

BELGAPOST

ISSN 0269 2759

Volume **10** No. **2**

JUNE, 1997

The Journal of the
Belgian Study Circle



G-MONTENEZ

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

Founded 1947

To Promote the Study of the Postal History and Stamps of Belgium

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

PRESIDENT

S. J. Andrews
37 Barton Lodge Road
Birmingham
B28 0RL

Tel. 0121 744 7015

SECRETARY

C. Howe
88 Willow Close
Patchway
Bristol
BS12 5SQ
Tel. 0117 9470288

TREASURER

R. T. Harrison
8 Grange Meadow
Banstead
Surrey
SM7 3RD
Tel. 01737 356266

CHAIRMAN

K. Carpenter
54 Falstone Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B73 6PJ
Tel. 0121 354 8004

VICE CHAIRMAN

J. Bruwier
Rue Marconi 19
B4100
Seraing
Belgium
Tel. 04 336 7531

PACKET SECRETARY

A. D. Geake
12 Tappers Close
Topsham
Devon
EX3 0DG
Tel. 01392 877662

'BELGAPOST' EDITOR

S. J. Andrews
37 Barton Lodge Road
Birmingham
B28 0RL
Tel. 0121 744 7015

When writing to an officer of the Circle, please do not mention the name of the Circle in the address. Requests for information should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

JUNE, 1997The Journal of the
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL	40
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	40
TREASURER'S NOTES	40
OUR NEW HON. SECRETARY	41
MEMBER NEWS	41
REPORT OF MEETING 22nd FEBRUARY, 1997	42
ANNUAL REPORT OF HON. TREASURER	42
REPORT OF MEETING 12th APRIL, 1997.. .. .	43
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 1996/97	44
TERMONDE "MARTYR" TOWN	46
AUCTION...AUCTION...AUCTION	50
CAN YOU HELP - COIL STRIPS	50
RESULTS OF SALE 12th APRIL, 1997	51
B.S.C. MENU CARDS	52
POST Nos. - CROSS REFERENCE	52
EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT 1996	52
REVIEW OF JOURNALS	54
BARKER-JOHNSON CUP + £50	55
THE MONTENEZ ISSUES (PART 2)	56
LIMIT LIMITROPHE	64
OSTEND-LONDON-CAIRO-BAGHDAD 1923	64
JOUBERT DE LA FERTE	66
TREATY OF PARIS 1949	66
EMPEROR MATTHIAS - 1579	67
KNOW YOUR BELGIUM - PART 2	68
THE POST IN BELGIUM PRIOR TO 1849	69

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

JUNE, 1997



EDITORIAL

Members will have seen from the last issue of "BELGAPOST", together with the notes which are in this issue, that our 50th Anniversary celebrations have so far been very successful. Thank you all for your support and, also, that many of you will join our celebrations at the forthcoming meeting at Leamington.

This current issue of "BELGAPOST" has been somewhat altered in content, mainly due to home problems persisting at present. However, we hope to be back on course shortly.

S. J. ANDREWS

LETTERS AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE EDITOR (RPS and Our Members)

"The Exhibition at the Royal was most interesting - there were many nice frames with rare and superb items."

"I thought the display at the Royal was very well done and some superb items."

"A fine display - as good as we have seen."

"I was interested to see the approach to the display - a brief history and displayed material from some of the early members of the BSC."

"The BSC is to be congratulated on the display at the RPS. An enormous amount of work has been done for philately and postal history and important contributions have been made."

TREASURER'S NOTES

Other reports in this issue provide information on our overall position and recent activities. My current task is to conclude the finances of the last auction whilst collecting the membership subscriptions for 1997/8 (£14.00). Prompt payment is appreciated from those who have not yet responded as this enables me to concentrate on future activities, besides saving on the costs of issuing reminders, etc.

The response rate to date is very encouraging and my thanks to members for making this task easier.

