

BELGAPOST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

- relating to all aspects of Belgian Philately -

- - - - -

-15-

Volume 1 No. 2

December 1981

Edited and produced by J B Horne 7 Elm Drive, Bradley, Stafford ST18 9DS

This edition of Belgapost is a little later than intended, but I hope worth waiting for. In number one I did promise a regular irregular basis for publication in the early stages, and I am still needing a good flow of articles to enable me to produce more than two editions a year. I would like if possible to increase gradually, and would hope, with your help to produce three next year. I am in no way saying I have had no help; on the contrary I am only able to produce this number because you, the members have looked around, put pen to paper and sent me items which you now see before you. I have also been helped by a member in Belgium who has very kindly translated items for me, many thanks. You will see that several items here have been published elsewhere, and I would mention that if you see an article that may have an appeal to Belgium collectors then please let me know, I will arrange the necessary permissions to enable me to print.

I have had several helpful letters following the first issue and I feel that members in general liked what they had served up. I am still open for your letters, articles, queries, etc., for this is your magazine and I can only produce it with your help.

SO -- Please put PEN to PAPER TODAY and write to me.

Literature Lists have been received from quite a number of members, thank you all; to those who have not yet sent them in please do, for they will still be of help. The Listing is in hand and we hope to produce something for you before too long. We hope also to offer you printed index cards for you to produce your own index for literature, articles, etc.,

Please note the few words dealing with the Waterlow Society, a copy of their newsletter is available and if you have information then please pass it on.

Do please read the Circle News appearing with this journal. There are changes to the programme and various announcements which need your attention.

Happy reading,

Barry Horne

ATELIER DE TIMBRES, MALINES.

This article was produced for and printed in the Journal of the Belgian Congo Study Circle. It is with the permission of Peter Foden that we reprint it here, for it gives some interesting information. By way of introduction Mr. Vindevoghel a member of the B C S C has spent a great deal of time and effort in trying to obtain information relating to the equipment in use from time to time at the Government Printers at Malines. He eventually succeeded in receiving a response from Mr. J. Weckhuysen, a senior official at the Belgian Ministry of Posts.

The information is reproduced in full and it is unlikely that anything further will be forthcoming from this source. If members have or come across further details would they please send them to the Editor.

" The Postal Administration does not have documentation in respect of the Mols and Van Engelen stamps, as less importance was placed on the establishment of archives in those days.

As regards our principal items of equipment, I list below, year by year, the technical data and the dates of entry into and withdrawal from service at the Government Printers, Malines, from 1921 to 1979 inclusive;-

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| 1921 | Into service | three typographic printing presses and a complete set of equipment for constructing cliches. All these have long since been withdrawn from service. |
| 1927 | Into service | a rotary STICKNEY printing press |
| 1930 | Into service | JOHANNESBERG and INTAGLIO hand-presses for photogravure printing. The engraved copper plates were fixed on the cylinder. The JOHANNESBERG has not been used for postage stamps since 1952, although the INTAGLIO press is still used occasionally. |
| 1949 | Into service | GROVER perforators were used for the first time. Like the PHOENIX, they were rotary machines and were taken out of service in 1967. |
| 1950
to
1952 | Into service | 1) three typographic machines, i.e. a MIEHLE 41, a MIEHLE 29 and a MIEHLE V50. These machines had flat printing heads suitable for printing from cliches mounted in retaining plates. The MIEHLE 41 was taken out of service in 1974, the other two are still in use.

2) a WIFAG rotary press equipped to print monochrome stamps either by photogravure or by the recess method. This was the first machine in the works which from the initial roll of gummed paper, produced the finished article, that is it printed, sequence numbered, dated, perforated and cut to size the sheets of stamps. This was in use until 1978 and was purchased with the following main accessories;
-an installation for chromium-plating and de-chroming the cylinders (replaced in 1970)
-a coppering bath (replaced in 1979)
-an installation for hardening steel
-a sharpening machine for the perforators.
-a machine for testing perforation settings.
-a transfer rolling machine for the preparation of recess plates in steel. |
| 1956 | Into service | a second WIFAG rotary press. This is equipped for printing in 4 colour photogravure and 1 colour recess and can also combine in one operation 4 colour photogravure and 1 colour recess printing. |

