BELGAPOST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

— relating to all aspects of Belgian Philately —

— — — — — —

VOLUME   TWO

I hope you will like the latest offering. I have obtained for you translations
of several articles -The 1 fr Tin Hat by Leo Tavano is an intersting and important
and I have decided to serialise the Railway Stamp Article, it should run to at least
20 pages. At last we have a record of the display to the France and Colonies Society.
I have been taken to task re the small print of some reprinted articles and trust the
present offering is better (I have enlarged the Austria item from its normal print
size!) I end this issue with two articles that have been produced to go with
displays arranged for the Wednesday 17th September meeting of the Circle at Congress
at Norwich. Jack Andrews, who is being awarded the Congress Medal,is showing us
Belgium, 1450 to 1790, and Reg Harrison is showing the Elstrom Issue. I am sure that
you will all want a copy of these notes and I have therefore published them for you
in advance of the display. Copies of the notes with a covering sheet will be given
to all our visitors at Congress. Note also that Following Congress we have a weekend
meeting at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett, Norwich, and I do hope that some members,
in addition to those notified as attending, will be able to join us, if only for a
day or part of a day. Balasse Magazine-an Index and Belgian Philately-The Literature
List have been published and have been well received, sales are encouraging and
should cover the cost of this edition of Belgapost.

I am about to publish a new work;- The German Occupation of Belgium 1914 - 1918,
by Reg Harrison. It runs to about 70 pages and will be sent to members shortly at a
cost of £6 .00. I should then cover production costs so that I can then publish
other works that are in the preparatory stages.

Contents

J B H 8.86

To fill this last space — I need more articles from you please,
No matter how long or how short, or how obscure , please write to me.
Articles do not have to be typed, provided that I can read your writing!
                                           jbh

This article was published in the newsletter of the Cercle Paul de Smeth and has kindly been translated by Dr Jack Gibbs.

A VERY INTERESTING STAMP :

COB 175

"Roi casqué" 1fr. orange

by Leo TAVANO

GENERAL DETAILS

Of all the postage stamp issues of Belgium, the one for King Albert "casque" is without question the most famous.

Of the fourteen values which make up this set, the 2 fr lilac stamp is the rarest and therefore the most sought after.

However, the most interesting stamp to study from the point of view of the engraving is certainly the 1 fr orange. It is a stamp which deserves more attention from philatelists!

The "Roi Casque " set is a commemorative issue, issued in 1919 in honour of victory; for this reason the printing was rather limited for the values above 25 centimes.

The stamps from 35 centimes to 10 francs are often more difficult to find in good condition used rather than mint.

35 cent olive brown	printing :	300,000	1 plate
40 cent vermilion		300,000	1 plate
50 cent brown		300,000	1 plate
1 franc orange		100,000	2 plates
2 francs lilac		30,000	2 plates
5 francs carmine lake		30,000	1 plate
10 francs claret		30,000	1 plate

This issue designed by Jean DE BAST and engraved by Henri CHEFFER of Paris was recess-printed by the Dutch firm Enschede and Sons of Haarlem.

Prepared with great care, several plates show retouches among them principally the two plates of the 1 franc orange.
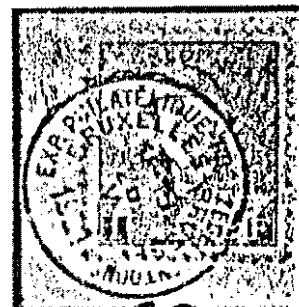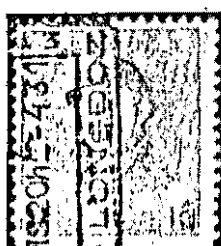
1 Fr Orange (C O B No 175)

        date of issue: 25 October 1919
        printing :   100,000 copies
        sheets of 25 stamps (5 x 5)
        plates :   Nos 1 and 3 .
        retouches :   plate 1 - 11 stamps
                           plate 3 -   4 stamps
        position of the retouches :
            plate 1 : 5 , 6 , 7, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24.
            plate 3 : 7,   9 , 21, 23.

The retouches affect the upper and left side frame lines. Up to now, no catalogue lists all the retouches of this stamp ; the few articles dealing with this matter lack precise details of the positions of the said retouches. Here I hope to fill these gaps.

N B . : the printing of 100,000 stamps divided by 25 gives 4,000 sheets,that is, 2,000 sheets for each plate.

Plate 1 : 2,000 sheets each with 11 retouches = 22,000 retouched stamps

Plate 3 : 2,000 sheets each with 4 retouches = 8,000 retouched stamps

Which gives us a total of 30,000 retouched stamps (= the printing of the 2 fr!)

Each retouched stamp has therefore an individual total of 2,000 copies. This shows therefore the interest in searching for and the difficulty of putting together a complete range of the 15 different retouches.

A very good stamp mint, the 1 fr orange is, in my opinion, rarer used, especially on cover or document.

On a non-philatelic cover, it is almost impossible to find. Used retouched stamps are therefore very desireable
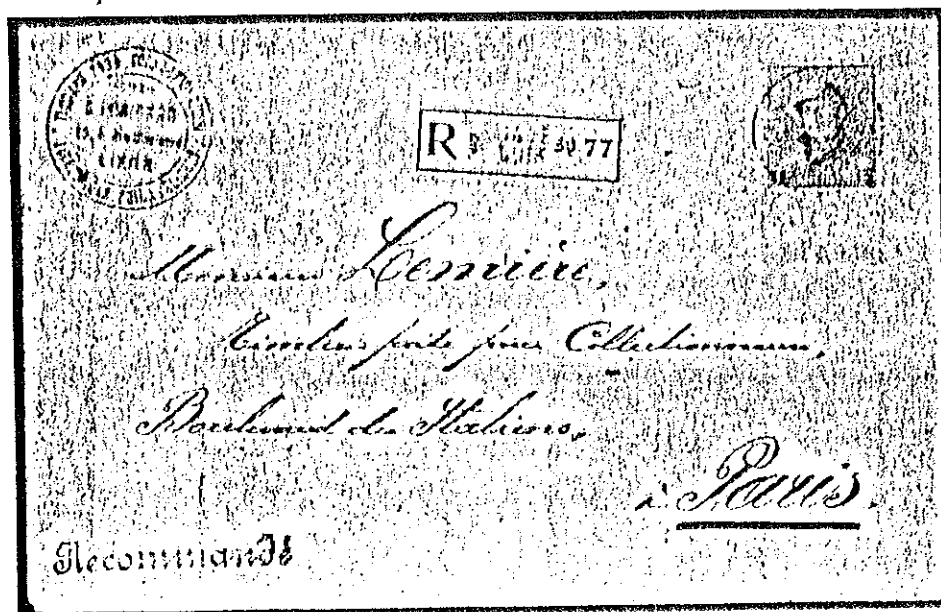
1919 "Roi casqué" 1fr. orange RETOUCHES

PLATE 1

1 / 5   recutting of the upper frame lines to the right: recutting of the left side frame lines : from the top corner to the level of the peak of the helmet.

1 / 6   Recutting of the upper frame lines and thickening of the outer frame (from the 1st E to Q of Belgique).

1 / 7   Marked recutting of the upper left corner (11 diagonal lines)

1 / 12   Recutting of the upper frame lines and thickening of the outer frame (from above the L to the right corner).

1 / 14 /   Slight recutting of the upper frame lines and thickening of the outer frame (from above the L to the right corner.

1 / 15   Minor recutting near the upper right corner (4 lines).

1 / 19   Minor recutting of the right upper corner (5 short lines): recutting of the left side frame lines (from the top corner to the level of the peak of the helmet).

1 / 20   Slight recutting of the upper frame near the left corner: strengthening of the inner frame line

1 / 22   Recutting of the upper frame lines: from the left corner to the level of the U .

1 / 23   Marked recutting of the upper frame lines and the background lines: from above ELG: slight recutting of the right corner (Stamp with Plate No 1 .)

1 / 24   Slight recutting of the upper frame lines above BE, deformed lower frame line.

PLATE 3

3 / 7   Slight recutting at the top left corner (10 diagonal lines), thickening of the outer upper frame to right.

3 / 9   Slight recutting of the upper left corner (7 diagonal lines)

3 / 21   Slight recutting of the background lines to the right of the last E of Belgique (5 diagonal lines)

3 / 23   Slight recutting to the top frame lines in the left corner and above the LG of Belgique (Stamp with Plate No 3.).

