

ISSN 0269 - 2759

BELGAPOST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

— relating to all aspects of Belgian Philately —

VOLUME TWO

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ISSN 0269 - 2759

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Volume 2 (part 4) page 75

Edited and Produced by J B Horne

2 Bakery Meadow Puddington Tiverton Devon
EX16 8LW telephone 0884 860061

I have had to rewrite this page; part 4 was almost ready for publication apart from a translation I needed. Unfortunately the translation only arrived in October and by that time I was tied up with business problems and only recently able to get down to finishing this part 4 for you. It appears to be mainly Postal History articles, very little on stamps, but that is the way the articles have come in to me. I will see what can be done for you in Volume 3.

With Volume 3 I have several longer articles which I intend to serialize over the 4 parts, and do need short articles, notes etc from you to build up the journal. Please put pen to paper now and let me have a few notes on what you are working upon.

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J B H 8.88

An Index for Volume 2 is also enclosed with this part together with card covers and front page.

Please remember,

I only need a few lines from you, plus the material , and I will work up an article, if you feel that you do not want to write it yourself.

Do it now, please, and I can bring volume 3 part 1 out shortly for you.

jbh

Kindly translated by Dr Jack Gibbs from articles by E & M Deneumostier and appearing in the quartely journal Info-Phila.

The Close Study of a postal item sent abroad raises often insoluble problems for the philatelist who wishes to assure himself in the first place of the accuracy of the charge. For some time now collectors have asked us to publish the various tariffs applicable for the carriage of mail originating in Belgium and going abroad. Everyone will realise that this is a very long term task and that it is difficult if not impossible - to record everything, in view of the fact that at certain periods these tariffs arose from bilateral agreements, presenting in relation to each other quite marked differences. However in spite of the difficulties we will attempt to publish:

- a) a preliminary general picture putting together the points we have collected from 1875, the date of the setting up of the Union Générale des Postes; these points can be applied with few exceptions, to all the member countries of the U P U.
- b) next we will try to supply the maximum amount of information relating to each country taken separately, and this from the issue of our first stamps in 1849.

It was the Treaty of Berne which set up the Union Generale des Postes in 1875. From its entry into effect on 1 July 1875, the U G P regroupes all the countries of Europe (except France) as well as Egypt and the U S A.

Here are the tariffs agreed for Belgium at this date:-

Single letter (15gr)	25c	and 25c	for each additional 15gr
Postcards	10c		
Newspapers, printed matter samples, commercial documents	} 5c	for 50gr or fraction of 50gr	
registration fee			
acknowledgement of receipt	10c		

In 1879 on the setting up of the U P U the tariffs from Belgium to abroad are divided into two distinct zones from 1 April 1879 :

	1st Zone	2nd Zone
	Europe + Algeria, Morocco U S A, Canada, Newfoundland etc.	Other countries
Letter(15gr)franked	25 cent	50 cent
unfranked	50 cent	65 cent
single postcard	10 cent	15 cent
reply paid postcard	20 cent	30 cent
printed paper(per 50gr)	5 cent	10 cent

Registration : ordinary postage for the item PLUS:
 fixed rate of : 25 cent MAXIMUM for European countries
 50 cent MAXIMUM for other countries
 50 Fr indemnity for total loss.

Valeurs declarees : MAXIMUM of 10,000 Belgian francs.
 (money letters) postage and fixed rate as for registered of the same rate for the same destination.

proportionate insurance rate: calculated by amounts of 200 fr as follows:
 10 cent per amount(200 fr) for neighbouring countries
 OR those directly connected to each other by a direct sea route.

25 cent per amount (200 fr) for other countries with the addition if necessary of a charge for marine insurance.

Supplementary cahrges:

to cover sea carriage;
 15 fr per Kg for letters, postcards
 1 fr per Kg for other items
 a surtax not to go higher than:
 25 cent for normal carriage of the letter
 5 cent per postcard
 5 cent per item (per 50 gr or part of 50 gr)

temporary regulation:

surtax up to 10 cent for single rate for letters charged for sea mail at 5 Fr per Kg.

postal order : maximum of 1,000 Fr Belgian

printed matter, sample, commercial documents:

5 cent per 50 gr or fraction of 50 gr.

Commercial documents: MINIMUM of 25 cent per sending
 samples : MINIMUM of 10 cent per sending.

1 8 8 1

On 15th December the maximum weight for samples sent abroad is fixed at 350 gr.

1 8 8 9

First article of the Royal Decree of 28th December 1888, which came into force on 1st January 1889 :

A uniform tariff is set up applicable in Belgium to postal items exchanged with all countries outside the U P U with the proviso of maintaining the minimum rates fixed for mail to or from these countries, carried in commercial vessels, or franked only as far as the last office on U P U territory. This tariff is as follows :

franked letter from Belgium	:	75 cent per 15 gr
unfranked letter for Belgium	:	1 Fr per 15 gr
franked newspapers & printed matter of all kinds	:	15 cent per 50 gr
franked samples	:	15 cent per 50 gr
		Minimum of 20 cent per sending.
franked commercial documents	:	15 cent per 50 gr
		Minimum of 35 cent per sending
fixed registration fee	:	50 cent per sending.

1 8 9 2

Royal Decree of 16 June 1892, in force from 1 July of that year:

letter franked in Belgium	:	25 cent per 15 gr (for member countries of U P U)
unfranked letter to Belgium	:	50 cent per 15 gr.
despatches from Belgium:		
single postcard	:	10 cent
reply paid postcard	:	20 cent
printed matter	:	5 cent per 50 gr or fraction of 50 gr
samples	:	5 cent per 50 gr
		Minimum of 10 cent
commercial documents	:	5 cent per 50 gr
		Minimum of 25 cent
registration fee	:	25 cent
acknowledgement of receipt	:	25 cent

money letters :
 fixed insurance of 10 cent per 300 Fr for
 neighbouring countries
 15 cent for countries
 separated from Belgium by ONE
 intermediate office
 25 cent for all other countries

additional : tax & fixed fee applicable to registered letters
 marine insurance charges if required.
 Maximum value : 10,000 Belgian fr.

1899

In force from 1st January 1899 as a consequence of the Washington Conference
 (1897)

- Newspapers and periodicals coming to Belgium
 in commercial ships 5 cent per 50 gr
 -Postal order sent from Belgium: 25 cent per 25 Fr up to 100 Fr
 25 cent per 50 Fr over 100 Fr.

1907

From 1st October

Ordinary letter : 25 cent up to 20 gr
 PLUS 15 cent per 20 gr or fraction

Thus : double charge 40 cent
 triple charge 55 cent
 quadruple charge 70 cent and so on.

registration fee 25 cent
 acknowledgement of receipt 25 cent

money letter :
 postage see under registered.
 fixed fee see under registered
 proportionate fee (insurance) of
 5 cent per 300 Fr
 Maximum of 10,000 Belgian fr

postal order sent from Belgium : 25 cent per 50 Fr or fraction
 of 50 Fr

international Reply Paid Coupon : 28 cent
 50 cent from 1 August 1920.

Post Office Box Numbers used in Second World War
for letters to Forces in U K .

List provided by Dr J Gibbs; previously published in the Forces
 Postal History Society Bulletin.

Nationality	Army Personnel	Air Force Personnel	Navy Personnel.
Belgian	Box No 218	Box No 262	Box No 294
Czech	226	281	---
Dutch	237	264	287
Free French	244	236	---
Norwegian	251	270	291
Polish	260	277	293

Letters and parcels from abroad to Allied Forces serving in the U K
 had to be addressed :

' Box No London E C I .'

This information is contained in a letter from Postal Headquarters.

J B Horne

I have prepared this interesting article from covers and correspondence provided by Maurice Wilkinson, to whom our thanks must be expressed for not only searching out the information but then passing it on for me to publish. I should also mention that information and help has been provided by Jean Bruwier, Jean Oth and Henri Magere in Belgium, and other items by Reg Harrison.

The Ac in a circle mark is one of a series of A- marks used by the German intelligence and counter intelligence service - The 'Abwehr', hence the 'A'

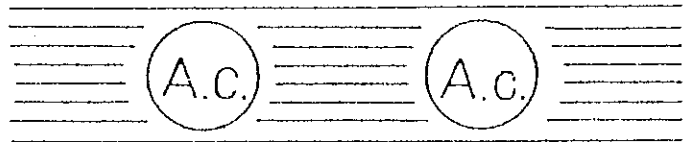
Since you may find this A in circle with other letters I give the list of the ones you may come across, together with their area of operation

A a	Konigsburg	Baltic States and Russia
A b	Berlin	Transit. Air post South and North America
A c	Cologne	Belgium, Holland Luxembourg, North of France
A d	Munich	Italy, Portugal Spain and Switzerland
A e	Frankfurt/Main	Switzerland, South and North America and south of France
A f	Hamburg	Scandinavia
A g	Vienna	Balkans, Hungary, Turkey
A h	(probably Berlin)	German prisoners of War to end 1944
A k	Copenhagen	Sweden, Finland Norway
A l	Lyon	to and from the south of France
A n	Nancy	South of France and neutral hinterland
A o	Oslo	Sweden Finland Denmark
A t	Trondheim	Sweden
A x	Paris	to and from Paris plus Red Cross mail and Belgium and Holland
A y	Bordeaux	to and from south West of France and transit.

The A.c in circle in a continuous cancel of 8 lines was used in red to show that the item was passed for transmission.

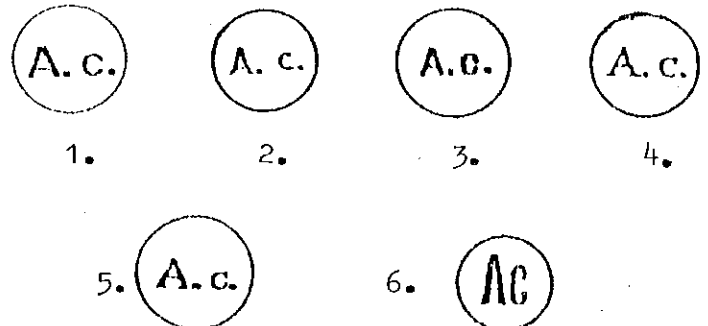
Period of Use

July 1942 to Feb 1945



Handstamps were mainly in black and indicated periods of use are:

1. August 1940 - Jan 1943
2. April May 1943
3. March 1943 - Sept 1944
4. July 1943 - March 1944
5. Feb to Nov 1944
6. August 1944 - Jan 1945.



