

**BELGAPOST**

**The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle**

**Volume 4 No. 2**

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# The Journal of the Belgian Study Circle

January/February 1991

Volume 4.

Editor: S.J. Andrews, 37 Barton Lodge Road, Birmingham B28 0RL Number 2.

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Editorial

Members who came to the three meetings of this season will have seen much to admire and enjoy. The first meeting started with a fine show by our Secretary, the Waterloo Issue of 1944 - the "Lion Rampant" Liberation Issue. This was followed by a superb first time display of Eupen 1727 to c 1870, many rare items being shown. This was given by Jean Bruwier from Seraing, and assisted by his student son Philippe. He hopes to let us have an article of this exhibit and later to let us see his same period of Malmedy.

The following month we saw the King Albert mourning stamp and the mourning issue of Queen Astrid. These were shown by Jack Gibbs who said that there was still much work to be done on this. Following this we saw a wonderful display of Thurn and Taxis material much showing concerned with Belgium. The speaker, who spoke so well on the subject, was Fred Goatcher of the German and Colonies Society. And the third meeting saw Reg Harrison give another of his "Counties" - this time Liege, and which you will see his paper in due course. This was followed by another section of the 1915 Issue Die III by Willy de Bakere and Geoffrey Wood, an important contribution.

Regarding "Belgapost", your joint editors must say that the "production" team of Peter Russell, Reg Harrison and Geoffrey Wood have done a fine job and do hope that this team can carry on in this way.

A number of members have told us that they have enjoyed the new "Belgapost", and we have had some criticism. But we also find it necessary to say to our members that some do not appear to understand the role of an editor. Let us say that their job basically is to put the journal together in a tangible way, to check the contents and to be responsible for all work connected with it. Only the editors can accept contributions and no other person can put material directly into the journal without their consent. The joint editors meet at least once a month to consider articles (and please send plenty in). They also will deal with any problems concerning acknowledgments or permission to publish.

S.J. Andrews

January/February 1991  
Edited by S.J. Andrews

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## THE ESTAFETTE SPECIAL SERVICE

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An article by Pierre Langlois, under the heading "The Paris - Calais Estaffettes", appeared in the Philatelic Magazine of January, 1971. The article deals essentially with the Estafette Special Service used to speed up mail from Paris to Calais. A number of postal marks used for the system were illustrated.

Similar marks originating from Antwerp in Belgium are no doubt an indication that the same service was also operational between Belgium and France during the period.

Langlois' article is reproduced in full in Part I. This is followed in Part II by some additional notes by S.J. Andrews, in which the extension of the service in Belgium is outlined.

### I THE PARIS-CALAIS ESTAFFETTES<sup>1</sup>

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By Pierre Langlois

During the nineteenth century the methods of transporting mail between Britain and France underwent a number of changes, often as a direct result of the constant interest shown by the governments of both countries, and by their respective postal administrations, in the improvement and speeding up of the letter carrying service. Thus, for example, in 1829, the Direction Générale des Postes introduced 'le service special des estaffettes' for the faster transmission of mail between Paris and Calais. A study of this service and of the postal markings employed, reveals the extent to which the authorities were resolved to make the posts work efficiently, and the degree of success achieved. The 'service des estaffettes' subsequently became the normal service, replacing that provided by the old mail coaches.

The new service, to carry mail destined for England and also, of course, in the reverse direction, was created by the Statute of July 4th, 1829 (Article II) and established between Paris and Calais on August 1st, of the same year. The Conseiller d'Etat, Baron de Villeneuve, at the time Director-General of Posts, officially notified the various Inspectors, Postmasters and Assistant Inspectors, by means of a special circular (No. 20) issued by the 'Bureau de la Correspondance Etrangère de la Direction Générale' on July 15th, 1829. This is a precisely worded document setting forth details of the 'service des estaffettes' and the various tariffs applicable.

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Note 1. The word 'estaffette' dates from the seventeenth century and is borrowed from the Italian 'staffetta', meaning "dispatch-rider" or "courier". 'Staffetta' is itself a diminutive of 'staffa', "stirrup", from which the association of ideas is clear. In modern French, 'estafette' (with one 'f') is likewise used to mean "dispatch-rider".

## I The Paris-Calais Estaffettes (contd)

The document twice emphasises that

'the public is in no way obliged to use this means of transmitting mail, and that the establishment of this supplementary service in no sense alters the facilities available for dispatching mail to England in the ordinary way by mail-coach'

At that time mail-coaches (malles-postes) left Paris on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The 'estaffettes', too, left the capital four times a week: on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, at five o'clock in the afternoon. The letters they carried were delivered in London at five o'clock on the morning after the following day, i.e. in 36 hours, whereas letters carried by the traditional mail-coach took a good 60 hours. It is worth noting that the saving of time was particularly big in regard to letters handed in to be carried by the Wednesday 'estaffette', because these would be delivered in London on Friday morning, whereas the next mail-coach did not leave Paris until the Friday and the letters it carried would thus not reach London until Monday morning. So, for mid-week letter writers, a saving of three days. Likewise, to catch the Sunday evening 'estaffette' meant a saving of two days, as compared with the mail-coach service.

On the return journey, the 'estaffette' left Calais on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, arriving in Paris at eight o'clock the following morning. The vehicle used was a light-weight two-wheeled carriage of the type sometimes called a "Tilbury", and carried only the driver and his box of letters. That this was quicker than the heavy mail-coaches, laden in varying degrees with passengers as well as mail, is not difficult to see.

The 'estaffette' service was available on payment, by the sender, of what the regulations describe as

'a supplementary tax of three décimes per letter weighing less than seven-and-a-half grammes, and progressively for letters of that weight and above'.

As prepayment of mail for England was already obligatory in 1829, the levying of this surcharge at the point of dispatch presented no problem.

The circular of July 15th, 1829, gives two examples to show how the tariff for the new system will work, in each direction. Here is the relevant extract:

'...Thus, for example, whereas an ordinary letter sent to England from Bordeaux (by the normal service) is charged as follows:

Bordeaux to Calais ..	10 décimes
By boat, Calais-Dover ..	<u>2 décimes</u>
Total	12 décimes

I The Paris-Calais Estaffettes (contd)

'this same letter, if presented for franking for onward transmission from Paris by estaffette, will be charged at 12 décimes plus three i.e. 15 décimes. If the weight is seven-and-a-half grammes, the charge will be 23 décimes: if 10 grammes, the charge will be 30 décimes'.

' .... Letters coming from England and carried (from Calais to Paris) by estaffette and bearing the words 'par estaffette', will likewise incur a supplementary and progressive tax of three décimes. An ordinary letter from England, addressed to Bordeaux is charged as follows:

Fee due at Calais ..	6 décimes
Calais-Bordeaux ..	10 décimes
	<hr/>
Total	16 décimes'

'If the same letter bears the words 'par estaffette', it will be charged at 16 décimes plus three décimes, i.e. 19 décimes. If it weighs seven-and-a-half grammes, the charge will be 29 décimes; if the weight is 10 grammes the charge will be 38 décimes'

The circular lays down that each one of these letters must be indicated by the postmaster in Column 6 of the 'listes nominatives' (tables showing ordinarily franked mail and registered mail sent through Paris and to countries abroad) with the letters "EST" (Estaffette); also, that they must be dispatched "in a single packet cross-tied with string". This regulation was no doubt often pointless, for it must frequently have happened that a small post office would have no more than a single letter to dispatch to England via the 'service des estaffettes' !

The official instructions to Postmasters and Inspectors also stipulate that

'letters destined for England and which are handed in to you for transmission by estaffette (from Paris to Calais), must, with the address, carry the words 'par estaffette', either in your handwriting or in that of the sender'

This brings us to the identification of the 'timbres' - in this sense meaning postal markings - utilised. Four were brought into service at the Paris Central Post Office - three for outgoing letters and one for letters arriving - possibly during the second half of 1829, although they are known at present only from 1830. They are described in two standard works: 'Catalogue des Estampilles' and 'Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris'. The actual procedure governing their use, however, is not explained in detail, and it is worthwhile to try and establish as precisely as possible what this was. No official document has been discovered which deals with the matter, but examination of the letters that have survived makes it possible to draw conclusions which point to the answer to this problem.

## I The Paris-Calais Estaffettes (contd)

Although the marking ANGL. EST can without difficulty be classed as an entry marking, yet the three others - the departure markings - were all at one time concurrently in use, and it is reasonable to suppose that each served a specific purpose.

From items examined, it can be established that all letters bearing the stamp ESTAFFETTE came from the provinces to be transmitted via Paris; those marked with the abbreviation ESTAF. came from various Paris post offices, whilst those bearing the post paid marking P.P.EST. seem to have been handed in at the Paris Central Post Office where there was a section which operated specially to handle this class of mail. Let us look at them in the reverse order.

### 1. P.P. EST. Marking

This marking is classified in the works referred to above as already in use round about 1829. I have only seen examples from the period 1831 to 1833, struck always in blue. It seems also to have served for use on 'estaffette' mail destined for Bordeaux and for Belgium. It is the rarest of the four (Fig 1).

**P. P. EST.** Fig. 1

### 2. ESTAF. Marking

This marking, struck always in red, has been found only on mail originating from certain Paris Offices: D, E, G, J and the post office in the Chamber of Deputies (now called the Assemblée Nationale'). It is certain that the other post offices in the capital must likewise have franked 'estaffette' mail, applying their cachet "60/PP/....", with their 'indicatif' A, B, C, etc., of the type 2751 as listed in the "Catalogue des Marques Postales et Oblitérations de Paris". The ESTAF. marking is classified as in use from about 1830. I have seen examples dating from the period 1832 to 1834 (Fig 2).

**ESTAF.** Fig. 2

### 3. ESTAFFETTE Marking

This marking, struck in red, is found only on letters originating from the provinces and handled through Paris in transit for England via Calais. Classified as in use in 1830. The examples I have seen date from 1831 and 1832 (Fig 3).

**ESTAFFETTE**  
Fig. 3

### 4. ANGL. EST. Marking

This marking was applied at the Central Post Office on all mail arriving from England by the Calais 'estaffette'. It can be considered as a Paris entry marking. Struck in red, examples are known from the period 1830-1834. By virtue of its use, it is the commonest of the four markings discussed (Fig 4).

**ANGL. EST.** Fig. 4

These markings are always found on the obverse of the letter, thus as an addition to the manuscript marking of the dispatching office or of the sender. The life span of these markings was brief; no more than four or five years at the most. If their purpose seems not to have changed much during that time,

## I The Paris-Calais Estaffettes (contd)

the service itself was transformed, a fact which led to their disappearance.

On August 17th, 1833, the 'Maître des Requêtes, Directeur de l'Administration des Postes', sent out a new circular (No.18) to the Inspectors, Postmasters and Assistant Inspectors, confirming the 'Estaffette' service and making it henceforth daily:

'Everyday of the week from Paris to Calais and six times a week from Calais to Paris, given that there is no dispatch of mail from London on Sundays'

This marked a step forward, but at the same time the freedom of choice which the public still enjoyed under the regulations of 1829, was abolished. The 'Estaffette' service became the normal service, to the exclusion of the alternative hitherto offered by the mail-coach. A faster postal service had been established, but, of course, the three décimes "supplementary and progressive" tax was maintained. Thus the postage rate was still made up of the tax levied as from the post office of origin as far as Calais, the two décimes tax for sea transport ("par voie de mer") and the three décimes tax for service "par estaffette".

However, a new measure was introduced whereby the facility of sending letters to England, Scotland and Ireland via the 'estaffette' service was extended to include British possessions - to work reciprocally - on condition, of course, that the mail was routed via Paris. On the other hand, and resulting from this, a restriction was imposed on the northern departments of France, whose post offices were now forbidden to send cross-channel mail via 'estaffette'. The departments thus excluded were the Ardennes, Aisne, Nord, Oise, Pas de Calais, Seine-Inférieure and Somme, to which were shortly to be added, on November 11th, 1833, Manche and Calvados. As from this date, though, it was made possible to send via 'estaffette' all letters bound not only for British possessions but also for Lisbon, Oporto and Buenos Aires.

