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BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

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

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

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SEPTEMBER 1995



EDITORIAL

Around the time of receiving this issue of "BELGAPOST" we will be enjoying our weekend meeting at Weston-Super-Mare, and looking forward to the new season of our London meetings. The programmes for both were in the last issue and we hope that those members who can attend the meetings will enjoy them

Our programme includes a number of auctions during the season. There is a paucity of Belgian material (both stamps and postal history) in this country and we hope the lots in the auctions will be useful to you all. Most of the lots will be in single items - this helps the individual "specialist", and not in bulk lots in which many auction houses now seem to do.

Good hunting!

S. J. ANDREWS

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The recent vast improvements in illustrating Auction Catalogues has made the study of some of the highly priced stamps easier. I have found this especially true of the high values of the 1893 Issue. Of course, one must know what one is looking for.

Although this is the "off season", there still seems a lot to be done in sorting out this and that. And in helping members who are not able to get to our meetings and learning of their interests.

At the moment, a book is being published of the Postal Acts of Great Britain from 1628 to 1899 in nine parts; so far Part 6 has been published. This should be a source of delight for Postal Historians.

I learnt recently that Count Frederic de Merode had originally been considered as the first King of the Belgians but this hope was frustrated by his death.

GEOFFREY WOOD

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Adrian Vidler, Palmers Green, London

Interests: King Albert I, 1909-1933

Jeremy Martin, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts

Interests: Postal History to 1850, "Fortunes".

TREASURER'S NOTES

I am pleased to report that, as at mid-August, all except eight subscriptions have been received and my thanks to all who co-operate in this exercise. Our accounts are at present looking healthy, which should be useful for when we get to 1977 and our 50th Anniversary – a topic which will be aired at Weston-Super-Mare, after which we may have some more information to circulate to members.

Recent auctions have boosted our funds and the List, circulated with this edition of "BELGAPOST", for the October auction, should continue this trend. These auctions provide an excellent way to acquire quality material at reasonable prices, especially individual items of either stamps or postal history. Some comment has been made about postal bidding, especially from overseas members. Auction lists are airmailed to these members prior to the inland circulation in order to ensure they are not disadvantaged in submitting early bids. If possible, it is better to bid in the room, but postal bidders are recommended to submit more bids than they expect to obtain to ensure that the postman calls with something – if necessary, a financial limit can be set.

Due to the "Lady Aberdour fraud", it is becoming increasingly difficult to pay cheques in if they are not made payable to the Circle. The odd cheque comes payable to me, which is OK as long as I spot it before the Bank Clerk rejects it. So, please, if in doubt, make your cheques payable to the "Belgian Study Circle".

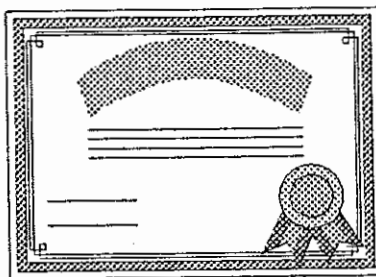
REG HARRISON

MEMBER NEWS

Our Secretary, Geoffrey Wood, was recently in hospital for a routine operation but is now back at home amongst his 1915 Issue!

John Parkin – has also had a spot of bad health but is recovered and looking forward to being with us at Weston.

Our South African member, Leslie Sackstein, informs Geoffrey Wood that he attended the Soeteman Sale in Brussels and acquired a few items for his collection. He hopes to be in the UK in the autumn.

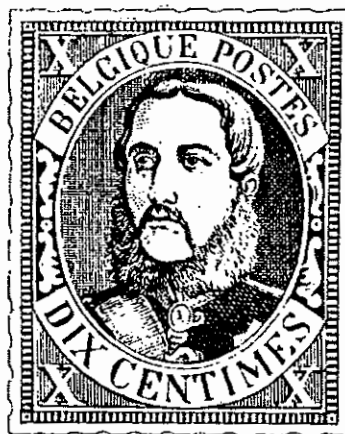


The last issue of "BELGAPOST" neglected to mention that Fred Goatcher in October, 1994, was installed as President of the Postal History Society for a two year period. More recently, he has been notified that he has been awarded a German honour – the Hans Weidlich Plaquette – which is the highest award – for his Postal History studies. He is due to collect it at Sindelfingen (near Stuttgart) in the near future. Congratulations, Fred. But don't forget to bring it along for us to inspect at one of our BSC meetings!

Michael Barden, our Australian member, is busy preparing a display for the Sydney National Exhibition on the subject of "– 10%". He reports some confusion on the information regarding the issuing of the various categories of stamps and also the date of the Post Office opening. Perhaps in due course we may hear further on this topic.

WHAT ARE THESE?

They appear to be Belgian essays but are not shown in either "Les Essais des Timbres de Belgique" by Baron de Vinck de Winnezele (1922) or Grubben's catalogue with the same title (1933).



The righthand portrait appears to be that of Maximilian of Mexico. He was the Archduke Maximilian, son of the Austrian Emperor Francis Joseph. He married Charlotte (Carlota) daughter of King Leopold II.

The lefthand portrait is of King Leopold II.

Can anyone help please?

CORNEILLE SOETEMAN SALE No. 50

The Circle must be deeply grateful to M. Corneille Soeteman for the gift of a copy of the Catalogue for Sale 50 through the good offices of our member Vincent Schouberechts.

We must all wish M. Soeteman a belated 'Many Happy Returns'.

The Catalogue is a magnificent piece of work: every item is illustrated in colour and, as the lots and prices are listed separately, the catalogue is promoted into a handbook to Belgium. One can only generalise in one's observations, but it pleased me that the pedigree is given of many of the outstanding pieces. On a sadder note, it grieves me to know that the block of nine 10c epaulettes illustrated in Balasse Catalogue 1949 Part I is now reduced to a "perfect" block of six. Hardly the act of a philatelist. Likewise Lot 921 has appeared in previous auctions as a pair.

When joined up with the prices obtained, this volume will grace any library shelf.

The catalogue will be at Weston in September for members to see, as will J. C. Porignons' "La Poste Rurale au XIX Siecle en Belgique et en Europe".

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

JOHN HENRY ROBINSON, RAENGRAVER OF THE "EPAULETTES" ISSUE OF BELGIUM

Following the article "The Genesis of the Epaulettes" by the late A. Maes in BELGAPOST (p.13, Vol.8, No.1), we can now give more information on J. H. Robinson.

The photograph has been made from a professional photograph based on the engraving in the "Illustrated London News" (p.116, 3rd August, 1862). The photograph has been provided by our member John F. Giblin.

The notes are taken from a brochure "Focus on John Henry Robinson, 1796-1871, by the late Harry Green, FRPSL, who researched this subject.

J. H. Robinson was born in Bolton, Lancashire, date not known, but he was baptised at the parish church on 4th March, 1796. Son of Nathaniel and Ellen Robinson.

In 1824, we hear of an engraver, John Henry Robinson, living at a house in George Street, Euston Square, London. Between 1814 and 1820, it is known that he was studying engraving under James Heath, the famous engraver, of Perkins & Heath.

J. H. Robinson engraved many portraits, etc. between 1824 and 1850. He was made an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1856 and a Member in 1867.

About 1850 he married a widow, Edith Blann, and in 1852 moved to "New Grove", Petworth, Sussex. He died here on 21st October, 1871, aged 76, his wife dying six years later. Both were buried in the same grave in the parish churchyard of Petworth.



Ed: If any member would like a copy of this photograph of J. H. Robinson, they should contact John F. Giblin.

MEDAILLON 20c BLEU, PLANCHE V de 1859 : UNE BELLE VARIETE !

In the December 1994 No. 230 issue of the Cercle de Philatelie "Paul de Smeth" newsletter, an article appeared on an interesting variety occurring on Plate V of the 20c Medallion. This has been translated for us by Cathy Wyld and is given below. It is most pleasing that so much progress has been made in Belgium on the reconstruction of the Medallion Plate.

by Mario Tavano

The vast progress achieved in the last few years in the study of the blue Medallion 20c, is such that the SIX plates of 200 and the ONLY plate of 300 have now been reconstructed in their entirety with all their different watermarks as well as their different perforations.

This important work should allow, in the future, rewriting of the former descriptive texts and specialised catalogues, as it brings with it a considerable amount of information. To quote a few examples, for each plate a complete new inventory of retouches of the sheets, the identification of known but hitherto untraceable varieties, the discovery of examples so outstanding that they deserve de facto the title of "variety", and in some cases, known varieties which had been listed but which, to our great surprise, showed themselves to be second generation, that is, not created along with the plate, but subsequently during printing.

It is to one such variety that we are devoting this article.

PLATE 5, No. 9



1. Straight frame extended toward the bottom.
2. Thin streak near the lower edge.
3. Heavy mark on the shirt front, second generation variety (an accidental blow having marked the plate).

At the time of his publication on the plates of 20c blue stamps which appeared in the "Philatliste Belge", Mr. Fernand DANDOIS announced the existence of a (then unidentified) variety for plate V (issue 62, Nov/Dec 1952) which he owned on a letter from Ghent of the 25.2.1860.

In 1988 Mr. GUYAUX was completing the task of the reconstruction of this plate V - 20c blue without watermark. Several examples of this variety were singled out, two of them having an upper sheet edge, simplifying the task of finding its position, which revealed itself to be No. 9 (let us point out here, that, among others, the stamp just to the left, No. 8, gives us an equally fascinating variety).

We were therefore very surprised when we subsequently discovered TWO examples, but this time without the all important mark. From then on, finding ourselves faced with a remarkable case of a second generation variety, all we had to do to reach completion was to establish as precisely as possible the date on which this accident occurred. Only the presence of this variety on a document can help us.

Knowing that the use of plate V started in May 1859 and continued until November 1860 and that Fernand Dandois' letter is dated the 25.2.1860, the problem is narrowed down considerably.

Let us mention as well that several varieties appearing in the 1949 W. Balasse catalogue, as much for the 10c brown version as for the 20c blue, show themselves on closer analysis to be second generation.

**THE BELGIAN POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE IN THE COURSE OF 1996
THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS**

No.	Date	Issues	Composition and denomination	Theme or motif
1	19.2	Promotion of Philately (little known or unknown museums)	2 semi-postal stamps and 1 semi-postal sheet at the value of: - 16 BEF + 4 BEF - 16 BEF + 4 BEF - 34 BEF + 6 BEF (sheet) The surtax goes to the support of the non-profit association "Pro-Post"	- Musée de la Vie Wallonne (Liège) - Jenevermuseum (Hasselt) - Museum "Vleeshuis" (Antwerp)
2	4.3	Théo Van Rysselberghe (joint issue with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)	1 stamp the denomination of which is indicated by means of the letter A (16 BEF)	Portrait of Mayrich by T. Van Rysselberghe
3		Europalia-Turkey	1 stamp of 16 BEF	Focusing on this event
4	1.4	Stamp Day	1 stamp of 16 BEF	Work and portrait of the artist and stamp designer Oscar Bonnevalle
5		Nature	6 stamps of 16 BEF in a booklet	Theme: insects - the dragonfly - the humblebee - the stag beetle - the maybug - the cricket - the ladybird The cover of the booklet will focus on the 150th anniversary of the "Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique" (Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium)
6	6.5	Europa	2 stamps at the value of: - 16 BEF - 30 BEF	Famous Belgian women: - Yvonne Nevejean (1900-1987) - Marie Cevens (1883-1975)
7	10.6	Tourism	2 stamps of 16 BEF	- the Grottoes of Han-sur-Lesse - Begijnendijk
8		Brussels, heart of Europe	4 stamps of 16 BEF	- La Maison du Roi (Grand-Place) - Les Galeries Royales St.-Hubert - Le palais d'Egmont (petit Sablon) - Le Cinquanteaire
9	1.7	Sport	2 semi-postal stamps and 1 semi-postal sheet at the value of: - 16 BEF + 4 BEF - 16 BEF + 4 BEF - 34 BEF + 6 BEF (sheet) The surtax goes to the support of the "Comité Olympique Interfédéral Belge" (COIB)	- focusing on the Summer Olympics in Atlanta
10		100 years of car races in Spa	4 stamps of 16 BEF	History of the Formula One races
11	2.9	Belgian works of art abroad	3 stamps at the value of: - 13 BEF - 16 BEF - 30 BEF	Three portraits from "The National Gallery" in London: - R. Van der Weyden/R. de La Pasture: St. Ivo - Rubens: Susanna Lunden, "Le Chapeau de Paille" (Susanna Lunden, the Straw Hat) - van Eyck: De Man met de Tulband (The Man with the Turban)
12		History	2 stamps of 16 BEF	focusing on the commemoration of the "Joyeuse Entrée" of Phillip the Handsome and Joanna of Castile in 1496
13	7.10	Youth Philately	1 stamp of 16 BEF	focusing on "Chlorophylle", a comic character created by Macherot
14		150th anniversary of the "Armonaque de Mons"	1 stamp of 16 BEF	Literature in the dialect of Mons
15	28.10	Music & Literature	4 stamps of 16 BEF	dedicated to the musicians Arthur Grumiaux and Flor Peeters as well as to the poets Christian Doremont and Paul van Ostaïjen.
16	18.11	Solidarity	1 semi-postal stamp, at the value of 16 BEF + 4 BEF The surtax goes to the support of UNICEF	- 50th anniversary of UNICEF winning work of a drawing-contest for children
17		Christmas and New Year	9 stamps of 13 BEF forming a sheet	dedicated to the Christmas Market at the Grand Sablon in Brussels

FURTHER NOTES ON BRUPHILA

The various collections on display were full of interest. It was pleasing to see the official experimental defacement of a Medallion by Messrs. De La Rue ex the Barker Collection. Reconstructions of Plates II and III of the 10c Medallions showed what progress has been made in Belgium in recent years. There were three displays of Perfins and I was happy to meet M. Robert Dedecker who was judging these displays.