Some examples of use are shown on the following pages and I trust this will encourage members to look at their material and come up with extensions to the indicated dates of use shown above.

Ac Censor mark

Used in 1944 - 2 cards to and from Belgium between Father and son. Reverse of cards shown on next page.

Carte postale from Belgium to Germany. The sender's address is written in French: "Josephine 69 Rue de la Poste, 124, Bruges". The recipient's address is: "M. Poilvaque Charles, Westarbeiter Lager, Concordiahütte 22, Engers s m, Rheinland, Deutschland." The card features two postage stamps and a circular postmark from Bruges. Handwritten text on the card reads: "Je vous envoie le 24 Juin pour annoncer les démarches que j'ai faites pour le mandat de 110 marks elle nous est revenue et une surprise, parce ton mandat pas dans l'enveloppe et moi-même tu sache que nous chos no cond..."

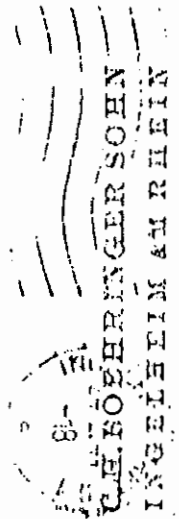
Reverse of the postcard, showing the sender's address in German: "Absender: Poilvaque Charles Westarbeiter Lager der Concordiahütte 22, Engers s m Rheinland." The recipient's address is: "Monsieur Poilvaque Joseph, rue Champ des Ciseaux 89, Belgique." The card features a 6-cent postage stamp and a circular postmark from Engers, dated 10.8.44-18. Handwritten text on the reverse reads: "Quand on se voit, nous sommes tranquille et nous dormons beaucoup mieux. Je termine en vous envoyant mille baisers et adresse ainsi qu'à Binneke." At the bottom, there is a slogan: "Der Führer kennt nur Kampf, Arbeit und Sorge. Wir wollen ihm den Teil abnehmen, den wir ihm abnehmen können." A circular censor mark is visible on the left side.

Printed Matter. Germany to Belgium W W 2.



Monsieur le Docteur Carez
Sanatorium de Magnée

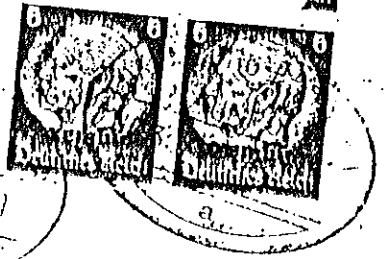
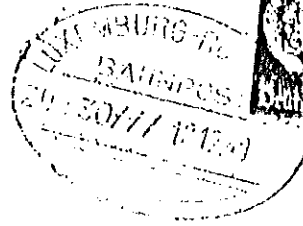
F l e r o n / Prov. de Liège
Belgien



Continuous mark in red with Ac in circle within 8 lines

This appears over a black cancel of INGELHEIM on the Rhine 24.2.44

Belgique →



Madame Georges de Moerlaete,

Le Val riens



La Hulpe →

Bruxelles.

Letter from Holland to Belgium
with a cancel A.c. in a circle in black

A.c. in circle in black often found on unopened letters

Handwritten mark

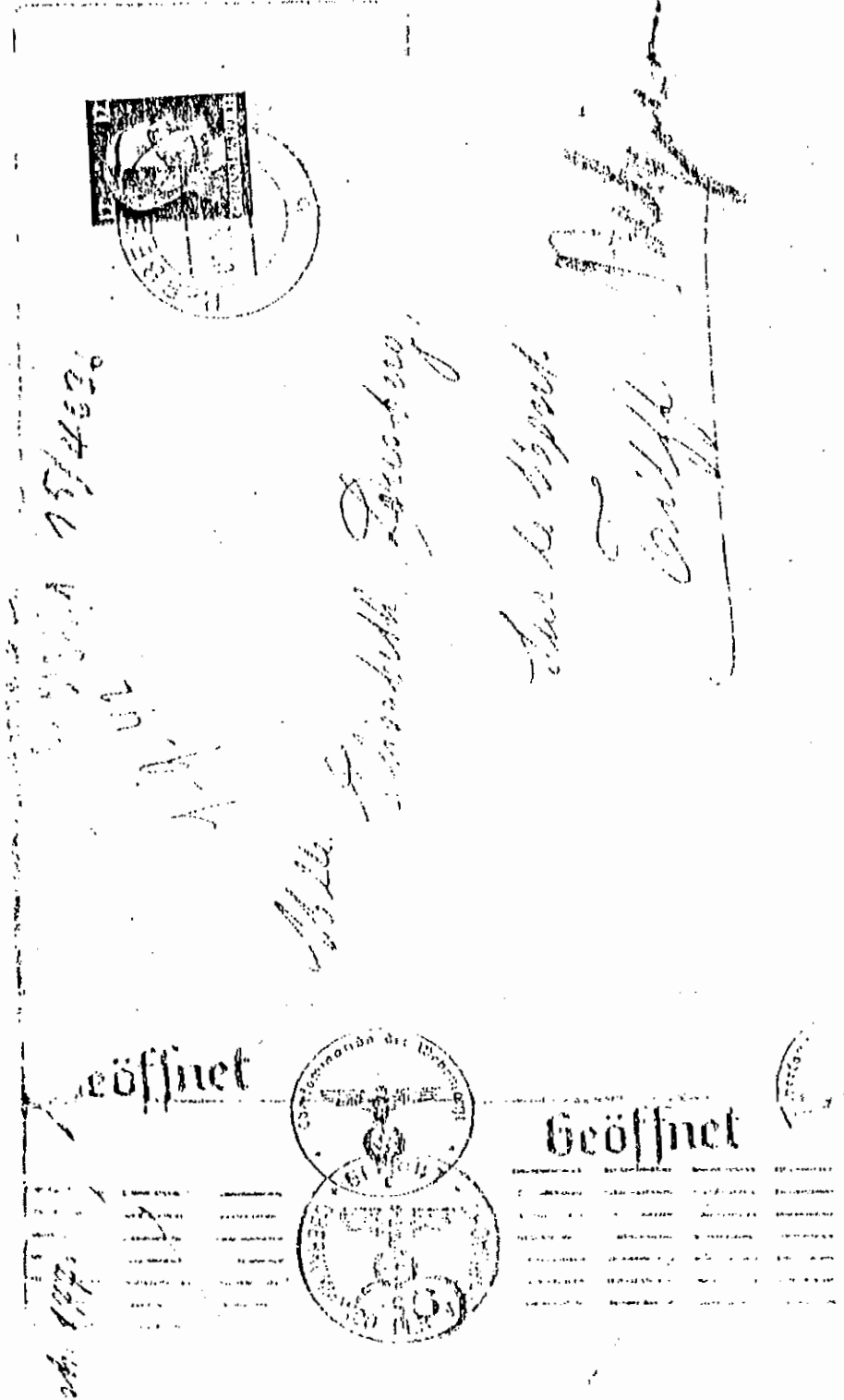


Mademoiselle E. L. L. L.

Sur le Mont

Belgique Belgique

Letter from Germany to Belgium. W W 2 Opened by Censor.



Geöffnet = Opened

Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (label printed in black)
Army superior command c (Cologne)

Gepuft - Oberkommando der Wehrmacht c continuous cancelling
in red

156 in a oval in black. number of examine

Letter from Herbesthal - to Tilff Belgien (Belgium)

1.09.42

(Continued from page 60)

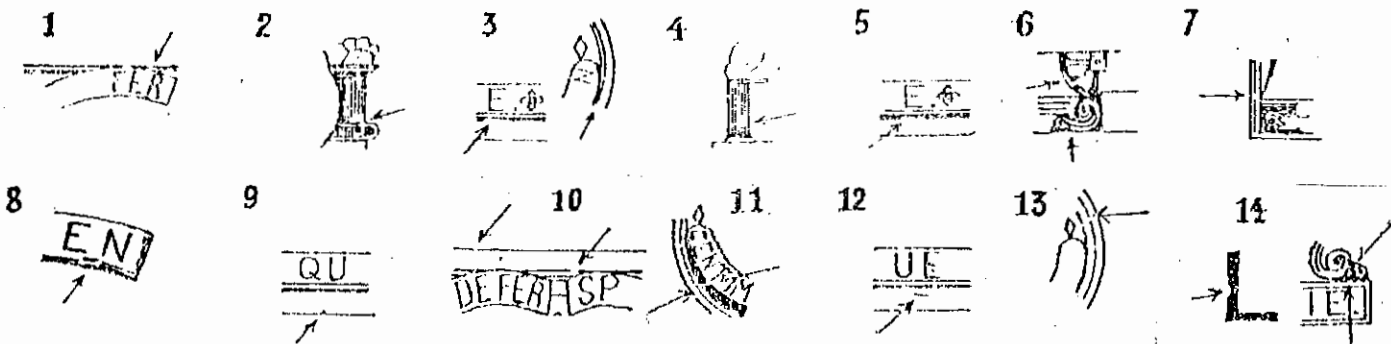
2. The Fourteen Plate Flaws.

As was already stated at the start of the outline, the plates of the bicoloured issue show that from the Poortman issue plates, the interior of the value tablet (horizontal lines and currency) as well as the value were cut away. But to do this the 100 subject was not used, only a block of 25. We already know that because of careless handling of the sharp tools used several traces of the horizontal lines remain. But also because of similar carelessness there are several flaws in the main design, which become typical plate flaws when in making up the new plates of 100 only one block of 25 was used, so that every block shows these plate flaws in the same positions, i.e. plate flaw 1 for example in positions 1,26,51 and 76. When complete sheets were available it was possible to place the flaws in the correct positions. In this way I was able to deal with 14 plate flaws in each of the 13 values from 10 to 90 centimes as well as in the later 35 and 55 centimes. As evidence that these typical plate flaws are the result of the preparatory work it is to be said that they are not found in the previous Poortman issue, but they appear on all values right from the issue of the first printing of 1902 which is recognisable by the thin paper and related dates of use.

