stamps, respectively designed by Constant Montald and Henri Lemaire. Both designs were inspired by the well-known painting by Van Dyck which is currently to be seen in the church of Zaventem just outside Brussels. The painting represents St. Martin at the gates of Amiens sharing his cloak with the poor.

Designs used on the Stamps

The set of stamps of Type Montald (COB 84-87) were issued in four values, 1c, 2c, 5c and 10c, which appear bottom left of the stamp design which was sketched by the use of full and dotted lines on a white background. At that time this choice of design was considered daring for the period.

The set of stamps of Type Lemaire (COB 88-91) were also issued with the values (1c, 2c, 5c and 10c) in the same position on the stamp. In this case a coloured background was used. This stamp design was considered classical for the period.



Postal Rates

The 1c of both types were used for printed matter and postcards bearing only the signature of the sender. The 2c was used for printed matter weighing between 25gm and 50gm. The 5c was used for ordinary postcards and the 10c for letters.

This accounts for the fact that fewer stamps of the 2c were sold and used for postal purposes. This inevitably led to a significant number of forged copies of the 2c stamp appearing on the philatelic market. The incentive was to enable a larger number of complete sets of both types to be marketed.

Anti-Tuberculosis Funds

The CARITAS set of 1910 was the first charity set issued in Belgium. The face value of the set of eight was that corresponding to the above postal rates. The total face value of the eight stamps was therefore 36 centimes.

The lower three values (1c, 2c and 5c) were sold at Post Offices at double the face value of the stamp while the 10c was sold for 15c. The total sale price of the eight stamps therefore became 62 centimes. The difference of 26 centimes was therefore the amount made available to the funds of the Anti-Tuberculosis League.



Analysis of Number of Forgeries

It would seem that only 25,000 complete sets of the 24 stamps (COB 84-107) were sold by the postal authorities. This figure is based on the total sale of the 2c with the "1911" surcharge (COB 94) which the author found in the course of his searches of the CARITAS archive file at the Postal Museum in Brussels. This figure coincidentally agrees with that quoted in the Catalogue Officiel (1998).

The author was not able to find the corresponding number issued for the 1c with "1911" surcharge (COB 92). The differences in the values quoted in the Catalogue Officiel in the case of used specimens of COB 92 and COB 94 is significant (ie 900BF for the 1c and 2,400BF for the 2c). This difference is even greater in the case of used stamps without surcharge (ie 50BF for the 1c and 450BF for the 2c).

These figures, taken in conjunction with the limited use for postal services of the 2c, clearly demonstrate that the number issued for the 2c is significantly less than those of the other three values. This explains why forgers had no incentive to reproduce fake copies of the 1c. However, forged "1911" surcharges are known to have been applied to genuine specimens of the 1c stamp.

Number of Printings of the 10 Montald

The first printing of the 10c Montald appeared in a dull red colour which was generally badly received in philatelic circles. Probably for this reason, the postal authorities proceeded with a second printing in a darker colour. The vast majority of those stamps with authentic "1911" and "Charleroi 1911" surcharges are in fact from this second printing.

Table 1

Design Differences in Columns of Pane

T1a The right branch of the second R of LIVRER is longer than the left.



T1b The two branches of the second R of LIVRER have the same length. This letter is taller than the other letters of the word. (In stamp 23 the left branch of the R is shorter than the right.)



T1c The two branches of the second R of LIVRER have the same length. This letter is the same height as the other letters of the word.



T2a There are two ornamental dots on the right leg of the horse between the value 10 and the horse's head. The lower dot is larger than the upper.



T2b The two ornamental dots on the right leg of the horse are the same size.



T3 The 11th and 12th lines, counting from the bottom of the horse's left leg, are joined near their extremities.



T4a Colour spur to lower arm of C of DIMANCHE.



T4b No colour spur to lower arm of C of DIMANCHE.



T5a Two lines at top of horse's neck are joined at their extremities.



T5b Two lines at top of horse's neck are not joined at their extremities.



T6a The lower line of the rider's forefinger is extended by small colour line that touches the line below.



T6b The lower line of the rider's forefinger is extended by small colour line which does not touch line below.



T7a The 9th line opposite the beggar seen side-face touches the 8th line (both lines counting from the bottom). Applies to stamps of second column except S12.



T7b The 9th line opposite the beggar seen side-face is broken (or almost broken) and does not touch the 8th line.



Location of Design Differences

It was observed that the majority of the above design differences only occurred in specific columns of the pane. The following table gives a full list of these design differences and indicates in which columns they occur.

Table 2
Stamp Design Differences in the Pane

Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5
T1a	-	-	-	-
	T1b	T1b ¹	-	-
-	-	-	T1c	T1c
T2a	-	T2a	T2a	-
-	T2b	-	-	T2b
T3	-	-	-	-
T4a	-	-	-	-
-	T4b	T4b	T4b	T4b
T5a	T5a	T5a	T5a	-
-	-	-	-	T5b
T6a	T6a	-	T6a	T6a
-	-	T6b	-	-
-	T7a ¹	-	-	-
-	-	T7b	-	-

Note: ¹Observe that T7a of column 2 does not occur on stamp 12. Also T1b of column 3 does not occur on stamp 23 where the left arm of letter R is shorter.

It should be noted that any of the following design differences identify the column of origin of the stamp unambiguously.

Col. 1	T3, T4a
Col. 2	T1b and T2b together
Col. 3	T6b, T7b
Col. 4	T1c and T2a together
Col. 5	T5b

The author was not able to find a design difference specific to column 4. The reader may therefore proceed either by elimination or by taking T1c and T2a together as an identifier of column 4.

Design Differences observed in the 10 Montald Stamps

The pane consists of 25 stamps arranged in a 5 x 5 array. After extensive study of panes of the 10c Montald, the author came to the conclusion that specific differences in stamp design occurred exclusively in particular columns.

A total of seven design differences were noted in the pane. Five of these occur in the detail of the full and dotted lines used in the main design of the stamp. The remaining two differences are to be found in the lettering of the Sunday labels. These differences have been allocated symbols T1, T2, T3 T7. A small lower case letter is then used to indicate the precise number of differences observed. Thus T1a, T1b and T1c refer to three specific differences in the shape of the second R of LIVRER (refer to Table 2 below).

It should be emphasised that the term variety should not be used without further study. This is due to the fact that currently we have no knowledge of the original design detail. To acquire this certainty it is necessary to identify true varieties by the study of proofs from the Master Die of the stamp.

The Make-up of the Plate of the 10c Montald

A glance at Table 2 above immediately suggests the procedure that was likely to have been adopted for the make-up of the plate of 25 stamps. The following is merely a suggestion as to how the plate was made but it does take into account all the known facts.

From a Master Die of the 10 Montald in which the figure of the value was engraved, at least six secondary dies were made. If the figure of value tablet had been solid colour on the Master Die it would have been necessary to engrave by hand the figures "10" on each of these secondaries. This would obviously result in no two figures "10" being identical.

A row of five was then made up from these secondaries. As the plate was to be made up of 25 stamps (5 x 5), each of these rows of five was reproduced about six or more times thereby allowing for spares in the case of defective stereotypes or rows. This might have been effected by placing the original row of five in an electrolytic bath and making replicas which would then be backed by type metal and possibly faced with nickel.

The pane of 25 would then be built up from the several rows of five removing as far as possible any defective item at this stage. To carry such a remedial measure, some of the rows would have to be broken up and the defective stereo replaced with one of the available spares. This would explain the observed absence of an expected design difference in stamps 12 and 23.

Conclusions

Further work based on a study of Proofs of the Master Die referred to in the section on Design Differences is envisaged. It is therefore hoped to provide amplification on this and other points in a subsequent article, possibly as an addendum incorporated in the article on the 10c Type Lemaire, which will be published later in "BELGAPOST".

MIDPEX '99 - COVENTRY 3rd JULY, 1999

This event, organised by the ABPS, has become a major event on the philatelic calendar attracting many dedicated philatelists with specialist interests. It has become oversubscribed but our Circle has secured a stand. If you are able to attend, please pay us a visit. Further details from Chris Howe (tel. 01305 889481) OR Ken Carpenter (tel. 0121 354 8004).

