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**BELGAPOST**

Volume **12** No. **2**

JUNE, 1999

The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle



# BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

Founded 1947

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

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

## PRESIDENT

### CHAIRMAN

J. M. H. Parkin  
10 Alsfeld Way  
New Mills  
High Peak  
SK22 3DD  
Tel. 01663 747613

### VICE CHAIRMAN

J. Bruwier  
Rue Marconi 19  
B4100  
Seraing  
Belgium  
Tel. 04 336 7531

### SECRETARY

C. Howe  
88 Willow Close  
Patchway  
Bristol  
BS12 5SQ  
Tel. 0117 9470288

### TREASURER

R. T. Harrison  
8 Grange Meadow  
Banstead  
Surrey  
SM7 3RD  
Tel. 01737 356266

### PACKET SECRETARY

A. D. Geake  
12 Tappers Close  
Topsham  
Devon  
EX3 0DG  
Tel. 01392 877662

### 'BELGAPOST' EDITOR

R. T. Harrison  
8 Grange Meadow  
Banstead  
Surrey  
SM7 3RD  
Tel. 01737 356266

### LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST

N. J. Martin  
Hughenden, The Plain  
Goudhurst  
Kent  
TN17 1AB  
Tel. 01580 211771

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# ***BELGAPOST***

***Volume 12 No. 2***

**JUNE, 1999**

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

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## ***EDITORIAL***

Further to my report to the AGM, I am pleased to be able to include articles from members which have not been previously published in English. Included in this issue are articles by Tony Geake and Jean-Claude Porignon seeking further information on postmark usage - please check your material and contact them (or myself) direct if you can help. Remember that the regulations of the Belgian Post Office often appeared after the event so it is only by finding dated copies of postmarks that exact dates of usage can be truly established. Also included in this issue is an article on the Medallion issue and the first instalment on the Exhibitions topic.

Regrettably, this issue reports the death of two of our members. However, we are pleased to be able to give details of three new members, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

**REG HARRISON**

## **MEMBER NEWS**

**Michael Barden** writes to confirm that his entry for BRUPHILA '99 has now been accepted so he will be in Brussels in September.

**Ralph Barracano** has not yet retired to France but hopes to make it next year. He is still keen on the classic issues and may extend to covers when time permits.

**Xavier Verbeck** came to London on business last March when he met Reg Harrison briefly.

**Graham Harvey** gave a display of Belgium to the Worksop Philatelic Society on 16th April which was a return to his 'roots' having been an early member when the Society was formed.

The death of **James Moore** was reported and an obituary appears elsewhere in this journal.

**Gaston Jorquera** has had a spell of ill health but is back onto his No. 30's. He has reconstructed a pane of plate 1 of the 10 Cent 1869 and has produced illustrations of the main characteristics.

**Bill McKinlay** advises that he submitted a 16-page display on Dover-Ostend to the Scottish Association of Philatelic Societies Congress in March. It won a Silver Medal plus a trophy for the best presentation - congratulations, Bill. He would still like a response on his query (Vol.12 No.1 page 1) as to when the Belgian Government lost its monopoly on the Ostend-Dover route.

**Ralph Yorio** has been elected President of the America-Belgian Philatelic Society. Congratulations!

## Letter to the Editor

Further to the note on COB 271 (SG 476) on the 1928 Anti-TB issue ("BELGAPOST" Vol.11, No.4, page 116), Tom Pring now provides an illustration of the stamp in question. The first E of BELGIQUE is a clear F and there is also a dot of colour in the bottom loop of the top righthand 5.

Would all members please check their copies of this stamp to see if there is a pattern of this occurrence.



— — — **For Sale** — — —

### COLLECTION OF -10% ISSUE (VAN ACKERS)

A major collection in two separate parts:

1. Cancellations of most of the numbers listed in the Entier handbook arranged on cards with duplication of most handstamps. Fine assembly on which to build with a lot of sorting and checking carried out. Bulky lot of around 6,000 which could probably be broken down into several collections.
2. A fine assembly of MINT stamps including many of the scarcer items listed in COB catalogue. Some se-tenant surcharges, strips and blocks, marginal strikes. Plus quantity of used stamps and covers (40) mainly later use.

Any member who is interested, please contact me direct for further information.

REG HARRISON

## **OBITUARY - DORIS M. GREEN**

With sadness we report the death of our Honorary Life Member, Doris M. Green, RDP, FRPSL, FSPH, on the 11th March, 1999.

Doris was born in Felixstowe in 1904 and after leaving college in 1922 took up gymnastics professionally and became a Physical Training Teacher. She and Harry were married in 1927. Doris gave up teaching three years later and devoted herself to philately with Harry as a willing partner. They made a formidable team. Their daughter, Rosemary, was born in 1929 and in later years was a tremendous support to her parents.

Doris's main collecting area was focused on all aspects of the Saar Territory (for which she obtained many awards), whilst Harry's interest centred on Belgium. They coincided, however, with their joint interest in the Belgian Congo and with Doris's speciality in the Belgian invasion of German East Africa.

She received countless awards and honours for her various collections and research, both in the UK and overseas. In 1949 she exhibited abroad for the first time and obtained a Silver Medal in both the Brussels and Paris Internationals.

In 1955 the Saar Federation awarded Doris the "Saar Medal", the highest award for philatelic research and services rendered on behalf of their country.

Among many awards were a Silver at 'Finlandia 56', a Silver Gilt at the 1960 London International, the Congress Medal in 1963, a Silver at Amphilex 1967, a Silver/Bronze for Belgian Congo in Prague 1968, a Silver at Belgica for her Belgian Invasion of German East Africa exhibit, similarly at Indipex 1973, Internaba 1974, Stockholm 1974.

In 1970, Doris was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (the highest honour that philately can bestow) and became one of the few women ever to sign. In 1983 she became President of the Belgian Congo Study Circle and a year later the Royal Philatelic Society gave her a cocktail party to celebrate her fifty years of membership. In 1990, they made her an Honorary Life Member.

Philately has lost an outstanding figure. At her funeral on the 23rd March the Circle was represented by Reg Harrison, Ken Dore and Jeffrey Kalp, with Ray Keach representing the Belgian Congo Society.

Our condolences are sent to her daughter, Rosemary.

## **OBITUARY - JAMES MOORE, 1931-1999**

**J. L. KALP**

It is with sadness that we report the death in May of James (Jimmy) Moore of Stockport. He had been ill for quite a long time with frequent spells in hospital over the past months.

Educated at Manchester Grammar School, he became a Mechanical Engineer and for many years prior to his retirement was placed in charge of the installation of new heavy plant and machinery in many countries. His work took him to such places as The Gambia, Turkey, Mexico, Saudi Arabia on several occasions, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Russia and Ireland. He made a point of learning the language of the countries in which he worked and was fluent in Urdu, Turkish, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Flemish and some Russian.

Like many of us, he started collecting as a schoolboy and accumulated the stamps of many countries whilst abroad with his work. His main philatelic interests were Belgium and Germany.

Although Jimmy did not actually attend any Study Circle functions, he was an avid if quiet collector. He is survived by his wife, Amy, two sons and a daughter, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.

**JOHN PARKIN**



Doris Green, together with Jack Andrews, cutting our 50th Anniversary cake at Leamington, September 1997. Jack is wearing the President's Badge presented to the Circle by Doris.



Reg Harrison presenting Eliane Hollings with her Life Membership Certificate - April 1999

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

**William Ruddlesdin** - Sleaford, Lincs  
Mint stamps, Tête-Bêche and Publicity Stamps.

**David Boxall** - Wisbech, Cambs  
General, Art and Railways

**Grant Feringa** - Christchurch, New Zealand  
Railway Stamps and Cancellations

REPORT OF MEETING, 20th FEBRUARY 1999

There were shades of Oscar Wilde at the meeting held on 20th February, "To lose one speaker is unfortunate but to lose two .....". Happily, Graham Harvey and Reg Harrison were able to step into the breach so to speak, providing two displays both subtly linked by the search for true postal rates. Graham's display of Brussels markings and Luxembourg going back to the Spanish Netherlands period highlighted the first problem. With the rate being written on the front of the letter there was no way of establishing whether that rate applied to the letter alone or to a bundle of letters accompanying it. There was no uniformity of rate, with each office setting its own charges based on weight and the distance to be travelled. There was no such confusion apparent in Reg's display of German Occupation issues. With their usual Teutonic efficiency, the German authorities issued stamps with each value being linked to a particular rate. They carried efficiency, or was it control? to the point of including more marginal markings on their sheets than adequate accountancy practise demands. Graham demonstrated this efficiency, which was mirrored in part by the actions of the French during their period of occupation of what was the Austrian Netherlands, the embryonic Belgium.

Graham emphasised that one of the difficulties experienced in collecting Brussels was the limited amount of commercial mail, which was the main source of the earlier material. Until the use of handstamps became widespread the address provided the only indication of a Brussels connection. There were several concepts new to me. One was the use of a drawing of a feather sketched on the front of the letter to imply "Express" in the same way as the words Cito Cito were often used. The mark D'AB on mail between France and England during the American War of Independence being another. I was interested to hear that both Brussels and Luxembourg were absorbed into greater France being given Department numbers, 94 for Brussels and 98 for the "forest department" of Luxembourg, examples of both to be seen in Graham's collection.

As usual, Reg's material was extensive and comprehensive. His display complemented the one earlier in the season by concentrating on the stamps. As mentioned before, the Centime series were all linked to postal rates but some of the Cent issues were make-up values following increases in rate. Interesting points to note were that stamps could not be purchased in the Etappen or War Zone and that regulations required the large format high values to receive two cancellation marks. It is interesting to note that the former practice was duplicated by many Eastern European regimes after the last war and the latter point is a good place to start in the detection of philatelic usage. As I have suggested in previous reports, there were an awful lot of philatelists in the German army!

CHRIS HOWE

ACTING EDITOR'S REPORT FOR 1998/1999

"BELGAPOST" continues to thrive and, as in past years, it was issued on a quarterly basis in spite of the death of Jack Andrews last autumn.

Our requests for articles have produced an encouraging response but more are needed if we are to keep the pattern of including mainly new articles rather than copy from other publications, as is often seen elsewhere. Recent issues have included a number of 'new' authors and if anyone is contemplating writing something but wants advice or encouragement, please do not hesitate to contact me or other officers. We have tried to persuade members giving displays at our meetings to put something into print especially for the benefit of those unable to attend meetings and, again, this is starting to bear fruit.

As with our auctions, preparations for the next edition are started well in advance to ensure an even flow of work and typing so there are always deadlines in existence. This helps in assessing known contributions and ensuring that each edition is, as far as possible, balanced in contents and not containing a preponderance of pages on one topic. This explains, therefore, why sometimes an article misses one issue because it is being held to balance out the following issue.



We have endeavoured to include plenty of illustrations to improve appearance and explanation and this is especially important for overseas members for whom English is not their first language. Wherever possible, some colour will be included in the illustrations as in recent years.

For some years I have been increasingly involved in working with Jack Andrews on "BELGAPOST", especially on the production side in which my wife, Jean, plays a leading role.

If required, I am happy to take on the role of Editor to ensure continuity and build on our achievements to date. It would be helpful, however, if someone could act in an assistant editor capacity, especially to be available to consult on matters of editorial content when required.

REG HARRISON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER  
1st APRIL 1998 - 31st MARCH 1999

Contrary to my expectations, the year finished with a trading surplus of £1,058 compared with £590 the previous year. All activities of the Circle have continued and progressed but the previous year saw the financial roll-over effects of our 50th Anniversary celebrations which were abnormally high.

