

# ***BELGAPOST***

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MARCH, 1993

The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle



1893 – 1993

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Founded 1947

To Promote the Study of the Postal History and Stamps of Belgium

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Belgian Study Circle****C O N T E N T S**

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MARCH, 1993



## EDITORIAL

This year, we have the centenary of the "Fine Barbe" issue of stamps, shown on our front cover, and which is a fascinating issue to study.

In this issue, we have the second part of Peter Russell's good work on the 1915 issue and some more interesting postal history subjects. Shortly will come the "Chamfered Rectangular Cancellations of the Belgian Railway Parcel Post" compiled by Norman Clayton and Peter Robinson.

Your Editor would welcome more articles on stamps such as the 1915 issue to try to balance the postal history items of which we have plenty on the stocks.

Following the great success of our last auction, you will find the catalogue for the next auction on 24th April (the same day as our AGM). Do come if you can (for both).

## Answer to a Vol.4 Question

Following a question on Page 28, Vol.4, No.1, George Hollings has been able to give the answer:

The 1½c + name of office (Enschede in this case) in a triangle, is found on newspapers and stationery (printed matter) items. The mark is usually struck in blue.

It is a Dutch mark Tax payable by addressee for printed matter sent unsealed (e.g. under wrapper) from April, 1844. It is similar to Belgian "Timbre à l'extraordinaire".

In 1844 4c per 40gr. or part.  
1½c for 1 sheet measuring 16 Dutch palms.  
3. for 25 sheets measuring 25 Dutch palms.  
4c. for 50 sheets measuring 50 Dutch palms.  
1½c. when prepaid.

In 1864 Applicable to Belgian traffic only.

Refs. Balasse Magazine.

O. M. Vellinga, "De Poststempels Nederlands", pages 176/177.

Now a further question - What is a Dutch Palm?

SECRETARY'S NOTES

1993 looks as if we will be having a busy year with our normal meetings, a trip to Belgium for the Centenary of the 1893 Issue, and our meeting at Weston-super-Mare in August. August is not a suitable month for our friends in the Congo Circle, also they wish to concentrate on 1994 which sees the Centenary of the Mols Issue.

Balasse Magazine - an Index to Nos. 1 to 283

Members who have this Index may find it useful to make the following additions which will extend the coverage to No. 289, which is the last number of this magazine.

- Page 4    Emm "Petit Lions"  
          Nos. 22 & 23    1C, Gris, Authentique et Faux  
  R. Vervisch                    285/104
- Page 8    Etude de la Planche II de 1851 sur le  
          Medaillon    20c. bleu            Add 284/51
- Page 10   La Telegraphie Privee des Bateliers  
          Add 284/42, 285/100, 286/144, 287/192, 288/242, 289/298
- Page 12   Congo  
          Les varieties du 5c Mols 1915  
          Add 284/48, 285/109/, 286/152, 287/198, 288/246, 289/308.

I do subscribe to a number of Belgian periodicals on behalf of the Circle so I may be able to assist members with queries.

The Circle is a member of the Waterlow Study Circle which has now found a new Chairman and Secretary so, if anyone wishes to attend the next meeting on 26th June at the British Philatelic Centre, will they please let me know.

A. G. WOOD

B.S.C. SUMMER MEETING 14th/15th AUGUST, 1993

The combined meeting of the two Circles is fixed for the above dates and is centred at the Grand Atlantic Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare. Our Circle's involvement is being handled by Tony Geake and he promises a good programme whilst also including the opportunity to attend the Bristol Federation's Annual Convention at Portishead. Advance notification has already been circulated to some members, e.g. those who have attended recent summer meetings, new members, etc. Other members who are interested, even if for day sessions, can still contact Tony Geake (tel. 03643-219) as soon as possible. We are hoping for a good attendance, especially from members living in the West Country region. The programme is planned to include "Railway Stamps and Cancellations", "Postal History 1500-1700" and "World War I". Probably also the "1893 Sunday Label Issue". Other topic suggestions are still welcome. Please come and give your support and contribution to this interesting event. Don't forget, wives and partners are also very welcome.

Cost will be £47.00 per head per night for dinner, bed and breakfast, with a small day charge to cover hire of the meeting room, etc.

TREASURER'S NOTES

As detailed in my last notes, all the transactions from the Auction held on 3rd October, 1992 have now been cleared. It is hoped that the mutual benefits to both vendor and buyer are appreciated, especially if they lead to the furtherance of our chosen study and knowledge.

Unfortunately, there are still outstanding subscriptions from a small number of members who do not respond to reminders but these are slowly being settled. On the other hand, I am pleased to report a new member who is listed elsewhere in this issue.

Enclosed separately with this issue is the list for the Auction which will be held on 24th April, 1993 and all bids should be returned to Geoffrey Wood by 22nd April.

MEETING OF DECEMBER, 1992 - REGENT'S COLLEGE

The morning session was led by Tony Geake on the subject of "Railway Postmarks up to 1900". A copy of his introductory notes is included elsewhere in this issue but it is interesting to note the wide extent to which this area of collecting is shared amongst members of the Circle. This will be reflected in the programme of the Summer Meeting to be held in the West Country on 14th/15th August, 1993 - further details have been circulated but are also repeated in this issue.

During the afternoon, we returned to the topic of "Forgeries of Belgium", ably led by Geoffrey Wood but with numerous contributions from other members present. The "protection" of members from dangerous forgeries was, I understand, one of the reasons for the creation of the Belgian Study Circle (and probably other philatelic societies) and, even today, expert help from other members can save money and embarrassment! Wearing my Treasurer's hat - avoidance of a forgery purchase can pay for many years BSC subscriptions!

Attention was drawn to the wide range covered by this display:

- a) Forgeries of stamps - often early expensive issues.
- b) Falsification of overprints - probably the most dangerous, especially if the overprint changes a cheap stamp into a rarity.
- c) Falsification of other markings e.g. Specimen, Marginal Depot Marks.
- d) Bogus issues and reprints - dangerous if done from the original printing plates.

As most members will know from various publications on this topic - a wide cross section of our hobby is affected, including all types of postage and railway stamps.

Separate sections were shown on the 1914 Merode Red Cross issue and also the 1915 Railway Parcel "Winged Wheel" overprints on the Pellens issue. The latter are important because although they may be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity (bearing, incidentally, a duplicated signature), the original "Winged Wheel" overprint dies are held by the same person.

In summary, an interesting display which provokes much serious thought and our thanks to Geoffrey for his methodical leadership.

R. T. HARRISON

MEETING OF 23rd JANUARY, 1993 - REGENT'S COLLEGE, LONDON

Twelve members were present for the first meeting in 1993. Reg Harrison opened proceedings with a display of the Postal History of the Province of Luxemburg (Dept.98). A full description of his display will appear in a later number of Belgapost. Reg stressed the difficulty of finding material from this province, even modern material. Jack Andrews brought along seven pre-stamp covers; all he had for Luxemburg. George Hollings brought along a lot of material including Relais marks and Waybills bearing postal cancellations. It was interesting to note that in some of these, dated 1971 onward passing through Bruxelles, the date and a code were perforated through the document so that the stamp would be perforated; a case of a 'Perfin' that is not a 'Perfin'. Tony Geake promised to investigate further.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, George Hollings was not able to show us his classics: we are still looking forward to seeing them. Luckily, Reg Harrison stepped into the breach and showed a collection of the Epaulettes and Medallions. It was interesting to see such a straightforward, partially specialised collection, even though covers were scarce. Those included were of very good quality.

Thank you, Reg, for a most enjoyable day.

A. G. WOOD

"INFOPHILA CLUB" - TWINNING, APRIL 1993

As mentioned in the last edition (p.5), a special exhibition to celebrate the Centenary of the 1893 Sunday Label stamps will be held by the above Club at Ivoz-Ramet on 3rd/4th April, 1993.

This Club has invited the Belgian Study Circle to become "twinned" with them and the date of 3rd April has been agreed for a twinning ceremony to be held. The Club is ably led by Marcel Deneumostier and any member who is interested in attending should contact Geoffrey Wood as soon as possible.

MEMBER NEWS

Glen Mawdesley is taking a job in Cairo so please alter his address to:  
C/o W. T. Mawdesley, 53 Park Avenue,  
Euxton, Nr. Chorley, Lancs. PR7 6IO.

Eileen Loader - new address:  
April Cottage, South Park,  
Gerards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8HH.

NEW MEMBERS - The Circle extends a welcome to the following:

J-C Ysebaert - Bruxelles General

D. Bond - Blackpool General

G. Jorquera - Eupen, Belgium 1869 10 cent in all its aspects.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available in limited quantities on a first come, first served basis:

BELGAPOST

Vol.1	Bound	1981-1982	£5.50
	Vol.1 No.1		£1.50
	No.2		£1.50
	No.3/4		£4.50
Vol.2	Bound	1985-1988	£6.50
	Vol.2 No.1		£2.50
	No.2		£2.50
	No.3		£2.50

THE MAIL FROM 'OUR COUNTRY' TO AND ACROSS FRANCE

C. Delbeke      1982      23pp      £3.00

BELGIUM 1865 10 CENT

J. Lenaerts      1982      10pp      £1.50

(Note - the above 2 publications are included in Belgapost Vol.1)  
Nos.3/4

BALASSE MAGAZINE - AN INDEX No.1-283

J. B. Horne      1986      12pp      £2.00

BELGIAN PHILATELY - THE LITERATURE LIST

J. B. Horne      1986      20pp      £3.50

THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF BELGIUM 1914-1918

R. T. Harrison      1986      69pp      £6.00

KOOPMAN - BAR CANCELLATIONS

Translation of Introduction - A. De Lisle      20p

KOOPMAN - THE 'DEPOTS' AND 'DEPOTS-RELAIS' CANCELLATIONS

Translation of Introduction - A. De Lisle      20p

There is also a range of Balasse Magazines for sale at 75p a copy or £4.00 for six.

+ Postage and packing where applicable.

Members should contact Geoffrey Wood, either by telephone or letter. Cheques should be made payable to "Belgian Study Circle".

CATALOGUE NOTE

Whilst listing lots for the next Auction, I have noticed that the latest Catalogue Officiel does not include a lot of varieties, etc. which were listed in the earlier editions. Therefore it is well worth keeping or obtaining one of the earlier catalogues for reference purposes.

A. G. WOOD



An Update of Published Works for the 15c Die I

(Concluding Part)

By P.D.D. Russell

The first part of the study of the varieties of the 15c Die I appeared in Volume 5 Number 3 of BELGAPOST. The present article concludes this study. An attempt was made to deal with all points of interest in the text of Part I. However, some details were either omitted or not dealt with in sufficient detail. These various topics are now considered in greater detail in the preamble to this concluding article.

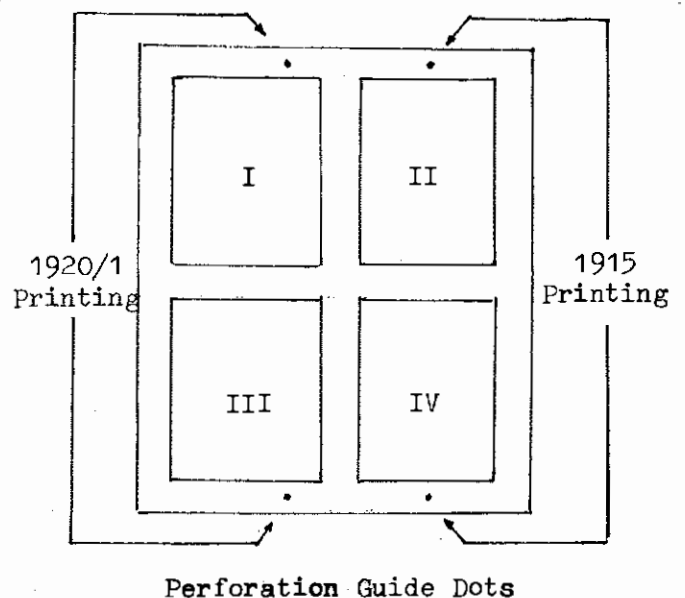
A. Perforation Guide Dots.

The 15c Die I was printed in sheets of 400 using four panes of 100 stamps each. For reference purposes the pane positions are numbered in Roman numerals I,II,III and IV as shown below. The presence or absence of perforations in the borders of the panes enables the position of the panes in the printing base to be established. Variations in the colour, gum, paper and plate markings are also useful guides which were employed in the compilation of the Table of page 29 of Part I. The reader is referred to Ref. 1 for further details concerning these essential features.

Attention is now drawn to the perforation guide dots which appear in the top and bottom margins of the sheet. These are small colour spots with an associated single perforation of the paper. Their importance lies in the fact that they are observed in the same marginal position in sheets of the same printing.

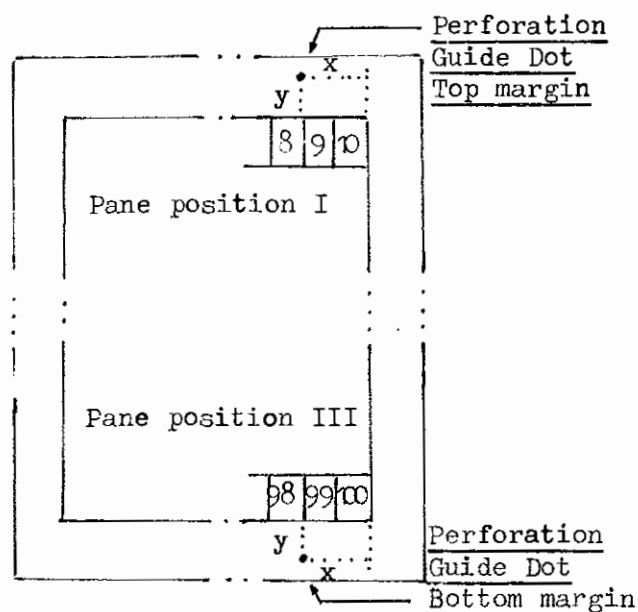
These perforation guide dots are found in the top margin of pane position II and the bottom margin of pane position IV in the case of the 1915 printing. Later, they appear in the top margin of pane position I and the bottom margin of pane position III. The exact position of the guide dot is given by its (x,y) coordinates which define the distances of the dots from the right main frame of stamps in column 10 of the pane and the distance of the dot from the top or bottom main frame in rows 1 or 10 of the pane.

