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Editor - S J Andrews

37 Barton Lodge Road, Birmingham, B28 ORL

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EDITORIAL

It is with great regret that I have to tell you of the passing of our founder, Harry Green, on 13th July 1991.

The funeral was attended by several members of the Circle and a donation made on his behalf to the British Heart Foundation. An obituary is included in this issue by Geoffrey Wood, our only other active founder-member.

This issue is somewhat later than planned as we have had some problems regarding production of the journal; however, we hope that we will soon be back to normal.

Any member wishing to respond to previous articles, or submit items for the future, please contact me as I am anxious to meet your needs and interests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From PETER ROLLINSON who has given us a report on the study of the chamfered Rectangular Cancellations of the Railway Parcel Post. Work on this is now in hand and, before long, we will have a study on this topic.

From ED HIRDLER who sends an interesting letter. He says he has traded ART HEIM a good USA collection, with nothing after World War 2 in it, for his collection of Belgium, as he is now collecting the mother country. He has substantially completed it as to singles off cover, but needs several of the semi-postal issues and scattered stamps throughout. He is now obtaining as many covers as possible, which have the single stamp on cover.

Harry C. Green, Founder and President of
The Belgian Study Circle

All members will be sorry to learn that Harry Green our Founder died on the 13th July; just after his 90th birthday. He had been unwell for some time.

Harry was a great torchbearer for Belgian Pre-stamp Studies and the study into the remoter parts of Belgian Philately. He also was a great protagonist of study circles. He realised that he could not compete with the collectors of the Classics of Belgium; although he has a lot of gems amongst his Belgian stamps. Therefore he set off on the byways; Prestamp Postal History, forgeries especially those of the 5fr 1878, the Eastern Cantons of Eupen and Malmedy, Internment Camps in Holland during 1914-1918 and the Guillochin overprints.

Harry founded the Circle in 1947 and virtually ran it single-handed for the first few years; until younger members such as Jack Andrews and Oliver Loader were able to undertake some of the work. He also organised the original dinner and established a high standard which we have attempted to maintain in the form of our annual lunches.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Doris, one of the few lady RDPs, with whom he shared a philatelic partnership of well over fifty years and to his daughter Rosemary.

Geoffrey Wood



HARRY GREEN (CENTRE) WITH HIS WIFE, DORIS,
AND KEN CHAPMAN

An Update of Published Works for the 20c Die I

(Concluding Part)

By P.D.D. Russell

The first part of the author's study of the varieties of the 20c Die I stamp appeared in Volume 4 Number 2 of BELGAPOST. The present article concludes this study.

It will be recalled that the last column in the tabulation of pages 55 to 59 refers to the pane number in which the variety was noted. Where applicable the prefix 'P' or 'Pg' was given to denote a primary or printing variety that was positively identified. The absence of any prefix letter indicated that the variety was observed on one of the panes listed in the first section of the Table on page 54. Because these panes are from a relatively early printing, the varieties were deemed to be secondary.

It has since been suggested by Geoffrey Wood that it would be useful to describe these panes in greater detail and, in particular, to give an estimate of their printing dates as deduced from the colour of the stamps. The following additional information is therefore provided to rectify this omission.

Collection of Panes Used in Study.¹

Pane No	No of Stamps	DEPOT	Overprint	Description
1	100	1919	Allemagne Deutschland	Early 1919 printing
1	100	1920	Eupen & Malmédy	Early 1920 printing ²
2	100	-	COB 140	Early 1919 printing
2	100	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Early 1919 printing
2	100	1920	Eupen & Malmédy	Early 1920 printing ²
3	100	1920	Eupen & Malmédy	Early 1920 printing ²
3	94	1920	Eupen	Early 1919 printing
4	100	1920	Eupen & Malmédy	Early 1920 printing ²
4	28	-	COB 140	1915 printing
1	86	-	Allemagne Deutschland	Early 1919 printing
3	60	-	Eupen & Malmédy	Early 1920 printing ²

Notes 1. Except for the description column this Table is the same as that on top of page 54.

2. Some of the panes thought to be from an early 1920 printing could possibly be from a late 1919 printing.

It is observed from this Table that, except for the block of 28 stamps of the 1915 printing, all ten panes (or blocks) were printed within the period 'early 1919 to early 1920'. Because a secondary variety is defined as occurring on one pane only from the outset of issue (i.e. 1915), it is obvious that the varieties found on these panes, for which the prefix letters 'P' or 'Pg' is not quoted, are not necessarily secondary. An example of this has already been referred to on page 58 where the Levèque variety L262a, which appears on pane 4 of the early 1920 printing is in fact absent on the block of 28 stamps of the 1915 printing. This variety is therefore an early printing variety and is recorded as such in the tabulation.

The inference must therefore be that some of the 83 varieties previously inferred as belonging to the group of secondaries, could also be early printing varieties. A careful investigation by the author, based on used stamps with date cancellations for the period up to 1918, in fact reveals that the following Levèque varieties have been positively identified as secondary:-

L103	S31	of pane 3	L309a	S60	of pane 1
L108	S64	of pane 1	L405	S1	of pane 3
L121a	S59	of pane 4	L509	S1	of pane 1
L204	S86	of pane 2	L552	S69	of pane 4
L304	S61	of pane 3	L606	S8	of pane 1
L309	S60	of pane 1	L753	S50	of pane 1

An investigation³ by Geoffrey Wood, using similar material, confirms that the following additional varieties in the tabulation are also secondary:-

L101a	S51	of pane 1	L409	S87	of pane 1
L107a	S46	of pane 3	L517	S82	of pane 1
L110	S97	of pane 4	L601	S73	of pane 3
L112	S97	of pane 2	L610	S55	of pane 1
L126a	S42	of pane 1	L659	S27	of pane 1
L406	S71	of pane 2			

In summary, it is concluded that

- (i) The identification of the primary (P) and printing (Pg) varieties, as indicated in the tabulation, is unambiguous and authoritative.
- (ii) The 23 Levèque varieties listed above are established as secondary.
- (iii) The statement that the remaining Levèque varieties which have not been allocated a prefix letter in the pane column are secondary, is less certain and can only represent a provisional inference

It is hoped that readers who have examples of this stamp from the 1915 printing, will be able to check the presence of these secondaries and that they will communicate their findings to the author.

3. Wood, A.G., Private Communication to the author. March 1991.

10. Table of Published Varieties⁴ (contd)

Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos ⁿ	Pane No
<u>RIGHT SHIELD (contd)</u>						
L354	K82	H51	Top left of right '2' joined to left frame + colour cut in this frame (footnote p.73).	D	89	Pg(1)
L354a	K82a	H36	Bottom right corner cut (see footnote p.74)	D	89	Pg(1)
L355	K83	H9	The '2' and 'O' joined at top by white mark Occurs with BE of BELGIE blind (L103)	C	80	Pg(3)
L355a	K83a	H9a	Dent in bottom of right main frame ⁵ . Occurs as a small break earlier than L355 in the early 1919 printing. Appears later as the larger dent described by Leveque.	C	80	Pg(3)
L356	K84	H8	Small join from middle of 'O' to right frame of right shield	B	39	P(1234)
L357	K85	-	'O' and right frame of right shield heavily joined. Reported by A.G. Wood (see footnote p.73)	A	100	Pg(2)
L358	K86	-	'2' joined to top frame of right shield (see footnote p.73).	E	91	Pg(3)
L359	K87	-	Break in bottom of right shield at left	A	44	3
L360	K88	-	Large break with white spot at right of bottom frame of right shield (not to be confused with bad cases of overinking)	D	98	Pg(1)
L361	-	-	'C' joined to bottom frame of right shield	A	38	P(1234)
<u>MEDALLION, PEARLS & OVAL</u>						
L400	K89	-	9th and 10th left pearls joined ⁶	-	-	-
L401	K90	H66a	15th & 16th left pearls joined & extended up	F	56	Pg(1)
L401a	K90a	H66	Top left corner cut	F	56	Pg(1)
L401b	K90b	-	Fine white oblique scratch right of left C	F	56	Pg(1)
L402	K91	H63	19th left pearl joined to oval	A	62	Pg(1)
L403	K92	H37a	Large colour spot in oval under B of BELGIQUE. Reported by Balasse as 14OV9.	A	100	1
L403a	K92a	H37	Break in left main frame level with top of left shield (=L707).	A	100	1
L404	K93	-	Fine colour scratch in oval under first E of BELGIQUE (faint on panes 1).	F	56	P(12)
L405	K94	-	Thinning of oval under LG of BELGIQUE (see footnote p.73).	F	1	3
L406	K95	-	Swelling of oval between two pearls under IQ	B	71	2
L407	K96	-	Pearl under U has spur pointing upwards	-	-	-
L408	K97	-	Swelling of oval under U	D	23	3
L409	K98	H21	Pearl under U joined to oval	E	87	1

Notes 4. See page 60 for variety numbers from 1 to 353.

5. Not to be confused with a similar but larger unrecorded dent found late on stamp 100 of pane 2 in association with H39a, L652 & L652a. This unrecorded variety is also illustrated on page 77.

