

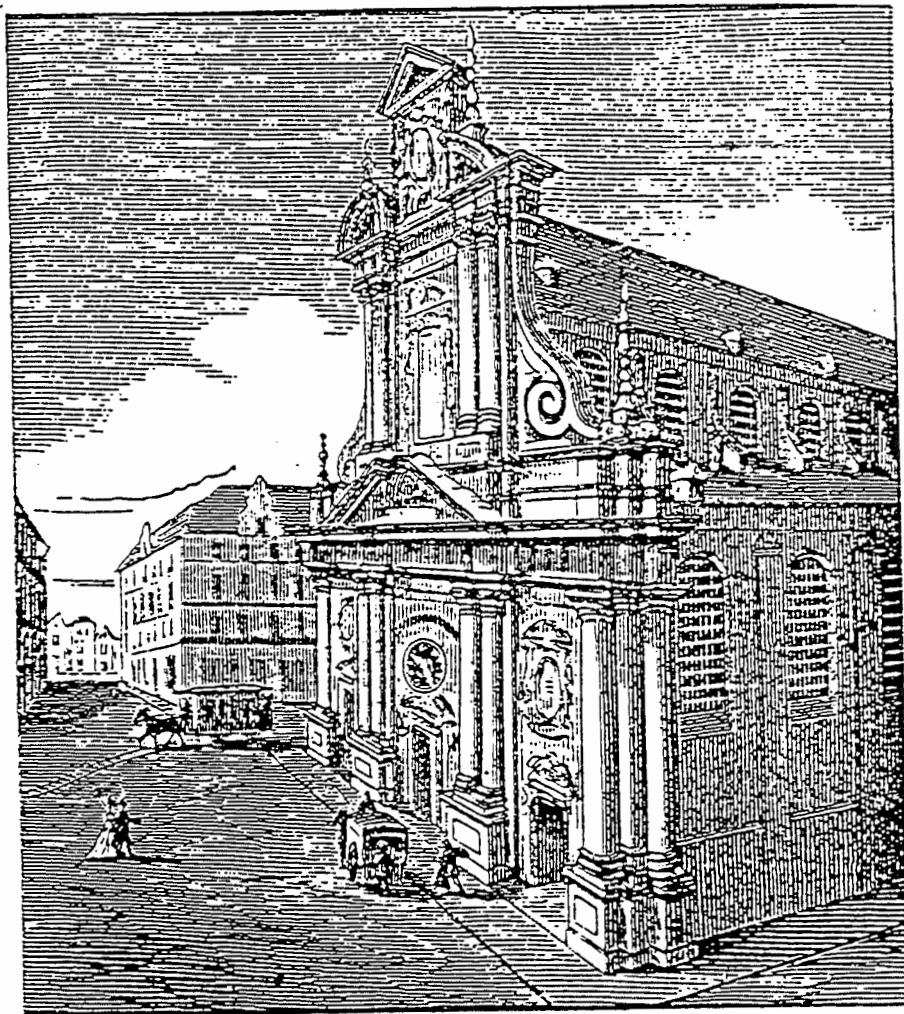
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BELGAPOST

Volume **9** No. **1**

MARCH 1996

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.

MARCH 1996The Journal of the
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

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

MARCH 1996

EDITORIAL

We now start on our ninth volume of this journal. No doubt by now you will have seen that we are attempting to provide alternative years between stamps and postal history, this year being the turn for the latter.

Our front cover shows the Brussels Head Post Office, which was used from 3rd May, 1874 to 19th November, 1892. The "story" of the Head Post Offices of Brussels will be given during this volume.

Much of the work for "BELGAPOST" starts up to twelve months ahead of issue, so if any member has (and we hope) articles or information, they should be sent to the Editor as soon as you can so that we can put such things into the earliest issue possible.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We are already into the New Year and next year the Circle is giving a display to the Royal Philatelic Society on Thursday, 16th January, 1997. So keep that date clear. There is a lot to be done but things are already in motion. Once again, I must ask you to let me know if there is anything you wish displayed or discussed at our meetings next year; the programme is in course of being completed.

A point raised by one of the Postal Bidders in the last auction was that he could afford to put a large bid on a lot he particularly wanted as he had not got a £25 return railway fare. (He got the lot in question but below his limit.) Members might not appreciate that our seemingly high commission on auction lots is to cover expenses and also the hire of the room at £90 a time. This is a lot but meetings are essential to keep the Circle going.

I should add that we are fortunate that our Treasurer, in conjunction with his business duties, is able to call on many of our provincial members who cannot attend our meetings.

Please find enclosed with this issue the agenda for our A.G.M. on Saturday, 20th April. Prior to the A.G.M. there will be an auction in the morning containing a further selection of good material. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

TREASURER'S REPORT

In my last report, I listed those members with whom contact had been lost. I regret to report that no response has been received as a result.

Elsewhere in this edition is the auction news. The success of the auctions does add considerably to our funds but also creates a high volume of financial transactions. Arising from the 20th January auction, all postal bids were despatched within 48 hours. During the next four days, payments came by return from 13 members and the rest are now trickling in. A very encouraging sign of satisfaction and gratefully appreciated by yours truly as 31st March marks the end of our financial year.

Subscriptions for 1996/97 are not fixed or due before our A.G.M. on 20th April, after which a notice will be issued to all members. Please help me by paying promptly on receipt so that I can get down to my own collecting interests.

R. T. HARRISON

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

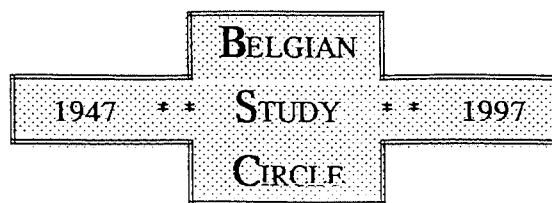
Alec Swain of the France and Colonies P.S. who has previously written concerning the Belgian Post Office in France 1939/1940.

He has recently acquired yet another of "these French p.s. cards but with a difference - this as you will see is addressed to 'Monsieur C. Gutt (?)', Ministre des Finances Belges, St. Adresse, Seine Inferieure' rather than Poitiers.

"It is well recorded that the Belgian Government established themselves at Sainte-Adresse 1914/18 but here we seem to have evidence that it was the intention to do the same in 1939/40? There is no evidence of the card being redirected yet it seems to have been processed to answer this query from a pensioner. How did 'B. Wagnon' know where to direct his inquiry? Or did he just assume that the events of 1914 would be repeated? You will note he gives his place of employment 'à Bruxelles depuis 1902' so he would have been aware of what happened.

"Any help would be appreciated."





« « « 1997 » » »

During our weekend at Weston, we discussed the possible ways in which we could celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 1997.

The original Circle was founded in the Spring of 1947, but with the first official meeting taking place in the Autumn. We therefore have flexibility in arranging events spanning the year and hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend at least one event. During that period, it is proposed that Geoffrey Wood takes the role of Chairman – an appropriate honour as he is the only founder member still active in the Circle.

Our current proposals are:-

1. A **Special Publication** with illustrations covering the history of the Circle and its' events and members.
2. A display at the Royal Philatelic Society in London on Thursday, 16th January, 1997, incorporating sections of displays from our founder members given in the past. To be accompanied by a wine reception.
3. A Reception and Buffet to be held at Christies, London. To include historical items and photographs connected with the Circle and its members.
4. The **Annual General Meeting** to include a special auction and to be followed by a **Celebration Dinner** in the evening.
5. Our Summer 'Country' Meeting will be held in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, on 19th – 21st September, 1997. As in the past, this event will also be extended to our Congo colleagues. Our venue, the Regent Hotel, has hosted us in the past and assures us of a warm welcome. Within reach of Leamington are several other attractions, including Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon, which should help to make this a successful event.
6. To hold, in connection with a Philatelic Exhibition in Belgium, a Meeting with our **Continental members**. At present this could be in Charleroi but further details are awaited.
7. During the year, there will be a **Special Competition for the Barker-Johnson Cup**. The winner will also receive a £50 voucher redeemable against future purchases in the Circle's auctions. Further information and rules for this competition will be promulgated in good time for members to prepare their entries.

These are our preliminary plans and it is hoped to "firm" them up and include details in future editions of "BELGAPOST". If any member would like to comment or add suggestions, please contact one of our officers.

R. T. HARRISON

REPORT OF MEETING - 9th DECEMBER, 1995

The morning session was devoted to the Postal History of Brabant. Reg Harrison was assisted by Graham Harvey, who contributed roughly half of the material on display but, due to the after effects of influenza, Graham had to leave most of the talking to Reg. Reg explained the bulk of the material originated in Brussels and the volume was so great he proposed to split the display in half: the early part this session, and the more modern material at a later date.

He commenced with a short historical background then showed covers from the Spanish period with manuscript markings only, followed by Austrian period material with the gradual introduction of handstamps. In the French period, covers became more plentiful and postal markings much more varied. These were followed by General Government and Dutch period items, with the change to predominantly Flemish spelling. Independence brought further changes, accelerated by the advent of the adhesive postage stamp and the associated cancellers. All these, together with TPO and Station Marks were comprehensively illustrated, providing entertaining and instructive display.

We look forward to the second half of Reg's marathon next year and wonder what he has in store for 1997!

In the afternoon, Geoffrey Wood gave his display of the 1893 Issue, with part sheets and reconstructions of the various plates of the lower values, showing printers marginal markings and depot receiving dates. Plate positions of many of the stamps had been identified by first and secondary faults, much research having obviously gone into the subject.

Geoffrey commented there was still much work to be done on the issue, particularly the higher values of which large blocks and marginal multiples were very difficult to obtain.

In the unavoidable absence overseas of our Chairman, a brief vote of thanks was given to our three contributors by myself.

K. CARPENTER

REPORT OF MEETING - LONDON, 20th JANUARY, 1996

The first meeting of the New Year started with an excellent auction, which is reported elsewhere in this journal. We were especially pleased to see our newer members, Peter Watts and Andrew Wilson, together with Bernard Gillman-Davis making a welcome return visit after his recent difficulties.

Prior to commencing our afternoon display, a brief mention was made of our forthcoming summer meeting in Peterborough (6th-8th September, 1996), and also some of our proposals for our 50th Year in 1997. More details will be issued when available.

Our Chairman, Iain Stevenson, then entertained us with a display of some of his "sidelines". He explained that his other main interests had been displayed to the Circle over the past 2+ years, and that he therefore wanted to show something that was new to members. He then proceeded to show a miscellany of items including Proofs, Dover-Ostend, Air Mail stamps on cover, Montenez, Congo Postal Stationery, Railways, essays and exhibition labels.

Basically he explained that this was material which did not make up complete displays on its own and was comparatively rubbish relative to his main collection. In which case, one member suggested that, if he did not want to take it back home, we could lighten his case for him!

A vote of thanks was given before members departed for their home destinations.

REG HARRISON

MEMBER NEWS

Your editor, Jack Andrews, continues to improve with his eyesight getting back to normal - he can now read the menu! As a result, he is busy collating and writing new articles which will appear in "BELGAPOST" in due course.

Ed Hirdler - writes to say that he and his wife, Ginny, are unfortunately not in the best of health. As a result, Ed is now concentrating his collecting interests on the early stamp period rather than expanding out into other lines. He is, however, tempted by the pre-stamp items appearing in our sales.

Paul Wood - met our treasurer recently in Huddersfield and is continuing to concentrate on 1914-1918 Enclave Mail, which he displayed to us in Weston-super-Mare. Some of the scarce Post Office marks continue to elude him, especially at STAMPEX!

Vincent Schouberechts - makes periodic business visits to London in connection with his philatelic duties. The last occasion was STAMPEX in January when he met Reg Harrison and Geoffrey Wood. His main collecting interests are the perforated Medallions and philatelic literature.

Michael Barden - from Australia - keeps in regular touch despite the distance. For the first time, he entered a national competition in Sydney and received a Silver, being one point short of a Large Silver. He is planning to expand it for Melbourne this year - watch this space. Equally important, he enquires about our 1997 proposals with a view to joining us for our celebrations. (See elsewhere in this issue for our proposals to date.)

Alan Swale - is taking a renewed interest in Moresnet (see Vol. 7, page 44) and especially his family connection with Dr. Molly. We hope to have a contribution from him on this topic in our next edition.

AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

Although the auction of the 20th January contained slightly fewer lots, the total value sold was again close to £3,400, compared to October, 1995 (£3,364). A considerable achievement for a Circle of our size. Approximately one-third of the lots remained unsold, including pre stamp and early stamped covers. There were several outstanding items of postal history, including lots 53, 61, 81, 92, but equally important, are smaller cheaper items in all categories of collecting.

Stamps in small sheets (lots 196-208), together with miniature sheets, went well, as also did Publicity/Tête-Bêche and Moresnet material. There is a continuing demand for railway material which is difficult to satisfy.

Finally, members took advantage of the literature section, so important to furthering our studies. In total, there were 34 purchasers who participated in the sale.

At the next Auction on 20th April, it is hoped to include more stamps, including the Medallion issues as well as a further selection of postal history and books. It is proposed to review the bidding stages so members are asked to look carefully when submitting their bid forms.

REG HARRISON

Results of Sale held 20th January, 1996

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	17.00	59	15.00	127	1.00	197	25.00	263	11.00
2	19.00	60	16.00	128	5.00	198	25.00	265	6.00
3	24.00	61	66.00	130	7.00	199	50.00	267	8.00
4	17.00	62	20.00	131	55.00	200	50.00	268	15.00
6	18.00	63	31.00	132	5.00	201	50.00	269	16.00
7	28.00	64	12.00	133	23.00	202	50.00	270	6.50
8	20.00	65	12.00	134	5.00	203	46.00	271	1.00
9	30.00	67	31.00	136	4.00	207	31.00	272	2.00
11	10.00	68	15.00	138	6.00	208	4.00	273	2.00
12	15.00	69	15.00	140	16.00	210	47.00	274	5.50
14	15.00	70	30.00	141	15.00	211	61.00	275	2.50
15	11.00	71	41.00	142	11.00	212	45.00	276	3.00
16	8.00	72	16.00	143	6.50	213	30.00	277	10.00
17	12.00	73	13.00	145	20.00	217	7.00	278	9.00
18	30.00	74	31.00	146	10.00	218	7.50	279	9.00
19	10.00	76	32.00	147	10.00	220	4.00	280	14.00
23	50.00	77	24.00	148	12.00	221	4.00	281	7.00
24	12.00	79	12.00	149	1.00	222	4.00	282	20.00
25	12.00	80	8.00	151	4.00	223	3.00	283	14.00
30	12.00	81	51.00	153	5.00	224	3.00	284	15.00
31	20.00	82	24.00	157	5.00	225	1.10	285	3.00
32	17.00	83	26.00	158	6.50	226	4.00	287	5.00
35	66.00	84	15.00	160	12.00	227	5.00	288	11.00
36	12.00	86	6.00	161	17.00	228	5.00	289	5.50
37	16.00	87	21.00	162	12.00	229	26.00	290	8.00
38	19.00	88	21.00	164	16.00	230	25.00	291	8.00
39	15.00	89	15.00	169	41.00	236	1.00	292	2.00
41	25.00	90	15.00	170	23.00	237	.50	294	3.00
42	16.00	91	12.00	171	16.00	238	18.00	295	6.00
43	19.00	92	185.00	173	3.50	239	22.00	298	1.50
44	31.00	95	13.00	174	4.00	240	33.00	299	3.00
45	16.00	97	6.00	175	8.50	241	10.00	300	2.00
46	20.00	101	20.00	176	7.00	242	6.00	301	15.00
47	12.00	102	8.00	178	9.00	243	11.00	303	14.00
48	12.00	109	10.00	180	1.00	244	12.00	306	10.00
49	16.00	110	12.00	181	1.00	245	35.00	310	5.50
51	12.00	111	10.00	182	1.00	246	12.00	311	7.50
52	12.00	112	6.00	185	3.50	247	5.50	312	10.00
53	51.00	116	6.00	186	5.00	248	7.00	313	11.00
54	30.00	117	6.00	187	3.00	250	8.50	314	12.00
55	21.00	119	8.00	189	5.00	251	5.50		
56	22.00	122	8.00	190	2.00	257	2.00		
58	21.00	126	20.00	193	4.00	260	5.00		

EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1995

- * 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 save on insurance and avoids those at the end of the list getting a lot of half empty books.
- * The percentage sold on each half-circulation averaged 29% (last year 27%) which effectively means that, after circulating to both halves, over 50% of the value of books was sold.
- * Sales for Circle funds, out of the books of railway parcel stamps kindly donated by a member, have so far brought in £88. A further book will soon be going into the packet.
- * Commission on sales, based on books returned to members, was £87 (1994 £45) at a rate of 5%, and insurance recharges recovered were £105 (1994 £64). The insurance rate on books going out this year goes up slightly from 1.5% to 1.65%. 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 £75 (1994 was £126, including increased deposit) and after other expenses less recoveries of £14 (1994 £25) there was a surplus of £192. After recovering last year's deficit of £42, £150 was passed to the Circle funds.
- * It is very clear that anything outside the run-of-the-mill material is selling extremely well, particularly railway and cinderella material. There seems to be a shortage of the scarcer general issues in good condition, and there is a risk of the packet becoming rather unbalanced because of this. If members have items which are perhaps not highly priced enough to put into the Circle Auctions (say in the range of 50p to £5), they might sell well in the packet. It is difficult to suggest what percentage of catalogue is appropriate - some items sell at half catalogue while others fail to sell at one-tenth of catalogue. Perhaps the best guide to pricing an item is that, if you have seen many similar items in dealers' stocks, club books and remainder collections, you will have to set the price very low to stand much chance of a sale. If you see it infrequently, you can try a higher percentage of catalogue.
- * Finally, a thank you to all members who have sent in books - only eight members in 1995 unfortunately. I would be very glad to have a few extra books from several more members in 1996.

TONY GEAKE

PETERBOROUGH 6th-8th SEPTEMBER, 1996

Members will by now have received direct from Maurice Wilkinson details and a booking form for our Summer Meeting as above. If you are interested and have not responded, it is not yet too late but an early booking is recommended as the event coincides with the Burghley Horse Trials and accommodation may be taken early.

We are also interested in hearing if there are any special displays that members are interested in seeing (or giving), so please take the opportunity to influence the programme to incorporate your topics.

Responses/enquiries direct to Maurice Wilkinson, 14 Charnwood Close, London Road, Peterborough, Cambs PE2 9BZ. (Tel. No. 01733 68145).

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

EXCHANGE PACKET - YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1995

1994			
£		£. p	£. p.
-	Deficit brought forward from 1994		(41.87)
45	Income: Commission	86.57	
64	Insurance recovered	105.48	
2	Postage recovered	5.94	
-	Sales for Circle funds	<u>87.85</u>	
		285.84	
(126)	Expenses: Insurance	74.47	
(27)	Postage, etc.	<u>19.85</u>	
(42)	Surplus for year (1994 deficit)	<u>94.32</u>	191.52
--	Paid to Treasurer		<u>149.65</u>

Balances at 31st December, 1995

699	Bank Balance - Girobank	572.36
209	Cash and cheques in hand (banked January, 1996)	94.70
2	Amounts due from/to members (net)	4.11
<u>910</u>		<u>671.17</u>

Representing:

593	Collections from current books - half circuit completed	459.36
359	- on circulation	62.16
(42)	Surplus paid to Treasurer January, 1996	<u>149.65</u>
<u>910</u>		<u>671.71</u>

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

EXCHANGE PACKET - YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1995

Packet No.	Book Value (gross)	Sales	Members on Circulation	Percentage Sold	Commission to BSC
	£.p	£.p.			£.p.
G19	927.88	188.93	13	20	9.45
G20	584.68	242.55	17	41	12.13
G21	614.01	129.33	14	21	6.47
G22	777.35	246.70	17	32	12.33
G23	746.48	146.29	16	20	7.31
G24	791.71	162.27	14	20	8.11
G25	666.55	269.31	15	40	13.47
G26	<u>725.49</u>	<u>299.77</u>	16	<u>41</u>	<u>14.99</u>
	5834.15	1685.15		29	84.26

Packet in circulation:

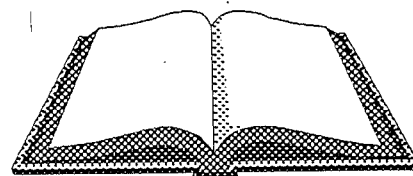
G27	645.86	62.16			3.11
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Less: Sales for Circle funds	(87.85)				(4.39)
Not yet paid out	(521.52)				(26.08)

Add: Paid out this year on books part circulated last year	592.50				29.62
--	--------	--	--	--	-------

Roundings					.05
Total Sales Paid Out	<u>1730.44</u>				

<u>Commission Earned</u>					<u>86.57</u>
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REVIEW OF JOURNALS"L'Amicale Philatélique"

- This is the monthly (except July and August) journal of the Société Royale Amicale Philatelique de Bruxelles, the editor being R. Deloose, Avenue Docteur Dejase 26, 1030 Bruxelles. It is A5 and approx. 400 copies are sent out every month. Each month, some ±600 (basically individual items) lots are listed for the society's auction, but also gives a number of interesting articles and, on this occasion, we give a few of these from issues numbers 399-408 (Nov. 1994 - Oct. 1995).

