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MARCH, 1997

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 Flenalle)

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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.

BELGAPOSTVolume **10** No. **1**MARCH, 1997The Journal of the
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Editor: S. J. Andrews, 37 Barton Lodge Road, Birmingham. B28 0RL. © S. J. Andrews

MARCH, 1997



EDITORIAL

We now start on our 10th Volume, the "main" articles will be based on stamps - this time, the famous Montenez issues. But this year, we will be bringing many articles on postal history which we hope you will enjoy.

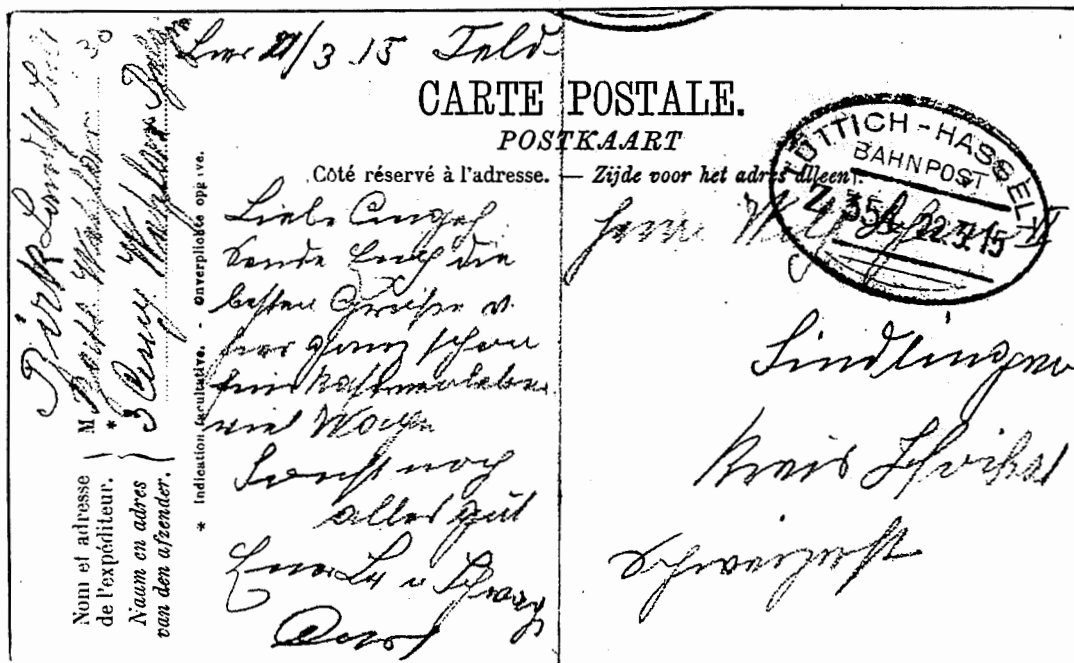
This issue of "BELGAPOST" covers (elsewhere) the first report on our 50th Birthday Programme - the display which was given at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on 16th January, 1997. A very good start to our birthday.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your President would like to thank all the members (18) who contributed to the Royal Philatelic Society London display. Many members of the Royal considered the displays most memorable and appreciated being able to view them. There were approximately 130 people at the meeting. I would also particularly say a special thank you to Reg Harrison and Peter Watts for the great work they did for the organisation, the brochure, for mounting the sheets (some 600) and breaking down the exhibits. Thank you all.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jeremy Martin says that he found the article on the "Deutsche Bahnpost, 1915-1918" ("BELGAPOST" Vol. 9, page 158) most interesting. It is noted that several months of 1915 had passed before a reorganised system came into use. I wonder what is the earliest date recorded. The earliest I have is from Z354 LUTTICH-HASSELT and is dated 22.3.15.



POSTSCRIPT

The question of when the reorganised Railway Postal Service came back into use is passed over by most of the publications on these oval postmarks. Dates are mentioned generally around spring/summer 1915 for the different routes, but as always actual examples of usage are our main guide. I have several in March 1915, one in February and the one illustrated BRUSSEL-MONS 23rd JANUARY. A little more detail on this cover may be of interest to members. It is a picture postcard of a German Unit posed with a Christmas Tree and board marked

WEIHNACHTEN IN BELGIEN 1914 AUF BAHNHOF HENNUYERES.
(CHRISTMAS 1914 BELGIUM AT HENNUYERES STATION)

The message on the card translates as follows:

Dear Ella,

I have received your nice cards of the 5th and 12th, also the marzipan which I enjoyed famously. Many thanks. In the meantime, I suppose you will have received the picture of me. The weather here in the last few weeks was also most depressing, continuous rain. Since yesterday it is freezing slightly. I am well. I hope you are all the same. Kind regards.

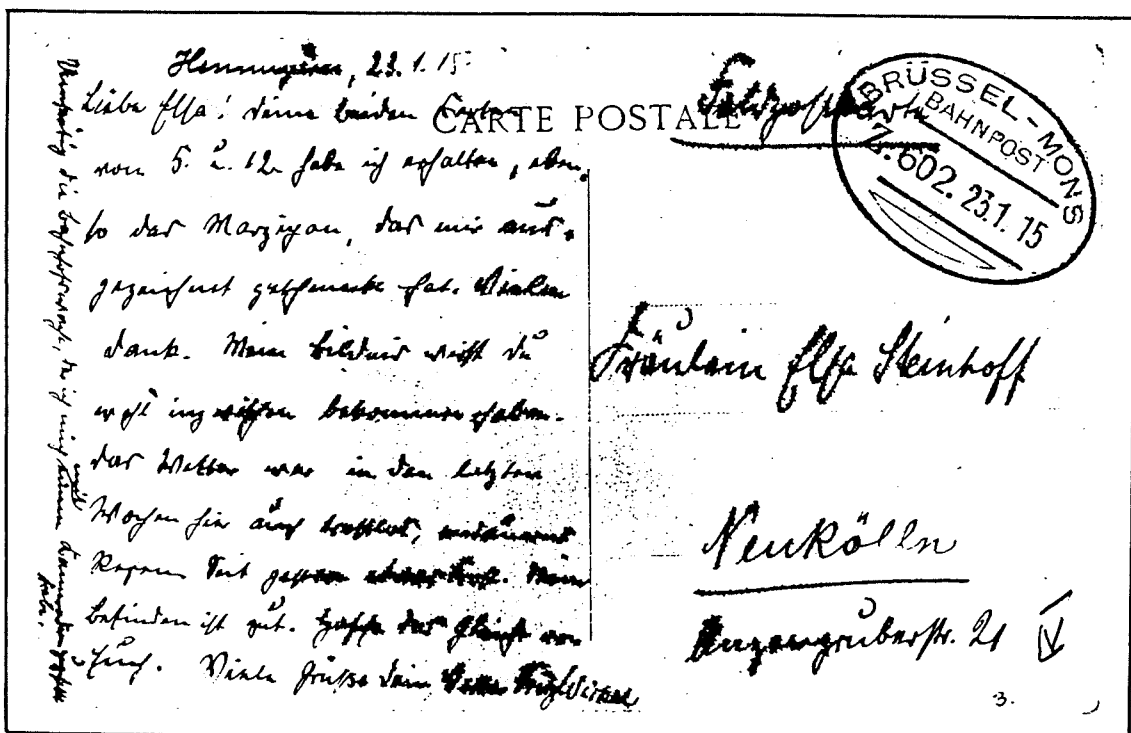
Your cousin,

Fritz Wickel

nb. On the reverse, the station guard which I joined with a comrade.

Can members examine their collections for something dated December 1914!

REG HARRISON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jack Evans writes:

"I was most interested in the article on The Postal Savings Roulette Cancellations in "BELGAPOST" 9. I have for some while had in my collection a form (French language only) containing 20 5c (45COB) stamps, cancelled TILLEUR 7 MARS 1891. The front has the same text as the ones illustrated but has a long narrative on the reverse. Are you aware of this? do you want a transcript? I hope you find this of some interest."

Reply - All the Savings Bank forms have detailed instructions on the reverse in either French/Flemish or Flemish language. This relates to the procedures to be used on encashment similar to that used in the UK for School Savings Cards.

AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

It is intended that the 12th April Auction List will be circulated with this edition of "BELGAPOST" and in keeping with our plans for 1997, I hope that the auction contents and catalogue are seen to be just that little bit better than normal. To get a balance, there are more stamp lots than usual, including a number of issues not normally offered. Together with some fine early stamp covers and postal history, I hope everyone will find something of interest to add to their collections.

There has been a good response from members for material to be offered, some of which has been held back for our next sale in September at Leamington Spa.

For those unable to attend in person, bids should be sent to KEN CARPENTER. Enquiries about lots should be directed to me. Remember that in the event of equal bids, the first bid gets preference. Do get your bids in as soon as possible - you have been given plenty of advance notice.

REG HARRISON

AGM, LUNCH AND AUCTION - 12th APRIL, 1997

This will be held at the Clifton-Ford Hotel, Welbeck Street, London. A good number of members have already made lunch reservations (on the yellow forms, previously circulated).

As outlined, the auction lots will be on view in the Welbeck Suite from 10.30 a.m. to approximately 12.15 p.m. From this time until we recommence after lunch, the room will be locked for insurance/security purposes.

The luncheon is being subsidised by the Circle to encourage a good attendance and this meeting is intended to commemorate the first formal meeting of the Circle founder members fifty years ago, held on 20th March, 1947. It is hope that this meeting will be a memorable event and continue our year's programme which started so well at the Royal Philatelic Society on the 16th January.

After Lunch, both the nearby Oxford Street Shops and the Circle Auction are available to lighten the purses of members and their guests!

A few places are still available for the Lunch - please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested.

REG HARRISON

REPORT OF MEETING - REGENT'S COLLEGE 7th DECEMBER, 1996

The Chairman, Ken Carpenter, opened the meeting by asking Reg Harrison to describe his display "The Postal History of Brussels - from Independence". This covered a range of material from both his own and other collectors showing the establishment of an independent nation and its postal services. As the capital city, Brussels has a wealth of material chronicling its growth and development, including the introduction of accountancy marks and district offices. A description of this display will be included in "BELGAPOST".

This display was followed by a brief business meeting, the highlight of which was the presentation by Doris Green of a new President's Badge to Jack Andrews, on behalf of the Circle. This was accompanied by a short explanation of the foundation of the Circle by Doris and a suitable response by Jack Andrews. A description and illustration of this magnificent donation will appear in "BELGAPOST".

Reference was made to our special meetings in 1997, to which it is hoped as many members as possible will try to attend. By the time this report appears, we will be looking forward to our special AGM Lunch and Auction on 12th April. This will be held at the Clifton Ford Hotel in London, and a warm welcome is extended to all our members for this 50th Celebration.

A request was made for a member to take over the role of Librarian/Archivist to act as custodian of the Circle's books and publications. The prime duty is one of storage whilst according access to occasional requests for information. It provides an opportunity to extend your personal knowledge. Would any member who feels able to undertake this role, please contact Reg Harrison for further information.

Confirmation was given that a meeting room has been arranged by Jean Bruwier for our "Continental" members at Charleroi on Saturday, 24th May, at 3.30 p.m. This will be preceded by our Congo members at 1.30 p.m. Anyone who would like to participate, please contact Reg Harrison.

It was reported that John Parkin is recovering well at home and hopes to be back in circulation soon.

The afternoon session was led by Tony Geake on the topic of Railway Parcel Stamps. He began by detailing the stamp issues in chronological order, with reference to some of the doubtful reprints of early material right up to the recent high value miniature sheets. This was followed by an explanation of cancellations either by type or by 'route' e.g. Nord-Belge. Together with support by other members, a display of cancellations showed both approaches. Reference was made to the system set up by the railways to handle parcels and the function of the stamps on the accompanying docketts. Alas, very few of the original docketts survived as they were kept in railway hands, then destroyed. When it was seen that a market existed, they were stored and then sold off by weight to the public. Even so, many buyers soaked the stamps off and complete docketts from early issues are usually those to foreign destinations which did not have a policy of document destruction. Judging by our lists of members' interests and bidding at our auctions, railway parcels are keenly sought after within the Circle.

The meeting terminated with our Chairman wishing those present a very Happy Christmas.

REG HARRISON

POSTSCRIPT

Since writing the above, Nick Martin has indicated his willingness to undertake role of Librarian/Archivist, to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in April.

Coins for Sale

Brilliant uncirculated coins in year sets, complete with medallion or token as issued in cases. 1989-1996. Cost price £65. Offers to Maurice Wilkinson.

REPORT OF CIRCLE DISPLAY TO THE ROYAL

16th JANUARY 1997

The opening event of the Circle's 50th Year took place at 41 Devonshire Place, on the above date. When members were admitted at 1.00 p.m. they were confronted with 50 display frames containing a cross section of Belgian philatelic material from 20 members of the Circle.

Although it is not proposed to report the display in detail (as the accompanying guide leaflet is enclosed for those unable to attend), a special mention is due to those frames by our late members, Harry Green, George Hollings and Geoffrey Wood, who I am sure, would have approved of our efforts.

During the afternoon, our attendance book was signed by 28 members and guests who had made a special effort to support the event. Included in that number were **Jean Bruwier** and **Josef Deruyck**, who had come across from Belgium - a splendid gesture. Other members of the "Royal" were out in force and at times the building was somewhat buzzing with people keen to share in our event!

Unfortunately, due to ill-health, Doris Green was absent from this event when the President's Badge, which she has generously donated to the Circle, was on display for the first time on the shoulders of our President, Jack Andrews. Rosemary Green was, however, able to attend and to give an eyewitness account to her mother on her return to Dorset. Members who were present that day signed a get-well card which we sent to Doris.

Shortly before the end of the display, we were given an official welcome by the President of the Royal Philatelic Society, which was followed by a wine reception courtesy of Jack Andrews.

Apart from myself, the day's activities were led by our President and Peter Watts who, together with his wife, Sharon, had produced the display booklet. I feel that our efforts were well rewarded by the encouraging attendance on the day - all our spare programmes were utilised.

At the close of the display, a party of 15 members and guests, including our two Belgian members, visited a nearby restaurant to celebrate what I consider to be a worthy start to our 50th Anniversary Year.

REG HARRISON

TREASURER'S NOTES

I am pleased to report that all subscriptions are in hand and that the Circle's finances are in a good position for our 50th Year. As at late February, one payment is still outstanding from the October Auction but all dues have been paid to the vendors. A full report will be made at the Annual General Meeting and will appear in the next "BELGAPOST". Suffice it to say, it is our peripheral activities which enable us to keep our subscriptions down and material is welcomed both for our Auctions and Exchange Packet.

REG HARRISON

NEW MEMBERS

Heinrich Wasels - Uckfield, East Sussex.

World War 1, Germania Overprints, Epaulettes and Line-Engraved Issues.

Jean-François Lebon - Chapet, France.

Pre-Cancels 1895-1938, Newspaper Cancels (P.P./P.D.) 1861-1915.

M. Lebon hopes to attend our 12th April meeting.

A warm welcome is extended to both members.

CIRCLE DISPLAY TO THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
16th JANUARY, 1997



PRESIDENT - JACK ANDREWS

BADGE OF PRESIDENT



BERNARD BERKINSHAW-SMITH AND JEAN BRUWIER

LEAMINGTON SPA 19th-21st SEPTEMBER, 1997

Our annual country meeting will be held as above and is likely to be the last major event of our Anniversary Year. It is hoped to make this a memorable occasion with as many members present as possible. At present, the following have indicated their intention to attend:-

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Jack Andrews (President) | Reg Harrison and Jean |
| Michael Barden and Maureen (Australia) | Eliane Hollings |
| John Connolly and Renate | Ken Carpenter and Jo |
| Graham Harvey and Sue | Ken Dore |
| John Parkin and Brenda | Ken Morrell and Irene |
| Tom Pring | Maurice Wilkinson and Pauline |
| Ruth Wood | Tony Geake and Coral |
| Paul Wood and Bernice | Jack Gibbs and Margaret |
| Iain Stevenson | Doris Green and Rosemary |
| Eileen Loader and Peggy Batten | |

The detailed programme is currently being drawn up by Tony Geake but it is intended to include an auction on the Saturday afternoon. The full programme will appear in our next issue.

Our venue, the historic Regent Hotel, has promised us a warm welcome and it is hoped to take advantage of the tourist attractions in the vicinity. Any member who has not yet booked should get in touch with Tony Geake as soon as possible.