Pl. 1

				5
6	7			
	12		14	15
			19	20
	22	23	24	

1

Pl. 3

	7		9	
21		23		

3

1919 "Roi casqué„ 1fr. orange

RETOUCHES

Planche I

1919 "Roi casqué„ 1fr. orange

RETOUCHES

Planche I

I-23

I-24

1

Planche III

III-7

III-9

III-24
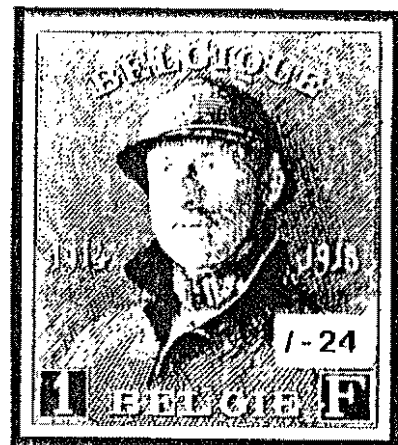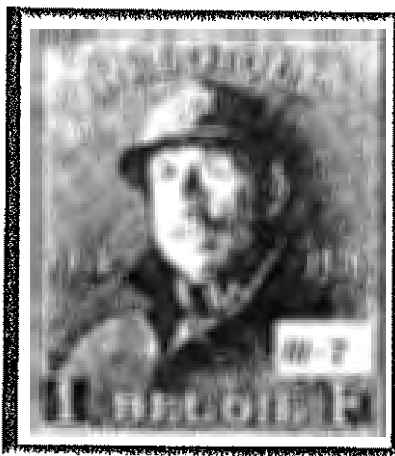
III-23

Display by the Belgian Study Circle to the France and Colonies Philatelic Society on Wednesday 27th April 1983

Displays by:- S J Andrews, D Beresford-Johnson, A Cuigniez, Dr J Gibbs H Green, R T Harrison, T A Hancock, N J Martin, A G Wood.

The history of Belgium has at many times been marked by foreign influences In fact there were only brief periods prior to independence in 1830 when Belgium was not under some extent of foreign presence or domination. The many Wars that have been waged on her soil and the respective occupations have left very clear impressions on her postal history. More than that of any other country,the influence of France manifests itself and ranges from the early wars of Louis XIV to the joint Franco-Belgian administration of the Givet/Fumay region during World War I

Earliest postal examples of the French influence were from the Dutch War of 1672-1678 when the armies of Louis XIV followed the River Meuse in what were then the Spanish Netherlands into the United Provinces of Holland. Two copy letters of 1678 from Military camps at Ghent and Ypres were shown,both signed by the great reformer of the French army, the Marquis de Louvois, as well as a letter from the German mercenary Duke of Schomberg who served in the French Army from 1650

The first full occupation, still during the reign of Louis XIV was during the War of the Spanish Succession(1701-1714). It is from this period that the first hand-struck town marks are known, mostly used in towns under french occupation. An example of one of these scarce markings was that of on a letter of 1698. Other letters from the period included a letter   TOVRNAY with "de furnes" in manuscript of 1705 and an interesting letter from a soldier serving in the army of the Earl of Stair writing home about the War

Postal evidence of the french occupation during the War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748) was far more widespread. Hand-struck postmarks had by then become widely used, and several examples from occupied towns were shown. These included a rare mark   T^RNAY   dating from 1747 and an unusual type of marking in negative from Mons.   MONS

A variety of military markings are known from this period, and examples displayed were   AB   of 1745 prior to the battle of Fontenoy standing not for"Army Bag"as once thought but for"Armee Brittanique" and a letter with   AM·DEFLANDRE   sent during the period of truce prior to the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748. An interesting letter sent from Belgium to France addressed to Sir Richard Warren seems to confirm that this was a nom-de-plume used by Bonnie Prince Charlie while in France as the addressee is referred to as "your majesty".   D'A B

Postal evidence of the French influence during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) is not widespread.   Copies of the once problematic "d'Angleterre par Bruxelles" indicates influence at a somewhat later date (1780)

The brief occupation by the French from November 1792 to March 1793 is less well documented than the later period of the 'departements conquis', and has left no distinct evidence in the postal markings. However a mark in red of |TOURNAY.   was shown to illustrate the period when the province of Hainaut was annexed by France as Departement No 86(Jemappes).

Next came a large selection of the Departement Conquis. The 'normal' types of markings from this period,viz unpaid, paid and debourse are well known even if thevariety of their forms is less so, and many examples were shown covering every department.

These markings apart, there is a great diversity of other material. Examples shown were a letter from Eupen showing its 'nonrevolutionaire of NEAU as well as a letter from the same town with the printed heading "Departement de l'Ourthe, Canton d'Eupen". The many army markings of the period were illustrated and included an example of the cachet of the civilian people's representative with the army.   Amongst the more unusual documents of the period were a money order with the postmark "93/ANVERS" and a handstruck "DEUX NETHES" as part of the text, and a receipt for a registered letter sent

from Ghent to Menin in 1809. Other examples of the diversity of material from the period were a letter from Liege on paper with a medallion portrait of Napoleon, entry marks, many types of franchise marks, early datestamps, and the "marques postales doubles" of the bureaux de distribution and direction on the same letter.

The next part of the display began with a selection of the postal markings from the brief period of independence after the French expulsion in 1814. Examples included a letter from Mons to London prior to the battle of Waterloo showing the use of a marking from the period truncated by the removal of the departmental number.

P   P

MONS

The Dutch period (1815-1830) when Belgium became part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands showed the French influence mainly in the application of international postal conventions, and was illustrated by the rayon and entry marks which became widespread. The early rayon marks were LPB1R, LPB2R and LPB3R for Belgium,

L.P.B.2.R

(LPB4R and LPB5R applied only to

Holland itself, although LPB3R was used more widely for Dutch than Belgian towns) standing for "Lettre pays-Bas premier(second or troisieme)Rayon"as appropriate. These marks were used from 1818 to 1836 when new types were introduced to read B1R, B2R, B3R, B4R and B5R (Belgique premier Rayon etc)

B.4.R   B3R   B.2.R.

These were used until 1848 , and were at first truncated versions of the earlier marks

An interesting marking used from 1848-1849 was "R.FRONT "standing"for Region Frontiere"on mail circulating within 30kms of the border on the Belgian side and 40kms on the French side. Also shown were examples of mail from the brief Estafette service from Antwerp to Paris which lasted only from 1833 to 1835.

Mail to the United Kingdom has from time to time been routed either via France or Belgium according to the circumstances of the times, but for many years Calais was the most used route; even if not the quickest. From the 1860's onwards the Ostend route became more prominent probably because the Ostend-Brussels route was more direct. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 gave emphasis to the need for a route avoiding French territory. As a result of the Convention of 1857 it was possible to send mail to the UK via Calais with next day delivery still being assured if the Ostend packet was missed. Mail was shown to illustrate the surcharge required for this route of 20 centimes (later 10 centimes) in addition to the normal rate of 30 centimes for the Ostend service.

The World War I period too was very rich in French influence, and perhaps the best example of this was the seat of the Belgian Government in exile in the le Havre suburb of Ste Adresse. Although le Havre was eventually chosen, there were several other alternative offers. Amongst the more unusual items shown were the cancellations of the le Havre Central Telegraph Office, use of the Tresor and Postes postmark by Belgian nationals and mixed French and Belgian frankings. The latter was an unusual concession granted: the valid use of another countries stamps on French territory. Other items from the period reinforced its diversity : mail sent from France to Belgium by the French Green Cross Committee, an unusual Poste Militaire Belge in Blue, and postcards sent from the Belgian military hospitals in France at Auvours (le Mans) and Beausecours (Rouen). Many French Patriotic postcards were issued to the Belgian troops, and examples of these were shown including from the unoccupied Yser 'enclave' on the north-west French border. There was also a variety of early censor closure labels and markings showing mail censored at either Calais or Folkestone.

Examples followed of mail from the Givet/Fumay and Maubeuge areas of France which after June 1915 were attached to the Postal Administration of Belgium These included 'Germania' stamps overprinted for use in the areas, the use of mixed frankings, and the many types of Feldpost and censor markings.

A most interesting ending to the display was a collection of the little known Belgian post office in France during World War II. This was the subject of an article in the D S C Newsletters 81/201 & 82/211 (Belgian PO in Moissac: 1940 period).

With acknowledgment to S J Andrews, R T Harrison & A G Wood.

N J Martin

The following notes on this stamp may be of interest.

I will state the position, there were eight panes of 100 used for this value and they do not occupy the same position in the printing base in the various printings. All the combinations are not yet known; a distinguishing variety for each pane is listed below.

The positions are :   Top Left   I   II   Top Right

                             Bottom Left   III   IV   Bottom Right

Although the position of the panes for the 1915 printings is known, the composition of the printing bases has not yet been established, so the individual panes are referred to by letters.