6. This Leveque variety was not found. However, the 9th left pearl joined to oval was noted on stamp 64 of pane 3.

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos ⁿ	Pane No
<u>MEDALLION, PEARLS & OVAL (contd)</u>						
L410	K99	-	White spur to 14th right pearl	B	33	P(1234)
L411	K100	-	White spur of L410 + B of BELGIE blind (L100)	B	33	3
L412	K101	-	8th and 9th right pearls have colour spurs (very faint colour spur in 9th pearl only in the case of stamp 62 of panes 2 and 4)	A	62	3
L413	K102	-	Colour line across oval and 4th right pearl (not continuous across oval in pane 2)	B	63	P(12)
L414	K103	H23	White spur to tunic above I of BELGIE (occurs with L13 on pane 3 only)	F	37	P(1234)
L415	-	-	All pearls missing under BELGIQUE + colour line of L251 (see footnote p.73).	-	-	-
L416	-	-	All pearls missing under BELGIQUE + join of right 2 to left frame of shield (L354) (see footnote p.73).	D	5	Pg(2)
L417	-	-	7th left pearl joined to oval + colour cut in right terminal (L260).	F	31	4
L418	-	-	Third left pearl right of left shield joined to oval	C	85	1
L419	-	-	Fine white break in oval by first pearl above B of BELGIE	D	89	2
<u>BACKGROUND</u>						
L500	K104	-	Curved white scratch left background from 7th to 14th left pearls	-	-	-
L501	K105	-	Vertical colour scratch from B of BELGIQUE to right shoulder (continuation of L501a)	D	17	Pg(4)
L501a	-	-	Vertical colour scratch from sash and back- ground ending under EL of BELGIQUE (this is a natural addition to Levêque's listing because it is a continuation of L501 of S17)	F	7	Pg(4)
L502	K106	-	White spot with some colour surround in left background level with 15th/16th left pearls	D	59	Pg(1)
L503	K107	H17a	White oval spot to left background level with 17th left pearl (see footnote p.73).	-	-	-
L504	K108	H17+H17a	White spot of L503 + white line left of button	B	9	Pg(3)
L505	K108 ^A	-	White line left of button	B	9	3
L506	K109	-	Large colour spot above hair. Reported by Balasse as 140V7. Occurs with L262 & L262a. Available specimens also have a white horizontal scratch across right side of hair level with 16th left pearl (illustrated p.77)	C	40	Pg(4)
L507	K110	-	White scratch in background from B of BELGIQUE	B	33	Pg(2)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Posn	Pane No
<u>BACKGROUND (contd)</u>						
L508	K111	H26	Long oblique white scratch to top background from 21st left pearl across pearl under QU & terminating with break in top of 2nd right leaf	A	8	Pg(2)
L508a	K111a	-	Irregular colour streak across left background level with 14th-16th left pearls	A	8	Pg(2)
L509	K112	H25	Long oblique scratch in background over head (L3a) + white spur to 2nd pearl left of right shield (L3c). (See page 60).	F	1	1
L510	K113	H70	White spur into right background by oval level with 12th/13th pearls	D	81	Pg(3)
L511	K114	H24	Elongated white spot to right background level with 11th/12th pearls	D	50	Pg(3)
L512	K115	H24+H24a	White spot of L511 + double break to right main frame under curl of final ornament	D	50	Pg(3)
L513	K117	H58	Vertical white line in background right of collar. W. de Bakere also places this variety on S11 of pane 1, this cannot be confirmed	D	35	Pg(3)
L514	-	-	Small vertical white scratch top background under I of BELGIQUE	C	16	1
L515	-	-	White spot top background under EL of BELGIQUE, inaccurately positioned on Levêque's diagram. (See footnote p.73).	F	25	3
L516	-	-	Curved colour line left background level with 8th to 10th left pearls ⁷	-	-	-
L517	-	-	White scratch shaped like a '2' to left background (part of L8). (See page 60).	F	82	1
L518	-	-	Break in lower left background forming white spot with colour edge level with 2nd/3rd pearls	D	5	3
L519	-	-	White horizontal line by oval right of 6th/7th left pearls	E	18	4
<u>EFFIGY</u>						
L550	K118	H10	Vertical white scratch through hair under Q	C	10	Pg(4)
L551	K119	-	White scratch of L550 + extensive mutilation to right ornament	C	10	Pg(4)
L552	K120	H60	White spot by parting of hair	D	69	4
L553	K121	-	Rectangular colour spot at mid-forehead (Based on single used specimen with square colour spot more to left than indicated by Levêque)	B	96	Pg(3)
L554	K122	-	Colour square under left eye (smaller than L555)	B	72	Pg(3)

Note 7. A used specimen, cancelled 1921, with a similar curved colour line to that described by Levêque but slightly higher in left background was noted. It was placed as stamp 96 pane 3 but cannot be positively identified as L516.

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Posn	Pane No
<u>EFFIGY</u> (contd)			[SEE FOOTNOTE RE VARIETIES L554-L558, p.74)			
L554a	K122a	-	Colour square of L554 + top left corner extended to the left	B	72	Pg(3)
L555	K123	-	Rectangular colour spot under left eye + colour spot by nose + dent to left main frame (L702)	B	21	Pg(3)
L556	K124	-	Colour spot extending from under left eye towards left ear. Reported by Balasse as 140V6.	B	67	Pg(1)
L557	K125	-	Three colour lines extending to left and thickening on the nose. Not to be confused with mutilations to effigy noted on some stamps of the DEPOT 1921 block of pane 3.	B	45	3
L558	K126	-	Large colour spot on nose	C	22	Pg(3)
L559	K127	H65	White spot with scratch on tunic under collar	A	95	3
L560	K128	-	White triangular spot at bottom of sash (not unique and variable in appearance)	D, D F C	41, 81 31 16	1 3 3
<u>TOP FRAME</u>						
L600	K129	H64+H64a	Curved colour scratch in margin at top left corner + white spot inside left corner (incorrectly positioned by de Haene as S91)	E	87	3
L601	K130	H14	Break in top main frame above 1st left leaf	A	73	3
L602	K131	H30	Long dent in top left corner	D	5	Pg(2)
L603	K133	H28	Break in top main frame above large rt pearl	A	8	Pg(4)
L604	-	-	Small white scratch above two pearls over U + top main frame thin in right corner + white spot between right main frame and 1st right leaf	B	9	Pg(2)
L605	-	-	White spot or break to top main frame above IQ (seen with L600)	E	87	Pg(3)
L606 L606a	-	-	Break to top main frame above 1st left leaf + white spot inside left corner (note that the former is present in pane 1 only, while L606a is primary but fainter on panes 2 & 4)	A A	8 8	1 P(1234)
L607	-	-	Top left corner obliquely extended to left	E	94	3
L607a	-	-	Small colour spot in top margin above rt pearl (with colour spur on some specimens).	E	94	Pg(3)
L608	-	-	Colour spur to top main frame at right corner (only colour spot noted in author's collection)	F	37	Pg(3)
L609	-	-	Left corner significantly extended to left (only one specimen noted)	A	95	Pg(3)
L610	-	-	Shallow dent in top main frame above left leaf	B	55	1
L610a	-	-	Small cut in left main frame close to top	B	55	P(1234)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos ⁿ	Pane No
<u>BOTTOM FRAME</u>			THE READER IS URGED TO REFER TO THE FOOT- NOTES RELATED TO VARIETIES L650 to L665 FOR THE BOTTOM MAIN FRAME (SEE pp 74,75).			
L650	K134	H38	Both corners cut in bottom frame	D	98	Pg(2)
L651	K135	H48	Both corners cut as L650 but less marked	D	98	Pg(2)
L652	K136	H39	Three dents at left of bottom main frame + another extending from under I to right shield	A	100	Pg(2)
L652a	K136a	-	White spot inside right main frame level with 8th right pearl + dent in right frame level with 3rd right pearl	A	100	Pg(2)
L653	K137	H49	White spot left of point of left shield	E	54	3
L653a	K137a	-	Break and distortion of lines of right ornament level with top of volute	E	54	3
L654	K138	H59	Long dent to bottom main frame under right of left shield and left of central shield (only one used specimen noted)	D	93	Pg(4)
L655	K139	H22	Small break in bottom main frame under point of left shield	B	63	P(1234)
L656	K140	H62	Dent in bottom main frame under left of central shield (noted by A.G. Wood).	B	96	Pg(1)
L657	K141	H35	Dent in bottom main frame under LG of BELGIE	B	96	Pg(2)
L657a	-	-	Dent in bottom main frame under LG of BELGIE This dent, similar to L657 but slightly longer, is <u>not</u> recorded by Leveque. (Two used specimens noted.	E	99	Pg(3)
L658	K142	H50	Double dent in bottom main frame between B and I of BELGIE (this is essentially the previous variety (L657a) but with the frame in a more advanced state of wear).	E	99	Pg(3)
L659	K143	H42	Small break in bottom main frame under LG of BELGIE (incorrectly placed by de Haene).	B	27	1
L660	K144	H72	Dent in bottom main frame under 2nd E of BELGIE (first sign of a much smaller dent in this position has been noted in the early printing of pane 2)	D	93	Pg(2)
L661	K145	H47	Dent in bottom main frame under right of central shield (further to the right than L660)	D	93	Pg(1)
L662	K146	H41	Two dents in bottom main frame under right of central shield and under right shield	C	92	Pg(4)
L663	K147	-	Colour line cutting bottom main frame under right of central shield	E	94	2
L664	K148	H71	Small oblique white line in bottomright corner	C	58	P(1234)
L665	K148 ^A	H36	Bottom right corner largely truncated (not to be confused with L354a of S89 pane 1 which presents a similar appearance. In addition there are four other similar varieties which are distinguishable (see footnotes pp.74,75)	E	79	Pg(2)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos ⁿ	Pane No
<u>LEFT FRAME</u>						
L700	K149	H29	Large dent at top corner of left main frame (seen on used specimens with 1921/2 cancels in conjunction with L103)	C	52	Pg(3)
L701	K150	H69	Small oblique dent in left main frame 1.5 mm from top left corner (see footnote page 75)	C	74	Pg(3)
L702	K151	H56	Large dent to left main frame level with 12th to 14th left pearls. Occurs with L555.	B	21	Pg(3)
L703	K152	H16	White scratch from left main frame to lower part of terminal.	C	4	Pg(3)
L704	K153	H20	Triangular break in left main frame cutting left frame of left shield	B	21	Pg(1)
L705	K154	-	Dent in left main frame level with bottom of letter C.	A	32	Pg(1)
L706	-	-	Long irregular break in left main frame level with 11th to 13th pearls.	F	61	Pg(2)
L707	-	-	Break in left main frame level with top of left shield (=L403a).	A	100	1
-	-	H39a	Top left corner missing affecting left & top frames equally and therefore distinguishable from L107 (occurs with L652 and L652a)	A	100	Pg(2)
<u>RIGHT FRAME</u>						
L750	K155	-	Colour spot (or spur) in right margin level with top of volute & 4 mm from top corner.	F	19	2
L751	K156	H43	Large dent in right main frame level with top of right shield.	C	10	2
L752	K157	H44	Large dent of L751 + another 3 mm from top right corner giving appearance of long white scratch tangential with first right leaf.	C	10	Pg(2)
L753	K158	H68	Small break in right main frame level with top of right shield (faint in 1915 printing)	D	50	1
L754	K159	-	Large dent to right main frame level with 4th/5th right pearls.	C	80	Pg(2)
L755	-	-	Break in right main frame level with 15th right pearl (noted on used stamps 1920).	E	30	Pg(1)
L755a	-	-	Small white spur to bottom frame of left shield. Absent before 1920 then indistinct and fuzzy on used specimens cancelled 1920.	E	30	Pg(1)

Notes 8. Varieties L107a, L262a, L501a, L606a, L610a and L657a are natural additions to the Levêque listing. These were defined by the author for a number of reasons, but in the main, to enable the reader to distinguish multiple Levêque varieties, the components of which are found either on different panes and/or on different printings.