In the meantime, On October 7th, 1833, a Royal Ordinance authorised the despatch by 'estaffette' from Paris to Calais, of "newspapers and other printed matter sent from France to England and from England to France". A uniform rate of 50 centimes was charged "whatever be the dimensions of each sheet", and representing a charge of 20 centimes for cross-channel transport and 30 centimes for transport by 'estaffette'.

The transformation of the 'Estaffette' service into normal service in 1833, could be assumed to have brought about the immediate disappearance of the special markings described above. But this was not quite what happened. It was in fact



## I The Paris-Calais Estaffettes (contd)

only after several months had elapsed that they ceased to appear on correspondence. In the absence of any official evidence relating to their abolition, what is one to conclude ? Either that the Administration was anxious to go on justifying the three décimes supplementary tax, or that, the habit having become second nature, a period of months was necessary before it became obvious that to go on using these markings no longer made sense, since the differentiation of service had ceased to exist ? I must leave it to the reader to choose the explanation he considers logical.

## II THE ANTWERP-PARIS ESTAFETTE

By S.J. Andrews

The Belgian mark PAR ESTAFETTE, in red ink, was set between two parallel lines and appeared to have only been used from Antwerp. It was in use from January, 1833 to August, 1835. Most of the letters were to Paris (to the bankers J.J. Leemans) but a very few to other places were sent to Brussels and to other parts of France and to Lisbon (via Paris). Most of those to Leemans were "Prices Current", all of which would require urgency.

### PAR ESTAFETTE

Under a decree<sup>1</sup> dated 10 December, 1832, regulating the service of the estafettes, it prescribed the payment of 1.50 fr per relay for the use of the horse and 1.50 fr for the rider, and it fixed the duration of the ride of a relay as 32 minutes.

A circular of 6 January, 1834, recalled that the right to charge 5 francs at the time of departure as well at the delivery was maintained.

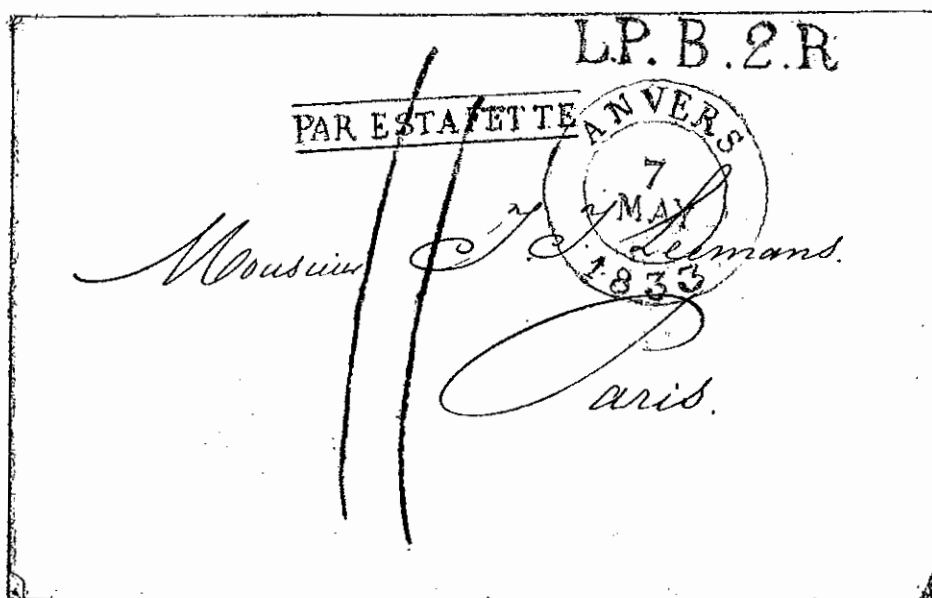
On 1 January, 1836 (and after the dates known for the mark) a new circular fixed the price to be paid in advance at 3.50 fr per relay, and it also recalled that owing to the regulations in force in France, only the dispatches addressed by the Belgian authorities to the French authorities were allowed to be sent by estafette.

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Note The Belgian mark PAR ESTAFETTE uses the modern spelling with one 'f'. For the sake of internal consistency the text of part II of this article also uses this modern spelling (without quotes).

The Antwerp-Paris Estafette (contd)

The cost shown above was an enormous price for sending by this system. How this price was indicated or done we do not know. But what we do find is that the rate shown on the front of the letter (Antwerp to Paris) is 11 décimes. In my own collection, ordinary letters (Antwerp to Paris - Leemans) vary from 9,10 or 11 décimes.



Reference

1. Herlant, L., 'La Poste aux Lettres et les Marques Postales en Belgique de 1648 à 1849'. Published by Les Editions A.G. Stainforth, Bruges (1946). Refer to pp. 113/116 for 'Correspondance par Estafettes'.

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QUERIES FROM MEMBERS

The following marks have been noted by members who would appreciate hearing from any reader who is able to identify them:-

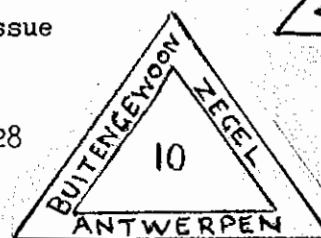
From A.D. Geake

This mark was found on a 50c grey stamp of the 1893 issue



From A.G. Wood

Mark found on newspaper from England to Belgium in 1828 (Dutch period).



From A.G. Wood

Another mark found on newspaper fragment from Antwerp dated 3 March 1869. Franking on 2c stamp of 1866 issue. Could this be an arrival mark 'ENSCHÉDE' or a postage due mark. (From Maurice Baeten Sale 167 Lot 1225).



Representing the Notes of a Display to Members of the  
Belgian Study Circle in December 1987

By R.T. Harrison

The display given to the Belgian Study Circle in December 1987 was intended as a brief introduction to the postal history of West Flanders, one of the nine provinces of present-day Belgium. It did not represent a detailed study of the subject for this territory. Instead, the purpose was to display a small selection of material to give the interested collector an overview of the subject and to reveal the scope for further study.

Historical Background

The name 'Flanders'<sup>+</sup> was first recorded round the 8th century. It referred to a large area from Calais to the Dutch coast bounded on the east by the river Scheldt (see Fig A).

By the time of the Spanish occupation, the southern portion had been lost to France by a series of Treaties. Likewise, in the northern portion, the Sluis area, had become part of Holland. Notable among these treaties are the Treaty of Munster (1648), the 'Paix des Pyrenees (1659), the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1668) and the Peace of Nimege (1678). The areas removed from Flanders and the year of these losses are shown in Fig B.

The resulting area remained as a large geographical zone until 1795 when the French divided Flanders into two territories of roughly equal area. The western and eastern parts were designated 'Lys' and 'Escaut' respectively (see Fig C). Each of these was considered a separate French 'Departement' administered under the same system as mainland France. The present postal history display relates to what was then known as the 'Departement de la Lys'.

After the French withdrawal, the area remained a Belgian province and was renamed 'Flandre Occidentale' or 'West Vlaanderen' (see Fig D). The current boundary is substantially the same as that created following the French occupation.

Burgundian Period.

Only manuscript markings either from the Merchant Posts or the Thurn and Taxis postal administration are recorded for this period. Obviously, the

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Note + 'Vlaanderen' and 'Flandre' in Dutch and French respectively.

larger towns were the main trading centres from which mail originated. It should also be noted that Bruges<sup>+</sup> was on the main courier route from Antwerp and Brussels to Nieuport, Dunkirk and Calais.

### Spanish Netherlands (1621-1713)

In his book, Herlant records the following ten towns as having postal markings during this period. All these used the French manuscript form with very little variation in spelling:-

Modern Name of Town	Equivalent French Spelling	Spelling of manuscript Postal Mark
Brugge	Bruges	DE BRUGES
Kortrijk	Courtrai	DE COURTRAY
Veurne	Furnes	DE FURNES
Menen	Menin	DE MENIN
Nieuwpoort	Nieuport	DE NIEUPOORT
Costende	Ostende	DOSTENDE
Poperinge	POPERINGHE	DE POPERING
Roeselare	Roulers	DE ROULLERS
Roesbrugge- Haringe	Rousbrugge	-
Ieper	Ypres	DYPRE

The three towns, Kortrijk, Veurne and Ieper, also used handstamps during the latter part of the period. These were first recorded in 1693, 1695 and 1695 respectively. Examples of the two types of postal markings, manuscript and handstamp, are illustrated.

*De Courtray*  
*De Furnes*

COURTRAY

FURNES

### Austrian Netherlands (1714-1794)

Changes in postal arrangements brought in two additional towns, Diksmuide (Fr. Dixmude) and Tielt (Fr. Thielt). Manuscript postal markings are reported in Ref 1, for 1773 and 1787 respectively, for these two towns.

The towns of Poperinge, Roeselare and Roesbrugge lost their postal status on or before 1713. This situation seems to have continued until Independence in 1830.

Except for Diksmuide and Tielt all towns employed straight-line handstamps

Note + Present-day spelling is used in the text to denote place-names except for those cases where an English equivalent exists eg Brussels, Ostend. Block letters are reserved to denote postmarks.

of various sizes for most of this period. The name-places almost invariably appear in French on these handstamps. In the case of Ieper, the names IPRES and YPRES are both recorded.

**COURTRAY**

**IPRES**

**YPRES**

The town of Menen also employed the handstamp with the letter M enclosed in a circle during a later ten year period from 1783 to 1793.

**MENIN**



French Occupation (1794-1814)

In keeping with all 'Departements Conquis', handstamps bearing the department number were ultimately issued to all towns. West Flanders formed the 'Departement de la Lys' and was allocated the number 91. DEBOURSE marks were also introduced.

**91  
YPRES**

**P·91·P  
OSTENDE**

**91  
BRUGES  
DÉBOURSE**

The towns of Diksmuide and Tielt disappeared from the postal map, whereas Gistel (Fr. Ghistelles) made an appearance with a handstamp recorded for 1807 in Ref 1. Some occasional manuscript marks are still recorded during this period in the case of Brugge, Kortrijk and Menen.

United Kingdom of the Netherlands (1815-1830)

This period continued the postal improvements started by the French but in the early days, many of the old French cancellers were kept in use with the department numbers erased. New handstamps were issued with the Dutch language predominating eg Brugge instead of Bruges and in 1829 the first circular date stamps appeared with a single outer circle only and without a year date.

**P · P  
OSTENDE**

**BRUGGE**



The towns of Diksmuide and Tielt re-emerged with postal status and a new town Pittem (Fr. Pithem) was added.

Kingdom of Belgium (1830-1849)

One of the first postal changes made on achieving independence in 1830 was the introduction of a large double circle date stamp and the replacement

of the Dutch place-names by their French equivalent eg Bruges, Courtray etc. Only one post office, that of Pittem, was closed.



Various new post offices were opened during this period up to 1849, when the first Belgian postage stamps appeared. The known postal towns increased to include the following:-

Avelgem (1835)	Harelbeke (1839)	Roeselare
Blankenberge (1847)	Izegem (1836)	Tielt
Brugge	Menen	Torhout (1835)
Kortrijk	Nieuwpoort	Waregem (1836)
Diksmuide	Oostvleteren (1848)	Wervik (1836)
Veurne	Oostende	Ieper
Gistel	Poperinge	

Dates of opening these new post offices during this period (1830-1849) are given in brackets where applicable. Except for Harelbeke, these were all 'Bureaux de Distribution'.

#### Mail between England and the Netherlands

The normal port used for this purpose was Ostend, and by a Convention of 1683, it was used for mail between England and the Netherlands during the winter period from the 1 October to the 31 March. During the summer months, the port of Nieuwpoort was to be used instead. A few letters from England have been recorded as showing the manuscript mark D'ANGLETERRE during the Spanish period. According to Ref 3, it is likely that this mail was so marked at Ostend or Nieuwpoort.

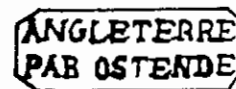
At the beginning of the Austrian period, the entry marks shown on letters from England are manuscript and only indicate the country of origin. During the latter part of the period, after the ending of the Austrian War of Succession in 1748, a number of handstamps were used, again showing the country of origin ANGLETERRE. According to Ref 3, these handstamps could be French in origin but there is no direct evidence that they were in fact applied either at Ostend or Nieuwpoort.

