

BELGAPOST

Volume **8** No. **2**

JUNE, 1995

The Journal of the
Belgian Study Circle



BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

Founded 1947

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

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

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When writing to an officer of the Circle, please do not mention the name of the Circle in the address. Requests for information should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

BELGAPOSTVolume **8** No. **2**JUNE, 1995The Journal of the
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

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JUNE, 1995



EDITORIAL

This editorial is also the Editor's report to the Annual General Meeting. As hoped, we issued the four issues for the last year, again without "complaints" from members, so we hope that members are finding the contents of "Belgapost" satisfactory. So your Editor is hoping it to be very similar for this year. As this is so, we can tell members that we now have a "stock" of articles - but this does not mean that you should "sit back". "Belgapost" requires many articles to fill it in four issues of 40+ pages. We require not only postal history, but particularly stamp articles.

The Editor's "staff" - still unpaid, are doing a great job - without them, "Belgapost" would not be issued so regularly. All of us must particularly thank Reg Harrison and his wife, Jean. A fine effort from them.

S.J.A.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

As promised at the Annual General Meeting, I am now working on next season's programme. I've had hardly any suggestions from members. Members should remember that it is our meetings which provide much of the material for Belgapost, so that if they are particularly interested in a subject, even if they have not enough material to lead a display, someone else might be able to do so and thus interest in the subject is aroused.

Reverting to the warning on the Merode Forgeries given in Belgapost Vol.7, No.4, p.152, I note they are still being offered. Lot 419 in Philangles sale of 2nd May read:- 1914. Both Red Cross sets, v. fine used on unaddressed envelope with Antwerp X/7/1914 cancels; a doubtful postmark.

Recently some stamps were returned to me from Belgium. The letter had been opened by the UK Customs at Dover. A slip was enclosed saying that they were empowered to do this in the war against drugs. A nice piece of Postal History.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL.

TREASURER'S NOTES

For a more detailed report, please see the Annual Report of the AGM. By the time this edition appears, every member will have received (and hopefully paid), a subscription reminder to which a prompt response would be appreciated.

Clearance of the 22nd April auction should have been completed so that the preparation of the next auction can commence. We have arranged to sell in the Circle's auctions a large part of a member's collection. This will take place over a period and will be sold in many single items. This will no doubt help members and the Circle's finances. It will not be sold in "large chunks".

An updated membership list should appear with this edition but judging by the response to my request for any changes, no difference in collecting interests would seem to have occurred.

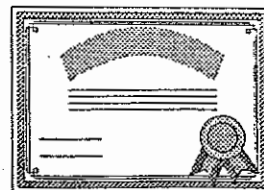
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Jack,

I am delighted to be able to write and to tell you at the AGM of the Belgian Study Circle it was proposed and carried unanimously that you be elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Circle in recognition of your long and devoted service to the Circle and to the study of Belgian postal history and philately. This honour is most well deserved and I feel sure you will be pleased by the decision of the membership.....

Yours sincerely,

IAIN.



I am certainly honoured by the membership. I was not expecting this, but I can assure you that I will continue to serve the Circle as long as I can. This Circle has always done much work for Belgian philately and I have always enjoyed the hobby and all its' members and friendship.

Thank you all.

JACK ANDREWS



THE "GEORGE HOLLINGS" SALE, 4th MAY, 1995

By arrangement with Messrs. Phillips, a supply of auction catalogues was obtained and posted to every member of the Circle. This work was undertaken by Geoffrey Wood and Reg Harrison, and the envelopes were franked with the new National Trust stamps and cancelled on the first day of issue.

The sale itself was well attended by Belgian dealers who seemingly took around 99% of the lots back to Belgium with them. This was largely the result of the high room prices because a number of our members were present but were outbid by the foreign dealers taking advantage of the low £. Many of the lots were grouped to the advantage of the trade rather than collectors, who often require individual items only.

From a financial viewpoint, it was a successful day for Belgian philately and puts paid to the frequent dealer comment that there is no interest in Belgian material. It will also make members consider the value of their own collections, although most of us get satisfaction from studying stamps and postal history rather than their monetary value.

In due course, a list of prices realised will become available and this brief report will not, therefore, attempt to pick out individual lots for evaluation. Suffice it to say that most lots well exceeded their estimate, sometimes tenfold, and all aspects of philately attracted interest to varying degrees.

R. T. HARRISON

THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE ANNUAL LUNCH

Many consider the highlight of our year to be the Annual Lunch. As in previous years, the 1995 Lunch was held on Saturday, 11th March, in the Senior Common Room of the Regent's College, in the centre of Regent's Park.

Pre-lunch drinks were enjoyed in the bar before 18 of us sat down at 1 o'clock to: Cream of Watercress Soup, Chicken Bretonne, Profiteroles, Cheese and Biscuits, and coffee, all liberally helped by as much white and red wine as we wanted.

Dr. Ian Stevenson, our Chairman, proposed the Loyal Toast to HM The Queen, and then to HM The King of the Belgians. This was followed by Jeffrey Kalp who passed a vote of thanks to Geoffrey Wood who, once again, excelled himself by organising such a successful lunch. He was warmly applauded.

Among the guests were Doris Green, who was accompanied by her daughter, Rosemary; Dr. Jack Gibbs, who made this his first meeting following an extended period of illness; Eliane Hollings and Eileen Loader. (Full guest list below.)

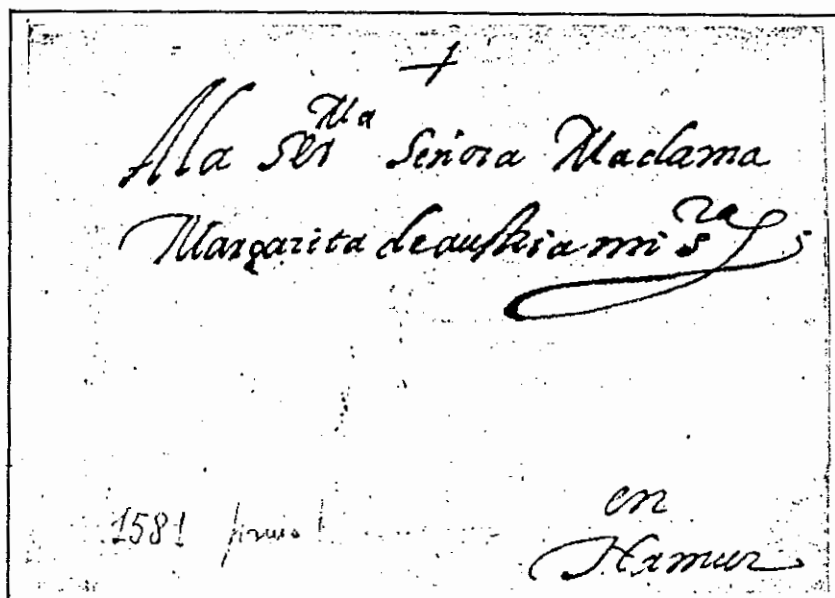
After lunch, three displays were presented, each intended for further study purposes:

1. "The Belgian Miner" - Sheets of this rare Cinderella item, by Dr. C. E. Phelps.
2. The 1896 Brussels Exhibition - 4 complete panes of each value by Geoffrey Wood.
3. The 1914 Red Cross Small King's Head and Merode Issues - The Forgeries and Forged Postmarks, again by Geoffrey Wood.

The competition for the Churchill Crown was won by Bernard Berkinshaw Smith with a superb early Tassis letter dated 3 April 1581, addressed to Margaret of Austria in Namur (illustrated).

After tea, we dispersed having enjoyed yet again a magnificent occasion.

JEFFREY KALP



NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome GILBER DELRUE as a member of our Circle. He lives at Zedelgem and is interested in Postmarks up to 1891 and Postage Dues to 1920. In particular, he has assembled a collection of the 1909 Tamise Bisects on the 10 Cent Postage Due, all to the same destination, Mr. Louis de Vrie, Hotel Watermolen, Tamise. Comprising some 30+ near identical covers posted on 13th, 14th, 20th and 24th March, 1909, showing all possible variations of the bisect. The consistency and positioning of the stamps suggest that somebody in the Tamise post office must have been in association with the sender!

MEMBER NEWS

One of our Brussels' members, Vincent Schouberechts, came over to London during late February for Stampex. He was met by your Treasurer and took home some of the books which he acquired at our recent sale. He is a keen book collector on philately as well as keeping an interest in other aspects of postal history, including COB No. 15.

Our member in Hexham, Ken Morrell, is still busy acquiring stamps, especially early period material for future study (a wise move in view of recent price stability!). His other interests in philately include the "Sudan Camels" for which he won the Shillingford Trophy last year at the Hexham Philatelic Society. In connection with his school activities, he plays an active part in local music involving a school orchestra with a varied programme of presentation at local venues. I understand he also has time for his other love of jazz.

(Noted on Platform 2 of Hexham railway station - a Victorian wall letter box.)

In nearby Corbridge lives one of our other senior Circle members, Alan Soulsby. Now 83 years old, he still has an active philatelic mind but is unable to get about. He was, I believe, the Circle's first Packet Secretary for the north and periodically envelopes bearing his name come to light, including airmail covers. Perhaps we may be able to get a few notes from him for our 50th Anniversary event.

Your Treasurer recently found himself in Huddersfield and looked up Paul Wood, our member in that area. Paul is now concentrating on the Yser Enclave during the First World War, having acquired the collection formed by Harry Green on this topic of study. His other interest is the "Van Ackers -10%" when time permits! Together with his wife, Bernice, we took the opportunity to sample Yorkshire hospitality at a local hostelry to great advantage. Both Paul and Bernice will be coming to Weston for our meeting in September.

Your Editor, Jack Andrews, is still having eyesight problems, especially during periods of bright sunlight. However, he is able to do creative work for short periods which bodes well for future editions of Belgapost! His problem has kept him somewhat "confined to barracks", but a recent change of Consultant has raised his hopes for more imminent treatment. All being well, he will be at Weston for our Summer Meeting.

Congratulations to James Van der Linden, of Baden, who has been awarded by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, their prestigious Crawford Medal, 1993/94, for his book "Catalogue des Marques de Passage".

Your Treasurer, Reg Harrison, in his professional capacity, in June this year takes the mantle of President of the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM), in which he has been an active member in recent years. It is an Institute with members spread throughout the UK and, as part of his duties, much travelling away from home is likely to visit members in their regional centres. When overnight stops are necessary, he may contact BSC members in that vicinity to establish personal contact and discuss any items of philatelic interest. If, therefore, you get a telephone call, don't be too surprised and be prepared to advise where the local cheese specialists are located!!

NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome is extended to Christopher Howe of Winterbourne Abbas. His special interests include Definitive Stamps with 'Lions', including the pre-cancels, together with Railway Stamps and Stamps and Postmarks.

Is it a coincidence that so many of our members with an interest in Railway Stamps live in the area of the old GWR region?

EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1994

- * Eight packets completed half-circulations during the year.
- * Each packet usually contains a mixture of new and part-circulated books and is circulated to half the members only; this saves on insurance and avoids those at the end of the list getting a lot of half-empty packets.
- * The percentage sold on each half-circulation averaged 27% which effectively means that, after circulating to both halves, around 50% of the value of books is sold.
- * It is difficult to predict what will sell most easily. Nineteenth century material has not been selling as well as in the past, perhaps because of heavy duplication, perhaps because some prices have been too high for stamps in less than tip-top condition. Scarcer and unusual items have been finding buyers and railway stamps have maintained their popularity. Cinderella material has proved very popular, too.
- * **MORE BOOKS FOR CIRCULATION ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.** Please take a few hours to make up a booklet of your surplus material now and then. At present, there are only two packets in circulation (one on each half) and only three books are available for the next packet.
- * An accumulation of railway parcel stamps, including some good cancellations, has been donated to the packet by a member and will be circulated as soon as they have been made up into books.
- * Most members have been passing on the packet in the 2-3 days expected. However, there have again been a few occasions when members have held the packet for several weeks. This is clearly unsatisfactory for members who put material into the packet and this year it has meant a long wait for new members who have been told that a packet is on the way to them.
- * Commission on sales, based on books returned to members, was £45 (commission rate 5%) and insurance recharges were £64 (at 1.95% for each half-circuit on selling prices at the start of the half-circuit, reduced to 1.5% for this year). Members are reminded that insurance is optional and they can ask for only a proportion of the selling value of their material to be insured.
- * Insurance cost £126, and after other expenses, less recoveries, of £25 there was a deficit for the year of £42 (1993 £33 surplus). However, this deficit was adequately covered by commission and insurance recharges on sales from books which completed circulation in January, 1995.

BRUXELLES POST OFFICE
12th-27th November, 1918

TONY GEAKE

I came across the following information in La Revue Postale No.201, January 1920, p.133.

12th	Last day of German operation of office.
13th, 14th, 15th	No postal service.
16th	Belgian Postal Workers reported for service.
16th, 17th, 18th, 19th	The stamps in use were the Germania type overprinted.
20th-27th	Lack of stamps enforced the use of Port Payé.
27th	Belgian stamps of 1915 Issue and 1918 Red Cross Issue put on sale.

This may enable some of our members to find jewels in their collections.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

PUBLICATIONS

For those members who have joined in recent years, I outline below the record of issues of Belgapost. These are available from me and contain many interesting articles relating to Belgian stamps and postal history and can be useful in furthering your own studies.

Postage is additional but can sometimes be saved if you are attending a specific meeting and advance notice is given so that these can be brought along.

If further information is required on the contents of a specific issue, an index can usually be supplied.

BELGAPOST	Vol. 1	1981-1982	£10*
	Vol. 2	1985-1988	£10*
	Vol. 3	Not Issued	---
	Vol. 4	1990-1991	£10*
	Vol. 5	1992	£10*
	Vol. 6	1993	£10*
	Vol. 7	1994	£10*

* + Postage and packing.

<u>BSC Record</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>		<u>Price</u>
3	Houyoux Used in Booklets.	F. W. Kilby	£2.50
4	Heraldic Lion in Booklets.	F. W. Kilby	£3.50
5	Merode.	HCG, SJA, OCL, AGW	£4.00
7	Stamp Booklets 1932-40	F. W. Kilby	£2.50
9	1915 Die I	A. G. Wood	£3.00
11	Montenez Issue	F. W. Kilby	£8.00
12	Tin Hats	H. C. Armstrong	£6.00
13	TPO's	S. J. Andrews, O. C. Loader	£6.00
14	1893-1900	F. W. Kilby	£8.00
15	First Booklets	F. W. Kilby	£2.50
16	Houyoux	H. C. Armstrong	£6.00
17	1869 Issue	D. W. Vandy	£8.00

R. T. HARRISON

POSTMAN'S MARKS

See Vol.7 No.1 p.8

I find that the early use and authority for these marks is covered in Jean du Fours book "Les Marques Postales Belges 1830-1914", pages 25 and 26. They were authorised by the Dutch Administration in an order dated 26th January, 1829.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER
1st APRIL, 1994-31st MARCH, 1995

I am pleased to report that our operating figures have improved since last year and that we finished the year with a surplus of £354.05, which is transferred to our balances. However, our subscription income of £813 fails to cover our working costs of £1,314, the difference largely being met by income from auction sales.

During the year, four sales were held, which is twice our previous programme, and it is unrealistic to assume that this level will continue in the future. I am, therefore, recommending that our subscription rates be increased this year to ensure our financial stability. Clearly, the availability of material for auction is something over which we have only partial control and, therefore, the Circle's finances must be based on projected income figures. Members are asked to consider using the Circle when disposing of unwanted material to help our cause.

The increased auction turnover in itself generates a lot of work for your officers, including my wife, but hopefully is mutually beneficial to all parties.

I seem to spend a lot of time dealing with bank transactions but have avoided bank charges being levied on our accounts for the first time in recent years - the nett result being bank interest of £75.55 payable to the Circle.

Having established a regular issue schedule for Belgapost enables all our mailings to be included in the envelopes for economy and, more recently, pre-printed address labels have also made despatching more speedy.

Our 50th Anniversary Year, 1997, is fast approaching and almost certainly we need to boost our funds so that we can celebrate this in an appropriate manner.

More imminently, to continue our quarterly issue of Belgapost (which hopefully is appreciated by members) and our other activities, I am recommending that our annual subscription be raised from the previous figure of £10, which has been held for three years, to £14 for the year 1995/1996.

R. T. HARRISON
Hon. Treasurer

April, 1995

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd APRIL, 1995

The morning session started with the auction sale which was a great success and is reported elsewhere in this edition. We were especially pleased to see John Parkin; our new member, Peter Watts; and from Belgium, Jean Bruwier.

In the afternoon, the AGM took place and reports were given by the officers on the year's activities. Special reference was made to the need to plan ahead for our 50th Anniversary in 1997 - this will be further discussed at Weston but suggestions from members would be welcomed.

Your Treasurer advised (see full report elsewhere) that our subscriptions have been held at £10 for three years and that our expenditure would have exceeded our income were it not for the auction proceeds. It was agreed that for 1995/96 the subscription be raised to £14.

The officers were re-elected, with Iain Stevenson continuing as Chairman for 1995/96. It was also proposed and unanimously agreed that Jack Andrews be elected an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his long service to the Circle.

R. T. HARRISON

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1995

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
	£. p.	£. p.		£. p.
1. <u>Subscriptions</u> received for			1. <u>Officers Expenses</u> including	
a) Previous years	10.00		publications, postage, etc.	888.07
b) Year ending 31st March, 1995	773.00			
c) Advance payment for 1995/96	30.00		2. <u>Hire of Rooms</u>	405.00
	<u>813.00</u>	813.00	3. <u>Bank Charges</u>	Nil
2. <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>		63.51	4. <u>Insurance Charges</u>	21.00
3. <u>Bank Interest</u>		75.55	5. <u>Miscellaneous Expenses</u>	Nil
4. <u>Sale of Publications, etc.</u>		28.00		
5. <u>Auction Commission:</u>				
Sale 23rd April, 1994	126.51			
Sale 16th July, 1994	112.25			
Sale 22nd October, 1994	169.80			
Sale 28th January, 1995	279.50			
	<u>688.06</u>	688.06		
6. <u>Commission from Exchange Package Secretary</u>		Nil		
(Transferred to 1995/96)				
Total Income 1994/95		<u>1,668.12</u>	Total Expenditure 1994/95	<u>1,314.07</u>
			Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>354.05</u>

BALANCE SHEET

	£. p.	£. p.		£. p.
<u>Balance 31st March, 1995 comprising:</u>			<u>Balance at 31st March, 1994</u>	1,153.77
Current Bank Account		88.39		
Cash in Hand		122.41		
Deposit Bank Account	1,503.90		<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure 1994/95</u>	<u>354.05</u>
* Less Account R.L.	55.00			
* Less Account E.H.	<u>151.88</u>			
B.S.C. Money		1,297.02		
Total		<u>1,507.82</u>	Balance at 31st March, 1995	<u>1,507.82</u>

*Note - Deposit account listed above includes monies paid on account by overseas members.