Aspects of the 2nd World War (399) by M. Van de Catsyne.
German Prisoners of War captured by Belgian Army (400) by G. Ludwig.
Underpaid Letters of the Congo (401) by J-M. Frenay.
Paquebot Marks of the Congo (402) by J-M. Frenay.
Covers and Postal History of the 65c Termonde Stamps (403) by C. Herman.
The Forgeries of Marcinelle (404) by G. Ludwig.
"Cartes de Visite" not admitted (404) by A. Vatlet.
Postal History of Waulsort (405) by R. Hendrickx
Postal Relations between Belgium and the Congo between 1939 and 1945 (406) by E. Hoovens.
St. Gilles to Mauthausen, Souvenirs of My Father, 1941" by C. Rachez-Dekeyser.

"Info-Phila"

- The editor is M. Deneumostier, Rue Fays 149, B-4400 Ivoz-Ramet. Other details of this journal are given in Vol. 8, No. 2, Page 56.

This journal continues to give many interesting articles which, in the four issues under review (Nos. 53-56), contain:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| No. 53 | Luxembourg - the first two issues
Belgian Military Post Cards
Express Letters
The Letter Posts in Liege 1811
The Antwerp Exhibition of 1887 |
| No. 54 | The 40c State Seal Issue of 1938
Tournai
Henri Dunant and the Red Cross
The continuation of Nord-Belge
Waulsort and its' station (NB)
The postmarks of 1850-51 on the Epaulette Issue.
The Issue of 1947 (No. 748) with effigy of Joseph Plateau |
| No. 55 | Issue of 1929 - the Heraldic Lion
Hexagonal cachets of the Railways
Another section of Nord-Belge
"Port Paye" |
| No. 56 | Continuation of Heraldic Lion of 1929
The 1859 Issue of Luxembourg
The Mauritius "Post Office" Stamp
Continuation of Nord-Belge
"Inflation" after the First World War |

BRUSSELS POST OFFICES

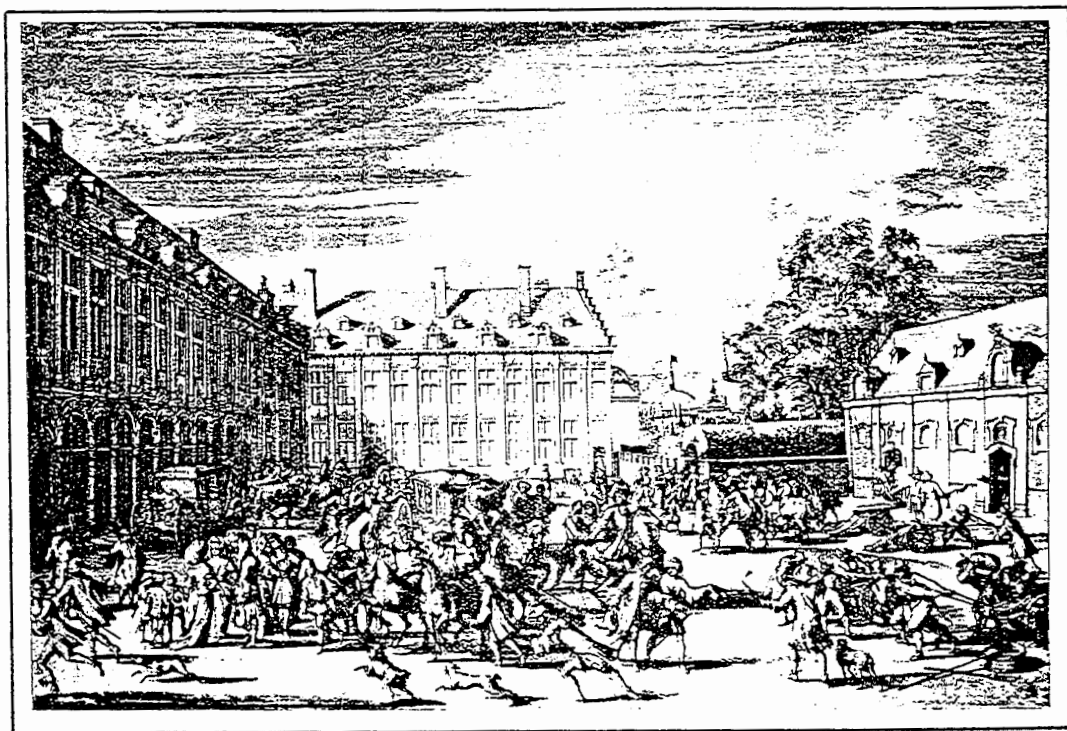
by S. J. W. Andrews, FRPS, L. Hon. FSPH

1. The "Head" Offices

The Emperor Maximilian of Austria gave the monopoly of the "Imperial Postes" to Francois de Tassis with the title of "Master General of the Postes", and was confirmed by Philippe le Beau on 1st March, 1501. The installation of an office for the posts was necessary to be near the Court. The Regent of the Low Countries - Margaret of Austria - established the Court at Malines and the "post office" was opened at Rue de la Blanchisserie in Malines on 28th February, 1508.

However, in 1516, Charles V was proclaimed King of Castille in St. Gudule at Brussels, and Francois de Tassis and his nephew, Jean-Baptiste, were confirmed by a warrant and Francois was installed at Brussels close to the Court, near Place des Bailles. They then opened the posts at the Hotel du Sablon, near the church of that name. On 12th November, 1516, Francois obtained a new concession in which they were permitted to transport letters to Brussels, particularly from the couriers of the Fugger family, who were the bankers to Charles V.

So we can call this - the Sablon - the first head post office of Brussels, and which we illustrate here.

The Hôtel de Sablon, 1686

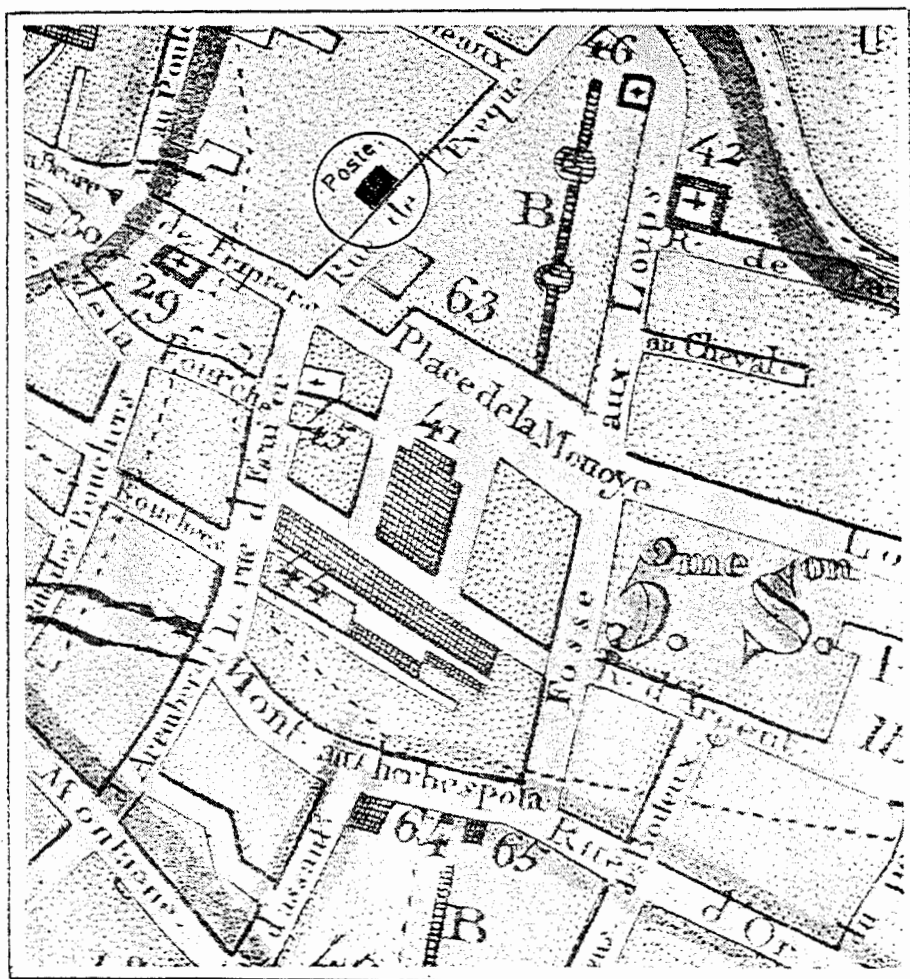
Brussels was occupied from 1578 to 1585 by the Spanish and the Taxis organisation left Brussels, the posts being taken over by Jean de Hinckart. For many years there appears to have been no head office in Brussels, much of the period being under the French Armies, but by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Low Countries was restored to Austria. On 20th November, 1748, the Thurn and Taxis took over from the French employees in Brussels.

In 1750, Baron de Siechenhausen took over the Hotel Hoffman, Rue du Chêne, and opened a central post office in Brussels and, in 1756, also opened two "small posts" or letter boxes – at Montagne de la Cour, and Rue des Fripiers. Later, in 1786, two further boxes were opened; this time at Marché aux Grains and Rue du Treurenberg. All letters were sent to the central office.

During the short time between the departure of the Austrians and their return on 2nd December, 1790, there was a complete change in the organisation of the postal services in the capital. Brussels was occupied on 14th November, 1792 and the French placed the posts under a Director General of the Posts of the Belgian Army. The Austrians reoccupied Brussels in 1793, when they re-established the Thurn and Taxis postal organisation. However, on 11th July, 1794, the French again occupied Brussels and the postal administration was handed over to the military authorities. On 30th November, 1795, an order was sanctioned to stop the Thurn and Taxis service.

In 1797, the general office of the posts went back to the Grand-Sablon where it remained until 1804. The four letter boxes were still in use except the one at Marché aux Grains which was transferred to Rue de Flandre. Then, in 1804–1805, the central office was opened at Rue du Lombard, sect. 8 No. 468, where it stayed until 1814.

By now, the country came under the control of the Dutch and on 29th February, 1814, the Prince of Thurn and Taxis was allowed to function as the Hereditary General of the Posts of the Low Countries. By an order dated 23rd February, 1815, King William of Orange entrusted the postal service to an "Inspector" and on 16th March, 1815, the Prince of Thurn and Taxis lost the service and it was established under state control.



Old Hotel de Cruykenbourg, Rue de L'Eveque No. 31, 1831–1849

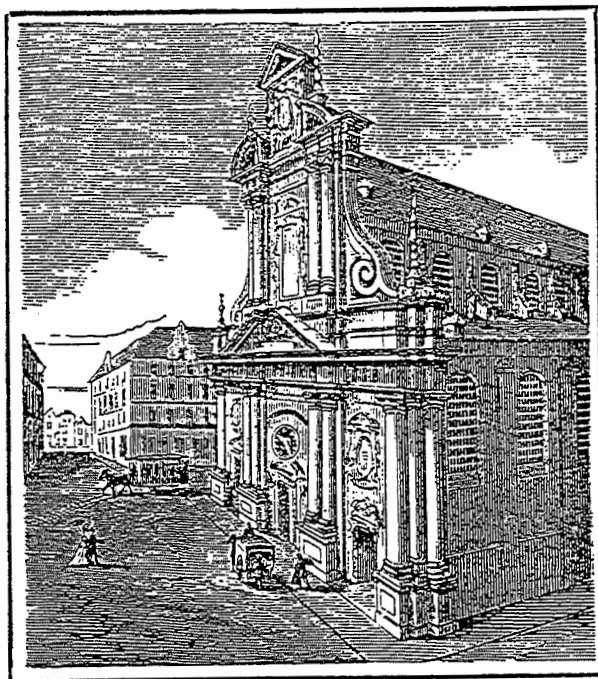
A new office at Rue de l'Homme Chrétien No. 394 was in use from 1814 to 1818, and was then transferred to Rue du Bord du Verre No. 15. This office functioned until 11th January, 1831 and came under the control of Monsieur Loomans, Inspector of the Royal Posts. He had earlier been representative of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis postal service.

When Belgium became independent in 1830, the posts came under the direction of Mon. L. Bronne by the Provisional Government and, from now on, with the increasing use of the postal services, more new post boxes were continually being introduced. Also, on 12th January, 1831 (and until 31st August, 1849) a new head office was opened at the old Hôtel de Cruykenbourg - Rue de l'Evêque No. 31.

In this period, the five secondary boxes (Bur.A, B, C, D, E) in the city were opened. This subject will be detailed in a later article.

It was now necessary to increase accommodation for the head office and in 1849-1850 it functioned at Rue de la Montagne 87, and was there until 2nd May, 1874. More and more post boxes and secondary offices became necessary and details will be given in a future section of this article.

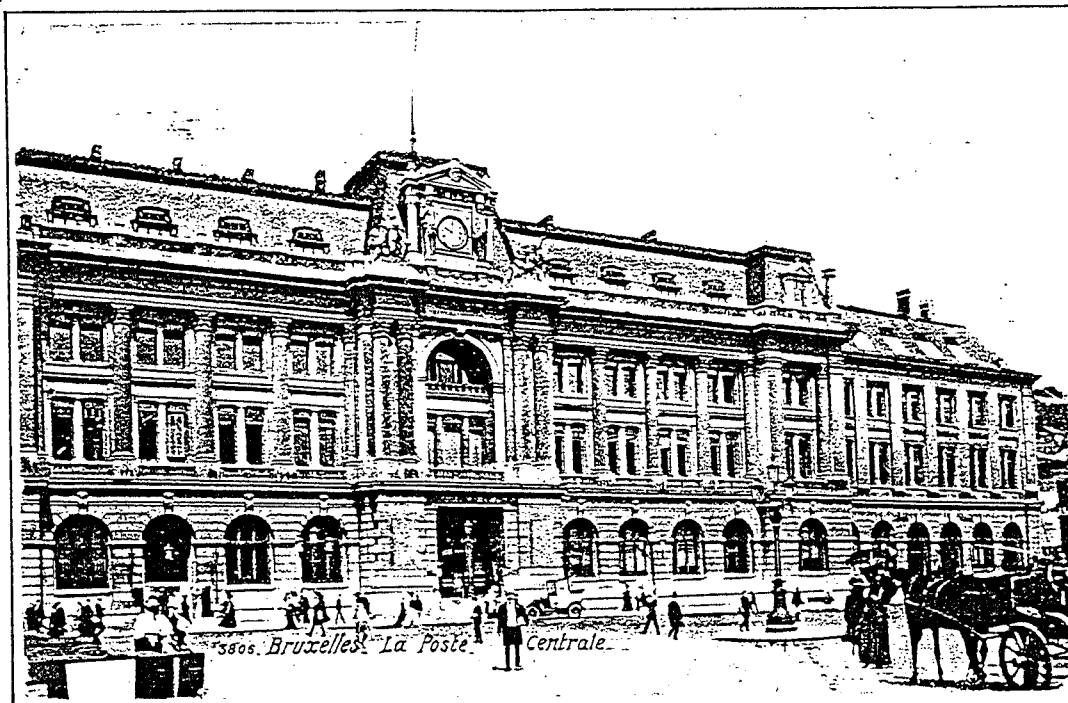
On 3rd May, 1874, the head office was moved, this time to Temple des Augustins, Place de Brouckère. This fine looking building was constructed in 1620. It was now (1874) to have a much larger building due to the much increasing postal business. This building had twelve counters.



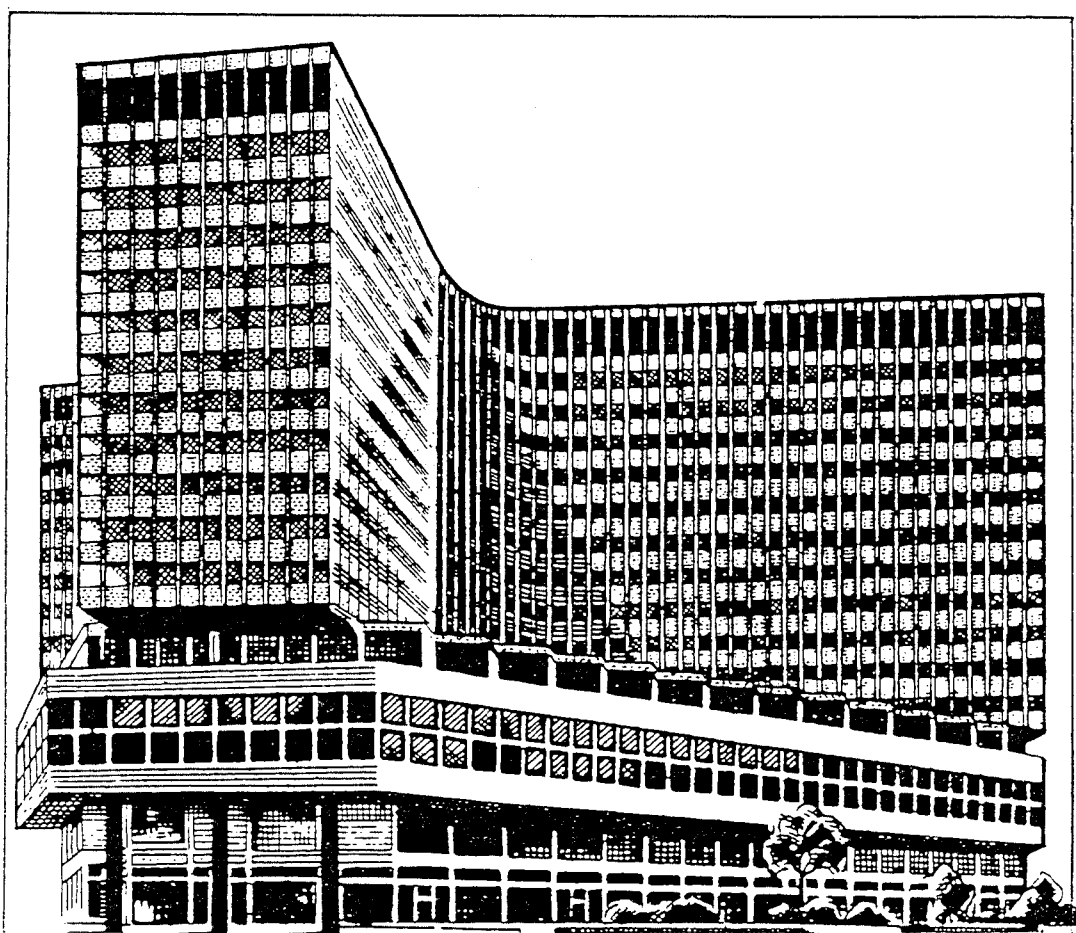
The "Temple des Augustins"
Place de Brouckère.
Built 1620.
Designed by Coeberger

This remained as the Head Post Office of Brussels until 19th November, 1892, when it was transferred to the new purpose built office at the Place de la Monnaie, built 1885-1892, which was designed by the architect, De Curte. This new building contained the Post and Telegraph Offices (the latter at the right hand part of the building in our photograph). The Post Office was open for many years from 7 am to 10 pm (Sundays 9 am to 12 noon). The telegraph business was open day and night.

Then, in the late 1960's, this building became too small and was demolished and, in the same area was built a new "modern" office and shopping building. The post office was now put into an upper floor with access via escalators. All mail was now sent to a new building, Bruxelles X Avenue Fonsny au Midi, within the railway system. This allowed the travelling post offices to enter the building.