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Cinderella Labels issued on the Tercentenary of the Birth of Sir Anthony Van Dyck

by Mike Mobbs

Introduction

1999 sees the fourth centenary of the birth of the Flemish artist, Sir Anthony Van Dyck. It therefore seems an appropriate time to look back at what happened a hundred years before.

Van Dyck was one of the most important portrait painters of the seventeenth century. Born in Antwerp on 22nd March, 1599, he showed precocious artistic talents and, at the age of 11, was apprenticed to the studio of Van Balen. At 19 he was elected a full member of the Guild of St. Luke and spent two years as a pupil of Rubens. From 1621 to 1627 he toured Italy painting the aristocracy, being particularly successful in Genoa. He then returned to Antwerp where he painted church pictures as well as portraits. In 1632 he left for England and became chief court painter to Charles I, who afterwards knighted him. He died in London on 9th December, 1641, having founded the English school of painting.

Although 1899 was the tercentenary of Van Dyck's birth, no commemorative postage stamps were issued to celebrate the occasion. The Belgian postal authorities had produced stamps for their world fairs of 1894 and 1897 but there was no precedent for honouring an artist in such a fashion. A programme of festivities was, however, organised by the city of Antwerp including an exhibition, processions and productions at the Royal Theatre. There were also two issues of labels, which are described below.

The International Issue

This label (Fig.1), clearly intended to be promotional, was probably issued in the latter part of 1898.



Fig.1

The inscriptions in four languages – French, Flemish, English and German – list the attractions forming part of the celebrations. The unusually long, vertical design incorporates the city's coat of arms and a statue of the artist with Antwerp cathedral in the background.

It is not clear who designed the labels. However an inscription at the foot of the portrait indicates that Martin Ghys was the printer and that the method used was lithography. The perforation measures 11.5 and the only catalogue I have seen says the labels were issued in nine colours. Unfortunately it then goes on to list just eight: (1) blue; (2) blue on grey-blue paper; (3) green; (4) green on pale green; (5) red; (6) red on pink; (7) red on vermillion, and (8) brown on yellow.

The National Issue

This label (Fig.2), which is just in French and Flemish, may have been intended as a commemorative souvenir rather than an advertisement. The vertical design depicts a bust of Van Dyck with a windmill in the background and the frame includes, amongst other decorations, the arms of the city of Antwerp.



Fig.2

In the bottom margin are the initials 'G. P.', which are probably those of the designer. He may have been G. Portieltje, the man responsible for the 5c value of the 1896 Brussels Exhibition issue. The labels were printed in lithography by Veuve Dethysebaert of Antwerp and are perforated 11.5. There are said to be ten colours: (1) violet; (2) blue black; (3) pale blue; (4) green; (5) grey; (6) pink; (7) red; (8) pale brown; (9) dark brown; (10) blackish brown.

Postscript

No postage stamps were issued to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Van Dyck's death in 1941. His portrait was, however, included in the Belgian Painters issue which commemorated the centenary of the General Savings and Pension Funds in 1965 (SG 1923). The 1910/11 Brussels Exhibition stamps were based on his altarpiece showing St. Martin sharing his cloak with the poor. Other issues depicting his works include five of the Red Cross Relief Fund stamps of 1944 (SG 1039 and 1041/4); the 400th anniversary of Nicolaus Rockox in 1961 (SG 1770), and two of the TB Relief Fund stamps of 1964 (SG 1908 and 1912).



The story of a newspaper pressed by time

Jean-François LEBON

From my collection connected with **the Belgian specific Postmarks of printed papers 1838-1905**, I have pulled out an original and stirring lot that I would like you to enjoy.

If this paper has an innocent look, it is becoming fascinating as and when I discover its small secrets. I would like to share some of its main adventures. This paper comes "in extenso", reproduced in full size. It is an entire newspaper wrapped around with a rudimentary belt made with a leaf of Flemish writing paper, replacing the wrap. This paper requests its readers to think about the benefits of the Farm Associative in which they propose the treatment of pauperism with efficacy. These offers of help at a time when the unemployed are many and socially rejected will, with an adapted imagination, use the cause of our actual parties in power. Let us move on:

- Firstly, the strip is dressed with departure Postmark BRUXELLES P.P. with a lower segment indexed type BS3 (Ø 25 mm, dc, with in the middle the day and the month) of the **28th May**, blue ink (Brussels only used the blue ink until 1858). The newspaper, thanks to its publication date fills the absence of the year on the Postmark and allows to locate precisely the sought after obliteration (**1849**).

- Secondly, on the reverse there is an arrival Postmark with an amazing day: the **27th May** (trip time: less than a day !). It is very likely that the local Post Office employee had forgotten to update his date stamp. The place of destination was Gemmenich but this paper was received at the Post Office of Henri-Chapelle. This paper received a Postmark type swallow or moustache but here exceptionally the moustache is missing because the name of the distributing Post Office is too long plus the narrowness of the mark. It must be added the Henri-Chapelle Post Office, in a small border place well known by historians and invaders will be suppressed and replaced a few months later by Herbesthal Post Office (1st dec.1850).

- Thirdly, "La Chronique de Bruxelles" that the archivists of the city have found with difficulty, was published every other month and printed from 1848 by Mr Jorez 29 rue Middeleer in Brussels. After 1850 this newspaper was called "Chronique Universelle" and published weekly.

- Lastly, Mr Leclercq, the recipient was successively named Captain of the Civic Guard the 10th June 1831, Primary School teacher from 1826 to 1836, and village secretary from 20th January 1831 to June 1849. Mr Leclercq died the **1st of June 1849**, which was 3 days after receiving the newspaper that he did not have time to read. And this is why the newspaper stayed in its wrap intact. Mr Leclercq was 51 years old. Born at Thimester (4 km from Henri-Chapelle) he had the sorrow of losing his mother, murdered during the night of the 27th and 28th of August 1832, in Lontzen, a small town beyond the very uncertain border of this time.

When all is said and done, don't be surprised, if after these anecdotes, the specific mark used for this newspaper which had encircled with such harmony the initial letters P.P. the 28th May, will not be in the same position again, in the middle of scenario, written to revive the cross section of life of the "Petite Histoire", and let her think she is a star within a moment. There were a few moments of emotion not miss.

Jean-François LEBON, Paris, 1999-01-20

P.S.: Sincere thanks to our Vice Chairman Jean BRUWIER for helping me to proceed.

A. EPOQUE AVANT 1861

2. Cachet Ø 22,5 à 25 mm

JOURNAL ENTIER ET BANDE DE JOURNAL
DE LA CHRONIQUE DE BRUXELLES D'AVRIL 1849**CHRONIQUE DE BRUXELLES.**

N° 5. — AVRIL. — 1849.

FERMES DE BIENFAISANCE.

Quelque temps après la publication du 2^me mémoire du Comité de charité de S^{te}-Gertrude sur les fermes de bienfaisance, le *Journal de Bruxelles* a donné un article que nous reproduisons aujourd'hui.

« Parmi les combinaisons formulées depuis quelque temps pour combattre les ravages du paupérisme, il en est une qui mérite, ce nous semble, une mention particulière, à cause des effets certains et immédiats qu'elle produi-

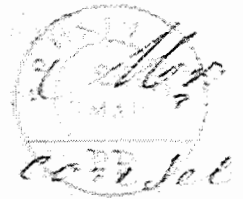
als zy behoort te zyn, mogen allen tot ma-
ozen worden edelkenkende en welopgevoede
voeding maakt den lust gaende om een goed
e zich gewent met regtvaardigheid zoo wel te
regelen.
Stuit het oor voor den trouwlozen raedsman
igten bekend maakt, zonder u tot uwe pligte
en eervolste, die op uwen val bouwen wil.
ewigt der openbare zaken wilt bemoeijen, zic
uwe eigene af.

Henri Chapellet
consellier
communal
Gommouch
Henri chapellet

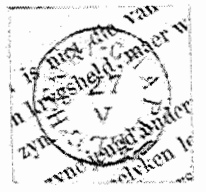
et Frans, die hofwaerts sueld
et hem ontroofde geld
dan, zonder sproken,
tyd of in wat stond
i schat meer in den grond,
den haf te steken

siteuses. Chaque ferme dirigée par un homme de confiance qui serait préparé à ce nouvel état dans une sorte d'école normale fondée *ad hoc*, serait défri- chée, exploitée, alimentée par des ouvriers qui s'engageraient à observer certaines règles, et qui achèteraient une existence assurée, convenable, au prix de leur travail. On y admettrait, moyennant une pension très-légère, les nécessiteux, les invalides, les malades et les enfants dont l'entretien est à la charge des communes, de façon que la ferme serait en même temps un hôpital et une espèce de dépôt de mendicité. Ce serait le paupérisme guéri par les pauvres.

