

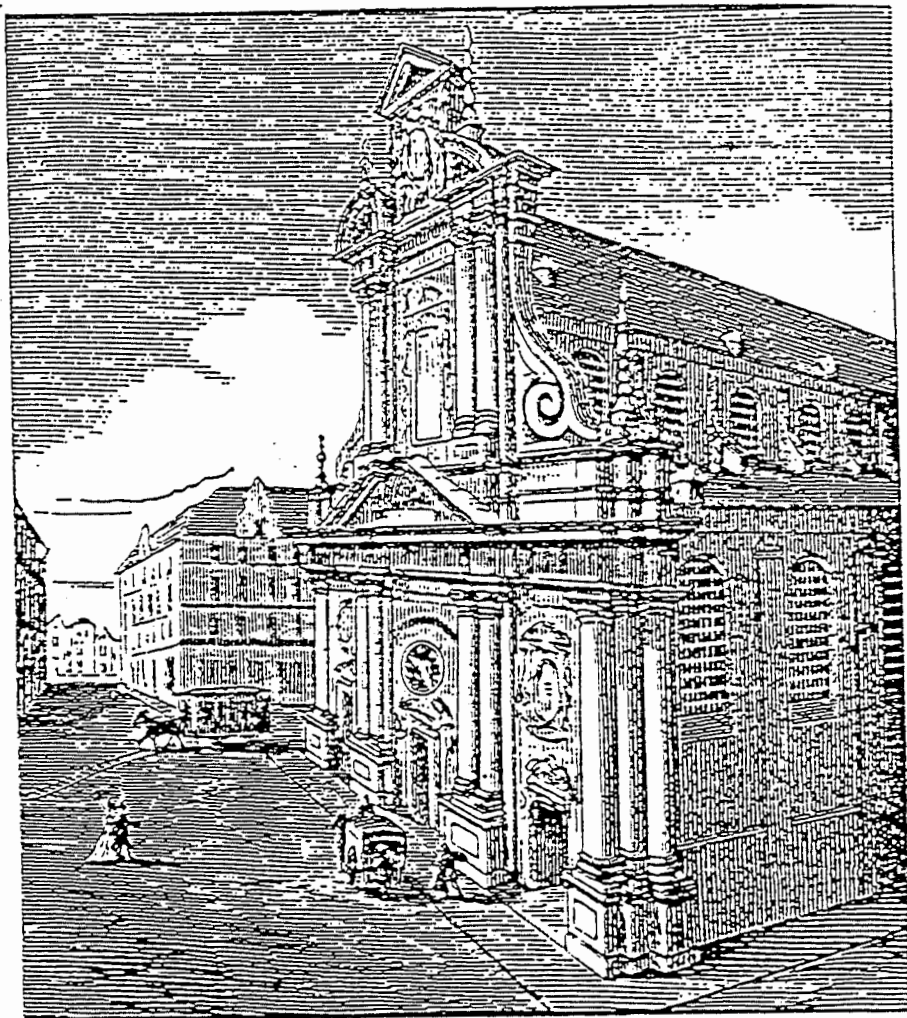
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BELGAPOST

Volume **9** No. **2**

JUNE 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.

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

EDITORIAL	42
SECRETARY'S NOTES	42
TREASURER'S REPORT	42
REPORT OF MEETING 16th MARCH, 1996	43
NOTICE OF THEFT	43
REPORT OF MEETING 20th APRIL, 1996.. .. .	44
MEMBER NEWS	44
NEW MEMBERS	44
A.G.M. - EDITOR'S REPORT	45
ANNUAL REPORT OF HON. TREASURER	45
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1996	46
PETERBOROUGH 6th-8th SEPTEMBER, 1996	48
AUCTION...AUCTION...AUCTION	48
RESULTS OF SALE 20th APRIL, 1996	49
THE ANTWERP NAVIGATION CO.	50
DR. WILHELM MOLLY	51
A RARE PUBLICITY TÊTE-BÊCHE!	55
BOOK REVIEWS	56
BRUSSELS POSTS OFFICES - PART 2	57
WATERLOW & SONS LTD.	61
MEMBER NEWS EXTRA	62
THE CAMPS BEFORE GHENT AND YPRES 1678	63
MAIL UNDELIVERABLE IN TIME OF WAR	66
REVIEW OF JOURNALS	68
STAMPEX - JANUARY 1996	68
MERODE ISSUE 1914	69
DUTCH INTERNMENT CAMP MAIL (PART 5)	76

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

JUNE 1996



EDITORIAL

Your Editor hopes you will enjoy reading the contribution from Alan Swale. It brings our hobby into life with such articles.

You will have received some information for our 1997 programme (our 50th Birthday), and we hope many of you will be able to come to at least one event.

Another AGM has come and gone and this issue gives all details of this meeting. We hope that you are enjoying our auctions. We still have some good material for the future but we always wish to have more - from you.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Last season we had a busy time, although attendances at our meetings was low owing to the enforced absence of the two Jacks and several members not noting the dates of our meetings in their diaries on receipt of the Circle programme. We have seen some new faces, which is encouraging, and Bernard Gillman-Davis made a welcome appearance in January.

Recently in working on the Merode Issue, I have been reminded of the old adage "verify your references". I did find some errors in the old BSC Journals in reproducing items from Balasse Magazines referring to new discoveries.

Through the good offices of Vincent Schouberechts, I have now been able to complete my file of Balasse Magazines so if members want back numbers of these magazines, they can be supplied at 50p a copy, plus any cost of Xeroxing and postage: profits to Club funds. There is a Circle publication giving a listing of the Belgian contents of the magazines.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Recent activities are included in both my Annual Report and under Auction...Auction...Auction. All auction lots have now been despatched and clearance is in progress. Likewise, subscription reminders have been issued and prompt payment would be appreciated - please ensure cheques are payable to "BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE" and not myself.

As agreed at the Annual General Meeting, our subscription to the A.D.P.S. has now been paid.

Receipts for payments made by members are not sent out automatically but are available on request.

REG HARRISON

REPORT OF MEETING 16th MARCH, REGENT'S COLLEGE

The morning display was given by Reg Harrison on the topic of Foreign Sorting Marks. In view of the article last year in "BELGAPOST" on those struck on the railways (TPO's), he concentrated on the earlier marks prior to the railway era with just a small overlap.

Primarily they fulfilled the functions of both routeing and accountancy up to 1875 when the U.P.U. was formed. Originally manuscript, including ship routeings, the first handstamps appeared in the French Occupation period.

A display of the various styles and country destinations was shown, (which it is hoped to work up into a future article for "BELGAPOST") of which there is very little written information or official instructions available. Hanciau, in his handbook, gives information on the Exchange Offices but speculates on the handstamps themselves which basically can only be listed by recorded examples.

Reference was also made to ink colours and the so called sedentary offices not always located at Foreign Borders. A difficult topic to classify or treat logically but perhaps worthy of separate period or destination treatment in the future.

During the interval, the latest edition of "BELGAPOST" was distributed to those present - alas, few in number. A brief discussion was held on future plans and topical items of philatelic interest.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Peter Russell, a change was made to the afternoon session. Instead of the 1915 Small Heads, Geoffrey Wood brought a selection of material relating to the 1914-15 Charity Issues. They have been the subject of much concern due to the abuse of printing plates and reprintings of much of what could be termed printers' fantasies and waste. The original Small Heads were hardly used except in Bar-Le-Duc (Gevers covers) and the Yser Enclave, and frequently occur with forged postmarks. In general, a forged postmark is frequently found to be on a forged stamp also.

The greatest abuse is, however, to be found with the Merode issue of which it is said "thousands were printed but millions sold". Numerous forgeries of several types have been identified and in view of the catalogue price, the advice is 'buyer beware'. Genuine mint copies of the 20c value are considered by Geoffrey to be one of rarer stamps of Belgium and undervalued by the catalogues. Various articles have been written on both the forged stamps and, more recently, lists of forged postmarks. Our own Circle produced "Record No.5" on this topic many years ago and currently we are considering revising and reprinting this to help member avoid buying "dud" stamps.

At the end of this session, members were reminded that our next meeting on 20th April would include the AGM and another fine auction.

R.T.H.

NOTICE OF THEFT

Members may have heard that our Congo Circle member, Ray Keach, recently suffered a house burglary, which included a large collection of Congo stamps. A total of 50 albums were stolen containing a highly specialised collection of the MOLS issue. Such a collection is only likely to be of interest to specialist collectors and members are asked to keep their eyes open in case any dealer is offering them for sale without knowing their source. A special request is made to our Belgian members to be alert as it is suspected that they are too "hot" to handle in Britain. A reward is being offered for the return of these albums, which we hope Ray will be able to enjoy again.

REPORT OF MEETING – 20th APRIL, 1996

The morning session was devoted to an auction, which is reported elsewhere in this issue. It was, however, successful and made a good start to our 1996/97 programme. After a lunch break, the Annual General Meeting took place, which is an important and necessary event in the running of the Study Circle.

After a review of the past year's activities, our outgoing Chairman, Iain Stevenson, stated how important it was that we should be well prepared for 1997 with its proposed programme of events. The first event will be in January, 1997, when the Circle will be entertaining and displaying at the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

It was then proposed and unanimously approved that Geoffrey Wood be appointed President of the BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE – a justly deserved honour which he is pleased to accept. Our Vice Chairman, Ken Carpenter, was duly elected as Chairman – the other officers remaining in their current posts for 1996/97.

Elsewhere in this issue is the detailed Treasurer's Report but it was encouraging to note that the Circle funds have improved due to special circumstances which are unlikely to continue indefinitely. It will, however, enable us to carry out our 50th Anniversary plans in some style. It was proposed and agreed that the annual subscription for 1996/97 remain at £14.00.

As reported in "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.1, the Packet Secretary was able to show a contribution to the Circle funds of £149.65 – a service which complements our auction programme and is more appropriate for certain types of material.

A brief discussion took place on the proposals for the Peterborough meeting and our 1997 celebrations. It was agreed that a small group be convened to finalise arrangements for the Royal Display in January, as well as our 1997 programme.

A vote of thanks was given for the work of our officers, and also to Jean Harrison for her contribution.

R.T.H.

MEMBER NEWS

James Moore of Stockport continues with his work on adhesive material and recently acquired a fine collection of forgeries of the 1914/1915 Red Cross material. They make a good reference collection of these difficult issues and we are planning to include articles on the MERODE issues in "BELGAPOST" to help our members.

On a recent visit to Glasgow, our Treasurer was able to pay a call upon one of our North of the Border members, Bill McKinlay. Apart from a general interest, he also collects the Dover-Ostend line, Windmills and Monarchs. At the March 1996 Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) held in Falkirk, Bill won the Scottish Thematic Rose Bowl for a display entitled "Wheels of Industry", which included Belgian material.

NEW MEMBERS

J. Hammonds, Horsham, West Sussex. Interests: Precancels and the Unusual.

R. Powell, Peterborough. Interests: General.

A warm welcome is extended to both these members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th APRIL, 1996

EDITOR'S REPORT

The plans for "BELGAPOST" are for it to continue similar to the present state - assuming that our members do not "object". We say this because our members do not say "Yea or Nay" and presumably they are satisfied with what they are getting. We are attempting to give a mix of both stamps and postal history, although it is somewhat difficult at times to keep the stamp side going. You must tell us if you want a change.

Again, your Editor must once more give our special thanks to our "team", particularly to Jean and Reg Harrison - without their great help we would not be getting our regular "BELGAPOST"

S. J. ANDREWS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER

1st APRIL, 1995 - 31st MARCH, 1996

Following last year's improvements, I am pleased to report further progress this year on boosting our funds in preparation for our 50th Anniversary year.

Our operating surplus for the year was £1,761.07 - a record, which I hasten to add was due to exceptional circumstances and is unlikely to be repeated.

The annual subscription was fixed at £14.00 and brought in a total of £1,070. To this was added the bank interest (£131.84), publication sales (£427.00), miscellaneous income (£111.55), and Exchange Packet commission (£149.65), making a total of £1890.04, excluding sales commissions. This increased level of activity has therefore led to increased running costs totalling £1,735.02.

It is therefore the auctions which have made the major contribution to the accounting figures - without their contribution, the accounts would just about balance.

When the current disposal of a major collection has been completed through the Circle, there will be a dramatic reduction in our sales unless new material is submitted by members. Preparation of these sales commences a long time in advance and we are currently looking at the prospects for 1997 when at least one special sale is planned. Please give some thought if you are considering disposal of your unwanted material - I am sure that the recent reputation for our sales is giving our Circle a boost in prestige, not just in financial terms.

In the last copy of "BELGAPOST" (Vol.9, No.1) we gave an outline of proposals for our celebrations in 1997. Obviously to achieve some of these events with prestige will cost money, which we are now able to provide. I am therefore proposing that the annual subscription be maintained at £14.00 for 1996/97.

My thanks are due to all those who assisted throughout the year in differing ways, including our Packet Secretary for his contribution.

At present our membership comprises 84 members, of whom six are Honorary Life Members. It would be pleasing if we could reach 100 during our 50th Year.

REG HARRISON

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLEACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1996

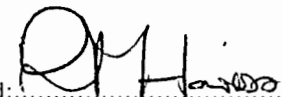
INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£.	p.		£.	p.
1. <u>Subscriptions</u> received for			1. <u>Officers Expenses</u>		
a) Previous years	10.00		a) Postages	258.69	
b) Year ending 31st March, 1996	1,032.00		b) Publications	594.13	
c) Advance payment for 1996/97	28.00		c) Miscellaneous	315.20	
	<u>1,070.00</u>	1,070.00		<u>1,168.02</u>	1,168.02
2. <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>		111.55	2. <u>Hire of Rooms</u>		545.00
3. <u>Bank Interest</u>			3. <u>Bank Charges</u>		Nil
Current Account	7.02		4. <u>Insurance Charges</u>		<u>22.00</u>
Deposit Account	124.82				
	<u>131.84</u>	131.84			
4. <u>Sale of Publications, etc.</u>		427.00			
5. <u>Auction, etc. Commission:</u>					
Sale 28th January, 1995	30.00				
Sale 22nd April, 1995	329.20				
Sale 21st October, 1995	577.50				
Sale 20th January, 1996	556.50				
Miscellaneous Sales	112.85				
	<u>1,606.05</u>	1,606.05			
6. <u>Commission from Exchange Package Secretary</u>		<u>149.65</u>			
Total Income 1995/96		<u>3,496.09</u>	Total Expenditure 1995/96		<u>1,735.02</u>
			Excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>1,761.07</u>

BALANCE SHEET

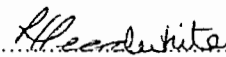
	£. p.	£. p.
<u>Balance 31st March, 1996 comprising:</u>		
Current Bank Account		51.40
Cash in Hand		1.75
Deposit Bank Account	4,087.27	
* Less Account R.L.	47.00	
* Less Account E.H.	808.53	
* Less Account M.B.	16.00	
B.S.C. Money		<u>3,215.74</u>
<u>Total</u>		<u>3,268.89</u>

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

	£. p.
<u>Balance at 31st March, 1995</u>	1,507.82
<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure 1995/6</u>	<u>1,761.07</u>
<u>Balance at 31st March, 1996</u>	<u>3,268.89</u>

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

I certify that I have examined the books and that in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true view of the financial position of the Belgian Study Circle as at 31st March, 1996.