Postal services were suspended between France and England during part of the French occupation period. Again there is no evidence that postal marks were applied at Ostend. It has been conjectured that the mark COLONIES/PAR OSTENDE, on two lines, was applied during this period but, according to Ref 1, the only known examples are for the Dutch period just before Independence.

Nieuwpoort ceased to be a frontier office after the Spanish period, but a straight-line handstamp COLONIES/PAR NIEUPOORT was reported in use probably during or towards the end of the Dutch occupation (see Ref 1).

Ostend resumed its importance as a frontier office during the Dutch period, a situation which has continued ever since. The first mark illustrated was used at Ostend after its establishment as a frontier office in January 1815. It was struck in blue ink. The second mark shown was struck in red ink. It was possibly introduced in 1815 and was still in use in the 1830's. The third mark illustrated appeared in red ink around 1837. Being 30 mm in diameter, it is similar to the normal CDS allocated to towns at that period. The year is shown at the bottom of the circle whilst the day and month appeared in the centre.

*Angleterre  
Par Ostende*



Mail between France and Belgium

Both Veurne and Menen served as frontier offices from the Dutch period onwards. The original marks introduced in 1818 during this period, were of the double straight-line type. That illustrated for Menen is partly manuscript and is recorded in Ref 1 for 1823.

*FRANKRYK  
par MEENEN*



These marks were later replaced by the boxed type soon after independence. That for Veurne (Fr. Furnes) is shown. They appear to have been replaced soon after by the double circle handstamps which have been recorded in varying sizes. That in use in Menen in 1843 is illustrated.



Mail between Holland and Belgium

Brugge was created a frontier office in 1839 for the purpose of dealing with mail to and from the Sluis area of Holland. The first handstamp HOLLANDE PAR BRUGES, of the double circle type, is recorded in Ref 1 for 1849.

Stamp period

With the population increases during the second half of the 19th century and the increase in postal traffic generally, numerous villages had grown to a size which justified their having their own post offices. The number of postal towns greatly increased and are too numerous to be listed here.

The period after the appearance of postage stamps saw various changes in the style of handstamps (and machine cancels). A few of these formed part of the display. The interested reader is referred to Refs 4 and 5 which form good introductions to the subject.

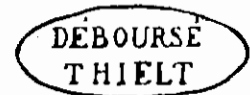
Exhibition

As far as the author can establish, there has never been an international exhibition in the province of West Flanders. Instead, a few covers bearing exhibition stamps cancelled in that province are shown as part of the display.

Accountancy Marks

A number of other items with a variety of accountancy marks were also shown. These included the following:-

The 'Débourse' mark in an oval with the name of the town of Tielt spelt in French is illustrated. It is recorded in Ref 1 as in use in 1842. Such marks indicate that the tax applicable to a re-directed letter was credited to the office which applied the mark. Further details concerning the use of these marks can be found in Ref 4 (p.84) and Ref 6 (p.427). It is of interest to note that the French word 'Débourse' was also used even when the name of the town appeared in Flemish.



Letters pre-paid up to Ostend were handstamped FCO OSTENDE or FRANCO OSTENDE. These marks are equivalent to the alternative FRANCO FRONTIERE straight-line handstamps used for other frontier towns. The first mark illustrated was applied to letters from Antwerp and is first recorded in Ref 1 for 1834. The second mark shown was struck in red ink and blue ink. It was used on letters from Brussels and is recorded in Ref 1 as in use in 1834/1837 and in Ref 3 for 1844.

FCO OSTENDE



Travelling Post Office Marks

The first TPO became operational in 1840 and the system became reasonably well established by 1850. Two examples of such handstamps relevant to Ostend were included as part of the display.

AMB<sup>t</sup> OSTENDE-VERVIERS

Appears in a single circle handstamp with the day, month and hour shown in the centre. Two variants, noted in 1887 and 1891 respectively are recorded in Ref 6.



PAQUEBOTS BELGES-  
OSTENDE DOUVRES

Appears on a single circle handstamp with the date centrally placed on four lines (day, month, hour and the last two digits of the year). It was to be used on letters posted on board the 'Paquebots' of the Ostend-Dover shipping service. Thought to exist in French only before 1914 but occurs as a bilingual handstamp in 1919.

First World War Period

Apart from the Yser Enclave, the rest of West Flanders fell within the rear zone or Etapes of the German Army. Being close to the fighting line, little civilian mail was permitted and heavy censorship was in operation mainly at Ghent. Most of the civilian post offices were closed and mail was routed via military channels.

Within the Yser Enclave, 23 post offices remained, some of which were relais offices dependent upon the nearest town. The relatively small number of Belgian civilians remaining there was dwarfed by the huge number of military personnel. Most military mail went with free franchise through the Field Post Office system but some was put into the civilian channels which were really for inter-office mail.

A relative scarcity can be allocated to the handstamp marks of the twenty-three post offices in operation, but that is a topic outside the scope of the present article.

A number of other members also contributed to this display.

References

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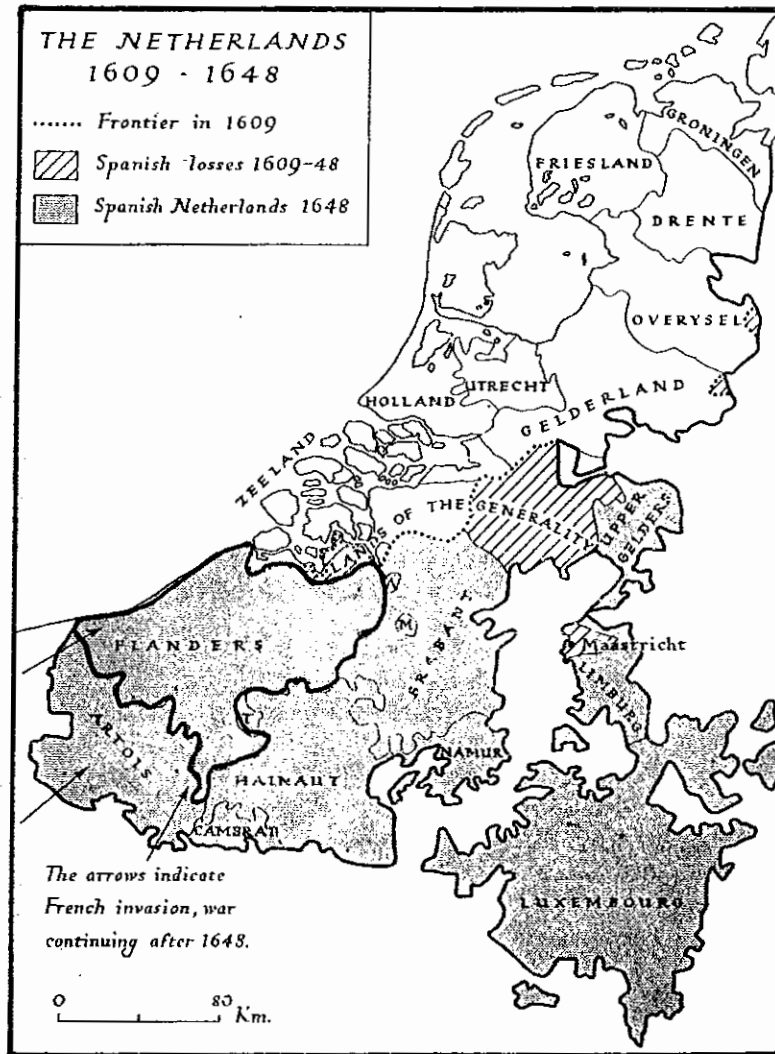