» Comme un hectare de terre suffit aux besoins de plusieurs hommes quand il est cultivé avec intelligence, on comprend qu'en thèse générale, ces fermes

CACHET DEPART
BRUXELLES PP

28 MAI 1849

Type BS3 : Ø 25 mm
Encrage bien réservé
à BruxellesCachet Arrivée
HENRI CHAPELLE
27 MAI 1849
(au verso)

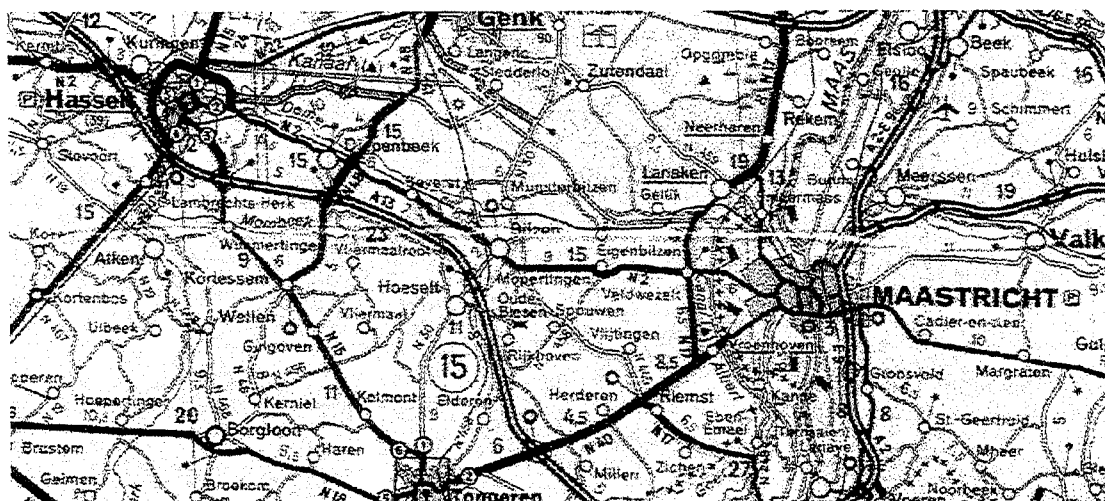
World War 1 Cover Story

Michael Barden

Willem Kuypers, a Meuse River boatman, was one person, who provided a most important service smuggling mail into and out of Belgium to Holland. While the Germans allowed some mail to go to Neutral Holland through Aachen (Aix-la-Chappelle), it was all censored.

The Germans were aware of the possibility of smuggling mails across the river and early in 1915 they tightened security and introduced draconian penalties for anybody caught so doing. They erected a 5000v multi-strand electric fence along much of the Belgian-Dutch frontier and in 1916 they evacuated houses for 100 metres from the border. In 1917 this distance doubled. All to reduce illegal border crossings.

The main topic was searching for missing relatives and friends, and this the Germans were not disposed to assist unless through the Red Cross for official POWs. Many troops as well as civilians had fled into Holland after the fall of Antwerp, where they spent the rest of the war (the troops in internment camps). Hence the need for clandestine couriers.



Hasselt (Belgium) is some 30km west of Maastricht (Holland). It was both the assembly and distribution points for mails, which crossed the border near Maastricht. The Meuse (Maas) passes through the centre of town so the border was the canal to the west. For the rest the river is the border.

Kuypers lived at 10-12 Korversplein, Wyk (bij) Maastricht (see lower illustration on next page). The letter illustrated originated in Hasselt. The Belgian Consulate in Maastricht would have stamped the envelope as part of the service. As Holland was neutral throughout the war, the Germans never set foot in it. Thus the Belgian consulate operated with impunity.

The rate to London was 12½c. The letter was cancelled on 20 November 1914 at Maastricht 6. It carries a violet Dutch **Militaire Censuur** and a black London arrival cancel under Kuypers' address 24 November 1914 on the back (see next page).

In 1953, in the attic of Kuypers' former house, several sacks of undelivered 1915 mail for Belgium were found. The Dutch Government franked them with a suitable message. Five of these later were delivered to a farmhouse near Hasselt. They were from a parent

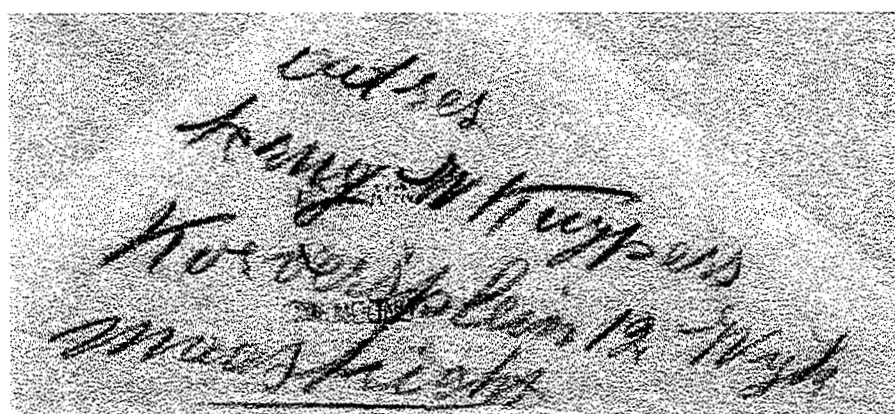
interned at Harderwijk giving news and seeking some in return.



It would seem that by 1915 things were too hot for Kuypers to keep going. So my cover is from a reasonably short period early in the war. It came to me as a cheap envelope with a Maastricht cancel. None of its previous owners would appear to have known its history! You have to win sometimes - but it does help to have a good library.

Reference.

Le Courier des Militaires Belges Internés aux Pays-Bas et en Suisse (1914-1919), by René Silverberg, 1978



Kuypers return address shown on the bottom flap of the envelope.

It is exactly as that shown in Silverberg's book .

REVENUE STAMPS FOR TAX ON ADVERTISING POSTERS

by Tony Geake

1. 1876 Issue

In 1876 revenue stamps were issued which were required to be affixed to advertising posters. They were often stuck on a sheet of paper before the advertisement was printed, with the result that most surviving copies are obliterated with heavy black lettering; in other cases the firm's handstamp was used to cancel the stamp and occasionally a manual cancellation is found. Unused copies are extremely difficult to find.

The first issue was inscribed (in French only) TIMBRE at the top and AFFICHES at the foot, with BELGIQUE and the value in CENTIMES in a central oval.



Values recorded in John Barefoot's catalogue of Benelux Revenues are 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 9c, 10c, 11c and 12c. All values were printed in red, as indeed were all subsequent issues. The first printings were in a rose shade and exist both imperf and perf 15. In 1881 there were new printings of all values, possibly excepting the 11 centime (in a vermillion shade); these also exist imperf and perf 15. The basis on which the tax was levied is not known to me, but perhaps was related to the surface area of the poster. The lowest value, the 5 centime, is the most commonly found. Some posters were taxed at considerably higher rates than the top value of 12 centimes – for example, I have a pair of 8c paying 16c tax a pair, plus a single of the 12c paying 36c tax.

2. 1886 Issue

The design was modified slightly in 1886 to permit bilingual inscription in French and Flemish: AFFICHES at the top and AANPLAKBRIEVEN at the foot, and BELGIQUE AND BELGIE and the value in C in the central oval.



The same values from 5c to 12c were issued in various shades of red. The Barefoot catalogue records "perf 15, 11½ or 13½ (10c, 12c)". With the almost complete absence of dated cancellations, the dates on which shades and perforations were changed are difficult to determine but, from the general appearance of the stamps, it seems likely that the earliest issues were in a rose-red shade similar to that of the 1876 printings and were perf 15. The shade of red became progressively stronger; by 1919, when additional higher values were issued in a bright carmine-red shade, the printing of the lower values probably used the same shade of printing ink.