Hon. Auditor

Date. 19th April 1996

PETERBOROUGH 7th-8th SEPTEMBER, 1996

Notices have previously been issued regarding our Summer Meeting and the final programme will shortly be concluded. At present the following topics are included:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| ☆ | POSTAL STATIONERY | ☆ | RED CROSS 1914/13 (including Forgeries) |
| ☆ | NORD-BELGE LINE | ☆ | MORESNET |
| ☆ | MONTENEZ | ☆ | FIRST WORLD WAR |
| ☆ | POSTAL HISTORY | | |

but it is not too late to consider other subjects.

To date, the following members (and wives/partners) are booked to attend:

Tony & Coral Geake; Jack Andrews; John & Brenda Parkin; Ken & Joy Carpenter; Ken Dore; Eliane Hollings; Alma Lee; Doris & Rosemary Green; Graham & Sue Harvey; Geoffrey & Ruth Wood; Maurice & Pauline Wilkinson; Ken & Irene Morrell; Reg & Jean Harrison; Iain & Jane Stevenson; Peter Watts

During the weekend there will be a selection of material for sale, together with a chance to preview the Autumn Auction lists. Past events have been enjoyable and provide an opportunity to gain philatelic knowledge in a sociable setting.

Maurice Wilkinson, tel. 01733 68145, is waiting to hear from You!!

AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

In total, a sum of just over £2,500 changed hands even though approximately one-third of the lots remained unsold. For a Circle of our size, this is a considerable figure especially as it has followed two similar sales over the past half-year.

Clearly the postal history sections command the greatest attraction, justly so as much of this material is unusual and unlikely to reappear very often. Most popular were the Austrian, French and Dutch periods - the letter being more expensive than catalogue prices would indicate. Early stamp covers, Express Mail and Foreign Sorting Marks also attracted bids but not Registered Mail.

Our aim, however, is to provide a wide spread of sections and to encourage members to cover the diverse areas available to a collector of our chosen country. As usual, Dover-Ostende and Railway materials found new owners. To counterbalance possible comments of not catering for pure stamp collectors, a large section of early issue stamps was included - much of which remained unsold. However, this is possibly a result of members reserves being exhausted by the time they were reached. Unless rare or special items, single stamps are more difficult to lot separately as most buyers wish to examine such stamps individually.

Subject to availability, it is intended to continue to offer stamps and I hope that my descriptions are generally acceptable. Many more stamps are, of course, available through the Exchange Packet where home inspection is possible.

Going back to individual lots, there was considerable competition for Nos. 1, 3, 33, 52, 115 where reserves were greatly exceeded. Albeit on a lower level, some of the Foreign Sorting Marks Nos. 131, 133, 150 were contested and many of the Dover-Ostende items 253-261 more than doubled their estimates.

In summary, the property of five vendors passed to 27 buyers. The full results of the sale are listed here and the next auction will be in the autumn of this year. It is intended that early viewing will be possible at our Peterborough meeting.

REG HARRISON

Results of Sale held 20th April, 1996

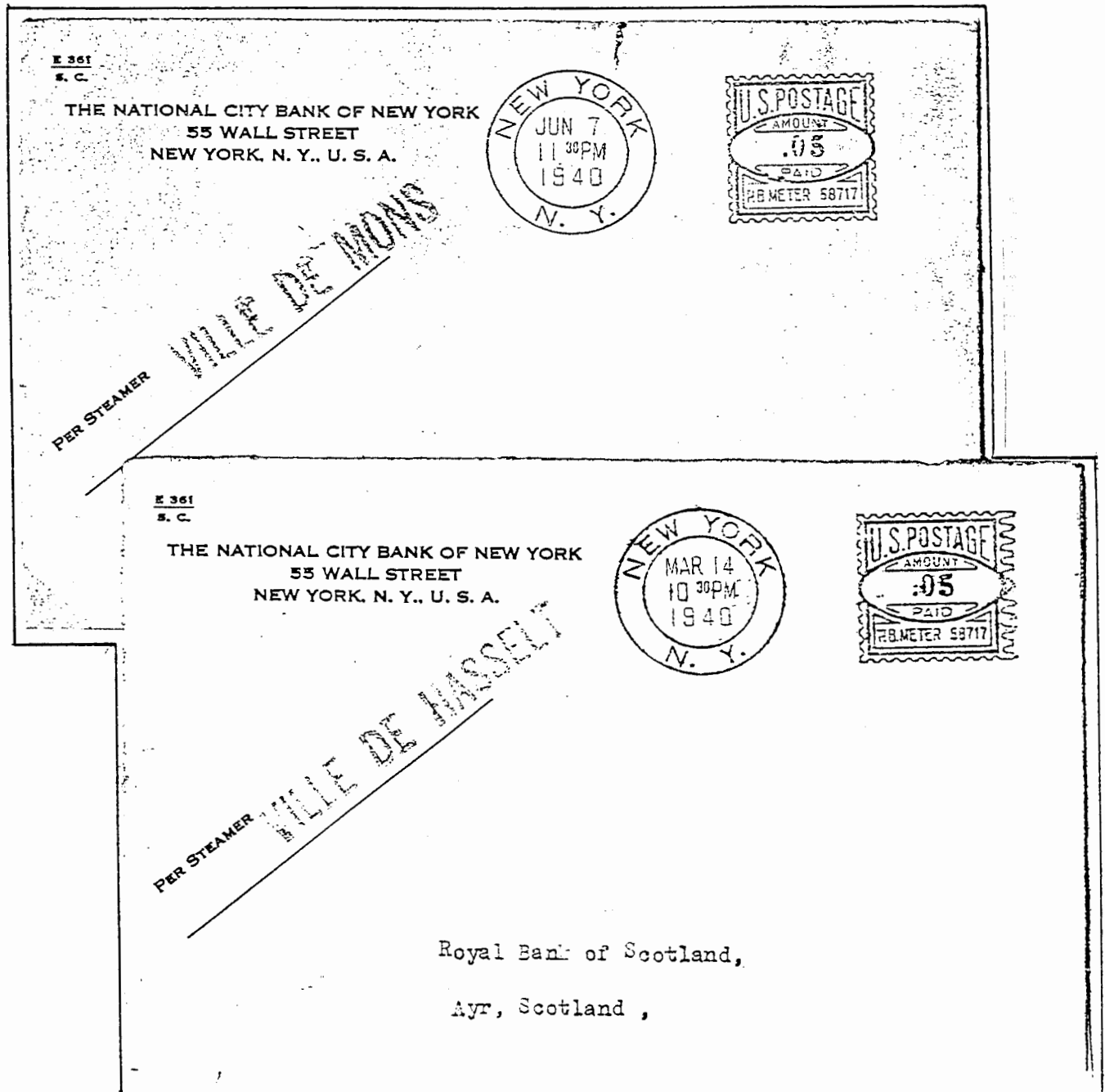
1	£.p. 50.00	42	£.p. 12.00	95	£.p. 20.00	150	£.p. 28.00	236	£.p. 5.00
2	21.00	46	15.00	96	12.00	151	26.00	237	4.00
3	60.00	47	25.00	97	27.00	152	24.00	239	4.00
4	31.00	48	9.00	99	21.00	153	15.00	240	3.00
5	9.00	49	25.00	100	4.00	157	26.00	243	4.00
6	18.00	50	15.00	101	20.00	159	5.00	245	5.00
7	15.00	51	20.00	102	16.00	162	4.50	246	6.00
8	20.00	52	55.00	104	7.50	163	10.00	248	4.00
9	11.00	53	26.00	105	2.00	164	2.50	253	5.00
10	16.00	54	18.00	106	14.00	165	3.50	254	7.00
11	21.00	55	24.00	107	11.00	166	6.00	255	6.00
12	12.00	56	7.00	108	21.00	171	5.00	256	3.50
13	12.00	57	17.00	109	12.00	173	5.00	257	7.00
14	13.00	58	10.00	110	26.00	179	4.00	258	1.50
15	18.00	59	25.00	111	22.00	186	3.00	259	4.50
16	15.00	60	25.00	112	22.00	187	4.00	260	5.50
17	12.00	61	14.00	113	10.00	193	7.00	261	3.50
18	35.00	62	18.00	114	11.00	198	65.00	262	7.00
19	10.00	63	25.00	115	45.00	202	15.00	263	5.00
20	13.00	64	10.00	116	5.00	206	2.00	264	6.00
22	18.00	65	17.00	120	5.00	207	8.00	266	2.00
23	35.00	66	16.00	127	10.00	208	16.00	267	3.00
25	20.00	67	18.00	130	10.00	209	8.00	269	31.00
26	19.00	68	7.00	131	23.00	210	6.50	271	7.00
27	10.00	70	10.00	132	10.00	211	3.00	272	5.00
28	18.00	71	15.00	133	21.00	212	4.00	274	4.00
29	21.00	74	14.00	136	15.00	216	8.00	275	4.50
30	15.00	75	15.00	137	16.00	217	6.00	277	18.00
31	25.00	76	15.00	138	26.00	220	8.00	279	8.50
32	20.00	78	10.00	139	20.00	221	15.00	280	5.50
33	75.00	79	20.00	140	12.00	222	17.00	281	9.00
34	8.00	80	8.00	141	8.00	224	2.00	283	6.00
36	17.00	82	10.00	142	8.00	225	18.00	284	5.50
37	9.00	86	8.00	145	7.00	226	16.00	289	3.00
38	9.00	90	14.00	147	8.00	230	10.00	290	2.50
40	13.00	91	8.00	148	8.00	231	10.00	---	---
41	26.00	93	11.00	149	7.00	235	10.00	---	---

END OF SALE

THE ANTWERP NAVIGATION CO.

This shipping line purchased a number of ships and was able to take mail at this time (1940).

They took over two ships "Ville de Mons" and "Ville de Hasselt". The first was built as "Tours" and the other "Marne" (built 1920). Both ships were of 7,450 tons and were taken over by this company in February, 1940. Both, however, were sunk by German submarines in the same year.



DR. WILHELM MOLLYORIGINATOR OF THE MORESNET LOCAL STAMPS (1886)

Some Notes by his Great-Grandson, Alan Swale (our member in France)

A completely unexpected by-product of joining the Study Circle has been the discovery that one of my ancestors had some small part in 19th Century philatelic history. I find this particularly ironic because, prior to becoming interested in philately at the beginning of 1993 when I inherited my late father's collection, I had spent much time on genealogical research, amassing huge files on the former inhabitants of the Cotswold village where I then lived, but never taking more than the most cursory interest in my own family. In discussion over the years with family history researchers from any parts of the world, I often came across fascinating tit-bits of information; indeed I used to say to people, dig deep enough and there are curious and interesting facts to be discovered in even the most humdrum family!

All I remembered about the Swale family was that my paternal grandmother was German and that her maiden name was Molly. She came originally from a place I had never heard of called Moresnet where her father was the doctor; all that I recall being told about him was that he lost a great deal of money playing SKAT - the German national card game!

I still remember my grandmother quite clearly even though she died in 1956. To the end she retained a strong German accent despite having lived in England since 1889 - a fact which apparently caused some problems during the First World War when my grandparents lived in London where there were periodic waves of anti-German sentiment. I particularly recall occasional visits to my grandparents' home in Tonbridge in the late 1930s and afterwards: to a small boy she seemed very foreign and strange, and the meals she served seemed to taste very different from those of my mother!

A later memory, towards the end of her life, is of her talking still lucidly of her childhood in Moresnet and how I used to think, what a strange place Moresnet was where you went from one country to another by crossing the road; I do not remember, though, ever hearing the even stranger story of Neutral Moresnet. I did wonder later how my grandfather, the fairly undistinguished son of the Superintendent of Cleansing for the City of Westminster, managed to acquire a German bride in the first place?



Back of a postcard, showing the Moresnet district

I now know a bit more about that: Karl Philipp Molly, Vicar of Blasbach in Germany from 1837, was in the habit of taking overseas boarders into his house and one of these was a young Englishman called John Simon, later Sir John (1816-1904), doctor to John Ruskin, friend of Oscar Wilde and the first Medical Officer of Health to the City of London. The young Simon developed a strong friendship with the Molly family and in particular with the sons of Karl Philipp, one of whom, Wilhelm, became a doctor and took up a practice in Moresnet in 1861. In London, Simon also knew the Swale family and when, in the 1880s, my grandfather's sister developed a serious arthritic disorder, on Simon's recommendation she was sent to Moresnet to be treated by Dr. Molly. While there, she of course met the doctor's daughter, Elisabeth, and must have sent such enthusiastic news of her back to England that my grandfather, Walter Swale, promptly went over himself and invited her back to England, ostensibly to see the Golden Jubilee of 1887 but also to be "vetted" by the rest of his family. This must have been successful because the couple were married in Moresnet in 1889, in the Protestant Church, followed over by a civil procedure presided over by the Deputy Burgomaster, the bride's father, Dr. Wilhelm Molly.

After the ceremony, my grandfather apparently paraded the main street handing out new English pennies to the local children; a family visitor to Moresnet in 1923 records meeting an old inhabitant who still had the penny she had been given and it "still shone like gold".

After honeymooning in Spa, my grandparents returned to England. Subsequently they and their children - including perhaps my father (born 1904) although I am not sure about that -

made frequent visits to Moresnet up to 1914, and occasionally after the war although by then both Dr. Molly (1919) and his wife (1918) were dead. One of the children, my father's elder brother, Eric, went there particularly often - his first visit was at the age of six months in 1890 - and late in his life wrote extensive reminiscences including a description of Moresnet and the Mollys in the early part of this century. At that time he was studying to be an engineer and worked in Aachen, the Ruhr and southern Germany; he was actually in Germany in August, 1914, when the war started and was subsequently interned for the duration at Ruhleben, near Berlin. His two sisters, my aunts, were also on the Continent in August, 1914, in Brussels (where one, a nurse, became acquainted with Nurse Cavell) and although not interned, were restricted by the German Military Police until 1918. My father in England was therefore left in the curious position of having all his siblings behind enemy lines from 1914 to 1918. But that is another story!