THE PRESIDENT'S BADGE OF OFFICE

Those members present at the Display at the Royal Philatelic Society London in January were able to witness the first official wearing of the new badge by our President. This badge was generously presented to the Circle by Doris Green and bears symbols of Belgium and philately. The posthorn is based on that in the museum in Brussels and the foliage on the 1869 stamp issues. Suspended on a coloured ribbon in the colours of the Belgian National Flag, it bears the wording:

"PRESIDENT
BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE
FOUNDED 1947"

On the reverse the legend:

"Presented by Doris Green
1997
in Memory of Harry Green
Founder January 1947"

The badge was designed by a jeweller in Banstead and crafted in Epsom and Yorkshire. It has the appropriate hallmarks and is a combination of silver and gold.

Our sincere thanks have been conveyed by our President, Jack Andrews, to Doris for this splendid gift to the Belgian Study Circle on its' 50th Anniversary.

THE MONTENEZ ISSUES, 1921-1925 and 1929-1941

Foreword

In the early years of the Study Circle, members carried out intensive work on a number of issues of stamps of Belgium, particularly on the Montenez issue of 1921-1925. This culminated in the issue of a limited edition (100 copies) of Record No.11 of the then Belgian Stamp Study Circle. Amongst others, the main members who were able to contribute were Geoffrey Wood, Clifford Armstrong, Malcolm Stewart-Smith, the present author (S. J. Andrews) and Fred Kilby, who actually led the work and who produced the Record. It was dated March, 1956. Since then, very little work has been done on this subject, mainly due to the lack of any new available material. However, in this new article, it is being brought up to date as far as possible, and with the addition of the "Large" Issue (1929-1941), which was not previously included.

Some twenty-five years later, the present author was able to study all the material held by the Brussels Postal Museum. This, however, did not add to information which we already held.



The Artist and Engraver

The discerning philatelist is invariably attracted by a well engraved and clearly printed postage stamp. It is within this category that the "Montenez" stamps of Belgium must certainly be included. Matched only the the Epaulette and Medallion stamps, this is one of the most creditable issues of Belgium. Its first appearance was made in the form of a 50 centime stamp on the 26th May, 1921. It was a very finely engraved profile portrait of King Albert, in a circular white frame, surrounded by a wreath of laurel and oak leaves, with the name of the country bi-lingually inscribed.

This issue was designed and engraved by Georges Montenez of Brussels, after whom it was named.



Georges Montenez

Georges Montenez, the son of a Belgian schoolmaster, was born on the 8th January, 1873, at Rouveroy in the Province of Hainaut. In 1886, at the age of 13 years, Georges entered the Mons Academy, where he was taught drawing by Professor Bourlard and engraving by Professor Danse. Under these able masters, together with his own natural aptitude and ability, he advanced rapidly in both subjects. At the conclusion of his studies in 1896, when only 23 years of age, Georges was awarded the Prix de Rome. Further academic prizes were subsequently awarded to him at Paris, Lille and Athens.

Exemplary excellence is the sine qua non of his work as an engraver of fine stamps. A standard which can be appreciated by all serious students of philately.

The Printers

All the stamps of the "Small" Issue, (i.e. 1921-1925) were prepared and executed by those masters of recess work, Messrs. John Enschedé and Sons of Haarlem. (Joh. Enschedé en Zonen, Haarlem, Holland.) They were printers since 1703 and carried out work in Letterpress, Photogravure, Offset, Steelplate Printing, Photo-Engraving and Typefounding.

In a letter of 3rd November, 1970, Enschedé stated that:

"For the manufacture of printing plates of line-engraved stamps, there are two fundamentally different systems - the repetition of rolling-in (transfer system) and the repetition by means of the electro plating process.

"The rolling-in system is the older and more accurate of the two systems because it allows the finest lines and dots to be multiplied without hardly any loss. But it is also more time consuming.

"The electro system is the more recent and remarkably faster system (hence also cheaper), but it is somewhat less accurate, because the chance of abrasion in the smallest details is greater. This system was introduced in our works about 1920. Since then we have used it for the production of printing plates for postage stamps and banknotes without, however, letting the transfer process falling into disuse.

"By the electro process, one single alto is made of the original hand engraving. Of this alto, five new identical "originals" are made. These five new originals are subsequently placed accurately one next to the other and indissolubly soldered together. Of this strip of five, another alto is made, of which five new "originals" are made, i.e. five originals of the strip of five originals. These are subsequently mounted into one block of 25. When continuing this process with the alto of 25 originals in four "originals in block forme" a final forme of 100 engravings is obtained.

"When using this process, if one of the five engravings of the first strip gets slightly damaged, the error will be repeated twenty times and thus appear on the original forme of 100. If such damage occurs in a block of 25 engravings, the error will appear four times on the block of 100."

The Proofs

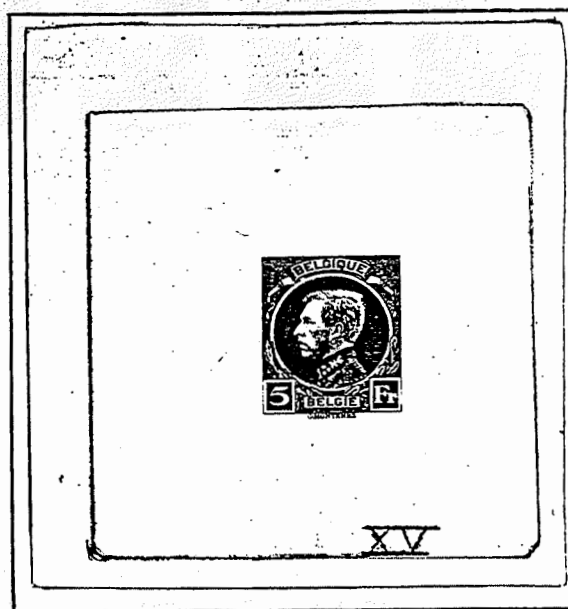
Nothing was said about proofs in Record No.11 on this subject, as probably at that time very little was known about them. We have to refer to Grubben Catalogue. His first reference is a 15c in black on a large sheet on thick white paper, signed "Montenez" and dated "Paris, 12 Juillet, 1920". Grubben also says that this was printed in Paris. This author (SJA) believes that this was not so but merely that Montenez was at that time actually living in Paris. We also know that the 15c proofs were also printed in brown and green. It is therefore possible that the 15c was printed in the colours of the 5fr.

Grubben then gives six proofs in small sheets, each in a different colour; all 5 franc.

Noir-Olive
Brun-Violet
Jaune-Orange

Chaudron
Rouge-Orange
Jaune-Bistre

How many were printed are not known, but there appears to be slight differences in colour and there are marks, in pencil, in Roman characters. These pencil notings are an integral part of the proof and should not be erased. Each is also perforated with a very small, what appears to be, a crown. This is a control mark which the Postal Administration punch in the blank sheets before handing the sheets over to the printer.



Proof No. XV is in Yellow Orange

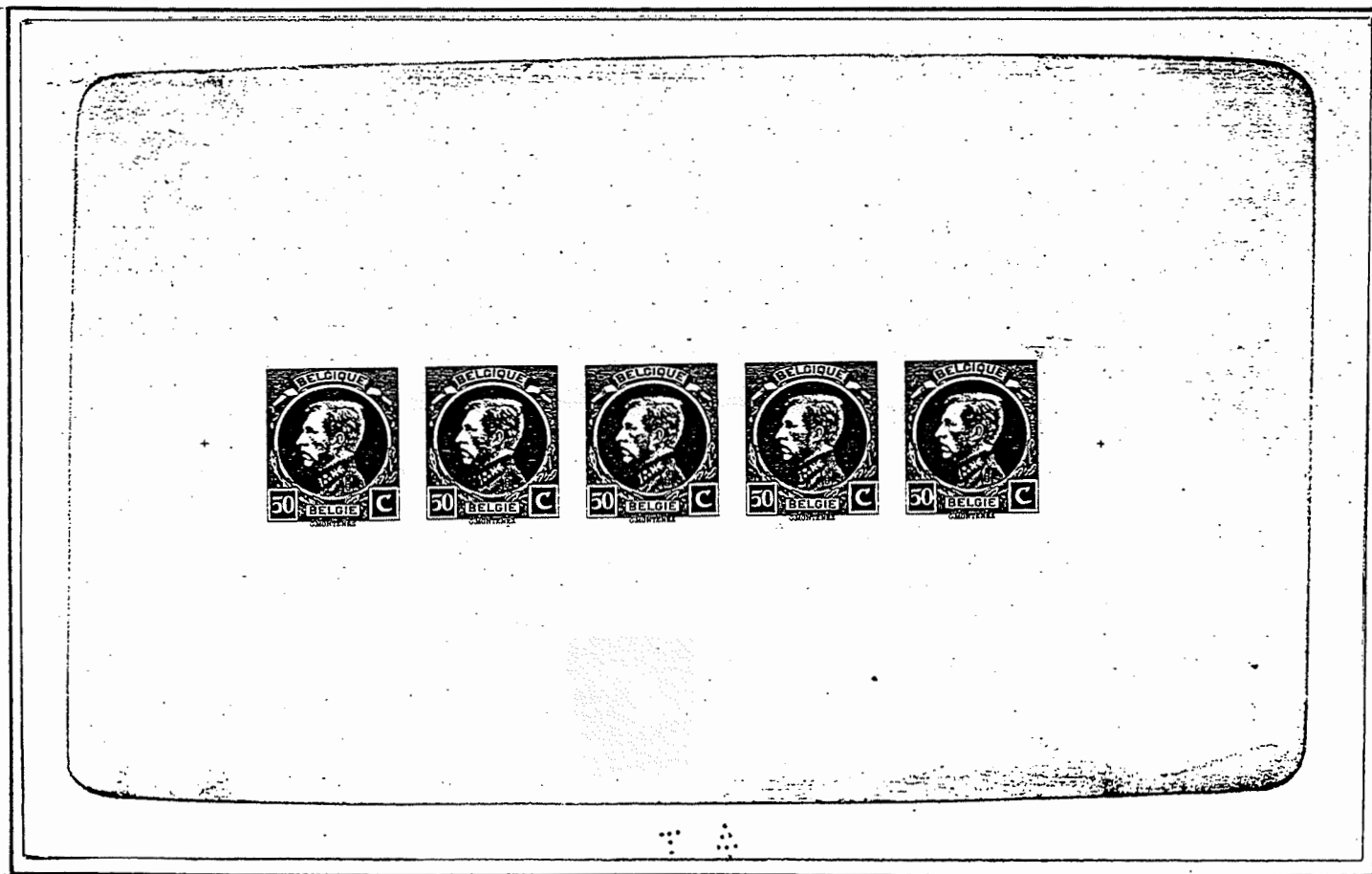
Also the printers, Enschedé, provided a short number of albums (possibly two) in 1928, as follows:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 50c Noir | (on white paper) |
| 75c Noir | " " " |
| 1fr Noir | " " " |
| 2fr Noir | " " " |
| 5fr Noir | " " " |
| 10fr Noir | " " " |

The same values were printed in Bleu, Rouge, Brun-Noir, Vert, Violet and Lie de vin. The same colours were printed on Japan paper, and also on silk.

The albums, containing the 24 proofs, were sold for 15,000 BF in 1928. A blue album with the gold monogramme "A", believed to have been the personal property of King Albert, was sold in the Godfrey Mellor (Robson Lowe) sale on 18th March, 1969, estimated 2,000 Swiss francs.

In 1929, all dies, etc. in the Postal Archives were printed in black on white paper, 150mm x 178mm in size. Each sheet was numbered in black at the top left and, at the bottom, embossed 52 mm, seal of the Ministère des Postes, Telegraphes et Telephones. There were seven values: 15c, 50c, 75c, 1fr, 2fr, 5fr and 10fr.



Stamp No. 3 shows a minute spot of colour on the King's forehead (Variety 1). This spot is so small that it does not always show but it is of importance in proving the make up of the prints. Stamp No. 5 shows a spot of colour on the King's nose. It later appears on the 5th stamp only of each block of 25 (see Stage3) (Variety 2).

The next proofs were those showing the row of five stamps and were all of either 50c and 1fr, on a white paper, approximately 184mm x 117mm for the 50c, and approximately 173mm x 100mm for the 1fr. The actual plate was approximately 170mm x 103mm for the 50c and 169mm x 98mm for the 1fr.

The 50c value is known in the following colours:

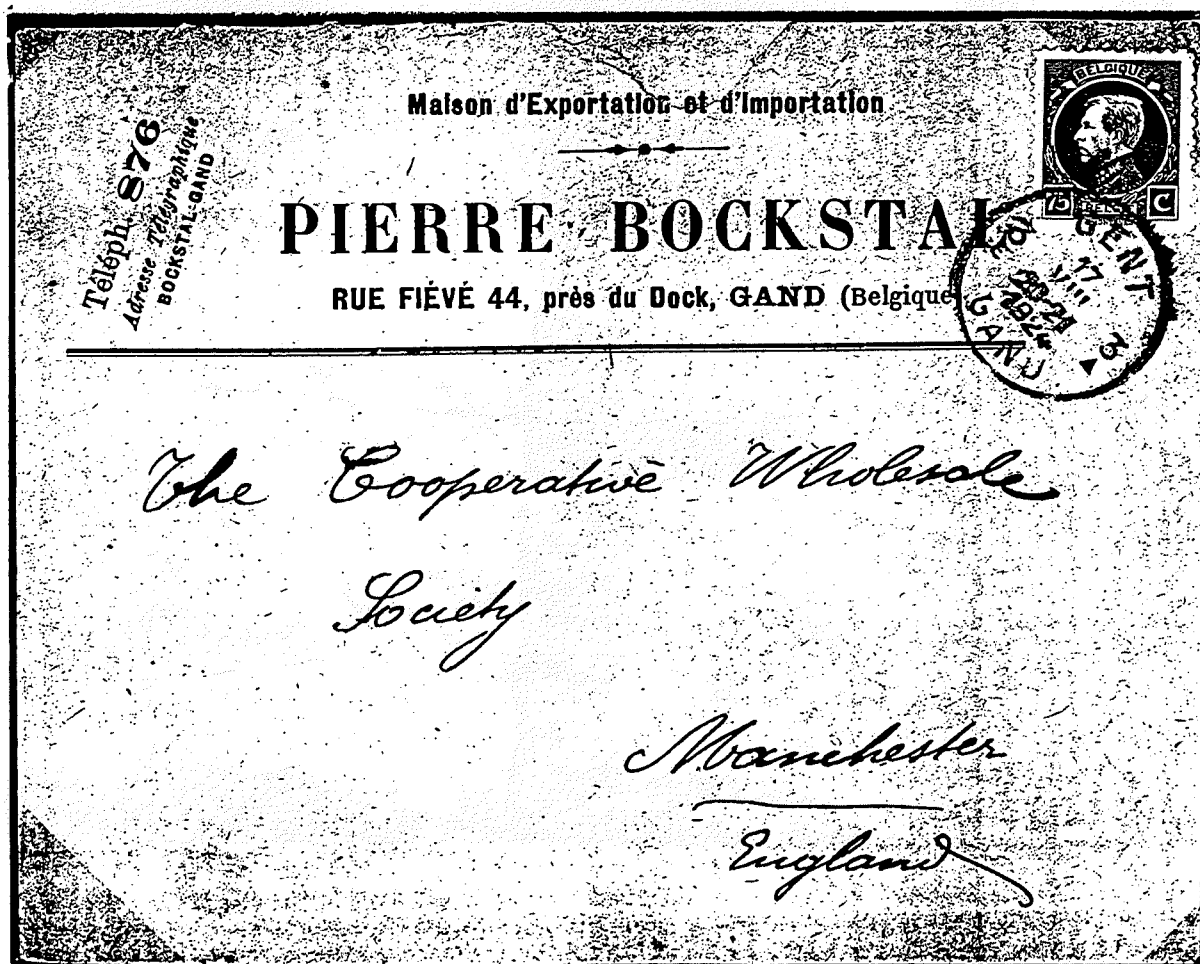
| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Gris-Noir | Brun-Jaune |
| Noir | Brun-Chocolat |
| Rouge-Vermillion | Brun-Violet |
| Rouge-Orange | Violet |
| Orange | Violet-Foncé |
| Chaudron | Vert |
| Brun-Noir | Vert-Jaune |
| Brun-Bistre | Vert-Olive |

Some sheets are perforated with the small crown, as in the small proofs, others perforated "T4".