As previously stated, our subscription income barely matches our routine expenses but this is supplemented by other forms of income which tip the scales in our favour. Included this year is sale of publications (up by £120) and Exchange Packet Surplus (up by £98).

On the expenses side, Room Hire was £420 less and Officers expenses down by £105 enabling us to produce the result referred to above.

I must repeat, however, that the major factor contributing to our income is Sales Commission (at £1,430) which was £174 down on the previous year but can never be guaranteed for the obvious reasons. This figure includes donations of material for club funds and I thank all members for their participation in these sales whether as buyers, sellers or donors. I believe that these sales are a major asset to the Circle and a just reward for all the effort involved - please keep sending in material! Unlike many societies, our auction lists are not part of our journal which is substantially philatelic in technical content.

As hoped last year, some colour content of "BELGAPOST" has been possible and this will continue on a modest basis and help to justify our membership subscriptions especially for those unable to attend meetings and for whom the journal is the main benefit.

With the improvement in our assets we should be able to extend our publications including an update in some form of Jones's Railway Postmarks book.

On a separate front, our Hon. Librarian would like to add some key books to our modest library and a sum of money (c.£200-£250) is proposed to be allocated for appropriate purchases during the forthcoming year.

I am grateful to members for their promptness in making payments and generally the accounting system is settling down to a steady pattern, helped by the advice given by our Hon. Auditor.

In conclusion, I am recommending that, for all members, the subscription be held at £14 for 1999/2000.

R. T. HARRISON  
Hon. Treasurer

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLEACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1999

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
		£.	p.			£.	p.
1.	<u>Subscriptions</u> received for			1.	<u>Officers Expenses</u>		
	a) Year ending 31st March 1999	1,094.00			a) Postages	363.87	
	b) Advance payment for 1999/2000	66.00			b) Publications	716.45	
		<u>1,160.00</u>	1,160.00		c) Miscellaneous	190.43	
						<u>1,270.75</u>	1,270.75
2.	<u>Miscellaneous Income</u>			2.	<u>Hire of Rooms, etc.</u>		1,420.37
	a) Room Hire	547.00					
	b) Postage and packing	66.69					
	c) Club sales	231.00					
	d) Donation	20.00					
		<u>864.69</u>	864.69				
3.	<u>Bank Interest</u>			3.	<u>Bank Charges</u>		6.00
	Current Account	35.18					
	Deposit Account	146.78					
		<u>181.96</u>	181.96				
4.	<u>Sale of Publications, etc.</u>		11.00	4.	<u>Insurance Charges</u>		<u>25.00</u>
5.	<u>Auction/Sales Commission:</u>		1,430.25				
6.	<u>Commission from Exchange Packet Secretary</u>		<u>133.11</u>				
	<b>Total Income 1998/99</b>		<b><u>3,781.01</u></b>		<b>Total Expenditure 1998/99</b>		<b><u>2,722.12</u></b>
					<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>		<b><u>1,058.89</u></b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	£. p.	£. p.		£. p.
<u>Balance 31st March, 1999 comprising:</u>			<u>Balance at 31st March, 1998</u>	4,554.84
Current Bank Account	1,041.06			
Deposit Bank Account	4,956.91			
Cash in Hand	<u>52.69</u>	6,050.66		
			<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure 1998/9</u>	<u>1,058.89</u>
Less Account R.L.	58.50			
Account E.H.	364.83			
Account M.B.	10.60			
Account D.B.	<u>3.00</u>	436.93		
			<u>Balance at 31st March, 1999</u>	<u>5,613.73</u>
<u>Total - BSC Money</u>		<u>5,613.73</u>		
<u>Note</u> - Accounts listed above represent monies held for members, mainly overseas.				

Signed:   
R. T. HARRISON (Hon. Treasurer)

I certify that I have examined the books and that in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true view of the financial position of the Belgian Study Circle as at 31st March, 1999.

Signed:   
L. J. HEARD-WHITE (Hon. Auditor)

Date: 21st April 1999

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
24th APRIL, 1999

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 24th April 1999, at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London, with the Secretary taking the chair in the absence of the Chairman. Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, John Parkin, the Vice Chairman, Jean Bruwier, and a new member, Mr. D. C. Ball. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday, 25th April 1998, and published in "BELGAPOST" Vol.11, No.2 were taken as read and approved in the name of John Hammond.

Reg Harrison offered a few words on behalf of the Chairman who expressed his interest in continuing in his current capacity for the coming year. Reg also welcomed members and their guests. As a consequence of the recent death of our President, Jack Andrews, there was no President's report.

The Treasurer, Reg Harrison, presented the annual accounts and expressed satisfaction with our current state of finances. He proposed that the annual subscription be held at £14.00 and this was unanimously agreed.

The Secretary, Chris Howe, reported a slight increase in his activities. He had written to a number of members seeking contributions to the programme for 1999/2000 and would now begin a telephone campaign.

The Packet Secretary's accounts have already been published in "BELGAPOST". Tony Geake asked if anybody had suitable material for sale could they make it available to members through the medium of the packet.

Reg Harrison, as Acting Editor, provided a written report but also asked for a member to act as Editor's assistant. The Chair asked for interested members to contact Reg direct.

Our Archivist, Nick Martin, reported that he has now catalogued the material held by the Circle into a Library List which he distributed to those present. Members wishing to receive a copy of the Library List should contact Nick (tel. 01580 211771 or E-Mail on [nickmartin@btinternet.com](mailto:nickmartin@btinternet.com)). As the document is A4 size and nearly ½" thick a contribution to postage would be welcome. Nick said further work was required on existing holdings and the library would benefit from extension. It was agreed that Nick would make suggestions as to acquisitions to the Treasurer and funds would be made available. It was also agreed that we would continue our membership of the Waterlow Study Circle for twelve months and Nick should receive their publication and assess its usefulness for the archives.

It was agreed that the post of President would be held in abeyance. All other officers were re-elected en bloc (see list on the front cover of this journal) and Reg Harrison was confirmed in the post of Editor.

The Circle will be in attendance at MIDPEX 99, at Coventry, on Saturday, 3rd July, and a meeting will be held at PORTISHEAD 99 on Saturday, 14th August, at 2.00 pm. Members were asked to support these events and offers of display material would be welcome (please telephone the Secretary). Reg Harrison explained that details of our meeting as part of BRUPHILA 99 (29th September to 3rd October) are not yet available but the Sunday afternoon seems most probable. Tony Geake said plans for the Weekend Meeting at the Rougemont Hotel, Exeter (15th-17th October) were proceeding well but more members would be welcome.

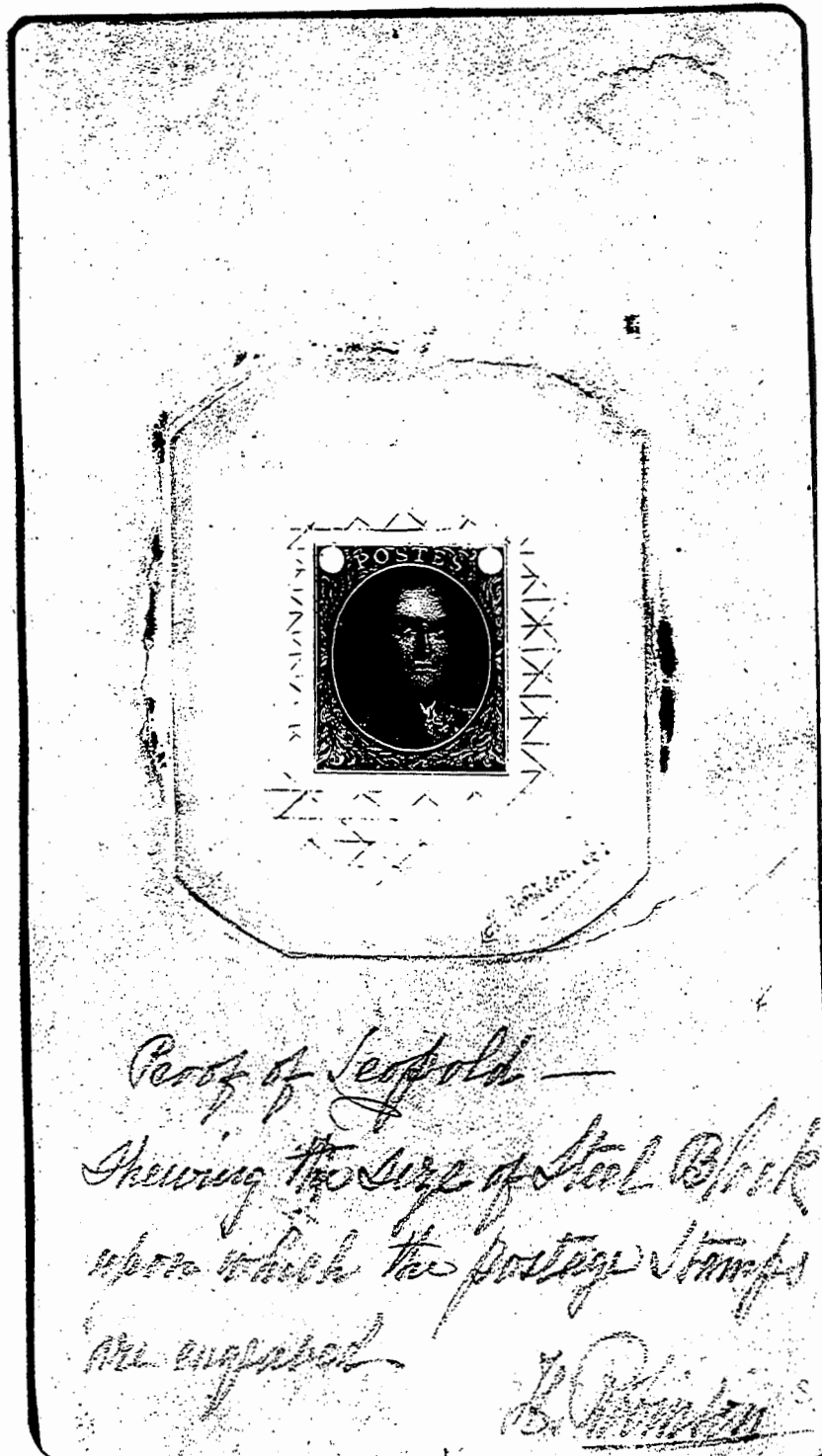
The meeting was followed by the Auction, full details of which are reported separately in this journal. However, to suggest that bidding was fierce on many items is an understatement! During the Luncheon held in the Vecchio Alpino Ristorante, Reg Harrison continued the practice inaugurated by our late President by presenting Certificates of Life Membership to Eliane Hollings and Rosemary Green.



## 20c MEDALLION

by John Connolly

As this is the 150th anniversary of the first Belgian stamp and as a tribute to our President, the late Jack Andrews, I have transcribed some notes he made for a display given to the BSC some years ago.



Medallion - Master Die Proof signed by J. H. Robinson

In 1847, the Belgian Government decided to follow the the English Post Office in using a stamp to prepay internal mail and asked Jacques Wiener to produce the necessary dies, etc. for the production of stamps. The dies were not considered to be satisfactory and Perkins Bacon of London were asked to produce new dies. The engraving was undertaken by J. H. Robinson who produced two magnificent engravings.

The issue was of two stamps, now called the Epaulette issue: the 10c for use on mail weighing 10 grammes and delivered within thirty kilometers of the office of posting; the 20c for use on mail weighing 10 grammes delivered anywhere within the Kingdom.