The outstanding item on display in my opinion was a copy of the 10c Large Beard (1905) with the "Atelier du Timbre" cachet above the stamp, the right way up in René Silberberg's display on the Court of Honour. This tallies with Tony Geake's copy of the 25c of the same issue with the "Atelier du Timbre" above the stamp. I have never seen mention of this in any philatelic writings or auction catalogues.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

PERFINS ON RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS

Two of our members have expressed an interest in the perfins found on railway parcel stamps. In comparison with the number of different perfins which can readily be found on postage stamps, perfins on railway parcel stamps seem to be relatively few. All those I have seen are identical with perfins already recorded on postage stamps and the same perforating punches were probably used for both.

The period of use is extensive; dates from the 1880's up to the outbreak of the Second World War have been noted.

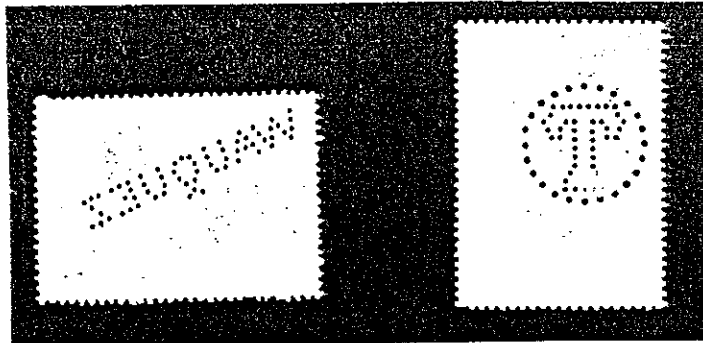
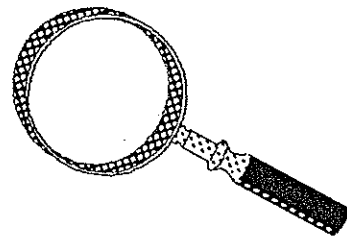
Perfins should not be confused with the holes which result more recently from the use of perforating punches instead of handstamps on some waybills; the date and a station code are punched into the waybill and some holes may affect stamps.

In the listing which follows, users, where shown, are those attributed in respect of postage stamps in the Belgian perfins catalogue. I am grateful to Bill Moss for adding several items to the list. Can any other members send me details of further examples they may have, or additional dates or places of use, and perhaps fill in blanks regarding users?

<u>Lettering</u>	<u>Where Used</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>User</u>
A.V.	Brussels	1919-21	Vanderspek SA, draperies et nouveautés.
B	Gent	1939	
B.P.&F.	Brussels	1935-37	
CR	Gent	1924	Colonial Rubber SA.
DF	?	1903	Delahaize Frères & Cie
DFC	Brussels	1925	
EC	Ath	1935	
EL	Brussels	1909	Eugène Lefèvre
E.V	Brussels	192?	
FB	Gent	1927	Felix Beernaerts
F.B.	Gent	1912-13	
F.C	Brussels	1903-35	Franchomme & Cie
FL	Forest	1928	
G.B.N.	Brussels	188?	
ITC	Brussels	1927	
J.V.	Brussels	1934-38	
JW(1)	Brussels	1909-25	Jules Wauquez & Cie, draperies
JW(2)	Brussels	1927	--- ditto ---
JW/B	Brussels	192?	
JW/&C	Brussels	1903-04	Jules Wauquez & Cie, draperies
KV	Brussels	1929	
M.	Herstal	1902	Jean Marck
MB	Brussels	1935	Manufacture Belge de Lampes electrique
M.F	Brussels	1937	
NLC	Brussels	1932-35	
PC/B	Brussels	1934	Pharmacie Centrale de Belgique
P.G.	Huy	(1922 issue)	Popéteries Godin SA
PR(3)	Brussels	1891	Cie d'Assurance les Propriétaires Réunies
S.L.	Loth	1902-03	SA de Loth, fabrique de tissus
T(4)	Brussels	1912	Grand Magasins Leonhard Tietz SA
U.P.L.	Charleroi, Haren	1912-37	Usines Peters-Lacroix SA
V.C.(5)	Brussels	1927-34	Vaxelaire, Claes & Cie, Au bon Marche
V.C.(6)	Brussels	1926	Vanderhooft & Cie, agents en douane
VEF	Brussels	1925	
V.H.	Gentbrugge	1908-09	Louis van Houtte SA
V.W./C.(7)	Brussels	1891-97	Victor Wauquez & Cie, draperies
WAUQUEZ(8)	Brussels	1902-11	--- ditto ---

Notes

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | J - 6 holes; | W - 17 holes |
| 2 | J - 8; | W - 15 |
| 3 | Double lined | |
| 4 | Double lined, in circle | |
| 5 | V - 11; | C - 12 |
| 6 | V - 9; | C - 8 |
| 7 | Sideways | |
| 8 | Diagonally | |
| / | on two lines | |



TONY GEAKE



WARREN DE LA RUE

This photograph is from an original "Spy" cartoon which was published in "Vanity Fair" in 1894. It shows Mr. Warren William de la Rue after he had retired from the family business, Thomas de la Rue & Co. He was the eldest son of Dr. Warren de la Rue. He joined the firm in about 1869 when his father was in ill health and, in eighteen years, built it into the then largest stamp producing firm in the world.

De la Rue produced the dies and some of the printing plates for the 1865 and 1883 issues.

THE PRE-CANCELLED STAMPS OF BELGIUM

By S. J. Andrews

(This article was first published in "Stamp Fair" c.1950. Since this was written, there are, of course, a series of new designs. SJA.)

Generally speaking, the "pre-cancelled" stamps so often seen in the most common of mixtures are not collected by anyone but the specialist. This is often the case with overprinted stamps - why, is a mystery - but the collection of these pre-cancels affords immense interest and pleasure and a good collection can be made at relatively small cost, although there are of course certain cancellations in this class which are extremely rare, and many are evasive.

To date, twelve countries have issued stamps in this class. They are: France, Luxembourg, Canada, USA, Algeria, Austria, Hungary, Monaco, Netherlands, Canal-Zone (Panama), Tunis and Belgium.

The object of this article is to give some information on those issued by the latter country - Belgium - only, and it is of interest to note that something like upwards of 10,000 of these stamps have been issued by this one country alone. It can clearly be seen that a collection formed on these lines offers plenty of scope.

Early in 1894, the Belgium Postal Authorities came to the conclusion that something must be done to lessen the amount of work in cancelling the ordinary postage stamps used on the large amount of printed matter which was, by then, being handled. It was therefore decided to adopt the pre-cancelling device and the official decree giving effect to this was made on 21st June, 1894, above the signature of the Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Mon. J. Van Den Peereboom.

It was in the following terms:

- "Art. I: There shall be placed on sale in certain post offices, postage stamps of one and two centimes, cancelled in advance for newspapers and printed matter.
- "Art. II: These stamps are to be sold in quantities of not less than 1,000.
- "Art. III: They are obliterated by a rolling stamp bearing the name of the office, and the indication of the year in which they are obliterated. Until further orders, they are valid in that year and the first month of the succeeding one.
- "Art. IV: Articles prepaid by stamps cancelled in advance must be delivered at the window of the receiving office in quantities of not less than 1,000. The stamps are not valid when affixed to articles placed in letter boxes."

The earliest cancellation of an oval containing the words "BRUXELLES" and "JOURNAUX" in two lines, with the date between, as shown in Fig. 1. In 1911, a similar but larger type with the words "BRUSSEL, NIEUWSBLADEN, BRUXELLES, JOURNAUX" in four lines with the date again in the centre, as Fig. 2, was used.

Apart from these two types, all the pre-cancels down to 1938 consisted of a rectangle containing the town name and year of issue.

These issues were available for use during the year of issue and for one month after, and later for two months after, and during the whole of the period 1906 to 1938, the cancellation was printed by two methods:

1. By roller stamping;
2. By typography.

The roller stamp was used exclusively from 1894 to 1906, but during the latter year, the quantities of stamps requiring cancellation having reached such large dimensions, the typographed overprint was adopted for use at the larger centres, i.e. Antwerp, Brussels, Charleroy, Ghent, Liege, Louvain and Verviers. Roller stamps and typographed stamps can therefore be found for these seven towns but all other offices are found with roller stamped overprints only. Upwards of 100 offices have used this method.

Both the roller stamped and typographed types can be further sub-divided into four distinct classes of overprint:

- a) Single town name with date in two figures. (Fig. 3).
- b) Single town name with date in full.
- c) Bilingual town name with date in two figures.
- d) Bilingual town name with date in full. (Fig. 4).

It is interesting to note that in the bilingual type the first name is always given in the language used most frequently in the respective towns.

The roller stamping was undertaken by the offices concerned, but all typographed ones emanate from the Government Stamp Printing Works at Malines.

In 1914, when Belgium was invaded, the service using these stamps was suspended and it was not until 1st December, 1918, that it was re-introduced. In consequence, stamps bearing the dates 1915, 1916 and 1917 do not exist and those with the date 1918 are rare, owing to the short period of use.

In 1930 an innovation was made in that a typographed overprint bearing the words "BELGIQUE, BELGIE" (Fig. 5) was introduced, and this "universal" type has now completely superseded those bearing the town names. 1938 saw a further change in type. This consisted of an irregular hexagon with the words "BELGIQUE, BELGIE" and the year and month of issue. This type, shown in Fig. 6, was in use only for the period January to December, 1938, and these issues are comparatively scarce. In 1939, yet more changes in the style of overprint were made. First came, for the months of January and February only, an irregular hexagon with the year, month, and instead of any wording, the now familiar Belgian "Posthorn" (Fig. 7). Then came a reversion to the rectangular frame with the posthorn and year only (Fig. 8). This was used on the 2, 5 and 10c values of the State Seal type only. This again is a fairly scarce type due to its short availability, for almost at the same time, a final type (Fig. 9) came into existence, and is the type still in use. This style incorporated the posthorn with two dates, in rectangular frame, the two dates indicating the period of validity. These dates are changed at six-monthly intervals and overlap the preceding issue by six months, viz. 1.I.39 to 31.XII.39, and 1.VII.39 to 30.VI.40.

Since 1894, when the stamps were first issued, a number of official decrees concerning them have been issued, mostly in connection with the introduction of various additional values in the series.

In addition to these standard types and the sub-groups already given, the stamps can be still further varied, in that the cancellation can read from top to bottom of the stamp; from bottom to top of the stamp (the two normal positions up to 1938); across the stamp, and across the stamp inverted. All the typographed types have frequently misplaced overprints, whilst the roller stamped types are almost invariably misplaced, with often two half overprints or more appearing on each stamp. Double overprints are also known and stamps bearing marginal inscriptions from the typographic plates can be found.

It was said earlier in this article that rarities exist. In this connection, it is interesting to note the quantities used of a few items:

S.G.208	"Bruxelles, 1894."	5,100 issued.
S.G.210	"Bruxelles, 1894."	3,600 issued.
S.G.208	"Sichem-Lez-Diest, 1895."	1,100 issued.
S.G.210	"Sichem-Lez-Diest, 1895."	1,500 issued.

Much research work on this most interesting but often despised issue of Belgium has been undertaken by specialists, and it is hoped that this brief article will give the collector some idea of the great interest that can be gained from the formation of a collection on these lines.



FIG. 1 1894 TYPE.



FIG. 2 1911 TYPE.

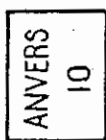


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

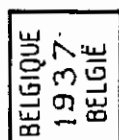


FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.

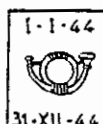


FIG. 9.

BELGIUM: TYPES OF "PRE-CANCEL" OVERPRINT.

THE MASTER OF THE HORSE POSTS

A PETITION - 1797 (French Period)

In a document we have, unfortunately not suitable to reproduce, we find a petition from Antwerp, dated 15 December, 1797 (24 Frumaire, Annee 6th).