For the 1fr proofs, the colours were:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Vermilion | Violet |
| Rouge-Vermilion | Violet-Rouge |
| Rouge Brique | Vert |
| Lie de vin | Vert foncé |
| Amaranthe | Vert Olive |
| Amaranthe-Pâle | Vert-Jaune Olive |
| Brun-Violet | Réséda |

Again, as in the single stamp proofs, the pencil notings are an integral part and should not be erased.



75 cent Scarlet - Gent to Manchester 17th August, 1924

Production of the Stamps

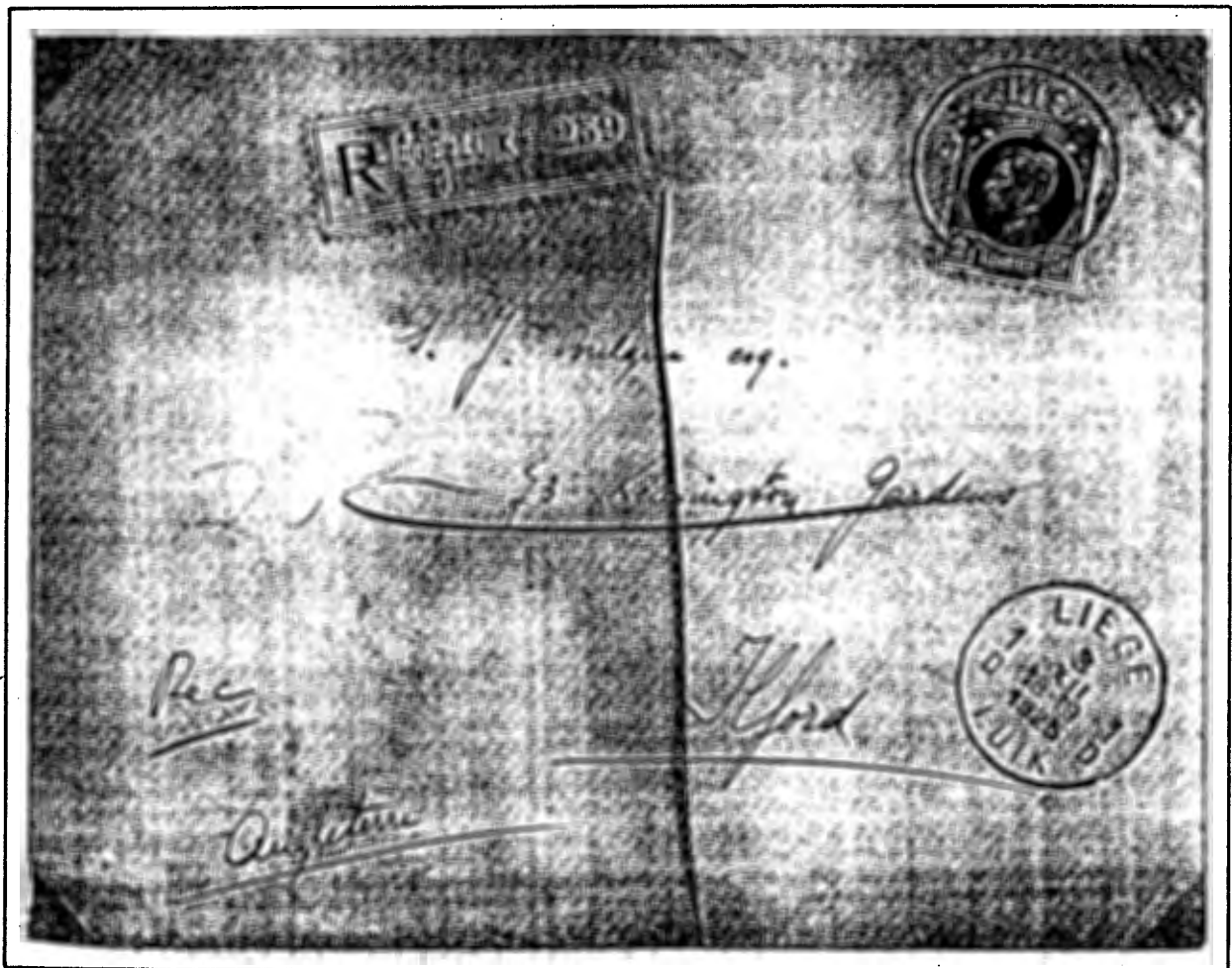
Matrices (or "contras") are made electronically from which patrices are produced in the same way. Patrices are fit for printing, matrices are not. From this compound patrix, four more matrices were made, these then being joined together and so on until a plate of the right size was obtained. Each full patrix is backed by type metal to bring it up to the wanted height for use in the printing process.

Printing was carried out on well-moistened paper, which had the property of expanding when moistened and shrinking on drying. It is well known that this expansion greatly depends on the composition of the paper and it is different in two directions. In the manufacture of the paper, the fibres are largely aligned in the direction of movement of the paper machine. The expansion at right angles to the lie of the fibres is much greater than that parallel to them so that it causes an appreciable change in the stamp. This has long been known with regard to the size of the stamp - if the stamp has its length parallel to the direction of the fibres, a tall narrow copy results. If the stamp has its length at right angles to the direction of the fibres, the result is a wide short copy. It is clear that the differences do not lie in the plate or plates used but only in the paper.

In this issue (the Montenez), due to this one can find two frame sizes:

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Frame - | size I - | 18mm x 21mm |
| Frame - | size II - | 17½mm x 21½mm |

It must be emphasised that although there are found both sizes in the frames of all the values, there was only one die for each.



2 Fr. Deep Green - Liege to Ilford 3rd December, 1925

The Stamps Issued

This issue was made under a Royal Decree of 17th May, 1921, and a Ministerial Decree of 18th May, 1921. There were six values in normal format: 50c, 75c, 1fr, 2fr, 5fr and 10fr, of which the 50c, 75c, 1fr and 5fr were subsequently printed in a different colour. It can be seen that these stamps can be described as the "high" values e.g. the internal letter rate at this time was 20 centimes (for up to 20 grammes).

So it is seen that another issue, known as the "Houyoux" issue was also made under a Royal Decree on the same day, although the Ministerial Decree was not made until 26th June, 1922. The first stamp of this issue (25c) was made on 21st July, 1922.

This issue was designed by Leon Houyoux and printed by the Malines Printing Works. They were printed typographically on a poor grade of woven paper. It was presumed that they would be at least as presentable and fitting companions to the handsome 50c and 1fr values of the Montenez values already in use. They were most disappointing and met with universal disapproval. However, the two issues went hand in hand for some years and both designs were withdrawn from use on 1st April, 1948.

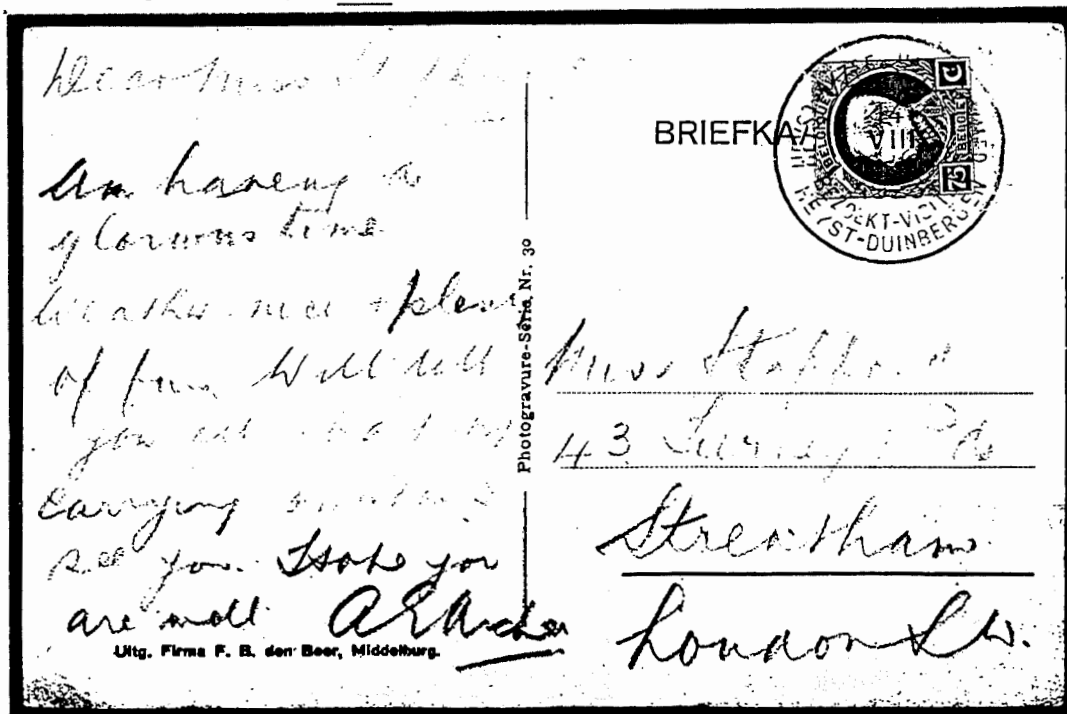
The two issues showing dates of use are shown in the following chart:

| Date of Issue | Montenez Values | Houyoux Values | Date of Issue | Montenez Values | Houyoux Values | Notes |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 26.5.1921 | 50c Indigo | | 24.5.1924 | 5fr.brown | | |
| 1.9.1921 | 50c Grey-Blue | | 1.10.1924 | 75c Blue | | New Colour |
| 6.2.1922 | 1fr Brown | | 10.1.1925 | | 50c | Rep.Mont.50c |
| 21.7.1922 | | 25c | 1.12.1925 | 1fr Indigo | 30c Rose | |
| 1.9.1922 | | 1c | 1.5.1926 | | 2c | |
| | | 3c | 30.7.1926 | | 1.25fr | |
| | | 30c Verm. | 11.10.1926 | | 2fr | Rep.Mont.2fr |
| 10.10.1922 | | 5c | 26.10.1926 | | 75c | Rep.Mont.75c |
| | | 10c | 6.12.1926 | | 1.50fr | |
| | | 20c | | | 1fr Yellow | Rep.Mont.1fr |
| 5.12.1922 | 75c Scarlet | 35c | 10.1.1927 | | 5fr | Rep.Mont.5f |
| | 2fr | 40c | | | 10fr | Rep.Mont.10fr |
| | 10fr | | 1.8.1927 | | 1.75fr | |
| 1.3.1923 | | 15c | 30.11.1927 | | 35c | |
| | | 25c | | | 1fr Red | New Colour |
| 15.10.1923 | 5fr Purple | | 15.12.1927 | | 60c | |

The Perforations

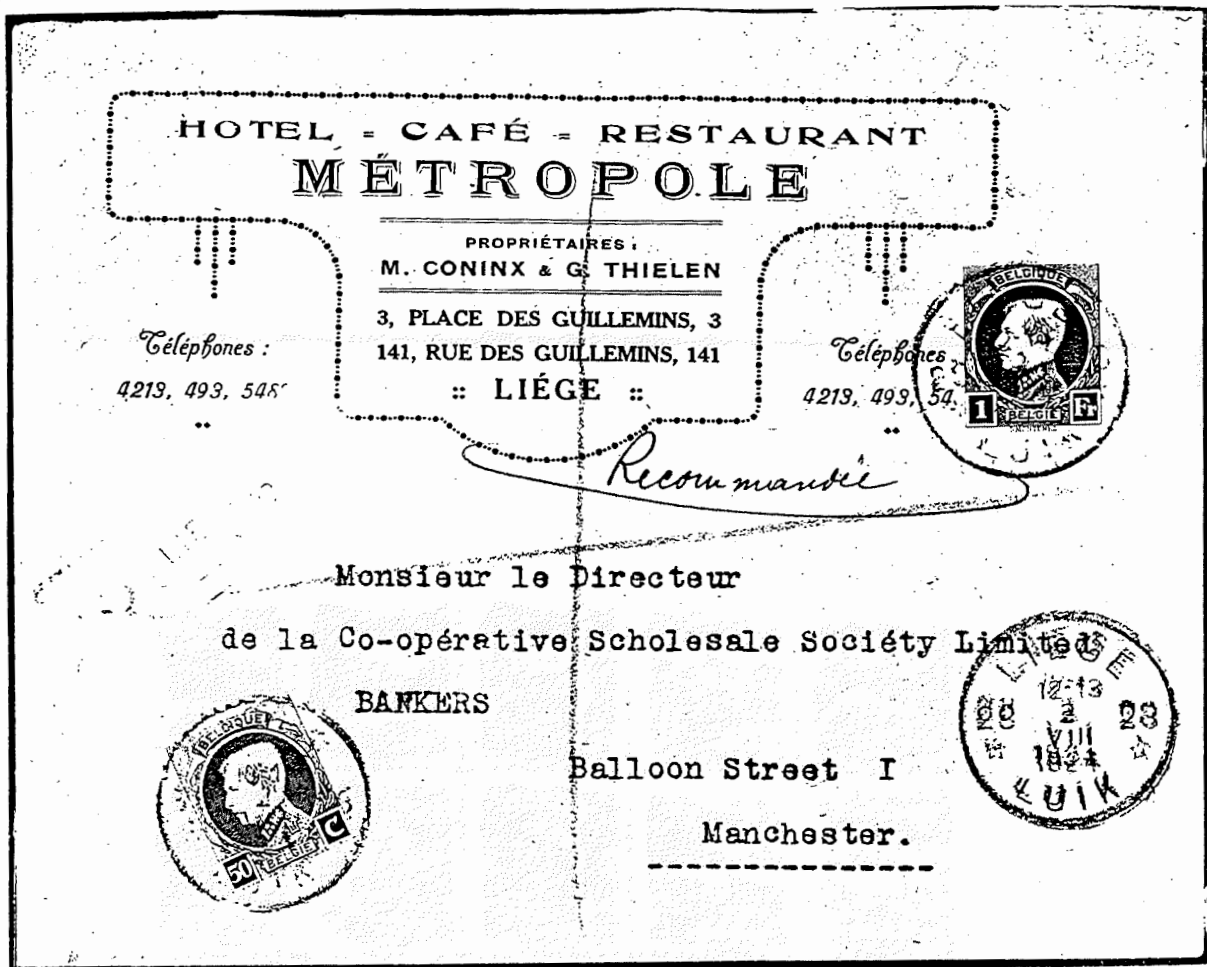
Due to the use of "wet" paper in the printing process, it is necessary to use "line" perforating, and in this issue we find:

- (a) Perforated 11
1fr Deep Sepia (sheet of 50) - rare.
- (b) Perforated 11½
50c Indigo (sheets of 25)
50c Dull Blue
75c Scarlet
75c Ultramarine
1Fr Deep Sepia (sheet of 50)
1Fr Sepia (sheet of 100)
1Fr Blue
2Fr Deep Green
5Fr Purple
5Fr Red Brown (sheet of 4)
10Fr Claret
- (c) Perforated 11 x 11½
50c Dull Blue
1Fr Sepia
- (d) Perforated 11½ x 12
50c Dull Blue
1Fr Sepia
- (e) Perforated 11½ x 12
50c Dull Blue - rare
- (f) Perforated 11½ x 12½
50c Dull Blue
75c Ultramarine
1Fr Blue
- (g) Perforated 12½
75c Ultramarine - rare



75 cent Ultramarine - Heyst to London 14th August, 1926

Balasse records a number of "curiosities" and no doubt there are others, but it is worth recording here that the 1Fr blue, perforated 11½ with imperforate bottom edge, of which a row of ten was found at the Zele Post Office and subsequently broken up.