Fig. A The Netherlands in 1609-48

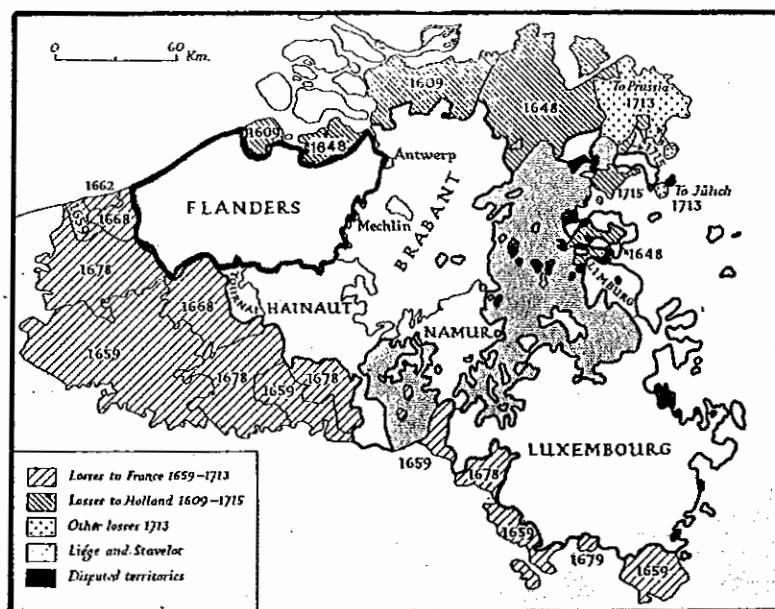


Fig. B The Spanish Netherlands, 1659-1715

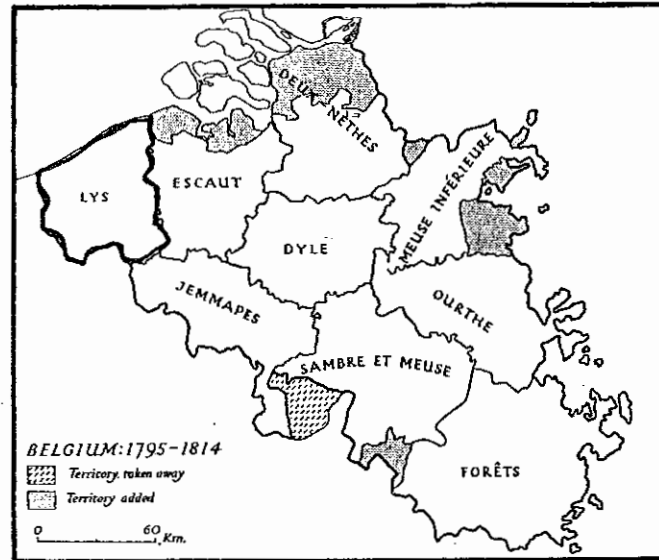


Fig. C Belgium under French domination

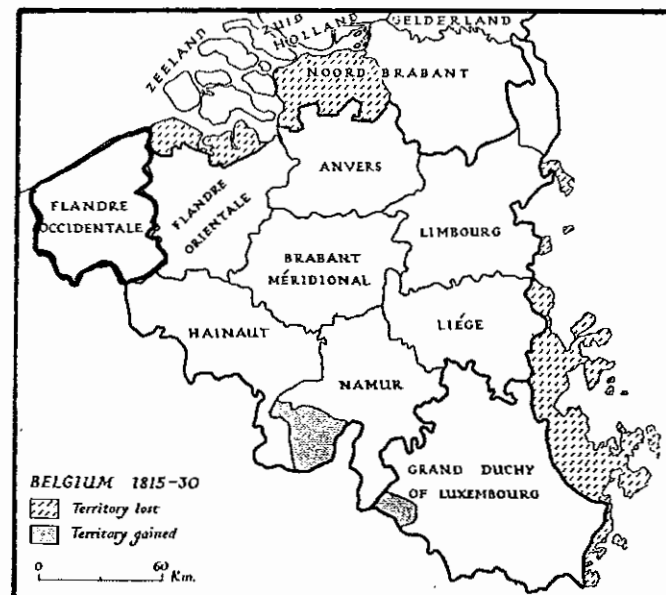
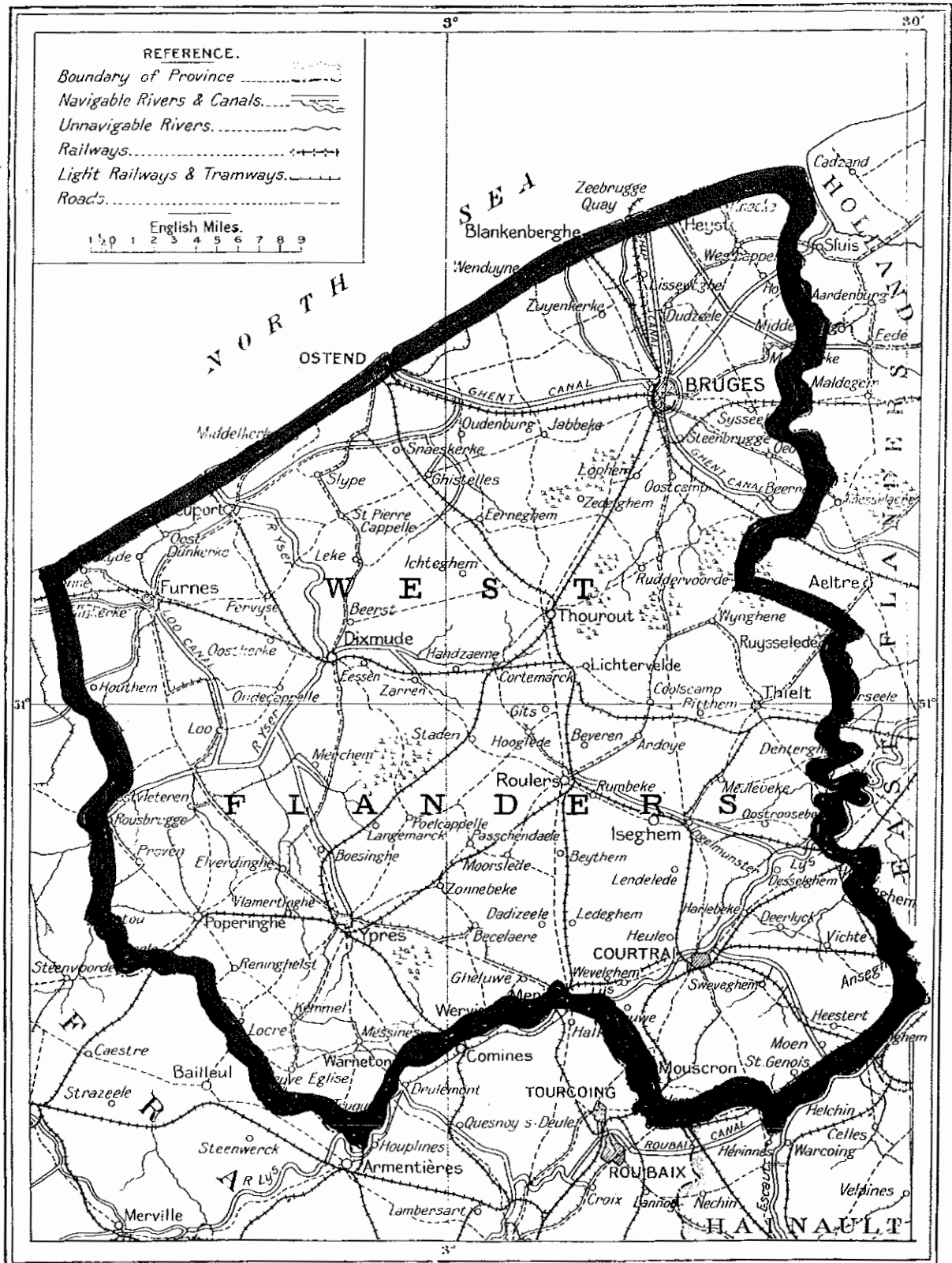


Fig. D Belgium in 1815-30



Executed specially for "Belgium the Glorious."

MAP OF WEST FLANDERS.

RAYON FRONTIERE

By S.J. Andrews FRPSL, Hon.Life FSPH

A Convention of 3 November, 1847, which came into operation on 1 January, 1848, and in being until 30 September, 1849, provided for a uniform postage rate on mails to France for the whole country with the exception of a 'Frontier Zone' of 30 kilometres on the Belgian side. A similar zone but of 40 kilometres operated from the French side. In this zone a reduced rate of postage on letters to and from France was applied.

Letters from this area were to be marked R.FRONT meaning 'Rayon Frontière'. The postage rate for each letter (single) was 3 Décimes (30 Centimes) made up of the French tax plus one Décime Belgian tax.

Towns in this frontier region which had the reduced rate were:-

<u>Hainaut District</u>	Ath, Beaumont, Binche, Boussu, Braine-le-Comte, Charleroi, Chatelet, Chimay, Fayt, Fontaine-L'Évêque, St Ghislain, Gosselies, Jemappes, Lens-sur-Dendre, Lessines, Leuze, Marchienne-au-pont, Mons, Pecq, Peruwelz, Quievrain, Le Roeulx, Seneffe, Soignies, Thuin, Tournay.
<u>Flandre Orientale District</u>	Audenaerde, Renaix.
<u>Flandre Occidentale District</u>	Avelghem, Courtrai, Dixmude, Furnes, Harlebeke, Iseghem, Menin, Mouscron, Nieuport, Ostende, Poperinghe, Roulers, Thielt, Waereghem, Wervicq, Ypres.
<u>Luxembourg District</u>	Arlon Bouillon, Habay-La-Neuve, Neufchateau, Virton,
<u>Namur District</u>	Beauraing, Ciney, Couvin, Dinant, Florenne, Fosse, Gedinne, Mariembourg, Philippeville, Rochefort.

Furthermore, under the same Convention of 3 November, 1847, a special reduced rate was also available from thirteen Belgian towns to certain designated towns in France as shown overleaf. This postage rate consisted only of the French tax of 2 Décimes (20 Centimes).

Rayon Frontiere (contd)

Letters from	Addressed to	Letters from	Addressed to
Furnes	Dunkirk	Chimay	Trélon
Courtrai ]	Lannoy ]	Couvin	Fumay ]
Menin ]	Lille ]		Rocroi ]
Mouscron ]	Roubaix ]	Dinant	Givet
Tournay ]	Tourcoing ]	Bouillon	Sedan
	Wazemmes ]	Arlon	Longwy
Quiévrain	Valenciennes	Virton	Montmédy <sup>1</sup>
Mons	Maubeuge		

Note 1. The R.FRONT mark was not applied in this case

Letters from any other part of Belgium to France were charged the French tax of 2 Décimes plus the Belgian tax of 2 Décimes, a total of 4 Décimes (40 Centimes).

The 'Rayon Frontière' marks are found in red, black and green ink, the latter being applied on the experimental travelling post offices. It is also possible that those in black ink may also have been applied on the T.P.Os. at a later date.

In spite of the large number of towns that qualified for this reduced rates it is surprising how few letters are found with this 'Rayon Frontière' mark.

POSTAL CONVENTION - BELGIUM & SPAIN, 20 FEBRUARY, 1861

Prepaid letters for Spain

60 Centimes per 7½ grammes or part thereof.

POSTAL CONVENTION - BELGIUM & PORTUGAL, 2 JUNE, 1861

Prepaid letters for Portugal

80 Centimes per 7½ grammes or part thereof for letters sent by land.

50 Centimes per each 15 grammes for those sent by  
Belgian or Portuguese Commercial Steamers.

By The Late W.G. Stitt Dibden

On Friday, August 1st, 1862, The Belgian Government shamed the British Post Office by organising a Day Mail by ship between Dover and Ostend without receiving a penny for the service. The Post-master General in his report of the year stated:

The Belgian Government has, at its own cost, organised a Day Packet Service between Dover and Ostend; so that in the 24 hours there are now two services between these ports, affording much additional accommodation.

It had been the custom for many years (in fact from 1844) for the British Post Office, and those of both France and Belgium, to share the cost of the cross-Channel ships. The British Post Office had for three centuries maintained a postal agent in Ostend. And yet, by 1862, the decision not to contribute to the Day Mail costs was followed less than a year later by a total withdrawal, clearly stated in the following instruction dated June 25th, 1863.

In consequence of the withdrawal of the British Mail Packets between Dover and Ostend, the office of British Mail Agent at the latter port has been abolished. The making up of a bag at this office for the Mail Packet Agent at Ostend must therefore at once be discontinued and all such correspondence which heretofore has been sent in this bag must, unless specially addressed, be sent via Calais in the Belgian mail ordinary bags.

It was not until 1876 that another Postal Convention was signed setting up more favourable communications between the two ports of Dover and Ostend. More and more during the 1850's, the British Post Office favoured the mail route to Belgium via Dover, Calais, and the "Great Northern Railway" to Brussels. It was only the Franco-German War of 1870 (that upset so much in the way of international continental mail) that made the British Post Office realise that a direct mail via Ostend to Germany, the Baltic States and Russia, and during the summer months to Turkey and Greece, was a desirable adjunct to the routes across France. The new arrangements commencing on August 1st, 1862 had some interesting repercussions on the postal workings of mail on this route.

The rates of postage had been originally set down in the Anglo-Belgian Convention of 1844, which came into force on December 1st of that year. The charge was made up of a Belgian Rate of 4d. and a British Rate of 8d. for the half ounce; making a total of 1s. The progression was:-

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1. Originally published in "Stamp Collecting" on August 17th, 1962.

Dover - Ostend Mail (contd)

Weight	British Rate	Belgian Rate	Total
Up to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	8d.	4d.	1s.0d.
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. - $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	8d.	8d.	1s.4d.
$\frac{1}{4}$ oz. - $\frac{1}{8}$ oz.	1s.4d.	1s.0d.	2s.4d.
$\frac{1}{8}$ oz. - 1 oz.	1s.4d.	1s.4d.	2s.8d.
1 oz. - $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	2s.8d.	1s.8d.	4s.4d.
	Then two rates per ounce	Then one rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce	

In 1844, the mail was carried twice a week by Belgian boat, and four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) by British boat. The following year, the mail was carried on each of the seven days by Belgian boat and the British boats dropped right out.

A second convention signed at the end of August 1857 confirmed an earlier reduction of the postage rates to 6d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. On April 25th, 1860 a Day Mail between Paris and London was organised with great acclaim and new postmarks (Fig 1) were introduced on the mail. The train left London at 7.30 a.m. and arrived at Dover at 9.30 a.m., leaving there with the London Mail from France at 3.45 p.m., arriving at London Bridge station at 5.45 p.m.



Fig. 1

On the introduction of the Ostend/Dover mail a special "Belgian" sorting carriage was added to the two sorting carriages reserved for the French Day Mail. It was arranged that if the French Packet arrived on time and the Ostend boat was late, but in sight, the mail train should be delayed 15 minutes. If the Belgian boat arrived later than 4 p.m. the Belgian Mail sorting carriage was detached from the mail train, and attached to the normal passenger train leaving Dover at 5.15 p.m.

Some idea of the working of the Belgian Mail sorting carriage can be obtained from the official instructions quoted below. The sorting carriage was staffed with one "checker" and one "sorter", seconded from the Inland office:-

The checker will dispose of the letters, and the sorter the newspapers on the journey to Dover, and the checker will check the mails and the sorter will sort the contents on the journey to London. These officers will be required to attend to the F.B. (Foreign Branch) on the days they do not travel. (Note: two checkers and four sorters were appointed for this duty.)

On the travelling days their duties will commence at 5 a.m. and terminate when they return to London. The clerk who travels will be employed in the Inland Office in the morning at the Prussia mail and he will complete that mail as far as possible in this office. The mails for Hamburg, Bremen, Holland and Belgium must be finally closed here, as regards the letters by the officers ordinarily employed on these



Dover - Ostend Mail (contd)

duties and the mails for Aix-la-Chapelle and Berlin as well as all the bags containing the newspapers must be closed only in the Travelling Office.

