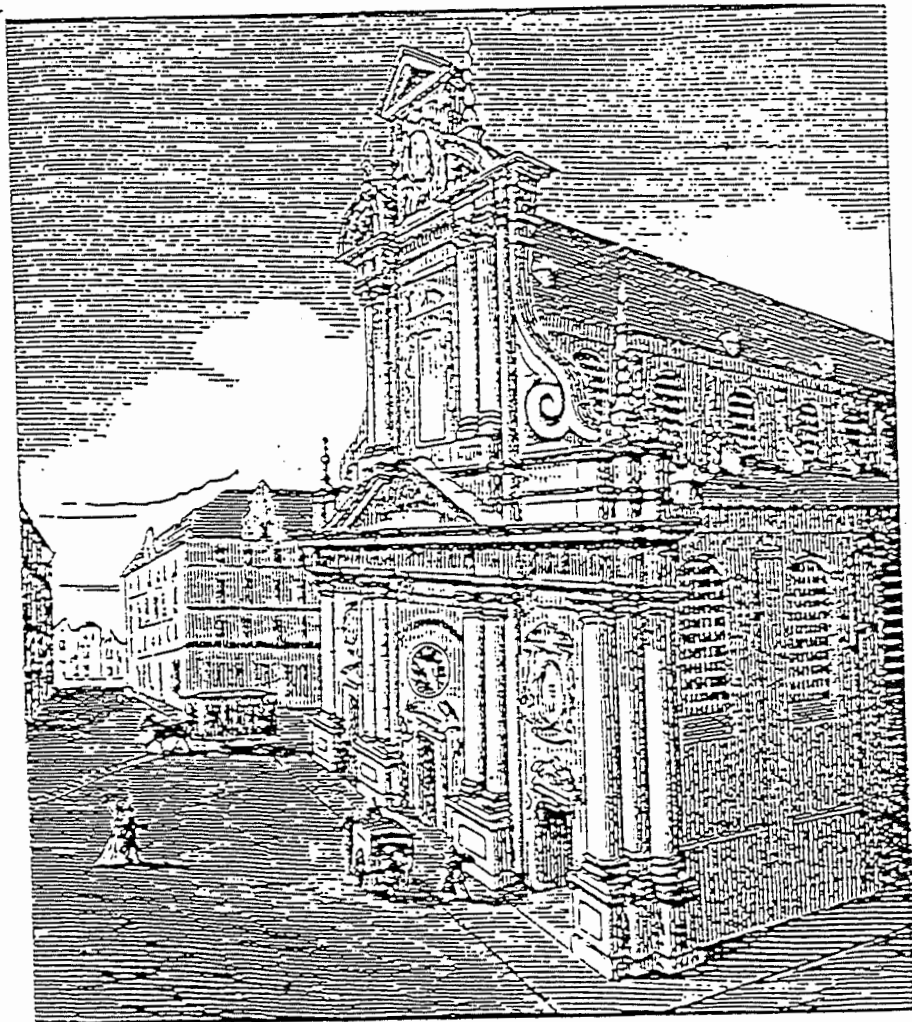


BELGAPOST

Volume **9** No. **3**

SEPTEMBER 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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BELGAPOSTVolume **9** No. **3**SEPTEMBER 1996The Journal of the
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL	86
PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S NOTES	86
TREASURER'S REPORT	86
APOLOGY	86
THE RARE PUBLICITY TÊTE-BÊCHE!	87
DE LA RUE DIE PROOFS 1865 ISSUE	90
DISPLAY AT ROYAL 16th JANUARY 1997	91
NIEUPOORT RATE MARKS 1835-1840	92
WATERLOW & SONS LTD	93
EDITH CAVELL	95
BELGO-PRUSSIAN CONVENTION 1846-52	96
RRR DOCUMENT UNIQUE PIECE DE MUSÉE	96
THOMAS DE LA RUE	98
MORESNET (cont.)	100
ALEXADRINE DE RYE (1589-1666)	101
THE RURAL POSTAL SERVICE	102
DOVER-OSTEND MAIL	115
BRUSSELS - SUB OFFICES AND POST BOXES	119
REVIEW OF JOURNALS	123
AUCTION...AUCTION...AUCTION	124

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

SEPTEMBER 1996

EDITORIAL

As you receive this issue, we start on a new season – our **Fiftieth Year**. We hope and trust that all our members will be able to attend at least one of our "meetings". You will have seen details of these in our last issue and we will continue to give you more details as they arrive.

Next year (1997) is again "BELGAPOST" year to cover stamps rather than postal history, and is to be covered by the Montenez issues by your Editor, who is also to display this material at our Peterborough meeting.

PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S NOTES

I was greatly honoured to be elected President of the Belgian Study Circle at the Annual General Meeting and do thank you all. I will do my best to fulfil the duties.

I regret to say that I am at present recuperating from another heart attack, and will be seeing my surgeon shortly. I have not been idle, however, and hope to be making one or two contributions to the forthcoming issues of "BELGAPOST". In lotting some material for Club funds for the next auction, I realised what a fund of information there is in M. Porignon's book on the Rural Postmarks of Belgium. This throws light on Postal History material of World War II.

I must take this occasion to thank Reg Harrison for his visits, both in hospital and at home, as these enable me to keep up with things.

GEOFFREY WOOD

TREASURER'S NOTES

With summer rapidly passing, the 1996/97 Season will soon be with us and hopefully, if proposals all go to plan, we will be able to look back with pride in due course.

It is a full programme which should contain something for everyone who wishes to participate. Preparation for events takes times and money but our funds are healthy enough to meet the challenge.

At the time of writing (August), future auctions are in preparation, which greatly assist our finances. Currently, only six annual subscriptions are outstanding, plus one auction settlement – prompt payment is always appreciated so that I can concentrate on events to come.

REG HARRISON

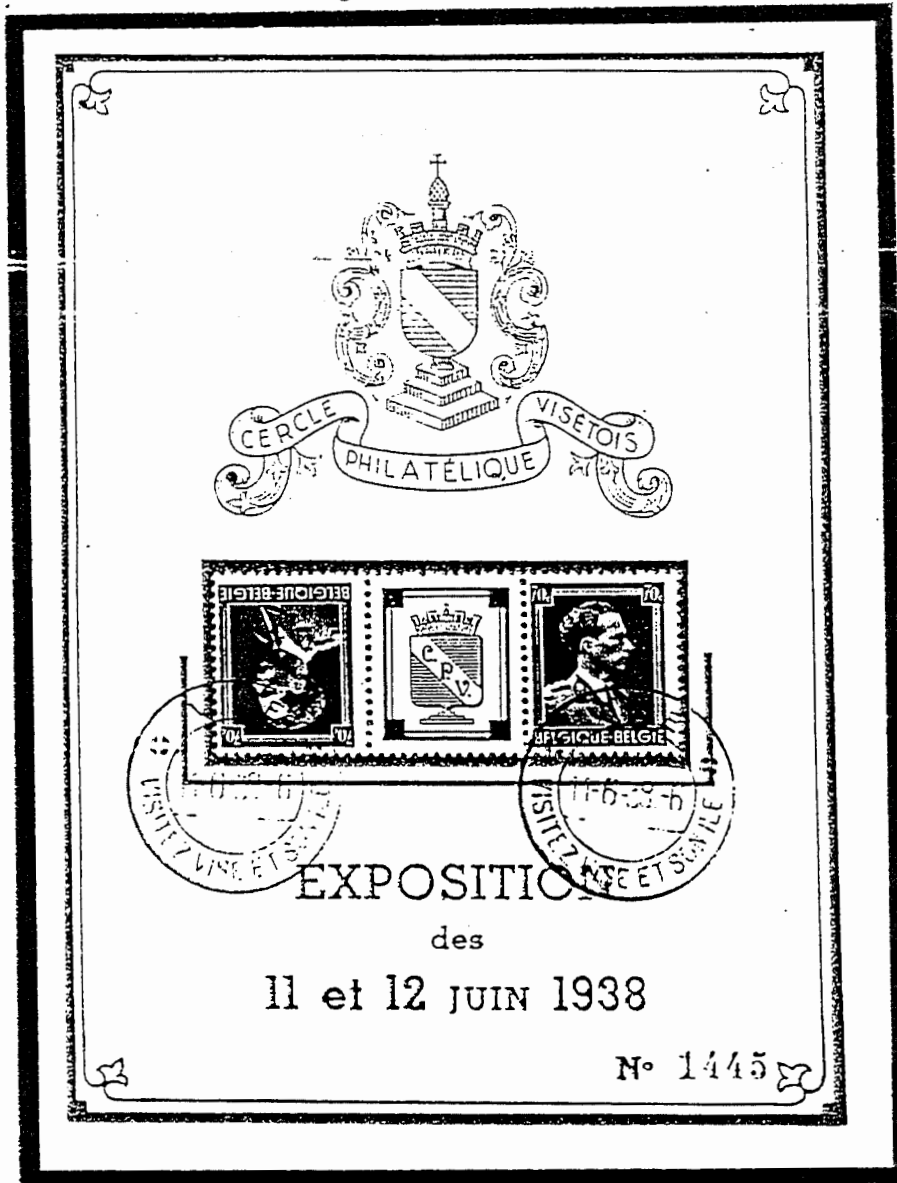
APOLOGY – Your Editor regrets that in the article (Vol.9, No.2, page 51) on Dr. W. Molly by our member Alan Swale, Alan was not responsible for the illustrations shown on page 54. The Editor takes full responsibility for showing the stamps of Moens, instead of the "Molly" stamps.

THE RARE PUBLICITY TÊTE-BÊCHE

Further to my article in Vol.9, No.2, page 55, our member in Seraing, Jean Bruwier, has kindly contacted M. Paul Henry, Pharmacist, of the Visé Philatelic Circle, and has translated in full the answer received. This report provides the detailed background to these mystery issues, including current valuations. Our sincere thanks to Jean and M. Paul Henry for filling the gaps in our knowledge of this facet of our hobby.

PS: Visé is noted for being the first Belgian community occupied by Germany at the outbreak of war in August 1914.

REG HARRISON



1938 Visé Souvenir Sheet - Blue Printing on White Paper

RESPONSE FROM M. PAUL HENRY
translated by Jean Bruwier

In response to your request, I am pleased to inform you about the Souvenir Sheet issued at Visé in 1938.

This sheet was issued by the Cercle Philatélique de Visé, on 11th and 12th June, 1938, to celebrate the first anniversary of the Club's foundation and its first exhibition. To this end, the Club bought the gutters ("interpanneaux") as issued at the Post Office, which provided the requested quantity. (1,560 according to the Club Secretary records.) These gutters were overprinted "CPU" by the printer, L'Imprimerie Liégeoise, in Liège. No authorisation had been previously requested of the Post Office. These stamps were mounted in a souvenir sheet and cancelled with the tourism cancellation in use at Visé at that time.

The Cercle Philatelique Visétois issued 1,500 sheets, which are all numbered. They were supplied at the unit price of 3 BF to the shareholders (about 50). The others have been sold at 5 BF each, to the new subscribers and to visitors to the exhibition. It was a very great success. About 1,300 copies were disposed of in that way. Other copies have been sold by the Club after the exhibition closure, at the price of 45 BF each.

Nowadays, the Club is still in possession of a very small quantity of these items (less than 20). They are considered as scarce. It seems that many of them have disappeared. The current price fluctuates greatly and should be rated at 650 BF on an average, for a copy in good condition.

Only the Cercle Philatélique de Visé has issued a souvenir sheet with a tête-bêche gutter. Two other Circles, Louvain and Verviers (see attached) have also overprinted gutters, but not tête-bêche. In 1938, the political movement REX issued a postcard bearing the insignia of the party (see photostat).

From this moment on, the Post Office became worried about the political consequences of such practices and decided to forbid any overprinting of their sheets.

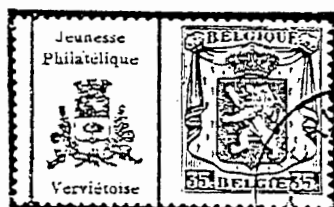


1937 Louvain Souvenir Sheet - Red Printing on Buff Paper

JEUNESSE PHILATÉLIQUE VERVIÉTOISE

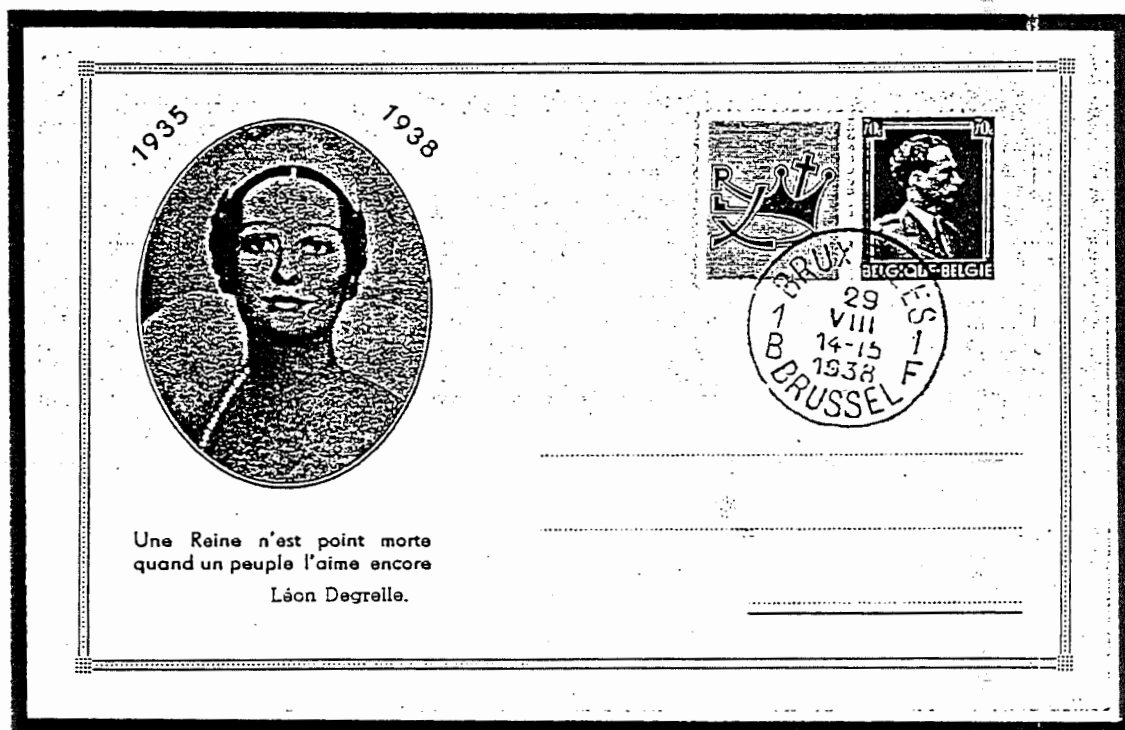
SEPTEMBRE

1938



000429 *

1938 Verviers Souvenir Sheet - Green Printing on Buff Paper



1938 Rex Propaganda Card - Brown on Buff Card

DE LA RUE DIE PROOFS

THE 1865 ISSUE OF BELGIUM

In the "De La Rue History of Postage Stamps" (pub. RPS.L) we find:-

"That both Warren and William Frederick (De La Rue) made frequent business visits to the Continent is clear, and in his letter of 24th February, 1865, to Perazzi, Warren mentioned that he was just leaving for Belgium. There is, however, no correspondence leading to the printing of the One Franc of Leopold I in 1865, or the manufacture of the printing plates for the remaining four values. The invoice of August 1865, which was submitted in French, included the original King's Head die, working dies and plates for 10 centimes, 20 centimes, 30 centimes, 40 centimes and one franc. It included two printing presses with ink tables. The printing plates were each of 300 multiples.