9. Since both Kicken and Levêque made no attempts to position the varieties they listed, it is probable that their studies were based on used or single specimens. So when their statements conflict with evidence from placed stamps, then their statements should be ignored.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

- L354 Right '2' joined to left frame of shield with colour cut in frame (S89 pane 1)

Six very clear used specimens with this variety were noted. These were of late printing with 1921 cancellations. None of these include variety L357 which Levêque claims to be associated with L354. His claim is therefore considered incorrect (see L357 below).

- L357 Right '0' largely joined to right frame of shield (Stamp 100 of pane 2)

Levêque states that this variety occurs with L652 which has been noted on stamp 100 of pane 2. The author has not observed L357 but confirmation of its occurrence on stamp 100 of pane 2 has been obtained from A.G. Wood.

- L358 Right '2' joined to top frame of right shield (Stamp 91 of pane 3)

A single true specimen has been noted. Such joins do also occur, not at all clearly, in various sub-types of all panes. These latter cases do not appear to be constant and occur more frequently in sub-type 'D'.

- L405 Thinning of oval under LG of BELGIQUE (Stamp 1 of pane 3)

The top line of the background is short and broken upwards touching the colour surround of pearl under G of BELGIQUE thereby only roughly in agreement with Levêque's description

- L415 All pearls under BELGIQUE missing (Stamp 5 of pane 2)

L416

W. de Bakere reports this variety on stamp 5 of pane 2 which is of sub-type 'D'. The simultaneous occurrence of the thick colour line in the third right leaf reported by Levêque (L251) is not possible because the latter variety only occurs on stamp 1 of pane 2 which is of sub-type 'F'. It is therefore suspected that these missing pearls do not represent a true variety but are the result of overinking which could affect a number of stamps in the first row.

The simultaneous occurrence of a join from the right '2' to the left frame of the right shield (L354) reported by Levêque as L416 is also unlikely as this latter variety occurs on stamp 89 of pane 1. It is noted, however, that both L354 and L416 are on sub-type 'D' stamps.

- L503 Elliptical white spot to the left background level with 17th pearl

- L504 White scratch to left of button + white spot of L503 (Stamp 9 of pane 3)

- L505 White scratch to left of button (Stamp 9 of pane 3)

The white scratch of L505 occurs in the late 1919 printing. The elliptical white spot subsequently appears and was noted on used specimens with 1921 cancellations. This forms the combined variety L504.

A significant number of specimens with L504 and L505 have been noted but L503 alone has not been observed by the author. It is therefore concluded that the elliptical white spot on its own (L503) does not exist.

- L515 Small white spot in top background under EL of BELGIQUE (Stamp 25 pane 3)

Available specimens of this distinctive variety indicate that the white spot is positioned nearer to the oval than shown in Levêque's diagram.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

L554 The Leveque varieties L554 to L558 are typical of printing errors
to found in the late printing (DEPOT 1921) of this stamp. It appears
L558 perhaps fortuitously, that they occur mainly on columns 1 and 2 of
pane 3 of this late printing. Indeed, a large number of more
conspicuous late printing varieties, not recorded by Leveque, are to
be found in the left columns of pane 3.

L650 Varieties occurring in bottom main frame

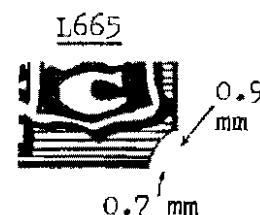
to
L665 Considerable difficulty was experienced in identifying and classifying
the Leveque varieties which appear in the bottom main frame. This is
probably because these varieties were noted and catalogued by Leveque
for particular stamps without regard to the progressive deterioration
of this bottom frame. A particular variety may therefore present a
range of appearances depending on whether the printing was early or
late. The matter was also complicated by the existence of a significant
number of other similar varieties not recorded by Leveque. These
additional varieties are outside the scope of the present article.

L665 Truncation and breaks in the bottom right corner

and
L354a Six separate varieties have been identified. Two of these involving a
large break in the bottom right corner have been reported by Leveque.
These are L665 and L354a both of which are late printing varieties.

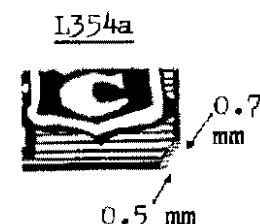
L665 of stamp 79 of pane 2 (Sub-type 'E')

This is the largest truncation to be found in the
bottom right corner of the stamp. The cutaway portion
from the bottom main frame is 0.7 mm and from the
right main frame 0.9 mm. The 'E' sub-type also confirms
this variety unambiguously.



L354a of stamp 89 of pane 1 (Sub-type 'D')

This is slightly smaller than the previous variety,
the cutaway portion measuring 0.5 mm horizontally
and 0.7 mm vertically. This variety may also occur
with a join between the right '2' and the left frame
of the right shield (L354), which is also a late but
not necessarily synchronous printing variety. The
outer edge of the truncated portion of L354a is often
somewhat fuzzy.



The small white spur from the oval towards the 12th/13th right pearls
is a distinctive variety of stamp 89 of pane 1 which confirms the
placing of the truncation variety of L354a.

Several available examples of each of the remaining four truncation
varieties demonstrate that these are also distinctive and are related to
particular panes and stamp positions. Although outside the scope of the
present article, it is helpful to describe these here in order to avoid
confusion with the above two main Leveque varieties. These additional
four truncation flaws to the bottom right corner of the stamp are
described below.

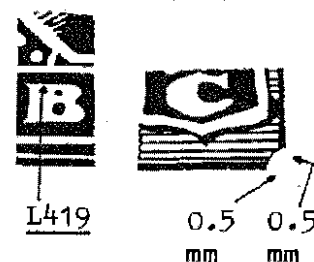
11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

The reader is reminded that these four varieties have not been allocated a number because they have not so far been referred to in the published literature.

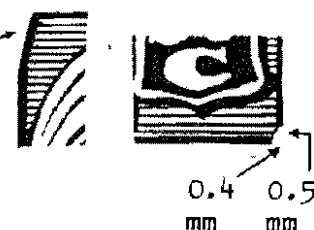
Variety on stamp 89 of pane 2 (Sub-type 'D')

This truncation is similar in size to that of L354a. However, it has not got a fuzzy edge and is associated with variety L419 which is distinctive of stamp 89 of pane 2. It is a late printing variety measuring 0.5 mm both horizontally and vertically. The cutaway portion is also less curved.

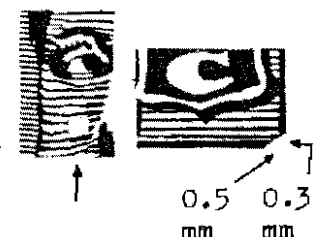
Diagrams on left
show associated
varieties

Variety on stamp 81 of pane 2 (Sub-type 'D')

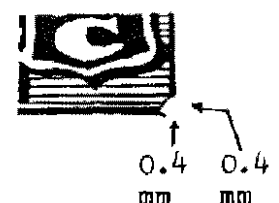
This truncation is the same size as the previous one but is more vertical in appearance. It is a late printing variety which may be identified from (i) the top 1 mm of the left main frame which bends inwards and (ii) a white spot in the left background level with the 12th/13th left pearls which assumes the appearance of a small colour cross in later printings probably as a result of a late repair.

Variety on stamp 99 of pane 2 (Sub-type 'E')

This truncation is smaller than all the previous ones and affects mainly the bottom main frame. It is a late printing variety which is associated with a white spot to the right side of the nose which is also distinctive of stamp 99 of pane 2.

Variety on stamp 45 of pane 4 (Sub-type 'B')

This truncation is the same size as the previous one but affects mainly the right main frame. A slight extension of the bottom frame into the cutaway space characterises this variety which is distinctive of stamp 45 of pane 4. A white spot left of the nose and a tendency to overinking in the top right corner of the stamp also helps to identify and place this late printing variety in a few cases.