On 18th October 1849 a treaty was agreed with France for the carriage of mail between the two countries at a rate of 40c for 7½ grammes. Thus a new stamp of 40c value was needed.

This produced a problem as the words 'Quarant Cents' were too large to fit the value panel at the base of the stamp. Either an abbreviation or smaller letters would have to be used, thus altering the appearance of a superb design. It was agreed that a new design should be commissioned. Again Jacques Wiener was the designer and the die was engraved by J. H. Robinson. He engraved a master die leaving out the numerals and value in words.

This die was then transferred to three small plates and the value in numerals and words added, ie 10c, 20c and 40c. Later a fourth die was prepared for the 1 centime. This is the only value with the word 'centime' in full and was used to balance the design since the word UN = 1 was too short to use with the abbreviation 'Cent'. This issue became known as the Medallion issue.

Jack used the 20 centime Medallion for his display and in his opening remarks he states:

"This display has been compiled in an attempt to show the interest in this value. Considerable work has been done in the plating of this issue but little has been published, particularly in English. The Philatelite Belge has published articles mainly by Dandois, and in 1938, the London Philatelist had a series of articles by Brig. M. A. Studd on this subject. It is mainly from these that my information comes.

"Of the four values issued in the Medallion design, the 20c is probably the most interesting. This value was printed from six plates of 200 and lastly a single plate of 300 and are described as follows:

Plate 1 - This plate had no millesime or imprint showing the plate number and year of issue. It was used on the 1850 issue with the framed watermark. All framed watermarked copies come from this plate. Detail on this plate is very complete and all the lines in the design are very finely executed. The plate was also used for the first 300,000 of the 1851 issue printed on paper with the unframed watermark. In later printings the plate shows considerable wear and can be confused with copies from Plate 2.



Plate 1  
Unframed Watermark  
Circle Variety

Plate 2 - bears the millisime 2.1851. It came into use in 1851 and was printed on paper with the unframed watermark only. This plate was not so successful as Plate 1, the detail in the foliage is often lacking owing to weak rocking in by the roller die on to the plate. In many cases a considerable amount of 'touching up' was necessary before the plate was put into use. Stamps on the true type of ribbed paper come from this plate.



Plate 2  
Ribbed Paper

Plate 3 - bears the millisime 3.54 and 54.3 printed on paper with the unframed watermark. This was a successful plate and detail was very complete, although much heavier than Plate 1. Touching up of the foliage detail was generally of a minor nature. Most copies of this plate come on a much thicker paper than for any other of the 20c plates. It is mostly on thick or medium thick, soft porous paper, rather like blotting paper.



Plate 3  
Thick Stiff  
Card-like Paper

Plate 4 - bears the millesime 4.1856 and 1856.4 and came into use in 1856 printed on paper with the unframed watermark and the early 1858 printing on paper with no watermark. This plate was also a very successful plate, detail was again complete but somewhat heavier than Plate 3, tending to be more blurred. It is difficult to distinguish between heavy inked copies of Plate 3 and normal copies of Plate 4 with watermark.

However, Plate 4 has a number of long scratches (mainly horizontal) and, in fact, so numerous are they that it is the exception to find a Plate 4 copy without a scratch variety of some sort. A high powered magnifier is essential to detect some of these scratches.



Plate 4  
Scratches below  
righthand 20 and  
across face

Plate 5 - Was in use May 1859 to November 1860 and bore the millesime 1859 and was printed on unwatermarked paper. This plate has a fine impression but the foliage details are less complete than on any previous plate except Plate 2. Its chief characteristic is a lack of any extensive plate varieties, those that do exist are generally short, minor scratches, usually very fine. There is, however, strong touching up of the lefthand foliage.

It is difficult to distinguish between Plate 5 and worn copies of Plate 4. They both come in the same shade of blue on thin machine made paper. Generally stamps with short scratches or lacking in variety are more likely to belong to Plate 5 and those with long scratches to Plate 4. Most of the foliage retouches belong to Plate 5.



Plate 5  
Lower lefthand foliage  
heavy re-touch

Plate 6 - bears the millisime 1860 and was in use from November 1860 to May 1861. This plate has a much less successful impression than Plate 5. It is heavier but at the same time it suffers from weak rocking in.

A feature of this plate is the number of long scratches in a horizontal plane, similar to Plate 4. They are, however, generally less clear and more blurred. Probably the most distinguishing feature of this plate is the heavily dotted appearance over many parts of each stamp. It appears that the plate suffered considerably from some form of corrosion.





Plate 6

The above six plates are those used for the 200 sheets. The 300 sheets were printed from one plate only, Plate Unique, which bears the millesime 1861.3. In this case the 3 indicates March and not the plate number. Printings were all on machine made paper and from April 1861 – 1863 they were imperforated issues. From 1863 to 1865 perforated stamps were in use.



Plate Unique  
Sheet of 300

At the end of his display, Jack made the following remarks:

"In his articles, Brig. Studd records that he was able to identify a considerable number of varieties as belonging to various plates and was able to place many of these within their respective plates. However, all or practically all of this study appears to have been lost and today, without the help of multiples, one suspects that it will not be possible to do much work in the future.

"I have said little about the papers in use and nothing about colours, although the latter can be of help in establishing the various plates. I am somewhat reluctant to place too much emphasis on colour when one is relying upon used copies as the heavy postmarks do have an effect upon one's classification of colour.

"Finally. In the "Timbre de Belgique" published in 1912, it states that a Royal Decree of 25th September 1865 ordered the Medallion issue to be withdrawn on 1st July 1866 and, further, that the stocks of these stamps were to be destroyed by incineration at Malines. On 19th March 1867, 684,862 copies of the 20c stamps were destroyed."

REPORT OF AUCTION, 24th APRIL 1999

Held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon, this auction contained the usual mixture and was well supported and competed for. Prior to the sale, postal bids were received from 31 members ensuring a good start on many of the lots.

As anticipated, the early lots (1 to 12) all sold, many well above estimate, indicating the scarcity of some of these items. Corsini letters, the GENT! Posthorn and AB are rarely offered for sale and therefore command a premium price when they do appear. Our aim, however, is to include mainly moderately priced items which are within the reach of many members and the rest of the sale reflects that position.

The section on **PRE-STAMP** and **FOREIGN SORTING/TPO MARKS** sold well at around estimate except Lot 31 (estimate £15, sold £31) which was to an unusual destination.

Both **REGISTERED MAIL** and **AIRMAIL** sold well with many of the Airmail covers (eg Lots 61/62) going well above estimate. It is not very often we see this material in our sales.

**EXPRESS** letters were sought after with some (Lots 78, 79, 83, 84) exceeding their estimates by around three times.

**STAMPED COVERS, POSTAGE DUES** and **PREOS** all made around their estimates, whereas the two sections on **MARITIME MAIL** and **OSTENDE-DOVER** generally exceeded their estimates. Lot 88 (estimate £25) made £41 and the **PAQUEBOT** cards (Lots 164-169) were competed for by several members.

Unusually, **RAILWAY INTEREST** material did not go well, many items being unsold, likewise the **WORLD WAR 1** section.

Amongst the **POSTAL STATIONERY** lots were a few better items. Lot 219 (estimate £2.50) £10; Lot 220 (estimate £1) £8, which pleased the vendor who had provided the estimates.

Although our sales appear to be dominated by Postal History type material, we do include **STAMPS** as these form the backbone of our hobby. The results, however, rarely inspire unless it is exceptional material on offer but again, the **TÊTE-BÊCHE** and **PUBLICITY ITEMS** usually find new owners - I must remember to print some more of these!

Finally the **MISCELLANEOUS** and **LITERATURE** sections. Whereas most of the former sold, especially the better items, much of the literature remained unsold largely, I suspect, due to wallet fatigue at the end of a successful sale.

The total for the sale is around £2,771 and approximately 73% of the lots were sold. A good result which should be of benefit to club funds for the forthcoming year.

**REG HARRISON**

**WANTED**

Balasse Magazine No. 15 - to complete a run of this journal.  
If you can help, please contact the Editor.

RESULTS OF AUCTION HELD 24th APRIL 1999

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	84.00	55	13.00	112	5.00	160	4.00	231	3.00
2	152.00	57	7.00	113	4.00	161	6.00	232	60.00
3	60.00	61	12.00	115	10.00	162	3.50	233	3.50
4	60.00	62	16.00	116	5.00	163	4.00	235	3.50
5	235.00	63	3.00	117	1.00	164	38.00	238	7.00
6	52.00	64	13.00	119	2.50	165	11.00	242	3.00
7	125.00	65	16.00	120	2.00	166	15.00	244	3.00
8	62.00	66	21.00	121	10.00	167	12.00	247	2.00
9	44.00	67	6.00	122	3.00	168	6.00	248	2.00
10	30.00	68	8.00	123	1.50	169	10.00	251	1.00
11	30.00	69	4.00	124	1.00	174	13.50	252	5.50
12	90.00	70	6.50	125	.50	175	13.50	256	4.00
16	8.00	71	11.00	126	3.00	180	7.00	257	2.00
17	4.50	73	2.00	127	1.00	181	4.00	258	5.00
18	4.00	75	2.00	128	1.00	182	5.50	260	4.50
19	4.00	76	30.00	129	1.00	183	5.50	261	10.00
20	4.00	77	8.50	130	.50	184	1.50	262	8.50
21	7.50	78	17.00	131	.50	185	2.50	263	12.00
23	3.00	79	8.50	132	.50	186	6.00	264	12.00
24	10.00	80	5.00	133	.50	187	4.50	268	1.00
25	12.00	81	8.00	134	.50	188	4.00	270	4.50
26	8.00	83	21.00	135	1.50	189	110.00	272	3.50
27	14.00	84	17.00	136	1.50	191	10.00	277	6.00
29	16.00	86	30.00	137	10.00	192	2.00	279	8.00
30	15.00	87	20.00	138	11.00	194	2.00	282	15.00
31	31.00	88	41.00	140	4.50	195	5.00	283	10.00
32	8.00	89	14.00	141	5.50	199	12.00	284	15.00
34	10.00	92	12.00	142	13.00	200	8.50	285	6.00
35	5.00	93	2.00	143	1.00	201	4.50	286	12.00
36	4.00	94	2.00	144	2.00	202	1.00	287	1.00
37	4.00	95	2.00	145	6.00	203	2.50	288	12.00
38	5.00	96	2.50	146	6.50	204	2.00	289	15.00
39	5.00	97	20.00	147	2.00	210	3.00	290	4.00
40	3.00	98	6.50	148	11.00	211	20.00	291	60.00
41	4.00	100	18.00	149	5.50	215	4.00	296	15.00
42	2.00	101	9.50	150	.50	217	2.00	297	3.00
43	2.00	102	9.00	151	2.50	219	10.00	299	8.00
46	2.00	103	6.00	152	6.00	220	8.00	302	12.00
47	2.00	104	12.00	153	2.00	224	.50	303	10.50
48	5.50	105	10.00	154	2.50	225	.50	304	8.00
49	8.50	106	5.00	155	5.50	226	2.00	305	5.00
50	6.50	107	6.50	156	1.00	227	2.00	306	10.00
51	6.00	108	4.00	157	5.00	228	1.00	307	3.00
52	13.00	109	4.00	158	4.00	229	13.00	308	15.00
54	12.00	111	4.50	159	2.00	230	3.00	309	9.00

## JOURNAL REVIEWS

by Reg Harrison

**World Wars No. 39** - constitutes two main articles. The first on Civil Censorship in the Congo 1940/45, the second on propaganda cards etc. during the 1914/1918 War. Well illustrated, it includes one of the 1914 Stuttgart envelopes produced for the German troops.