"On 31st August, the firm invoiced 450,000 One franc postage stamps at 9d. per 1,000, plus £3 for perforating.

"The original invoice shows that the firm made a punch from the original die within a circular line, another within an elliptical line. These were not charged, nor did they charge for a duplicate of the original die to serve in case of accident.

"In addition to the working dies charged, there were four which had been rejected, one each of the 10, 20 and 30 centimes, and one without any duty. A printing plate for the 10 centimes had also been rejected."

The late B. Leslie Barker (a founder member of the BSC) found these De La Rue die proofs of particular interest.

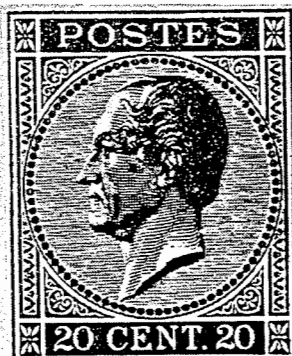
It seemed that the original Head die by Joubert was re-engraved several times, although it was generally assumed that the Heads of all the issued values were identical. This was certainly not the case. The illustrations show three stages for the 20c value. The first stage, with the dark background and "BELGIQUE" at the top and "POSTES" at the bottom, was rejected, the date on this proof being May, 11, "BEFORE HARDENING".

Stage 2, with the light background and the accepted "POSTES" at the top and "CENT" at the bottom, is dated 24th July, 1865, and has the De La Rue serial number 7986 on it and is initialled "J.F.". There is no die state mentioned.

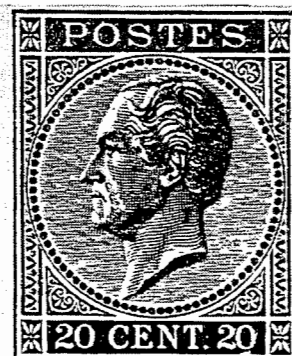
Stage 3, with the light background and the accepted wording is "BEFORE HARDENING" and is dated 2nd August, 1865.



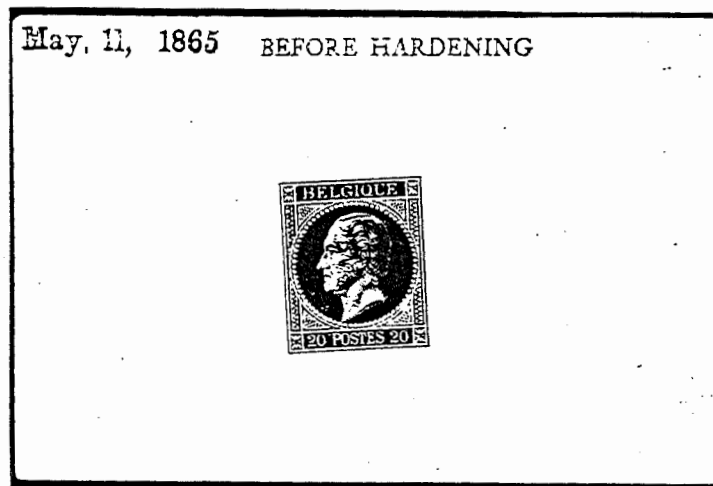
Stage 1



Stage 2

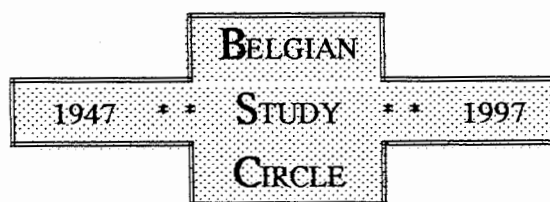


Stage 3



The difference between stage 2 and stage 3 is particularly interesting as the hair has been considerably lightened and there is an extra lock of hair immediately on the near side of the parting. Apart from this, the cheek and chin lines have been considerably lightened between 24th July and 2nd August, and also the dent in the forehead has been removed. The last die proof of 2nd August appears to be the one used on the stamps.

The outcome of all this is that collectors realise how much preparatory work a firm like De La Rue put into the production of a single issue of stamps before they ever reached the public. In this case, not only were three dies made and rejected, but a full printing plate of the 10c was made and also rejected. This rejected plate had "BELGIQUE" at the top instead of "POSTES" as on the issued stamp.



DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
THURSDAY, 16th JANUARY, 1997

As most members will probably be aware, our Circle has been honoured to present a display on the above date to commemorate our 50th Year. We are one of the oldest specialist societies and, indeed, formed the model for many other country collectors who followed our example.

Included in the display will be exhibits formed or given by founder/early members, which should provide a comparison with our current displays. Also on display will be some historical items from our "archives".

A special leaflet is proposed detailing the contents of our display for all those attending.

The display will be held from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. and, by courtesy of one of our members, a wine reception will be available.

Apart from members of the Royal (of whom our Circle has a number), all Circle members are welcome and it is hoped as many as possible will make a special effort to attend and show the Belgian flag!

Monsieur
Monsieur Jean Claerhout,
Notaire
3
Bruges

4

P.P.

My dear Sir

NEW YORK 13 SEPT. 1837

Notary

J. C. Green

A similar "4" was the rate (decimes) shown on a letter dated 27th November, 1840, this time on the front of the letter (to pay on delivery) from Nieuport to Ghent. This item was in a Soeteman Auction Sale 27th February, 1987, Lot 27, and estimated at 2,000 BF.

In a brief article in "La Revue Postale", nos. 40 and 46 (1961), our member, Leo De Clerq refers to four more letters:

- No. 2 16th October, 1835. Nieuport to Furnes - to pay.
- No. 3 From Post Box N of Nieuport (Lombardzijde) to Furnes on 5th November 1838, one decime for the "rurale" box, plus two decimes to Furnes.
- No. 8 From Nieuport to Rotterdam on a paid letter (marked on the reverse) 11th November 1837. It is also marked in manuscript "Par Anvers".
- No. 10 Dated 25th July, 1835, this letter was paid (on reverse) from Nieuport to Rotterdam. It was marked "P.P." but replaced by "Franco Frontiere".

2 3 8 10

Herlant refers to Nos. 1 to 10 and in 1980 rated them at 1250 BF. However, it would appear that letters with these rates are rare. All the figures are in red or brown-red ink.

S.J.A.

WATERLOW & SONS, LTD.

In 1961 Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd. took over the security printing business of Waterlow & Sons Ltd. This article appeared originally in "The De La Rue Journal" under the title "The Waterlow Deal".

The recent purchase brings to an end a competitive association with Waterlows which goes back more than a century. The story of this fine company has many parallels with De La Rue.

James Waterlow, like Thomas de la Rue, was a self-made man. Young, hard-working, strong in character and with a stubborn disregard for what people considered impossible, he carved a name for himself on the monument of great industrialists.

He started out as a law writer. For many years he lived in a small house in a street off the City Road, struggling to maintain a large family. His fortunes turned when he conceived the idea of employing lithography and printing as a substitute for copying where many copies of a legal document were required. He took his four sons, Alfred, Walter, Sydney and Albert, into partnership in 1810, three years before Thomas de la Rue formed his company.

In 1844 Sydney, who had parted to take up a printing apprenticeship, came back to the firm to develop the printing side of the business. The development of the railway system was at its height at this time and Waterlows were getting a good share of the large stationery and printing business of railway companies.

In 1877 a difference of opinion between the brothers resulted in a division of the company. Alfred, eldest son of the founder, formed a firm - Waterlow Brother & Layton - to deal with the country and legal part of the business. Sydney carried on the railway work and export trade.

Sydney - he described himself as obstinate - was a born fighter, typical of the stock from which he had sprung. He was a leader and a man of great originality. In 1858 he startled the Common Council of the City of London by suggesting that the City Police would be more efficient if the Commissioner's Office and his residence were electrically connected with the various police stations. He had already established a telegraphic link between his own London Wall and Birchin Lane establishments.

The Police Commissioner rejected the idea on the grounds that the wires could be tapped and police secrets would be in jeopardy. However, the Waterlow doggedness triumphed ultimately. The newly elected common councillor presented a new plan by which the wires were to be attached to the church belfries. Only steeplejacks could obtain access.

His brilliant brain and firmness of purpose served him as well in his civic life as in his business life. He was a great showman. In 1867 the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs were invited to the opening of the Paris Exhibition. The Mayor thought it hardly feasible to turn out in Paris in all the civic splendour of London. Waterlow thought different. A born showman, he took upon himself the provision of carriages, horses and liveried servants and arranged their transport, lodgings and return. For the first time in history Parisians had a chance to see the great pageantry of London.

During the visit, Sydney pointed out to the Egyptian Emperor, Khedive Ismail, that commerce and trade with England had increased considerably during the latter's reign. This compliment led to a visit to Egypt the following year. It was followed by a trip to Constantinople where the Sultan conferred the title of Pasha on Waterlow. It was a great honour for the boy compositor from Finsbury who was destined to become Lord Mayor, a baronet and a K.C.V.O.

Sydney Waterlow will be remembered as a philanthropist as well as a businessman. He was the founder of the Industrial Dwellings Company and lived to see the building of 6,000 tenements. As a member of Parliament he was a fine and humane legislator.

In 1920 the two great organisations which had sprung from a common source were reunited. The original title of Waterlow & Sons was resurrected. The two companies had so expanded their activities that they were competing with each other. Amalgamation was the solution to the problem. It was a true family business once more.

Waterlows, like Thomas De La Rue, have excelled in emergencies. On August 2nd, 1914, they received an order from the Government for £1 notes. Four million of these notes were in the hands of bankers five days later.

Early in 1918 they received one of the biggest printing orders in the history of the trade. They were called upon to produce 78 million ration books, each of which necessitated 12 printings. Another great achievement at that time was the production, within the space of 42 days, of 400 million insurance stamps in nine different values and colours.

Bank-notes, stamps, cheques, railway tickets and machinery, envelopes, embossed stationery, posters, catalogues - Waterlow's business grew steadily between the wars. In 1936 they received the contract to print *Radio Times* and *The Listener* from the B.B.C. This contract continues to the present day.

Waterlow & Sons printed their first postage stamps in 1851. These were for British Guiana and were produced lithographically. In 1856 a consignment failed to arrive in the colony before stocks were exhausted. An order was placed by the local postmaster with Baum & Dallas, printers of the *Official Gazette*. They tried to copy Waterlow's design in printer's type, and in the centre they placed a little ship normally used for the "Shipping Notes" feature in the newspaper. The result was grotesque and the postmaster, as a precaution against fraud, instructed his clerks to initial every stamp sold. Of the two denominations printed many 4c. stamps still exist. Only one specimen of the 1c. has ever been found. It is the most valuable stamp in the world.

Waterlows broke into bank-note printing nearly 80 years ago with an order from Banco International, Guayaquil. In all they produced bank-notes for some 80 Governments and issuing authorities.

Many of the Belgian stamps of the First World War period were printed by Waterlow's and Waterlow Brother & Layton, as also were the 1944/5 period.

Members who enjoy these stamps should join the **WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE**.

EDITH CAVELL

4th December, 1865 - 12th October, 1915



From a Silk Card published
in her memory.

In letters to her mother, she says:

8th October, 1914. "Now there is a post for Brussels town and for Germany - that is all - and we have to go to the General Post to send them off or to collect, as the Belgian postman will not work under present conditions."