The following summarises the printings as at present known :-

Printing	1915	1919 early	1919 late	1920 mid	1920 late	1921
Pane A	II	I		I	I	I
B	III				II	II
C (red cross)	III		III			
D	IV	II		I or II		
T	I				IV	IV
X	IV					
Y	II	III		III	III	III
Z	I	IV	IV			
		A D		A ?D	A B	A B
		Y Z		Y	Y ?T	Y T
		Armstrong		AGW	AGW	Brussels Postal Museum

The known Depot Marks are:-   1915   1919   1920   1921   1922

                                     AA   A.B.   A'BC   ABCD   BC

Further from a study of used stamps which can be alloted to a pane and from the overprinted stamps it appears that pane X was used only for the 1915 printings, Pane C for 1915 Red Cross and late 1919, Pane Z 1915, early 1919, late 1919, and Pane D 1915, early 1919 and probably mid 1920.

Most of the overprinted stamps that I have for the Allemagne Duitschland Eupen, Malmedy districts are in the red brown shade of the early 1919 printing

          The dates of issue are:-
          Allemagne Duitschland   20.9. 1919 stamps from pane Y
          Malmedy   20.3. 1920 stamps from pane Y
          Eupen   20.3. 1920 stamps from panes d & Y

Although the Eupen and Malmedy stamps were issued on 15.1.20 ,before those for the individual territories. they are not on the red brown shade but come from the late 1919 printing from panes C III Z IV and A and Y. It is possible that this issue was decided upon after the Eupen stamps and the Malmedy stamps had been printed.

          This resume does I hope show why some secondary varieties (those which are peculiar to one pane) are so much commoner than others.

          A close study of other values of this issue would undoubtedly yield similar results.

Distinctive varieties.

de H = De Haene   K = Kicken   L = Leveque

Pane a   36   S   (D) The upper right corner of the white frame of
          the BELGIE shield is continued to the right and runs in-
          to the background lines (K70, L130).

Pane b   33   S   (F) Lower coloured frame line and the final E
          of BELGIE are covered with white lines (de H 112, K57,
          L131).

Pane c   50   S   (D) The lower right corner of the right shield
          is continued to the right (de H47, K184, L378).

Pane d   81   S   (F) White spot on the I of BELGIQUE joining it
          to the white line above (de H91, K18, L18).

Pane t   7   S   (E) White spur on the inside of the left O (de
          H34, K 156, L319).

Pane x   60   S   (D) Patch of colour in the last ornament on the
          left and fine white spur on the lower right part of
          this ornament (K 102, L226) also small dent in left
          frame 8 1/2 mm from top left corner.

Pane y   85   S   (A) The 18th pearl on the left is joined to the
          oval (de H89, K 197, L412).

Pane z   84   S   (F) The upper part of the right frame of the
          right shield is deformed by a white patch (de H 109,
          K 165, L358).

The Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund

The late Stuart Rossiter made a will which, after providing for his mother during her lifetime, will mean that a substantial sum of money will be available for the promotion of research into postal history and the publication of the useful results of such research.

The bulk of the money which will eventually come to the Trust represents the proceeds of sale mainly of Stuart Rossiter's collections of material related to East Africa and the opening up of that part of Africa by Livingstone, Stanley and other well known explorers. The amount which will fall into the Trust Fund eventually is substantial, that is to say it will be a Fund in six figures.

The Charity Commissioners have approved Stuart Rossiter's Trust Fund as a charity as was Stuart Rossiter's wish. The charity number is 292076 and the date of the governing instrument which is a Trust Deed is 3 June 1985.

The Trustees of the Fund are Jack Andrews, Bill Hart and Robert Johnson, who will be known to many postal historians the world over. There is no money available to the Trust at the moment because Stuart's mother is, as everyone would wish, very much alive and well.

This notice is being published to draw the attention of any interested person or body to the existence of this charity. Any person who would wish to know more about the Fund for the purpose of making a gift or making a bequest or giving a covenant should write to the correspondent Trustee who is R. I. Johnson of 30 Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS99 7QQ. Reference 6/48588.

STATISTICS ON THE LARGE SINGLE CIRCLE POSTMARKS

by Harry Green

Statistics presented here are connected with certain details in H Koopman's book on the Large type Single Circle Postmark, introduced in 1875/6. This new cancel followed the small double circle type used after the cessation of the numerical diamond dots cancel in 1864, and which remained in use until 1872/3

The following details concern the large single circle type cancellation to be found on the 10 centimes green of the 1869 Issue, really commenced their use in 1875 onwards for the next 8 years, up to 1883.

It is stated that the total issue of this 10 centimes stamp was about 365 million and it was replaced with the introduction of the 10centimes carmine on 15th July 1884.

The Koopman book lists some 1300 Town names, and out of this number some 483 Towns with P O 's were not opened until after 1883, so they are not to be found on the 10 c green stamp, and means that only around 800 Town names are to be found on this stamp.

M. Koopman goes on to give a valuation of the stamps which have a clear strike of the Town name on a good copy of the 10c green, and following his tables of valuation one can also gain an approximate idea of rarity. The higher the value the rarer is the strike.

Against the Town name in his lists will be found a number in the first column.

Any Town having a number from :—

1 to 5	would have a value of	50 / 75 fcs B
6		60 fcs B
7		75/80 fcs B
8		85 / 110 fcs B
10		150 fcs B
Following this (R)	would be valued at	250 fcs
(R R)		400 fcs
and (RRR)		600 fcs

In other words

1 to 5	would be considered common
6,7 & 8	not so common
10	quite scarce
(R)	Rare
(RR)	Very Rare
(RRR)	Almost impossible

Taking the current exchange rate at 68fcs B to the £ these valuations would be around

	1 to 5	up to	75p to £1.30
	6	about	90p
	7		£1.30
	8		£1.50
(275)	10		£2.25
(170)	(R)		£3.60
(51)	(RR)		£6.00
(5)	(RRR)		£9.00

It is interesting to note that in these various categories there are only 5 Towns classified under (RRR) , 51 under (RR) and 170 under (R) with a further 275 under (10). This means that out of a total of 800 Towns there are at least 500 of them that have a value put on them of over £2 each
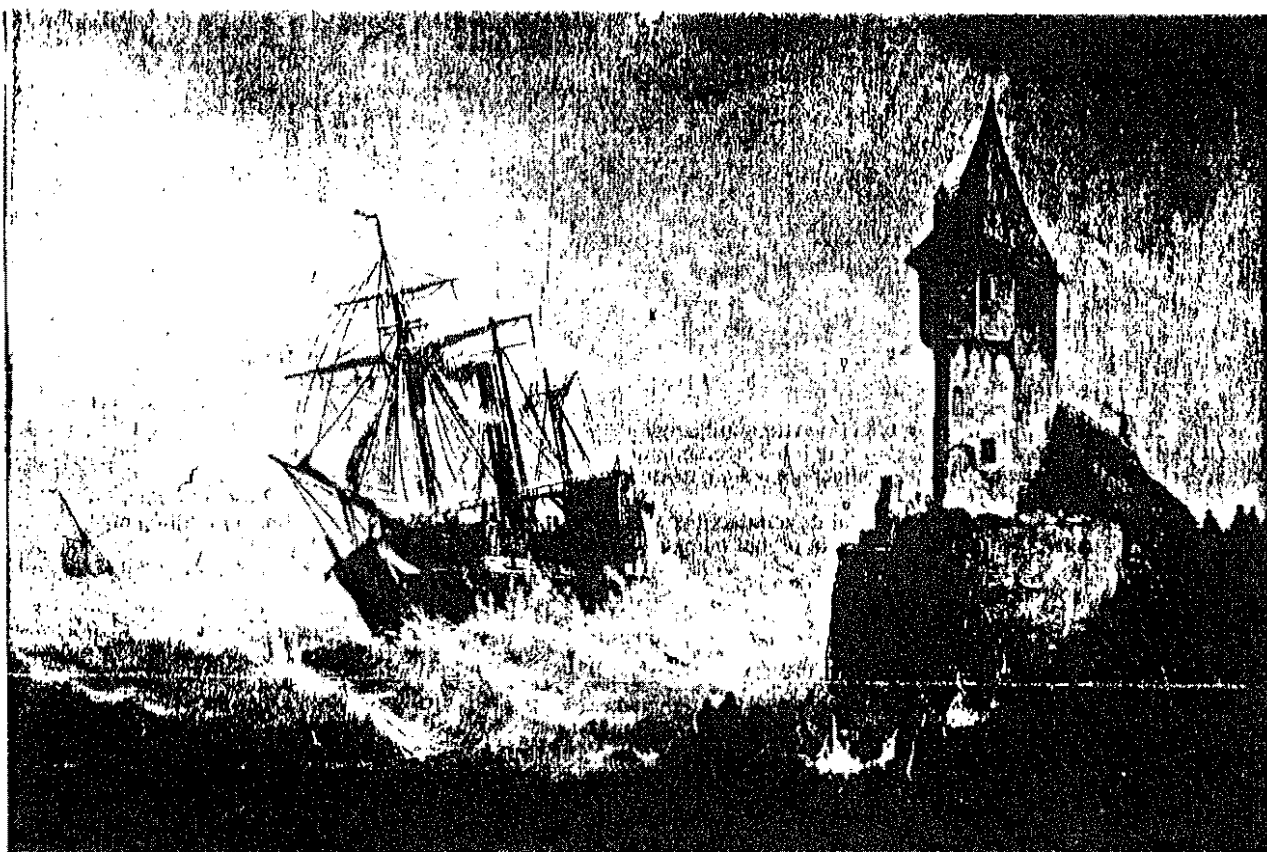
Hardly believeable, but there is something worthwhile in collecting postmarks.