From my uncle's reminiscences of the Molly household and Moresnet before the First World War, I have selected a few paragraphs only; this, of course, was towards the end of Dr. Molly's life, long after the events of 1886 and the stamps, but I hope that they may be at least of some curiosity interest.

"But I cannot close this chapter without references to 'Jansmühle' and the good grandparents. Many weekends with them had revived multitudes of memories - of Oh-pa's (the family name for Dr. Molly) harmless irascibility, notably when he was called to the telephone, with its magneto crank-handle, and the inevitable 'Toby' (one of a long line of dogs) would chime in and the old man would shout 'Halt's Maul, Du Biest', sometimes causing the patient at the other end to say, 'Pardon, Herr Doktor'. And of Oh-ma's' (Frau Molly) efficiency in coping with a large household and tiny resources, but great-hearted courage.

"The rambling old house (converted from a former weaving shed) had a cool, slate-paved entrance hall. From this led the wide 'Sonntagstreppe', only used by visitors, and the lesser 'Alltagstreppe' (everyday staircase) for commoners. There were, as far as I recall, no carpets but all floors were finely stained and polished. Once I glimpsed the old couple in bed, each with a white cotton nightcap tied with ribbons under the chin. Within reach lay the thick felt 'Flohlappen' (flea-rag) in which Oh-ma deftly entangled the agile jumpers. The large nextdoor room was in chaos - masses of newspapers, bills, letters and piles of 'specimen sheets' sent by hopeful stamp dealers who knew the old man's weakness. (At one stage his philatelic zeal got him into trouble. He and the Burgomaster commissioned a set of pseudo-postage stamps, in eight values from one to fifty Pfennig. A contemporary postcard illustrates them all, with the caption 'Ansichten der Marken des neutralen Gebietes Moresnet aus der Verkehrszeit 1885-1886'. When the neighbouring plenary powers, Germany, Belgium and Holland, got wind of this their dignity was affronted and the issue was invalidated forthwith. If any still exist, they are valuable collectors' pieces.)

"The rear cobbled yard of 'Jansmühle' had an hen-house, wood-shed and stabling for two horses. One was coachman Hubert's, for driving the "Herr Rat" (Geheimer Sanitätsrat) on his rounds, in summer in a leather-hooded landau-like contraption, in winter in a sledge. Recently, about 1973, I learnt that the 'Doktor's Chaise' had been dug out again and had figured in a carnival parade complete with dummies of Dr. Molly and Apotheker Zinzen.

"Shopping in the village was always an event. The 'Consum' (Co-op shop) sold sugar sawn from graceful cones, wrapped in thick blue paper – it had Sauerkraut (an acquired taste, especially when it was rumoured that a piece of human flesh had once been found in the cask), and 'Kraut', a heavenly concoction, dark brown, incredibly sticky and made from long boiled-down apples. If we went with Oh-pa in the chaise, we might stop outside the Apotheker's house; while prescriptions were being discussed, the coachman nipped into the butcher's for a joint which was then stowed away under his seat, and brought home without paying customs duty. The old man would have been horrified but his wife was not beyond this harmless deceit.

"On Sunday mornings, I went with the old man to the Casino to drink a glass of wine and listen to light music (and, perhaps, to play SKAT – see above. A.S.). The Pastor would call now and then, mainly, I suspected to smoke the Herr Rat's cigars. He smelled of smoke and sweat and was not a very inspiring visitor.

"Among many memories of the old grandfather were his love of animals and children and his dislike of travel. He wore the strangest old suit and hats, and was fussy about personal cleanliness. After coming away from a patient he always rinsed his hands from a large bottle of methylated spirits that bulged from a jacket pocket, as also when he had given his horse a piece of sugar. He had never seen the sea and was said to have been away from his practice only twice since his campaigning days in the 1870s. He was politically quite naïve, had little of the jingoism of his sons and sons-in-law and was content now and then to denounce "die Schwarzen" (Catholics) and "die Sozen" (Socialists). He had various war decorations, but thought most of the Leopold's Order, 4th Class, awarded for good work among his many Belgian patients during a rampant typhoid epidemic."

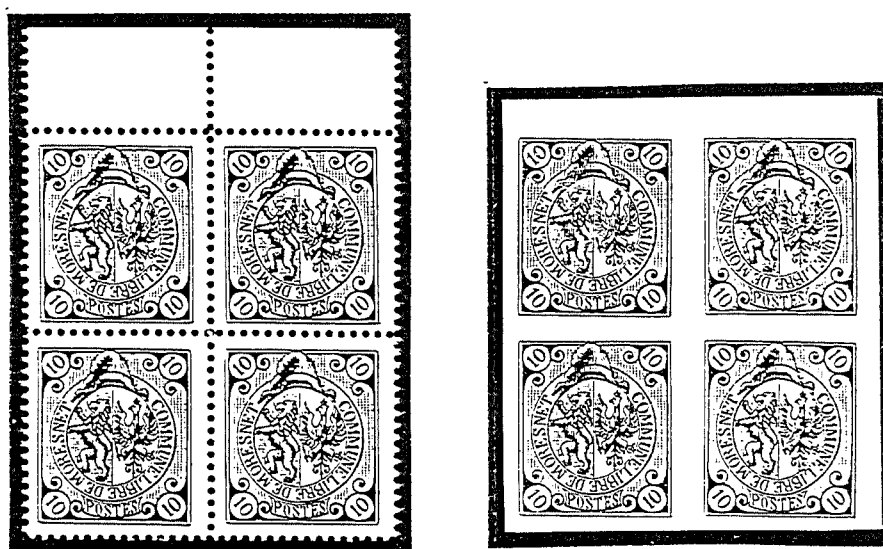


Dr Wilhelm Molly and his wife towards the
end of their lives. At Jansmühle,
Preussisch-Moresnet, 1915.

Dr. Wilhelm Molly died in February, 1919, at the age of 80, almost exactly a year after his wife, and was buried in the cemetery of the Protestant Church in Altenberg. A substantial headstone was erected over the grave, recording the names not only of Dr. and Frau Molly, but also three of their daughters who died unmarried. It appears that this stone was damaged by shell fragments in the Second World War and subsequently fell over, broke into two pieces, and was removed altogether about 1971. Subsequently, however, a memorial stone was erected in the same cemetery: a large black stone with unfinished edges and bearing the following inscription on its' face: "GEHEIMER SANITATSRAT / DR. MOLLY / 1838-1919 / 58 JAHRE IM TREUEN / DIENST AM NACHSTEN" His house at 'Jansmühle' is still standing although nearly engulfed in postwar housing development and now converted into six separate apartments. And quite close, a small road off Lütticherstrasse (the main Aachen road) in Kelmis bears the name "Doktor Mollystrasse". So the name is not quite forgotten.

And in the Swale family there is still one direct link: one of the aunts mentioned above as being in Brussels in 1914 is still alive in 1996 at the age of 102. Like my uncle, she too visited Moresnet and knew the Mollys, but unfortunately she does not now have any clear recollections from that time and seems not to have heard about the celebrated "stamps". (She, incidentally, was not only in Brussels when the Germans invaded in 1914, but again in 1940! After a series of adventures, she ended up in a Prison Camp in Bavaria where she was liberated by the US Army in 1945.)

My major regret about the whole of this story is that I did not know any of it at a time when I could have questioned my grandmother, my uncle and others about the detail. My grandmother, in particular, was in Moresnet with her father in 1886 and could well have answered the now unanswerable question: did Dr. Molly really intend that his stamps should be used postally or were they produced merely to sell to gullible collectors? Ah, well.



I should perhaps apologise to the readers of what is, after all a philatelic journal, for the almost complete absence from this article of any detailed remarks about stamps! My assumption is that most members of the Circle will already know about Moresnet and its philatelic story; if not, I can thoroughly recommend E. & M. Deneumostier, 'Territoire Neutre de Moresnet', Verviers, 1986 (in French). I understand also from our Secretary that the founder of the Circle, the late Harry Green, was interested in Moresnet and wrote on the subject; I have yet to see a copy of his book/article.

A RARE PUBLICITY TÊTE-BÊCHE!



Our member in Stockport, **James Moore**, recently acquired the above item and was curious to know about its status. It is an interpanneau (gutter) tête-bêche of the 70 Cent Leopold III Brown (COB 427 COL.OUVERT) of 1936, bearing in the centre a shield design containing the letters C.P.V. A logical check in the Catalogue Officiel in the PUBS sections shows PU96/98 but not of this advert.

It is apparently cancelled on two corners by an indistinct circular date stamp. He asks - is this a scarce, unlisted item?

I could recall having seen it somewhere and the item illustrated below turned up in my Exhibition bundle. It is on a thin card souvenir sheet which immediately removes the mystery created by the stamps which, in James' example, had been detached. It does, however, arouse my interest in its production and perhaps someone amongst our Belgian friends can help in establishing its full history.

For booklet production, various issues were printed in a special arrangement incorporating se-tenant and tête-bêche positions. In order to provide a margin for stapling the booklets, a blank row was left towards the centre of each pane of 100 stamps, which could then be cut vertically. Although not originally intended for sale in this format, whole sheets escaped and then the Post Office decided to sell direct as a result. This is how the tête-bêche stamps came into collectors' hands. They are listed in the catalogue as both tête-bêche and interpanneau tête-bêche.

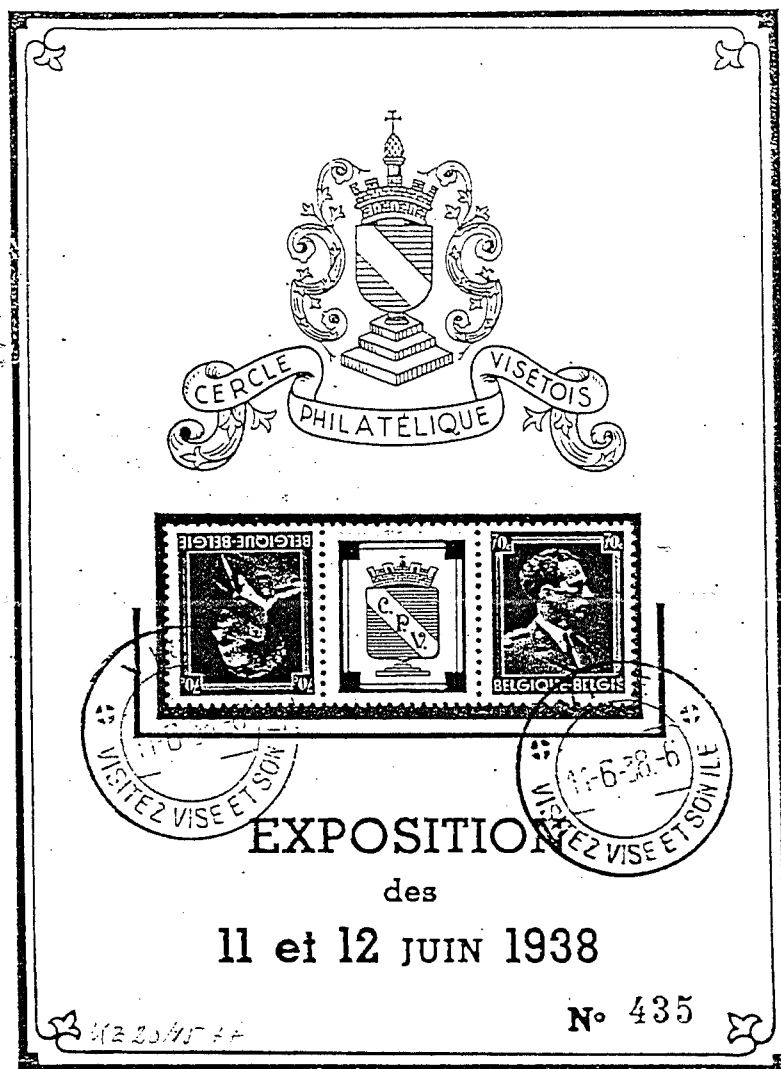
Under the latter, COB IN 20 is this item catalogued at around 170Bf unmounted mint. As there are only ten strips per pane, the Philatelic Circle of Vise must have purchased a quantity of sheets in order to carry out the overprinting which is carried out to a high standard in a colour almost identical to the original stamps. The souvenir sheet illustrated is marked No.435, which suggests the acquisition of a large number of sheets to acquire these gutter pairs and also a lot of left over stamps, unless the Post Office was willing to break the sheets up. I suspect to carry out this overprinting so accurately, whole sheets were involved.

Could a member please confirm:

1. How this overprinting was carried out and by which printer.
2. Did it require Post Office authorisation.
3. How many examples were produced and sold, and at what price it was sold presumably to visitors to the Exhibition.

Our recent sales have indicated a great interest in PUBS and perhaps it is a topic to which to return for a future display. This example shows the confusion that can arise when a "philatelic" creation is removed from its original setting.

REG HARRISON



BOOK REVIEWS

"Le Nord-Belge" by André Maguette (from his collection). 116 pages (10¼" x 8¼" - 258mm x 210mm). Paper covers.

Your reviewer and many members of the BSC who are particularly interested in the railway stamps and their postmarks had looked forward to the publication. We are sure that all will be disappointed in seeing this.

The postmarks of all the stations on this line are illustrated by hand drawings and also with a photograph of a railway stamp and a postmark. All we can say is that the drawings are somewhat poor (to say the least) and most of the photographs are unreadable.

A great disappointment.

"Répertoire des Gares et des Lignes du Réseau Ferroviaire Belge" by Michel Stas and André Maguette. Size A4. 129 pages. Paper covers.

This publication gives details of all the railway stations in Belgium and maps of each railway line showing each station on each line. There are some 167 lines! The book is well produced.

Both books are each priced at 300 BF + post, and can be obtained from André Maguette, 40 Rue Tanixhe, 4020 Liège, Belgium.

BRUSSELS POST OFFICES

2: THE SUB-OFFICES AND POST BOXES

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

With the increasing population of Brussels, and as early as 1758, it became necessary to install two "petite postes" or letter boxes. These were provided at Montagne de la Cour, and Rue des Fripiers, and in 1786, two additional letter boxes were necessary, these being at Marché aux Grains and Rue de Treurenberg. All letters posted in these boxes were sent to the central office.