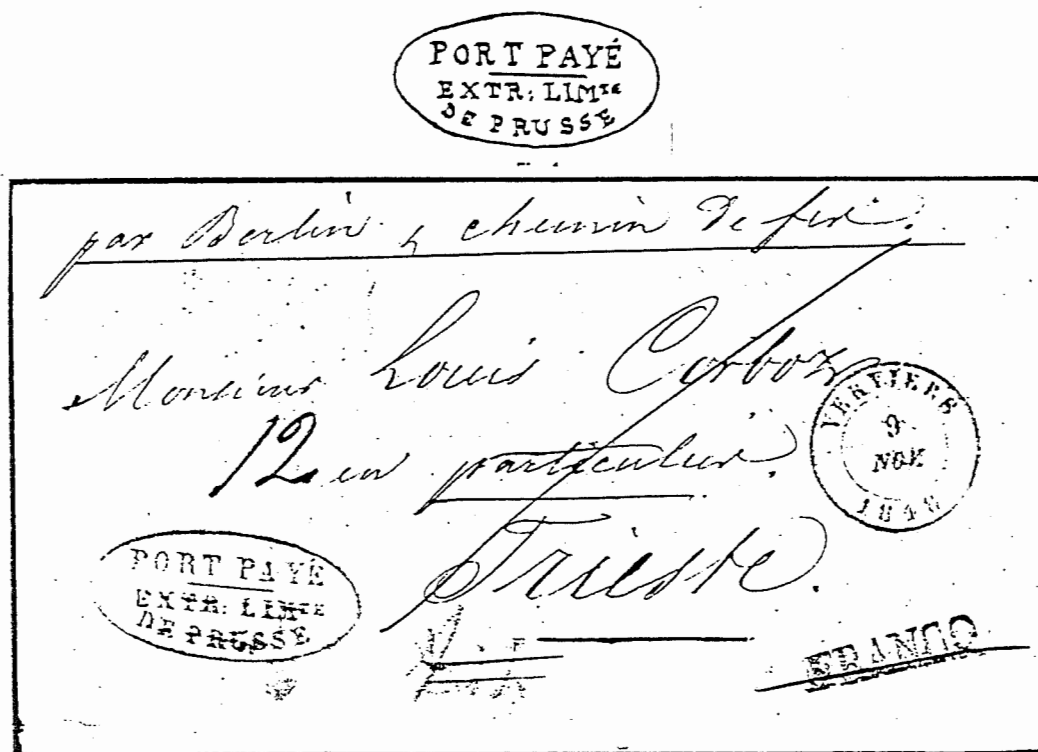
14th March, 1915 "We are now receiving through the post which is again distributed by Belgian postman. The letters and papers arrived for us from August and September of last year."

THE BELGO-PRUSSIAN CONVENTION 1846-52

In the years before the U.P.U. simplified the carriage of mail across national frontiers, a great many bilateral agreements were signed between States seeking to regularise such matters.

One of the less known of these arose out of a Postal Convention signed by Belgium and Prussia on 23rd November, 1846. Operative from the first day of 1847, this agreement laid down standard charges to be applied to Belgian mail destined for Italy and the Levant, via the Prussian post. A handful of frontier post offices in Belgium were to apply a special mark in such mail. Letters were to be prepaid 5 decimes, which would carry them "to the farthest frontier of Prussia". Of this sum, one decime was retained by Belgium and four were for reimbursement to Prussia for the carriage of the mail on the railway to Cologne (Coeln), and thence across Germany, this link having been completed in October 1843. Prior to 1847, such mail could be prepaid to Coblenz only and after 1852, when the convention was abrogated, full payment was required.

The oval mark "PORT PAYÉ/EXTR (ème) LIM. Te/DE PRUSSE" was applied at Verviers.



R.R.R. DOCUMENT UNIQUE. PIÈCE DE MUSÉE

The item illustrated here was recently seen in a Brussels Auction, estimated 100/150,000 BF and shown in colour in the catalogue.

It was illustrated and "described" in Balasse Magazine No.58 (October 1948) and later in "Le Philatliste Belge" No.77 (May-June 1955). The photograph above is taken from the latter but, since then, appears to have considerably "improved" in appearance.



What can we say about a "document unique"?

It is marked "2" (decimes) in a manuscript and is correct rate for this item to be paid on arrival at Ghent. It left Zelzaete on 30th June, 1849 (the day before postage stamps were introduced) and date stamped (supposedly) on 1st July, 1849 (in Ghent). Is it the 1st July? In one of the articles mentioned, it states that a "cachet administratif" is dated 6th July, 1849 and is given in the inside of the letter. We are not able to confirm this although it seems most possible that the "Governor of the Province of Flanders" dealt with this item.

If this is the case, why was the letter refused, as marked in manuscript on the reverse of the letter? Also, if it was refused, why was there no "Deboursé" mark struck on the letter on its return to Zelzaete?

And now why is there a 10 centime Epaulette stamp - its first day of use of 1st July? The article referred to also suggests that the stamp may have been added by the postmaster of Zelzaete. Why? He had already marked the letter of the "2" which is the correct rate, and on what authority would he have added the stamp and who paid for it?

The postage stamp is handstamped "45" 18 bars of Ghent - itself not officially used until 1st July, 1849. With a new handstamp of that day, it appears to be poor for a new mark. And is not the stamp rather badly "tied" to the letter?

Yes, is not the item a "document unique" - but not in the way in which it is said to be.

Was not the manuscript "Refusé le 1er Juil 1849" and the postage stamp added at a later date?

THOMAS DE LA RUE

On a recent visit to Guernsey, I spotted the bust (see illustration) set into the wall of a public house in St. Peter Port. The inscription below reads:-

THOMAS DE LA RUE
FOUNDER OF THE HOUSE OF DE LA RUE
1793 - 1866

The pub bore his name, including one bar called 'Tommy's Bar'. It is believed that the building/site was once a printing works connected with the family business.



It is after his move to London, however, that the connection with printing Belgian postage stamps occurred. From their Bunhill Row printing works (see illustration), they produced much fine printing, especially of banknotes and postage stamps for many countries. Our main interest is in the 1865, 1883 and 1925 issues of Belgium - an article on the 1865 issue appears in this journal.

In 1961, De La Rue took over Waterlow & Sons, bringing together two companies of interest to members of our Circle.

Thomas would have been proud to know the achievements of his successors following his decision to leave Guernsey so many years ago - I'll drink to that.

Illustrations from "The House that Thomas Built", Lorna Houseman, Chatto & Windus, 1968.

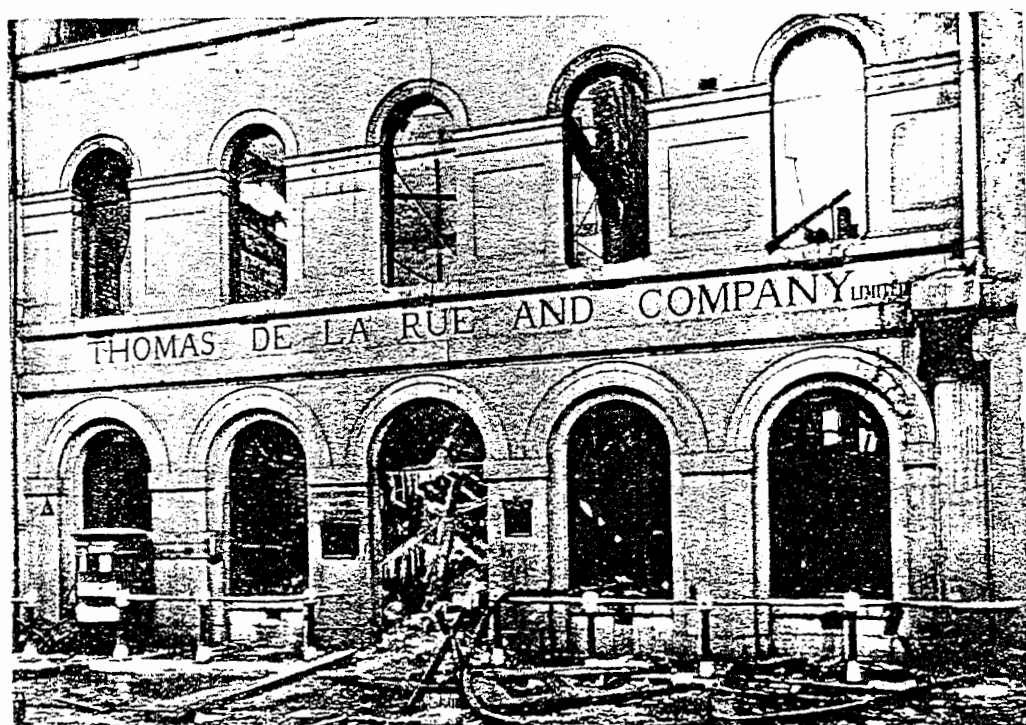
See also note on Warren De La Rue (Vol.8, No.3, p.92).

R. T. HARRISON



14. Bunhill Row early in the nineteenth century

After the Blitz



MORESNET (continued)

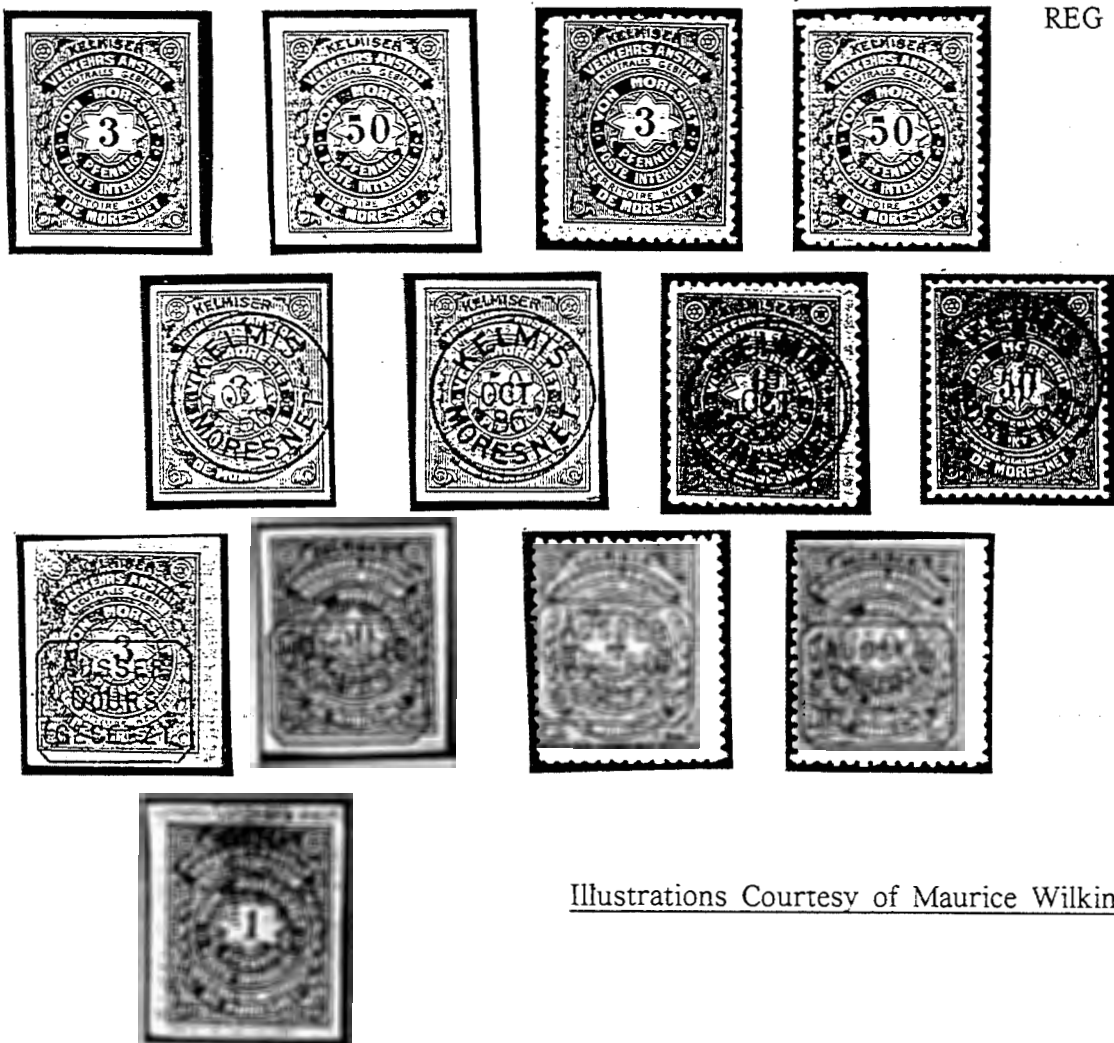
As referred to elsewhere in this issue, the article by Alan Swale on Dr. Molly was supplemented by illustrations of the Moens 1867 bogus issue. In order to correct and complete the Molly story, we now show the unauthorised local stamps issued by Dr. Molly on 1st October, 1886.

A series of eight values from 1 Pfennig to 50 Pfennig, both imperforate and perforate. Until withdrawn from use around 21st October, they were believed to have been used for mail from Moresnet to Aachen, but authentically used covers are probably unknown. This resulted in a quantity of invalidated unused stamps, some of which were overprinted "AUSSER COURS GESETZ" boxed or "AUSSER COURS".

Therefore today you can see and buy:

1. Unused stamps.
2. Stamps cancelled "KELMIS MORESNET" with a superb strike on the centre of the stamp.
3. Stamps cancelled "AUSSER COURS GESETZ" boxed.
4. Stamps cancelled "AUSSER COURS".

All values, both imperforate and perforated, are available and may be of interest to collectors of this interesting "neutral" territory. They can be found in the Officiel Catalogue under Poste Locale.



REG HARRISON

Illustrations Courtesy of Maurice Wilkinson

ALEXADRINE DE RYE (1589-1666)

The Countess de Tassis (or Taxis), nee Alexadrine de Rye, was the wife of Count Leonard II-François de Tassis, who was the sixth Grand Master of the Posts of the Low Countries. Before her marriage, she was a canoness of the Noble Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Sainte Waudru at Mons. She was born at Brussels on 1st August, 1589 and died in 1666.

At the time when her husband undertook (at the age of 30) the running of the Postal Services of the Low Countries, all central Europe had been devastated by war for six years. At his death in 1628, his widow, Alexadrine took possession, with the express authorisation of the Emperor Ferdinand II, of the post of Grand Mistress of the Posts in her capacity as guardian of her son, Lamoral II Claude François, then aged seven.

During the most difficult period of the Hapsburg Empire, she carried out her duties in a masterly way. By her unbreakable strength of will, she managed to preserve the unity of the postal services which she handed over in 1645 in a perfect state to her son, Lamoral II Claude François, now of age.

It was during this period, in 1633, that the controllers of the family posts concluded an agreement with the Masters of the Posts in England concerning the sending of a weekly courier between Antwerp, Brussels and London. The length of the trip at the start was four to five days but was subsequently reduced to three.