SHIP LETTER   SOHO STEAMER   with ILLUSTRATION OF SHIP
by Leo De Clercq

Egide Linnig (1821-1860)
De "Soho" vaart de Scheldemonding
n-bij Vlissingen binnen

1843
Olieverf op paneel, 66 x 72 cm.
Nationaal Scheepvaartmuseum
"Het Steen", Antwerpen

SHIP LETTER
  2 AU 2
   1841
LONDON

p. Soho Steamer
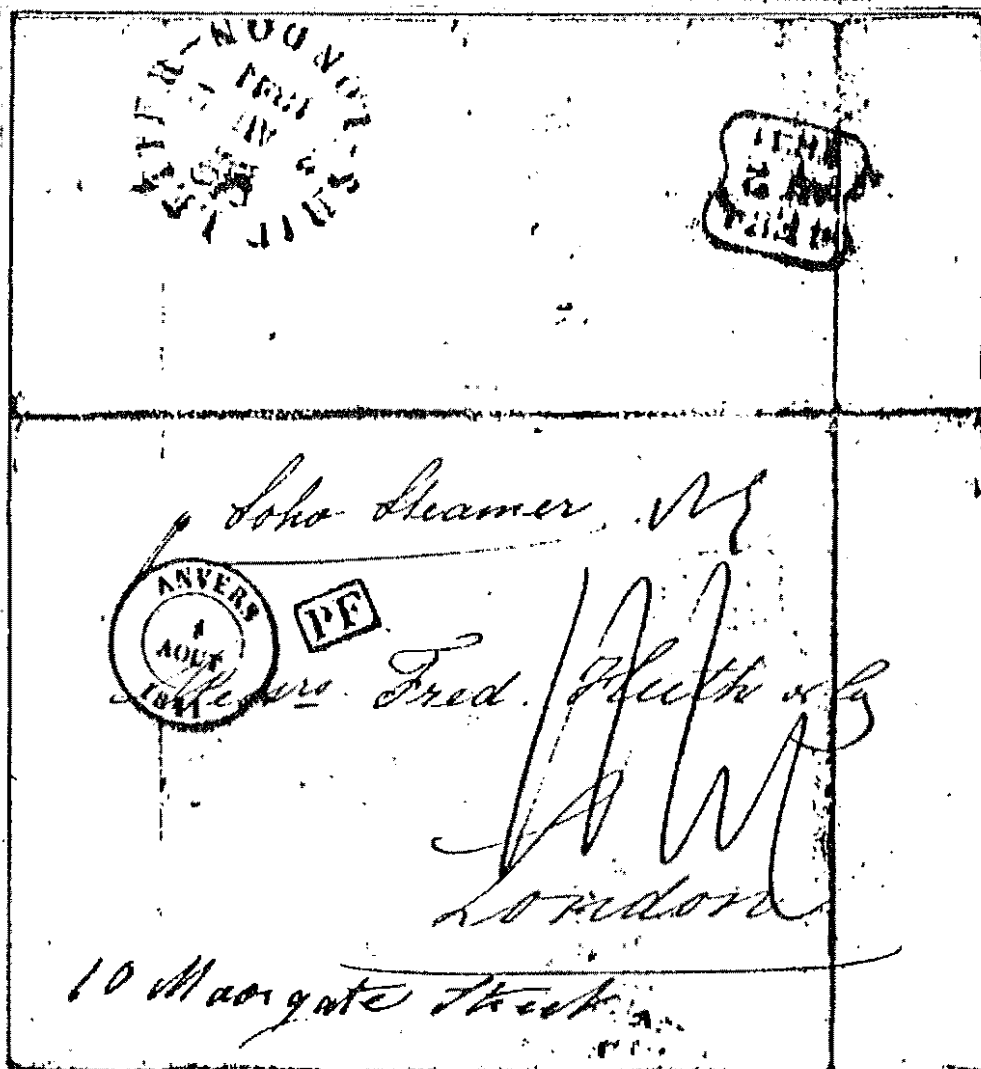
ANVERS 1 AOUT
    1841

Porten : a)verso :
gewicht 20 gr.

Zeerecht   5 d.
Antwerpen lok.1 d.
                6 d.
20 gr= x 2,5=15 d.

b) recto :
GB tot 16 gr   8 p.
   16-24 gr   +8 p.
te innen   1/4 =
1 shilling,4 pence.

        L.D.C.

1902 - 1914 Issue   by Erna Groshe. (in 1933 and 1935)

This article has kindly been translated from the German by Dr Jack Gibbs, and will be published in sections in the next few issues of Belgapost.

INTRODUCTION.

The arms type Railway Stamps of 1879 were only in use for three years and were replaced in 1883 by the first issue of the Locomotive type, designed by the well known engraver of the first Belgian Portrait stamps, J Wiener. To meet the needs of the period these stamps bore only French inscriptions. As the bilingual system was introduced by Royal decree in the early 90's of the last century for all official agencies in Belgium, all postage stamps including the Railway stamps had to be changed. In the year 1894 F Poortman was thus commissioned to make the alteration to the design. This was carried out by him in a very simple way, for he adapted very slightly the locomotive of Wiener's design by making the top inscription smaller to contain the two:- Chemins de Fer and Spoorwegen, and he placed the two S shaped ornaments of the bottom in each corner to leave room for Belgique-Belgie. The inner circular background of the arms was now filled in with horizontal lines and round its base in a sausage shaped label ran -Centimes-Centemen. The values now appear in a separate black impression and were only engraved with the design in the franc values to be printed in the basic colour of the stamp. It must be said that Poortman did not neglect to acknowledge as his, this design which was not entirely his own work.

In this Poortman issue there appears the first typical plate flaw, namely a break in the upper line 0.3 mm wide between the letters W & E of SPOORWEGEN. This plate flaw (or is it a deliberate secret mark?) must have been on the original die of these stamps for all the stamps of all values show it and it carries on to the following bicoloured issue.

ILLUSTRATION 1

1 Break in the top line of the inscription at right between W & E of SPOORWEGEN. 2.Right hand triangle 3.Top inscription right.4. Coal.5.Tender.6.Buffer right 7.S-shaped ornament right.8. 'Snail' on wheel right 9. value tablet frame right.10.Dot and star in bottom inscription.11.Value tablet frame left.12.Bottom inscription.13.S-shaped ornament left.14 Track space. 15.Buffer left.16.Lamp.17.Chimney.18.Chimney cover. 19 Smoke.20.Top inscription left.21.Left hand triangle 22.Outer frame line.23.Inner frame line.
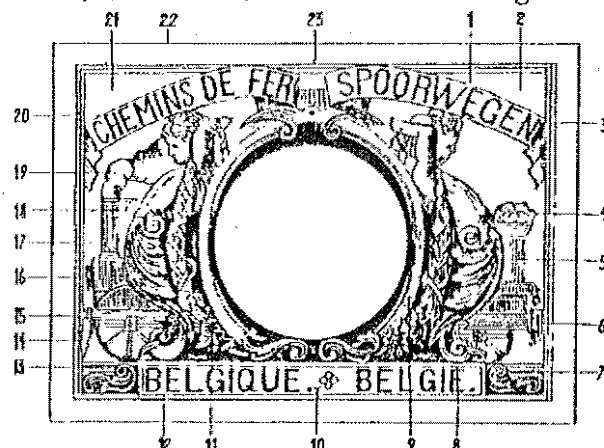
The Belgian Postal authorities do not seem to have been very pleased with either of these issues by Wiener and Poortman, for already during the period of use of the Wiener issue a circular dated 19 November 1891 was issued by the Director of Posts which read: -

" It is established that various senders (?) have tried to re-use Railway stamps which had already been used by removing traces of the cancellation by chemical means "

There follow instructions for handling the stamps as follows:-

" 1. The cancellation of the stamp must be complete and in bold ink.