By the French Period (from 1797), four boxes were still in use but one, Marché aux Grains, was transferred to Rue de Flandre; and these four were still in use up to 1831 when the new head office was opened at Rue de l'Evêque No. 31 - now Belgian Independence - and the posts now under the control of L. Bronne, who was charged to reorganise the service. He immediately opened two new letter boxes: Rue Haute and Rue de Schaerbeek, and by 1849 there were 22 boxes.

At the same time, four subsidiary offices (or "annexes") were opened in the suburbs:

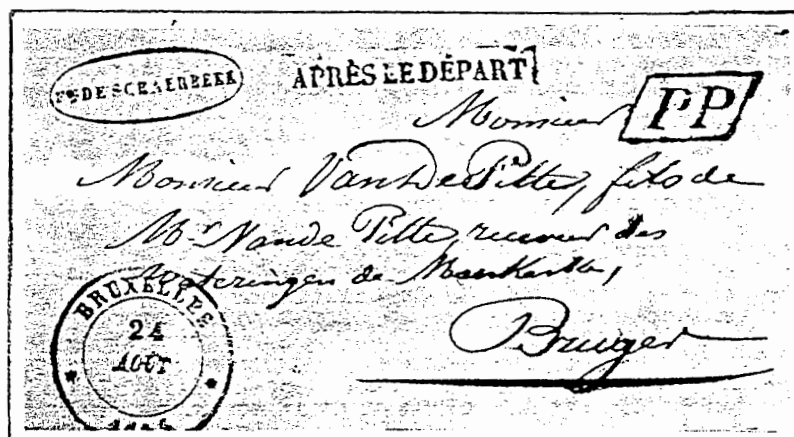
Faubourg des Flandres (at corner of Rue Coppens and Rue St. Jean) in Molenbeek;
Faubourg de Namur (at 445 Rue des Minimes);
Faubourg de Saint-Gilles (10 Chaussée de St. Gilles);
Faubourg de Schaerbeek (Rue du Méridien) at Saint-Josse-ten-Noode



Letters from these offices received an oval mark as shown, but all these are rare and no doubt, as only the top letter in a bundle would receive these marks, the bundle of letters being sent to the head office.

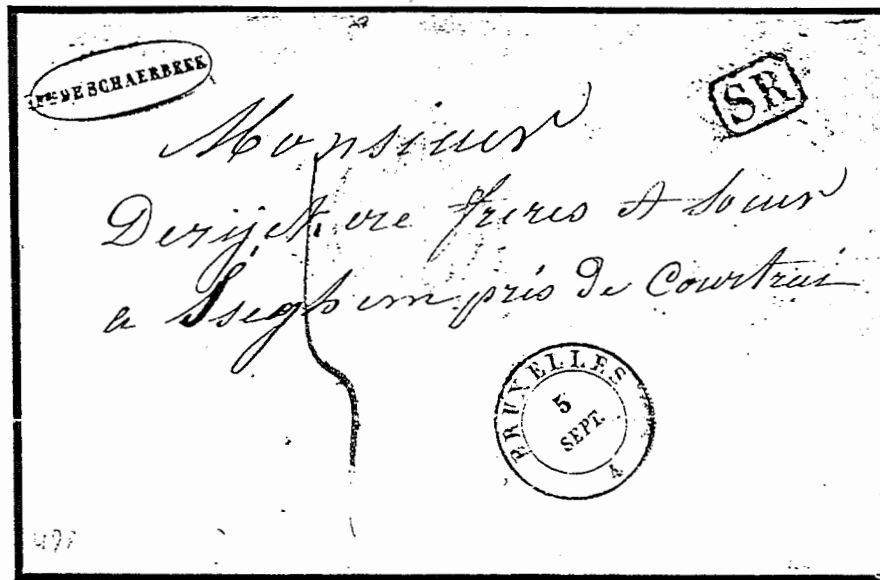
It is believed that only one copy is known from both St. Gilles and de Namur and no copy has been found for de Flandre.

However, for many years it has been believed to have four with the last - de Schaerbeek, and we illustrate the one shown (page 92) in "Les Marques Postales Prephilateliques" by L. Herlant (edition 1982).



24th August 1844
to Bruges

Recently, however, a small collection of letters were sold by Maison Willame on 2nd December, 1995 (Sale No. 209), addressed to Iseghem and two of the letters receiving the oval mark "FBG DE SCHAERBEEK", of which we show a superb copy.



5th September
1844
to Iseghem

With the continual increasing population of Brussels and the increasing usage of letters, five secondary offices were opened in 1845 - at 106 Rue Haute: 152 Rue de Flandre; Porte de Namur at l'Aubette de l'Octroi; Rue de la Sablonnière; and, 10 Rue du Midi.

In 1846, the office at Rue de la Sablonnière was closed and replaced by one at Rue Royale Neuve, 53. Porte de Namur was moved to Rue de la Pépinière, 2.

Each top letter in a bundle was marked (in blue ink) as shown here:



BEAU A etc. (Bureau de
Distribution A)

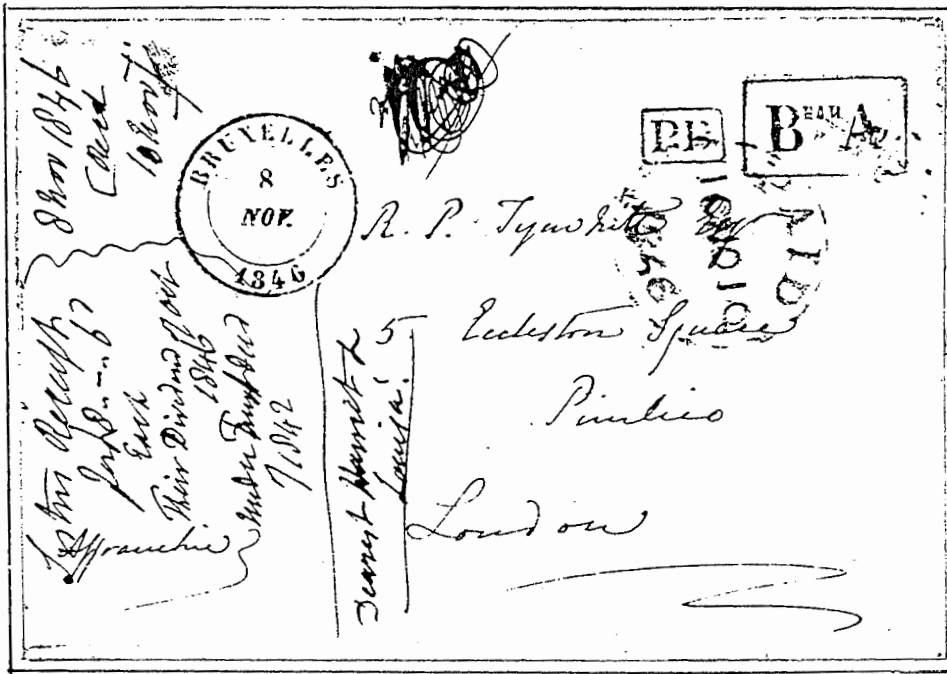
and would be sent to the head office five times a day for checking and the rates being marked on each letter.

The five marks given are as follows:

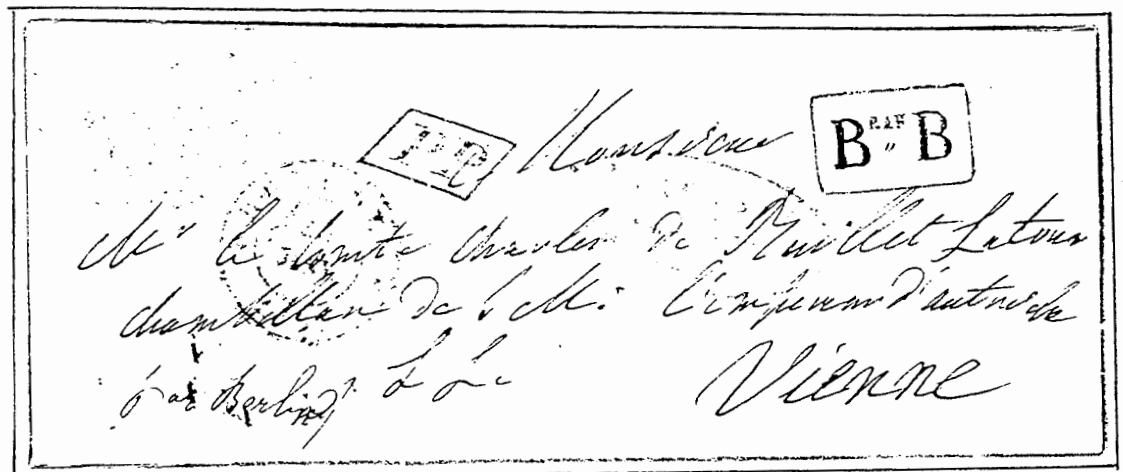
Beau A:	Rue de Sablonnière
Beau B:	Porte de Namur
Beau C:	Rue Haute
Beau D:	Rue de Flandres
Beau E:	Rue du Midi

Offices A, C, D, E were closed by 1852, but office B was closed in 1857.

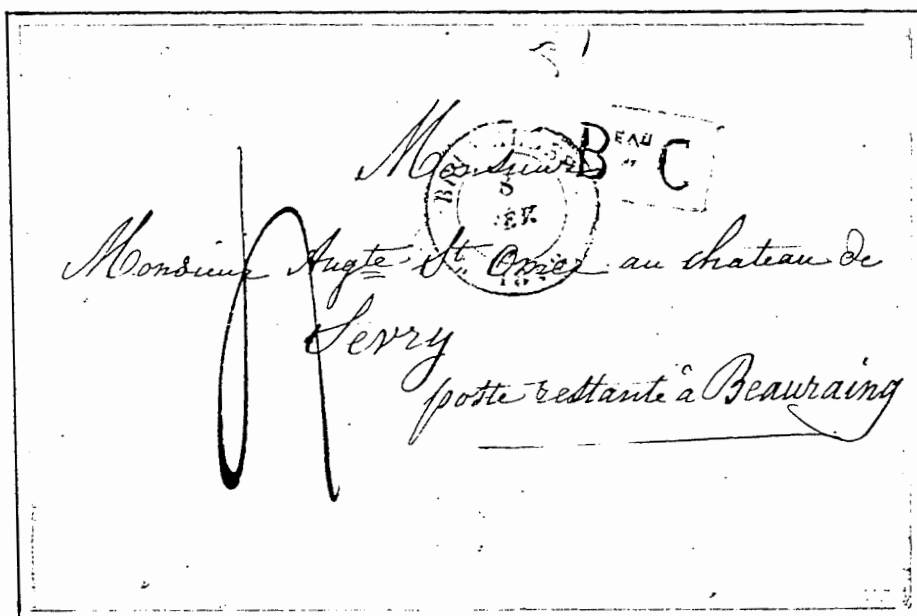
All the letters bearing the "BEAU" marks can be described as difficult to find, "E" being rare and particularly "B", which can be very rare (said to be +/- 12).



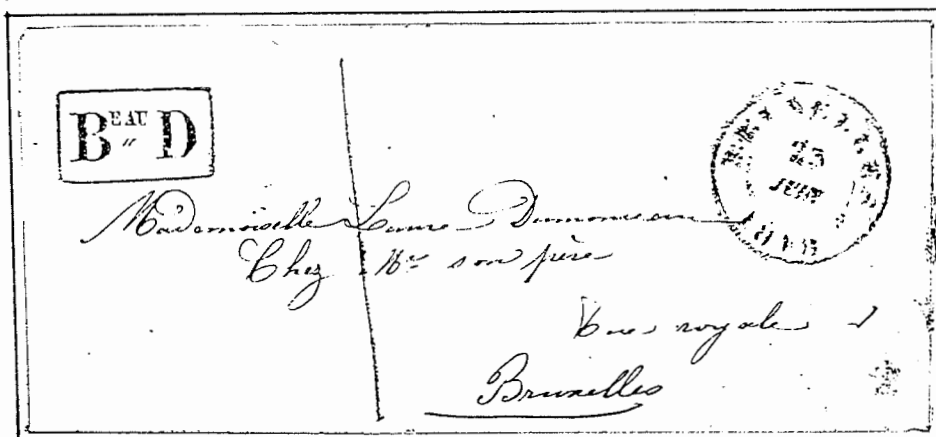
BEAU A
8th November 1846
to London



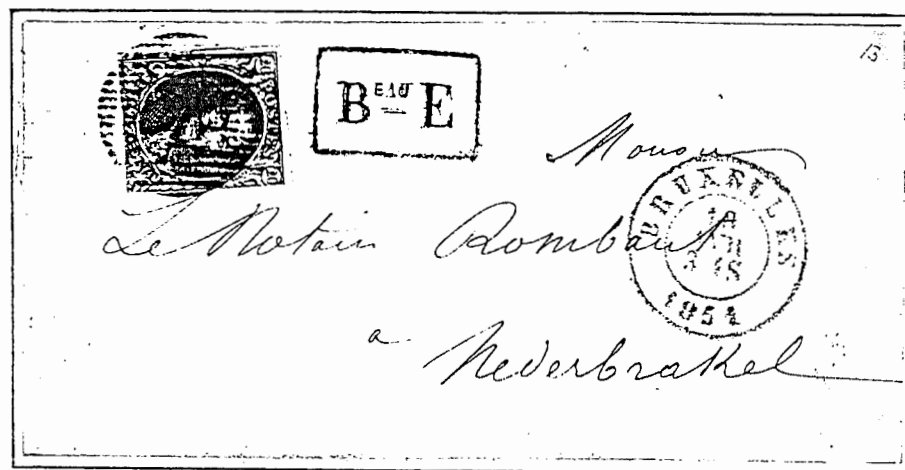
BEAU B
23rd January, 1850
to Vienna



BEAU C
8th February, 1848
to Severy



BEAU D
23rd June, 1848
local letter of Brussels



BEAU E
18th April, 1851
to Nederbrakel

Then, in 1861, the postal organisation opened four new offices:

- Bruxelles-Midi (at the Station du Midi, Place Rouppe)
- Bruxelles-Nord (at the Station du Nord)
- Bruxelles-Est (14, Chaussée de Wavre)
- Bruxelles-Ouest (70 Chaussée de Gand-Molenbeek-Saint-Jean)

In 1869 (6th November), Bruxelles-Midi was transferred to the new Railway Station.