This "portrait" of Alexadrine de Rye is taken from a very fine tapestry, the manufacture of which was ordered about 1666 by her son, from Nicols van der Horst and Daniel Eggermans of Brussels. The tapestry is kept in the mansion of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis at Ratisbonne (Germany).

Leonard II-François, Alexadrine, and their son, Lamoral II, have memorials to each of them in the Church of Sablon, Brussels.



THE "RURAL" POSTAL SERVICE OF BELGIUM

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

Over a number of years, since the new State of Belgium (1830), the postal services required were gradually brought in and, in 1836, a number of new regulations came in, particularly that regarding the "rural" postal system. It was on 29 December, 1835, the Law concerning the "tax" on letters and to the rural posts was made and, on 20 August, 1836, the Ministerial Decree came into service. It is in this article that we are concerned. In fact, it showed so much information that we give it completely and also illustrate these items as far as possible.

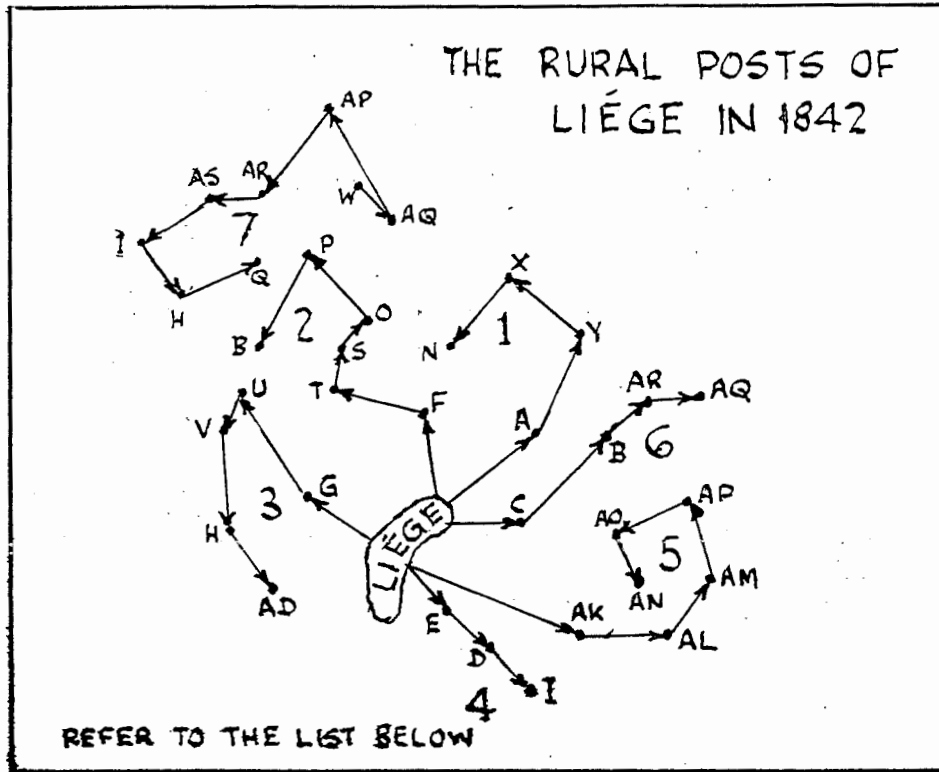
Regulations – General Arrangements

- Art. 1 The Administration of the Posts arranges the delivery and collection of letters in all communes of the Kingdom.
- Art. 2 A letter box is placed in each commune where there is no letter post office.
- Art. 3 The boxes are supplied and maintained by the Administration; they are placed in the position ordered by the communal authorities, acting in agreement with the Director, Postmaster (Percepteur) or Sub-Postmaster (Distributeur).
- Art. 4 A sufficient number of rural postmen are attached to each Head Office, Office, or Sub-Office.
- Art. 5 The communes served by rural postmen attached to Offices or Sub-Offices shall form the first district canton of these offices.
- The district of each Main or ordinary Office will also be composed of as many cantons as there are dependent Sub-Offices.
- Art. 6 Each canton is divided into 'walks' between the rural postmen.
- The route of the postmen cannot be altered without an order from the Minister of Finance.

See the postman's "walks" dated 1842 with the "letters" for the rural boxes.

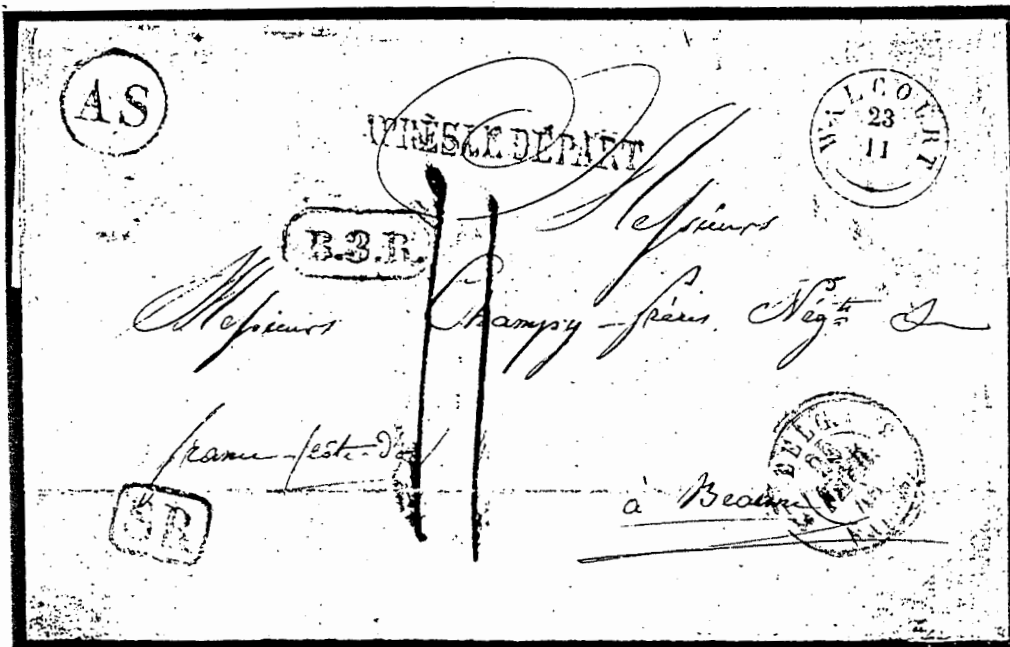
In 1842 the postal canton of the "perception" office of Liège was composed of the communes as shown here having seven walks for this area.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1st Postman: | Herstal, letter A; Vivegnis, Y; Hermée, X; and Millemorte, N. |
| 2nd " | Vottem, F; Rocour, T; Voroux-les-Liers, S; Liers, O; Villers-St-Siméon, P; and Lantin, B. |
| 3rd " | Ans and Glain, G; Alleur, U; Loncin, V; Grace-Montegnée, H; and Saint Nicolas, AD. |
| 4th " | Grivegnée, E; Chênée, D; and Vaux-sous-Chèvremont, I. |
| 5th " | Beyne-Heusay, AK; Fléron, AL; Retinne, AM; Saive-Parfondvaux, AP; Bellaire, AO; and Queue-du-Bois, AN. |
| 6th " | Jupille, C; Wandre, B; Cheratte, AR; and Housse, AQ. |
| 7th " | Slins, W; Fexhe-Slins, AQ; Glons, AP; Paifve, AR; Wihogne, AS; Othée, I; Xhendremael, H; and Juprelle, Q. |



Art. 7 Every letter coming from or going to a place where there is no post office shall pay in addition to the normal charge due a supplementary charge of one decime (Art. 13 of the Law of 29 December 1835).

From Thy-Le-Chateau to Beaune, 23rd Feb. 1843



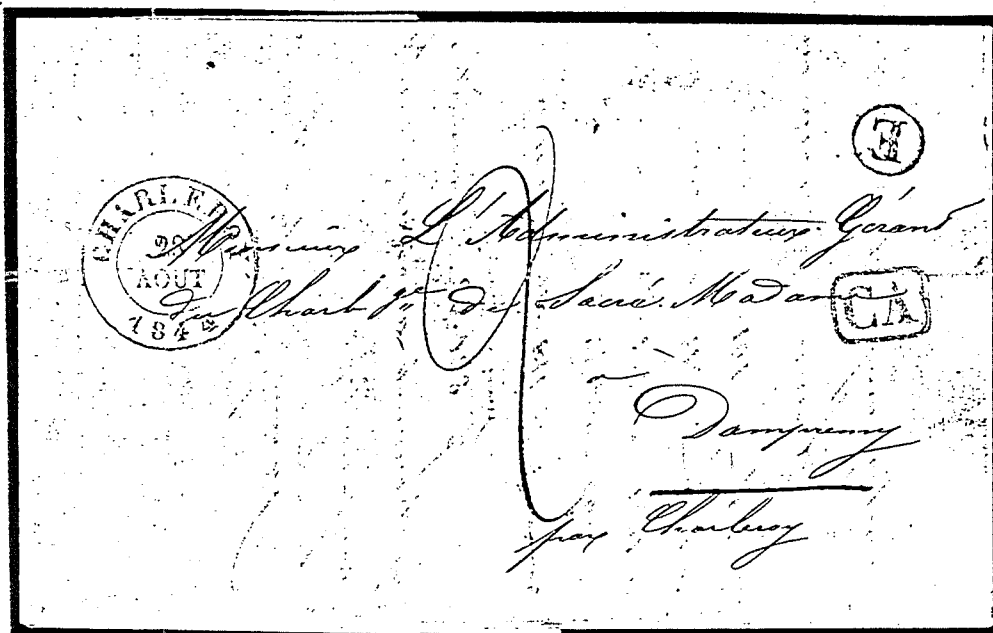
"AS" is the Handstamp allocated to the Rural Post Box at Thy-Le-Chateau.

1 Rural Decime to Walcourt
+ 10 Decimes to Beaune.

Art. 8

However, letters which originate in and are addressed to a place within the district of the same Main or ordinary Office will only be charged with the normal fee of 2 decimes for a single letter, as laid down in Art. 3 of the Law of 29 December 1835. Consequently, the letters mentioned in this article will never be charged the supplementary decime.

28th Aug. 1844 from St. Marie-D'Oignies to Dampremy



"E" in Circle is the Handstamp kept in the Posting Box at St. Marie-D'Oignies, near Charleroi.

To Dampremy near Charleroi. Rate: 2 decimes.

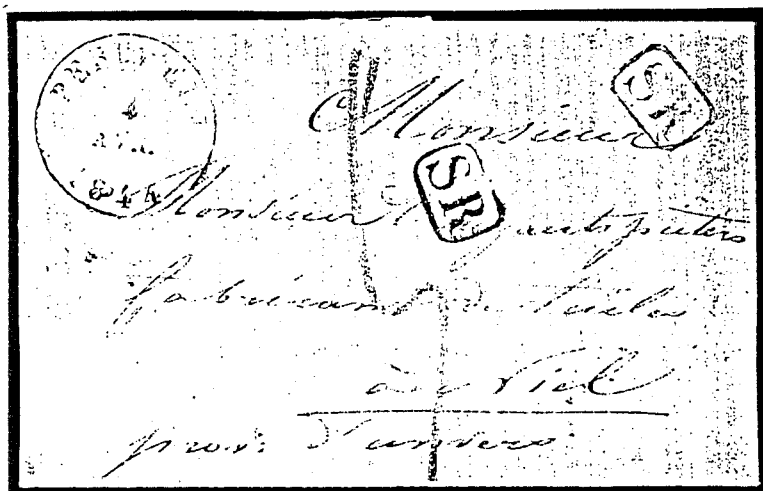
Art. 9

The supplementary charge of one decime is a fixed rate which will not be varied either for weight or distance travelled.

Art. 10

The supplementary charge can only be collected once, even when the letter was collected by a rural postman and was addressed to another rural district.

4th April, 1844 - from Roucourt to Niel



This letter is from a rural area (Roucourt) to a rural area (Niel) via the "Perception" Offices of Peruwelz and Boom.

Marked "SR" in red at Peruwelz and (in blue) at Brussels.

Distance between the 2 "Perception" Offices, Peruwelz and Boom: 85km.

Rate for distances between 80-100km = 4 decimes, plus 1 decime for Rural Services: total 5 decimes.

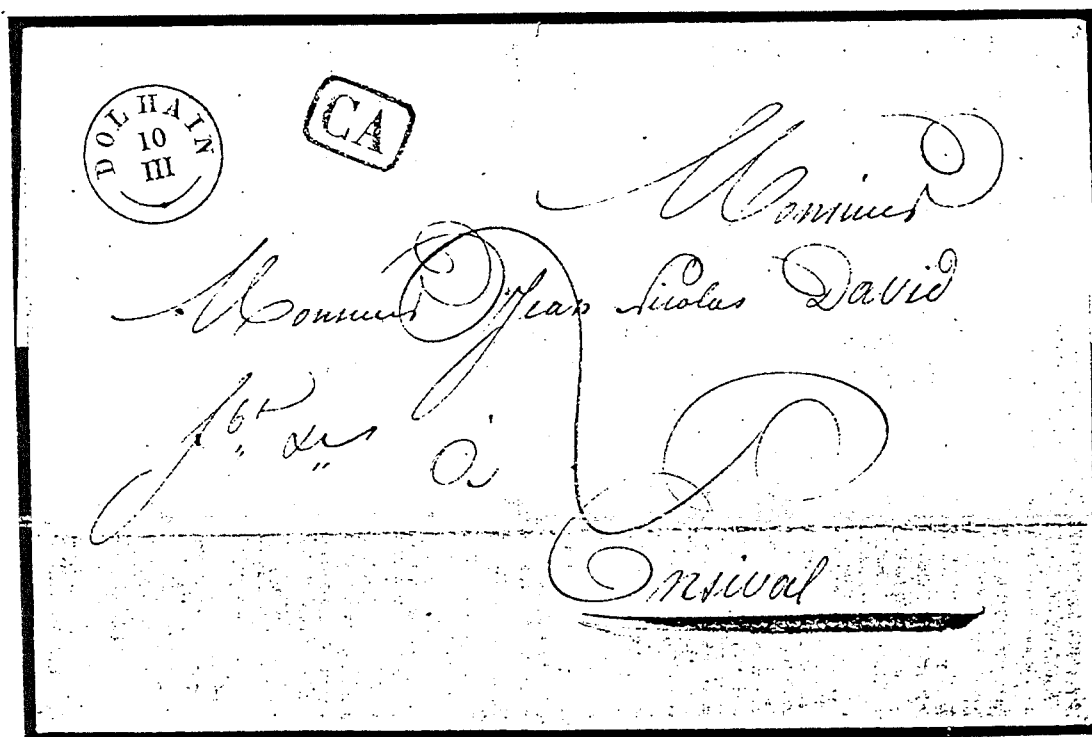
- Art. 11. Except for cases provided for in Art. 8, letters handed in for franking must bear the supplementary tax of one decime when they are addressed to a commune where there is no letter post office.
- Art. 12. Correspondents enjoying free franking privileges, letters franked for soldiers under Art. 5 of the Law of 29 December 1835, and newspapers and printed matter of all types, franked according to Art. 10 and 11 of the same Law, will not be charged the rural decime.
- Art. 13. Every individual has the power to collect or have collected letters from an office; but if the destination as shown in the address is a rural commune, he shall pay the supplementary charge, as if the letter had been delivered to him.

