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DECEMBER 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.

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GEOFFREY WOOD



**PRESIDENT
1996**

ARTHUR GEOFFREY WOOD

Geoffrey, President of the Belgian Study Circle, died on 14th October, 1996, after a short illness, in hospital. He was a Founder Member of the Circle and was looking forward to its fiftieth birthday celebrations next year. He was collating our display which we have been invited to show at the "Royal" in January.

As well as our President, he had been our secretary for some years and had been a stalwart of the Circle. He was also a Founder Member of both the Belgian Congo Study Circle, and the Waterlow Study Circle, in both of which he had played a prominent and very enthusiastic part in their activities, and his knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed by their members.

Geoffrey was also a respected member of the Byzantine Society. Whenever their annual conference was held at the University of Birmingham (which was often), we were together at dinner and a delightful evening ensued.

Apart from the work he did with these societies, Geoffrey was an active Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and for his work to this Society, he was awarded their London (Silver) Medal some years ago. His main work there was the collation of the Perkins Bacon letters and the preservation and presentation of the artefacts in the Museum at 41 Devonshire Place.

Geoffrey always said that he was "a stamp man" and not a postal historian. And so he was. In this Circle, he was interested in all Belgian stamps, particularly in the 1893 issue, the 1912 issue, but especially in the 1915 issue, this last probably his greatest work. We know he had worked on this issue for most of his philatelic life.

Geoffrey (or Aggie) was born on 7th June, 1913, at Canterbury and attended Christ's Hospital School, with a Bursary. He worked with his brother until 1932 when he joined the Bank of England. He married Ruth in April, 1940, and in 1941 was called up to the Royal Armoured Corps at Catterick, and then at Sandhurst (but as he said, "Not a gentleman cadet!"). He served in Egypt, Iraq and Jerusalem. He had two children, Graham and Rachel.

In sport, Geoffrey was always interested in Rugby Union, and was Captain of the Bank of England's 'A' Team until the age of 40. When he retired from the Bank after forty years of service, his ambition was to live to receive a further forty years of Bank pension. Sadly, that ambition was not achieved.

To Ruth and to all his family, we send our sincere condolences in their sad loss. We also thank them for the work that Geoffrey did for the Belgian Study Circle. All will miss his friendship and helpfulness.

A great friend to all.

S.J.A.

DECEMBER 1996EDITORIAL

This issue completes our ninth volume, its' contents being very similar to previous issues. This is due to our members presumably being satisfied with this. A number of our members at our Peterborough meeting were quite happy for "BELGAPOST" to continue as it now is. What about other members - your Editor would like them to have their say!

Our next volume is a "stamp" year and will be based on the Montenez issues. But we still want more articles from you all - stamps or postal history - even small items. We will cope with it all!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

The Committee and Editor, send their best wishes to all Members for **CHRISTMAS** and the **NEW YEAR**. Good hunting (although not much on Belgium except in our own auctions!).

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Jack Andrews has been honoured by you to be invited to be your President. He thanks you all and will do everything possible to enhance the great standing the BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE now has, into the next fifty years. Thank you all.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY - DISPLAY 16th JANUARY, 1996

At the meeting on 2nd November, we were able to arrange the exhibits for our display to the Royal Philatelic Society on 16th January. By now, all those members who have agreed to participate will have received a form for completion and, we trust, have returned it as requested. If you have not yet done so, please complete and return immediately to assist the organisation.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From the Honorary Librarian of the National Philatelic Society:-

"I am in the process of binding all volumes of your excellent publication on the philately of Belgium for the benefit of future generations of collectors.

"I would like an article or articles on stamp printing/printers of Belgium (and your Editor, also). Who is the firm of "de Schutter"? Are they a stamp printer or "just" cylinder makers?"

GEOFFREY WOOD - A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

Although a relatively new member of the Circle, circumstances over recent years put me into close contact with Geoffrey, culminating in his last event - our Summer Meeting at Peterborough, where he took delight in presenting a floral arrangement to my wife, Jean, in appreciation of her work for the Circle.

Always courteous, he was a mine of information, often interspersed with military mottoes: "Always verify your references" and "Time spent on reconnaissance is rarely wasted". Humbly, he sometimes referred to Humpty-Dumpty in a modest comparison.

Apart from Circle matters, he would often meet Jean and me at the British Museum members' evenings. We always arranged a rendezvous at the refreshment area where, apart from exchanging papers etc., a glass of red wine formed part of the ritual. At the end of the evening, we were able to ensure that he safely boarded a Wimbledon train for his return journey home. He had no hesitation in travelling around alone and included Brussels in his destinations.

Always hospitable and good company, there was rarely a dull moment in his presence and I am privileged to have been one of his friends. Over the years he wrote many articles, some of which he published - others may appear in the future when deciphered! Thank you, Geoffrey, for your help and comradeship over the years.

REG HARRISON

TREASURER'S NOTES

Recent events have been dominated by the sad death of Geoffrey Wood, which is reported elsewhere in this issue. At his funeral service, the Circle had 20 members and partners present - a mark of the high esteem Geoffrey commanded amongst us.

Both Ruth and I thank you for all the letters and comments about Geoffrey. I have forwarded to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, the cheques received from members, plus one from the Circle itself.

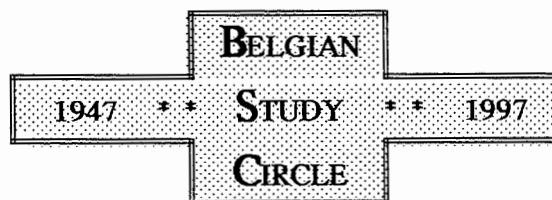
Further to my last report, I am pleased to say that all subscriptions have now been received for 1996/97, and the Circle is in a sound financial position to start our 50th year. There are a number of additional expenses envisaged for 1997, but we are fortunately able to carry out our plans to make next year that little bit special.

Clearance of the October Auction is now almost complete, and preparation of our April 97 Special is commencing.

REG HARRISON

CHANGE OF PROGRAMME - 22nd FEBRUARY, 1997

Due to prior commitments, the afternoon session "Parcel Posts" by Tony Geake will be replaced with "Pot Pourri" by Ken Carpenter. Tony Geake's display will therefore be shown on 7th December and interested collectors and regular attenders have been notified of this change.



EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR 1997

Thursday, 16th January

CIRCLE DISPLAY AT THE 'ROYAL'

All arrangements are now in hand following our 'trial run' at the November meeting. Our display will be on show from 1.00 pm and we would like to see as many members and guests as possible, even if only for a brief visit.

By courtesy of our new President - Jack Andrews - a glass of wine will be offered during the afternoon to mark the event.

A special leaflet is in production for everyone attending the Display and we plan to ensure that our position as one of the oldest specialist societies is appropriately recorded. Copies of the leaflet will be available for members unable to attend.

The new Presidential Badge will also be on display for the first time.

Do Please Try to Attend.

Saturday, 12th April

AGM - LUNCHEON - CELEBRATION AUCTION

The venue for this event has now been reserved at the Clifton Ford Hotel, London, and enclosed in this issue is a booking form for place reservations. Viewing for auction lots will be from 10.30 am, Annual General Meeting at 11.45 am, Lunch at 12.30 pm and Special Auction at 2.00 pm.

All members and guests are warmly invited to attend the luncheon, which we hope will be memorable. Following lunch, the auction, which promises to contain a number of interesting and special lots, will be held.

The cost of the lunch has been fixed at £21 to encourage attendance at this event, which marks almost to the day the first meeting of the Circle fifty years ago. Alas - we could not repeat the 1947 price, which was probably closer to 21s.0d. (i.e. £1.5p)!!

Friday-Sunday, 23rd-25th May

CHARLEROI PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

To recognise the contribution of our European members, a meeting will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 24th May, in conjunction with the above Exhibition. The organisation is kindly being undertaken by Jean Bruwier and Josef Deruyck, and this will be an opportunity to see displays by our overseas members, as well as to meet on a social basis.

Further details will follow when available but hopefully a small delegation of UK members will attend in support. If enough interest is shown, an evening dinner afterwards might be possible.

Saturday, 28th June

MIDPEX 1997 – COVENTRY

The Circle has successfully reserved a stand at this event, which is intended to act as an advertisement and recruitment meeting for specialist societies. With a large number of visitors attending the dealer side, it is hoped that our Circle will become better known and be seen alongside other collector societies. Our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, is acting as liaison officer and further information will follow in due course.

Friday–Sunday, 19th–21st September

LEAMINGTON SPA

This is our annual 'country' meeting, returning to the Regent's Hotel, Leamington Spa, for our "50th Special". An interesting programme is currently being drawn up by Tony Geake, who would welcome suggestions for topics and displays.

In order to secure accommodation, an application form for advance bookings is enclosed with this issue which members are advised to return as soon as possible.

On the evening of Saturday, 20th September, a special Gala Dinner is planned and all are welcome.

There are a number of tourist attractions in the vicinity and special excursions may be possible if sufficient interest is shown.

Further details will be made available in due course.

SPECIAL BARKER-JOHNSON CUP COMPETITION

As previously announced ("BELGAPOST" Vol. 9 No.1 page 3), to mark the Circle's 50th year the winner of the Barker-Johnson Cup will also receive a £50 voucher which will be valid for purchases in our auction sales.

This special competition will be held in conjunction with our Leamington Spa weekend (19th–21st September) and the judging will be undertaken by Jack Andrews and Jack Gibbs. A minimum number of three entries is required to validate this competition and proposed participants should notify Jack Andrews by not later than 31st August of their intention to enter. Members coming to Leamington Spa should bring their entries with them but those unable to attend, should send their entry to Jack Andrews to reach him by Saturday, 13th September, 1997, at the latest.

Please consider your entry now and let us make the judges' task as difficult as possible!

The competition rules are as follows:

1. Entries must cover an aspect of Belgian Philately or Postal History.
2. Size – a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 36 album pages.
3. Entries will be accepted from any member of the Circle who has not received an award for a Belgian exhibit at a National or International Exhibition.

GOOD LUCK!

PETERBOROUGH 1996

Our return visit to Peterborough started on the Friday evening with dinner, followed by our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, distributing his Philatelic Quiz No.2 – a copy of which is printed elsewhere in the journal. The answers will follow in the next edition. A special welcome was extended to Robert Powell, and Ken and Irene Morrell, attending for the first time. Our President commented that at one time the "Three Wise Kens" (Dore, Carpenter and Morrell), were seen conferring together!

On the Saturday morning, members were divided between sightseeing in the area and a small bourse accompanied by a discussion on our plans for the Circle's 50th Anniversary. After lunch, the first display was given by Jack Andrews on the Montenez Issues. An in-depth study, which will feature in "BELGAPOST" throughout 1997. Many blocks and items were shown, which are difficult to find nowadays and have been largely ignored in recent years. This was followed by the Nord-Belge Line which (like our GWR) is keenly collected in Belgium and for which a separate society exists. Tony Geake led this display, beginning by explaining that it is in the south of Belgium: the Nord label arising from its French connection. Tony then showed various cancellations of the stations involved, together with other connected items.

Our third display, Postal Stationery, failed to materialise due to the non-appearance of Ian Stevenson, but was substituted by Maurice Wilkinson, who brought forward from Sunday his display on Moresnet. Maurice was able to show a selection of authentic items on this "neutral" territory, together with sheets showing both the Molly stamps and the Moens bogus issues. A selection of associated publications and ephemera served to add to this story, and we are grateful to Maurice for stepping in at very short notice.

During dinner, our President Geoffrey Wood, presented to Jean Harrison a floral arrangement in appreciation of her hard work in secretarial assistance to the Circle. Without her efforts, the "BELGAPOST" and the Auction Lists would be struggling. Following dinner, Ken Carpenter took us through the answers to his quiz, on which most of us failed miserably!! The winner was Eileen Loader and her prize was graciously shared amongst us in our glasses after coffee! (Note – take a Belgian atlas and history guide next year!)

After devouring his breakfast kipper, our President Geoffrey Wood opened the Sunday morning session with a display on the 1914-1918 Red Cross stamps, and especially the forgeries. These so called Illicit Printings greatly outnumber the genuine stamps and buyers are asked to take great care when purchasing the dearer items. Reference was also made to the forged postmarks which were almost exclusively done on forged stamps.

Reg Harrison then showed a selection of First World War covers indicating the proper use of the two series of overprinted Germania stamps. Many values, especially the higher ones, represented a large sum of money at that time and many philatelic creations were produced, especially by German troops and officials. A future publication is planned to serve as a guide for collectors of this facet of our postal history.

After coffee, Peter Watts gave a display on Postage Dues, with particular reference to their correct use on covers. He took us through the various issues, indicating some which were difficult to find on covers due either to serving an unusual need or for only being needed a short time due to postal rate changes. Definitely an area of collecting where postal use is essential to indicate their proper use. Nowadays, our postage dues are applied randomly or apply to fiscal uses inapplicable to a postal historian e.g. VAT.

Finally, the last session was given by Jack Gibbs on Air Mails. He concentrated on the early period including the experimental services and generally before large quantities of mail were specially prepared for philatelic rather than aviation purposes.

Following Sunday lunch, a brief discussion was held before breaking-up on our plans for **Leamington Spa, 19th-21st September, 1997**. It is proposed to start our first session

during Saturday morning and further information will be available in due course. We are also proposing a meeting in conjunction with our Belgian members at the National Exhibition in Charleroi, on Saturday, 24th May, 1997. Any member interested in attending, please let us know.

In summary, in spite of some unwelcome free entertainment on the Saturday evening, an enjoyable weekend was had by all. Under the control of our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, we were led through the programme having re-established some friendships, and exchange of philatelic knowledge and material. Our special thanks to Maurice and Pauline Wilkinson for organising the hotel and meeting arrangements.

RTH

OBITUARY

We regret to learn of the death of **Cyril Kidd**, President of the TPO and Seapost Society, and a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians.

Although not a member of this Study Circle, he has been a stalwart to a number of our members, those particularly interested in TPOs of Belgium. We published ("BELGAPOST" Vol.8 No.4) an updated version of his article "The Belgian Foreign Sorting Marks, 1840 to 1880", which he was so pleased to do for us.

He will be much missed by all who knew him. We send our sympathies to his wife.

S.J.A.

REPORT ON AUCTION SALE - 5th OCTOBER, 1996

In the absence of both your Secretary and Treasurer, the day's proceedings were in the safe hands of our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, and John Connolly. The end result was that the sale totalled around £2,018, representing 176 sold of the 310 lots on offer (c. 57%). The property of six vendors passed over to 23 members of the Circle.

Following recent sales, the main interest lies in the Postal History sections which contain much material not often available. A special mention of lot 24, which reached £61 and is a rare item. A few postal history items did not sell, including some of the small CDS Type 18 postmarks. However, the section on Rural Postman's Box Markings and Medallions on cover were keenly bid for. A few of the Cachets de Fortune were unsold but Express Mail and Postal Stationery went well. Likewise, needless to say, the Railways section, especially the Nord-Belge lots.

