

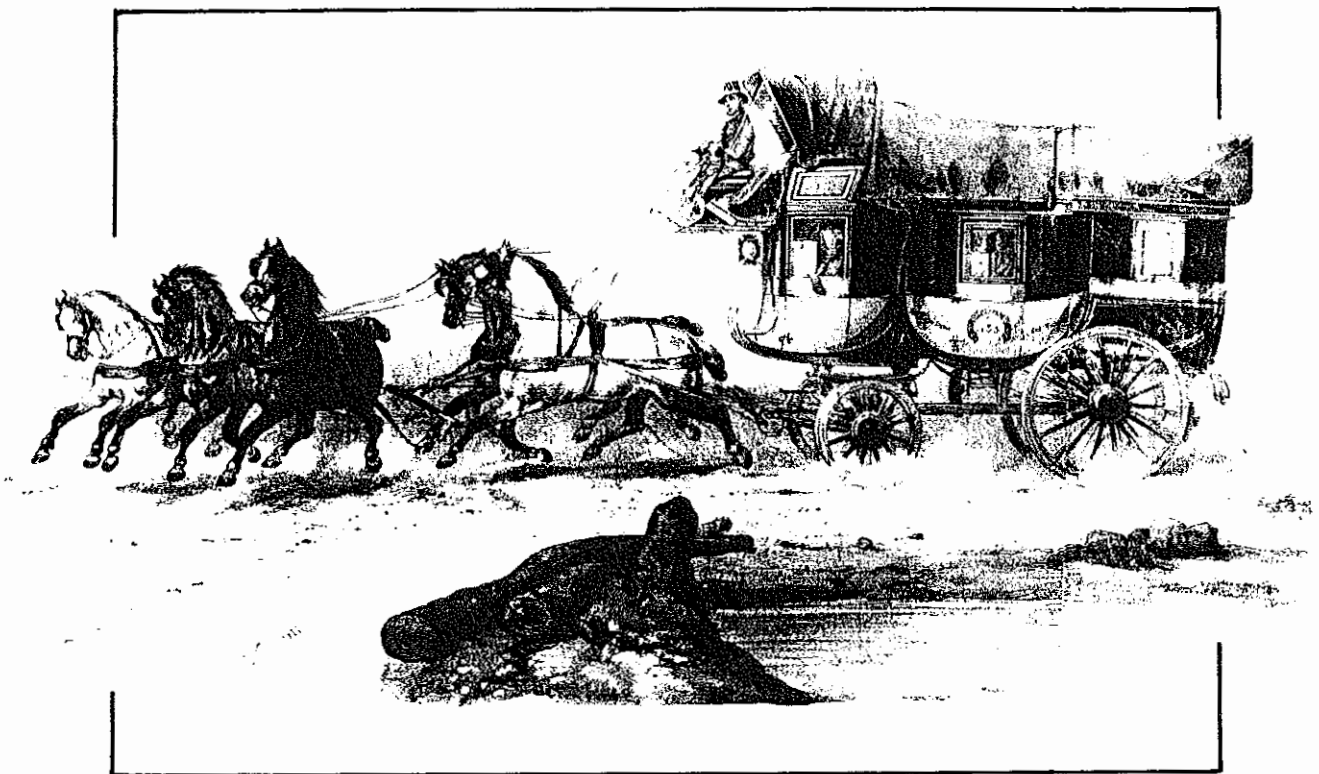
**BELGAPOST**

ISSN 0269-2759.

**Volume 5 No. 3**

DECEMBER 1992

**The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle**





DECEMBER 1992**The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle****C O N T E N T S**

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

DECEMBER 1992

## EDITORIAL

By the time that you receive this issue, half the season will have gone. I am sure that those members who can manage to get to our meetings will have enjoyed all that they have seen. It would be nice if more members could join us at the meetings, if only occasionally.

At the first meeting of the season, we again had a very useful (and, I hope, rewarding) auction when good sales were made and thanks to the great efforts of Geoffrey Wood and Reg Harrison.

In this issue, we give the first part of a further section of the 1915 issue (this time, 15c. Die I), again by Peter Russell. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity to issue this important addition to the 1915 issue. The second part of this work will be issued in the next "BELGAPOST". We would like to receive further important stamp articles of this type.

Again, because of the lack of stamp articles, this issue contains a number of postal history items which I hope you will find interesting.

The Editor sends to all his readers best wishes for a Happy Christmas and good hunting for the New Year.

## NOTE

A number of members have written to say that they are missing Vol.3.

The Editor advises you all that, due to production problems, these issues were not produced and will not now be issued.

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Since my last note, subscriptions have come in progressively but there are still a few members who do not respond to reminders. Unless payment is received promptly, this will be their last copy of BELGAPOST as it is unfair to other members to subsidise non-payers, whilst also making the work of the Treasurer unnecessarily difficult.

Elsewhere in this journal are the results of the Auction Sale held on 3rd October, 1992 and, by the time you receive this journal, I should have received all monies due and settled with the vendors respectively.

The sale was a success, with over 77% of lots being sold for a total of £1,400. Many of the lots went to members in Belgium and the USA who, of course, are not able to participate in the home circulation packet. Can I remind members that the next sale will be held on 24th April, 1993, and that suitable items for sale should be forwarded either to Geoffrey Wood or myself by around the end of January, 1993 to enable the organisational process to start.

R. T. HARRISON

EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S NOTES

- \* The third packet has now completed circulation and is in the process of being broken up.
- \* Sales totalled £305.35, which represented 44% of the total prices marked.
- \* The fourth packet still needs some more books before it can go out.
- \* Some blank books will be included in future packets to encourage members to fill them up.
- \* Does any member know a dealer who would like to put books into the packet?
- \* There are now 32 members on the circulation list.
- \* Future packets will be sent to half the circulation at a time so that extra books can be put in if the sales early in the circuit deplete the selection available for those at the end.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Booklets from 1969 onwards wanted by Nigel Raban.

Please get in touch with the members direct if you can help.

A. D. GEAKE

JOINT MEETING OF THE BELGIAN AND CONGO STUDY CIRCLES

AT THE WILLESLEY HOTEL, CRANBROOK 12th/13th SEPTEMBER, 1992

A most enjoyable weekend was held at the above address thanks to the excellent arrangements made by Nick Martin. In all there were twenty-eight members of both Circles and their guests on parade.

We were all delighted to meet the three generations of the Martin's. It was also pleasing that Doris Green, a Founder of the Congo Circle and an Honorary Member of the Belgian Circle, was there with Rosemary.

The older members of the Circle were glad that the venue was near enough to Battle to renew our acquaintance with Bernard Gillman Davis.

One of the guests was Glen Mawdesley and I am glad to say he has now become a member.

During the meeting, we did discuss stamps and postal history. The discussions were led by Tony Geake, Nick Martin, Bernard Gillman Davis, Jack Gibbs and Geoffrey Wood.

Thank you, Nick, for a most enjoyable weekend.

MEETING OF 3rd OCTOBER, 1992 - REGENT'S COLLEGE

There were twelve members present for the Auction which went well, as can be seen by the Treasurer's report. There were successful postal bids from a further twenty-two members.

In the afternoon, George Hollings showed his Guillochin overprints and gave an interesting account of this Banking House and its ramifications.

These overprints were the fore-runners of the "Perfins" or "Marques de Propriete" as they are termed in Belgium. Geoffrey Wood showed some of his accumulation of Perfins, arranged in accordance with A. Smetzers 1985 Catalogue of Belgian Perfins. This showed the scope of this subject and how much remains to be done.

I would be pleased to hear from members who have not received Belgapost Vol.5 No.1 as some seem to have gone astray.

A. G. WOOD

MEETING OF 14th NOVEMBER, 1992 - REGENT'S COLLEGE

A good attendance was present to receive our morning speaker, Jean Bruwier, from Seraing, who is one of our active overseas Circle members.

On this occasion, his subject was Malmedy - one of the Eastern Cantons, which has had a chequered history.

Jean took us through the Thurn and Taxi period, French Occupation and Prussian era, with pre-adhesive covers showing a rich variety of these difficult-to-find markings. Equally difficult, the North German Confederation stamp issues, then German Empire up to 1918. After the First World War, the territory passed to Belgium with its special overprinted stamps soon to be succeeded by German re-invasion during the Second World War. He finished with a Belgian cover bearing the V for Victory Lions Issue of 1945. Thank you, Jean, for coming to show us your fascinating collection of Malmedy.

In the afternoon, our topic by contrast was relatively modern - The Flamme cancellations of 1905-1920 of Brussels by George Hollings. Apart from the scarce trial types, these cancellations were in use for large volumes of letters over the stated period - indeed, a prime purpose was the mechanical high speed processing of mail. For this, an extended shape was needed to ensure every stamp was obliterated without wasting time as still seen on today's British mail. Doubtless some members will now look more carefully to see what they can find amongst their own collections as a result of George's display.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(re Vol.5 No.2)

"I have so much enjoyed reading the new issue of Belgapost."

"A fine issue of Belgapost and I enjoyed the 'Lille Posthorn'."

"Re the latest issue of Belgapost - this is one of the best specialist society journals - it is all that a society's publication should be 100% meat. I think the article on the 'Lille Posthorn' is both important and of great interest. It should be more widely read on the Continent."

CORRECTION Vol.5 No.2 Page 20

"The Manufacture of Belgian Postage Stamps, 1860" (not 1853) and, on line 2, 1861 (not 1853).

MEMBER NEWS

For those members who are unable to attend meetings, we try to include information on the activities of the Circle which we hope is welcomed by members. However, to achieve this, feedback on your activities is necessary as we cannot mind read from a distance.

Obviously, in the course of routine correspondence on general matters regarding subscriptions, auction lots, requests for literature and information, etc. odd snippets of personal news are given (especially from overseas members) and we will try to extract these items for printing in Belgapost. For example, philatelic displays given, current collecting studies, meetings attended or contact with other members, can be of interest and, indeed, may lead to sharing of knowledge or material. It does not have to be lengthy or erudite but simply informative - help us to spread the news.

Albert de Lisle (USA) - is preparing a display on the 1869 10-cent issue for an exhibition in America.

Ed Hirdler (USA) - keeps in touch with Dr. John Buckner and says his health is now improving. He is working on trying to get a cover bearing each Belgian stamp issued which, he says, is quite a target (possibly also quite a strain on the floorboards!).

Donald Vandy - is living quietly in retirement in the West Country and has made a donation to club funds.

Jean Bruwier - continues with his special interest in Eupen and Malmedy and came over to show us his Malmedy collection in November. If any members travel in the Liege region, please let him know.

Michael Barden (Australia) - is still working on World War 1, especially the German cancellations when he can get the material. He also has a keen interest in Postal Stationery.

Jeffrey Kalp - still has a keen interest in Belgium but Cinderella material is getting him hooked! Any member with spare items in that category should let him know.

New Members

The Circle extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

- |                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <u>I. A. MACKAY</u>    | - | Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland<br>STAMPS GENERAL. PICTURE POSTCARDS WITH SLOGAN<br>CANCELS. |
| <u>D. A. BAKER</u>     | - | Stoke Mandeville, Bucks.<br>GENERAL.  |
| <u>G. T. MAWDESLEY</u> | - | Tooting, South London.  |

**STAMPEX - OCTOBER 1992**

Those members who were able to attend, will be aware that an exhibit by our member Iain Stevenson, entitled "Belgium-Express Mail", was awarded a Silver Medal - congratulations Iain for keeping up the Circle's good name.

Apart from home members, including Christine Blakey who was on duty on the Kids Corner stand, we were pleased to see Dr. John Buckner from the USA, who was on business in this country.

Together with Geoffrey Wood, I was very pleased to be able to receive M. & Mme. Deneumostier and M. & Mme. Boulet from Belgium and offer the courtesy of hospitality. Many of our members have benefitted from the dedicated work of the Deneumostiers in their series of philatelic handbooks, which have greatly helped us in our studies. Through their Phila-Club Flemalle and the "Infophila" journal, they are holding an exhibition in Flemalle in April, 1993, to celebrate the centenary of the first Sunday Label stamp, and have extended a cordial welcome to any of our members who wish to attend. Further details elsewhere in this issue.

R. T. HARRISON

**B.S.C. SUMMER MEETING 1993**

Arrangements are currently under way for a meeting in Bristol to coincide with the Bristol and District Federation of Philatelic Societies Convention. The proposed dates are 14th/15th August and members are asked to note these dates in their diaries - further information and booking arrangements will be circulated in due course.

**CENTENARY OF 1893 SUNDAY LABEL ISSUE**

In connection with the centenary of the first stamp to be issued in the world with a detachable "Do not deliver on a Sunday" label, the Belgian Post Office are issuing a commemorative stamp in April, 1993. It will be of a "Stamp upon Stamp" design and is due to appear on 5th April,

As members will probably be aware, there is a specialist section of the "Infophila" Club which issues a quarterly journal devoted to the Sunday Label period entitled "Bandalette-Club". This club will be holding a special exhibition at Ivoz-Ramet (near Flemalle) on 3rd/4th April, 1993 in celebration and have extended a cordial invitation to any of our members who may wish to attend. As stated elsewhere in this issue, the active participation of M. Deneumostier should guarantee that this will be a high quality exhibition of concern to all who are interested in Sunday Label issues.