50 cent Blue + 1 Fr. Sepia - Liege to Manchester 2nd August, 1924

The Plates

The following table gives the values, colours and composition of the printed sheets of stamps:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----|--------|----|--------|
| 50c Indigo | 25 stamps | in | 5 rows | of | 5 |
| 50c Dull Blue | 150 | " | " | 15 | " " 10 |
| 50c Dull Blue | 150 | " | " | 10 | " " 15 |
| 75c Scarlet | 100 | " | " | 10 | " " 10 |
| 75c Ultramarine | 150 | " | " | 15 | " " 10 |
| 1Fr Deep Sepia | 50 | " | " | 5 | " " 10 |
| 1Fr Sepia | 100 | " | " | 10 | " " 10 |
| 1Fr Blue | 150 | " | " | 15 | " " 10 |
| 2Fr Deep Green | 100 | " | " | 10 | " " 10 |
| 5Fr Purple | 100 | " | " | 10 | " " 10 |
| 5Fr Red Brown | 4 | " | " | 2 | " " 2 |
| 10Fr Claret | 100 | " | " | 10 | " " 10 |

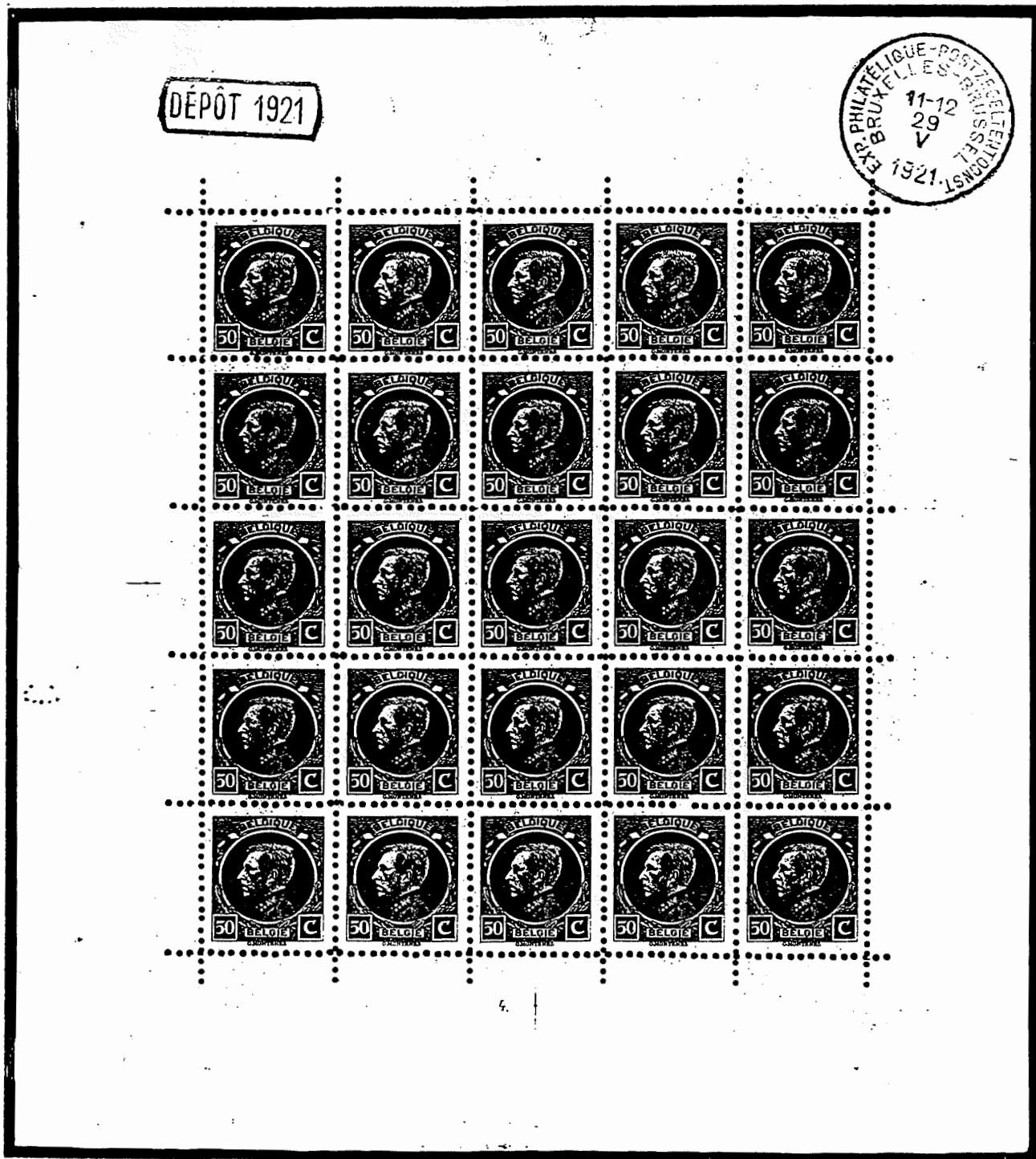
A slight variation in the depth of colour may be observed, especially in the 50c dull blue, the 75c scarlet and the 2Fr green. This difference is of little philatelic importance as a quite remarkable uniformity prevails throughout all the printings in whatever colour. The apparently tinted paper in the case of some of the small 5Fr red brown sheets is entirely due to a careless cleaning of the plate during its use.

All the printing plates, whether in 25, 50, 100 or 150 specimens, were laid down in blocks of 25 (5 rows of 5) and all the printing plates of any one value were prepared from such an intermediate plate. When printing plates were increased in size from 100 to 150 specimens, the additional 50 specimens were taken from the upper half of the 100 plate in the case of the 75c, and from the lower half of the 100 plate in the case of the 1Fr. When the 50 specimen plate of the 1Fr sepia was increased to 100, the 50 plate was repeated for the additional 50 specimens.

The number of plates for each value, the position and size of the numbers as appearing on the sheets of stamps are given here. The plate number is always printed in the centre of the bottom margin of the sheet.

50c Indigo
5 rows of 5

1 to 4 and 6 (plate 5 not used).
Plate number to left of 23rd stamp (small figures).



50 cent Indigo - Sheet of 25, Plate 4 (small figures)

50c Dull Blue
15 rows of 10

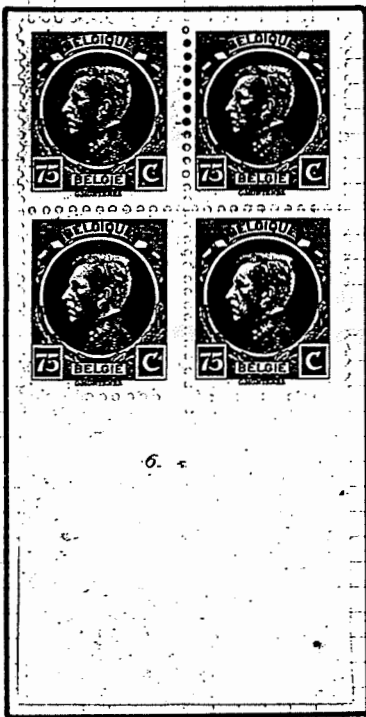
1 to 7 and 9 and 10 (plate 8 not used).
Plate number to right of 145th stamp (large figures).

50c Dull Blue
10 rows of 15

1 to 3. 10 to 19 and 21 to 25 (plate 20 not used).
Plate number to left of 143rd stamp (small figures).

75c Scarlet
10 rows of 10

1 to 10
Plate number to right of 95th stamp (small figures).
Plate 4 was little used therefore stamps from it are scarce.



75 cent Scarlet - Plate Blocks 6, 7 and 9 (small figures)

75c Ultramarine
15 rows of 10

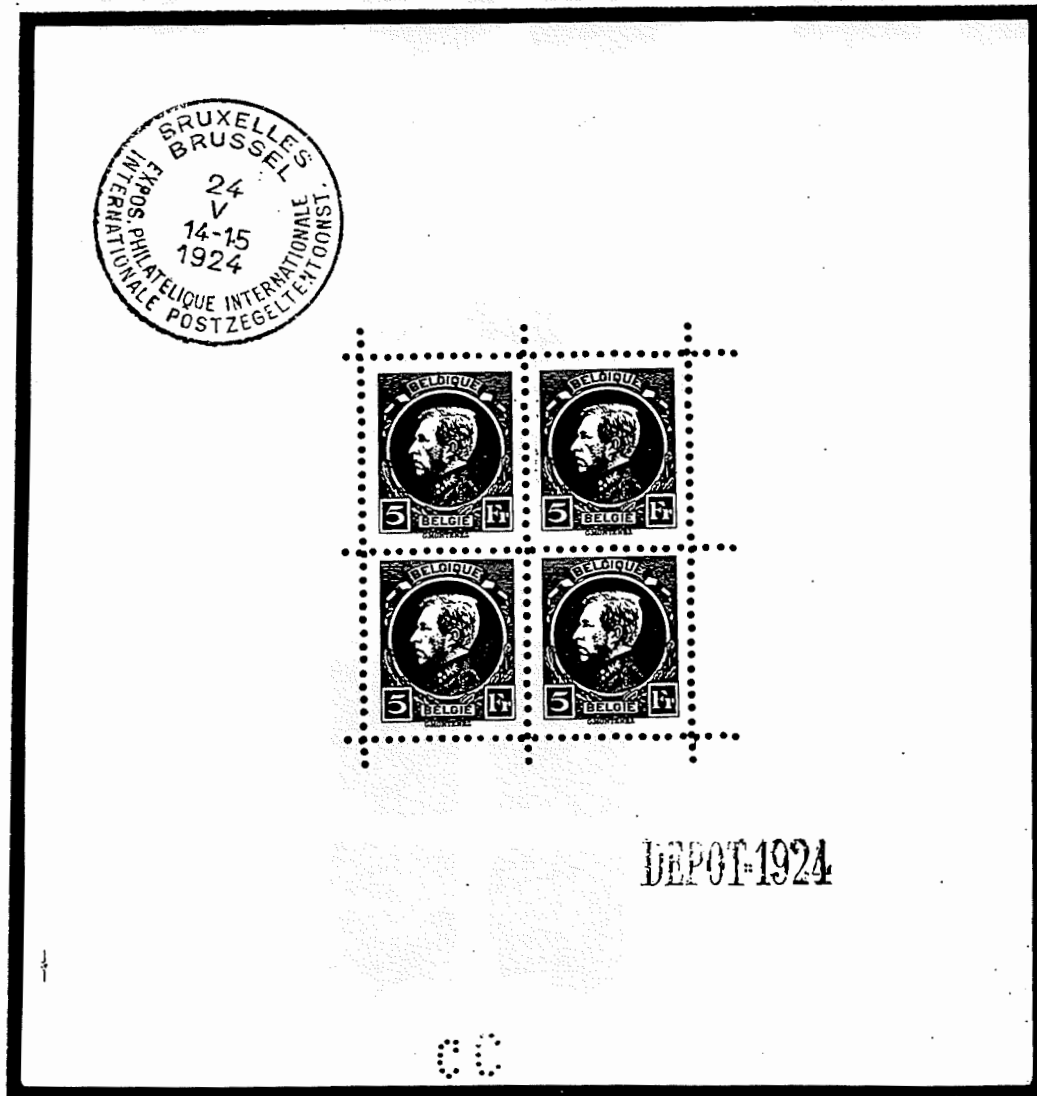
1 to 5.
Plate number to right of 145th stamp (large figures).



75 cent Ultramarine - Plate Block 4 (large figures)

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1Fr Deep Sepia 5 rows of 10 | 1 and 2. Plate number to <u>right</u> of 45th stamp (<u>small</u> figures). |
| 1Fr Sepia 10 rows of 10 | 1 to 9 Plate number to <u>right</u> of 95th stamp (<u>small</u> figures). |
| 1Fr Blue 15 rows of 10 | 1 to 5 Plate number to <u>right</u> of 145th stamp (<u>small</u> figures). |
| 2Fr Deep Green 10 rows of 10 | 1 to 5 and 7 and 8 (plate 6 not used). Plate number to <u>right</u> of 95th stamp. 1 to 5 (<u>small</u> figures), 7 and 8 (<u>large</u> figures). |
| 5Fr Violet | 1 and 2 Plate number to <u>right</u> of 95th stamp (<u>small</u> figures). |
| 10Fr 10 rows of 10 | 1 to 4 Plate number to <u>right</u> of 95th stamp (<u>small</u> figures). |

The small sheets of 4 (2 x 2) 5Fr red brown had no plate numbers.



5 Fr. Red Brown - Exhibition Block of 4

To be continued.

CHARLEROI 23rd - 25th MAY, 1997

Further to the note in "BELGAPOST" (Vol.9, p.129), arrangements have now been made by Jean Bruwier for a special meeting of our Circle on **Saturday, 24th May, from 3.00-5.30pm** in conjunction with the Exhibition.

The provisional programme is as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---|-------------------|
| 15.00-15.30 | • Moresnet | - | Alan Swale |
| 15.30-16.00 | • 1869 - 10 Cent (COB 30) | - | Gaston Jorquera |
| 16.00-16.30 | • The 40 Cents - Effigy Leopold I | - | E &M Deneumostier |
| 16.30-17.00 | • Forgeries from the German and Allied Side | - | Serge Toulieff |
| 17.00-17.30 | • General Discussion | | |

Notice of this meeting is being included in appropriate literature with a general invitation open to anyone attending the Exhibition. We hope as many of our European members as possible will be able to attend this 50th Anniversary event.

For those travelling to Charleroi, our headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn where we will be staying on the Friday and Saturday nights (23rd/24th May). If any member is able to join us, please give Reg Harrison a call (tel.01737-356266) as some accommodation may still be available.

MIDPEX, COVENTRY - SATURDAY, 28th JUNE 1997

By courtesy of our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, we have been able to reserve a stand at the above event, which is designed as a shop window for Specialist Societies to advertise their organisations. This is intended for both existing and potential members and for any member who is in the vicinity.

The event is being held at the **Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry**, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and members will be most welcome. It is anticipated that apart from the 60 Societies present, there will be over 40 dealers catering for all interests.

As we need to keep the stand manned throughout the day, any member who could be present "on duty" for an hour to give relief would be appreciated - please contact Ken Carpenter direct.

A FEW NOTES ON THE "CHEMIN DE FER VICINAUX"

by S. J. Andrews

These light (or Parish) railways are the ones that were met with in Belgium running on the verges of the road and were originally constructed by the road board, or council responsible for the road. At one time steam operated but later mainly electric and are difficult to separate from the normal town tramways, except that occasionally the "Vicinal" tram would have a goods wagon or two attached behind.

The cancellations of these lines, though of many varieties, are extremely difficult to find. We are able to give just "details" on but two lines.

- (a) Dolhain Vicinal: This is a straight line type in three lines, exactly the same as the State Railways type of the period, with the additions of the word "vicinal".
- (b) Anvers-Waes Vicinal: This cancellation is the same as the post office canceller of the period (circular) and carries the two stars of the postal agency.

We can also give some notes extracted from a Board of Trade (G.B.) Report of 1907, which may be helpful.

"CHEMINS DE FER VICINAUX or secondary or light railways.

- 1. The Inception of idea was in "Law on Tramways" of 9 July 1875 - but only one concession was applied for - Javiers to Embrasin (1878).

Private Capital would invest in suburban tramways but would not risk in country districts.

- 2. Laws of 28 May 1884 and 24 June 1885 constituted National Society of Chemins de Fer Vicinaux. They had priority right to concession for any line - after one year the Government could then grant concession elsewhere.
- 3. On initial offer of concession, the National Society calculated capital required and approached Local Authorities concerned for subs; thus: Line Nameche via Assesse to Bauche - situate in Province of Namur and went through Communes of Nameche, Samson, Mozet, Faulx, Gesves, Assesse, Crupet and Evrehalles.

Division of cost allocated:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| The State | 50% |
| Province of Namur | 33.34% |
| The Communes affected as above | 16.66 spread over according to number of inhabitants and length of line in Commune. |

- 4. If a Commune could not raise its allotted capital contribution in cash it could resort to private subscription.

Method: Commune created 90 year annuities and against these National Society raised Debenture Capital.

- 5. Chemins de Fer Vicinaux existing in 1907-08

(? Inter alia):

Hamme to Moerzeke (extension of Gand-Zele-Hamme)

Mainvault to Quievrain
Marbehan-Florenville - St. Cécile
Ougrée-Warzée
Spa-Verviers
Courtrai-Berchem (?)
Binche-Anderlues
Corbion-Pussemanage (extension of Bouillon-Corbion)

6. Increase of Capital applied for in 1908 for:

Bruges - Aardenburg
Bruges - Swevezaele
Bruges - Knesselaere-Ursel
Bruges - Leke-Dixmude
Bruges - L'ecluse-Heyst
Hannut - Vinalmont - Burdinne-Huy (extension from Coutuin-Seilles)
Marche - Bastogne-Martelange



MEMBER NEWS

Michael Barden - will be coming over from Australia with his wife, Maureen, to our meeting at Leamington. He will be showing some of his collection, including VAN ACKERS - 10%, which recently won him a Large Silver at the Melbourne 1996 National Exhibition. With others, I look forward to seeing this at Leamington.