Place de la Monnaie, 1855-1892



Bibliography

Place de la Monnaie 1960 ?

1. *Les Marque Postales* (1982) by L. Herlant.
2. *Notices Historiques* - Brussels Postal Museum.
3. *Les Bureaux de post centraux de Bruxelles* (1969) by Jules Lenaerts.
4. *Les Obliterations Mecaniques 1905-1920* (1988) by R. Silverberg.
5. Own Collection.

(to be continued)

Stamps of the 1915 Issue Dispensed in Coils.

By Michel Van de Catsyne.

Of the Belgian and Dutch Philatelic Academy.

The decision to publish a short article summarising our findings concerning the coil stamps of the 1915 Issue was taken about 18 months ago, following a suggestion by A.G. Wood, the well-known specialist of this much studied issue, who at the time, assured us that he had no knowledge of the existence of such stamps. (See Fig 1).

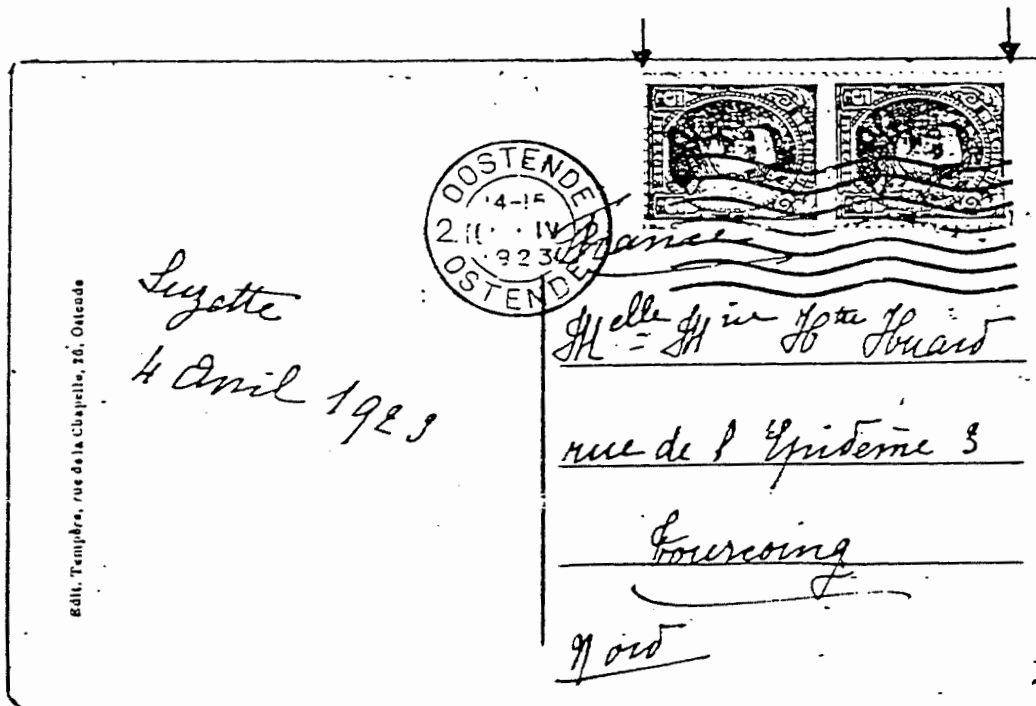


Fig 1. Ostend picture card dated 4 April 1923 franked with a vertical pair of coil stamps of the 5c Die IV (printed at Mechelen 1922) and purchased from an automatic dispensing machine.

The first indication that we were dealing with 'coil' stamps was the appearance of guillotine cuts both above and below the stamp, exactly as in the later and better known 'coil' stamps of King Bauduin (Type Marchand) and the heraldic lion design, which were both later sold from automatic dispensing machines (Fig 2).

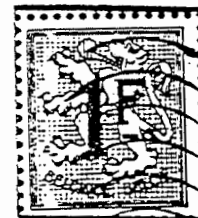
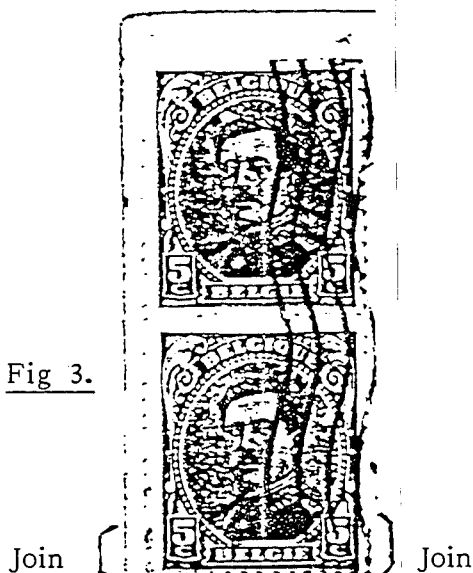


Fig 2. Example of No 1027BR from automatic vending machine.

Coil Stamps of the 1915 Issue.

Fig 3.



A second clue is provided by the edge (or join) at the back of the lower stamp of Fig 3.

One invariably finds that, in the second decade of the century, 'coil' stamps were not printed in a single long strip. Instead they were made up from single strips stuck end to end. These were obtained from panes produced by conventional printing methods.

In the case of Fig 3, the edge of the lowest stamp had been stuck to that of the uppermost stamp of the following strip.

Traces of the coloured frame of the pane - green in the case of 5c Die IV of Fig 3 - are visible between the lowest perforations.

According to special postal instructions No 49 and No 80, respectively dated the 11 April 1911 and 24 June 1911, and which regulated the sale of the first 'coil' stamps, it is clear that offices with automatic dispensing dispensers of the 5c and 10c were already envisaged.

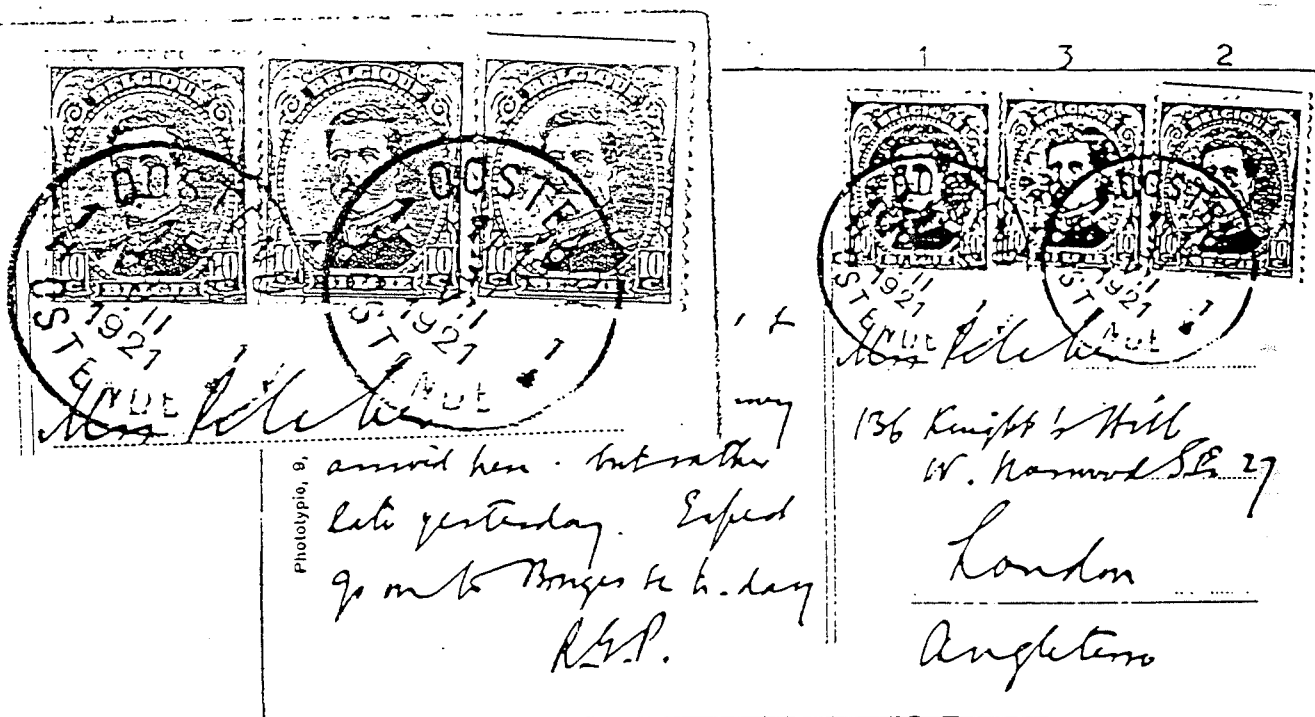


Fig 4. Example of three stamps of the 10c Die I (London 1915) franked on the 31 July 1921 showing the cuts produced by the vending machine in the stamp sequence 1,2,3. The bottom main frame of stamp 1 is clearly displayed at the top of stamp 2. A unique picture card cancelled "Ostende 1".

In addition, on the basis of four other Ostend picture post-cards reproduced in Figs 4,5,6 and 7, we believe that it is demonstrable that after the war, between 5 July 1921 and April 1923, this facility was still being provided for a short period in the "Ostende 2" office (in the station precinct).

Coil Stamps of the 1915 Issue.

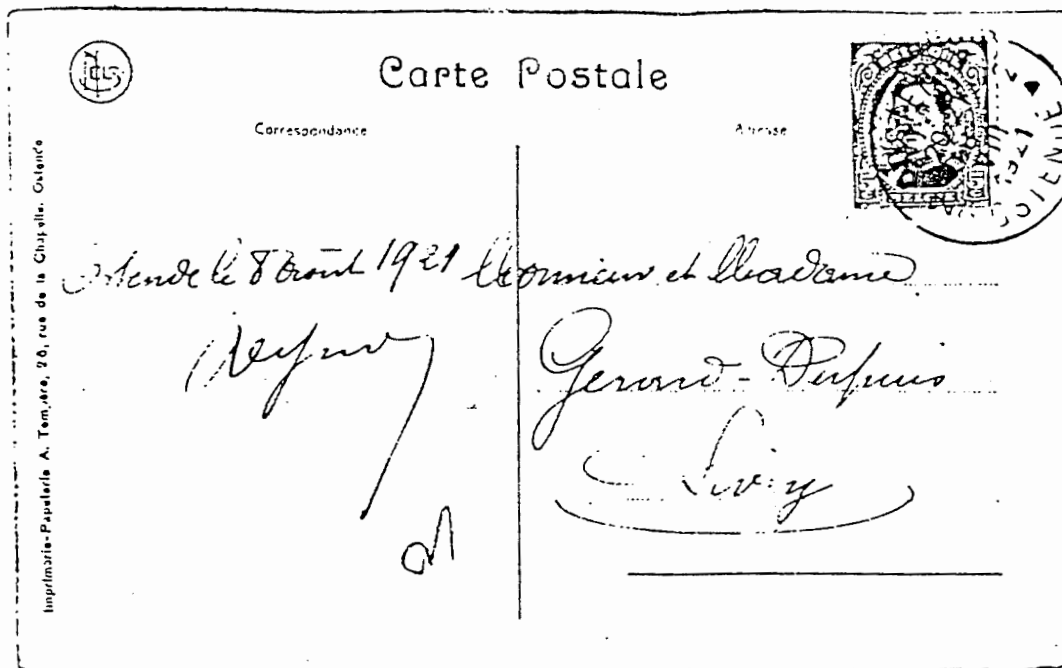


Fig 5.

5c Die II

(London 1919)

Franked 8 Aug
1921.

The above example shows a guillotine cut at the bottom and a join on the reverse of the top of the stamp. This first stamp from a strip was thus stuck to the lower edge of the next strip. The lowest stamp in this strip was dispensed with that used to frank the above card. These would have been produced as a joined pair by the dispensing machine.

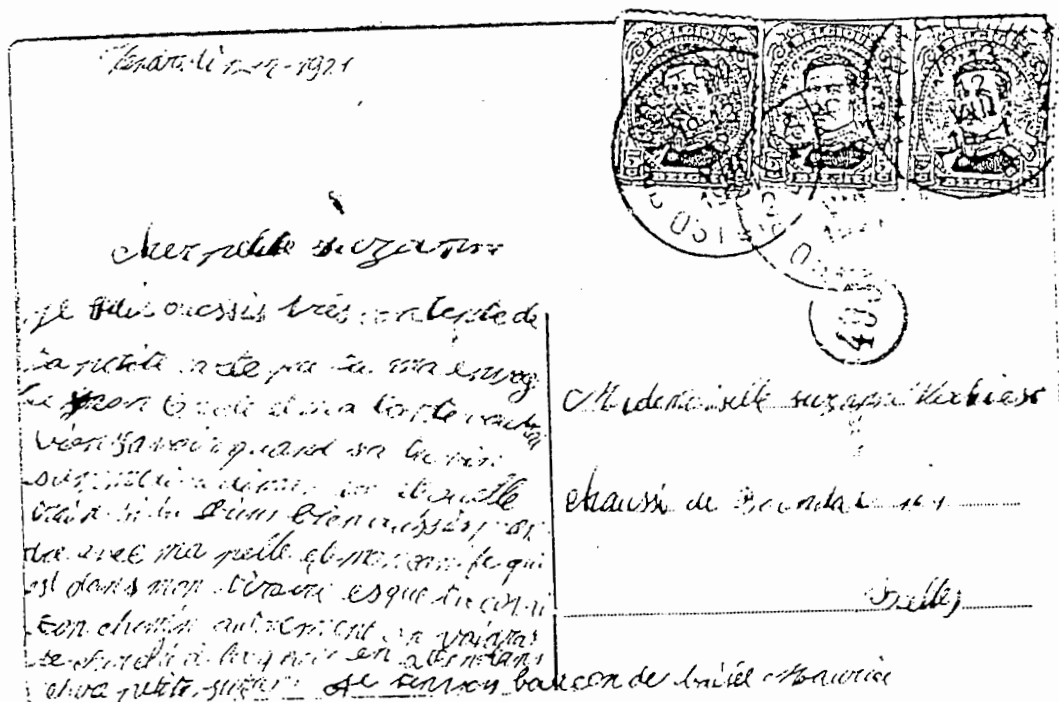


Fig 6.

Date cancel
12 Aug 1921

Three stamps 5c Die II (London 1919).

The stamps on the right are an example of a combination of coil stamps which together formed a pair. The central stamp was guillotined at the top while that on the right was similarly cut at the bottom. An ordinary stamp, of darker shade, was used on the left to complete the prepayment.



Coil Stamps of the 1915 Issue.

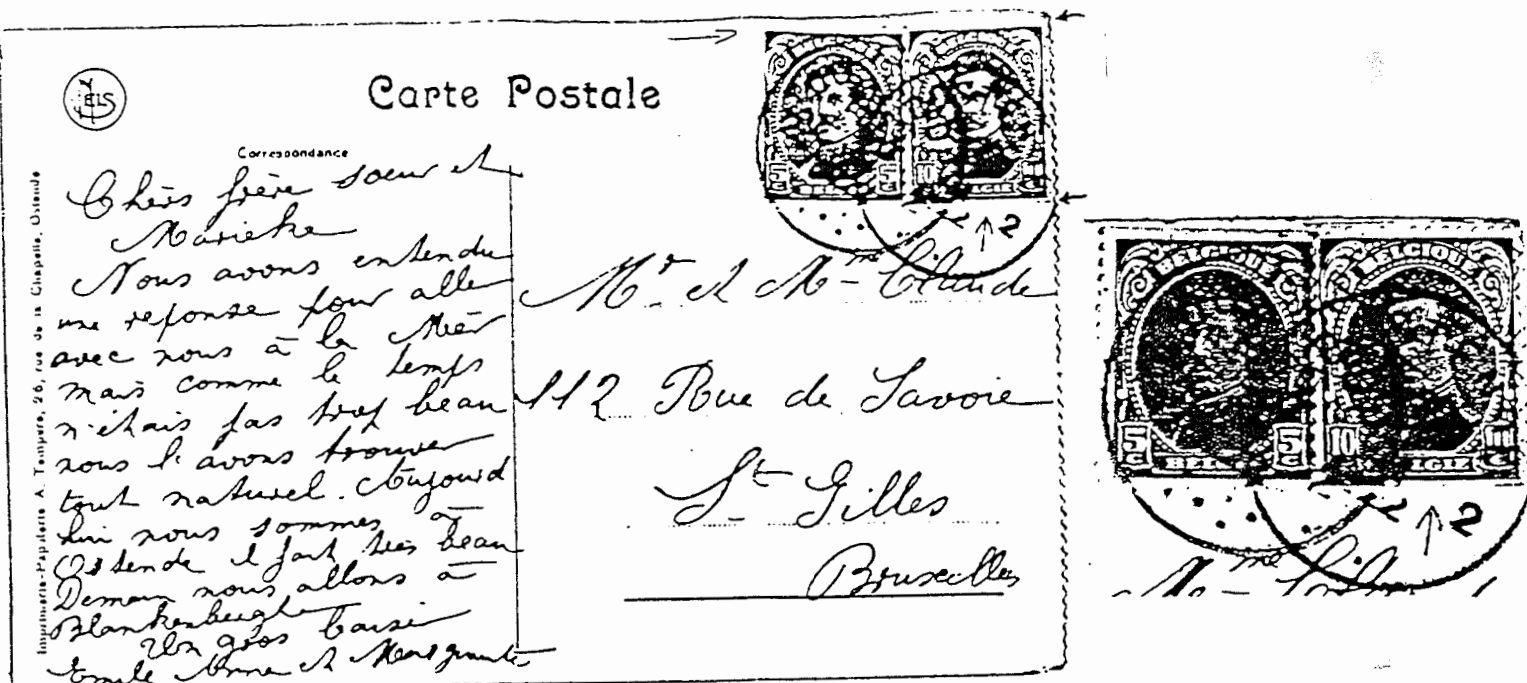


Fig 7. With date cancel 31 July 1922. Franked with 5c Die II (London 1919) with guillotine cut at top and 10c Die I (London 1915) with guillotine cuts both top and bottom of stamp.

Summary Table.

Fig	Date	From	To	Stamps
4	31 Jul 1921	Ostend 1	London	Three 10c Die I (London 1915).
5	8 Aug 1921	Ostend 2	Sivry	5c Die II (London 1919) <u>with join</u> .
6	12 Aug 1921	Ostend 2	Ixelles	Two 5c Die II (London 1919) plus another not from vending machine.
7	31 Jul 1922	Ostend 2	St Gilles (Bruxelles)	5c Die II (London 1919) + 10c Die I (London 1915).
1	4 Apr 1923	Ostend 2	Tourcoing	5c Die IV (Mechelen 1922) in vertical pair <u>showing join</u> .

It is thus possible to list these stamps according to printing without observing any difference between them and those obtained from conventional sources. Their typical joins and guillotine cuts reveal the fascinating evidence of a noteworthy aspect of postal history.

It is possible that further research in the subject will lead to other interesting discoveries.

For the time being we wish success to all readers with a potential interest in such studies. Also in anticipation, we proffer our thanks to those who might be able to supply the author with further information.

B-8310 Brugge, Keizerstraat 21 - April 1995.

"MODERN" BELGIAN PRE-CANCELS

Some time ago we received a query concerning as to why, in the present issues, the overprint of the Lion is looking to the right only on the following issues:

10 Fr. 24.IX.92
7 Fr. 30.XI.92
7 Fr. 10.VIII.92

5 Fr. 14.I.93
5 Fr. 18.VIII.93

There may, of course, be others at later dates.

On all other issues the very small lion is always looking towards the left.