The relation of the 14 plate flaws is confirmed by the further details which follow for the description of the individual plate flaws.

PF = Plate Flaw. S = Stamp number in sheet.

PF 1.	S. 1,26,51,76	Break over ER of FER in top of inner frame.
PF 2.	S. 4,29,54,79	Damage to three lines of shading in tender, (heavy dot in tender)
PF 3.	S. 5,30,55,80	White value space smaller, centre line further to left. Dent in lower inner frame under UE of BELGIQUE.
PF 4.	S. 7,32,57,82	First line of shading from the right in funnel broken
PF 5.	S. 10,35,60,85	Dent in lower inner frame under UE of BELGIQUE.
PF 6.	S. 11,36,61,86	Break in wheel left. Horizontal shading does not reach the S shaped ornament left.
PF 7.	S. 12,37,62,87	Centre line in inner frame left of the cowcatcher broken.
PF 8.	S. 14,39,64,89	White scratch in upper inscription in the coloured line under EN of SPOORWEGEN
PF 9.	S. 15,40,65,90	Dot on the bottom outer frame line between Q and U of BELGIQUE.
PF 10.	S. 17,42,67,92	Break in the top outer frame line over DE. Break in the top inner frame line in front of SP.
PF 11.	S. 18,43,68,93	Small chip in the value tablet to left under T of CENTIMES
PF 12.	S. 20,45,70,95	Short coloured line between frame lines under UE
PF 13.	S. 22,47,72,97	Break in the middle line of value tablet left.
PF 14.	S. 23,48,73,98	Crescent shaped dent in vertical frame of L of BELGIE. White dot to right of rim of wheel at right.



LIEGE

Principality ruled by Bishops of Liege until 1794 (not part of Austrian Netherlands)

First of the sovereign bishops was NOTGER, who was regarded as being the founder of Province

Until XVth Century messengers were employed by the Principality - private letters were allowed but no official rates were set

XVth Century : Philippe Le Bon did not manage to include Liege within the rest of Low Countries which came under Burgundians.

1595 : Regulations introduced to cover carriage of letters between Liege and Antwerp

1612 : postal links between Liege and Cologne established

1651 : Postal service between Liege and Paris, and Liege and Bouillon

1666 : daily service between Liege and Amsterdam set up to cover correspondence between France and Holland in the event of interruption of service via Antwerp

DUTCH WAR (1672-1678) : war declared on United Provinces - French given right of passage through Liege
Armies of Louis XIV followed River Meuse to United Provinces.

1673 : service between France and Liege taken over by Tour and Taxis

1675 : citadel of Liege falls to French army as well as Huy and Dinant

1676 : French withdrawal from Liege and Huy, keeping Dinant and capturing Bouillon

1681 : tariff introduced for letters

1684 : Maximilian of Bavaria Prince-Bishop brings some peace and order, with support of Louis XIV

WAR OF LEAGUE OF AUGSBURG (1688-1697) : war declared on France
First handstruck markings used in Belgium, all in towns under French occupation. Liege not under French occupation but also had early mark (1699) - no other handstruck mark is recorded from Liege until 1751

Treaty of Lille (1699) : Dinant restored to Liege

WAR OF SPANISH SUCCESSION (1701-1714) : Allies under Marlborough occupy most of Province

1714 : Treaty of Baden restores lands to Prince-Bishopric

1715 : Tour and Taxis establish frontier exchange office at Maaseyck for letters from France and Italy to United Provinces, Germany and Scandinavia

WAR OF AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION (1740-1748) : French invasion 1746-1747 and Province occupied to beginning of 1749

1744 : mail coach service between Liege and Aachen

LIEGE REVOLUTION 1789-91 : revolution against Prince Bishop who flees. Austrian troops enter Liege to restore Bishop

RESTAURATION (1791-92)

FRENCH OCCUPATION (1792-93)

SECOND RESTAURATION (1793-94)

FRENCH PERIOD (1794-1814)

(Dept de l'Ourthe : Principality of Liege, Stavelot-Malmedy, part of Limbourg, Brabant, Luxembourg and Namur)

1794-1814 : Fr administration modifies postal organization considerably
- No 96 allocated (Liege, Battice, Eupen, Herve, Huy, Malmedy, Verviers + Spa in 1801)
- 1795 : Battice closed and Malmedy becomes Bureau de Distribution

ALLIED OCCUPATION (1814-15)

June 1814 : territory on right of Meuse part of Government of Lower and Middle Meuse ; territory on left bank not left until August 1814. Left bank becomes part of General Government of Belgium

March 1815 : Prince of Orange claims all Province for Holland: Liege becomes chief town of Province.

DUTCH PERIOD

New offices opened

May 1815 : settlement giving Eupen, Malmedy, St Vith to Prussia, and Vielsalm to Luxembourg. Towns ceded to Prussia 1815 : Butgenbach / Dolhain-Limbourg / Eupen / Malmedy / St Vith / Schonberg : part of General Government of Lower Rhine

Sept 1830 : Revolution ; Liegeois send army to help Bruxelles rid Dutch occupiers

INDEPENDENT BELGIUM

June 1919 : Treaty of Versailles: Eupen, Malmedy and St Vith returned to Province of Liege

Current province roughly same as that decided in 1795

This list of relevant dates was produced by Nick Martin to help with the study made of Liege Postal History at one of our meetings

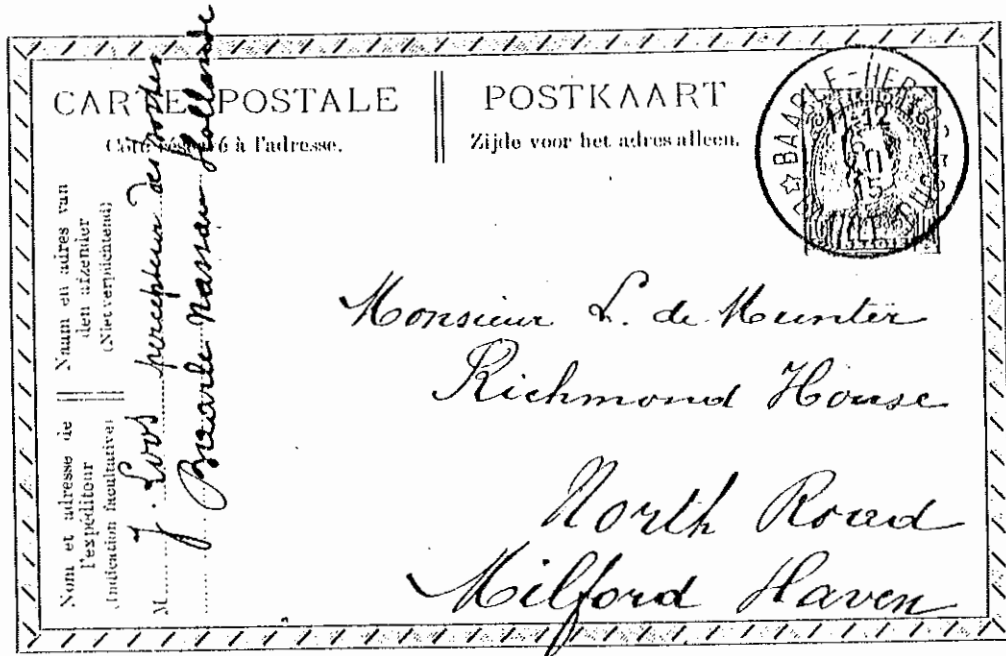
This article has been produced from information provided by Leslie Soulsby.

These two cards have been sent by the Postmaster of the Belgian enclave in Holland, Baarle Duc, to a stamp collector in England. The first is dated 6 April 1915 and asks what should be done with some money that has been sent for stamps which are sold out (possibly the 1914 Red Cross issue ?) The second card dated 6 December 1915 offers two sets at a greatly enhanced price. Where did these sets come from? had he hoarded them to make a profit later, or are they the reprint/forgeries that came out of Antwerp via neutral Holland ?



First card with message

Monsieur,
 j'ai bien reçu votre envoi de fr 110,50 mais
 regrette beaucoup ne pouvoir satisfaire à votre
 demande: Les 2 premières émissions de timbres
 de la Croix Rouge étant épuisées et mon bureau
 n'étant pourvu que des figurines de la 3^{me} émission,
 (Roi Albert, grand format). Toutefois nous comptons
 recevoir prochainement la 4^{me} émission et avant
 de renvoyer votre argent, j'ai tenu à vous en informer
 pour le cas où il vous conviendrait de modifier
 votre commande.
 Dans l'attente de vos instructions je vous prie, Monsieur
 d'agréer mes sincères salutations. Le postmaster
 O.S.



Second Card with message

Monsieur

Des réception du montant que vous pouvez m'envoyer par lettre recommandée ou par mandat postal à mon adresse: M. Loois percepteur de poste à Baarle-Nassau, Hollande. Je m'empresserai de vous faire parvenir la quantité de séries 1^{re} et 2^{me} émission que vous desirez recevoir (soit à 10/ ou 8 sh pour 1 série de chacune de ces émissions de 6 pièces)

Vous voudriez bien me faire connaître si les figurines doivent être complétées à Baarle-Duc.

Sincèrement dévoués. Le percepteur
 J. Loois

Leslie in his letter goes on to say that he has a Merode forgery (no tail to Q) with what appears to be a genuine Baarle Duc postmark of 9th October 1915. He asks whether this postmark can also be called a forgery.

Note the return address on the second card - Baarle Nassau, which is the Dutch part of the town;- was he a private citizen or a postal official when he was sending these cards. jbh.