It says:

"We, the undersigned, merchants and other inhabitants of the district of Antwerp, the chief town of the Department of the "Deux Nethes" declared by the present document that for a period of six years, that Citizen Charles Hermans has filled the position in this commune. He has always behaved with honesty, zeal and efficiency and that in no case have there ever been any complaint against him or against his service, or that intelligence and honesty have always been matters of principle for him.

In confirmation of which we have made the present statement to serve him and be valid for him in whatever arises.

Made at Antwerp"

There follows twenty-four signatures.

We hope that he was re-elected as Master of the Horse Posts.

SJA



THE GRAND MASTERS OF THE POSTS OF THE LOW COUNTRIES

by S. J. Andrews

(This article first appeared in "Philately" Sept/October 1963)



No-one interested in the postal history of Belgium can fail to take note of the Tour and Tassis (or Thurn and Taxis) family, the greatest of all European postal organisers for they played an important part in the postal services of that country for some 300 years.

Just when this family first entered the postal business is not definitely known, but in the early thirteenth century one Omedio Tassis organised the Courriers of Bergamo. They established a postal service with the centre in Venice and in 1305 received a charter from the Venetian Great Council as "Compagnia dei Corrieri della Serenissima".

Roger de Tasso (1450) entered the service of Frederick III, Emperor of Germany, and established a post from Bergamo to Vienna, and in 1480 he is reputed to have instituted a service from the latter city to Brussels.

Here then must the history of the postal services of Belgium begin, so too does the story of the rise from private gentlemen to prince, an elevation many a postmaster general might envy.

It was in 1490 that Maximilian of Austria ordered François de Tassis, son of Roger, to set up a postal link between Innsbruck and the Low Countries. On 1st March, 1500, François was nominated Captain and Master of the Posts by the King, Philippe le Beau, and in January five years later, he was further charged to establish a royal service of courriers between Brussels and France, and Brussels and Spain. He was also permitted now to convey private correspondence provided that the royal postal service did not suffer.

The Grand Master had to pay for the whole of the equipment required and to this effect a salary of 12,000 livres per year was granted to him. This allowed him to set up the relay stations and to procure the necessary horses and personnel. Among this personnel the messengers were, without doubt, the most deserving because of their heavy, tiring and dangerous work. Attention to duty and hard work were demanded of them - for the Brussels to Paris route they could take not more than 44 hours in summer, for Innsbruck, 5 days. The Grand Master of the Posts appointed his messengers by letters patent, sometimes stipulating by name the journey to be made. He also granted authority "to carry the box bearing the Arms of Their Majesties and also to carry the post horn and make use thereof for entering and leaving towns everywhere".

The privilege of conveying private correspondence was again confirmed in 1516 by the Emperor Charles V.

During his term of office, François had an active and able assistant in his nephew, Jean Baptiste, who eventually succeeded him on his death in 1517, and holding the position of Grand Master until 1536. He it was who added the Title of Knight and the Lordship of "la Tour" to the simple style of de "Tassis". He was also Councillor of State and Chamberlain to the King, and his possessions included Laroche in the Ardennes, Hemiksem, and Melsbrock. The third Grand Master was François (le Jeune) son of Jean Baptiste, but he held office for only a few months, being in turn succeeded on his death by his brother, Leonard I.

The new master was instrumental in consolidating the great postal organisation founded by his forbears. In 1543, Charles V confirmed Leonard's exclusive control of the postal service of the Low Countries, and the privilege was also extended to the postal services of Germany and Burgundy. The first regulations for the maintenance of the Posts and Salaries of courriers appeared on 30th October, 1551. Leonard founded numerous postal relays and established three great international lines of Communications - Brussels to Vienna, to Italy, and to France, and two internal routes from Brussels to Antwerp and to Ostend.

In spite of the great work done by Leonard, the rebel states of the Low Countries dispossessed him in 1578 in favour of John Hinckart, Lord of Ohain and a supporter of Prince William of Orange. His position was, however, regained in 1585, the status of Grand Master being once more confirmed, now by the Archduke Albert. Leonard became first Baron de Tassis and Buysinghen, Chamberlain and Gentleman in Waiting to the Emperor Rudolph II and the Archduke Albert.

He died in 1612 and was succeeded by his son, Lamoral, who appears to have been happy to rest upon the laurels gained by his predecessors. The title of Count of the Holy Roman Empire was attached to his lands on 8th June, 1642, only a month before he died at Brussels.

His son, Leonard II François succeeded as sixth Grand Master and again his contribution to the family postal honours was comparatively small, but he added the title of Knight of the Order of the Golden Key to the already glittering list. However, he was to enjoy this privilege only to 1628 when he died at the age of 32. As his son, Lamoral II Claude François, was then a boy of seven years of age, his wife, Alexandrine de Rye, carried on the postal services on the authority of the Emperor Ferdinand II. During a most difficult period of European history, she carried out her duties in a masterly way. By her unbreakable strength of will she managed to preserve the unity of the Postal Service which she handed over to her son in 1650.

It is during this period, in 1633, that the Tassis posts concluded an agreement with the Post Master in England, Thomas Witherings, concerning the sending of a weekly courier between Antwerp, Brussels and London, the length of the trip being four to five days at the start, subsequently reduced to three.

The first activity of the new Grand Master, Lamoral II, was to renew the Patents of all the Masters of the Post under his administration. The courriers from England now arrived by way of Ostend in winter and Nieuport in summer. The towns of Brussels and Antwerp were forced to relinquish the postal organisation that they had created during Lamoral's minority as they encroached upon the privileges of the family.

The importance of the family continued to grow and Lamoral was created Count Imperial of Tour, Valsassina, and Tassis, and at his death at Antwerp in 1676 he was Seigneur of Braine-le-Chateau, Haut-Ittre, Hemiksem and Machelen. At the latter, near Brussels he had built the splendid Chateau of Beaulieu, which still stands as a monument and museum to the family's greatness.

Eugene Alexandre now became the eighth Grand Master. He was the son of Lamoral and was born at Brussels in January, 1652. He became the first of the family to bear the title of Prince, being raised to that dignity of the Holy Roman Empire in 1686.

Charles II of Spain, in consideration of an outlay of 15,000 florins renewed, in 1681, the letters patent entrusting Eugene Alexandre with the postal services of the Low Countries, and, in recompense for these services and of those of his ancestors, his lands at Braine-le-Chateau and Haut-Ittre were elevated to Principalities.

The year 1701, on the outbreak of the War of the Spanish Succession saw a reverse for the family profession for Eugene Alexandre was dispossessed of control of the Posts, and these services came under the jurisdiction of the French occupiers until 1709 when they reverted once again to the Tassis family, now under Anselme François. As Grand Master he was continually faced with increasing murmurs of dissatisfaction and with many attempts to break the family postal monopoly. The communal courriers were continually increasing their activities and, in August 1738, the Tassis found it necessary to make a regulation limiting the prerogatives of these courriers. This struggle against encroachment was to grow in intensity until the French Revolution. More honours, however, were to be gained and he handed on to his successor - his son, Alexandre Ferdinand - the title of Hereditary Marshal of Hainault.

The tenure of office of the new Grand Master was, like his father's, broken by a French occupation of the Low Countries. This was from 1746 to 1748 when the French authorities used their own postal services.

The family home during this period was transferred from Brussels to Ratisbonne in Germany, although the town house and postal centre at Brussels were retained. 1753, however, saw the confirmation of his tenure of office for a further 20 years. He died at Ratisbonne in 1773, being succeeded by Charles Anselme.

By this time the story is one of gradually relinquished prerogatives for the Tassis family. The actual operation of the postal services was now entrusted to subordinates. The French Revolution had far reaching effects and, by a Decree dated 9 Frimaire An III (30th November 1795), the office of Grand Master and of all their titles and privileges in the Low Countries was withdrawn from the Tour and Tassis family.

All now seemed lost forever but in January, 1814, following the fall of Napoleon, an act was passed by the Allied Powers restoring the provisional administration of the postal services of the Low Countries to the Tassis family and the mantle of twelfth Grand Master fell upon the shoulders of Charles Alexandre, son of Charles Anselme, from March 1814.

This appointment, however, was to be short-lived for, by the Treaty of Vienna, Belgium was placed under the sovereignty of William I. The Dutch Postal System was now adopted and the administration of the Tassis family came to an end in Belgium.

So closes the intriguing story of the gentlemen who became Princes through the able administration of a service founded for the use of Emperors and, for the necessary considerations, extended to everyman.

"CONTEMPORARY" PROOFS

Regrettably many collectors, particularly some "famous" international exhibitors do not seem to know such terms as shown in this title. According to the dictionary, the work "contemporary" says "belongs to the same time of the same age".

Certainly since 1970 (and certainly in the last three international exhibitions in London), we have seen exhibits of Belgian material being shown as "contemporary proofs". Here is just one example.

This is a "reprint" of the Delpierre Essay of the 1849 "Medallion" issue of Belgium. The original die of this was in a Red Cross and St. John auction at the end of the last War and eventually printed (in brown and blue) by Robson Lowe Ltd. (see page 31 in a Belgian Collection, April 25th - Robson Lowe Sale).

Fifty impressions were taken in brown, and fifty in blue on laid batonné paper. The die was later presented to the Brussels Postal Museum.

So much for these "contemporary" proofs.

Members of the Belgian Study Circle are concerned on these matters.



SJA

FORGED AND DOUBTFUL POSTMARKS
ON THE TWO 1914 RED CROSS ISSUES OF BELGIUM

You have Maurice Wilkinson to thank, or blame, for these notes. Some time ago, he asked me to check up on some of his stamps of the 1914 Red Cross Issues.

I have termed these "Forged and Doubtful Postmarks" as they are ones which I have found on forged stamps: and that in itself casts doubt on all postmarks of the same make up, although they may well have emanated from genuine cancellers, which had got into wrong hands. Having established that a postmark is "wrong", I have classified all stamps bearing that mark to be forgeries: likewise any postmark found on a forged stamp, I've classified as "wrong".

Although it is stated by Mons R. Soebert (Revue du Collectionneur Specialiste No. 2 Feb. 1948 p.44) that the original stones were destroyed in the presence of Government Officials, I think it more likely that the impressions were removed by grinding away the surface of the stones so that they could be used again, as was the usual practice.

It should be borne in mind that the four Wartime Red Cross Issues were demonetised with effect from 15th August, 1920.

Although J. Gevers & Co. of Antwerp, Bar-le-Duc and Ste Adresse were responsible for a lot of "philatelic curiosities", I don't think any of the forged stamps or "wrong" postmarks can be attributed to or were circulated by them. Incidentally, the firm was still operating in 1939 from 70 Rue St. Jean (re-named 70 Rue de l'Aumonier).

The earliest warning of the forgeries that I have come across in La Revue Postale No. 200 December, 1919 p.106, the then Major A. de Haene mentions the tail-less Q in Belgique as a distinguishing feature of the forgeries, emanating from Antwerp.

In the list of Forged and Doubtful Postmarks that follows, I only show ones which I have. In some cases the mark is shown schematically as well as by a Xerox copy.

FORGED AND DOUBTFUL POSTMARKS

ANTWERPEN-ANVERS

1.

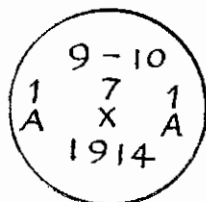


6M-6M 2 X 12-13

Date of Issue 3X

Found on the three Merode values in 5c and 10c values. Tail of Q has been added. 20c Vervisch forgery. Type 3.

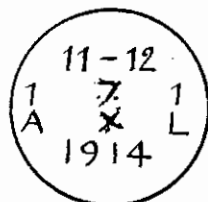
2.



1A-1A 9-10 7 X 1914.

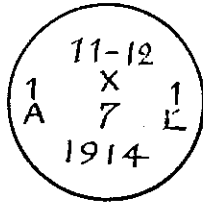
The two sets are found with this postmark on unaddressed envelopes. Care. Jack Gibbs has a cover with a postmark with this make up with genuine stamps but the postmarks have differences.

3.



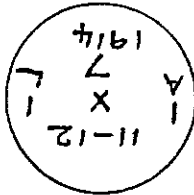
1A-1L 11-12 7 X 1914.

4.



1A-1L 11-12 X 7 1914.

5.

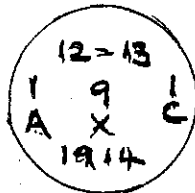


1A-1L 11-12 X 7 1914

Date plug inverted.

I have a cover with both sets addressed to
Monsieur Verdonck, 51 Rue du Manège Charleroi

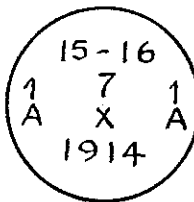
6.