Signed: R. T. HARRISON (Hon. Treasurer)

I certify that I have examined the books and that in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true view of the financial position of the Belgian Study Circle as at 31st March, 1995.

.....Hon. Auditor

Date.....

BRUPHILA '95

A party comprising Reg Harrison, Geoffrey Wood, Tony Geake and Maurice Wilkinson made a short visit to Brussels in order to attend the above Exhibition. With the help of Gaston Jorquera, a room was booked for a meeting of the BSC at 4.00 pm on Saturday, 20th May, and listed in the Exhibition Programme. We were pleased to welcome Jean and Mme Bruwier, Gaston Jorquera, Josef Deruyck, Vincent Schouberechts, Renaud Loontjens, Otto Sellinger (from the USA), a new member Gilber Delrue and M. & Mme Deneumostier of our twin - Club Flemalle. The meeting started with a celebration glass of sherry, and the discussion covered several topics raised by Geoffrey Wood, including the phantom Belgica Miner, and Dutch Internee Camps by Reg Harrison. Perhaps this is an approach to consider repeating in the future.

The Exhibition itself comprised a wide range of displays including several on railway stamps, three on perfins, as well as an extensive coverage of classical issues. Our member, Otto Sellinger, put up a fine display of "Belgian Registered Mail 1865-1920" for which he was justly awarded a Grand Vermeil and Prix Speciale. It included a fine range of covers, many of high value stamps of several issues, of which he can be rightfully proud.

My attention was also drawn to a superb display of Imprimés by Daniel Jonsen, which included many strips and blocks of 1c covers from the earliest period. This is an area in which George Hollings had specialised.

REG HARRISON

LATE MEMBER NEWS

Ken Morrell has just notified us that he has been made President of his local Society, Hexham Philatelic, and should be kept busy throughout the next year.

Graham Harvey recently put an entry into the East Midlands Federation competition entitled "Postal History of Bruxelles 1794-1814". He was awarded the Postal History Silver Gilt and Stitt Dibden Cup, and also the Kay Goodman Trophy for the Best Exhibit in the show.

Maurice Wilkinson tells us that he is active at Peterborough in leading a stamp collecting group as part of the University of the Third Age.

Otto Sellinger won a Grand Vermeil for his exhibit at BRUPHILA '95 entitled "Belgian Registered Mail (1865-1920)". (See detailed report on meeting.)

Bernard Berkinshaw Smith won a Large Gold at Helsinki - alas not a Belgian display but congratulations.

On a sadder note we have to report the death of the wife of D. Beresford Johnson, at the age of 60, after an illness lasting two years. This was the result of an incurable viral infection. We send our sincere condolences to him and his family.

NORD BELGE

We hear that a book will be published (in French) early next year on the Nord Belge line and its cancellations. Price is expected to be below B.Fr.1,000. Members wishing to order a copy, please ring Tony Geake (01392 877662) as soon as possible.

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF BELGIUM (continued)

DESIGNATION

LINE

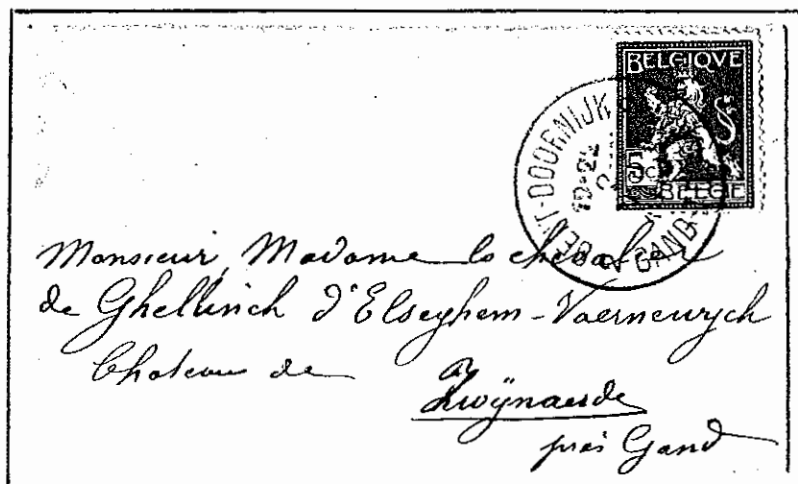
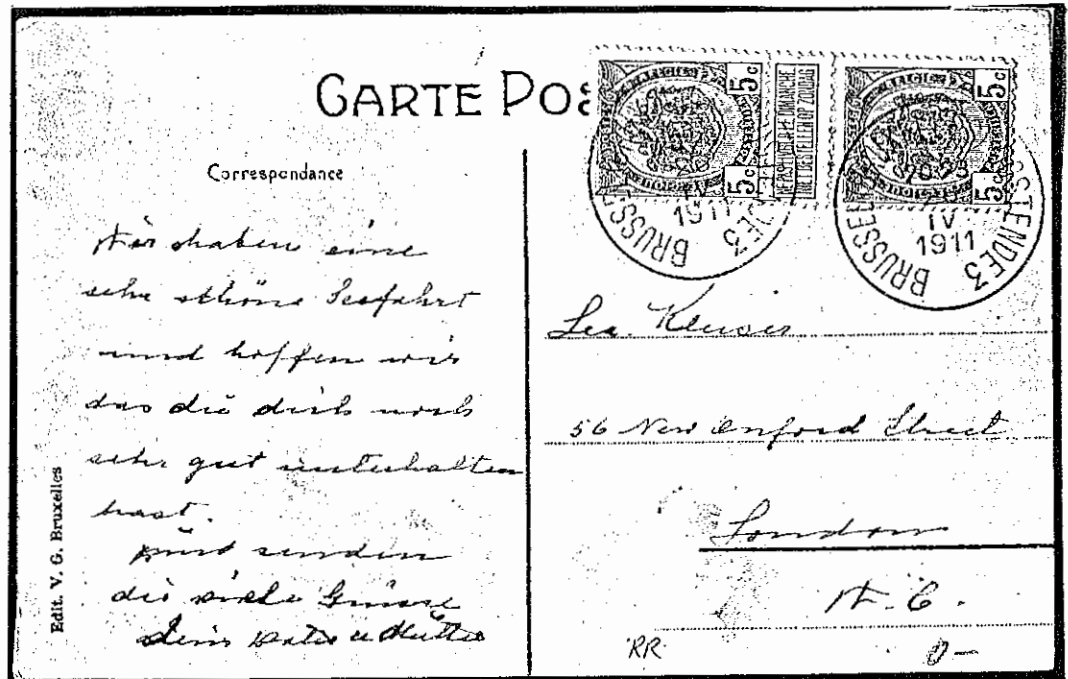
STATION AND TIME
OF DEPARTURE

STATION AND TIME
OF ARRIVAL

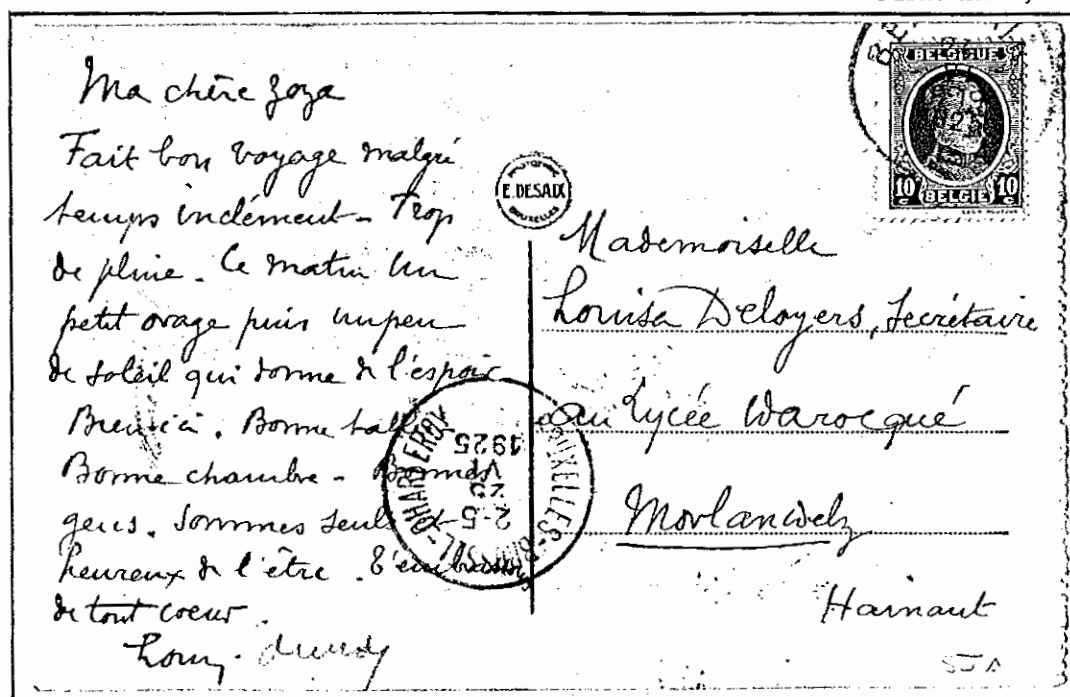
REMARKS

48 T.P.O's IN SERVICE, 4th OCTOBER, 1936

Antwerpen-Brussel
Adinkerke-Gent
Arlon-Bruxelles 1.
Arlon-Bruxelles 2.
Arlon-Bruxelles 3.
Arlon-Bruxelles 4.
Brussel-Antwerpen
Bruxelles-Arlon 1
(int.-binn)
Bruxelles-Arlon 1
(etr.buit)
Bruxelles-Arlon 2
Bruxelles-Arlon 3
Bruxelles-Charleroi
Bruxelles-Feignies
Brussel-Gent
Brussel-Hasselt
Bruxelles-Herbestal 1
Bruxelles-Herbestal 2
Bruxelles-Herbestal 3
Bruxelles-Herbestal 4
Brussel-Kortrijk
Bruxelles-Mons
Brussel-Oostende 1
Brussel-Oostende 2
Brussel-Oostende 3
Brussel-Poperinghe
Bruxelles-Tournai
Charleroi-Bruxelles
Feignies-Bruxelles 1
Feignies-Bruxelles 2
Gent-Adinkerke
Gent-Tournai
Herbestal-Bruxelles 1
Herbestal-Bruxelles 2
Herbestal-Bruxelles 3
Herbestal-Bruxelles 4
Herbestal-Bruxelles 5
Herbestal-Bruxelles 6
Herbestal-Bruxelles 7
Mons-Tournai
Mons-Ath-Tournai
Oostende-Brussel 2
Oostende-Brussel 3
Oostende-Brussel 4
Oostende-Brussel 5
Poperinghe-Brussel 1
Poperinghe-Brussel 2
Tournai-Bruxelles
Tournai-Gent

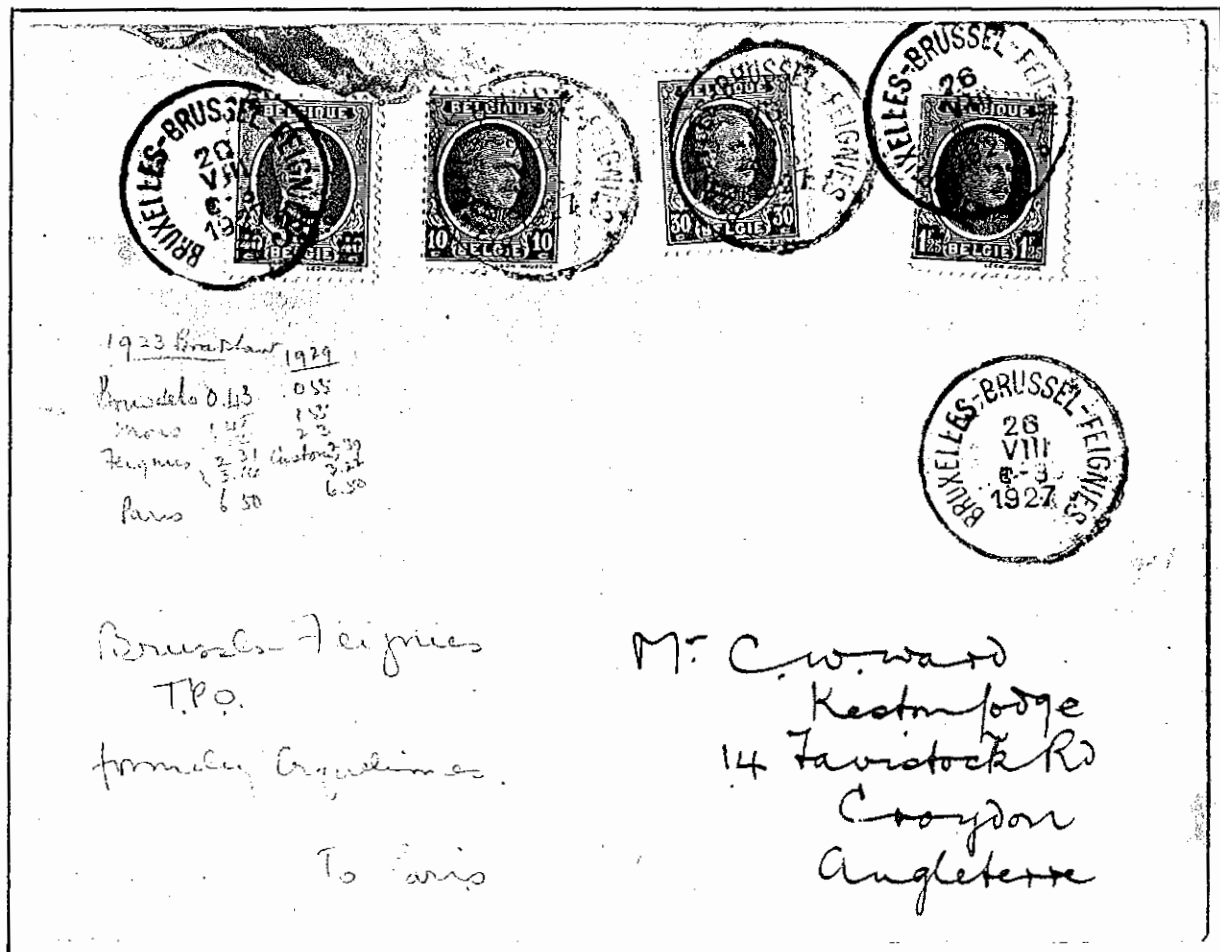


<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>STATION AND TIME OF DEPARTURE</u>	<u>STATION AND TIME OF ARRIVAL</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>51 T.P.O's IN SERVICE, 3rd OCTOBER, 1937</u>				
Antwerpen-Brussel		Antwerpen (Ctre)	Brussel Noord	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays
Adinkerke-Gent		Adinkerke	Gent St. Pierre	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays Secondary
Arlon-Bruxelles 1		Arlon	Bruxelles QL	
Arlon-Bruxelles 1		Arlon	Bruxelles Nord	Sundays only
Arlon-Bruxelles 2		Libramont	Bruxelles Nord.	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays
Arlon-Bruxelles 3		Jemelle	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Arlon-Bruxelles 4		Arlon	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Brussels Antwerpen		Brussel Noord	Antwerpen Ctre	
Bruxelles-Arlon 1 (Int)		Bruxelles Nord	Libramont	
Bruxelles-Arlon 1 (Etr)		Bruxelles Nord	Arlon	
Bruxelles-Arlon 2		Bruxelles QL	Arlon	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Bruxelles-Arlon 3		Bruxelles Nord	Libramont	- - do - -
Bruxelles-Charleroi		Bruxelles Midi	Charleroi Sud	Train Gr.V.54 working days. Train 1700, night of Sunday/Monday.
Bruxelles-Feignies		Bruxelles Midi	Feignies	
Brussel-Gent		Brussel Noord	Gent St. Pierre	
Brussel-Hasselt		Brussel Noord	Asch	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 1		Bruxelles Nord	Liege Guillemins	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 2		Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays
Bruxelles-Herbetal 3		Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 4		Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	
Brussel-Kortrijk (via Gent)		Brussel Noord	Kortrijk	Mondays only
Bruxelles-Mons		Bruxelles Midi	Mons	
Brussel-Oostende 1		Brussel Noord	Oostende Ville	
Brussel-Oostende 2		Brussel Noord	Oostende Quai	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays
Brussel-Oostende 3		Brussel Noord	Gent St. Pierre	- - do - -
Brussel-Poperinghe		Brussel Zuid	Ieper	- - do - -
Bruxelles-Tournai		Bruxelles Midi	Tournai	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays Secondary