Tariffs and Their Application

- Art. 14. Charges for the rural service are of two types:
1. The fixed charge of one decime, as per Art. 13, of the Law of 29 December 1835 and quoted in Art. 7 of the present regulation, on letters originating in or destined for a commune, when they are sent by a main or sub-office to a similar office;
 2. The progressive charge of two decimes quoted in Art. 8 on correspondence not leaving the district of a main or sub-office.
- (Only a part of this last charge must be attributed to the rural service as stated below in Art. 51.)
- Art. 15. The fixed charge of one decime will be combined with the ordinary and progressive charges, which letters are liable for, in accordance with the tariffs set out in Art. 1 of the Law of 29 December 1835, and the total of these two charges together will be shown by one figure on the letters.
- Art. 16. The fixed charge of one decime will be applied:-
1. To all letters destined for a commune where there is no post office and which must be delivered through a letter office;
 2. To all those collected in a commune where there is no postal establishment and which the Head Postmaster or Sub-Postmaster has to forward to a corresponding office.
- Every letter liable to pay the rural decime, either because of its destination or its origin will be struck with the SR stamp at the office which forwards it. This stamp will be struck on the back of letters franked for communes where there is no post office.
- Art. 17. Letters coming from or going to a commune with no postal establishment, but not leaving the district of a main or sub-post office, will be struck with the letters CA (Correspondance de l'Arrondissement). (Ed. See illustration after Art. 8.) They will be charged in accordance with the regulations in Art. 3 of the Law of 29 December 1835, by Controllers or Perceptors.

Distributing Postmasters will charge letters from and to their area themselves.

Cover from Dolhain to Ensival - 10th March, 1838



Rate: 2 decimes

Art. 18 Every letter collected by rural postmen will bear, in addition to the SR or CA stamp, which will be struck on it as per the two preceding articles, the mark of stamp placed in the commune box where the letter has been collected.

Art. 19 Rural postmen must not deliver letters in towns where there is a main or sub-office, and reciprocally town postmen must not make deliveries in the district unless authorised by the Administration.

In communes where there is only a delivery office, this service can be carried out by the postmen attached to the delivery service.

Art. 20 Rural postmen will carry a timesheet which must be renewed on each tour of duty.

Head Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters and delivery office Postmasters are forbidden to complete timesheets in advance.

At the end of each tour, the postmen must hand in their timesheets to the office.

Art. 21 Letters to be handed to rural postmen will be divided into two groups as follows:

1. The letters originating from letter offices and struck with SR.
2. Letters originating in the commune or district where the office is and struck with the CA stamp.

Art. 22 The Director, Perceptor or Distributor will supervise personally the filling in by the rural postmen of the number of letters of each type in the space reserved for this on the form.

- Art. 23 He will be paid in advance by the rural postman all the charges due on the letters handed to him.
- Art. 24 The regulations for each office show the time fixed by the Administration for the departure of rural postmen.
- Art. 25 Before the departure of rural postmen, the Director, Perceptor or Distributor will ensure that the pads for receiving the ink for stamping the forms and letters taken from rural boxes as explained below will be properly coated in ink and supplied with their covers.
- If he finds that these items are not in good condition he will ensure that they are put into fit state at once.
- Art. 26 The postmen will leave as soon as the letters have been handed to them; they will go through the communes and clear the boxes in the order set out by the Administration without altering this order under any pretext whatsoever.
- Art. 27 In order to show that they have cleared all the boxes, they will take a careful impression of the stamp in each box in the column reserved for this on their form.
- Art. 28 The postmen will also strike this stamp on each of the letters found in the box and they will indicate the number of them on the form.
- Art. 29 At each strike of the stamp either on the form or on the letters taken from the box, the postman will take care to ink the stamp properly with the pad mentioned in Art. 25.
- Art. 30 The strike of the rural letter box stamp will be properly done and be uniformly placed at the top right hand corner of the letters.
- Directors, Perceptors or Distributors will ensure that this stamp is never covered by another stamp.

Delivery of Letters

- Art. 31 Rural postmen must deliver letters to addressees' houses. They will be paid at once all charges on letters delivered by them. Once the charge on a letter has been paid by the addressee, it cannot be returned.
- Art. 32 Directors, Perceptors or Distributors are empowered to register ("recommandee") on the form, letters which seem to be of value, or certain official letters.
- Postmen will obtain a receipt for registered letters on the form.
- Insured letters ("chargements") will never be given to rural postmen.
- Art. 33 Rural postmen are forbidden to undertake any commissions or to deliver any letter or packet other than those they have received at the post office. However they will deliver in the course of their walk and not changing their walk, single letters found in the boxes.
- Letters which they suspect are overweight, as well as those addressed to communes they have already passed through, will be handed in by them to the offices at the end of their walk.
- They will collect two decimes for the carriage of each single letter they deliver in their walk; however the charge to collect will only be one decime if the letter is to be delivered in the commune where it is collected by the postman.

The postmen on their return will pay over the total of the charges collected according to the preceding paragraph to the Director, Perceptor or Distributor under whose orders they are.

They will enter in figures in a column to this effect on the form the total collected on letters collected and delivered in the same walk. This entry will be done at the time the charge is collected.

- Art. 34 Rural postmen will bring back to the office at the end of their walk all letters, newspapers and printed matter which they have not been able to deliver. They will give details or cause the addressee to give details on the reverse of the letters the reason for non-delivery.
- Art. 35 The Director, Perceptor or Distributor will refund to the rural postmen the total postage on letters they cannot deliver.
- Art. 36 The general instructions for the delivery service of letters in towns are also applicable to the rural postmen's service.

Relais Postmen

- Art. 37 Districts which are too extensive to be served in their entirety by rural postmen starting from the office itself are partly served by rural postmen called relais postmen.

The route of relais postmen is fixed by the Administration which will also decide their place of residence.

- Art. 38 They receive on each walk from a postman coming from the office the letters which they are to deliver, as well as their form dated and signed by the Director, Perceptor or Distributor under whose charge they are. This form like that for the postmen from the office, will be taken back by the latter on the next walk. (Ed. - See Postman's Timesheet.)

The postman from the office accounts to the Director, Perceptor or Distributor for the total charges to be collected by the relais postman and he will be refunded by the latter when the letters are handed over.

The relais postmen hand over to the office postmen, letters collected in the boxes.

- Art. 39 It is particularly recommended that strict supervision be exercised by Directors, Perceptors and Distributors over relais postmen.

Control of Rural Postmen

- Art. 40 Rural postmen come under the authority of the Directors, Perceptors and Distributors to whose office they are attached.

- Art. 41 In the exercise of their duties rural postmen will be dressed in the following uniform:

Plain blue blouse with collar;
Iron grey trousers;
Brushed felt hat;
Black tie

They will carry their mails in a black leather bag on a wide strap bearing on the front a copper plate on which will be engraved the Belgian Lion with the word 'Facteur' underneath.



The Rural Postman

From a painting by
James Thiriar
in the
Brussels Postal Museum

Art. 42 Postmen cannot without authority be employed to serve communes other than those assigned to them by the Administration.

Art. 43 Distributors must not carry out the duties of rural postmen, even temporarily.

Art. 44 If an illness or some other cause keeps a postman from his duties, he must be replaced at his own expense by some person agreed to by the Director, Perceptor or Distributor. If the replacement is for more than a fortnight, the Director or Perceptor will inform Head Office.

However, if such incapacity was the result of a serious accident sustained by the rural postman in the exercise of his duties, the Director or Perceptor will report thereon to Head Office who will decide if there is reason to replace the postman at the Treasury's expense.

In the case of the death of a postman, the Director or Perceptor will make temporary provision for the service and inform Head Office at once.








Art. 45 When Directors or Perceptors suggest candidates to Head Office for the replacement of a dead or discharged rural postman, they will take care to propose only persons between the ages of 21 and 35, able to read and write.

Art. 46 Rural postmen will give the oath set out in the decree of 20 July, 1831. Directors, Perceptors and Distributors will send a copy of such attestation to the Head Office.

- Art. 47 Postmen will be paid monthly by Directors of Perceptors of the offices to which they are attached, on general statements drawn up by these officials.
- Art. 48 Discharge will be carried out of any postman convicted of:
1. Having suppressed or destroyed a letter entrusted to him;
 2. Having demanded or received a charge above that which he knows was due to him.
 3. Having diverted to himself part of the receipts by delivering letters illegally, the whole without prejudice to any punishment prescribed by the penal laws.
- The punishment of discharge will also be incurred by all rural postmen convicted of having taken back a letter which he knew had been opened by the addressee, or for having neglected to return at once to his office at the end of his walk.
- Art. 49 Postmen convicted of negligence in clearing boxes, in delivering letters, of bad behaviour, or insubordination will be suspended. Postmen thus suspended will be replaced at their own expense by a person chosen by the Director, Perceptor or Distributor.
- Art. 50 These penalties are to be authorised by the Minister of Finance acting on a report from the Director of the Head Office. However, in urgent cases, Inspectors, Directors and Perceptors can suspend rural postmen provisionally but must report their action at once to Head Office. In cases set out under Art. 49, rural postmen can all be suspended by Distributors, but provided the latter at once report to the Director or Perceptor of the office on which they depend.

Illustration Opposite

Postman's Timesheet Form No. 83 bis for Brussels, dated 31st July, 1867?

<u>Key</u>		
1)		?
2)	 ?	Senate
3)	 ?	Chambre
4)		Rue Loi
5)		Chaussee Louvain
6)		Rue Royale
7)		St. Servais

Note - Although this is not strictly a rural route, it indicates the system outlined in this article.

POSTES.

Tourneco.

No 83 bis.



Feuille de marche de facteur-leveur de boîtes supplémentaires.

EMPLACEMENT des BOÎTES.	EMPREINTES DES TIMBRES FIXÉS AUX BOÎTES.												OBSERVATIONS.
	1 ^{re} levée. SORTIE	2 ^e levée. SORTIE	3 ^e levée. SORTIE	4 ^e levée. SORTIE	5 ^e levée. SORTIE	6 ^e levée. SORTIE	7 ^e levée. SORTIE	8 ^e levée. SORTIE	9 ^e levée. SORTIE	10 ^e levée. SORTIE	11 ^e levée. SORTIE	12 ^e levée. SORTIE	
16. Jours			8.20		10.45		1.15	8.45				8.45	
Chambre													
2. Royce													
2. Parnis													
Heure de rentrée.			4.45		11.45		8.45	4.45			4.45	9.45	

Signature du facteur.

Vu et vérifié par le chef du bureau.

Rural Service Income and Accountancy

Art. 51 The income of the rural service is composed of:-

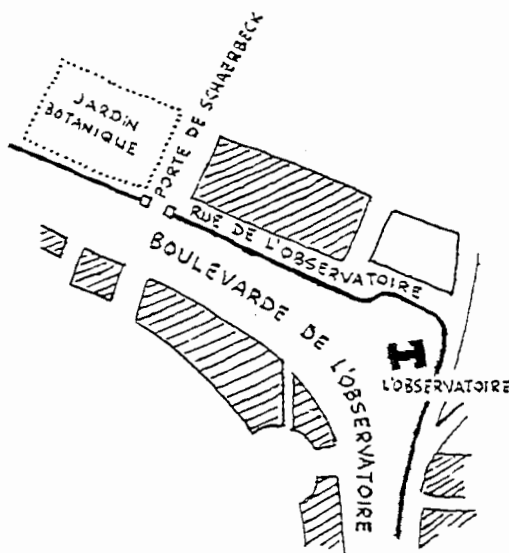
1. The supplementary charge applied to letters originating in or destined for rural communes when they are sent from a main or subsidiary office to another office of the same category
2. One decime per letter in the progressive charges applied to correspondence which does not leave the area of a Direction or a Perception Office, including such charges in accordance with para. 4 of Art. 33 above.

Art. 52 The supplementary charge of 1 decime being added together with the ordinary charge and the progressive charge which is to be struck on letters for the journey from one Direction or Perception Office to another of the same type, the total of these two charges will be shown in one and the same figure in the advice notes which accompany letters and in the accounting sheets.

However, so that the Head Office may see exactly the income from the rural service, the Directors and Perceptors, after having settled the account for each letter to be sent to the corresponding office, will indicate in a special column on the advice notes, the number of letters, either charged or franked, belonging to the rural service, and struck with the SR stamp, either on account of their origins or their destination. In order to facilitate control of this operation in the receiving offices, despatch offices will take care to collect and tie together separately in their sendings of letters all charged letters struck with the supplementary decime and the stamp SR.