(To be continued.....)

WATERLOW & SONS LTD.BELGIUM 1915 ISSUE and 1945 PARCEL POST

by Alec A. Turner

I have recently become interested in one particular aspect of Postage Stamp printing by Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. and would ask members of the Belgian Study Circle if they can help me to evaluate this further.

As you will probably know, Waterlows' during the long period when they printed stamps for many countries, including adhesives for your own specialisations, produced numbers of "Samples" using the Dies and Plates in their possession (and with permission). These Printers Samples were used by the Waterlow Representatives to show the ability of the company to produce high quality work, usually of Recess printing but later also by lithography.

One such of these items has recently attracted my attention and this concerns those samples, usually in colours differing from the issued stamps, either perf. or imperf. stuck on to card and having a number prefixed by the letters S.T. At present, even the precise meaning of the letters of this prefix is unknown - possible Specimen - Timbres?

Such items are frequently found as singles although cards from the Sample Books and showing multiple stamps are known. The S.T. numbers have so far proved unique to specific stamps/colours. Occasionally these stamps may be found as multiples e.g. strips of three.

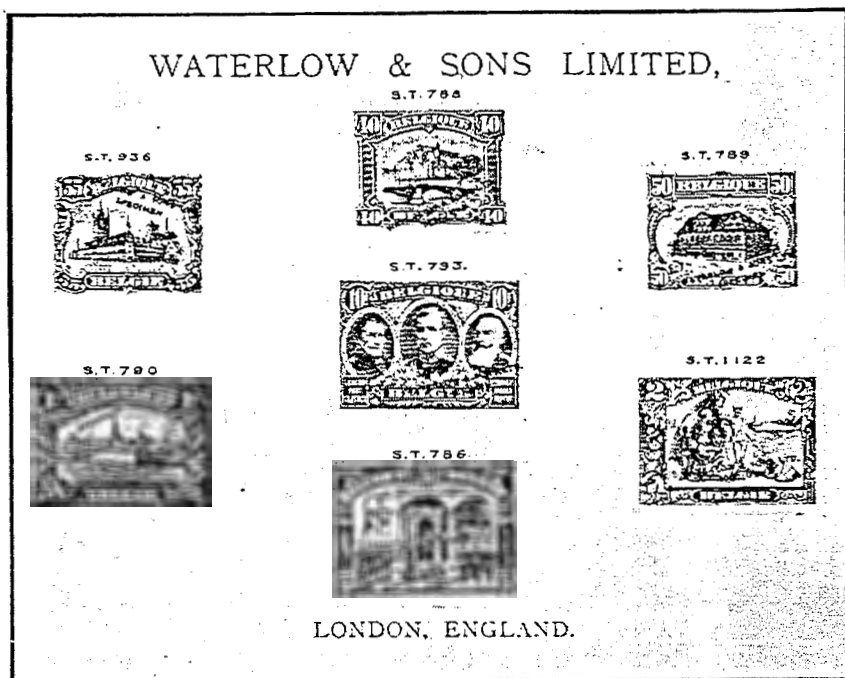
The numbering is sequential to the period of use but unfortunately this means that the stamps for any one country or area are spread over the lists. The Waterlow Study Circle is attempting to create a definitive listing. We have been helped considerably by the work done, initially by Marcus Samuel, later revised by Geoffrey Wood, on the material available at the time Waterlows' was taken over by De la Rue. The Marcus Samuel lists are in articles in the Essay Proof Journal. However, each stamp needs to be positively identified (S.G. number, etc.) together with colour of the Sample stamp and format (from miniature sheets, composite sheets or full plate, etc.). Confirmation of those shown in the listing would be welcome as well as any additions, amendments, revisions or comments. It is to be hoped that with the co-operation of Groups and Societies, a definitive listing will eventually be produced.

Any information would be greatly appreciated via Geoffrey Wood.

The stamps currently listed for Belgium are as follows: 1915 Issue S.T. 787-90, 792-93, 936, 1122 and 1945 Railway Parcels 2085-6.

I have added what S.T. numbers and colours I have seen listed.

		<u>S.T. No.</u>	<u>S.G. No.</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Colour</u>
1915	Pictorials	788	189	40c	Ochre
		789	190	50c	Blue
		790	191	1f.	Brown
		1122	192	2f.	Rose Carmine
		For 35c see S.T. 936, see note below also.			
1915	Pictorial	786	193	5 Franken	Green
		793	195	10f.	Blue
1915	Pictorial	936	188	35c.	Green
				See 787-9	

NOTE:

In Essay Proof Journal 111, p.124, Marcus Samuel suggests that the 35c, 40c, 50c, 1f and 2f may either be Direct Plate printings, or "probably later reproductions of the engraved stamps with the frames or the whole stamps (1f and 2f) lithographed". In each case the frame colour is a slightly different shade. (There is NO S.T. number recorded for the 2f, but see 1122.)

1945	Railway Parcels	2085	P1101	3f.	Ultramarine
		2086	P1103	5f	Red

MEMBER NEWS EXTRA

Marc Lebrun advises that our French member, Jean-Claude Porignon, recently entered an exhibit entitled "Affranchissements vers L'Étranger à l'Époque des Médaillons at the Club Arsenal in Rocourt. He was awarded a Vermeil Medal, plus the Grand Prix of Liege. Congratulations.

Bernard Gillman-Davis of Sussex advises that in the County Competition on 30th March, he was one of 30 entries judged by Frank Jones and Brian McCloy. His entry, "Postal History of the Netherlands 1740-1814", was awarded a Gold Medal and kept the Belgian Flag waving!

Jean Bruwier of Seraing recently became a grandfather of triplets. Let us hope that the extra work involved will not distract him from his Eupen and Malmedy interest!

The doyen of Belgian philately, René Silverberg, recently made a pilgrimage to Croydon which he last saw as a refugee in 1920. Accompanied by his grandson, Philippe, he visited the house where he had lived for one year. Our President, Geoffrey Wood, together with Reg Harrison, entertained him to dinner and were able to cover numerous aspects of Belgian philately, both past and present. He was presented with some of the Circle's original Luncheon Menus and asked for his regards to be given to all the Circle members.

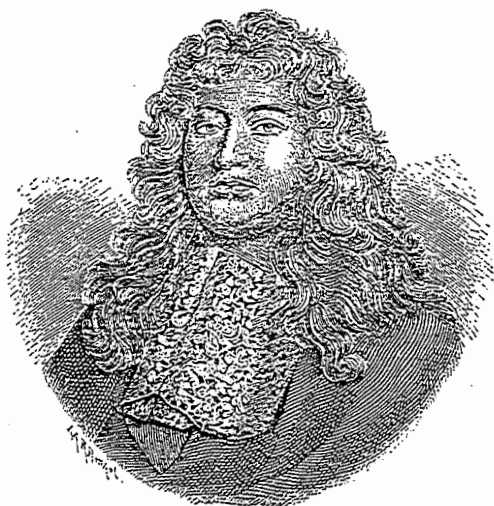
Chris Howe of Dorset has recently had a problem with gallstones which prevented him from attending the AGM. He hopes that by the time you read this he will have undergone the operation (keyhole surgery) and be back in good health once again.

THE CAMPS BEFORE GHENT AND YPRES, 1678

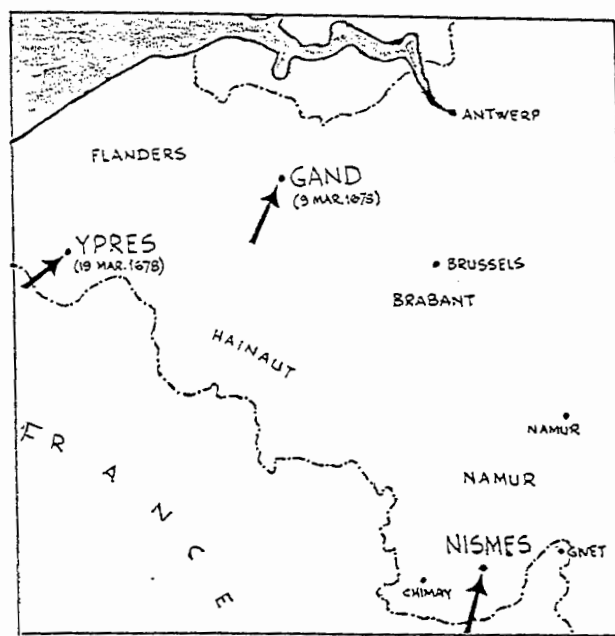
"..... war continued to be the incessant scourge of Flanders, and during the marching and countermarching of armies across this battlefield of Europe, Ypres scarcely ever knew what peace meant. Four times besieged and four times taken by the French in the wars of Louis XIV, the town had no rest; and for miles all round it the fields were scarred by the new system of attacking strong places which Vauban had introduced into the art of war. Louis, accompanied by Schomberg and Luxembourg, was himself present at the siege of 1678."

Extract from "BELGIUM" by G. W. T. Omond, 1907

The King of France took the cities of Ghent and Ypres in March, 1678, and we show two letters (reduced). The first from the Camp before Ghent on 9th March, and the other on the 19th March from the Camp before Ypres. Both letters are signed by "De Louvois".



François Marcel le Tellier, Marquis de Louvois (1641-91) became French Minister of War in 1666, and brought the army to a high state of efficiency. For 18 years he was one of the directors of French policy. He was, from 1668-91, the Superintendent of the Posts and Relais of France.



The two letters were sent to M. Daguesseau, who was Councillor of the King in His Councils and Inspector General in Languedoc.

The King, who was in the area at the time of these letters, was Louis XIV of France (b.1638, d.1715). His ministers, especially Colbert, and his generals Turenne, Condé, Luxembourg and the military engineer, Vauban, were the greatest of their time. During the reign (1643-1715), there were wars against the Spanish Netherlands, Holland, Spain and Germany. The last of the reign was the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714).

S.J.A.

*Au camp devant Gand ce 9^e
mars 1678.*

Monsieur

*Jevous adresse une despesche du
Roy par laquelle vous verrez
ce que Sa Ma^{te} desire de vous
a l'occasion du passage de troupes
qui vont en Roussillon, L'intention
de Sa Ma^{te} est si particulièrement*

From the Camp before Gand.
9th. of March, 1678.

Sir,

I forward you a message from the King, from which you will see
what His Majesty requires of you on the occasion of the passage of
the troops going to Roussillon. His Majesty's wishes are so clearly
detailed therein that I need only refer to them and sign myself

Your very humble and loving servant,

de Louvois

Monsieur

*Vostre humble et tres affecte
serviteur*

Louvois

M. Daguisseau

*Plainte du M^r Davenes Cap^{te}
de Dragons contre des habitants
de Nismes* *du camp devant ypres le 19^e
mars 1678.*

Monsieur

*Vous verras par la lettre cy jointe
du S^r Cartoir Davenes cap^{te} me
au regiment de dragons de*

Complaint made by M. Davenes,
Capt. of Dragoons, against the
inhabitants of Nismes.

From the Camp before Ypres,
19th. of March, 1678.

Sir,

You will see from the enclosed letter from M. Cartoir Davenes Captain of the Regiment of Dragoons of Languedoc, that several inhabitants of Nismes, as a result of a quarrel with some of his dragoons, have come to blows with the latter. The judge of that town has therefore imprisoned some who were not present at the incident, for which reason he has forwarded his complaint to you. His Majesty desires you to enquire into the matter, and that you deal with the guilty persons as you think fit.

I am

Sir,
Your very loving and humble servant
de Louvois

Jugez à propos, Je suis

Monsieur

*Je suis humble et très affectue
Serviteur*

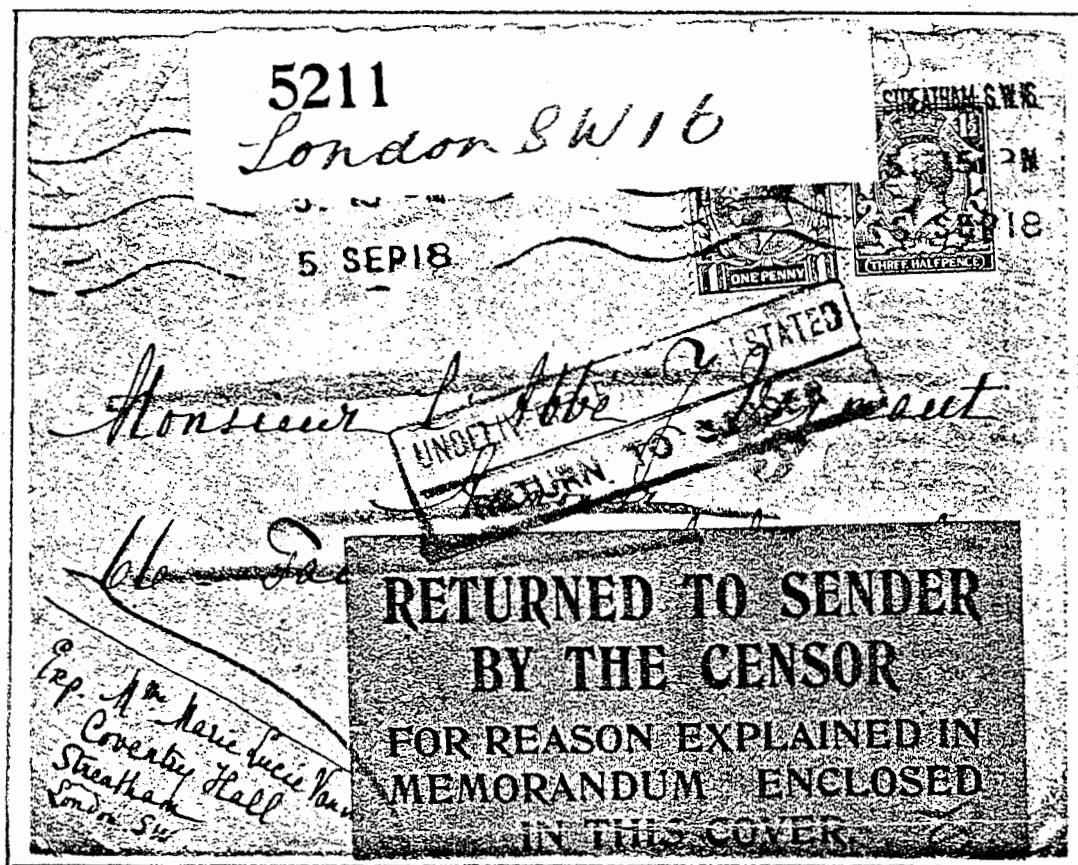
M. Louvois

M. Davenes

MAIL UNDELIVERABLE IN TIME OF WAR

From Streatham, 5th September, 1918, to Belgium but returned by the censor. The green censor label and with blue crayon initials, which connect with the three items also shown (and which were in the envelope).