1A-1C 12-13 9 X 1914

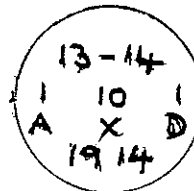
GENT-GAND

1.



1A-1A 15-16 7 X 1914

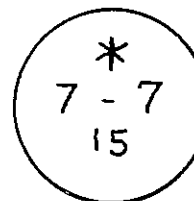
2.



1A-1D 13-14 10 X 1914

LE HAVRE (SPECIAL) SEINE INF^{RE}

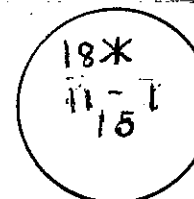
1.



* 7-7 15

Both sets on one unaddressed envelope.

2.

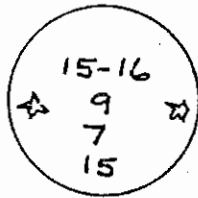


18* 11-1 15

There are other forged postmarks for this office found on stamps of the 1912 and 1915 Red Cross Issue. See Info-Phila No.4 Dec.82 p.134.

BAARLE - HERTOOG - BAR-LE-DUC

1.



* * 15-16 9 7 15

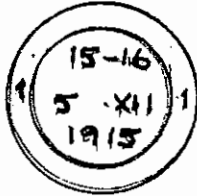
In the Xerox copy the letter M after 7 has been added in ink.

See Info-Phila Mar.82 p.9.

Bruxelles was occupied by the Germans.

BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL

1.



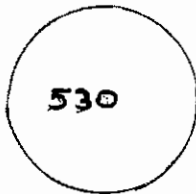
1-1 15-16 5 XII 1915 Double Circle.

2.



?-1 21 XII

3.

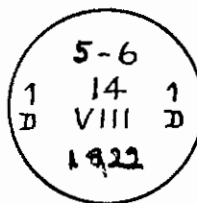


A post war type of postmark.
Bruxelles-Brussel in top half of circle.

UKKEL - UCCLE

Both sets were demonetised wef 15 VIII 1920.

1.



1D-1D 5-6 14 VIII 1922

2 years too late.

By this time no-one would put a genuine stamp through the post.

I hope these notes will be of use.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL



List Prices Achieved DATE 04-MAY-95
SALE NO 29825 Belgian StampsVAT EXCLUSIVE
ALL PRICES ARE POUNDS STERLING

LOT RESULT

1	150.00	48	180.00	93	170.00	140	75.00	185	230.00	230	75.00
2	2300.00	49	620.00	94	300.00	141	600.00	186	460.00	231	720.00
3	90.00	50	120.00	95	1450.00	142	340.00	187	220.00	232	95.00
4	360.00	51	110.00	96	400.00	143	420.00	188	95.00	233	65.00
5	190.00	52	270.00	97	500.00	144	900.00	189	190.00	234	200.00
6	420.00	53	140.00	98	210.00	145	270.00	190	270.00	235	110.00
7	140.00	54	95.00	99	300.00	146	360.00	191	100.00	236	850.00
8	190.00	55	150.00	100	75.00	147	360.00	192	880.00	237	280.00
9	280.00	56	160.00	101	600.00	148	280.00	193	500.00	238	300.00
10	520.00	57	55.00	102	150.00	149	420.00	194	230.00	239	340.00
11	130.00	58	95.00	103	150.00	150	250.00	195	60.00	240	950.00
12	1200.00	59	700.00	104	230.00	151	180.00	196	70.00	241	2100.00
13	170.00	60	800.00	105	280.00	152	110.00	197	170.00	242	210.00
14	600.00	61	170.00	106	170.00	153	100.00	198	90.00	243	110.00
15	1150.00	62	200.00	107	130.00	154	210.00	199	230.00	244	260.00
17	230.00	63	60.00	108	420.00	155	210.00	200	210.00	245	180.00
18	210.00	64	45.00	109	50.00	156	100.00	201	200.00	246	1000.00
19	130.00	65	110.00	110	240.00	157	680.00	202	85.00	247	100.00
20	260.00	66	580.00	111	400.00	158	300.00	203	600.00	248	500.00
21	110.00	67	1400.00	112	2500.00	159	75.00	204	620.00	249	850.00
22	100.00	68	2600.00	113	280.00	160	400.00	205	400.00	250	620.00
23	160.00	69	820.00	114	50.00	161	95.00	206	220.00	251	460.00
24	150.00	70	3200.00	115	270.00	162	920.00	207	230.00	252	110.00
25	45.00	71	750.00	116	160.00	163	1050.00	208	400.00	253	75.00
26	95.00	72	320.00	117	150.00	164	110.00	209	1250.00	254	140.00
27	210.00	73	820.00	118	250.00	165	190.00	210	1450.00	255	400.00
28	90.00	74	260.00	119	130.00	166	100.00	211	400.00	256	80.00
29	70.00	75	170.00	120	270.00	167	1250.00	212	420.00	257	90.00
30	130.00	76	90.00	121	500.00	168	260.00	213	3800.00	258	850.00
31	80.00	77	900.00	122	1100.00	169	90.00	214	400.00	259	120.00
32	35.00	78	260.00	123	250.00	170	500.00	215	850.00	260	80.00
33	160.00	79	190.00	124	80.00	171	85.00	216	400.00	261	230.00
34	1200.00	80	100.00	125	160.00	172	600.00	217	800.00	262	950.00
35	150.00	81	500.00	127	680.00	173	220.00	218	440.00	263	75.00
37	1100.00	82	120.00	128	320.00	174	650.00	219	50.00	264	150.00
38	150.00	83	160.00	129	60.00	175	180.00	220	200.00	265	520.00
39	70.00	84	580.00	130	550.00	176	70.00	221	55.00	266	620.00
40	75.00	85	600.00	131	210.00	177	320.00	222	200.00	267	80.00
41	55.00	86	800.00	132	85.00	178	420.00	223	420.00	268	60.00
42	680.00	87	110.00	133	380.00	179	200.00	224	80.00	269	160.00
43	250.00	88	420.00	134	110.00	180	480.00	225	190.00	270	400.00
44	120.00	89	420.00	135	500.00	181	480.00	226	1500.00	271	160.00
45	110.00	90	750.00	136	85.00	182	620.00	227	110.00	272	230.00
46	210.00	91	180.00	137	140.00	183	4400.00	228	1800.00	273	130.00
47	70.00	92	230.00	138	320.00	184	460.00	229	210.00	274	150.00

Lots not included in this list either failed to reach the reserves, were withdrawn, or did not bring a bid.

The prices shown are the hammer prices and DO NOT INCLUDE the buyer's premium. Lots with an asterisk were sold subject to V.A.T. on the hammer price and this is included in the price on lots which were not exported. Lots which were exported show only the hammer price.

LOT	RESULT						
275	70.00	320	120.00	365	40.00	412	420.00
276	460.00	321	150.00	366	150.00	413	100.00
277	50.00	322	42.00	367	200.00	414	160.00
278	380.00	323	360.00	368	400.00	415	220.00
279	48.00	324	1250.00	369	65.00	416	75.00
280	260.00	325	300.00	370	460.00	417	340.00
281	200.00	326	140.00	371	220.00	419	220.00
282	180.00	327	50.00	372	140.00	420	180.00
283	60.00	328	170.00	373	270.00	421	90.00
284	210.00	329	90.00	374	280.00	422	240.00
285	140.00	330	160.00	375	240.00	423	250.00
286	200.00	331	460.00	376	120.00		
287	75.00	332	260.00	377	70.00		
288	50.00	333	75.00	379	320.00		
289	75.00	334	580.00	380	110.00		
290	200.00	335	50.00	381	420.00		
291	120.00	336	60.00	382	420.00		
292	680.00	337	42.00	383	110.00		
293	500.00	338	280.00	384	110.00		
294	260.00	339	200.00	385	110.00		
295	75.00	340	210.00	386	55.00		
296	100.00	341	180.00	387	160.00		
297	130.00	342	190.00	388	680.00		
298	380.00	343	75.00	389	170.00		
299	75.00	344	950.00	390	600.00		
300	480.00	345	170.00	391	38.00		
301	180.00	346	180.00	392	580.00		
302	270.00	347	160.00	393	850.00		
303	200.00	348	240.00	394	140.00		
304	180.00	349	380.00	395	80.00		
305	150.00	350	1550.00	396	270.00		
306	140.00	351	780.00	397	120.00		
307	150.00	352	900.00	398	110.00		
308	320.00	353	360.00	399	260.00		
309	95.00	354	360.00	400	160.00		
310	1650.00	355	230.00	401	120.00		
311	1350.00	356	160.00	402	55.00		
312	600.00	357	210.00	403	48.00		
313	80.00	358	200.00	404	580.00		
314	380.00	359	240.00	405	170.00		
315	42.00	360	180.00	406	60.00		
316	42.00	361	110.00	407	85.00		
317	270.00	362	45.00	408	48.00		
318	90.00	363	2400.00	410	32.00		
319	150.00	364	340.00	411	75.00		



BRUXELLES-TOURNAI, 1821-1824

We have two postal documents: one 25 May, 1821, the other 9 January, 1824, both printed heading, the last with the Royal Arms. Both otherwise are in manuscript and as a result we find that it is not possible to reproduce them here. However, both are sent from the "Inspection des Postes Royales des Pays-Bas" and signed "Loomans". They are both sent to *Mefsieur La Director des Postes à Tournai", both concerning the latest royal decrees on postal matters.

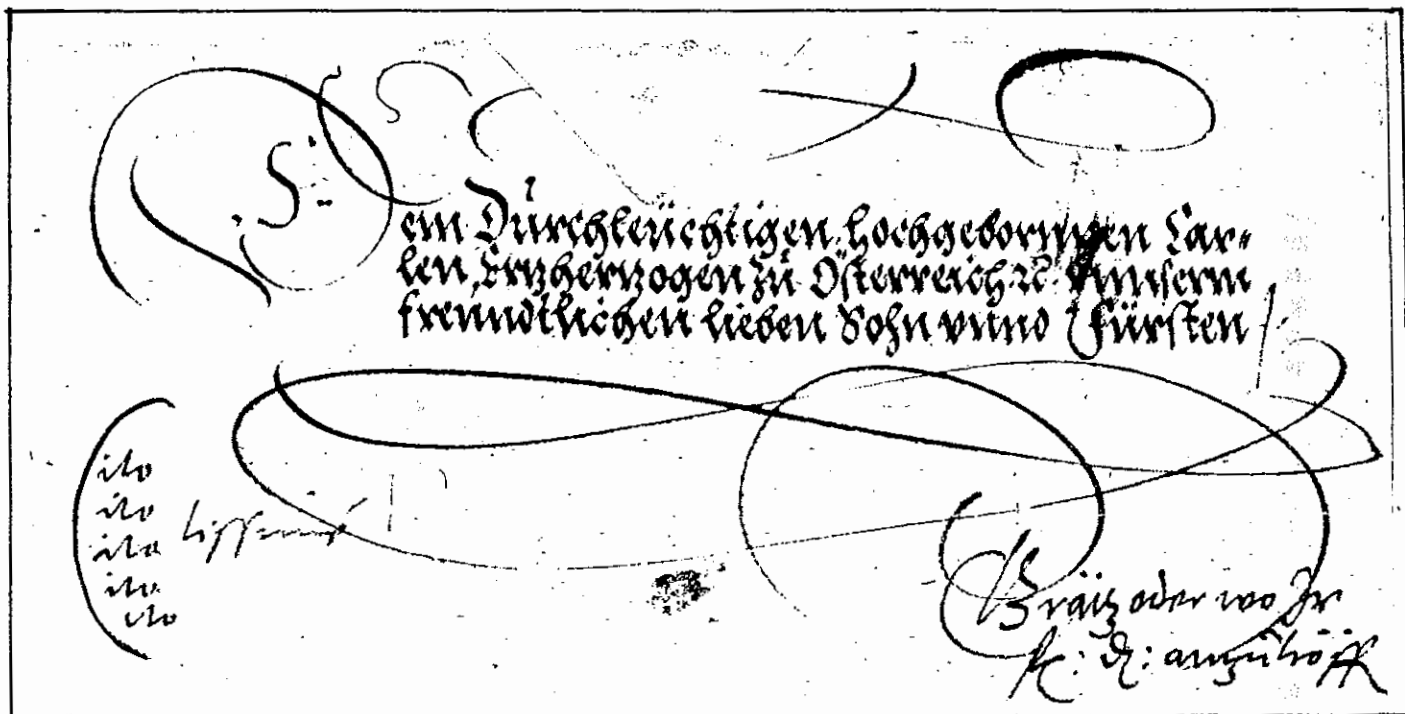
However, who was "Loomans"?

He was Inspector of the Royal Posts in Brussels. Earlier he had been the postal representative of the Princes of Thurn & Taxis and had then been appointed by the High Allied Powers in 1815 to reorganised the posts in Belgium.