Editors Note: The Circle is working on the Merode issue and I am hoping to be able to publish the result before too long. It is long overdue from the point that the information about the issue is needed to help everyone to avoid paying inflated priced for non genuine material. I do wonder though whether we shall ever know the full story about this issue. jbh

Following my notes on the SOHO in the last issue of Belgapost Mr Leo de Clerq has asked if I had any information about the ship 'Rainbow' which also sailed into Antwerp .

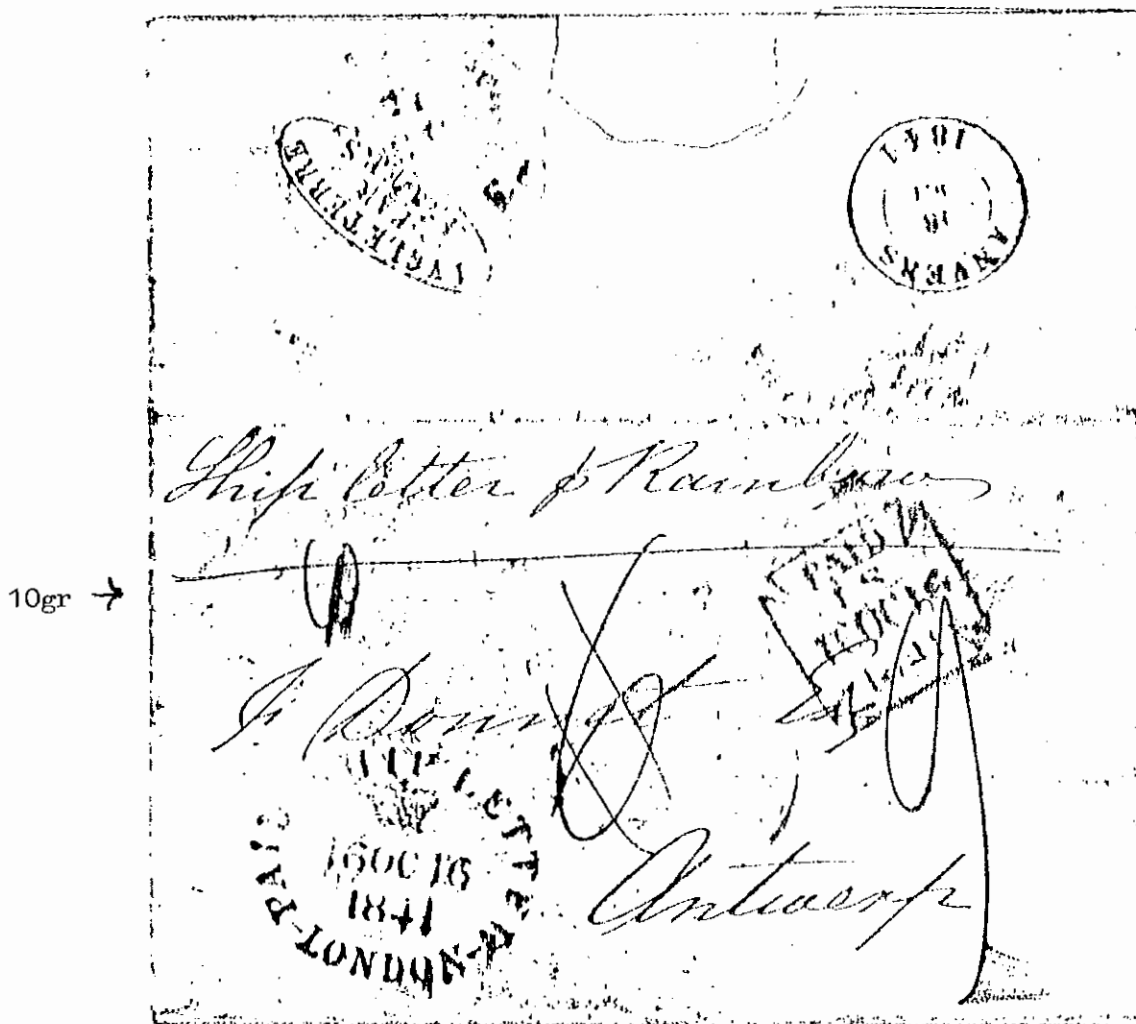
The few notes I am able to find are as follows:-

She was built in 1837 by John Laird of Birkenhead for the General Steam Navigation Co. It was the first iron sea going steamer to be constructed and was used to experiment with the effect of iron construction on compass deviation.

An average speed of 12 miles per hour made her the fastest vessel that had been built. She was 190 feet long between perpendiculars. Tonnage 263 net and 407 gross. She ran first from London to Ramsgate and then for many years on the Antwerp and later Rotterdam services. Sold in 1871 for breaking up.

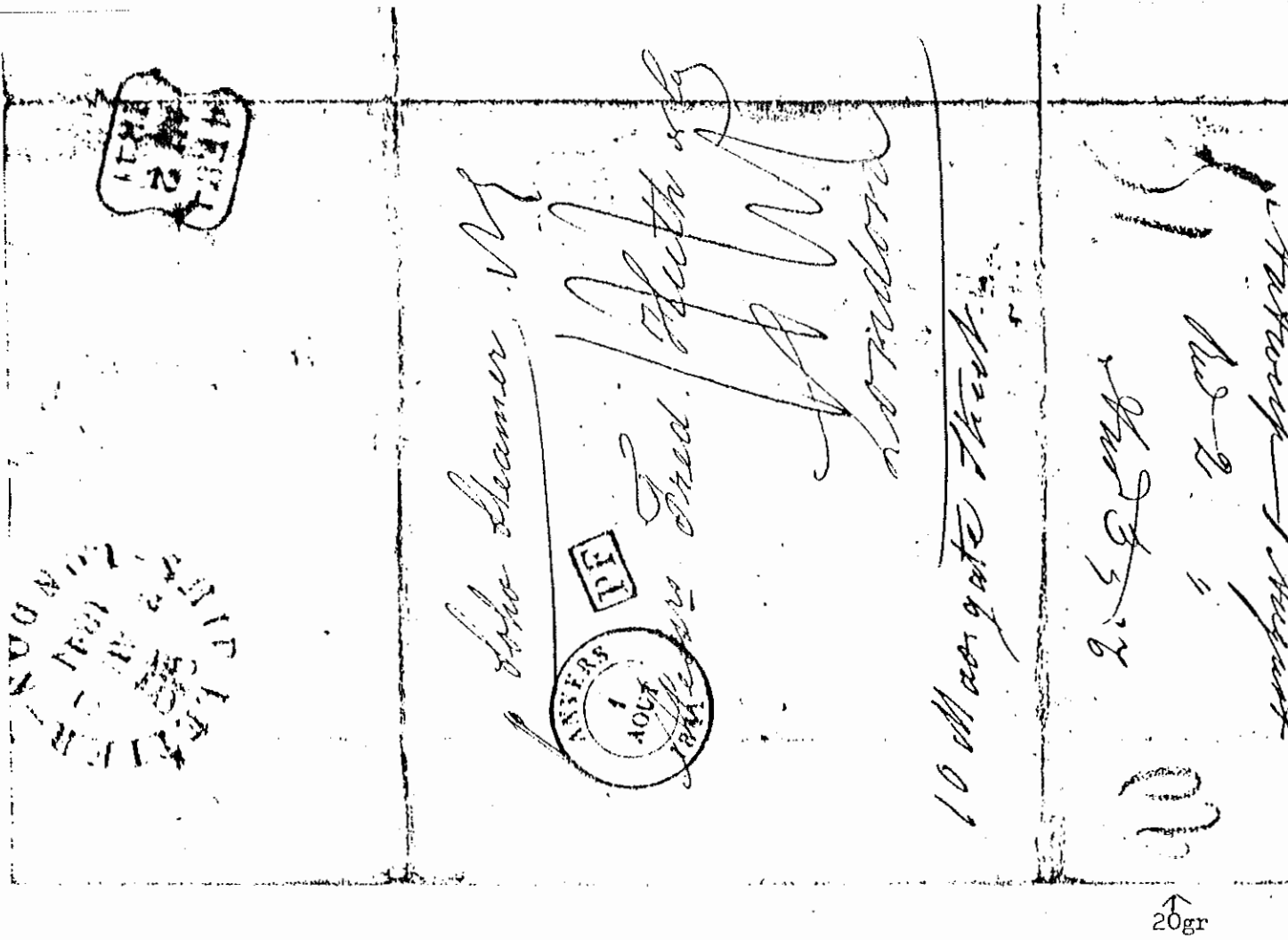
* * * * *

This note was in response to a letter received from Mr Leo de Clerq in which he sent photocopies of two other covers. This first is shown here and is one that has been carried on the Rainbow. It was sent 16 October 1841(a Saturday) from London and would be on the Sunday sailing to Antwerp with the Antwerp 18 Oct 1841 arrival mark.