The (x,y) coordinates for panes I and III are shown diagrammatically



in the adjoining sketch. These distances have been carefully measured on the panes and blocks of Table 9 in which they were observed. These include all panes 2, one pane 3 and one block of twenty stamps from pane 3. Perforation guide dots were not observed on the remaining items of the collection. The results of these measurements are summarised in the Table below.

Additional information provided by A.G. Wood on a number of panes which he had been able to study in the past is included as a second group in the same Table.



Pane Pos <sup>n</sup>	Pane No	No of Stamps	DEPOT	Perforation Guide Dot			Description
				x	y	Position	
<u>Material studied by the author.</u>							
II	2	100	1915	94.6	7.5	Over left of 6th stamp in top margin.	Yellow gum Sheet No 20877
III	2	100	-	40.0	9.8	Under 98th/99th stamps	Early 1920
I	2	100	1920	39.5	19.8	Over 8th/9th stamps in top margin	Late 1920
I	2	100	1920	39.6	19.9	Over 8th/9th stamps in top margin	Late 1920
III	3	100	-	41.8	14.7	Under 98th/99th stamps in bottom margin	Late 1920
III	3	20	-	41.2	15.1	Under 98th/99th stamps in bottom margin	Thought to be 1921 printing
<u>Provided by A.G. Wood</u>							
I	1	100	-	38.5	16.5	Over 8th/9th stamps in top margin	Thought to be early 1920 printing
II	2	100	1915	-	7.0	Above B of BELGIQUE of 6th stamp. Top margin	1915 printing
III	3	100	-	-	16.0	Under right corner of 98th stamp. Bottom margin	Thought to be from 1921 printing
IV	3	100	-	-	-	No guide dot	Early 1920 printing
II	4	100	-	-	-	No guide dot	Early 1920 printing

The above two panes 2 in position I have y-values of 19.8 mm and 19.9 mm respectively. These two panes are therefore from the same printing. On the other hand, the two panes 3 from position III have y-values of 14.7 mm and 15.1 mm

thus indicating that they are probably from different printings. The darker shade of the latter also supports this conclusion.

#### B. Date Cancels on Used Stamps

This work was initially based on the study of the mint stamps described in the first part of this article. Some reliance was later placed on the varieties observed in the author's collection of used stamps. A significant proportion of the latter have legible date cancels which are referred to in several places in the text and footnotes.

It should be emphasised that where such a date cancel is quoted it is not in general possible to infer the printing date. Such dates can only be deduced reliably from DEPOT marks or be inferred using the perforation guide dot evidence of the previous Section. The shade of the colour used in the printing can also be a good guide.

It is clear that there is no way of knowing the length of time that the printed sheets were held in storage before being placed on sale at Post Offices. The author has interpreted the date of such cancels as generally equivalent to the date of sale of the stamp. The limited way such date cancel information can be used is best illustrated by referring to the footnotes relevant to varieties L406a (p.17), L553 (p.18) and L656 (p.20) where a significant number of date cancels is thought to be helpful in certain cases.

#### C. De Haene's Work

It was stated in the first part of this article that the three authors, whose work is reviewed, based their studies on single stamps. This is true in the case of Kicken and Levêque but not true in the case of de Haene's articles in the 'Revue Postale'. This last author mentions that, in addition to sorting some 300.000 stamps of the King Albert Effigy (1c to 25c), he also examined a number of panes. The DEPOT marks of all these panes are fully listed in a Table on pages 16/17 of his 1928 article (Ref. 7).

Thus for the 15c Die I, de Haene examined panes with 1915 and 1920 DEPOT marks. These are the basis of the pane positions which he quotes for the 48 varieties out of a total of 55 which he lists in Ref. 8.

However, de Haene did not appreciate that a particular pane occupied different positions in the printing base in consecutive printings. For instance, he places his 47th variety (H47 = L104) on the 12th stamp which he noted on a pane in position I. This is a secondary variety which occurs on pane 2. This pane is

found in the printing base in position II (1915), in position III (early 1920) and in position I (late 1920 and 1921). It is therefore in this last position that de Haene observed his variety H47.

It is also worth mentioning that it was de Haene's pioneer work which led subsequent authors to deduce that it was the printing base make-up which varied from printing to printing.

#### D. Secondary Varieties.

Secondary varieties are indicated in Table 10 by means of the letter 'S'. These varieties were observed by the author on panes 1 and 2 and part of pane 3 from the 1915 printing. In the absence of such information the letter 'S' was omitted thereby leaving the status of the variety, whether secondary or printing, an open question.

The letters 'Pg' which were used to denote printing varieties, were also employed when referring to ephemeral varieties. Explicit mention of this type of variety was also made in the description and in the text.

Since the publication of the first part of this article, a photocopy of a pane 3 from the 1915 printing has been supplied by J. Deruyck, one of our members from Belgium (Ref. 9). A study of this copy has confirmed that the three Levêque varieties L204, L310 and L358 are secondary and that the conspicuous variety L352 is in fact a printing variety because it does not appear on this 1915 pane 3.

These four varieties should therefore be shown as follows in Table 10 of the first part of this article:-

L204	F	79	S(3)
L310	A	71	S(3)
L352	C	98	Pg(3)
L358	D	5	S(3)

#### E. Printing Base

It will be recalled that pane 1 was tentatively placed in position II in the 1921 printing base. It was recognised that the evidence given was weak because it was based on the assumption, which proved to be incorrect, that the state of the top main frame of stamps in row 1 was indicative of their position in the printing base.

Fortunately, a copy of stamp 1 with margins showing a DEPOT 1921 mark has been made available to the author (Ref. 9). Scrutiny of this stamp copy and of

the associated perforations has unambiguously confirmed that this stamp is from a pane 4 in position II. This firm evidence is therefore included in the revised printing bases shown below:-

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

This replaces the printing base diagrams shown in the text of Volume 5 No. 3 of BELGAPOST. Pending firm evidence, the positions III and IV of the 1921 printing base have deliberately been left blank.

#### 8. References (contd)

7. De Haene, A., 'Belgique - Emission de 1915'. Reprint of articles in 'La Revue Postale'. Published by M. Leclaire, 38 rue Moris, Bruxelles (1928).
8. De Haene, A., 'Belgique - Emission 1915 - Tome II'. Reprint of articles in 'La Revue Postale'. Published by M. Leclaire, 38 rue Moris, Bruxelles (1934).
9. Deruyck, J., Private communication (Jan 1993).



10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub-Type	Stamp Position	Pane Number
<u>MEDALLION PEARLS &amp; OVAL</u>						
L400	K55	H15	5th & 6th left pearls joined to each other and to oval Noted by de Haene in position IV & seen by him in 1915	F	70	S(1)
L400a	K55a	-	White oblique line cutting frame under 2nd E of BELGIE	F	70	S(1)
L401	K56	-	Colour break in oval level with 18th/19th left pearls.	-	-	-
L402	K57	H1b	Pearl under 1st E of BELGIQUE joined to oval.	D	99	P(1234)
		=	Reported (with L655) as 139V6 by Balasse.			
		H9	Seen by de Haene in conjunction with H1=L302 and H1a=L302a in position III only after 1915.	D	99	Pg(3)
			Occurs with dent right of bottom frame (L655).	D	99	Pg(1)
			Occurs with break under bottom left of left shield (L701).	D	99	Pg(4)
L403	K58	-	White spot under LG of BELGIQUE.	E	43	S(1)
L403a	K58a	-	Long vertical scratch from right shoulder touching hair & ending under 1st E of BELGIQUE (often faint)	E	43	Pg(1)
L403b	K58b	-	Small white spot top background under Q.	E	43	S(1)
L404	K59	-	Colour break in oval under G of BELGIQUE.	-	-	-
L405	K60	-	Two pearls under GI of BELGIQUE joined. Occurs with double impression of top frame (L603) which is common in first row.	A	2	4
L406	K61	H13	Pearl under UE double. Reported by de Haene on stamp 72 in position II in 1920.	A	72	4
L406a	K61a	-	1st E of BELGIE blind in top (See note p.17).			(common)
L407	K62	-	11th & 12th right pearls joined. Ephemeral variety seen on one example of 1920 printing.	A	93	Pg(4)
L408	K62a	-	10th right pearl deformed by white spur from ball of penultimate right ornament.	D	89	P(1234)
L409	K63	H41	Small white spur bottom right of tunic above 2nd E of BELGIE (Noted by de Haene in position IV. Also seen by him in 1915).	E	6	S(1)
L410	K64	H7	Small white spur bottom of tunic above GI of BELGIE (Much less conspicuous on pane 3).	A	45	P(1234)
L411	K65	-	Triangular colour spot to oval above G of BELGIE (Ephemeral variety seen on one used stamp only)	E	43	Pg(3)
L412	-	-	13th right pearl finely joined to bottom of right terminal.	A	19	S(2)
L413	-	-	White spot between left volute & B of BELGIQUE.	D	84	S(3)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levéque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub-Type	Stamp Position	Pane Number
<u>BACKGROUND</u>						
L500	K66	H16	Oblique scratch ( 3 mm in length) over right shoulder. Incorrectly reported by de Haene as occurring on all panes. A vertical extension of this scratch up to 21st pearl is often faintly visible.	A	40	S(1)
L501	K67	H16a	Variety L500 + two white spots to left background level with 13th/14th pearls with two others to forehead. Noted on used stamps with 1922 cancels. Noted by de Haene in position IV from 1920.	A	40	Pg(1)
L502	K68	-	Oblique scratch from 8th left pearl to right eye. From 1920 and often faint. Occurs with scratch on nose and cheek (L550). Variable and often not observed.	E	90	Pg(3)
L503	K69	H50	Colour streak (or smear) top background from under IQ of BELGIQUE through hair & forehead. Variable. (See note p.17 where variety is illustrated)	E	96	P(1234)
L504	K70	-	White spot top background by oval under QU. (See note p.17)	-	-	-
L505	K71	H48	Two white spots (with colour) right background between ear & 11th/12th pearls. Reported as variety 139V5 by Balasse. Seen on used stamps from Oct 1920.	B	55	Pg(1)
L505a	K71a	-	White spur top of 12th right pearl. Contemporary with onset of L505.	B	55	Pg(1)
L506	-	-	Oblique scratch from 8th left pearl through sash & part of tunic. Seen from late 1920 & often faint.	F	1	Pg(1)
L507	-	-	Vertical scratch left background from 3rd to 15th pearls. Seen from late 1920 on used stamps. Probable onset in 1915.	F	1	S(1)
<u>EFFIGY</u>						
L550	K72	H49	White scratch to nose & right cheek. Seen from late 1920. Not to be confused with white spot only on left side of nose on stamp 17(E) of pane 4. Occurs with scratch from 8th left pearl to eye (L502).	E	90	Pg(3)
L551	K73	H34	Oblique white scratch to left eye. Initial spot in 1915 then conspicuous in late 1920. Reported by de Haene in position II.	D	5	Pg(4)
L552	K74	H35	Vertical white scratch to left eye. Claims by de Haene seeing it on stamp 52(D) in position IV in 1915 and by de Backere on stamp 72(A) of pane 1 have not been substantiated.	-	-	-
L553	K75	H14	Colour spots on nose & temple. Recorded by de Haene for several stamps of row 1 in positions I and II and row 10 in position II from 1915. (See note p.17 & 18 where variety is illustrated).	(common)		

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

Levêque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub-Type	Stamp Position	Pane Number
<u>EFFIGY (contd)</u>						
L554	K76	H19	Oblique scratch to tunic ending near epaulette. Noted by de Haene in position II in 1920 & by de Backere on pane 4	D	69	4
L555	K76a	-	Oblique scratch under collar (higher than L554). Only seen on used stamps with cancels later than Jun 1922.	A	97	Pg(2)
L556	K77	H33a	Two white spots to tunic, one under collar, 2nd above second E of BELGIE. Incorrectly noted by de Haene on stamp 51(A) in position II from 1915.	D	23	S(1)
L556a	K77a	H33	Break in bottom frame under B of BELGIE. Incorrectly noted by de Haene on stamp 51(A) in position II from 1915.	D	23	S(1)
L557	-	-	Colour spot under left eye (See note p.18 for alternatives)	A	72	S(1)
L558	K75a	-	Large colour spot to forehead. First reported by Kicken. Variety ephemeral. (See note p.19 for illustration of alternatives).	F C	50 56	Pg(4) Pg(4)
<u>TOP FRAME</u>						
L600	K78	H36	Large white spot top left corner. Noted by de Haene in positions II and IV.	B	46	P(14)
L601	K79	H44	Top frame broken above B of BELGIQUE. Obscured when overinked. De Haene's statement that it occurs on all four panes is not substantiated.	F	7	Pg(1)
L602	K80	-	Top left corner open sometimes with colour spot inside Progressive variety.	B	36	S(3)
L603	K81	-	Double impression of top main frame. Occurs in row 1 of all panes. Temporary but probably recurrent feature of printing procedure. (See note p.19 for its occurrence).			(common)
L604	K82	-	Top right corner largely missing. Late printing flaw. Two specimens noted with colour spot inside. Similar flaw to top left corner of adjoining stamp 20(B) of pane 2, not recorded by Levêque, originates from the same cause.	A	19	Pg(2)
L605	-	-	Small white spot top left corner. Same origin as primary L600.	B	46	P(23)
L606	-	-	Dent to top frame above 1st right leaf.	A	35	S(4)
<u>BOTTOM FRAME</u>						
L650	K83	-	Colour spot (or spur) into margin below BE of BELGIE	A	87	S(1)
L651	K84	H52	Large double break in bottom frame under ELG of BELGIE. Noted on DEPOT 1920 pane & on used stamps from 1921.	E	96	Pg(2)