(R. I. JOHNSON COLLECTION)



40.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

The accompanying regulation applies equally to all correspondence, whether business or private, which may contain an enclosure or message for transmission to an enemy or enemy occupied country.

MS

NOTES FOR PERSONS WISHING TO COMMUNICATE WITH FRIENDS IN ENEMY COUNTRIES OR A COUNTRY IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE ENEMY.

Letters or Post Cards should be written in English, French, Flemish, or German, and must contain nothing but matter of personal interest. No reference should be made to any phase of the War. No mention may be made in such letters, etc., of any Office of THOS. COOK & SON, at home or abroad.

Picture Post Cards and Photographs of persons or places cannot be sent.

Communications must be as brief as possible, in order to avoid delay in censoring.

Letters must be placed in an open envelope fully addressed to the addressee.

The envelope containing the Letter or Post Card should be placed in an outer envelope and posted to THOS. COOK & SON, SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, LUDGATE CIRCUS, E.C. 4, together with a memorandum, plainly written, containing the full name and address of the sender and instructions as to the forwarding of a reply, should one be received from the correspondent. THOS. COOK & SON endorse on each communication the address to which the recipient should reply should he desire to send an answer.

The communication to THOS. COOK & SON must enclose Postal Order value 1/- (International Coupons cannot be accepted), which fee will cover:-

- (1) The postage of one Post Card or of an envelope (containing one communication) to the neutral country.
- (2) Postage from the neutral country to the enemy country.
- (3) In case a reply is sent from the correspondent in an enemy country, the fee also includes postage from the neutral country to Cook's Head Office in London, and from that office to the original sender of the communication, but does not include the cost of postage of the reply from the enemy country to the neutral country.
- (4) Letters exceeding one ounce in weight will be subject to an additional charge.

Communications in French, German, or Flemish by Dutch or Swiss Post Cards can be sent under this arrangement to but not from certain places in Belgium, including among others, Antwerp, Brussels, Liege, and Verviers, the charge being 6d. each. Where a reply is desired, the sender must insert an address in Holland or Switzerland, to which it can be sent. If the sender cannot furnish such address, it will not be possible to obtain a reply. Communications cannot be sent to Ostend, Ghent, Bruges, Charleroi, places in East or West Flanders, and certain other districts in the area under Military jurisdiction. THOS. COOK & SON can supply the Post Cards.

THOS. COOK & SON undertake this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part, or on the part of any person or agent employed by them.

Communications for Prisoners of War must not be sent under the foregoing arrangements, but forwarded in accordance with the regulations to be obtained at any Post Office.

(154/2/12.)—10,000.

45a.

In addition to Messrs. T. Cook & Son, the following Association has, up to present date, been duly authorised by the War Office to act as an intermediary for persons desiring to correspond with occupied Belgium:-

Bureau de Correspondance Belge,
28, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

REVIEW OF JOURNALS

"L'Amicale Philatélique" - The November, 1995 issue (No.409) contains a 14-page article, well illustrated, on the Postal Relations between Belgium and the Congo during the 2nd World War, by Henri Smets. Also a two-page article by Noël Coutsier on the 1946 period on rationing in France, and the vignettes.

No.410 (December, 1995) contains a most interesting article (by Lucien Janssens) on the stamps and postal history of the issue "Propagande pour l'Exportation Belge 1948-49" (C.O. 761-771) (11 pages).

The January issue (No.411) covers "Fur deutsche Verwaltung" by Gerhard Ludwig (9 pages) - the Germans in Belgium, First World War. The same issue has an interesting one-page article by Jean De Bast on "Bureau Ambulant de l'Ouest 3".

The following issue (February, No.412), again by Gerhard Ludwig, this time on the 1918 movement of troops (12 pages).

"Cercle De Philatélie Paul De Smeth" - We have not previously reviewed this journal. The editor is Mme. L. Meys, Rue Capitaine Joubert 44/3, 1040 Bruxelles. Published ten months a year. It is A4 size, approx. 550 copies per issue. Each issue is very similar to "L'Amicale" and each contains an auction list of +/- 600 items. André Vatlet (President de la Sté Belge de Marcophilie et d'Histoire Postale), provides an article (6 pages) on the postmarks of the various areas of Brussels. The first issue we have - No.240, December 1995, contains the postmarks of Boitsfort.

The next issue (no.241, January 1996) the same subject, this time for Watermael. Also a three-page article on the Local Posts in Germany, by Roger Vervisch.

"Posthistorama" (Belgian Postal History) No.12, December 1995. We have reviewed this journal earlier. It is A4 size and about 56 pages per issue and, at present, without advertisements. The editors are Francine and Claude Delbeke, of Ekenbekerdeef 24, 9880 Aalter, Belgium. 650 BF per annum. 300 copies per issue. It is mainly in Flemish.

Within this issue we find a number of interesting articles, amongst which are:

1. The Netherlands Tariffs in the period 1807-1827 (Cl. Delbeke).
2. Maastricht 1830-1839 (H. Van Vucht).
3. The Effective Date of the Service of the Obliteration "Losange de Points" (J. Cl. Porignon).
(The author is a member of the BSC and hopes to send us a translation.)
4. Disinfected Letters (1st part). (Cl. Delbeke).

STAMPEX - JANUARY, 1996

After a number of years at Westminster, a new venue in Islington - which will take a little while for philatelists to grow accustomed to. All under one roof, albeit on several levels in a centre designed for visitors. However, early arrivals still had to stand outside in blizzard-like conditions until the doors were officially opened (and then queue for the available toilets).

A number of Post Offices were represented and a good cross section of dealers to satisfy most needs and interests. Finding suitable Belgian material took time and money, proving what a good source our own Circle auctions provide. For myself, I had little change after paying for the cloakroom and basic refreshments.

Can I suggest that, if possible, BSC members planning to attend let the Secretary know so that some rendezvous can be arranged.

MERODE ISSUE 1914 SG 151/3, COB 126/8

As there is renewed interest in these stamps amongst some of the newer members of the Circle, the following may be of interest. This issue was first dealt with in Record No.5 and was the subject for a display at our lunch on 7th March, 1981. The late Bert Hancock had translated an article written by M.M.R. Vervisch and Rene Van Rompay from the Kwartaalblad voor Filatelie of August, 1980; this amplified our previous knowledge. Owing to an oversight, this further information was not published in "BELGAPOST": belatedly, this is now being rectified.

These stamps were lithographed by Verschueren of Antwerp. The three panes for each value were placed horizontally on a stone approximately 21 inches long by 10 inches: so for this issue four stones would be required, one for each value and one for the red crosses for the 5c and 20c values.

As a point of interest, the fine grained Austrian limestone used was that in which the fossil pterodactyl occurs.

I first give details of the genuine stamps and then those of the forgeries or illicit printings. As the forgeries were produced at the Verschueren works, I prefer the term illicit print to forgery.

Although all the accounts state that the stones on which the genuine stamps were printed were destroyed in the presence of the Belgian Post Office officials, I think it more likely that the genuine impressions were cleaned off so that the stones could be used again – the normal practice in lithography. They would not want to waste good stones in wartime! The varieties which are found on the genuine stamps are those listed in Record No.5 and a further list from Balasse Magazine No.153 of May, 1964. This was given in Newsletter No.88 of September, 1964, which I regret to say embodied one or two misprints. I have separated those varieties peculiar to one value and those found on the Red Cross stone.

	GENUINE	FORGERY A ILLCIT PRINT A	FORGERY B ILLCIT PRINT B
Paper	Creamy Grained Fine Texture Smooth Feel	Thin White	Rough
Gum	Thin, Matt Finish	Thick Cracked Vertically	Thick Cracked Vertically
Centring	Variable	Usually Very Good	Usually Very Good
<u>Colour</u>			
5c	Green	Green	Blue Green
10c	Rose Red	Rose Red	Vermilion
20c	Lilac	Lilac	Violet
Red Cross	Matt Red Usually Regular Corners without Breaks or Distortions	Shiny Some Crosses Very Misshapen	Shiny Some Crosses Very Misshapen

The following illustrations are all taken from the Quarterly Journal of Philately. The study of the illicit prints (forgeries) is of interest. They also were printed from stones containing three panes of twenty-five placed horizontally: but the position of the individual panes is not known.

5 CENTIMES

GENUINE

1. Vertical line of left '5' thin but not broken.
2. 'BELGIQUE' is centred in its frame
3. Leaf above first 'E' of BELGIQUE stands free.
4. The letters E L and U E are touching each other at top and bottom.
5. The second 'E' of BELGIQUE is closed.
6. The letters of BELGIE are touching at bottom.



1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE I (FORGERY A)

1. Vertical line of left 5 not thinned.
2. BELGIQUE is closer to top frame.
3. E L of BELGIQUE joined at base.
4. Vestige of a tail to 'Q'.
5. Bases of letters of BELGIE not all joined.
6. Base of right 5 very thin.

1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE II (FORGERY A)

1. Vertical line of left 5 not thinned.
2. BELGIQUE is closer to top frame.
3. E L of BELGIQUE not joined at bottom.
4. No tail to 'Q'.
5. Base of letters of BELGIE not all joined.
6. Base of right 5 thicker.



2nd ILLICIT PRINTING (FORGERY B)
(CUNNING FORGERY)

1. Vertical line of left 5 has break at top (not always). A break often occurs at base of 5.
2. Small varying imperfections in left foliage.
3. Shorter or broken line in the volute above right.
4. Small curved line almost disappears in circle at top right.
5. Poor definition especially between legs of central figure.

10 CENTIMES

GENUINE

1. Leaf almost touches first 'E' of BELGIQUE.
2. Semi Circular line in curl above 'L' of BELGIQUE.
3. Part of the foliage over letters Q U form straight line.
4. Second 'E' in BELGIQUE open.



1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE I (FORGERY A)

1. Leaf further from first 'E' of BELGIQUE.
2. Letter 'Q' has no tail.
3. White line is thicker under 'L' of BELGIQUE.
4. Coloured spot in gutter above 'G' of BELGIQUE.

1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE II (FORGERY A)

1. Leaf further from first 'E' of BELGIQUE.
2. Letter 'Q' has no tail.
3. White line under BELGIQUE is regular.
4. Coloured spot under left figure 1.
5. Break in lower left inner frame-line of Right Shield.
6. Spot in gutter to right of top of Right Shield.



2nd ILLICIT PRINTING (FORGERY B)
(CUNNING FORGERY)

1. Lot of breaks in top frame.
2. No little line or scarcely visible line in curl above 'L' of BELGIQUE.
3. No dot or barely a dot in right 'O'.
4. No line or broken line in circular ornament at top right.
5. Broken lines in foliage at right.
6. Poor definition of the print.

20 CENTIMES

GENUINE

1. Left figures dent in R-hand part of 2, colour in R-hand part of 0.
2. Only letters of U E are joined.



1st ILLICIT PRINTING (FORGERY A TYPE I) TYPE 1

1. The 'Q' has no tail.
2. Curved white line under BELGIQUE is filled with colour under 'G'.

1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE II (FORGERY A TYPE II)

1. The 'Q' has no tail.
2. Scratch in left frame by Left Shield (not in all copies).
3. Bump in circle by ball of left 2.



2nd ILLICIT PRINTING (FORGERY B)

1. No colour in the left 'O'.
2. The ribs of the leaves are indistinct.
3. The little line in the curl near the end 'E' of BELGIQUE is broken into three or almost non-existent.

1st ILLICIT PRINTING TYPE III (FORGERY A TYPE III)

It is probable that this has had the tail added to the 'Q' by hand at a later date.

I have the set of three values in used pairs with the tail added. All are postmarked ANTWERPEN-ANVERS 6M 2 X 12-13 -.

Some of these stamps show varieties which are found on Forgery A stamps.

So far in these articles, I have dealt almost exclusively with mail coming out of Holland. This is due to the distinct nature of the much sought after markings seen on these covers. It must not be forgotten, however, that there was at least as many, if not more, items of mail going into Holland, most of it from relatives and comrades of those interned. Generally speaking, such mail looks ordinary and is only distinguished by the address of its destination and arrival markings if present.

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Passage of mail was laid down for prisoners-of-war in various conventions, including the Treaty of Rome 1906, but an occupying army makes its own rules and, in September 1915, the free franchise was suppressed.

Holland was, however, a neutral country and international conventions allowed for freepassage of mail. Much mail, therefore, was sent indirectly via postboxes or forwarding addresses from where it could be passed on to the camp internees. Another channel was through the official Agencies, Red Cross, etc. but most official stationery bore the legend KRIEGSGEFANGENENSENDUNG (Prisoner of War mail) and was disliked for that reason.

AGENCE BELGE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS
POUR LES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BRUSSEL 14-15 11-IV-15 1 BRUXELLES

N° 9

Geinterneerd

Monsieur *Lydia Deham*
3^{ème} *chasseurs à pied 2/1*
Régiment belge
Belgisch regiment } *internés Belge zeist*
Hollande
à te } *Baraque 10*

SOUS LE PATRONAGE
DE LA CROIX ROUGE DE BELGIQUE

FRANCHISE DE PORT

Red Cross card to Zeist - April, 1915

Kriegsgefangenensendung-Geinterneerd

MONS 21.3.15.4591

Monsieur *Alfred Nobbe*
Caporal au
Régiment belge } *6^{ème} chasseurs à pied*
Belgisch regiment } *Prisonniers de guerre*
à (VILLE) *Harderwijk*
te (PAYS) *Hollande*

Adressez votre réponse comme suit :
Bureau de renseignements, 9, rue Lamir, MONS.