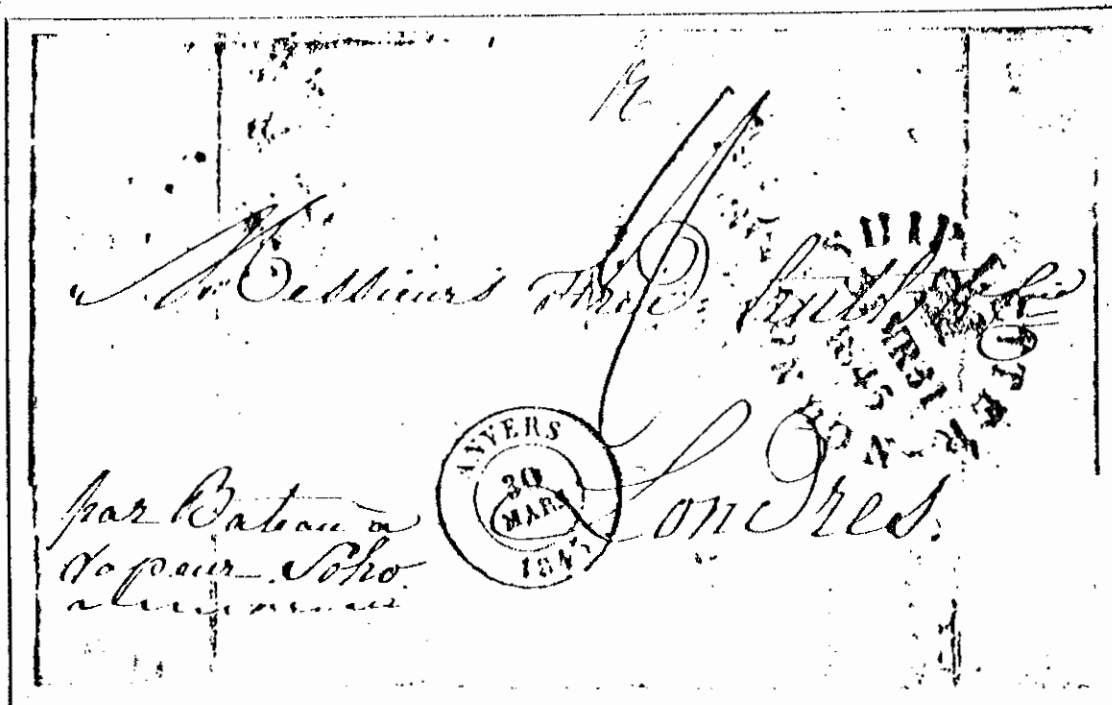
Rainbow .	Prepaid at London	8 pence
	Antwerp. seapostage	5 decimes
	Antwerp local	1 decime
		6 decimes
	corrected.weight 10gr = X 1.5 =	
	taxation	9 decimes.

Mr Leo de Clerq has also sent this copy of another SOHO cover this time from 90
 Antwerp to London. Seapostage 5 decimes London to 16gr 8 pence
 Antwerp local 1 decime 16 to 24 gr 8 pence +
 20gr = X 2.5 = 15 decimes. charge 1/4d.

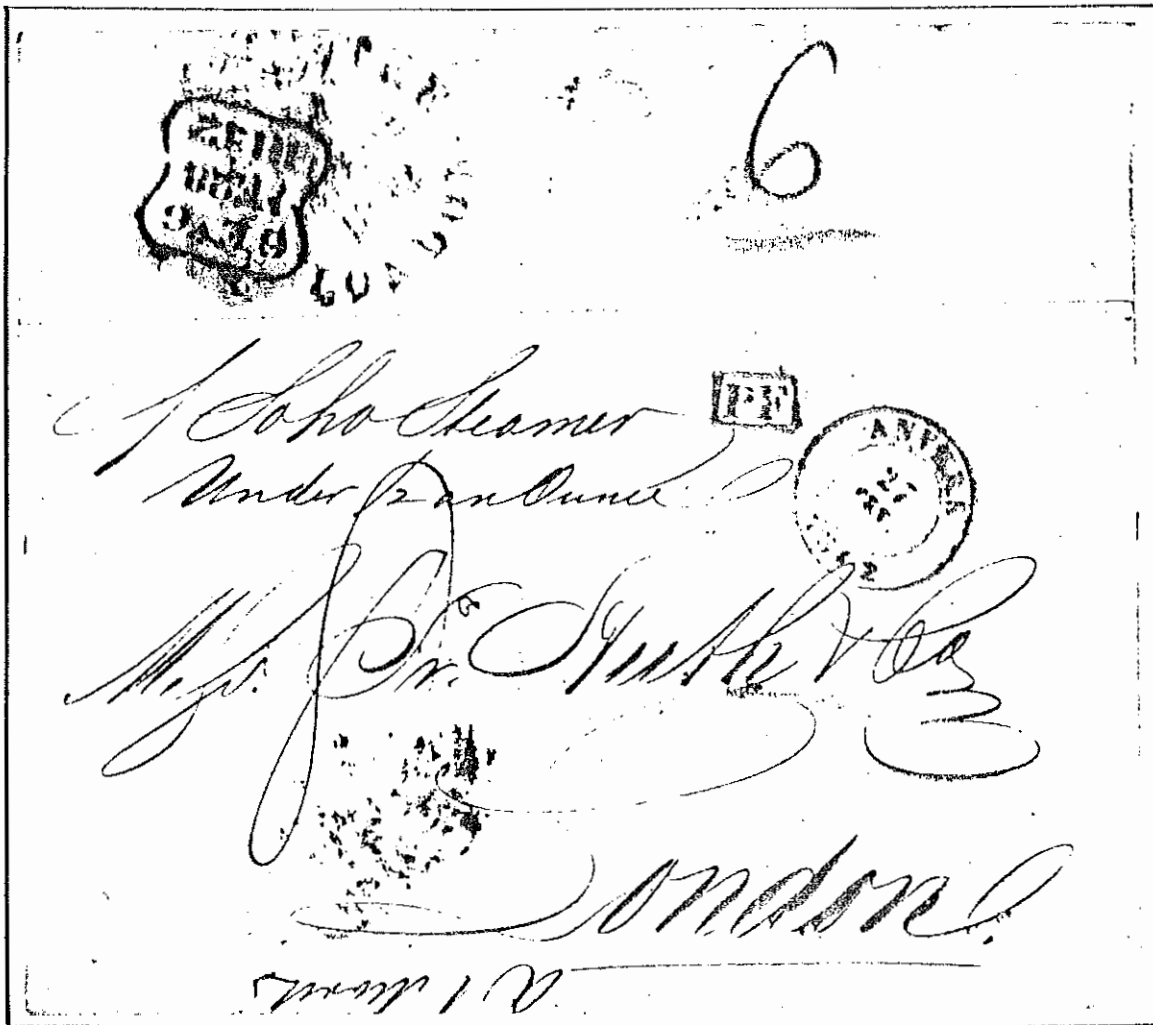


Jack Andrews has also provided some further examples of SOHO covers, starting with this one. Believe rate on front is 1/- ? No rate or weight on back.

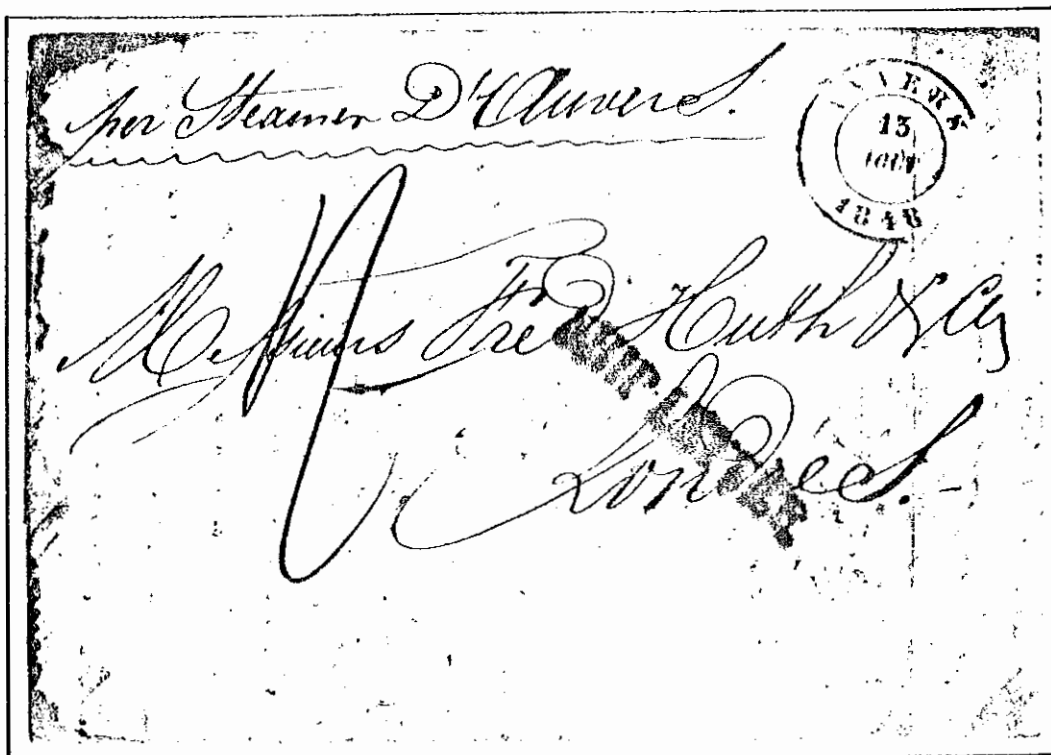
30 March 1845 was a Sunday. Soho left every Sunday at 11 am.
 The Crown London Ship Letter datestamp was in use 1838-1847



6 = Seapost -5 decimes + Antwerp local -1 decime = total 6 decimes
(in red crayon on back) Under 1/2 ounce = 8d in London



Soho. 13 August 1848. No rate or weight on back . rate on front 1/-?
The unpaid 'SHIP LETTER' mark of London was in use 1840 -1857