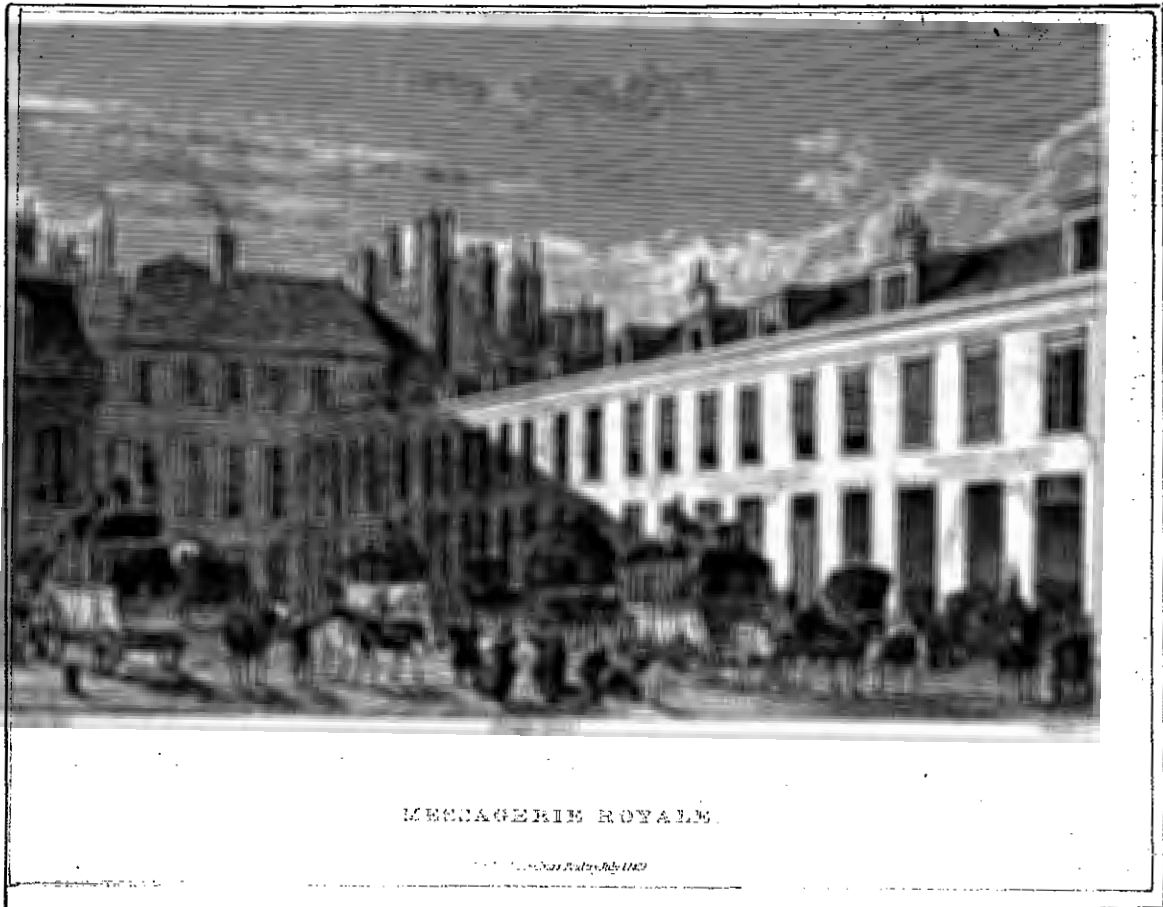
Detailed information will be issued in due course but, in the meantime, members are asked to put this advance notification in their diaries.



**MESSAGERIE ROYALE**

Your Editor has recently (from a BSC auction) been able to obtain two delightful engravings, "MESSAGERIE ROYALE" and "POSTE ROYALE", the first of which we illustrate. They are dated 1st July, 1829, published by R. Jennings, Poultry, London, J. Nash (Surveyor), A. Pugin (Artist) and J. Davis (Engraver).

The engraving is of Messagerie Royale courtyard showing the coaches being prepared to go out on the road and is in the head office at 1'Hotel de Saxe-Teschen in the Rue de la Madeleine in Brussels.



The second engraving shows the courtyard preparing the horses for their task.

We also illustrate a poster of this company, which comes from the Brussels Postal Museum.

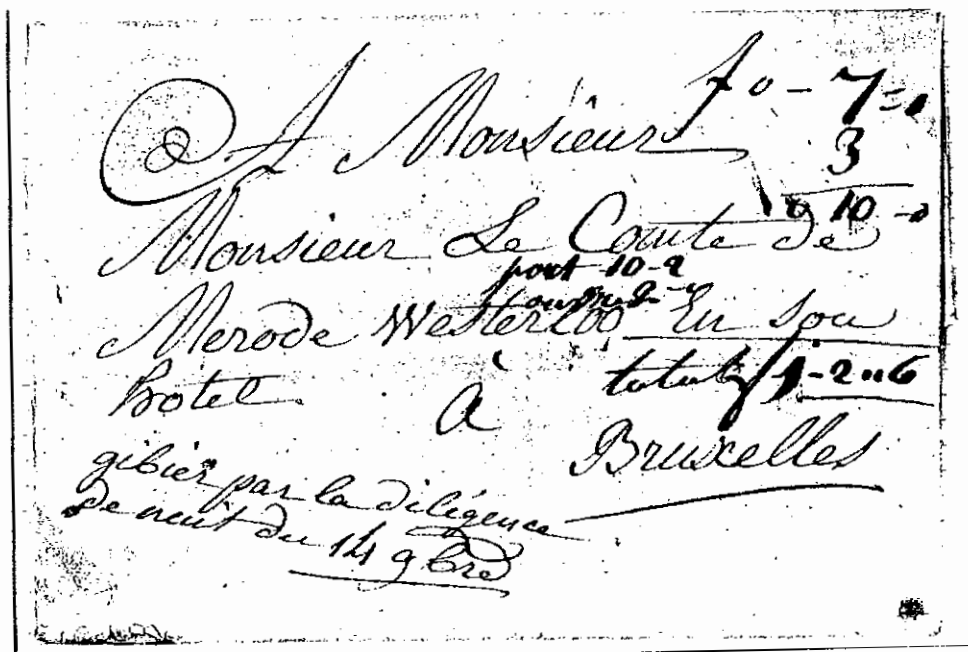
Messageries Royales were one of many companies in the country running coach (or 'diligence') services. They were all private companies and this ran from Brussels to Paris (Rue Notre Dame des Victoires).

In a regulation of 1829, the designation of the "Messageries" (Coach Office) was applicable to all public carriages serving the transportation of travellers, with or without goods, and letters. The transport of letters and goods were reserved to the Master of the Posts. The concessionaries had to observe punctuality on an hourly basis.

The second illustration was the basis for the "Belgica 82" miniature sheet.



Also illustrated is a letter, dated 14th September, 1806, sent by coach around the period of this article. It is marked "gibier par la diligence de nuit du 14 gbre" - "game by the coach on the night of 14 September". The "game" (in this case snipe) would travel with the letter on the coach.



What is also interesting is that the letter is addressed to "Le Comte de Merode Westerloo" to his house in Brussels (l'Hotel de Grimberghe, Rue aux Laines).

Count Frederick de Merode received a mortal wound in the 1830 Revolution. A memorial to him was unveiled in 1913 at Berchem-Anvers and three Red Cross stamps of the memorial were issued on 3rd October, 1914 (SG 151-153/CO 126-128).

One sometimes finds a 'scribble' on the face of some letters but, in this case, it appears to be the cost of sending the game plus the letter to the addressee. This is shown separately here - can any member please elucidate this.

S. J. ANDREWS

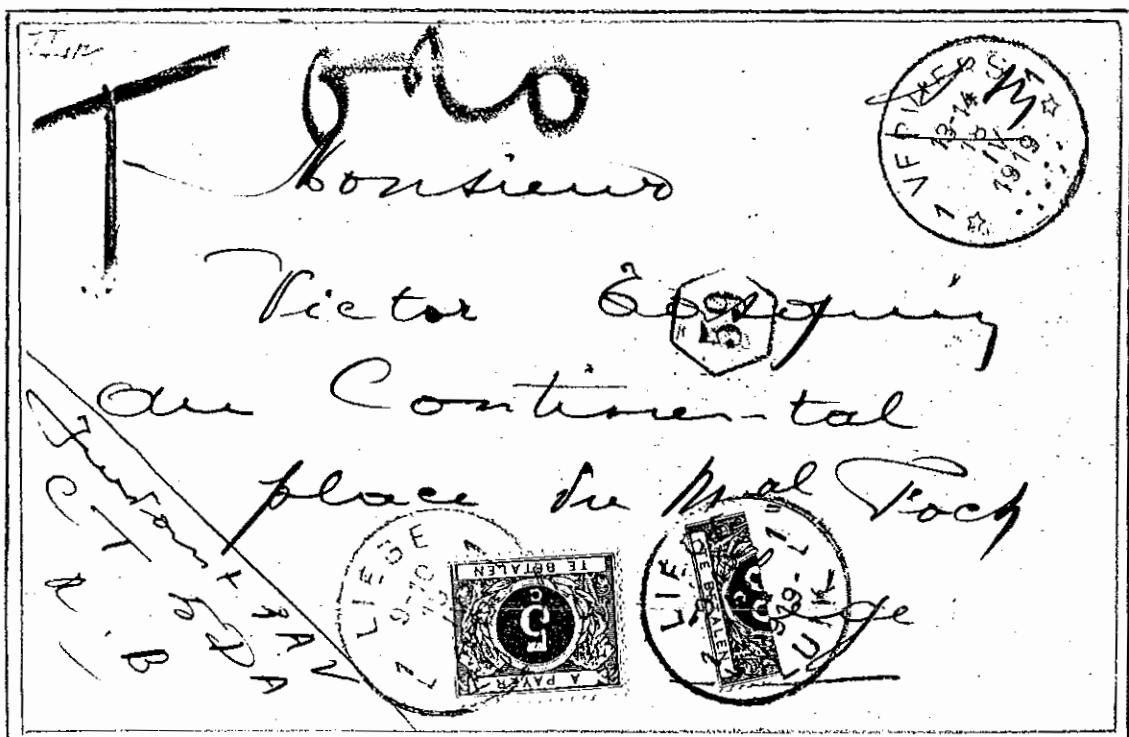
*70-7-1*  
*3*  
*10-2*

*post 10-2*  
*11-10-18*

*total 11-2-6*

#### THE BELGIAN ARMY, 1st DECEMBER, 1918

On 1st December, 1918, Belgian troops crossed into Germany and eventually took over the area between the Dutch frontier and the Rhine from Aix-la-Chapelle to Cleves. The troops came from the 4th and 5th and Cavalry Divisions. Letters were carried post free if sent through the military postal system, up to 30th September, 1919. Any letters sent by the civil post should have been charged postage due.



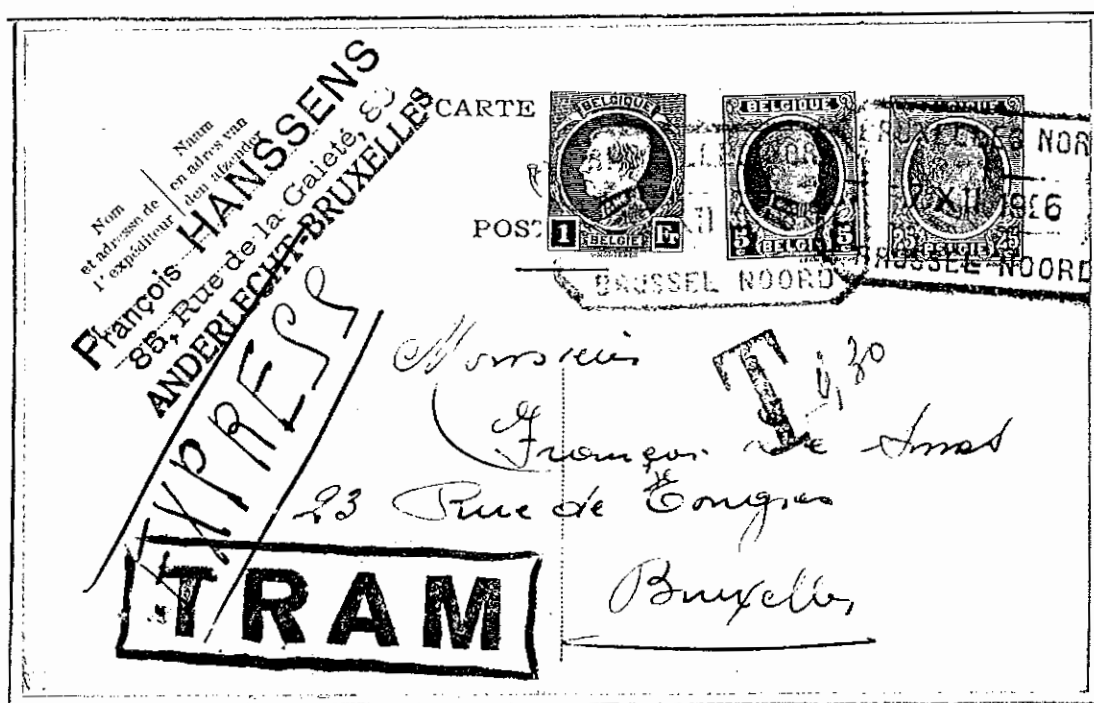
However, a soldier in the 5th Division sent a letter to Liege through the civil post and this was stopped at Verviers and bears the Verviers 1 (relais provisional star) datestamp for 18th April, 1919, and the Hexagon 59 postman's mark. A large "T020" manuscript charge in red pencil was applied. At Liege, the postage due was charged with a 5c green and a 30c bisected horizontal cancelled with a Liege datestamp. According to the Catalogue Officiel (1992), this use of the 30c bisect is only known used at Jambes from the 10th to 15th February 1919.