2. Before delivery to the addressee, the receiving office must tear off the corner of this document and at the same time a corner of the stamp must be removed. When the postal rate requires more stamps the form will be folded so that the fold comes through the centre of the extra stamps from which a piece will be torn. "

Section 3 declares that the stamps are the property of the Railway authorities and should not be handed back.

It seems that the illegal use of these 'tweaked' stamps was so prevalent that it was decided on 25 July 1902 to issue a new bicoloured set of stamps, which appeared on 1st October of that year. This issue is the subject of the study which follows.

BELGIAN ERRORS IN POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN

There are a number of errors in Belgian Stamps detailed in the book

" ERRORS IN POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN " by D E G Irvine and M Seshold

and after I was asked to sort out a query about the 1930 Air Stamps I thought it would be useful to extract for members the various references to Belgium.

Having the book in your library is the ideal, since it gives far more general background to the type of errors that occur: I follow the pattern of the book and give both page number and also Catalogue Officiel numbers.

We start with spelling and grammatical errors;- under plants Belgium has "HYPOCHOERIS" instead of "HYPOCHAERIS MACULATA " on the 1974 10fr +5fr (CO1741) P14. while on page 19 we deal with a missing hyphen in LORD BADEN-POWELL omitted on the 1957 4fr (CO 1023). The spelling of Liege varies (page 22) there being an acute accent in the 1919 (CO 164) 1930(CO299) 1938 (CO484/7) and 1940 (CO 546) issues and the 1929 Express 3F50 (CO 292 F).
but a Grave accent on the 1955 20c and 2fr (CO971/2). This is not however an error , for the spelling was controversial until settled by decree of 17th September 1946 which ratified the spelling "Liège " with a grave accent.

As an error of Identification the 1944 50c +2f50 (CO648) page 42, entitled "The Good Samaratan " is out of place, since it was painted by Jacob Jordsen, while the Red Cross relief fund issue was intended to represent only paintings by Van Dyck.

Symbols have been involved in confusion (page 43) in the minds of the stamp designers. The Caduceus of Hermes, a slender wand, winged, with two entwined snakes, a symbol of commerce and communications is shown in its proper context on the 1932 definitive issue -5c, 20c , 35c, (CO 336,338,340) but without its wings.

Denomination errors - page 46 - involves two Belgian stamps. The 1915 5fr showing King Albert at Furnes (CO 147) had Franken in the Flemish inscription corrected to singular FRANK with the 1919 issue (CO 148). The 1916 Railway Parcel stamp 1f10 Francs/Franken was again changed in 1919 to the more correct Franc/Frank (CO 72 & 73).

Under Mistatements of date -page 52 - the 1f (CO 1269) issued in 1963 and showing Jules Destree has date of birth as 1864 but the correct date of birth was 21st August 1863, at Marcinelle.

Errors in Portrayal of Subject -page 84 - concern a common subject for stamp designers- Heraldry, governed by rigid rules of which many stamp designers appear to be little aware. The British Coat of Arms on the 1950 80c (CO 823) commemorating the Anglo-Belgian Union has part of the tressure missing.
Still on Heraldry -page 87- the 1965 3f (CO 1336) marking the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Toc H shows the Arms of Poperinghe, a hand holding a crozier on a red field . It is a right hand bearing the ring of a Bishop and the maniple, but the ring is worn on the forefinger, not as here on the ring -finger, and the priest carries the maniple in his left hand. Presumably, however, these are errors inherent in the arms themselves and not in their reproduction.
An error in the Royal Monogram-page 90- occured in the 1962 set portraying Queens, where the 40c + 10c value (CO 1233/4) showing Queen Louise-Mary should have borne an ' L ' monogram, as shown in advance publicity illustrations, but in error the printing cylinder bore an ' ML ' monogram. The error was spotted at the proof stage and a correct cylinder prepared, but unfortunately the wrong cylinder was used for the first printing and some 24,000 stamps with the error were sold in Brussels before the mistake was noticed. Although efforts were at first made to suppress the ' ML ' stamps, they were soon reprinted and distributed to discourage speculation.

Errors sometimes creep in where models are portrayed which differ from the actual building or other construction - often because lack of money has meant curtailment of plans. Thus the tower shown on the basilica of Chevremont Basilica and Convent - page 109- as featured on a 1f35 + 1f35 (CO 778) has still not been built (1979) . The 1954 2f + 50c & 4f+2f (CO 938/9) featuring the King Albert Memorial was apparently designed from a model, for the actual statue shows considerable differences in the positioning of the sword and the horse's tail, while the 2f and 4f designs differ sharply between themselves re sword, reins and horse's tail.

The 1938 set of 10c to 2f45 (CO 471-476) to support the completion fund for the Koekelberg Basilica showed the building as planned, with a dome not present at the date of issue.

On page 118 the man being X-rayed on the 1956 4f +2f (CO 1003) is described having his arms in the wrong position for a chest X-ray, they should be Akimbo. Likewise St Martin rides on his horse facing the tail on the 1943 5f+25f (C)638).

Under the heading 'Impossible Compositions', we have-page 138- the 1971 10f (CO 1589) marking the Antarctic Pact shows the Penguins being photographed, the Camera casting a strong shadow, the penguins apparently casting none.

Diplomatic Errors -page 147- shows the Italian International Markings depicted on the aeroplane flying over various Belgian Cities on the 1930 Air set (CO Air 1-5). The plane carries the Italian I - rather than the Belgian OO- International mark. Here the stamp designer had copied the illustration of the 'plane from a trade magazine, the 'Fokker Bulletin', not realising the national significance of the lettering, though he had in fact changed it from I-BBEC to I-BDEC.

Belgian Railway issues-page 150- of 1879 & 1882 had French inscriptions only: the Flemings objected and the issues of 1895 had inscriptions in both languages. The 1952 issue (CO 909-911) 1f50, 2f, 4f showing King Baudouin without the horn-rimmed spectacles he habitually wears, looking untypically close-cropped and accentuating his prominent nose, met with much criticism and displeased the King himself. It was replaced by a more typical (and flattering) portrait issue in 1953 (CO 924-6) in the same values, although curiously enough a 100f stamp in the old design (CO 1075) appeared as late as 1958.

The 1f75 +75c issue (CO813) in 1949 to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Flemish poet Guido Gezelle (page 154) bore a portrait adapted from a photograph of a painting by De Graer of Bruges, but the authorities neglected to get permission first to reproduce the portrait, and the De Graer family sued the Belgian State for a copyright fee of 75,000 francs. They eventually lost the case on the grounds that as the issue of postage stamps is a government monopoly the De Graer family had not lost any money through the Government's action, as no one else could have reproduced the portrait in this way.

International Errors conclude this extract -page 162. At first sight the use of English on the Belgian Express stamps of 1929 (CO 292 C D E F G & H), 1931 and 1932 might have been considered an error, as the French 'Exprés' could equally easily have been fitted into the available space in the design, but the Flemings would have been highly incensed if their rather cumbrous term 'Spoedbestelling' had not also been included, so the designer chose a rather neat if unorthodox solution.

I hope this extract will help to answer some of your queries and perhaps help in the write-up of collections. I am sure there must be more errors than are detailed in this extract and I would ask you please to let me have information concerning newly found errors and I will gladly pass them on to the authors of the book. Who knows, we might get a new edition and then I would have to update this article for you.

J B Horne.

Suppression de timbres-poste

Les timbres-poste repris ci-dessous, quel que soit le type de papier utilisé pour leur impression, ne seront plus en vente après le 31 mars 1986 :

«Lion héraldique» - ancien type

0,05F. + préoblitéré	0,60F. grand format
0,10F. "	1,50F. «B»
0,15F. "	2,50F. + préoblitéré
0,20F. "	2,50F. «B»
0,30F. "	
0,60F. "	

«Lion héraldique» - nouveau type

0,50F. «B»	4F. «B»
1 F. «B»	5F. «B»
1,50F. + préoblitéré	
2 F. «B»	
2,50F. + préoblitéré	

POST in the AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

By Anton Kumpf-Mikuli

This article was first published in English translation in Austria No 75
dated Spring 1986 and appears here with their kind permission.

(Translated by J.F. Giblin)

Introduction

Further to the article by Colonel L. Herlant, that appeared in
AUSTRIA No. 71, Spring 1985, pp.34-46, it was thought appropriate to
publish a translation also of the relevant chapter in "Neue Briefe
über alte" (Vienna 1931. pp.158-162). The following is, therefore,
submitted as another contribution to a topic that is rarely covered in
the philatelic literature.