Our member, Maurice Wilkinson, has now been able to tell us, in a letter received from M. Jan Wauters, the Printing Works Manager of the Stamp Printing office in Malines:

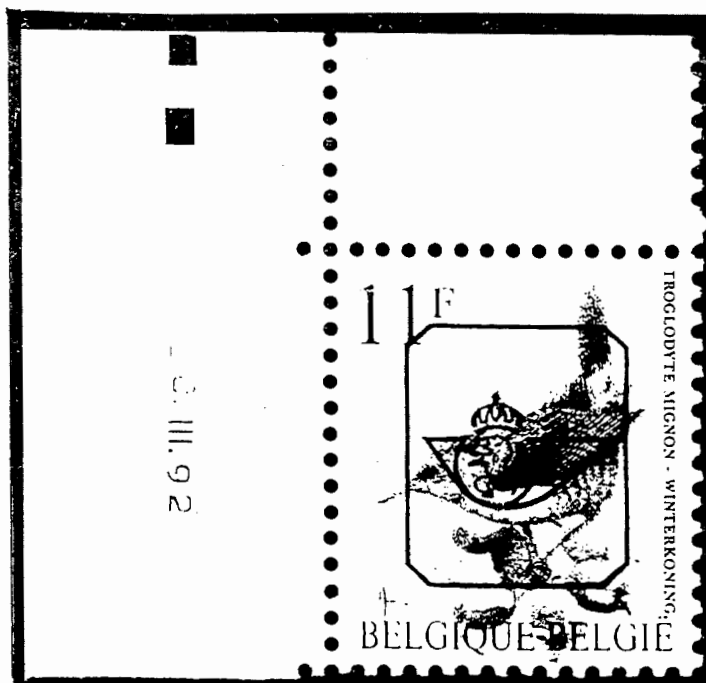
"The Pre Cancelled stamps with a value of 4 BEF, 5 BEF, 7 BEF and 10 BEF have indeed been printed in a different way than the other Pre Cancelled stamps with the 'birds'.

"The Pre Cancelled image on those stamps is a mirror image due to the fact that the original drawing on the cancellation mark has been reversed while assembling it to the original drawing of the 'bird'.

"This reverse operation had not been noticed by anybody, not even in the printing works, because the original proof submitted to the Post had been approved before the printing works received the engraved printing cylinders. Once the difference was noticed, the decision was made to continue the printing because there were already so many stamps sent to the offices.

"The Pre Cancellation mark in black and all the other parts of the stamp which need to be printed in black, such as BELGIE - BELGIQUE, and the value, are engraved on one cylinder so that we cannot put the Pre Cancellation mark in another way."

Graham Harvey has been able to send us some illustrations.



KNOW YOUR BELGIUM?

THE ANSWERS ARE ALL THE NAMES OF
TOWNS OR COMMUNES IN BELGIUM.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. A SMALL FORM OF BRASSICA | BRUXELLES |
| 2. FOOLISH INSECT | ANTWERP (ANT - TWERP) |
| 3. HAVEN FOR THE MENTALLY ILL | GEEL |
| 4. 50 CAPTURED 1500 | EBAY-EMAEI (See note A) |
| 5. THE "SWEETEST" TOWN | TIRLEMONT |
| 6. ROYAL GRAPE GROWN HERE | HOEILAART |
| 7. FIRST BELGIAN - BUILT LOCOMOTIVE
WAS MANUFACTURED HERE | SERAING (See note B) |
| 8. BELGIUM'S PREMIER FLOWER FESTIVAL | GENT |
| 9. TOC - H ORIGINATED IN THIS TOWN | POPERINGE |
| 10. 300 ROUTED 3 000 HERE | GELUVELD (See note C) |
| 11. CENTRE OF THE STRAWBERRY FIELDS | WEPION |
| 12. USING A MALLETT | KNOKKE |
| 13. "CHUMS" ANGEL SEEN HERE | MONS |
| 14. HOME OF "MERCATOR" | OSTEND |
| 15. CULINARY ITEM | DE PANNE |
| 16. BELGIAN POULTRY | LE COQ / DE HAAN |
| 17. ROGER KEYES VINDICTIVE HERE | ZEEBRUGGE (See note D) |
| 18. CENTRAL CHURCH | MIDDELKERKE |
| 19. CLAIMS TO BE BELGIUM'S OLDEST CITY | TONGEREN |
| 20. SANCTUARY FOR RODENTS | RAATSHAVEN |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 21. A VERY WARM SPOT | HOTTON |
| 22. KING'S TOWN | LEOPOLDSBURG |
| 23. ATOMIC GANGSTER'S GIRL | MOL |
| 24. HOME OF THE MODERN TOILET | WATERLOO |
| 25. GROUCHY STAYED HERE, 17. 6.1815 | GEMBLOUX |
| 26. SONIC VILLE | BOOM |
| 27. METALLIC FELINE | BRASSCHAAT |
| 28. A WARM PLACE AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR | FURNES |
| 29. BATTLE FOUGHT HERE ON 23.5.1706 & A
WORLD WAR I BATTLESHIP NAMED AFTER IT | RAMILLIES |
| 30. HISTORIC ARTILLERY PIECE IN EDINBURGH
CASTLE NAMED AFTER THIS TOWN | MONS (MEG) |

NOTES

- A Fort built near the village in the 1930s to cover three bridges over the Albert Canal with 16 x 75mm guns and 2 x 120mm casemates. Figures of garrison vary between 1100 and 1500. On 10-5-1940, German glider-borne troops attacked. Only 55 men landed inside the perimeter. They used hollow charges to disable the guns. The fort commander, believing the Germans were in force, surrendered.
- B Built in 1835 by Cockerill under licence to a Stephenson design.
- C On 31-10-1914, the Germans broke through the British line at Geluvelde, with no troops between them and the Channel. The 2nd Battalion Worcestershire regiment, 387- strong, were sent to close the gap. They suffered c. 100 casualties crossing a mile of open ground before the attack proper could begin. The remainder then routed three strong German regiments at bayonet point, cleared the area and held it against counter-attacks.
- D With the U-Boat war at its height, Roger Keyes, Admiral Dover, raided Zeebrugge with the object of sealing the canal entrance which was used as a U-Boat base. "Vindictive", an old cruiser, was used to storm the mole while blockships were sunk across the canal entrance. A similar raid on Ostend was unsuccessful as the marker buoys for the narrow entrance had been moved.

A RAILWAY WAYBILL ROUTEING

This waybill interested me because of the Postal Route codes: firstly because this is unusual in itself; secondly because this one had two stampings with different dates. A search of other waybills revealed that the Postal Route originates in NAMUR: I have now found a number of waybills without Route numbers on them for the NAMUR area.

As you can see, this one started from GILLY, which is a suburb of Charleroi, and is addressed to MAZY; the outgoing cancellation being a CDS of GILLY Post Office, not a rail cancel of GILLY-SART-ALLET, the only station still operating in the GILLY area by this date, both GILLY HAIES and GILLY SART CULPART having been closed. The goods was (apparently) a surgical belt from Gilly Hospital, sent to M'lle Marthe Goffin in Mazy. It was posted on 21st September, 1966, time at 11 am and the parcel weighed 4.5 kg, a pretty hefty belt! The postal rate was 35FB, the stamp is CF377.

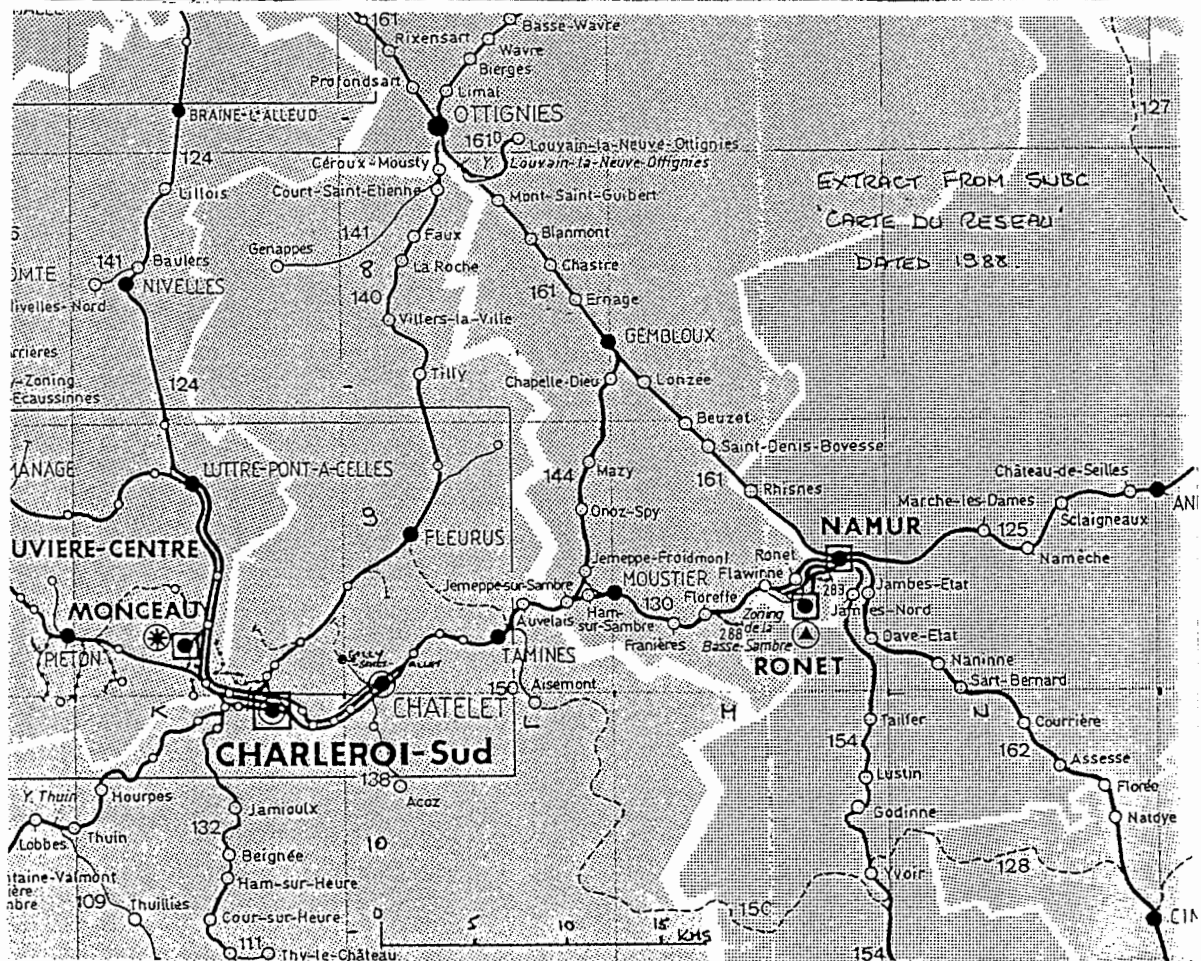
Presumably it arrived at Namur on the same day and was sent out on Postal Delivery Route 19 on 22nd September, 1966. For some reason it was not delivered on that day and was sent again on the 29th September, 1966; this time it was received and signed for by M'lle Goffin.

Apart from the interest of being sent out twice, the mechanics of delivery interest me. Gilly (or rather GILLY-SART-ALLET) is on a branch line, No. 138, out of CHATELET, which is on Line 130, as is NAMUR and CHARLEROI-SUD. Mazy has its own station, on Line 144, which branches from 130 at Jemeppe.

This package thus either went to GILLY-SART-ALLET; by train to CHATELET; transfer; by train to NAMUR; to Namur Postal Depot; by road to Mazy. Or, more likely, by road to CHARLEROI-SUD, then to NAMUR by train; etc.

Mazy is approximately 17 Km from Gilly and 15 Km from Namur as the crow flies, but there is a better road access from Namur. All the same, the actual distance travelled becomes (assuming CHARLEROI-SUD to NAMUR) 35 Km plus rail and 18 Km road.

DC 1985 (B)	VERZENDINGS- BULLETIN BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION VERSANDSCHEIN	BESTEMMING DESTINATION BESTIMMUNGSSORT	VERVOERVERDELING LOTISSEMENT LEITWEGZEIGER	POSTCOLLO / COLIS POSTAL / POSTPAKET	Nr aan te brengen op het etiket → 229
ETIKETTEN / ETIQUETTES / ETIKETTEN				FRANKERING / AFFRANCHISSEMENT / FRANKIERUNG	Nr à reproduire sur l'étiquette
De vermeldende delen moeten door de afzender ingevuld worden. Les parties énoncées dans le présent formulaire sont à remplir par l'expéditeur. Die mit fettem Strich umrahmten Teile sind vom Absender auszufüllen.				N° auf dem Etikett zu vermerken	
Geadresseerde Destinataire Empfänger Mme Marie Goffin				Afzender / Expéditeur / Absender Editions F.N.P.	
4, rue Hennage Mazy				Straat / Rue Strasse Gilly	
In cijfers / En chiffres / In 19 22 SEP 1988				Postnr./CCP N° Pach. Spec. tarief nr./Tarif spéc. n° Sondertarif N°	
Remboursement Nachnahme Aangegeven waarde Valeur déclarée Angegebener Wert Verzekerde waarde Valeur assurée Versicherter Wert				Brutogewicht/Poids brut Rohgewicht 4,5 Kg.	
Aard van het goed - Marché Art des Gutes Ceinturon				Merk en n° Marques et n° Zeichen und Nm	
Vérification obligatoire pour envoi fragile ou périssable. Mention obligatoire pour envoi fragile ou périssable. Angabe erforderlich für zerbrechliche bzw. verderbliche Waren.				ZENDING ONTVANGEN / RECU L'ENVOI SENDUNG ERHALTEN M. Goffin	
Bij niet aflevering, verzoeke En cas de non-livraison, prière de Kann die Sendung nicht abgeliefert werden				Datum/stempel bij vertrek Tijdstip/date du départ Abgangsstempel bei Abgang GILLY 22 SEP 1988 F 1	



THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRABANT PROVINCE AND BRUSSELS UP TO 1830

Introduction

I have now reached the last of the nine Provinces in my annual displays. Containing the capital city - Brussels - it has long played a central role in the history of Belgium which results in a multitude of postal markings and correspondence. In order to do justice to this fact, I have therefore only taken Brussels up to Independence in 1830 in this display. A future display will then be devoted to Brussels post 1830 to treat it in the greater depth that it deserves. By contrast, the material available on the other towns and villages in Brabant has, with a few exceptions, proved difficult to find. I foresee that future catalogue prices may reflect the apparent paucity of this material. Once again, I have used Herlant as my starting point and am grateful for material submitted by other members of the Circle.

Historical Background

Brabant (Bracbanctum) was occupied by the Nerviens at the time when the Romans, under Julius Caesar invaded in the first century AD. Little is known from this time until 408 when the Romans were expelled and later when the area came under the Empire of Charlemagne. A treaty in 870 divided the then larger former Duchy of Lower Lorraine into four parts and again in 959. At that time (see Fig. A) Brabant included most of the current Antwerp Province but it is not until 1190 that the title of Duke of Brabant was used instead of Duke of Lothier.

It remained Burgundian until the marriage of Mary of Burgundy with Maximilian of Austria in 1477. During the Spanish Occupation, it occupied an area (Fig. B) including part of modern Holland (North Brabant), a part of a kingdom of 17 provinces under Isabel and Albert.

Apart from minor changes, its geographical area remained largely unchanged. After the death of Isabel in 1633, the Treaty of Munster (1648) made other boundary changes which continued until 1794.

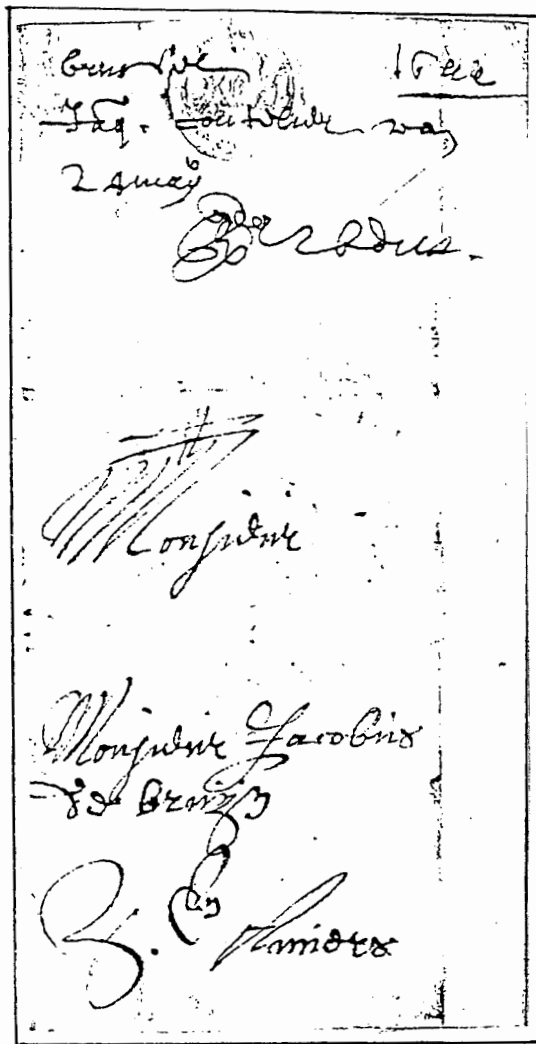
Following the French invasion in 1794, the Duchy was designated as an Arrondissement on the 7th September. By the next year it was divided into two parts or Departements (Fig. C). The northern portion, Les Deux Nethes, comprised the current Antwerp Province, plus part of Holland, which the southern portion became La Dyle (No. 94) and followed the boundaries of today's Brabant.

After the withdrawal of France in 1814, it became the Dutch Province of Brabant Meridional to distinguish it from North Brabant in Holland (Fig. D). On gaining independence in 1830, it was designated as Brabant, with no boundary change (Fig. E).

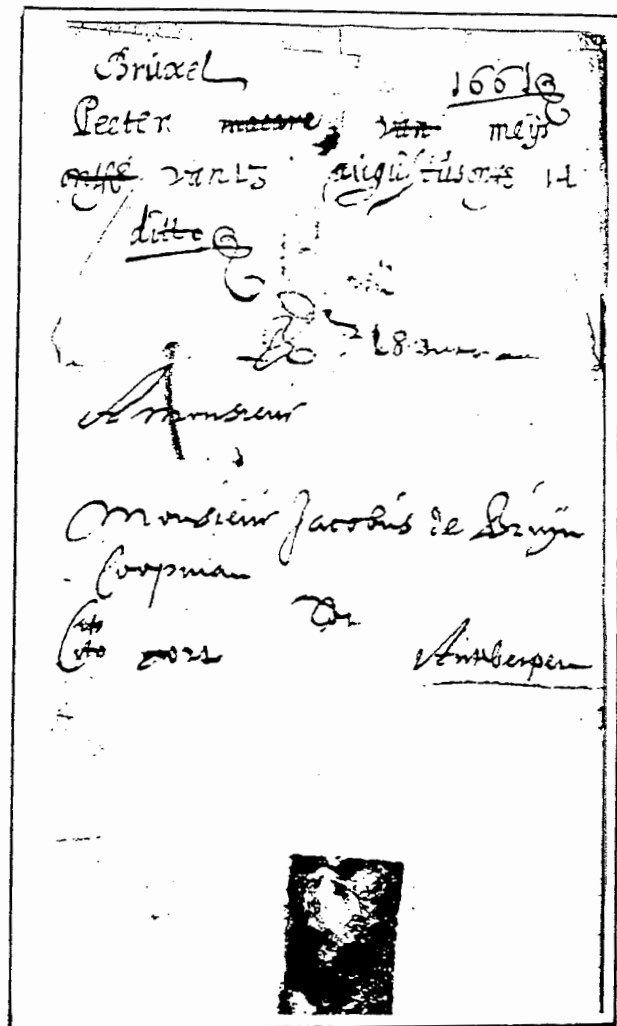
Being geographically central to the kingdom, it is the only province which does not share a boundary with an adjoining country. However, containing the capital city gives it an importance of its own. For this reason a quantity of pre-Spanish period mail exists, but to be consistent with the previous displays, it is logical to commence with the Spanish period.

Spanish Netherlands Period 1621-1713

Postal status is considered likely for Brussels, Louvain, Nivelles, Diest, Tirlemont, Tubize and Wavre. However, examples are only listed for the first three unless others come to light. As elsewhere, the markings were originally manuscript but eventually BRUXEL and DE BRUXELLE straight-line handstamps appeared in the capital city.