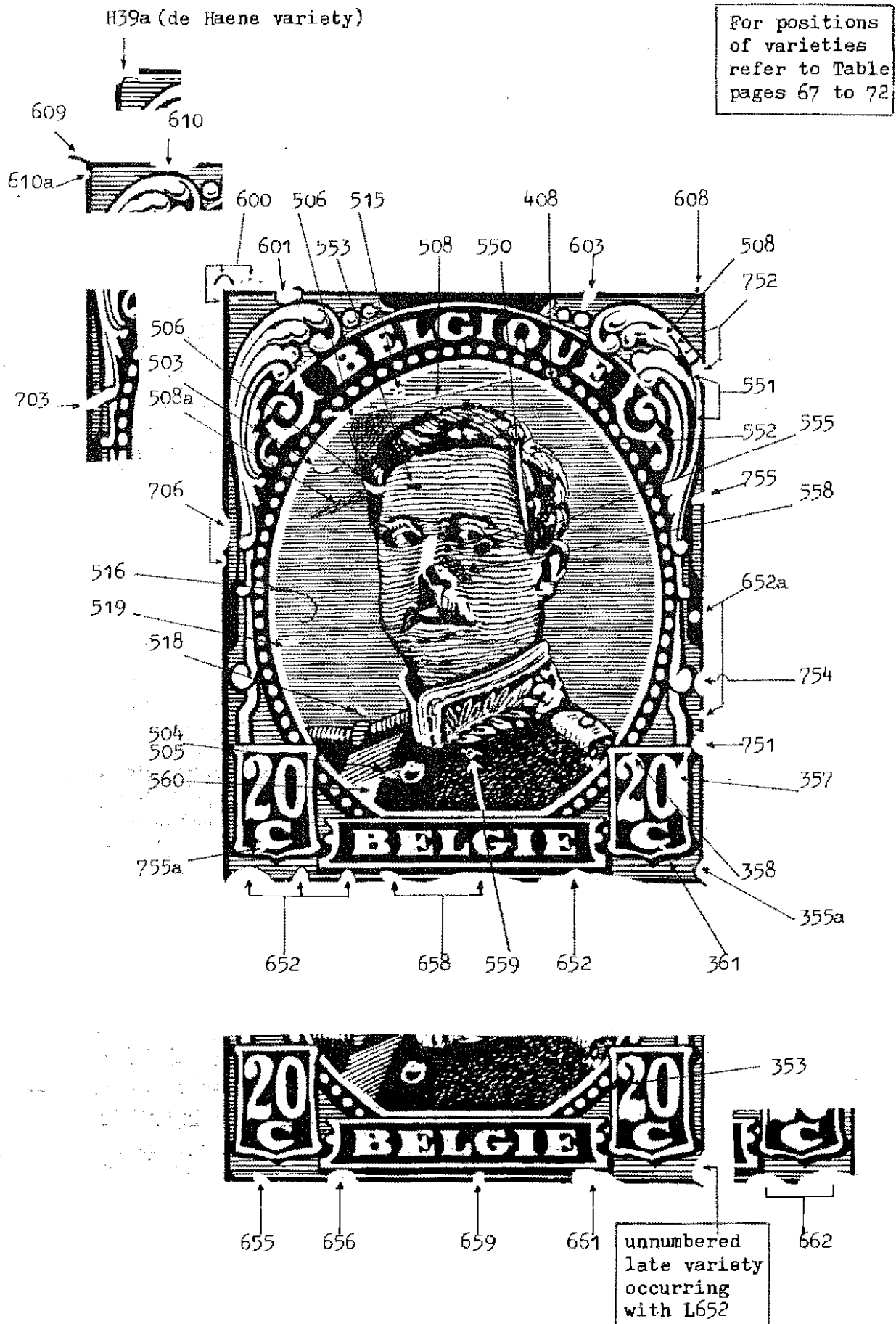
L701 Small oblique dent in left main frame 1.5 mm from top corner (Stamp 74 pane 3)

This late printing Levêque variety appears on a sub-type 'C' stamp. It must not be confused with a similar dent, semi-circular in shape, on the left main frame 1.2 mm from the top corner which occurs on stamp 26 of pane 3 (sub-type 'A'). This latter dent is easily distinguished because it occurs in conjunction with an unrecorded variety where the 16th left pearl is finely joined to the oval.

A much larger dent in the same position occurs on stamp 84 of pane 4 (sub-type 'B') and is associated with a number of white spots in the top left corner of the stamp.

These two dents are also late printing varieties but neither is mentioned or recorded by previous authors.





CORRIGENDUM TO

BELGAPOST VOL 4 No 2

Please insert the following corrections and/or addenda in your copy of BELGAPOST Vol 4 No 2:-

1. Page 44, 10th line.

Details of the article by Purves are incorrectly given. This reference should read as follows:-

'Purves, J.R.W., 'The Place of Surface Printing in Philatelic Study'. Reprinted in Stamp Collecting of 17 June 1966, pp 613,615. Continued on 1 July 1966, pp 685,687, and concluded on 8 July 1966 page 723.'

2. Page 48, 9th to 10th line of Section 1.

The printing base for 1921 on the right side of page 48 is incorrectly shown. Please substitute corrected printing base shown here on the right of this page.

1921

Deep lilac

3	2
1	4

3. Page 59, Variety 353.

Add the following to the description of variety 353 in the fourth column at the bottom of page 59.

'Illustrated on page 77'

MEMBER NEWS

The following names should be added to the membership list:

H. ANDERSON - CADIZ SPAIN

A.J.K. DORE - NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX

STAMP ISSUES - MINT AND USED

D.J.M. KERR - EARLSTONE, BERWICKSHIRE

EARLY STAMP ISSUES AND POSTMARKS, POSTAL
STATIONERY USED

WE EXTEND TO THEM A WELCOME TO THE CIRCLE AND HOPE THEY FIND IT REWARDING.

THE LETTER RATES AT LIEGE

The tariff for letters arriving from the towns and areas shown below, from 2 August 1764. The rates are in sous.

From	Single ($\frac{1}{4}$ oz)	Double ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz)	Ounce
Battice, Verviers, Maestricht, Tongres, Huy	1	2	3
Aix, Maeseyck, Tirlemont, Hasselt, St. Trond	2	4	6
Cologne, Dusseldorf, Louvain, Brussels, Malines, Antwerp, Namur, Marche, Gueldre, Venlo, Ruremonde	3	6	10
Coblence, Wesel, Cleves area, Flamisoul, Malmaison, Nimegen, Arnhem, Provinces of Gueldre, Friesland, Overijssel	5	7	10
from Amsterdam arriving on a Sunday and also other towns of Holland	4	6	8
ditto on other days of the week	5	7	10
Zeeland	6	9	12
Ghent and Mons	6	9	12
Luxembourg, Arlon, Sedan, Bouillon, Charleville	7	10	14
Italy, Austria, Upper Germany, Frankfurt, Mayence, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Courtray, Tournay, Menin, Bruges, Ostend, Ypres, Newport	10	15	20
Lorraine and Champagne	10	15	20
Paris	13	15	24
Bordeaux	20	30	40
Spain	25	40	50
Andalucia and Portugal	28	50	60

The Belgian Study Circle Luncheon

On Saturday, 4th March the 43rd Annual Luncheon of the Belgian Study Circle was held at Regent's College under the Chairmanship of George Hollings. And what a lunch it was!

Geoffrey Wood, who again organised it, exceeded himself. The assembly thoroughly enjoyed the carrot and coriander soup, followed by a huge steak, followed by a magnificent chocolate and walnut roulade ... and the wine flowed most generously throughout!

After lunch the displays given by the Chairman George Hollings of the Small Lions of 1866 and the De La Rue Issue of 1883, Dr. Iain Stevenson showed Belgian Mails in France in World War II.

These were so fascinating that nobody 'dropped off' even after such a lunch.

Jeffrey Kalp, after the toasts, stood up and gave a vote of thanks to Geoffrey Wood for arranging such a memorable day which was heartily endorsed by all those present.

The menu photo was of Queen Louise Marie, Leopold's second wife from a miniature by Sir William Ross, R.A. engraved by J. H. Robinson. Copies of the photo may be obtained at £2 each.

JOUBERT DE LA FERTE

ENGRAVER

Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferte
Born at Paris, 15 September 1810
Died at Mentone, 1884

He came to England, from Paris, in 1840. When he joined De La Rue he dominated the whole process of typography for postage stamps and established the tradition of Relief Engraving, a far more delicate undertaking than Intaglio Engraving in which he was pre-eminent. He was the inventor of the process of Acierage, by which copper plates or electro-type shells were coated with a surface of steel, a process which was much used by De La Rue for their stamp printing.



MORESNET LOCAL POST

By Peter Kelley

The neutral zone of Moresnet was situated at the meeting place of the borders of Germany, Belgium and Holland not far from Aachen.

Like the Andorra of today, it was an independent territory administered jointly by two great powers.

From 1816 to 1830 these were Prussia and Holland, but after 1830 Belgium assumed Holland's responsibility and the area was jointly ruled from Eupen and Verviers.

The district comprised the twin villages of Moresnet and Kelmis and had a total area of no more than six square kilometres and a population of 2,800. The postal system until 1887 allowed the use of both German and Belgian stamps and presumably, covers of the period exist with mixed frankings.

It is difficult to understand why it was thought necessary to have a private local post in Moresnet at this time, but, no doubt the emergence of private services in many German towns in the 1880's provided the inspiration.

So it was that in 1886 the local medical officer of health, Dr. William Molly, set up the "Kelmiser Verkehrs anstalt" to collect and deliver the local mail.

A set of eight values in a common design was lithographed and put on sale on October 9th. The sheets were released both Imperforate and perforated 11½, but only the former have been seen on cover. The eight values were: 1pfg light green, 2pfg blue, 3pfg lilac, 4pfg orange, 5pfg brown, 10pfg carmine, 20pfg grey and 50pfg red.

At least one more printing was made, for all but the top value can be found in different shades (the 20pfg from this printing is olive not grey). These, however, were probably after the closure of the post.

In view of the size of the population the number of stamps genuinely used must have been very small indeed. The cancellation used was a circular date stamp of Kelmis.

The establishment of a private post in Moresnet was against the agreement of neutrality and as soon as its existence came to the notice of the German and Belgian commissaries they promptly put out an order of suppression, which came into effect on October 19th, 1886. The post had a short life of less than ten days.

Naturally, there was a large number of remainders left in the hands of the proprietors and these quickly found their way into the stamp trade, most being overprinted with an octagonal boxed handstamp bearing the inscription "Ausser Cours Gesetz" which was applied in both black and violet ink.