**Info-Phila No. 70** - A continuation of the article on the 1 Centime Medallion 1861 started in the last edition. Likewise stations on the Chimay line and the 2Fr. Lunette Official Service stamps. A new article on the Van Ackers -10% issue by V. Roukout.

**The Belgiophile Vol.XVI No.1** - This is the first issue under the new editorship of Donald Landis and contains a further major article on Nord-Belge cancellations by Grant Feringa. Ralph's Corner includes notes on De Luxe sheets LX6 and LX9. The editor writes about Queen Astrid's short life and stamps connected with her.

**Posthistorama No.25** - contains an article on the Red Star Shipping Line Antwerp to New York by C. Delbeke which details the history and the ships involved. Markings to be covered by a later article. It also contains an account of a display given by our member **Marc Lebrun** in December 1998. Many of the remaining articles do not relate to Belgian philately.

**Posthistorama No.26** - continues the Red Star Line article including some markings. A study of the postal history of Dutch Limburg 1830-1839 (Part 1) by J. Ickenroth, plus a continuation of the postal history of Mariembourg updates the information in Herlant. Although this is a bumper edition of 71 pages, 31 of these comprise a money exchange chart 1700-1875.

**Koning Met Helm No.3 May 1999** - Devoted to the Tin Hat issue (in Flemish), only a small portion actually deals directly with the stamp in question. An article on competition rules and perforations with a comparison of measuring devices available, is marred by the poor quality of the accompanying illustrations.

### **L'Amicale Philatelique**

**No.442, February 1999** - continues the series on Belgian telegram forms and a discovery of a scarce Envelope Annonces.

**No.443, March 1999** - more news on Envelope Annonces and Oflag VI A in June 1940.

**No.444, April 1999** - contains an article on Postal Relations between Belgium and UK 1850-1859 by Jean de Bast and Jacques Ghilain, well illustrated with rates and routes.



No.445, May 1999 - The start of a fine article on the 1914/1915 Charity issues so beloved by Geoffrey Wood. The identification of false issues and postmarks will probably follow but this part paints the background picture to these issues in detail. Conditions in wartime produce unusual results and figures are produced for comparison. Rarely properly used on covers and due to the continuing availability of the dies, all sorts of false printings abound, some dangerous to collectors. An issue of which it can be truly said that although thousands were officially printed - millions were sold. This article by M. J. Lintrup will be keenly followed.

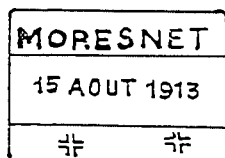
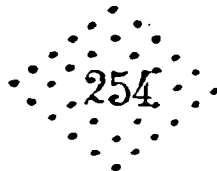
No.446, June 1999 - Contains the concluding part of the 1914/1915 Charity issues by M. J. Lintrup of which I think we shall see more in the future. It omits the detailed study of these stamps which, however, is available from his website. However, the dangerous forgeries are not easy to detect and members are asked to take care when buying these stamps. Ironically, the most attractive items are the philatelic creations on coloured papers with Red Crosses all over the place on the stamp - at least they are blatantly wrong and not worth fancy prices. Some years ago, on a visit to the Ypres War Museum, Geoffrey Wood pointed out that those on display were Faux. Likewise he discovered that most of the forged postmarks he listed were found to be on Faux stamps.

- - - **Wanted** - - -

Alan Swale - 12440 Lescure-Jaoul, France

WANTED: Belgium (Moresnet/Montzen). Cancellations on cover or postcard as follows:

*MANCOLISTE: Belgique Cantons de l'Est (Moresnet/Montzen). Oblitérations sur pli ou carte postale comme suite:*



MONTZEN  
(B)



And anything by or about or to Dr Wilhelm Molly of Preussisch-Moresnet.

*Plus des plis ou des cartes écrits par ou à le docteur Wilhelm Molly de Preussisch-Moresnet.*

# INFORMATION REQUIRED

## BRUXELLES ARRIVÉE

In the Spring edition of **Info-Phila No. 70** (our Twin Club journal) there is an item (reproduced below) seeking information on this postmark with the 30 minute time plug. If any member has information on this please let me know and I will pass it on. I illustrate a postal stationery item showing its usage in 1907.

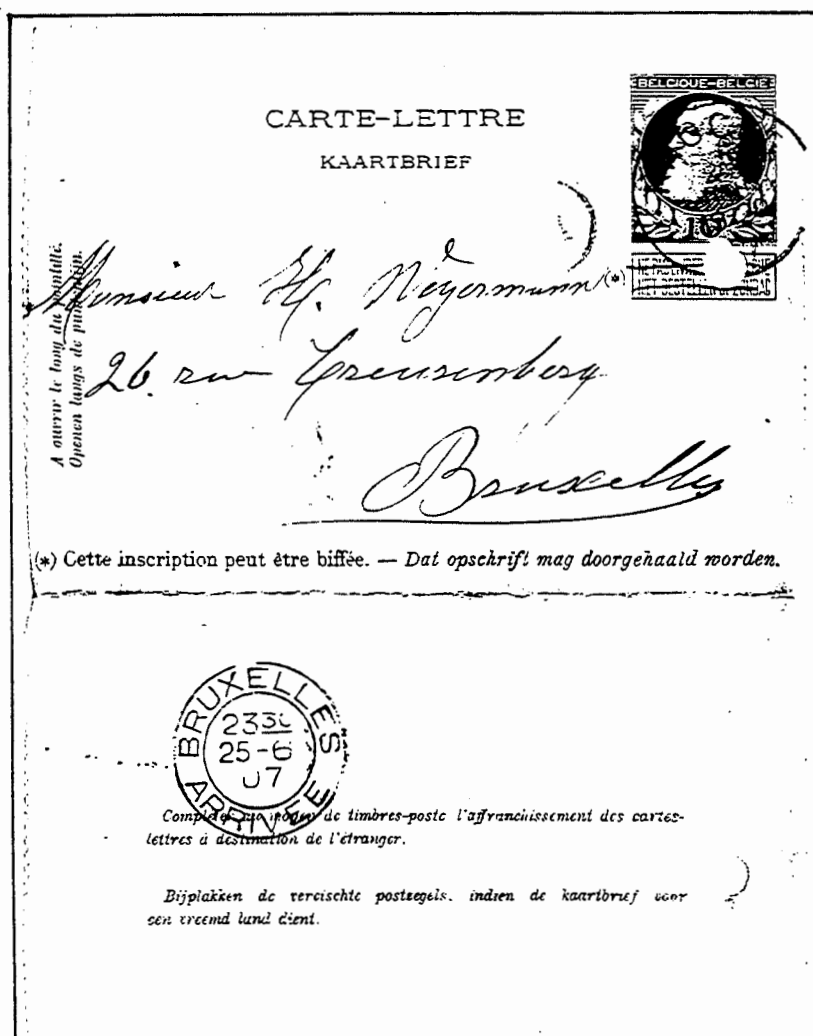
REG HARRISON  
Editor



NOUS CHERCHONS !....

La figure ci-contre représente un cachet oblitérant en usage en 1906/1907  
Durant la période 1905-06, beaucoup d'essais virent le jour dans ce domaine.

Quelqu'un peut-il nous donner quelques précisions au sujet de cette marque ? Si on la rencontre assez fréquemment en double cercle, avec heure SIMPLE, il semble que le complément "30" (minutes) soit plus rare.  
Merci d'avance aux chercheurs qui nous donneront leur avis à ce sujet.



# OFFICIAL VERSUS ACTUAL STARTING DATE OF THE DOTTED LOZENGE CANCELLATION

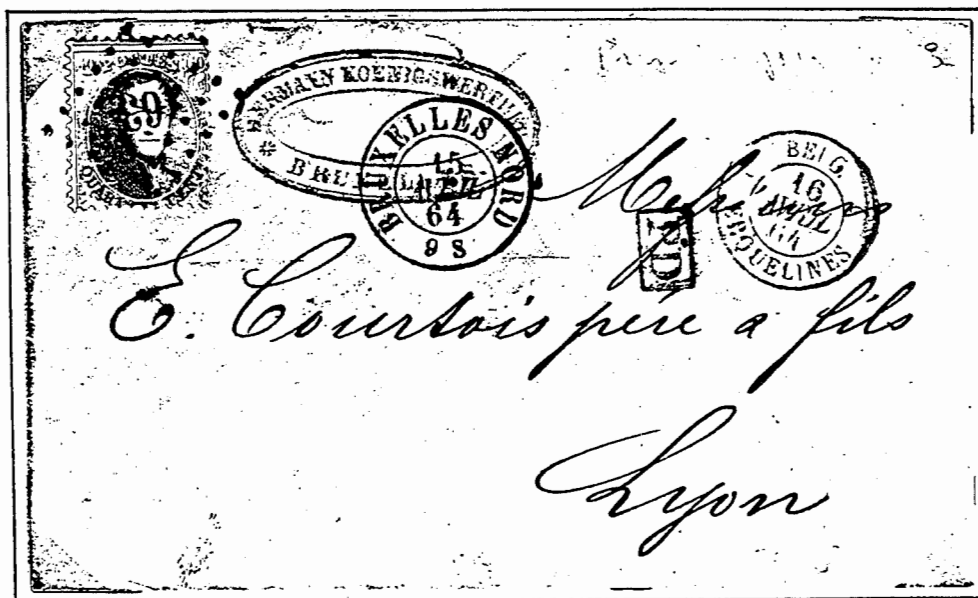
by J. C. PORIGNON

The service notice No. 49, dated April 4th 1864, stated that:

"The post offices will be provided, in due time, with a new type of handstamp which they will be required to use from April 15th next."

April 15th, 1864 is thereby rightly considered by the philatelists as the first day of use, in Belgium, of the dotted lozenge (with two ranks of 6 points by side) cancellation.

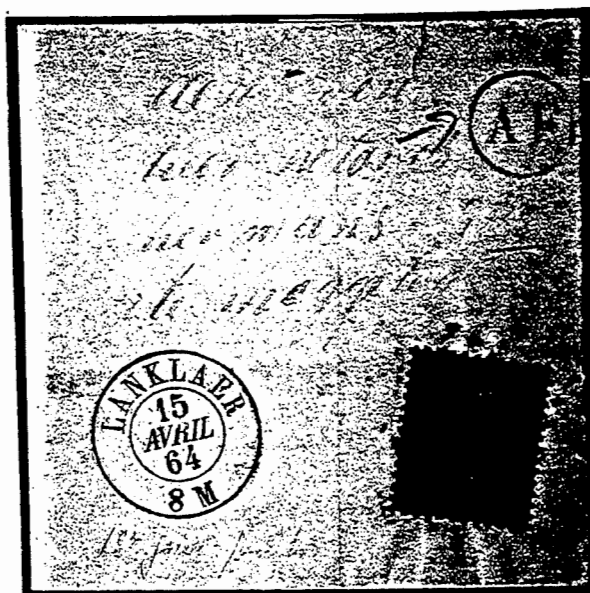
Illustration No. 1:



Letter dated April 15th, 1864, bearing the "BRUXELLES-NORD" date stamp addressed to Lyon (France). The 40c perforated Medallion postage stamp (correct franking at that time for a 1st grade letter to France) is cancelled by the No. 63 dotted lozenge handstamp, allocated to that office. On the cover front, a French blue transit mark is dated April 16th, 1864. On the rear side, the travelling post office stamp FRANCE★AMBt EST★ is dated April 16. Arrival mark in Lyon on the 17th, after transit via Paris.