On this occasion I am pleased to report that the Stamps section saw many change hands, much to my relief. I consider this to be a good time to buy stamps as they are unlikely to be at this price in the future.

In summary, the Circle will benefit by approximately £350 as a result of this sale and my thanks are extended to all participants.

Our next major sale will be in conjunction with our special Annual General Meeting and Luncheon on 12th April, 1997. This event is planned to coincide as close as possible with the Inaugural Meeting of the Circle, which took place on 20th March, 1947. Further details will be circulated in due course but the sale itself is intended to be a "special". Any member who would like to include material is asked to contact or send items to me as soon as possible in order to enable the final list to be completed in early 1997.

REG HARRISON

Results of Sale held 5th October, 1996

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	30.00	56	40.00	116	1.50	161	5.00	225	1.00
2	18.00	58	27.00	117	4.50	162	2.00	226	3.50
3	20.00	60	20.00	118	2.00	166	5.00	227	1.00
5	18.00	63	25.00	119	4.00	167	16.00	229	6.00
6	19.00	66	22.00	120	2.00	168	10.00	230	2.00
9	15.00	67	25.00	121	2.00	169	8.00	231	2.00
10	36.00	73	5.00	122	1.50	171	10.00	232	1.00
12	40.00	75	21.00	123	3.00	173	4.00	233	.50
13	27.00	76	5.00	124	2.00	174	4.00	235	3.50
14	15.00	77	3.00	125	4.00	177	3.00	236	5.00
16	15.00	78	3.00	126	3.50	178	4.00	238	8.00
19	30.00	79	4.50	127	6.00	181	5.00	239	11.00
21	50.00	80	4.00	128	4.50	183	4.00	240	11.00
22	35.00	81	4.00	129	5.00	184	20.00	241	9.50
23	38.00	84	19.00	130	2.00	190	25.00	243	2.00
24	61.00	85	19.00	132	11.00	195	3.00	244	5.00
26	15.00	86	19.00	133	2.50	196	5.00	245	.50
27	15.00	89	12.00	135	3.50	197	2.00	247	5.00
29	12.00	90	24.00	137	2.00	200	24.00	249	3.00
30	25.00	92	8.00	138	4.00	201	15.00	252	4.50
31	30.00	93	15.00	142	4.00	203	1.00	253	6.00
32	27.00	94	23.00	146	5.00	204	16.00	255	2.00
33	16.00	97	21.00	147	8.50	205	2.00	264	7.00
34	16.00	98	8.00	148	8.50	209	10.00	266	5.00
37	50.00	99	10.00	149	16.00	211	3.00	271	2.00
39	29.00	101	9.00	150	3.00	213	8.00	276	15.00
41	12.00	103	21.00	151	.50	214	5.00	283	14.00
42	15.00	104	26.00	152	2.00	215	9.50	284	10.00
44	17.00	105	5.00	153	5.00	216	8.00	286	8.00
45	10.00	107	13.00	154	4.00	217	5.50	287	5.50
46	31.00	108	10.00	155	.50	218	9.00	294	6.50
48	21.00	110	12.00	156	.50	219	5.00	295	2.50
49	25.00	111	16.00	157	4.00	220	3.00	---	---
50	6.00	112	17.00	158	3.00	221	6.00	---	---
51	17.00	113	15.00	159	6.50	222	7.50	---	---
54	35.00	114	14.00	160	2.00	224	1.00	---	---

END OF SALE

REPORT ON THE CIRCLE MEETING
held at REGENT'S COLLEGE on 5th OCTOBER, 1996

Arriving early for the meeting, I was surprised to see Ruth Wood waiting in the room for a Circle member to arrive. She explained that Geoffrey had been taken ill during the night with a suspected heart attack and was admitted to hospital at 3.00 a.m. He was diagnosed as having angina, not a heart attack proper, but was to be kept in under observation and rest for a few days.

Geoffrey was worried about the auction as he had the postal bids; fortunately he had packed his bag for the meeting the previous evening and Ruth kindly agreed to bring it along. Ruth was thanked for her kindness and asked to convey to Geoffrey our hopes for a speedy recovery.

For various reasons, attendance was lower than usual. In the absence of Reg Harrison, who was on holiday, John Connolly acted as Treasurer and I as Auctioneer. Bidding began somewhat belatedly; fewer lots than usual were sold. However, in spite of this, sales exceeded £2,000.

As the afternoon display was to have been given by Geoffrey and there had been no time to arrange an alternative, the meeting closed at approximately 3.00 p.m.

KEN CARPENTER

REPORT OF MEETING 2nd NOVEMBER, 1996 - REGENT'S COLLEGE

The prime aim of this meeting was to view and assess our members' contributions for our "Royal" show in January, 1997. In answer to our appeal and also the approaches made direct to individuals by Geoffrey, there was an excellent attendance of members carrying small packages.

Under the supervision of Jack Andrews, all contributions were put on display in order to draw up a 'long list' for the main event. Peter Watts has agreed to help produce the proposed leaflet to accompany the display, to which one of our overseas members has made a generous financial contribution.

The business part of the meeting began with our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, asking members to stand for a minute's silence in respect for Geoffrey Wood. A brief report was given on the funeral, which was well attended by BSC members, and on developments since.

In view of the proximity of our "Royal" Display, it was proposed and unanimously agreed, that Jack Andrews be elected President with immediate effect. This will be ratified at our Annual General Meeting in April, with a proposal that the term of office will be for a period of two years in the first instance. Jack thanked those present and said that he looked forward to serving the Circle in his new role.

At this point, it was announced that the Circle has commissioned a special "President's Badge", to be prepared, which will be presented to the Circle by Doris Green in memory of Harry Green, Founder of the Circle and first President. Members were shown a sketch of the badge (full details will appear later in "BELGAPOST") which will be in use from January, 1997. A round of applause was given to Doris and her daughter, Rosemary, for this magnificent gesture and a short response was made by Doris.

All members present were asked to sign a card for our member, John Parkin, who is in hospital recovering from a heart by-pass operation.

The remaining business was concerning the arrangements for our special events next year - further details will appear in due course. Reference was made to the plans Geoffrey Wood had for 1997 and members were asked both to contribute and support the Circle in in our 50th Year.

REG HARRISON

KNOW YOUR BELGIUM - PART 2

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

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1. | INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS USED HERE FOR GLASS CUTTING? | --- -- ----- |
| 2. | HAS HAUTE AND GRANDE STATIONS | ----- |
| 3. | SOUNDS LIKE A CRY, ACROSS THE MEUSE! | --- |
| 4. | RAILWAY JUNCTION FOR DINANT IS HERE | ----- |
| 5. | THIS PLACE COULD BE IN GWENT, RHODE ISLAND OR
ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT | ----- |
| 6. | HOME FOR MANY OLD TRAMS | ----- |
| 7. | AN AMERICAN HOLD-UP! | ----- |
| 8. | BELGIUM'S ONLY NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP | ----- |
| 9. | SOUNDS LIKE ECCLESIASTICAL TREASON | ----- |
| 10. | HERE YOU CAN STAND ON ONE BRIDGE AND SEE
THREE MORE, ONE ABOVE THE OTHER | ----- |
| 11. | COULD ALMOST BE A CLASSIC BRITISH HORSE RACE! | ----- |
| 12. | DID QUEEN SALOTE RULE HERE? | ----- |
| 13. | ALSO LADIES' FOUNDATION WEAR | --- |
| 14. | THEY MUST KEEP DONKEYS HERE | ---- |
| 15. | A PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED HERE IN 1814 | ---- |
| 16. | ITS ROMAN TOWER FEATURED ON A 9F STAMP IN 1988 | ---- |
| 17. | HAS "NEPTUNE'S CAVES" | ----- |
| 18. | BARGES USE THE LIFT HERE | ----- |
| 19. | THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF THE DUNES IS SITUATED HERE | ----- |
| 20. | BUILT ON BLAST FURNACE WASTE PERHAPS? | ----- |
| 21. | IS THIS IN BELGIUM OR NORTHERN IRELAND? | ----- |
| 22. | ALSO HALF A NAVAL AFFIRMATIVE | --- |
| 23. | THE 28,000 TON LINER "VICTORIA" DOCKS HERE ON
JULY 7TH 1997 | ---- |
| 24. | WAS A TYPE OF CAMERA INVENTED HERE? | ----- |
| 25. | FAMED FOR ITS STREET OF 373 STEPS | ----- |
| 26. | QUEEN MARIE HENRIETTE DIED HERE | --- |
| 27. | MASTER BAKERS?? | ----- |
| 28. | THIS PLACE IS NEARLY ALL GO! | ---- |
| 29. | ALSO A SOFT CAT CALL | ---- |
| 30. | PROBABLY HOME TO A TRAMP WITH YOUR QUIZMASTER'S
CHRISTIAN NAME!! | ----- |

The following article was completed and checked by Geoffrey shortly before his death. It was intended to be printed in Vol.9 Part 3 in September but missed due to lack of space - sorry Geoffrey. It is an issue on which several of our members have recently become interested, especially in view of the large number of dangerous "reprints" and forged cancellations. I hope that together with Geoffrey's other articles on this topic, it will enable members to avoid expensive mistakes.

REG HARRISON

MERODE ISSUE 1914 (cont.)

VARIETIES

At this stage, the only varieties being listed are these which appeared in Record No. 5 and Balasse Magazine No. 153, May 1964. The varieties for each Pane are listed separately for those found on the Value Stone and those on the Cross Stone. There are other marks which enable one to identify further stamps. It is hoped eventually to be able to place all the genuine stamps. There have been a number of articles by M. S. Toulieff in World Wars 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, which will be of great assistance.

5 Centimes: Value Stone - Pane I

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| 3rd Stamp | White spot enlarging final ornament above "L" of BELGIQUE. | (B126V3) |
| 4th Stamp | Break in left frame line, level with horizontal arm of Cross. | (B126V4) |
| 12th Stamp | White spot extending the Pearl under the "Q" of BELGIQUE upwards. | |
| 15th Stamp | Break in left frame, level with the Kneeling Soldier's Kepi. | (B126V5) |
| 19th Stamp | Break in right frame, level with the base of the Flagstaff. | |
| 24th Stamp | Large white patch under the "EL" of BELGIQUE near the Colours. | (B126V6) |
| | (This is probably due to a fault in the stone.) | |

Cross Stone - Pane I

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------|
| 1st Stamp | Red open rectangular box on left of Group. | (B126V1) |
| 14th Stamp | Red spot close to bottom border below "B" of BELGIE. | |
| 19th Stamp | Red spot on the "G" of BELGIQUE. | (B126V2) |

Value Stone - Pane II

- | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 2nd Stamp | Green spot in the shaded background level with the Shoulder of the Standard Bearer. | |
| 5th Stamp | Large white spot in the middle of left side Ornament. | (B126V7) |
| 9th Stamp | Small white spot on the butt of the Rifle on the ground. | |
| 10th Stamp | White spot in the right Medallion to the right of the 5. | |
| 11th Stamp | Green spot touching the Volute under the 2nd "E" of BELGIQUE. | (B126V8) |
| 12th Stamp | White patch top of "L" of BELGIE. | (B126V9) |
| 14th Stamp | Green spot in right gutter about 5mm from top corner. | |
| 20th Stamp | Green spot in left gutter level with Kneeling Soldier's Head. | |
| 25th Stamp | Greens spots on Upper Arm of Standard Bearer and in the ornamentation of the right frame. | (B126V10) |

Cross Stone - Pane II

- 14th Stamp Red spot in the gutter above "G" of BELGIQUE.
 19th Stamp Red spot below the bottom of the left 5.

Value Stone – Pane III

- 6th Stamp Green spot in background 2.5mm to left of Kneeling Soldier's Upper Arm.
 11th Stamp Green spot in left background, level with Kneeling Soldier's Kepi. (Not all printings.) This is listed under Stamp 17 in Record No. 5.
 23rd Stamp White patch to the left of the hand of the Count of Merode. (B126V11)
 24th Stamp White line cutting the ornament to the right of the left 5.

Cross Stone – Pane III

- 6th Stamp Red spot in righthand gutter 7mm from top corner.

As some of the Cross Stone varieties are common to both the 5 centimes and 20 centimes stamps, those of the 20 centimes stamps will now be itemised.

20 Centimes: Value Stone – Pane I

- 4th Stamp No thumb to Standard Bearer (B128V1) and lilac patch under left Volute.
 6th Stamp Lilac scratch starting on Kneeling Soldier and finishing in right Shield. (B128V2)
 10th Stamp Break in top right corner of right Shield. (B128V3)
 12th Stamp Lilac line above the peak of the Standard Bearer's Kepi and lilac spot on his Shoulder. (B128V4)
 13th Stamp White spot on Flagstaff. (B128V5)
 22nd Stamp Bottom frame broken under "B" of BELGIE. (B128V6)

Cross Stone – Pane I

- 1st Stamp ?Red box as in 5c PI (not yet seen but red on lilac is difficult to distinguish).
 14th Stamp ?Red spot close to bottom border below "B" of BELGIE. (Not on block in AGW's collection.)
 19th Stamp Red spot on the "G" of BELGIQUE. (Seen in Harry Green's block.)

Value Stone – Pane II

- 4th Stamp "Q" of BELGIQUE prolonged into the ornament. (B128V7)
 7th Stamp White patch joining "B" of BELGIQUE to lower ornament. (B128V8)
 25th Stamp Long curved line across Standard Bearer's Chest and ending above Kneeling Soldier's Kepi. (B128V10)
 See illustration Williams Sale 203, 26th/28th November 1992, Lot 950.

20 Centimes: Cross Stone – Pane II

- 19th Stamp Red spot under left 20. (B128V10)
 See illustration Williams Sale 203, as for 25th Stamp.

Value Stone – Pane III

No variety identified yet.

Cross Stone – Pane III

6th Stamp Red spot in righthand gutter 7mm from top corner.

(Soeteman's 50 Sale Catalogue of 8th July 1995, Lot 937, is a block of four $\frac{12}{67}$ from Pane III.)

10 Centimes: Value Stone only – Pane I, II and III

At this stage, there is nothing to be added to Record No. 5 except some Balasse variety numbers have been included. However, they are given below, together with an illustration for the benefit of newer members.



10 Centimes

The positions of the following varieties are shown on the illustration. The only addition to Record No. 5 is some Balasse variety numbers.

10 Centimes – Pane I

- 7th Stamp Spot of colour below righthand 10.
- 18th Stamp White spot below the letters "GI" of BELGIQUE.