- 1957 In service a rotary sheet-feed S.T.I.F. machine for 1 to 4 colour recess printing from steel cylinders. The sheets had to be perforated after printing. This press was exhibited in action at the Universal Exposition in 1958 and at Belgica 1972.
- 1960 In service another S.T.I.F. machine, rotary and web-fed, but able to recess print in up to 6 colours from steel cylinders as follows:-
three colours indirectly by means of an offset cylinder cased in rubber;
three colours directly onto the paper.
In the main it is commemorative or tourist-type stamps which are printed from this press.
- 1967 In service two KROLL heavy-duty perforators.
- 1970 In service a horizontal chromium-plating bath as well as a complete cleaning and dechroming installation.
- 1972 In service a web-fed rotary GOEBEL printing press with four sections for photogravure printing and a section for recess printing from steel in a maximum of 3 colours.
- 1973 In service a semi-automatic GOEBEL transfer rolling machine for preparation of steel recess printing cylinders.
- 1974 In service a ROTAFOLIO rotary typographic (surface) printing machine for sheet printing. This prints from plates from treated photographic originals which are then fixed to the cylinder. A bicoloured impression is possible at a single operation.
- 1978 In service a second GOEBEL press; this also is web-fed rotary press with one section for photogravure and one for recess printing from steel cylinders in up to 3 colours.
- 1979 In service a new coppering bath to re-copper cylinders

As far as concerns the Stickney machine, we no longer have any technical documentation giving its dimensions or mode of operation; the only information available to the Authority is as follows: It worked by recess printing in monochrome from steel, and for this, two printing plates 30cm x 52.5cm were set on the cylinder. Pressure was applied by a second cylinder driven by an endless belt. The machine was not equipped for overprinting.

It was, however, equipped with a gumming installation, a rotary perforator and a numbering mechanism. However the perforation system was not very good and was therefore not used; since then, sheets printed on this machine were perforated afterwards by a separate perforator. Moreover it was never used for stamps issued in very large numbers as technical difficulties happened as a result of the method of making the plates. "

(Editors note.- references in this list to typographic machines should be taken to mean LETTERPRESS machines which are used for relief or surface printing. Typography is a purely philatelic term used for surface printing while it is usually used to signify the art of displaying type faces to their best advantage. For further reading I recommend Fundamentals of Philately by L.N. & M. Williams -J.B.H.)

EXCHANGE IS NO ROBBERY?

Searching around for stamps of Common Market countries, I found a bundle of postcards (approximately 30) addressed to a Mr. Aratoon in Karachi from various European countries. I purchased several from each country and attempted a superficial translation which aroused my curiosity.

The following weekend, I acquired the remainder (probably paying too much) which really duplicated the story of the first few.

He was an Asian living in India as a teacher and had inserted an advert in various French stamp magazines offering to exchange Indian continent stamps for those of European countries. The resulting correspondence from Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Portugal and Swizerland is mainly dated 1907/8 and roughly translated (all were in French except a few English) indicates that he was either unable, or unwilling, to cope with the situation. Numerous cards are requesting a reply to their response or return of stamps or money for those sent. There is also reference to disputes about catalogue prices and money exchange rates.

Obviously his replies (if any) are not known but several cards mention that it is their third request for a reply.

Much of the correspondence appears to be from Stamp Dealers (!). A subsequent cover dated 1933 addressed to him in Uganda indicates a change of continent.

Stamp-wise the covers are unexciting, being all postcard rate, but as he appears to have moved from Karachi to Bombay in 1907, many have been re-addressed and franked up to eight times by various Indian District Post Offices in an attempt to locate him. Overall it would appear that he started in order to improve his own collection, took to dealing, had cash flow problems and possibly eventually left with dishonoured commitments.

If anybody is interested in Bombay District postmarks

R. T. Harrison

From Stamp Lover Volume II P142 December, 1909

Foreign Postmarks under Belgium by D. B. Armstrong

This country had for a brief period in the sixties a postal agency in Alexandria, Egypt, which was, however, discontinued when there ceased to be a line of steamships running between Antwerp and that port. As to stamps used and any form of obliteration with which they were cancelled, I regret I have no information. It seems highly probable that Belgium stamps were used in the Congo territories prior to the issue of special stamps for this region in 1885.

ANYONE WITH INFORMATION - PLEASE HELP.

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

It has been decided that an Auction will again be held on the day of the A G M which is being held on 24th April 1982. We hope that it can be much larger and to this end I ask you all to send lots to me, or to send me lists of lots, so that I can produce an auction list. This list will then be circulated prior to the A G M and I will accept POSTAL BIDS from members unable to attend the meeting, including bids from overseas members. Please get your lists of lots to me as soon as possible, write to me as follows:-

J B Horne, 7 Elm Drive, Bradley, Stafford, ST18 9DS.

Many thanks

EUROPEAN CURRENCY CONVERSIONS

during the 19th Century By J.H.L. Whiteside

This article originally appeared in the France and Colonies Journal and is reproduced here with their kind permission.

A simple description of postal history might be "The study of usage, routes and rates for the post, and the modes of transport". To many collectors the most puzzling of these can often be the postal rates. In this short summary the author has succinctly drawn together a very widely diversified group of facts, and correlated them into a very practical table, which should be of great use to those of us who wonder why 'this cover cost that much, or did it, on such a route.' One wonders why one has never seen it done like this before, as a base set of working facts for European Postal history. A last word, can any readers add to the details of this table, to extend its usefulness even further? (Editor)

From about 1840 onwards until the end of the 19th century, the various currencies used in European countries remained in a very stable relationship, despite internal changes in the units used.