CITO, CITO, CITO

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

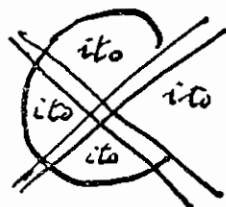
One occasionally finds the word "Cito" in manuscript on the face of a letter as early as the 13/14th Century, particularly in the Venice region. However, this was used probably by merchants. The word could be shown singly or up to six or eight times. It was used to emphasise and to impress the courier to deliver the letter as quickly as possible. The English word is "Haste". We show an early example (5th April, 1564) from Bohemia to Graz. Apart from the "Cito" five times, it is also endorsed "Graz, or wherever you can find him", an extra encouragement to the courier.



(F.E.G. Collection)

No doubt the main users of this service were the merchants who were dealing with important shipments and expensive goods such as spices, precious stones, silks, carpets and other items.

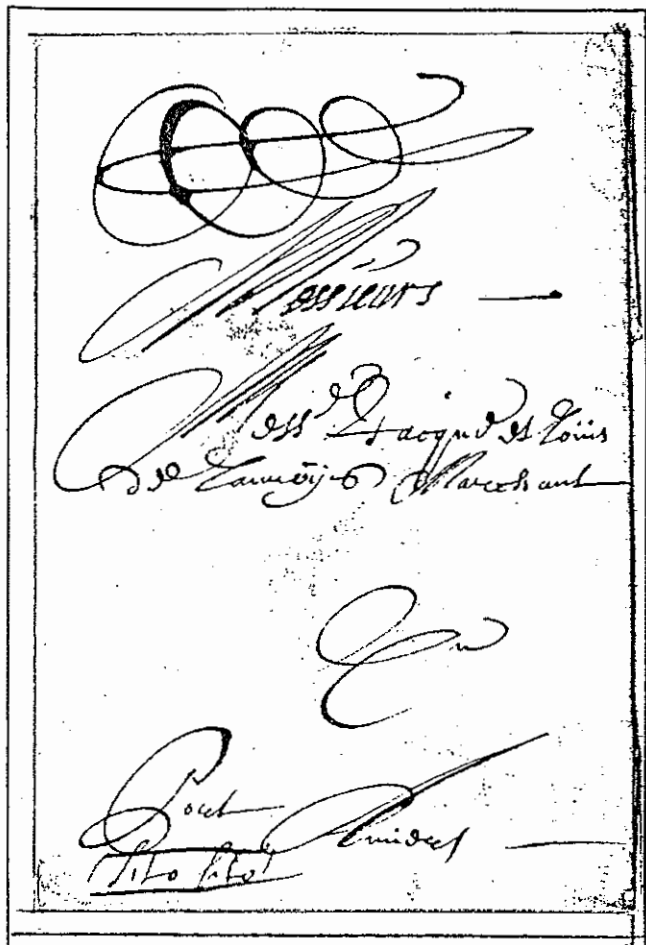
We show a few more examples, including the French "Sitot". These notations are, of course, early "Express" letters.



This example is from a 1625 letter - four times "Cito" plus the "doubled cross", which is understood to require a signature on arrival. Presumably an "Express-Registered" letter.



A further notation, as well as the "Cito" is the gallows (1638 letter). A nasty example to the courier if he did not make the best speed!



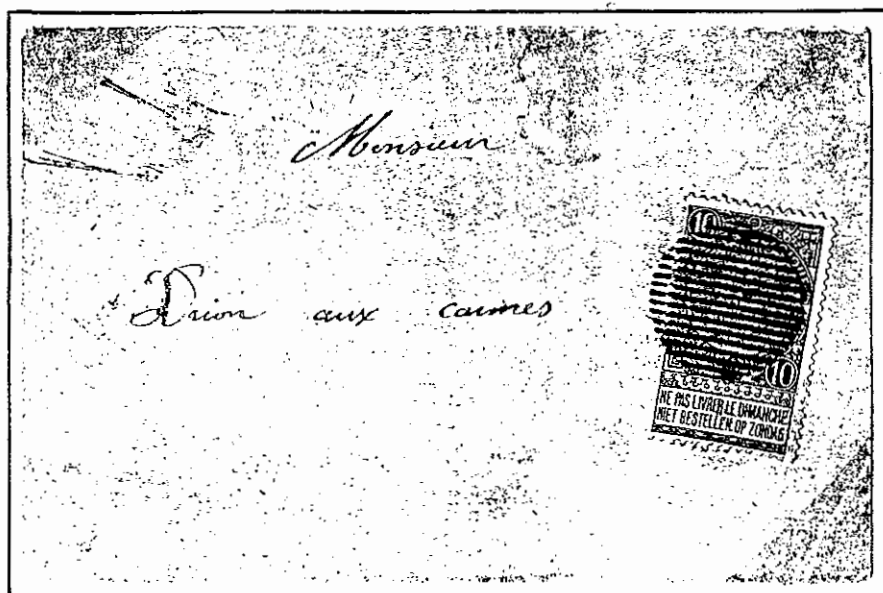
From GHENT TO ANTWERP

10 September 1682

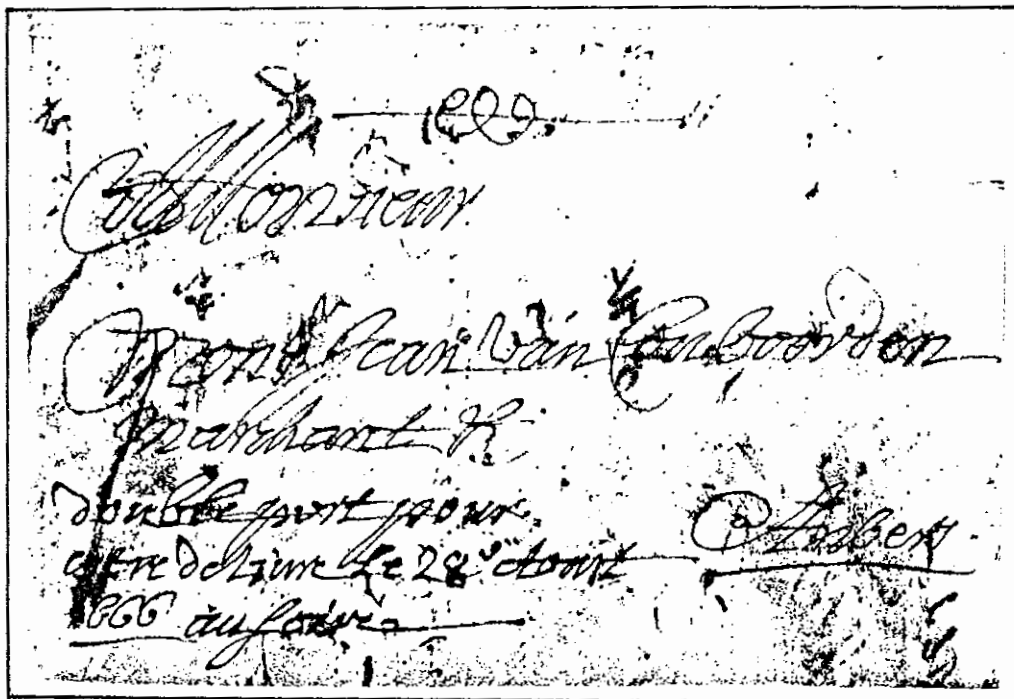
"Sito, Sito"

Rural Bars

This letter - an undated local item - was collected from the village postbox. Being "addressed" to a wellknown person (by name only) and being on the same walk, the postman would cancel the stamp with his 18 bar canceller and deliver the letter without it going through the local post office.



Sometimes one can find letters (c.1600+) on which an inscription such as double postage will be paid if the letter is delivered on the "---- before ---- o'clock. Here is a typical letter, dated 28th August, 1666, from Brussels to Antwerp.



The inscription says:

"Double port pour outre de Lierre le 28 August 1666. Au Foire".

"Double postage for beyond of Lierre, the 28 August 1666 before the fair."



From ANTWERP to BRUSSELS

"Cito, Cito". 23 Oct. 1703

FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918 DUTCH INTERNMENT CAMP MAIL (PART 4)

THE GREEN LABEL PERIOD

The internee allowance of two items of mail per month became restrictive and difficult to control especially as mail could be posted almost anywhere in Holland. The vast quantity being handled in late 1915 gave concern to the Dutch authorities who decided to create a control system to reduce the volume to the permitted limits. Their solution was to supply adhesive labels which would be sold to the internees at 2 copies for 1 cent. The fixing of these labels to internee mail would enable close control as a letter not bearing a label would be refused. Additionally, by introducing a different label each month, a close control could be exercised. No value was needed on these labels as they had no monetary status.

Printing of the first two issues, one green and one brown, commenced in late 1915. Design had been carried out by A. P. W. Van Starrenburg of Utrecht, who was not an experienced stamp designer but had previously designed wine bottle labels, etc. This probably accounts for the size of the labels which was rather larger than contemporary stamps. The firm for whom the designer worked, J. Van Boekhoven, was unable to print by the lithographic process, which was then sub-contracted to Stoomdrukkerij J. R. Van Denberg of Amsterdam.

Printing was made on unwatermarked paper in sheets of:

Green	-	5 rows of 13	= 65
Brown	-	9 rows of 8	= 72

As the labels were of a similar size and printed at the same time, this difference is strange.

Perforation was line 11½ x 11½.

The design of the two labels was deliberately changed. Although the wording on the labels was similar, its layout on the label was quite different. The reason for stating August 1914 is unknown. Reputedly, 65,000 of each colour were printed, which would require 1,000 sheets of the green and 903 sheets of the brown.

It was not until 3rd February, 1916 that an order of the Dutch Postal Authorities was issued as follows:

"POSTAL FRANCHISE - By order of the military authorities and for the needs of the correspondence between the internees, for the Dutch postal service, and the inhabitants of the territories under German Occupation in Belgium, the labels (etiquettes) bearing the following are available.

AUG. 1914
KONINKRIJK DE NEDERLANDEN
INTERNEERINGSKAMPEN

AUGUST 1914
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
INTERNEE CAMPS

The stock of these labels will be sent to Utrecht (Exp. Voor Belgie). The date stamp will be applied part on the document and part on the label. As previously, the following cachet will be struck on the document:

PORTVRIJ
FRANC DE PORT
MILITAIRES ETRANGERS
internés dans les Pays-Bas."

In accordance with this order, the green labels were in readiness for use in February, 1916, to be followed by the brown ones in March, 1916. On 3rd February, the Utrecht office sent supplies to Zeist-Amersfoort, Harderwijk, Oldebroek and Gaasterland (Bakhuizen, Oudemirdum and Rijs) which accounted for the bulk of Belgian internees held at that time. Silverberg states that Zeist-Amersfoort received 23,252, almost half of those issued.

The central control office of the Internment Camps was headed by Major General M. Ommen and based at Fluwelenburgwal 14/16, The Hague. He ordered that the labels should be used from 3rd February only on mail to Occupied Belgium as per the order listed above. Many of the labels bore the initials of a censoring officer, apart from the cachets mentioned - perhaps fearful of possible problems regarding their use.

Their fears were well founded. In spite of the long preparations for their issue and use, the Dutch had neglected to consult and obtain the agreement of the German Authorities. The Germans would not accept mail bearing these labels afraid that being so large, messages could be hidden under them. As a result, they were all returned with a cachet reading "Zurück weil unzulässig" (48mm. x 15mm.) or "Unzulässig Zurück" (boxed) 64mm. x 13mm. struck in violet ink. This indicated: Return - inadmissible. This outcome was notified by the Dutch Postal Authorities to the Office of the Internment Camp Service at The Hague, which instructed the camps to return to the former system.

Therefore, copies of the green label should be found used only between 3rd-24th February but, as always, the odd late use occurred. In the Netherlands Postal Museum is a copy cancelled the 8th March.