10 Centimes – Pane II

- 2nd Stamp White break in righthand ornamental frame.
- 7th Stamp Small coloured vertical line on the lower frame line.
- 13th Stamp Break in the left frame of the right Shield. (B127V2)
- 16th Stamp White dent in the right frame line. (B127V3)
- 18th Stamp White break joining the left lower ornament to the frame. (B127V4)
- 19th Stamp Break in the upper frame of the right Shield.
- 20th Stamp Spot of colour near the inner left frame line.

10 Centimes – Pane III

- 5th Stamp White "comma" to the left of the right 10.
- 8th Stamp Coloured spot in the left background, level with the Elbow of the Standard Bearer.
- 9th Stamp Righthand cross surrounded by smudges and coloured spot to the left of the Kneeling Soldier.
- 14th Stamp Coloured patch deforming the design to the right of the lefthand 10.
- 19th Stamp Coloured spot in the left margin and at the same level, a coloured spot in the design. (B127V1)

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPS.L

PS

Since writing these notes, I have received from M.Toulieff a book on the "Faux Grossiers de Merode", which could be termed the "Blatant Forgeries". He refers to the other forgeries as the "dangerous" ones.

I find that for the 5 centimes I have reversed the order of the blatant forgeries in the "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.2, p.70/71. Forgery A Type I is Toulieff's Type 2, and Forgery A Type II is Toulieff's Type 1.

M. Toulieff also states that for this forgery there are three panes of 25 for the 5c and 10c values, and six panes for the 20c. He has not yet completed the reconstruction of the six panes.

AGW

THE BELGIAN LIBERATION STAMP OF 1919

by S. J. Andrews

(This article was first published in "Philately" September/October, 1957)

Although 14 values appeared in the complete set, it can really be said that the 10 centimes value was the stamp commemorating the Liberation of Belgium, for in the famous "Roi Casqué" or "Tin Hat" issue as it has become known, this value appeared over three months before any other value was issued.

Among the numerous issues that owe their origin to the Great War or its aftermath none were more popular than this portrait of King Albert, the man who had stayed at the head of his armies throughout the long struggle.

Four countries had a hand in the "production" of this issue - the portrait was taken from a photograph taken by an Englishman, Mr. R. N. Speaight; the design by a Belgian, Jean de Bast; the engraving by a Frenchman, Henri Cheffer; and the printing in Holland by Messrs. John Enschede and Sons of Haarlem.



First Day of Issue - Brussels to USA 19th July, 1919

The 10c value appeared on July 19th, 1919, and a brief study of this stamp is of interest. It originally appeared in small sheets of 25 stamps arranged 5 x 5, being printed from seven plates numbered 1 to 6 and 6 reversed. Some authorities have recorded that the first sheets appeared without a plate number but these must be exceedingly rare and are unknown to the writer or indeed to the Belgian Study Circle, who have made an exhaustive study of the issue. The positioning of the plate number varies, that for plates 1 and 2 being immediately below the centre of the third stamp at the bottom of the sheet. Additionally the plate 1 has a coloured cross above it, whilst plate 2 only has a small coloured dot. The remainder of the plates have the numeral placed toward the right hand of the dot, which itself is central.

The plate bearing the reversed 6 is interesting in that stamps from it always appear in a somewhat "metallic" colouring compared with the others. The reason for the reversed figure is somewhat obscure and suggestions on this would be welcome. It has been suggested that it may have been due to an emergency plate or stereo being cast in say printer's metal, from an existing plate due to the possible rapid wear of the previous plates, the plate number being erased and a new number punched in by hand. This number would be punched in a normal way but on to a "negative" plate, hence on printing would become reversed.



Small Sheet of 25 Stamps with Reversed '6'

Some eminent authorities have suggested that the reason for the small sheets of 25 was due to the supplies of paper available. They further suggest that these were "left-overs" from the 65c "Termonde" previously issued and which at first appeared in these small sheets. What do we find? That in fact the "Termonde" stamp in sheets of 25 did not appear until some 13 months after the small sheets of the 10c Roi Casqué, and even about nine months after the 100 stamp size sheets of the 10c.

Furthermore in a later issue, the 50c "Montenez", issued in May, 1921, also originally appeared in small sheets from the same printers. Unlike this issue, it has not been possible in the Roi Casqué to establish that the units of 25 stamps were used in the make up of the later larger sheets. Additionally in the Roi Casqué 10c, the stamps of the first printing have a size of 22mm x 26mm, whereas those of the later printing are 22mm x 26½mm. As the same sizes also appear in the imperforate colour trial stage, it can be assumed that a re-engraving was made for the later larger sheets.



Brussels to Paris 19th July, 1919

It would be interesting to learn of the real reason for these small sheets. Could it have been that the printing was planned for these small sheets of 25 but that the demand for this beautiful liberation stamp was such that production had to be heavily increased and so plates of 100 subjects were laid down.

These larger sheets appeared about November, 1919, in six plates numbered 1 to 6. In these sheets the plate number appears beneath the 6th stamp of the bottom row, rather to the left of the centre of the stamp.

As is so often the case with the recess printed stamps of Messrs. Enschede, the colours of the stamps are very uniform and vary only very slightly in shade. There are few constant varieties - high tribute to any printing firm.

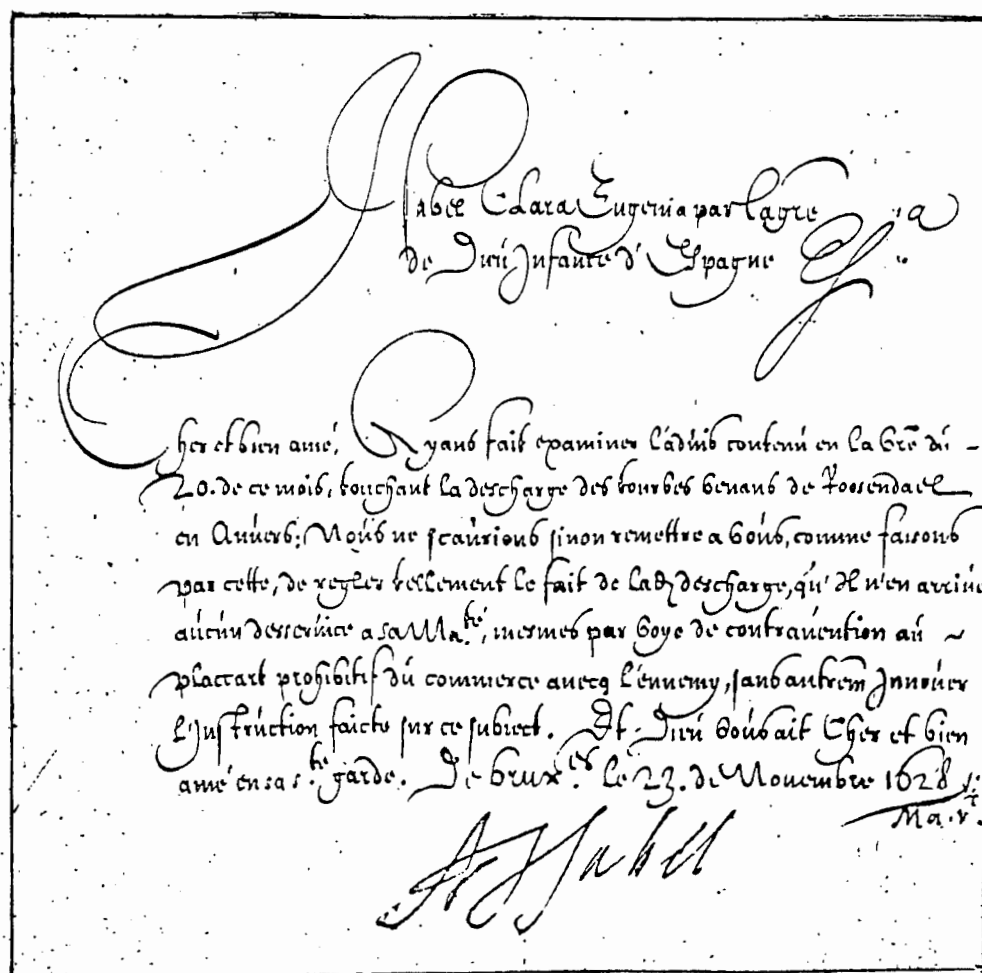
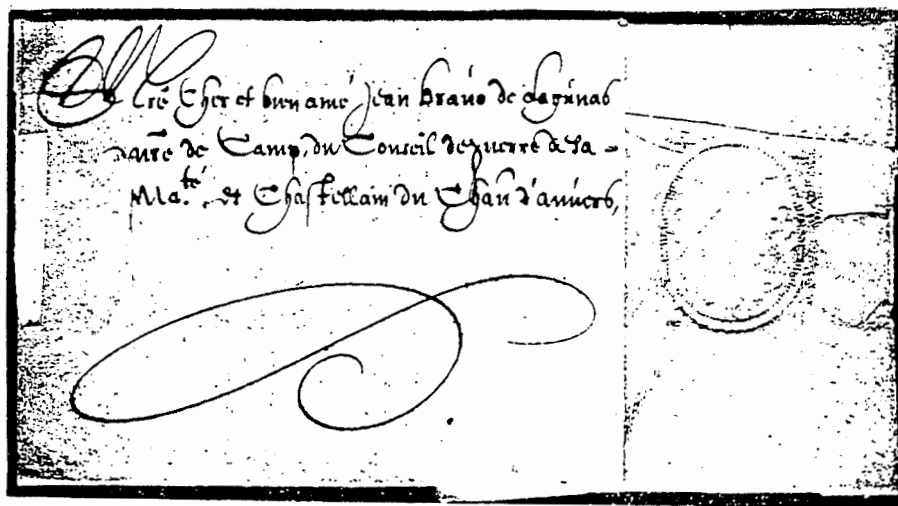
All in all, a magnificent Liberation Stamp, beautifully produced in every respect.

THE INFANTA ISABELLA IN BRUSSELS

We show a letter dated 23rd November, 1628, signed by Isabella, Infanta of Spain, from Brussels to Antwerp. At this time she was Governor of the Spanish Netherlands. The letter is addressed to Jean Brano de Lagunas, the Governor of Antwerp.

The letter, which concerns the unloading of a cargo of peat from Roosendaal, saying that the ban on trading with the enemy must not be contravened, shows Isabella's paper seal.

This item was sold by Sotheby's on 4th June, 1973, and by Harmer's (B. L. Barker collection) Lot 11, 8th February, 1977.



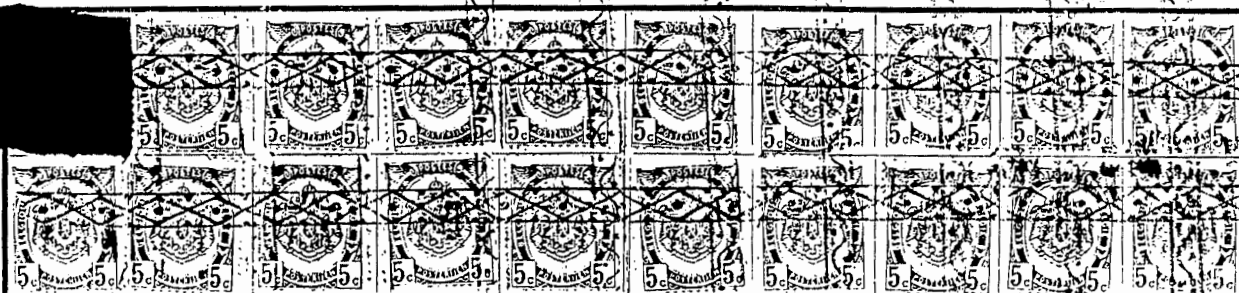
THE POSTAL SAVINGS AND ROULETTE CANCELLATIONS "CAISSE D'ÉPARGNE ET DE RETRAITE"

The Belgian postal savings system, patterned after the postal savings banks established in England by the Acts of Parliament in 1817, was organised by the Public Law of 16th March 1865. Its growth was progressive until, in 1878, it comprised eight main postal savings banks, with 31,226 depositors having accounts totalling 27 million francs, and 525 branch banks, with 147,838 depositors having accounts totalling over 78¼ million francs.

Ce bulletin couvert de timbres-poste de 5 et de 10 centimes jusqu'à concurrence de UN franc (1 fr.) est reçu comme numéraire.
Deze lijst ingevuld met postzegels van 5 en 10 centimen tot beloop van EEN FRANK (1 fr.) wordt als geldwaarde
dans tous les bureaux ouverts pour le service de la Caisse générale d'Épargne et de Retraite.
ontvangen in al de burelen voor den dienst der Algemeene Spaar- en Lijfrentkas.

Nom du titulaire : *Broghen Josephine*
Naam van den titularis :
Livret n° *2071* Délivré à *2071*
Spaarboekje n° *2071* Afgeleverd te

Date du versement : *14 DEC 1896*
Datum der storting



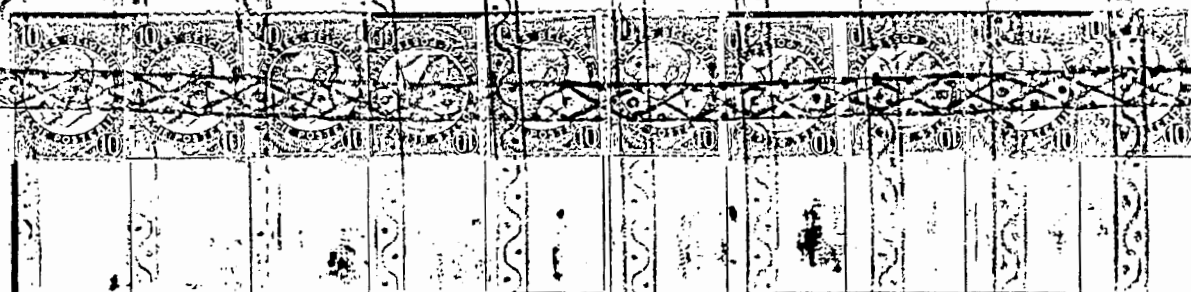
Modèle n° 33. J. S. — 7-91

Postal Savings Form cancelled Jemeppe 14th Dec. 1896 with 5 Centimes Stamps

Ce bulletin, couvert de timbres-poste de 5 et de 10 centimes jusqu'à concurrence d'UN franc (1 fr.), est reçu comme numéraire.
Deze lijst, ingevuld met postzegels van 5 en 10 centimen tot beloop van EEN FRANK (1 fr.), wordt als geldwaarde
dans tous les bureaux ouverts pour le service de la Caisse générale d'Épargne et de Retraite.
ontvangen in al de burelen voor den dienst der Algemeene Spaar- en Lijfrentkas.