The basis for establishing their relationship was usually the amount of a country's monetary units that could be minted from 1 mark of fine silver (233.855 grammes). For example, Prussia used a 14-Thaler standard, 14 Thalers being minted from 1 mark of silver.

If the standards used in various countries are known, they can be used for conversion. Some of these are:

France	52 $\frac{1}{2}$ francs each of 100 centimes
G.B.	42 shillings each of 12 pence
Holland	24 $\frac{3}{4}$ guilders each of 20 stuivers or 100 cents
Denmark	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ Riksdaler each of 96 skilling
Norway	Approximately 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ Speciedaler each of 120 skilling
Sweden (to 1857)	36.68 Riksdaler each of 48 skilling
Sweden (1858 on)	36.68 Riksdaler each of 100 ore
Austria (to 1857)	20 Gulden each of 60 Kreuzer
Austria (1858 on)	21 Gulden each of 100 (neu) Kreuzer
Austrian Italy	63 Lira each of 100 centesemi

In the various German States, the monetary system was extremely complex, but 3 basic systems can be distinguished:

Prussia, Saxony, The Northern states whose posts were administered by Thurn and Taxis and from 1858 onwards, Hanover, Brunswick and Oldenburg all used a 14 Thaler standard each divided into 30 silbergroschen or neu-groschen. Differences arose where the groschen was further subdivided into pfennigs, Prussia having 12 pfennigs per groschen and Saxony, Hanover and Brunswick, 10 pfennings per groschen.

Prior to 1858, Hanover and Brunswick divided the Thaler into 24 gutegroschen, and Oldenburg divided it into 12 grote each of 5 schwaren.

Baden, Bavaria, Wurttemberg and the Southern Thurn and Taxis states used a 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ gulden standard, each gulden divided into 60 kreuzer.

Hamburg and Lubeck used a Mark Courant, 35 minted from a mark of silver, divided into 16 schillings.

Mecklenburg used a 14 Thaler standard, each divided into 48 schillings.

Bremen used a Gold Thaler, of which about $12\frac{2}{3}$ were equivalent to a mark of silver. Each Thaler was divided into 72 grote.

After the North German Confederation was formed in 1868, the North German 14 Thaler standard each of 30 groschen and the South German $24\frac{1}{2}$ gulden standard each of 60 kreuzer continued to be used until the end of 1874.

The new German Imperial Mark was introduced in 1875, 42 marks each of 100 pfennigs being minted from 1 mark of silver.

The table that follows shows various coinages expressed in French currency. Some of these conversions are exact, but other have been rounded to the nearest centime or $\frac{1}{2}$ centime. These are indicated by an asterisk*

It is hoped that these may provide at least a guide to anyone interested in studying rates of trans-Europe entires. Some countries are not included particularly Switzerland and Italy other than Austrian Italy, because I have not yet traced exchange rates.

Belgium/Luxemburg	Equivalent to French	
G.B.	1 shilling	/1 franc, 25 centimes
Holland*	5 cents	= $10\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
Denmark*	1 skilling	= 3 centimes
Norway"	1 skilling	= 5 centimes
Sweden (to 1857)*	1 skilling	= 3 centimes
Sweden (1858 on)*	25 ore	= 35 centimes
Austria (to 1857)*	3 Kreuzer	= 13 centimes
Austria (1858 on)	2 Kreuzer	= 5 centimes
Prussia, N. Germany	1 (silber) groschen	= $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
Brunswick/Hanover (pre 1858)*	1 gutegroschen	= $15\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
Mecklenburg "	2 schilling	= $15\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
South Germany*	3 Kreuzer	= $10\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
Hamburg/Lubeck"	1 schilling	= $9\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
Bremen	2 grote	= $11\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
German Empire	10 pfennings	= $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes
U.S.A. *	1 dollar	= 5 francs, 20 centimes
Austrian Italy	30 centesimi	= 25 centimes

Sources: The principal sources used are the book "Hamburg" by D.S. Patton, and Murray's Guide to Northern Germany, 1856 edition.

Note: A version of this article showing the conversions to Dutch currency was published in 1977 in "The Netherland Philatelist"

BOOK REVIEW

My local Reference Librarian, knowing of my interest in Belgian matters, recently produced a reference book for my perusal. It is a Geographical Handbook on Belgium, produced in 1944 by the Naval Intelligence Division for issue to Commanding Officers for use in the event of a visit to a foreign country, in either wartime or peacetime.

The book was intended to be used as a basis for lectures to a ship's crew before visiting a foreign country, to improve their knowledge of that country and to help to avoid undiplomatic incidents, e.g. demanding whisky in a Belgian bar. The detail is considerable and extends way beyond a rating's likely interest as the series (which started in 1915) took on an increasingly strategic content, for example, dock sizes, industrial locations, railways, etc.