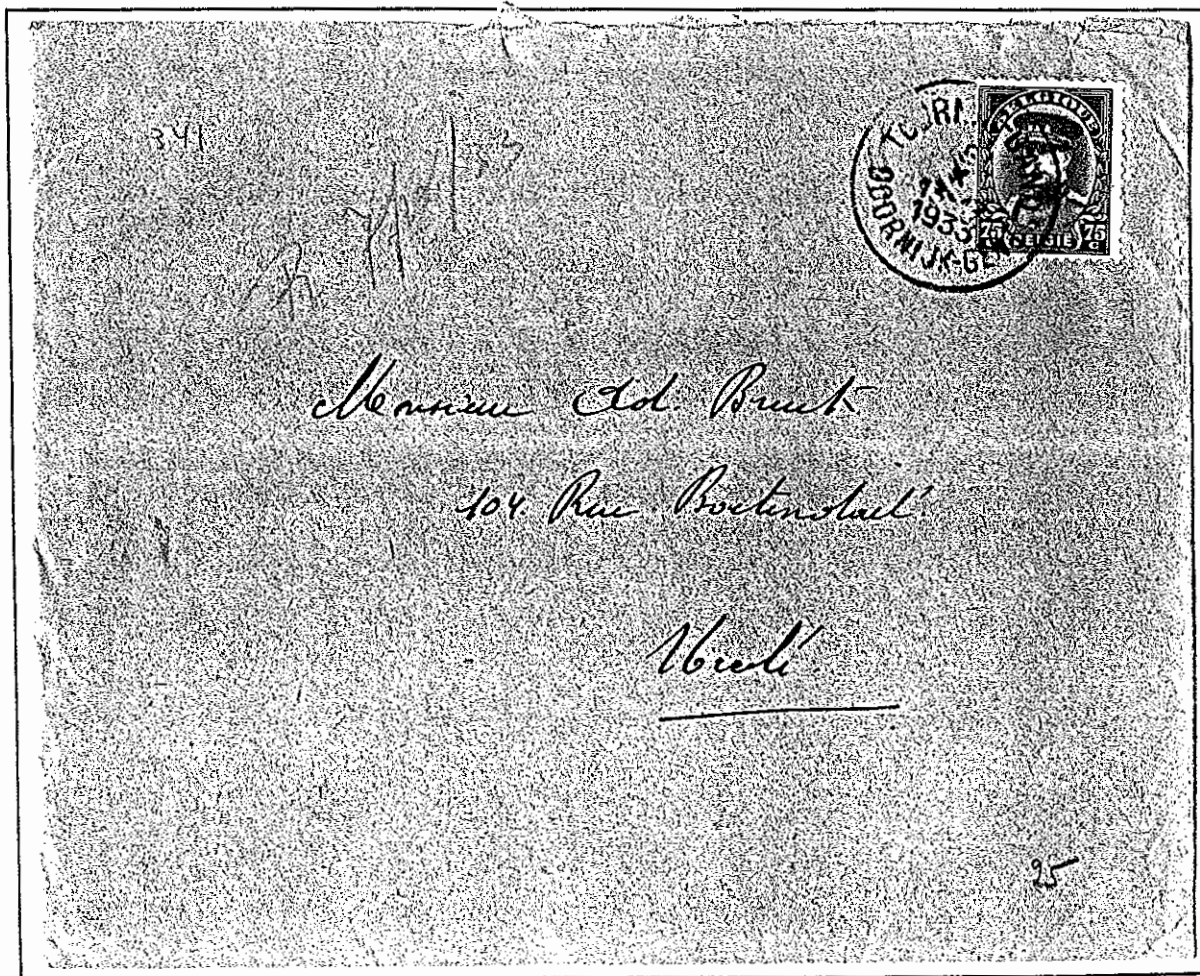


44 T.P.O's IN SERVICE, 15th MAY, 1938

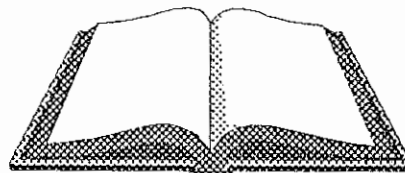
Antwerpen-Brussel	Antwerpen (Central)	Brussel Noord	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Adinkerke-Gent	Adinkerke	Gent St. Pierre	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays Secondary Working Days.
Arlon-Bruxelles 1	Arlon	Bruxelles QL	Sundays only.
Arlon-Bruxelles 1	Arlon	Bruxelles Nord	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Arlon-Bruxelles 2	Libramont	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Arlon-Bruxelles 3	Jemelle	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Arlon-Bruxelles 4	Arlon	Bruxelles Nord	
Brussel-Antwerpen	Brussel Noord	Antwerpen Central	
Bruxelles-Arlon 1 (Int.-Binn)	Bruxelles Nord	Libramont	
Bruxelles-Arlon 1 (Etr.Buit)	Bruxelles Nord	Arlon	
Bruxelles-Arlon 2	Bruxelles QL	Arlon	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Bruxelles-Arlon 3	Bruxelles Nord	Libramont	- - do - -
Bruxelles-Charleroi	Bruxelles Midi	Charleroi Sud	Working days.
Bruxelles-Charleroi	Bruxelles Midi	Charleroi Sud	Nights of Sunday/Monday
Bruxelles-Feignies	Bruxelles Midi	Feignies	
Brussel-Gent	Brussel Noord	Gent St. Pierre	
Brussel-Hasselt	Brussel Noord	Asch	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 1	Bruxelles Nord	Liege Guillemins	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 2	Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Bruxelles-Herbetal 3	Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	
Bruxelles-Herbetal 4	Bruxelles Nord	Herbestal	
Brussel-Kortrijk (via Gent)	Brussel Noord	Kortrijk	Mondays.
Bruxelles-Mons	Bruxelles Midi	Mons	
Brussel-Ostende 1	Brussel Noord	Oostende Ville	



DESIGNATION	LINE	STATION AND TIME OF DEPARTURE	STATION AND TIME OF ARRIVAL	REMARKS
44 T.P.O's IN SERVICE, 15th MAY, 1938 (cont.)				
Brussel-Poperinghe		Brussel Zuid	Kortrijk	Cancelled on Sat and Sun and Public Holidays.
Charleroi-Bruxelles		Namur	Bruxelles Midi	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Feignies-Bruxelles 1		Feignies	Bruxelles Midi	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Feignies-Bruxelles 2		Quévy	Bruxelles Midi	
Gent-Adinkerke		Gent St. Pierre	Adinkerke	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays Secondary
Gent-Tournai		Gent St. Pierre	Tournai	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Herbestal-Bruxelles 1		Herbestal	Bruxelles Nord	Secondary on Mondays and day following Public Holiday.
Herbestal-Bruxelles 2		Herbestal	Bruxelles Nord	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Herbestal-Bruxelles 3		Herbestal	Liege Guillemins	
Herbestal-Bruxelles 4		Liege Guillemins	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Herbestal-Bruxelles 6		Liege Guillemins	Bruxelles Nord	- - do - -
Herbestal-Bruxelles 7		Herbestal	Bruxelles Nord	Sundays only.
Mons-Tournai		Mons	Tournai	
Mons-Ath-Tournai		Mons	Tournai	
Oostende-Brussel 4		Oostende Quai	Brussel Noord	Cancelled on Sundays and Public Holidays.
Oostende-Brussel 5		Oostende Quai	Brussel Noord	
Poperinghe-Brussel 1		Kortrijk	Brussel Noord	- - do - -
Poperinghe-Brussel 2		Kortrijk	Brussel Zuid	- - do - -
Tournai-Bruxelles		Tournai	Bruxelles Midi	- - do - -
Tournai-Gent		Tournai	Gent St. Pierre	- - do - -



REVIEW OF JOURNALS



"Info-Phila" – this is the journal of the Phila Club of Flemalle, Belgium, and is published quarterly, limited at the present time to 215 copies per issue. The Belgian Study Circle is associated to Info-Phila.

On this occasion, we have to review five issues (Nos. 46-50) and this publication is one of the most interesting as they contain some good subjects and we include the following items amongst others.

The continuation of the Trans-Siberian Railway system which, in one issue includes the "Auto Canons" of Belgium in the First World War. The end of the story on the Grand Masters of the Posts.

S.E.C.A.P. – a study on the electronic obliteration machines by Julien Heyvaert. A further article on the Portraits in the Senate, this having been shown on a series of Belgian stamps some years ago. A fine article on the Military Aerogrammes of the Belgo-Luxembourg Battalion in Korea by Henri Smets. The "July 1849 Insufficiently Paid Letters". The "taxed" postcards with "five words maximum".

A long article on "Dragons on Stamps" – for a thematic collector. Another fine article on "SCADTA" – the airmail letters to Columbia. Railway cancellations on the State and Conceded lines: Postage errors in the Agency Offices.

A fine article on rates and through Belgium to France 1759-1810.

A letter from New York via the steamship "St. Waesland" to Antwerp – the Red Star Line, by our member Leo de Clercq.

A good article on the oval cachet "Bruxelles-Reception".

Finally, the Belgian Military postmarks during mobilisation in 1939.

Here are plenty of suggestions to our members to collect!!



S.J.A.

AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

The sale held on 22nd April totalled in the region of £1,487, covering a wide range of material broken down into what I hope is manageable lots. Unusually, some of the postal history items did not sell but this was made up for later in the sale. Classic stamps generally reached their reserve prices with quality being important to the discerning buyer, but much remaining unsold. The same, however, could not be said about the Tête-Bêche and Advert lots (195-218), for which there was strong competition. These all sold for well over their reserve prices (some x 5) and could have been sold five times over, such was the interest. In the section for Circle funds, keen bidding pushed the prices up, especially for the Railway Parcel dockets.

Regarding the literature section, our admonitions to members to buy whilst the opportunity exists was well heeded as many of these titles do not often appear. Again, some reached several times their estimate. Those in the Flemish language are understandably the least popular.

Just over 100 lots remained unsold out of 305, representing a result of around 66% of lots finding a new owner.

REG HARRISON

Results of Sale held 22nd April, 1995

1	£.p. 20.00	52	£.p. 8.00	132	£.p. 12.00	201	£.p. 1.10	245	£.p. 2.00
2	2.50	53	8.00	134	3.00	202	8.50	246	3.50
3	4.00	58	10.00	135	2.00	203	15.00	248	13.00
4	1.00	59	35.00	136	2.00	204	8.50	249	12.50
5	1.00	60	1.00	137	4.00	205	5.50	250	12.00
6	1.20	61	6.00	138	6.00	206	7.50	251	3.00
7	1.00	62	1.00	139	4.00	207	11.00	252	4.00
8	1.50	64	1.00	140	3.00	208	8.50	253	4.00
10	8.00	65	1.00	142	60.00	209	16.00	254	4.00
11	1.40	68	1.00	146	8.00	210	8.00	255	1.50
13	1.00	70	.80	148	4.50	211	10.50	256	7.00
15	.80	72	9.00	149	2.00	212	9.50	257	15.00
16	4.00	78	.60	152	1.20	213	1.00	258	16.00
17	6.00	79	1.00	158	2.00	214	6.50	259	20.00
18	10.00	84	3.00	159	4.00	215	6.50	264	5.00
19	4.00	88	1.00	160	2.50	216	8.00	265	8.50
20	8.00	94	10.00	166	5.00	217	1.10	266	10.00
21	6.00	96	5.00	169	2.50	218	5.00	269	3.00
22	3.00	98	5.50	170	1.00	219	11.00	270	8.00
26	1.60	99	3.00	175	8.00	220	45.00	273	3.50
28	1.00	100	2.00	176	5.00	221	28.00	274	2.00
29	3.00	101	1.50	177	.80	222	250.00	275	7.50
30	4.50	102	2.00	179	12.00	223	12.00	276	15.00
31	3.50	103	1.50	180	1.50	224	5.00	280	2.00
32	1.00	104	1.50	181	5.00	225	2.00	281	4.00
33	3.00	105	5.00	182	5.00	226	1.40	284	2.00
35	5.00	107	3.00	185	20.00	227	3.00	287	6.00
36	1.00	108	3.00	186	4.00	228	4.00	289	14.00
37	1.10	109	1.00	187	.60	229	5.00	290	4.00
38	.50	115	5.00	190	8.50	230	3.00	291	9.00
39	2.00	116	1.00	191	4.00	231	3.00	293	1.00
40	4.00	117	1.00	192	9.00	232	3.00	295	6.00
41	2.00	118	2.00	193	1.00	233	5.50	299	1.00
42	2.00	120	4.00	194	4.00	234	6.00	300	7.00
43	3.00	122	55.00	195	3.50	235	7.50	303	5.00
45	1.10	125	6.00	196	19.00	236	3.50	304	9.00
46	16.00	127	14.00	197	3.50	237	1.50	305	11.00
47	12.00	128	2.00	198	7.00	238	8.00	---	
50	16.00	130	15.00	199	5.00	239	2.00	---	
51	8.00	131	2.00	200	1.00	243	.60	---	

OUTLINE PROGRAMMEWESTON-SUPER-MARE CONFERENCESEPTEMBER, 1995

Full Sessions: Express Mail - Ian Stevenson
 "Six Great Cities" - Jack Andrews
 (early postal history, etc.)

Joint Session with Belgian Congo Study Circle:

Postage Due on Mail between Belgium and Congo

Shorter Displays/Discussion:
 (probably six out of the following)

TPO's, including Foreign Sorting Marks
 Enclave Mail (WW1)
 Cross Channel Mail Boats
 Line Engraving
 Flandres Occidentale Private Line Cancellations
 Jack Gibbs' Miscellany

All members are requested to bring along any relevant material from their own collections.

Possible further items (in response to members' expressed interest) - can anyone provide a short session on the following (this year or next)?

Early Booklets
 Cinderella Issues

LE PHILATELISTE BELGE (3RD SERIES) AND LA REVUE POSTALEDECEMBER 1971 - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1982

From this date, except for the Editorials these two magazines appear to have had the same contents. The date of issue may not always coincide. The following list may be of assistance.

PB		RP		PB		RP	
Dec 71	No 23	Dec 71	No 83	Jan 76	No 34	Jan 76	No 96
Sep 72	No 24	Sep 72	No 84	Jun 76	No 35/36	Jun 76	No 97/98
Jan 73	No 25	Jan 73	No 85	Feb 77	No 37/38	Feb 77	No 99/100
Sep 73	No 26	Sep 73	No 86	Oct 77	No 39	Oct 77	No 101
Jan 74	No 27	Jan 74	No 87	Mar 78	No 40/41	Mar 78	No 102/103
Apr 74	No 28	Apr 74	No 88/89	Oct 78	No 42/43	Oct 78	No 104/105
Jul 74	No 29	Jul 74	No 90	Nov 79	No 44/45/46	Nov 79	No 106/107/108
Nov 74	No 30	Dec 74	No 91	Feb 81	No 47/48	Feb 81	No 109/110
Feb 75	No 31	Feb 75	No 92			Jul 81	No 111
May 75	No 32	Jun 75	No 93/94			Aug/Sep 82	No 112
Sep 75	No 33	Sep 75	No 95				

No 112 was the last number of La Revue Postale edited by Jacques du Four in the old format 16 x 24cm.

No 113 issued in December 1982 was edited by Hector Raassens and in a new format 17 x 24cm.

It is understood that No 47/48 was the last number of Le Philatliste Belge in this series.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF LIMBURG PROVINCE

Introduction

As commented upon when last year's Namur Province display took place, each year it gets more difficult to assemble a cross section of material to support a province display. This is partly the result of choosing to display the 'easy' provinces first, but is also a reflection on how difficult it is to find nowadays good covers illustrating postal history of less well known towns in Belgium. My efforts were, however, boosted by support from other members, especially Jack Andrews, in respect of early period material. I have also cheated slightly in respect of that part of Limburg now within Holland, of which a few covers are included for historical purposes.

Historical Background

Along with Luxembourg, Limburg was the last major change to the boundaries of modern Belgium. It was not until 1839 that its final shape was settled, fixing the national frontier of Belgium with Holland.

Its history is rather chequered but as a region, was one of many small states resulting from the division of the Duchy of Lower Lorraine in the 11th century. The name Limburg was applied when the rival houses of Limburg (heirs of the first Count Walram of Arlon) and Louvain made peace in 1155. The territory along the River Meuse became Limburg, that to the west Brabant. Today's province largely comprises the land of the Counts of Looz dependent upon the Principality of Liege.

In 1430, the then Duchy of Limburg united with the Netherlands under Philip III, Duke of Burgundy, until 1482 when it passed to the House of Habsburg. (See Fig.A)

The Peace of Westphalia (1648) divided Limburg into two parts, the northern part being ceded by Spain to the United Provinces of the Netherlands. (See Fig.B) Around 1714, various areas had passed to Prussia and Netherlands, the southern portion to the Austrian Habsburgs - the Austrian Netherlands from our philatelic viewpoint.

By 1795, France was in full occupation and also repossessed some of the land in Prussia and the Netherlands to make up the Departement of Meuse Inferieure No.95. (Fig.C)

Twenty years later, Belgium became part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands and Limburg became a Dutch province with the addition of small areas of Prussia. (Fig.D)

When, in 1830, Independence was achieved, Limburg, together with Luxembourg, were in dispute resulting in military action and numerous meetings between the great powers. However, in 1839, much to Belgium's regret, large parts of Limburg, including Maastricht, were ceded to Holland and the large map shows the modern province in 1914.

This simplified preamble serves to illustrate the effects of the constant changes on the postal services with many areas sometimes being served by one nationality or the other. For this reason, more than one postal authority could be involved and, of course, linguistic differences existed.

In practice, very little mail has survived prior to the Austrian period and indeed, all mail prior to around 1850 is relatively scarce.

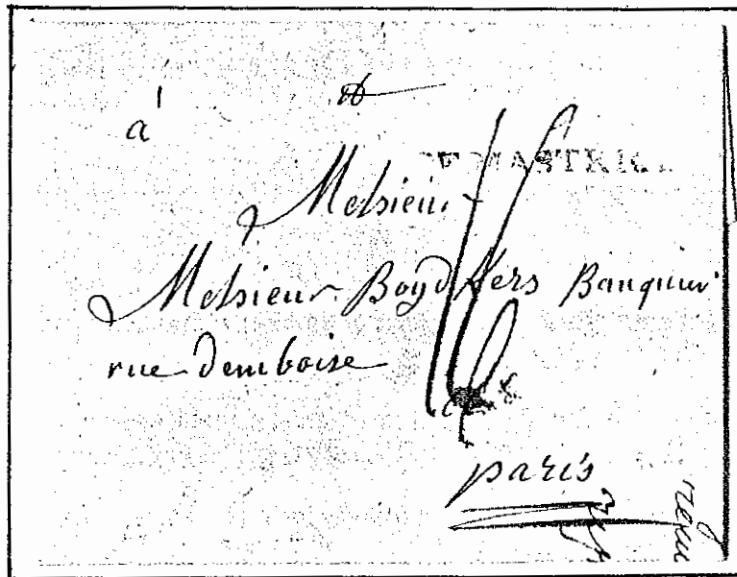
Spanish Netherlands Period (1621-1713)

There is virtually no mail surviving from this period and only manuscript markings are likely to have been used. The Liege connection meant that much of the area was not Spanish controlled but towns like Maastricht, Hasselt and Tongres were sufficiently important to generate correspondence. Perhaps manuscript markings on letters that exist might bear closer scrutiny.