Illustration No. 2:

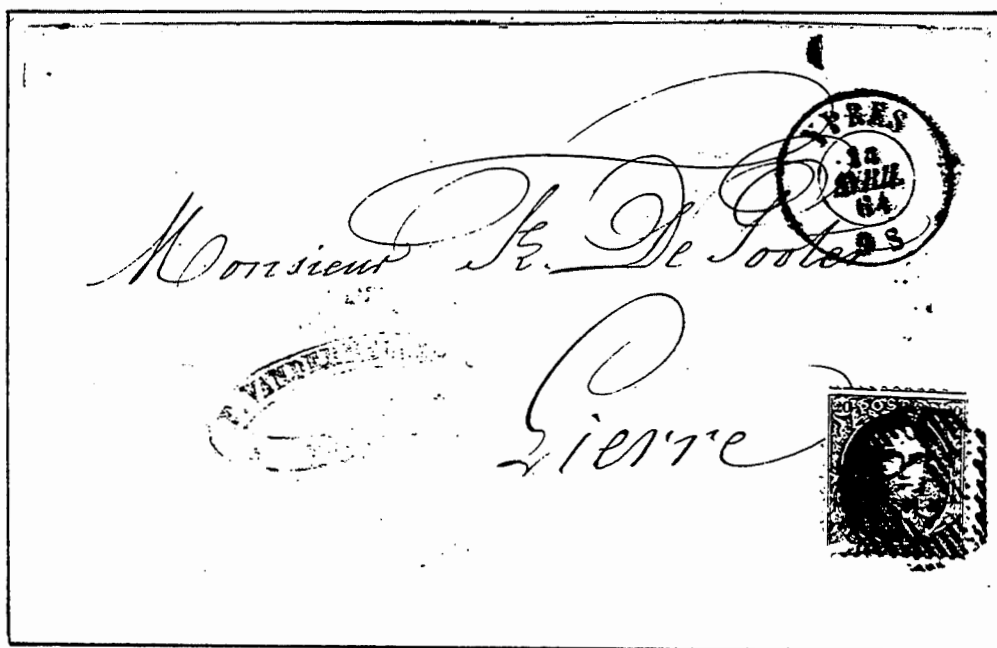
Small envelope, likely originating from Opglabeeek, bearing the rural (AF) round handstamp and the date stamp from LANKLAER on April 15 1864, addressed to Mechlen/Meuse, small town having its own distribution post office depending from LANKLAER as well. The Medallion is cancelled by the 208 cancellation of LANKLAER.



Consequently, April 14th should be the latest date of use of the bar cancellation as demonstrated by the two letters originating from HUY that were part of the J. CRUSTIN collection (Baeten Sale No. 154, Lot No. 756, not pictured): the letter dated April 14th bears a 20c Medallion cancelled by the No. 62 eight bar handstamp, whilst the letter sent on the next day (April 15th) has its stamp cancelled by the No. 186 dotted lozenge cancellation. Unfortunately, we were unable to acquire these couple of letters so we cannot illustrate them here.

*Illustration No. 3:*

*Letter dated April 14, 1864  
originating from YPRES, sent to  
LIERRE bearing the No. 133 bar  
cancellation applicable until this  
latest date of allowed utilisation.*

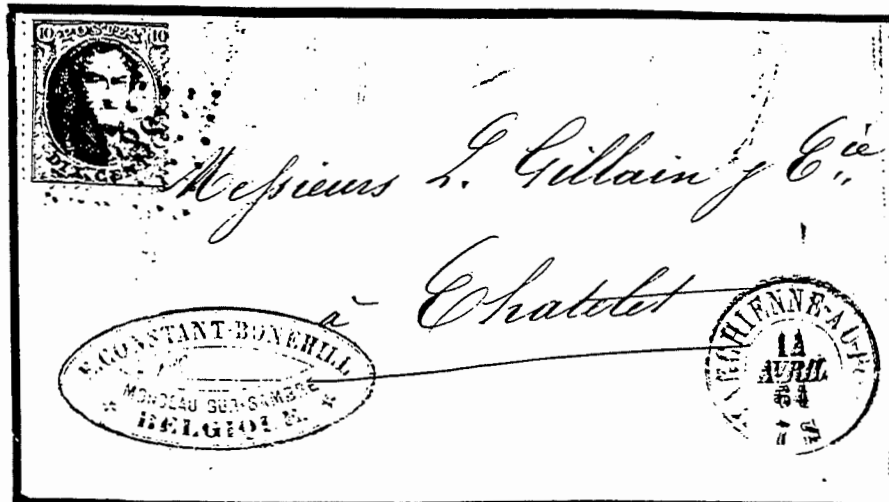


However, the J. CRUSTIN sale included as well two other related covers: one, dated April 13, 1864 mailed from GAND, had its postage stamp cancelled by the No. 141 dotted lozenge cancellation; the other cover, which we were fortunate enough to acquire, was sent from MARCHIENNE-AU-PONT on April 14, 1864 and was bearing the No. 238 dotted lozenge cancellation instead of the 8 bar cancellation No. 80 (see below).



## Illustration No. 4:

Letter from Marchienne-au-Pont, dated April 14, 1864 sent to Chatelet, arrived at Chatelineau also on April 14, bearing the No. 238 dotted lozenge cancellation on the perforated Medallion No. 14.

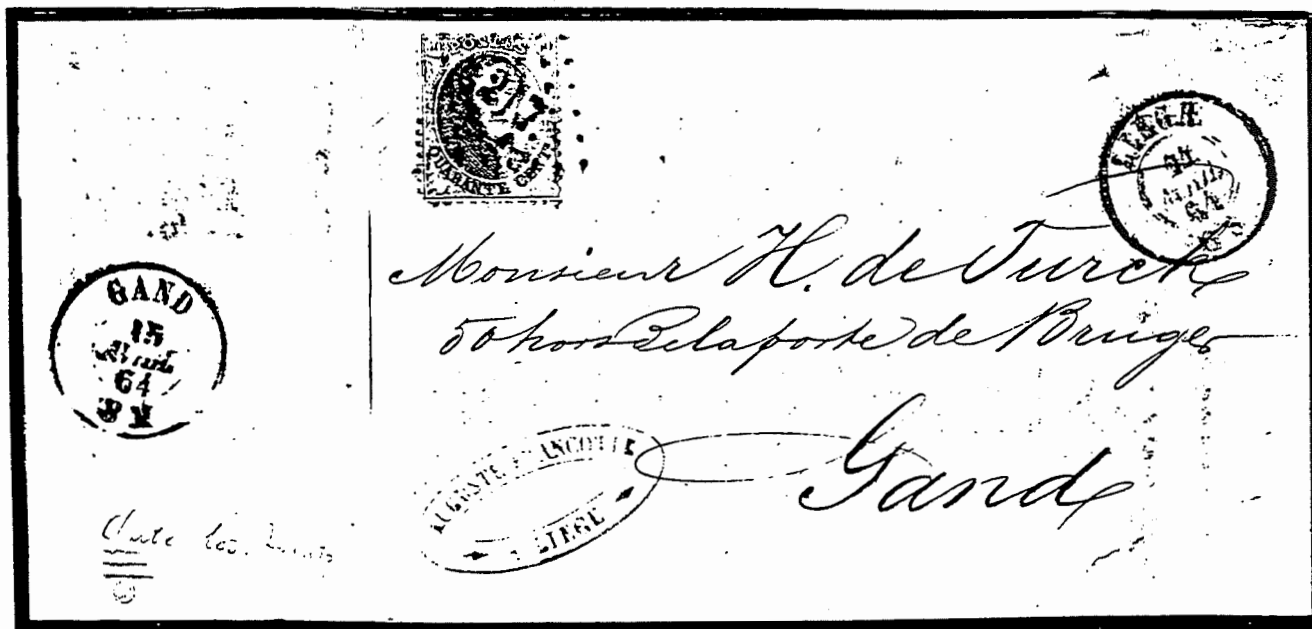


This demonstrates that the official date of introduction of the new dotted lozenge cancellation handstamp does not match with the effective date of first utilisation.

Other examples of early use of the dotted lozenge cancellation have shown up, for instance in the extraordinary M. SCHEERLINCK'S collection, auctioned by WILLIAME in 1968, there was a letter from LIEGE dated on April 14, 1864, also bearing the unallowed canceller:

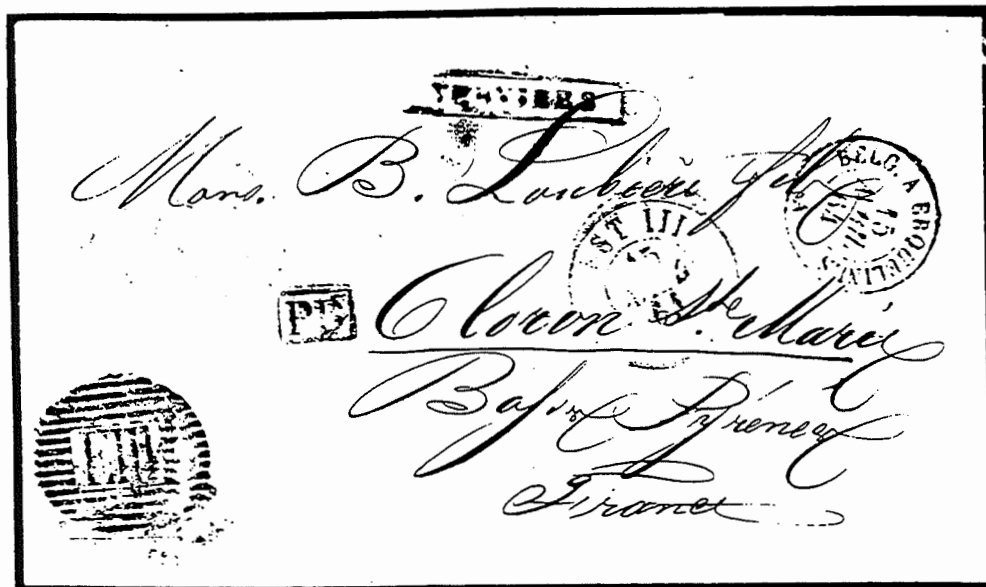
## Illustration No. 5

Letter dated LIEGE 14 April 1864, sent to GAND, bearing a 40c perforated Medallion No. 16, for double rate weight, cancelled by the dotted lozenge cancellation No. 217 of LIEGE. Arrival in GAND on April 15.



However, if this abnormal use is known by numerous postal historians, the late use of the bar cancellation after April 14 is generally unknown: the travelling post offices were only able to utilise the new handstamp as from April 16, further to the late arrival of this new type of canceller. A letter from VERVIERS, sent via the ambulant EST III, dated April 15, 1864, bears a 40c Medallion cancelled by the E III handstamp, as shown below. This letter was pictured in the MENSING'S collection, sold by auction (Baeten Sale No. 150, Lot No. 521).

*Illustration No. 6*



In conclusion, it would be most interesting to register which post offices:

1. Used the bar cancellation up until April 14th 1864.

We noted up to now:

BOUSSU (P21), BRUXELLES (P24), BRUXELLES-NORD (NORD), HUY (P62), MONS (P83), THOUROUT (P116), TOURNAI (P120) and YPRES (P133).

2. Used the dotted lozenge cancellation before April 15th, 1864.

We have registered:

- on April 13, 1864: CHARLEROY (LP77) and GAND (LP141);
- on April 14, 1864: GAND (LP141), LIEGE (LP217), MARCHIENNE-AU-PONT (LP23) and NAMUR (LP264).