3. 1919 Issue

The higher values recorded in Barefoot for the 1919 issue were 14c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 24c, 30c, 35c and 42c, and by this date the perf 13½ perforator was in use. Although only the 10c and 12c of the lower values are recorded with this perf (see above), I have seen all the other values, with the exception of the 8c, with 13½ perforation, including a 5c with 1919 cancellation. The 6c and 7c (and perhaps other values also) exist in a distinctive salmon-pink shade, which I have seen only with this perforation. In addition to the values quoted above, I have in my collection a 25c value, used in 1925, perf 13½.

The perf 11½ perforator was, most likely, brought into use at a somewhat later date. Of the lower values, I have seen only the 10 centime, but of the higher values, I have a 15c and 30c, not recorded in Barefoot with this perforation, and a 40c, not recorded in any perforation. As all these values are multiples of five, the effect of inflation would indicate a later use. (However, Barefoot does not restrict the values perf 11½, in the same way that the perf 13½ is restricted to the 10c and 12c, and if other low values exist, this would make this conjecture invalid.) In my experience, stamps with perf 11½ are much scarcer than the other perforations; perhaps by the time they were issued, the fashion for collecting only "proper stamps" (ie postage stamps) was at its height and nobody bothered to save them.

A further complication is the re-employment, perhaps as an emergency measure, of the perf 15 perforator for some of the higher values – I have a 15c and a 30c (the latter dated 1924 and with the perforations extremely rough).

4. Tabulation

To summarise the bilingual issues in tabular form:

	Perf 15	Perf 13½	Perf 11½
5c	x	1919	
6c red	1890, 1898	x	
6c pink		x	
7c red	1899, 1905	x	
7c pink		x	
8c	x		
9c	x	x	
10c	1898	x	x
11c	x	x	
12c	1899	x	
14c		x	
15c	x	x	x
16c		x	
20c		x	
24c		x	
25c		1925	
30c	1924	x	x
35c		x	
40c			x
42c		x	

(dates are of cancellations)

There could well be other values and dates to be added to this table and I would be glad to hear from members if they are able to find anything not hitherto recorded.

5. Printing Flaws

As a final comment, the quality of production was not uniformly good and stamps can be found with incomplete printing, either through wear of the plate or perhaps from under inking. Also of interest are stamps showing partial doubling of the printing in the central oval, or of the outer frame lines, and I have one stamp showing substantial (white) scratch marks. The higher values are generally free of significant flaws.

REPORT OF AUCTION - 23rd JANUARY 1999

There was a good attendance in the room and 27 postal bidders in competition - an indication of the attraction that this sale promised! We were not disappointed but alas, many of the bidders were, owing to the demand for many of the items on offer.

The first section of PRE-ADHESIVE covers nearly all fetched well over estimate reflecting their scarcity. Particular reference is made to lots 7 (£50), 8 (£52), 9 (£33) and 10 (£50), all addressed to Colonel Warren - an alias for Bonnie Prince Charlie. A similar interest occurred for all the military letters.

Although at more modest prices, the RURAL POSTMAN'S BOX MARKS, plus most of the DEPOT-RELAIS and TPO items sold. There was less demand on this occasion for POSTAL STATIONERY material in contrast with the last sale but PUBLIBELS and ILLUSTRATED CARDS found new homes. Likewise PAQUEBOT CARDS were sought after in the DOVER-OSTEND section (lot 117 - estimate £5, real £22) and there appears to be a resurgence of interest in this area so turn out your duplicates while it lasts! EARLY STAMPED COVERS went well especially (lot 153 - £15), which was unusual.

In the PRINTED MATTER/PREOS section there seems to be a strong demand, perhaps a result of the excellent new handbook. Most sold and lot 158 (estimate £3, real £24) indicate the trend.

REGISTERED/AIRMAILS/EXPRESS were generally close to estimates. Some STAMPS sold but not the MINIATURE SHEETS, of which members naturally only want one copy in their collections. Geoffrey Wood's 1893 (lots 243-256) found a new owner as a group, which would have pleased him.

There is a surge of interest in better items of WORLD WAR I including the Edith Cavell cover (lot 260 estimate £3, real £16), a copy of which I gave away recently! Rarely appearing are the MOT DU SOLDAT items which understandably were snapped up and difficult to replace marking a historic place in Belgian patriotism. RAILWAY material generally went well but not CINDERELLAS.

Finally, members took advantage of the various books on offer, much to my relief due to their overall bulk and weight. These are so essential to serious philatelic students.

Subject to final clearance, the sale totalled c.£2,700 representing around 72% of the lots on offer. Members having material they want to offer for sale should let me know so that I can plan well in advance.

REG HARRISON



RESULTS OF AUCTION HELD 23rd JANUARY, 1999

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	50.00	59	2.00	136	4.00	206	7.50	283	21.00
2	60.00	60	2.00	137	6.00	207	9.00	284	8.00
3	60.00	61	2.00	138	6.00	208	10.00	285	4.00
4	34.00	62	11.00	139	2.00	209	8.00	286	8.50
5	62.00	64	4.00	141	4.50	210	35.00	287	3.00
6	18.00	65	1.00	142	5.50	211	3.00	288	3.00
7	50.00	66	1.00	143	7.50	213	5.00	289	2.00
8	52.00	67	3.00	144	3.00	214	13.00	290	4.00
9	33.00	69	1.00	147	4.00	219	50.00	292	2.50
10	50.00	74	1.00	149	2.00	222	2.00	293	2.50
11	6.00	75	.50	150	1.00	223	25.00	294	4.00
12	15.00	76	12.00	151	2.00	224	25.00	295	32.00
13	84.00	80	1.00	153	15.00	225	15.00	297	2.00
14	8.00	82	2.50	154	2.00	226	4.00	298	2.00
15	3.00	83	4.00	155	2.00	230	50.00	300	4.00
16	34.00	84	4.00	156	5.50	239	10.00	301	7.00
17	15.00	85	3.50	157	7.00	240	1.00	303	14.00
18	3.00	86	3.00	158	24.00	241	1.50	304	.50
19	36.00	87	1.00	159	5.00	242	2.00	305	5.00
20	25.00	90	1.00	160	7.00	243	20.00	306	4.00
21	15.00	91	2.00	161	7.50	244	30.00	322	1.00
22	45.00	96	1.00	162	10.50	245	30.00	323	2.00
23	3.00	97	7.00	163	7.50	246	25.00	324	2.50
24	4.00	98	5.50	165	.50	247	15.00	325	1.50
25	4.00	99	3.50	167	1.00	248	20.00	326	2.00
26	10.00	100	.50	170	8.50	249	10.00	328	4.00
27	3.00	101	3.50	171	9.00	250	40.00	329	5.00
28	1.00	102	6.50	172	3.00	251	30.00	330	4.00
29	1.00	104	2.00	176	2.00	252	25.00	331	11.00
30	7.50	105	.50	179	5.00	253	35.00	332	2.50
31	2.00	106	3.50	180	3.00	254	10.00	338	20.00
32	11.00	110	6.00	181	2.00	255	7.00	339	17.00
34	4.50	111	3.00	182	3.00	256	3.00	340	5.00
35	3.00	112	1.00	183	1.00	257	6.00	342	7.50
36	3.00	113	2.50	184	.50	258	1.00	343	7.00
37	4.50	117	22.00	185	1.00	259	5.00	345	4.00
38	4.00	118	20.00	186	4.50	260	16.00	346	3.00
39	2.00	119	16.00	187	2.00	261	1.00	348	10.00
40	5.00	120	9.50	188	2.00	263	12.00	349	10.00
42	6.50	121	6.50	189	2.00	265	7.00	352	8.00
43	7.50	122	4.00	190	3.50	266	13.00	354	4.00
44	7.50	123	6.00	191	1.00	267	12.00	355	12.00
45	6.50	124	4.00	192	3.00	268	10.00	357	20.00
46	5.50	125	5.00	193	52.00	271	11.00	358	8.00
47	7.00	126	3.50	194	1.50	272	7.00	360	11.00
48	3.50	127	4.00	195	2.50	273	8.00	361	15.00
49	2.00	128	4.50	196	5.00	274	25.00	362	8.50
50	6.50	129	5.50	197	6.00	275	31.00	363	25.00
51	4.50	130	3.50	199	6.00	276	38.00	365	5.00
52	3.50	131	1.50	200	12.00	277	5.00	367	3.00
53	5.50	132	1.00	201	3.00	278	25.00	368	5.00
54	11.00	133	.50	202	3.00	279	27.00	369	6.00
55	13.00	134	3.00	204	3.50	280	21.00	371	6.00
57	4.00	135	10.00	205	4.50	281	4.00	372	25.00

JOURNAL REVIEWS

World Wars No. 37 contains an article on the MERODE 1914 issue on the identifying characteristics of genuine stamps, plus an article on false HITLER issues in the Eastern Cantons (taken from Le Philatliste Belge).