J. GIBBS

**"TRAM" LETTERS AND CARDS**

From 1st November, 1926 to 7th April, 1929, articles could be posted in boxes on Brussels trams. These were treated as "Express" mail and were charged 30 centimes over the normal rates. A card which was posted on 7th December, 1926, shows the way these items were handled. The normal stamps for 1Fr.30c (postcard rate through the normal post - 1Fr.) were cancelled by the Bruxelles-Nord rectangular date with chamfered corners. The word "Express" had been written on the card by the sender and the card posted on the appropriate tram. It was given the cachet "TRAM" in capitals in a rectangular rubber stamp (55 x 11mm). It was also struck with the postage due "T" with 0.30 alongside in pencil. Presumably incorrectly struck as the "tram" rate was 1Fr.30c. On this card the tram cachet is type C of the six types used.

J. GIBBS



## THE FIRST AIR MAIL BETWEEN BRUSSELS AND PARIS, 1919

by S. J. ANDREWS

After the Armistice, communications and transport between Brussels and Paris could not take place in the normal way due to the massive destruction of bridges, roads and railways as the German Armies retreated.

His Majesty King Albert, who frequently took a plane to the Peace Congress at Versailles (and a keen airman), made the decision to try to clear some of the mounting mail to various centres.

In the newspaper "Le Soir" of Sunday, 19th January, 1919 -

"As and from today, on trial, an airmail service for letters and postcards is organised between Brussels and Paris. Unless the weather situation prevents from flying, a flight will take place each day, both ways. The service will be secured by Belgian and French airplanes.

"These will leave the airfield Berghem-Ste-Agathe in the morning and will take all mail to Paris. It will be collected at the Central Post Office, Place de la Monnaie, before 7 a.m. The mail arriving from Paris to Berchem by airpost will be taken immediately by care to the Central Post Office and distributed.

"The length of flight will be from one and a half to two hours."

The first flight to Paris was made on 19th January, 1919 from Berchem-Ste-Agathe. All mail was stamped at the Central Post Office in Brussels with the oval festooned cachet "PAR AVION" (see illustration).



At the same time, another airmail service was set up between Brussels to Bochum (near Crefeld) with departure from the airfield of Evere. This allowed mail to be sent to the Belgian occupying troops in Germany. No special marks were made to distinguish this mail.

The second flight to Paris was made on 25th January and we believe a third flight was made sometime 28th or 29th January.

This early airmail was sent without extra postage (25c was the rate Belgium to France), but this situation could not be allowed for long as it was too expensive and a surtax was granted by Law of 14th November, 1919.

We apologise for the darkness of the illustration but most envelopes of that period were made of dark grey, green or blue poor quality paper.

RESULTS OF SALE HELD 3rd OCTOBER, 1992

1	5. 50	42	1. 40	83	7. 50	124	----	165	14. 00	206	----
2	6. 00	43	4. 50	84	4. 00	125	3. 00	166	16. 50	207	8. 00
3	4. 00	44	1. 00	85	4. 00	126	46. 00	167	10. 50	208	1. 30
4	6. 00	45	3. 50	86	4. 00	127	----	168	5. 50	209	2. 50
5	1. 60	46	3. 50	87	4. 00	128	----	169	18. 00	210	46. 00
6	1. 60	47	3. 50	88	22. 00	129	3. 00	170	----	211	2. 00
7	1. 60	48	61. 00	89	----	130	----	171	----	212	----
8	1. 60	49	4. 00	90	23. 00	131	----	172	17. 00	213	7. 50
9	1. 60	50	6. 50	91	14. 00	132	5. 00	173	5. 00	214	2. 00
10	1. 60	51	7. 00	92	11. 00	133	----	174	2. 00	215	----
11	4. 50	52	6. 50	93	9. 00	134	----	175	. 75	216	----
12	2. 60	53	12. 50	94	9. 50	135	----	176	----	217	4. 00
13	1. 80	54	4. 00	95	30. 00	136	4. 00	177	----	218	----
14	1. 60	55	6. 00	96	28. 00	137	3. 00	178	----	219	----
15	1. 80	56	3. 50	97	45. 00	138	5. 00	179	3. 00	220	----
16	1. 10	57	15. 00	98	31. 00	139	4. 00	180	4. 00	221	8. 00
17	12. 50	58	3. 00	99	23. 00	140	12. 00	181	----	222	3. 00
18	10. 00	59	7. 50	100	8. 00	141	8. 00	182	----	223	3. 00
19	2. 00	60	1. 00	101	15. 00	142	----	183	----	224	13. 00
20	4. 00	61	4. 00	102	17. 00	143	----	184	----	225	9. 50
21	4. 00	62	1. 50	103	----	144	6. 50	185	----	226	5. 00
22	2. 00	63	3. 50	104	12. 00	145	----	186	. 75	227	6. 50
23	1. 50	64	1. 00	105	50. 00	146	----	187	4. 00	228	4. 50
24	1. 00	65	1. 00	106	25. 00	147	7. 00	188	1. 60	229	2. 00
25	15. 00	66	1. 00	107	----	148	10. 00	189	3. 00	230	1. 60
26	3. 50	67	1. 00	108	----	149	----	190	1. 20	231	----
27	3. 00	68	1. 00	109	18. 00	150	10. 50	191	1. 50	232	5. 00
28	3. 00	69	1. 00	110	----	151	8. 00	192	1. 60	233	----
29	4. 00	70	1. 10	111	55. 00	152	20. 00	193	1. 10	234	----
30	2. 00	71	1. 00	112	31. 00	153	4. 00	194	1. 10	235	----
31	1. 00	72	1. 00	113	----	154	----	195	1. 00	236	----
32	----	73	1. 10	114	18. 00	155	6. 00	196	1. 60	237	3. 50
33	1. 00	74	1. 00	115	2. 00	156	----	197	1. 80	238	4. 50
34	2. 50	75	1. 00	116	17. 00	157	----	198	----	239	3. 00
35	4. 50	76	1. 10	117	4. 00	158	----	199	1. 00	240	3. 00
36	2. 00	77	1. 00	118	----	159	----	200	1. 00	241	5. 00
37	2. 00	78	12. 50	119	----	160	6. 00	201	----	242	1. 50
38	2. 00	79	6. 50	120	4. 00	161	12. 00	202	1. 60	243	----
39	1. 70	80	5. 00	121	----	162	15. 00	203	. 75	244	4. 00
40	2. 00	81	5. 50	122	----	163	25. 00	204	1. 00		
41	2. 00	82	3. 50	123	5. 00	164	5. 50	205	1. 60		

**LONDON-OSTEND/LONDON-ANTWERP, 1845**

We illustrate a page from a Bradshaw Timetable of 1845. It is not generally known that there was a direct route from London to Ostend at that period and the two vessels mentioned - "Earl of Liverpool" and "Sir Edward Banks" also carried a bag of letters from the Post Office.

Each vessel was owned by General Steam Navigation Company (formed in 1824). The first, of 262 tons, was put into service in 1824, and "Sir Edward Banks", larger at 322 tons and in service in 1826.

**LONDON & OSTEND, AND THE RHINE,**

Direct from and to London Bridge Wharf.  
PASSENGERS WALK ON BOARD.

**Earl of Liverpool, Capt Henry Lomax, - Sir Edward Banks, Capt. D. Robinson.**

These Vessels carry a Bag of Letters from the Post Office.

**From London.**

Saturday.... 1 Feb... 3 a.m.	Wednesday... 12 Feb... 9 a.m.	Saturday.... 22 Feb... 8 a.m.
Wednesday... 5 " .. 7 "	Saturday.... 15 " .. 3 "	Wednesday... 26 " .. 9 "
Saturday.... 8 " .. 8 "	Wednesday... 19 " .. 7 "	

**From OSTEND.**

Tuesday .... 4 Feb... 10 p.m.	Friday ..... 14 Feb... 7 p.m.	Wednesday... 26 Feb... 2 a.m.
Friday ..... 7 " .. 12 "	Tuesday .... 18 " .. 10 "	Saturday.... 1 Mar... 8 "
Wednesday... 12 " .. 8 a.m.	Friday ..... 21 " .. 12 "	

**FARES.**—Chief cabin, £1 10s.;—Fore cabin, £1 5s.;—Children under 10 years, half price;—Four-wheel carriages, £4 4s.;—Two-wheel ditto, £2 2s.;—Horses, £4 4s.;—Dogs, 5s. each.

**Brokers.**—In London, Messrs. REIDHEAD & SPIERS, 59, Mark-lane; in Ostend, Mr. J. HERREWYN;—**Agents.**—In Ostend, Mr. H. ST. AMOUR, Grande Place; in Gand, Mr. I. VAN AKEN, Place St. Michel; in Brussels, Mr. W. MIDDLETON, 92, Montagne de la Cour.

The whole line of Railroad from Ostend to Cologne is now open; as also from Cologne to Bonn. Fares—Ostend to Brussels, frs. 9.25; Ostend to Cologne, frs. 27.00.

---

**LONDON & ANTWERP, & THE RHINE,**

Direct from and to Brunswick Wharf, Blackwall.—PASSENGERS WALK ON BOARD.

**Soho, Capt Thomas Whitcombe.**

This Vessel carries a Bag of Letters from the Post-Office.

**From LONDON.**                      **From ANTWERP.**

Every THURSDAY at 10 in the Morning.                      Every SUNDAY at 11 in the Morning.

**Broker.**—In London, Mr. GEORGE RAHN, 4, Crescent, Minorities.—**Agents.**—In Antwerp, Mr. C. BREQUIGNY; in Brussels, Mr. W. MIDDLETON, 92, Montagne de la Cour.

The whole line of Railroad from Antwerp to Cologne is now open; as also from Cologne to Bonn. Fares—Antwerp to Cologne, frs. 21.00; Antwerp to Brussels, frs. 3.25.

**N.B.**—Should the Packet not be able to proceed to Antwerp, the Passengers (at their own expense) will be landed at Ostend, or the nearest safe Belgian Port, as the state of the ice may render it necessary.

**FARES.**—Chief cabin, £2 2s.;—Fore cabin, £1 12s. 6d.;—Children under 10 years, half price;—Coach, £6;—Chariot, £6;—Light caleche, £4;—Two-wheel carriages, £3;—Horses, £5;—Dogs, 10s.

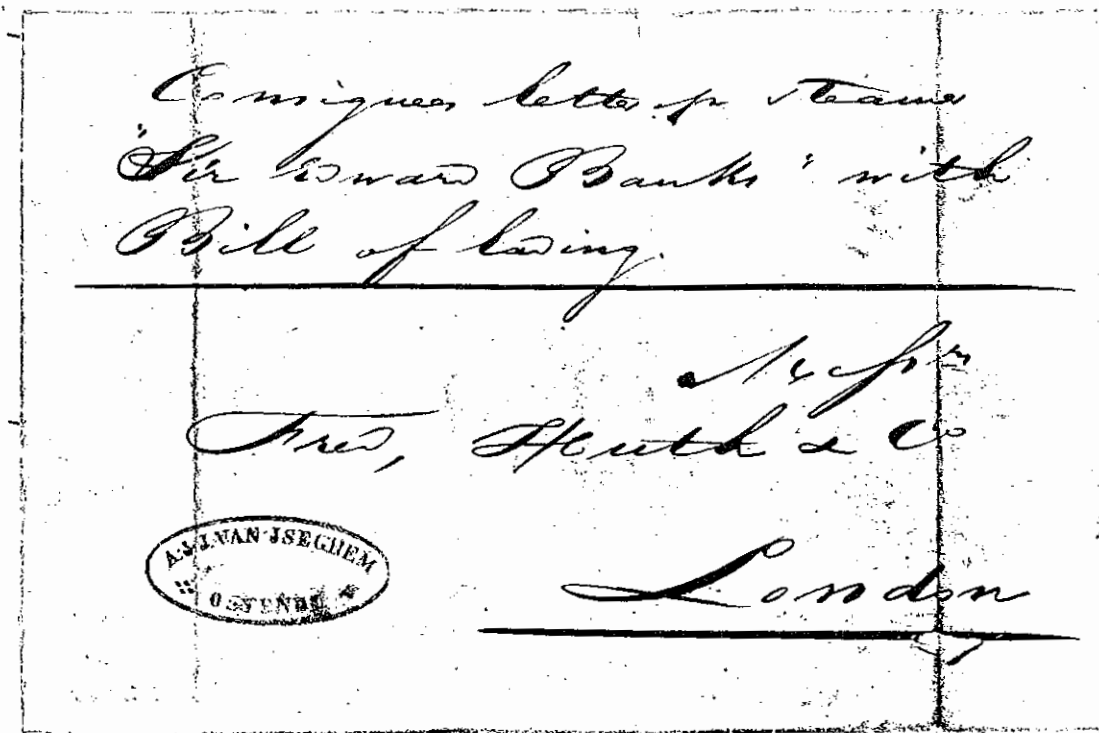
Passengers can book direct from London to any place on the Rhine, via Rotterdam, Antwerp, or Ostend.—For Fares, Rhine Agents, and full particulars, see last page.

Carriages and Horses, direct to the Rhine, at very reduced rates.