3. Used the bar cancellation after April 14th, 1864.

We only know up to now:

The train post office EST 3 (E III)

4. Used the dotted lozenge on the official first day of use, that is April 15th. 1964.

We know:

BERCHEM (LP36), BRUXELLES (LP60), BRUXELLES-NORD (LP63), HUY (LP186), LANKLAER (LP208), LOUVAIN (LP226), St-TROND (LP320), THUIN (LP359 and WAREMME (LP389).

- o - o - o - o -

We would welcome additional dates or information you may have on this subject.

J. C. PORIGNON  
Corresponding Member of the  
Belgium Philatelic Academy

#### BELGIAN AIR MAIL (cont.)

Last year ("BELGAPOST" Vol 11, No.2 pp 52-54) we printed some information obtained by **Maurice Wilkinson** regarding the AIRMAIL to Belgium. It was clear that although the fee charged for letters is at the Airmail rate, the mail never left the earth's surface, but by which route did it travel?

The opening of the Channel Tunnel was mentioned by British Airways as a factor involved in the switch but the current routing was unclear as neither the Tunnel nor the Ferries run a direct service to Ostend. Having persisted with the enquiry, Maurice has obtained a further letter from the Royal Mail confirming that the mail goes by ferry in YORKS containers to Ostend. As there is no ferry service direct to Ostend, a further letter of enquiry elicited a reply as follows:

*"Dear Sir,*

*"In answer to your enquiries regarding the Belgian mail, the routing is via Dover. However, only the container is ferried and not the lorry, the container is then picked up by a Belgian post office lorry and transported to Ostend via Calais.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A. WHITCOMBE"

So it appears the circle has turned and the mail is once again put onto a ferry boat as in the past, the flirtation with aircraft and tunnel ? being shortlived. During the last century most mail passed through the port of Ostend but for a surcharge could be routed via Calais if arrival in England the following day was required.

Our thanks to Maurice for his persistence in this matter.

REG HARRISON  
Editor

9 April, 1999

Mr M Wilkinson  
14 Charnwood Close  
London Road  
PETERBOROUGH  
PE2 9BZ

ROYAL MAIL  
ANGLIA  
PAPYRUS ROAD  
WERRINGTON  
PETERBOROUGH  
PE4 5PE

Phone: 01733 382536

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

With reference to your enquiry regarding european mails I have been in contact with our Foreign Section direct to obtain the very latest information. Owing to the vast amount of mail now destined for europe the aircraft can no longer cope with the demand, however european mails are still flown with the exception of;

Germany, France, Belgium and The Netherlands although mails in excess of of three tons for Germany go by air.

Mails for France and Belgium are conveyed in trays and wheeled containers called "YORKS". The mail is then loaded onto a container lorry and then despatched via the ferry. Mail for Belgium is despatched at 07.45hrs. and arrives in Ostend at 14.00hrs. Once the containers and mail are off loaded the trays and yorks are reused to return mail to England. The same system is used for France but the despatch times are 01.30hrs and 06.00hrs arriving in Paris at 09.30hrs and 14.30hrs respectively.

Mail for Germany and the Netherlands is despatched in mail bags and loose loaded onto container lorries and routed via container ferries the same as France and Belgium.

The German mail is despatched on two vehicles leaving Foreign Section at midnight and 02.30hrs. both arriving at Frankfurt at 14.00hrs.

The Netherlands mail is despatched at 05.15hrs. and arrives in Rotterdam at 14.00hrs.

All the arrival times stated are below the relevant countries' latest acceptance times.

I hope this information is of some use to you and please do not hesitate to contact me if any other information is required.

Yours sincerely



A WHITCOMBE  
OPERATIONAL SHIFT MANAGER

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK (2)

### 1913: The Ghent World's Fair

The World's Fair held at Ghent in 1913 was a major international event, but the Belgian Post Office did not issue any commemorative postage stamps. The result was a vacuum that was filled by a plethora of labels. This article describes the various issues.

#### The First ('International') Issue

Used to promote the exhibition, this issue featured views of the city and reproductions of exhibition posters. The labels were printed in photogravure by Theo. de Graeve of Ghent and perforated 11.5. They were produced in sheets of twenty in a 4x5 format which contained eleven horizontal and nine vertical designs.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The horizontal designs depict: the Town Hall/weathervane; the Rabot fort/soldier; nuns at work/bell turret; the three towers (St.Nicholas, St.Bavon, Belfry)/woman in costume; the Friday Market/woman in costume; the Castle of the Counts (seen from the town)/the Count of Flanders; the castle of Gerard the Devil/soldier; nuns eating a meal/bell turret; poster showing a view of the exhibition; the Castle of the Counts (looking across the moat)/the Count of Flanders; and three ancient houses/weather-vane (Fig. 1).

The vertical designs comprise the following: a poster depicting a herald on horseback; a poster showing a view of the exhibition illuminated at night; the Maison des Mesuriers de Grain; the entrance to a convent (Fig. 2); the Belfry and Cloth Hall; the Church of St.Nicholas; the market and St.Bavon cathedral; a poster depicting garlands of flowers linking the three towers; and the Maison des Bateliers.

So far relatively simple. Now the complications start. The designs can be found with inscriptions in four different languages (sometimes more than one on a single label). Printings vary in size and, as well as a wide range of colours, there are also some tinted papers. If this was not enough, some labels bear a description of the design and, at the foot, the printer's name, but others do not. Quite a nightmare for the collector! This is not the place to go into detail but, according to the list in Cazin & Rochas' "Timbres Commemoratifs" ('C&R' – 1914!), there must be **at least** 400 different labels.

### The Second ('National') Issue

These large, and not especially attractive, souvenir labels feature views of the exhibition site and are probably more familiar to members than those of the first issue.



Fig. 3

There are no clues as to the printer's name but the method used was half-tone and the labels were perforated 11.5. The sheets consisted of twelve different designs in a 3x4 format. The labels are only found with French inscriptions.

The eight horizontal designs are: the festival hall in the Palace of Horticulture; the orchid house; the automobile entrance and main façade; the arcade at the main entrance; the Palace of Fine Arts; the main thoroughfare; the restaurant at the Palace of Horticulture; and an aerial view of the Palace of Horticulture (Fig. 3).

The four vertical designs show: the main entrance; the steps, terrace and restaurant at the Palace of Horticulture; the office building; and the interior of the Hall of Honour.

This issue is found in fourteen different colours, some of which are said to be scarce.

### The Third Issue

These labels, my personal favourites, were probably sold as souvenirs.



The embossed design (Fig. 4) is cut to shape rather than perforated and features a woman with her arm outstretched above a view of the city's three towers. The names of the designer and printer are not listed in C&R, which says there are twelve different colours (including tinted papers).



Fig. 4

### Other Issues

C&R lists a fourth issue but the two labels it describes are so large (230 x 170mm!) that they must have been window stickers or small posters rather than labels. I have never seen them but, for the record, the vertical design is described as multicoloured and depicts the Palace of Horticulture in front of a setting sun consisting of a garland of roses. The horizontal design is inscribed with advertisements for the 'Floralies'.

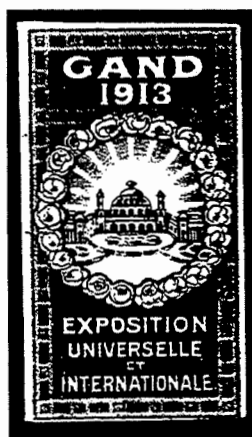


Fig. 5

Recently I came across another vertical design (Fig. 5). It was mauve, imperforate and showed a view of the main entrance against a setting sun, surrounded by flowers. I have since found an example in blue. There is no mention of the designer or printer. If members have any additional information about this (or any other issue) issue, I would be delighted to hear from them.

I have also seen one private label which refers to the 1913 world's fair. This is a red letter seal bearing the name of Moteur "La Fourmi". It is circular in design and 45 mm in diameter (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

### The Perils of Over-Production

I believe that even more labels were produced for the 1913 Ghent World's Fair than for the Brussels exhibition in 1897. I suspect also that there are more designs still to be 'discovered', certainly when it comes to company letter seals.

I have recently seen it suggested that there might have been more collectors of 'poster stamps' in the early years of the century than there were stamp collectors. I have to doubt whether this is really the case. If however it is true, then the sudden reduction in their numbers and the virtual disappearance of the hobby after the Great War may be explained at least in part by the excessive production of labels for such events. We have after all seen similar problems in modern times with the number of postage stamps issued by some nations.



Mike Mobbs

### OBITUARY – JACQUES STIBBE, Doctor of Medicine, 20th June 1929 – 10th May 1999

Président d'Honneur de l'Académie de Philatélie de Belgique  
Officier de l'Ordre de Léopold à titre philatélique  
Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (1987)  
Médaille Dole de la Fédération Française  
Grande Médaille de la F.I.P.  
Fellow of the Royal Society, London

It is with great sadness that the philatelic world has learnt of the death of Dr. Jacques STIBBE.

His indisputable competence, his vast and never faulted knowledge, his dedication to the philatelic cause made him a person whose loss will not go unnoticed.

To his wife, children and grandchildren, we extend our deepest condolences.

Doctor STIBBE, Philately says to you a big, "Thank you" and you will never be forgotten.

ELIANE DENEUMOSTIER  
Membre of l'Académie de Belgique  
(translation – Jean Bruwier)

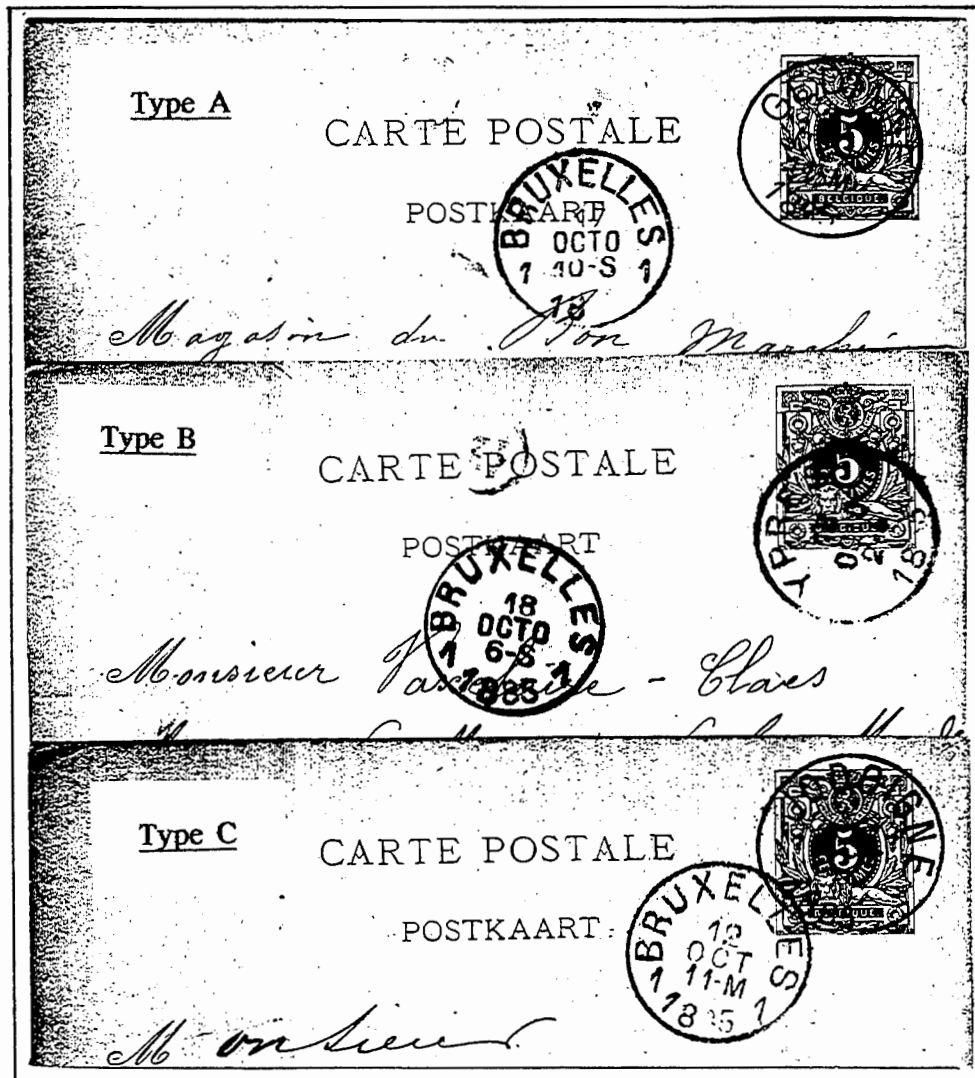
## BRUXELLES ARRIVEE MARKS - 1885

by A. D. Geake

Around 1882 a series of Circular Date Stamps was introduced in Brussels which incorporated a numeral to denote the service for which the datestamp was used. The numeral was placed twice in the CDS, at 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock, at either end of the word 'BRUXELLES'. The numeral 1 denoted Arrivee and the numeral 5 denoted Depart; these were by far the most commonly used of this series of datestamps and more than one of each existed at any one time.