Chapter XXIX : Belgium and Luxemburg

Present day Belgium, up to 1713, was a part of the Spanish
Netherlands and then, at the Peace of Utrecht, at the end of the War
of the Spanish Succession, came to the Republic of Holland only to fall
to Austria, from the latter, a year later at the Peace of Rastatt.
During the Spanish and the Austrian sovereignties, the House of Thurn
and Taxis undertook the postal administration. French troops came into
the Spanish or Austrian Netherlands during the Wars of the Spanish, Polish,
and Austrian Successions since France took part in these.

There is no doubt that the first postal strikes of these countries
were introduced by the French and these were taken over by the Taxis Post.

BRUXELLES LOUVAIN BRUXELLES

Abb. 1048   Abb. 1049   Abb. 1050

From here outwards they then took their way to Germany. They are,
throughout, long strikes with French descriptions of the places. As
the oldest, one knows the strike of Brussels from the year 1707. Abb.
1048 and 1050 show later strikes of this city of 1747 and 1758.

ATH OSTENDE DE LIEGE

Abb. 1051   Abb. 1052   Abb. 1053

Abb. 1049, 1051, 1052 and 1054 show other French strikes from the war
period of 1748, 1752, 1762 and 1766.   Occasionally one encounters
also origin/arrival strikes with DE, as that of Lüttich, which then
was an independent bishopric (Abb. 1053 of 1786) and obliquely written
strikes as Abb. 1056 of 1792. Around this period we also find strikes
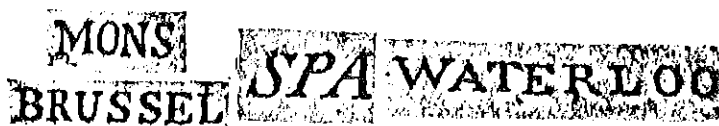
MONS BRUSSEL SPA WATERLOO

Abb. 1054, 1055   Abb. 1056   Abb. 1057

with Flemish descriptions of the place (Abb. 1055 of 1792). However,
in addition to these long strikes there are also single circle strikes
which only contain one letter.   Abb. 1058 shows such a strike of Ghent
of 1772, Abb. 1060 that of Antwerp of 1782.   One might attempt to
consider these as City Post strikes as these were then used by the Paris
City Post to designate the post office.   However this is not correct
since they occur on long distance letters.   The most puzzling, however,
is the H strike (Abb. 1059 of 1779), which I can follow up to 1807, then,

C H A

Abb. 1058   Abb. 1059   Abb. 1060

of course, in a somewhat larger type in a completely circular form.
One finds it on letters from Hamburg, so that one takes it for a Hamburg
strike, on letters from places in Holland, so that one assumes, that it
may be a border post strike to designate the post from Holland. It was
also regarded as a city post strike, a French censor strike etc.   It
is a fact that this strike which mostly occurs on letters coming out
of Holland and going towards or through Brussels, was struck on the
front side and that these letters practically always only bear this

strike and no other departure strike.   Evidently, it might be
a question of a specific postal strike of Brussels.

The French Revolution and its consequences made its first attack
upon the Austrian Netherlands.   Already, by the end of 1792, Brussels
was occupied by the French.   However, in 1793, it was again rescued
by the Austrians but this did not prevent the French, in the same
year, in annexing the Belgian Hennegau to France as Department 86
(Jemmaper;   after the place of the first victory over the Austrians).
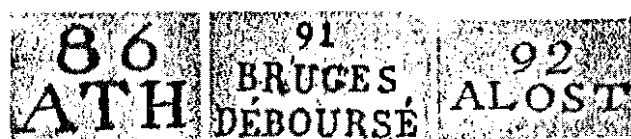

Abb. 1061   Abb. 1062   Abb. 1063

Abb. 1061 shows a departmental strike as it was used in this region.
The collapse of the alliance in the first War of the Coalition, forced
Austria to cede the Belgian Provinces to France at the Peace of Leoben,
or Campo Formio, in 1797, and by this they were lost for ever.   From
these, as well as from the Bishopric of Lüttich were erected the
Departments 91 (La Lys), 92 (Escaut), 93 (Deux-Nèthes), 94 (Dyle),
95 (Meuse Inférieure), 96 (Ourthe), 97 (Sambre et Meuse) and 98 (Forêts).
Abb. 1062 to 1069 show the departmental strikes of places from these
regions, amongst them two P.P. strikes (Abb. 1064 and 1067) and two
DÉBOURSÉ strikes (Abb. 1062 and 1063) of which the specific three line
strike of Bruges attracts attention.   The strike of Venlo (Abb. 1066)
is also worthy of attention.   The asymmetrically arranged departmental
number of this indicates that the strike originally contained the Dutch
description of the place VENLOO.   They further usually used, especially
in the smaller places, the earlier strikes, also in Flemish (Abb. 1057
of 1800).

Abb. 1064   Abb. 1065   Abb. 1066

At the beginning of 1814, after the first defeat of Napoleon,
the House of Taxis again received the Belgian postal affairs.   However,

they did not hold them long since the Vienna Congress of 1815 formed
the Kingdom of the Netherlands out of the Austrian Netherlands and
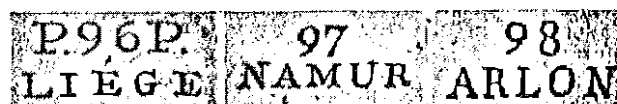

Abb. 1067   Abb. 1068   Abb. 1069

the earlier Dutch Republic.   At once, the departmental strikes
vanished, that of Ghent was even used already in March 1813 without
a number (Abb. 1070).   The use of the French place strikes was
forbidden and Dutch or Flemish ones took their place.   Thus, inter
alia, from Gand (Ghent) came (Gend (Abb. 1071 of 1816), from Louvain

Abb. 1070, 1071   Abb. 1072, 1073   Abb. 1074, 1075

(Löwen) came Leuven (Abb. 1072 of 1818), from Namur came Namen (Abb.
1073 of 1819), from Liège (Luttich) came Luik (Abb. 1074 of 1828) and
from Mons came Bergen (Abb. 1075 of 1828).   Abb. 1076 shows an old
P.P. Departmental Strike still used in 1828.   Franko-place strikes,
such as Abb. 1077 of 1819, were also introduced.   At the beginning
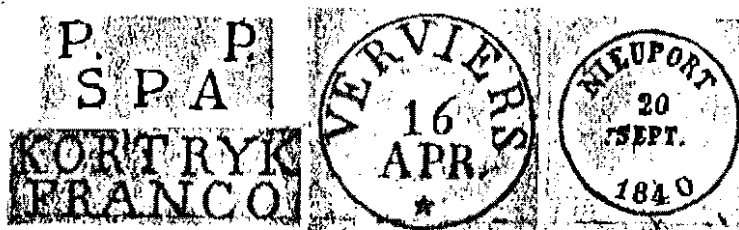

Abb. 1076, 1077   Abb. 1078   Abb. 1079

of 1829, the single circle strikes previously mentioned were introduced
(Abb. 1078 of 1829).

The constant strife between the dominating protestant Dutch and
the otherwise disposed catholic Flemish and Walloons of Belgium led,
in the summer of 1830, to the successful revolt of Brussels and, in the
autumn, to the declaration of independence of Belgium which, in 1831 at

the London Conference, was also recognised by the Great Powers.   The
Dutch strikes were superseded and in their place appeared Belgium double
circle strikes in the French style, at first in a large type as Abb.1080,
later in a smaller one as Abb. 1083.   One often also encounters single
circle strikes as Abb. 1079.   The smaller post offices, with distribution
offices, in 1836, received small single circle strikes with information
of the month in Roman numerals (Abb. 1081 of 1841).

Abb. 1080   Abb. 1081, 1082   Abb. 1083
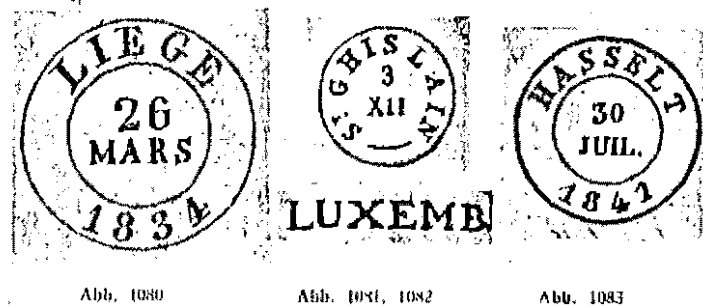
The postal strikes of Luxemburg have a similar history to those
of Belgium.   At the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, Spanish Luxemburg came
to Austria.   Likewise, the first strikes were introduced by the French
and taken over by the Taxis Post.   Abb. 1082 shows the strike of the
City of Luxemburg of 1765 which used the shortened letters as then used
in France.   In 1795, Luxemburg was conquered by the French.   They

Abb. 1084 1085   Abb. 1086

received the country at the Peace of Campo Formio in 1797, ceded by
Austria, so that it came into France as Department 98 (Forêts).   Abb.
1084 shows the P.P. Departmental strike of Luxemburg.   In 1815,
created by the Vienna Congress, Luxemburg became an independent German
Federal State under the King of the Netherlands.   As in Belgium we find
Dutch long strikes instead of French ones (Abb. 1085 of 1818) to which
then followed, at the beginning of 1829, the generally introduced Dutch
single circle strikes.   The Belgian declaration of independence •••

THE EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF BELGIUM

by S J Andrews F.R.P.S.,L . F.S.P.H.