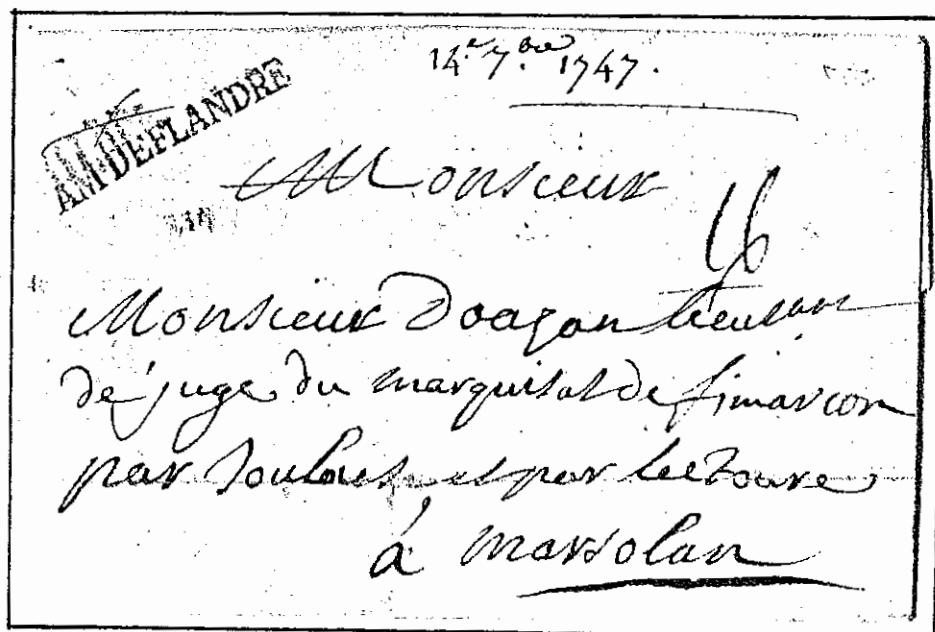
Austrian Netherlands Period (1714-1794)

During this period, mail markings start to appear on an organised basis for the towns of Bree, Hasselt, Maseyck, St. Trond and Tongres. Manuscript town names normally preceded by the word 'de' were the norm but straight-line handstamps are known at Hasselt and Maseyck. The Dutch towns of Maastricht and Ruremonde also issued mail during this period.

Also shown is a cover from Tongres to France dated 14th September, 1747, during the period 1747-49 when Tongres was occupied by the French. It bears the handstamp "AM-DEFLANDRE" (Army of Flanders) used by the French during 1746-1749.



Straightline "De Mastrict" on letter Liege to Paris 10th Sept. 1795



Tongres to France 14th Sept. 1747 - "AM De Flandre"

French Occupation 1794-1814

As mentioned in the historical introduction, the French Departement of Meuse Inferieure enlarged the province boundaries taking in parts of Prussia and the Netherlands. The capital town was Maastricht and the number 95 was allocated for Departement postal use. The principle of extending French postal regulations to all the 'Departements Conquis' brought in the normal range of markings seen for this period.

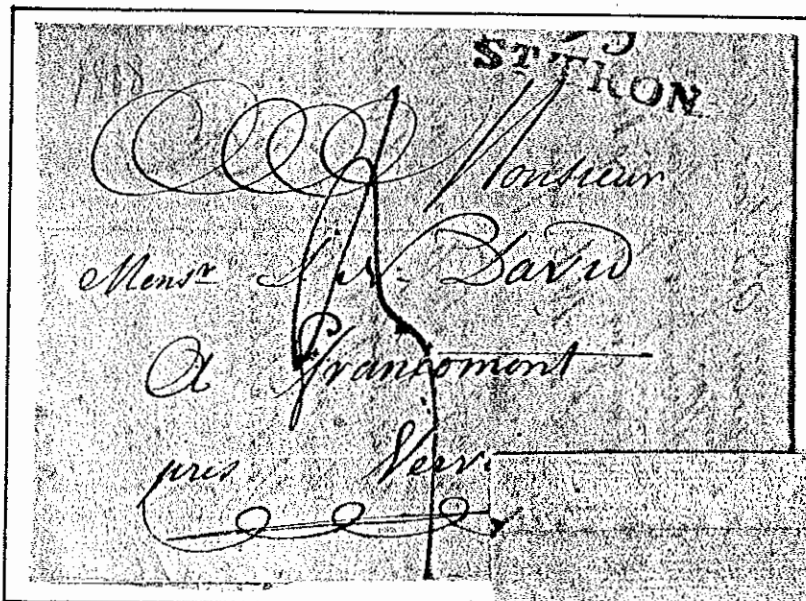
Straight-line markings with the number above were used e.g. 95 MAESTRICHT 95 HAMMONT

and for pre-payment the letters PP were added e.g. P95P MAASEYCK P95P TONGRES

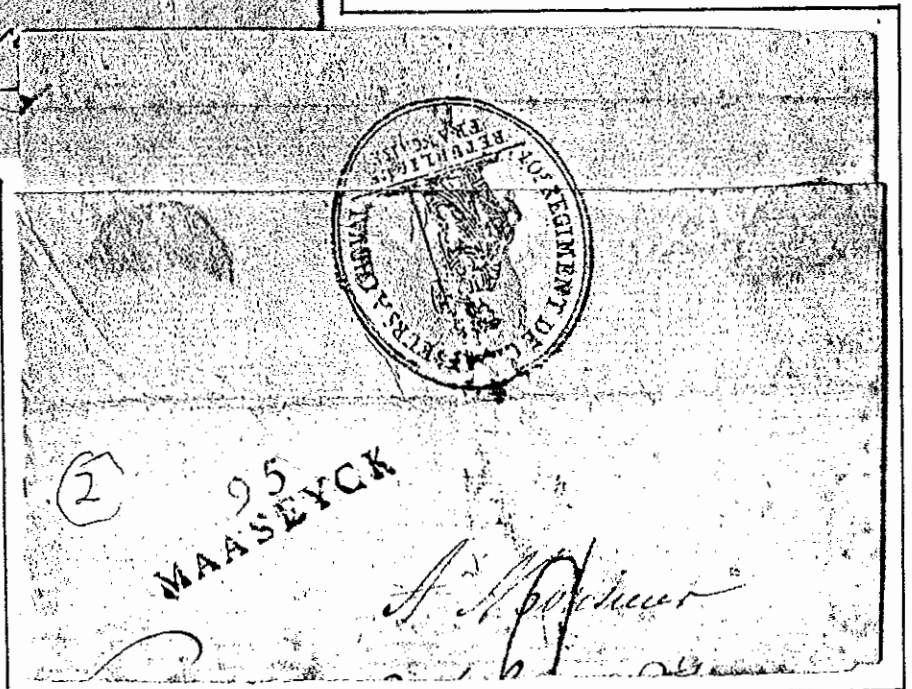
Likewise Déboursé marks were introduced e.g. DEB 95 MAASEYCK DEB.MAESTRICHT

All the déboursé marks are scarce. In addition to the towns previously listed, Hammont and Achel were elevated to postal status. Minor changes in spelling were introduced e.g. Hasselt (for Hasselt), St. Tron (for St. Trond). During the early stages of the French Occupation, some covers received marks incorporating the word DE e.g. DE MASTRICT (1795).

Finally in this section, Maestricht as the capital had special administrative handstamps indicating its status e.g. PREFET/MEUSE INFERIEURE, DEPT DE LA MEUSE INFRE both in a script style lettering.



"95 St. Tron"
16th March 1808



"95 Maaseyck"
with Military Cachet

United Kingdom of the Netherlands 1815-1830

After the withdrawal of Prussian troops and with small additions to the eastern frontier, the French Departement became the Dutch Province of Limburg. Naturally, the Dutch control was no more welcome to the Belgians than the French previously but no new postal towns appear to have been established during this period. Only the following are known to have independent postal markings:-

HASSELT; MASEYCK; ST. TROND; TONGRES

together with MAESTRICHT, RUREMONDE, SITTARD, VAALS AND VENLO in modern Holland.

As with other provinces, initially the existing French handstamps were used until new Dutch ones could be produced. Usually the departement number was erased. The new handstamps issued incorporated spelling changes, viz. Hasselt for Hasset, Maaseik for Maseyck, St. Truyen for St. Trond and Tongeren for Tongres. Where prepayment occurred, the previous PP was replaced by FRANCO e.g.

ST. TRUYEN
FRANCO

In 1829 appeared the first circular date stamps comprising a large (27mm) single circle with the town name at the top and the day and month in the centre. No year slug was incorporated. They were struck in red ink but only had a short life as the following year a major change was to occur.

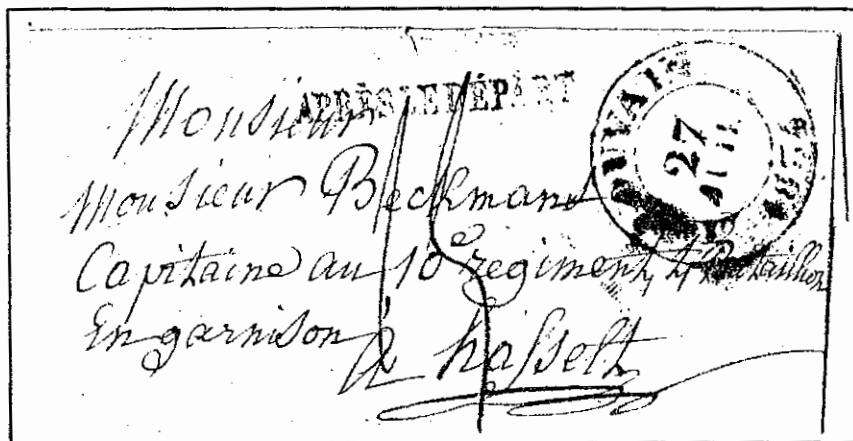
It was during this Dutch period that the first Foreign Sorting Marks were to appear, but these are dealt with in a later section.

Kingdom of Belgium (1830)

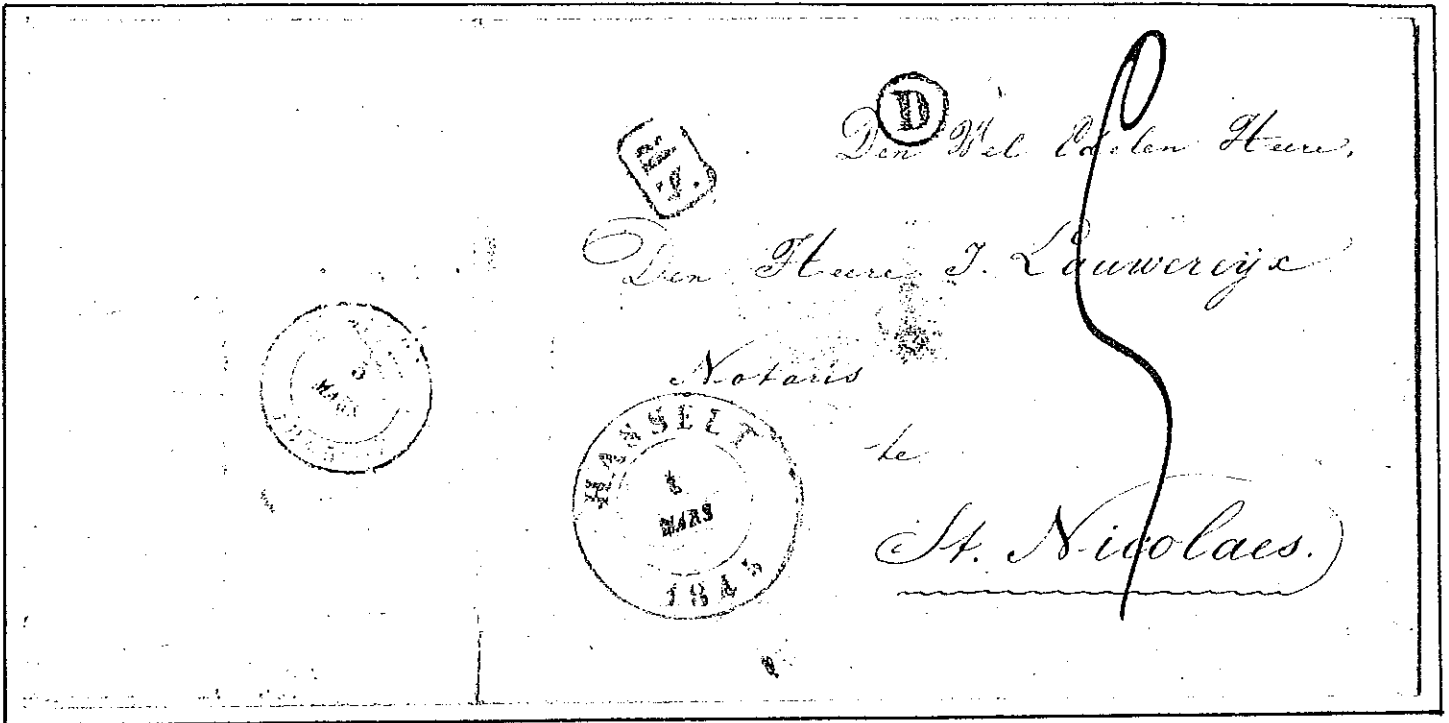
Unlike the other Belgian provinces, the transfer of Limburg from Dutch to Belgian control was a rather drawn out affair.

King William of Orange only reluctantly accepted the loss of the Belgian provinces and in the case of Limburg province, did not agree that all of the province should be ceded. An army commanded by his son, the Prince of Orange, invaded Belgium and the military response of the fledgeling Belgian state, together with French troops, is the subject of much historic pride. Suffice it to say that it was not until 1839 that the matter was finally settled and a reduced size province became permanently Belgian. It resulted in a finger of Holland, including Maastricht, projecting into the gap between Belgium and Prussia, which exists to this day.

Over the next twenty years, a large number of Belgian towns achieved postal status, although again mail arising from them is not common and must have been in small quantities. As with other provinces, in 1830 the first act of the new Belgian postal authorities was to issue a new circular date stamp comprising a double circle (29-30mm) to distinguish it from the single circle Dutch handstamps. The bottom arc also bore the year in full.



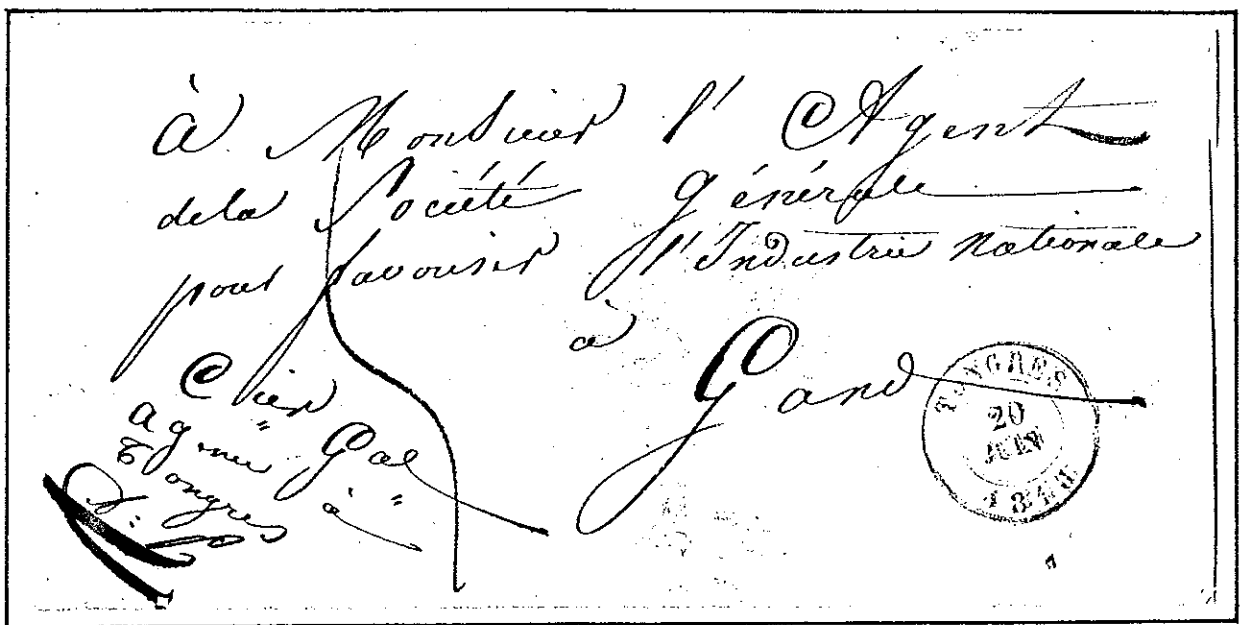
Large CDS "Louvain" in black ink (rare) 27th July 1834



Large CDS "Hasselt" 4th March 1845

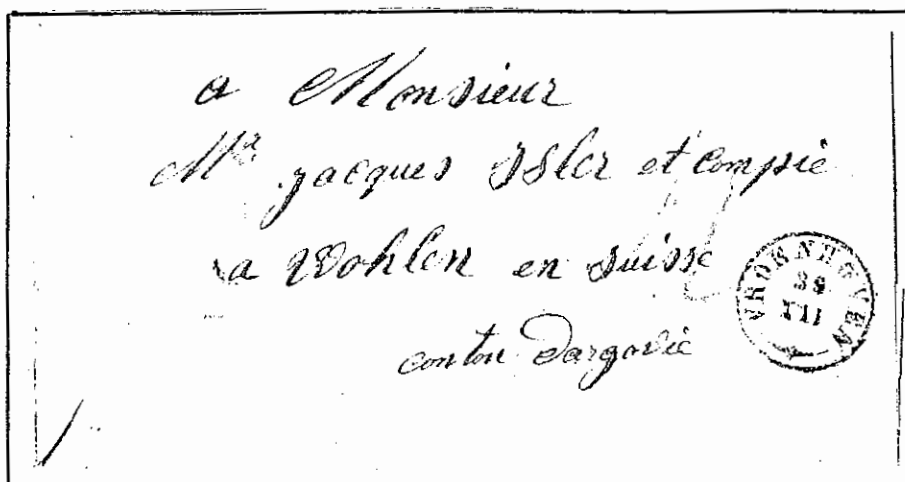
The large C.D.S. were only recorded at Hasselt, Maseyck, St. Trond and Tongres within modern Belgium but were also in use at Ruremonde, Sittard, Vaals and Venlo. As would be expected with a change of control, Belgium brought back where appropriate old spellings of town names, e.g. Maeseyck, St. Trond, Tongres. All the early C.D.S. markings are only seen in red ink.