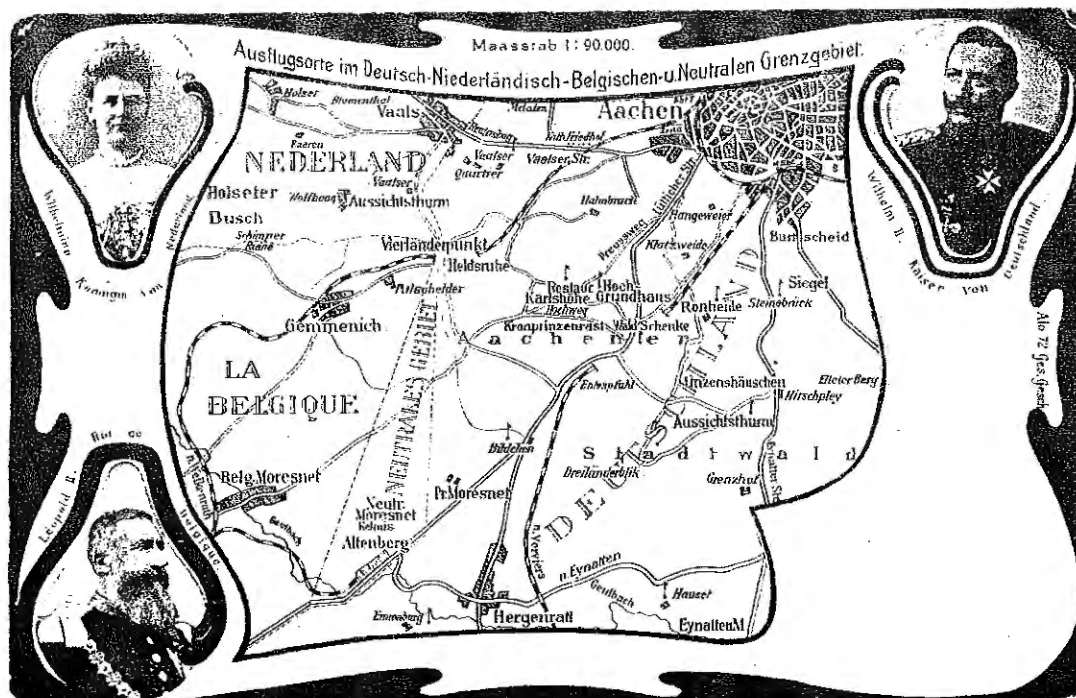
An earlier attempt had been made to foist private postage stamps on unsuspecting Moresnet, in 1867 by the famous pioneer dealer Moens of Belgium. Moens produced his own house journal, "La Timbre-Post", and he was often annoyed by other stamp magazines who copy items word for word without the courtesy of acknowledgement.

He decided to play a little joke, a "Poisson d'avril" on his rivals and in his issue of 15 April 1867 he included a long letter from S. Neom (his own name spelt backwards), describing the new issue of Moresnet and carrying an illustration of a stamp showing the German Eagle beside the Belgian Lion with a cap of liberty above. Around this ran the inscription "Commune libre de Moresnet" with POSTES at the foot, and the value in all corners. The rival journals fell for the ruse and solemnly reprinted the item, only to feel utter embarrassment when the following issue of "La Timbre-Post" told the true story.

Many of Moens' readers wanted copies of the fictitious stamps and the illustrated block was used to print a few sheets in black on coloured papers. Specimens of this phantom are seldom seen today.

The neutral zone of Moresnet officially vanished into the mists of history after the First World War, when an article of the Treaty of Versailles decreed that it would henceforth form an integral part of Belgium.

(This article was originally published in "Stamp Collecting" and was reprinted in "Germania" in December 1974. Contributed by M. Wilkinson)



Editor's Note: A long article, "The Local Post of Moresnet in the Light of Unpublished Official Documents" by Charles Dehenvel appeared in Balasse Magazine, Nos. 83, 84 & 85. We do not propose to give this here but a translation is available and can be borrowed from the Editor and to cover postage costs.

J. B. MOENS

"One of the most important events in recent stamp history has been the liquidation of the old established firm of J. B. Moens. For six months past this liquidation has been in progress, Mr. Moens disposing of his stock at a small discount from his retail prices. No doubt the best material has been absorbed by wideawake dealers, and now the announcement is made that the entire remainder of the stamps, envelopes, cards, etc., has been sold to Mr. Edward M. Ruben, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The final dispersion of this important stock removes from the field of philately one of its most prominent, as well as one of its most interesting figures. Mr. Moens has been known as a dealer and expert for over forty years and, although he has at times been obstinate when he had formed an opinion, there can be no doubt that in the majority of cases his verdict could be accepted as law and it was regarded in that light by the majority of collectors and dealers throughout the world."

(This was taken from "The American Journal of Philately", dated 1st May, 1900).

1932 - "ALLEGORIES" Issue

This small issue of four stamps never seems to have had too much appeal to Belgian specialists. A by no means exhaustive search has not turned up any significant writings concerning this issue.

It has however attracted the attention of counterfeiter(s) - hence this note.

Can anyone provide me with any information about, and/or copies of, counterfeits of this issue? So far I have exactly ONE single counterfeit of the 35¢ value. I obtained this stamp in Belgium some years ago. I have been on the lookout for more ever since but have found none. It's quite a good counterfeit and would not be spotted as a counterfeit by most unalerted collectors. Please help if you can. Xavier Verbeck, 2 Cedar Lane, Staatsburg, N.Y. 12580



THE BELGIAN STATE RAILWAY SYSTEM

At a recent meeting, a number of questions were asked as to when the line went through from Ostend to Germany. In view of this it may well be appropriate to give the dates on which various sections of the State Railway System were opened and which may be useful to members who study Postal History.

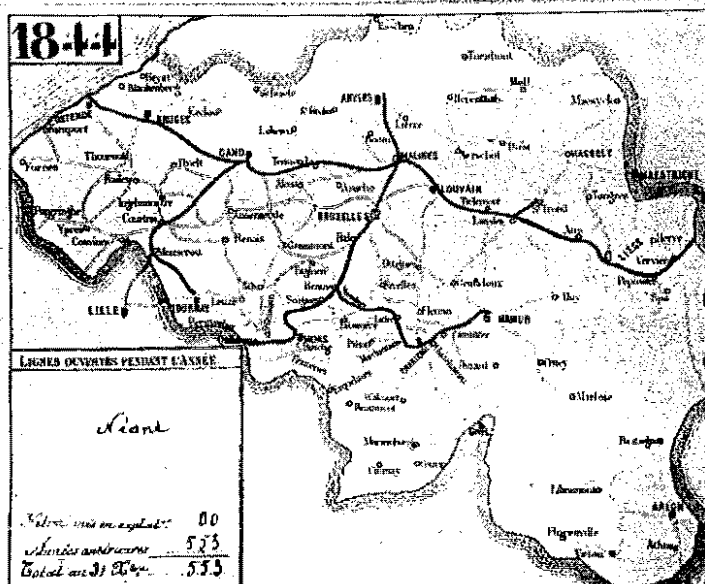
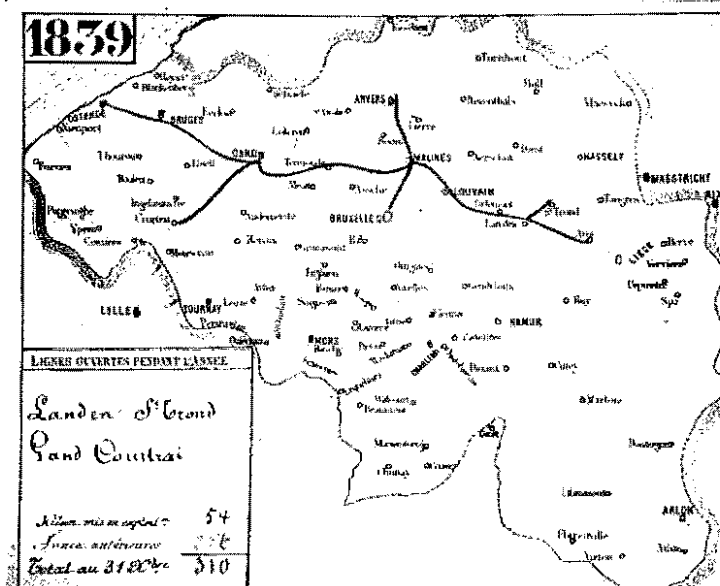
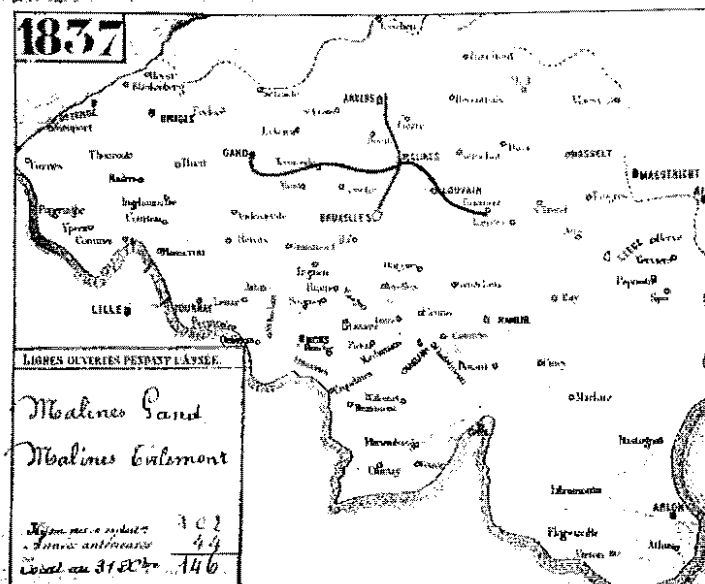
Malines - Brussels	5 May 1835	20½ kilometres
" - Antwerp	3 May 1835	23½ "
" - Termonde	10 September 1837	27 "
" - Louvain	"	24 "
Termonde - Wetteren	15 September 1837	16 "
Louvain - Tirlemont	22 "	18 "
Wetteren - Ghent	28 "	13 "
Tirlemont - Ans	2 April 1838	46 "
Ghent - Bruges	12 August 1838	44 "
Bruges - Ostend (Town)	28 "	21 "
Ghent - Deynze	25 August 1839	17 "
Deynze - Courtrai	22 September 1839	27 "
Landen - St. Trond	6 October 1839	10 "
Ostend (Town) to Docks	1 December 1839	2 "
Brussels - Tubize	31 October 1841	17 "
Soignies - Jurbise	8 November 1841	13 "
Jurbise - Mons	19 December 1841	11 "
Ans - Liege	1 May 1842	6 "
Mons - Quievrain	7 August 1842	20 "
Courtrai - Tournai	21 October 1842	31 "
Mouscron - Frontier	6 November 1842	3 "
Liège - Chenée	1 November 1842	5 "
Braine-Le Comte - Manage	26 December 1842	13 "
Chenée - Chaudfontaine	2 July 1843	4 "
Chaudfontaine - Verviers	17 July 1843	17 "
Manage - Namur	2 August 1843	65 "
Verviers - Frontier	15 October 1843	14½ "

It can be seen that the short stretch (6 km) between Ans to Liege took almost four years to complete, this being entirely due to the very difficult terrain of this part of the track and it had to be cable-assisted.