Ralph Barracano - writes to say that he is preparing for retirement in Spring 1998, when he will be moving from Saudi Arabia to Southern France. He hopes then to resume his collecting interests, especially of the classic issues, and plans include Brussels on his journey itineraries.

Ken Dore - has recently had a bad spell in hospital, which is likely to require a long period of recuperation. We wish him a good recovery and hope we will be able to see him again later in the year.

Doris Green - was ill in hospital following a fall at the time of our January display at the Royal Philatelic Society, as reported elsewhere in this edition. She is now recovering at home and hopes to make it to our Luncheon on 12th April.

Eileen Loader - is delighted to inform us that her daughter, Emma, gave birth to a son on 15th November, 1996. He has been named **Oliver**. Perhaps he will take after his grandfather and become a keen Belgian philatelist!

Ken Morrell - has been active at Hexham and recently submitted two entries at his local competition. One entry - Belgium Red Cross - won the Shillingfold Cup, whilst the other, on Sudan, won the Soulsby Trophy. (This was named after Les Soulsby - an early member of this Circle - who unfortunately was not able to be present.) Both displays have been put forward for entry in North East of England Philatelic Association Summer Competition. Ken and Irene will both be at Leamington this year.

Ed Hirdler - keeps in contact and very kindly made a donation to our Royal display expenses. He asks whether any member has an accumulation of covers from Belgium that they wish to sell so that he can add to his "used on cover" collection of modern/semi-modern issues. He collects both the commemoratives and definitive issues and would welcome hearing from anyone who can help. He also enquires whether anyone is interested in 650-800 different USA commemoratives which he has accumulated, including some higher value items. Please contact Ed direct if interested.

Leslie Sackstein - makes the occasional foray from South Africa to London and is still working on his Tin Hat display, on which he hopes to write an article for "BELGAPOST". He enquires whether any members have covers with Tin Hat values above the 25 cent issue which they are willing to sell to him. He is also interested in commercially used covers and comments on how little postal use Tin Hats seem to have served.

Bill McKinlay - is still active in the Glasgow area and is preparing his "Aspects of Belgium" display for the Greenock Society in March. He promises to keep us informed of his progress.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRUSSELS – FROM 1830

Due to the importance and range of markings arising in the capital city, the display on Brabant Province (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.1, p.21) excluded post independence material in order that Brussels could be dealt with more extensively as it deserves in a separate showing. In addition, the series of articles on early Brussels post offices (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.1, p.10, No.2, p.57, No.3, p.119, No.4, p.155) provides a background which is now illustrated and extended by this display.

This account is not intended to be exhaustive but indicates the wealth of material available for a Brussels collection.

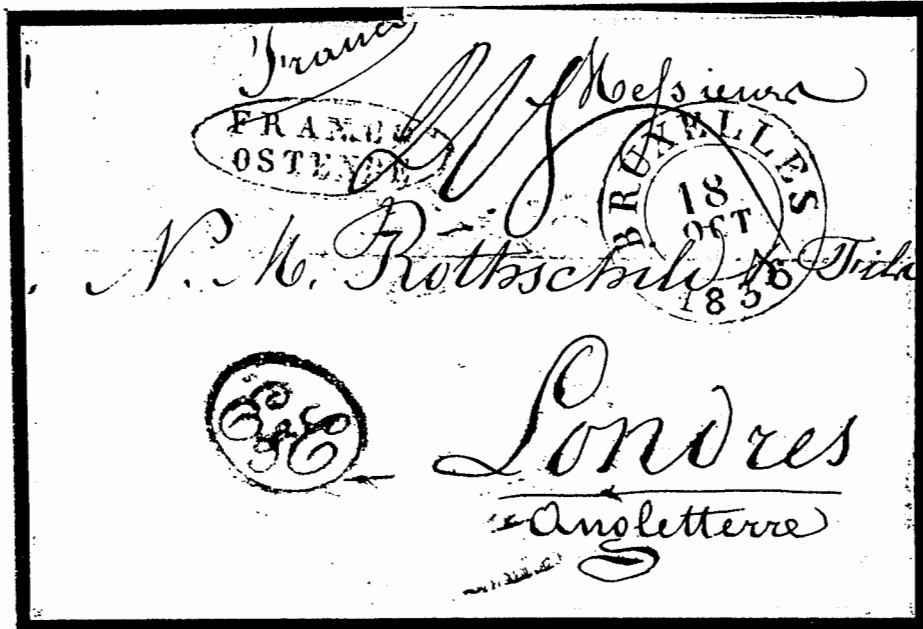
Large Double Circular Datestamp

Immediately prior to Independence, a Dutch handstamp was in use of a large single circle (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.1, p.25). This continued in use until late 1830 when a new-style large double CDS was introduced. This bore the year at the bottom arc and originally had two small pearls on the sides. It was struck at first in a brown ink and early examples of its use are difficult to find. As expected in an office the size of Brussels, several handstamps were needed and the style varied slightly in design. The colour was soon changed to red in line with other towns and the two pearls were omitted.



New Large Double Circle Date Stamp with 2 Pearls either side struck in Brown Ink on Cover 17th February, 1831. Note manuscript 'La Genette' in top righthand corner

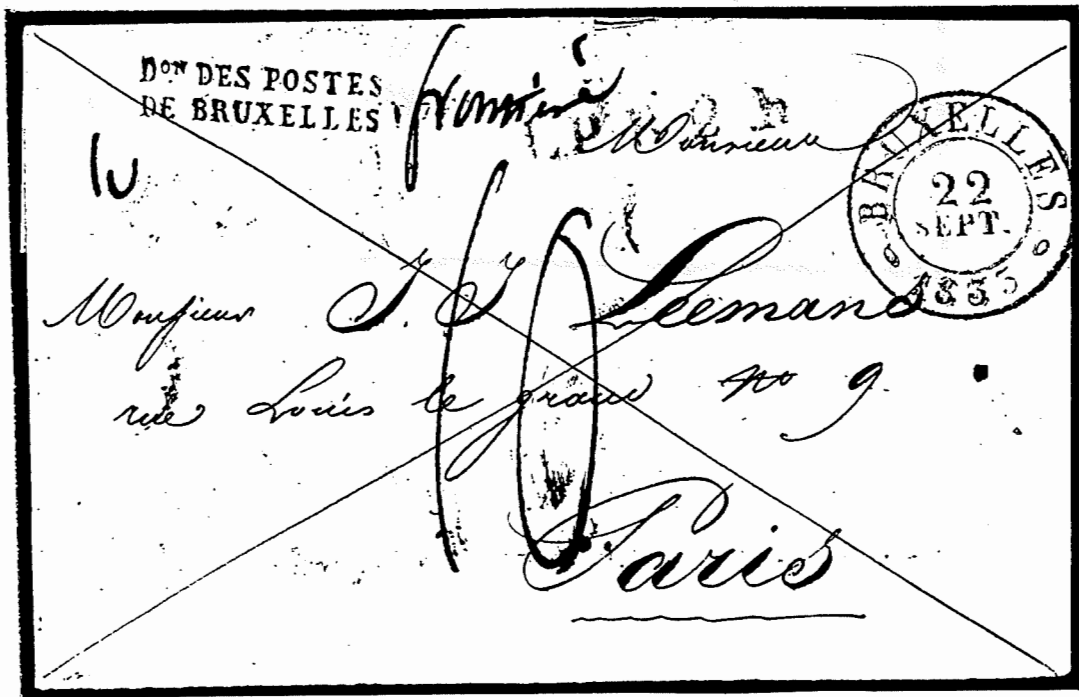
In France, a decision was taken to strike the markings of Paris in blue ink to distinguish them from the rest of the country. It therefore comes as no surprise that Belgium should follow suit and on 18th October, 1836, all Brussels markings were struck in blue ink. This rule applied to other routing and accountancy marks struck in Brussels, to which reference will be made later.



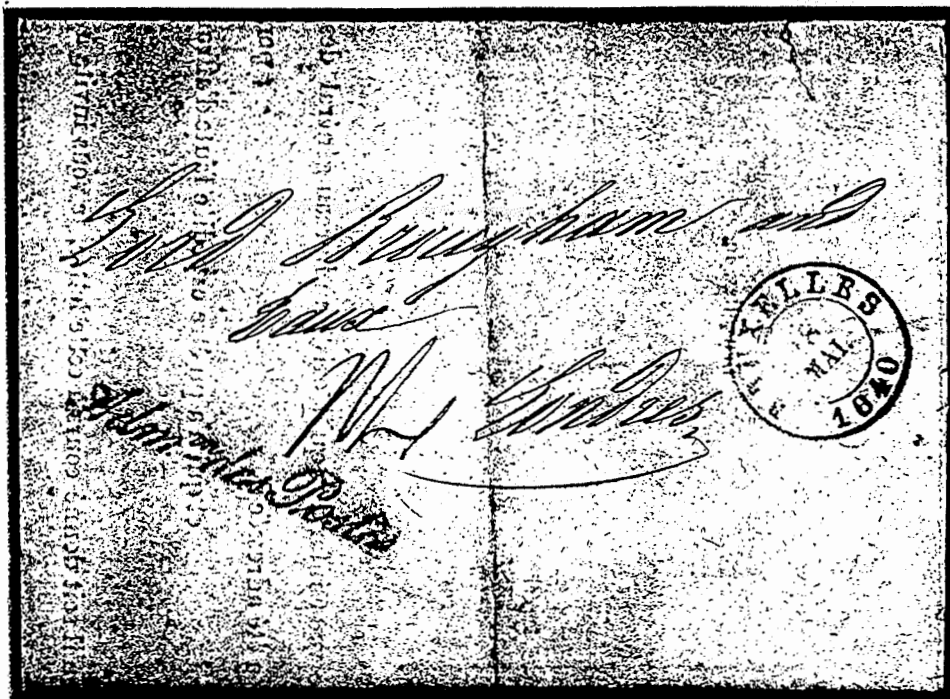
Change from Red to Blue Ink in Brussels only - 18th October, 1836. FRANCO OSTENDE in Oval Frame, also in blue.

Administrative Marks

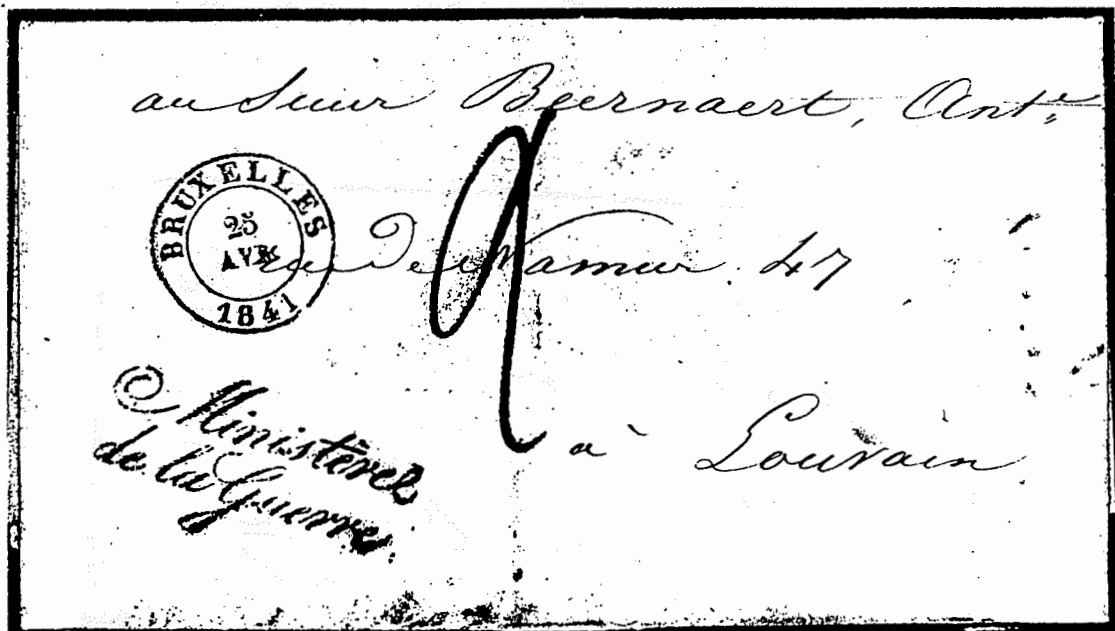
A new nation needed to assert its independence and pride and, from 1830 onwards, several marks appeared, including those from Ministries. One of my earliest is DON DES POSTES DE BRUXELLES on a cover dated 22nd September, 1833, struck in red ink. Of a later period, ADM^{ON} DES POSTES 18th May, 1840, and MINISTERE DE LA GUERRE 23rd April, 1841. Both struck in black ink.



'Don DES POSTES DE BRUXELLES' in Red Ink 22nd September, 1833



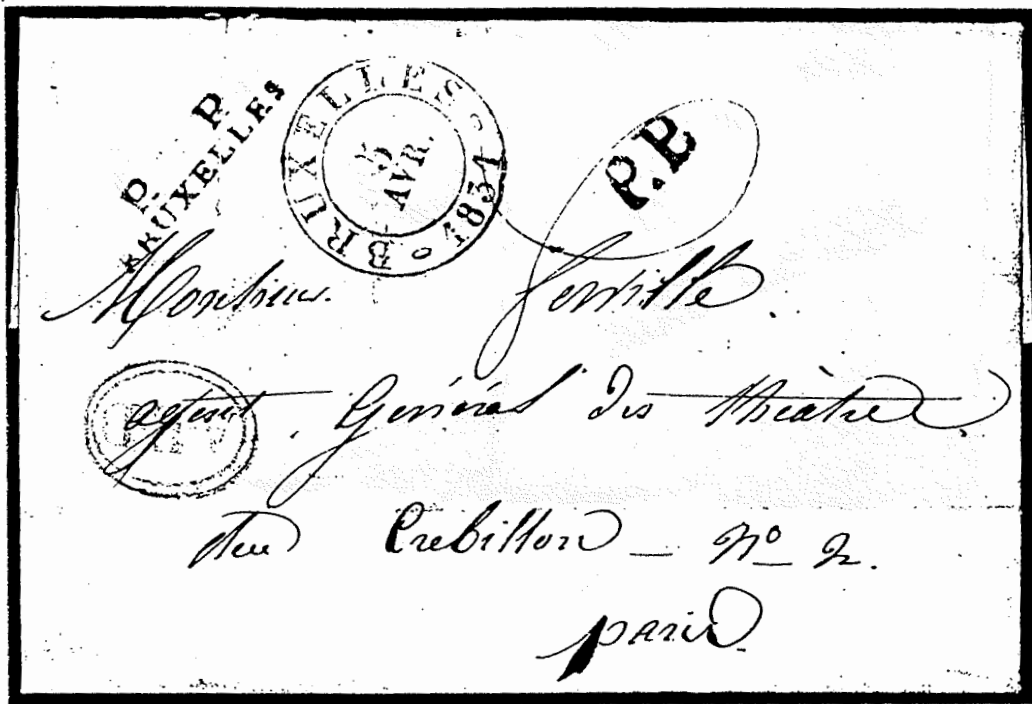
'ADM^{on} DES POSTES' Bruxelles to London 18th May, 1840 - Black Ink



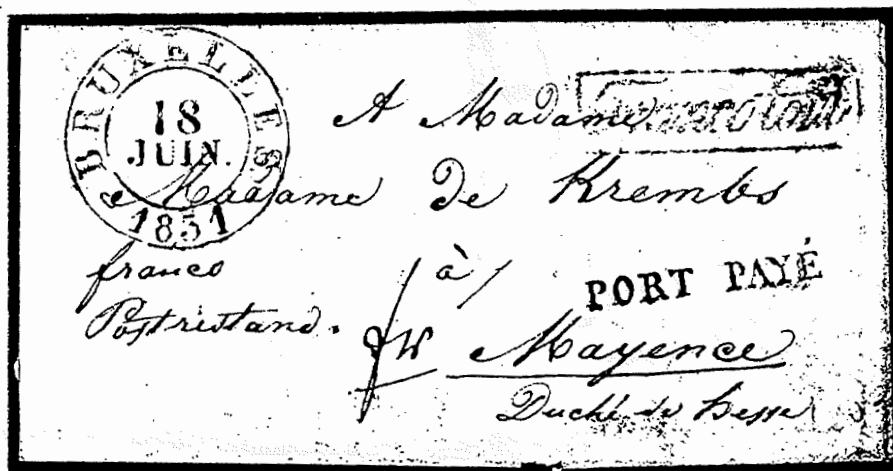
'MINISTERE DE LA GUERRE' Bruxelles to Louvain 25th April, 1841 - Black Ink

Early Accountancy Marks

To indicate pre-payment of letters, for a while the office still had a French period canceller showing P. P./BRUXELLES with the number removed. An example is shown dated 5th April, 1831, but this was soon replaced by PORT PAYÉ and P.P. in various forms.