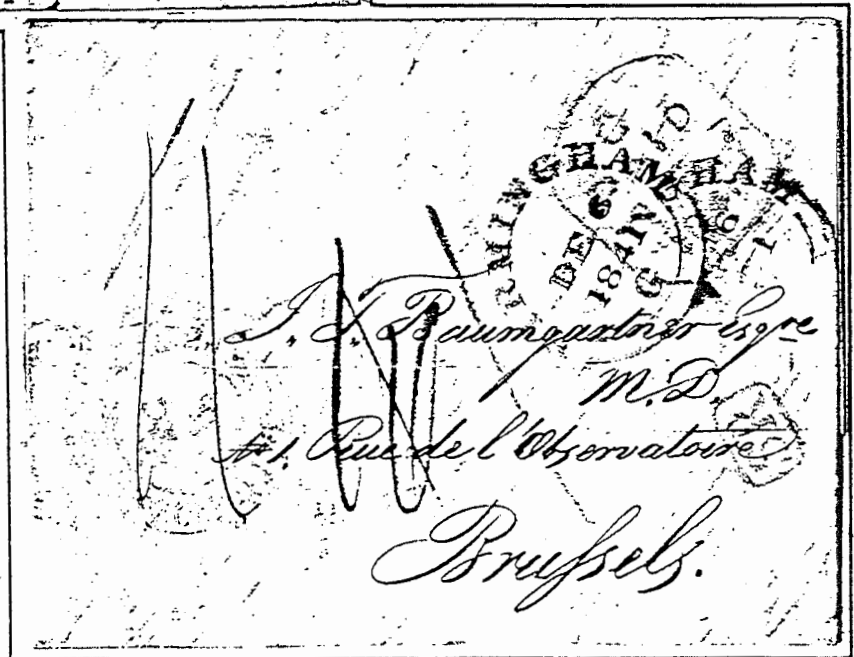
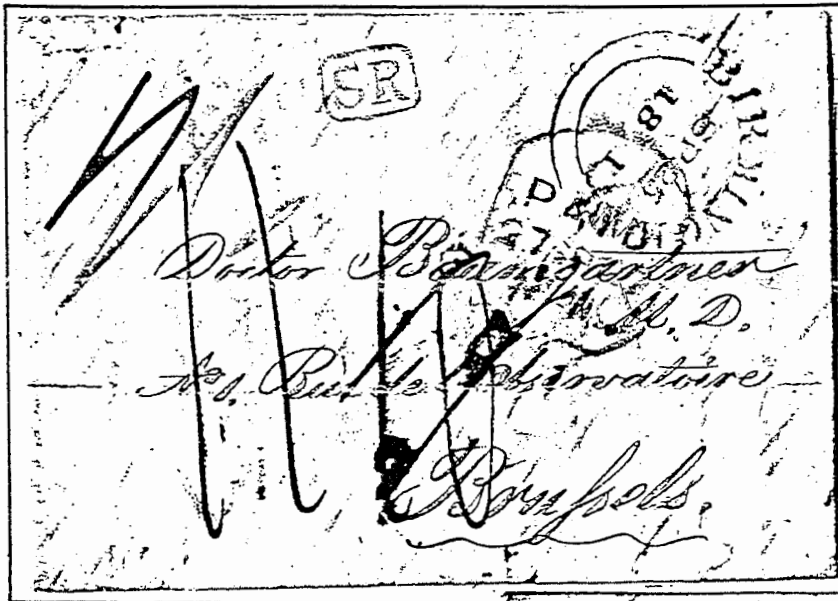
The new column added to the advice notes will be reproduced in the reminder notice No. 31 and in the first receipt notice No. 21 so that the Directors and Perceptors can note there day by day the number of rural service letters sent to their several offices, as well as those received from these same offices. The same column will also be added to the first three sections of the second receipt notice, to the NON VALEURS notice and the DEBOURSES one.

At each operation the result of which must be stated on one or other of these forms, Directors, Controllers and Perceptors will be careful to state the number of letters in the rural service.



From a town plan of Brussels of 1837

The "Rue de l'Observatoire" was outside the town walls and came within the Rural Post system. The letters were paid as far as Ostend, from where the postal rate to Brussels was 10 decimes. The supplementary rural charge of 1 decime and the framed "SR" (in blue ink of Brussels Office) was added when found to be "outside" Brussels.



Art. 53

The income from the progressive charge applied to correspondence from and for the area of Direction or Perception Office will continue to be shown on the second receipt note, but this income will in future be separated from that for letters from town for the town.

A new column will also be added to the section for letters from and for the area, for entering the number of those charged under Art. 3 of the Law of 29th December, 1835, and struck with the CA stamp under Art. 17 of the present regulations.

Art. 54 Directors and Perceptors will draw up at the end of each quarter, a summary of all operations carried out by them to show the income of the rural service. In this summary they will indicate:

1. The number of charged letters in the rural service and received from corresponding offices;
2. Of those franked letters sent to these same offices;
3. Of those found in addition on the account of letters received;
4. Of those due to be charged and found not charged in mail received;
5. Of those included in the debourses received from the Controller;
6. Of those from and for the area.

They will then deduct from the total of these various items:

1. The number of letters belonging to the rural service "en débourse";
2. Those uncharged;
3. Those found to be missed on the account of mail received;
4. Those "en rebut".

Letters belonging to the rural service will in future be shown in "rebuts" lists according to their type by the letters SR or CA and Directors and Perceptors will extract the figure at the end of each month to bring the totals forward on the form mentioned in the present article.

Art. 55 Distributors will continue to account vis-a-vis each of the Directors and Perceptors with whom they are in contact for the total of the charges made on letters received from these sources.

Art. 56 However, all Distributors in contact with several offices will only account to the Director or Perceptor of the office on which they depend for the income of charges made by them on letters from and for their districts.

This account must be rendered daily on the advice note of the Distributor. The Director or Perceptor takes over this income at once, including it in that of letters from or for the area. This taking over dates from the day on which the Distributor's statement reaches the Director or Perceptor.

The Finance Minister
S. D'HUART

Brussels
20th August, 1836

References: *Le Philatliste Belge* - various issues.
"La Poste Rurale au XIX Siècle" by J-C. Porignon.
Own collection.

DOVER-OSTEND MAIL

by W. G. STITT DIBDEN

(This article was first published in "Stamp Collecting", 17 August 1962)

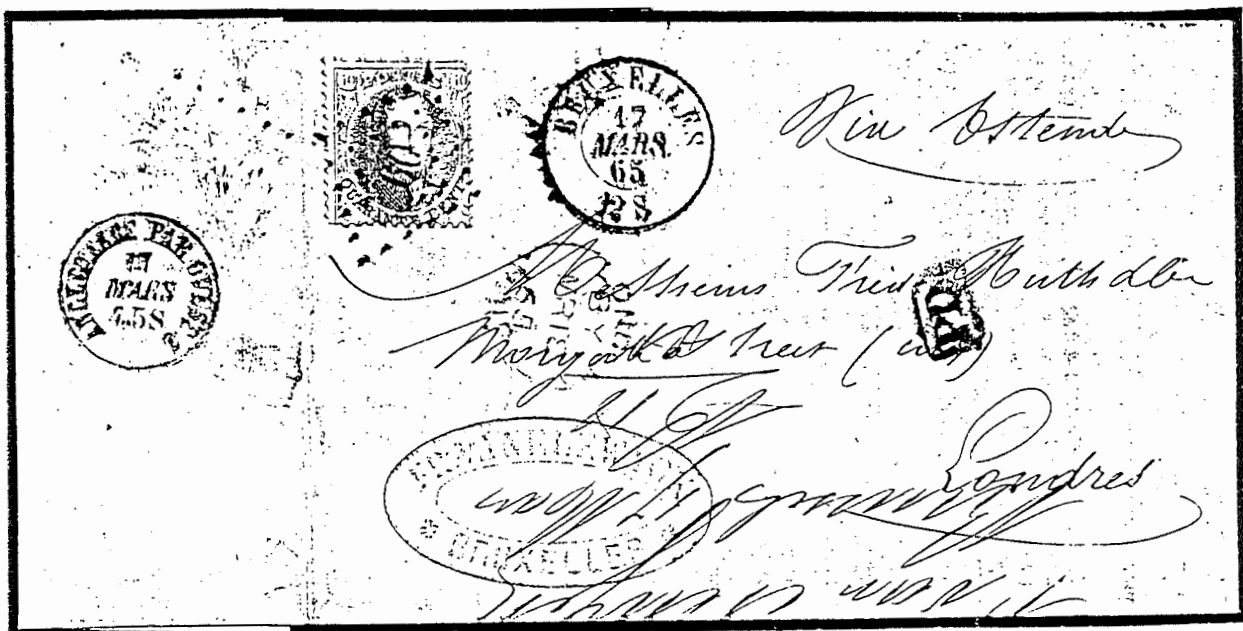
One hundred years ago this month, on Friday, August 1st, 1862, the Belgian Government shamed the British Post Office by organising a Day Mail by ship between Dover and Ostend without receiving a penny for the service. The Postmaster General in his report of the year stated:-

"The Belgian Government has, at its own cost, organised a Day Packet Service between Dover and Ostend; so that in the 24 hours there are now two services between these posts, affording much additional accommodation."

It had been the custom for many years (in fact from 1844) for the British Post Office, and those of both France and Belgium, to share the cost of the cross-Channel ships. The British Post Office had for three centuries maintained a postal agent in Ostend. And yet, by 1862, the decision not to contribute to the Day Mail costs was followed less than a year later by a total withdrawal, clearly stated in the following instruction dated June 25th, 1863.

In consequence of the withdrawal of the British Mail Packets between Dover and Ostend, the office of British Mail Agent at the latter port has been abolished. The making up of a bag at this office for the Mail Packet Agent at Ostend must therefore *at once* be discontinued and all such correspondence which heretofore has been sent in this bag must, unless specially addressed, be sent via Calais in the Belgian mail ordinary bags.

It was not until 1876 that another Postal Convention was signed setting up more favourable communications between the two ports of Dover and Ostend. More and more during the 1850's, the British Post Office favoured the mail route to Belgium via Dover, Calais, and the "Great Northern Railway" to Brussels. It was only the Franco-German War of 1870 (that upset so much in the way of international continental mail) that made the British Post Office realise that a direct-mail via Ostend to Germany, the Baltic States and Russia, and during the summer months to Turkey and Greece, was a desirable adjunct to the routes across France. The new arrangements commencing on August 1st, 1862, had some interesting repercussions on the postal workings of mail on this route.



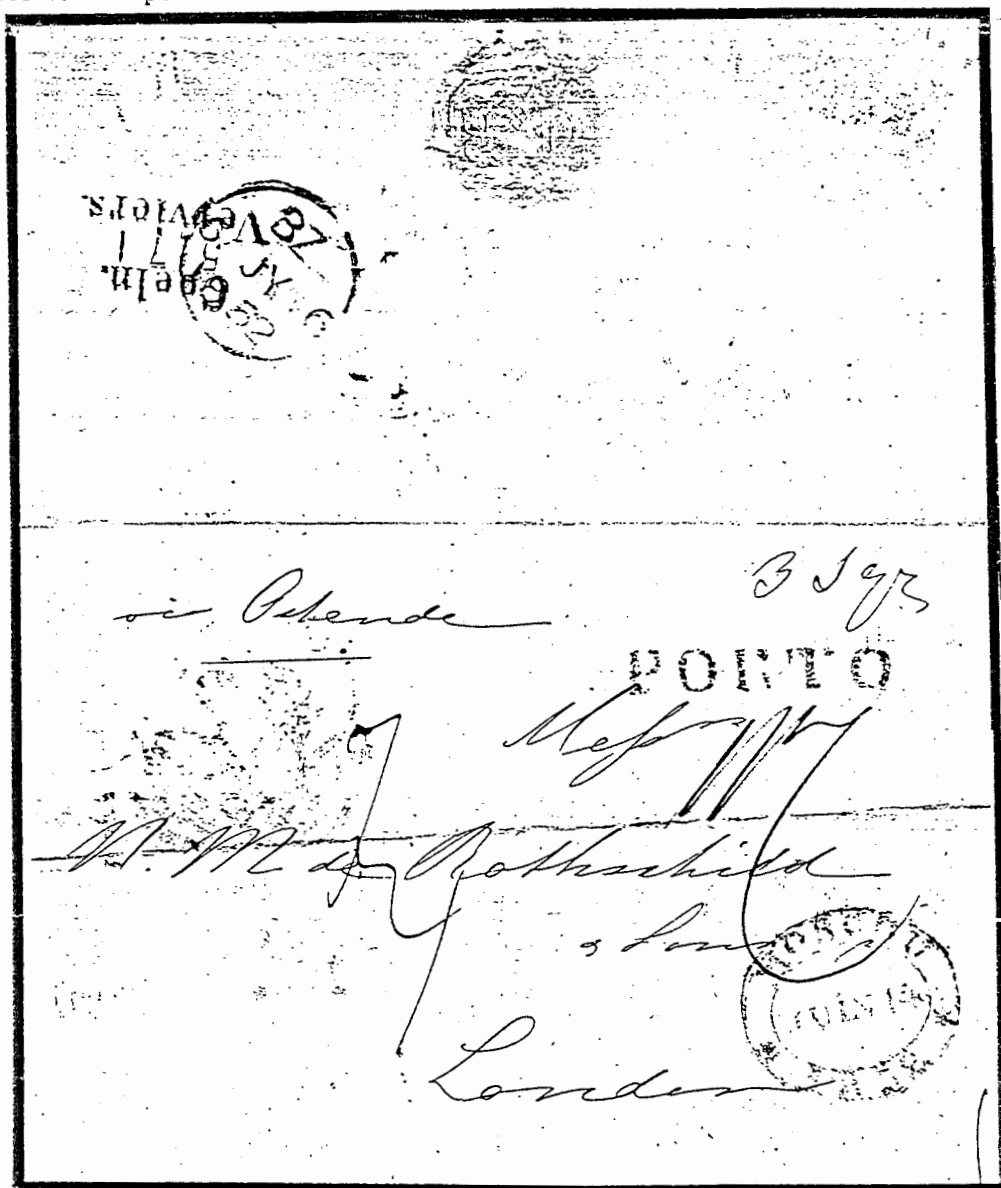
Brussels to London 17th March, 1865

The rates of postage had been originally set down in the Anglo-Belgian Convention of 1844, which came into force on December 1st of that year. The charge was made up of a Belgian Rate of 4d. and a British Rate of 8d. for the half ounce; making a total of 1s. The progressions was:-

<i>Weight</i>	<i>British Rate</i>	<i>Belgian Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Up to ¼oz.	8d.	4d.	1s.0d.
¼oz.-½oz.	8d.	8d.	1s.4d.
½oz.-¾oz.	1s.4d.	1s.0d.	2s.4d.
¾oz.-1oz.	1s.4d.	1s.4d.	2s.8d.
1oz.-1¼oz.	2s.8d.	1s.8d.	4s.4d.
then two rates per oz.		then one rate per ¼oz.	