Unfortunately it contains little philatelic information excepts that in 1937 there were 1,717 post offices which dealt with 393.3 million letters. In 1935 the Post Office made a profit of £44m but alas by 1938 this was turned into a loss of £16m.

There is a long chapter on history and the languages, including the three dialects of Flemish and the three dialects of Walloon (from "Walah" newcomer - compare Welsh).

It is well supplied with maps and charts within its 680 pages and was produced by the staff of Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

In conclusion, interesting background history and information but otherwise of limited interest unless you want to know, for example, how many tractors and horses were working on the farms, the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever the speed of M.V. Albertville or the average rainfall at Charleville in say March!

Note: Originally on the restricted list for circulation to Naval Commanders, then Army and Air Force staff, and finally released post-war for general circulation to libraries, etc. R. T. H. 29.6.81

" N O S M I N I S T R E S " (OUR MINISTERS)

A small extract passed to me giving details of the various ministers with responsibility for the Posts during the 19th Century produced by Dr. Stibbe.

Ministres des Finances.

26.2.1831	De Brouckere	31.3.1834	Duvivier
24.7.1831	Coghen	4.8.1834	d'Huart

Ministres des Travaux publics.

13.1.1837	Nothomb	18.7.1848	Rolin	2.7.1870	Jacobs
18.4.1840	Rogier	12.8.1850	Van Hoore- beke	3.8.1870	d'Anethan
13.4.1841	Desmaisieres	30.3.1855	Dumon	12.9.1870	Wasseige
16.4.1843	Dechamp	9.11.1857	Partoes	7.12.1871	Moncheur
30.7.1845	d'Hoffschmidt	13.10.1858	Frere-Orban	23.10.1873	Beernaert
31.3.1846	de Bavey	14.1.1859	Van der Stichelen	19.6.1878	Saintelette
12.8.1847	Frere-Orban	3.1.1868	Jamar	5.8.1882	Olin

Ministres des Chemin de fer, Postes et Telegraphes.

16.6.1884	Vandenpeereboom	5.8.1899	Liebaert
-----------	-----------------	----------	----------

CALENDARS AND THEIR CHANGES

By George Henderson

The Julian & Gregorian calendars.

This article originally appeared in the France and Colonies Journal and is reproduced here with their kind permission.

My interest in this subject was aroused when sorting through a batch of correspondence between France and Finland about the turn of the century. What for instance is one to make of a letter posted in Paris 9 March 1897, transit-marked St. Petersburg 28 February and received Helsinki 13 March? The answer of course lies in the fact that certain countries, Russia among them, delayed until the first quarter of this century before changing from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.

The Earth takes 365 days, 6 hours and a few odd seconds to orbit the Sun. In 46 BC Julius Caesar instituted a calendar that allowed for the 6 hours by introducing leap years. But by the 16th Century the few seconds over had built up into a difference of 10 days between the natural and calendar years. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII sought to adjust the situation by ordaining that 5 October that year should become 15 October, and that henceforth only one in four end-of-century years should be leap years.

The change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar was adopted as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1582 | Italy, Portugal, Spain -
4 October was followed by 15 October |
| | France -
9 December was followed by 20 December |
| 1583 | Flanders & Holland -
21 December 1582 was followed by 1 January 1583 |
| | Prussia, Switzerland* & Roman Catholic states in Germany |
| 1586 | Poland |
| 1587 | Hungary |
| 1700 | Denmark & Switzerland (parts)*, Protestant states in Holland |
| 1700-1740 | Sweden |
| 1752 | Great Britain and its North American colonies -
3 September was followed by 15 September |
| 1872 | Japan |
| 1912 | China |
| 1915 | Bulgaria |
| 1918 | Russia -
1 February was followed by 15 February |
| | Turkey |
| 1919 | Romania & Yugoslavia |
| 1923 | Greece -
1 October was followed by 15 October |

* Switzerland's change was gradual, beginning in 1583 and being completed only in 1812.

Although it is easy to find - in Whitakers Almanack or any good encyclopedia - the years during which the changes occurred, the actual dates are considerably more elusive. A chance reference to the subject while I was talking to a Portuguese collector led him to produce a list from which most of the dates given in the above table are derived. I should be very grateful to hear from any collector who can supply dates for the other countries, or who possesses any letters that illustrate the actual change-over periods, e.g. France to Greece in October 1923.