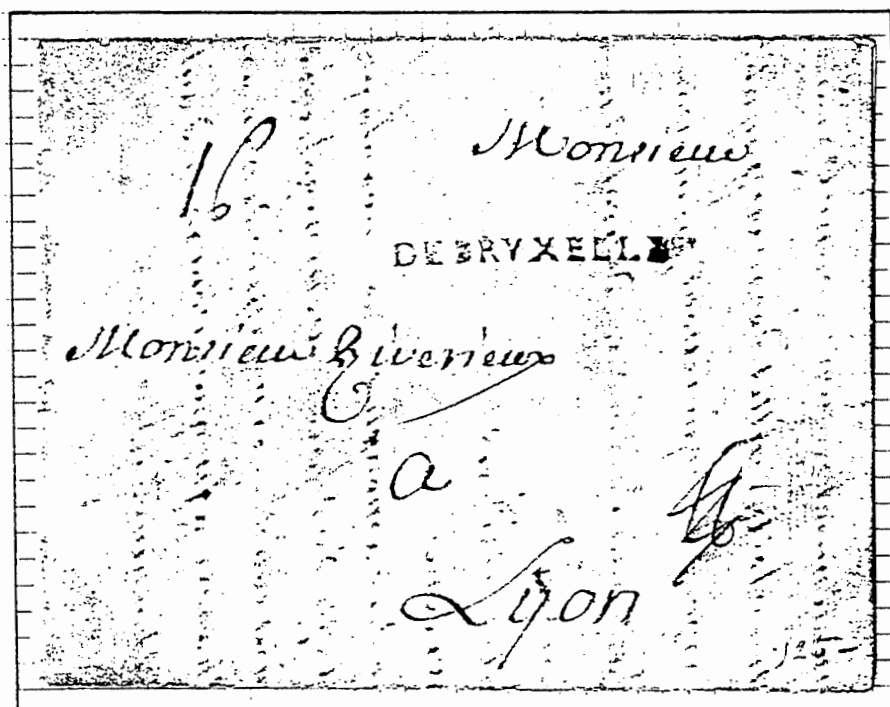
Brussels to Antwerp, 24th May, 1644



Brussels to Antwerp 1661

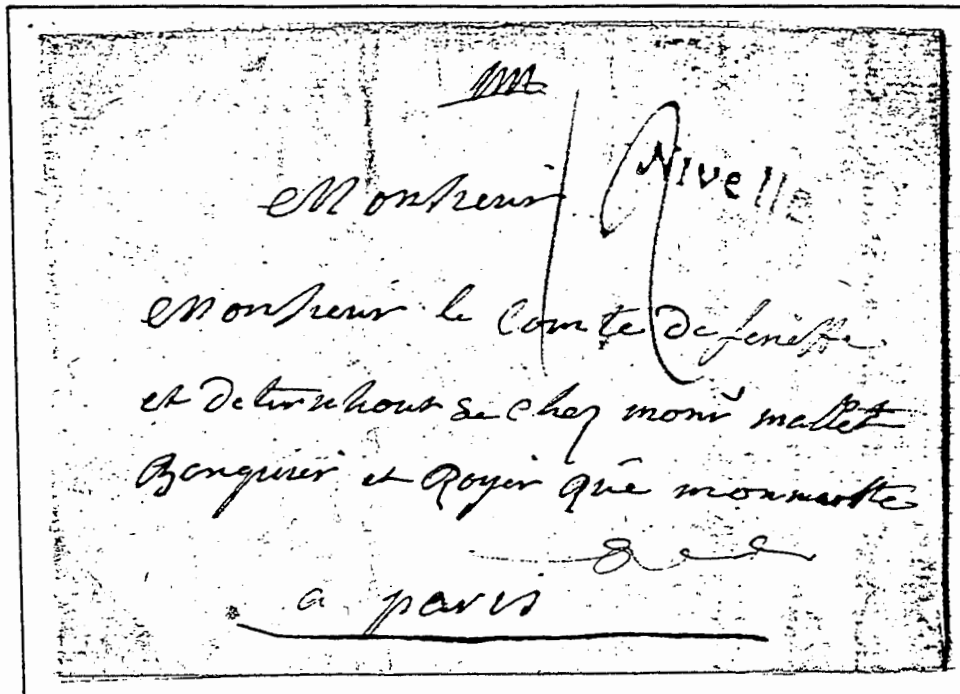
Austrian Netherlands (1714-1794)

During this period, the number of postal towns doubled by the addition of Aerschot, Assche, Genappe, Hal, Jodoigne, Vilvorde and Waterloo.



'DE BRUXELLES' on letter to Lyon, 31st August, 1743

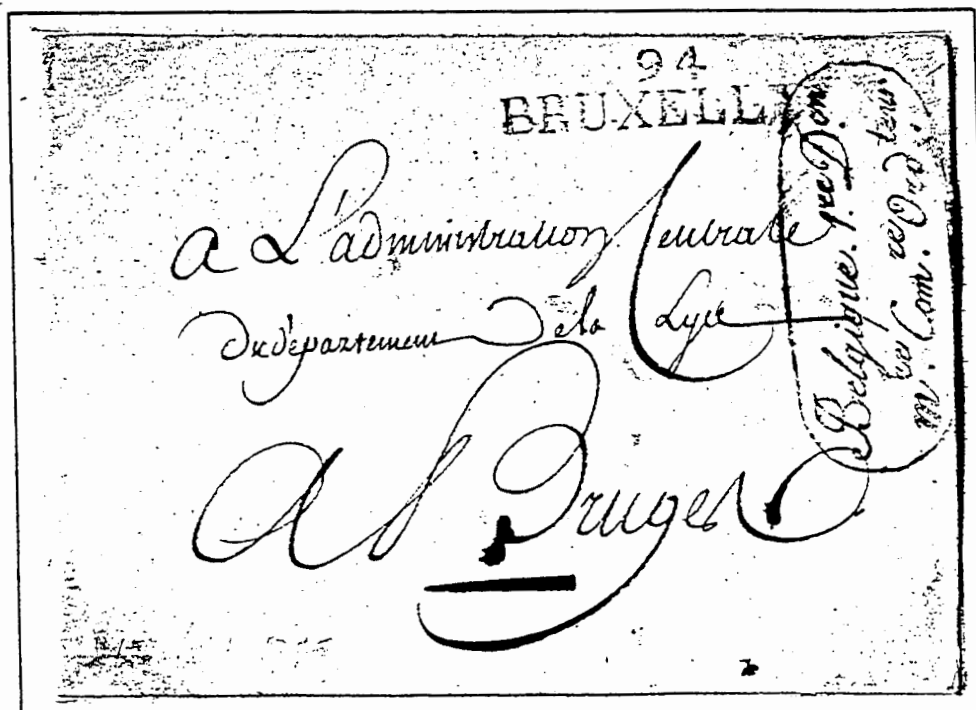
At first manuscript marks predominated and are known for the first three towns. Eventually, straight line-handstamps succeeded for most of these towns. As usual there is always an exception and the letter V in a circle was in use at Vilvorde for no obvious reason. A variation on the regular straight-line stamps occurred at Nivelles where a more ornamental lettering was in use.



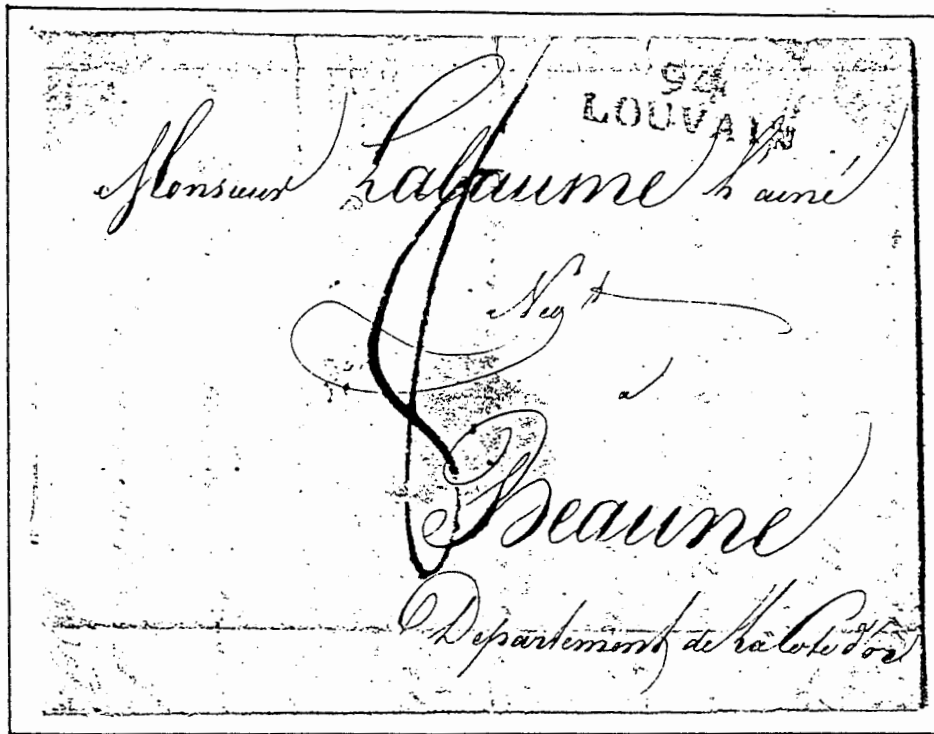
'NIVELLE' on letter from Seneffe to Paris, 10th August, 1780

French Occupation 1794-1814

As previously mentioned, Brabant became the Departement La Dyle and was allocated the departmental number 94. Brussels was designated the chief town for which special administrative handstamps were created. Of these "PREFET/DEPT DE LA DYLE" reflects those of the other provinces but is one of many as appropriate to the capital city.



Administrative Handstamp on letter to Bruges, 12th September, 1796

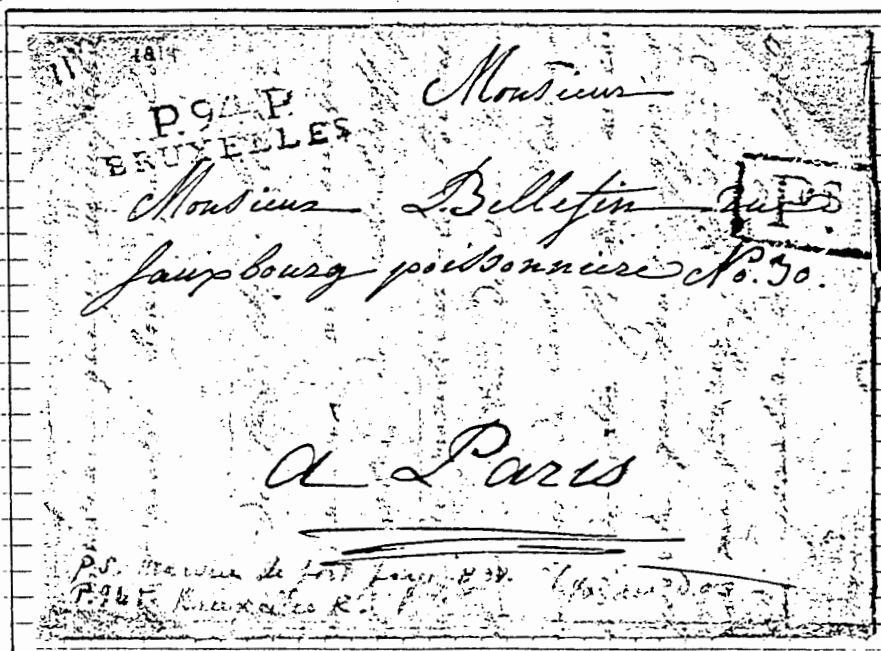


94/LOUVAIN on letter to Beaune, 6th February, 1809

No additional towns appeared to gain postal status but throughout the Departement, the French postal system and regulations prevailed. Each postal town name was accompanied by the number 94 e.g. BRUXELLES⁹⁴, LOUVAIN⁹⁴ and for mail that was prepaid (a relative rarity), the initials P.P. (PORT PAYÉ) were added e.g. BRUXELLES^{P94P}.

Although substantially a Flemish speaking province, wherever possible French language town names were used. Debourse marks were also introduced either in the form of BRUXELLES^{D94B} or BRUXELLES^{DEB 94}. Most towns still added these letters in manuscript suggesting that their use is infrequent.

As a general guide, all debourse marks can be considered scarce and are eagerly sought. From the above it can be seen that the postal system was organised in a methodical way and numerous handstamps were provisioned. However, in my experience, with the exception of Bruxelles, covers bearing town handstamps are difficult to find.

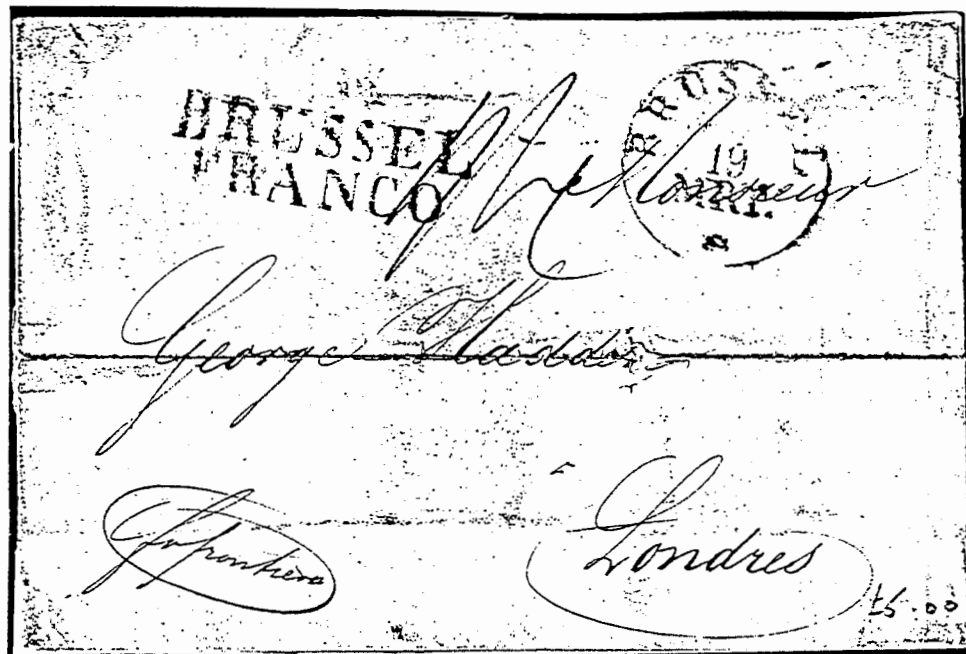


P.94P./BRUXELLES on letter to Paris, 8th June, 1814

United Kingdom of the Netherlands 1815-1830

The substitution of one occupation by another (albeit peaceful) brought little comfort to the Belgians. Many administrative changes took place, generally of an improvement nature – the postal system being no exception. The imposition of Dutch names was widespread but few major changes were needed e.g. Thienen for Tirlemont, Brussel for Bruxelles, Leuven for Louvain.

Again, the list of postal status towns was unchanged. Initially it was possible to utilise the French handstamps with the numbers erased e.g. BRUXELLES until new handstamps were made. For pre-payment, the letters P.P. were replaced by the word FRANCO underneath the name e.g. BRUSSEL LEUVEN.
FRANCO FRANCO.



Brussel/Franco + Single C.D.S. to London, 19th March, 1830

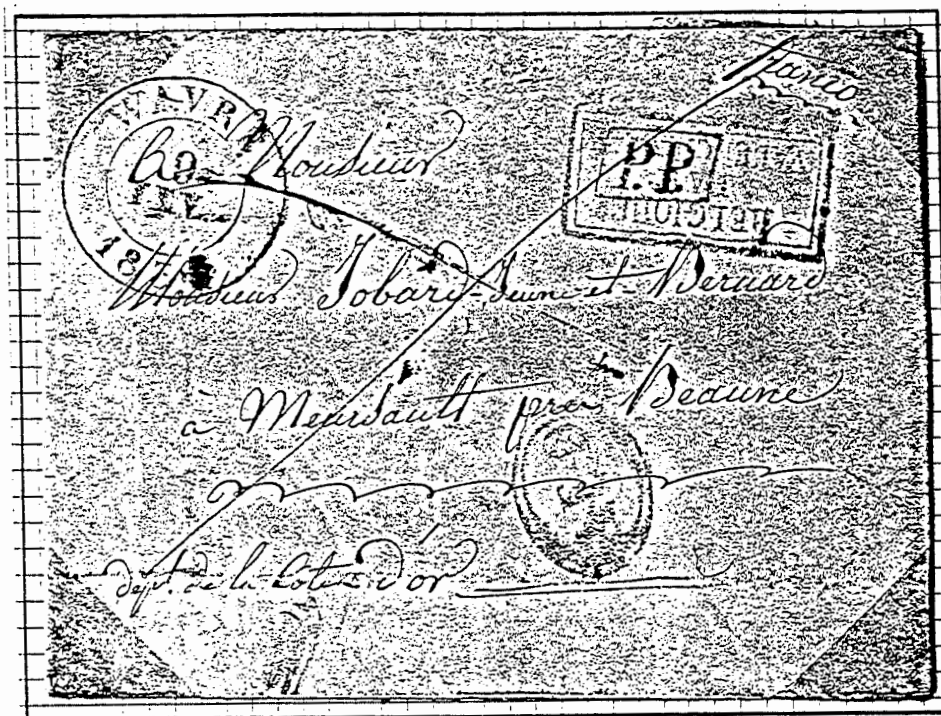
The French word DEBOURSE seems to have remained unchanged but appears above the town name e.g. DEBOURSE NIVELLES or exceptionally for LOUVAIN, within an oval frame.

Finally, just before the end of this period in 1829, the first circular date stamp appeared. A large single circle around 27mm bearing the town name at the top and the day and month in the centre. No year slug was included as the bottom of the arc bore only an asterisk type symbol. They are seen for the towns of Brussels, Diest, Genappe, Hal, Jodoigne, Louvain, Nivelles and Tirlemont. Doubtless the other towns would have received this type had the Dutch occupation lasted a little longer. They were struck in red ink only.

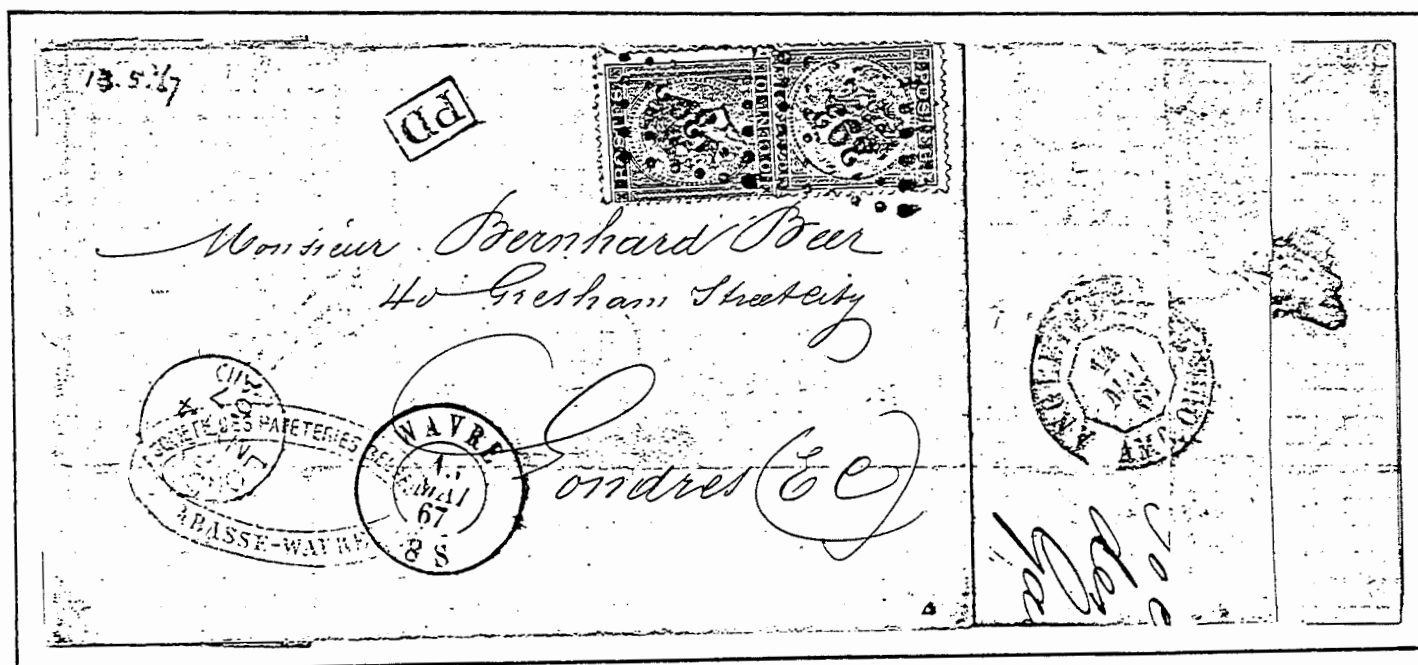
Kingdom of Belgium (1830)

From this date onwards, this account excludes Brussels which will be the subject of a later display. The boundaries of the province remained unchanged but numerous other towns gained postal status within this province. These include Capelle-au-Bois, Isque, La Genette, Leau, Lennick-St-Quentin, Malderen, Marbais, Nil-St-Vincent, Overysse, Perwez, Tervueren, Vertryk, Wespelaer. Finding covers from many of these towns, even modern, is not easy.