Nom du titulaire : *Maria Puy*
Naam van den titularis :
Livret n° *11058* Délivré à *Puy*
Spaarboekje n° *11058* Afgeleverd te

Date du versement : *23 JAN 1899*
Datum der storting



Mod. n° 33. A. W. — 2-97

Postal Savings Form cancelled Cuesmes 23 Jan. 1899 with 10 Centimes Stamps

The postal savings bank and pension fund, now called "Caisse d'Epargne et de Retraite", was reorganised by a royal decree of 16th March, 1881. Article 1 of this Postal Order says it will be possible for the general public to use ordinary 5 and 10 centime postage stamps to make up the sum of one franc for deposit in the postal savings bank. A later Postal Order of 15th February, 1893 made an exception for school children who were permitted to use 2 centime stamps on special forms, which could be deposited like money when the form contained stamps to the value of one franc.

Bulletin destiné uniquement à l'épargne scolaire. — Bulletijn alleenlijk tot het schoolsparen bestemd.

Ce bulletin, couvert de timbres-poste de 2, 5 et 10 centimes jusqu'à concurrence d'UN FRANC (1 franc), est reçu comme numéraire dans tous les bureaux ouverts pour le service de la Caisse générale d'Epargne et de Retraite.
 Dit briefje, met postzegels van 2, 5 en 10 centiemen beplakt tot beloop van EEN FRANK (1 frank), wordt als geldwaarde ontvangen in al de kantoren geopend voor den dienst der Algemeene Spaar- en Lijfrentkas.

Nom du titulaire:

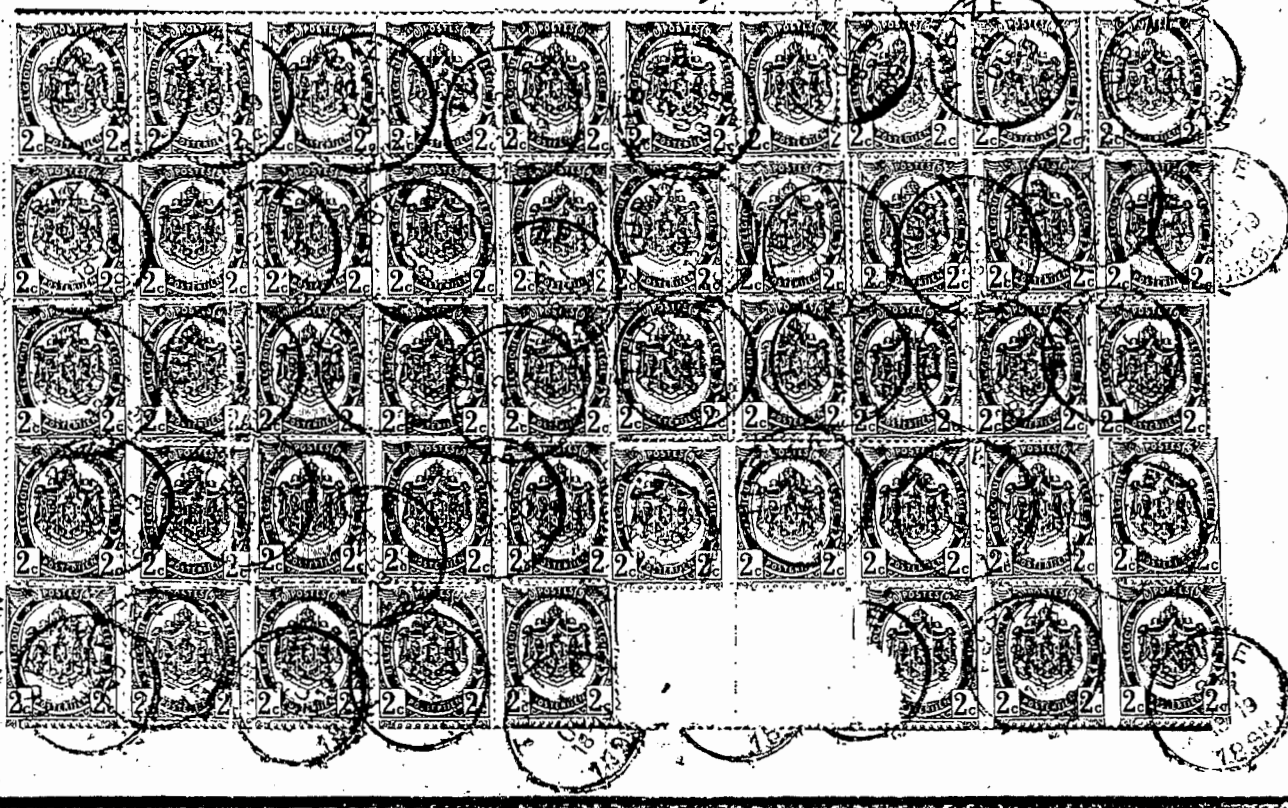
Naam van den titularis:

Livret n°:

Spaarboekje n°:

délivré à
afgeleverd te

Date
du versement.
Datum
der storting.



Bilingual Schoolchild Form cancelled Tubize 21 Oct. 1898 with 2 Centimes Stamps

These stamps, when turned in on the postal savings form for deposit, were to be cancelled with a "roulette" cancellation consisting of a row of diamonds between two parallel lines with a dot in the centre of each diamond. There are several varieties of this cancellation because of differences in the manufacture of the hand rollers. Black ink usually was used although other colours are found.

The "diamond" roulette canceller was used not only for postal savings cancellations but occasionally to cancel postage stamps on letters and cards, on stamped envelopes and postal cards, and parcel post stamps on despatch forms where, through accident or oversight, the stamps were not cancelled by the despatching office. It was also used infrequently on tax and telegraph forms, postal orders and pre-cancelled stamps where the pre-cancellation was faint.

Stamps other than Belgian are found so cancelled.

Bulletijn alleenlijk voor het schoolsparen bestemd.

Dit briefje, met postzegels van 2, 5 en 10 centiemmen beplakt tot beloop van ÉÉENEN FRANK, wordt als geldwaarde ontvangen in al de kantoren geopend voor den dienst der Algemeene Spaar- en Lijfrentkas.

Naam van den titularis : *Willems, Elise*
 Briefje nr *44531*, afgeleverd te

Datum
der storting

SITROND



Model nr 34.

I.P.

Flemish Schoolchild Form St. Trond 14 Dec. 1898 with 10 Centimes Stamps

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

Monsieur Jérôme Van Hasselaer
35, Rue Polakine
Bruxelles.

Roller Cancel used to prevent re-use of stamp

TABLEAU D'ALLUMAGE

Amilcar G. 60	Delage G. 60	Lasalle G. 100	111	CAMIONS
Amilcar G. 35	De Dion G. 200	Lincoln G. 100	100	Chenard 301
Bugatti G. 60	Dodge 301	Lincoln G. 100	111	Chevrolet 116
Bugatti G. 35	Exoto 109	Mercedes 301	301	Fiat 305
Buick 116	Exoto 109	Mercedes 301	1075C	Ford 1075C
1929 G. 140	1929 G. 100	Minerva 306	111	Liberty 111
Cadillac 1929 G. 111	Fiat 509 G. 60	Nash 112	200	Renault 200
Cadillac 1929 G. 100	Fiat 509 G. 60	Nash 112	100	Saurer G. 100
Chenard G. 60	Ford (demonstr.) 1075 C	Panhard 200	MOTOS	
Chevrolet 1928Z	Graham 1928Z	Panhard 200	F. N. G. 60	
Chevrolet 1929 G. 140	Hippano 1929 G. 100	Panhard 200	Gillet G. 60	
Chevrolet 1929 G. 111	Hippano 1929 G. 100	Panhard 200	Motos Sport G. 25	
Citroën B. 14/15 200	Hippano 1929 G. 100	Panhard 200	Harley 200	
Citroën C4/C6 G. 140	Hippano 1929 G. 100	Panhard 200	Indian 200	

IMPRIMÉ

retour à Bruxelles
Ch. Bultman
rue Parmentier
La Croix

N'habite plus à l'adresse indiquée
 Woont niet meer op het aangeduide adres

de l'Aqueduc, 104
 BRUXELLES
 phones 461
 Rue Ed. Remouchamps
 LIEGE
 T. 461

Roller Cancel used on Pre-Cancelled Stamp to prevent re-use

ENVOYEUR — AFZENDER
 (Adresse complète — Volledig adres)

Adolf Braet
Handelaar — Brugge

Compte de chèques postaux — Postcheekrekening

N° **4070**

Constatacion du Facteur — Bestalbericht

REFUSÉ **GEWEIGERD**

Carte-réceissée - Ontvangkaart

N° **50**

de dépôt van afgifte

Reçu — Ontvangen

1/56 ct. 60

Fr. 60 Ct.

de van

Signature — Handteekening

50 BELGIË **50 BELGIË**

40

Double Diagonal Cancel on Official Card

Form cancelled and perforated as shown

480

Ce bulletin, couvert de timbres-poste de 5 et de 10 centimes jusqu'à concurrence d'UN franc (1 fr.), est reçu comme numéraire

Deze lijst, ingevuld met postzegels van 5 en 10 centimen tot beloop van EÉN FRANK (1 fr.), wordt als geldwaarde

dans tous les bureaux ouverts pour le service de la Caisse générale d'Épargne et de Retraite.

ontvangen in al de bureelen voor den dienst der Algemeene Spaar- en Lijfrentkas.

Nom du titulaire : *Joseph van der Vliet*

Naam van den titularis : *Joseph van der Vliet*


Livret n° : *126*

Spaarboekje n° : *126*

Delivre à : *Joseph van der Vliet*

Relevé le : *1/3*

du versement
le
der
1/3



Not. n° 33

CASSE D'ÉPARGNE

On pieces of mail where the address was written in pencil and the stamps were not adequately cancelled, the receiving office was instructed to cancel the stamps with the diamond roulette canceller applied diagonally. This was to prevent the receiver from using the piece of mail again by erasing the pencilled address and adding a new address. In some cases, the postal clerk, following the letter of the law, applied the roulette cancellation diagonally both ways or even horizontally several times.

Since the 5 Fr. (brown) of the 1869-81 issue is more commonly found with the roulette cancellation, it would be of interest to study its usage. This stamp was issued originally for franking insured or registered mail, but its use for this purpose was much less than anticipated and, in 1888, it was withdrawn from sale to the public and was used as a receipt for money paid into the post offices. It was also used as a receipt when money was paid from accounts of the Postal Savings Department to the regular post office accounts. When used for this purpose, it was cancelled with the regular postal savings roulette canceller.

In some cases the **pre-cancelling roller**, being handy, was used for cancelling the postal savings form when it was turned in for redemption (1898-1899).

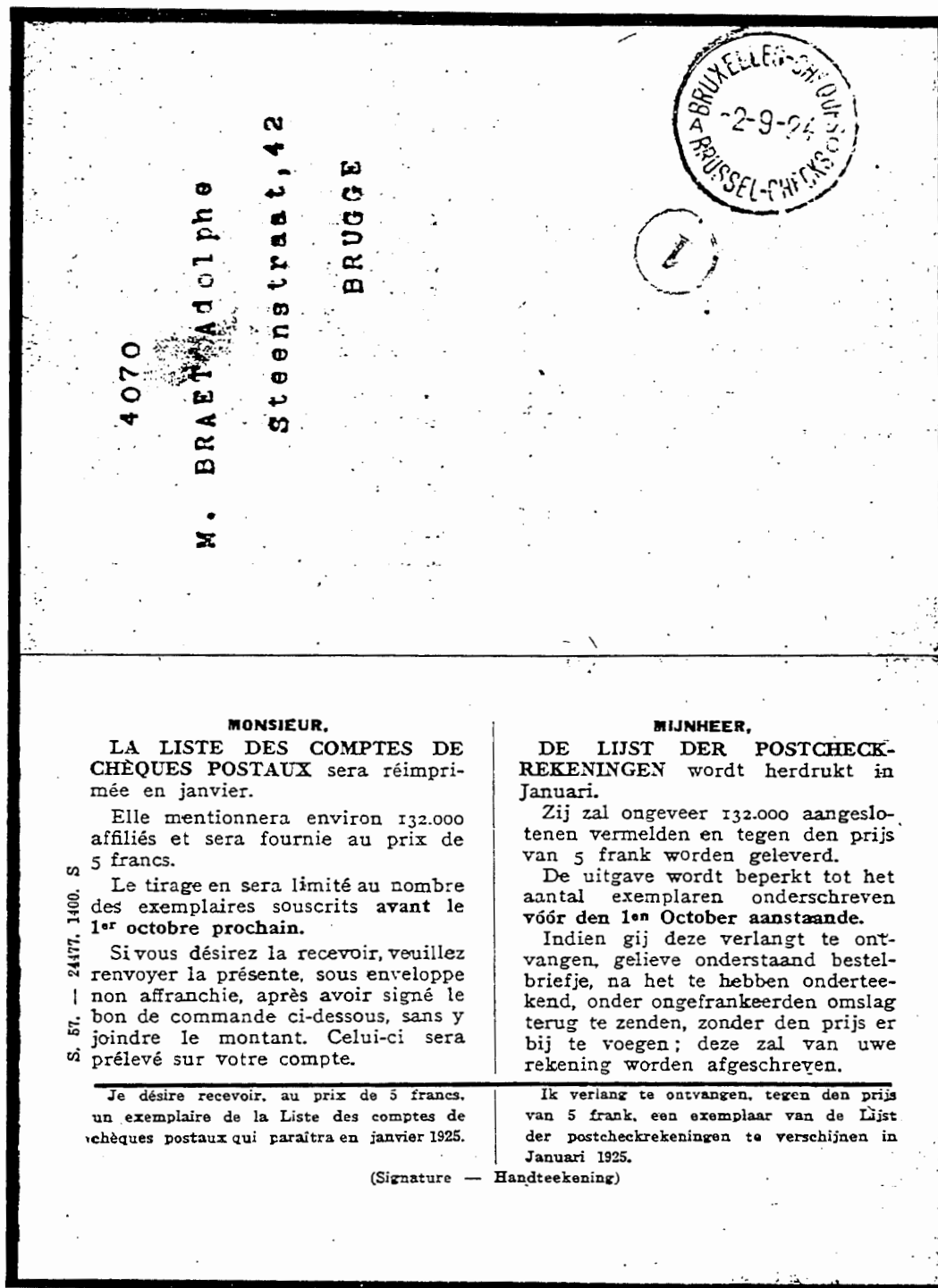
Another type of roulette cancellation is a wavy line with a dot in each loop of the wave. This "wavy line" cancellation was applied vertically across each stamp by an agent of the "Generale Administration des Postes". It was intended to prevent fraud by a postmaster removing uncanceled postage stamps from postal savings forms turned in for deposit and replacing them with stamps already cancelled with the diamond roulette. This wavy line roulette is usually in **violet ink**.



"Bruxelles-Cheques Brussel-Checks" on Card 31 Oct. 1935

To carry on the correspondence of the postal savings system, an official postcard was issued in 1889 under authority of the Postal Order of 16th February, 1877. In 1892, a slightly different official postal savings postcard was issued. The use of official postcards was discontinued about 1895.