World Wars No. 38 - The major part of this issue is devoted to an article on the Atlantic Base at Bordeaux during the Second World War. There is, however, an article by M. Toulieff on the German Railway service 1914/1918 which mirrors that in this journal by Mike Mobbs and adds to our knowledge of parcel services using the German documents.

Info-Phila No. 68 - As with the World Wars above, this is the journal of our twin club at Flemalle. Relevant to our Circle is an article on the 12F Lunette (COB 1371) illustrating plate markings, varieties and postal usage. Also the railway stations of the CHIMAY LINE. feature in a continuing series of articles.

An interesting account of mixed franking of letters of the 1865/1869 issues is well illustrated and gives members an idea of what to look out for when rummaging in dealers' boxes - not that I have had much success! By contrast, many modern letters coming from Belgium are plastered with various stamps of different periods including charity issues which appear to be unwanted! Finally a brief article on LE COURRIER PROVISoire organised in October 1914 on the outbreak of war in the BRUSSELS area. In operation from 15th October until it was closed down by the Germans on the 20th October. All stamps and covers are very scarce - buyers beware.

Info-Phila No. 69 - An article on the 1 CENTIME MEDALLION of 1861 contains much interesting information together with an account of the first three 1-Franc stamps of Belgium (COB 21, 36 and 51). Several other articles including a further section of CHIMAY line stations and the LUNETTES issue of 1952 make this an interesting relevant publication.

The Belgiophile Vol.XV No. 5 - The last issue under the current editor, it contains an extract of POST IN BELGIUM PRIOR TO 1849 by our member J. F. Giblin and a note on Railway Parcels cancellations by Grant Feringa.

Posthistorama No. 24 - Postal History of MARIEMBOURG shows items not listed by Herlant with illustrations. Many of the other items do not concern Belgium but there is an account by D. Jonsen of the Charity envelopes and local stamps during the mainly 1894-1914 period. This is well illustrated although in Flemish.

L'Amicale Philatelic

No. 439, November 1998 - contains a Congo article, together with an account of Belgian TELEGRAM forms with illustrations.

No. 440, December 1998 - covers an article in depth on the Small State Seal with the V Liberation surcharge. It explains the relative scarcity of some values on covers (as opposed to the vast numbers of mint copies available!) and encourages the searching for this relatively scarce issue showing its proper use. Congratulations to the author LUCIEN JANSSENS for an informative article.

No. 441, January 1999 - the main article is on the DEUTSCHES INDUSTRIEBURO during the First World War by G. LUDWIG. As with his other writings, he pays great attention in detail to special aspects of the war overlooked by others. It is also interesting to note the success of our member RENAUD LOONTJENS in the Society competitions - congratulations.

Koning Met Helm No. 2, January 1999

This is essential reading for members specialising in the TIN HAT issue of 1919. It contains much information on this issue including an in-depth study of the 2 Centimes stamp (COB 166) with all known varieties listed and illustrated, together with their location on the different plates. It is, however, all in Flemish with which members may experience some difficulty.

. . . For Sale . . .

Member **Jack Evans** has a spare copy of the COB 1999 Catalogue (French) which is still sealed - cost £10 plus postage.

Anyone interested please contact him direct (tel. 01424 423306).

. . . Wanted . . .

"Since becoming interested a few years ago in the postal history of Moresnet and the activities of my ancestor Dr. Wilhelm Molly, I have been able to acquire a fairly substantial amount of relevant material, some of it through contacts with members of the Circle.

"I am sure, though, that there is much more and if any other member has an item which he or she might consider disposing of, or comes across anything relevant, I should be very glad indeed to hear of it."

ALAN SWALE

12440 Lescure-Jaoul, France

EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1998

- * Six packets completed circulation during the year.
- * Commission earned (at a very modest 5% on sales) was £82.
- * Sales of stamps donated for Circle funds £38.
- * Surplus for year £133, which has been contributed to Circle funds.
- * Good sales of railway parcels stamps, pre-cancels and Cinderella material. Most material, apart from the very common, sells if reasonably priced and the average sale percentage from each half-circulation was 32 per cent. Three books sold out completely on their first half-circuit.
- * One packet now in circulation - more books would be very welcome, especially from members who have not contributed before.
- * Insurance for the current year is 1.66% and members are reminded that insurance is optional and they can ask for only a proportion of the selling value to be insured.

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE
EXCHANGE PACKET - YEAR 1998

<u>1997</u>			<u>£. p.</u>	<u>1998</u>
<u>£</u>				<u>£. p.</u>
42	Income:	Commission	82.18	
36		Insurance recovered	41.76	
4		Postage recovered and sale of books	7.07	
5		Charge to non-member for making up books	3.00	
-		Sales for Circle funds	<u>38.45</u>	
<u>87</u>				172.46
(34)	Expenses:	Insurance	(18.00)	
(18)		Postage, etc.	<u>(21.35)</u>	39.35
<u>35</u>	Surplus for year, paid to Treasurer			<u>133.11</u>

Balances at 31st December, 1998

606	Bank balance - Girobank	151.95
31	Cash and cheques	76.68
7	Amounts due from/to members (nett)	<u>10.07</u>
<u>644</u>		<u>238.70</u>

Representing

609	Collections from current books	105.59
<u>35</u>	Surplus paid to Treasurer, January 1999	<u>133.11</u>
<u>644</u>		<u>238.70</u>

EXCHANGE PACKET - YEAR 1998

<u>Packet</u>	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Commission</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>(gross)</u>		<u>circulation</u>	<u>sold</u>	<u>to BSC</u>
	<u>£. p.</u>	<u>£. p.</u>			<u>£. p.</u>
G35	711.77	277.23	15	39	13.86
36	785.75	201.74	15	26	10.09
37	922.83	335.55	15	36	16.78
38	834.45	231.23	14	28	11.56
39	662.78	160.64	14	24	8.03
40	565.50	205.10	15	36	10.25
Not in packet	<u>19.50</u>	<u>19.50</u>	--	<u>100</u>	<u>.98</u>
	<u>4,502.58</u>	<u>1,430.99</u>		<u>32</u>	<u>71.55</u>

Packets in circulation

G41	836.49	0.35	0.02
Not in Packet	15.00	15.00	0.75

Less: Not yet paid out	(105.59)	(5.28)
Sales for BSC funds	(38.45)	(1.92)
Add: Paid out this year on books up to G34	<u>341.22</u>	<u>17.06</u>
Total sales paid out	<u>1,643.52</u>	<u>82.18</u>
		<u>Commission earned</u>

CHEMIN DE FER DE CHIMAY

by Tony Geake

The cancellations of this private line, the last one to be taken over by the State in 1948, were the subject of a display at the Circle's Summer Meeting in Chester in September 1998. For the benefit of members who were unable to attend and to establish a listing in the Circle's records, the main information contained in the display is included in this issue of "BELGAPOST". The listing has been supplemented by details from two other members' collections and I would be grateful if other members who were not at the meeting would let me know of any items from their collections which can be added to the listing.

In addition to cancellations on stamps, a selection of unstamped documents was displayed. The same (Type 9) handstamps which were used to cancel stamps were applied to these documents. Two handstamps not recorded on stamps are MOMIGNIES/FRONTIERE and BOUSSU EN FAGNE/RACCT LAFITTE.