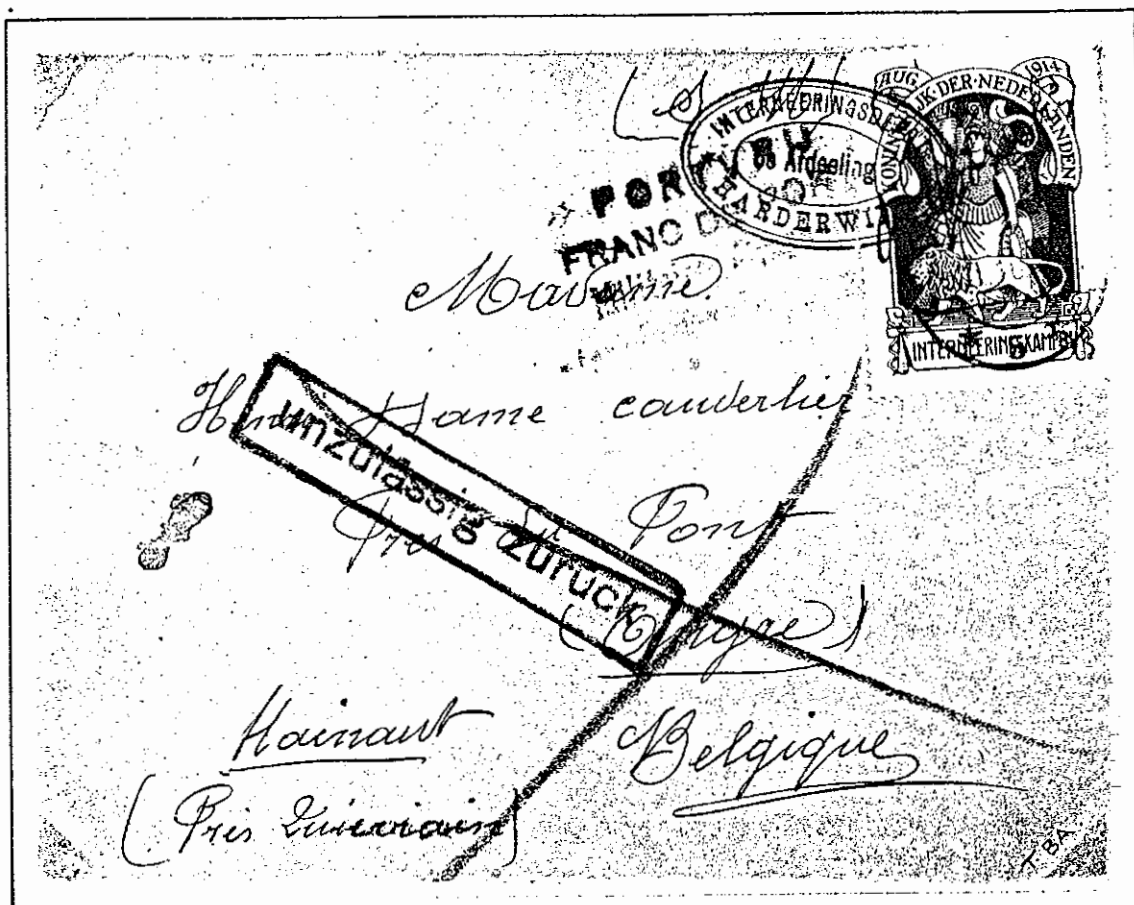
As they were not issued, the brown labels were destroyed although a few escaped. Any cancelled copies, therefore, are false.

The sizes of the labels I have seen are:	Green	49mm. x 35mm.
	Brown	47mm. x 32mm.

Both green and brown labels have been found forged and collectors are advised to take care when purchasing these items mint. Green copies should be tied to a cover for proof of genuine use.



Green Label from Rijs-Interneeringsdepot to Tournai, 5th February 1916 -
"Zurück/Weil Unzulässig"



Green Label from Harderwijk to Hainault, 5th February 1916 - "Unzulässig-Zurück"



Unissued Brown Labels - Block of 4. Reputedly 65,000 were printed and then destroyed

OFFICIAL POSTAL STATIONERY

Shortly following the failure of the green label exercise, a new order was issued in Occupied Belgium on 1st April, 1916. This mainly dealt with correspondence to/from civilian refugees in Holland, but included a reference also to the internees. This was followed on 1st April, 1917, by a reference to correspondence concerning the internees being "confined to the special yellow stamped postcards....."

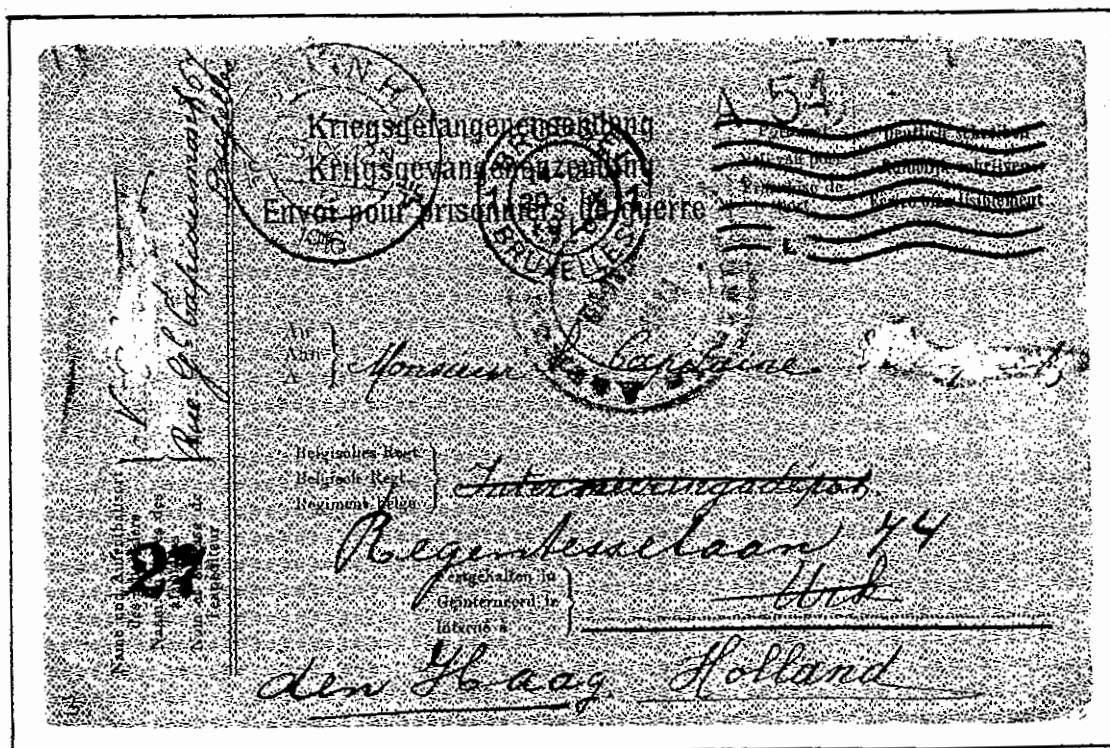
Such postcards had been issued in June, 1916 but apparently with little success. The German Authorities had produced and supplied 20,000 copies to the Dutch Authorities for circulation to the internees. A payment of DMK280 appears to have been made in respect of these cards which were, of course, under The Hague Convention issued free of charge to the internees. By February, 1917, the quantity appears to have reached 27,000 per month and reputedly continued until the Armistice. Their scarcity today would, however, cast doubt on this as used copies are somewhat difficult to find.

Perhaps a description of the cards may assist in understanding their unpopularity. Firstly, they were not quite yellow, more buff-brown, with red print and measured 140mm. x 90mm. in size (when separated). They were printed in pairs similar to reply-paid postcards, one half intended for sending to internees, the other half for mail coming back from the camps. This distinction can be seen as one half has spaces for military details and place of internment. In all other respects, the two halves are identical.

The text is printed in three languages: German, Dutch and French, in that order, and a small box indicates postage is free. However, the text at the top of the cards is headed "Prisoners of War" - which they were not and it is hardly surprising, therefore, that the internees did not welcome or want to use them.

As previously mentioned, used copies are rare, especially those sent from the camps to occupied Belgium.

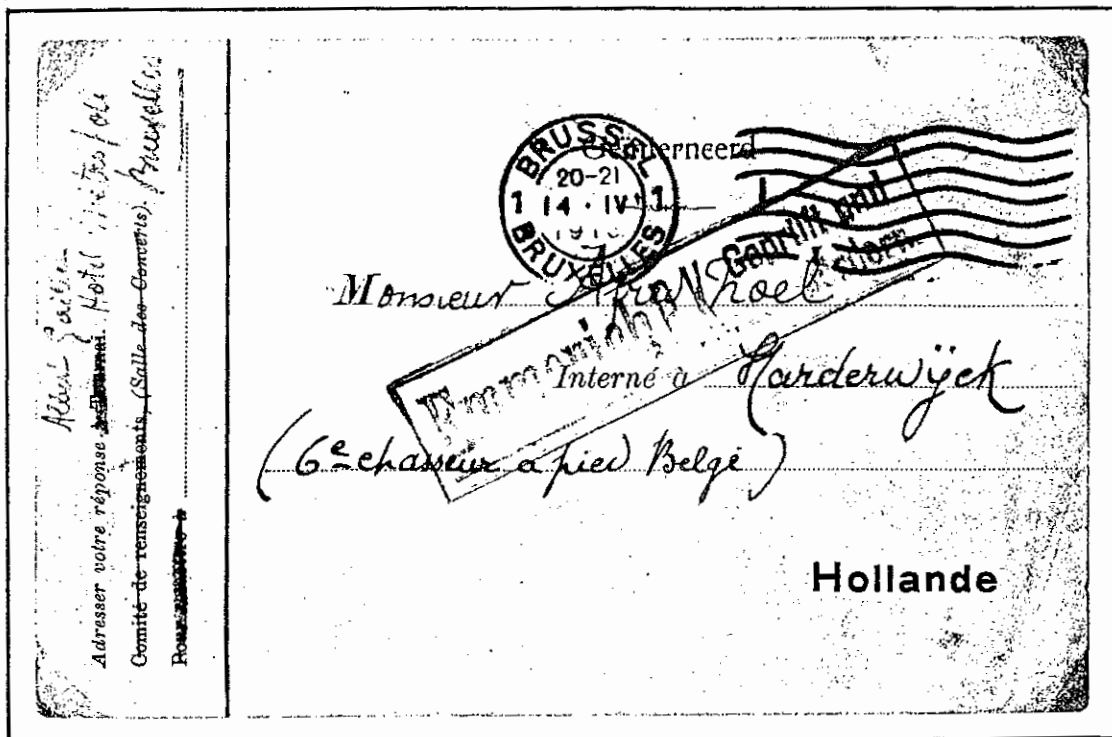
It can therefore be seen that attempts by the Dutch Authorities (green labels) and the German Authorities (yellow cards) failed to find acceptance (for different reasons) to control the internees' mail. The Hague Convention guaranteed free franchise without stipulating method of control and that suited the internees.



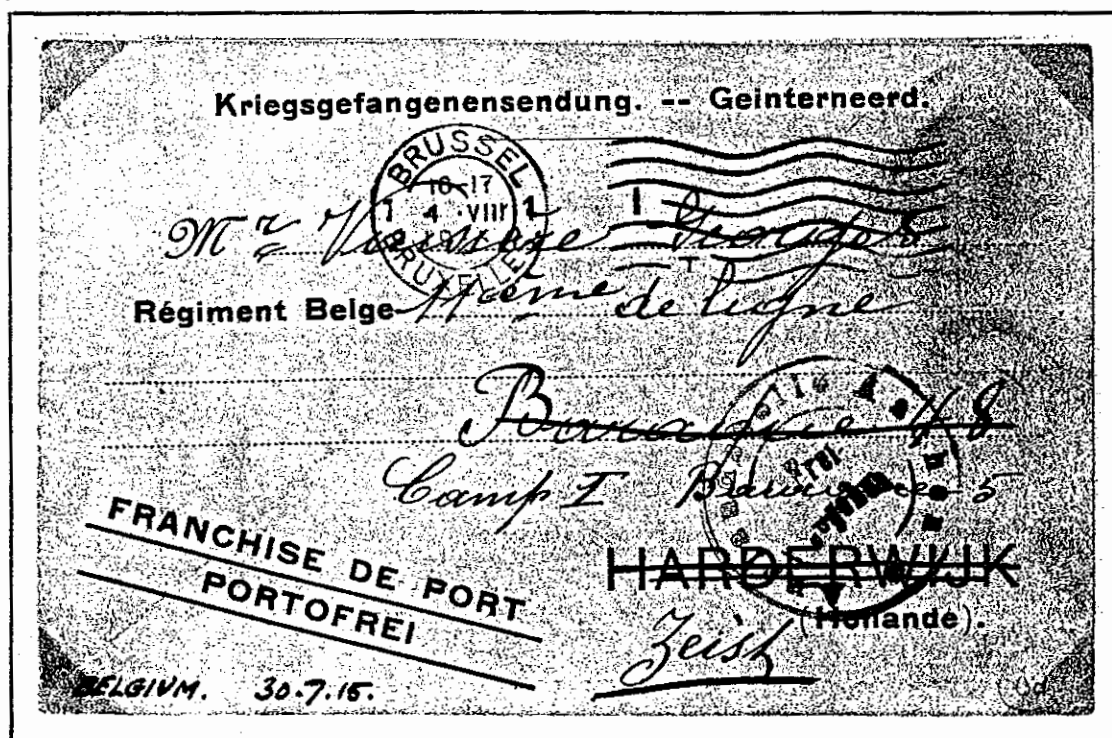
Yellow Postcard - Brussels to Urk, 20th September 1916. "Urk(N.H.)" Arrival Cachet 25th Sept. This half of the postal stationery was for sending to Holland.