To cancel stamps on correspondence and forms at the Central Postal Savings Department at Brussels, a special cancellation was used having "CAISSE D'EP. ET RETR" in the bottom part of the circle in addition to "BRUXELLES" at the top and the short date and time group in the centre. In use from 1901 to 1906.



Official Stationery Card with cancel 2nd Sept. 1924

Later, following the Postal Order of 25th February, 1913, a different canceller was put in use in Brussels. Around the top of the circle is "BRUXELLES-Cheques" and at the bottom, its counterpart in Flemish, "BRUSSEL-CHECKS". Different control letters C, D or E are at the sides, with the date and time group in the centre. Usually violet or blue ink was used.

A special postal savings cancellation with the town name at the top, the date and time group in the centre and "CAISSE" at the bottom of an eight-sided figure. Both short and long date for 1919 and the long date for 1920 are known.

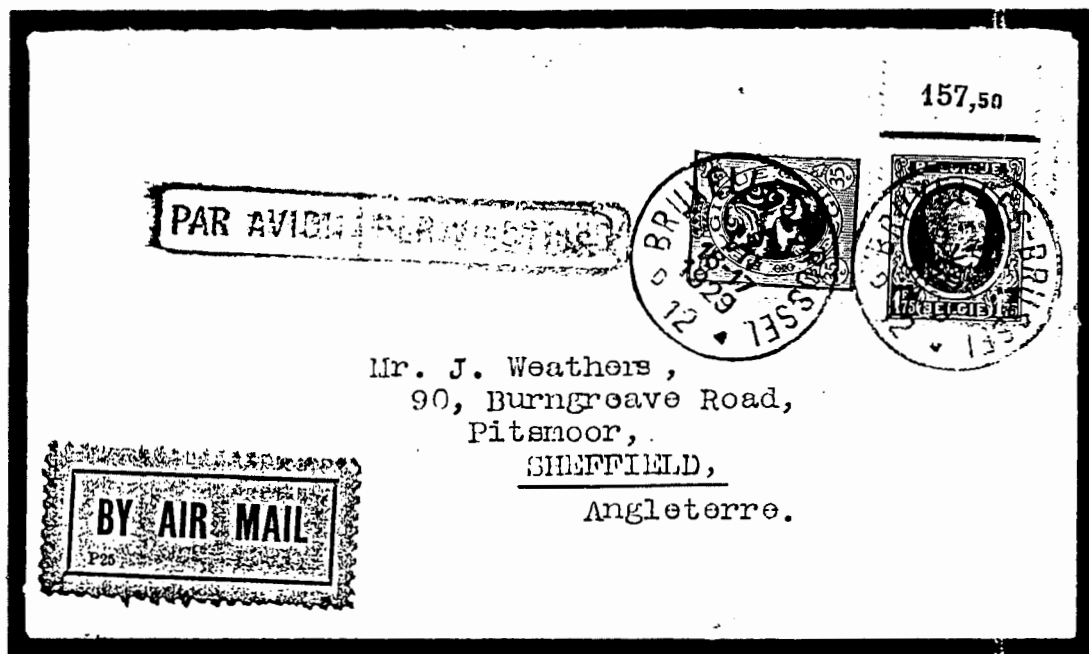
("La Poste Belge et ses Diverses Marques Postale, 1814-1914" by L. Hanciau: pages 190-191)

Translated by the late F. W. Kilby

FROM BRUSSELS BY AIR TO LONDON

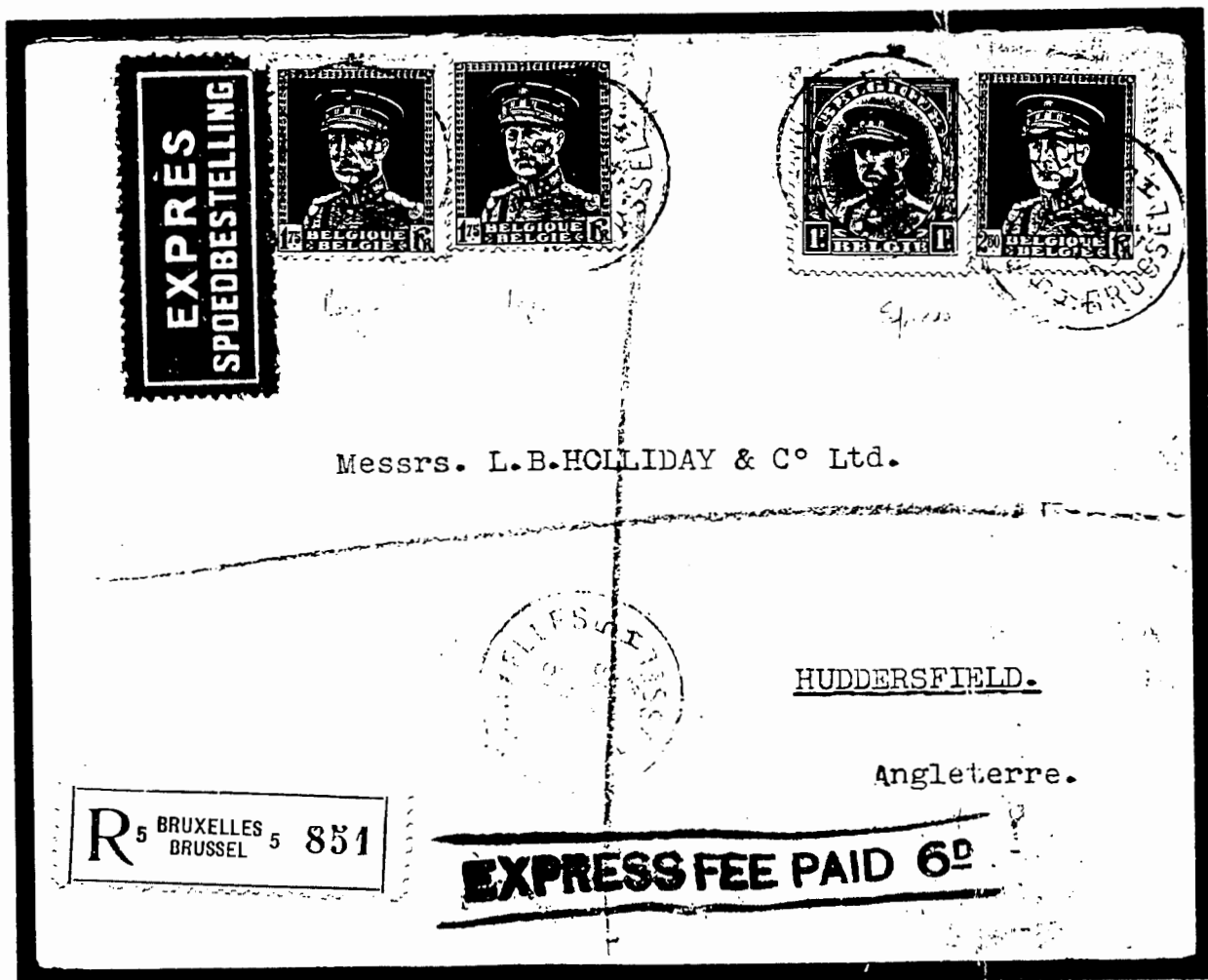
1929

1 x 1.75Fr.	International Letter Rate	=	1.75Fr per 20 gr.
1 x .35Fr.	Air Surtax	=	.35Fr " "



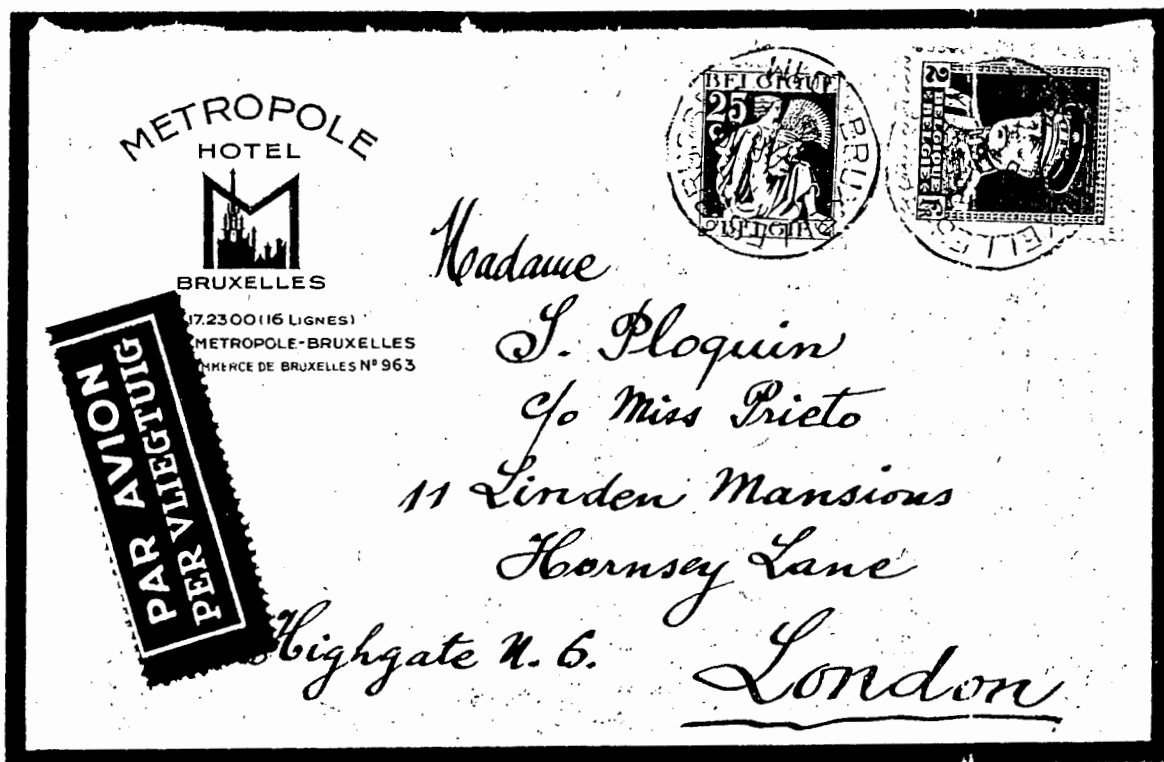
1934

International Letter Rate	=	1.75Fr.
Registration	=	1.75Fr.
Express	=	3.50Fr.



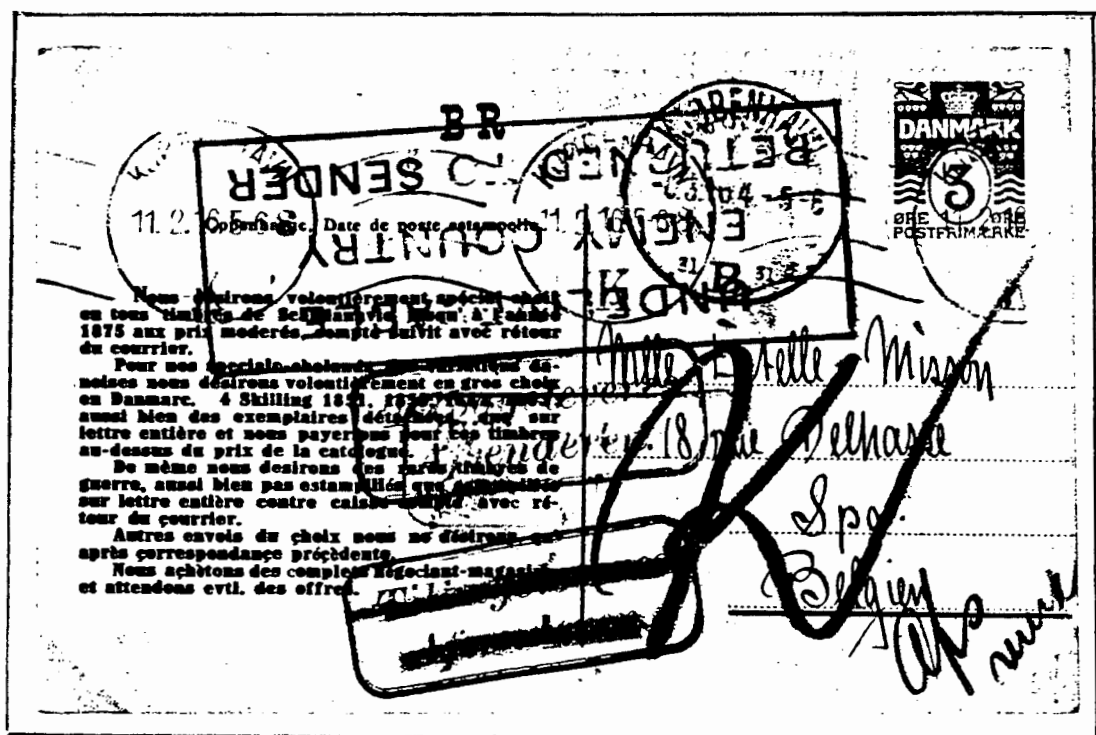
1936

1 x 2.00Fr. International Letter Rate = 1.75Fr. up to 20gr.
 1 x .25Fr. Air Surtax = .50Fr. " "



"ENEMY COUNTRY"

This postcard: February, 1916, was sent from Denmark to Spa, Belgium, but was sent via England, where it received the large cachet, "UNDELIVERABLE, ENEMY COUNTRY, RETURN TO SENDER".



(R. I. Johnson Collection)

SOME "TIT-BITS" USEFUL TO POSTAL HISTORIANS (No. 1)

During many years of researching Belgian postal history, your editor has kept items that "might" be useful, and this could also be useful to some of our postal historian members - here are a few. We will continue to give more from time to time.

- In 1584, many refugees arrived in Middleburg from Ypres and Douai, and in the same year, 450 refugees from Bruges to Leyden.
- In 1533, Jacques de Hornoy was a messenger in Tournai.
- It is rare to have original letters from ordinary people preserved intact from the 16th century.
- All local archives were destroyed by German artillery on 5th July, 1915.
- Bombs destroyed the centre of Middleburg in May, 1940, and all municipal records and all church registers were lost.
- The archives in Brussels were destroyed by a French Bombardment in 1695.
- In "A Family from Flanders" by John Peters (Collins 1985) a letter illustrated mentions that there was a fee of 5 Patars. A patar was a sou (a coin) with the head of St. Peter on the reverse.
- At Tournai in 1660, the postage rates were in "patars" :-
 - 1 patar to Lille, Valenciennes, Ath, Courtrai, Audenarde, Renaix, Condé and St. Amand.
 - 2 patars to Brussels, Ghent, Grammont, Ypres.
 - 3 patars to Antwerp, Dixmude, Furnes, Liege, Louvain, Nieuport, Ostend and St. Omer.
 - 4 patars to Cologne, Dunkerque.
 - 7 patars to Amsterdam.
 - 10 patars to Zelande.
 - 3 'Gros' to Douai and Mons.
 - 5 'Gros' to Arras.
- In 1534, Simon de Taxis, Post Master, instituted proceedings against his brother, Baptiste de Taxis, in connection with the trees and castle of Rachel en Borlau, for which the latter owed him money. A few years later, from 1551 to 1567, there was another action between Séraphin de Taxis and Léonard de Taxis, Post Master General, defendant in respect to the ownership of the Augsburg post.