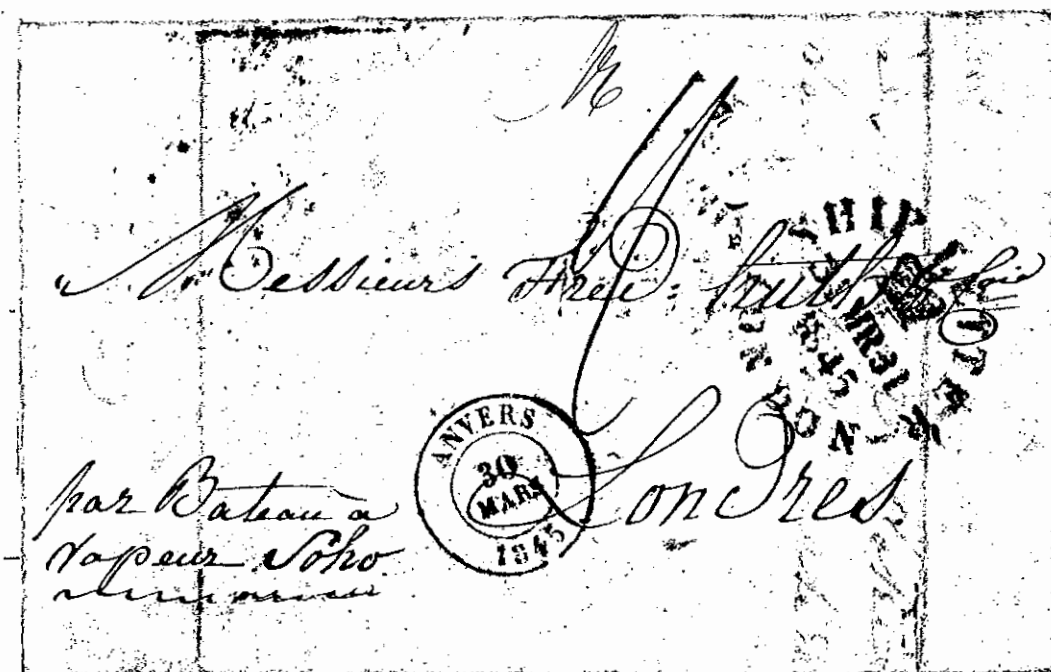
**TICKETS** for the journey to places on the Rhine, out and home, via ROTTERDAM, are given at a considerable reduction on the return fare; and with the privilege of proceeding via ANTWERP or OSTEND, free of extra charge for sea passage.

Illustrated is a "Consignors Letter" which is sent with the goods on the "Sir Edward Banks" and, as such, would not go through the Post Office, hence no postal markings.





On the London-Antwerp service we have written earlier but show a letter from Antwerp to London through the vessel "Soho". This sailed at 11 a.m. on a Sunday and the date shown is a Sunday. It went via the post offices of Antwerp and London, arriving 31st March, 1845.



On the Antwerp route it should be noted "Should the packet not be able to get to Antwerp, passengers will be landed at Ostend or the nearest Belgian Port, as the state of the Ice may render it necessary".

The whole line from Ostend/Antwerp is now open to Cologne.

S. J. ANDREWS



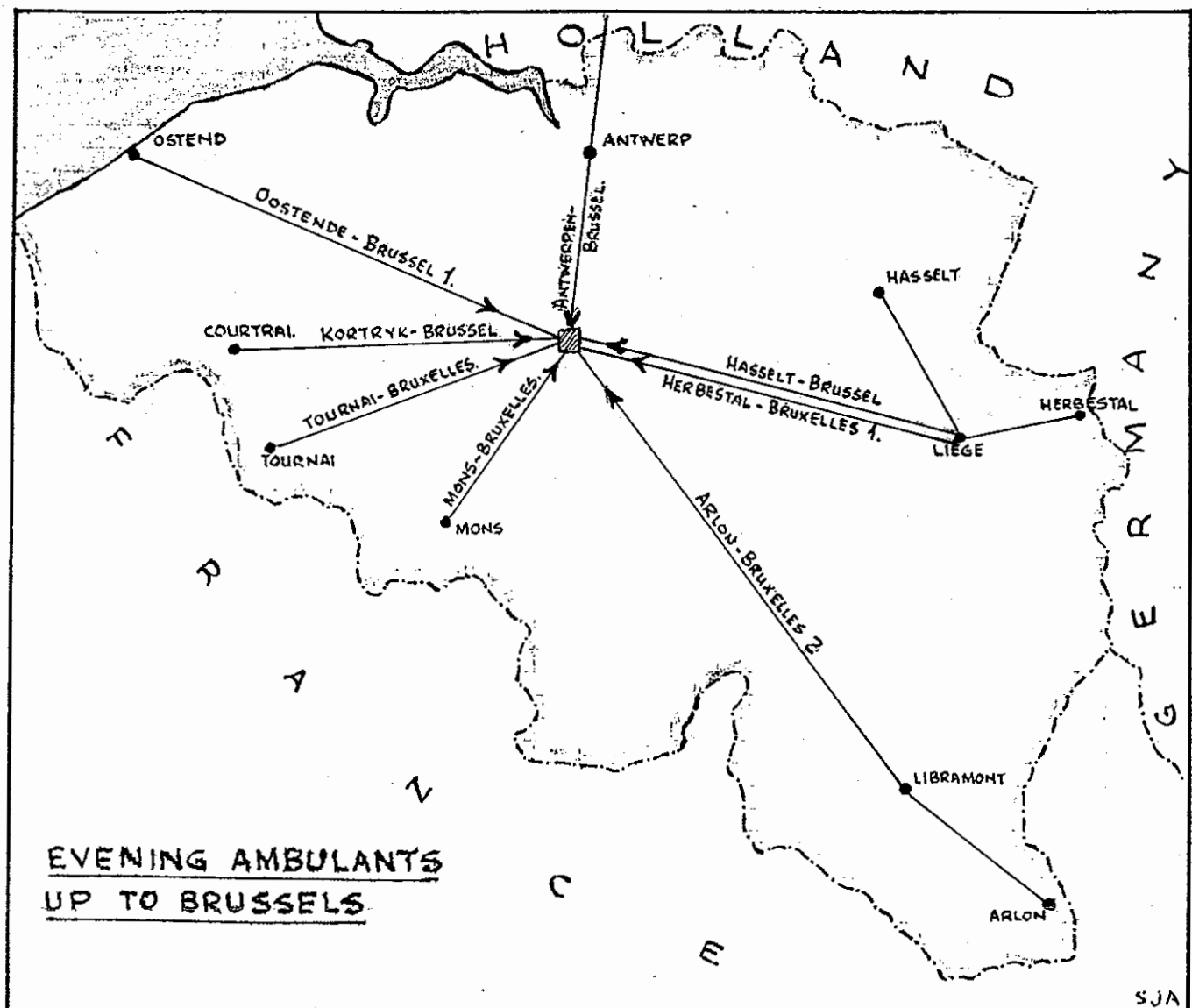
THE BELGIAN "AMBULANTS" SERVICE 1956-1975

This article is based on notes provided by the late A. Cuigniez

The Administration of the Belgian Postal Services has laid down as a matter of principle that all first class mail deposited in a post-box of the Kingdom prior to the last daytime collection, shall be delivered at the first delivery of the next day whatever be its destination within the Country.

One can readily appreciate that, in the evening and during the night, the normal railway connections are so reduced that they no longer suffice to ensure the exchange of mail from one place to another. The collection from any particular town of the Country may be made at a certain time of the evening, but the normal connections with numerous areas are no longer available; without the Ambulants, the mail picked up at the last day-collection would not be delivered at destination by the first post on the next morning.

For example, there would be no guarantee that mail picked up in Arlon (province of Luxembourg) at the 7 p.m. collection would be delivered by first post the next morning in Courtrai.

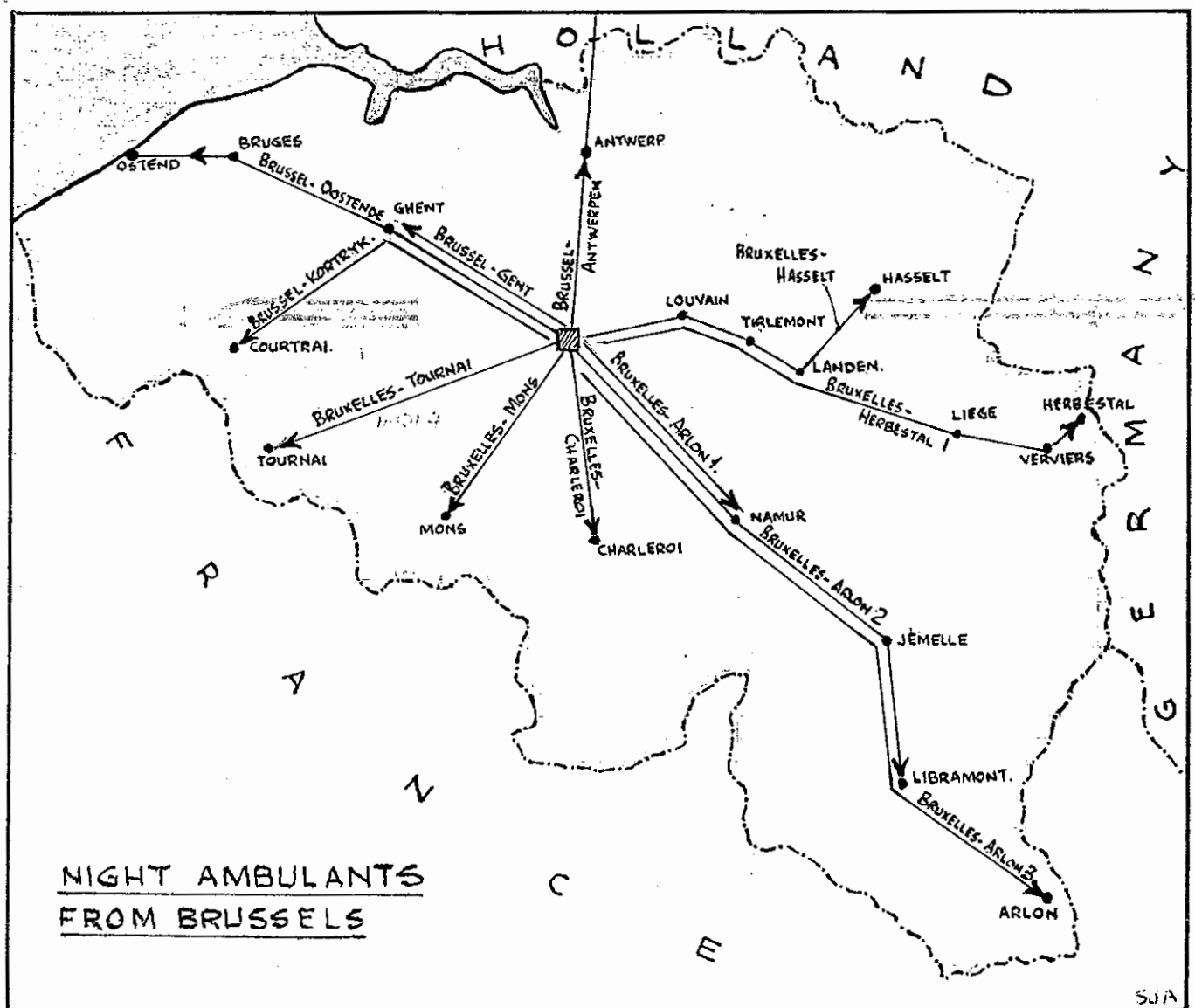


This is where the Ambulants come in. This service takes charge of the evening mail and it begins its functions by bringing it to Bruxelles-Midi, the centre of the Belgian Railway Network.

The mail normally leaves the provincial centres about 8 p.m. and arrives at Bruxelles between 10 and 11 p.m. The sorting is effected in the mail-coaches during the journey as well as during stops in stations.

In the reverse way, some 10 trains leave Bruxelles-Midi after midnight. These fast goods trains (Grande Vitesse [GV]) are made up of goods, parcels and various trucks, to which are attached one or several mail-coaches in which the sorting is once again carried out (letters, urgent printed matter, business papers, newspapers). These Ambulants are fed from the sorting office of Bruxelles X, from certain provincial sorting centres and offices as well as from the evening up-Ambulants on their arrival at Bruxelles-Midi.

Normally, the newspapers are brought to the station by the printers and delivered direct to the Ambulants.