As in the past, items for mailing are scheduled to be included with "BELGAPOST" sending and it is hoped to include the September Auction List with this copy.

R. T. HARRISON

OUR NEW HON. SECRETARY

At the AGM on 12th April, **Chris Howe** kindly agreed to take over the role of Hon. Secretary in order to shoulder part of the duties which I am currently undertaking. Whilst we are deciding the exact division of duties, members can contact either of us and we will keep each other informed of work and activities. In due course we will advise members of the outcome in order that enquiries can be directly channelled to the person responsible for that aspect of our activities.

Chris is the same age as the Circle and lives in Dorset with his wife, Eileen. He is a chemical engineer and after a short service commission in the Royal Navy, has worked for the MoD Procurement Executive for over twenty years.

His main collecting interest are the Definitive Lions issues. The Lions have led him into Postage Dues and Railway issues. As well as Belgium, Chris collects Albania and has many close connections with that country.

Any correspondence for Chris should be addressed to him at:

88 Willow Close, Patchway, Bristol BS12 5SQ (tel. 0117 9470288)

MEMBER NEWS

John Parkin recently submitted an entry on the Elstrom issue in the Matlock Philatelic Society Annual Competition, which he won. He also won the Postal History Trophy for a display in Edinburgh. Our congratulations, John. In May, John was giving a display of Early Belgium to Lostock Philatelic Society so he is recovering well and helping to spread the Belgian word. He hopes to be with us at Leamington.

Bill McIntyre in Glasgow has recently given a display to Greenock entitled "Aspects of Belgium". Based on a time traveller theme, he included Dover-Ostend, Postal Stationery, Historic Brussels, Sunday Labels, Pre-Cancels and both War Periods, Exhibitions, Windmills, Charity Stamps (1910-1945). He also displayed Charity Stamps to the Glasgow Society as part of a visiting team. Well done, Bill, keep up the good work.

Ken Morrell - although with us in London for our AGM on 12th April, had submitted an entry for that day's NEPA Convention in Middlesbrough. Entitled "Belgian Red Cross" in the Class II General Philatelic Section, he was notified on his late arrival home at Hexham that his entry had won a new award entitled the Ron Lloyd Silver Salver. Congratulations, Ken. We look forward to seeing some of your material when you and Irene join us at Leamington.

Sadly, we were recently notified of the death of **James Arbon** of Horsham. James had been a member of the Circle since 1980 and had attended our meetings in London on an occasional basis. In his letters, he often spoke of his enjoyment of membership of the Circle. We extend our sincere condolences to his widow.

Following an extended illness, the wife of our President, **Jack Andrews**, has died. Although Frances had not been seen at our events for some years, she was a great support in the past to Jack, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Our member in Plailly, **Jean-Claude Porignon**, has kindly sent us a complimentary copy of his book on "Rural Postman's Box Marks" to help raise funds for the Circle. This has become the "bible" for this aspect of postal history and we are grateful for Jean-Claude's generosity. Together with other members, he will be exhibiting at **CAROLOPHILEX**, which we will report on in the next issue of "BELGAPOST".

REPORT OF MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE - 22nd FEBRUARY, 1997

The morning display was given by Christine Blakey on the subject of Sunday Label issues 1893-1914. She opened by explaining the background reason being the move to reduce Sunday working - a matter of discussion amongst other nations but Belgium being the only country to issue stamps with a tear-off label.

Starting with the 1893 issue and carrying through to the start of the First World War, all issues were displayed, including a number of postcards (postal stationery) and envelopes showing proper usage.

Before commencing the afternoon session, a few business matters were raised. A report on Ken Dore and his illness was given and a 'Get Well' card signed by those present. A brief report on the display to the Royal and details of the forthcoming meetings this summer were given. Our Chairman reminded members that the post of Vice Chairman needed to be filled at the Annual General Meeting in April.