The Postal History of the area of north western Europe known as Belgium can probably be traced to the time of Charlemagne,(742-814 A D), Holy Roman Emperor, whwn it is known that he established three postal routes in his domains. In the year 1235 it is known that a system of communal messengers linked the town of Antwerp with other towns of north west Europe. A few years later the accounts of Ypres, which, with those of Tournai are amongst the earliest to be found in Belgium, mention expenses that were paid to messengers for journeys between these towns and to other towns such as Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Courtrai, Mons, Ghent as well as to England.

However, it is not until late in the fifteenth century that it can be said that a postal service of any standing was set up, when in 1490, Maximilian of Austria following the untimely death of his wife, Mary of Burgundy, at Bruges, returned to Innsbruck and ordered Francois de Tassis, a member of the famous Bergamo family of courriers, to set up a postal link between Innsbruck and the Low Countries.

Ten years later de Tassis was named Captain and Master of the Posts of the Low Countries, andthis family was to play an important part in the running of the posts of the Low Countries (and of many other European countries) for the next three hundred years.

The Master of the Posts at this time received a salary of 12,000 livres per year which was to allow him to set up relay stations and to promise the necessary horses and personnel. The work of the messengers was extremely tiring and often dangerous journeys from Brussels to Paris which had to be undertaken in 44 hours, while 5 days was allowed for the journey from Brussels to Innsbruck. The messengers were appointed by letters patent. They carried on a starp a silvered metal horn which was used as a warning of their approach and at night to warn town gatekeepers to open gates.Here is the establishment of the horn as the postal insignia of many postal authorities to this day. A few letters of this period are known but they carry no postal markings.

As an act of political prudence both the children of Mary and Maximilian were married to children of the Spanish sovreigns, Ferdinand and Isabella. The son, Philip, however died before he could succeed his father , and his son Charles, became Prince of the Low Countries in 1515, was crowned King of Spain a year later, and anointed as Emperor in 1520 under the title Charles Quint. He it was who embarked on long and costly wars with France and on his abdication in 1555 his son,Philip II, began the worst persecution the troubled Low Countries have ever known, and which continued until the Treaty of Munster in 1648,which reorganised the independence of the (Dutch) United Provinces.

The currents of power politics were changing. Spain was now falling out of the picture and the France of Louis XIV was rising. The United Provinces were masters of the sea in the north and shared with England an interest in preventing French dominance in the Spanish Netherlands - effectively the Belgium of today.

In the next 25 years five major wars rolled over Belgian soil, with Marlborough's victories at Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet featuring the later stages. In 1713, by the Treaty of Munster, the Spanish Netherlands were handed over to Austria when the young Empress Maria Theresa was faced with the rise of Prussia and the War of the Spanish Succession, a French-Irish force beat the Anglo-Austrian Dutch allies at Fontenoy,near Tournai in 1745, and having occupied Brussels they conquered the country, only to hand it back to Austria after a short period. Belgium was however still to change hands several times and was annexed to France in 1795. After Bonaparte's first exile, the powers decided the fate of Belgium by handing her over to the newly formed Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Congress of Vienna was busy approving this when news came of Bonaparte's return. His march northward was halted short of Brussels, and when Waterloo had been fought, the Netherlands were re-established. An outcry against the liberty of Conscience to which William I of Orange was committed eventually led to riots in Brussels in September 1830, and after some bloodshed, a provisional government was formed and a National Congress elected, and the modern Kingdom of Belgium came into being.

All these wars and intrigues since the Burgundian Period have been reflected in the Postal History of Belgium.

The earliest postal markings date from about 1670 - 1680 when manuscript marks of origin, "de Mons", "de Bruges" etc are found together with a manuscript numeral indicating the postage due on delivery. Shortly afterwards the first handstruck town markings came into use although used at very few offices, and these did not come into general use until the middle of the following century. This later period saw the confirmation of the improvements begun earlier in the postal field. Numerous decrees were published, all tending to increase the quality of the services of the post.

A new and important renewal of the postal agreement with the de Tassis posts was negotiated in 1753 for a period of twenty years against strong opposition from the Brabant states. Before its expiry, an important new concession for a period of 25 years came into operation in 1769. This gave the public permission to enclose deeds and other valuable documents in their letters, which had to be franked and registered by the sender at the post office. However, like so many other regulations for the posts, such a system had been in use for many years prior to the issue of the official decree. A letter dated 27th September 1753, marked "Chargé" and originally containing a sample of lace, received the straight line town handstruck mark of "Courtrai" and addressed to Lille bears a manuscript charge mark of 8 sols (normal "local" rate was 2 sols "single" or 4 sols "double") as this letter would be double weight due to its contents.

This concession for registration cost the Prince of Tassis some 135,000 florins per annum.

Letters sent postage paid normally received the manuscript rate marking on the back of the letter, that for postage to be paid on delivery on the front of the letter. Letters also, in many instances, (and like a number of other countries), were also marked with diagonal crossed lines on the front, and partly paid (i.e. to frontier) with a single diagonal line.

About 1770 a number of distinctive circular marks with a single letter in the centre appeared. (These must not be confused with the later smaller circular marks of the relay offices). These include A for Antwerp, G for Ghent, M for Menin, B for Battice, and found on mail from Holland, H, applied at Antwerp. Some of these can be found in use as late as 1812.

With the arrival of the French in 1795, the famous Thurn and Tassis postal services came virtually to an end. Many new decrees affecting the posts came into force. New types of marks began to appear in 1796, similar to those alraedy in use in France since the beginning of 1792. These were in two lines, the upper being a numeral representing the number of the department (the French having split the country into districts similar to France) in which the locality of the office named in the second line was situated. Letters psotage paid further received the letters P.P. placed on either side of the numeral. "Deboursé" marks appeared at this time , always struck in black on the back of the letter, this mark being used on re-addressed letters and marked for accountancy purposes. These marks, for obvious reasons are uncommon and much sought after.

When the Dutch took over the country in 1814, many of the French markings, but with the numerals taken out, were kept in use by many offices. These straight line town markings were kept in use until 1829 when the first dated circular town stamps appeared, the day and the month being shown, without a year date. These were to remain in use for a comparatively short time due to the formation of the Kingdom of Belgium in the following year. Again, in the Dutch period, many new postal decrees were enacted, and many marks of accountancy, origin etc came into use.

For instance Frontier Offices, with their respective markings, and such markings as "Franco Frontier" of various types appear for the first time. Many of these markings are of great interest and much research work remains to be carried out on their uses.

On the setting up of the new and independant Belgium, new postal markings came into use, there being different tupes for main town offices, sub-offices, and relay offices, together with many different accountancy and other marks, all again showing considerable room for research.

The first railway line was opened in Belgium in May 1835 between Antwerp and Brussels and as early as 1840 the Chief Accountant of the Central Administraion of Posts was charged with organising and managing a trial travelling post office on this line. A rectangular mark, struck in green ink, was used on letters using the service. The earliest known date of use is 1st October 1840. The mark is very elusive.

Soon after the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp in Britain, the Belgian Postal Administration sent a delegation to Britain to examine the position and they duly reported, recommending the adoption of the printed wrappers and envelopes similar to the Mulready in preference to the adhesive stamp. The recommendation was not accepted, the authorities prefering the adhesive stamp although this was not to appear until 1st July 1849.

During the pre-stamp period, postal rates in Belgium wore quite complicated and their full expalnation is still far from completed. They represent an almost formidable task and it is impossible to attempt in a concise artice on postal history such as this.

Specialists in this country and Belgium still have much to learn on this fascinating subject of postal history of a small country, a country that has been the "Cockpit of Europe" for hundreds of years, all of which has had so much effect on the subject.