The Republican calendar

Calendar problems are of course familiar to any one who collects French Postal history of the Napoleonic period. The standard work of reference, in which the dates of the "Calendrier Republicain" are matched with those of the Gregorian Calendar, is "Concordance des Calendriers Gregorien et Republicain" Paris 1963. The following table, which used to appear in the Bottin directory of France, gives the basic details of that ingenious - even poetic - but short lived system:

LE CALENDRIER REPUBLICAIN

Ce calendrier issu de la periode revolutionnaire ne fut employe que 13 ans. L'annee avait une duree de 365 jours (les annees bisextiles etaient reglees comme dans le calendrier ordinaire) et etait partagee en 12 mois de 30 jours, plus 5 ou 6 jours complementaires ajoutees a la fin de l'annee et reserves aux fetes republicaines. Ces mois recurent des noms poetiques inspires du moment de l'annee et dus a Fabre d'Eglantine:

Vendemiaire (epoque des vendanges)	Germinal (epoque de la germination)
Brumaire (epoques des brummes)	Floreale, (epoque des fleurs)
Frimaire (epoque des froids)	Prairial (epoque du beau moment pour les prairies)
Nivose (epoque des neiges)	Messidor (epoque des moissons)
Pluviose (epoque des pluies)	Thermidor (epoque de la chaleur et des bains)
Ventose (epoque du vent)	Fructidor (epoque des fruits)

On peut remarquer qu'en automne les mois se terminent par "aire", en hiver par "ose", au printemps par "al", en ete par "or" Chacun de ces mois etait divise en 3 decades de jours nommes respectivement:

primidi	Sextidi
duodi	septidi
tridi	octidi
quartidi	nonidi
quintidi	decadi

L'an 1 de ce calendrier parait due 22 septembre 1792, epoque de l'equinoxe d'automne et jour de la fondation de la Republique, quoique ce calendrier ne fut mis en usage qu'au 1 janvier 1794.

The republican calendar ceased to be used officially 11 Nivose an XIV (1st January 1806), although it continued to be used on letter with less and less frequency well into 1809.

STAMPED MARKS "DEPOSE AU GUICHET" of 1918/9

In his interesting work about temporary Belgian cancellations of 1918/9 R. Byl mentions the stamped marks "Depose au Guichet" among the marks "port-payé" (post-paid). He also gives the reproduction of two marks used in Audenaerde (Oudenaarde) and Hasselt.

Stamped marks of different kinds have been used during that period in order to point out that the carriage had been paid at the pay-desk; in addition to such stamped marks as "payé" (paid) or "port-payé" (post paid) we also meet marks such as "port paye au depart" (post paid at departure), "port percu" (carriage paid), "Affranchissement paye au depart" (stamps paid at the departure), "port paye au guichet" (post paid at the pay-desk), "Port paye au bureau" (post paid at the office), etc.,

On the other hand, the stamped mark "Depose au guichet" (given at the pay-desk) does not necessarily mean that the carriage has been paid. The reason for this is that this mark is to be found on free military envelopes only! (=O.H.M.S. ?). In fact, the instructions applicable after the war to military mail in Belgium were the same ones as the instructions applicable in France during the war.

The French soldiers did not pay for sending letters under 20 gr and post-cards as well, but they had to mail their letters in the pillar-boxes of their units or give them to the post orderly. When put into a civil pillar box, the letters were taxed after having received the stamped signature "Trouve a la boite" (found in the box).

There was, however, a problem for isolated military on detached service or on leave. From 31 August, 1914 onwards, the soldiers had to give their mail at the civil post-office and to present an official document stating their isolated military qualified them to obtain the free mail.

The official in charge then wrote "remis au guichet" (given at the pay-desk) on the mail. The Belgian soldiers had the same privileges as the French soldiers had, as to the right of the free mail was concerned, but they were also obliged to go to the civil pay desk in order to mail their letters when they were isolated. The same rules were applied in Belgium after the war and the instructions of February 1, 1919 reminded these different rules: isolated military had to give their mail at a pay-desk or to the postman in round. That mail had to wear the mark "Depose au guichet" (given at the pay-desk).

Though this stamped mark is often manuscript, it is to be noticed that a certain number of offices had a rubber stamp made. The wording varies slightly from one office to the other: we meet "Depose au guichet", "Depose guichet" or "Depot guichet" (all meaning "given at the pay desk").

Hasselt is the only one office known as having a bilingual stamped signature.

The postal military free mail was cancelled in Belgium October 1, 1919 after peace was made; wounded soldiers and ill soldiers in hospital and occupation troops, however, kept that privilege.

To conclude, it may be said that stamped signatures "Depose au guichet" or similar marks do not mean "port payé" (post paid). We only find them on military free mail and from that moment on they find their place in military marcophilatelic (?) collections, though the stamped marks were made in civil post-offices.

J. Rousseau.

This article was originally published in "Documentation 'Amicale Philatelique'" and is here republished with permission. Translation is by the kind good offices of our member Henri Charlier.