As a mark of distinction, the first act of the new Belgian postal authority was to issue a new double circular date stamp which bore the year in full in the bottom arc. Generally struck in red ink. The distribution largely follows that of the Dutch CDS but with the addition of Vilvorde and Wavre. Following the pattern of other provinces, this large CDS was superseded around ten years later by a smaller version (in the case of Brussels within five years), still in red ink.

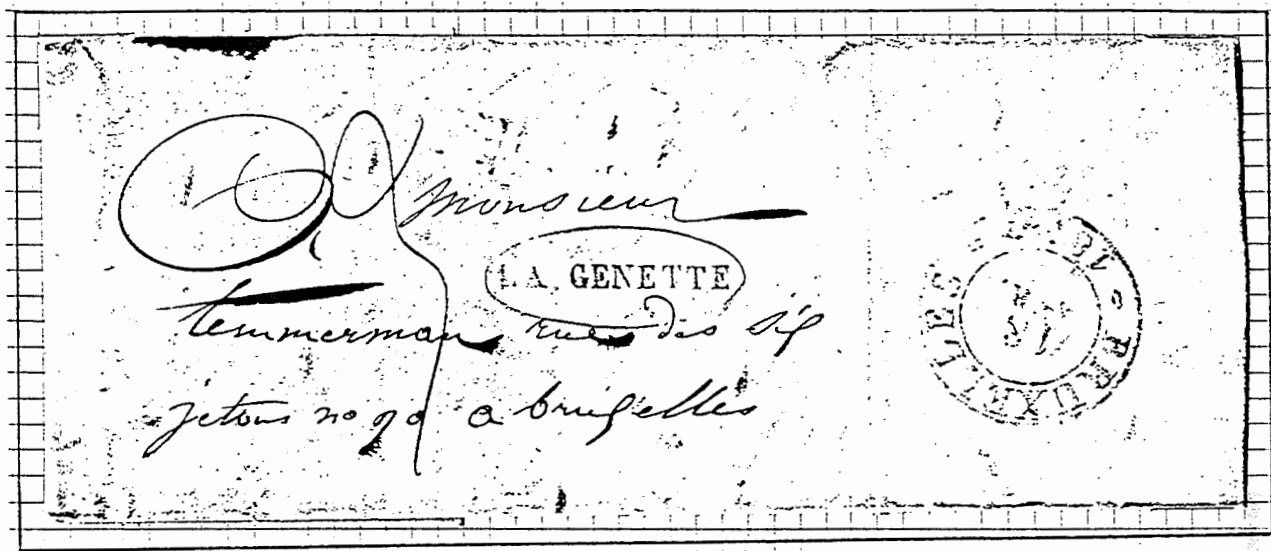


Wavre Large Double C.D.S. to Beaune, 9th February, 1835



Wavre Small C.D.S. to London, 13th May, 1867

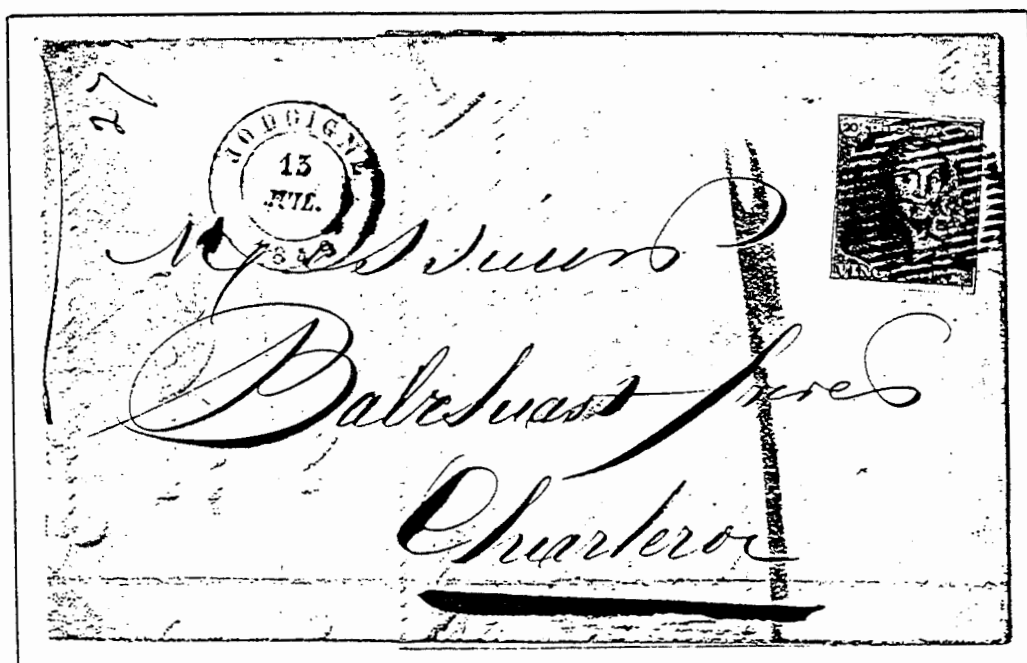
One unusual handstamp during this period was that used at La Genette. This was a small village close to Braine-le-Comte which, during the period 1830-1840, was a distribution office. From 1832-1839, it used a handstamp with its name in an oval frame 35mm x 13mm struck in green, red and black ink. Before the closure of the office in 1840, it finally used for its last year, the very small CDS issued for receiving offices. From 1840, it disappeared from the postal map in spite of having a population of several thousand inhabitants.



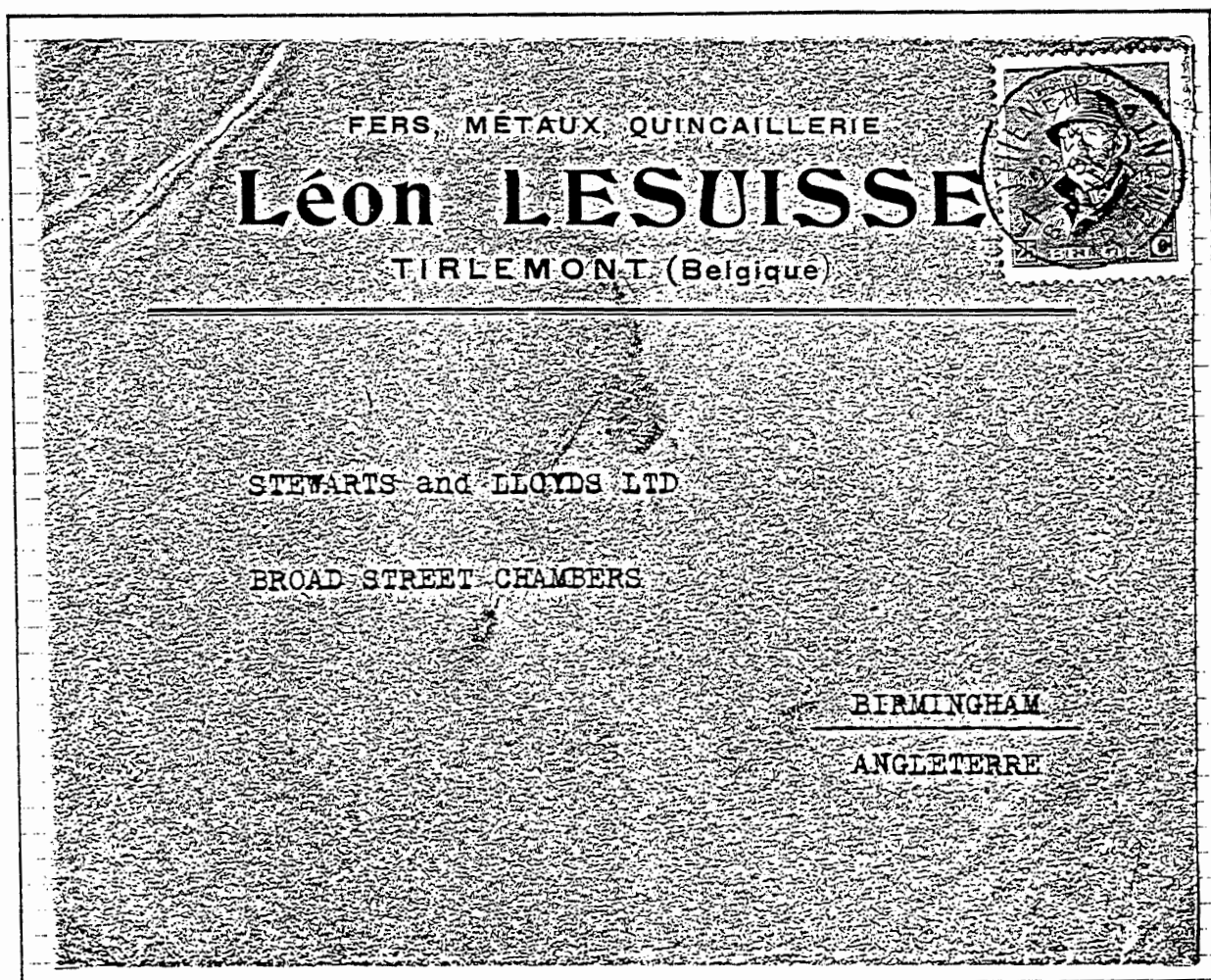
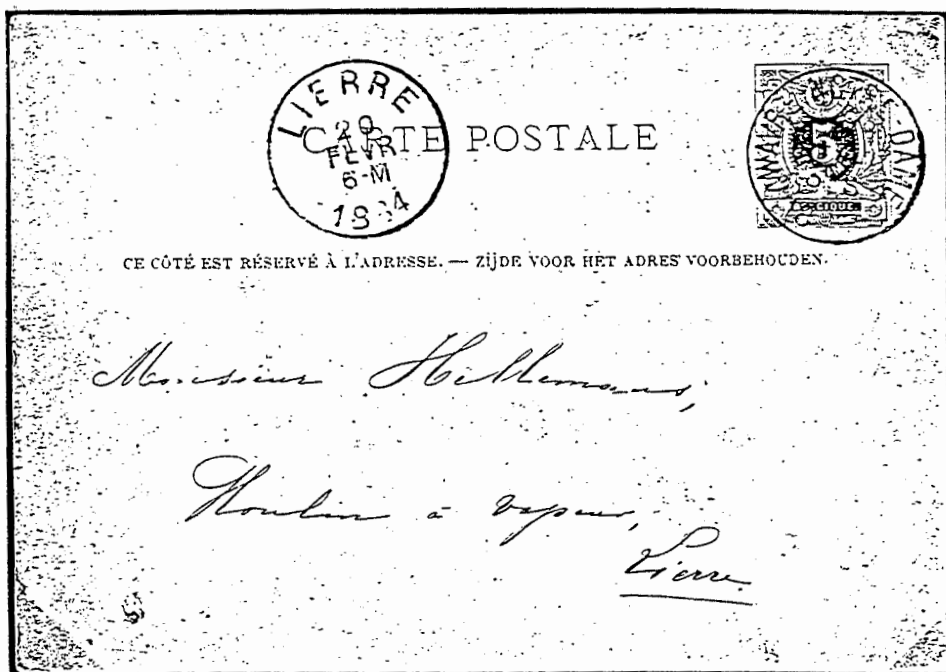
'LA GENETTE' in Oval, dated 17th April, 1836

As with other provinces, small towns which were receiving offices dependent on other main towns, a very small (c. 18mm) single CDS with a small arc at the bottom was issued. Within Brabant they were used from 1837 at Aerschot, Assche, Capelle-au-Bois, Isque, Jodoigne, La Genette, Malderen, Marbais, Nil-St-Vincent, Tervueren, Tubise, Vertryk, Waterloo, Wespalaer. How many covers can you find in your collection? They are not easy to find and may, I suspect, be undervalued.

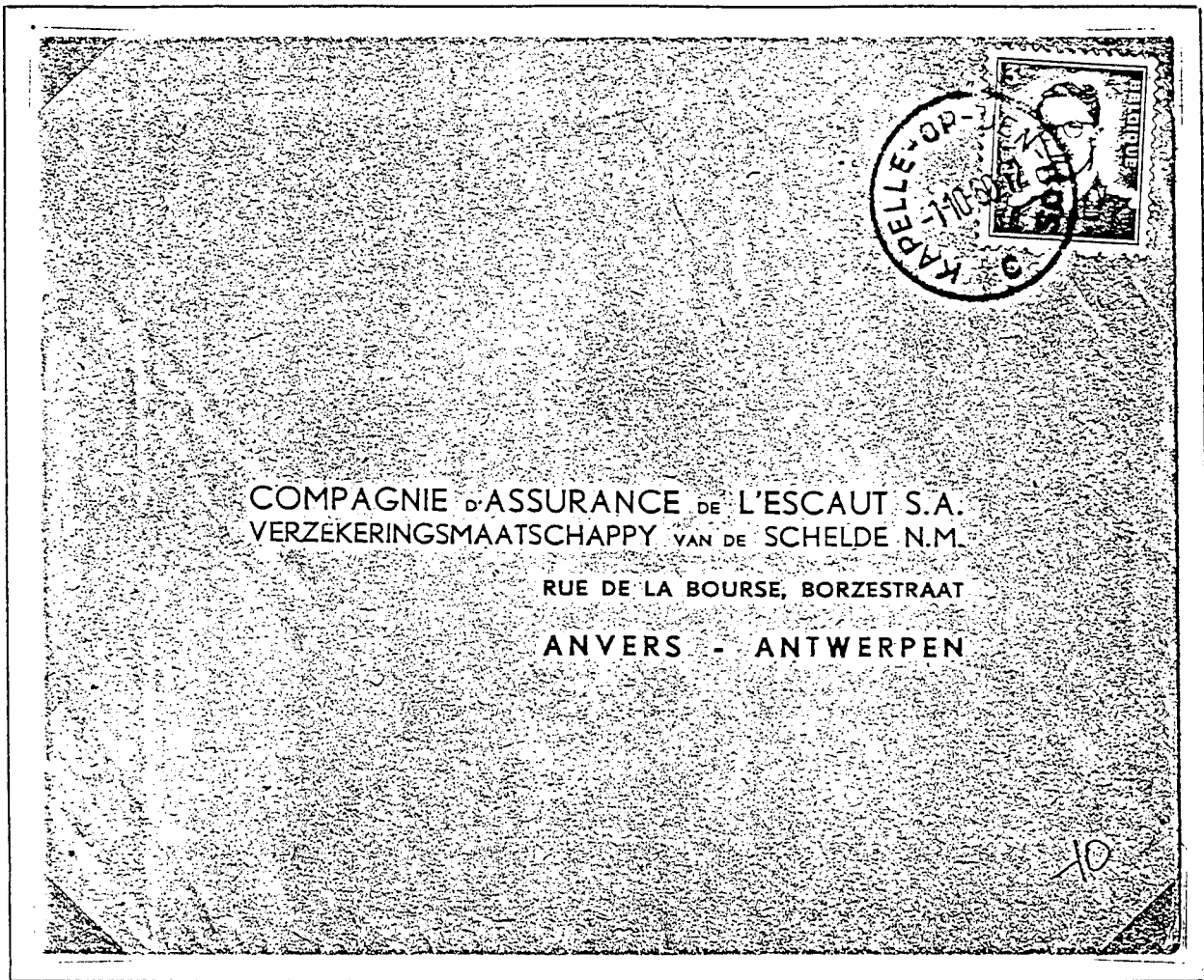
Following the introduction of the adhesive stamps in 1849, date stamps changed to black in colour, together with the barred circle handstamps used to "obliterate" the stamp itself. The incorporation of time plugs saw a succession of changes to the date stamps which eventually became single CDS and where appropriate, bilingual in style.



Jodoigne to Charleroi, 13th July, 1849 (12 days after issue)



Even today, many town handstamps are elusive: I illustrate a cover of Kapelle-op-den-Bos from 1960.



'KAPELLE-OP-DEN-BOS', 1st October, 1960

Foreign Sorting Marks

As previously indicated, this province alone had no foreign frontier adjoining and therefore no frontier bureaux within it. However, as the capital city, markings incorporating Brussels were created but only for the post-independence period. No other town, to my knowledge, had its name in such a mark.

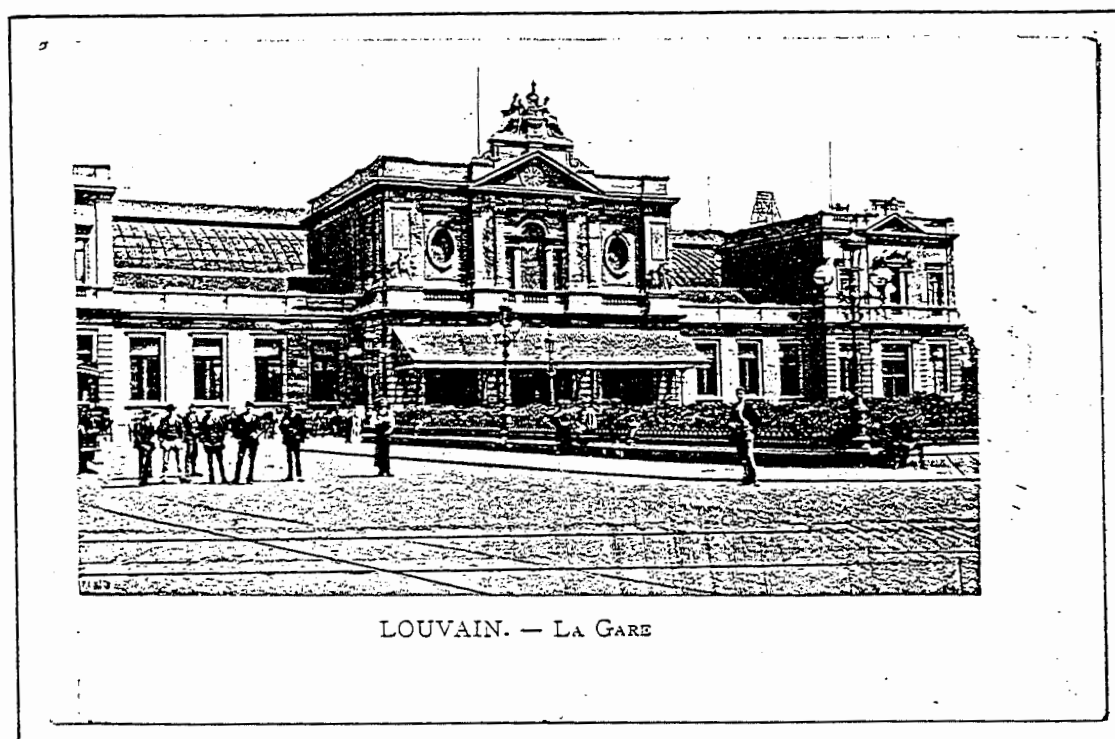
Travelling Post Offices

From 1846 when Brussels superseded Malines as the centre of the railway network, the various lines named after the compass points all converged on Brussels. The use of railway carriages as mobile sorting offices created a new range of sorting marks for both foreign and inland mail. All mail sorted on these travelling post offices (TPOs) received a handstamp bearing a compass point. In later years, especially for mail travelling in transit across Belgium e.g. England to Germany, the mail was packed in bundles of which only the top item received a handstamp.