10. Table of Published Varieties (contd)

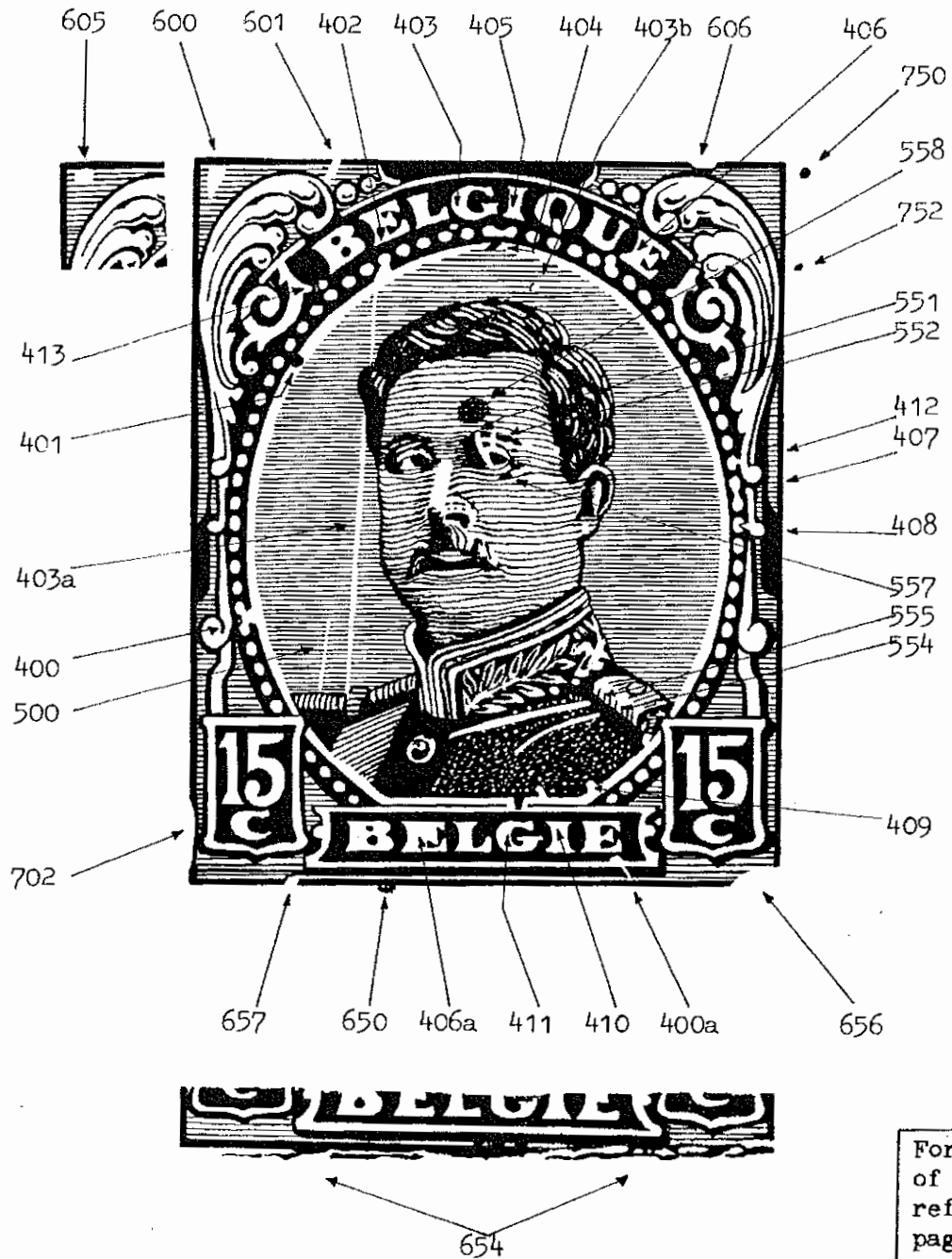
Leveque Number	Kicken Number	de Haene Number	Description of Varieties	Sub-Type	Stamp Position	Pane Number
<u>BOTTOM FRAME (contd)</u>						
L652	K85	H26	Break in bottom frame under 2nd E of BELGIE. Reported by de Haene in position IV.	D	25	S(1)
L653	K86	H54	Break in bottom frame under right of mid-shield.	A	97	Pg(2)
L654	K87	H29	Bottom main frame deformed from I of BELGIE to right corner. Damage continued into adjoining stamp 99(D) (L701). Both noted by de Haene in position II (1920).	C	98	Pg(4)
L654a	K87a	-	Small scratch top background under L of BELGIQUE	C	98	P(34)
L654b	K87b	-	8th left pearl joined to final left ornament	C	98	P(24)
L655	K88	-	Dent to bottom frame under right shield (with white surround). Reported by Balasse as 139V6. Occurs with pearl under 1st E of BELGIQUE joined to oval (L402)	D	99	Pg(1)
L656	K89	H40	Large break bottom right corner. Progressive variety from Oct 1920. (See note p.20 for alternative).	B	100	Pg(1)
L657	-	-	Double break to bottom frame under left of mid-shield. Only seen as single square break on used stamps with 1922 cancels. Occurs with colour cut in right central curl (L255).	D	69	Pg(3)
<u>LEFT FRAME</u>						
L700	K90	H55	Small break in left frame 2.5 mm from top corner. Less evident when overinked.	E	90	P(1234)
L701	K91	H42	Deep slit in left frame under left shield. Early printing variety which is continuation of L654 on adjoining stamp 98(C). Noted by de Haene in position II from 1920. Occurs with L402.	D	99	Pg(4)
L702	-	-	Long shallow dent left frame from ball of '5' to upper arm of 'C'.	A	71	S(1)
<u>RIGHT FRAME</u>						
L750	K92	-	Colour spot to right margin near top right corner.	D	52	S(2)
L751	K93	H38	White spot under right of right shield. Late printing variety seen after Dec 1920 on used stamps. De Haene's claim that it also occurs on stamp 22(C) in position II has not been substantiated.	C	88	Pg(2)
L752	-	-	Colour spot to right margin 3 mm from top corner. Not to confused with an ephemeral and less conspicuous spot a little higher on stamp 68(C) of pane 1 which occurred during the 1915 printing.	B	82	S(3)





1915 ISSUE

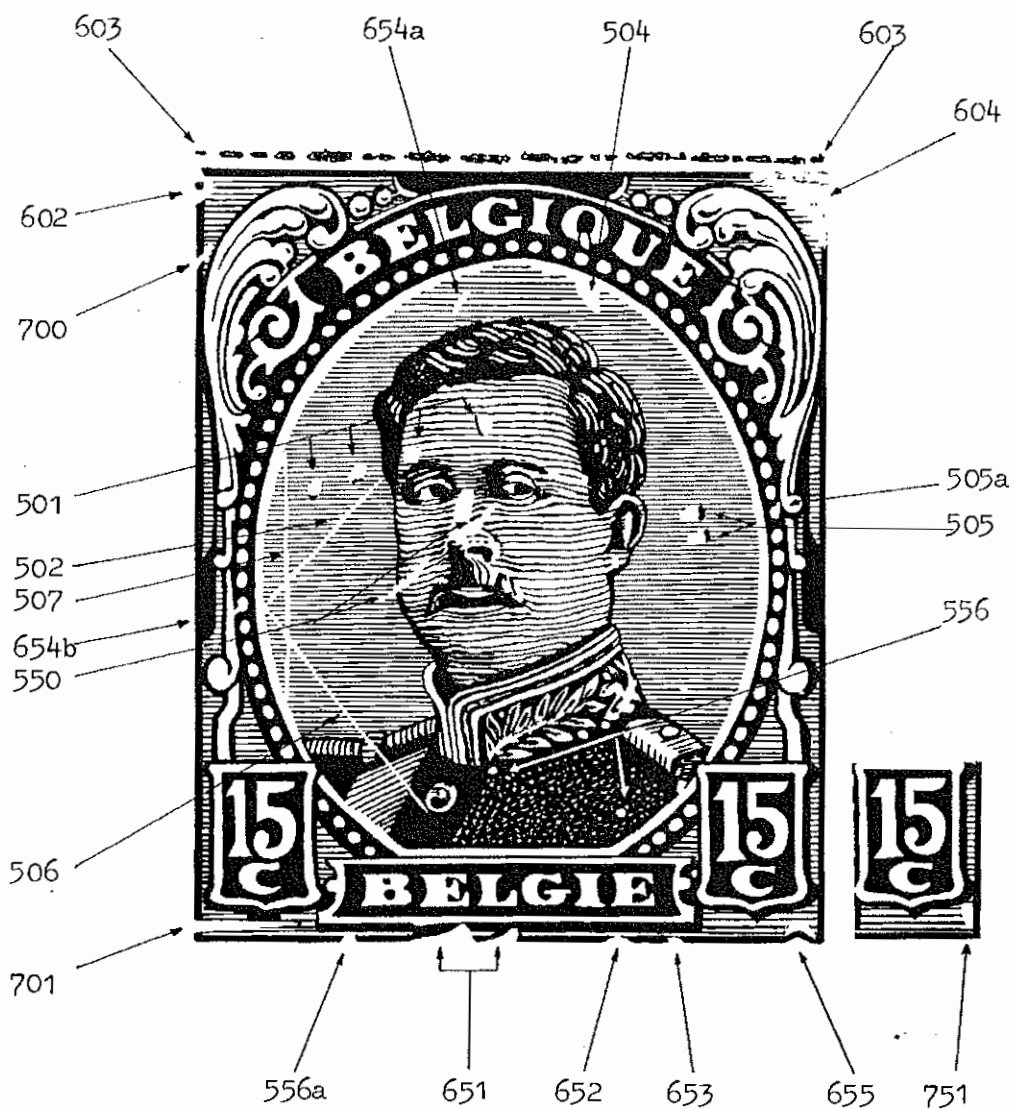
15CENTIMES - Type 1





1915 ISSUE

15 CENTIMES - Type I



For positions  
of varieties  
refer to Table  
pages 11 to 14



11. Footnotes to TabulationL406a First E of BELGIE blind at top (common to pane 4)

This variety is common and progressive in pane 4 where it has been noted on seventeen stamps of all sub-types except B. It has also been observed in the same positions on used stamps with the earliest date cancels as indicated in the list below:-

Position Sub-type	From	Position Sub-type	From	Position Sub-type	From
8(A)	Jan 1922	68(C)	Sep 1920	85(E)	Feb 1921
40(A)	Jul 1921	69(D)	Sep 1920	39(F)	-
51(A)	Mar 1921	73(D)	Sep 1920	41(F)	May 1923
72(A)	Sep 1920	77(D)	Jan 1922	50(F)	Oct 1920
75(A)	Sep 1920	17(E)	Jan 1922	79(F)	Feb 1921
63(C)	Sep 1920	43(E)	Mar 1923		

L503 Colour smear (or streak) to top background from under IQ through hair and forehead (primary variety of stamp 96(E)).

This variety has a different appearance on each pane. Thus in pane 1 the streak appears faintly in the top background. It is more noticeable in the hair and has a small colour notch at the top of the forehead.

In pane 2 the colour streak is wider and more conspicuous in the top background but less so through the hair.

In pane 3 the streak through the top background is more noticeable than in pane 1. In pane 4 the streak through the hair is conspicuous



Pane 1



Pane 2



Pane 3



Pane 4

sometimes with an extension down the forehead up to the left eye. The variety is variable and progressive. An attempt has therefore been made to depict its average appearance in the adjoining diagrams.

L504 White spot in top background by oval under QU of BELGIQUE

White spots in the top background have been observed as constant varieties on a number of stamps (eg 9(B) of panes 1 and 3 and 19(A) of pane 3). None of these is close to Levêque's description.

L553 Colour spots to nose temple and cheek (common)

This variety was first reported by de Haene who noted its occurrence in the first row of panes in positions I and II and in the 10th row of a pane in position II. The author further noted that it occurs to a lesser extent in two stamps of the second row of pane 4.

This variety which is confined to pane 4, is not strictly constant because the defects appear to be progressive on a number of stamps. Thus in the 1915 printing the defect does not appear at all in stamp 4 and is much less marked in stamp 6. A similar comparison cannot be made for the other



11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

L553 Colour spots to nose left temple and cheek (contd)

positions because of lack of material of this first printing.

In order to enable the reader to place stamps on which such defects occur, an attempt has been made to reproduce the flaws for the eleven stamps of pane 4.



L553(a)  
Stamp 1(F)



L553(b)  
Stamp 2(A)



L553(c)  
Stamp 3(B)



L553(d)  
Stamp 4(C)



L553(e)  
Stamp 6(E)



L553(f)  
Stamp 7(F)



L553(j)  
Stamp 9(B)



L553(g)  
Stamp 12(F)



L553(h)  
Stamp 14(B)



L553(k)  
Stamp 99(D)



L553(i)  
Stamp 100(B)

These diagrams were copied directly from the pane 4 studied by the author. It was noted that this pane is not overinked. A careful comparison of these defects with those which appear on the seventy used stamps in the author's collection indicate that the pane in question had suffered relatively greater usage. The following list identifies the date cancels of the stamps where the defects are most like those on the pane.