INDEPENDENT STATE of BELGIUM

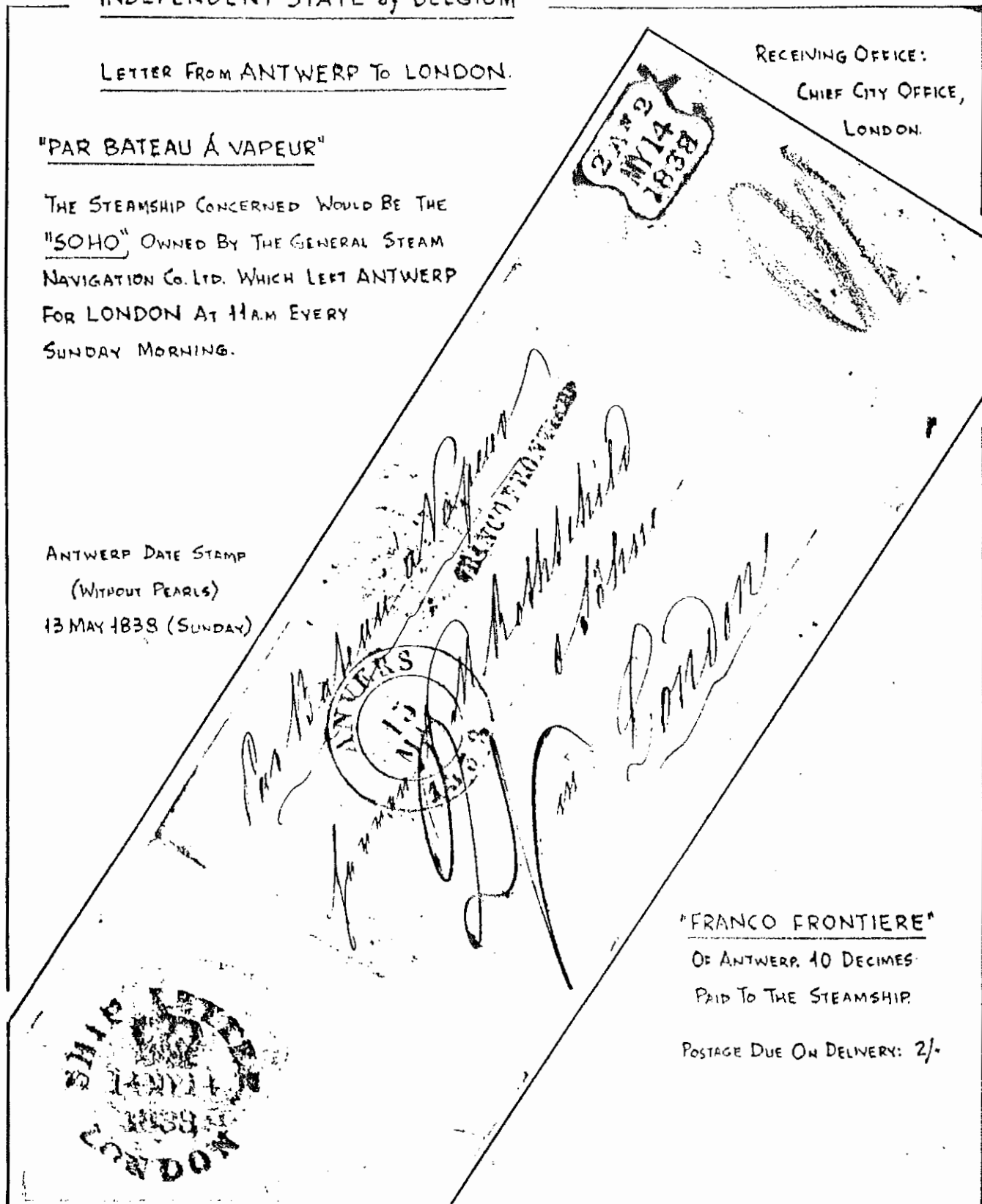
LETTER FROM ANTWERP TO LONDON.

"PAR BATEAU Á VAPEUR"

THE STEAMSHIP CONCERNED WOULD BE THE "SOHO" OWNED BY THE GENERAL STEAM NAVIGATION Co. LTD. WHICH LEFT ANTWERP FOR LONDON AT 11 A.M EVERY SUNDAY MORNING.

ANTWERP DATE STAMP
(WITHOUT PEARLS)
13 MAY 1838 (SUNDAY)

RECEIVING OFFICE:
CHIEF CITY OFFICE,
LONDON.



"FRANCO FRONTIERE"
OF ANTWERP. 10 DECIMES
PAID TO THE STEAMSHIP.
POSTAGE DUE ON DELIVERY: 2/-

* 10 Decimes - OR is this 10 grammes, in red crayon
2/- in London postage Due on delivery.
Is this a double weight letter?

One of the Belgian issues that offers more interest and possibly more opportunity of research is that of the 1869-1878

I leave out the first 4 values, (the 1c 2c, 5c, and 8c.) and concentrate on the 10c Green, 20c Blue, 25c Bistre, 30c Ocre, 40c Rose, 50c grey, 1fr violet and the notorious 5 fr.

As this is too vast a subject to tackle here I propose to give any interested members a few facts based on my own personal interest in this issue, by passing on the information that I think will prove of interest.

The stamp that has given me so much pleasure is the common 10c green.

Before relating my findings, I would like to mention that my particular interest was connected with the postmarks on these stamps rather than the actual flaws, colour differences and other details, that can be found well described and illustrated in the book published in 1929 by Paul de Smeth, through the 'Philatelite Belge'

Now, some 50 years later we have a new set of booklets published by H Koopman, (Currently available) which deal entirely with the postmarks that appear on these stamps.

Book No 1. Hardback, published in 1974 contains the lists of 458 numbers, in numerical order that were struck in the centre of the diamond dot postmark. This is a marvelous work and gives their approximate values, thus disclosing their rarity.

Book No 2. a smaller booklet listing the towns that can be found from 1873-1876 bearing the small double circle postmarks. Published 1976

This type immediately followed the withdrawal of the previous Diamond Dot type. There are 433 towns named on which the postmark can be found on the 10c green.

Book No 3 a larger booklet of some 54 pages appeared the following year (1977) and this followed the previous one, listing the 3rd type of larger single circle types to be found on the 10c from 1874 onwards.

The pages list the names of some 1300 towns in Belgium, all of which are to be found on stamps up to the issue of 1910. BUT those only to be found on the 10c green number around 800.

So, those members who feel they would like to study the postmarks to be found on the most common of the 1869 issue, the 10c can probably find a lot of pleasure if they happen to have any quantity of that value

POSTMARKS

Having now given some general comments about this issue, I will tell you how I came into possession of a large number of stamps, giving me great pleasure and interest in sorting them out to see just how many of these town names I could find using the Koopman books as a guide.

The story really started in the 1950's when on a visit to the City of London I chanced to drop into a dealers in Fleet Street who offered me a large boxful of the 10c green all done up in bundles of 100, tied up with cotton, some on piece and some soaked off. They were very rough and a bit dusty. However since he wanted very little for them I decided to take them. They were in a large flat cardboard box, tied up.

Having got them home I just put them away in my cupboard and said to myself that one day when I want a job I will go through them.

Well, they stayed in the box for years, they came with the rest of my collection to Canford Cliffs when I retired from business in 1963, and then to our present address in 1972, when they were put into store in the garage. The second half of the story relates to another find I had in Bournemouth about 10 years ago. There was in the town in a first floor room above a shop in the Christchurch Road (No longer in existence) a stamp dealer, by name Wallace.

He was the eldest of the Wallace Brothers, stamp dealers in the City of London, some years ago, but had no actual connection with their business, being quite independent.

I used to pop into the shop occasionally to see if he had anything of interest in Belgium, but he really never had much to offer me.

One day in the course of conversation with him he told me a fantastic story about his Father, who once put an advertisement in a paper stating he wanted large quantities of stamps, and that if anyone would care to send him bulk lots of any common stamp he would present a grand piano to the winner who produced the largest quantity by a certain date. Well all went well and when this date arrived he had accumulated a vast number of boxes and bags all full of stamps. I do not know when his Father died, but his parents evidently owned a large house in town, with a very large attic, and he invited me to call one day to see it. This I did and the attic was as described, full with sacks and boxes of stamps.

Needless to say I never actually found out what all the boxes contained but there was a box full of Belgian stamps. Believe it or not they were of the 10c green 1869 issue and they were all on piece, thus showing the whole clear postmark. What a find! Needless to say I managed to buy them and took them home. There were about 4000 copies in the box.

Now with this lot together with the original 3000 in my cardboard box, done up in 100's I thought that I would start sorting them out, and with the help of my Koopman books managed to find 345 copies of the small circular postmarks out of a possible 433 and as for the large single circle type I found 600 out of the possible 800, and I am still looking.

It has kept me busy for the past 6 months but it has been well worth the time spent, and good fun at that. Needless to say I have lots of duplicates so if you are interested do please drop me a line.

La Revue Postale. A list of the numbers of the magazine Harry Green

It will be noted that in this list of the issues that there were 5 or 6 numbers per year but over the years this dropped to 4 and at the end only 1 copy.

La Revue Postale was first published 15th November 1893 by Mr Jules Scholberg and published monthly (15th) for 47 years and ceased publication at the start of WW2 with number 431 for January 1940. It restarted publication in 1954 and details are:-

1954	Numbers	1	to	5	1969	number	74/75/76.77	(2 issues)
1955		6	to	10	1970		78 . 79/80	(2 issues)
1956		11	to	16	1971		81 to 83	
1957		17	to	22	1972		84	
1958		23	to	28	1973		85 to 86	
1959		29	to	34	1974		87 to 91	
1960		35	to	40	1975		92 to 95	
1961		41	to	45	1976		96. 97/98	(2 issues)
1962		46	to	52	1977		99/100. 101	(2 issues)
1963		53	to	57	1978		102/3. 104/5	(2 issues)
1964		58	to	62	1979		106/7/8	(1 copy)
1965		63/64		(1 copy)	1980		none issued.	
1966		65	to	66	1981		109/10. 111	(2 issues)
1967		67	to	71	1982		112	finish.
1968		72/73		(1 copy)				

note: .. to .. indicates numbers individually from .. to ..
while ../.. shows there was 1 copy with those numbers.

From 1982 it has been published in Antwerp under the title Belgica and comprises not only 'La Revue Postale'; but also 'Kwartaalblad voor Filatelie' and the articles are in either French or Flemish and comes out 4 times a year.

First published in the Journal of the Cercle Paul de Smeth. Translated by J B Horne.

We thank our member Mr Bosteels for letting us see several Control Marks of the "Atelier du Timbres" which seem to be very rare. In 1944 the Postal Administration marked certain stamp values with the following mark so that they could control the stamp sheets.

NAG. 19-2-44 - A = VER.