In 1844, the mail was carried twice a week by Belgian boat, and four times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) by British boat. The following year, the mail was carried on each of the seven days by Belgian boat and the British boats dropped right out.

A second convention signed at the end of August 1857 confirmed an earlier reduction of the postage rates to 6d. per ½oz.

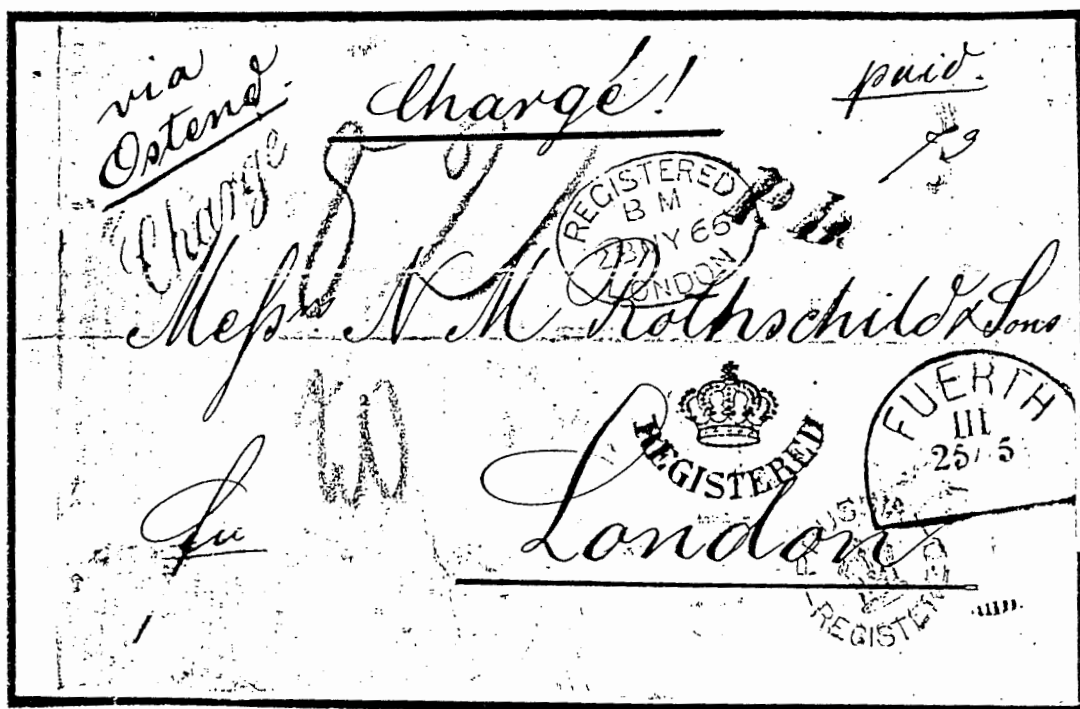


Moscow to London, 14th June, 1852

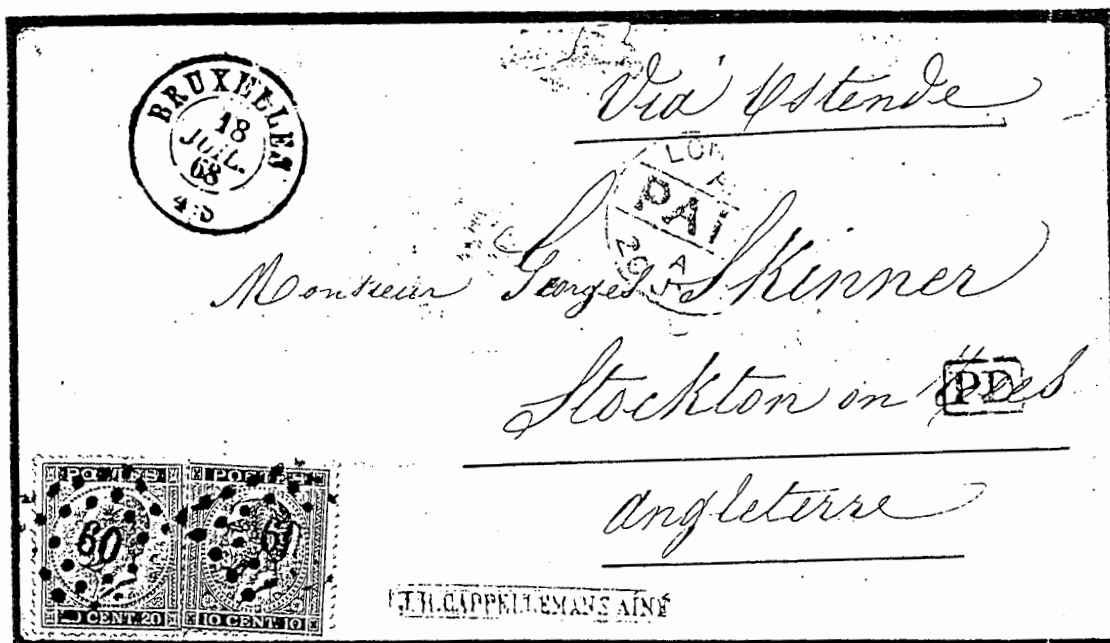
On April 25th, 1860, a Day Mail between Paris and London was organised with great acclaim and new postmarks (Fig. 1) were introduced on the mail. The train left London at 7.30 a.m. and arrived at Dover at 9.30 a.m., leaving there with the London Mail from France at 3.45 p.m. arriving at London Bridge Station at 5.45 p.m.

On the introduction of the Ostend/Dover mail, a special "Belgian" sorting carriage was added to the two sorting carriages reserved for the French Day Mail.

It was arranged that if the French Packet arrived on time and the Ostend boat was late, but in sight, the mail train should be delayed 15 minutes. If the Belgian boat arrived later than 4 p.m. the Belgian Mail sorting carriage was detached from the mail train, and attached to the normal passenger train leaving Dover at 5.15 p.m.



Fuerth to London, 25th May, 1866



Brussels to Stockton, 18th July 1868

Finding examples of letters that have travelled by this day-mail route is a labour of patience. Early examples during the first year or two bear strikes of the circular dated stamp illustrated. Letters sent on this Ostend route to and from Germany and other places on the Continent may also sometimes be found to bear circular dated stamps lettered ANGLETERRE/OSTENDE or ANGLETERRE PAR AMB. OUEST.

On Registered Mail, an undated crown stamp (Fig. 2 - originally introduced in 1857) was used, to be followed by the circular dated stamp (Fig. 3 - introduced in 1865) and finally an oval stamp (Fig. 4 - introduced in 1867).

Some idea of the working of the Belgian Mail sorting carriage can be obtained from the official instructions quoted below. The sorting carriage was staffed with one "checker" and one "sorter", seconded from the Inland office:-

The checker will dispose of the letters, and the sorter the newspapers on the journey to Dover, and the checker will check the mails and the sorter will sort the contents on the journey to London. These officers will be required to attend to the F.B.* on the dates they do not travel. (Note: two checkers and four sorters were appointed for this duty.)

On the travelling days their duties will commence at 5 a.m. and terminate when they return to London. The clerk who travels will be employed in the Inland Office in the morning at the Prussia mail and he will complete that mail as far as possible in this office. The mails for Hamburg, Bremen, Holland and Belgium must be finally closed here as regards the letters by the officers ordinarily employed on these duties and the mails for Aix-la-Chapelle and Berlin as well as all the bays containing the newspapers must be closed only in the Travelling Office.

Reference to the mails for Bremen, Holland and Germany needs to be noted, since it was by the Belgian route that some hours' travelling time was saved in comparison to the Dover-Calais-Paris route normally employed.

A supplementary mail was allowed for if needed. The instructions also give an idea of the actual sorting procedure:-

The mails from Germany are to be sorted during the journey to London in the same manner as the French Day Mail, viz. the Paid portion into 10 Postal Districts and the County Divisions as follows:-

Irish	South Eastern Railway
Scottish	South Western Railway
Liverpool	Great Western Railway
Manchester	First Road
Birmingham	Second Road
Brighton	Third Road
North Western Railway	Fourth Road
Midland Railway	Fifth Road
Eastern Counties Railway	Sixth Road (20 bags)
	Seventh Road
	Eighth Road
	Ninth Road

and the unpaid into two divisions, viz. "Town" and "County". Each bundle being securely tied with a label attached showing the division to which it belongs and the rate of postage to which each class of the unpaid letters is liable.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

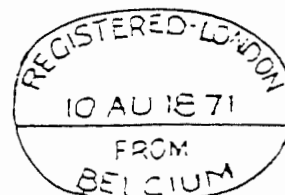


Fig. 4

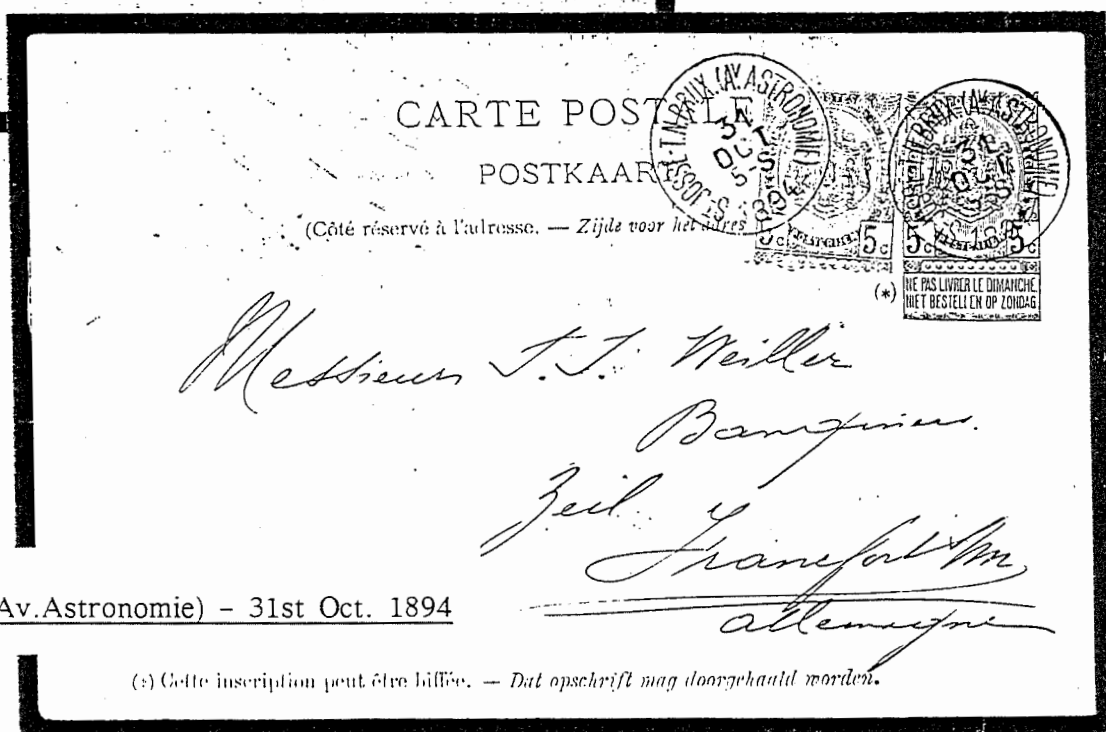
BRUSSELS POST OFFICES**3: THE SUB-OFFICES AND POST BOXES**

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

To give some idea of the increasing use of the postal services in Brussels, we show the big increases in population, right up to present times:

1526 -	35,000	1856 -	152,828
1800 -	67,000	1860 -	174,360
1819 -	75,086	1902 -	207,000
1831 -	98,279	1985 -	980,296
1847 -	127,746		

By 1850, letters were distributed five times a day and by 1870, seven times a day. The post boxes were collected six times a day in 1850 and in 1874, twelve times a day. These figures just give some idea of the great development going on and we do not propose to give this detail right up to the end of the century, but we give the location of the Brussels Post Offices in 1896, the time when the new office at Place de la Monnaie had been recently opened.



(*) Cette inscription peut être biffée. — Dat opschrift mag doorgehaald worden.

MINISTÈRE des TRAVAUX PUBLICS
CHEMINS de FER de l'ÉTAT (R)



Monsieur a Prouvy

quai de l'abattoir 37

Liège

Bruxelles (Legislatif) - 22nd March, 1889

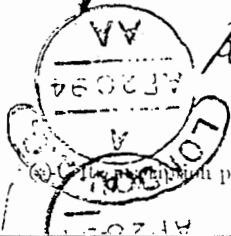
CARTE POSTALE. — POSTKAART
Union postale universelle. — Wereldpostvereeniging.

~~Angleterre~~ BELGIE.

(Côté réservé à l'adresse. — Zijde voor het adres alleen.)