POUR REMETTRE A :
Nom et Adresse de l'Expéditeur
A. Drey, 43 rue Daugimont
Monsieur

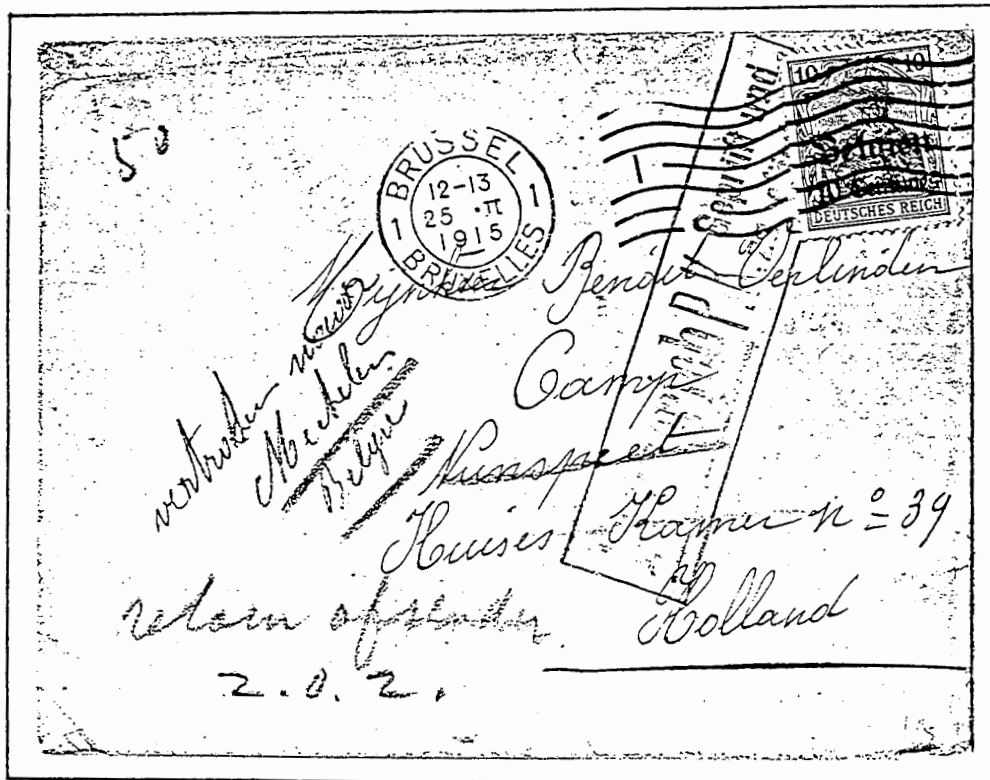
FRANCHISE DE PORT - SERVICE GRATUIT

Mons Bureau to Harderwijk - March, 1915
(note misspelling of heading)

Throughout the war, clandestine and smuggled mail occurred but progressively the border was sealed and electrified, confining crossing to restricted points where searches were carried out. The penalties if caught were severe, sometimes death, and the sister of our late member, Arnold Cuigniez, was caught and imprisoned for six months in Malines for carrying a letter.

Although difficult to find and verify on covers, there is a section in P. Leclercq's book, "Etude sur les Obliterations de Postes Militaires Belges de Campagne 1888-1946", pp.13-17, dealing with secret codes on letters mainly within Belgium - so perhaps the Germans were justified in their implementation of restrictions. Understandably, many such documents were destroyed to eliminate any evidence or recriminations.

Plain cards/letters from Occupied Belgium to the Dutch Camps are, in my experience, unusual - nearly everything I have seen is an official card or document.



Plain Envelope to Nunspeet - February, 1915 (returned)

MAIL FROM THE ETAPPENZONE

If mail from Occupied Belgium to Holland is scarce, by comparison anything from the fighting zones is extremely rare. Throughout the war, a very tight control was kept over all aspects of life in this zone due to the sensitive nature of military movements and strengths.

In December 1916, the issue of a new series of overprinted stamps with the word 'BELGIEN' omitted allowed closer control to be exercised over mail originating from these zones. Together with the strict handling of these stamps - not for sale but applied direct to mail on sending - it enabled tight supervision of correspondence. Most mail I have seen is to Brussels or of an official rather than personal nature.

Likewise with the postal stationery issued and especially the ZIVILARBEITER cards which touched upon those working in front positions and therefore in possession of military knowledge. I have yet to see a cover direct from the Etappen zone to Holland not channelled through an intermediary - authorised or otherwise.

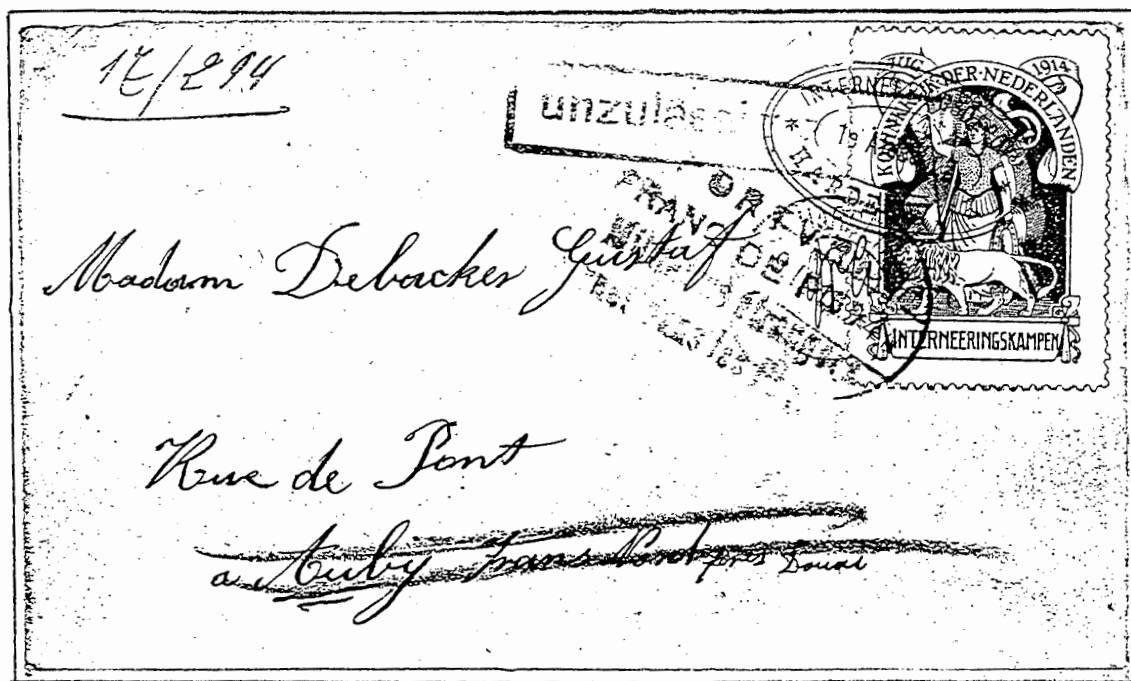
The authorised sources were the various Agencies, including the Red Cross, but even then it was normal for mail to originate from outside the Etappen zone. From this zone, direct mail contact with Holland was restricted so roundabout routes were used with much mail being "re-addressed" on arrival in Holland. Needless to say, mail coming back in the opposite direction was even more difficult – hence the need for smuggling across the Dutch frontier.

Throughout most of the war, the Etappen zones comprised East and West Flanders, both of which shared a frontier with Holland. As previously mentioned, control of this frontier was progressively tightened but passage was possible for authorised persons. Included in this category was the Consul at Sas-Van-Gent whose chauffeur driven car made frequent border crossings without search. During long lunchtimes, the contents of the car undertook a radical change The same Consulate was also used for mail sent through more open channels from the start of the war.

CAMP DEPOT ADMINISTRATIVE CACHETS

Apart from the PORTVRIJ etc. and postal cachets previously described, many covers had applied to them official cachets designating the original camp, group or depot from which the cover started. Silverberg lists some 40+ different types in his book and, in my experience, they are much scarcer than postal cachets.

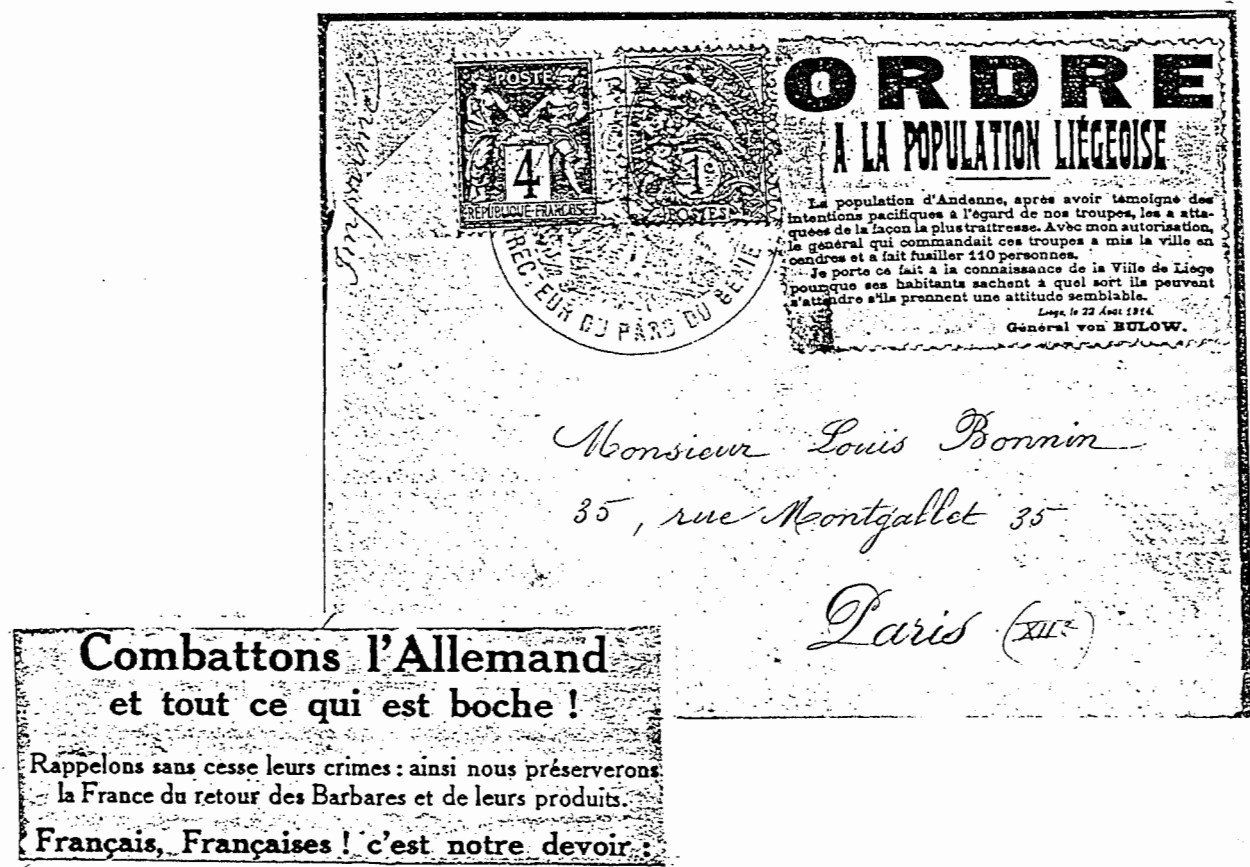
Often comprising two or three lines of text, sometimes boxed/unboxed, most include the complete name in the text for identification. A few are circular but the most distinct are oval in shape, making them clearly distinct from the postal markings. An example was illustrated in Vol.3, No.3, page 119, of "Interneerings/Groep Tilburg". Another INTERNEERINGSDEPOT/HARDERWIJK/1eAFDEELING can be seen on a Green Label cover. Significantly, they do not normally bear any indication of date, etc.



Interneeringsdepot Harderwijk – Oval Cachet – February, 1916

CIVILIAN REFUGEES

As mentioned in Part 1 of this article, a large number of civilians chose to flee from the path of the invading German armies with their reputation for atrocities against humanity. Some of the early incidents saw whole villages and populations erased from the map and notices were pinned up in nearby locations warning that the same thing would be repeated if anybody or anything got in the Germans' way. Arising from an incident in Andenne, a miniature version of a German poster was used in nearby (unoccupied!) France as a sticker on correspondence and an example is illustrated.



French Envelope with Labels as Propaganda

Accurate records of refugees numbers are understandably not available but of the estimated 1 million, 100,000 went to Britain, 200,000 to France and the balance of 700,000 to Holland. Compare this with 36,560 military internees with which this article is mainly concerned and it will be obvious that there were at one time 19 refugees to every internee!

Whilst these civilian refugees could be from any part of Belgium, certainly in the latter part of the invasion period, most were from besieged Antwerp which was considerably depopulated when the German army eventually made its forceful entrance.

During late 1914, the return of a number of refugees to Belgium, especially to Antwerp, was negotiated with a condition attached that the young men were not to be deported to Germany or conscripted to carry out work for the military. However, by 1916, the desperate German manpower shortage saw them deporting some of these young men to Germany for military purposes. A protest was lodged with the assistance of the United States Minister in Brussels, Mr. Brand Whitlock, but with little known effect.

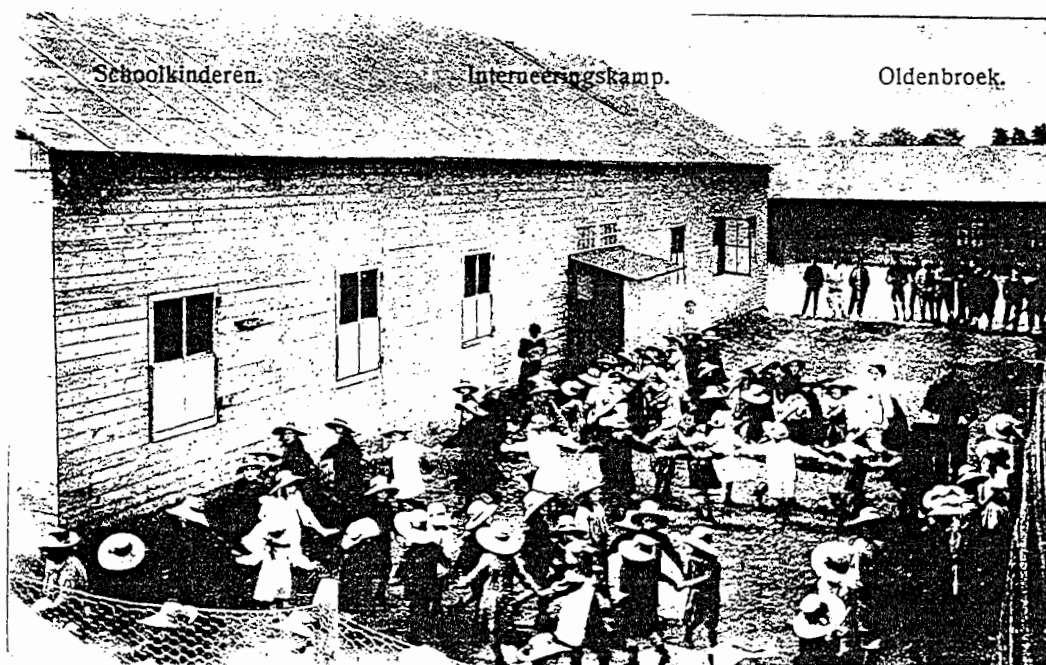
However, the number of refugees in Holland fluctuated during the war and their return to Belgium must have been greatly to the relief of their Dutch hosts.