After approximately 10 years, a smaller size C.D.S. replaced the large version and this was used at Beverloo, Hasselt, Herck-la-Ville, Maseyck, Peer, St. Trond and Tongres - all initially in red ink until the introduction of adhesive postage stamps in 1849, when black ink became the norm.



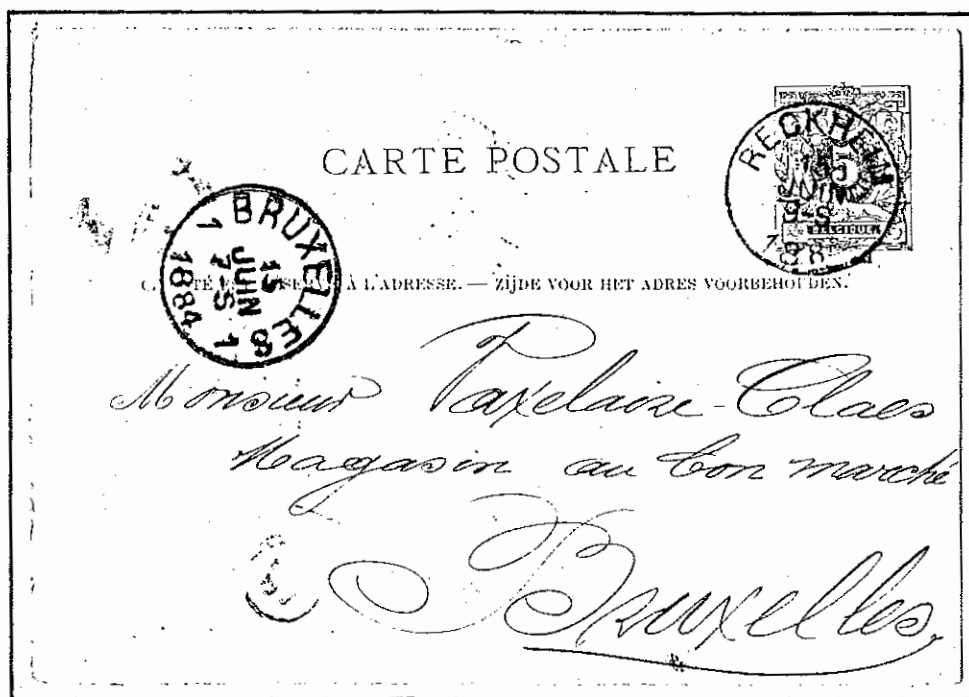
Small CDS "Tongres" (red ink) 20th June 1846

For the small towns which were receiving offices dependent on other main towns, a very small (c.18mm) single C.D.S. with an arc at the bottom, was utilised. The list for this province is long - Beringen, Bilsen, Bree, Herck-la-Ville, Looz, Mechelen, Overpelt, Peer, Riemst and Vroenhoven, indicating the rural nature of much of this province. Introduced from 1837 onwards, they were struck in black ink and are scarce today and sought after on clean covers. An example for Vroenhoven is illustrated.



Very small single CDS with Arc: "Vroenhoven" 28th Dec 1850

Naturally with population growth, the number of postal towns increased considerably between 1830 and 1900. Double C.D.S. marks continued in black ink, whilst single C.D.S. were also in use during certain periods.

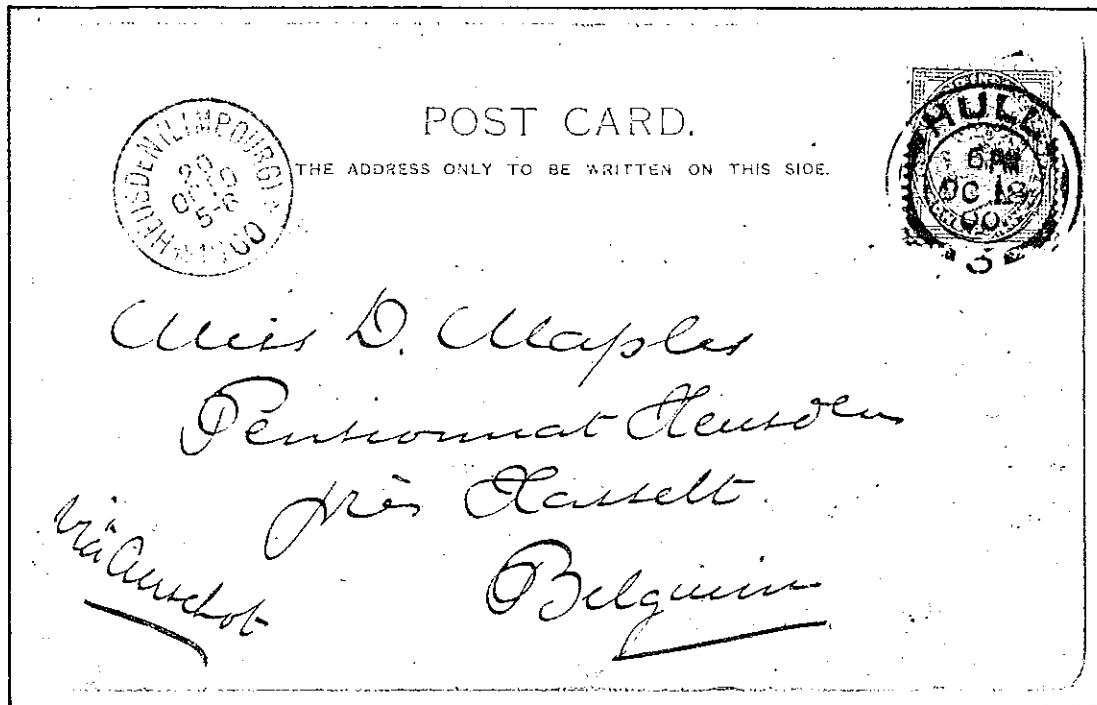


Single CDS "Reckheim" 15th June 1884

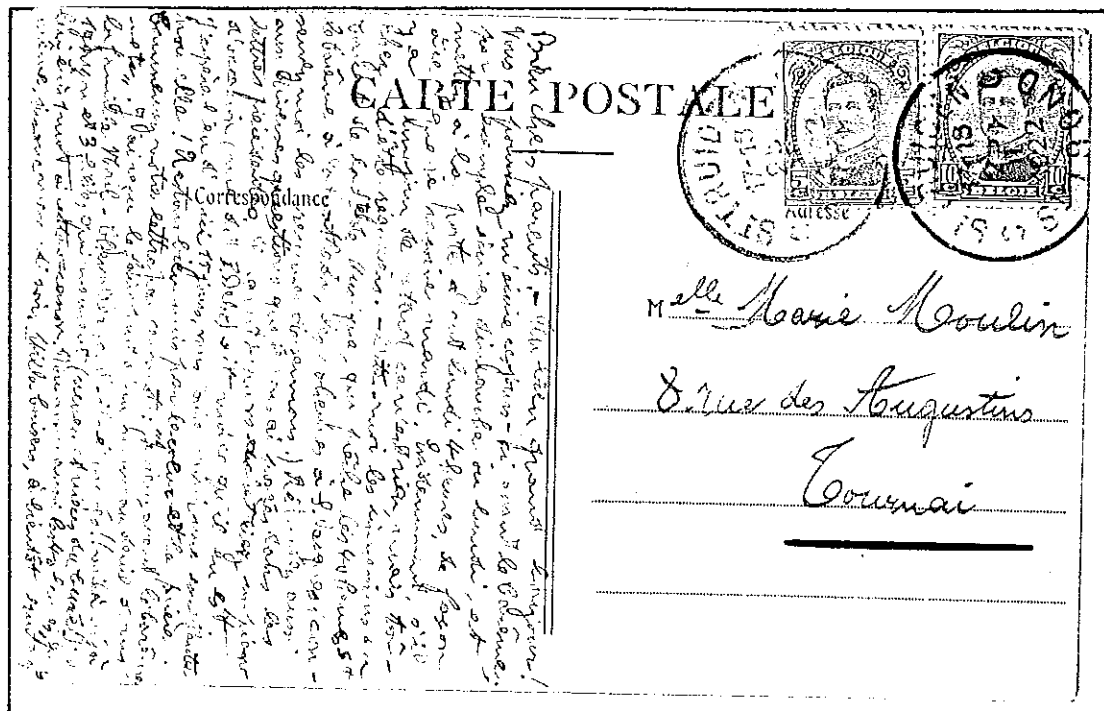
With the introduction of Relais offices, cancellers bearing two five-pointed stars were used and an example for Heusden (Limbourg) is illustrated. Eventually, bilingual markings were brought into use e.g. St. Truiden - St. Trond.

From around 1835, déboursé marks were brought into use for mail which could not be delivered, in the form of a small ellipse containing the legend DÉBOURSE with the town name below e.g. DÉBOURSE
ST. TROND

They are known for Hasselt, St. Trond and Tongres and were struck in red or black ink. They are all very scarce and rarely seen.



Relais Office "★Heusden (Limbourg)★" 20th October 1900



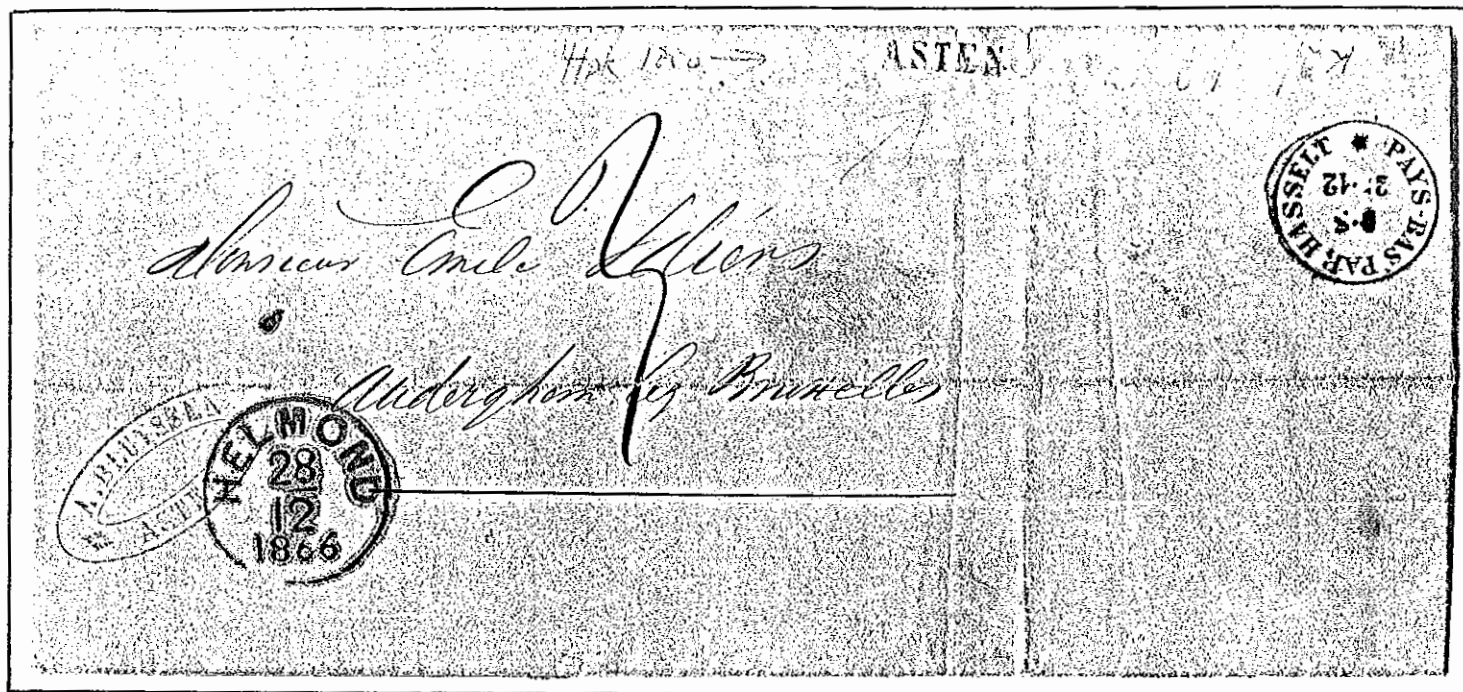
Bilingual Cancel "St. Truiden-St. Trond" 29th Feb 1922

Foreign Sorting Marks

Situated in the top right-hand corner of Belgium, Limbourg was well placed for mail to and from Holland and Prussia. Five main towns served as exchange offices – Hasselt, Hammont, Maastricht, Maseyck and Tongres, whilst others appeared to have had such status but no markings are recorded. Generally, the early markings are in manuscript with the words 'de' or 'fco' in front of the name e.g. "fco Hasselt". There are also letters bearing a handstamp "HOLLANDE" or "D'HOLLANDE" which are difficult to ascertain as to precise place of marking.

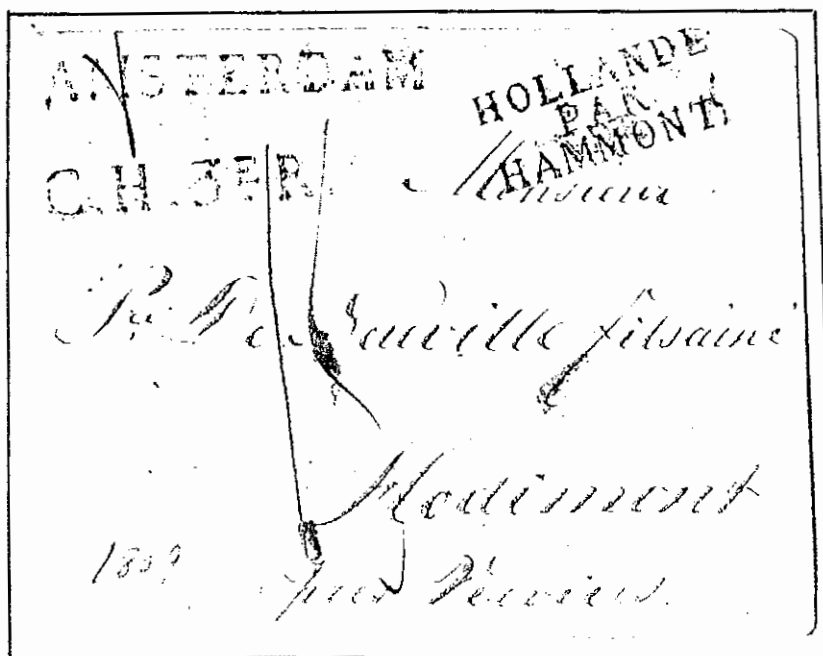
The five principal exchange offices are:

Hasselt From the 1700's onwards, especially from southern Europe to Hambourg. Only manuscript markings were known until the 1860's when a single C.D.S. "PAYS-BAS PAR HASSELT" came into use, which is illustrated.



"Pays-Bas par Hasselt" 29th Dec 1866

Hammont Also from the 1700's, but during the French occupation, a three-line handstamp HOLLANDE/PAR/HAMMONT in red/black ink appeared in 1809.



"Hollande par Hammont" 27th October 1809

Maastricht For mail to/from Holland from around 1724 when marks 'fco' and 'de' appeared. During the French period, the mark HOLLANDE/PAR/MAESTRICHT (1808) is listed but its use puzzles me.

However, more clear during the United Netherlands period is the use of script style handstamps - DUITSCHLAND/OVER MAASTRICHT and NOORDSCHE CORR/OVER MAASTRICHT, when in 1829 Maastricht took over from Henri-Chapelle as principal frontier bureau for mail to northern Germany in direct connection with Aachen.

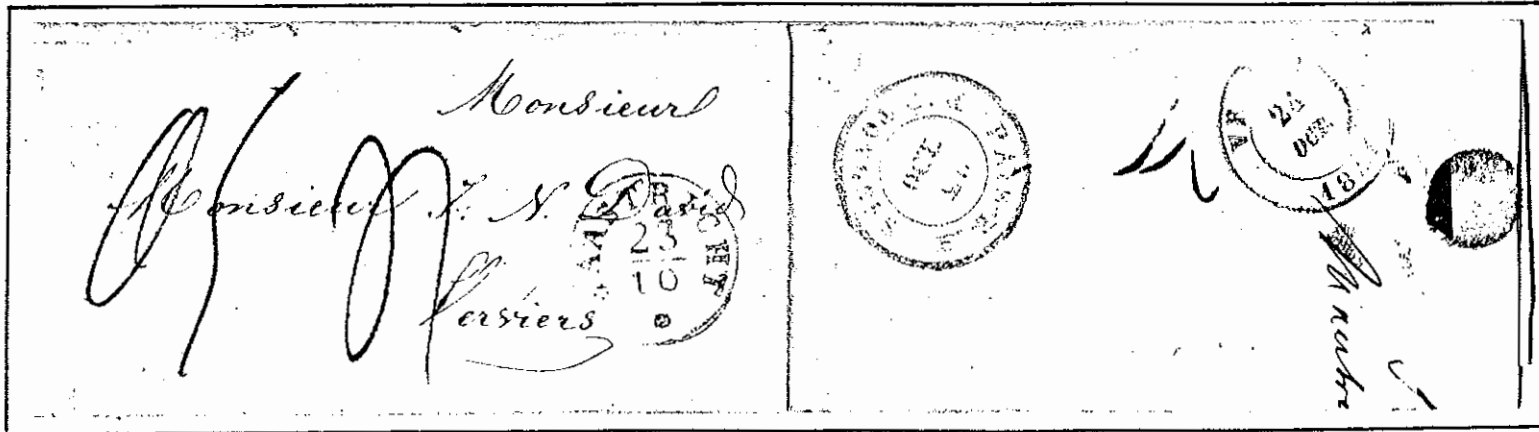
Maseyck Created an exchange office in 1715 for mail principally to northern Germany, there are many early marks, either manuscript or straight-line e.g. MASEYCK, PAR MASEYCK. This continued into the French occupation when straight-line markings HOLLANDE/PAR MAASEYCK and PRUSSE/PAR MAASEYCK appeared in black ink. From 1839 with the border settlement, it continued as exchange office between Belgium and Holland (Bureaux of Ruremonde and Sittard).