Reference to the mails for Bremen, Holland and Germany needs to be noted, since it was by the Belgian route that some hours' travelling time was saved in comparison to the Dover-Calais-Paris route normally employed. A supplementary mail was allowed for if needed. The instructions also give an idea of the actual sorting procedure:-

The mails from Germany are to be sorted during the journey to London in the same manner as the French Day Mail, viz. the Paid portion into the 10 Postal Districts and the County Divisions as follows:-

Irish .. ..	South Eastern Railway
Scottish .. ..	South Western Railway
Liverpool .. ..	Great Western Railway
Manchester .. ..	First Road
Birmingham .. ..	Second Road
Brighton .. ..	Third Road
North Western Railway ..	Fourth Road
Midland Railway .. ..	Fifth Road
Eastern Counties Railway ..	Sixth Road (20 bags)
	Seventh Road
	Eighth Road
	Ninth Road

and the unpaid into two divisions, viz. "Town" and "County". Each bundle being securely tied with a label attached showing the division to which it belongs and the rate of postage to which each class of the unpaid letters is liable.

Finding examples of letters that have travelled by this day-mail route is a labour of patience. Early examples during the first year or two bear strikes of the circular dated stamp illustrated (Fig 1). Letters sent on this Ostend route to and from Germany and other places on the continent may also sometimes be found to bear circular dated stamps lettered ANGLETERRE/OSTENDE or ANGLETERRE PAR AMB. OUEST.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

On Registered Mail, an undated crown stamp (Fig 2 - originally introduced in 1857) was used, to be followed by the circular dated stamp (Fig 3 - introduced in 1865) and finally an oval stamp (Fig 4 - introduced in 1867).

Advantages of the Proposed Variety Classification

By Geoffrey Wood

As the attention of the Circle has been increasingly focused on the surface printed issues, it seems desirable that agreement should be reached on the nomenclature for varieties which arise in this method of production. One of the most authoritative writers on surface printing was the late J.R.W. Pu. F.R.P.S.L. The present proposals are therefore based on his article in the March, 1956, number of "Philately from Australia" which was also reprinted in "Stamp Collecting" on May 17th, 1956.

Excluding the De La Rue production, all the definitive postal issues from 1865 to 1915, and the Postage Due stamps for approximately the same period, are probably from plates which consist of a number of electrotypes of a smaller intermediate plate. The object of the present article is to outline the methods of production of these plates, to propose a nomenclature of variety types associated with these several methods and to emphasise the practical advantages that ensue from using this classification.

The 1866 issue is not covered by these notes.

I Methods of Production

So far, three distinct methods of production can be distinguished. A brief summary is given.

1. Use of formes of 50 or 100.

An original die is stamped on to lead moulds. Formes of 50 or 100 moulds are then electrotyped to form a printing base of 300 or 400 subjects. Common feature varieties occur, sometimes due to lead sticking to the steel die for two or three impressions before being cleaned off.

Examples: Plates II for 10c and 20c, 1865 issue.

Die Ia, 5c of the 1915 issue.

2. Use of small block or matrix

(i) A small matrix block of 10 subjects is prepared from die. This block is then repeated five times to form an intermediate plate (report block) of 50. Electrotypes are then taken from this to give a printing base of 300.

Examples Probably all values of the 1869 issue.

Low values of 1893 issue and Postage Dues of 1870.

(ii) A horizontal matrix of 5 subjects is taken from die, this is repeated 5 times to give an intermediate plate (report block) of 25. Twelve copies are then taken from this to give a printing base of 300.

Examples: High values of 1893 issue. The 1912 issue excluding the 2c.

2. Use of small block or matrix (contd)

(iii) Block of six is repeated about 20 times. The small plates are then cut up into individual subjects and a pane of 100 built up from these. Four or eight electrotypes are taken from this to form one or two plates of 400.

Examples: Die I of 1915 issue.

3. Use of Master Pane

A master pane of 100 or 50 subjects is prepared with the values omitted. Values are then plugged into each subject and the electrotypes made to form the printing base.

Examples: Die II of 1915 issue. Postage Dues 1916 and 1919, 5c and 10c.

The above descriptions are intended to show the steps in the various methods of production. The precise means adopted are not yet fully known, but further research may disclose the relevant details.

II Proposed Nomenclature

The following nomenclature is suggested. Variety numbers given as examples refer either to Balasse<sup>1</sup> variety numbers using the catalogue number followed by the letter 'V' (eg 34V1), or the Kilby<sup>2</sup> variety number for the 1893 issue which employs the letter 'S' followed by a number. For reasons of consistency, the catalogue number has also been added to the latter variety numbers in the present article (eg 53S26).

1. Die Variety

A distinctive mark in the die. The figures of value are obvious and intentional. An example of an unintentional variety is found in the 15c Die III of the 1915 issue where the 13th pearl on the right is damaged by a coloured line on all stamps.

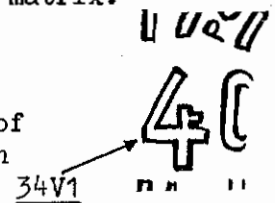


2. Sub-type.

A variety which occurs in the matrix block or strip and is therefore reproduced in the same position on most repetitions of the matrix. Examples are:-

1869 Issue

40c 34V1 Swelling on the right side of upright of left '4'. Found on fourth stamp in each block of 10.



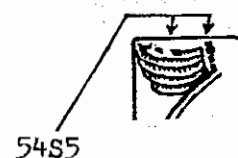
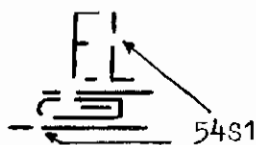
1893 Issue

1c 53S26 Dot of colour at base of 'V' of LIVRER. Sixth stamp in each block of 10.



2c 54S1 'EL' of BESTELLEN crossed by a white diagonal line continuing through bottom frame line Ninth stamp in each block of 10.

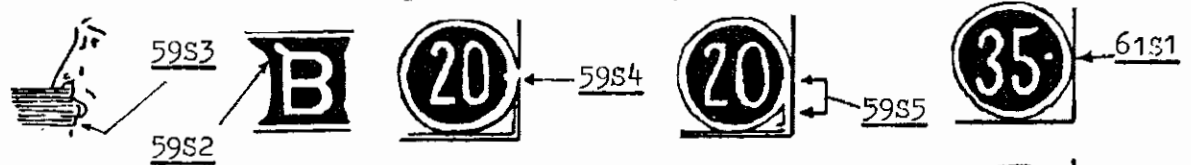
54S4 White spot in top right wing ) Eighth stamp in  
54S5 Breaks in top line of left wing ) each block of 10.  
(Note: These three varieties also occur in the 2c brown).



2. Sub-types (contd)

1893 Issue

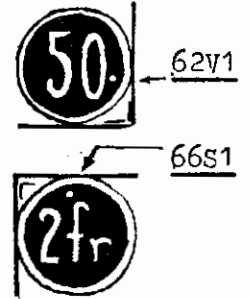
- 20c 59S2 Break in 7th line of shading below King's nose.  
First stamp in each row of 5.
- 59S3 Small white flaw at top left corner of 'B' of BELGIQUE.  
Second stamp in each row of 5.
- 59S4 Break at right of outer frame line of lower cartouche.  
Fourth stamp in each row of 5.
- 59S5 Long white vertical break to right of lower cartouche.  
Fifth stamp in each row of 5.



- 35c 61S1 White dot after '5' in lower value tablet.  
Fourth stamp in each row of 5.

- 50c 62V1 ) White dot after '50' in lower value tablet.  
& 63V1 ) Second stamp in each row of 5.

- 2 Fr 66S1 ) White dot between '2' and 'Fr' in upper  
& 67S1 ) value tablet. Second stamp in each row of 5.



3. Common Feature

A variety which occurs on several individual moulds. Often caused by lead adhering to the steel die. There are many sets of "Common Features" in the 5c Die Ia, and a number in the Belgian plates for the 10c and 20c of the 1865 issue (see General de Witte's book<sup>3</sup>).

4. Master Plate Variety.

A variety occurring in the blank intermediate plate before the figures of value have been plugged in. Examples occur in the Die II of the 1915 issue where several varieties common to all values are noted. Such varieties are also found in the 5c and 10c Postage Dues of 1916 and 1919. Reference should be made to News Letter 43, et seq..

5. Primary Variety.

A variety which occurs on the intermediate plate (report block) which is repeated on the printing base as many times as the intermediate plate is repeated - in the 1893 issue 6 or 12 times. If the damage was sustained by the intermediate plate after some electrotypes had been taken, the occurrence of this variety would be less frequent. Examples are:-

1865 Issue

- 20c 18V5 White vertical line in front of letter 'E' of CENT.  
Fortieth stamp in all six panes (not illustrated).

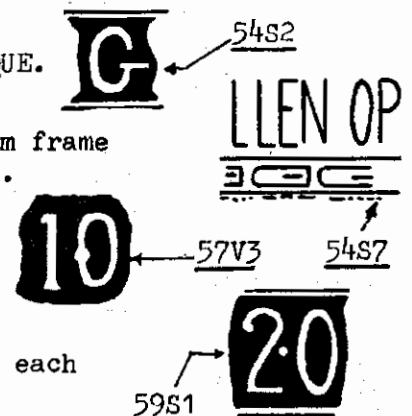
1893 Issue

- 2c 54S2 Extended cedilla to 'G' of BELGIQUE.  
& 55S2 49th stamp in all six panes

- 54S7 Colour line below centre of bottom frame  
& 55S7 line. 44th stamp in all six panes.

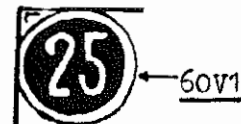
- 10c 57V3 Thickening of '0' in top '10'.  
& 58V1 Eighth stamp in each block of 25.

- 20c 59S1 White spot between '2' and '0' in  
upper value tablet. 17th stamp in each  
block of 25.



5. Primary Variety (contd)

25c          60V1      No ball to '5' in upper value tablet.  
Seventh stamp in each block of 25.



For some values of the 1912 issue and possibly that of 1893, two sets of report blocks of 25 derived from a master report block were used. Further research and reconstruction is necessary before reaching final conclusions.

6. Secondary Variety.

A variety which occurs on one electrotype of the intermediate plate only, but a variety which shows in the initial printing of the stamp.

7. Printing Variety

A variety which arises after the printing of the stamps has begun, due either to wear of or damage to the printing base. About one hundred such varieties are to be found in the late printing of the 20c Die I.

No attempt has been made to ascertain how individual varieties arose. That may be possible after further study of the various issues.

III Advantages of the Proposed Variety Classification.

The following information is gained by classifying the varieties as suggested in the present article.

1. Sub-types and Common Feature varieties enable one easily to divide the stamps under study.
2. Master Plate and Printing varieties locate stamps in the intermediate plate.
3. Secondary varieties distinguish the particular electrotype of the intermediate plate. The position of the electrotypes in the printing base can vary. They also establish the number of plates used.
4. The presence or absence of printing varieties assist in establishing the order of printing.

In addition to the writings of Mr Purves, many articles in the "London Philatelist" have been found useful. Two papers read before Congress have also been of great value, that by Mr Dorning Beckton to the London Congress in 1928, on Lithography, and Mr A.A. Rosenblum's paper to the Leicester Congress in 1931.

IV References

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3. General E. de Witte, 'L'Emission des Timbres-Poste à Effigie de 1865-1866. Published in "Philatéliste Belge" (1941).

Editor's Note

This is a most interesting and useful suggestion on which to work, and it is expected that Members studying these types of printings could make use of this nomenclature in future writings.

An Update of Published Works for the 20c Die I

By P.D.D. Russell

The first article dealing with the King Albert Effigy stamps of the 1915 Issue was published on page 14 of the present volume of BELGAPOST. It will be recalled that the intention was to provide articles giving an update of the three published works listed as references on page 15. It was also intended to provide a bridge between the work of these authors, to give cross references to the defined variety numbers and most importantly to provide information enabling varieties reported up to 1975 to be related to stamp position in the panes.

The present article in this series deals with the four distinct panes of the 20 centimes Die I.

1. The 20 Centimes Die I

This stamp was first issued in October 1915 having been designed and printed by Waterlow & Sons of London. The colour of this first printing is a distinctive red lilac which subsequently changed to lilac, pale lilac and deep lilac.