In 1885, there were at least three BRUXELLES 1 datestamps in use:

Type A	23mm diameter	1 with small serifs
Type B	23mm diameter	1 with large serifs
Type C	23½mm diameter	1 with medium serifs

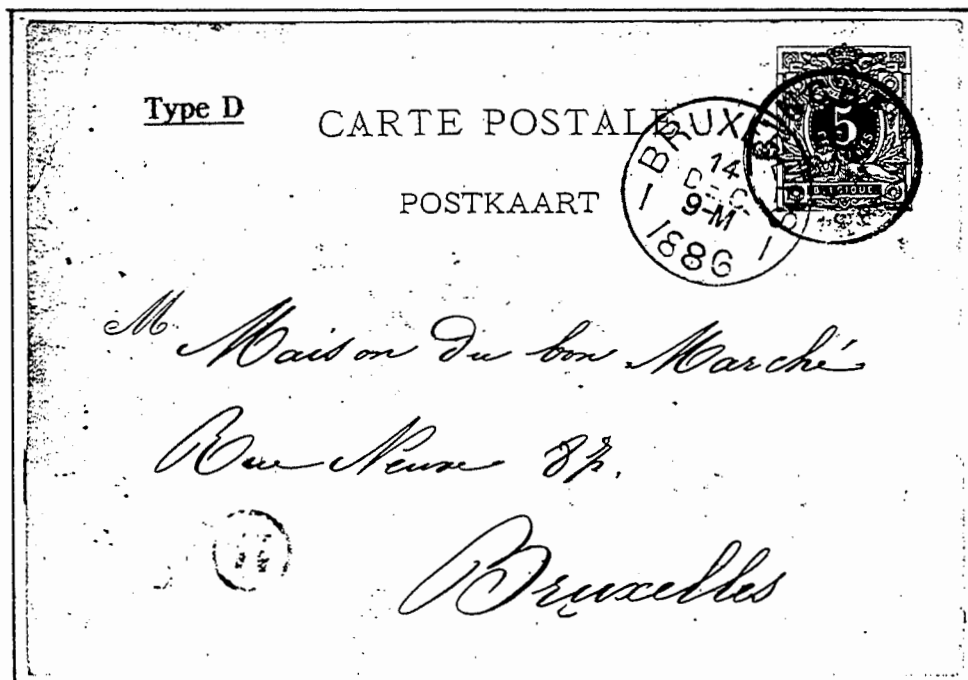


and another was in use in 1886:

Type D

25mm diameter

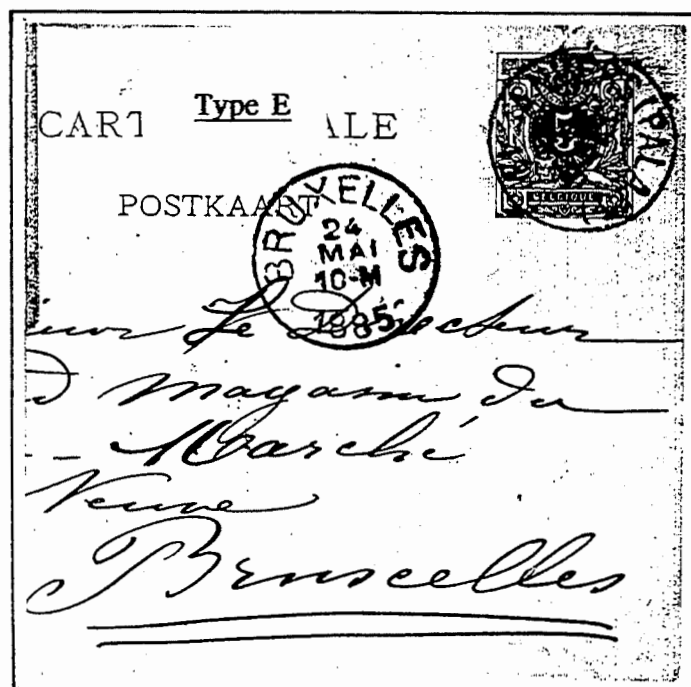
1 without serifs



Also in use in 1885 as an arrival mark was an unnumbered CDS:

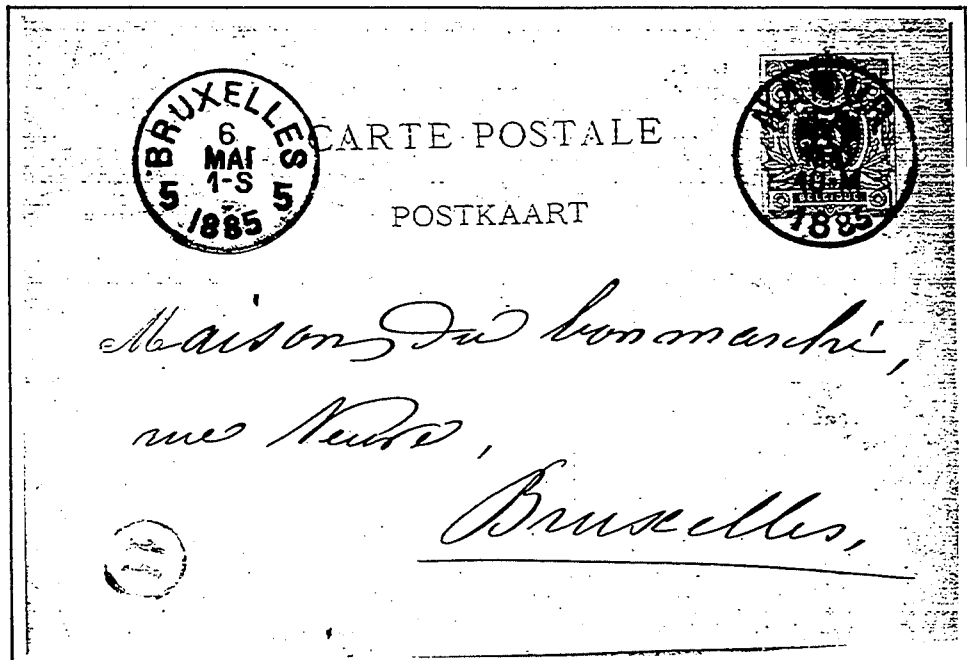
Type E

24mm diameter



For a period in 1885 there can also be found incoming mail handstamped with a BRUXELLES 5 CDS, used as an arrival mark:

Type F                      24mm diameter



As this CDS should have been used only on mail leaving Brussels, it is probable that its use on incoming mail was an error - perhaps it was accidentally put into the box of BRUXELLES 1 datestamps. Alternatively, it could have been used as an emergency measure - the volume of mail might have been so great that an extra handstamp had to be brought into use, or one of the BRUXELLES 1 handstamps might have had to be sent away for repairs.

The following are earliest/latest dates of use of the various types of CDS which I have recorded. If these dates can be extended from cards or covers in other members' collections, the size of any gaps can be narrowed down or eliminated. Then perhaps a clearer picture of what happened in 1885 will emerge and the scarcity of this erroneous use of the BRUXELLES 5 CDS over a period of more than four months could be determined.

Type A	to 15.5.85	from 17.10.85
Type B	to 12.1.85	from 19.7.85
Type C		from 12.10.85
Type D		from 14.12.86
Type E	to 23.12.84	
	from 16.3.85	to 17.6.85
		and from 18.12.86
Type F	from 4.4.85	to 25.8.85

## CHEMIN de FER ISSUE of 1895

### PRINTING VARIETIES AND A MAJOR RARITY

by A. D. Geake

The 1882 railway parcel stamps were designed and engraved by Charles Wiener and printed by the State Stamp Printing Works at Malines. This issue was inscribed in the French language only and, in 1895, to meet the requirement for stamps to be inscribed bilingually, François Poortman designed and engraved a new version, this also being printed at Malines. As a consequence of making room for the extra wording, there was less space for the numerals indicating the face values and, to make these clearer, they were printed in black on the new stamps instead of, in the earlier issue, standing out as a white numeral on a shaded background. This obviously required the sheets of paper on which the stamps were printed to be passed through the press twice.

#### Printing Varieties

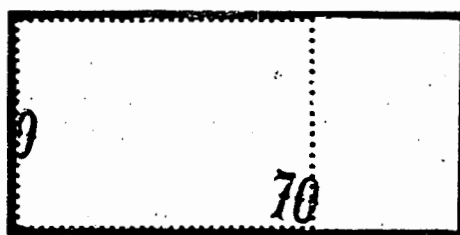
The 'Catalogue National', last published in 1976, listed for all stamps of this issue the variety with transparent impression on the back, either of the numeral, in black, or the rest of the design in colour, and for the 70, 80 and 90 centimes both. This information would seem to have been derived from the Willy Balasse catalogue, which contained identical listings. Balasse observed that these varieties should not be confused with negative offsets caused probably by sheets being placed in a stack before the ink was fully dry. The description actually used is '*impression transparente au verso*', which I understand to mean that the impression has permeated through the paper to show in negative on the back. I think this explanation of the cause of the variety is open to question but before discussing an alternative explanation I would like to look at another printing curiosity of the same issue.

#### Missing Numerals – a major rarity

Both Stanley Gibbons and Catalogue Officiel list two varieties of the 70 centime blue: a) numerals omitted and b) numerals on back instead of front (SG P104 a&b, cat £800 each; COB CF23-Cu 1&2, cat BFr35,000 each unmounted mint, or BFr27,500 each mounted). Catalogue National and Willy Balasse also listed these varieties and give the information that they were caused when a corner of the sheet became folded down when it passed through the press on the second printing run, ie the run printing the numerals in black. Although, as will be seen below, the accidental folding was not uncommon, it is probable that only one misprinted sheet escaped quality control and survived to be sold normally.



70 Centime  
Missing Numeral



70 Centime  
Missing Numeral  
- Reverse showing  
'70' printed on back



Catalogue National listed these varieties at BFr45,000 each in 1976, considerably higher than the current catalogue values, and they were priced by Balasse at BFr20,000 each in 1949. It would seem that current catalogue values are due for a substantial revision in the light of what they fetch at auction.