CHEMIN DE FER DE CHIMAY

SEQUENCE OF STATIONS (WEST TO EAST)

MOMIGNIES (line continues West across French border to Anor)
 (MACON)
 SELOIGNES - MONCEAU
 VILLERS - LA - TOUR
CHIMAY (junction with state line North to Beaumont)
 (VIRELLES)
 LOMPRET
 AUBLAIN
 BOUSSU - EN - FAGNE
 (FAGNOLLE - ROLY)
MARIEMBOURG (junction with Grand Central Belge line: North to Walcourt, South to Couvin)
 MATAGNE - LA - GRANDE
 MATAGNE - LA - PETITE
 ROMEREE
 ROMEDENNE (?)*
 (GIMNEE)
 DOISCHE* (junction with Grand Central Belge line North to Acoz)
 AGIMONT VILLAGE
 HERMETON - SUR - MEUSE*
HASTIERE (junction with Nord Belge line to Namur & Liege)

*No Chimay line cancellations seen

() No cancellations known of any kind; these are 'points d'arret' only

?) Romedenne - listed by Jones as station on Chimay line, but not in 1938 timetable; Romedenne - Surice is on state line North to Acoz)

CANCELLATIONS

1 OVAL (CHEMIN de FER de CHIMAY / STATION NAME / EXPLOITATION)
 Mariembourg

2 BOXED STRAIGHT LINE (no date)
 Aublain (small - 5mm deep)
 Matagne-la- ? (small)
 Momignies (small)
 Momignies (large - 13mm deep)
 Villers-la-Tour (small)

3 UNBOXED STRAIGHT LINE (no date)
Mariembourg (but could be GCB line)

4 DEPART/ARRIVEE CACHET
Matagne-la Petite
Momignies
Romedenne (but could be GCB line)
Romeree

5 3-LINE UNFRAMED (CHEMIN DE FER DE CHIMAY / DATE / STATION NAME)
Agimont Vilge.
Aublain
Chimay
Lompret
Momignies
Seloignes-Monceau

All the above are in blue ink; all the following are in black unless stated otherwise

5 3-LINE UNFRAMED (contd.)
In black
Chimay
Momignies
Romeree

6 3-LINED FRAMED (CHEM.DE FER DE CHIMAY / DATE / STATION NAME in heavy lettering)
Chimay
Mariembourg
Momignies
Romeree
Seloignes-Mau.

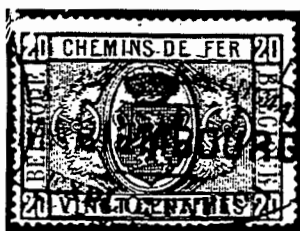
7 POST WW1 TEMPORARY CANCELLERS (*all in violet*)
Agimont Village: 3-line framed AGIMONT-VILLAGE / date / two 8-pointed stars
Mariembourg: 3-line framed MARIEMBOURG / blank / RECETTES
Momignies: 3-line unframed Chemin de Fer-Chimay / MOMIGNIES / date
Seloignes-Monceau:
Straight line unboxed Seloignes-Monceau (+ date in manuscript)
Similar to pre-war type, but dividing lines stop 1mm. short of frame and date line blank
3-line framed SELOIGNES-MONCEAU / date / two 8-pointed stars

8 3-LINED FRAMED (station name in top section, two rosettes in bottom section)
Momignies
Seloignes-Monceau (*also in violet*)

9 3-LINE FRAMED (station name in lighter lettering than type 6)
Agimont-Village
Aublain
Boussu-en-Fagne
Chimay
Hastiere
Lompret
Matagne-la-Gde.
Matagne-la-Pte.
Momignies
Romeree
Seloignes-Monceau (*also in blue & violet*)
Villers-la-Tour

10 AS TYPE 9 BUT 'CHEMIN' IN FULL AND MONTH IN ROMAN NUMERALS
Momignies

11 AS TYPES 9 & 10 BUT TOP LINE BLANK
Romeree (T 9, dated 9 OCTO 1942, i.e. prior to state takeover)
Seloignes-Monceau (T 10, dated 9 III 50 - 31 V 50, after state takeover)



T1



T2



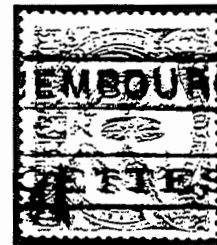
T4



T5



T7



T7



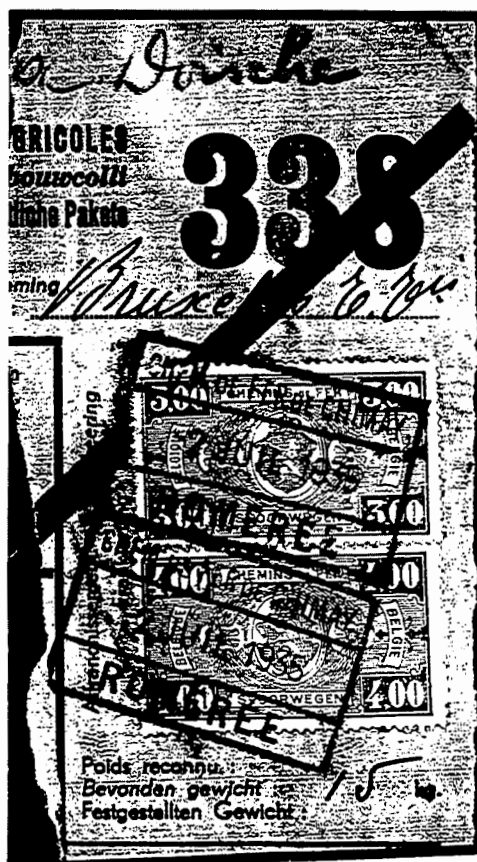
T7



T7



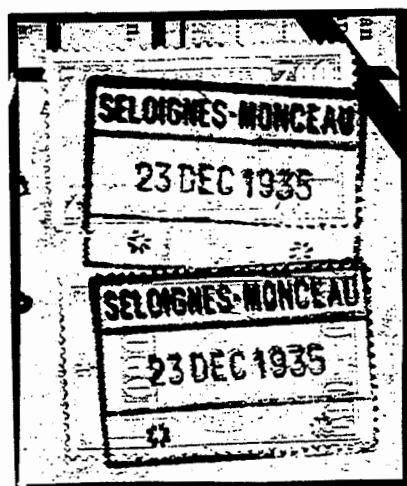
T6



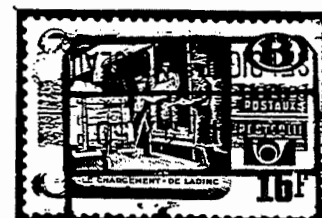
T9



T10



T8



T11

POW PARCELS SENT BY RAIL VIA MONS DURING WORLD WAR I

by Mike Mobbs

Introduction

At the BSC meeting on 7th November I showed three German "Frachtbrief" forms from the period 1915 to 1916. Since no-one seemed to know much about them I have summarised the documents in my possession for the benefit of members interested in railway parcels.

The Frachtbrief Forms

The vast majority of the freight bills are marked 'B.1a.' in the bottom lefthand corner. An example is given at Fig.1. They are all blank on one side, which probably accounts for their vast size, approximately 38 x 30 cms. and most bear the logo of the military railway administration in Brussels. Two, however, bear the logo of the civil railway authorities in Cologne. Since both are relatively early documents, it seems that they come from the original stock issued before the military formally took control of the railways.



Fig.1

There is one other form with a Cologne logo. This is the double-sided duplicate of an international rail waybill printed in four languages - German, French, English and Italian - and relates to goods returned from Germany to Belgium.

Of the remainder, two are forms numbered simply '1a'. They are very similar to forms 'B.1a' except that they originate from Germany and bear the logos of the railway administration in Hannover and Schwerin respectively. It is therefore likely that the 'B' in 'B.1a' stands either for Brussels or Belgium.

The last three forms (one of which is a duplicate) are of a totally different type (see Fig.2). Much smaller - approximately 22 x 15 cms - and simpler, they are marked 'Nr.3051' bottom left and 'A.1.15' bottom right. They may be parts of triplicate despatch notes rather than true waybills.

Eisenbahndirektionsbezirk Brüssel Abschnitt C. 7

Im Auftrage der

Des Wagens
Nr.
Eigent.

Frachtbrief Nr. 21

über
nachbezeichnetes Betriebsabteil

Zeichen und Nr.	Anzahl	Verpackungsart	Inhalt bezw. Gegenstand	Wirkliches Gewicht kg	Durch das Neben- gefahrenbuch berech- nete Aufschlagfrachten und Nebengebühren
Nr. 85			Größen gemessene für belg. Kriegsgefangenen		

von Sendung
zu liefern frei Bahnwagen

An
Agence Belge de renseignements pour
les prisonniers de guerre et les internes
den Bureau de Mons

(Absendestelle) Brüssel (Unterzeichnung) Hof

21 DEZ 1915 V

Nr. 1

freiwillig gemäß Art. 16 d. Haager Konvention

Verpackungsmaterial ist
sofort zurückzusenden.