Stamp 4	Dec 1922	Stamp 9	Nov 1922
Stamp 6	Dec 1921	Stamp 14	Much later than
Stamp 7	Later than		Feb 1921
	Apr 1922	Stamp 99	May 1923

L557 Colour spot under left of left eye (common)

Levèque is the only author who reported this variety and, from his diagram, it is difficult to judge what he observed. There are of course the various colour spots which appear under the left eye on stamps 2(A), 4(C), 9(B) and 100(B) of pane 4. This common variety has been dealt with in the above footnote for L553.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)L557 Colour spot under left of left eye (contd)

Secondly, there is a variety which is observed on stamp 72(A) of pane 1. It appears as a double colour spot and, because it occurs on all printings, it is classified as a secondary variety.

Thirdly, there is the larger single colour spot which appears on stamp 100(B) of pane 1. It is also a secondary variety.

On the basis of some similarity in appearance, it is possible that Levèque might have been referring to the variety on stamp 72(A) of pane 1.

L558 Large colour spot at middle of forehead (ephemeral)

This Levèque variety, which is mentioned in the Catalogue Officiel, is also reported by Balasse as variety 139V2 on stamp 50(F) of the fourth pane of 1915. The latter also illustrates part of the stamp with flaw by giving a partial but true photo reproduction of the stamp. Although the position cannot be verified from Balasse's catalogue, there is no question that this is a genuine flaw. It is also obvious that it is ephemeral because no such variety is to be seen on this stamp either on the complete pane or on any used stamp.



L558  
Reported  
by Kicken  
Levèque &  
Balasse

Only one example of a similar variety has been observed on a used stamp from position 56(C) of pane 4. Here the colour spot which is surrounded by a white halo, is smaller and is displaced to the right of the forehead compared with Levèque's and Balasse's diagrams. This variety is also ephemeral as it does not occur on later printings. There is also a colour spot over the right eye and touching the hair which is ephemeral to stamp 57(D) of pane 4.



Stamp 56(C)



Stamp 57(D)

It should be noted that large colour spots are not uncommon on other parts of the stamp. These are mainly observed in the background of stamps 80(A) and 89(D) of pane 1 and on stamps 47(C) and 41 (F) of pane 4. These are all constant printing varieties, the last one for position 41(F), was first observed on a used stamp with a 1923 date cancel. None of these have been reported by Levèque.

L603 Double impression to top main frame (common)

This variety is mentioned by both Kicken and Levèque but not by de Haene. It is a common variety observed on a number of used stamps from the first row of panes 1,3 and 4 and to a lesser extent of pane 2.

It was conjectured in the first part of this article that this variety occurred in row 1 when the pane in question was in position I or II of the printing base and it was then deduced that this conjecture was incorrect. The evidence is now examined in greater detail.

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)L603 Double impression to top main frame (contd)

A total of 25 examples of the variety were noted on used stamps. It was also observed on mint blocks and panes on stamps 1,2,3 of pane 1, on stamps 5,6 of pane 2 and on stamps 3,6,8,9,10 of pane 3.

The incidence of the variety on all stamps (mint and used) is best visualised from the following Table which gives the number of examples in the author's collection for each position of row 1 of the four panes.

Pane Number	Number of Stamps with Variety in Row 1									
	Stamp Position									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	4	2		1				2	
2					1	1				
3			1	1		1	1	2	1	3
4	2	1		2	2	2	4	1	1	

Although the variety has not been observed in some positions of row 1 in particular panes, it is almost certain that it exists on every stamp position of the Table.

It is interesting to mention that where several examples are available for a particular stamp position of a given pane (eg stamp 7 of pane 4), the variety presents broadly an identical appearance on each example. Were it not for the existence of alternative constant pane and stamp identifiers it would in theory be possible to place the row 1 stamps from a study of this variety.

In conclusion it can be said that

- (i) The variety occurs mainly in panes 1,3,4.
- (ii) It can occur when the pane is in any position in the printing base.
- (iii) It appears faintly in 1920 and more markedly later.
- (iv) It is probably a 'temporary' but recurrent flaw.
- (v) Its detailed appearance is broadly constant during the period of occurrence.
- (vi) It is the result of some unknown feature of the printing procedure.

L656 Large break in bottom right corner of stamp (Stamp 100 of pane 1)

De Haene first reported such a variety in his 1934 article in 'La Revue Postale'. He depicted it as an elongated cut-away with a break along the bottom main frame about twice as long as that along the right main frame. He stated that it occurred on stamp 100 in pane position IV (ie in pane 1 printed late 1920 or later). Subsequently both Kicken and Levèque reported an identical variety.



Depicted by  
de Haene,  
Kicken and  
Levèque

11. Footnotes to Tabulation (contd)

L656 Large break in bottom right corner of stamp (Stamp 100 of pane 1)

Observed on stamp 100 of pane 1

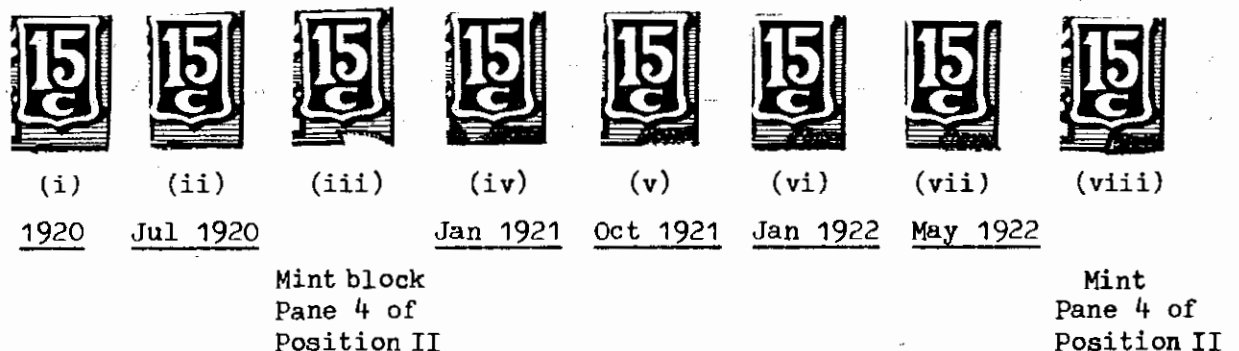
The author confirms the occurrence of a variety similar to that described above on several used stamps of position 100 from pane 1. However, the break observed has a smaller cut-away along the bottom main frame. The observed defect is clearly progressive and is illustrated below. The chosen order is somewhat tentative. The three available stamps with date cancels are shown with these dates underlined in the diagrams. These suggest that some sort of crude repair was made late in the printing which gave the corner a pointed appearance. There is also evidence that the repair deteriorated later.



The occurrence of the variety on mint blocks is also indicated in (i) & (vii)

Observed on stamp 93 of pane 4

An alternative variety involving an elongated break was also observed on stamp 93 of a mint block from pane 4 in position II. It is a printing variety which has been observed on used stamps as a large colour infill in the same position from Jan 1921 to May 1922 (underlined).



The occurrence of the variety in mint block or pane is indicated in (iii) and (viii) above.

It seems reasonable to assume that the clean break of (iii) is the first stage of the defect and that the remaining illustrations depict various stages of the stamp with the crude infill repair.

Placing of Levèque variety L656

It was assumed that de Haene was correct in identifying the variety as occurring on stamp 100. This has therefore been selected for L656 in the tabulation of varieties on p.14.

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE - 12 DECEMBER 1992

BELGIAN RAILWAY PARCEL POST CANCELLATIONS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

By the time the first railway parcel post stamps were issued on 1 May 1879, the Belgian railway network was fully developed. New cancellers in a distinctive hexagonal shape were issued at the same time, and these started to be replaced in the 1890's by large rectangular cancellers.

Given this basic information, it would be expected that a study of the cancellations would be a very straightforward matter. In the event, a number of factors conspired to make the study considerably more complex :

1. Either the new cancellers were not all ready on 1 May 1879, or officials were reluctant to change from those hand-stamps used previously on documents, so in early years many stamps are found cancelled with pre-stamp hand-stamps.
2. Many routes were still being run by private railway companies, which introduced cancellers of their own for stations on their routes. These cancellers took a variety of forms, and are usually very different from those used by the state lines. The private lines also continued to use hand-stamps from the pre-stamp period.
3. Post offices, telegraph offices and railway parcel offices were authorised to transact business of all three classes.
4. Bruxelles and Anvers, the two largest cities, used non-standard cancellers, as well as the normal state line hexagons.
5. Stations on private lines often used blue ink for cancelling stamps, not only for the private line cancellers, but for telegraph (octagonal) cancellers also, and, where the station served both private and state lines, for state line cancellers.

The way stamps were used had a number of effects - some favourable, some unfavourable - on their subsequent philatelic interest. Stamps prepaid carriage on the parcel, but were not affixed to the parcel itself; instead they were stuck on a way-bill and cancelled at the office (post, telegraph or railway) at which the parcel was handed in. The way-bill also received the hand-stamp of the destination office (and sometimes transit offices also).

When the addressee received the parcel the way-bill was returned to the railway authorities, except if the parcel was for a destination outside Belgium. It was a constant worry to the authorities that the stamps would be cleaned for fraudulent re-use.

Instructions were issued that stamps were to be punctured with pinholes, and that way-bills should be torn so that a corner of each stamp was severed. This practice continued, though fortunately it was not always carried out, until the introduction of the large rectangular cancellers, which effectively covered the whole of the stamp in a non-removable ink.

It was soon realised that there was a market for the used stamps, so the used way-bills which had been stored by the authorities were sold in bulk to stamp dealers. It is likely that supply exceeded demand and surpluses were probably destroyed.

The consequences were :

- (a) A high proportion of the stamps used came into the hands of stamp collectors.
- (b) Many were thrown away because of their poor condition.
- (c) Those which survived were often in a damaged state (but reflecting the way they were supposed to have been used).
- (d) Some dates are more difficult to find than others - co-incidentally these correspond with the periods when new cancellers were introduced (1879 - hexagons; mid 1890's - rectangles; 1908 chamfered rectangles).

The study can be divided into the following sections : -

- 1. Pre-stamp period cancellers of state lines. (Still in use in some stations in 1890).
- 2. Hexagons used on state lines. (Originally the time of posting was based on 12 hour clock; later on 24 hour clock. Use in some offices continued up to 1914, and in others they were re-introduced as an emergency in 1919).
- 3. Rectangles. (The top line showed the station name, the second line the date and time and the third line was used in a variety of ways).
- 4. Postal cancels (including relais) - almost always used in post offices of places not on railway lines.
- 5. Telegraph cancels (these are mainly from smaller stations and are virtually never found from large cities).
- 6. Railway cancels on post and telegraph stamps (these originated mainly from express letters posted at railway offices).
- 7. Bruxelles and Anvers cancels (including state line types).
- 8. Private line cancels (a very wide variety from a dozen different private railway companies).
- 9. Coloured cancellations, other than those of private lines.

A. D. GEAKE

WANTED

PALAIS DE BELLE VUE - BRUXELLES

Any postcards, pictures or history of the above building which was originally a palace and suffered damage during the early days of Independent Belgium. It was later converted into a hotel, which was listed as the premier hotel in Brussels and saw many famous visitors, especially from the theatrical profession. More recently, it has become a museum.

Any member who has any item of interest, including references to the hotel by its visitors, could you please let me know.

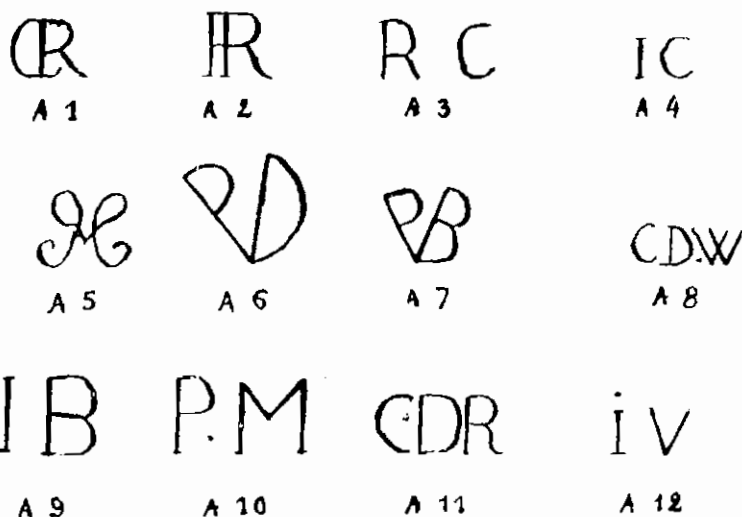
R. T. HARRISON

THE COMMUNAL MESSENGERS

by S. J. Andrews, FRPS, L. Hon. FSPH

Many years ago, Col. L. P. Herlant found a number of letters which appeared to have some impressed (and un-inked or albino) initials - one, two or three - on the face of the letters. Not knowing what they were, he wrote to "Balasse Magazine" to ask if anyone who had come across such items. He received no suggestions and he therefore wrote individually to a number of well-known postal historians in various countries, including a number in this country. Again, no help came. He then gave his own finding in "Balasse Magazine" No.226-227 June-September, 1976. He named them "Marques de Courriers ou de Messagers".