ELISABETHVILLE

Further to the short article on this subject in Vol.7, page 60, we have received some notes from Mrs. Doris Green.

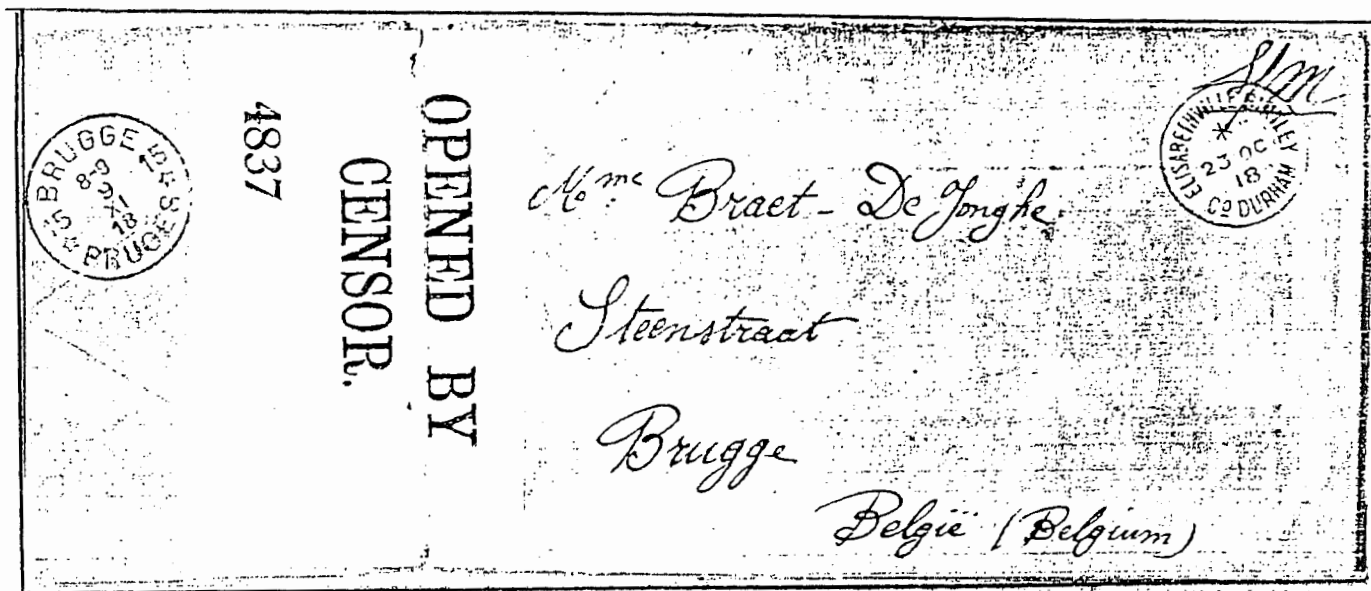
According to Mr. Joskin, he said the Belgian settlement quickly attained a population of 3,000, which grew to 6,000 by the end of the war. The mail reaching Elisabethville came mostly from France, and it was distributed in the following inefficient manner. An English postman climbed on to a table in the large dining-hall and drew the letters one by one from his bag. He read aloud the name on each envelope, but, as Mr. Joskin delicately but rather sadly remarks, the pronunciation was seldom recognisable by the intended recipient. This state of affairs could not be allowed to continue, and a post office was set up within the settlement. Mr. Joskin, who had been a postal clerk in Belgium before becoming a soldier and who was now working in the factory, was put in charge of the office, which came under the administration of Newcastle upon Tyne. He received instruction from an English postal clerk on the way in which the office should be worked. Mr. Joskin recruited two Belgian postmen from the factory personnel and then a third for the delivery of mail to the homes of the people. Eventually a complete index of the inhabitants of Elisabethville with their addresses was compiled.

The office had two counters, one in the care of Mr. Joskin himself, and one in charge of a postal clerk who originally came from Ghent. Stamps, postal orders and war bonds were sold, parcels were dealt with and savings bank business was transacted. The equipment for the office came from Newcastle.

In 1917, the office was transferred to a brick building on the Birtley-Newcastle road. This building housed all of the administrative services of Elisabethville and was, of course, within the settlement. Mr. Joskin stated that the office worked satisfactorily until early 1919, when it was closed owing to the return of the Belgian people to their own country.

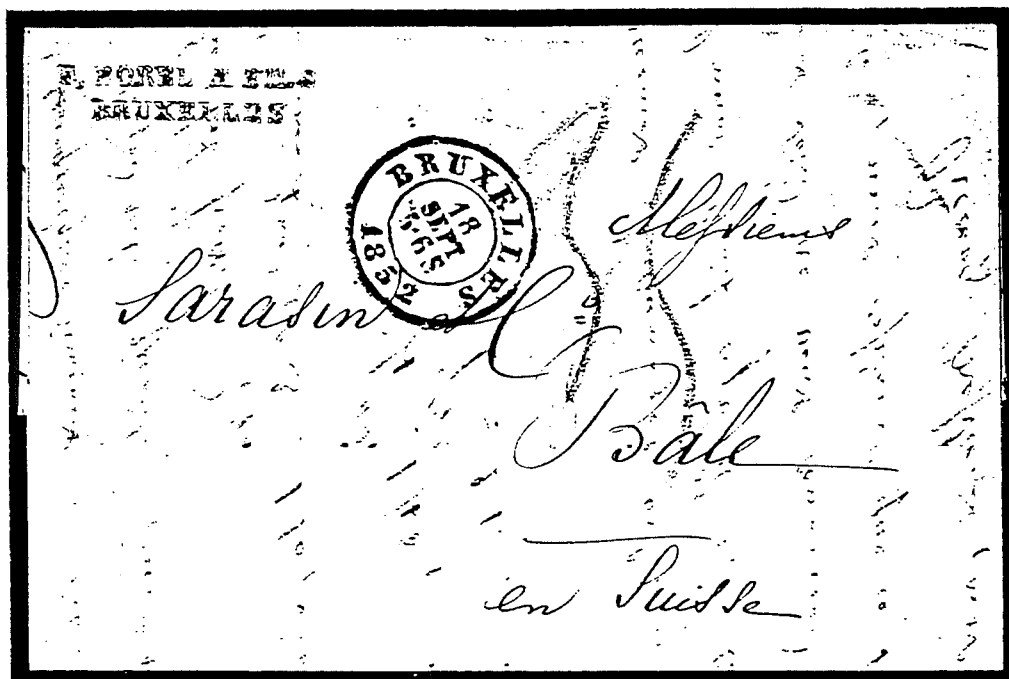
A note on Monsieur Jean Jacques Joskin himself. He was born on January 31st, 1888, entered the postal service on February 22nd, 1906, and retired on February 1st, 1953. In a reference written in January 1919 by Mr. J. Chambers, who was then Postmaster of Newcastle, it was stated that Mr. Joskin's "conduct and performance of duty were entirely satisfactory and contributed largely to the smooth working of an unusual arrangement. His knowledge of the Belgian Postal Service quickly enabled him to assimilate British methods and his duties were carried out with unfailing efficiency and courtesy."

Mrs. Green also sent a photocopy of an interesting cover, from Elisabethville to Bruges, on 23rd October, 1918, censored in England, arriving 9th November, 1918.

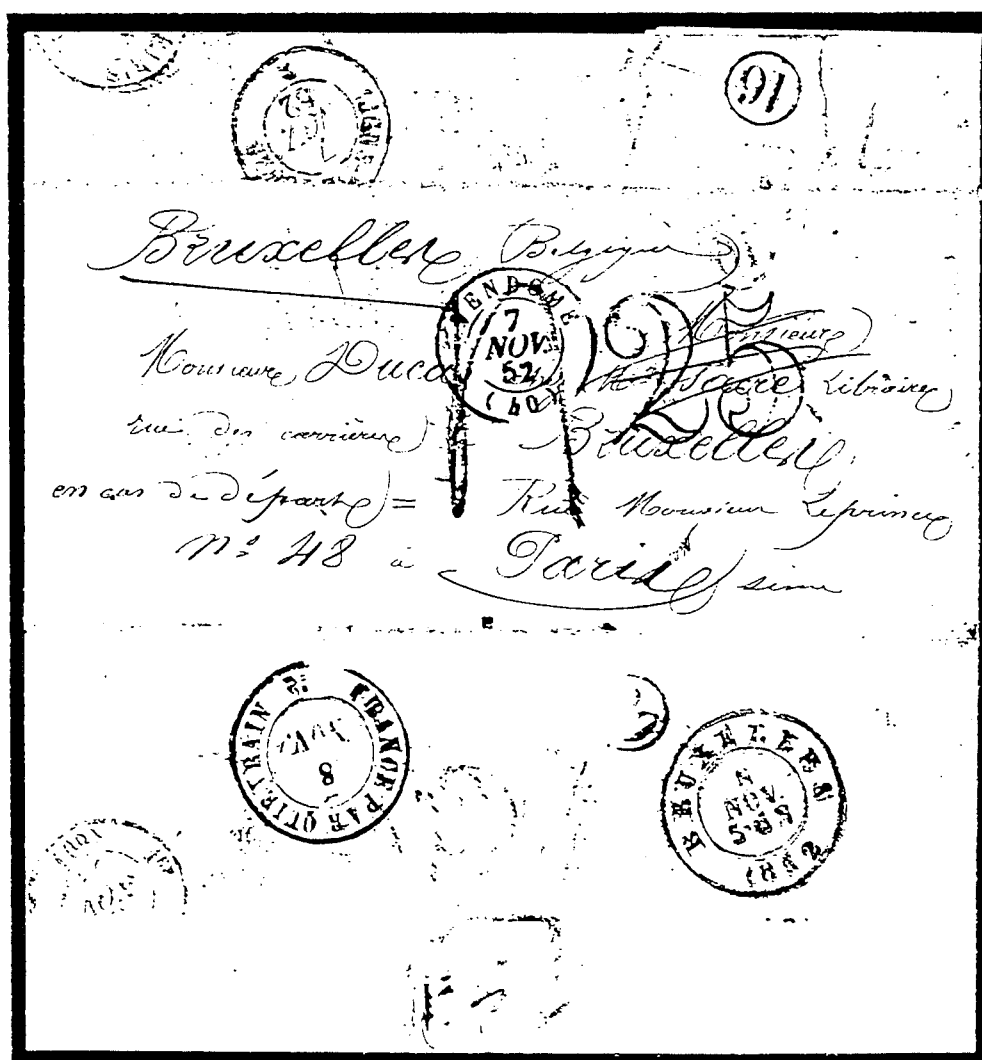


BRUSSELS HEAD POST OFFICE, 1852 (PART 4)

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



Letter Brussels to Basle 18th Sept. 1852



Vendôme to Brussels Arrival 8th Nov. 1852 5-6S

Chief Inspector: M. Demeren, Rue Royale No. 165

The Head Post Office (Collection Office) was under the Director, M. Hochstein, at Rue de la Montagne, 81, and had three assistants: M. Meunier, M. Decodt and M. Kumps. The office was open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the reception and delivery of letters. Postage stamps were available from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For the distribution of "post restante" letters, the office was open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. but was dependent upon the arrival of the courier from France.

The secondary office at Rue de la Pépinière was open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and it was also possible to purchase postage stamps at that office. It had six communications each day to the Head Office.

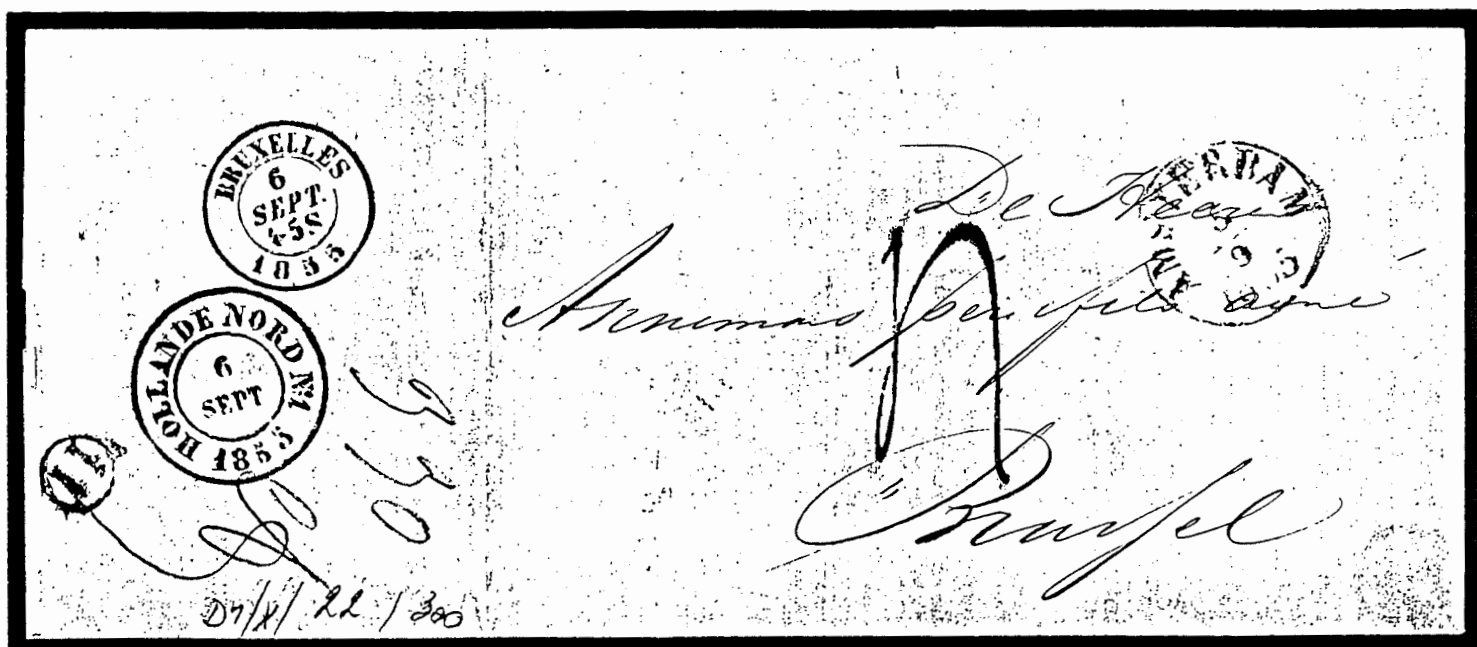
There were five distributions a day within the town: at 8.00 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m., 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. In the suburbs there were three distributions: 8.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. and, for the "rural communes" of the district, there was just one distribution, at 8.00 a.m.