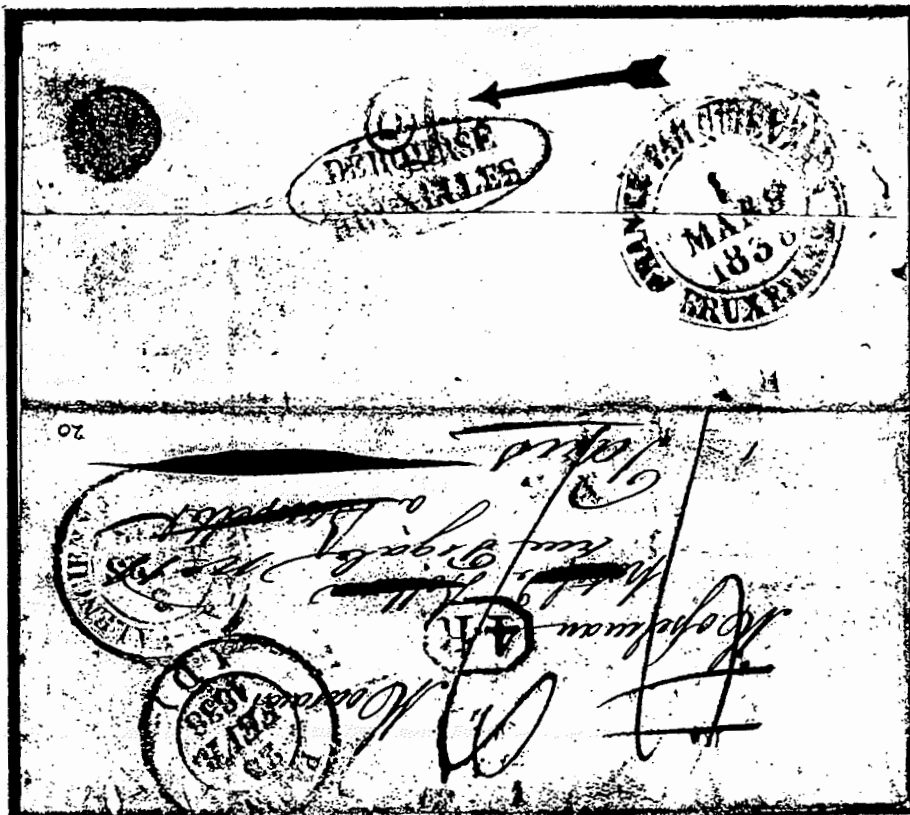


'P.P./BRUXELLES' Bruxelles to Paris 5th April, 1831. This was the type of canceller (H50) used during the French Occupation almost 30 years earlier with the number 94 erased.



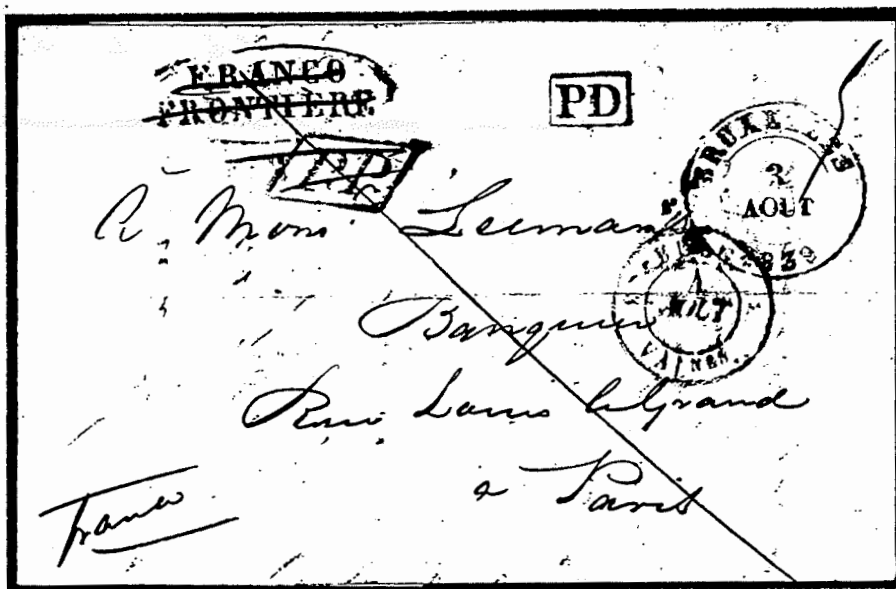
'PORT PAYÉ' and Boxed 'FRANCO TOUT' to Mayence 18th June, 1831

Much scarcer are the oval framed DEBOURSE/BRUXELLES which were struck on the backs of letters. These come in two sizes of lettering and the example shown also bears in blue a large cursive D dated 1st March, 1838. Herlant refers to this mark but its use in conjunction with the deboursé mark may be significant.

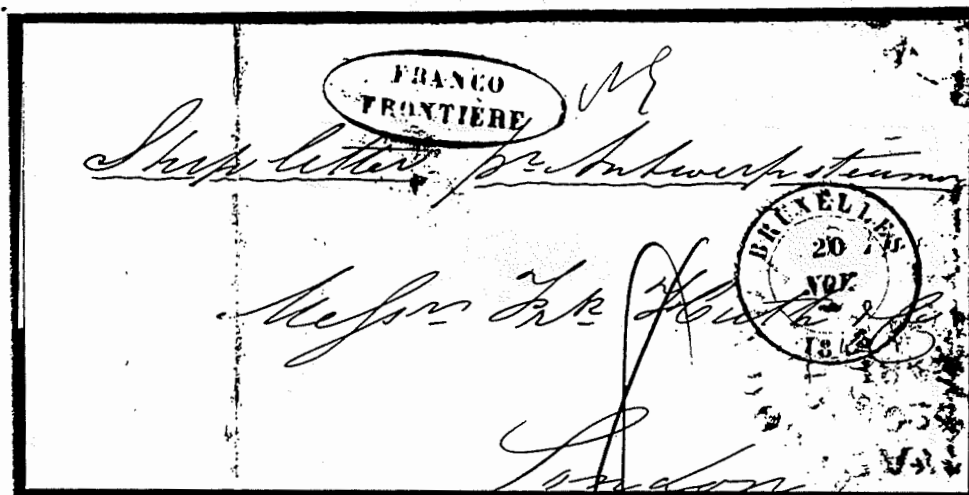


'DEBOURSE BRUXELLES' in Oval, plus cursive D on Letter from Paris 1st March, 1838. All in Blue Ink.

Several other marks in the accountancy range include the FRANCO OSTENDE and FRANCO FRONTIERE (two sizes of lettering) within oval frames. It is generally held that the FRANCO FRONTIERE was used for mail leaving the country other than by Ostende and this is confirmed by the two illustrations. The first, dated 3rd August, 1839, had the FRANCO FRONTIERE (in large letters) crossed out on a letter to Paris. The second, dated 20th November, 1843 (in small letters) is routed to London by ship from Antwerp. Both are struck in blue ink.

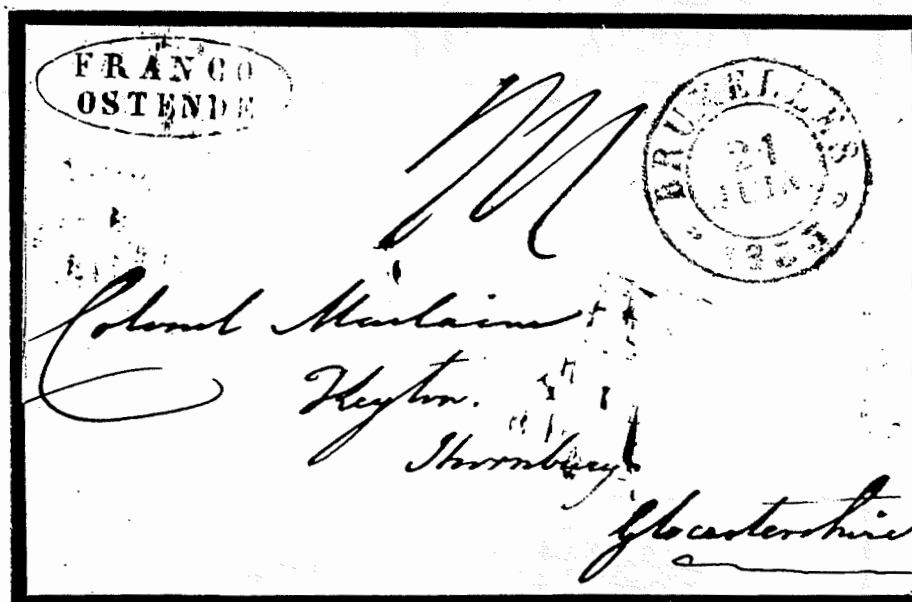


'FRANCO FRONTIERE' in Oval Frame (large letters) on Letter to Paris 3rd August, 1839. Struck out!



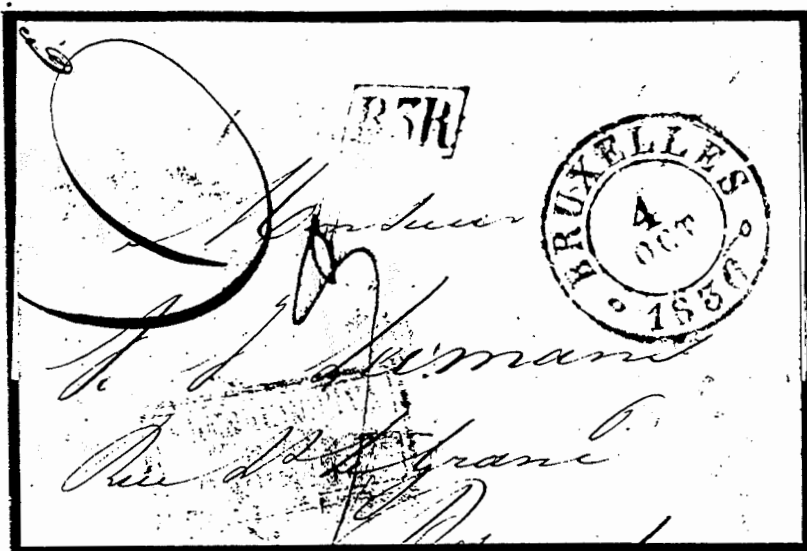
'FRANCO FRONTIERE' in Oval Frame (small letters) to London 20th November, 1843

The FRANCO OSTENDE was first struck in red ink until it changed to blue on 18th October, 1836. Herlant gives both colours the same valuation but undoubtedly the red is much scarcer.



'FRANCO OSTENDE' in Red Ink to Gloucestershire 21st June, 1835. Strikes in Red Ink are scarcer than the Blue Ink in use from 18th October, 1836.

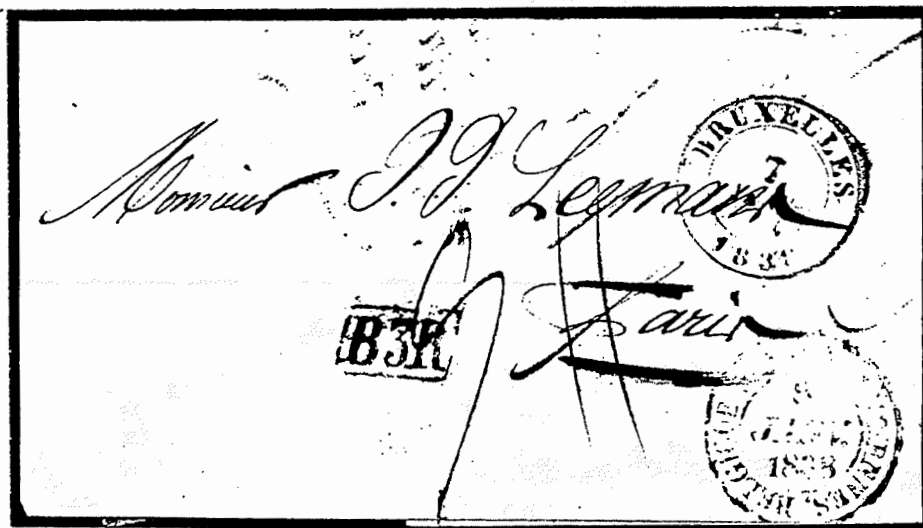
Before leaving this section, a brief mention of the Rayon marks in use at the time. These indicated the distance from the place of origin and determined the rate to be assessed at the frontier for unpaid letters. Brussels was initially in Rayon 2 when the mark L.P.B.2.R. was in use. It then became within Rayon 3 when the sloping boxed B3R was introduced on 1st October, 1836. From 18th October, blue ink came into use. Due to this short period of red ink usage, covers are scarce and one is shown dated 4th October, 1836. This I consider to be the rarest of all the Rayon marks.



B3R Boxed in Red Ink to Paris 4th October, 1836. This colour ink was only used for this mark from 1st October to the 17th October, 1836 when Blue Ink was introduced.

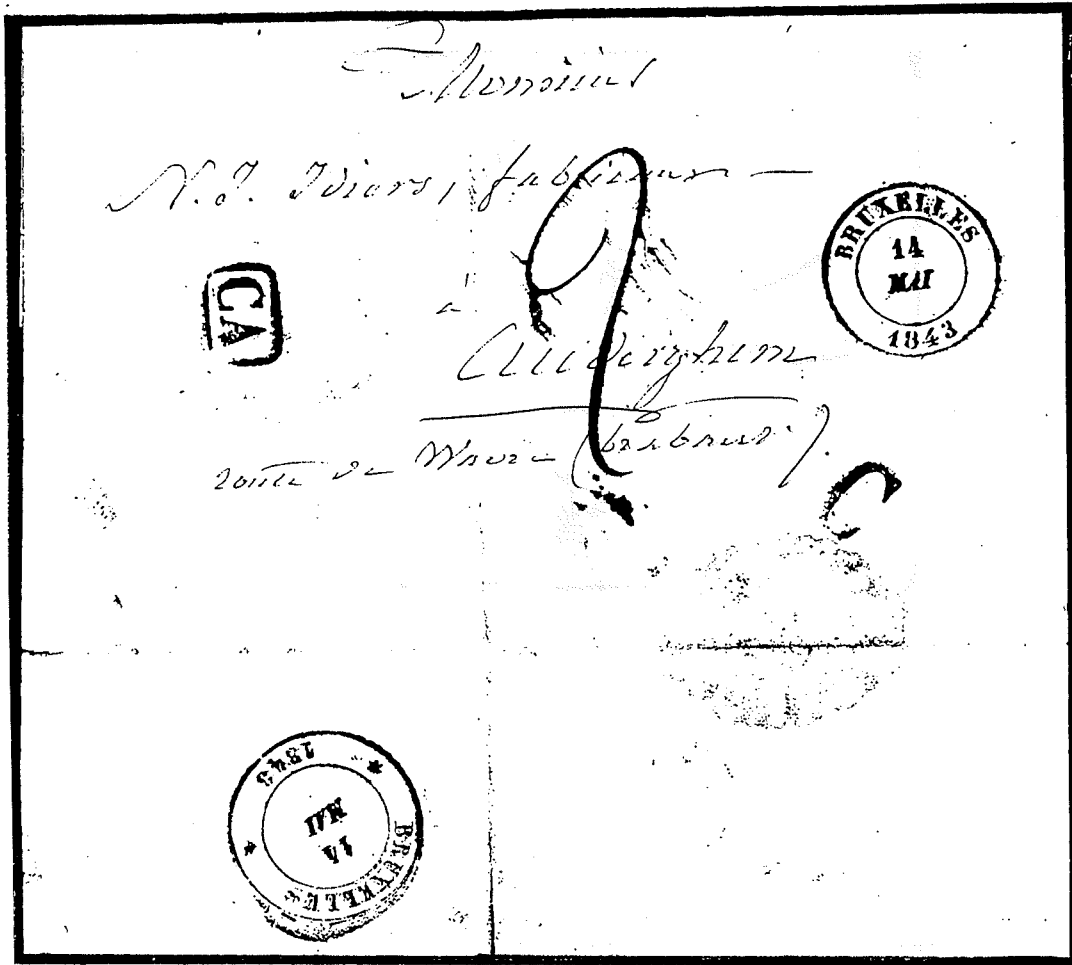
Smaller CDS Marks

Before going on to the district and sub-offices of Brussels, a note on the subsequent CDS marks in use at the Central Office. Around January, 1838, the large CDS was replaced by a smaller type of which several variations occur. My earliest is 7th January, 1838.