The four panes in the sheet in positions (I,II,III,IV) for the first printing of 1915 are denoted (1,2,3,4) in arabic numerals. Subsequently the positions of these four distinct panes were altered in the printing base. Their known positions are as follows:-

Printing	1915	1919	1920	1921																
Shade	Red lilac	Lilac	Pale lilac	Deep lilac																
Printing Base	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	2	3	1	4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	2	3	1	4	<table border="1"> <tr><td><i>2</i></td><td><i>3</i></td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	1	4
1	2																			
3	4																			
2	3																			
1	4																			
2	3																			
1	4																			
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>																			
1	4																			

The reader is referred to Ref 1 for further details.

2. Depot Marks

This stamp is known with the following DEPOT Marks: 1915, 1919, 1920 & 1921.

For the overprinted stamps the DEPOT Marks are not an absolute guide to the printing date. In most cases these marks refer to the return of the panes into store after they had been overprinted. Usually the stamps overprinted "Eupen" and "Malmedy" are from the 1915 printing. Whilst stamps overprinted "Eupen & Malmedy" are from an early 1920 printing in spite of the fact that they were issued first. Those overprinted "Allemagne Deutschland" are mostly from an intermediate printing, probably 1919.

### 3. Material used in Study

This study is based on the author's mint collection of nine panes, six pane reconstructions using mint blocks of four, five other partial reconstructions and several large mint blocks together with a collection of some five thousand used stamps, mostly of late printing, of which about 60% have been placed.

Since a large proportion of the varieties of the 20c Die I are in fact printing varieties, the latter collection of used stamps was instrumental in enabling the author to place about half of the varieties reported by Levèque.

The several items in the author's collection are described in greater detail on page 54.

### 4. Sub-types of the Die I values

Although much has been written about the varying shapes and sizes of the letter 'C' of the Die I stamps, it was not until 1949 that anything definite on the matter was published in Belgium. Aided by Général de Haene's articles, research into the subject was carried out independently in this country by A.G. Wood who published his essential conclusions in Ref 2. The result of this most important study may be summarised as follows:-

- (i) There are six sub-types of Die I in each value which are distinguished by the shape and size of the letter 'C' and the figures of value in the shields flanking the word BELGIE.
- (ii) These sub-types appear to be spread somewhat randomly over the pane of 100 stamps.
- (iii) The distribution of sub-types is identical for every pane of a particular value.

The sub-types for each particular value have been lettered in accordance with the order in which they are most often found in the pane of that value.

The ability to divide the Die I stamps into six sub-types simplifies the plating considerably. The best way to recognise the differences, which are difficult to describe accurately, is to study the stamps themselves and to consult the careful description given in Ref 2.

### 5. The six sub-types of the 20c Die I

In order to help the reader identify the sub-types of the 20c Die I stamp, which is the subject of the present article, an attempt has been made to reproduce facsimiles of these on the following page. These were obtained from

photocopies of original photo enlargements provided by A.G. Wood.

The description provided against each diagram is that found in Ref 2.

Sub-type A (Small C's)



Left 'C' arms of equal length.  
Right 'C' lower arm longer.  
Inner face of right 'C' slopes.  
Tails of both '2' values blunt.

Sub-type B (Large C's)



Both arms of right 'C' thick.  
Tails of both '2' values blunt

Sub-type C (Small C's)



Both letters 'C' without serifs.

Sub-type D (Medium C's)



Upper arm of left 'C' has serif. Both letters 'C' have thinnish bodies. Lower arm of right 'C' thinner than upper arm. This 'C' looks almost as tall as it is long.

Sub-type E (Large C's)



Upper arms of both letters 'C' have serifs.  
Right 'C' open and lower arm longer.  
Tail of right '2' pointed.  
Small colour projection in lower frame under last E of BELGIE.

Sub-type F (Small C's)



Upper arm of both letters 'C' have serifs.  
Toe of left '2' projects downwards.

The array shown on the following page gives the distribution of the above sub-types in the 20c Die I pane. From this it will be noted that there is a regular run in the order A,B,C,D,E,F, from stamp number 2 to stamp number 49. In the bottom half of the pane from stamp number 50 to stamp number 100 the order of sub-types becomes virtually random.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<u>Array of</u>	1	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C
<u>Sub-types</u>	2	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A
<u>of the</u>	3	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E
<u>20c Die I</u>	4	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C
	5	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	D
	6	F	C	A	E	B	F	A	C	D	E
	7	F	A	B	C	E	A	B	C	D	E
	8	B	B	A	C	D	E	C	D	E	C
	9	D	F	A	B	C	D	E	C	D	E
	10	E	C	D	E	A	B	B	D	E	A

Readers interested in the corresponding arrays showing the positions of the six sub-types for the remaining Die I values are referred to Appendix 'B' of Ref 2.

#### 6. Published Varieties.

The published varieties are tabulated on pages 55 to 59 and are illustrated on page 60. It is clear from this table that the original work published by de Haene for this value, has been considerably extended both by Kicken and Levèque. The numbers recorded by these authors are as follows:-

Number of varieties recorded by de Haene	=	90
Number of varieties recorded by Kicken	=	190
Number of varieties recorded by Levèque	=	223

It is also noted that the additional varieties successively recorded and added to the list by Kicken and Levèque are varieties which are distinctive for particular panes and that a significant number of these only appear relatively late in the printing. As a result of the present work the author is able to relate 211 of these varieties to stamp position, twelve of the above total, which remain unplaced, are all late printing varieties. The numbers of primary, secondary and late printing varieties so identified are as follows:-

Number of primary varieties placed	=	29
Number of secondary varieties placed	=	83
Number of printing varieties placed	=	99
Total	=	211

The printing varieties of the last group were in the main identified from the author's collection of used stamps. An independent study by W. de Bakere, our Member from Veldegem, Belgium, based on a sheet of four panes with the late DEPOT 1921 mark confirms the present findings.

For completion it is also desirable to mention the varieties which have been recorded by Balasse in Ref 3, in which he notes ten of the more spectacular flaws. Appropriate mention of these Balasse varieties is therefore made in the relevant places in the tabulation below.

It is perhaps also worth mentioning that the author of the present article has also extended this work by documenting a large number of additional constant varieties for the 20c Die I, thereby increasing the number of recorded varieties significantly above the 223 total of Levèque. Some of these involve large design flaws which are considered to add significantly to the usefulness of the information summarised in the table below. However, this extension which involves addenda to the number of primary, secondary and printing groups of varieties is outside the scope of the present article.

#### 7. Information included in the Table of Published Varieties

The description of each variety is a short translation of that given by Levèque. Because of the succinctness of the description, greater reliance should be placed on the diagram of page 60. Care has been taken in this diagram to represent all the varieties listed as accurately as possible. The following information is included in the tabulation:-

- (i) The Levèque number.
- (ii) Corresponding Kicken number (if applicable).
- (iii) Corresponding de Haene number (if applicable).
- (iv) Description of the variety with comments.
- (v) Sub-type of the stamp on which variety appears.
- (vi) Position of stamp in the pane.
- (vii) Pane number in which stamp with the variety appears.

The pane number in the last column of the tabulation is prefixed either by the letter 'P' or 'Pg' to indicate that it is either a primary or printing variety. The following are given as examples:-

- L6 Described as a 'White spur bottom of first E of BELGIQUE'. It is a primary variety which occurs on stamp 82 of all four panes and is therefore entered as 'P(1234)' in the last column.
- L3 Described as a 'Large spur to left of B of BELGIQUE'. This is well known variety noted on stamp 1 of pane 1 only. It does not appear on the early printing and is therefore recorded as a printing variety denoted as 'Pg(1)' in the last column.

The absence of the prefix letters 'P' or 'Pg' in the last column indicates that the variety was observed in only one of the distinct panes (1,2,3,4) listed in the first section of the table on page 54. Because this part of the author's collection is either early printing (or 1915 printing), such unmarked varieties are assumed to be secondary. The following well known variety is given as example:

L3a Described as a 'Long oblique scratch in background above head'. It refers to a variety found on the first stamp of panes number 1 studied. It is therefore taken to be secondary and simply denoted by '1' in the last column.

Absence of information in the last three columns indicates that the variety is unplaced. However, if the sub-type is shown in column 5, this indicates that examples of the variety were recorded on several unplaced used stamps of that sub-type. All unplaced varieties are deemed to be printing varieties.

A number of notes deemed to be relevant are also added to the description of column 4. This may be complemented with additional information concerning other varieties which appear on the same stamp. In cases where further explanation is necessary, the reader is referred to footnotes, labelled with the same variety number, at the end of the tabulation.

It is also important to note that some Levèque numbers refer to a group of several varieties which are not necessarily all primary, secondary or printing varieties. Thus L8 consists of the primary variety L6 in combination with two printing varieties. Such distinction can be deduced by comparing entries for L6 and L8.

A few errors in the previously published work of references 1,2 and 3 of page 15 have been observed. These are pointed out in the tabulation.

## 8. References

1. Wood, A.G., 'The 1915 Issue of Belgium - A Guide to the Various Printings of the Stamps of Die I'. Publication of the Westvlaamse Filatelische Studiekring (WEFIS-STUDIE) of June 1978. Published by WEFIS, p.a. Meiboomlaan 17, 8400 - Oostende.
2. Wood, A.G., 'The 1915 Issue Die I Stamps'. B.S.S.C. Record Number 9, Section 9 of March 1956. Published by the Belgian Study Circle of Great Britain.
3. Balasse, W., 'Catalogue Willy Balasse - Belgique et Congo Belge'. Tome II, pages 30/32. Published by M. Weissenbruch, Imprimeur du Roi, 49 rue du Poinçon, Bruxelles (1949).

## 9. Collection used in Study

	Pane Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No	No of Stamps	DEPOT	Overprint	Description
Panels	III	1	100	1919	Allemagne Deutschland	Depot mark under stamp 99.
	III	1	100	1920	Eupen & Malmedy	Depot mark under stamp 99.
	I	2	100	-	COB 140	1919 shade. Pane with four margins.
	I/II	2	100	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Pane with bottom margin only.
	I	2	100	1920	Eupen & Malmedy	Depot mark under stamps 97/98.
	II	3	100	1920	Eupen & Malmedy	Depot mark under stamp 98.
	II	3	94	1920	Eupen	Depot mark under stamps 99/100. Six stamps of top right corner missing
	IV	4	100	1920	Eupen & Malmedy	Depot mark under stamps 97/98.
	IV	4	28	-	COB 140	Columns 8,9,10. 1915 printing.
	III	1	86	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Top right corner missing. Partial Depot mark under stamp 98.
	-	3	60	-	Eupen & Malmedy	Rows 1 to 6.
Reconstructions	-	1	56	-	Partial reconstruction with mint stamps including blocks of 9,10 & 12. Mostly COB 140 and 'Allemagne Deutschland' overprint. Also blocks of 6 & 12 of 1921 printing.	
	-	2	36	-	Partial reconstruction with mint stamps in blocks of four and one of nine. All COB 140. Also one overprinted 'Allemagne Deutschland' block of 10.	
	-	3	67	-	Partial reconstruction with mint block of 20 (DEPOT 1921 above stamp 1. COB 140. Other blocks with 'Allemagne Deutschland' overprint and COB 140.	
	-	4	65	-	Partial reconstruction with mint blocks of 28 and 20 with several smaller blocks. All COB 140.	
Blocks	-	1	16	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Stamps (26-29) (36-39) (46-49) (56-59)
	-	1	20	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Stamps (61-65) (71-75) (81-85) (91-95)
	-	1	6	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Stamps (23-25) (33-35)
	-	1	10	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Stamps (66-70) (76-80)
	-	1	12	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Stamps (63-65) (73-75) (83-85) (93-95)
Same Provenance	-	1	47	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Partial reconstruction of single mint.
	-	2	80	-	" "	Four panes 2 partially reconstructed from mint blocks of four. All overprinted 'Allemagne Deutschland' and of same provenance.
	-	2	80	-	" "	
	-	2	80	-	" "	
	-	2	84	-	" "	
	-	2	33	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Block with most of columns 1,2,3,4.
	-	2	25	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Quarter pane top left corner.
	-	3	88	-	" "	Two panes 3 partially reconstructed from mint blocks of four.
-	3	88	-	" "		
Used Stamps	Collection of used stamps, mostly singles, numbering about 5,000. About 60% having been placed. Where date cancels are visible these are mainly for the period 1921/1922.					