It should also be noted that the centre of the system was Malines and not Brussels and Brussels was not connected to Ghent until 1 May 1856 which then allowed a direct line from Ostend to Brussels. but even into the twentieth century, through-trains to Germany were routed via Malines and did not touch Brussels.

S. J. A.

PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY NETWORK



THE SMALL "MONTENEZ" ISSUE OF 1921-1925

By S. J. Andrews

The engraver of the issue, Georges Montenez, the son of a Belgian schoolmaster, was born on the 8th of January, 1873 at Rouveroy in the Province of Hainaut.

In 1886 he entered the Mons Academy where he was taught drawing by Professor Bourland and engraving by Professor Danse. At the conclusion of his studies in 1896 he was awarded the Prix de Rome and further academic prizes were subsequently obtained by him at Paris, Lille, and Athens.

The issue was comprised of six values in normal format of which four were subsequently printed in a different colour. All of the printings were executed by those masters of recess work, Joh. Enschede en Zonen at Haarlem, Holland.

There are two fundamental different processes in the manufacture of printing plates for line engraved stamps. The two systems are namely:

- (a) the repetition by rolling in (transfer system) and
- (b) the repetition of the electro-plating process

The transfer process is the older and more accurate of the two because it allows the finest lines and dots to be multiplied with hardly any loss, but it is also the more time-consuming.

Starting with the original engraving in copper or steel a small number of matrices or "contras" are made electrolytically from which patrices are produced in the same way. In this Montenez issue five of these were formed into a strip. NOTE - Patrices are fit for printing, matrices are not. From this compound patrix four more matrices were made, these then being joined together and so on until a plate of the right size was obtained. Each full patrix is backed by type metal to bring it up to the wanted height for use in the printing press.

Printing was carried out on well-moistened paper which had the property of expanding when moistened and shrinking on drying. It is well known that this expansion greatly depends on the composition of the paper and that it is different in two directions. In the manufacture of the paper the fibres are largely aligned in the direction of the movement of the paper machine. The expansion at right angles to the lie of the fibres is much greater than that parallel to them so that it causes an appreciable change in the stamp. This has long been known with regard to the size of the stamp - if the stamp has its length parallel to the direction of the fibres,

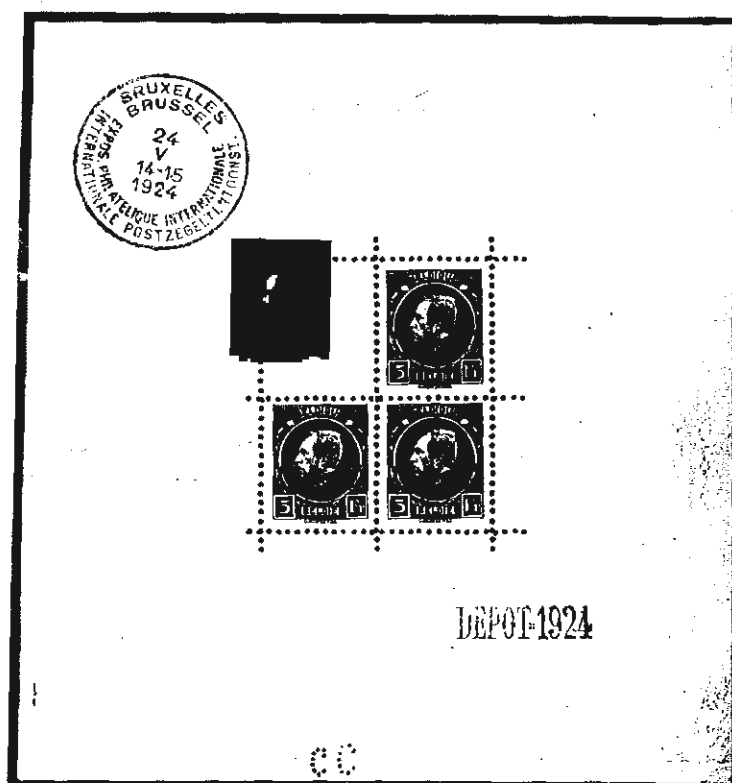
a tall narrow copy results. If the stamp has its length at right angles to the direction of the fibres, the result is a wide short copy. It is clear that the differences do not lie in the plate or plates used, but only in the paper.

The unpredictable shrinkage of the paper required the use of LINE perforation, hence finding a number of difficult gauges in this issue.

The "C" perforated in the sheets is a control mark which the P.T.T. punched into the blank sheets before passing these sheets to the printers. The letter is an abbreviation which stands for "Controller of Postes". Nowadays these marks have various shapes (eg. small squares, triangles, asterisks, etc.). A small symbol looking something like a crown was punched in the sheets for the single or 5-stamp sheets for the proofs found in this issue.

The later (1929/1931) larger stamps in this same design were again engraved by Montenez but recess printed, but this time by Chassepot of Paris from plates by Cottens Frères, and later at the Malines factory.

Strangely, in spite of the beautiful design and production of the small issue, Georges Montenez only did one other issue for Belgium - the 1925 double-head designs of King Leopold I and King Albert I for the 75th Anniversary of the First Belgian stamps - this time designed and engraved by him and recess printed by De La Rue.



The Flemish Legion.

Staf Le Clercq formed the Flemish Legion from Flemish Nazi sympathisers in the provinces of Antwerp, Flanders & Limburg, in 1941. It consisted of one battalion which eventually became the most atrocity-perpetrating of them all, especially when coming up against the Soviet forces.

The 1st. Flemish Legion stamps were issued on December 23rd. 1941. All the designs were symbolic in connecting the Legionnaires of 1941 with those of the Medieval Knights. The designs show a sword with Flemish Knights, a Flemish Archer, a Flemish Knight in the act of slaying a fallen opponent, and a Mounted Flemish Knight. They were printed by a Brussels printing firm, De Reume, on unwatermarked paper, perforation 12 in miniature sheets of 4, plus a few imperforate sheets. The date of 1941 is clearly shown on each stamp. It was a very limited issue being only 30.000 sets produced.

Several hundred volunteers began their initial training at Graz on August 6th. 1941. After being put through extensive exercises, the Legion was sent to a section of the Russian Front, being engaged in some of the most ferocious fighting of the war, especially in the Volkhov pocket. In this battle the award of the Iron Cross 1st. class, was made for the first time to a Flemish Legionnaire. There were appalling losses of men by the end of March 1943 and in less than a week's fighting, out of a total strength of 1116 men, the Legion was reduced to less than 60. As with the other Legions, there were large numbers of men who had seen enough of the fighting and extreme brutality that they refused to take the oath of allegiance.

In May 1943 they were sent to the Legion's depot in Breslau, where they were eventually formed into an Assault Brigade and given a new name... Langemarck (27th SS Freiwilligen Grenadier Division Langemarck. October 1944)

In the latter stages of the war the Division was engaged in the fighting in Pomerania.

In 1943 the above mentioned issue was overprinted with an aeroplane in red, having 3680 sets printed thus.

The third set of stamps was issued on August 9th. 1943, with an issue of 30.000 sets.

All these stamps or labels bear the inscription "SS Feldpost" while the 5 and 15 franc values also have shields inscribed "Wapen SS". The designs illustrate portraits of early European monarchs.... Otto the Great. Joseph II of Austria... Empress Maria Theresia of Austria... Emperor Maximilian of Austria.... Charlemagne and Karl V. The values were 5.10.15.20.50.& 100Frcs. A cover shown bears the cancellation. SS Feldpostprüfstelle. dated 9-11-1943. Originally these stamps were issued in panes of 4 in each value. Each was numbered, and the SS shield was located at the top centre of the sheet.

THE WALLOON LEGION.

This was mainly recruited from the French speaking provinces of Belgium, and was formed by Leon Degrelle, leader of the Rexist movement in Belgium.

The Legion was established in 1941, and was trained in the area of Meseritz, in Germany. It saw combat in the Ukraine, and was concerned in the battle of the Caucasus in 1942. For the next year it was stationed in Belgium, and then from late 1943 to the middle of 1944, it returned to the Ukraine for further action. The Walloon Legion began its brief history with 15000 men, and finished the war with 700. At the end of the war, both the Legions returned to Belgium, where they were put into Concentration Camps for trial.

The Walloon Legion stamps were issued on April 10th 1942. in values of 20. 30. 50. & 100 frcs. and depicted a Mounted Knight before troops.

a Legionnaire holding a banner. Legionnaires in formation, and a Legionnaire defending symbolic figures.

The marginal inscriptions read "Free Post" at the top and "of the Walloon Legion against Bolshevism" at the bottom.