Nr. 3051. A. 1. 15.

*) Auf der Zielstation mit dem Gute dem Empfänger auszuhandigen und von diesem an das
zuständige Rechnungsbureau einzufenden, sofern es sich jedoch um Abgabe von Materialien oder Geräten
handelt, an die Versandstelle zurückzusenden.

Fig.2

Common Features

The documents cover a period from 27th April, 1915 to 28th February, 1916 and relate to the carriage of parcels sent to Belgian prisoners of war in Germany. All but one is annotated to the effect that they are free of freight costs ('frachtfrei') under the terms of Article 16 of the Hague Convention. Most were despatched from stations in Hainaut and are addressed to the Agence Belge de Renseignements pour les Prisonniers de Guerre et les Internes ('ABR') in Mons. This office of the ABR seems to have acted as the major collection point in the province for POW parcels and their onward transmission to camps in Germany.

Parcels to Germany via Mons

Most parcels are simply addressed to the ABR in Mons but some are addressed to named individuals at specific camps. A brief summary is given below in alphabetical order of despatching station. The figure in brackets is the number of documents.

Ath (4): The three 'despatch notes' mentioned in the previous paragraph are from Ath and relate to large consignments of parcels sent to Mons in December 1915. The other is a standard waybill covering a substantial consignment from 'La Cantine du Soldat Prisonnier'.

Barry-Maulde (5): Five small parcels, each of 5 kilos, dated December 1915 and routed to Mons via Ath and Jurbise.

Blaton (1) Twelve parcels of provisions weighing 38 kilos and sent on 17th December, 1915.

Braine-le-Comte (1): Two sacks of parcels sent on 30th December, 1915.

Brugelette (38): The largest group of waybills by far, the earliest dated 27th July, 1915 and the latest 24th February, 1916. Many not only give the name of the POW but his regiment and address at the camp in Germany. The parcels are small with a maximum weight of 5 kilos.

Eight of the waybills have no arrival marks. All relate to small parcels and four have not been cancelled on despatch. These are the only ones with Brugelette 'weighed' stamps. The explanation may be that they were made up into a larger consignment which had its own documentation and despatch/arrival marks.

Lens (4): Small parcels of food and clothing, none heavier than 2 kilos, dated December 1915. One has no arrival mark.

Tournai (8): This group includes five waybills related to wagonloads of parcels from the ABR office in Tournai. Weights are from 2,000 to 2,500 kilos. The other three loads are smaller but still represent substantial consignments of food parcels. Two do not have arrival marks.

Parcels returned to Mons

A few forms relate to parcels returned to Mons, probably because they had been wrongly directed. Again, the documents are listed in alphabetical order of despatching station with the number of items in brackets and a brief commentary.

Brussels (3): Medium-sized loads, weighing from 20 to 35 kilos, from the Brussels office of ABR.

Liege (1): A sack of gift parcels weighing 37 kilos returned by the German information office in Liege on 18th August, 1915.

Munster (1): A sack weighing 8 kilos addressed to the ABR and sent by the Munster camp on 29th May, 1915. It was routed to Herbesthal via Bremen and the waybill has a number of transit and reloading marks including Herbesthal Grenze, Bremen, Aachen and Liege.

Parchim (1): A 12 kilo load of returned parcels for three POWs, who are named on the reverse of the form. It was despatched to the ABR by Parchim camp on 28th May, 1915 and sent to Aachen West via Munster. There are various transit/reloading marks including Duisburg, Munster Weste, Aachen West and Aachen-Bleyberg Grenze.

Celle (1): 32 kilos of parcels returned because the prisoners were not known at the Celle camp. The load was despatched on 1st December, 1915. There are transit/reloading marks for Hannover, Aachen, Herbesthal Grenze, Luttich (= Liege) and Charleroy-Sud.

Returns from Mons

There is a single document related to empty sacks weighing 5 kilos returned by Mons to the ABR office in Enghien on 18th December, 1915. There are no arrival marks. This is the only waybill which is not marked 'frachtfrei' and it apparently attracted a charge of 50 centimes (!?).

Railway Cancellations

The forms bear a variety of railway cancellations. Some are single-line, rectangular or chamfered box marks which were in use before the war. Others are from new German cancellers. A complete list is given below in alphabetical order, divided into despatch, 'weighed', arrival and transit marks. The dates are the earliest recorded in each case.

Despatch

1. Ath: Rectangular box (46x27mm) in mauve 'Kontrollbezirk Brussell/Bhf: Ath/ 27.DEZ 1915v./Nr.....'.
2. Barry-Maulde: Rectangular box (35x25mm) in black 'BARRY-MAULDE/11 DECE 19 15/crosses'.
3. Blaton: Rectangular box (50x27mm) in mauve 'BAHNHOF/17.12.15Vm/ BLATON'. See Fig.3 below.

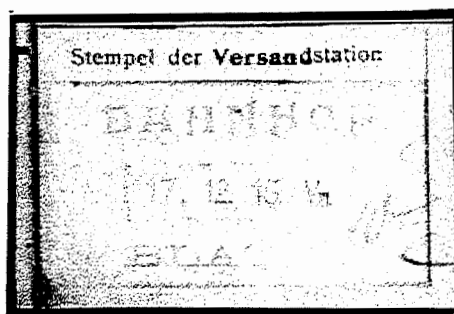


Fig.3

4. Braine-le-Comte: Straight-line 'Braine-le-Comte' in mauve (51mm) with date added below in pen.
5. Brugelette: Chamfered box (32x21mm) in black 'BRUGELETTE/27 IV 19 15/ No.1'.
6. Bruxelles Depot: Rectangular box (35x25mm) in black 'BRUXELLES/1 DECE 19 15/DEPOT no.4'.
7. Bruxelles Tour et Taxis: Rectangular box (34x26mm) in black 'BRUXELLES/ 29 DECE 19 15/TOUR ET TAXIS'.
8. Cambron-Casteau: Rectangular box (35x25mm) in black 'CAMBRON- CASTEAU/30 AVRIL 19 15/crosses'.
9. Lens: Chamfered box (31x21mm) in black 'LENS No.1/8 XII 19 15/crosses'.
10. Liege-Longdoz: Rectangular box (35x25mm) in black 'NORD-BELGE/18 AOUT 1915/LIEGE-LONGDOZ'.

11. Mons: Rectangular box (49x25mm) in mauve 'Güterabfertigung/MONS/...../.....1915'. See Fig.4 below.



Fig.4

12. Tournai: Rectangular box (47x30mm) in mauve or blue ('TOURNAI/5 JUIL 1915/V.N.'). See Fig.5 below.

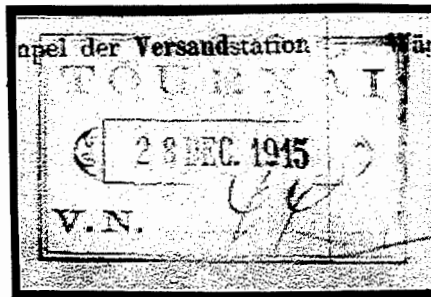


Fig.5

'Weighed'

13. Brugelette: Single line (30mm) in black 'BRUGELETTE'.

Arrival

14. Mons: As 10 above. Earliest date - 28 July 1915.
15. Mons: Rectangular box (46x29mm) in mauve 'Kontrollbezirk Brussel/MONS/ 10 FEB 1916 V/N / V.B.Nr.....'.

Transit

16. Charleroy-Sud: Chamfered box (32x20mm) in black 'CHARLEROY-SUD/21 AOU 19 15/ MARCHANDISES.2'.
17. Liege: Rectangular box (35x25mm) in black 'LIEGE-LONGDOZ/ 7 JUIN 19 15/crosses'.

Summary

The Frachtbrief forms give a clear picture of the shipment of POW parcels from various parts of Hainaut to the ABR collection point at Mons. The documents related to returned items indicate that there were other collection points and suggest some of the routes the loads may have taken from Mons to Germany. The railway marks are a mix of old Belgian types and new German boxed cancellations.

Clearly this is just a starting point and there is plenty of room for further research. It would be interesting to find out if anyone - perhaps a member of one of the German specialist societies - can supply a more detailed list of cancellations used on the railways during the occupation.