10. Table of Published Varieties

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No
<u>BELGIQUE</u>						
L1	K1	-	B of BELGIQUE fully blind (see footnote)	-	-	-
L2	K2	-	B of BELGIQUE blind in top half (all examples of this occur with L664)	C	58	1
L3	K3	H12	Large white spur to left of B of BELGIQUE (Reported by Balasse as variety 140V4)	F	1	Pg(1)
L3a	K3a	H12a= H25	Long oblique scratch above head from G of BELGIQUE to right curved ornament	F	1	1
L3b	K3b	H12b	Break in top main frame above left leaf	F	1	Pg(1)
L3c	K3c	-	White spur to 2nd pearl above 2nd E of BELGIE (see also L509 = L3a + L3c)	F	1	1
L4	K4	H55	White spur top right of B of BELGIQUE	B	71	Pg(4)
L5	K5	-	Sharp white spur bottom right of B of BELGIQUE (see footnote)	B	45	Pg(1)
L5a	K5a	-	White spot right background level with 11th right pearl (higher white spot of L302a)	B	45	1
L6	K6	H6a= H40	White spur bottom right of 1st E of BELGIQUE (occurs with L257)	F	82	P(1234)
L7	K7	-	White spur of L6 + BE of BELGIE blind in top part (L103)	F	82	Pg(3)
L8	K8	H6+H6a	White spur of L6 + White oblique scratch to bottom of I of BELGIE (reported by Balasse as 140V8) + White scratch shaped like '2' in left background	F	82	Pg(1)
L8a	K8a	-	White scratch shaped like '2' in left background (=L517). This variety, occurring on its own, is not known to the author.	F	82	1
L9	K9	H13	Bottom left of L of BELGIQUE joined to pearl below (reported by Balasse as 140V1) + later printing blur in left background level with 19th pearl.	A	2	1
L10	K10	H54a	Colour patch above G of BELGIQUE which impiges over top of G (occurs with L103)	E	30	P(124)
L10a	K10a	H54	White swelling bottom of 1st E of BELGIE (occurs with L103 in late printing)	E	30	1
L11	K11	-	Break in curved line of L10 (without L10a and L103)	E	30	P(24)
L11a	K11a	H67	Cut in right main frame level with 19th right pearl	E	30	Pg(4)
L12	K12	-	Break in curved line of L10 without cut out from top of G of BELGIQUE	E	30	3
L13	K13	-	Thickening of white curved line above G of BELGIQUE (occurs with undulation in main frame above) + white spur to tunic of L414	F	37	3
L14	K14	-	Large break in curved line above I of BELGIQUE (occurs with L350).	F	13	Pg(1)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levèque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No
<u>BELGIQUE (contd)</u>						
L15	K15	-	Small break in curved line above I of BELGIQUE	D	78	P(134)
L16	K16	H31	White spur top left of 2nd E of BELGIQUE	A	83	P(1234)
L17	K17	-	White spur of L16 + white vertical scratch in left background level with 6th/8th pearls	A	83	1
L18	K18	-	White spur of L16 + colour cut to left frame of central shield + L18a	A	83	3
L18a	K18a	-	White line top of sash (according to Levèque the late printing variety L123 may also occur)	A	83	3
L19	K19	-	Bottom arm of 2nd E of BELGIQUE cut	D	35	P(1234)
L20	K8 <sup>A</sup>	-	Central bar of 1st E of BELGIQUE joined to lower arm	C	92	Pg(2)
<u>BELGIE</u>						
L100	K20	-	B of BELGIE blind in top part (see footnote)		common	
L100a	K20a	-	Fine join from left frame of left shield to left main frame	D	81	P(1234)
L101	K21	H2	Large white spur top right of B of BELGIE (generally occurs with mutilation of left ornament)	F	51	1
L101a	K21a	H2a	Triangular white area top of left shield	F	51	1
L102	K22	-	White spur top left of 1st E of BELGIE (joins up with L101)	F	51	1
L103	K23	-	BE of BELGIE both blind at top (see footnote)		common	
L104	K24	-	BE of BELGIE both blind (L103) + Break in left frame of right shield (L353)	E	6	3
L105	K25	-	First E of BELGIE blind in top (occurs in several sub-types and panes)	E C E	30 85 79	1 1 3
L106	K26	H3	White spur top right of 1st E of BELGIE	C	64	P(1234)
L107	K27	H3	White spur of L106 + Top left corner open	C	64	3
L107a	-	-	Top left corner open of L107	C	64,46	3
L108	K28	-	White spur of L106 + Colour spur to left main frame level with 17th/18th left pearls	C	64	1
L109	K29	-	Large cut in top frame of central shield above 1st E of BELGIE	B	96	Pg(3)
L109a	K29a	-	Colour spots and thicker frame round top left corner	B	96	Pg(3)
L109b	K29b	-	Long colour constriction in oval by 19th/20th left pearls	B	96	Pg(3)
L109c	K29c	-	Defects in left background level with 5th and with 10th left pearls	B	96	Pg(3)
L110	K30	H4	L of BELGIE joined to frame above by triangular white spot (reported by Balasse as 140V5 - see footnote). Occurs with L250.	B	97	4

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No
<u>BELGIE (contd)</u>						
L111	K31	-	Triangular spur of L110 + Swelling at lower part of left volute	B	97	Pg(4)
L112	K32	H33	L of BELGIE joined to frame above by trapezoidal white spot (reported by Balasse as 14OV5 - see footnote). Occurs with primary variety L250.	B	97	2
L113	K33	-	Trapezoidal spot of L112 + curved colour line in bottom margin under L (concave upwards).	B	97	Pg(2)
L114	K34	-	Trapezoidal spot of L112 + curved colour line in bottom margin under L (concave downwards)	B	97	Pg(2)
L115	K35	H53	Small white spot above L of BELGIE (only one late printing used specimen noted)	A	95	Pg(4)
L116	K36	-	G of BELGIE closed	-	-	-
L117	K37	H57	Large colour spot bottom of I of BELGIE	D	89	3
L118	K38	-	IE of BELGIE joined at base (see footnote)	F	1	Pg(4)
L119	K39	H7	Bottom arm of 2nd E of BELGIE cut (noted in 10th row of panes when overinked eg S98 and S100 of pane 4).		not unique	
L120	K40	H32	Bottom arm of 2nd E of BELGIE extended up (two single used specimens noted - probably not a true variety)	A D	- 5	- Pg(3)
L121	K41	H1	Small break top left corner of central shield (faint except on pane 4).	D	59	P(1234)
L121a	K41a	H1a	12th left pearl doubled and joined to terminal	D	59	4
L122	K42	H52	Frame of central shield broken under B of BELGIE	-	-	-
L123	K43	-	Large break in frame of central shield under B of BELGIE (occurs with L18a according to Levèque)	-	-	-
L124	K44	-	Top left corner of central shield open (appears in late printing only)	B	21	Pg(3)
L125	K45	-	Break in top frame of central shield above 2nd E of BELGIE (only one used specimen noted)	D	93	Pg(4)
L126	K46	-	Internal white spur to right frame of central shield	E	42	P(1234)
L126a	K46a	-	Large colour spur to top main frame above GI of BELGIQUE	E	42	1
L127	K47	H45	Spur joining right of central shield to bottom left of right shield (only one late printing used specimen noted).	A	2	Pg(3)
<u>LEFT ORNAMENT</u>						
L200	K48	-	Colour spot in top part of 1st left leaf	B	55	3
L201	K49	H15	Large break in top of 1st left leaf (reported by Balasse as 14OV10)	E	24	4

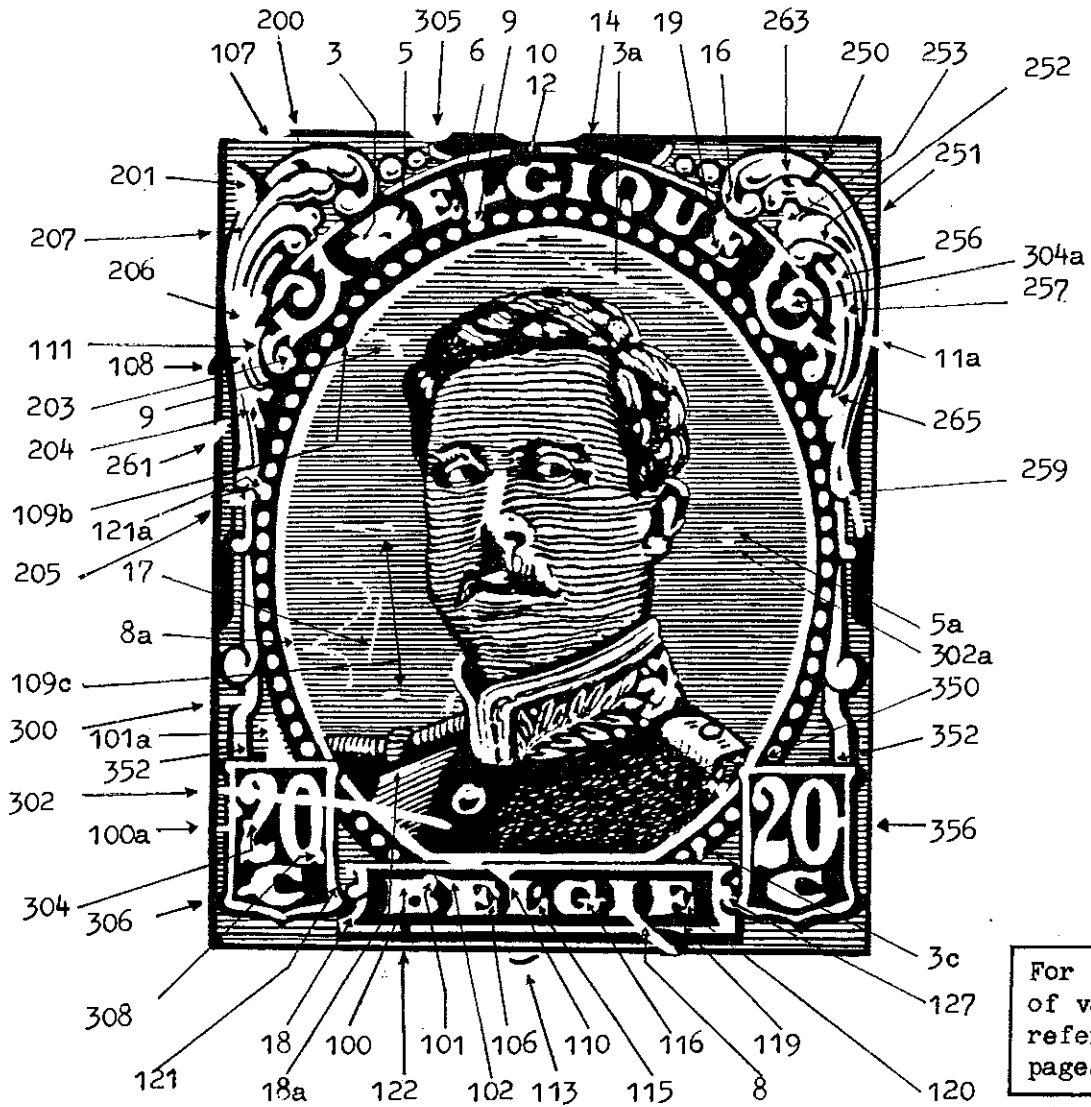
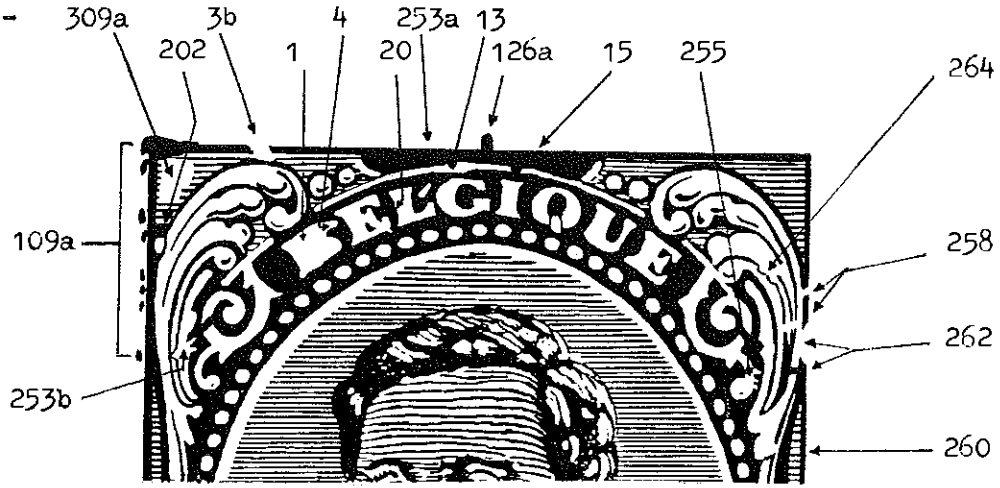
10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>1</sup>	Pane No
<u>LEFT ORNAMENT</u> (contd)						
L202	K50	-	Colour spot at base of 1st & 2nd left leaves (three good used specimens recorded, all of sub-type 'B' but none placed)	B	-	-
L203	K52	-	Lower ball of left volute enlarged	-	-	-
L204	K53	-	Small colour spot in left terminal	D	86	2
L205	K54	-	White scratch left of penultimate left curl	-	-	-
L206	K55	-	Large break in left curved ornament (see footnote)	not unique		
L207	-	-	1st left leaf cut by short line in lower part (occurs with primary variety L356)	B	39	3
<u>RIGHT ORNAMENT</u>						
L250	K56	-	Colour spot top of 1st right leaf (smaller on pane 3). One of L110 to L114 may also occur.	B	97	P(1234)
L251	K57	-	Short thick colour line in 3rd right leaf (see footnote)	F	1	2
L252	K58	-	Colour line in 3rd right leaf and central curl	B	72	4
L253	K59	H46	White spur top of 3rd right leaf	D	29	P(1234)
L253a	K59a	-	White scratch between LG of BELGIQUE (very faint on pane 4)	D	29	P(1234)
L253b	K59b	-	Deformation of middle of left curved ornament (noted on several used specimens 1921/1922)	D	29	Pg(2)
L254	K59 <sup>A</sup>	-	White spur of L253 with white scratch of L253a but without deformation of left curved ornament	D	29	P(1234)
L255	K60	-	Three white spurs to lower curl of right volute	D	75	4
L256	K61	-	Right curved ornament joined to central curl near the top (above level of slit of volute)	E	65	4
L257	K62	-	Right curved ornament joined to central curl lower than L256 but still slightly higher than slit (see footnote). Occurs with L6.	F	82	P(1234)
L258	K63	-	Break in lines of right ornament and in right main frame both level with 21st/22nd pearls	E	90	Pg(1)
L259	K64	-	Fine white vertical line from lower ball of left volute cutting bottom of central curl and terminal & ending level with 11th pearl	B	9	Pg(4)
L259a	K64a	-	Dent in top main frame above G of BELGIQUE	B	9	Pg(4)
L260	K65	-	Colour cut in line of right terminal (occurs with varieties L261 and L417)	F	31	P(124)
L261	K66	-	Colour cut of L260 + break in left main frame level with 14th/15th left pearls	F	31	Pg(2)
L262	K67	H61	Colour cut in 1st right leaf level with 18th pearl, very faint on pane 1 (see footnote)	C	40	P(124)
L262a	-	-	Dent in right main frame level with 20th pearl Does not appear in 1915 printing	C	40	Pg(4)