In the afternoon, our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, gave the display under the title 'Pot-Pourri of Belgium'. He started with a wide selection of Railway Parcel Waybills and explained their basic function. The various types and commodities e.g. Lobsters, helped to explain why differing speeds of service were necessary for which several levels of charging were fixed. Establishing these varying rates, however, plus costs and methods of notifying the recipients of a given consignment will require a future session to explore further.

Ken then showed a range of the official Post Office leaflets announcing the New Issues of Belgium. These started in 1955 in black and white, then becoming coloured and often bearing copies of the postage stamps themselves. Various handstamps and special cancellations occurred and, in 1990, advertisements were included on these leaflets.

Although difficult to store and display, it was mentioned that they contain good technical information on historical matters and production of the stamps, which cannot be included in catalogues and handbooks due to the space needed.

REG HARRISON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER
1st APRIL 1996 - 31st MARCH 1997

As predicted last year, our operating surplus this year was lower (£695.95) due to a number of factors and this reduction is likely to continue in future years. However, our finances are in a healthy state and able to absorb foreseeable costs, including our 50th Anniversary activities.

Our increased level of activities automatically incurs additional expenditure, but provided that we can continue with an active sales programme, we should be able to cover any additional costs that may be involved.

Subscriptions (£1,102.05) do not cover expenditure (£1,983.63) but with other sources of income (especially sales commission) enable us to cover all costs to produce the operating surplus listed above.

Although, because of the volume of activity, the accounts are becoming more complicated, the co-operation of most members has made my task more easy and I am grateful to members for their assistance and promptness when accounts are due.

In spite of our reducing surpluses, the aim of the Circle is not to make undue profits and I am therefore recommending that the Annual subscription should remain at £14 for 1997/98.

R. T. HARRISON
 Hon. Treasurer

REPORT OF MEETING – CLIFTON FORD HOTEL, 12th APRIL 1997

The morning session was occupied by the viewing of auction lots, followed by the Annual General Meeting. This was well attended, including members from a distance away. The Chairman, Ken Carpenter, welcomed all those present and referred to the sad loss of Geoffrey Wood last year, our hopes for our 50th Year and its programme of events. Our President, Jack Andrews, made a special welcome to **Ken Morrell**, **Paul Wood**, and a new member from France – **Jean-François Lebon** and his daughter, Beatrice.

The Treasurer circulated his report and accounts for 1996/97, with the comment that we are in a sound financial position for the foreseeable future. It was proposed and agreed that the annual subscription for 1997/98 be kept at £14.

Tony Geake, the Exchange Packet Secretary, reported on the year's activities with a special plea to members to submit more books to keep the packet system in circulation.

The Editor of "BELGAPOST", Jack Andrews, expressed a hope that this was being well received but added there was little feedback from members to guide him. He expressed his thanks to Reg and Jean Harrison for their role in its production.

The following officers were elected for 1997/98:

President	-	Jack Andrews
Chairman	-	Ken Carpenter
Vice-Chairman	-	Jean Bruwier
Hon. Secretary	-	Chris Howe
Hon. Treasurer	-	Reg Harrison
Packet Secretary	-	Tony Geake
Editor	-	Jack Andrews
Librarian/Archivist	-	Nick Martin

A motion that the post of President be fixed for a period of two years from the Annual General Meeting was approved.

Tony Geake gave a brief account of the arrangements for our "Country" meeting at Leamington Spa, 19th-21st September, and said that a good response had been received. The programme for this event is being finalised.

Next season's programme is currently being formulated – the first event being our overseas meeting at Charleroi in May. This is being co-ordinated by **Jean Bruwier** and **Josef Deruyck**.

Under "Any Other Business" it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Honorary Life Membership be given to **Ruth Wood** (Geoffrey's widow) and **Rosemary Green** (daughter of Harry and Doris) in recognition of their work for the Circle over many years.

Our business meeting was followed by an excellent luncheon, at which members were able to socialise and remember that it was 50 years ago that the Circle had its first meeting. We were delighted that **Doris Green** was able to share this event with us. The front of the menu card bore the Arms of the Belgian State in colour.