These varieties seldom come onto the market, but the auction sale of La Maison Willame on 7th June 1997 included one of each, a mounted mint copy with numerals omitted (lot 1270) and a left marginal copy mounted mint with numerals on the back instead of the front (lot 1271). Both were illustrated in colour on the inside front cover of the catalogue. The estimate for each was BFr20,000-40,000, and the result was BFr40,000 + 18% (47,200) for lot 1270 and BFr34,000 + 18% (40,120) for lot 1271; it is somewhat surprising that the latter lot fetched the lower price in view of it being a marginal copy and having a '+' guidemark in the margin.

Such a guidemark ought to be of assistance in determining approximately how many copies could exist (assuming there was only one sheet), if it can be compared with marginal multiples of any values in this set - do any members have any? They were printed in sheets of 100 (two panes of 50). My collection contains a marginal copy of the stamp with numerals on the back instead of the front, this copy having a perforation guidehole in the margin. Other particulars of my copy which could be useful in determining whether more than one sheet existed are that it is unwatermarked and the numerals on the back are at an angle of about 15 degrees to the horizontal. Unfortunately I don't have corresponding information for the copies in the Willame sale. However, from the catalogue illustration I can see that my copy was not adjacent.

#### **Possible explanation for negative impressions on back**

Reverting to the varieties with negative impressions of the numerals and/or designs on the back, it seems strange that the paper would on some sheets allow the black ink to show through, on other the coloured ink and on yet others, both. It seems much more likely that these varieties occurred on any sheet printed immediately after a sheet which folded back in the way which produced the 'missing 70' error. When the folded sheet passed through, the ink which should have printed on the folded part of the sheet was transferred instead to the lower plate of the press; the next sheet, printed normally on the front, would pick up the ink from the lower plate in negative on the back.



60 Centime  
Numeral only

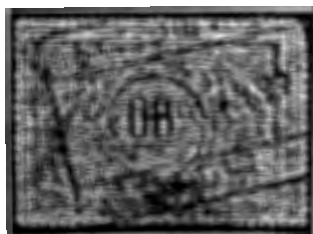


60 Centime  
Frame only

These varieties appear to be much more common than the missing numerals, since those would normally have been destroyed whereas the stamps with negative impressions on the back were acceptable through quality control. Copies which I have found comprise 60c numerals, 60c design, 2 x 80c both numerals and design (one with a corner of the design not printed - presumably because it was at the edge of the fold) and 90c both. I cannot see why there should be so high a proportion of copies with both - it would be expected that it would be extremely unusual for the same sheet to follow a folded sheet twice - unless folded sheets were not removed from the print run between first and second insertions. Incidentally, all the negative impressions of the frame, printed first, are positioned precisely under the impression on the front of the stamps, while although the 60c and one 80c are similarly positioned, the other 80c and the 90c are not. It would be interesting to hear what other members have in their collections of this issue.



80 Centime  
Numeral and Frame



80 Centime  
Numeral and Frame  
with corner of design  
not printed due to fold  
- bottom right corner



90 Centime  
Numeral and Frame

### The 'RELIGUE' varieties

Balasse listed another interesting variety on this issue, which was listed in National but is not listed in Officiel. This consists of a defect in the lower part of the 'B' of Belgique and the inner frame line below it; the result is that the B appears as an R. Balasse states that it occurs once per sheet, but I have never succeeded in finding one myself; I would guess its frequency is much below 1 per 100. There were four examples in a collection which I purchased, 10, 20, 80 and 90 centime, all with 1902 or 1903 dates; perhaps the difficulty in finding them is through the fault developing late in the life of the plate - the following bicoloured issue was released in July 1902. It would be interesting to hear of any earlier dated examples which members may have. It seems to me a great pity that varieties such as this no longer appear in the Belgian specialised catalogue.



### THE RELIGUE VARIETIES

### SUMMER EVENTS

**MIDPEX '99, Coventry - 3rd July, 1999**

(Contact Chris Howe, tel. 01305 889481 or Ken Carpenter, tel. 0121 354 8004)

**PORTISHEAD '99 - 14th/15th August, 1999**

Circle meeting on 14th August to include Railway topics.

(Contact Chris Howe, tel. 01305 889481 or Tony Geake, tel. 01392 877662)

**BRUPHILA '99 - Brussels, 29th September to 3rd October 1999.**

Circle meeting on 3rd October - all welcome.

Full details will be available later.

## THE PHILATELY OF EXHIBITIONS IN BELGIUM

by Ken Dore

### Part 1

#### Introduction

The collection and study of the stamps, postal markings, postal history and ephemera relating to exhibitions held in Belgium offer a very rewarding pursuit. The range of choice of material is enormous; and offers something for everybody. "Simply stamps", varieties and plating, cancellations, aero-philately, thematics and Cinderellas – all are there in abundance. The Cinderellas are a fascinating study in their own right – particularly those produced prior to the First World War, which show a very high standard of design and printing. On a strictly practical note, there is plenty of scope, not only for collectors with bulging wallets, but also for enthusiasts of very modest means. Trawling through the bargain boxes may often yield rewards – all you need is time!

Why is Belgium so rich in this type of philatelic material?

- The first reason of course is geographical – "the cockpit of Europe" is not merely a phrase coined for continental warfare but also applies to trade and commerce, and easy cross-channel accessibility.
- Secondly, the early development of an efficient railway system which provided swift transcontinental travel was of great significance.
- Thirdly, the Belgian postal authorities were very early to appreciate the power of the post in propaganda and advertising terms – not to mention the revenue to be derived from collectors!

What then constitutes an exhibition? I have decided that any event with philatelic overtones that is non-permanent should be included. Exposition (Tentoonstelling), foire (*foor / jaarbeurs*), fete (*feesten*), salon (*salon*) and bourse are all terms which may describe a qualifying event. Some events, such as the "Floralies Gantoises" occur at regular intervals over the years.

These articles are intended as a general overview and are by no means exhaustive.

#### Early cancellations

A cds cancellation – BRUXELLES EXPOSITION – without year indicator was used in Brussels in 1880 and again in 1888 (diam. 22mm). This cancel was used at the 1897 Universal exhibition together with a smaller 22mm cds. There was a cancellation used in Antwerp in 1885 with an octagonal format as well as a cds but I have no example on stamp or cover. (Presumably this was a telegraph office.)

1880



1888



1885

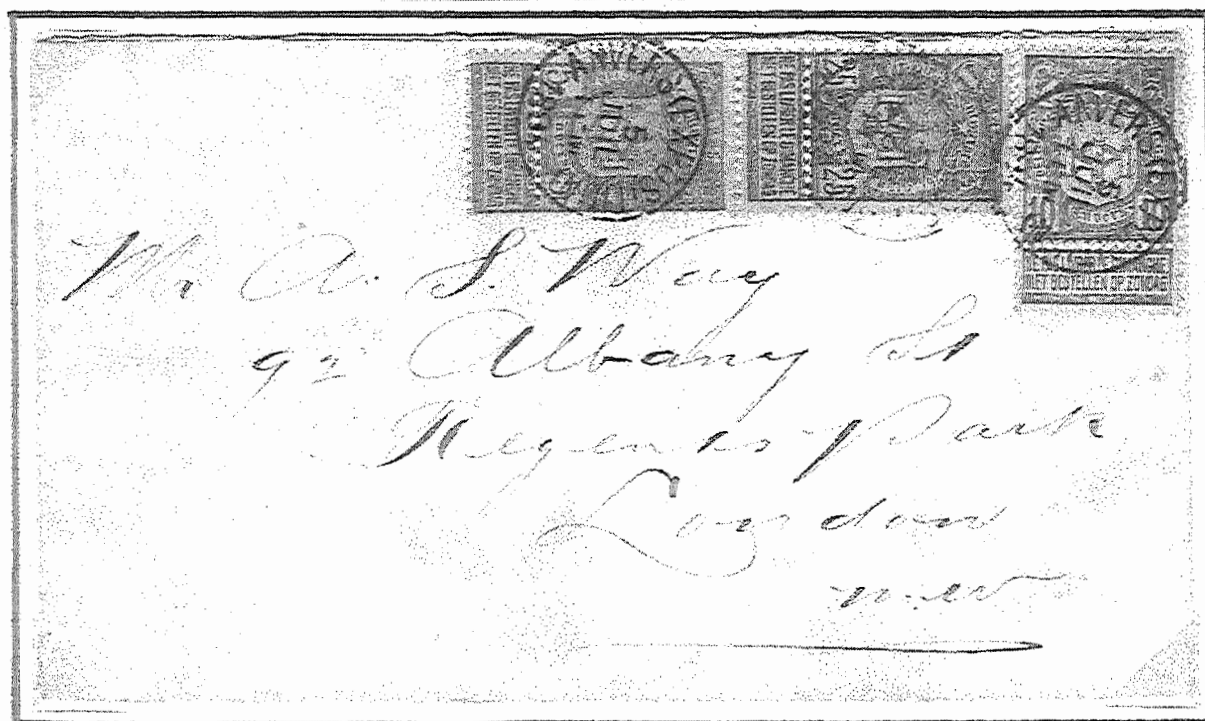


1885



### The International Exhibition at Antwerp 1894

A set of three stamps 5c, 10c and 25c (COB 68-70) was issued to commemorate this event. These are the first commemorative stamps of Belgium. The stamps were not at all popular, probably because the design is so cluttered and fussy, despite being designed by Henri Hendrickx who was responsible for the much more attractive Armoiries de Royaume (COB 53-56). These stamps were printed in sheets of 300 – six panes of fifty – on coloured paper. The coloured paper, pink and blue, was darker in a second printing. An exhibition cds was used, as that of 1885 with a new year slug.



1894, July 5 – Antwerp to London (COB 68a, 69, 70a) 40c  
Anvers (Exposition) CDS (courtesy John Hammonds, FRPS.L)



Brussels International Exhibition, 1897

On 15th October 1896, a set of stamps was issued to publicise this exhibition some three months before it opened. This became fairly standard practice from the Belgian postal authorities up to the present day. Two values were produced, 5c and 10c. The 5c was violet blue and the 10c brown ochre, an aniline dye. This proved only too fugitive, being unstable even under normal storage conditions, and was replaced in January 1889 by a more permanent brown ink. There are many variations in shade in the first printings! These were printed in small sheets of twenty-five (5 x 5). An authoritative review of these issues by the late A. G. Wood was published posthumously in "BELGAPOST" Vol.11, No.3, to which the reader is referred.



1898, June 3 - Locally used Letter Card No.4 (Foreign) uprated to Express with COB 72 (35c). Octagonal BRUXELLES (MIDI) cancel

Two telegraph office cancellations are also known:



This exhibition produced three notable Cinderella series printed in lithography by the firm of Gouweloos, Brussels. The first shows an allegorical group depicting industry and art; the second "various exhibitions and other attractions", and the third "arts, sciences, industry and commerce".





### International Exhibition at Liege 1905

This exhibition was marked by a simple cds, no special stamps were issued but there is some delightful ephemera.



1905 International Exhibition Liege  
"Save the Tokens - Collect the Prizes!!"



CARTE POSTALE OFFICIELLE  
DU VIEUX LIEGE EXPOSITION  
UNIVERSELLE ET INTERNATIONALE  
DE LIEGE 1905

Cette carte est à l'adresse: L'Exposition 1905, Liege



VIEUX LIEGE (EXPOSITION 1905) Place du Marché, Maison de la Rue du Pont