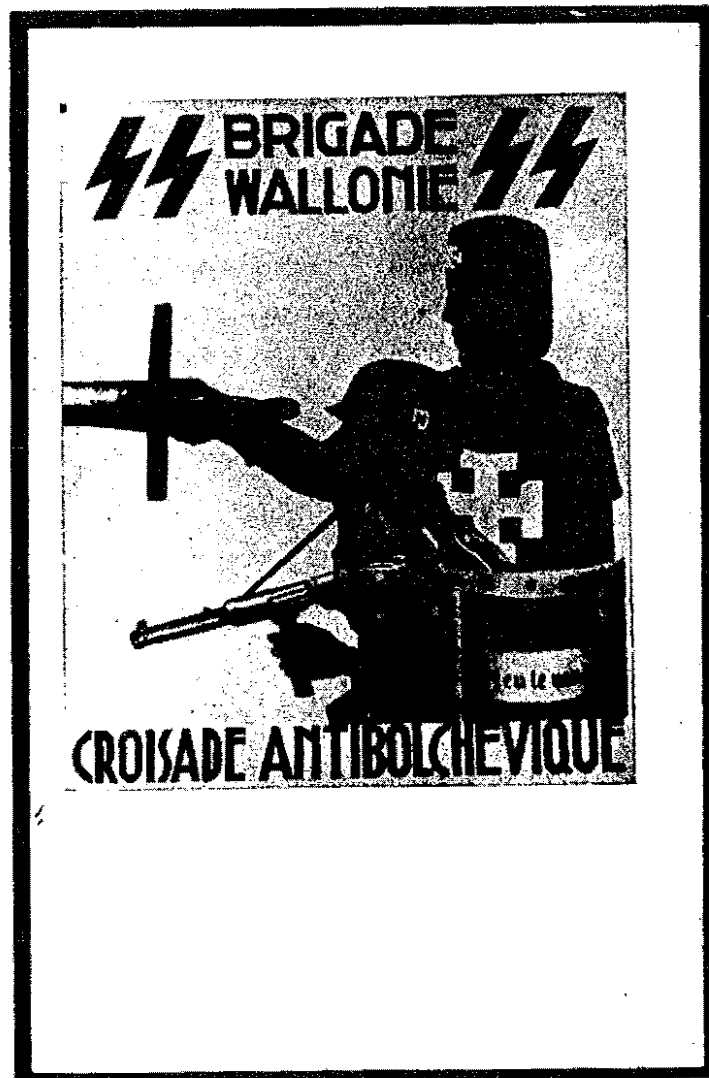
Illustrated is a cover bearing the complete set, cancelled with Feldpost 15-11-1942.

Some members of the legion used a number of these stamps for philatelic and propaganda covers for their friends, but even so they are still fairly scarce.

THE CARD BELOW APPEARS TO BE TO ENCOURAGE
RECRUITMENT TO THE WALLOON LEGION -
CAN ANY MEMBER PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION
(R.T. HARRISON)

CARTE POSTALE

**Engagez-vous à la Sturm-
Brigade Wallonien - Ersatz-
kommando Wallonien der
Waffen-SS, Bruxelles, rue du
Congrès 10.**



BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

The Postal History of East Flanders

The display given follows, as far as possible, the format of the previous study of West Flanders. It is intended as an introduction to one of Belgium's nine provinces, rather than a detailed study, and indicates the scope of study available to the serious collector.

Historical Background

Flanders first appeared as an area name around the 8th Century covering a much larger area than in modern times. Part now lies in Holland (Sluis area) with a southern portion being ceded to France around 1668 (Fig **A**). The remaining portion is shown during the Spanish Occupation as an individual county? (Fig **B**).

By the time of the French Occupation (1795-1814) Flanders is shown divided into two Departments, Lys and Escaut (Fig **C**).

On Independence in 1830, the boundaries remained unchanged and became the Belgian Provinces of West and East Flanders, exactly as they appear today (Fig **D**).

Early Postal Markings

Prior to the Spanish period, only manuscript markings exist either from the 'Merchant Posts' or the Thurn and Taxis postal system.

As with today, the chief town, Ghent, dominates, being the main trading centre.

Spanish Netherlands (1621-1713)

According to Herlant, only six towns are listed with postal markings:-

Alost (Aalst)
Audenaarde (Oudenaarde)
Gand (Gent)
Ninove
St Nicolas (Sint Niklaas)
Termonde (Dendermonde)

Apparently, all were in manuscript only.

Austrian Netherlands (1714-1794)

During this period, a number of additional towns achieved postal status, as follows:-

Beveren	Lokeren
Brevelde	Renaix (Ronse)
Caprijcke (Kaprijke)	Sottegem
Deinse (Deinze)	Waesmunter
Eecloo (Eeklo)	Watervliet
Grammont (Geraardsbergen)	

The widespread introduction of straight-line handstamps occurred and all towns used them except Brevelde, Caprijcke, Renaix, Sottegem and Watervliet. From about 1762, Gand used the letter 'G' in a circle.

French Occupation (1794-1814)

Becoming the Escaut Department, as one of the 'Departements Conquis', it was allocated the number 92 and took the French system of handstamps.

A number of towns, viz, Brevelde, Caprijcke, Sottegem and Watervliet, lost their postal status during this period.

The normal handstamp consisted of a straight-line with the number '92' above it, eg, 92 but marks, including the

ALOST

letters 'PP', were added for post-paid letters and Debourse marks were also introduced.

Three towns, viz, Deinse, Termonde and Gand, produced special municipality handstamps, whilst the latter town, as Chief-Lieu, used a variety of Prefecture stamps, eg, 'Prefet Dept de L'Escaut', in ornamental forms.

United Kingdom of the Netherlands (1815-1830)

This period is, understandably, dominated by the use of Dutch name equivalents, where available. A new town, Maldegem, achieved postal status, whereas Waesmunter lost it.

Originally the French handstamps were used normally with the postal number erased. Towards the end of this period (1829), the first circular date stamps to be used in Belgium appeared. They were of a large single circle, struck in red ink.

Kingdom of Belgium (1830)

From that date onwards, there was an extension of towns with postal bureaux and therefore resultant postmarks. The boundaries of the Province have remained unchanged since that date.

In 1830, the new Belgian Government introduced large double circle circular date stamps, clearly different from the contemporary Dutch types. Some of these included two small pearls, for no specific reason. The colour of these large CDS's was normally red, but sometimes black.

Around 1838, small double CDS's were introduced - again, normally coloured red, but sometimes black.

A special mention should be made of the very small single CDS in black ink, which appeared at about the same time. For this Province, they were used in Nederbrakel, Oosterzeele, Somergem, Wetteren, Zele and Zelzaete.

Frontier Bureaux

Ghent, as the principal town, served for the routing of mail abroad. The earliest mark is ZELANDE seen from about 1802 onwards.

PAR GAND

During the adhesive stamp period, a single CDS 'France par Gand' was in use, the only example I have is dated 1868.

A similar, but double, CDS 'Pays-Bas par St Nicolas' exists - struck in red ink around 1857 - probably others exist.

Travelling Post Offices

Situated on the Brussels-Ostend line, most mail took the markings of the Ouest TPO's Nos 1, 2 and 4 on its way to/from England.

However if, due to known sailing times, a speedier journey could be made via a French Port, Brussels would route mail that way, for which a surcharge (normally 10 Centimes) was added. Originally marked 'Angleterre par La France', the line Gent to Mouscron later took the TPO No 'Ouest No 3'.

Known markings, incorporating the route, were 'Angleterre Ouest 3', 'France Ouest 3' (two types), France par Ouest 3' and 'Italie Ouest 3'.

Exhibitions

Ghent, having the distinction of the oldest Postal Bureau Cachet in Belgium (Posthorn C.1674), was always dominant in the cultural history of the country.

The Gent 1913 Exhibition was held from April to October, although no postage stamps were issued specially for the occasion.

A 'flamme' incorporating the slogan

GENT - TENTOONSTELLING

1913

GAND - EXPOSITION

was in use at Gent, Brussels, Liege, Charleroi and Antwerp during 1913.

At the Exhibition, a temporary Postal Bureau was opened 'Gent A Gand' together with the slogan mentioned above.

As per the custom, other countries constructed pavilions at the Exhibition, displaying their national arts interests. One of these was erected by Germany and little were the Belgians to know that less than a year later Germany would return with such tragic results.

The First World War

Shortly after the invasion in Autumn 1914, East Flanders was incorporated within the Etappen Zone, with all mail being controlled by the Military. As a result, nearly all the civilian Post Offices were closed for civilian mail and the German Feldpost substituted in its place (about twelve offices in East Flanders functioned at some time during the occupation).

Gent became the central office for all mail to and from the Etappen Zone and a large organisation was created to cope with it. The Gent Sud Railway Station became the Rail Head from which the mail was distributed to other offices for censorship etc.

One of these was attached to the Palais de Justice, where the Etappen Inspektion Office was based, complete with translators etc.

By courtesy of Gustave D'Hondt, a series of photographs is shown of the contemporary scene and the staff involved.

A selection of the Cachets used is displayed, including the rectangular Censor Cachet.

In summary, East Flanders, and especially Gent, contains a rich variety of postal history and markings, of which a small selection is displayed today. I hope this serves to encourage others to study and enjoy this aspect of Belgian philately.