S.J.A.   jbh86

Post in the Austrian Netherlands

found Luxemburg in sympathy with the French.   At the beginning of the forties we find the Belgian (French) two circle type (Abb. 1087) and, at the end of the forties, a form of strike which is the same as that then used in France (Abb. 1088).   The old German "Lützelburg" lay underneath, also as a German Federal State, but ever more under French influence.
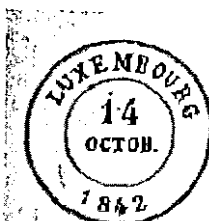

Abb. 1087   Abb. 1088

The colour of the Belgian and Luxemburg strikes in the 18th century is practically always black, on individually red.   The H- and A- strikes on the other hand are always red.   The departmental strikes, up to the mostly red P.P. strikes, are in general black although many places also favoured the red colour.   Under the Dutch sovereignty, the long strikes are mostly black, the single circle strikes always red.   However also the subsequent Belgian and Luxemburg strikes are practically always red;   in the forties also blue.

THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

BELGIUM

THE ELSTROM ISSUE

R.T. HARRISON
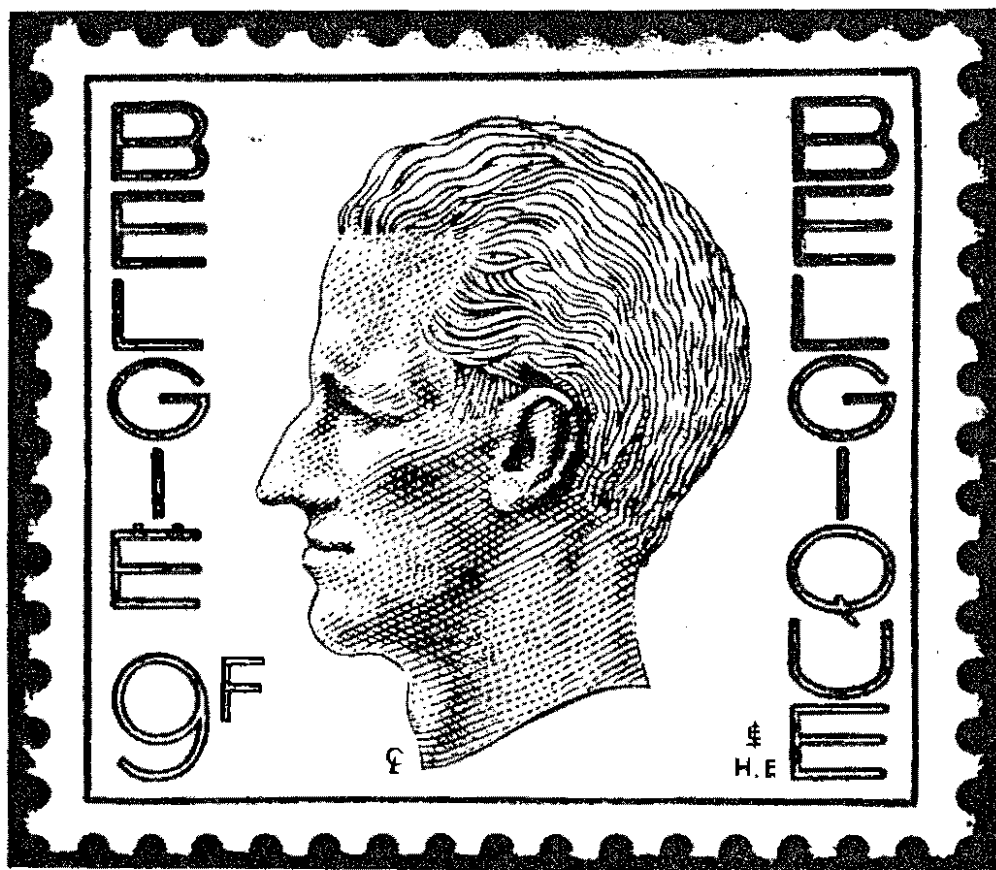
THE ELSTROM ISSUE OF BELGIUM
R.T. HARRISON

ORIGIN

On 7th September 1970 a commemorative stamp was issued to mark the 40th birthday of King Baudouin. The design, which showed an outline of the King's head, had a face value of 3.50 Francs. At the bottom, below the head, in small print, were the dates 1930-1970.

SUBSEQUENT ISSUES

Whether it was due to the good acceptance of the stamp appearance or to its ready availability, the design, with the dates removed, was then used for a long series of definitive stamps, the first appearing in May 1971.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The circumstances leading up to the issue of the original stamp are uncertain. Previous definitive stamps had shown the King wearing spectacles but at this period he was wearing contact lenses and it seemed appropriate to reflect this factor (he has since been seen wearing spectacles). It is believed that a design competition was intended and that a Swedish man - H Elstrom - was to draw up the winning entry. In the event, Elstrom designed the stamp (see initials H.E. on right-hand corner of stamp) and may have based it on a portrait. Engraving by C Leclercqz (initials C.L. below bust).

PRINTING DETAILS

As with all current Belgian postage stamps (booklets excepted), the State printing works at Malines was responsible for their printing. It was by recess, the normal method giving small sheets of 50 stamps (10 horitzontal rows of 5) with an all-round margin. Use was made of two different types of press.

(a) Wifag Press. Used for the majority of values (but not large quantity common use values). Characterised by having two perforation holes beyond stamps on top and bottom margins: four plate numbers used (1 to 4) which appear in right-hand sheet margin adjoining stamp No 30. Printing date below stamp No 46. A sheet number in black ink appears in bottom margin towards right-hand corner - commences with a number, eg, 64321.

(b) Goebel Press (2). Normally used for common postal rates required in extra large quantities and also coil stamps (the exceptions to this rule are the 16 F and 40 F values). Characterised by having one perforation hole beyond stamps on top and bottom margins: six plate numbers used (1 to 6) positioned as with Wifag. Printing date varies around below stamps Nos 46 and 47. The sheet number in black ink in bottom margin but more to the left than with Wifag. Sheet numbers commence with a letter, eg, A64321. Vowels denote 1st press, consonants 2nd press.

PERFORATIONS

12½ comb. Continues across both side margins but only by one hole (Goebel) or two holes (Wifag) into top and bottom margins. Look in left margin to see that on some sheets the line of perforations is slightly out of alignment with the stamp perforations. This seems to occur on the odd numbered plates 1, 3 and 5.

GUM

Originally Arabic, then P.V.A. Now Dextrine? Similar position as with G.B. stamps.

PAPER TYPES

As with G.B. stamps, the progress of technology has produced changes mainly to cope with automatic sorting machinery. There are four basic paper types involved, used in the following order:-

(a) <u>Ordinary White Paper</u>. No ultra-violet lamp reaction (a darker variety of this paper also exists).

(b) <u>Phosphorescent Paper</u>. Blotchy yellow under lamp.

(c) <u>Harrison Polyvalent Paper</u>. Used for two low values only. Little lamp reaction.

(d) <u>Polyvalent Phosphor Paper</u>. Appears bright white under lamp and enables rapid sorting by machine.

All these paper types are <u>all-over surface</u> treatments — no banding or stripes as with G.B. stamps.

Polyvalent paper is very strong and versatile for various printing purposes and replaced six different papers previously in use. Only the coating or gum needs changing to suit needs of different printings.

COIL STAMPS

For use both in vending machines and coils sold over the counter. Common Inland Rates only. Printed on Goebel Press in continues roll form of ten horizontal rows with top and bottom margins. Both margins removed before distribution as coils of horizontal rows. Issued either (a) in rolls of 1000 stamps at Philatelic Bureau, un-numbered on reverse. Collected in strips of six to prove not from sheets, or (b) in rolls of 500 for use in vending machines with every fifth stamp numbered in black on reverse (for accountancy purposes!). Machines only usually vend one or two stamps at a time — collectors need numbered copy as proof of coil issue. The paper and gum of coil issues vary as per the current production of sheet stamps.

The bottom margin (before tearing off) bears a sheet number below every sixth stamp changing consecutively and also the date likewise repeated every sixth stamp throughout the roll. These stamps are produced from a cylinder of 25 dies horizontal by 10 dies vertical, hence any varieties should be repeated every 25th stamp.

VARIETIES

More work needs to be done on this aspect but few major varieties seen to date. There is some frameline weakening and retouching (see 2.50 F and 40 F) and also a 'bald patch' seen on 5 F coil.

IMPERFORATE COPIES

As with contemporary issues, 1000 copies of each value were released imperforate to privileged persons. These copies were normally 'singles' but blocks of four are shown, as issued to 'very special' persons. Believed to be unusual, if not rare.

MILITARY AND RAILWAY OFFICIAL STAMPS

A relatively small range of values was issued for these purposes but are not covered in this display because they were not valid for public use.

BOOKLET STAMPS

The Elstrom design — reduced in size — was used for a range of booklets. Due to previous unsuccessful attempts at Malines, booklet production was contracted to Enschedé of Holland. Printing by photogravure and put in small booklets almost identical to the Dutch booklets. A small range shown for illustrative purposes.