Meilleurs Stœckel 200
Ring Street 8 Chancery Lane
Londres

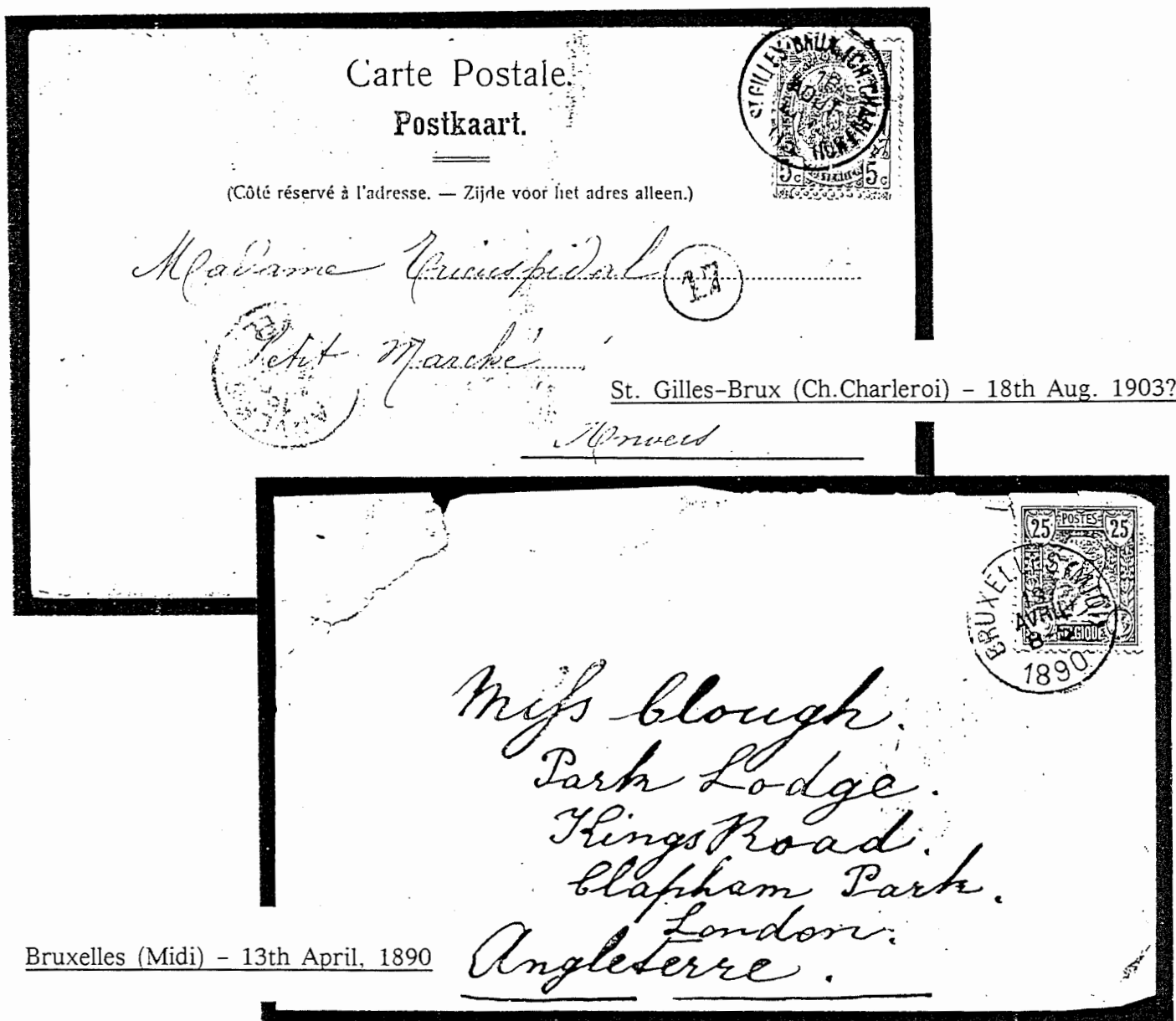


(Côté réservé à l'adresse. — Dat opschrift mag aangehaald worden.)

Bruxelles (Lux) - 27th April, 1894

The location of Brussels Post Offices in 1896 are as follows:-

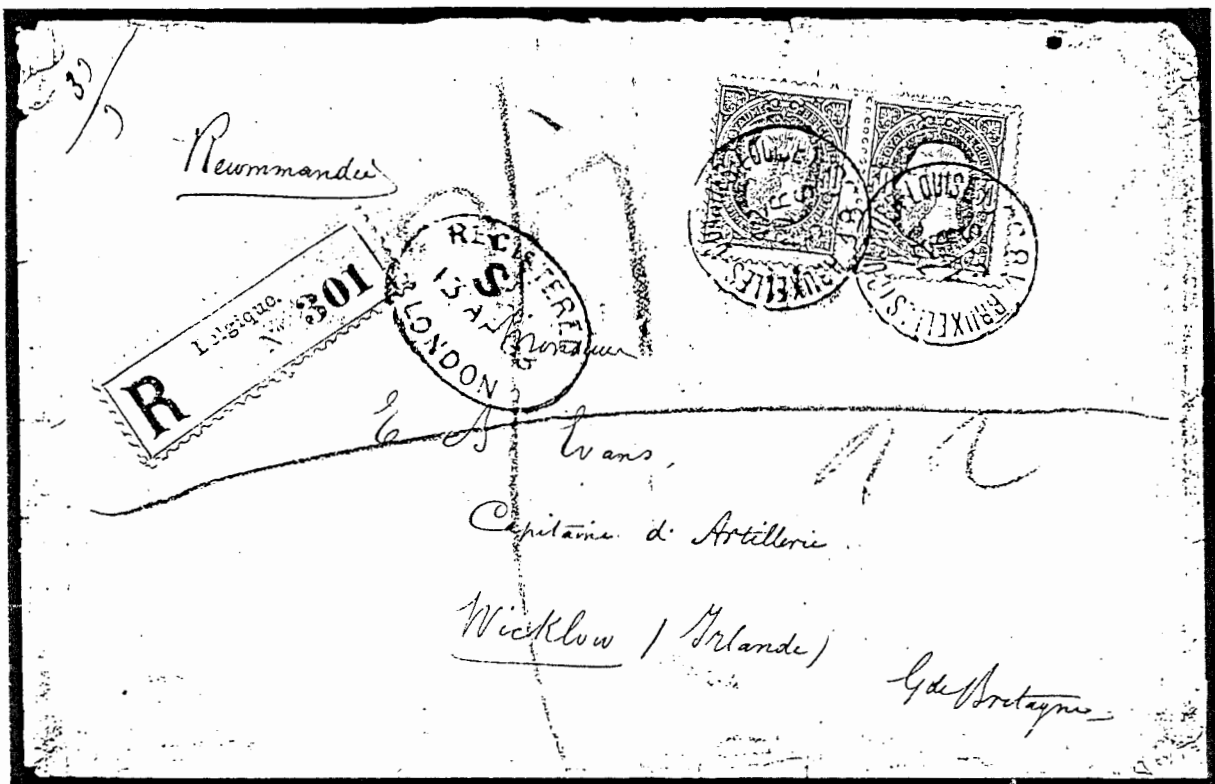
Main Office: Hôtel des Postes, Place de la Monnaie
 Sub Offices: Bruxelles-Nord (Gare du Nord)
 " -Midi (Gare du Midi)
 " -Luxembourg (Gare du Luxembourg)
 " -Porte de Flandre (3 Boulevard de l'Entrepôt)
 " -Est (9 Boulevard de Waterloo)
 " -St. Josse-Ten-Noode (27 Av. de l'Astronomie)
 " -Chancellerie (1 Rue de la Chancellerie)
 " -Ixelles (270 Ch. d'Ixelles)
 " -Sud-Ouest (64 Rue de la Senne)
 " -St. Gilles (31 Ch. de Charleroi)
 " -Chapelle (8 Place de la Chapelle)
 " -Legislatif (au Palais de la Nation, Rue de Louvain)
 " -Palais de Justice (Rue aux Laines)
 " -Molenbeek (55 Chaussée de Ninove)
 " -Deux-Ponts (86 Avenue de la Reine)
 " -Schaerbeek (98 Rue Royal Sainte-Marie)
 " -Etterbeek (25 Rue des Pantiers)
 " -Cureghem (255 Chaussée de Mons)
 " -Koekelberg (at the station of Koekelberg,
 Boulevard Leopold II)
 St. Josse-Ten-Noode (Bruxelles) (11 Rue de Liedekerke)



At this time there were less sub-offices than in 1885, no doubt because of better organisation. However, when we come to 1985, with the great increase in population (shown earlier) we find that Brussels had 103 offices and 1,023 letter boxes.

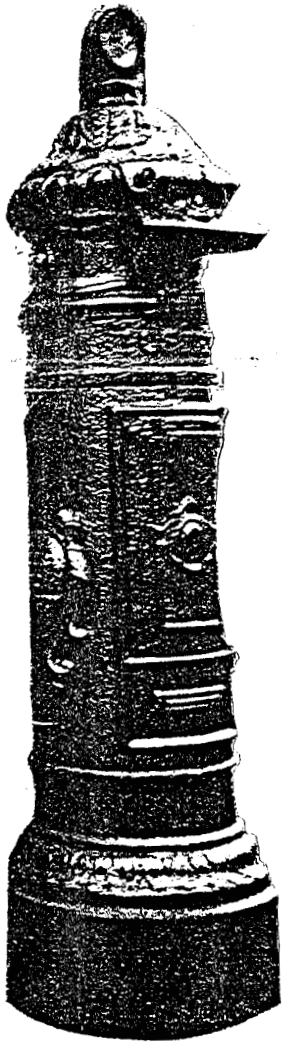


Bruxelles (Pl. de la Chapelle) - 2nd July, 1895

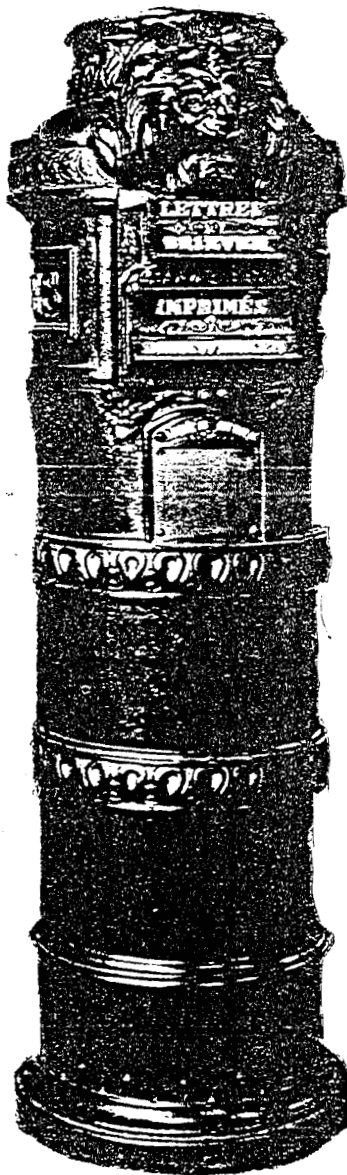


Bruxelles (Quartier Louise) 12th April, 1883

To conclude this article, we show three types of letter boxes in the city, just of a few in which there are many in the Brussels Postal Museum.



± 1860



± 1866



± 1897

REVIEW OF JOURNALS

L'Amicale Philatélique -

We have been reviewing "L'Amicale Philatélique" for some time and have found many useful articles on Belgian subjects - both stamps and postal history. The last two copies (March and April, 1996 - Nos.413-414) have been reduced in size from A4 to A5. The auction catalogue lists remain as before, but unfortunately space does not allow for useful articles. In fact, in these two issues we find only part of one page - "La Pièce du Mois" - this time a cover for the "Unigro" catalogue of about 1954. Your reviewer would hardly call this "a pièce du Mois".

No. 415, May 1996. A short article on "Remboursement" and "Für Deutsche Verwaltung" by G. Ludwig - mainly illustrations and very little extra information!

No. 416, June 1996. An interesting article on the Belgian Military Cachets in German East Africa, 1914-1918.

Belgian Postal History ("Posthistorama") No. 13, March 1996

Anyone interested in ship letters would find a long article of the "Nederland" Steamship Co. 1871-1901, by Cl. Delbeke (in Flemish).

A three-page article on the complementary "Petit Lion" stamps on the Correspondence Cards of Belgium by Dr. J. Stibbe.

The postal relations between France and Belgium after the Armistice of 21st January 1871 - a useful article by J. De Bast.

The second part, by Cl. Delbeke on Disinfected Letters.

Info-Phila No. 57, No. 1, 1996

This useful journal includes a number of good articles on "Lion Heraldique" issue of 1929 and another section on "Nord-Belge", express letters.

AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

It is normal for this column to be written after an auction has taken place, but for a change, a few notes about forthcoming sales and underlying policies.

Firstly, the aim is for each sale to include a balance of different types of material to cater for the diverse collecting interests of our members. In practice, recent sales have been dominated by the postal history sections which contain material unlikely to reappear. Normally, however, are included special areas like Express, Dover-Ostend, TPO's, Postage Dues, which cross the boundary between postal history and stamps.

Stamps - unless special items - are more difficult and time consuming to list up but are included on a regular basis. Sadly, I am often left carrying them back home unsold after the sale! Nevertheless, they will continue to appear as they form the basis on which our collecting habits started. (NB - The Editor makes the same comments on the contents of "BELGAPOST".)

However, each sale is determined by the material submitted by members and the aim is to satisfy both the sellers and the buyers. Setting estimates high may deter bidders, whereas if too low, the seller gets worried. In practice, there are usually enough lots which go above estimate to balance those going below. As a guide, bids below estimate will rarely succeed as estimates are generally considered to be realistic.

As indicated on the postal bid form (which was recently improved), the first of two equal bids wins and members are therefore recommended to bid early. All bid forms are timed and dated on receipt to ensure fair play. It is recommended that members intending to attend the sale also submit a postal bid to cover against unexpected events or delays on arrival as an insurance. This happens with surprising frequency, to members' disappointment.

If not attending the sale, a "scatter-gun" approach to bidding is recommended as it is rare for a member to obtain all their desired lots. A spending limit can be set to help in this respect if necessary.

Subject to availability, each sale includes a small section marked "Club Funds" which have been donated to the Circle. This section often contains many unusual or quality items covering all aspects of our hobby and should not be overlooked.

Finally, preparation (and typing) of auction lots commences 3 - 4 months before the event. Please keep this in mind if you are considering putting items into a sale in the future. At present, the October sale is shaping up well and will include a section on Postman's Rural Box marks, in addition to the regular sections.

REG HARRISON