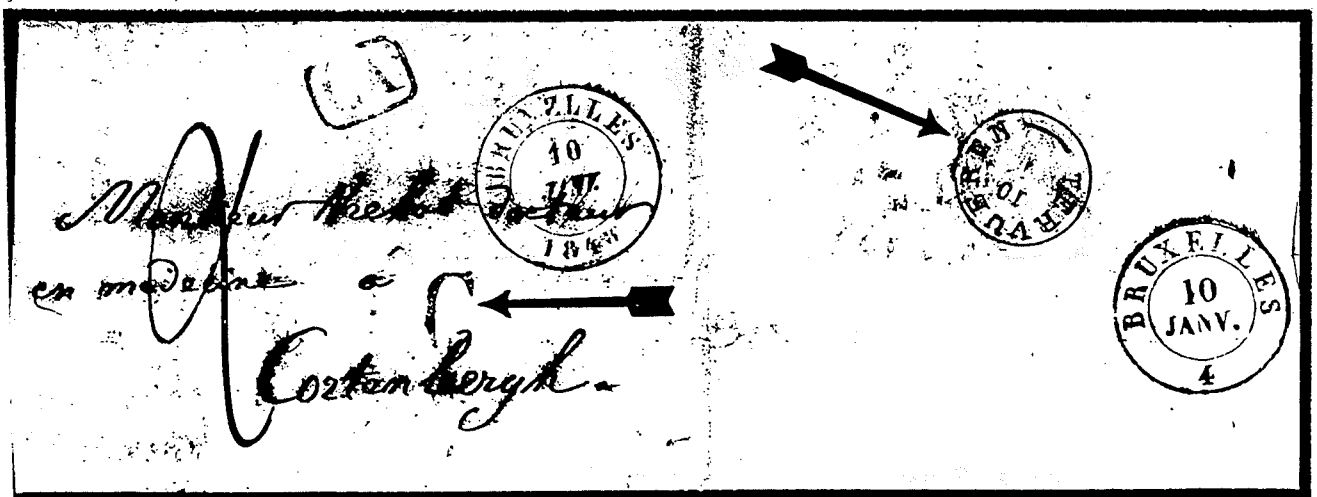
Smaller size Circular Date Stamp on Cover to Paris 7th January, 1838. B3R also in Blue Ink.

For mail arriving at Brussels from 1843, a similar handstamp was in use of a slightly larger diameter with two stars. This was normally used as a backstamp. This example also shows the use of a large C and boxed CA for local mail accountancy.



Arrival Mark '*BRUXELLES*' as a Backstamp on a Letter from Auderghem 14th May, 1843. Also C and Boxed CA as Cantonal Marks.

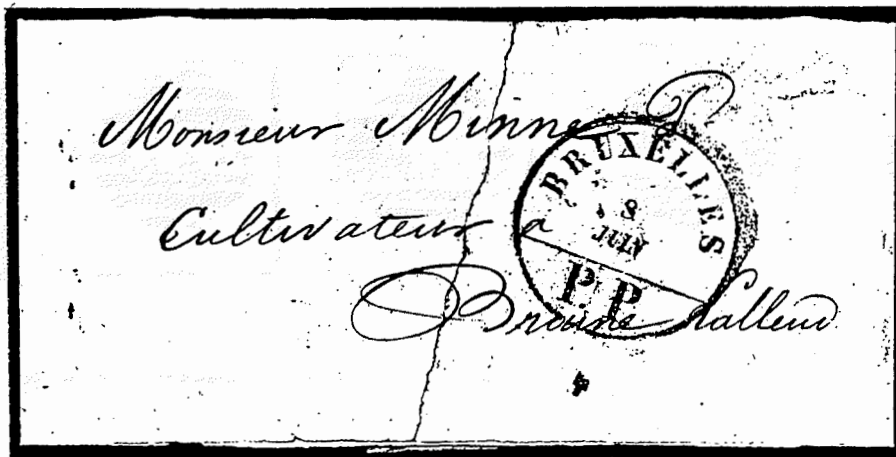
Whilst this arrival mark is seen from 1843 to 1845, it appears to duplicate the so called "Vacation" marks which are seen from 1840 to 1849. Bearing at the bottom arc a number 2 to 5 instead of the year, they appear on both local mail and mail from outside Brussels. Originally believed to be linked to mail coming in from the Faubourgs, they indicate the time of collection/arrival at Brussels Head Office. Number 1 was omitted for some unknown reason. There are two different lettering styles in each of the four numbers.



'Vacation' Mark 'BRUXELLES 4' as Backstamp on Letter from Tervueren dated 10th January, 1843. Also C and Boxed CA.

Imprimés

For the cancellation of printed matter, a large CDS was made in which the year at the base was replaced by the letters P.P. in a segment. Both single and double circle forms exist with lettering variations. Introduced in 1839, they are only seen struck in blue ink and are not easy to find.

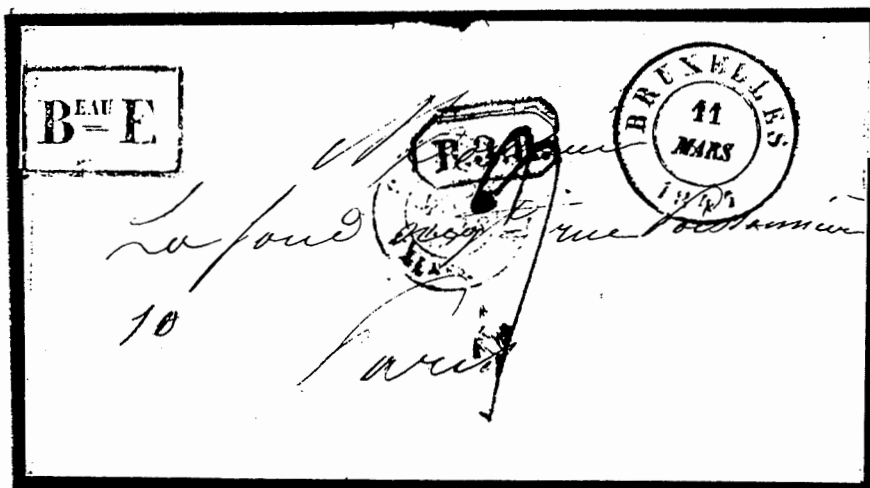


BRUXELLES/P.P. on Cover to Braine L'Alleud 8th June, 1846. This mark was reserved for Printed Matter.

The Subsidiary Offices (Annexes)

As described in the article by Jack Andrews (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.2, p.57) the creation of four sub-offices led to the introduction of the rare oval FAUBOURG handstamps. Their rarity is due to the surcharge made at these offices which could be avoided by simply crossing the road to reach an inner office which was cheaper.

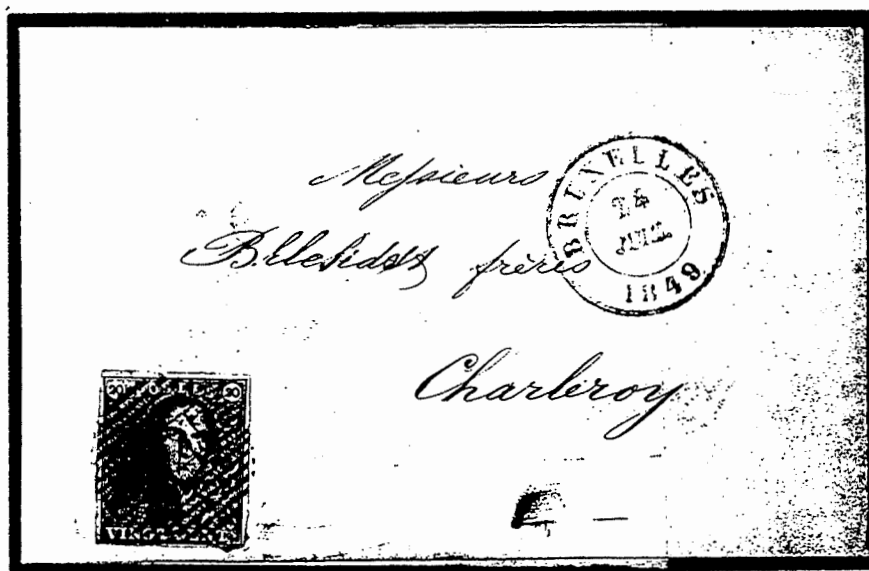
Their successor marks (plus the additional 5th Bureaux) bore the boxed marks which whilst still scarce, are not so rare as the oval marks. An exception is perhaps the Bureau B from which surviving mail is scarce (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.2, p.59).



BEAU Boxed on Cover to Paris 11th March, 1847. Also Rayon Mark B.3.R. with chamfered corners.

Introduction of Adhesive Stamps

Although the term cancellation is often used for postal markings, its true description came into its own on the introduction in 1849 of the Epaulette stamps. The stamps were required to be cancelled or obliterated to prevent reuse and on their introduction, cancellers were issued consisting of a circle of bars bearing in the centre a town number. For Brussels, the number 24 was allocated and there were five different cancellers in use over a period. These comprised 18, 14, 10, 8 and 26 bars. The latter is rare as it was shortlived.

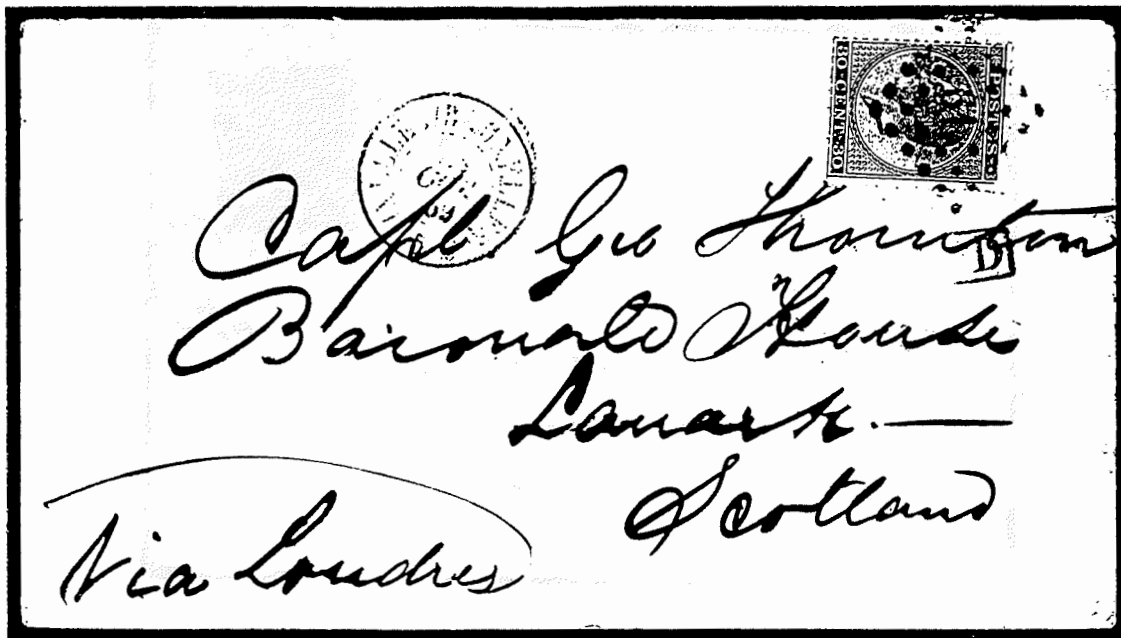


20 Cent Epaulette on Letter to Charleroi 24th July, 1849. Stamp 'Obliterated' by 24 in 18 Bar Circle.

All "obliterations" were in black ink, whereas a circular datestamp (blue in Brussels) continued to be applied elsewhere on the front of the letter. Eventually all handstamps became black in colour except for early TPO marks.

These "killer obliterations" were very effective - so much so that the King's portrait was often completely obscured. By coincidence, the French Post Office was using 'Losanges' of dots as cancellers, so Belgium introduced a similar system on 15th April, 1864. Each town/office was allocated a number in the centre of each Losange. For Brussels, the allocation of numbers was as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Bruxelles Head Office | 60 |
| " (Est) | 61 |
| " (Midi) | 62 |
| " (Nord) | 63 |
| " (Ouest) | 64 |



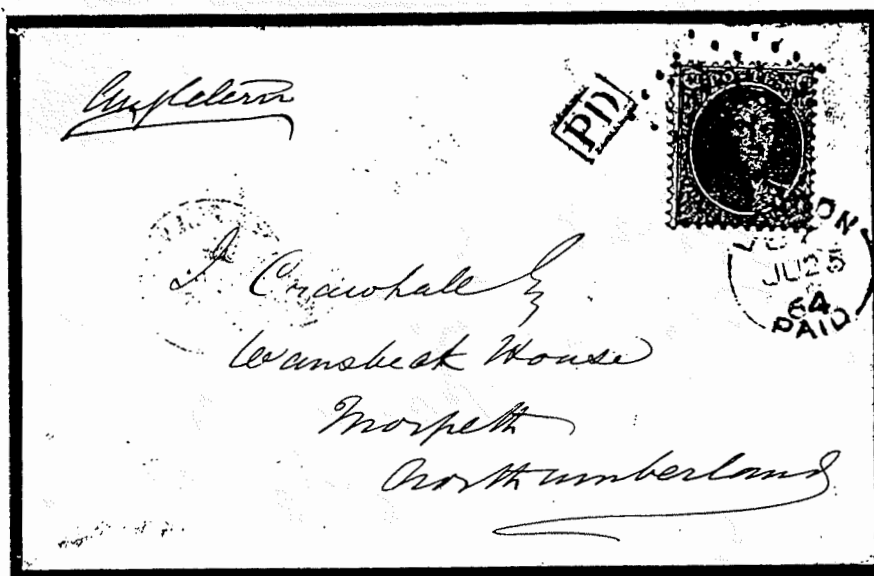
Losange of Dots No. 61 on Cover to Lanark 23rd October, 1869. C.D.S. IXELLES (BRUXELLES).



Losange of Dots No. 63 on Cover to London 6th January, 1868. C.D.S. BRUXELLES (NORD).