"Prusse par Maaseyck" 10th March 1805

Tongres From 1839 it became an exchange bureau connecting with Holland (Maastricht). The mark 'PAYS-BAS PAR TONGRES' in a double C.D.S. (c.25mm) was used with red ink from 1849.

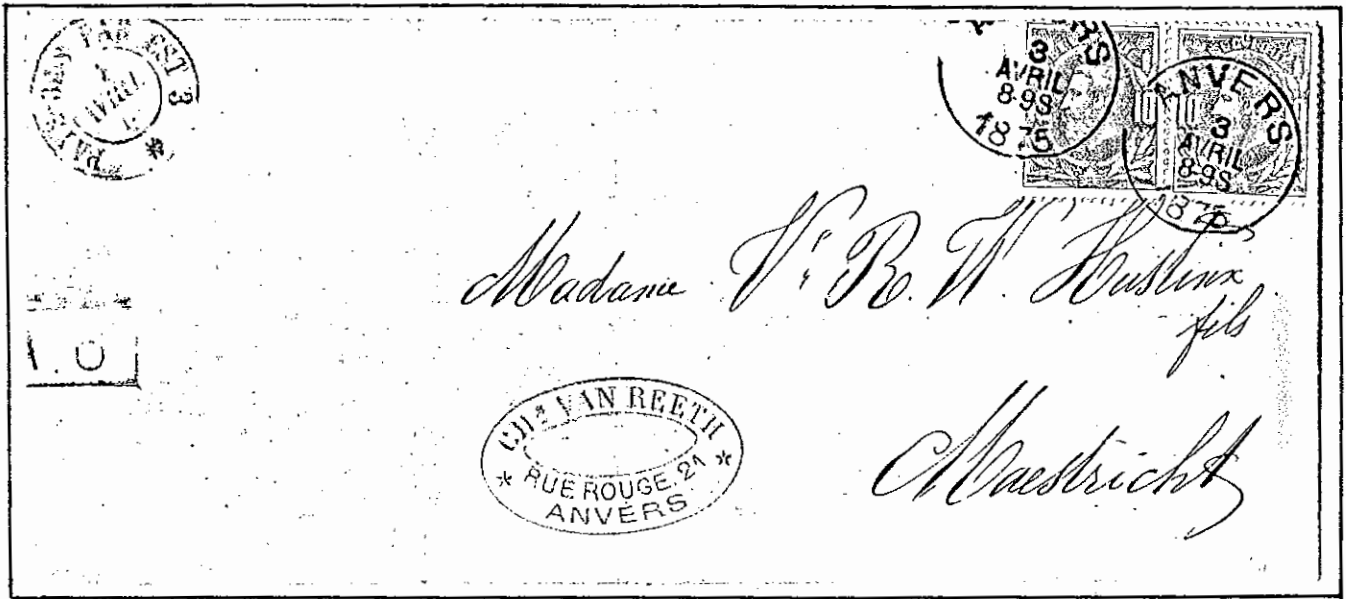
It is worth repeating that generally the same foreign sorting mark was used for mail travelling in both directions - either into or out of the country.



"Pays-Bas par Tongres" 23rd October 1849

Travelling Post Offices

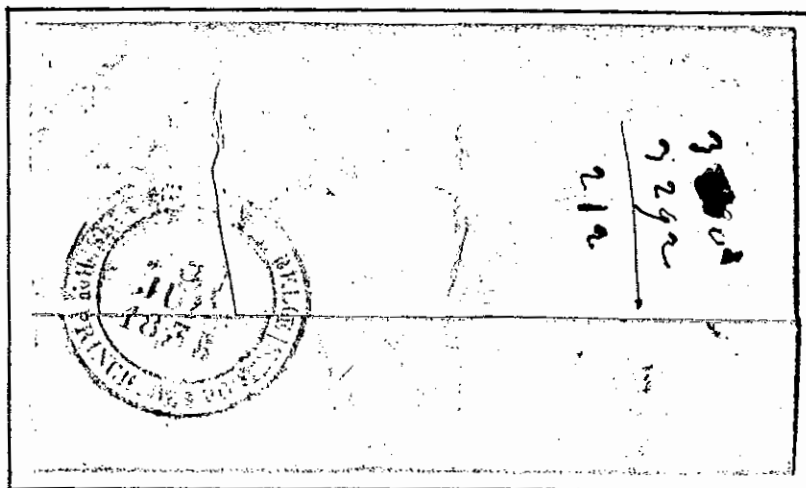
Whilst the marks described above were struck in sedentary or fixed offices where reciprocal charges were calculated between countries, the establishment of fast railway links was to revolutionise mail handling. Both for mail travelling within a country as well as across frontiers, special mobile or travelling postal carriages were created where sorting took place en route. Belgium was quick to capitalise on its strategic location across which much foreign mail was to travel by setting up a network of routes covering the main postal traffic. For Limburg province, however, as it did not sit on the main North-South East-West axis, no dedicated T.P.O's were created until the 20th century. Mail coming to/from Brussels was put onto the Est line (Brussels to Verviers) and diverted at St. Trond on the line which eventually reached Hasselt. A typical marking would therefore be 'PAYS-BAS PAR EST 3'.



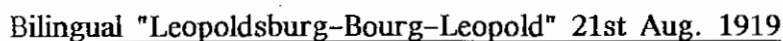
"Pays-Bas par Est 3" 3rd April 1875

Camp de Beverloo

Within the province was established a military camp which was established around May, 1835. Clearly at that time, the dispute over this province suggested the need for a military presence close to the border of Holland. A special handstamp was created reading "SERV. DE L'ARMEE BELGE-B^{au}PRINCIP. DES POSTES" and was struck in red ink only, apparently on mail arriving at the camp. In use between 1835-1837, it is not common and is considered to be one of the first marks used by the newly formed Belgian Army.



Camp de Beverloo 31st July 1835
"Serv. de l'Armee Belge - B^{au}Princip des Postes"



I hope that this account will again be useful to members who collect on a province basis and indicates the sort of material and aspects which can be used to stimulate an interesting collection. Not an easy province but more a challenge and guide to watch for scarce town cancellations.

(This paper is a record of the display which was given to the Circle in London on 28th January, 1995.)

Maps showing Evolution of Limburg Province

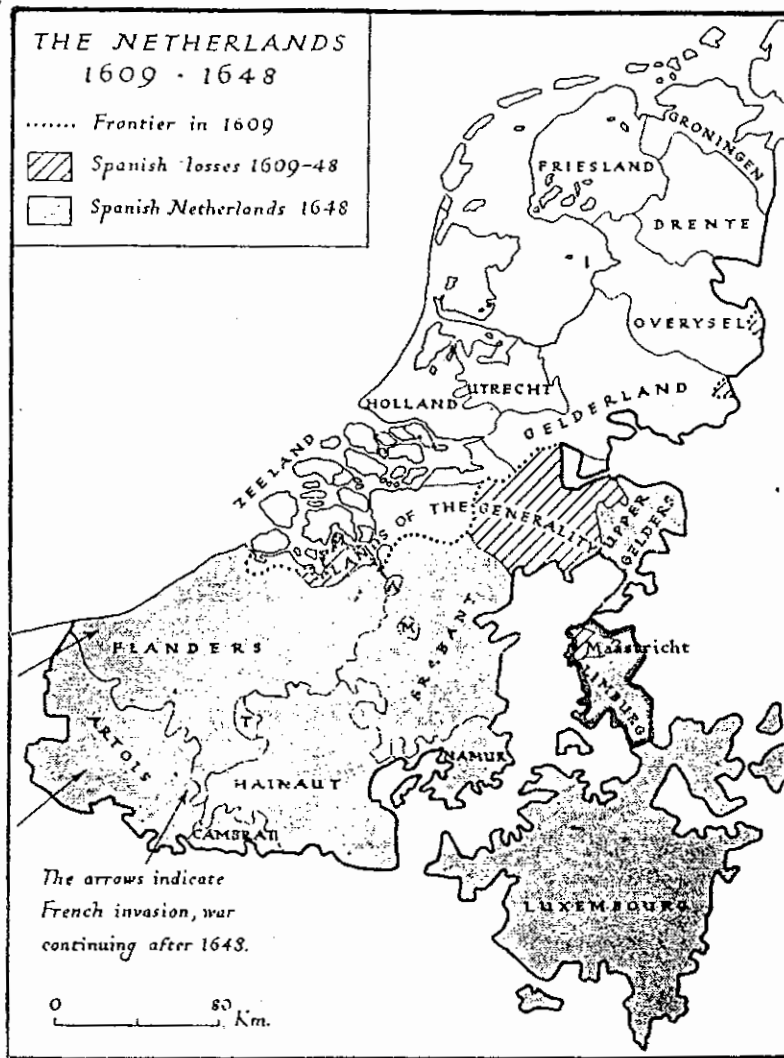


Fig. A The Netherlands in 1609-48

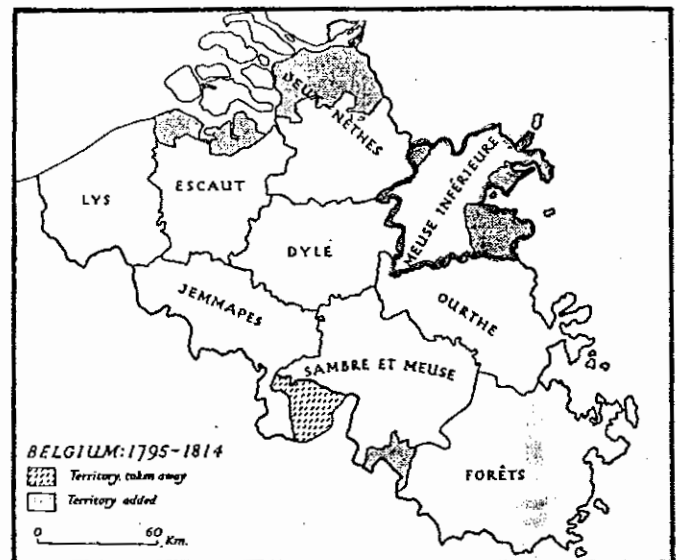


Fig. C Belgium under French domination

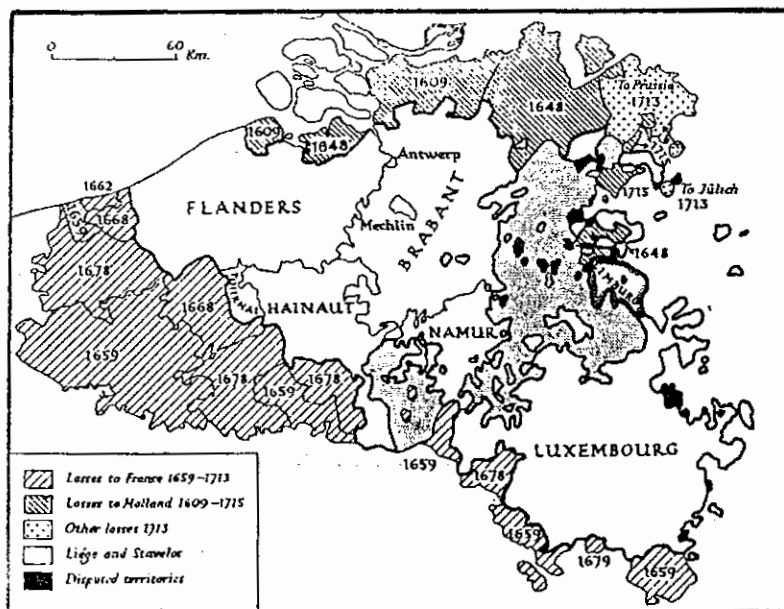


Fig. B The Spanish Netherlands, 1659-1715

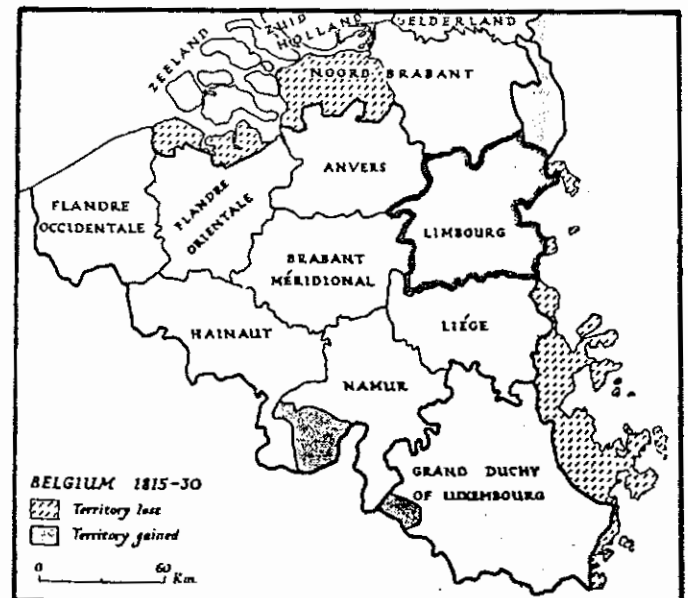
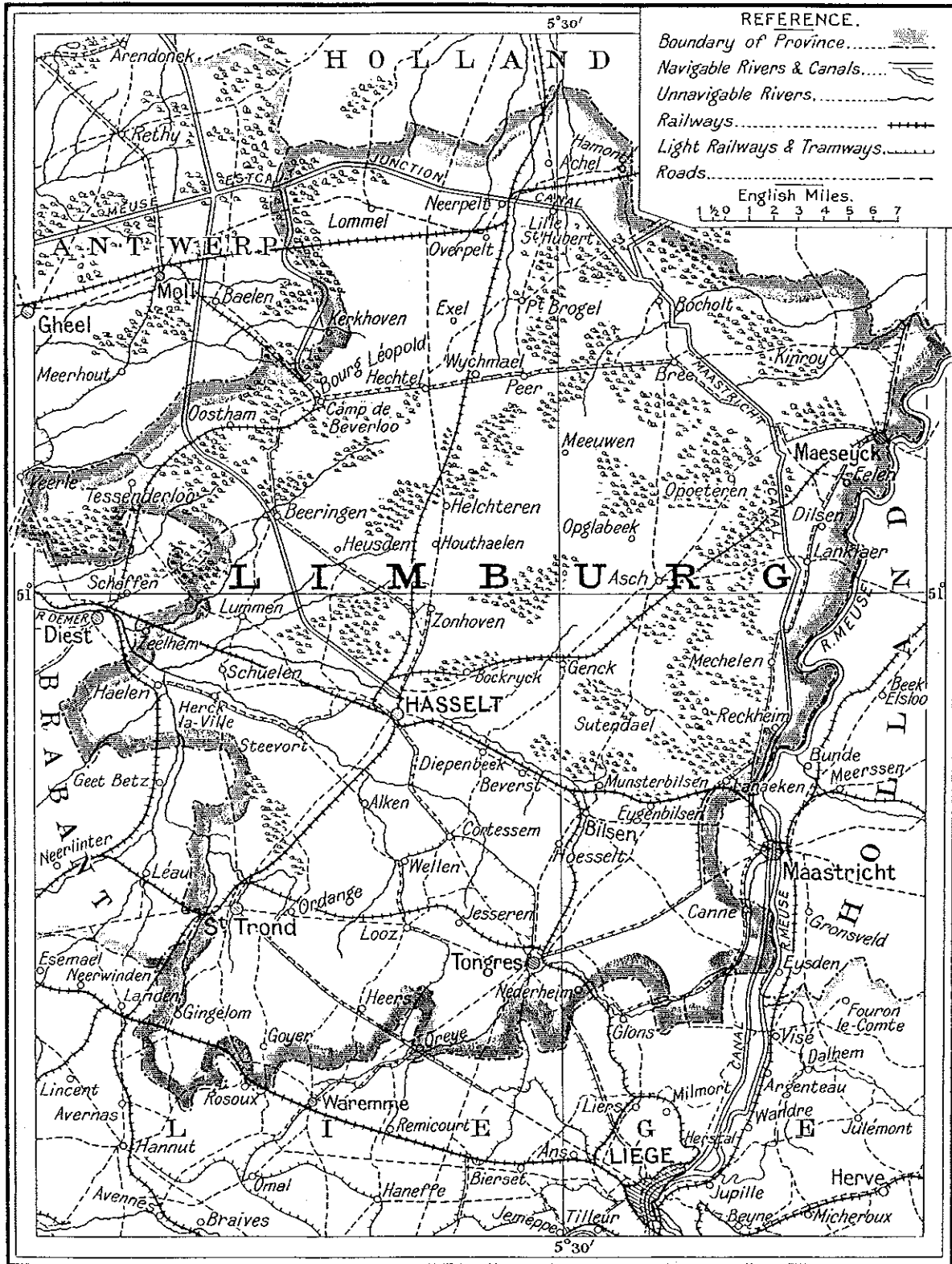


Fig. D Belgium in 1815-30

Map showing Province Boundary in 1914



The little province of Limburg, which occupies the north-eastern corner of Belgium, is only part of the old Duchy of Limburg, which split off from Lorraine in the eleventh century. Spain ceded part of the old duchy to the United Provinces in 1648, and although all Limburg except the town of Maastricht declared for Belgium in the rising of 1830, what is now Dutch Limburg went to Holland later by way of compromise.

CAN YOU PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION?



What do the following have in common:

Adinkerke-De Panne	Laeken
Auvelais	Maaseik
Blankenberge	Melreux-Hotton
Chatelineau-Chatelet	Nimy
Chaudfontaine	Nivelles Est
Court St. Etienne	Oostende-Kaai
Clavier	Ottignies
Couvin	Paliseul
Denée Maredsous	Pepinster
Drongen	Poix St. Hubert
Eekloo	Quatrecht
Esneux	Rochefort
Esschen	Schellebelle
Franiere	Stavelot
Geeraardsbergen	Tubize
Gembloux	Wetteren
Heist	Zaventem
Herve	Zottegem

One answer is that all used cancellers of a similar type in the 1930's-1940's. The cancellations have been seen mainly on railway parcel stamps, with a very few on colis postaux issues, including the only example I have seen on a waybill, from Blankenberge, with a Blankenberge chamfered rectangle applied eight years later on the same waybill! As I have seen none on postage stamps, it seems reasonable to assume they are not postal in origin.