The postmen commenced their journeys to the postboxes at 4.15 a.m., 8.15 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and after midday at 12.30 p.m., 2.00 p.m. and 4.15 p.m. and were due to return to the Head Office at 5.30 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.45 a.m., 1.45 p.m., 3.15 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The postboxes were at:

Grand' Place
Galerie St. Hubert
Grand-Hospice
Rue du Chêne
Place Royale
Porte de Louvain
Porte de Namur
Porte de Hal
Porte de Ninove
Porte du Rivage
Porte de Cologne
Place du Palais de Justice

Place de la Monnaie
Rue du Marais (Mey-Boom)
Rue du Poinçon
Place du Petit-Sablon
Rue Royale (Ministry of War)
Porte Léopold
Porte Louise
Porte d'Anderlecht
Porte de Flandre
Porte de Laeken
Porte de Schaerbeek



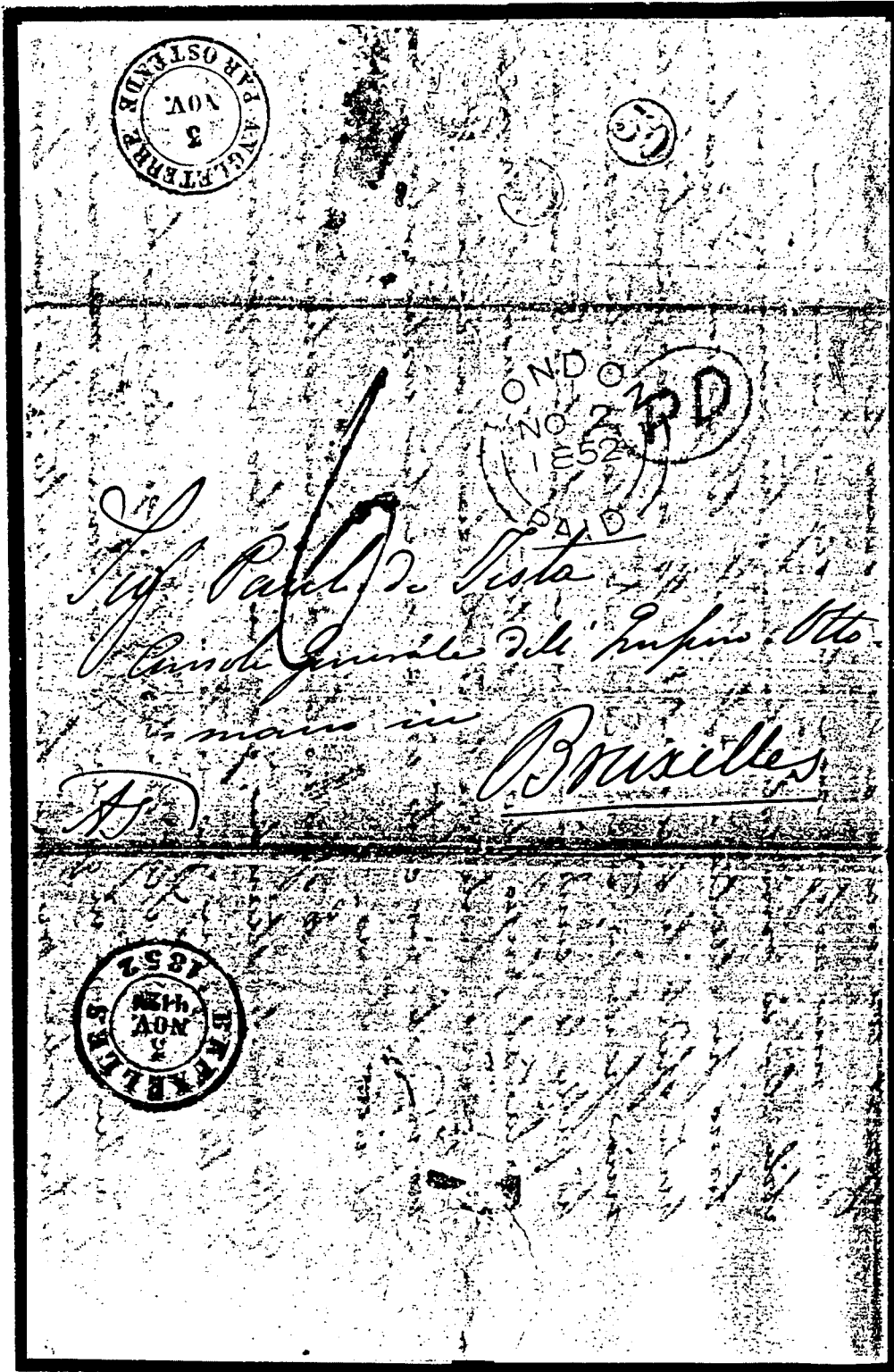
Amsterdam to Brussels Arrival 6th Sept. 1853 4-5S

Mails for other countries were despatched from the Head Office at the following times:

For France, Switzerland, Spain, Sardinia and Italy: 7.15 a.m; Holland: 5.15 p.m;
Luxembourg: 9.30 a.m. and 5.45 p.m; England: 2.00 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.
Also for France: 5.45 p.m; and Germany: 6.15 a.m, 9.30 a.m. and 7.15 p.m.

The arrival times for the principal mails from "overseas" countries were:

From France: 5.45 a.m.
From France, Switzerland, Spain, Sardinia and Italy: 5.00 p.m.
From England: 11.00 a.m. From Germany: 7.30 a.m. 3.30 p.m, and 9.00 p.m.
From Holland: 11.00 a.m. From Luxembourg: 9.35 a.m.



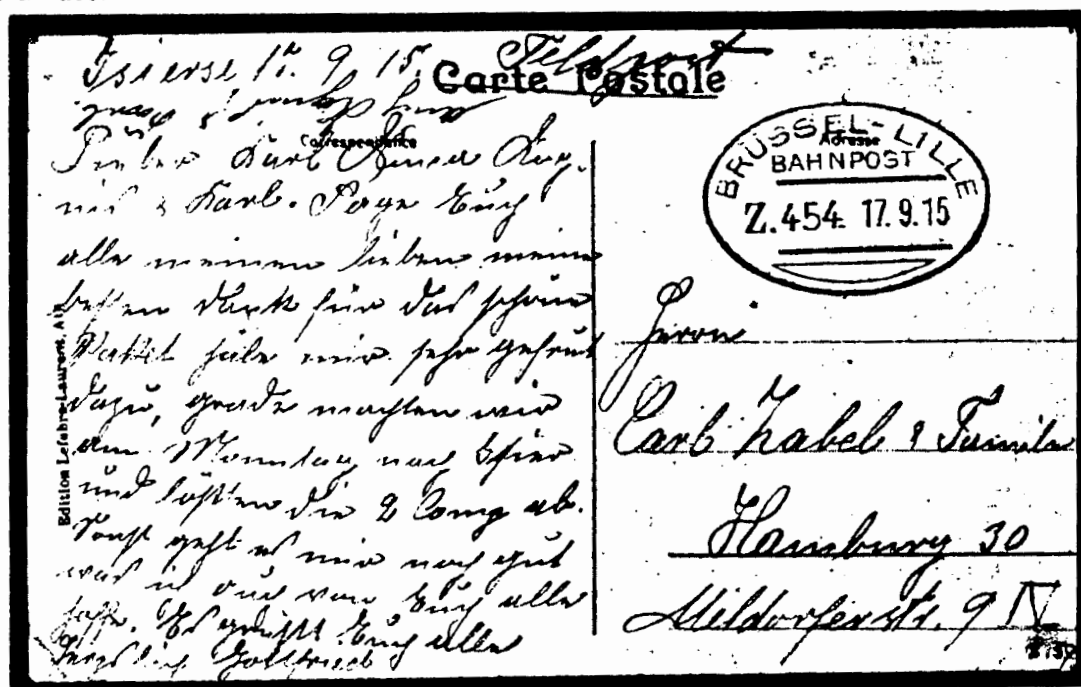
London to Brussels Arrival 3rd Nov. 1852 11-12M

THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF BELGIUM

This article was written by the late Oliver Loader and your Editor, and was prepared to have been section 4 of the BSC Record No. 13. The list was prepared from many sources: members, auction catalogues, other collectors (especially the late Cyril Kidd). It was not issued.

THE DEUTSCHE BAHNPOST, 1915 to 1918

On the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914 and the subsequent invasion of Belgium by the German Armies, the complete mail and postal system quickly came to a standstill and it was not until several months of 1915 had passed that some reorganised system came into use, now of course controlled by the German Postal Service. The travelling post office service was reintroduced on many of the previously run routes but with some of these having extensions into neighbouring countries, i.e. France, Germany and Luxembourg. No doubt the service was on extremely restricted lines in spite of the apparently large number of routes in use.

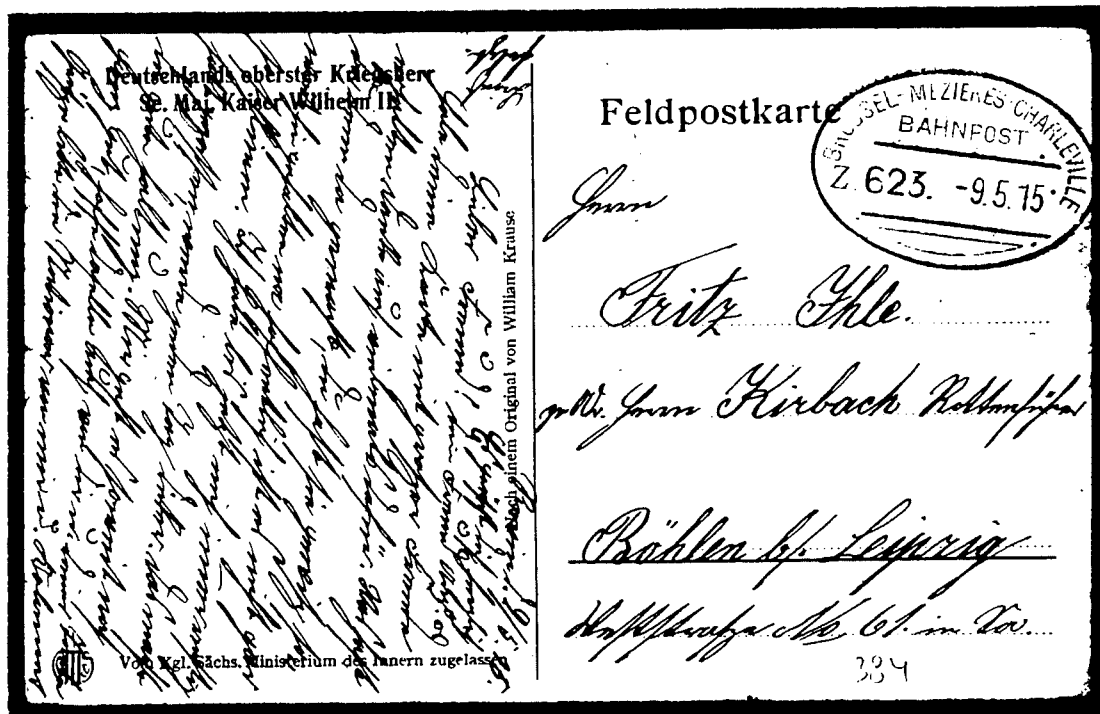


Brussel-Lille, Z454, 17th September 1915

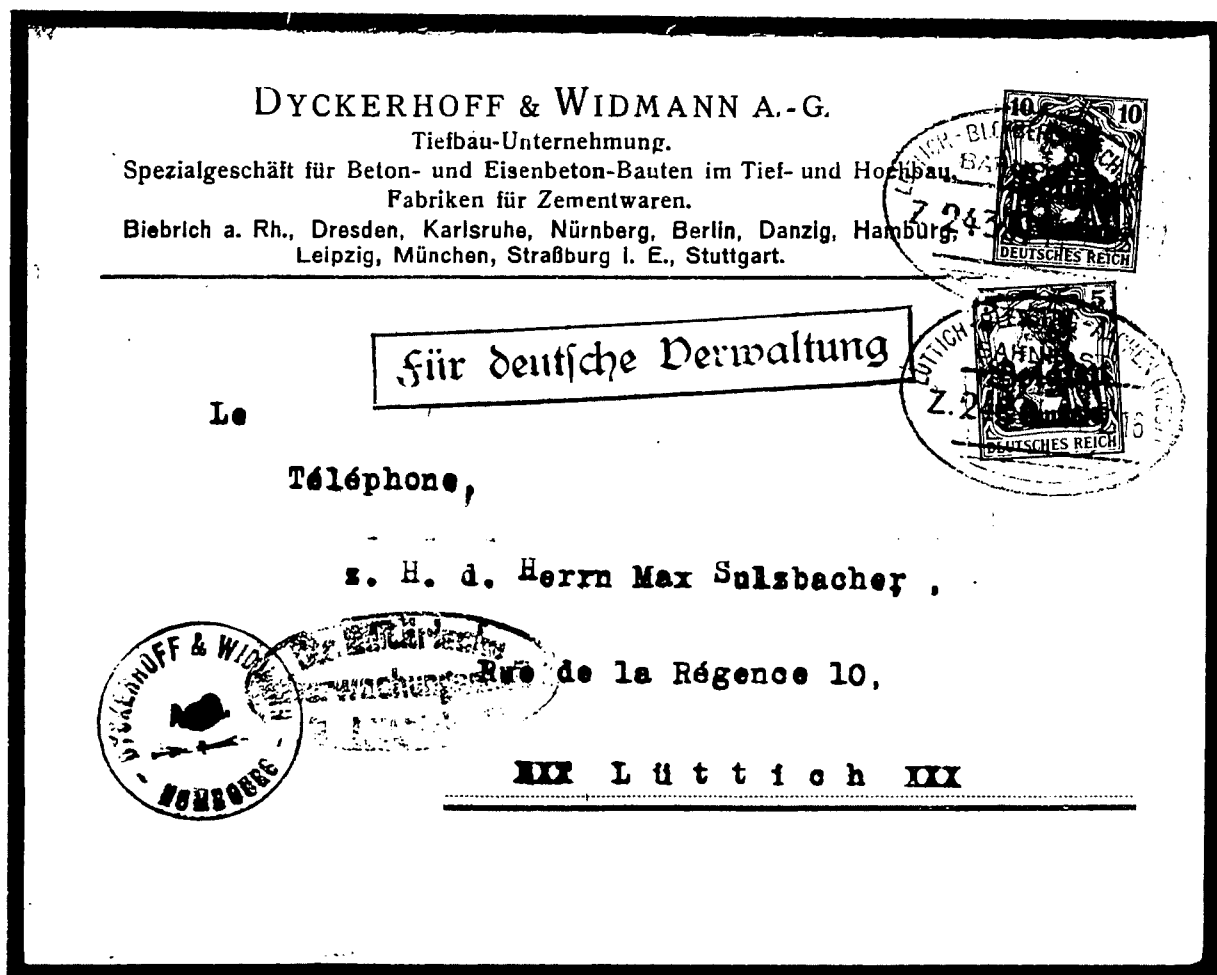
The postal markings followed the usual German TPO pattern, i.e. the old oval type (see illustration fig. 1). Any of these marks are worth looking for and they can generally be placed in the scarce, or even rare class.