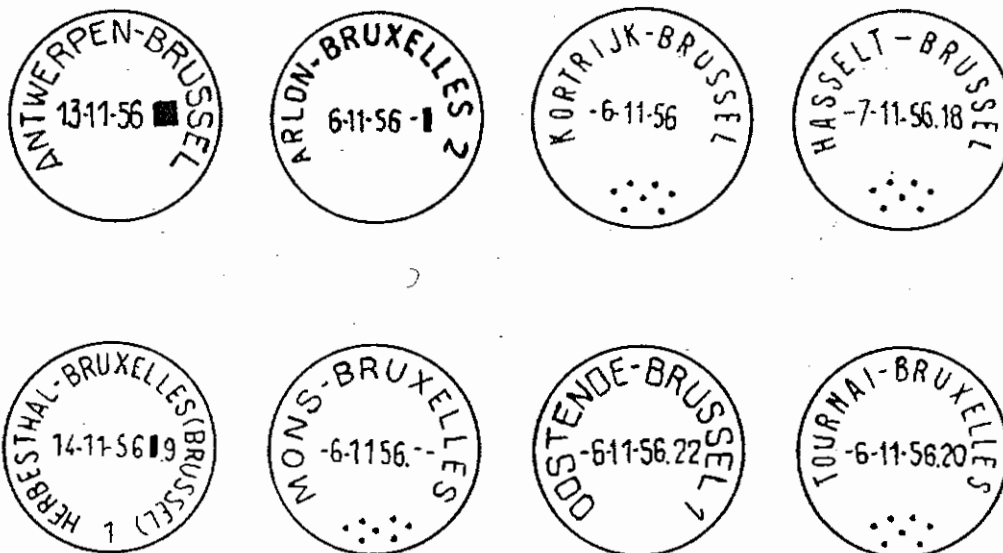


SJA

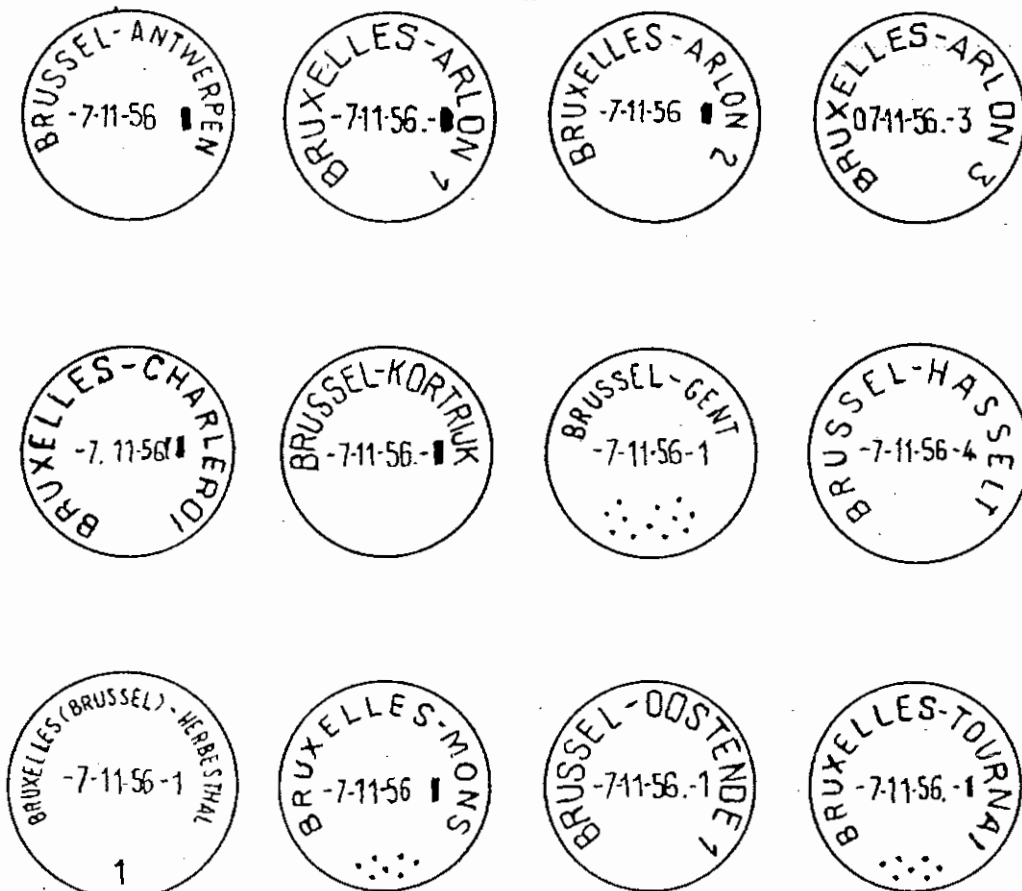
On the journey, the Ambulant delivers the prepared bags of mail to the few important points on the route, the bulk being delivered at the terminal point of its run; this is made up of one or several mail bags for each of the distribution post offices within the radius of the field of action of the Ambulant. These deliveries are made between 4 and 5 a.m.

The "Ambulant" is a normal service, forming an integral part of the Belgian Postal Services in order to ensure, as previously stated, the delivery by the first mail of the morrow, of mail deposited in postal boxes before the last collection of the previous day.

EVENING Ambulants up to Bruxelles-Midi.



NIGHT Ambulants from Bruxelles-Midi.



SdA

There is no question of an additional fee beyond normal postal rates for making use of this service. Each mail coach is provided with a postal box and mail can be deposited therein up to the time of departure of the Ambulant. It is sufficient to take a platform ticket and go on the platform where the Ambulant is standing.

#### CANCELLATIONS:

These marks are circular and normally carry either in French or in Flemish, the names of the two terminal towns between which the Ambulant runs. The cancellations of the Ambulants are NOT applied to all the letters which make up the mail. With very few exceptions, such as very late arrivals, cancellation is made in the offices in charge of the collections. To ensure an "Ambulant" cancellation, one is advised to post the cover in the letter-box of the mail-coach at the departure station or at an intermediate station where a stop is scheduled. A copy of each of 20 cancellations is also shown.

MR. A. CUIGNIEZ,  
82, Barrington Court,



MR. A. CUIGNIEZ,  
82, Barrington Court,  
Colney Hatch Lane,  
MUSWELL HILL,  
LONDON, N.10.  
Angleterre.

## 1. LISTE DES BUREAUX AMBULANTS

Ambulant, numéro du train et périodicité	Bri-gade	Station et heure de départ	Principales stations intermédiaires avec temps d'arrêt						Station et heure d'arrivée
Antwerpen-Brussel LM tr. 288	IX	Amsterdam 20.26	Rotterdam 21.27 21.30	Roosendaal 22.09 22.21	Antwerpen 22.52 23.02	Mechelen 23.17 23.20		Bruxelles-M.	23.43
Brussel-Antwerpen MSF G.V. E 21271/289	IX	Brux.-M. 1.25	Antwerpen 2.54 7.14					Amsterdam	9.44
Brussel-Gent LMSF E 21928	I	Brux.-M. 1.57	Aalst 2.22 2.28					Gent S.P.	2.48
Brussel-Hasselt MSF G.V. E 21411/E 21370	X	Brux.-M. 0.45	Brux.-N. 0.55 1.05	Louven 1.29 2.12	Tienen 2.38 3.01	Landen 3.18 3.21		Hasselt	4.05
Brussel-Kortrijk MSF G.V. E 21911/z 29915	XI	Brux.-M. 1.25	Gent S.P. 2.21 3.16					Kortrijk	4.00
Brussel-Oostende LMSF E 21928	II	Brux.-M. 1.57	Aalst 2.22 2.28	Gent S.P. 2.48 3.13	Brugge 3.40 4.05			Oostende	4.20
Brux.-Charleroi MSF G.V. E 21717	V	Brux.-M. 1.45	Marchien-ne-au-Pont 2.40 2.43					Charleroi-S	2.49
Brux.-Herbesthal 1 MSF G.V. E 21411	VI	Brux.-M. 0.45	Brux.-N. 0.55 1.05	Leuven 1.29 1.46	Tienen 2.01 2.20	Lander Wareme 2.32 2.55 2.42 2.57		Liège-G	3.20
Brux.-Herbesthal 2 MSF G.V. E 21411/DB 14719/3473	XII	Brux.-M. 0.45	Brux.-N. 0.55 1.05	Liège G. 3.20 3.58	Verviers C 4.29 5.04	Welken Aachen raedt 5.18 9.01 8.45 12.10		Köln D.	13.20
Brux.-Jemelle LMSF E 21628/E 26628	VII	Brux.-M. 1.00	Namur 1.51 3.30	Ciney 3.50 4.00				Jemelle	4.19
Brux.-Luxembourg LMSF E 21628	VIII	Brux.-M. 1.00	Namur Jemelle 1.51 2.56 2.19 2.57	Libramont 3.18 3.33	Marbehan 3.47 3.55	Arlon 4.08 4.15		Luxembourg	4.41

Brux.-Mons MSF G.V. E 21814	IV	Brux.-M. 1.32	Braine- le-Comte 2.02 2.17	Soignies 2.25 2.35			Mons 2.58
Brux.-Tournai MSF G.V. E 21817	III	Brux.-M. 2.00	Ath 2.54 3.16	Leuze 3.28 3.33			Tournai 3.48
Gent-Brussel (1) LMDF E 21928	I	Gent S.P. 22.18	Aalst 22.36 22.42				Bruxelles-M. 23.04
Hasselt-Brussel LM tr. 2270/E 23121	X	Hasselt 20.28	Diest 20.46 20.47	Aarschot 21.06 21.07	Leuven 21.20 21.30		Bruxelles-M. 21.59
Herbesthal-Brux. LM tr. 430/E 24112	VI	Köln 20.00	Welken- raedt 20.56 20.57	Ver- viërs C 21.08 21.09	Liège G 21.26 22.22		Bruxelles-M. 23.29
Jemelle-Brux. LMDF E 26128	VII	Jemelle 19.56	Ciney 20.18 20.20	Namur 20.40 20.46			Bruxelles-M. 21.53
Kortrijk-Brussel LM tr. 1780	XI	Kortrijk 21.28	Oude- naarde 21.46 21.47	Zotte- gem 22.02 22.03	Dender- leeuw 22.17 22.18		Bruxelles-M. 22.34
Luxemb.-Brux. LMDF E 26129	VIII	Luxemb. 19.40	Arlon 20.00 20.04	Libra- mont 20.38 20.44	Jemelle 21.07 21.09	Namur 21.45 21.56	Bruxelles-M. 23.13
Mons-Brux. LM tr. 1971	IV	Mons 21.57	Jurbise 22.06 22.07	Soignies 22.21	Braine- le-Comte 22.27 22.29		Bruxelles-M. 23.05
Oostende-Brussel (2) LMDF E. 29128	II	Oostende 21.20	Brugge 21.33 21.43	Gent 22.10 22.18	Aalst 22.36 22.42		Bruxelles-M. 23.04
Tournai-Brux. LM tr. 2735	III	Tournai 21.31	Leuze 21.43 21.44	Ath 21.53 21.57			Bruxelles-M. 22.37

(1) Jours D et F : départ à Aalst à 22.39 - arrivée à Bruxelles-M. à 23.01.

(2) Jours D et F : Oostende 21.15 - Brugge 21.28 - Gent (mêmes heures) - Aalst 22.36 - Bruxelles-M. 23.01.  
21.46 22.39

LM : les jours ouvrables du lundi au vendredi.

MSF : les jours ouvrables du mardi au samedi, ainsi que les jours fériés avec distribution

LMDF : les jours ouvrables du lundi au samedi, ainsi que les jours fériés avec distribution

LMDF : les jours ouvrables du lundi au vendredi, ainsi que les dimanches et jours fériés

F : les jours fériés avec distribution.

avec distribution.

D : les dimanches.

The Manufacture of the Medallions on Unwatermarked Paper  
from 1858

With the introduction of unwatermarked paper in 1858, the numbering of the sheets was introduced as a security measure, and examples are known of Medallions with an inscription in the upper margin such as 'Timbres-Postes No.0427 .. 1858' (see illustration).

The General Circular of 3rd January 1860 given in Belga Post, Volume 5, Part 2, page 20 was preceded by a Regulation dated 6th December 1859 which is given below. Both these documents are included in Jules Bouvez's articles in the American Journal of Philately from 1895/1907. These articles are essential to the study of Belgian Philately, but do contain odd errors which have probably arisen because of the distance between publisher and author who may have had no opportunity of checking the translation.

For example, the date of the Regulation concerning the manufacture of stamps was given as 6th December, 1887 when it had to be 1859. Likewise in the Extracts from the Rules ... of 3rd January, the numbering of the articles is haywire; there are no articles 3 or 5 but from the Philatéliste Belge for 1928, page 103, we see that article 5 is 'Les feuilles destinées etc.' ('The sheets intended for ...').

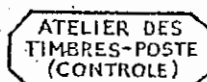
One of our Belgian friends may be able to clear this up.

In the regulations concerning the manufacture of stamps, dated December 6th, 1859, the following information will be found:

1°. Sheets intended for the printing of postage stamps will have in the upper right hand corner the printed note "Timbres Poste" followed by an indication of the series and the number of the sheet.

2°. The series will be indicated in alphabetical order, and a series begun on January 1st of each year.

3°. Immediately after each printing the overseer of the workshop will stamp in the bottom left corner of each sheet the mark with the inscription



4°. From every new plate trial sheets shall be printed, enabling the superintendent to see whether the plate has been properly prepared, and particularly whether its level is satisfactory and whether there is any defect in the engraving.

5°. A trial essay shall be printed before the cuts are leveled by the pressman, another one after this operation, and a fresh one after the printing of each 1,000 sheets: These proofs are to be submitted to the superintendent for his judgment, and he will decide whether they can be accepted or rejected. Proofs shall also be printed when the press rollers are renewed or washed.

6°. For the printing of the essays ink shall be used of a different tint from that used for the real stamps of the same plate.

7°. The proof sheets shall be cancelled and invoiced to be destroyed in the presence of the members of the Stamp Factory Commission.

The above Regulations have been taken from Jules Bouvez's article. A copy of the 'Atelier des Timbres-Poste (Contrôle)' which was in use in 1860 has been substituted for the one shown in the article.

In the above Regulations the instructions regarding trial sheets and essays are a justification for the essays listed on page 127 of the Balasse Catalogue Part 1.

With the introduction of the 300 plates and the larger sheets of paper in 1861 the marginal inscription was no longer in the top right corner of the sheet but was either at the top left side of the sheet or the bottom of the right side border (see illustration).

Neither of these documents is listed in the 'Legislation Postale' which was published some time ago. The Regulations for the Manufacture of Postage Stamps dated 15th July, 1886 which appeared in Info Phila, Numbers 15-17, 1985/86 do not appear either.