REFUGEE CAMPS

Clearly the vast number of refugees in early October, 1914 must have been a severe problem and embarrassment to Holland, which simultaneously was struggling with the internee problem. By mid-October, many had returned home to Belgium, lured by misleading promises of safety and security. Of those remaining, many must have been settled amongst the civilian population as only a limited number of camps are recorded as containing civilian refugees. Included in this category are:

EDE; NUNSPEET; UDEN

for which special cancellers are known, but many other camps which contained internees also contained refugees. A picture postcard of Oldenbroek camp showing school children is displayed.



School Children at Oldenbroek Refugee Camp

The cancellers seen are of two types:

1. Internal Bridge Cancellers

Double circle (29mm) with bridge crossing the inner circle only.

Outer circle at top - NUNSPEET VLUCHTOORD

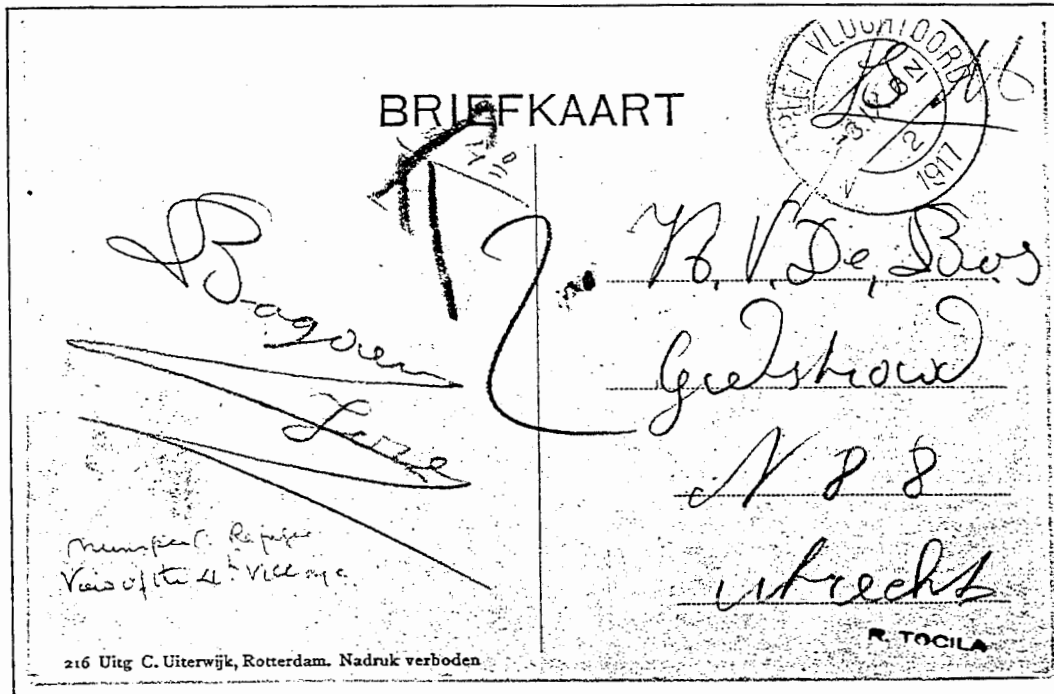
Centre, bridge day/month - 31 x 6N

Bottom inner segment number 2

Outer circle bottom - year 1917

See illustration.

Also known -	NUNSPEET	1
	UDEN	2

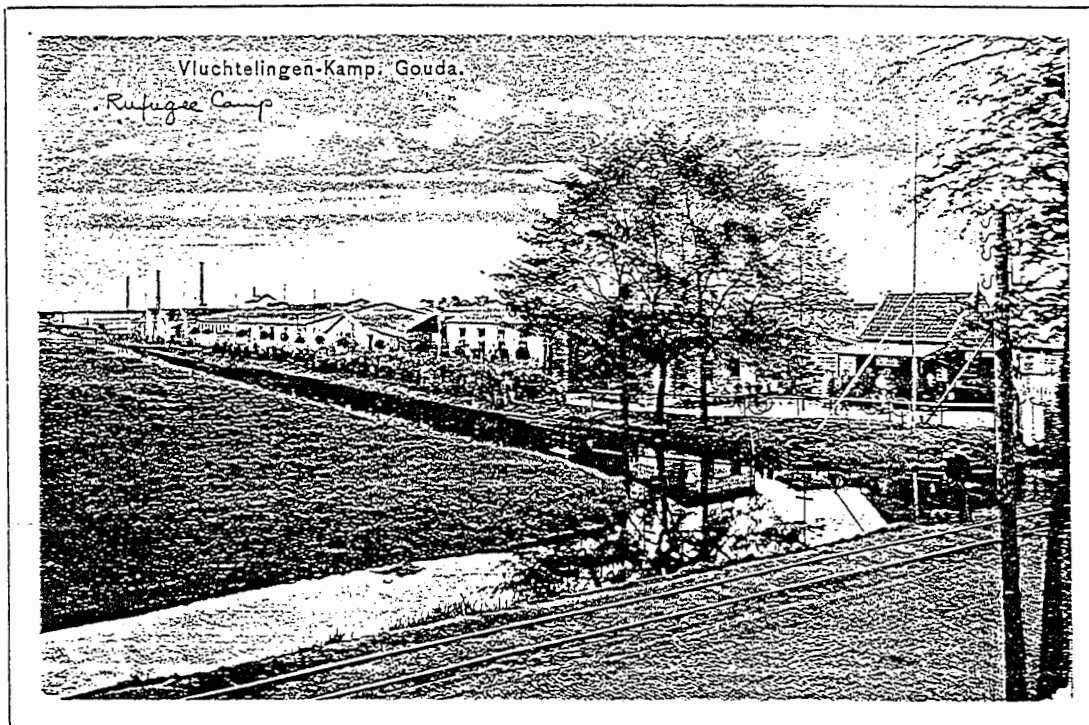


Refugee Camp Cachet 'Nunspeet Vluchtoord' September, 1917

2. Bridge Style Double Circular

Top outer circle - camp	EDE
Centre bridge - date in full	14 111 18 8N
Bottom outer circle	VLUCHTOORD

Also known - UDEN



Picture of Gouda Refugee Camp

REGULAR INTERNMENT CAMPS

The following list comprises those camps known to have been used to house military internees on a permanent/semi-permanent basis as opposed to those used for transit purposes during 1914.

Apart from the large permanent camps, during the early part of the war a number of small camps were opened up but then closed when the occupants were transferred to larger camps. Some camps were opened and closed several times and no accurate records exist of the official dates - we have to rely upon documents posted for our proof of their duration. Additional information regarding history of camps is added where available.

Corrections and/or amendments to these records would be welcomed by the author.

CONCLUSION

Although there were a number of emergency holding camps at the outset of war, it gradually became possible to concentrate the majority of internees in the Amersfoort/Zeist/Harderwijk areas, lasting up to the cessation of hostilities. Therefore mail bearing these postal locations is relatively common as opposed to the other small, often transitory, sites. However, all internee mail is not commonly seen or offered for sale. There are no known records of when some camps opened and closed except what can be assessed from mail seen and studied. Some camps are known to have reopened and closed several times according to local needs and/or being used as depots for special working parties.

Generally the cachet PORTVRIJ etc. is seen as validating internee mail although some covers did not receive it but clearly show their provenance and are quite genuine. On balance, relatively few camps were issued with special cancellers as the working relationship with the Dutch postal system was just as convenient. A number of the handstamps survived and remain in the Dutch Postal Museum.

As stated in the original introduction to Part 1, this account draws on the two available publications of König and Silverberg in attempting to present in English the basic knowledge regarding internee correspondence. Although generally the First World War is well recorded, accounts of life in the internee camps are not often encountered. I was therefore pleased to recently discover two reference which may be of interest to readers in the works of Lyn McDonald:-

"1914" - Headline 1993, P318/324

"1915" - Penguin 1987, P338/340

I hope this concluding article will assist those with an interest in this Postal History aspect of the First World War.

REG HARRISON

(For quick reference the previous parts of this article appeared in "BELGAPOST":

Vol. 7, Part 1, p.38/43
Vol. 7, Part 3, p.118/125

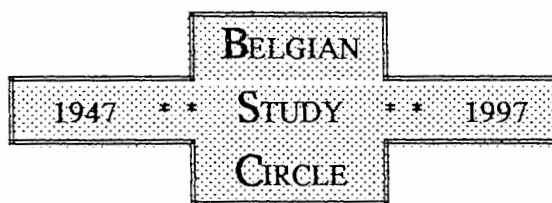
Vol. 7, Part 2, p.67/76
Vol. 8, Part 3, p.108/115)

LIST OF INTERNMENT CAMPS

NAME	LOCATION	DATES OF USE	OCCUPANTS	DETAILS OF CAMP	ADDITIONAL NOTES
ALKMAAR	Near Hoorn	? Aug. 1914 - Nov. 1918	Germans/Belgians		At the end of August 1914 the Germans were transferred to Bergen.
AMERSFOORT	Near Utrecht	10th Oct. 1914 - Dec. 1918	Belgians	Large camp part of the Amersfoort/Zeist complex containing up to 16,500 internees.	Up to 8 numbered handstamps were used for mail from this camp.
ASSEN	Near Groningen	10th Oct. - 20th Jan. 1915	Belgians	Contained around 2,500 people.	On closure - occupants transferred to Oldebroek and Nunspeet.
BAKHUIZEN	Gaasterland, Friesland	10th Oct. 1914 - ? Dec. 1916	Belgians	See Gaasterland entry.	On closure, occupants transferred to Zeist.Harderwijk area.
BALK	Gaasterland	1914		Depot linked to Oudernirdum.	
BERGEN (N.H.)	Near Alkmaar	Sept. - Nov. 1914?	Germans	Also served intermittently as a depot. 130?	German internees from Alkmaar transferred here in late Aug. 1914.
FLUSHING (VLISSINGEN)	On coast at mouth of River Scheldt	Sept. 1914 - Dec. 1918	Belgian/British/German	Transit camp for exchange of sick/wounded internees and POWs.	Contained a special barracks for undesirable internees.
GAASTERLAND (FRIESLAND)	Group of 4 camps :- Bakhuizen Oudemirdum Rijs Sondel	} } }Oct. 1914 - ?Dec. 1916 } }	Belgians	In total these 4 small camps contained around 2,500 internees prior to their closure and transfer to Zeist/Amersfoort/ Harderwijk.	Some mail from these camps was postmarked at Balk.
GOUDA		?	Refugees only.		
GRONINGEN	North Holland	Oct. 1914 - Dec. 1918	British	1,550?	Held Naval Brigade sailors mainly from HMS Hawke and Collingwood.
HARDERWIJK	Near Elburg on Zuider Zee	Oct. 1914 - March 1920	Belgians	Large camp, 11,000 internees, which together with Amersfoort/Zeist held the majority of internees.	Used three numbered Handstamps as well as Camp Handstamps.
HATTEM	Near Zwolle	1916 - 1918	Germans	Depot usage.	Depot Handstamp.
KAMPEN	Near Zwolle	10th Oct. 1914 - 20th Jan. 1915	Belgians	According to Silverberg, contained 1,564 other ranks, 12 officers.	Stamps No. 1 - 3. Occupants transferred to Harderwijk and Nunspeet.

NAME	LOCATION	DATES OF USE	OCCUPANTS	DETAILS OF CAMP	ADDITIONAL NOTES
LEEUWARDEN	Friesland	Oct. 1914 - early 1915	Belgians/British	Around 1,600 British here on a temporary basis prior to moving to Groningen.	Occupants transferred to Oldebroek.
LOOSDUINEN	Near The Hague	10th Oct. 1914 - 31st Oct. 1914	Uncertain	Actual site - Ockenburg c. 1,450 internees.	Very temporary use.
NUNSPEET	Near Oldebroek	20th Jan. 1915 - 24th Feb. 1917	Belgians	Also housed refugees into 1917. Refugee cachet.	Came under Harderwijk after Oldebroek was closed in July 1916.
OLDEBROEK	Near Elburg	Early 1915 - July 1916	Belgians	Also contained refugees including children	Occupants transferred to Zeist/Amersfoort/Harderwijk. Special Camp canceller but some mail cancelled at nearby Elburg.
OUDEMIRDUM	See Gaasterland	Oct. 1914 - Jan. 1915? But cover seen June 1918	Belgians	See Gaasterland	---
RIJS	See Gaasterland		Belgians	Contained a stone factory.	
SONDEL	See Gaasterland		Belgians		
TILBURG	Near Antwerp frontier	1916	Belgians	Used temporarily for wounded soldiers.	
URK	On island in Zuider Zee (now edge of Polder)	? April 1915 - 9th Nov. 1916	Belgians		Reserved for officers who would not give their word not to try to escape.
VUGHT	Near Tilburg	Cover dated 14th June 1916	Belgians	Probably a depot linked to another camp.	?
WIERICKERSCHANS	Near Bodegraven	- May 1917		Originally used for English, French and Belgian officers but later German officers.	?
ZEIST	See Amersfoort				4 Camp Cancellers plus Straight-line cachet
ZWOLLE		10th Oct. 1914 - 1918?	Belgians	Originally for Belgian officers and other ranks. Other ranks only transferred to Harderwijk on 30th Jan. 1915. Total 350 internees.	

STOP PRESS



PROVISIONAL CALENDAR FOR 1996/1997

6th-8th September, 1996	PETERBOROUGH
5th October, 1996	REGENT'S COLLEGE, inc. Auction
2nd November, 1996	REGENT'S COLLEGE
7th December, 1996	REGENT'S COLLEGE
16th January, 1997 (Thursday)	ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY Devonshire Place, London - Display by Circle
? February, 1997	REGENT'S COLLEGE
12th April, 1997	AGM, LUNCH and AUCTION
23rd/25th May, 1997	CHARLEROI PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
19th/21st September, 1997	LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE 50th Anniversary Event

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARIES NOW!
FURTHER DETAILS AND UPDATING TO FOLLOW WHEN FINALISED.