MORESNET REVISITED
(or AMIKEJO REVIZITINTA)

by Alan Swale

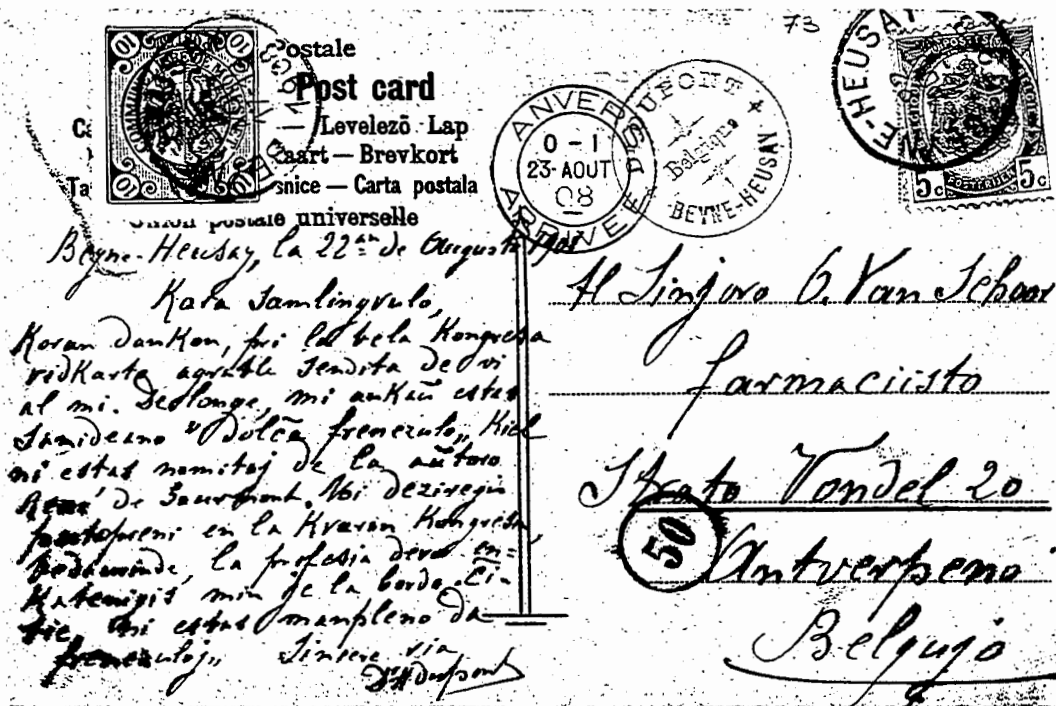
Of the many interesting features arising from the semi-independent status of Moresnet vis-à-vis Belgium and Prussia before it was finally incorporated into the former in 1919, perhaps none is more curious than its use by the Belgian stamp dealer J. B. Moens as the setting for a joke against rivals in the philatelic community. In April 1867, his own journal 'Le Timbre Post' announced the creation of an internal mail service within the Free Territory of Moresnet, with its own stamps which were described and illustrated. This canard succeeded in its purpose for during the next few months it generated further reports and comment in the philatelic press until eventually the whole exercise was revealed by Moens for the hoax it was. There the matter ended - except that in the original "announcement" Moens implied that the stamps he purported to describe had actually been produced and subsequently examples of one (only?) - the 10 (centimes) grey-black - have from time to time appeared on the market. Whether these are indeed impressions from an original plate or later copies based on Moen's description seems impossible now to tell; what does seem clear is that neither in 1867 nor subsequently were these "stamps" ever used, or intended to be used, for postal purposes. It is therefore of some interest to find an example which has actually passed through the post, albeit 50 years after the original event and on an item not posted in Moresnet.

The card reproduced herewith was posted in BEYNE-HEUSAY (Liège) on 22 August, 1908 and stamped with a Belgian 5c yellow-green of 1907 and (upside down) the Moens 10 (centime), both cancelled normally. Unless he was specially asked to do this by the originator of the card - Dr. H. Dupont whose cachet it bears - one presumes that the postal official at Beyne-Heusay merely cancelled the Moresnet stamp because it was there.

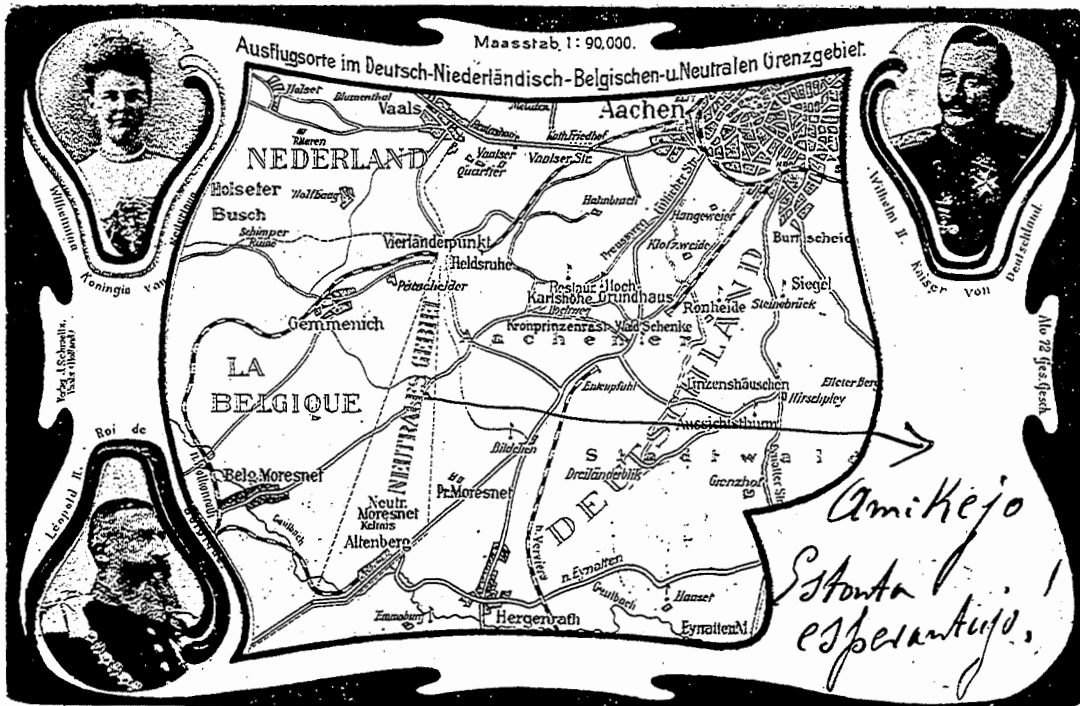
The card, however, is obviously from Moresnet: faintly visible under the Dupont and Antwerp arrival cachets is the name Frank Vandegaar, Hotel du Couvent, Moresnet, and of course it depicts the Neutral Territory in relation to its three neighbours. And the whole card, including the address, is written in Esperanto.

Now in Moresnet at this time, still lived and practiced Dr. Wilhelm Molly. Having failed to introduce a local postal service in 1886, it appears that he turned to another of his interests, language, and by 1908 he was ready with others to propose that Esperanto (created by Dr. L. Zamenhof in 1887) be adopted as the official language of the Neutral Territory. At the beginning of August 1908, the Fourth Esperanto Congress in Dresden ratified the project and it appears that Dr. Molly and his collaborators in Moresnet went ahead to the extent of converting a building to serve as an hostel for visiting Esperantists and as a centre for publicising the language. This must have been an optimistic time for the proponents of Zamenhof's grand scheme and some of this feeling is conveyed in Dupont's card which thanks his correspondent for sending a card from the Fourth Congress; Dupont himself was unable to attend due to pressure of duty. However, he annotates the map "AMIKEJO" - "the friendly place" - which was the name chosen to replace "Moresnet" in "Estonta esperantujo", the future world of Esperanto.

Regrettably perhaps, in the end the world proved to be more concerned with its narrow national problems than with the idea of a universal language and in little more than ten years after 1908 Dr. Molly would be dead and Neutral Moresnet but an historical curiosity. Ironic in view of Belgium's continuing linguistic problems!



Postcard Beyne-Heusay to Antwerp 22nd August 1908
5c Arms (COB 83) with added Moresnet 10 Centimes of J. B. Moens



Picture side of postcard showing map of Moresnet
and three monarchs of surrounding countries