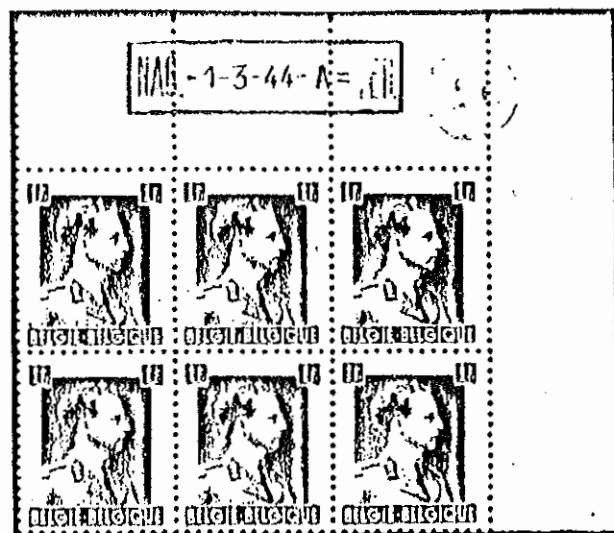
This mark is found on the 2.25fr Leopold III open collar stamp with the dates "19.2.44 , 23.2.44 " The sheets were stamped with this mark in the top left hand corner of the sheet and are found on sheets with the millesime - 1943 & control No 3 in circle.

The mark was also used for a few days only on other sheets and values and was then placed in a space to the left of the sheet number.

The list of stamps in sheets seen with this mark is :-

10c	Small State Seal	2,000 sheets of	400
35c	Small State Seal	12,000 sheets of	400
1fr	Leopold III small size	15,000 sheets of	200
2.25fr	Leopold III large size	1,910 sheets of	150

The stamps were distributed to various unknown Post Offices. The 2.25fr was sold at the Verviers Post Office.



see next page for further illustrations

Railway Cancellations C F B Mark 1919

This example has been sent to me by Jack McGilloway. It is a temporary mark used after the War and until fresh cancellers could be made. C F B stands for:-

Chemin de Fer de l'etat Belge and it would appear that it is a former interaall use handstamp brought into temporary duty. Can any member give any further details and are there other examples of handstamps used in this manner ?

jbh

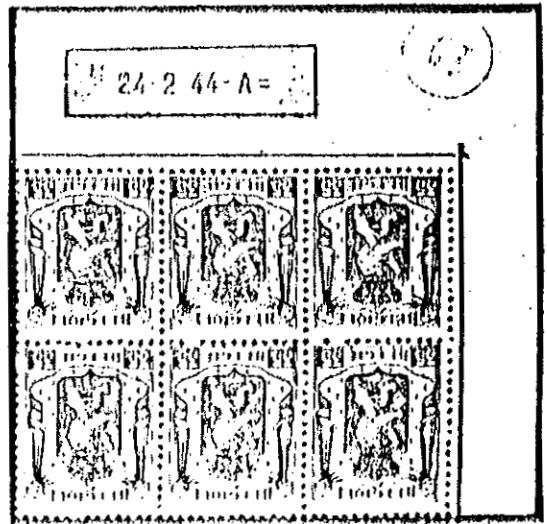
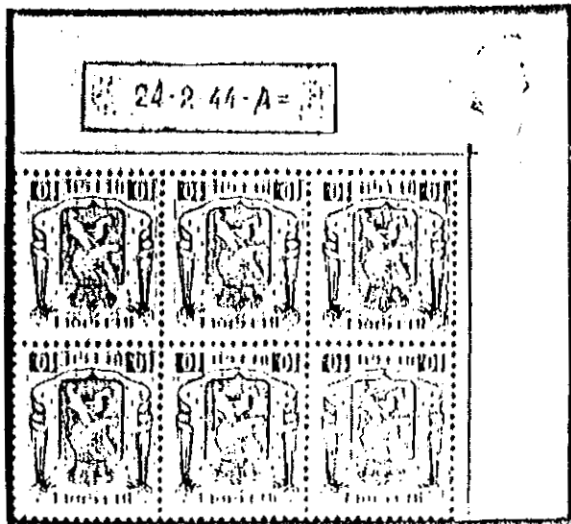
C F B used

1 Mai 1919

also shows

Section N91.





From the Journal of the Cercle Paul de Smeth
translated by J B Horne

The Frontier Post Office receiving surcharged mail with difficult to read markings usually returned them for readable markings to be applied. In order to reduce the inconvenience caused a printed label, printed in black on gold coloured paper was introduced. The label is described in Postal Circular No 408 dated 18.4.184

The label is fixed to the front of the letter and to the left of the address by one or two dabs of glue or wax. A note on the label states that the label is not to be separated from the accompanying letter .

MINISTÈRE
des
Travaux Publics.

(N^o 135.)

ÉLÉMENTS DE LA TAXE

A recouvrer sur le Destinataire de la Lettre jointe à cette étiquette (1).

POSTES.

Le bureau frontière belge apposera ci-dessous son timbre d'entrée.

1 ^o Port remboursé à l'office de Hollande	fr.	1 40
2 ^o Taxe, d'après le tarif belge, depuis le bureau frontéro jusqu'à Bruxelles (destination).	ci.	11 20
TOTAL de la taxe à payer par le destinataire.	ci.	1 60

N. B. Il est bien entendu que, si le destinataire change de résidence, la taxe belge indiquée ci-dessus devra être mobilisée en conséquence de ce changement, mais jamais la somme à rembourser à l'office étranger.

La présente étiquette ne devra, dans aucun cas, être séparée de la lettre qu'elle accompagne.

M. de la Cour
Liquet

The illustration shows : -

Letter from CHERIBON (170, 000 hab) Indonesian Port north of Java,
21.3.1866 to BRUXELLES via Marseilles

Endorsed Postage unpaid it arrived in Bruxelles 4.5.1866.

Postage - Manuscript : 70c to be paid to Netherlands - this corresponds with 140 Belgian centimes. There is also 20 centimes territorial tax (single rate letter) under Article 14 of the Convention of 1851/1852. The back of the letter carries the hand stamp which is also seen on the label - HOLLANDE NORD No 2.

The letter was redirected to GAND.

E. VdP.

The German Military Captured by the Belgian Army (1914-1918)

by Gerhard Ludwig and Rene Silverberg

This article appeared in the Cercle Paul de Smeth Journal and has been kindly translated for us by our member Mrs C M Wyld.

Without doubt there are only a few collectors who realise that the Belgian Army captured during the First World War, slightly more than 400 Officers and around 18,000 soldiers of the German Army.

At the beginning of the war, the first prisoner of war camps were installed for the German military who fell into the hands of the Belgian Army. One was at Hoogstraeten and the other in Bruges. The first of these only functioned for a short time; because of pressure from the German Army it was moved to Bruges.

The Stronghold of Antwerp also had two camps of the same kind, but less important. One was at the town jail and the other was on the steamer Ganelon which was appropriated for this purpose.

In view of the rapid progress of events, it was necessary to put the German prisoners of war out of reach of the enemy, and to resolve, in agreement with the French Authorities, to evacuate them to France.

Except for a few who were being treated in Bruges Hospital, all were handed over to the French Government. They undertook to continue to consider them as prisoners of the Belgian Army. Eventually they would be useful as exchanges for Belgian military prisoners.

All the German soldiers captured after this by the Belgian troops were also handed over to the French Authorities by the Belgian Authorities. All these prisoners were split up and sent to several camps around France, and the French Authorities took upon themselves their care and management.

The Belgian military authorities took care, besides, that a personal record on paper, as laid down by the Haye Convention, would be drawn up for each of the German prisoners captured by the Belgian troops. These lists were periodically communicated to the German Government. The passing on of these lists to Berlin was of great importance, because the Germans were obliged to reciprocate, and the Belgian military prisoners would have had to suffer the consequences of a delay in handing over the lists.

* * * *

In December 1917 the Belgian Central Office for prisoners of war undertook the responsibility to fulfil the role of information bureau for the German prisoners captured by the Belgian Army, in pursuance of Article 14 of the Haye Convention. They were in the care of the French Authorities, up until 20 November 1917, there were 51 German officers and 2,225 soldiers who were confined in different camps in France by the Belgian authorities. At the beginning of 1918 the Belgian Office was anxious to transfer the care of German prisoners back into the hands of the Belgian Authorities, so as to use them as manpower, so they got in touch with the French authority.

On 16th March 1918 the first contingent of 300 German prisoners was placed at the disposal of the Belgian authority and taken to the well known camp at Auvours. During the battle of Mercken, 17 April 1918 the Belgian Army captured 779 German soldiers, of whom 20 were Officers, and the Belgian Authority resolved to keep them so as to be able to employ them themselves. It was necessary to agree this with the French Authorities, and it was decided that after 16th March 1918 all German prisoners caught by Belgian troops would remain in their hands. Meanwhile, events changed and the Belgian territory was freed.

* * * *

After the Armistice the German prisoners were distributed between these 40 Belgian camps that we list under their old spelling : -
 Adinkerke ; Antwerp (Anvers) ; Arlon ; Avecapelle ; Beveren ; Beverlo ; Blaukenberghe ;
 Braschaet ; Bruges ; Bruxelles ; Calloo ; Coxude ; Evere ; Gand ; Groenendael ; Haeren ;
 Handzaeme ; Hoogstraeten ; Klein-Leysele ; Knokke ; La Parne ; Laeken ; Lampernisse ;
 Liege ; Leke ; Louvain ; Malines ; Huysen ; Ostende ; Quatrecht ; Ramscapelle ;
 Roesdamme ; Schaerbeek ; Thourout ; Vincken ; Woesten ; Wulpen ; Wulveringham ;
 Wijnegham ; and Zoetenaeghe. * * * *

After the Armistice and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the German prisoners still in the Belgian camps were repatriated, by means of special trains according to Articles 214 and following, of the Treaty, between 25 September and 4 October 1919.

20 prisoners were not repatriated until 20 January 1920 and were guarded as hostages at Dienst, because it had been proved that quite a large number of Belgian prisoners had been kept in the German prison camps, and they were not returned to Belgium until several months later.

The German prisoners kept in Dienst were allowed to write four letters and four postcards per month, with exemption from postal charges.

Investigations were made in Germany to ascertain that there were definitely no more military or civil Belgian prisoners left there. Once this was established, the 20 German prisoners were allowed to be repatriated.