The cancellation consists of a circular date stamp of 30 mm diameter with:

<u>Upper Segment</u>	Town name in an arc.
<u>Centre</u>	Date and time in a straight line (month numeric and time represented by the number of the hour).
<u>Lower Segment</u>	Largish numeral, with an arc-shaped dash on either side.

For some time, all examples I came across had the numeral 1 or 2 in the lower segment, which led me to think that numbers might signify up and down trains, but recently along came a Wetteren 3 example to disprove that theory.

It would be interesting to find out why use of these cancellers were restricted to these 36 places (possibly also to a few others). The major offices/stations are conspicuously absent.

A simple explanation could be that this type of canceller was automatically provided to any office applying for a replacement canceller during a particular period. But can any member suggest a better reason why this group would have been selected to use cancellers of a very distinctive nature? And were they postal, railway or telegraph in origin?

TONY GEAKE

DO 1985

BLANKENBERG
Etiquettes
27-III-1987
INC 10

Lotissement

Destination *Bruxelles*

998

Destinataire: *M^{me} VERHULST S.*
RUE DU CORBEAU, 64
SCHAARBEEK (BRUXELLES)

via

Remboursement

Fr. Ct.

Compte chèques post. N°

Valeur déclarée

Fr.

Expéditeur: *COUCKUYT ANDREA*
RUE DE L'OUEST, 110
BLANKENBERGE

En cas de non-livraison, prière de

Nature de la marchandise (pour envois FRAGILES ou PERISSABLES):

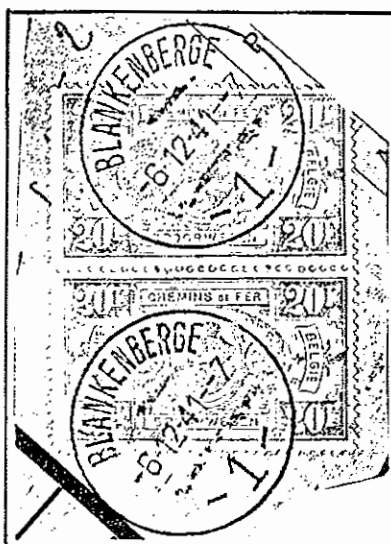
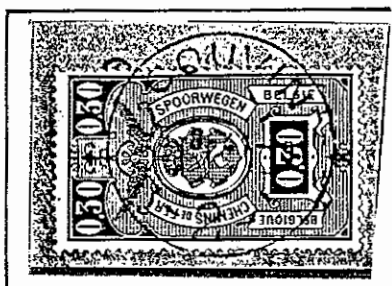
Kg. *1,300*

Colis reçu: *1*

le *27* à *14*

Quintin

Liberator - 4251 - 2 - 46 (1.500.000)

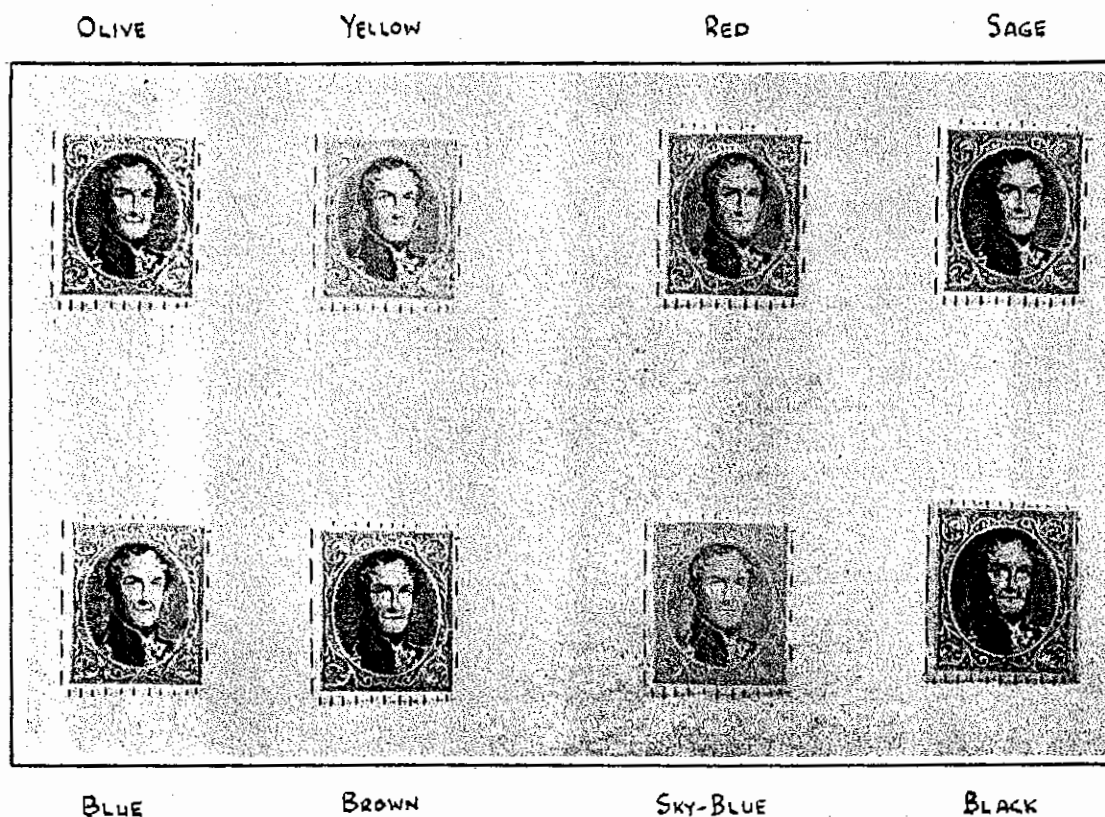


THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDALLION ISSUE (continued)

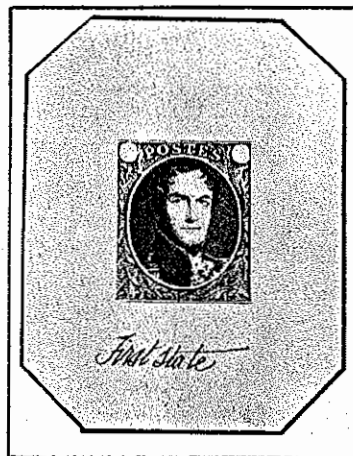
THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE

FIRST DIE of J.H.ROBINSON

THIS DIE (L'ESCARGOT) WAS USED TO PRODUCE A PROOF
PRINTED ON SHEET SIZE 184 x 118 mm., HAVING EIGHT
IMPRESSIONS, EACH PRINTED IN A DIFFERENT COLOUR

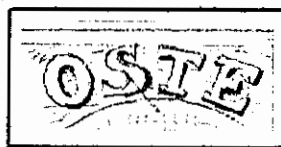


THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
THE SECOND DIE of J. H. ROBINSON



MARKED "FIRST STATE" BY ROBINSON

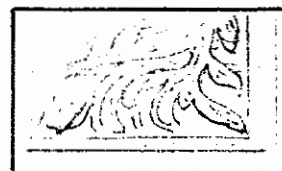
CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.



LINE ACROSS 'S' OF 'POSTES'



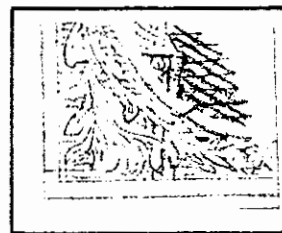
LINE ENTERING TOP R.H. CIRCLE.



REDRAWN OUTER FRAME LINE

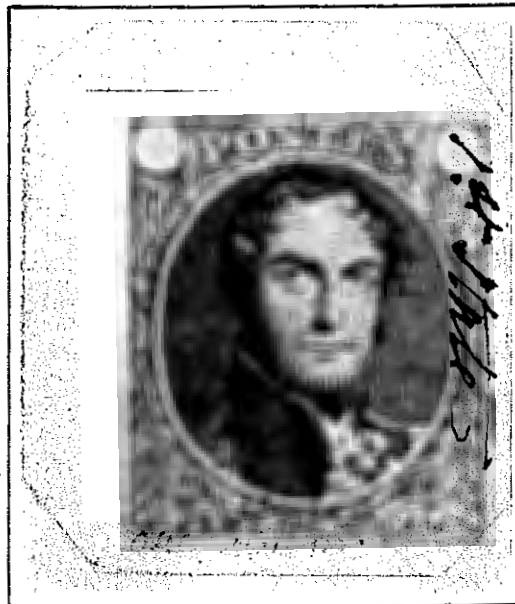


LINE CROSSING MEDALLION FRAME



LINE CROSSING FRAME LINES

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE.
THE THIRD DIE OF J.H.ROBINSON.



MARKED "1ST STATE" AND "ONE LINE MORE" (AT BOTTOM) BY ROBINSON.
THIS DIE HAS SIMILAR "FOLIAGE" TO THE SECOND DIE. NOT ACCEPTED.

CHARACTERISTICS
of the DIE



LINE CROSSING "S" OF "POSTES"



LINE ENTERING TOP R.H. CIRCLE.



LINE CROSSING MEDALLION FRAME.



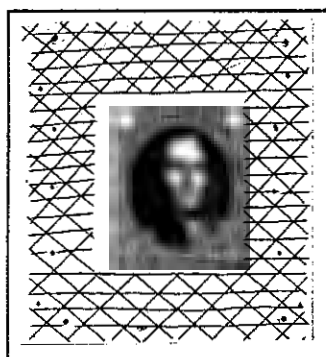
LINE CROSSING FRAMELINES.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE

FOURTH DIE BY J. H. ROBINSON.

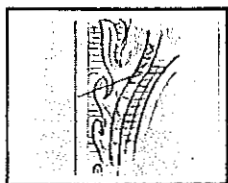
ACCEPTED DESIGN.

IT WAS FROM THIS DIE THAT THE SMALL PLATE OF G, WHICH APPEARS
ON THE ENGRAVER'S WORKING PALETTE, WAS MADE



THIS DIE PROOF IS KNOWN IN BLACK & IN BROWN ON 2 TYPES OF PAPER

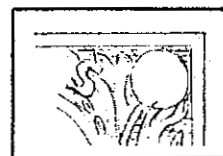
CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE



LINE ACROSS LEFT FRAME
INTO FOLIAGE.



LINE CROSSING "S" OF "POSTES"



LINE ENTERING R.H.
VALUE TABLET



LINE CROSSING MEDALLION
FRAME AT L.H. BOTTOM

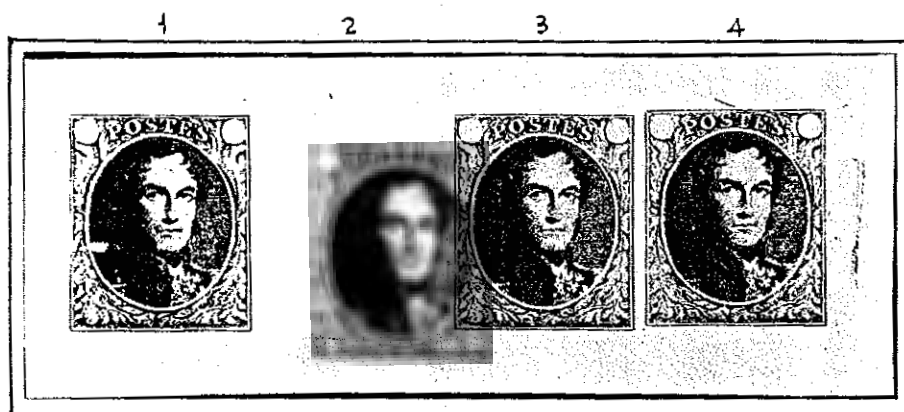


DOT IN BOTTOM RIGHT
MARGIN



INSIDE BOTTOM RIGHT
FRAME LINE EXTENDED

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
FOURTH ROBINSON ESSAY - ACCEPTED "NEUTRAL" DESIGN

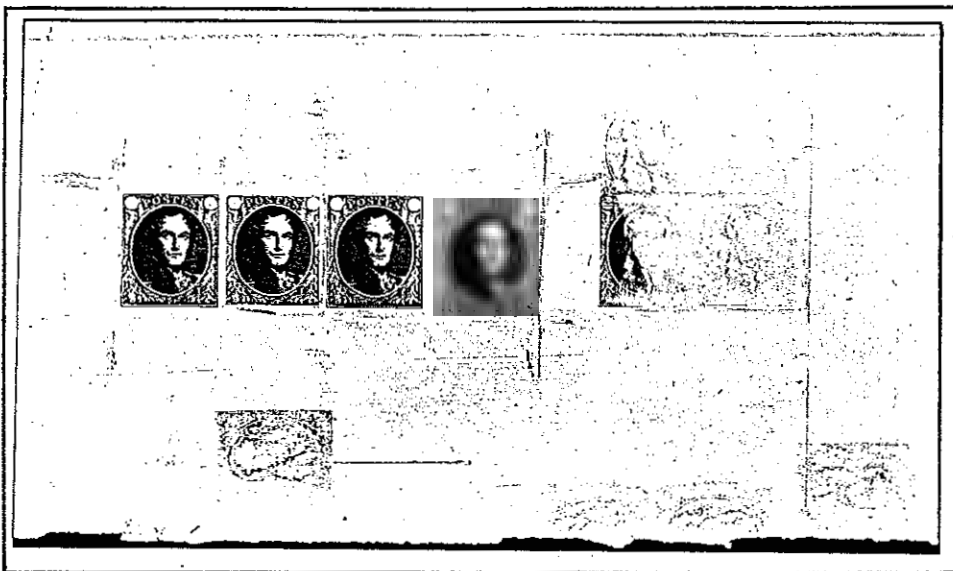


THIS SMALL PLATE OF FOUR WAS STRUCK ON THE ENGRAVER'S "WORKING PALETTE"
 PROBABLY FROM A ROLLER DIE CONTAINING THREE RELIEFS.
 IT IS KNOWN PRINTED ON PALE CHAMOIS PAPER (SIZE 90x35mm.) IN BLACK, AND IN
 BROWN, BLUE AND RED - THE COLOURS ADOPTED FOR THE STAMPS, ON A WHITE LAID PAPER

CHARACTERISTICS.

1. A DOUBLE STRIKE OF HORIZONTAL LINES - PROBABLY STRUCK TWICE, FIRST
 FROM RELIEF 3 WITHOUT FRAME LINES, THEN FROM RELIEF 1 WHICH ADDED
 THE FRAME LINES.
2. WEAK OR MISSING FRAME LINES, PROBABLY STRUCK THIRD FROM THE THIRD
 RELIEF ON THE ROLLER DIE, THIS RELIEF BEING WITH WEAK OR MISSING FRAME
3. NEAT AND COMPLETE STRIKE, PROBABLY STRUCK SECOND FROM THE
 SECOND RELIEF ON THE ROLLER DIE.
4. GAP IN TOP LEFT CORNER OF FRAME, PROBABLY STRUCK FIRST FROM THE
 FIRST RELIEF ON THE ROLLER DIE.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
FOURTH ROBINSON ESSAY.
ACCEPTED "NEUTRAL" DESIGN.

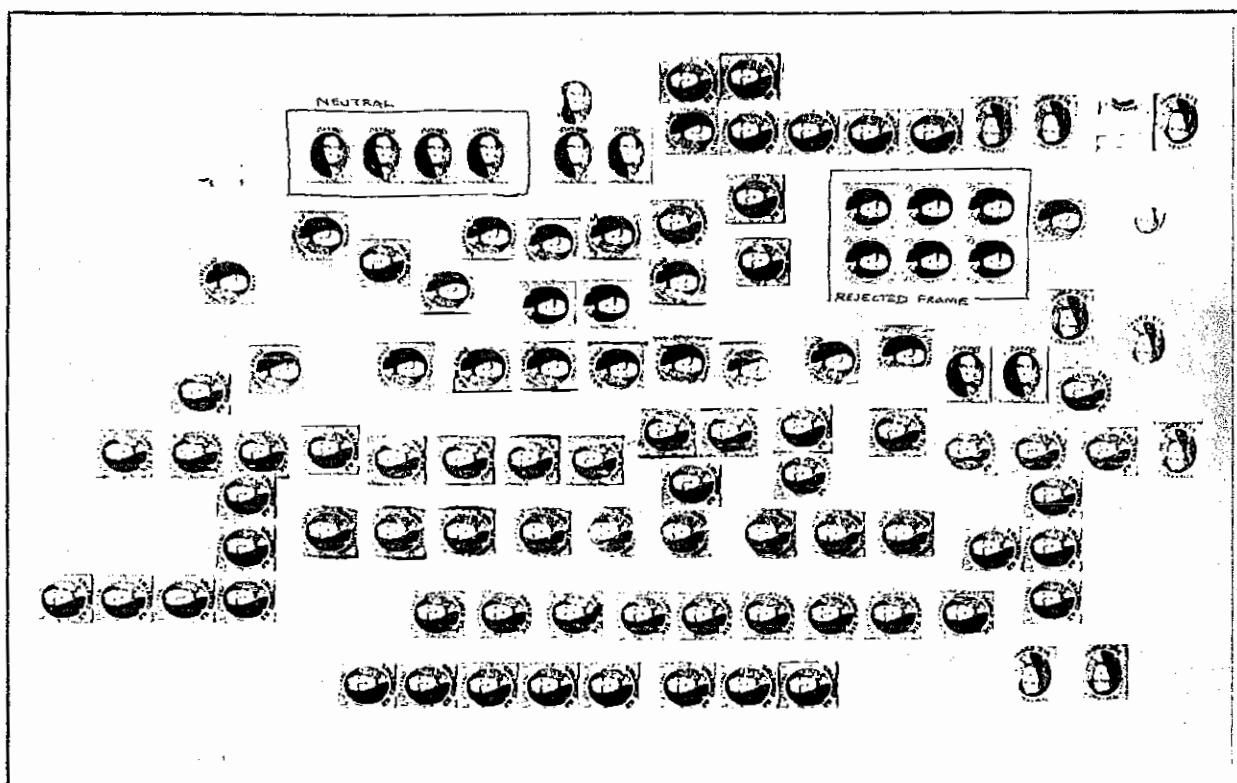


SPACE WHERE A 10c.
IMPRESSION APPEARED
AT A LATER STAGE

THIS STRIP OF 4, TAKEN FROM THE ENGRAVER'S WORKING PALETTE, APPEARED IN
PLATE PROOF FORM, PRINTED IN BLUE OR BROWN (ONE OF EACH).