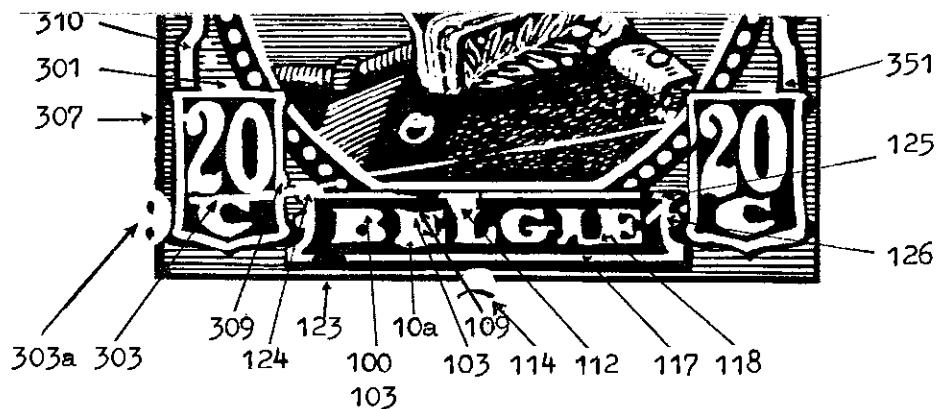


## 10. Table of published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>1</sup>	Pane No
<u>RIGHT ORNAMENT</u> (contd)						
L263	-	-	Colour spot top of 2nd right leaf	D	17	1
L264	-	-	Lower line of 3rd right leaf deformed near top	A	62	3
L265	-	-	Colour cut bottom of right curved ornament Clear example noted on a single used stamp with 1921 cancel.	B	3	Pg(3)
<u>LEFT SHIELD</u>						
L300	K68	-	Break top left of left crooked ornament	E	36	P(1234)
L301	K69	-	Line in top frame of left shield missing (not a unique variety)	F C	31 22	3 3
L302	K70	H18	Burr from left main frame across left shield almost to button. Note that L302 is a continuation of L303 of adjoining stamp 52. (reported by Balasse as 140V3).	A	53	Pg(1)
L302a	K70a	-	White spot to right background level with 10th pearl (lower than L5a)	A	53	1
L303	K71	H5	Burr from left main frame under '20' through tunic and across top of right shield. This is a continuation of L302 in adjoining stamp 53 (reported by Balasse as 140V2)	C	52	Pg(1)
L303a	K71a	H5a	Large dent to left main frame level with C The ten examples noted all have two colour spots inside left of dent.	C	52	Pg(1)
L304	K72	H19	Double white spur (i) to left '2' and (ii) to left frame of left shield	F	61	3
L304a	K72a	-	Fine spur left of central ball of right volute	F	61	P(1234)
L305	K73	-	Double spur of L304 + dent to top main frame above 1st E of BELGIQUE	F	61	Pg(3)
L306	K74	H27	White spur left of centre of left C	F	51	Pg(2)
L307	K75	-	Left '2' joined to left frame of shield	F	31	3
L308	K76	H34	Left '0' almost joined to right frame of shield	E	91	1
L309	K77	-	White spur to right of right frame of left shield	E	60	1
L309a	K77a	-	White spot top left corner (not uniformly white)	E	60	1
L310	-	-	Two white spots right of left crooked ornament (based on used specimen supplied by AG Wood)	E	70	Pg(1)
<u>RIGHT SHIELD</u>						
L350	K78	-	Top left corner of right shield joined to oval (see footnote)			common
L351	K79	-	Break in line of top frame of right shield (see footnote)			common
L352	K80	-	Small colour square above each shield (see footnote)			common
L353	K81	H11	Colour break in left frame of right shield level with 4th pearl above central shield	E	6	P(1234)



For positions of varieties refer to Table pages 55 to 59



11. Footnotes to TabulationL1 B of BELGIQUE completely blind

According to Levèque variety L1 occurs with L206. True examples of the L1 variety have not been seen by the author. It is expected to occur in DEPOT 1921 pane 3 where a close but not exact example has been noted on stamp 2.

L5 Sharp white spur to bottom right of B of BELGIQUE (Stamp 45 of pane 1)

Some specimens of this variety also have a small dent to the right frame in the bottom right corner. This dent is very similar, but smaller than that occurring on stamp 45 of pane 4. It is not recorded by Levèque. See also footnote L665 below.

L100 B of BELGIE blind in top part (common)

This variety is mainly a printing variety which is found on all sub-types. It was observed on stamp 81(D) of pane 1 and stamp 89(D) of pane 4 but not on pane 2. It occurs most frequently on pane 3 especially in the late printing. Examples for this pane are found on stamps 22(C), 25(F), 31(F), 32(A), 33(B), 41(D), 51(F), 52(C), 80(C) and 82(F). Among these listed stamps L350 occurs on the 'F' sub-types, L560 on S41 of pane 1 and S31 of pane 3. Also L410 in the case of S33 of pane 3.

L103 BE of BELGIE both blind at top half (common)

Numerous single used stamps of all sub-types which have this variety are in the author's collection. Not all of these have been placed. Those that were placed were found to occur particularly in columns 1 and 2 of the late printing of pane 3. Cases noted for this pane occur on stamps 6(E), 21(B), 22(C), 31(F), 32(A), 34(C), 41(D), 52(C) and 80(C). It also occurs on stamp 30(E) of pane 1.

L110 Letter L of BELGIE joined to frame above by triangular white spot (S97 of P4)  
 L112 Letter L of BELGIE joined to frame above by trapezoidal white spot (S97 of P2)

Both these varieties are described by Balasse as 140V5. He also states incorrectly that they occur on all four panes.

L118 IE of BELGIE joined at base (Stamp 1 of pane 4)

A single used specimen with 1922 cancellation has been noted. It is of sub-type 'F' with top and left frames overinked and therefore thought to be S1. Pane 4 is deduced by elimination. Two further examples more or less fitting the description have also been recorded. These are S42(E) of pane 2 and an unplaced stamp of sub-type 'C'. Willy de Bakere reports this variety on stamp 87(E) of pane 2. It is considered that this is probably not a true variety.

L206 Large break in left curved ornament (not unique)

Occurs in all sub-types. This variety does not present a uniform appearance and is commonly found in pane 3 where it is most marked on stamp positions 1,2,85 and 92. It has also been noted on stamp 96 of panes 1 and 3 where it presents a much less marked appearance.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

- L251 Thick colour line in 3rd right leaf (Stamp 1 of pane 2)
- Levèque is incorrect when he states that this variety occurs with L356. The latter in fact occurs on stamp 39 of all four panes. At all events stamps 1 and 39 are of different sub-types.
- It is also important to note that L251 refers to a thick short line which is distinctive of stamp 1 of pane 2. A thin short line in that position which occurs on several other stamps but mainly in row 1 of pane 3 is included in the author's extension to the Levèque catalogue.
- Furthermore, under Levèque's description of L356, it is correctly stated that this variety occurs with L207. They were observed together on stamp 39(B) of pane 3.
- L257 Right curved ornament joined to central curl (Stamp 82 of all panes)
- This variety is lower than but similar to that of L256. It is a clear primary variety which must not be confused with other similar breaks which occur between the right curved ornament and the central curl at various places below the level of the slit of the volute. These latter varieties which occur mainly pane 3 on stamps 1,2,3,14,16,77,79 and 80 have not been catalogued by Levèque. They are outside the scope of this article.
- L262 Colour cut in 1st right leaf level with 18th right pearl (S40 of panes 1,2,4)
- L262a Dent in right main frame level with 20th right pearl (S40 of pane 4)
- These two varieties are described as the compound variety L262 in Levèque's catalogue. They are listed separately here for convenience. The former is a primary variety. The latter occurs in the author's early printed pane but not in a 1915 block of pane 4. It obviously occurred very soon after the onset of printing and is therefore listed here as a printing variety.
- L350 Top left corner of right shield joined to oval (common)
- This variety is a latent flaw of sub-type 'F' stamps. It occurs frequently on panes 1 and 3 where it is most marked on stamps 19,25,31,43,51 and 61. It also occurs on stamp 19 of pane 2 and on stamp 49 of pane 4.
- L351 Break in line of top frame of right shield (common)
- This is not a definite variety. It tends to occur in column 1 especially on stamps 51 and 81 of pane 1. It has also been noted but less conspicuously on stamps 51 of pane 3 and on stamp 79 of panes 1 and 3.
- L352 Small colour square above each shield (common)
- This is a latent variety associated with sub-type 'B' stamps. It has been observed most clearly on stamps 21,55,63 and 67 of pane 2 and on stamps 55,67 and 71 of pane 4 all of which are sub-type 'B'.

<p>This article is to be concluded in the forthcoming issue of BELGAPOST for May/June 1991.</p>
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