The afternoon session was devoted to our special auction, for which an illustrated auction list had been prepared. A detailed account is elsewhere in this issue but suffice to say that members considered this to be a fitting end to a successful 50th Reunion.

R.T.H.

BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLEACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1997

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£.	p.		£.	p.
1. <u>Subscriptions</u> received for			1. <u>Officers Expenses</u>		
a) Previous years	10.00		a) Postages	285.15	
b) Year ending 31st March, 1997	1,050.05		b) Publications	602.45	
c) Advance payment for 1997/98	42.00		c) Miscellaneous	284.03	
	<u>1,102.05</u>	1,102.05		<u>1,171.63</u>	1,171.63
2. <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>		225.50	2. <u>Hire of Rooms</u>		790.00
3. <u>Bank Interest</u>			3. <u>Bank Charges</u>		Nil
Current Account	17.15		4. <u>Insurance Charges</u>		<u>22.00</u>
Deposit Account	123.79				
	<u>140.94</u>	140.94			
4. <u>Sale of Publications, etc.</u>		Nil			
5. <u>Auction/Sales Commission:</u>		1,114.05			
6. <u>Commission from Exchange Package Secretary</u>		<u>97.04</u>			
Total Income 1996/97		<u>2,679.58</u>	Total Expenditure 1996/97		<u>1,983.63</u>
			Excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>695.95</u>

BALANCE SHEET

	£. p.	£. p.		£. p.
<u>Balance 31st March, 1997 comprising:</u>			<u>Balance at 31st March, 1996</u>	3,268.89
Current Bank Account	716.11			
Less Uncleared Cheques;				
No.199	5.00			
No.201	124.20			
	<u>586.91</u>	586.91		
Cash in Hand		.66		
Deposit Bank Account	3,996.91		<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure 1996/7</u>	<u>695.95</u>
* Less Account R.L.	121.00			
* Less Account E.H.	496.64			
* Less Account M.B.	<u>2.00</u>			
B.S.C. Money	3,377.27	<u>3,377.27</u>		
<u>Total</u>		<u>3,964.84</u>	<u>Balance at 31st March, 1997</u>	<u>3,964.84</u>

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

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

I certify that I have examined the books and that in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true view of the financial position of the Belgian Study Circle as at 31st March, 1997.