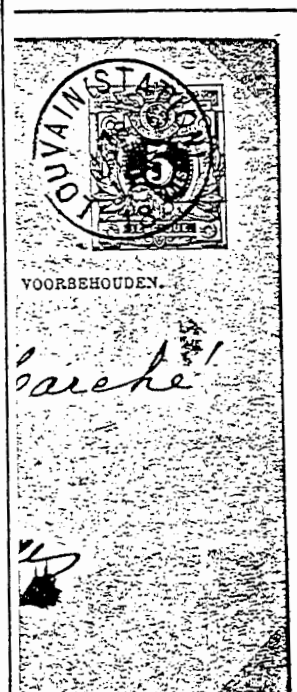
Within the carriages, the mail was separated into inland and foreign and given the appropriate handstamp e.g. MIDI 2 (inland) or FRANCE MIDI 2 accordingly. Understandably mistakes were made from time to time and sometimes corrected so that covers can bear more than one mark. For mail posted at stations along the line, instead of a circular town handstamp, a straight-line handstamp was used, normally in a rectangular box. On board the appropriate TPO the route mark would be struck. Shown is an example of a postal stationery card from Hal to Vienna, 7th February, 1890. Although to a foreign destination, because in late 1880 all foreign sorting marks were withdrawn, such mail was given the inland handstamp.



'HAL' Boxed Station Mark, 7th February, 1890

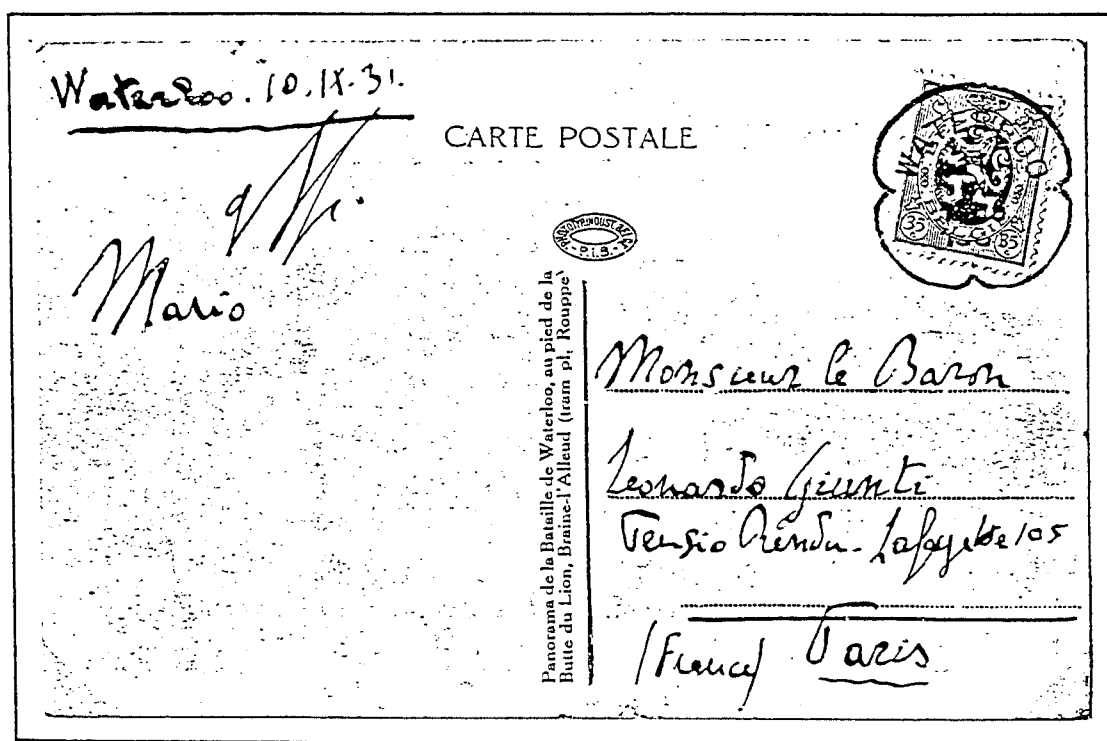


LOUVAIN. — LA GARE



Louvain Station and Postmark 18th July, 1884

Finally in this display, a small section on the village of Waterloo made famous as a battlefield. Until the battle it was relatively unknown but today is a famous pilgrimage. Apart from a regular series of postal markings, it has an unusual mark which I can best describe as an irregular poppy shape. My copies are used in 1920-1930's but I would welcome information on this mark as to its origin and authorised period of use.



Waterloo Poppy, 10th September, 1931

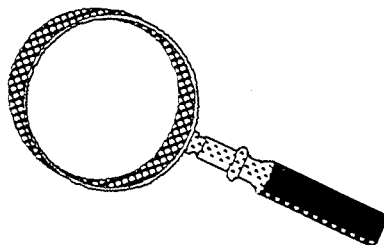
Conclusion

With the exception of Brussels, material from other towns has proved hard to find and I suspect scarcer than catalogues would suggest. This is the last of my provincial displays except for Brussels 1830 onwards, which is scheduled for next season.

I hope these displays and accompanying articles have provided some amusement for members whilst also providing some ideas on collecting and items to look out for in the future.

REG HARRISON

(The report is a record of the display which was given to the Circle in London on 9th December, 1995.)



Maps showing evolution of Brabant Province

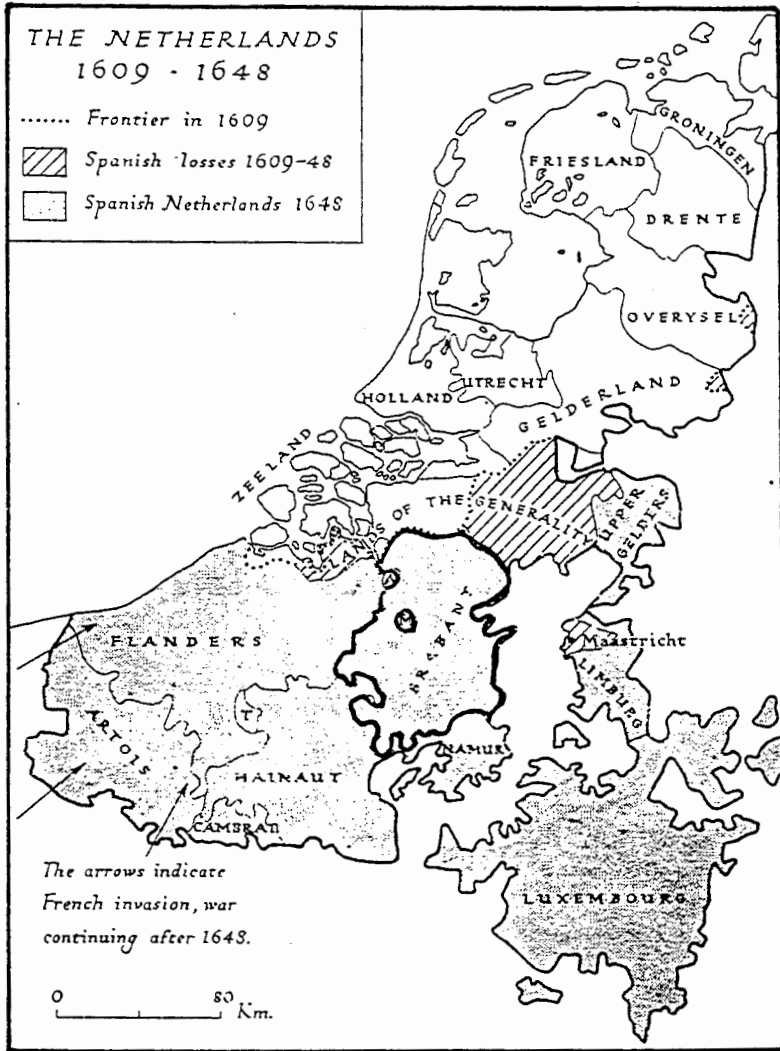


Fig. A The Netherlands in 1609-48

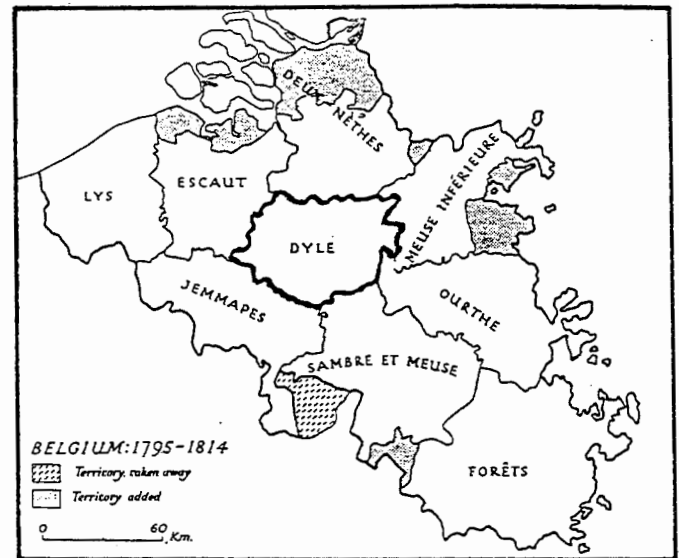


Fig. C Belgium under French domination

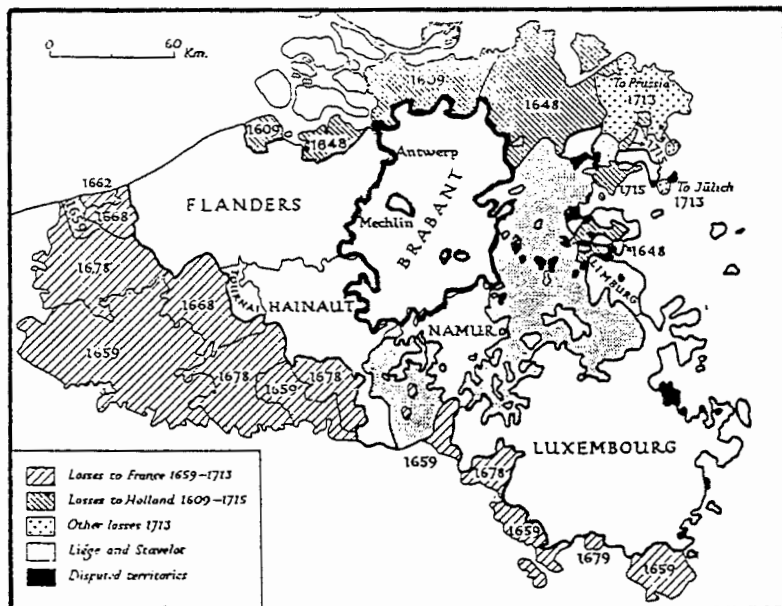


Fig. B The Spanish Netherlands, 1659-1715

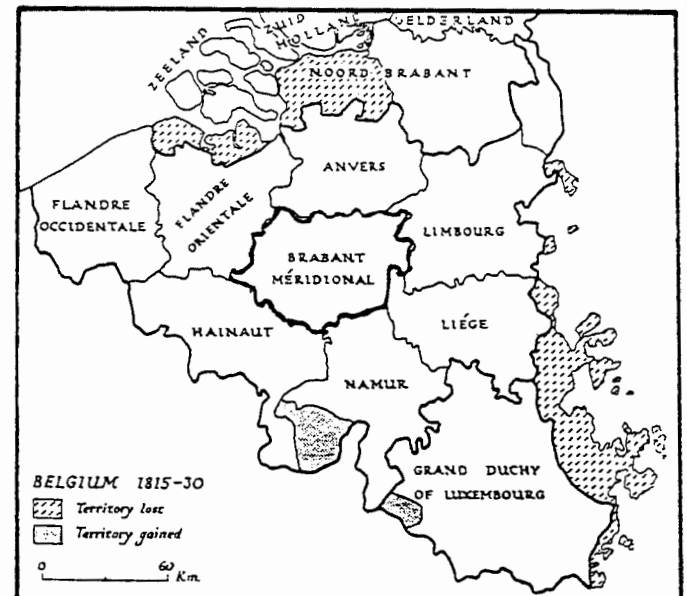
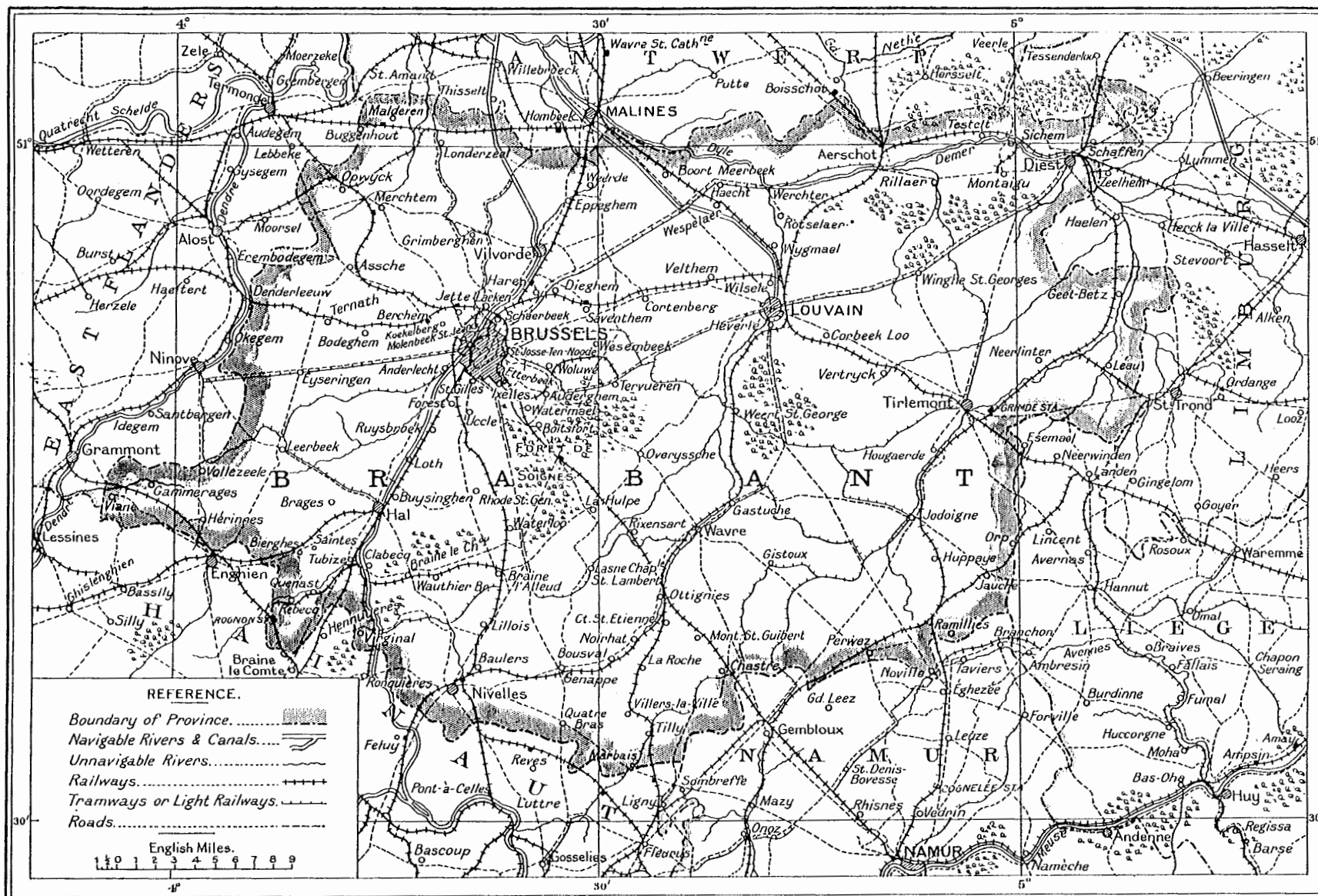


Fig. D Belgium in 1815-30

Map showing Province Boundary in 1914



Executed specially for "Belgium the Glorious."

[Copyright Hutchinson & Co.]

MAP OF BRABANT.

The present province of Brabant was an independent and powerful duchy in the Middle Ages. Its history is not so brilliant as that of Flanders, and it was not until the great Flemish cities had begun to decay that Brabant, with Brussels its capital, assumed an ever-increasing importance. In the fifteenth century Brabant was acquired by the House of Burgundy, and under the Emperor Charles V. Brussels became the capital of the Belgian Netherlands, a position which has been retained through many changes of domination and dynasty.

DE LA RUE AND BELGIUM, 1866-1883LEOPOLD II ISSUES

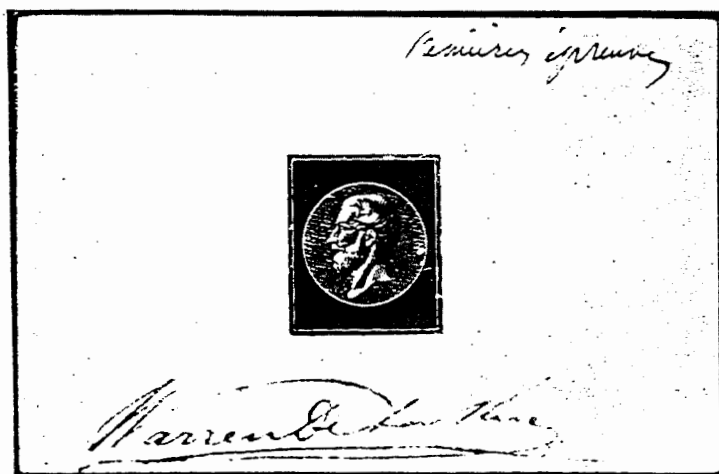
At an early "March Party" of the Circle (March, 1955), a display of some 18 sheets was given by the late G. Leslie Newman, who was the Archivist of Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd of London. This Belgian material had not then been shown before and we were privileged to see this. We are able to give here the important notes that Mr. Newman used at that time. Since then, the material has been dispersed (Robson Lowe Auction - Basle 111A - 28th October, 1976).

We have no illustrations from the display given by Mr. Newman but those shown here are typical of this time when De La Rue were attempting to obtain another contract for Belgian stamps. One can see the problems that the company were receiving with a presumably difficult Minister.

SJA

1866 - A letter from Joubert dated 22nd March, 1866, submitted two sizes of the head of Leopold II for selection. In the letter he sought the advice of Warren De La Rue respecting the method of engraving. Also he drew the attention to the fact that, contrary to the established rule, the head faced the same way as his father.

A 10 Centime proof of the head of Leopold II, engraved by Joubert, with a 10 centime frame of the Leopold I issue superimposed, was approved by Warren De La Rue on 11th August, 1866. An alternative frame was submitted with it to the Minister of Public Works, Brussels on 29th August, who replied on 19th September that a darker background would show up the figures better.



Warren De La Rue submitted a proof (No. 1) from the die "altered according to the last model of Monsieur Leopold Wiener a proof of which Monsieur Stas has been kind enough to send me. Should you think it probable that this die, which has not been hardened, will be approved, I shall complete the work".

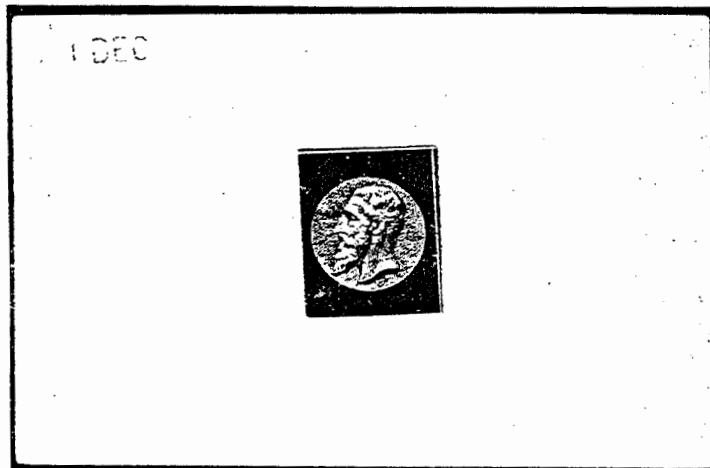
Design No. 2 was a proof of Die No. 1 with a darker frame painted in to show up the figures better as suggested by the Minister on 19th September to act as an alternative. None of these designs were accepted.

13th October, 1881 - A proof was submitted for criticism before proceeding further. On 20th October, the Minister reported that their chief engraver reports:

"The shadow which separates the forehead from the eye should descend a little lower; the nose a little turned up the upper part; the line of shadow which descends along the nose is too black; the bottom of the nostril should be more accentuated; the cheek should be made darker; more light on the hair will obtain more mass."

The submission of 25th October was sent to His Majesty and various competent artists and it was generally agreed that the impression is too hard and severe and on the whole the engraving is too uniform. The contrasts are not enough accentuated; the background is of a kind which repeats itself in the flesh; a little relief in the figure is required; it would be useful to lighten the neck which is too prominent and the perpendicular shadow in the middle of the neck is too pronounced compared with the nape; part of the beard is not well detached from the background; the hair appears grey compared with the beard, the hair on the side of the head is too dark, producing puffiness.