THE ORIGINAL FROM WHICH THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN IS IN BLUE. IT IS
EX THE CAROLY COLLECTION AND IS NOW IN THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
THE "ENGRAVER'S WORKING PALETTE"

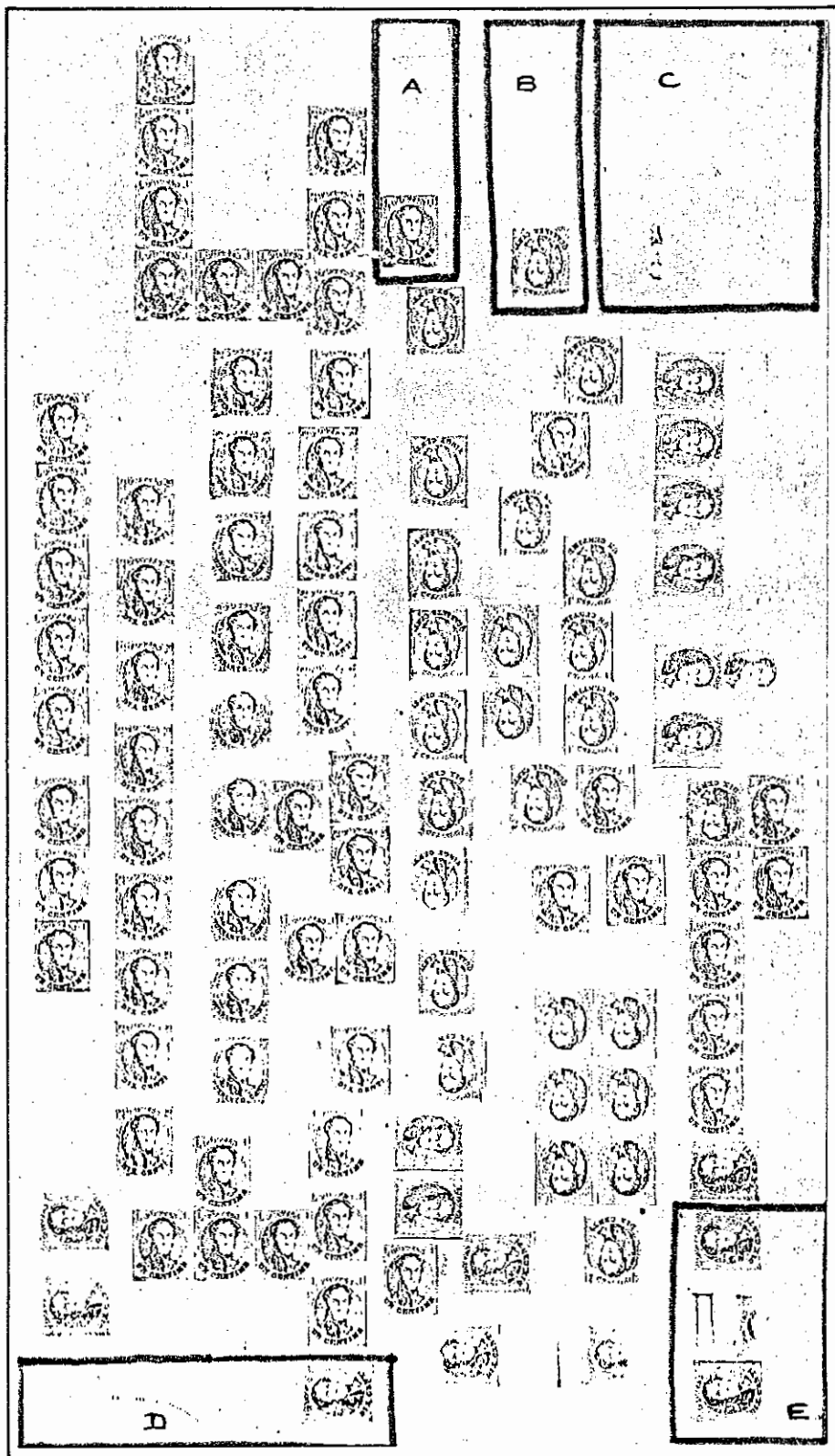


THIS "WORKING PALETTE" WAS USED EITHER BY ROBINSON IN LONDON, OR MORE LIKELY BY WEINER IN BRUSSELS.

ORIGINALLY, IN 1849-50, 68 IMPRESSIONS WERE STRUCK. 27-10 CENTIME, 11-20 CENTIME, 4-40 CENTIME ADOPTED DESIGN, AND 9-REJECTED 40 CENTIME. ADDITIONALLY ON THE PALETTE WERE 9 OF THE ACCEPTED NEUTRAL DESIGN AND 8 OF THE REJECTED DESIGN. THESE INCLUDED THE PLATE OF 6 OF THE NON-ACCEPTED FIRST ESSAY OF ROBINSON AND THE STRIP OF 4 OF THE "NEUTRAL" ACCEPTED DESIGN

ABOUT 1860, 40 EXAMPLES OF THE NEW 1 CENTIME WERE ADDED. THESE 1c. IMPRESSIONS ARE NOT KNOWN ON CONTEMPORARY MATERIAL BUT SHOW ON THE 1929 BLACK PRINTINGS.

THE 'MEDALLION' ISSUE
THE ENGRAVER'S 'WORKING PALETTE'



A. ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME

B. ACCEPTED 40 CENTIME

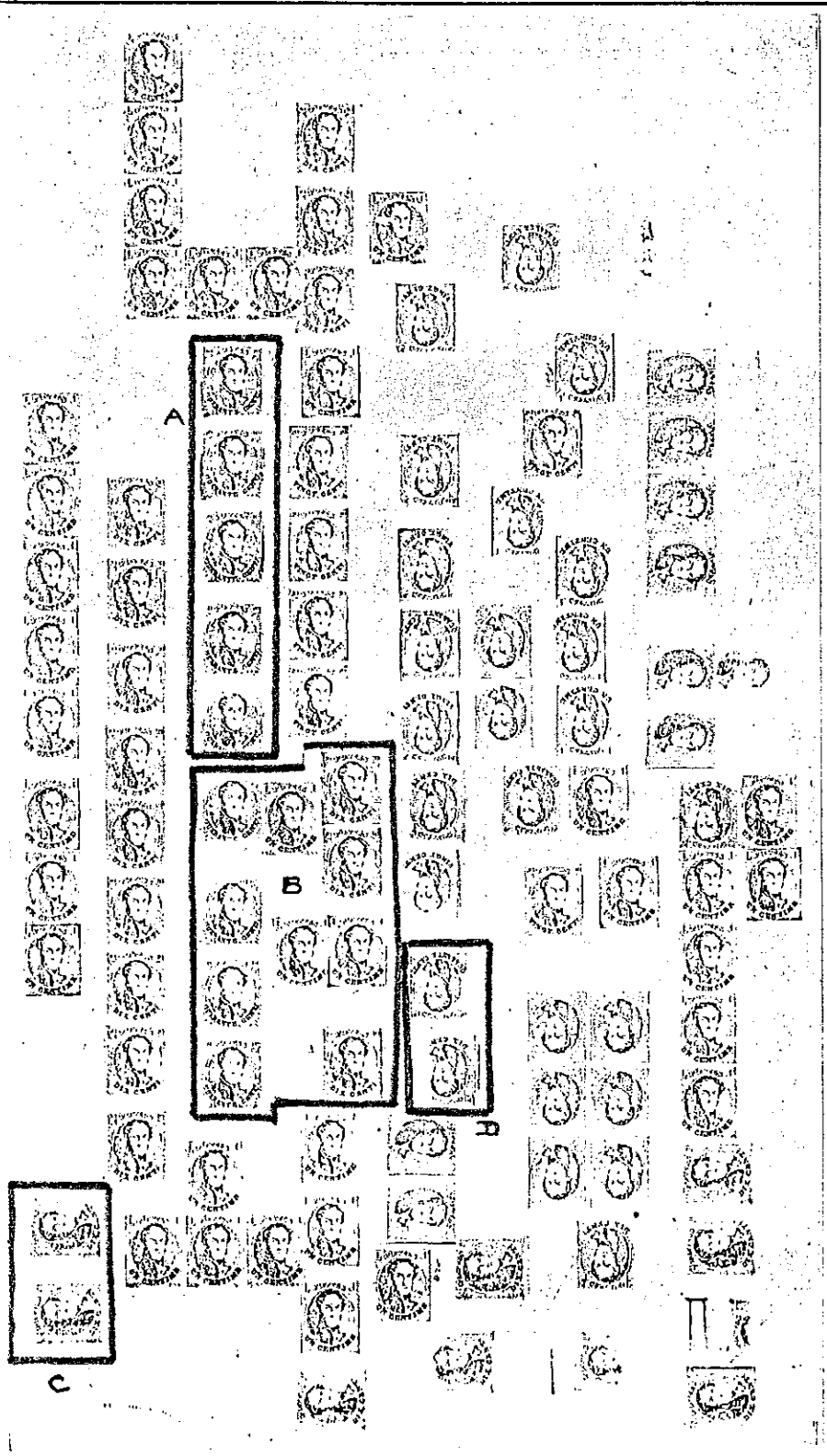
C. PART PRINT OF KING'S HEAD

D. ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME

E TWO AND A HALF ACCEPTED
10 CENTIME

THESE ARE THE 'STRAY' IMPRESSIONS
FROM THE EDGES OF THE PALETTE.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
THE ENGRAVER'S "WORKING PALETTE"



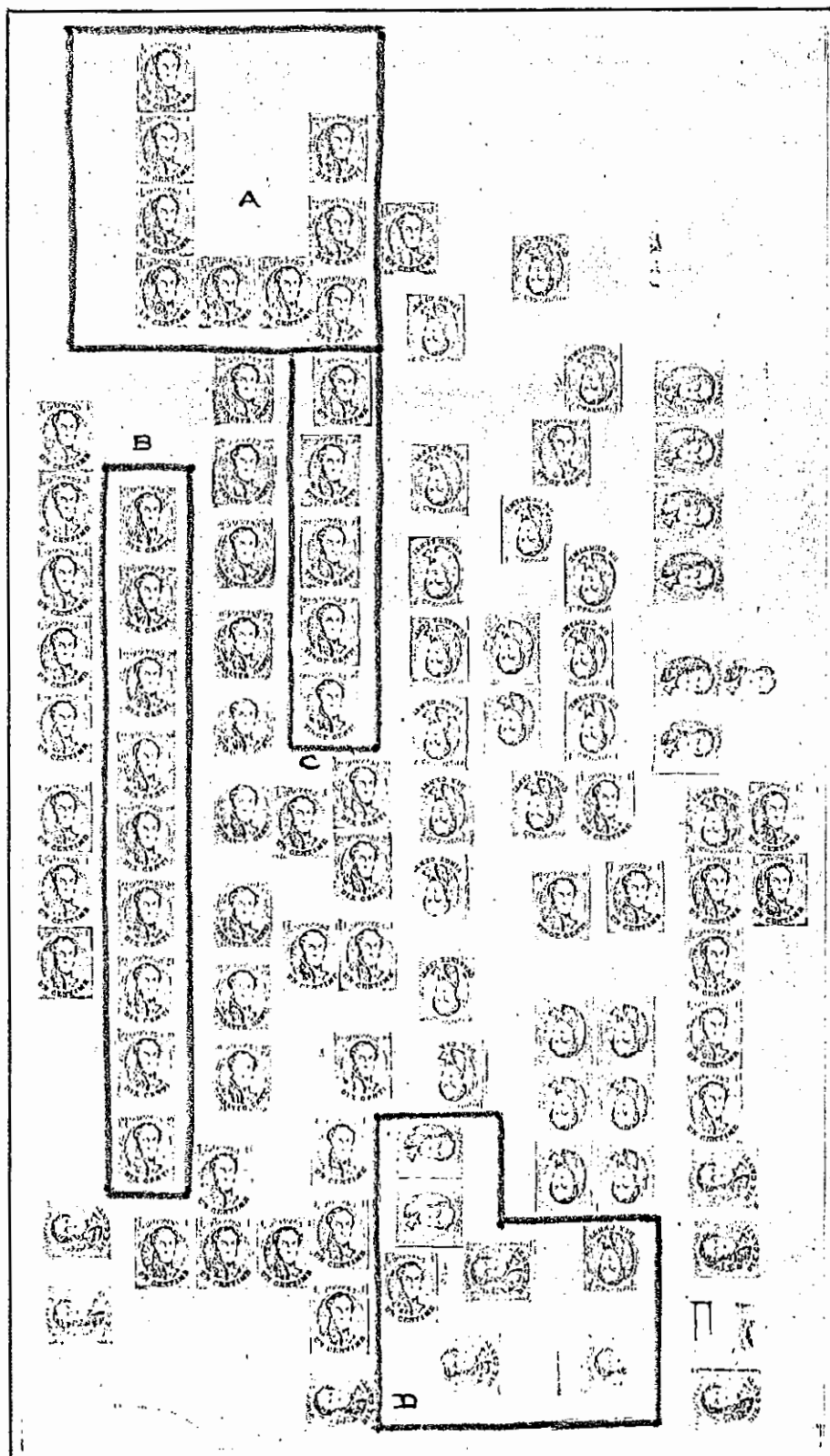
A. FIVE IMPRESSIONS OF THE
REJECTED 40 CENTIME.

B. FOUR REJECTED 40 CENTIME
THREE ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME
TWO ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME

C. TWO ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME

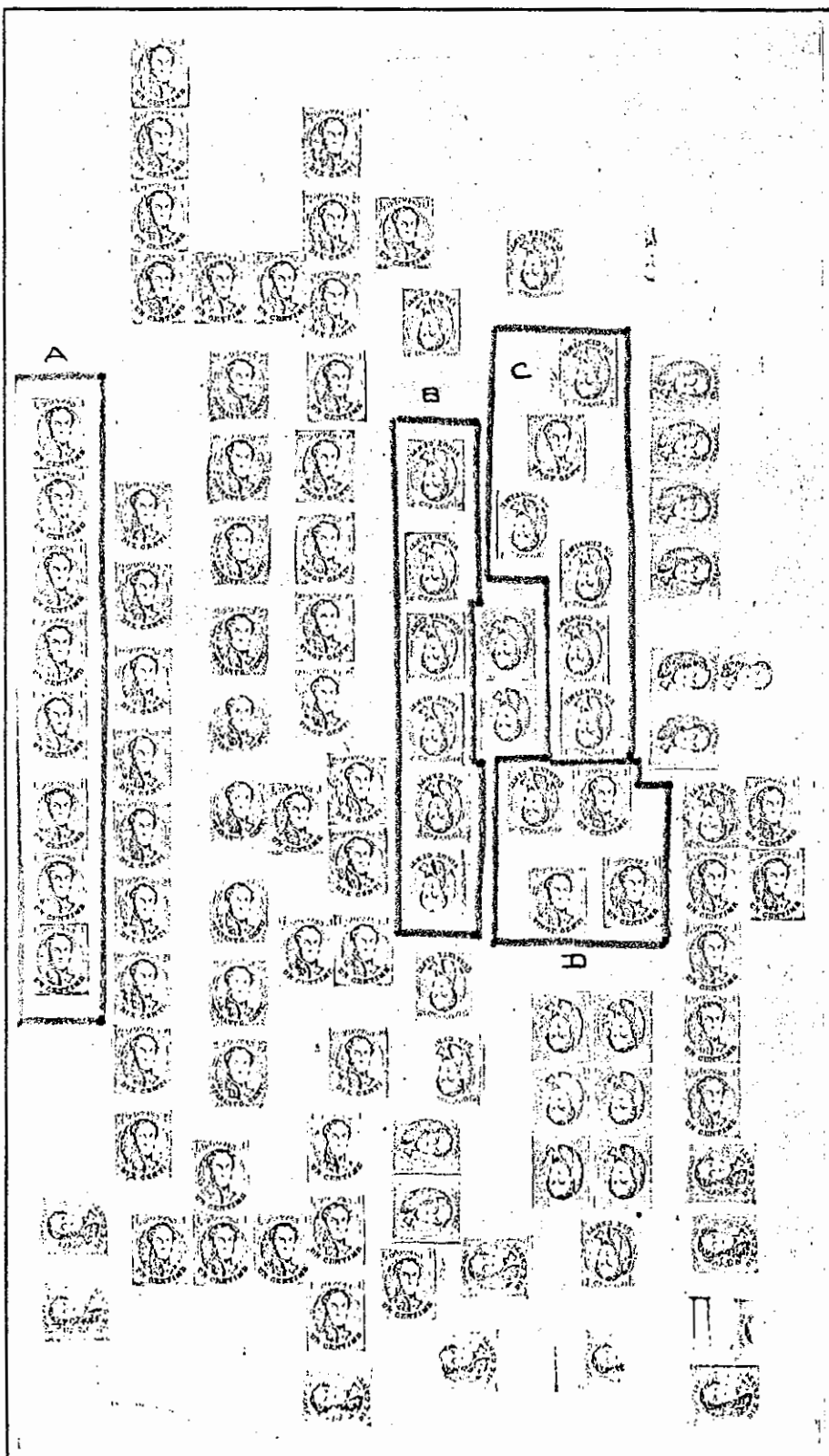
D. ONE ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 40 CENTIME

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
THE ENGRAVERS "WORKING PALETTE"



- A SIX ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME
THREE ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME
- B NINE ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME
- C ONE ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME
FOUR ACCEPTED 20 CENTIME
- D TWO ACCEPTED NEUTRAL DESIGN
FOUR WHOLE OR PART ACCEPTED
10 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
THE ENGRAVER'S "WORKING PALETTE"



A. EIGHT ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME
SHOWING THE GUTTER MARGIN
USED ON THE PLATE OF 300

B. ONE ACCEPTED 10 CENTIME
FIVE ACCEPTED 20 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 40 CENTIME.

C. FIVE ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 20 CENTIME

D. TWO ACCEPTED 1 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 20 CENTIME
ONE ACCEPTED 40 CENTIME.