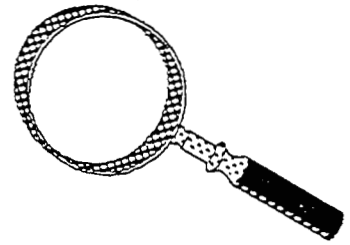
L. Leadewhite Hon. Auditor

Date: 9th April 1997

TERMONDE "MARTYR" TOWN

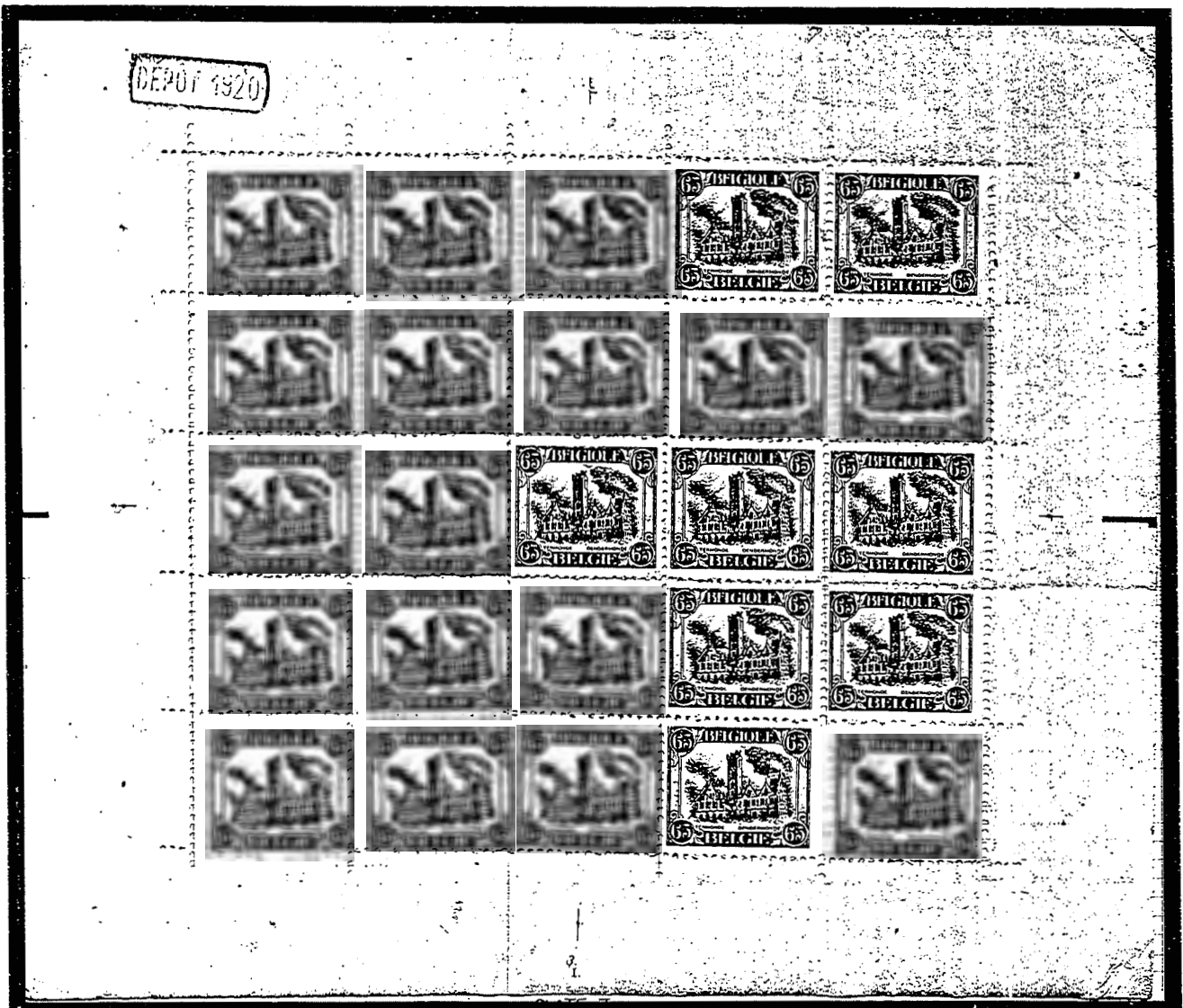
(first published in "Stamp Fair" c.1948)

by S. J. Andrews



The title of this article is suggested by the series of stamps issued by Belgium between 1915 and 1920 in honour of the towns devastated by the German onslaught during the Great War. These towns were Ypres, Dinant, Louvain, Liege and Termonde, and the last named has provided what is probably the most interesting stamp of all. Termonde is about nineteen miles from Ghent and is situated in a marshy district at the confluence of the Scheldt and Dender (hence its Flemish name of Dendermond). Its history is one of frequent onslaught, for in 1667 the French, under Louis XIV, besieged the town with an army of 50,000 but were forced to retire for the townspeople laid the surrounding country under water and flooded the invaders. In the War of the Spanish Succession in 1706, Marlborough captured the town in the dry season, after a bombardment of ten days in which the hoped for stratagem could not be executed. In the Great War, Termonde was bombarded and captured by the Germans on September 4th, 1914, and being unable to pay the "fine" imposed on the city, was deliberately set on fire on the following day and almost completely destroyed.

The ancient Town Hall, dating from 1336, and originally serving as one of the famous Belgian Cloth Halls, was severely damaged during the fire and it is in this state that it serves as the central design of the stamp to be here described.