The following list gives all the known marks and train numbers (Z) (ZUG = train). This list has been compiled from various sources, published and unpublished, and a number of them are here recorded for the first time.

We believe this list to be reasonably complete but there is always the chance that others may turn up. Readers are therefore requested to notify the authors of any further finds.

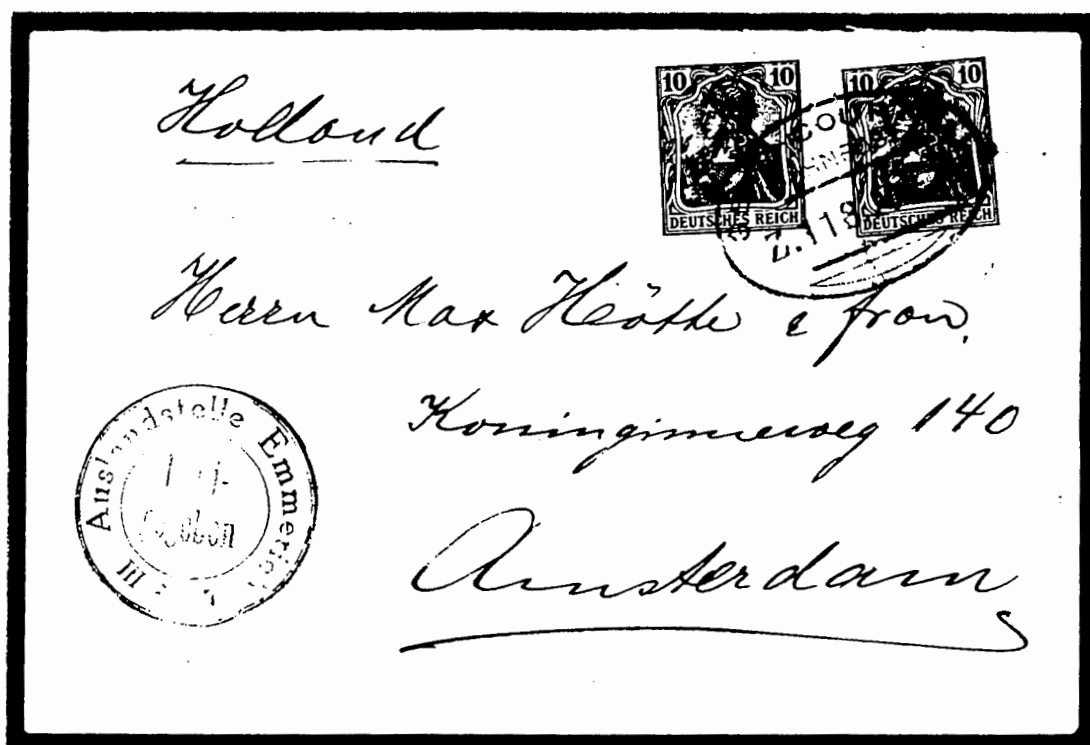


Brussels-Mezieres-Charleville, Z623, 9th May 1915



Luttich-Bleyberg-Aachen (West), Z243, 14th July 1916

Arlon-Virton	Z1011, Z4812
Brussel-Antwerpen	
Brussel-Cambrai	
Brussel-Charleville	
Brussel-Courtrai	Z702
Brussel-Gent	
Brussel-Gent-Ostende	Z41, Z75, Z480, Z802, Z754
Brussel-Herbestal	Z171, Z421
Brussel-Hirson	
Brussel-Kortrijk	
Brussel-Lille	Z210, Z454
Brussel-Luxembourg	
Brussel-Metz	
Brussel-Mezieres-Charleville	Z623
Brussel-Mons	Z664
Brussel-Namur	
Brussel-Ostende	
Brussel-Valenciennes	Z536, Z603, Z604
Charleroi-Hirson	Z3051
Chimay-Mariembourg	
Coln-Antwerpen	
Coln-Brussel	
Coln-Gent	
Coln-Luttich	



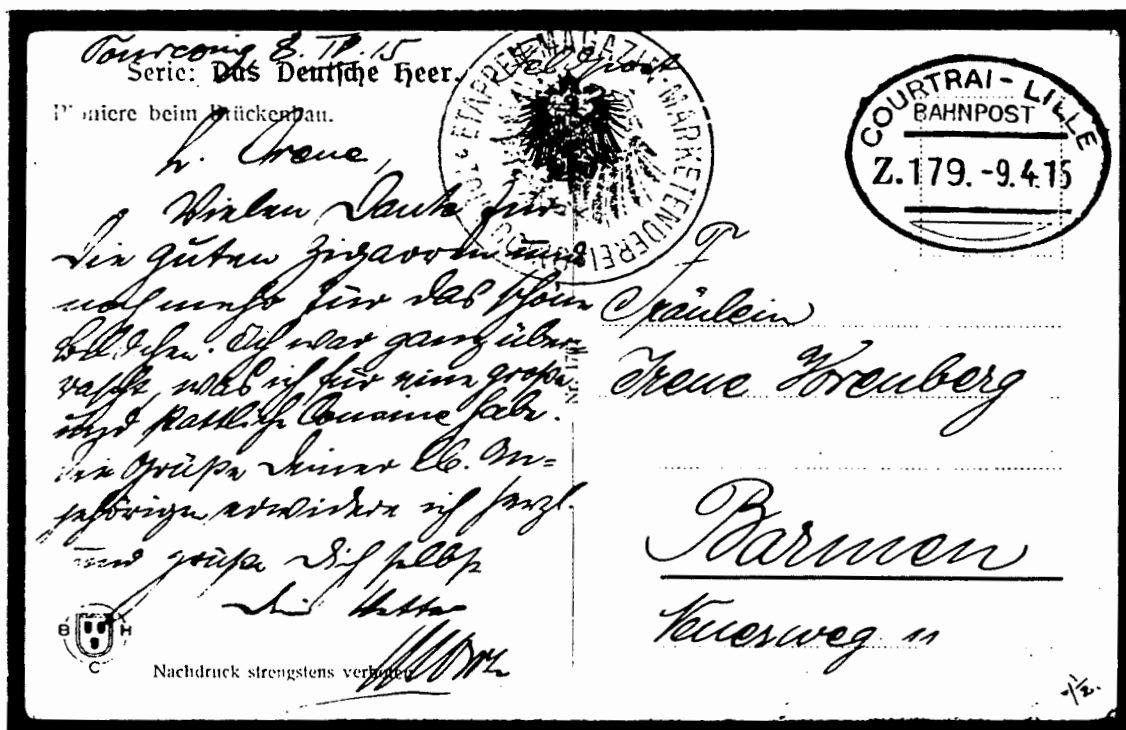
Gent-Courtrai, Z118, 20th January, 1916

Coln-Ostende	
Coln-Roeselaere	
Coln-Verviers	
Courtrai-Lille	Z133, Z179
Dinant-Jemelle	Z2882
Gent-Charleville	Z11/95, Z94/14
Gent-Courtrai	Z118, Z136, Z144, Z176
Givet-Mariembourg	Z3063
Kortrijke-Cambrai	
Landen-Gembloux	
Libramont-Ulflingen	Z527

Lowen-Beverloo	
Lowen-Charleroi	Z209
Lowen-Gent	Z8525
Lowen-Mecheln	
Lowen-Turnhout	Z2130, Z2134
Luttich-Antwerpen	Z352, Z356, Z1694
Luttich-Bleyberg-Aachen (West)	Z243, Z349, Z379, Z2434, Z2436
Luttich-Charleroi	Z310
Luttich-Diest	
Luttich-Hasselt	Z352, Z354
Luttich-Jemelle	Z1312, Z2733
Luttich-Luxemburg	Z507, Z607, Z608, Z1315
Luttich-Namur	Z133, Z1331
Luttich-Tergnier	Z10, Z306
Luttich-Trois Ponts	Z650, Z658, Z1273
Luttich-Vise	
Luxemburg-Jemelle	Z1312, Z1330
Luxemburg-Namur	Z1331
Luxemburg-Trois Ponts	Z1333
Mariembourg-Jemelle	
Namur-Charleville	Z285, Z2621, Z626
Namur-Luxemburg	Z1341
Namur-Thielt	Z5
Pepinster-Ulflingen	Z271
Thielt-Charleville	Z5
Tienen-Beverloo	
Tienen-Tongeren	
Virton-Houyet	Z2925

The following routes crossed Belgian territory:

Coln-Lille	
Coln-Laon	Z720
Herbesthal-Lille	



Courtrai-Lille, Z179, 9th April 1915

RAILWAY PARCEL STAMPS - 1895 ISSUE - IMPERFORATE

One of our members has recently acquired about twenty specimens of the 1895-1902 railway parcel post stamps (CO Nos.CF 15 to 27) which have not been perforated. They are all used, mainly on small pieces of waybills, and all values from 10c to 2Fr are represented except 15c and 30c. There is also a 60c from the following bi-coloured issue CO No.CF 37.

The cancellations are all at different stations and are mainly of the 3-line rectangle type, though there is one West Flanders private line cancellation of Rumbeke and one hexagon of Brussels Chartreux. Dates on the cancellations are mainly 1902 and 1903, though one is 1906 and one (with chamfered rectangle) is 1913. All pieces bear single stamps except one with 20c plus 40c.

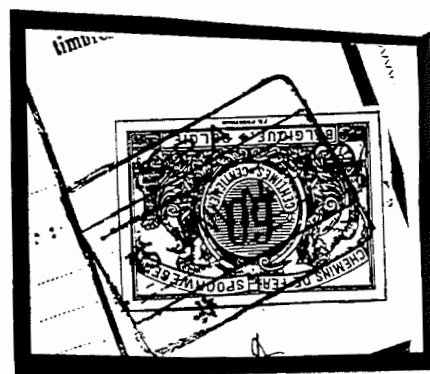
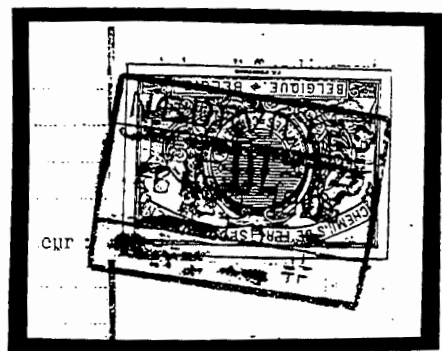
The stamps have too much margin for it to be likely that they were cut down from perforated specimens and they don't look like forgeries in that they were probably printed in the right colours from the original plate. The cancellations also look good - perhaps too good as they are all fully inked and (except the hexagon) carefully applied.

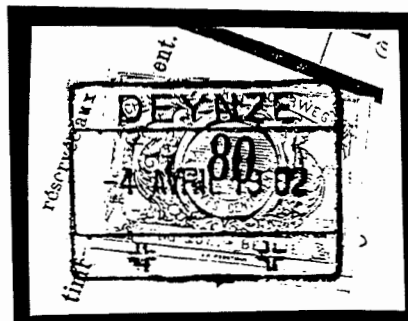
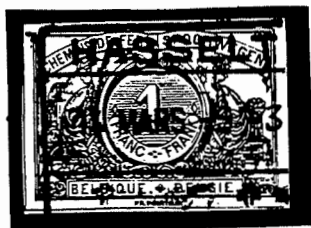
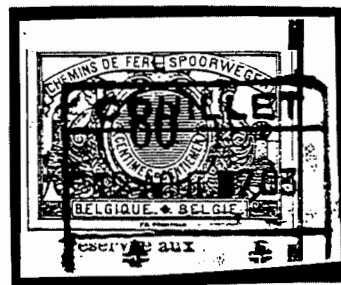
Imperforate 20c and 60c were listed by Balasse as No. 17 N 2 and 22 N 3, but these varieties were dropped when Catalogue National took up the listing of the other Balasse varieties on this issue, perhaps because of lack of provenance.

From the range of values and wide distribution of cancellations, it seems unlikely that these were cases of an accidental imperforate sheet coming into use through the normal channels. The absence of any other markings or writing on the pieces of waybill also suggests that they did not perform genuine usage.

Perhaps, as with several other issues, some printings which should have been destroyed left the printing works illicitly. But do any unused examples exist? At a later date, these items may have been cancelled by favour as their owner travelled round the country - could he have been a railway official perhaps?

If any members have similar imperforates of this issue, or recall seeing them anywhere or know the circumstances of their origin, we would be very pleased to hear from them.





MEMBER NEWS

Bernard Gillman-Davis continues to impress the judges. Firstly at the Autumn Convention in Eastbourne of the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, he won the Classics Cup for a Study of the 1865 issue. Then at his local Society in October, he won the Postal History Cup with an entry on the War of the Austrian Succession. This entry he advises included items obtained at the Belgian Study Circle auctions. Well done, Bernard. (See "BELGAPOST" Vol.9 No.2, page 62.)

John Parkin recently underwent a heart by-pass valve operation and is now back home and recuperating. Members attending the 2nd November meeting were able to sign a "Get Well" card for him. His wife, Brenda, says it was much appreciated and perhaps a reminder that we hope to see his Tête Bêche and Advertisement display in due course. John was present at Peterborough in September. My thanks to **Jim Moore** for keeping us informed.

Nick Martin writes to say that his restaurant and wine business in Kent is now improving but absorbing all his time and energies - Saturday being an extra busy day. He misses attending our meetings and is getting out of touch with philately but hopes to surface around the 2003/2004 season for one of our meetings!!

Dave Davidson has been unwell for awhile during last summer but is now back to normal. His Air Mail collection is growing slowly but difficult to add to at present due to lack of suitable covers. Perhaps next season we might be able to persuade him to give us a show?

Les Soulsby advises that his time is preoccupied on domestic matters, leaving him with little time for anything else. He keeps in touch with nearby **Ken Morrell** and has disposed of much of his collection. He was one of the early members of the Circle, serving in various positions after its formation.

Gaston Jorquera recently took his first steps into the competition world with an entry "Le 10 Centimes de 1869" at Tirlemont. It won him a Gold Medal and he now plans to enter for the National at Charleroi in May, 1997. Keep up the good work, Gaston - we will be there to see for ourselves!