In addition, the following numbers were used in the Brussels area:-

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Bruxelles (Rue Blaes) | 455 |
| " (Place de la Chancellerie) | 483 |
| " (Josaphat) | 417 |
| " (Rue de la Loi) | 414 |
| " (Chaussee de Louvain) | 415 |
| " (Luxembourg) | 424 |
| " (Rue Rogier) | 416 |
| St. Gilles-lez-Bruxelles | 371 |
| St. Josse.-ten-Noode | 325 |
| Schaerbeke | 449 |
| Cureghem (Station) | 450 |

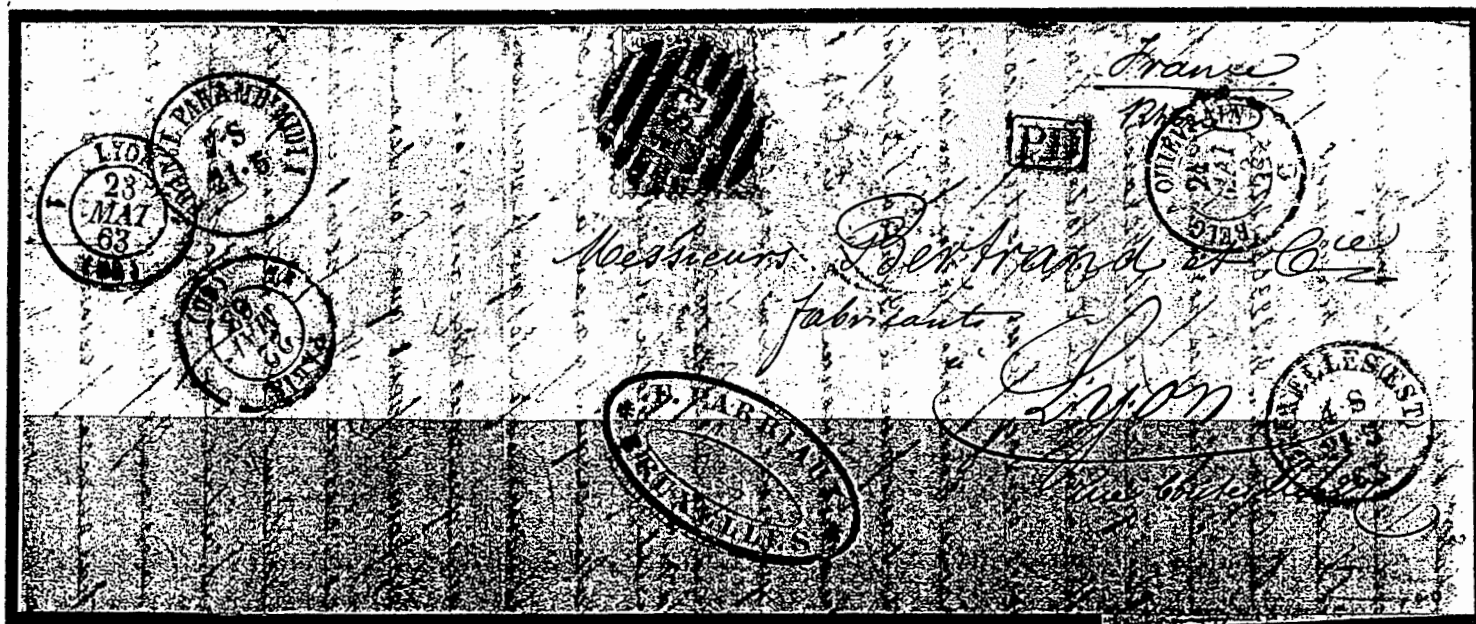


Losange of Dots No. 325 on Cover to Morpeth 25th June, 1864. This Cancellor was allocated to St. Josse-Ten-Noode.

In March, 1873 all losange cancellers were withdrawn in favour of small double circular datestamps so that it was no longer necessary to use two cancellers on each cover as had been the practice for years. In its turn, the double CDS was succeeded by a single CDS. This assisted in fitting in the long descriptions now needed, many of which had to be abbreviated.

District Offices

During the barred circle period, the four compass points, Est, Midi, Nord and Ouest, were incorporated in eight bar circles for mail originating from the four district offices. These are sometimes mistakenly referred to as Travelling Post Office cancellations, which are much scarcer. As a distinction, they only have the first letter, followed by a number e.g. N1, M11.



EST in 8 Barred Circle to Lyon 21st May, 1863. C.D.S. BRUXELLES (EST).

Towards the end of the 19th Century, the expansion of Brussels required a network of Sub-Offices, which are listed in "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.3, p.121. A selection was displayed: some are difficult to find on covers e.g. DEUX-PONTS.

Some, including Josaphat, Rue Rogier and Chaussee de Louvain were closed in 1867 but others continued with their full titles until 1910 when bilingual handstamps meant there was no longer room for titles. They were replaced by numbered handstamps 1 to 11. For example, BRUXELLES (LEGISLATIF) became BRUXELLES BRUSSEL 7.



BRUXELLES (R. CHANCELLERIE) 15th May, 1892. In 1910, when Bilingual Handstamps were introduced, this became BRUSSEL 9 BRUXELLES.

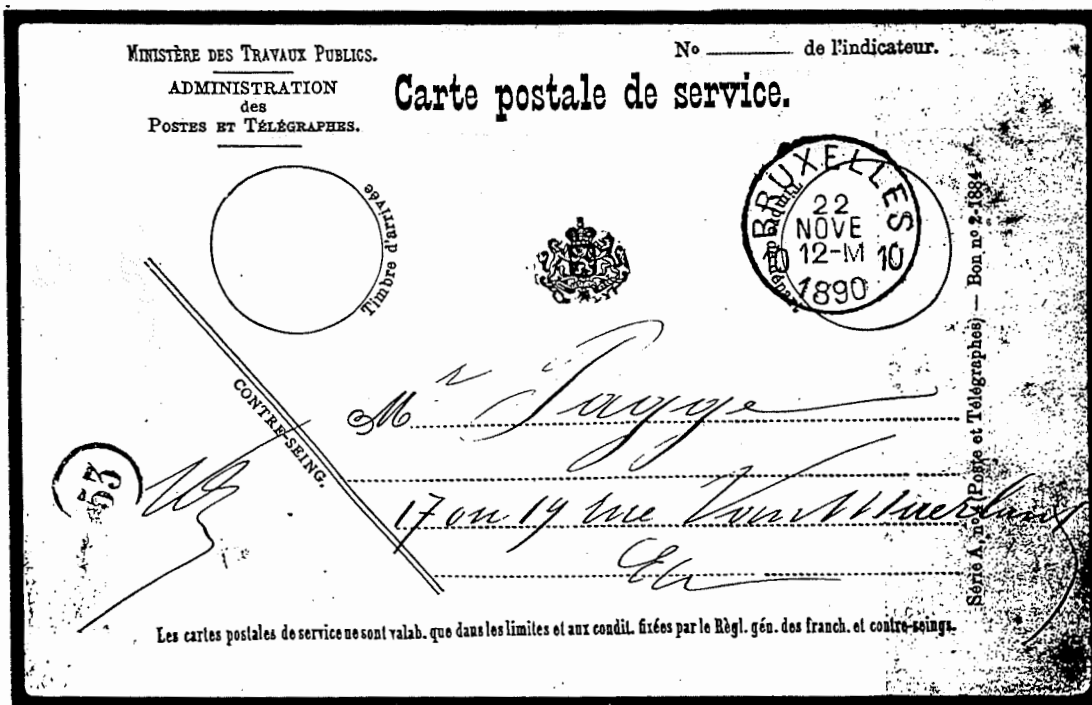


| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Brussels Head Office | 1 |
| Palais de Justice | 2 |
| Ouest (Porte de Flandre) | 3 |
| Sud-Ouest (Cureghem) | 4 |
| Boulevard d'Anvers | 5 |
| Rue de la Roi (Joseph II) | 6 |
| Legislatif | 7 |
| Place de la Chapelle | 8 |
| Place de la Chancellerie | 9 |
| Rue Ducale | 10 |
| Place des Gueux | 11 |

Head Office Sections

Within the Brussels Head Office, a number of different sections existed. Each had its own title (and handstamp?) which was struck on mail and documents e.g. ARRIVEE, DEPART, RECOMMANDÉ. To simplify matters in 1883, these sections were allocated a numbered canceller 1 to 14 as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Service des Arrivées | - | Arrivals |
| 2. | Service de Caisse | - | Savings Bank |
| 3. | Service de Objets Enregistrés | - | Registered Post |
| 4. | Service de Contentieux | - | Complaints |
| 5. | Service de Depart | - | Outgoing Mail |
| 6. | Service de la Poste Restante et Timbre-Poste | - | Poste Restante and Postage Stamps |
| 7. | Service des effets de Commerce | - | Bills |
| 8. | Service des Facteurs Distributeurs | - | Delivery Postmen |
| 9. | Service des Abonnements | - | Subscriptions |
| 10. | Service des Quittances | - | Receipts (Deposit) |
| 11. | Service des Quittances-Dépôt | - | Receipts (Deposit) |
| 12. | Service des Quittances-Recouvrement | - | Receipts (Repayment) |
| 13. | Service des Exprés | - | Express Post |
| 14. | Service des Guichets de Journaux | - | Newspapers |



Official Service Card with Free Franchise Bruxelles 10 - 22nd November, 1890.

DOURTHE FRÈRES

DOMAINE DE FOURNIE



ST-MORILLON

ST-Morillon B. P. F.

12/50

À l'Éminent sieur procureur de la Cour de Cassation

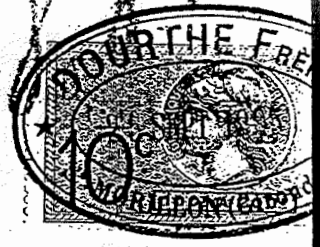
payer contre votre ordre les sommes de ~~cent et cinquante francs~~

Valeur en ~~150 francs~~

A Monsieur 251

Négociant à ELLES

N° 956641



BRUXELLES (EFFETS DE COMMERCE) = BRUXELLES 7

Société Anonyme Ferd. Louber

pour la fabrication des tissus



180/ Auderghem 31 Décembre

Gand, le 3 Octobre 1888 Banque Nationale

103 Au Comptes d'un Décembre prochain

par ce mandat à notre ordre la somme de

Valeur que vous passerez en compte surant de

Monsieur

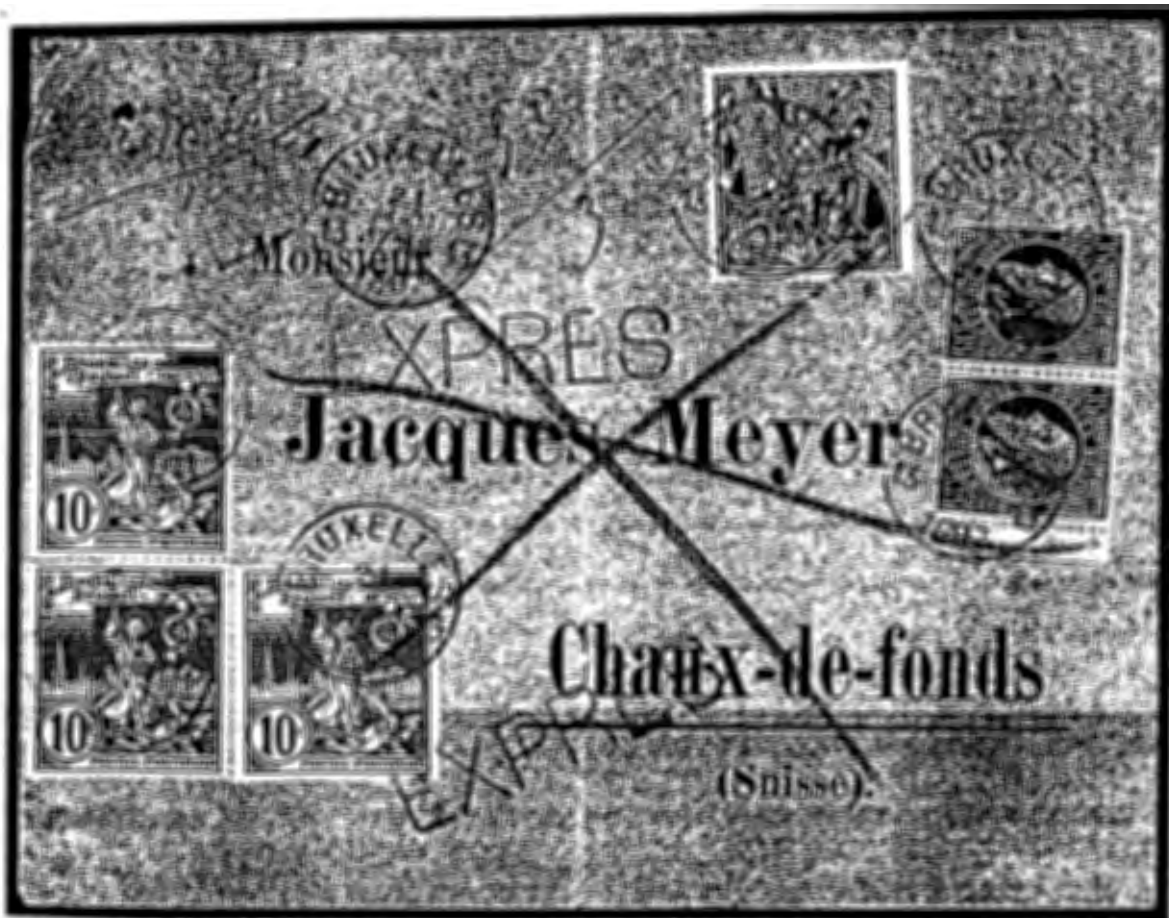
M. J. J. J. J.

à Auderghem

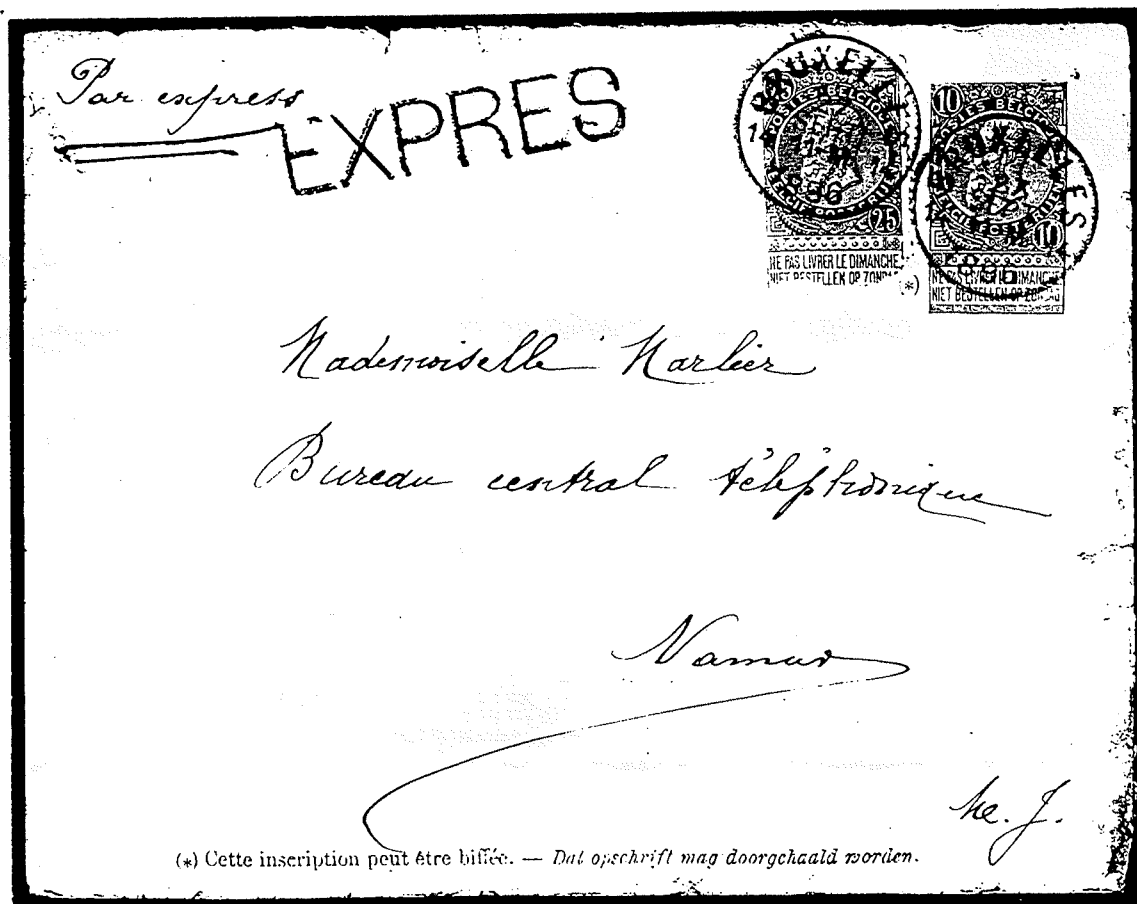
Brabant



Whilst some are common, others are difficult to find on complete documents as they were of an internal nature rather than applied on stamped letters. For example, No. 4 Complaints, No. 8 Delivery Postmen, No. 12 and No. 14 when struck rarely left the office. A few are illustrated, including the elusive 14 on a telegramme marked BRUXELLES (EXPOSITION).



BRUXELLES 13 (Express Post) used on a Cover to Switzerland 21st August, 1897



BRUXELLES 14 on an Express Cover to Namur 27th September, 1896. It contained a telegramme marked Bruxelles (Exposition).