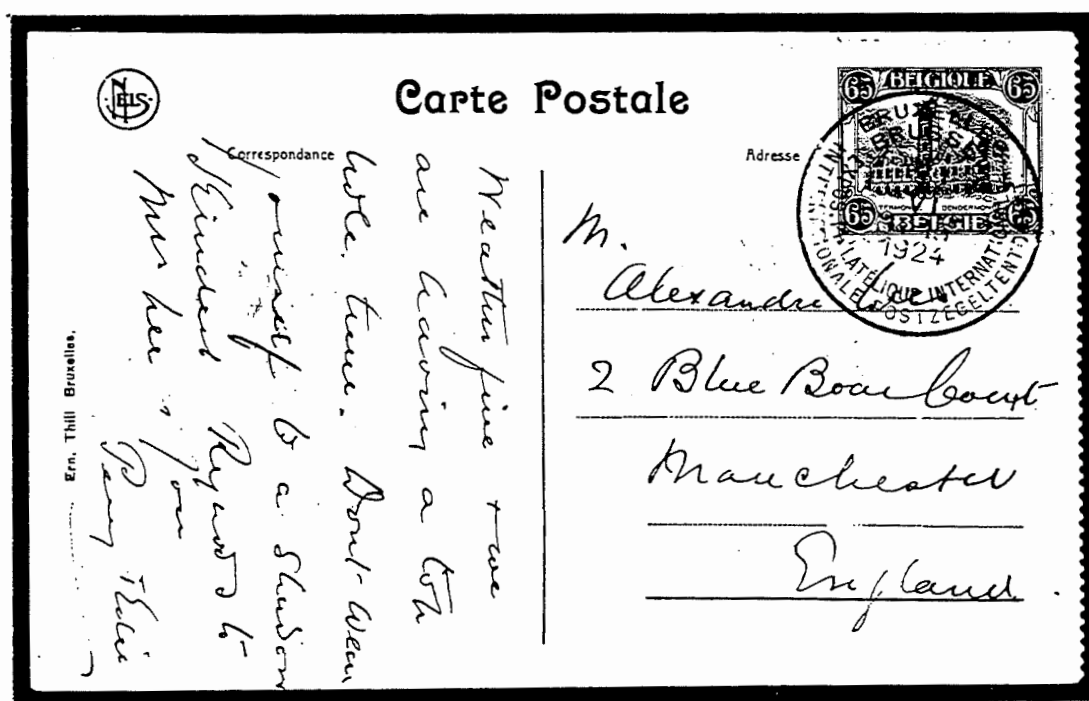
Complete Sheet of 25 Plate 3 Depot 1920. Showing sheet layout.

The central design is printed in black and the surrounding ornate frame, which is in claret, shows the numerals "65" in circular discs of colour in each of the four corners. At the top is "Belgique" and at base "Belgie", both names being in uncoloured letters on a ground of crossed lines. Below the central picture "Termonde" and "Dendermonde" are shown in small capitals.

The stamp was designed, engraved and recess printed by J. Enschede and Sons, at Haarlem, the first printing being in sheets of 25 (5 x 5) issued on August 5th, 1920. These small sheets have margins of up to 3 centimetres in width and have the usual markings, i.e. a perforated "CC" and the millesime "DEPOT 1920" handstamped. The plate numbers appear in the bottom margin beneath the centre stamp, the centre design plates being in Arabic figures, followed by the frame plate in Roman numerals. There are six plates for the centre and six for the frame, all combinations being found except plate I centre with plate IV frame. The stamps are line perforated 11 x 11½ and the frame size is 26¼ x 22½ millimetres.

It is from this printing in sheets of 25 that one of the world's rare "inverted centre" varieties occurs. One sheet was discovered at the Central Post Office at Ghent with this error, but some stamps had been sold over the counter before the error was discovered. The few remaining are naturally very rare, some 16 or 17 being recorded. One further minor variety also occurs in this issue, the stamp being printed on a slightly rose tinted paper.