LIST OF KNOWN MARKS

Audenaerde	- Déposé au GUICHET	Violet stamp
Braine-l'Alleud	- Depôt au guichet	manuscript
Bruges I	- Dépose au Guichet	violet stamp
Charleroi 4	- déposé au guichet	manuscript
Diepenbeek	- * GUICHET * / * Diepenbeek *	black stamp
Eecloo	- winket	manuscript
Frameries	- GUICHET	black stamp
Gand I	- DEPOSE AU GUICHET	violet stamp
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> DEPOSE * AU * GUICHET </div>	black stamp
Gembloux	- →Déposé au Guichet	black stamp
Hasselt	WINKET AFGEGEVEN	black stamp
Herstal	DEPOSE AU GUICHET	manuscript
Kain	- guichet	manuscript
Kain	- DEPOSE AU GUICHET	black stamp
Knokke	- GUICHET	black stamp
Liege I	- DEPOSE AU GUICHET	black & violet stamp
Liege 3	- Déposé au guichet	red stamp
Maeseyck	- DEPOSE AU GUICHET	black stamp
Mons I	- déposé au cuichet	manuscript
Mouscron	- guichet	manuscript
Panne	- GUICHET	violet stamp
St. Bernard (Hemiksem)	- → GUICHET ←	violet stamp
Tournai I	- Depose Guichet	black stamp
	- guichet	manuscript
Tournai 2	- guichet	manuscript
Welkenraedt	- DEPOSE AU GUICHET	black stamp
	- Déposé au guichet	manuscript

Mail of the members of the Belgian Mission at the British G.H.Q. was given at the pay desk with one of the following cancellations.

- MISSION BELGE - G.Q.G. BRIT.^{que}
 REMIS AU GUICHET
 NE PAS TIMBRER

 red & violet stamp
- MISSION BELGE - G.Q.G. BRIT.^{que}
 REMIS AU GUICHET

 red stamp

Mail with one of these cancellations has more particularly been given at Binche, Mons and Namur.

Reproduction de quelques marques.

MISSION BELGE - C. Q. G. BRIT^{que}
REMIS AU GUICHET
NE PAS TIMBRER

WINKET AFGEGEVEN
DÉPOSE AU GUICHET

MISSION BELGE - C. Q. G. BRIT^{que}
REMIS AU GUICHET

HASSELT

~~DE~~ GUICHET ~~DE~~

DÉPOSE AU GUICHET

ST BERNARD

MAESEYCK

DEPOSE
* AU *
GUICHET

DÉPOSÉ AU GUICHET

GENT I

GENT I

DEPOSE AU GUICHET
← →

Dépose au G ICHET

DEPOSÉ AU GUICHET

WELKENRAEDT

AUDENAERDE

LIEGE I

GUICHET

DÉPOSE GUICHET

Depose au guichet

KNOKKE

TOURNAI I

LIEGE 3

Déposé au Guichet

→ GUICHET ←
Diepenbeek

BRUGES

Service Militaire
Lequel au guil. et
Mademoiselle
Marie Guichet

*100 Rue de la Harpe
 Paris 5^e arr.
 M. Guichet*

POST CARD
 THIS SIDE FOR CORRESPONDENCE **BUICHET** SIDE FOR ADDRESS.

SA KNOX
17-25
6 STAM
IV HB
19

M^{lle} Apollonie
Bremon
Rue Gatin 89

58 Rue de la Harpe
Paris 5^e arr.
M. Guichet

21^e rue de la Harpe
5^e arr. Paris

100 Rue de la Harpe
Paris 5^e arr.
M. Guichet

British Museum Through
22

No 21
100 Rue de la Harpe
Paris 5^e arr.
M. Guichet

6 of 2 compaignes
1^{re} D. G.
Gand stant
Tracy Jay

BRUXELLES BEL
1-2
4 VII
19
DEPOSE AU GUICHET

GENT
9-10
19
DEPOSE AU GUICHET

M^{lle} Apollonie
Bremon
Rue Gatin 89

SM

MAJUFFER
Guillaume Laguerre
Famille Girard n: 15
Antwerpen

MAJUFFER
DEPOSE AU GUICHET

MAJUFFER
DEPOSE AU GUICHET

An interesting item from the column "Uit eigen land" (from our own country) from KWARTAABBLAD VOOR FILATELIE, Volume 3 Number 2, June, 1978.

(Translation Dutch to English by A. B. De Lisle)

New issue for Postage Stamp Day (First Day of Normal Issue, 17th April, 1978; advance sale on the 15th and 16th of April, 1978 in Andrimont, Berchem, Brussels, Dinant, Houthalen, Lauwe, Lokeren, Neufchateau and Wagenies)

A stamp of 8 Frank in red-brown, black and bistre, with a reproduction of the 5 Frank Leopold II stamp with a First Day of Issue cancellation of 1 April, 1878. Printed by photogravure on phosphorescent paper. Printing : 10 million stamps. Plate numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

It was undoubtedly a good thought to depict a philatelic Centenary on this issue of 1978. Also the choice of using a cancelled copy was entirely justified, if for no other reason than to give a boost to the collecting of used stamps. However, we were very astonished that the Philatelic Committee, in which experienced and esteemed philatelists serve, could have given their approval for an impossible 5 F Leopold II reproduction, which was obtained by photomontage of an unused copy of the stamp and a date type cancellation from Zele, from the collection of the Postal Museum. To clarify our position, we give the following 'special points' which were apparently missed by the members of the Philatelic Committee:

- There is no known example of the 5 Frank Leopold II stamp with a first day cancellation, 1 April 1878;
- from 1863 to 1 December 1878, Zele was at most a 5th class Post Office and therefore on 1 April 1878, it would not have had any 5 F stamps (these were distributed only to the 146 Post Offices of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th class);
- this fictitious cancellation does not have the double hour indication "M" (matin = morning) or "S" (soir = afternoon) which would have been used in 1878.
- This type of cancellation first came into general use on 1 May 1897 in accordance with the service order of 23 February 1897.