*Timbres Postes N° 017545 1858* 1858 and 1859

A. G. WOOD

*Timbres Postes Serie A N° 017545 1860.*

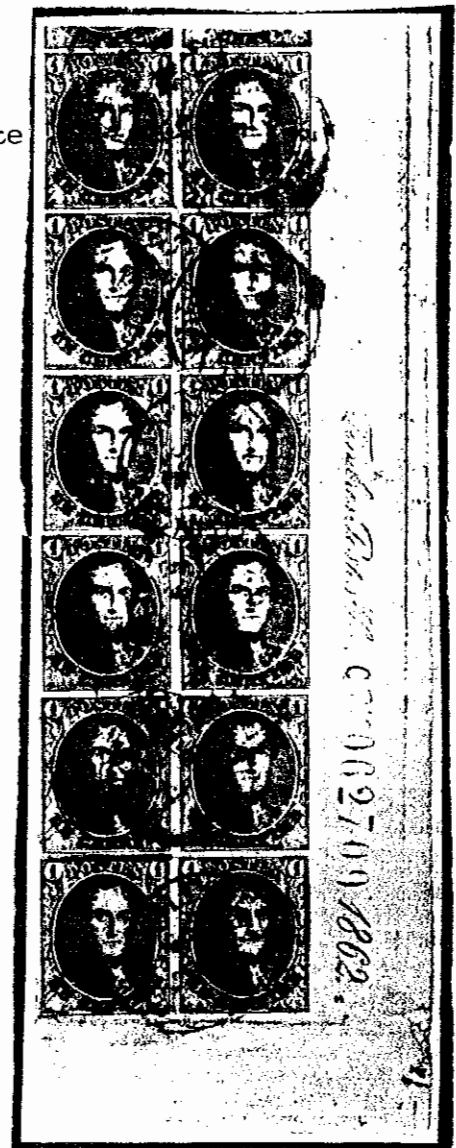
Serie A 1860	)	
?Serie B 1861	)	200 plates
Serie B 1861		300 plates Imperforate
Serie C 1862		300 plates Imperforate and Perforate
Serie D 1863		300 plates Perforate



No Serie



Serie B No. 024565 1861



Serie C No. 062709 1862

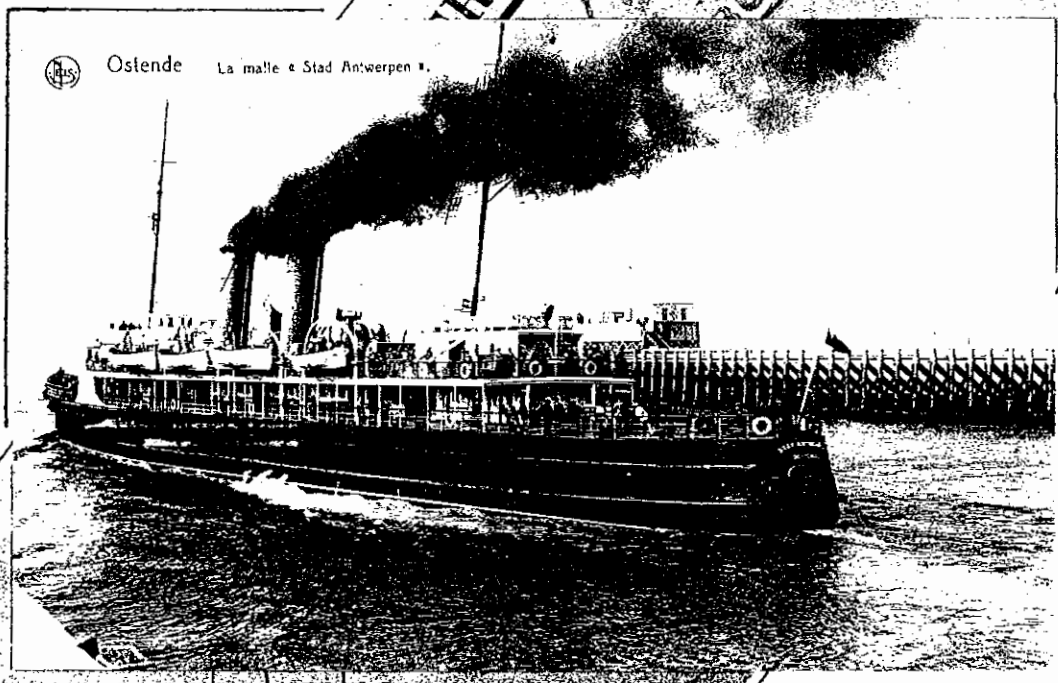


A PAGE FROM THE EDITOR'S COLLECTION

ENVELOPE FROM HOSPITAL SHIP "STAD ANTWERPEN"  
TO THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

24 SEPTEMBER, 1916

BUILT IN 1913 BY COCKERILL OF ANTWERP  
FOR THE BELGIAN STATE, THE "STAD  
ANTWERPEN" SERVED FOR MANY YEARS  
ON THE DOVER-OSTEND MAIL ROUTE



THE "STAD ANTWERPEN" SERVED AS  
A HOSPITAL SHIP (165 BEDS) FROM  
2 OCTOBER, 1915 - 12 DECEMBER 1919

SHE CARRIED MANY THOUSANDS OF  
WOUNDED ALLIED TROOPS FROM FRANCE  
TO ENGLAND.

An Update of Published Works for the 15c Die IBy P.D.D. Russell

It will be recalled that the purpose of this series of articles was to provide updates of the three published works listed as references on page 15 of Volume 4. 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 pane.

The present article in this series deals with the four distinct panes of the 15c Die I.

Previous articles have referred to an extension of this work which the author has carried out enabling the position of all stamps with few exception to be located. It has been suggested that future articles should concentrate more on these studies. In view of this, the format of subsequent articles on the 1915 Issue will probably be revised.

1. The 15 Centimes Die I

The colour of the first printing of this stamp in 1915 is a distinctive violet. Subsequently this changed in 1920 to a light violet then a deep or purple violet. The four panes in the 1915 printing are numbered (1,2,3,4) corresponding to their positions (I,II,III,IV) in the printing base. In later printings the position of these four panes was altered in the printing base. A.G. Wood gives their position in Ref 1 as follows:-

Printing	1915	Early 1920	Late 1920												
Shade	Violet	Light Violet	Deep Violet Purple Violet												
Printing Base	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	1	4	2	3	<table><tr><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	4	2	3	1
1	2														
3	4														
1	4														
2	3														
4	2														
3	1														

The reader is referred to Ref 1 for further details.

2. Material used in the Study

The present study is based on nine complete panes, a number of blocks of mint stamps and a collection of some 2,500 used stamps. The latter collection is mostly made up of single stamps which have all been placed. Where date cancels

are visible these are mostly for the period 1920/1921. A large number also bear a 1922 date cancel and about one hundred bear a 1923 or more rarely a 1924 cancel. Very few 1925 cancels have been observed.

The DEPOT Marks observed on the panes and mint blocks are for 1915, 1920 and 1921.

All these items are described in greater detail in the Table on pages 29/30.

### 3. Tentative Revision of the Printing Base.

It will be noted that a DEPOT 1921 mark appears on a block of four stamps from pane 2. This led the author to postulate that a fourth printing was implemented in 1921 with pane 2 in pane position I. Furthermore, a used stamp from position 100 in pane 1 was observed to have the bottom right corner repaired resulting in a neat truncation. The bottom frame is also consistent with a position I or II in the printing base. All other used specimens, with date cancels up to 1921, in the author's collection show a gradual disintegration of the bottom right corner of this stamp. This would also appear to suggest that a fourth printing was made in 1921 with pane 1 in position II.

A tentative revision of the position of the panes in the printing base is therefore as follows:-

Printing	1915	Early 1920	Late 1920	1921																
Shade	Violet	Light Violet	Deep Violet Purple Violet	Deep Violet																
Printing Base	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	1	2	3	4	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	1	4	2	3	<table><tr><td>2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	2	4	3	1	<table><tr><td>2</td><td>[1]</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	2	[1]		
1	2																			
3	4																			
1	4																			
2	3																			
2	4																			
3	1																			
2	[1]																			

The square brackets indicate that the pane position in question is somewhat tentative.

It will also be observed that panes 2 and 4 in the late 1920 printing have now been placed in positions I and II respectively. This is consistent with the two panes 2 in pane position I in the author's collection. Both these panes bear the 1920 DEPOT mark.

A large number of used and mint stamps have also been observed to have a double impression of the top main frame of row 1. This variety which is denoted L603 by Leveque was found to occur mostly in panes 1 and 4 with a few examples in pane 3 and none in pane 2.

It was therefore conjectured that this variety occurred in row 1 when the pane in question was in position I or II in the printing base. If this were substantiated, it would provide a means of confirming the revised printing base for this value. Unfortunately, no obvious pattern could be found and it was therefore concluded that the conjecture regarding variety L603 was incorrect.

It was also noted that the bottom main frame of row 10 stamps was often deformed and overinked in panes 1 and 3 with a few examples in pane 2 and none in pane 4. In this case it was conjectured that the defects occurred when the pane in question was in position III or IV. No correlation was found and it was concluded that this second conjecture was also incorrect.

The above revised printing base is therefore to be regarded as provisional pending the availability of further confirmatory evidence.

#### 4. The Six Sub-Types of the 15c Die I

It will be recalled that each value of the Die I stamps is distinguished by the shape and size of the letter 'C' and of the figures of value in the shields. Facsimile reproductions of the six sub-types of the 20c Die I were reproduced in Volume 4 of BELGAPOST (page 50). In order to help the reader to identify the sub-types of the 15c Die I, an attempt was made to reproduce facsimiles for this value. These were again obtained from photocopies of original enlargements provided by A.G. Wood. These are shown on the page opposite where the description provided is that found in Ref 2.

The array shown below gives the distribution of these sub-types for the 15c Die I:-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	1	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C
	2	D	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B
<u>Array of</u>	3	E	C	D	C	D	E	F	A	B	C
<u>Sub-Types</u>	4	E	B	C	F	A	B	D	E	F	A
	5	F	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F
<u>of the</u>	6	A	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	E	A
	7	B	B	C	D	C	F	A	C	D	F
<u>15c Die I</u>	8	A	A	D	E	A	B	D	E	F	A
	9	B	B	C	D	E	F	A	C	D	E
	10	C	F	A	D	B	E	A	C	D	B

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

Sub-Type A (Small C's)

Both arms of left 'C' thin.  
Body of right 'C' has distinctive shape with pointed back.  
Face of body of right 'C' slopes.  
Right '1' has a large serif.

Sub-Type B (Large C's)

Both arms of left 'C' are thinner than in Sub-Type E.  
The right 'C' is not so open as in Sub-Type E.

Sub-Type C (Small C's)

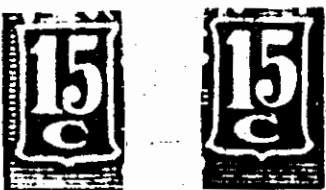
Both letters 'C' are rounded.

Sub-Type D (Medium C's)

Body of left 'C' is thinner than that of right 'C'.  
Serif of right '1' is long.

Sub-Type E (Large C's)

Both arms of left 'C' are thick.  
Down stroke of right '5' slopes.  
Small coloured projection in lower frame under last E of BELGIE.

Sub-Type F (Small C's)

Left 'C' has long serif in upper arm.

Author's comment This long serif is the Leveque variety L312. It occurs in all Sub-Type F stamps of the 15c Die I except in stamps 27, 44 and 50 of certain panes. Further details will be found in a footnote on page 39.

## 5. Published Varieties

In their study, based mostly on single stamps, de Haene, Kicken and Levèque were able to report 59,111 and 134 varieties respectively. Except for de Haene's article, these are not related to stamp position. As a result of the present study, based primarily on complete panes and blocks of mint stamps, the author was able to relate 117 of the Levèque varieties to stamp position.

All the varieties reported by these authors are tabulated on pages 31 to 34 and, where appropriate, cross-references are given. Those listed by Levèque are illustrated on pages 35 and 36.

For completion it is also desirable to mention the varieties which have been recorded by Balasse in Ref 3 in which he notes seven of the more spectacular flaws. Appropriate mention of these is therefore made in the relevant places in the tabulation below. The two varieties also referred to in the 1993 Catalogue Officiel (L352 and L558) are also cross-referenced.

As in the case of previous articles, the author has also extended this work by documenting a large number of additional constant varieties for the 15c Die I. Some of these also involve large flaws which add significantly to the usefulness of the information in the present tabulation. However, this extension is outside the scope of the present article.

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

The description of each variety is a short translation of that given by Levèque in Ref 4. The following information is also 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 comment
- (v) Sub-type of the stamp in which the variety occurs
- (vi) Position of the stamp in the pane
- (vii) Pane number in which the stamp with the variety appears

The pane number in the last column is prefixed either by the letter 'P', 'S' or 'Pg' indicating that the relevant variety is either a primary, secondary or printing variety. The absence of a prefix letter indicates that it occurs in one pane only. Because a full sheet of the 1915 printing was not available it is not possible to claim that all such varieties are secondary. From the Table on page 29 it will be noted that only panes 1 and 2 and three blocks from pane 4 from the 1915 printing were available. A few true secondaries were therefore identified and shown with the prefix letter 'S'. The remaining varieties without a prefix

letter should therefore be taken either as secondary or printing varieties. Absence of information in the last columns indicates that the variety is unplaced.

A number of notes deemed to be relevant are also added to the description of column 4. This is sometimes supplemented with further information concerning other varieties which appear on the same stamp. In cases where additional information is deemed useful, the reader is referred to a footnote, labelled with the same variety number, at the end of the tabulation on pages 37 to 40.