PRIVATE POSTAL STATIONERY

Page 112.

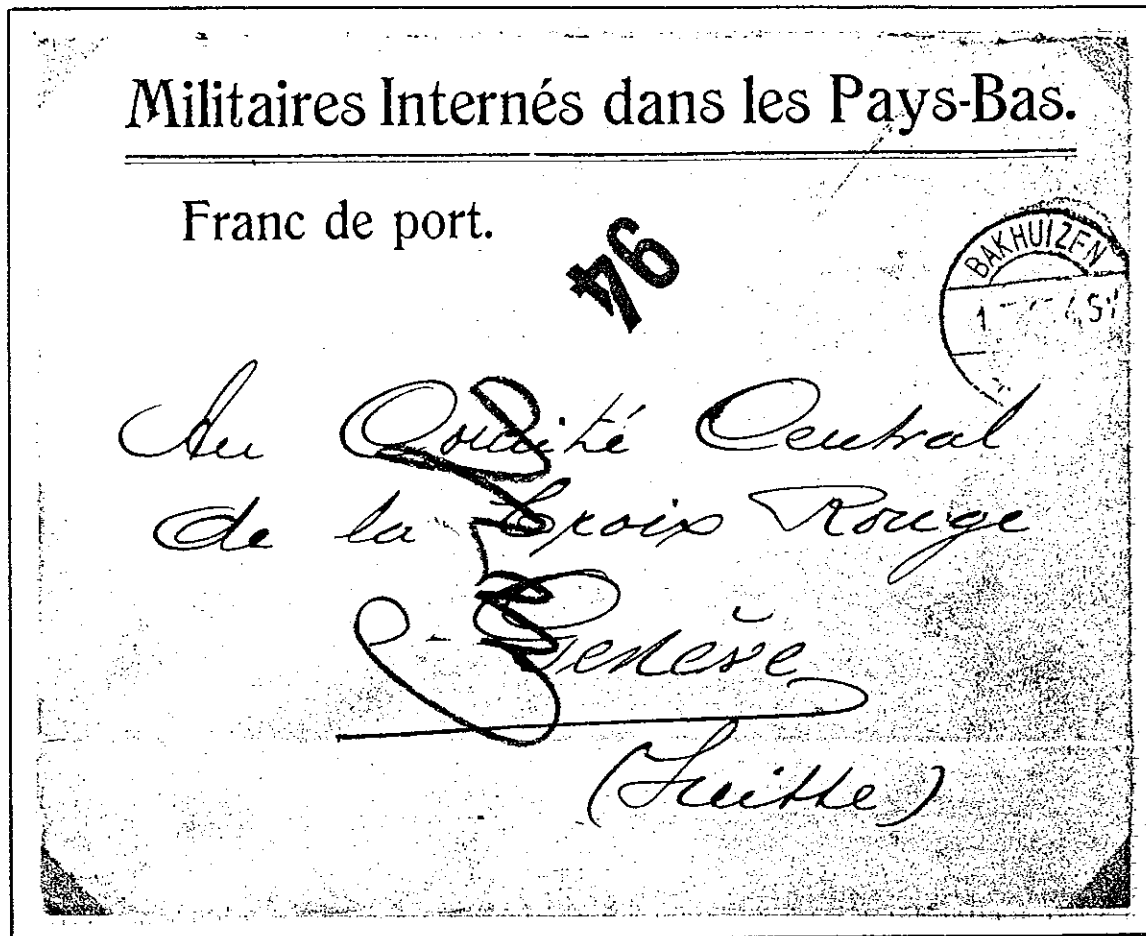


Official 'Geinterneerd' Card from Tournai. Brussels to Harderwijk, 14th April 1916?

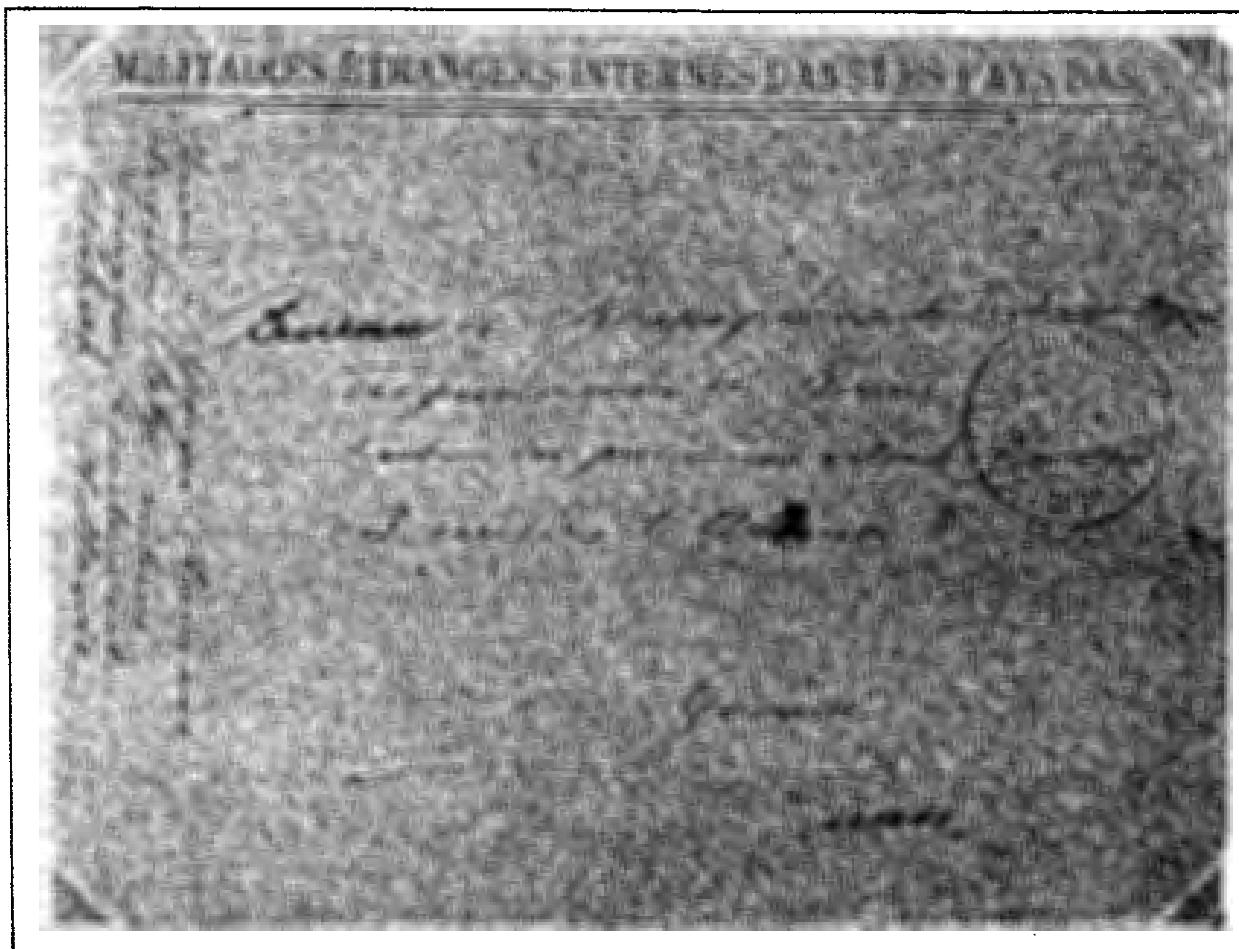


Official "Kriegsgefangenensendung-Geinterneerd" preprinted for Harderwijk Camp, 30th July 1915

Of equal interest are those produced in Holland for the internees direct use. Several types are illustrated by Silverberg but a variety of designs exist, both cards and envelopes. Some bear the legend FRANC DE PORT and obviously these cards were more acceptable to the internees than the yellow Prisoner of War type issued by the Germans. It is suggested that they were of local origin - perhaps even printed within the camps themselves, which were well organised and contained many skilled craftsmen.

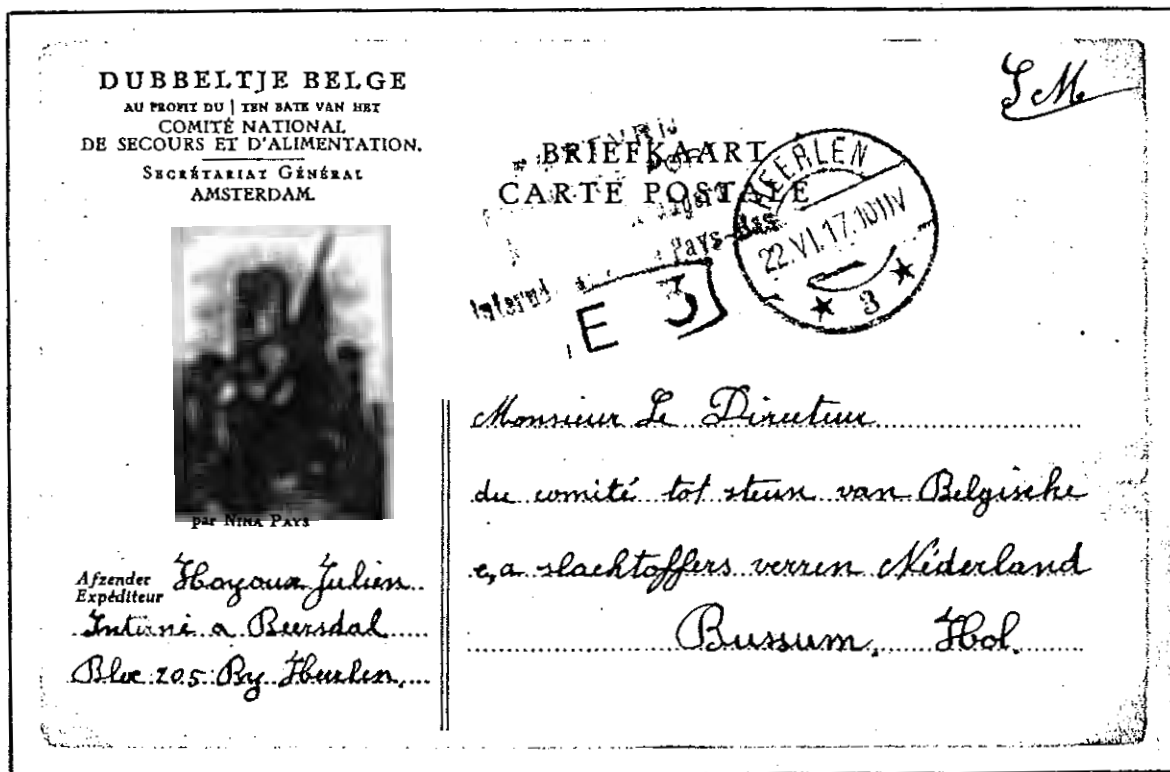


Private Envelope "Militaires Internés" - Franc de Port. Bakhuizen, 10th October 1914

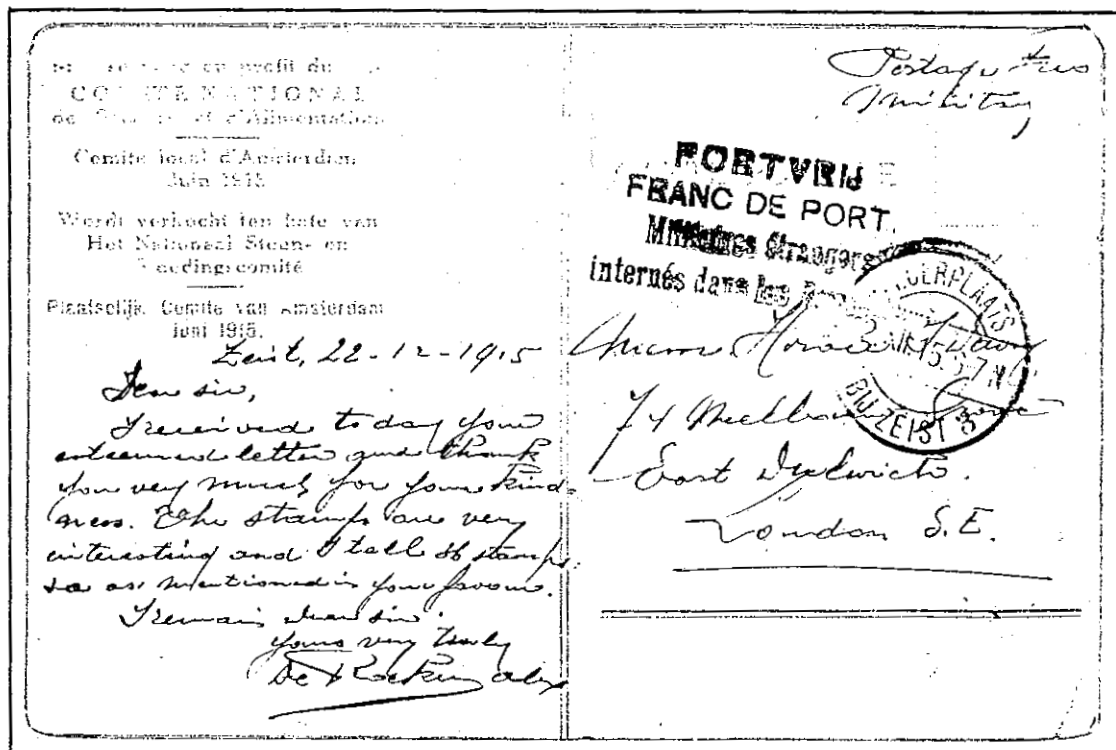


Private Envelope "Militaires Etrangers Internés" Oldebroek, 4th May 1915

Finally included in this category are the charity type cards. One series headed DUBBELTJE BELGE bears a selection of coloured pictures with Amsterdam SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL imprint. Others have a Zwolle address and PATRIOTIQUE BELGE written down the side. Money raised from the sale of these cards went to the Belgian cause.