Other than the dubious cancellation, we look upon this new issue as one of the best and most successful productions of the last few years.

And as a plus point it can be noted that the advance sale cancellation (First Day Cancellation) maintained a uniform motif, namely a likeness of Leopold II.

(Can any member say when the double hour indication "M" or "S" was introduced: was it in 1857? - EDITOR.

ELSTROM ISSUE

Can members with items from this issue of Military or Railway usage on cover please either bring them to the next meeting or pass details to Reg. Harrison, who is co-ordinating a display and study on this issue.

This article originally appeared in N/L 123 - November 1972 and is reproduced for the benefit of newer members.

Some suggestions as to how to commence a study may be of interest to some of our newer members.

The undermentioned are desirable, if not essential:-

1. A good knowledge of French up to "O" level standards; this, with a good French dictionary enables one to understand most articles on stamps in French. These days a knowledge of Flemish is also desirable.
2. A thorough knowledge of the various methods of stamp production. The following books will provide this:-
 - (a) The Fundamentals of Philately by L.N. & N. Williams.
 - (b) An Introduction to Advanced Philately by A.J. Sefi.
 - (c) Postage Stamps in the making by F.J. Melville revised by John Easton.

The above can sometimes be borrowed through a Public Library.

3.
 - (a) A good magnifying glass.
 - (b) An accurate perforation gauge.
 - (c) A reliable means of measuring.
 - (d) A "Thirkell" position finder.

From 1868 until 1913 all Belgian stamps were printed at Malines and, except for the 1884 issue all the plates were made there too, so that there are many similarities between the various issues. But there are also unexpected differences.

During the 1914-1918 War, both Waterlow Brothers and Layton & Waterlow were employed on Belgian stamp production, and after the War, Enschedes of Haarlem printed several issues before the Printing Works (Atelier due Timbre) got into full swing again.

Having decided what issue to study, one should read all the available articles on that issue and on other stamps produced by the same printers at about the same time in order to have some idea of the scope of one's study.

The following notes apply mainly to surface printed stamps. When the material for study is assembled it is advisable to put to one side all blocks, pairs, mint stamps and marginal copies since:-

- (1) Blocks enable one to form an opinion as to the method of perforation used; they also show up variations in the size of perforation holes.
- (2) Mint copies clearly show differences in shade and gum (if any).
- (3) Marginal copies easily reveal differences in paper.
- (4) All multiples assist in disclosing the make-up of the printing base and should enable one to establish the size of the "report-block" used in building up the plate if enough material is available.

All multiples should be examined especially for:-

- (1) Varieties recurring once in every verticle row, in alternate rows, or once in every twenty-five stamps.
- (2) Mis-alignment certically, which would indicate the bottom of one report block and the top of another, or of a substituted cliché.
- (3) Accurate measurement of the spacing between horizontal rows is of great assistance in reconstructing report blocks.

In my opinion, the best way of dealing with single copies of used stamps is to sort them according to the type of cancellation; circular date stamps, slogan post-marks and pre-cancels. Often one is able to reunite broken pairs in this process.

These can be mounted on loose sheets so that it is possible to examine each sheet, make appropriate remarks and if necessary, remove **and** remount any constant varieties which have been noted in the multiples which have already been examined.

The frequency of such varieties can help in establishing their status and dated copies help to show whether one or two plates were used for one value.

To illustrate these notes, which I hope will be of use, Circle Studies over the recent years have shown that **two** plates were used for the 1 centime 1907 Type II and the 5c centime 1912. Furthermore the spacing between the horizontal rows varies considerably for the 2c 1912 and the 10c. "Small Head" 1912; these facts help to prove that a report block of fifty was used for the 2c. value and report blocks of twenty-five for the 10c. Small Head.

To conclude, the unit of study is not the individual stamp, but the report block of 25 subjects or the pane of 50 or 100 subjects.

The ultimate object of my studies is to reconstruct the printing base or bases used for each stamp, and to give details so that every report block or pane in the plate can be identified.

I've still got a long way to go!

Geoffrey Wood

BELGIË * 1982

This International Exhibition takes place in Brussels on 11th to 19th December 1982. The Exhibition will be restricted to Postal History, Postal Stationary and Aerophilately. I have received initial details of this event and learn that initial Application forms are to be returned to the British Commissioner by 8th January 1982.