It is also important to note that some Levèque numbers refer to a group of several varieties which are not necessarily of the same type. Thus L259 consists of the printing variety L259 in combination with the primary variety L259a. A few errors in the previously published works have also been noted in the Table.

The author is grateful to J-Cl. Ysebaert of Belgium who provided specimens of scarcer Levèque varieties which had not previously been seen (Ref 6).

## 7. Conclusions

Based on the material currently available it has been possible to suggest a revised printing base. The study of more corner blocks with adequate margins would be of obvious benefit in confirming the suggestion. It is also the author's view that a deeper study of used stamps might provide further useful information.

About 90% of the Levèque varieties have been allocated to stamp position. It is also the view of several collectors, including the author's, that some of those so far unplaced might be printing or ephemeral. It is also likely that a few (ie L107, L301, L311, L351) in fact occur on other stamps (eg 15c Die II) which Levèque incorrectly listed within the 15c Die I group.

## 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'. BSSC Record Number 9, Section 9 (March 1956). Published by Belgian Study Circle of Great Britain.
3. Balasse, W., 'Catalogue Willy Balasse-Belgique et Congo Belge'. Tome II, Pages 29/30. Published by M. Weissenbruch, Imprimeur du Roi, 49 rue du Poinçon, Bruxelles (1949).
4. Levèque, J., 'Catalogue Illustré de Timbres-Poste, Effigie du Roi Albert (Emission Oct 1915 et 1920). Published 1975 (Privately).
5. De Backere, W., 'Study of the 15c Die I'. Private Communication (1986).
6. Ysebaert, J-Cl., Private Communication (Nov 1992).

## 9. Collection Used in Study

Pane Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No	No of Stamps	DEPOT	Description	Comments
<u>Panes</u>					
I	1	100	-	Violet	1915 printing <sup>2</sup>
I	1	100	-	Violet	1915 printing
II	2	100	1915	Bright violet	
III	2	100	-	Purple violet <sup>1</sup>	
I	2	100	1920	Purple violet	
I	2	100	1920	Deep violet	
IV	3	100	-	Purple violet <sup>1</sup>	
III	3	100	-	Purple violet	
II	4	100	-	Light violet <sup>1</sup>	
<u>Mint blocks</u>					
-	1	2	-	S(81-82). Light violet	1920 printing
-	1	2	-	S(71-72). Violet.	1915 printing
-	1	2	-	S(43-44). Deep violet	
I	1	4	1920	S(2-3)/(12-13). Deep violet	Double impression of top frame
I	1	4	1920	S(1-2)/(11-12). Deep violet	Double impression of top frame
IV	1	4	-	S(89-90)/(99-100). Purple violet	L655 appears in S99 which was first noted on stamps with Feb 1921 cancels
I/III	1	12	-	S(61-64)/(71-74)/(81-84) Light violet	
IV	1	10	-	S(81-85)/(91-95) Deep violet.	Bottom frame overinked. Consistent with stamps in position IV with 1922 cancels
I/II	1	20	-	S(66-70)/(76-80)/(86-90)/(96-100). Light violet	Probably position I
I/II	2	9	-	S(82-85)/(91-95) Purple violet	Consistent with stamps with 1922 cancels
II	2	8	1915	S(9-10)/(19-20)/(29-30)/(39-40). Violet	
II	2	4	1915	S(19-20)/(29-30). Violet	
I	2	4	1920	S(1-2)/(11-12). Light violet	
I	2	4	1921	S(1-2)/(11-12). Deep violet	

Notes

1. These three panes are the property of A.G. Wood.
2. Dates given by DEPOT marks are unambiguous. Those under 'comments' are inferred.



## 9. Collection Used in Study (contd)

Pane Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No	No of Stamps	DEPOT	Description	Comments
-	3	4	-	S(82-83)/(92-93). Deep violet	Consistent with stamps with 1922 cancels
-	3	8	-	S(2-5)/(12-15)	Used block with 1923 parcel post cancel.
III	3	4	-	S(1-2)/(11-12) Violet. Yellow gum.	1915 printing
III	3	10	-	S(6-10)/(16-20). Purple violet	
III/ IV	3	15	-	S(8-10)/(18-20)/(28-30)/ (38-40)/(48-50) Purple violet	
III	3	4	-	S(81-82)/(91-92). Deep violet.	Consistent with stamps with 1921 cancels
I/III	3	4	-	S(71-74). Deep violet	
III/ IV	3	4	-	S(84-85)/(94-95). Deep violet	Consistent with stamps with 1920 cancels.
III	3	8	-	S(69-70)/(79-80)/(89-90)/ (99-100). Deep violet.	Consistent with stamps with 1921 cancels
-	3	4	-	S(8-9)/(18-19)	No margins. Top frame of III or IV
III	3	20	-	9th & 10th rows detached Purple violet	Bottom row frame very worn. Consistent with stamps with 1923 cancel
-	4	12	-	S43/(53-55)/(63-65)/(73-75) (84-85). Purple violet.	
III/ IV	4	12	-	S(4-6)/(14-16)/(24-26)/ (35-36) 46. Violet. Yellow gum	1915 printing hence position IV.
II	4	25	-	S(51-55)/(61-65)/(71-75)/ (81-85)/(91-95). Light violet	Consistent with stamps with 1920 cancels
I/II	4	6	-	S(87-89)/(97-99) Purple violet	Consistent with stamp with 1921 cancels
-		52	-	Thirteen blocks of four mint stamps without margins. All shades represented.	

USED STAMPS

Collection of used stamps, mostly singles, numbering about 2,500. All have been placed with few exception. Where date cancels are visible these are mainly from the period 1920/1921. A large number also have a 1922 date cancel and about one hundred have a 1923 or more rarely a 1924 date cancel. Very few with a 1925 date cancel have been noted.

## 10. Table of Published Varieties

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>II</sup>	Pane No
<u>BELGIQUE</u>						
L1	K1	H21	Colour spur in bottom right of B of BELGIQUE (de Haene claims that it only occurs in pane positions II, III & IV)	A	93	P(1234)
L2	K2	-	G of BELGIQUE closed by fine line (see note p. 37)	B	62	P(1234)
L3	K3	H22	White spot inside Q	A	67	P(1234)
L3a	K3a	-	Break in right frame level with 15th pearl.	A	67	P(1234)
L4	K4	-	White spot inside Q + right volute joined to curved ornament (vestiges of this often seen on panes 1,2,3).	A	67	S(4)
L5	K5	H27	White spur shaped like a pear bottom left of 2nd E of BELGIQUE (see note p. 37).	A	72	S(2)
L6	K6	H12	Large white spot top right of 2nd E of BELGIQUE. Reported by Balasse 139V4 on stamp 60 of all panes in 1915.	A	60	P(1234)
<u>BELGIE</u>						
L100	K7	-	B of BELGIE blind in top (see note p. 37)	(common)		
L101	K8	-	B of BELGIE blind in top + right volute cut level with 20th right pearl (ie L261)	E	59	4
L101a	K8a	-	Fine spur top right of left volute	E	59	4
L102	K9	H5	BE of BELGIE joined at top (incorrectly reported by de Haene in pane positions II and III only)	D	89	P(134)
			+ 10th right pearl deformed by spur from penultimate ornament (ie L408)	D	89	P(1234)
L103	K10	-	BE of BELGIE joined at top + long scratch from 3rd left pearl through background up to LG of BELGIQUE (often faint)	D	89	S(1)
L104	K11	H47	White spur top left of 1st E of BELGIE	F	12	S(2)
L105	K12	H51	White scratch from 1st E of BELGIE to frame above	C	56	4
L106	K13	H6	White spur bottom of G of BELGIE. Wrongly reported by Balasse (139V1) as occurring on stamp 49 of pane 4 in 1915.	E	49	S(1)
L107	K14	-	GIE of BELGIE mutilated with white scratches which also surround right of mid-shield + left background with random colour spots (see note p.37).	-	-	-
L108	K15	H8	Top right of 2nd E of BELGIE extended down (reported but not placed by de Haene) (see also note p. 37).	-	-	-
L109	K17	H4	White circular spot left of B of BELGIE	D	77	P(1234)
L109a	K17a	H4a	Small white spot right of 2nd E of BELGIQUE	D	77	P(1234)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No
<u>BELGIE</u> (contd)						
L110	K18	H45	Break of frame of mid-shield under B of BELGIE (noted by de Haene pane pos <sup>n</sup> II)	D	37	P(124)
L111	K19	H24	White spur above 1st E of BELGIE with three colour spots above ELG. Top arm of first E also extended (less marked on pane 4).	F	86	P(1234)
L112	-	-	1E of BELGIE joined at base (not quite joined on some panes 3)	C	15	P(1234)
L113	-	-	2nd E of BELGIE partly filled in inside	E	90	4
<u>LEFT ORNAMENT</u>						
L200	K20	-	Extra white spur to left volute near top	C	33	S(1)
L200a	K20a	-	Fine cut in left main frame at mid-height of left 1 (sometimes obscured)	C	33	S(1)
L200b	K20b	-	Colour line in left background joined to hair above and near right eye	C	33	S(1)
L201	K21	-	2nd colour cut to left volute level with 20th/21st left pearls + Colour spur above this cut and + Colour spot in top of volute further up	-	-	-
L202	K22	-	Rectangular deformation of bottom of left terminal	D	11	Pg(4)
L203	K23	-	Colour spot bottom of left terminal	-	-	-
L204	K24	-	Colour spot in bottom of left final ornament level with 6th left pearl (see note p.38)	F	79	3
L205	-	-	White spot right of 3rd left leaf above curved line + top arm of left C extended downwards (L312 which is generic to sub-type F (See note p.39).	F	27	4
<u>RIGHT ORNAMENT</u>						
L250	K25	-	Top curl of 1st right leaf cut by colour spot or line	B	9	S(1)
L251	K26	H17	Large colour spot top of first right leaf (less marked in pane 4)	A	51	P(1234)
L251a	K26a	-	Fine cut in left main frame level with 5th left pearl (obscured when overinked)	A	51	P(1234)
L252	K27	-	Colour spot top of 1st right leaf (smaller and lower than L251. (See note p.38).	E	43	P(23)
L253	K28	-	Three colour spots co-linear in 1st, 2nd and 3rd right leaves (see note p.38).	-	-	-
L254	K29	H31	Second right leaf cut level with top of volute. It is ephemeral as it is only noted when overinked. Also seen in stamps 83, 85 and 92 of pane 4. (See note p.38).	C	10	2

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>RIGHT ORNAMENT</u> (contd)						
L255	K30	H30	Colour cut top of right central curl Occurs with break in bottom main frame (L657 but see note in Vol.6 No.1 BELGAPOST)	D	69	P(1234)
L256	K31	-	Thinning of right volute near lower spur (see note p.38).	-	-	-
L257	K32	-	Two fine white lines left of central ball of volute (slight vestiges of this variety also noted on stamp 13 of pane 2)	A	13	P(13)
L258	K33	H39	Thickening of central ball of right volute (noted in pane position II by de Haene 1920)	A	13	4
L259	K35	-	Additional white spur top left of right volute (first noted in used stamps with 1921 cancels)	C	4	Pg(2)
L259a	K35a	-	Break in white frame under L of BELGIE (reported by de Backere in panes 2 & 3 only)	C	4	P(1234)
L260	K36	H18	Thickening of right volute above lower spur	F	34	P(1234)
L261	K37	H25	Thick second cut in right volute level with with 20th right pearl Occurs with B of BELGIE blind at top(L100) and fine spur top right of left volute(101a)	E E	59 59	P(1234) 4 4
L262	K38	H43	Square colour spot to right terminal level with 14th pearl(pos <sup>n</sup> II & III in de Haene)	B	3	P(1234)
L262a	K38a	-	Colour spot to central arm of 2nd E of BELGIQUE	B	3	P(1234)
L262b	-	-	White spur top of pearl under I of BELGIQUE	B	3	P(1234)
L263	K39	H32	Ball of last right ornament joined to right main frame which is broken(pos <sup>n</sup> II in de Haene)	A	40	4
L264	-	-	Right terminal cut by colour spot level with 13th right pearl (de Backere reports this for pane 3 only)	F	79	P(1234)
<u>LEFT SHIELD</u>						
L300	K40	H37	Break in bottom left corner of frame of left shield (noted by de Haene in pane positions II and III only)	B	20	P(1234)
L300a	-	-	Small white spot left of 21st left pearl	B	20	P(1234)
L301	K41	H3	White spur to right frame of left shield. Does not exist (see note p.38).	-	-	-
L302	K42	H1	White scratch from top of '1' across '5' into right frame of left shield(from 1921)	D	99	Pg(3)
L302a	K42a	H1a	White scratch under left of right shield (first noted in stamps with 1921 cancels) Note L302 and L302a both occur with L402.	D	99	Pg(3)