(SUMMARY OF TALK GIVEN IN LONDON
IN DECEMBER 1988 BY R T HARRISON)

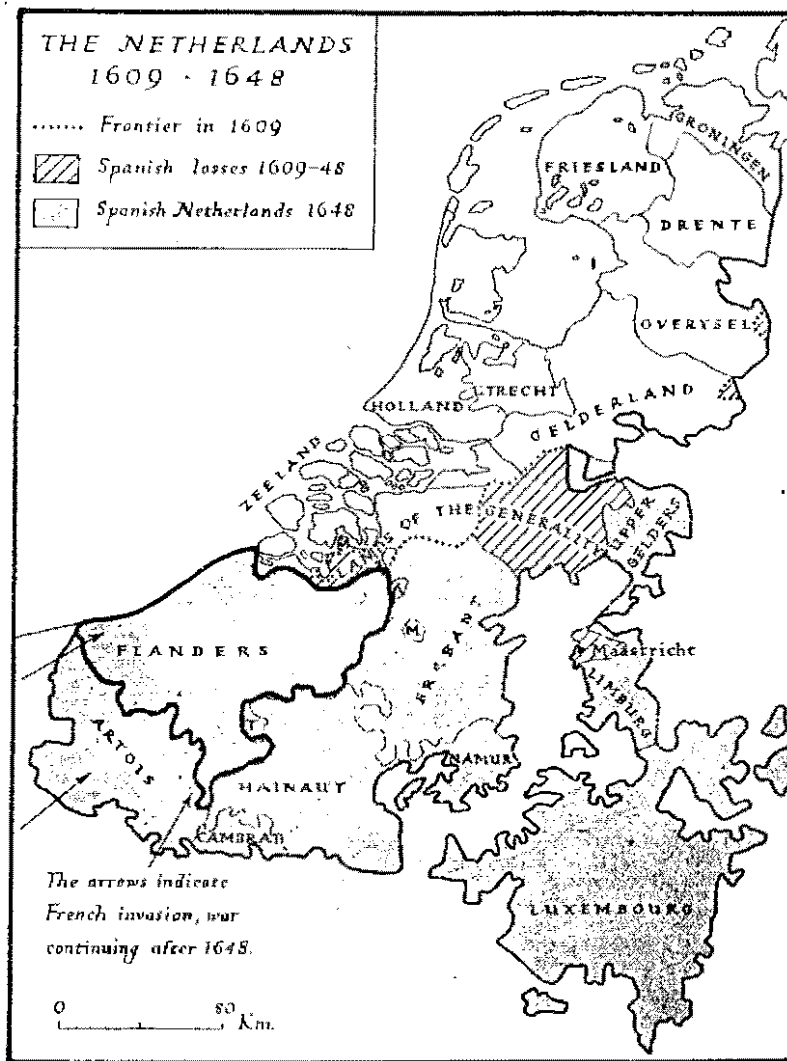


Fig. A The Netherlands in 1609-48

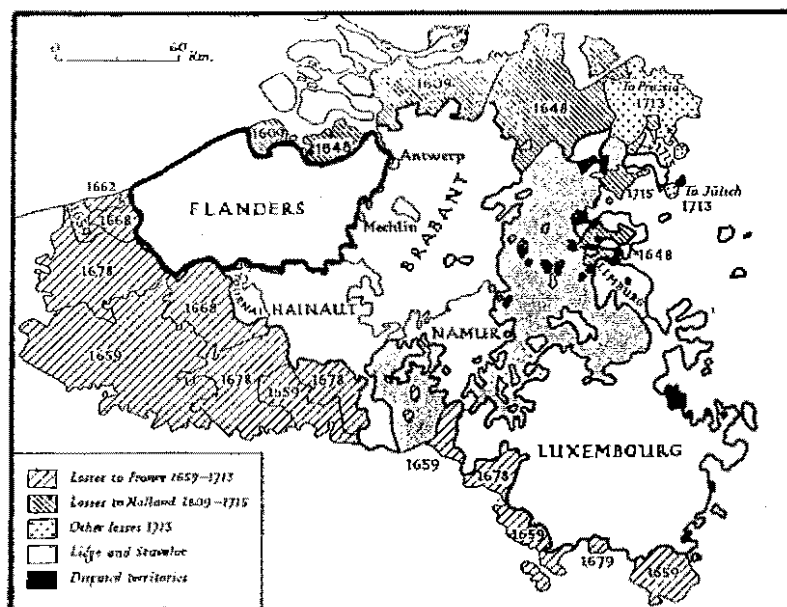


Fig. B The Spanish Netherlands, 1659-1715

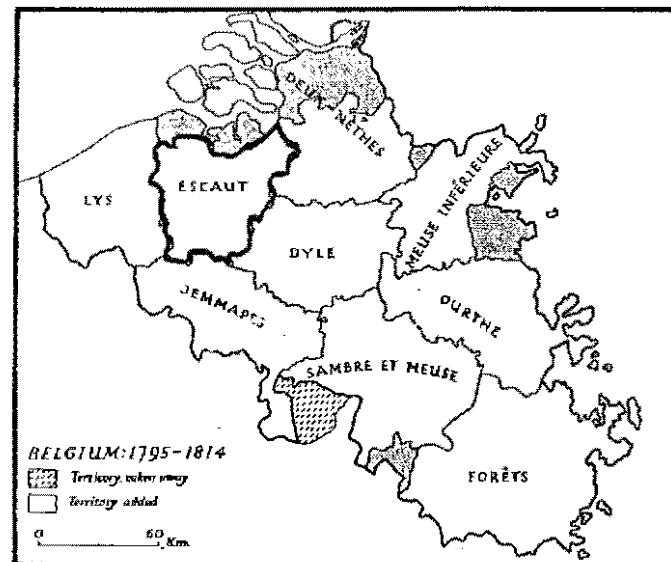


Fig. C Belgium under French domination

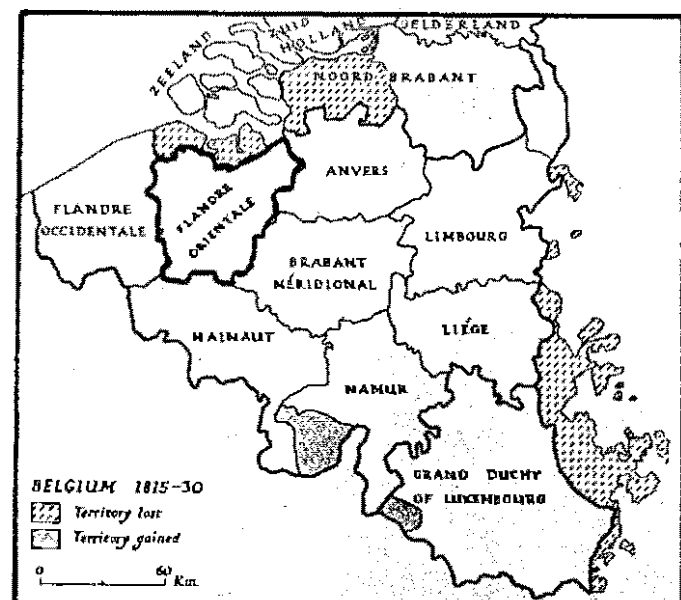
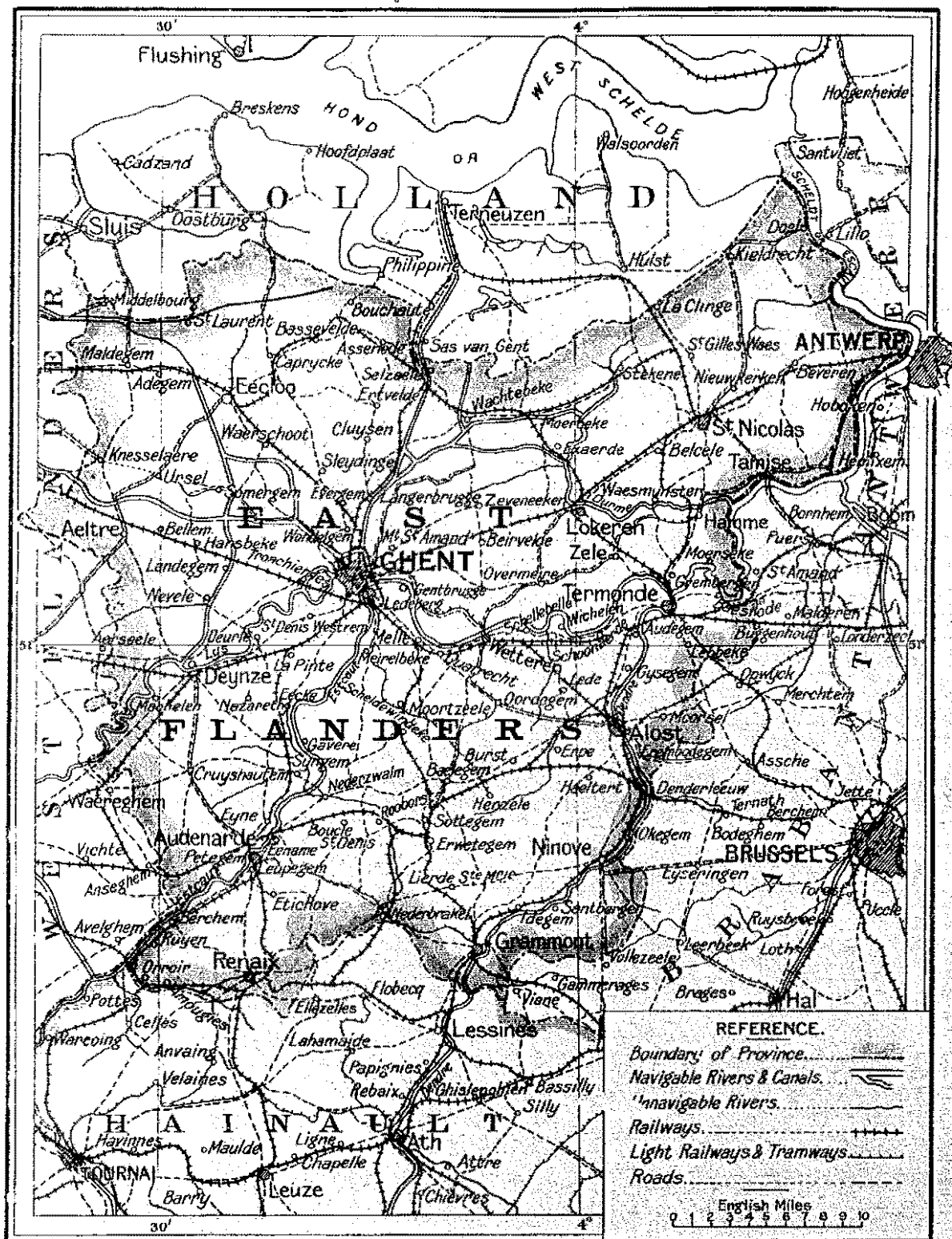


Fig. D Belgium in 1815-30



MAP OF EAST FLANDERS

POSTMARKS OF EAST FLANDERS PROVINCE

SPANISH NETHERLANDS

aelt

Gegane

ninow

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

D'EECLOO

ALOST



GAND

FRENCH OCCUPATION

⁹²
NINOVE

DÉB 92
ALOST

P92P
TERMONDE

*Préfet
Dép. de l'Escaut*



UNITED KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

OUDENAARDEN



GEND
FRANCO

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM



FOREIGN SORTING MARKS



ZÉLANDE
PAR GAND