The Belgian Office also exchanged correspondence with suitable authorities concerning the repatriation of prisoners in special categories (the ill and badly wounded), or of other nationalities such as Polish, Lithuanians, Czechs, Slovaks, and those originating from Schleswing, Eupen and Malmedy.

* * * *

We hope we have given you an insight into the history of the First World War but above all we hope that many collectors will research their own material to see if they can find documents to corroborate our information. We thank them for their information which we hope they will photocopy and send to us.

Bibliography.

Office central Belge pour les Prisonniers de Guerre Belge de 1914-1918, fourth and last report, September 1917- March 1924. p.522/26

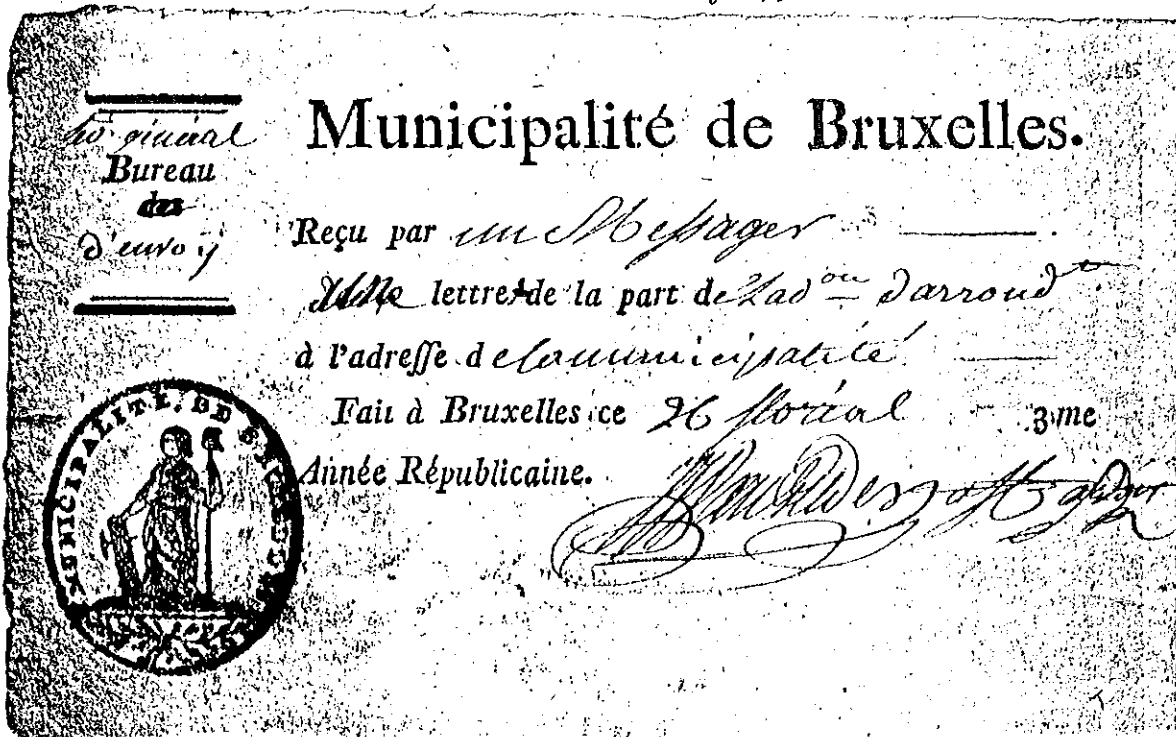
Eugene de Seyn, Dictionnaire historique et géographique des communes belges, third edition, Turnhout, undated. p.887.

* * * *

jbh4.87

A well printed postal receipt from Bruxelles dated 26 Florial 3me
which date is 16th May 1794.

jbh



Translated and added to by J B Horne from an article in the Journal of the Cercle Paul de Smeth.

Refer also to "Calendars and their changes.. " in Belgapost Volume 1 pages 22, 23

The Republican year was divided into 12 months :-

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. VENDEMIARE (Grape Harvest) | 7. GERMINAL (Germination) |
| 2. BRUMAIRE (Mist/Fog) | 8. FLOREAL (Blossom) |
| 3. FRIMAIRE (Cold) | 9. PRAIRIAL (Meadows) |
| 4. NIVOSE (Snow) | 10. MESSIDOR (Harvest) |
| 5. PLUVIOSE (Rain) | 11. THERMIDOR (Warmth & Bathing) |
| 6. VENTOSE (Wind) | 12. FRUCTIDOR (Fruit) |

You will note that the month endings are :- aire in Autumn, -ose in Winter, -al in Spring and -or in Summer.

Vendemiaire started the year and corresponded to September. Each month had 30 days. At the end of every year there were 5 extra days, with a 6th extra day every 4th year. These 5 or 6 extra days were Republican Feast days or holidays.

The months were also divided into 10 sets of 3 days named :-

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| primidi | sextidi |
| duodi | septidi |
| tridi | octidi |
| quartidi | nonidi |
| quintidi | decadi |

Year 1 of the Calendar started 22 September 1792 - the Autumn Equinox and the day of the foundation of the Republic. The Calendar was not, however, brought into use until 1st January 1794.

It ceased to be used Officially 11 Nivose XIV (1.1.1806) although it does appear in small measure on letters until well into 1809.

The Table indicates the First day of each Month

		1792 à 1806															
ERE RÉPUBLICAINE		I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	
ERE GRÉGORIENNE		1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	
1 ^{er} Vend.	Sept.	22	22	22	23	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	24	23	23	23	
1 ^{er} Brum.	Oct.	22	22	22	23	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	24	23	23	23	
1 ^{er} Frim.	Nov.	21	21	21	22	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	22	22	22	
1 ^{er} Nivôse	Déc.	21	21	21	22	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	22	22	22	
1 ^{er} Pluv.	Janv.		20	20	20	21	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	22	21	21	21
1 ^{er} Vent.	Févr.		19	19	19	20	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	20	20	20
1 ^{er} Germ.	Mars		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
1 ^{er} Flor.	Avril		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
1 ^{er} Prair.	Mai		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
1 ^{er} Mess.	Juin		19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
1 ^{er} Ther.	Juill.		19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
1 ^{er} Fruct.	Août		18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19

Mrs Paula D'Hondt-Van Opdenbosch, State Secretary for Post, Telegraph and Telephone, has pleasure in announcing that the Belgian Post Office will issue, in the course of 1988, the following special postage stamps.
As in previous years, surcharges will be limited in 1988, to maximum 25 % of the face-value of the stamps.

1988 SPECIAL ISSUES PROGRAMME

1. A set of four special postage stamps dedicated to the sea.
2. A set of two special postage stamps called «Dynamism of the regions» and dedicated to the campaign «Vlaanderen leeft» (Flanders alive) and to the «Athena» programme.
3. A special issue for Stamp Day.
4. Two special semi-postals and a special sheet containing a special semi-postal will make up the issue «Promotion of Philately».
5. A set of two special postage stamps denominated «Europe» marking transport and means of communication.
6. Two special semi-postals dedicated to table tennis and cycling, together with a special sheet, illustrated with a group of marathon runners and including a special semi-postal marking the Olympic Games to be held in 1988, in Seoul-Korea.
7. A «Tourist» set of five special postage stamps showing the towns and villages of Amay, Malines, Waimes, Peer and Péruwelz.
8. A special postage stamp dedicated to the memory of Jean Monnet.
9. Two special postage stamps dedicated to the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine and the Royal Academy of Sciences, Literature and Fine Arts.
10. A set of four special postage stamps making up the «Cultural Patrimony» issue, depicting, resp. an object displayed at the Antwerp Ethnographical Museum, the Gisants in St Martin's Church in Trazegnies, a church organ and the reliquary shrine of St Hadelin's Church in Visé.
11. A special postage stamp promoting Youth Philately and marking the fiftieth anniversary of the weekly «Spirou».

12. A set of three special semi-postals denominated «Solidarity», dedicated to Jacques Brel, Jef Denijn and Father Verbiest.
13. A special postage stamp for the seventyfifth anniversary of the «Office des chèques postaux» (Belgian postal girobank).
14. A special semi-postal celebrating Christmas and the New Year.
15. A set of three special postage stamps focusing on the art of printing and reproducing pieces displayed in Antwerp, Brussels and Morlanwelz.

PROPOSED CALENDAR

Dates	Issues	Composition and denominations
February 8, 1988	The Sea	4 postage stamps of 10 BF
March 7, 1988	Dynamism of the regions	2 postage stamps of 13 BF
April 4, 1988	Stamp Day	1 postage stamp of 13 BF
April 25, 1988	Promotion of Philately	- 2 semi-postals : 13 BF + 3 BF and 24 BF + 6 BF - 1 special sheet containing 1 special semi-postal at the value of 50 BF + 12 BF
May 9, 1988	Europe	2 postage stamps : 13 BF and 24 BF
June 6, 1988	Olympic Games	- 2 semi-postals : 9 BF + 2 BF and 13 BF + 3 BF - 1 special sheet containing 1 special semi-postal at the value of 50 BF + 12 BF
June 20, 1988	Tourist	3 postage stamps of 9 BF 2 postage stamps of 13 BF
September 12, 1988	Jean Monnet	1 postage stamp of 13 BF
September 19, 1988	Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine and Royal Academy of Sciences, Literature and Fine Arts	2 postage stamps of 9 BF
September 26, 1988	Cultural Patrimony	4 postage stamps : 9 BF, 13 BF, 24 BF and 26 BF
October 10, 1988	Youth Philately	1 postage stamp of 9 BF
October 24, 1988	Solidarity	3 semi-postals : 9 BF + 2 BF, 13 BF + 3 BF and 26 BF + 6 BF
November 7, 1988	Girobank	1 postage stamp of 13 BF
November 21, 1988	Christmas and New Year	1 semi-postal : 13 BF + 1 BF
December 19, 1988	Art of printing	3 postage stamps : 9 BF, 24 BF and 26 BF

Railways Article See Page 59. Two illustrations kindly sent by Mr. M Deneumostier.

ATHUS Month in capitals

AOUT

ARDOYE-COOLSCAM No 2

Month in Roman numerals

IX