## 10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub Type	Stamp Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No
<u>LEFT SHIELD</u> (contd)						
L303	K43	H28	Top angle of left '5' filled in with white Occurs from or after 1920.	C	68	Pg(4)
L304	K44	H2	Ball of left '5' in form of a spiral Reported by Balasse as 139V7. See note p.39.	-	-	-
L305	K45	H23	Left '5' joined to right frame of shield near lower part of curve	D	57	P(1234)
L306	K46	H46	Left C cut by colour line in bottom (de Haene's claim that this occurs in stamp 32 has not been substantiated)	-	-	-
L307	K47	H53	Left C joined to bottom frame of shield Specimen supplied by Ysebaert (see note p.39)	B	36	Pg(4)
L308	-	-	Left '1' joined to C with fine white line	-	-	-
L309	-	-	Small white forked scratch bottom left of left shield. Occurs with double impression of top main frame (=L603 - See note in volume 6 No. 1 of BELGAPOST).	C	4	S(4)
L310	-	-	White spot in bottom left of left shield (not to be confused with similar spot which occurs slightly higher on stamp 46 of pane 4).	A	71	3
L311	-	-	Break in bottom frame of left shield + white spot bottom left corner (see note p.40).	-	-	-
L312	-	-	Top right of left C extended downwards This is generic of sub-type F (see note p.39)	(common)		
<u>RIGHT SHIELD</u>						
L351	K48	H10	White spur to right frame of right shield de Haene's claim that it occurs on stamp 17 in pane position IV is not substanti- ated. It does not occur on this stamp with date cancels of 1920, 1921, 1922 (see note p.40)	-	-	-
L352	K49	H11	Lower part of right '5' traversed by obli- que white line. Reported by Balasse 139V3 and Catalogue Officiel 1993.	C	98	3
L353	K50	H20	Vertical bar of right '5' is oblique. Generic to sub-type E. See note p.40.	(common)		
L354	K51	-	Small white spur top right of right '1'	D	42	S(1)
L355	K52	-	Right C shaped like 'O'. See note p.40.	A	93	2
L356	K53	-	White spot inside right C (ephemeral variety)	C	65	Pg(4)
L357	K54	-	Right C cut in upper arm	-	-	-
L358	-	-	Small break in lower frame of right shield on the right	D	5	3



15 CENTIMES - Type 1



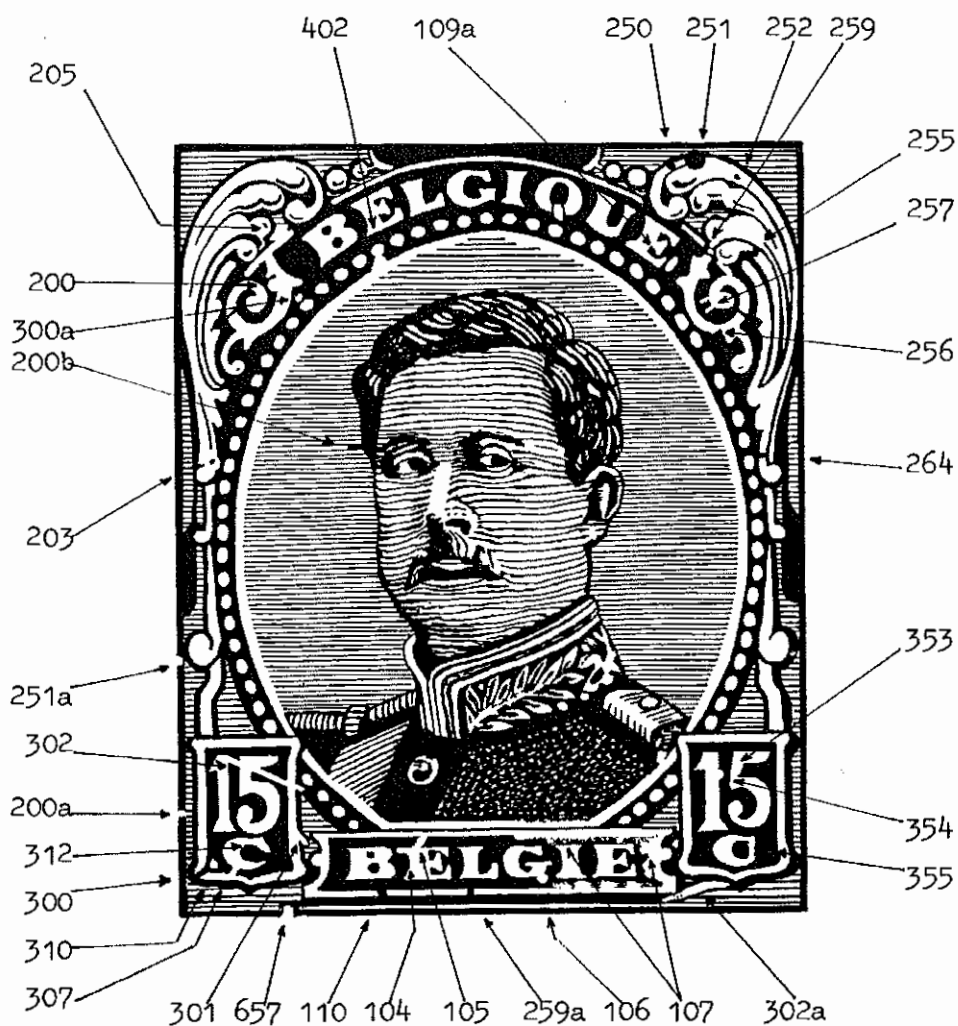
For positions  
of varieties  
refer to Table  
pages 31 to 34





1915 ISSUE

15CENTIMES - Type I



For positions  
of varieties  
refer to Table  
pages 31 to 34



11. Footnotes to TabulationL2 G of BELGIQUE closed by fine vertical white line (Stamp 62(B) of four panes)

The closure of G is sometimes incomplete, occasionally leaving a white spot in the jaws of that letter. De Backere reports this variety in panes 1 and 2 only. However, the author's collection contains several examples where it occurs on panes 3 and 4.

L5 White spot joined to bottom left of 2nd E of BELGIQUE (Stamp 72(A) pane 2)

De Haene incorrectly states that this variety could be the initial stage of variety L406. The latter is in fact a separate secondary variety which occurs on stamp 72(A) of pane 4.

L100 B of BELGIE blind at top (common)

All stamps with this variety occur on pane 4. In addition, numerous other stamps on this pane also have a very small colour spot at the top of B of BELGIE. The only true L100 variety occurs in ten positions in the pane affecting all sub-types

The following Table summarises the occurrence of this variety. Note that the date shown only refers to that of the date cancel of used specimens. It is concluded that they are all printing varieties except where it occurs on stamps 59,66,74 and 79 where the variety is secondary.

Stamp No	Sub Type	Pane No	Description
8	A	4	Fully blind from 1922
33	C	4	Fully blind from 1923
43	E	4	Fully blind from 1923
59	E	4	All noted cases fully blind
66	F	4	All noted cases fully blind
73	D	4	Fully blind from 1922
74	E	4	All noted cases fully blind
75	A	4	Fully blind from 1922
79	F	4	All noted cases fully blind
95	B	4	Fully blind from 1920

L107 GIE of BELGIE and surround generally mutilated

No stamp possessing this feature has been found. It has been observed that it refers to an approximately similar variety which is seen on stamp 94 of pane M of the 15c Die II.

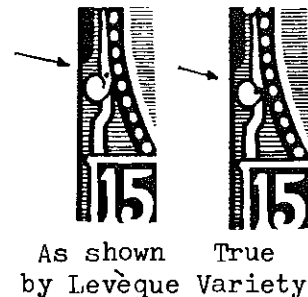
It is believed that Leveque worked with single stamps and it is therefore not unlikely that the latter Die II stamp might have been included Die I group by mistake.

L108 Top right of 2nd E of BELGIE extended downwards

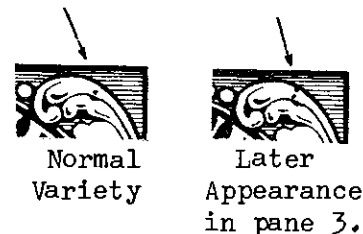
This variety has not been observed by the author. However, it has been reported by Ysebaert (Ref 6) that it occurs on stamp 12(F) of pane 1. An example was sent to the author but the variety under discussion was not observed.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)L204      Colour spot bottom of left final ornament level with 6th left pearl (Stamp 79(F) of pane 3)

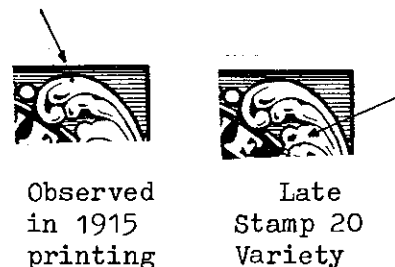
The variety shown by Levèque has not been observed. Instead, numerous examples of a colour spot (or colour cut) to the right side of the ball of the last left ornament were noted. It is assumed that this is the true Levèque variety and that the colour spot shown in Levèque's catalogue is incorrectly depicted.

L252      Colour spot top of 1st right leaf (Stamp 43(E) of panes 2 and 3)

This colour spot is much smaller and lower than that of L251. It is also a primary variety to panes 2 and 3 which is observed to change to a double spot on used stamps of pane 3 with a date cancel of 1921 or later.

L253      Three colour spots colinear in 1st, 2nd and 3rd right leaves

A single colour spot in the top of the 1st right leaf is observed in stamp 9(B) of pane 1 of the 1915 printing. It does not appear to be part of L253. On the other hand, De Backere reports a larger spot top of the 3rd right leaf on stamp 20(B) of pane 4 which has been confirmed by the author in used stamps with date cancels from 1921. However, it is not part of L253 either.

L254      Second right leaf with colour cut level with top of volute (not true variety)

This is reported by de Haene as occurring in stamp 10(C) in pane position II. It was observed in one stamp 10(C) specimen of pane 2. It is concluded that it is an ephemeral variety which occurs in that position when overinked. It is also occasionally seen in stamps 83(C), 85(E) and 92(F).

L256      Thinning of right volute near lower spur

The variety as depicted by Levèque has not been seen. However, stamp 19(A) of pane 1 does show a very slight indentation in that position of the volute in a few cases.

L301      White spur pointing downwards to right frame left shield

This variety has been reported by de Haene as occurring in stamp 69(D) in pane position IV in 1919 but has not been observed at all by the author. However, it has been noticed that it bears a remarkable resemblance to the primary variety L321 of stamp 69 which occurs in all panes of the 15c Die II. Apart from this coincidence in stamp number (ie 69), there is

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

L301 the further coincidence that de Haene assigns the same number  
(contd) (ie H3) to this variety in the Die I and Die II stamps.

It is therefore strongly suspected that the error arose with de Haene and was perpetuated by Levêque when he transcribed the variety description within the Die I group.

L304 Ball of left 5 forms a spiral

Two apparent examples of this variety were noted on used stamps, one on stamp 44(F) of pane 1 and the other on stamp 68(C) of pane 4. Although the latter is perhaps slightly clearer, both cases are ambiguous in so far as the variety appears as a result of the fortuitous superposition of the cancel.

De Haene's claim that it occurs on stamp 52(D) has not been substantiated. De Backere's statement that it occurs on stamp 57(D) of pane 2 cannot be confirmed either. Ysebaert provided a specimen of stamp 36(B) of pane 4 where the apparent spiral looked as though it was also caused by the superposition of the cancel.

It is concluded that L304 does not exist.

L307 Left C joined to left of bottom frame of left shield

This variety is easily confused with ephemeral joins sometimes diffuse which have been observed in the following stamps from pane 2.

Stamp 17(E) noted in 1922

Stamp 72(A) noted in a pane DEPOT 1920

Stamp 99(D)

A very clear and genuine example of this variety with date cancel 1922 has been supplied by Ysebaert (Ref 6). It is a printing variety which occurs in stamp 36(B) of pane 4.

L312 Top arm of left C extended downwards (Generic to sub-type F)

This feature is generic to sub-type F stamps which occur in position 1,7,12,18,27,34,39,41,44,50,66,70,79,86 and 92 of all four panes of the 15c Die I. The only exceptions are stamps 27,44 and 50 of panes 1,2 and 3 where the extension is either absent or is replaced by a small white spot. The following summarises the essential features of the left C in these three stamps

Pane	S27	S44	S50
1	point	point	spot
2	spot	short	short
3	spot	spot	short
4	normal	normal	normal

where

'point' refers to a pointed extension

'spot' refers to a white dot replacing extension

'short' refers to a normal C without extension

'normal' refers to the usual sub-type F extension of L312

Levêque also states that L312 occurs with a white spot right of the 3rd left leaf (ie L205). This latter variety occurs on stamp 27(F) of pane 4.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)L311 Break in bottom frame of left shield + white spot in bottom left corner

These features have not been observed on the 15c Die I stamps.

However, it should be noted that Levêque does include a pair of almost identical varieties, which he denotes L335, in his 15c Die II listing. These are conspicuous primary varieties and have been observed by the author on stamp 23 of all panes of the Die II.

The conclusion is inescapable - variety L311 reported for the 15c Die I does not exist.

L351 White spur to right frame of right shield

This variety has been reported by de Haene as occurring from 1915 in stamp 17(E) in pane position IV. Levêque also records it as variety L351 in his catalogue but, to the author's knowledge, no such example has been found or reported by any other author.

However, it has been noticed that an identical variety does in fact occur on stamp 63 of pane M of the 15c Die II. It would therefore appear that this variety does not exist on the 15c Die I and that the above claims represent another case of an error being perpetuated.

L353 Vertical bar of right '5' oblique (Generic to Sub-Type E)

De Haene reports this variety as occurring on sixteen stamps of all four panes from the onset of printing in 1915. These are the sub-type E stamps described by A.G. Wood in Ref 1.

L355 Right C shaped like an 'O' (Stamp 93(A) of pane 2)

The right C of stamp 93(A) of pane 2 normally has its upper arm extended like the left C of sub-type F. This constant variety has not been recorded by any other author.

One example of this stamp has been observed with this right C fully closed. It occurs on a used stamp 93(A) of pane 2. However, other used stamps in this pane position with date cancels 1920, 1921 and 1922 do not show this variety which is therefore deemed to be ephemeral.

<p>This article will be concluded in Vol. 6 No. 1 of BELGAPOST due in Feb/Mar 1993</p>
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