Herlant referred to a number of marks shown in P. C. Korteweg's work "300 Jaar Postmerken van Nederland 1570-1870". These marks seemed to be somewhat different to those he was seeking. He also mentioned his marks in his own works, illustrating three of them in his Antwerp section, "Les Marques Postales de la Province d'Anvers", 1967. Also, he had found others emanating from Brussels, Ghent and Ostend. All these marks found and the details are given here.



A1	CER	11x8mm	1660	5 Mar.	Ghent to Paris	Black on reverse
	CER		1664	31 Oct.	Paris to Ghent	" " "
	CER		1660	16 Nov.	Bordeaux to Ghent	" " "
A2	HR	10x8	1660	18 Mar.	Ghent to Paris	" " "
	HR		1666	1 Nov.	Ghent to Paris	" " "
	HR		1666	26 Oct.	La Rochelle to Ghent	Black on front
A3	RC	13x8	1676	3 Mar.	Saint Omer to Ghent	Albino on front
A4	IC	5x8	1675	12 June	Furnes to Tournay	" " "
A5	as	14x11	1694	12 Mar.	Ostend to Ghent	" " reverse
	illustration				+ A6 PVD + 1111	Brown Crayon
A6	PVD	14x15	1694	21 Oct.	Brussels to Nieuport	Albino on reverse
					+ Manuscript Van Damme + 111	Brown Crayon
A7	PVB	10x10	1692	8 Apr.	Brussels to Bruges	Albino on front
					+ 111 Brown Crayon	
A8	CDW	14x4	1694	12 July	Middleburg to Ghent	Albino on front
A9	IB	13x10	1699	11 Apr.	Antwerp to Ghent	Albino on front
A10	PM	18x10	1697	7 Dec.	Antwerp to Ghent	Albino on front
A11	CDR	15x8	1700	10 Nov.	Ghent to Nieuport	Black on reverse
					+ VI Brown Crayon	
A12	IV	10x7	1702	1 Jan.	Antwerp to Ghent	Albino on front
					+ 1111 Brown Crayon	

Nothing more was heard of such letters until some four or five years ago a number of letters came from Belgium (most from a merchant's archive) and came on the market. Here are some that the author has been able to record. Again, there is as much information given as possible, such as dates, sizes and other marks on the letters. Most of the letters, if not all, are merchants' letters.

All Albino on front unless otherwise stated. Sizes shown in millimetres.

GHEENT TO ANTIWERP

G	1682	15 December	Crayon (see illustration)
IDL	1688	26 May	In manuscript (see illustration)
IDL 22x9	1688	6 August	1111 in crayon
IB 8x5	1693		Albino on reverse
IB	1694		
IB	1694		
IB 12x12	1694		
IB	1694	19 June	
C 4x4	1695		
IC 8.5x4.5	1695		
IC	1695		
IB	1695	25 Aug.	
IB 13x10	1695		
PB	1695		
IC	1696		
IB	1696		+ 111 Red Crayon
IB 12x12	1696	19 Apr.	(see illustration)
IB 12x12	1697	19 Jan.	
PB	1697		
PM	1698		
PM 18x10	1698		
IC 8.5x4.5	1698		
IC 8.5x4.5	1699		
FV? 9x11	1701		(see illustration)
G	1701	15 February	Albino + Crayon (see illustration)
IVL	1701	17 Oct.	
PB 13x11	1702		
IVL	1702	8 Aug.	
PB	1702	24 Dec.	
PB	1702		
IC 10x8	1702		
I	1702		
DV 12x6	1702		
P 5x10	1703		
CV 13x7	1703	(CV joined)	
CV 13x7	1703	13 Sept.	(see illustration)
IVL 17x8	1703		
IV	1703		
DV 12x6	1703	16 Feb.	
PB 14x10	1704	15 May	
PB 14x10	1704	15 June	(see illustration)
V	1704		
IDL			Cito, Cito, + XII crayon
AD 13x7	1707		

ANTIWERP TO GHEENT

PM 1697 on reverse



BRUGES TO ANTWERP

VB	1642		in manuscript
HB	1642		" "
DVL	1661		Albino in small circle and signed De Vleminckx
CB	interlaced	1702	16 Nov. Black on reverse
CB	"	1702	30 Nov. " " " (see illustration)
CB	"	1703	" " "

OSTEND TO ANTWERP.

M (ornamental)	1691		on reverse
CXC	1691		Albino on reverse
PB	1698		
PM	1698		
IC	10x8	1701	6 Oct.
C		1701	31 March

BRUSSELS TO GHENT

LVD	1666	14 Aug.
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OSTEND TO BRUSSELS

MZ	1686	
IB	1689	
VG	1706	Manuscript on reverse

GHENT TO MIDDLEBURG

GK	1661
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BRUGES TO BRUSSELS

PVD	1700
GDR	1700

LIERRE TO BRUSSELS

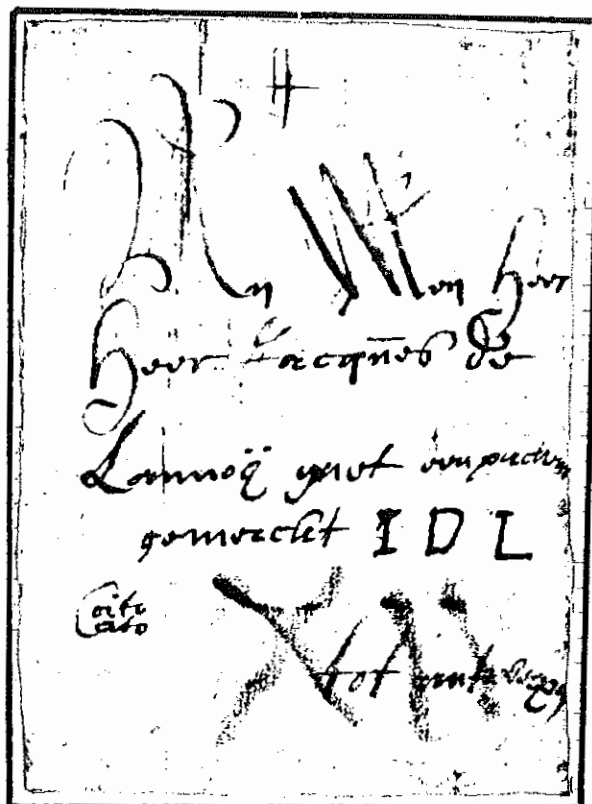
RD	1709
PG	1716

GHENT (LOCAL)

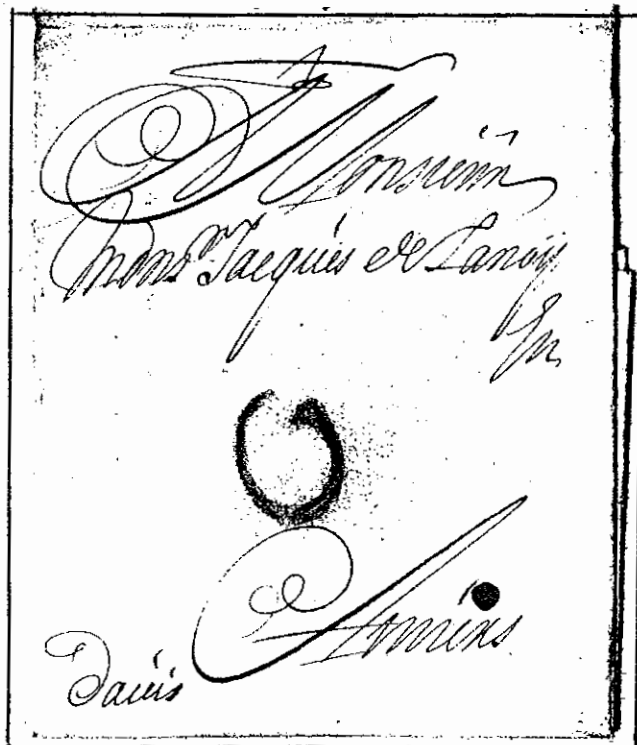
HR	1666	Manuscript on reverse
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Many of the letters do not show any postal rates, just a few showing "port" (post paid) or in Roman numerals in crayon. In spite of the "large" numbers of these recently found letters, it is difficult to assess Herlant's rating in his catalogue (top at 30) now that these numbers have been released. The rating of 30 is "rare". How many makes an item "rare"?

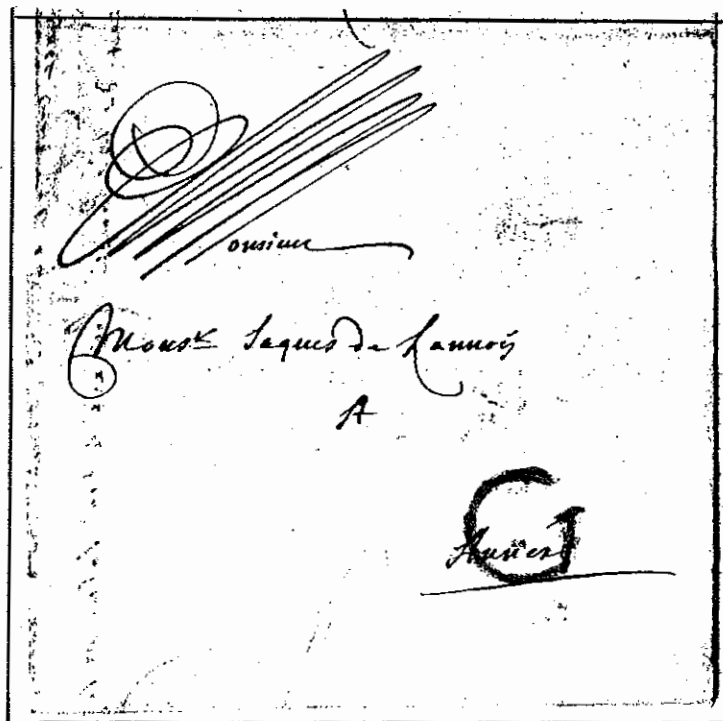
Obviously there must have been many, many such items over the numbers of years shown above. Without doubt, many of the letters would not have been kept unless inside an archive. Probably very few would have got into archives. Undoubtedly, in spite of the numbers shown, the letters can still be classed as "rare".



IDL from Ghent to Antwerp 26th May, 1688  
This is in manuscript (in ink).



G from Ghent to Antwerp  
15th December, 1682  
The "G" is in Brown Crayon only.  
The earliest of the new finds.



G from Ghent to Antwerp  
15th February, 1701  
The "G" is partially impressed  
(albino) overdrawn by the "G"  
in Brown Crayon.

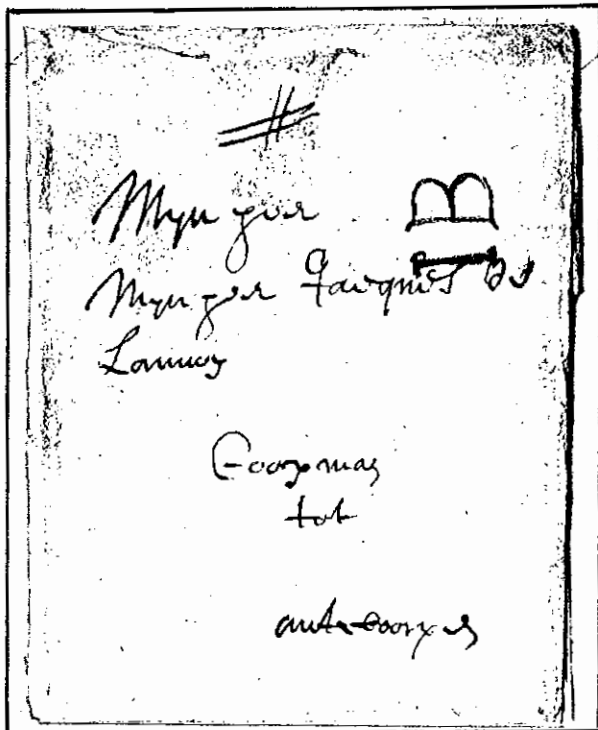
Over the years, some collectors have suggested that these marks were from the BUTCHERS POST. This service was in the Netherlands, a large part of present day Germany, Holland and Belgium. It came in time to be recognised by town governments and used for their despatches. Having an official recognition, the messengers had to submit to regulation and maintain their service. Letter carrying fitted naturally into the activities of butchers who travelled to distant markets and cattle fairs. To be admitted to the Butchers' Guild, it was necessary to own a horse, join the cavalry militia and take a turn at providing messenger service. However, the Emperor Rudolph II, gave an edict in 1597 suppressing the Butcher's Post and its posting houses were confiscated, together with their horses.

Herlant's article also gave reference to the handwritten names (usually in crayon). They are complex and need much more research and are not being dealt with in this article

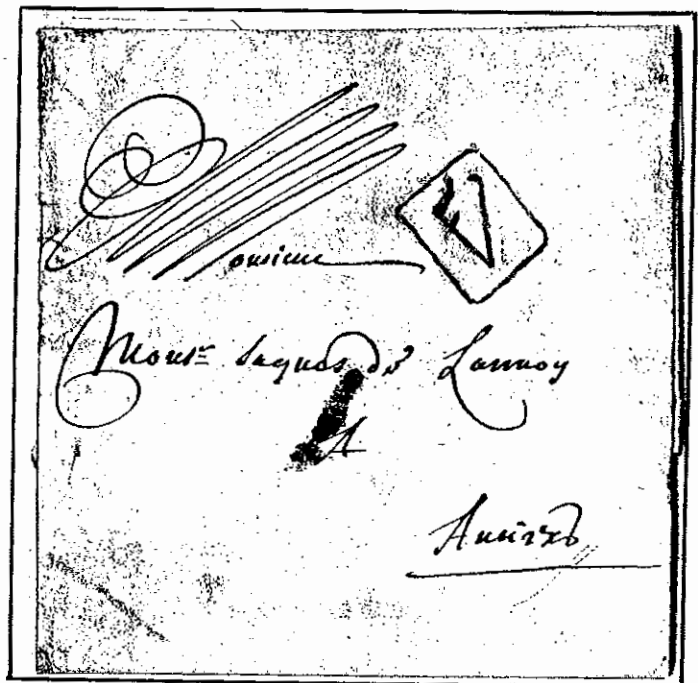
He also mentioned that these marks were probably "Marques de Courriers ou de Messengers". It seems sure that he was correct, but should now be said to be COMMUNAL MESSENGERS letters.