The proofs of the 2nd December, in colour as well as black, were submitted. It was acknowledged on 10th December that these corrections were a great improvement, but nevertheless, slight re-touches were requested so as to refine the shaded parts of the figure, especially the neck, without touching the nape of the neck.



1st December, 1881

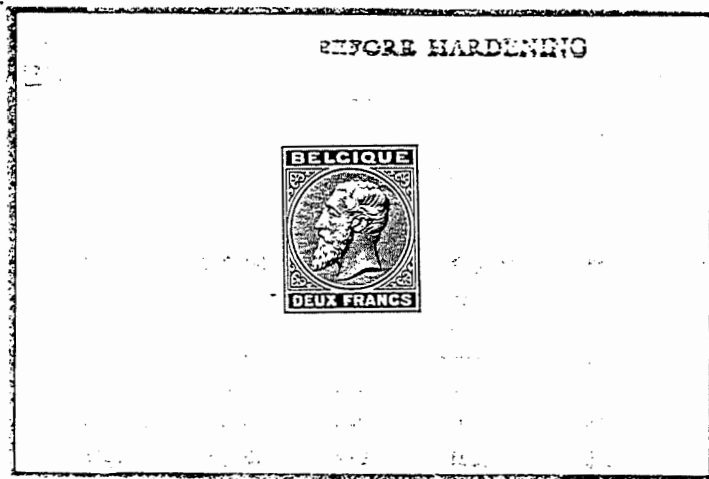
13th December, 1881 -

Further proofs were submitted on this date but the following alterations were called for on 24th December. They were embodied in the submission of 29th December, namely: shadow above the eye to be lightened by two little strokes; curved lines which mark the temple are confused with the lines of the hair; the nostril, is possible, requires a little shade; removed little white point between the lips.

7th January, 1882 - On this date, the Minister returned, approved our re-submission of the approved design of 29th December, 1881, together with his autographed approval of this die proof of the head. At the same time, he requested that we lighten the neck a little if at all possible in order to give more relief to the figure.

Regarding the border design, we were asked to render the duty definite as possible and to see whether there would be any means of expressing all the values in full and in character sufficiently strong, especially the duty of "Vingt-cinq centimes" (25 centimes). The word "centimes" might be abbreviated "cent" or "cs".

In the reply of 9th January, 1882, De La Rue pointed out that they only had the 2 Franc duty to prepare and were they to prepare designs for other duties? If so, it was requested that they should be given a list, when they would be happy to prepare sketches for approval, recommending different designs for each duty in order that reliance may not depend alone on colour. On 17th January, the additional values notified as being required were the 10, 20, 25 and 50 centimes and 1 franc and 2 francs. Proofs for these values were submitted for approval before hardening the dies, on 21st April, 1882. The Minister notified the company on 12th May "I approve of the engraving of the 2 Franc Postage Stamps of which you sent me two proofs printed in black and red". The Minister further requested that the preparation of the plate be proceeded with. A "SPECIMEN" stamp was sent for colour and the green ink was ordered on 17th June, 1882.



28th May, 1882

Five designs were requested on 24th July, 1882, and were prepared and submitted three days later with the information that they could be printed in any colours desired.

On 16th August, the new Minister of Public Works, Mon. Olin, wrote that it had been decided to enlarge the stamps to the size of the English stamps, requiring the freeing from obstruction of the head of the King, which in the new designs were slightly broken by the border. In replying to this on 18th August, De La Rue pointed out that the die and plate of the 2 Franc had been finished and that it was impossible to make any alterations, and they submitted a design for the frame enlarged to the English postage stamp size, stating that if it was satisfactory, new designs for all denominations could be prepared on those lines in place of those previously submitted.

The speed with which these designs and proofs were prepared should be particularly noted.

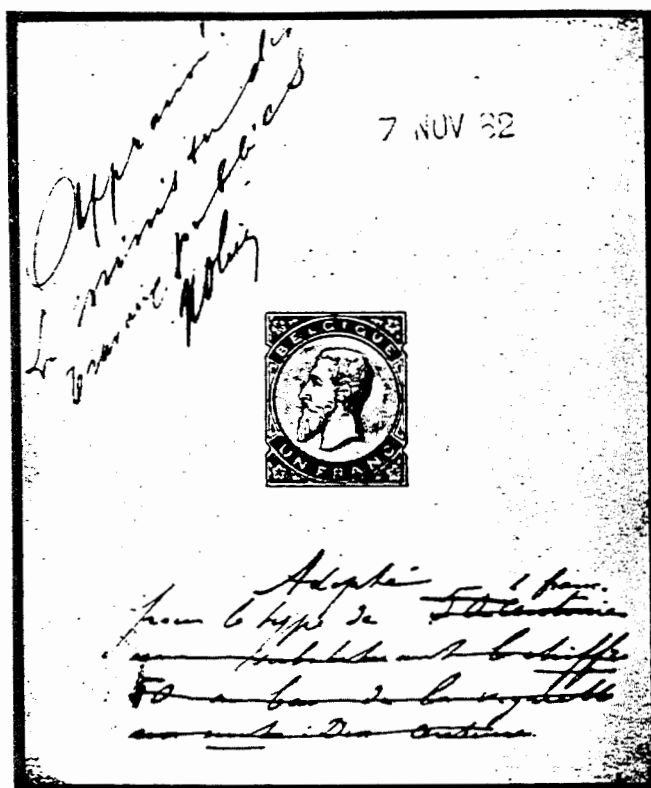
The Minister returned the five designs on 27th July and the 1 Franc on 18th August stating that he is adopting the size of the English postage stamps for these five stamps which remained to be supplied, of which the 10 cents was the only one which satisfied him. The 2 francs plate could be utilised as made. He forwarded the four English stamps as models to be followed as nearly as possible, recommending especially the 2/- specimen. He would like values expressed in figures as well as in words with the exception of the one and two francs after the style of the rough 20 centimes sketch, to accommodate the Flemish population. The final letter in the abbreviated words, e.g. Cent^{es} or Cime should not be underlined in printing. The two plates to take precedence are the 10 and 25 Cent^{es}.

6th September, 1882 - In accordance with the Minister's instruction of 31st August, six designs were prepared and submitted on 6th September, 1882 - again, note the speed. In the 10 centime stamp the figures were placed in the lower corners only. They could, however if desired, appear in the top corners as well in the place of the ornament. Two designs were prepared for the 50 centimes to enable the Minister to make a better selection. Either could, of course, be changed into any other values.

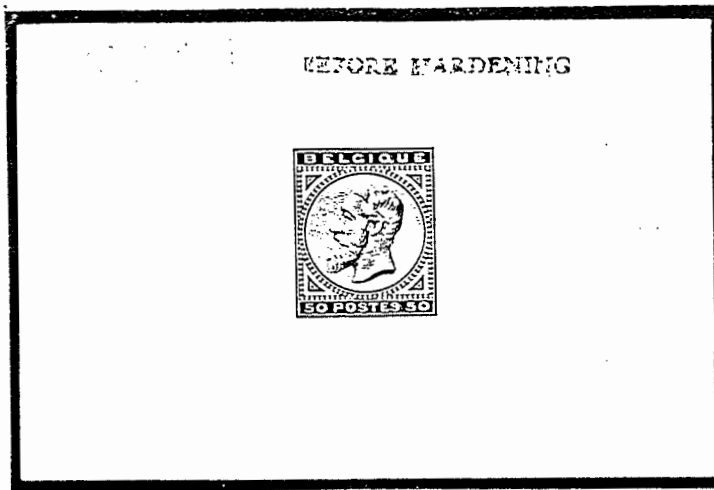
These were returned on 27th September with the following observations:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <u>10 Centimes:</u> | Please submit a second design with value in the four angles and I will choose between them, but for the 20 centimes value. |
| <u>20 Centimes:</u> | Approved, but to be altered to 10 centimes. |
| <u>25 Centimes:</u> | Please submit two other designs, one bearing each side of the figurehead figures, 25 in long and slender characters. Present design is too heavy, figures in four corners should be suppressed. |
| <u>50 Centimes:</u> | Design with "Belgique" in arc of a circle selected. |
| <u>1 Franc:</u> | Please substitute figure 1 in two lower angles for value in full letters. |

Further designs were submitted on 4th October, but no records were in existence in the De La Rue archives. These designs were approved on 25th October, subject to the substitution of "Postes" for "Centimes" or its abbreviation, etc. as exemplified by these designs also submitted on 26th October and approved on 6th November, 1882. It was also confirmed that a die and plate of 300 multiples of each should be supplied subject to approval of proofs before the manufacture of the plates. The 2 franc die and plate were despatched on 28th November, 1882.



7th November, 1882



27th January, 1883

31st January, 1883 - The die proofs were submitted on this date, the Minister being advised that they had been successfully hardened. These were approved on 21st February but on 2nd March, definite instructions were requested regarding the colours required in order that plate proofs could be prepared and submitted. A number of colours were submitted.

In a letter under date 13th July, 1883, Brussels asked for prices of the colours provisionally selected for the stamps, the plates for which by this time had been supplied, and also for the low values without the heads. In their reply of 19th July, De La Rue remarked that the colour for the one franc should be in another colour as it did not contrast sufficiently.

28th September, 1883: - Brussels requested De La Rue to prepare two new duty dies for the 1 and 2 franc postage stamps indicating the duty in figures. On 9th October, they submitted three die proofs of each, with the duties sketched in with the alternative "POSTES" between the figures being submitted for consideration so that they accord with the other designs. In their reply of 16th October, Brussels rejected them all owing to the smallness of the figures indicating the duties and the fact that "Francs" is indispensable to differentiate from "Centimes", asking for further designs on the lines of the altered 10 and 20 cents stamps forwarded. On 17th October, De La Rue asked whether entirely new designs should be prepared.

20th October, 1883 - In reply, in a letter of this date, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, in the absence of the Minister, asked for entirely new designs because those returned by him on 16th October cannot be suitably modified to receive the desired inscription. At the same time, he asked for the altered designs of the 16th October to accompany the new ones for consideration of the Minister, and no important work to be proceeded with pending the Minister's decision. On 22nd October, however, the Director General wrote that the arrangements shown on these two stamps had been decided upon by the Minister and asked for designs to be submitted in accordance therewith. They submitted these on 24th October with an alternative of each but the Minister wished the order of the inscription to be reversed in the case of the 2 franc and would like to see corrected designs.

Those lettered A and B were submitted on 1st November but were still not liked and although the 1 franc was approved as shown on 16th November, the Director General wrote on 27th November that the Minister had decided to give up the project. They were asked to arrange with the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for the return of the original die of the head of the King to the Chef du Fabrication Principal du Timbres at Malines, which was despatched on the 19th December.

S. J. ANDREWS

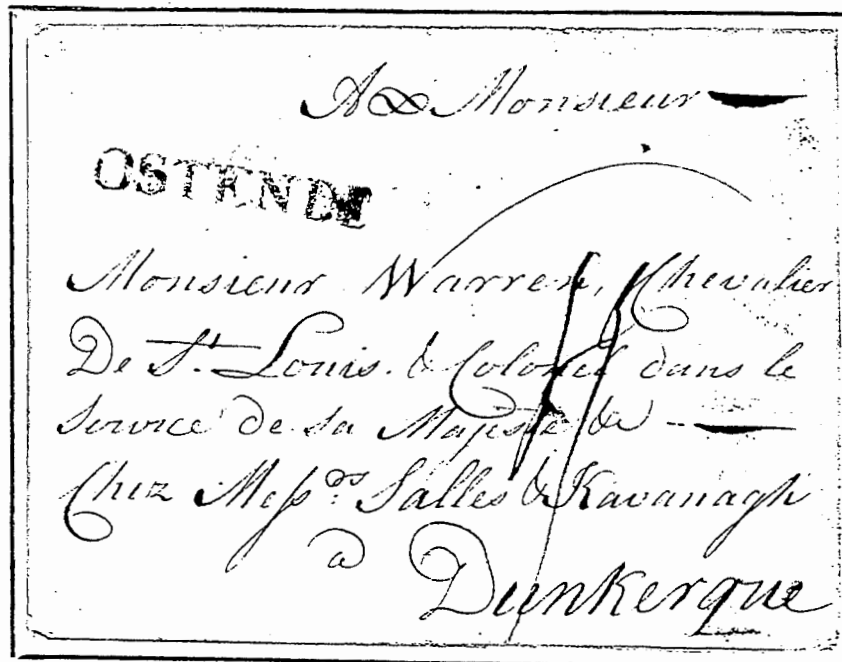
CHEVALIER DE WARREN, c. 1750

Brigadier of the Armies of the King
Colonel in the Service of His Majesty
Chevalier of St. Louis
Colonel of Infantry

In the early 1950's, a number of letters addressed to de Warren under the above titles, were auctioned by Robson Lowe Ltd.

Who was this man?

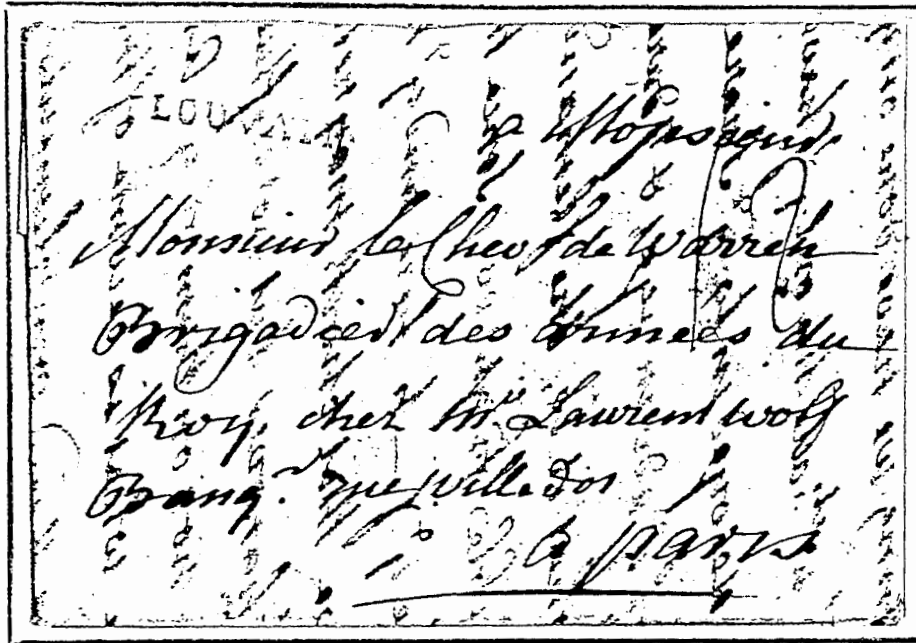
He was Sir Richard Warren. The title "Sir" was bestowed by the "Old Pretender" on this person who had done much for the Jacobite cause. It is thought at times, Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) used the name of Warren as a nom-de-plume. Some of the letters do in fact refer to the addressee as "Yr. Majesty". The letters speak on many subjects and we give a few of them on the four letters shown here.



The first, from Ostend to Dunkirk on 30th September, 1757, is from and signed by Chas. Hennessy (a member of the famous cognac family?)

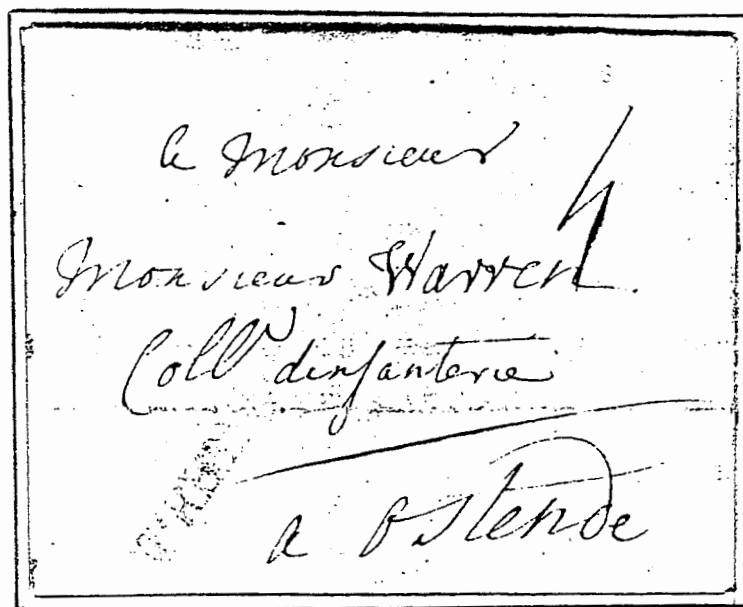
"Sir,

"There is a little nephew of mine, one Nagle, lately arrived from Ireland with a designe to serve in the Brigade. I have recommen'd your regiment to him
....."



This letter, from Louvain, dated 13th August, 1759, is written by Captain John Glascoe, an officer under Warren, and is most interesting on military information and on other matters.

"I don't know where to find my Dear Knight
 between eight or
 nine thousand killed or wounded or prisoners, all their
 baggage taken or burnt de Ville penetrated
 into Silesia old Madame Lufsey went out
 of a fit of fondness to see her husband in de Ville's army
 and coming back to Prague was surrounded, plundered and
 maltreated by ye husards, lost her watch, diamond necklace,
 her coach and four good horse. She told them she was Queen
 of Ireland but ye husards did not respect her the more
 "a long story."



The third letter is from Ypres (Ipres, Herlant 15) is dated 19th August, 1758 and is given in full. It could be ? to Bonnie Prince Charlie.

"12 o'clock Lille, Saturday, 19 August 1758

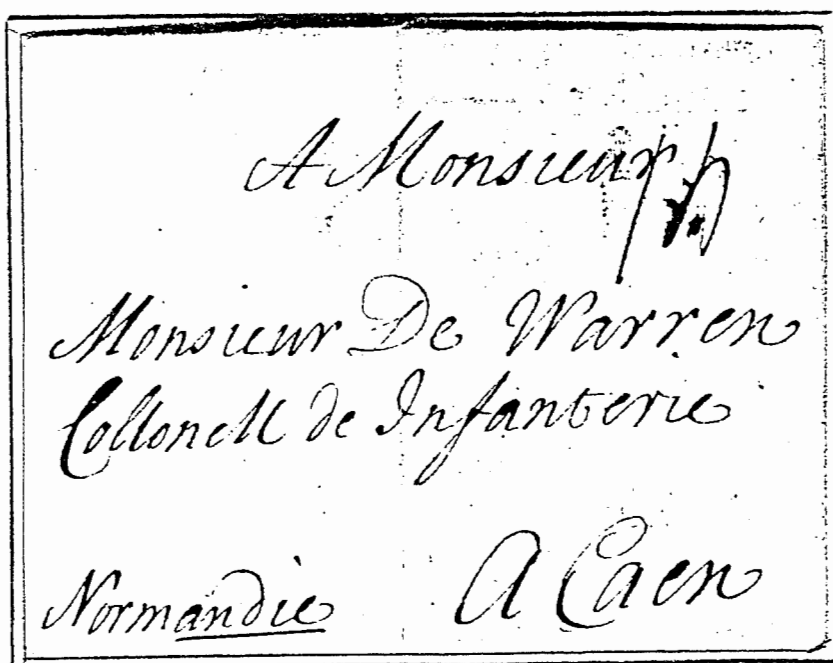
"Dr. Warren how goes it. I intended going to see you at Ostend but as the roads are bad the heavy carriage I have would be sunk in the sands. If yr. affaires permit you to be absent for two or three days I shall have a pleasure in passing that time with you in Dunquerque where I shall arrive tomorrow for dinner. Luker is with me. He kisses yr. hand my Beau Chevalier. I have a thousand services for you from a fair lady. She charged me with a kiss for you, soe come and receive it.

I love you Dr. Warren

Patr. Wall"

"I shall Lye at Ipres tonight."

The letter is endorsed "Complied With".



A Monsieur
Monsieur De Warren
Colonel de Infanterie
Normandie A Caen

The fourth letter, written by J. Power is dated 10th January, 1751 and is from Liege. There is a fine albino strike of "DE LIEGE" (Herlant 9).

It ends:

"If Mylo writes me a few lines enclose it me. Postage there is intolerable, a single letter from Caen 27 french pence."