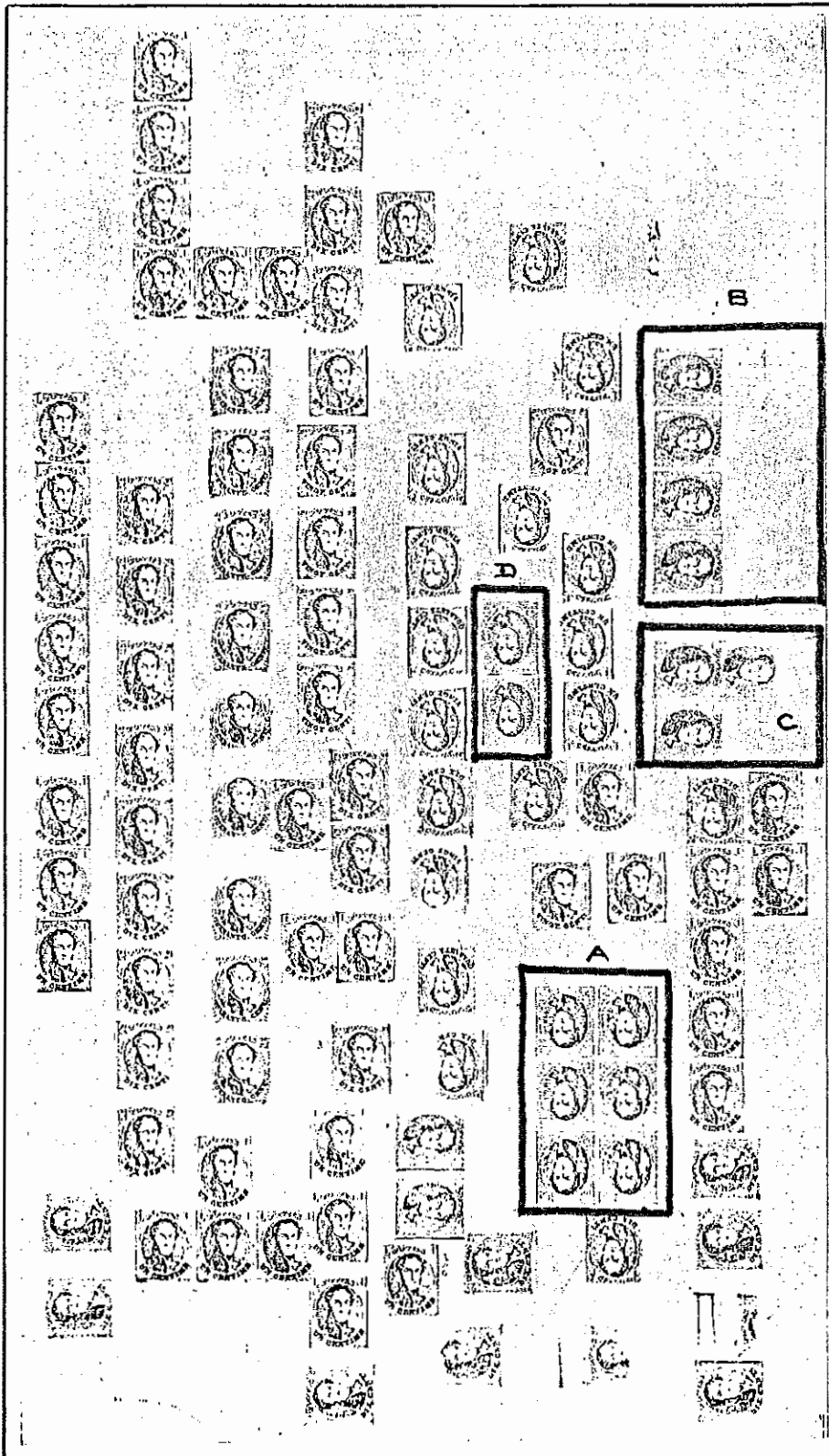
Patriotic Charity Card Dubbeltje Belge Heerlem, 22nd June 1917



Patriotic Charity Card from Zeist 3, 22nd December 1915

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDALLION ISSUE (continued)

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



A. FIRST REJECTED NEUTRAL
DESIGN.

B. SECOND ACCEPTED NEUTRAL
DESIGN.

C. SECOND ACCEPTED NEUTRAL
DESIGN.

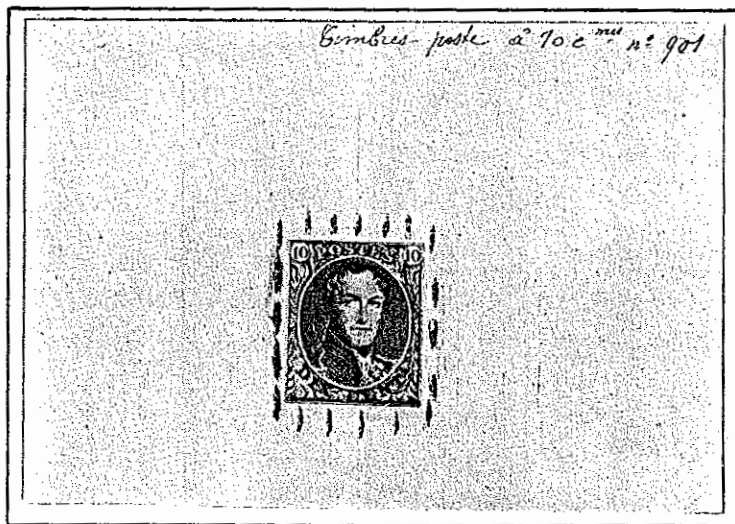
D. FIRST REJECTED NEUTRAL
DESIGN.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
10 CENTIME VALUE

UN-ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE.



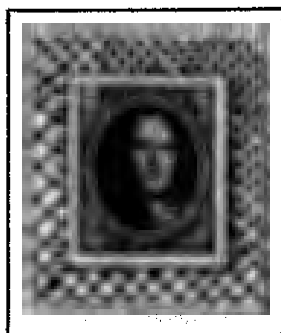
IN THIS DIE THE EYES OF THE KING ARE NOT SO WELL ENGRAVED
NO CONTEMPORARY PROOFS ARE KNOWN, BUT RE-IMPRESSIONS ARE
FOUND OF THIS DIE, IN BROWN MADE IN 1895, AND IN BLACK
MADE IN 1929



FROM (ABOVE) EDWIN H. LEE COLLECTION (GODDEN 1934), AND (ROBSON LOWE, 1945, LOT 98)
(BELOW) 1895 IN BROWN, EX CAROLY (ROBSON LOWE, 1945, LOT 96)

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
10 CENTIME VALUE

THE ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE

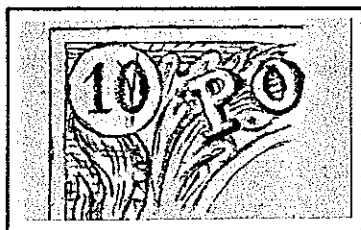


THE DIE IS KNOWN ON THICK WHITE PAPER, AND ON
"JAPON" PAPER, THE SIZE BEING 84 x 105 mm.

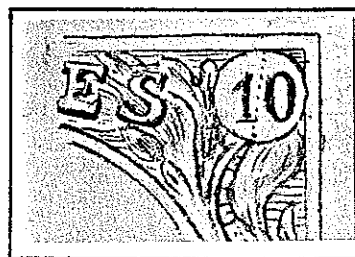
CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.



TWO VERTICAL LINES THROUGH
"OS" OF "POSTES"



"V" SHAPE BURIN MARK IN THE
L.H. VALUE TABLET.



VERTICAL DOTTED LINE THROUGH
R.H. VALUE TABLET.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
10 CENTIME VALUE

THE ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE.



THIS DIE IS KNOWN ON THICK WHITE PAPER AND ON
JAPON PAPER, SIZE 84 x 105 mm.

CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.

1. BURIN MARK IN THE SHAPE OF A "V" IN THE
VALUE TABLET.
2. VERTICAL DOTTED LINE IN RIGHT VALUE TABLET.
3. TWO VERTICAL LINES THROUGH "OS" OF "POSTES"

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
1 CENTIME VALUE

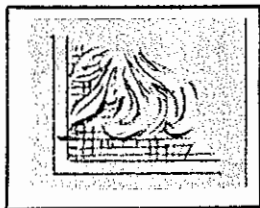
THE ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE.

THE DIE WAS ALTERED SLIGHTLY AFTER ACCEPTANCE.

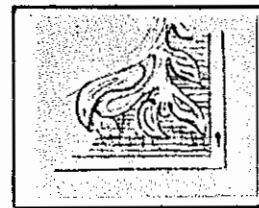


THIS DIE WAS MADE ABOUT 44 YEARS AFTER THE DIES FOR THE OTHER 3 VALUES

CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.



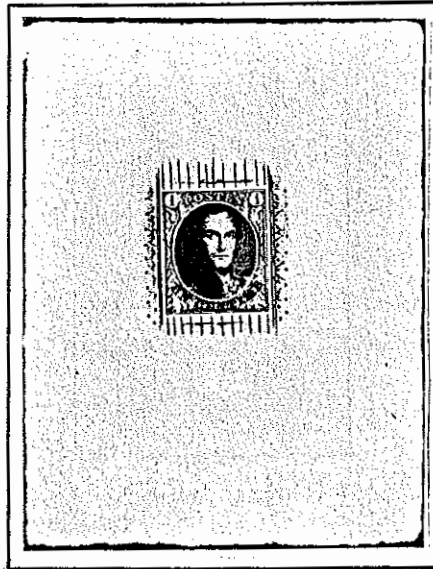
EXTENSION OF BACKGROUND LINE
TOWARDS THE OUTER FRAME IN THE
BOTTOM LEFT CORNER.



DOT BETWEEN THE FRAME
LINES IN BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER.

THESE TWO DETAILS ARE SOMETIMES MISSING FROM
THE LATER DIE PROOFS.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
1 CENTIME VALUE



THIS DIE WAS MADE ABOUT ELEVEN YEARS AFTER THE DIES FOR THE OTHER THREE VALUES. THE DIE WAS ALTERED SLIGHTLY BEFORE ADOPTION.

CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE

1. DOT BETWEEN THE FRAME LINES IN BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER.
2. EXTENSION OF BACKGROUND LINE TOWARDS THE FRAME AT
BOTTOM LEFT CORNER.

THESE TWO DETAILS ARE SOMETIMES MISSING ON THE LATER DIE PROOFS.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
40CENTIME VALUE
UN-ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE



IN THIS DIE THE EYES OF THE KING ARE NOT SO WELL ENGRAVED
NO CONTEMPORARY PROOFS ARE KNOWN, BUT RE-IMPRESSIONS ARE
FOUND OF THIS DIE, IN BROWN, MADE IN 1895, AND IN BLACK MADE IN 1929

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE
40 CENTIME VALUE

THE ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE

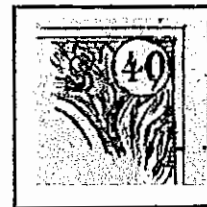


THIS DIE IS KNOWN ON 5 TYPES OF PAPER, - CHAMOIS CARTON;
"JAPON"; THICK WHITE; GREY GREEN THICK WHITE; & BROWN-RED
THICK PAPER (THE LATTER INITIALED "H.R." (ROBINSON)).

CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.



LINE ON LEFT "40" TABLET.
LINE ACROSS LEFT FOLIAGE.



LINE ON RIGHT "40" TABLET.
LINE TOP RIGHT BETWEEN FRAMES



LINE BETWEEN FRAMES ABOVE "Q"
INNER FRAME EXTENDED DOWN TO
BOTTOM OUTER FRAME.



LINE ACROSS FRAME ABOVE "S" of "CENTS"
INNER FRAME RIGHT CORNER EXTENDED TO OUTER