So what do we know of these "Communal Messengers"? It is difficult to establish when the municipal administrations first employed messengers for carrying their official correspondence. The town of Antwerp takes 1290 as the year of the installation of its messenger services. In that year, Jean I, Duke of Brabant, granted it a privilege to appoint these messengers.

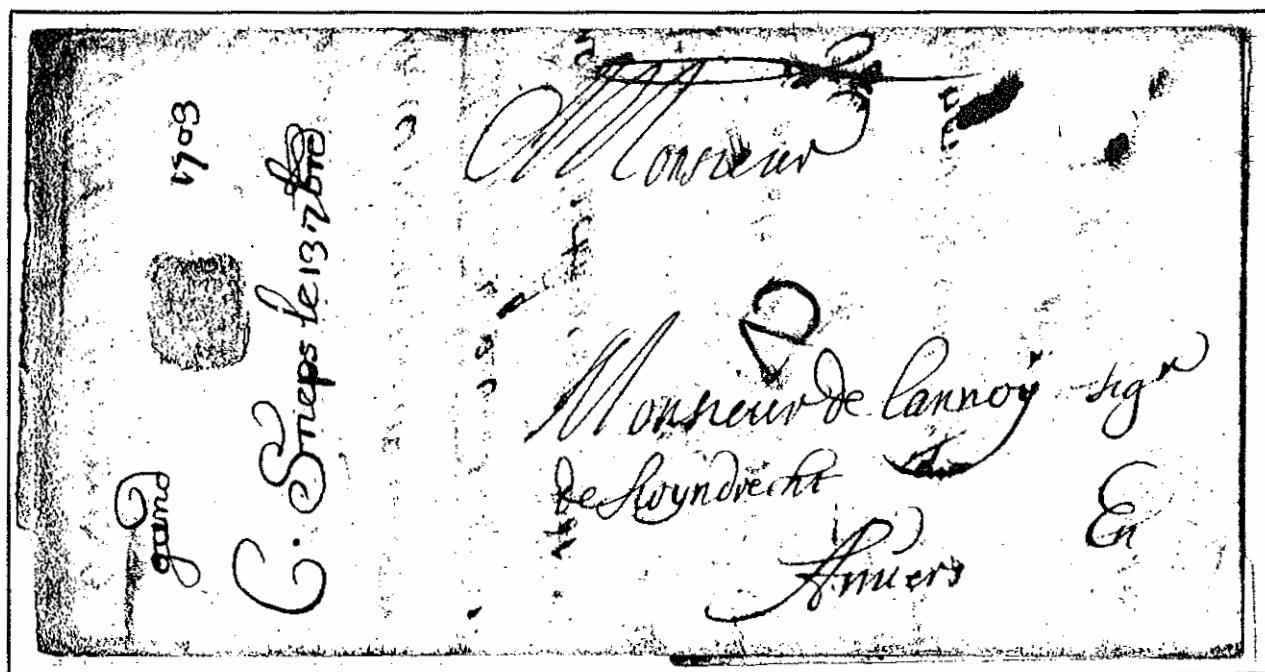
These messengers, in addition to carrying official mails, also carried private letters from town to town. The messengers were sworn in, paid caution money and received a pension at the end of their careers. Senders of letters deposited them in letter boxes fixed to the messengers' houses, the boxes bearing the name of the town to which the delivery would be made.



IB. 19th April, 1696  
Ghent to Antwerp

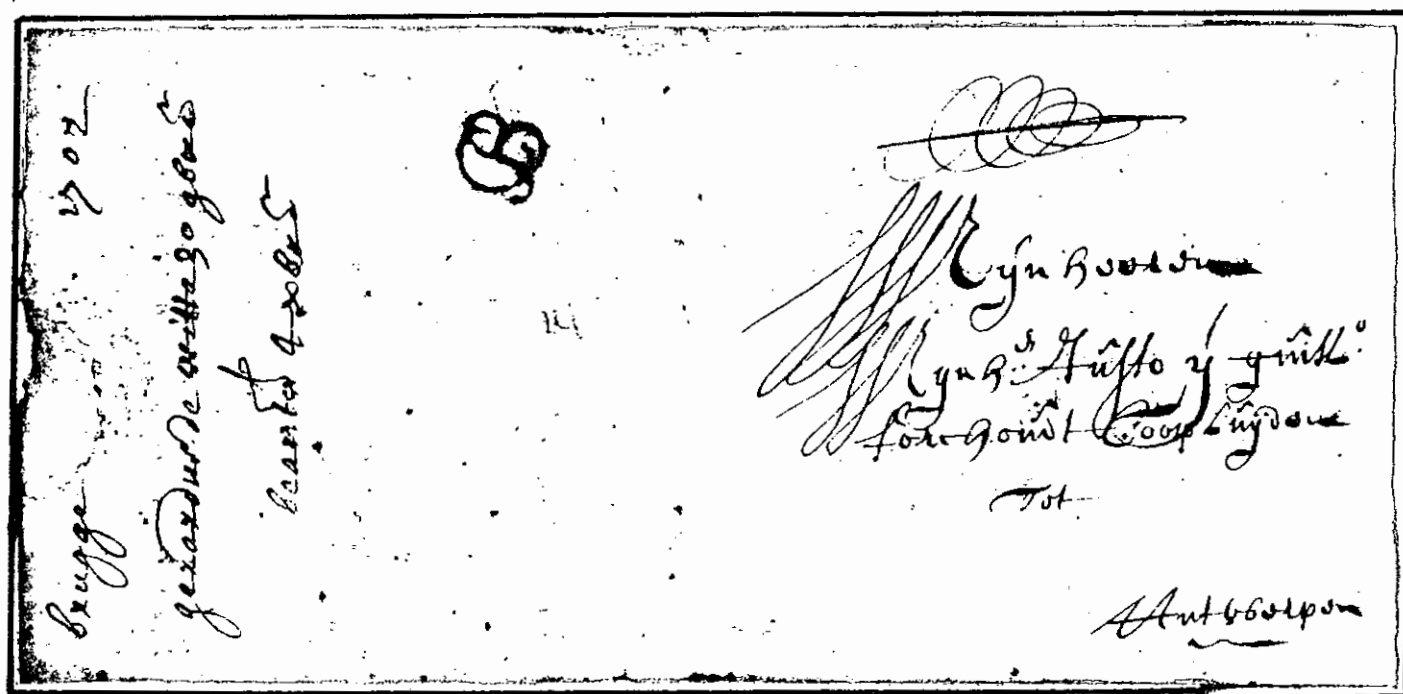


FV? 18th August, 1701  
Ghent to Antwerp

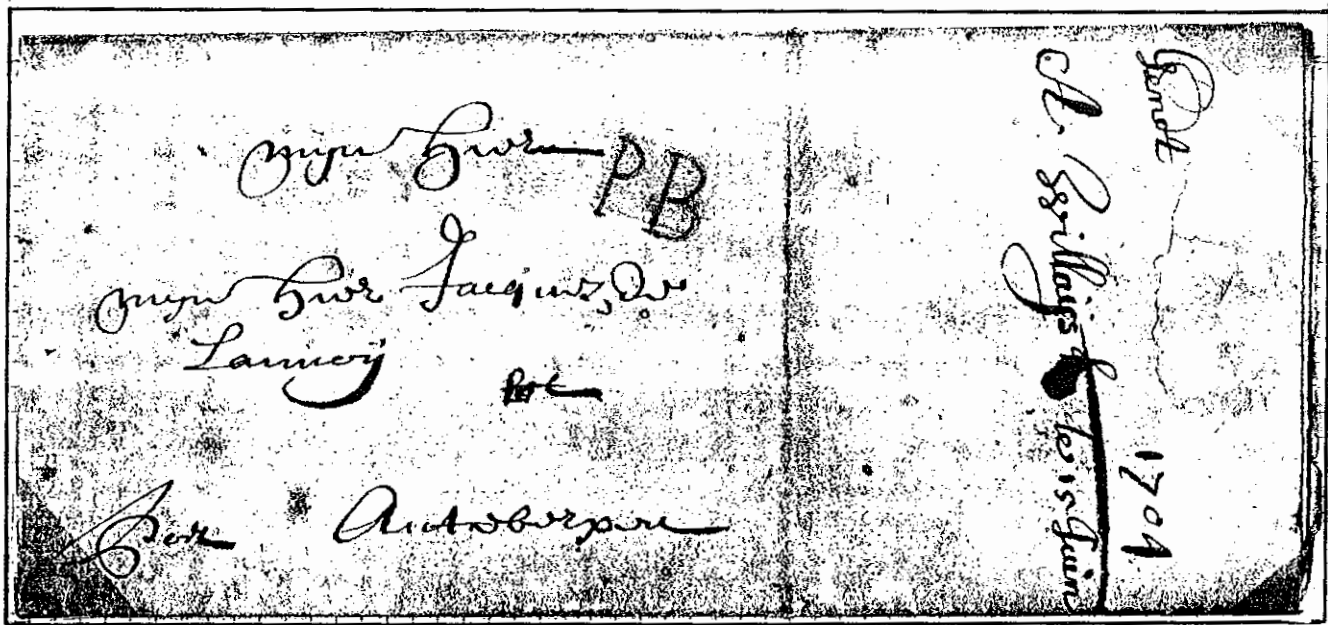


CV (joined). 13th September, 1703  
Ghent to Antwerp

The albino letters on the front have been pencilled in on these illustrations to show where the marks were impressed.



CB (Interlaced). 30th November, 1702  
Bruges to Antwerp  
This is in black,  
on the reverse of the letter.



PB. 15th June, 1704  
Ghent to Antwerp  
"Port"

The seal of Jan Bode, alderman of Antwerp in 1264, shows one of these messengers carrying a lance and posthorn, and probably indicates that Jan Bode, and possibly his father, had followed the honourable profession of messenger. It is shown on a stamp (COB 1175) (SG 1771) issued on 16th April, 1961.

The messengers travelled on foot or on horseback and were provided with a leather bag for carrying letters and with a pike for defence. As a distinctive sign, they bore on their chests the arms of the town to which they were allotted. The town provided their equipment, that is, a flag and all necessary accessories.



THE MERCHANT'S MESSENGER  
of ANTWERP

a fragment from  
De Excellente Cronicke  
Van Vlanderen

by Andries Smet of Bruges  
printed by W. Versterman in 1531

The system of communal messengers worked with exemplary punctuality and honesty and continued up to the end of the 18th century.

By an order of 8th May, 1545, the post was monopolised for the benefit of the "Master of the Posts" (i.e. the Taxis).

The public favour shown to the postal organisation was such that the increasing income permitted Leonard de Taxis on 16th June, 1598, to agree to a reduction of 4,000 pounds from his retainer, and this despite the fact that alongside the Royal Mails directed by the Taxis, there were also the Local (Communal) Mails. These latter, protected by magistrates, reserved the right of instituting them, were to care only for mails within the country.

In the beginning of the 17th century, there were sworn messengers travelling from Brussels to Antwerp, Arras, Breda, Bruges, Cologne, Dunkirk, Ghent, Liege, Lille, Louvain, Maastricht, Mons, Namur, Valenciennes, etc. Each locality of any importance had its sworn official messengers paying tax. The orders forbidding the carrying without authority of mail, posthorn and the sounding of it at night, were reiterated and confirmed by the orders of 1st September, 1609 and 19th August, 1677. The rights of communities to nominate messengers to carry letters to foreign towns was maintained in 1609. The salaries of courriers were regulated and fixed by orders of 14th December, 1616 and 27th April, 1618.

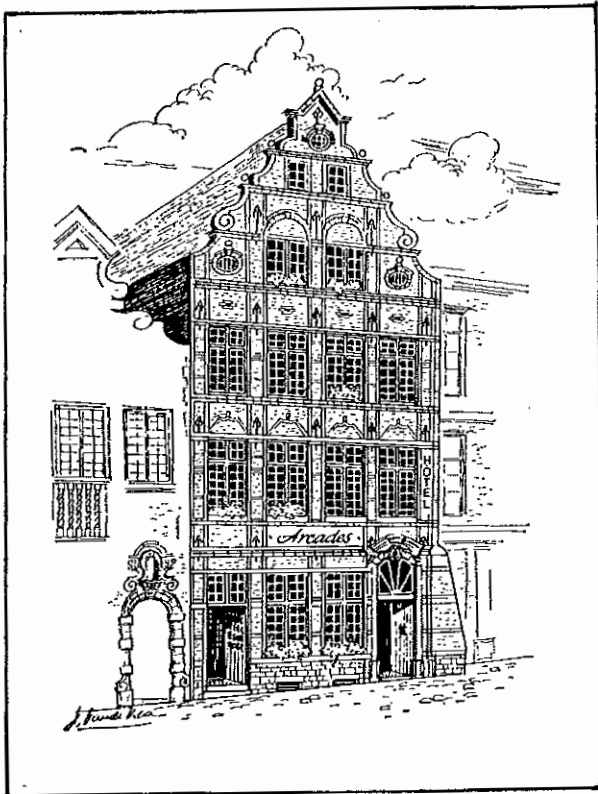
In 1638, there were twelve sworn messengers between Brussels and Antwerp and, at this time, there existed a marked rivalry between the Royal Posts and the Local (Communal) Posts. In 1653, the Antwerp magistrates proposed the suppression of the Royal Posts on the pretext that they were more efficient. The following year an agreement was reached between the messengers of Antwerp and Rotterdam to cease doing the whole journey between these two towns, but to meet halfway. However, three years later, the Antwerp messengers demanded, by force, the carrying of mails for Holland. Measures were taken by the messengers in 1659 as serious troubles had broken out in Antwerp and the interventions of armed forces were required to re-establish order and to improve the prerogatives of the Royal Posts for the carriage of letters to abroad. Strengthened by this decision, the courriers of the Prince of Taxis encroached upon the right of the local messengers in also carrying inland mails.