The British Commissioner is:-

Mrs Hilary Wellsted,
11 Thornwood Close, South Woodford, London E18 1RH
(Tel. 01-989-4554)

THE THWARTED JOURNEY OF A FIRST WORLD WAR COVER

The cover, which has the name of "HOPE & CO. AMSTERDAM" printed in capitals in the top left hand corner, is addressed to "Messieurs Colin & Cie, Societe due Familistere de Guise, Guise (Aisne) France. " It is franked with a 12½ cent Dutch stamp which is cancelled with a Dutch double ring short bridge postmark of the Amsterdam - Antwerpen Travelling Post Office and is dated the 15th of March, 1915.

There is a black single ring mark of 26½ mm diameter on the reverse which reads around the inside of the ring "Lieu De Destination EnVahi" and there is a small five pointed star between the words ENVAHI and LIEU.

The obverse of the cover carries the black rectangular boxed (34½mm x 11½mm) "RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR" in two lines. It was presumably at this stage that the address was crossed out in red and a red line drawn under the "AMSTERDAM" referred to in the first sentence of the first paragraph above.

The end of the story is provided by the small double ring arrival mark of Amsterdam which appears on the reverse of the cover and is dated the 30th April, 1915.

Thus the cover spent some 6½ weeks in transit during which time it received the transit marks referred to above.

These Transit marks would, since they are in French, seem to have been applied in Belgium before any marking and/or opening by the Censors was done. Mail for Belgium from Holland would, at this date, have normally been directed through the German Censor Office at Aachen and I had previously assumed that the Dutch Authorities would have directed such mail to Aachen. However, perhaps this was not always the case such as mail on the Amsterdam - Antwerpen T.P.O. which could have been forwarded by the Belgian postal authorities, acting under German supervision, to Aachen in sealed mail bags.

If anyone has any information relating to the above, I should be glad to hear from them either directly or preferably through the medium of our Newsletter. In particular where were the transit marks applied - Antwerp?

One further point - Guise during March and April of 1915 was occupied by the Germans but was not, I think, too near the front line although it was very probably within the restricted zone imposed by the Germans.

P. H. Rollinson.

WATERLOW SOCIETY

This Society was formed in June 1981 with the aim of investigating specialised subjects relating to the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., and Waterlow Bros. & Layton for all countries.

The Belgian Study Circle became a founder member and in fact two of its members were at the first meeting. While it is not possible for a lot of members to attend there is the opportunity if required for individual members to attend specific meetings if they can offer help. In addition there is a Journal published and a copy is held by the Circle and may be examined. As members can see the range is immense, covering all stamps printed by Waterlows and I am sure that a great deal of information will eventually be available. Individual membership is also available, please refer to a Circle officer if you wish to join, as against participating via the Circle membership. Relevant information relating to Belgium will be published in Belgapost in due course.

On page 13 of Belgapost the question was posed:-

"at what date did it become obligatory to affix adhesive stamps to letters - was it later than 1858?"

Very little information has reached me so that I am unable to print an answer for you, but I am giving you below a little more information.

I have to thank Arnold Cuigniez for providing me with the extract, which came from the "Notices Historiques" a very useful book issued by the Postal Museum Bruxelles. I then called on our member Henri Charlier who very kindly translated it for me.

Extract. " 1849 Postal Reform = Postage simplification!

The issue of the first three stamps of the Kingdom and the placing of additional pillar-boxes in rural areas.

Previously, postal charges were in general paid to the postman who delivered the letters to you at home. These receipts were returned to the receiving office, so all postal charges exceptionally paid at the time of sending implied either the sending of funds or a deduction where a compensation system had previously been established.

The general introduction of the pre paid system with stamps means the end of the book keeping at the delivery office. Ordinary letters are no longer recorded on lists of names by the postal departments. This means the end of a considerable amount of work that had been necessary until then, but with the ever increasing postal sendings would have made the work impossible. Another point is that with this reform there was the general need for the introduction of letter boxes at the front door of the houses, to help the postman deliver the mail."

IN MEMORIUM

It is with great regret that we have to report the death during the Summer months of two notable Belgian Postal Historians. Both have been good friends of the Circle and of members of the Circle over the years.

M. Raoul Hubinot whose interests included the early Airmails of Belgium and the Postal History of World War 1 in all its aspects.

Col. Lucien Herlant the great authority on the Postal History of the Pre-Stamp period.

Their help in elucidating various problems will be greatly missed by all. Our sympathy is extended to their families in their loss. AGW

Members will see in the notes with this Journal that it is proposed to publish a revised edition of Col Herlant's nine books on the Pre-Stamp period on One Volume, that will be a memorial to him. No price announced yet. Details of how to order, or at least express an interest appear on a separate sheet, with other items for members to complete and return. (Ed.)