A Communal Messengers'  
Letter Box

Complaints followed by judgments among which, one given at Bruges in 1679, forbade them to carry letters other than those addressed for abroad. On 1st November, 1673, a public notice stopped anyone to raise difficulties to the postillions.

It would appear that during the 17th century, the local posts carried the majority of inland mail. The bulk of these mails carried no postal markings other than manuscript notations relative to the amount of postage, and you will see that many of the letters in this article did not show any marks other than the impressed marks which we show here.



This building, now a small hotel in Rue des Bouchers, is said to have been a post house and could well have been one of the Communal Messenger's "offices".

"To Bruges, on Mondays, at the Falcon, Rue de la Montagne; on Fridays, the Rue des Bouchers, or by the courier of Ghent at 8 o'clock in the morning."

(From a document in the Postal Museum, Brussels.)

We can show an extract from a 1682 regulation for the messengers and courriers leaving Brussels to the towns indicated below.

To Antwerp: Everyday at the Putterie, at the "Duc-de-Savoie" or at the "Cheval Marin" near the Rivage, morning and evening.

Alost: Everyday via the courier of Ghent and on Friday at the "Parc", Marché-aux-Poulets, at 9 a.m.

Aerschot: On Wednesdays, Rue des Longs-Chariots (passing by the Montaign at 10 o'clock in the afternoon.

Ath: On Fridays at the "Marechal Ferrant" at the Halle-au-Blé. On Sundays at the "Clef".

Audenarde: On Tuesdays at the "Couronne", Rue de la Montaigne at 6 hours after midday.

Bois-le-Duc: On Mondays and Fridays at the "Miroir", Marché-aux-Herbes and on other days at the Putterie at the "Duc-de-Savoie".

Braine-le-Comte : By the courier of Mons, and on Mondays and Fridays at the "Cygne" at the Halle-au-Blé at 9 o'clock in the morning.

- Bruges: On Mondays at the "Faucon", Rue de la Montagne. On Fridays, Rue de Bouchers, or via the courier of Ghent at 8 o'clock in the morning.
- Mons: On Sundays at the "Fleur de Blé". On Wednesday at the "Trois Perdrix" at 10 o'clock in the morning. On Friday at the "Cygne" at the Halle-au-Blé, and on Tuesday at the "Etoile".
- Charleroi: On Sundays and Thursdays at midday at the "Dragon", Marché-aux-Fromages.
- Termonde: On Sundays via the courier "Bleu" and on Thursdays and Saturdays at "Dunkerke", Marché-aux-Poulets at 11 a.m.
- Dinant: On Fridays at the "Couronne" at the Halle-au-Blé and on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays by the courier to Namur.
- Ghent: Everyday at the Rue-des-Longs-Chariots, at 8 o'clock in the morning.
- Grammont: On Fridays at the "Boeuf Bigarre" at 11 o'clock in the morning
- Liege: On Sundays opposite "Le Duc d'Ursel", on Tuesdays and Fridays at the "Cerf", Marché-au-Bois, at 6 o'clock in the evening.
- Louvain: Everyday at the "Petit Lievre", Rue des Longs-Chariots, at 11 a.m. and in the summer at 2 o'clock.
- Groningue ]  
Amsterdam ]  
Rotterdam ] On Mondays, Rue de la Montagne, at the "l'Homme  
Leeuwarden ] Sauvage" opposite the "Quatre-Seaux".  
Harlingen ]  
Dorkem ]
- Aix-la-Chappelle: At the Chaussee de Louvain on Tuesdays (arriving at Louvain at 6 o'clock in the evening).

References: The Postal Museum, Brussels  
"Balasse Magazine" Nos. 226/227, June, July 1976  
Auction Catalogues of Willy Balasse, Story Post, Soeteman, M. Baeten (all Brussels)  
Thanks to Michael Jackson (Michael Jackson (Philatelists) Ltd) and F. E. Goatcher.

Thanks to Michael Jackson (Michael Jackson (Philatelists) Ltd) and to F. E. Goatcher.

Illustrations from the collections of F. E. Goatcher and the author.



**1915 ISSUE - FORGED DEPOT MARKS**

Some time ago on looking at my 35c. with the "Depot 1915" mark, I noticed that one was not under the 100th stamp as is usual: close examination showed that the mark was forged.

Genuine

Body of 5 of 1915 rounded  
and top left is square U



DEPOT 1915

271

Forged Depot Mark

Not under 100th stamp.  
Centre plate scratch through  
G E of Belgie.  
Flag of 5 in 1915 longer  
than in genuine.  
Body of this figure rounded and  
top left pointed V.



DEPOT 1915

Several years ago, I purchased a block of the 5 Frank Type II with the depot mark Depot 1921. As this stamp was not issued until 1924, this depot mark was obviously forged.

Genuine

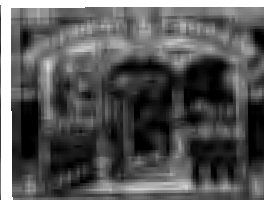
Serifs to figure 1 slope down  
at acute angle and are thin.



Forgery

Serifs to figure 1 stand out and  
are thicker than on genuine.

DEPOT 1921



A. G. WOOD

HEXAGON CANCELLATIONS UPDATE

by A. D. Geake

Thanks to the contributions of a number of members, I am now able to issue an addendum to the listing of hexagon cancellations given in the April, 1992 issue of Belgapost. This brings the total number of recorded cancellations to 505, of which only 42 of those in Tom Jones' book now remain unconfirmed.

Members have drawn my attention to several apparent mis-spellings in the original list; while there is no doubt about some of these, it is possible that some exist in both spellings so, if anyone has a copy with the original spelling, could they please let me know so that it can be reinstated in the list. I hope also that any members finding further hexagon cancellations not listed, will continue to keep me informed so that a further updating can be made in due course.

AMENDMENTS/DELETIONS TO LIST.

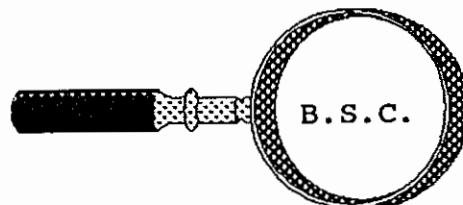
Boughaute	should be	Bouchaute
Bruxelles	delete	
Capryke	should be	Caprycke
Eeke-Nazareth	should be	Eecke-Nazareth
Halte des Pierres	should be	Halte d'Espierres
Hulet	should be	Hulst
La Deuze	should be	Ladeuze
Lightervelde	should be	Lichterfelde
Liege (Guill)	should be	Liege (Guill.)
Palisseul	should be	Paliseul
Palissoles	delete	
Sotteghem	should be	Sottegem
Tertre-lez-Baudour	should be	Tertre lez Baudour
Wettegem	delete	

CONFIRMATIONS OF JONES' LISTING NOW RECEIVED

Acoz	Fleurus (Etat)
Alost-Est	Frasnes-lez-Gosselies
Ans	Gand (Station)
Anvers-Est	Groenendaal
Audenarde	Haine-St. Pierre
Avennes	Herve
Basecles (Station)	Jemeppe-sur-Sambre
Bernissart	Lede
Bierghes	Le Vieux Campinaire
Blankenberghe	Lichterfelde
Bruxelles-Port de Flandre	Louvain (Central)
Callenelle	Maffle
Chievres	Ninove
Comines	Nivelles Est
Contich (Est)	Opogteren
Cortemarck	Ruyen
Dottignies-St. Leger	Schaerbeek
Eecke-Nazareth	Templeuve
Erpe-Meire	Verviers (Est)
Estinnes	Wamont

ADDITIONS

	Angre		Liegnon
	Anvers-Nord		Lierde-St. Marie
HM	Asch		Ligny- Sud
D	Athus Longwy	T	Lobbès
	Autelbas		Loth
	Baasrode (Nord)		Mafflès
	Barvaux		Marche (Lux)
	Basecles (Carrieres)		Marchiennes au Pont
	Bertrix		Merchtem
	Bierst-Awans		Morlanwelz
HM	Bockryck		Naast
	Bois-le-Duc		Noirhat
	Bonne Esperance	T,P	Obaix-Buzet
	Boucle-St. Denis-Nederswalm	PS	Oostcamp
	Braine-l'Alleud		Opwyck
	Carnières		Paturages
	Chassart		Quareux
	Clavier		Rumes
	Courcelles Centre		Ruysbroeck
	Courtrai (Central)		St. Denis Bovesse
	Cuesmes-Etat		Saint-Trond
	Dampremy		Schoonaerde
	Deerlyck		Stambruges
	Denderleeuw	MT	Terneuzen
	Deurle		Tertre
	Erneghem		Viane
	Eessen		Warneton
	Ellezelles		Warquegnies
	Etterbeek		Waterloo
	Eyne		Zarren
	Fallisolles		Zelee
D	Farciennes Tergnis		
	Francorchamps		
	Froid-Chapelle		
	Gand (CH Des Manoeuvres)		
	Gand (Rabot)		
	Gavere		
	Gosselies		
	Haeltert		
	Hansbeke		
	Harchies		
	Haversin		
	Heyst		
	Hyon Ciply		
	Idegem		
	Izel		
	Jamioulx		
	Jemelle		
	La Croyere		
	La Hulpe		
	Langemarck		
	La Planche		
D	Leupegem		
	Liege (Vivegnis) S.S.		



ADDITIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

D	=	used on document
GT	=	Gent-Terneuzen Line
PS	=	used on postal stationery card

THE "GHENT" POSTHORN

by F. E. Goatcher, FRPS,L. and  
S. J. Andrews, FRPS,L. Hon.FSPH

Following the publication of our article on the "Ghent" Posthorn (which by our argument ought to be the "Lille" Posthorn - Belgapost Vol.5 No.2, page 5) some doubt has been expressed, outside this country, as to the validity of our argument that what has been traditionally called the "Ghent" posthorn should be attributed to Lille. Is this a situation of old habits die hard?

We should first of all make it quite clear that there is no known documentary evidence of a precise nature to support our assertion which we formulated only by a considered interpretation of old documents written in ancient or archaic working and interpreted by a third party (the famous Thurn and Taxis archivist, Martin Dallmeier of Regensburg). What we have read into the various Thurn and Taxis contracts, coupled with the known letters which have become available to us which bear this delightful little handstamp, lead us to only one conclusion - that the handstamp cannot reasonably be attributed to Ghent!

The Willy Balasse catalogue for their 12/19th. December, 1992 sale, suggests that there are fifteen known examples of this mark. Many of these letters originate from Lille, whilst one is now known from Rouen (Williamme Auction No.203, 26th November, 1992 - Lot No.448) and at least two from Paris.

Looking at the problem of the "Lille Posthorn" from a practical point of view, there is no logical reason for such a marking to be impressed on letters on arrival at their destination (i.e. Ghent). We think that it is possible the attribution of the postmark to Ghent may have arisen from Herlant himself for, in his catalogue, he likens this first Belgian postmark to the British "Bishopmark" and to the first Dutch postmark. The British and Dutch postmarks both served a practical purpose - the former recorded the date of receipt or despatch of the letter, whilst the latter indicated the amount of postage payable (i.e. 3 stuyvers). The posthorn postmark, if applied in Ghent, would have served no useful purpose whatsoever! It therefore must have been used to identify letters to and from the Thurn and Taxis post in Belgium (Austrian Netherlands), as against letters arriving through the French post.

Historically, Lille was very closely associated with the Thurn and Taxis postal administration for it was at Lille, before the French occupied that city in 1667, that their principal accounting house was situated. When that office was forced to close with the occupation, we believe that an Agent was still established at Lille in order to liaise with the new authorities to look after the interests of the Thurn and Taxis posts. The duties of such an agent would be to account for letters from France entering the Thurn and Taxis system and vice versa. The accountancy marking shown on the 1667 letter illustrated on page 8 of Belgapost Vol.5 No.2, wholly bears out the fact that accounting procedures were necessary! It is recorded that a Thurn and Taxis postmaster or agent had been in place at Lille from as early as 1492.

Whilst the Thurn and Taxis post was expelled by the French from the newly occupied territories in Flanders, some liaison between the two postal administrations must have been required. In the absence of an actual post station on the border itself, the city of Lille, on the direct post route to Paris, would have been the obvious choice for the processing of international mails between the adjacent countries!

The two "new" items mentioned above are:

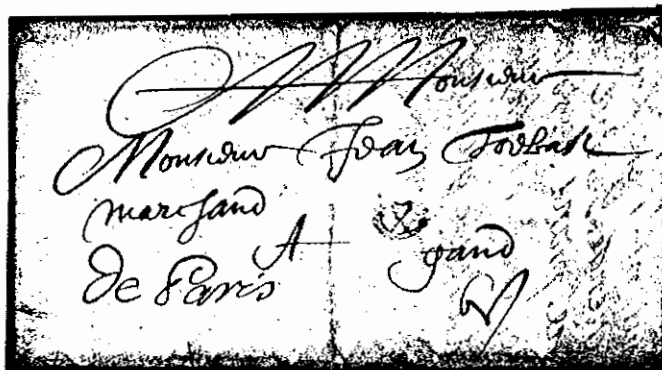
Williame Sale No. 203 (26th November, 1992) Lot 448.

Balasse Sale No. 1405 (12th December, 1992) Lot 33.

The first is said to be from Rouen to Ghent, the posthorn being un-inked and dated 7th July, 1675. It is interesting in that this item is in the same handwriting and the rate numbering (2½ st.) is the same as the two items we illustrated in our article. So was the writer in Rouen and went to Lille and posted it there?

In the second sale we illustrate the item in Lot 33. This time it is from Paris to Ghent with a postal rate shown as 6 stuyvers.

A Thurn and Taxis postroad map shows that Thurn and Taxis route from Paris was via Arras, Lille, Menin, to Ghent, and from Rouen to Ghent would go through Lille.



THE ISSUE "FINE BARBE" OF 1893

This issue of 12 stamps, of which 3 had stamps re-issued in other colours, was the first to have the small tablet added at the base "Not to be delivered on Sunday".

The three low issues (1c, 2c, 5c) showed the Arms of Belgium and were designed by H. Hendrickx, a Belgian artist. The other issues showing the King's Head, were designed by the celebrated French engraver, E. Mouchon, and they were engraved by A. Doms of the Malines Stamp Works.

Much work has been done on these issues by members of this Circle and published by them many years ago (BSC Record No.6) and more recently (1982) by E. & M. Deneumostier. Several members are studying the issue and there is still much to learn.

Perhaps we can expect, sometime, a much more important study on this subject, which we can give in this publication.

S. J. ANDREWS

THE PADDLE-STEAMER "WILBERFORCE"

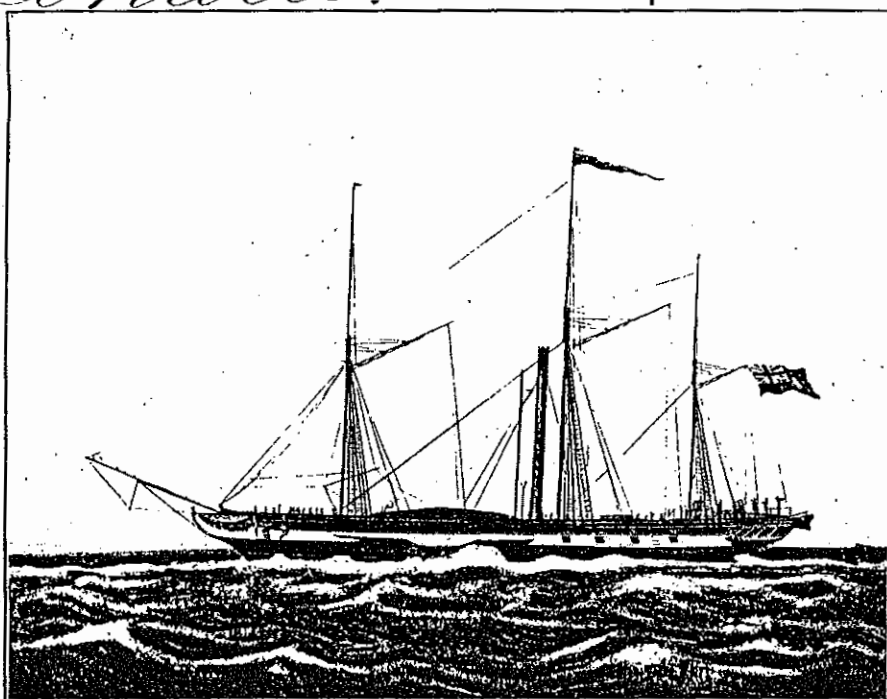
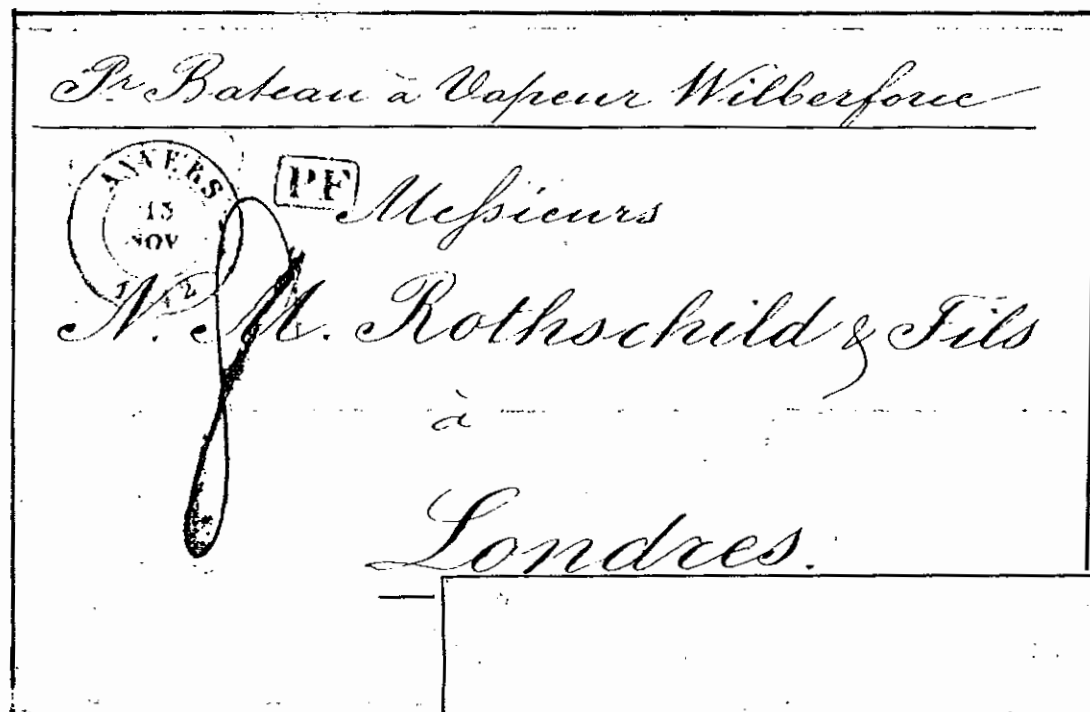
Founder member, Geoffrey Miller, has sent along photocopies of the letters he has in the Antwerp-London section of his P. & O. Line collection. This steamship line took over the General Steam Navigation Company.

"Wilberforce" was built by Curling and Young at Limehouse in 1835 for the Humber Steamship Co. with engines by Seaward and Capel. It was taken over by G.S.N.Co. in 1837. Of 610 gross tonnage and 169' 4" long, she was broken up in 1856.

"Wilberforce" was normally on the London-Hamburg route but was presumably sent out temporarily on the Antwerp-London route whilst the normal ship, the "Soho", was on maintenance.

The letter dated 13th November, 1842 (a Sunday date - the normal day for the "Soho" to sail), was paid 6 centimes (in crayon on back) to the "Frontier" (P.F.). It is also marked 10 g. (grammes). On arrival 8 pence to pay. A letter on this route, endorsed "Wilberforce" is probably very unusual.

Geoffrey has also sent us a photocopy of the "Soho", referred to above and on page 12, Vol.5 No.3 of Belgapost.



**1993 NEW STAMP ISSUES**

Nos.	Date	Issues	Composition and denominations	Theme or motive
1	15.02	Red Cross of Belgium	2 semi-postals at the value of : - 15 BEF + 3 BEF - 28 BEF + 7 BEF	Belgian works of art abroad (Boymans-van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands)
2	16.03	History	3 postage stamps + 1 sheet at the value of : - 11 BEF - 16 BEF - 28 BEF (sheet) - 30 BEF	- Council of Leptines Missale Romanum by Matthias Corvin (detail) - Neerwinden (1693-1793)
3	22.03	Antwerp, cultural capital of Europe	6 postage stamps of 16 BEF	Focusing on Antwerp
4	05.04	Stamp Day	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	Commemorative issue on the occasion of the centenary of the "Royal Effigy" stamp of 2 BEF, with slip, depicting Léopold II in profile
5	26.04	Europa	2 postage stamps at the value of : - 15 BEF - 28 BEF	Contemporary art : - Florence 1960 - Gaston Bertrand (Museum of Elsenne) - De Sjees - Constant Permeke (P.M.M.K. Ostend)
6	10.05	Nature I	4 postage stamps of 16 BEF	Butterflies : - Vanessa atalanta - Apatura iris - Inachis io - Aglais urticae
6 bis	17.05	150th anniversary of the foundation of the "Union des Anciens Etudiants de l'U.L.B." (= Association of Alumni of the ULB)	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	Allegory
7	24.05	Europalia - Mexico	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	Mayan statuette
8	07.08	Folklore	3 postage stamps at the value of : - 11 BEF - 16 BEF - 28 BEF	- Brussels : Ommegang - Namur : Royale Moncrabeau - Merchtem : Still walkers
9	21.06	Tourism	5 postage stamps of 16 BEF	Castles (La Hulpe, Beveren, Jehay, Heverlee, Raeren)
9bis	05.07	International Triennial Exhibition of Tournai	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	focusing on this event
10	06.09	Nature II	4 postage stamps of 16 BEF in a booklet (60 BEF)	Cats of Europe
11	20.09	Fight against cancer	1 semi-postal at the value of 15 BEF + 3 BEF	Allegory
12	04.10	Humane Corpore Fabrica (masterpiece by Vesalius - 450 years)	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	Allegory
13	18.10	Youth Philately	1 postage stamp of 16 BEF	Natasja, Stewardess (François Walthéry)
14	22.11	Christmas and New Year	1 postage stamp of 11 BEF	Virgin with child (Kapellekerk - Brussels)

**RECTANGULAR CANCELLATIONS OF BELGIAN STATE RAILWAYS**

by A. D. Geake

Following on from the updating of the listing of hexagon cancellations in the April, 1992 issue of Belgapost (further additions supplied by members will be listed in a future issue), we are moving on to update the listing of rectangular cancellations.

The basic listing is that contained in Appendix 3 of Tom Jones' book, which records over 500 entries covering rectangular cancellations of the state lines of Types 7 and 8, but including, as well as those with ornaments, those with legend on the third line.

The listing is compiled alphabetically according to the place name in the first line. The second line normally shows the day, month, year and time, not necessarily in that order. The listing records the year only - deciding which numbers denote the year can be difficult since the year and time positions are not consistent. One way of checking is to make sure that the stamp could reasonably have been used in the year apparently shown on the cancellation. In the early years of this century, the year was sometimes shown as 193 instead of 1903 (for example). For dates in 1893 or earlier, it would be helpful if the whole of this line is quoted and the CO number of the stamp on which it is struck; from 1894 onwards, only the year need be shown.

The third line usually comprises two ornaments (denoted as "crosses" or "rosettes") or some wording.

We would be glad to have details of all cancellations which members may have in their collections not recorded in Tom Jones' listing, and all years earlier or later than those listed. Bernard Gillman-Davis has already collected a considerable number of additions to the listing and, aided by a computer, has undertaken to be the focal point for collecting further data. Would members who have any relevant material, please send listings to him at:

6 Hampden Close  
Tollgates, Battle  
West Sussex. TN33 0JB

Listings should take the following form:

Up to 1893

GAND (SUD) / 23 APL 1892 QM / rosettes on C012

From 1894

ANTWERPEN C.Nr.1 / 1912 / ANVERS C. No.1

A FRENCH ENQUIRY

Mr. Swain, Secretary of the France and Colonies P.S. wonders if we can throw any light on the title on the card shown below.





Headed 529 Tournai (Flamands) La Gare Anglaise, printed by Cliche AV coll. L. G. B., St-Pierre-Eglise. Tournai is about 5 km east of Cherbourg and St. Pierre is further east. The card has the CDS Army Post Office S.50 in use at Cherbourg and passed by Censor No. 4144. The miniscule engine would appear to be a Belgian shunting engine. Possibly someone has a cover with the Belgian Correspondence Privée Armée Belge or similar cachet and a unit name.

A. G. WOOD

AN EARLY RAILWAY WAYBILL

1882 issue on Waybill  
Azure Label - Service International

VERVIERS (EST) Hexagon 1 Mai 1890

Rate of 1Fr.75c for parcel of less than 3 kilog.

To BIELLA (Italy) - arrived 7 Mag 90

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83

BUREAU D'ECHANGE

BUREAU DE DESTINATION

Nom et Adresse de l'expéditeur: J. LANG  
VERVIERS (EST)

Nom et adresse du destinataire: E. Grassi  
Biella

Un colis (1) PAQUET poids 2 k 500  
contenant des ECHANTILLONS DE LAINE

Verviers, le 1 Mai 1890

SIGNATURE DE L'EXPÉDITEUR  
J. LANG.

Caisse, panier, ballot, paquet ou pli

ATHUS-LONGWY 2 Mai  
MODAVE 6 Mai  
MODAVE (STAZ) 6 5 90 Italy

BIELLA 7 MAG 1890

Endorsed "par voie de France".

Transit stamp of ATHUS-LONGWY 2 Mai

also, on reverse LONGWY 2 Mai ) France  
MODAVE 6 Mai )  
MODAVE (STAZ) 6 5 90 Italy