The second printing of this stamp was in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) with eight centre plates in combination with six frame plates. Perforation in this case was 11½ again by the line method. The frame size in this printing was 26¼ x 22 millimetres.

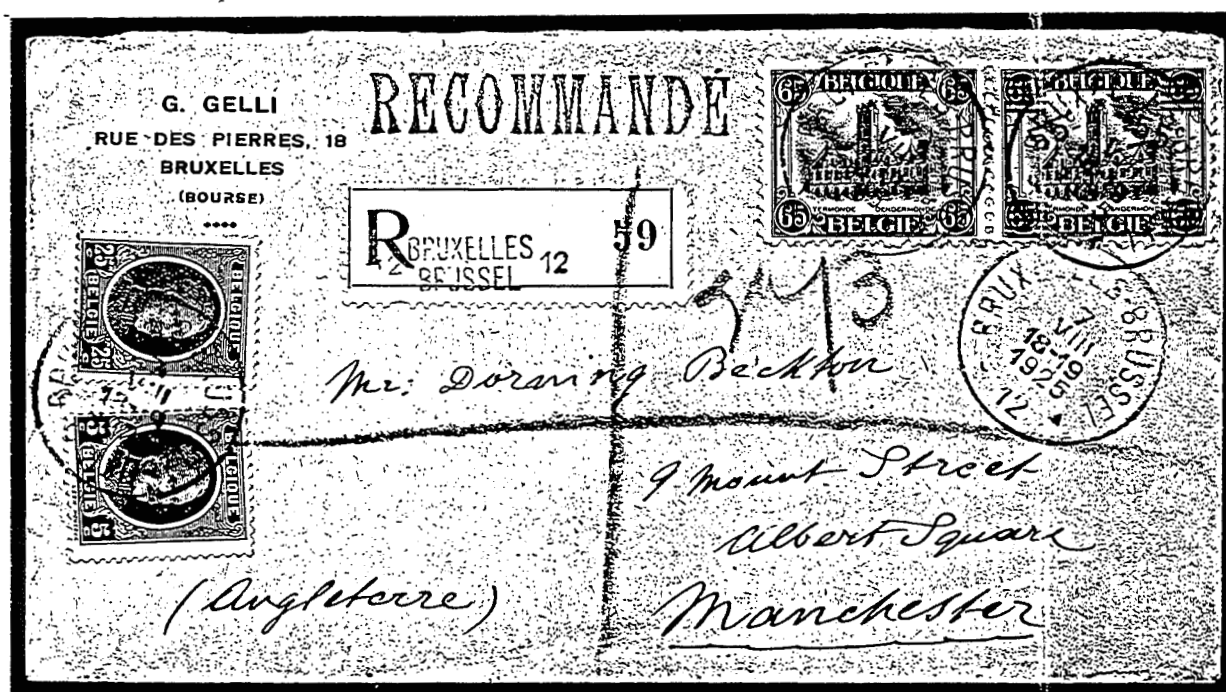


Postcard Bruxelles Philatelic Exhibition to Manchester June, 1924. (COB 182).

This 65c stamp was primarily issued for use in connection with the Express letter service but it also served to pay the combined registration and postal fees on foreign letters. However, in 1921, owing to a change in postal rates, little use was found for a 65c value and in November of that year, the stamp appeared with a surcharge. There was a limited demand for a 1fr. 20c denomination in payment of combined postage and registration and to obviate issuing a special stamp of this value and at the same time to use up the now superfluous 65c value, an unusual method of surcharging was adopted. This took the form of only surcharging each alternate row (i.e. the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th rows) with a new value of 55c. This value was placed twice on the stamp to the right and left of the tower in the central design. The original value in each corner was obliterated by a series of five paralleled bars. The new value and bars were printed in red at the Government Stamp Printing Works at Malines.



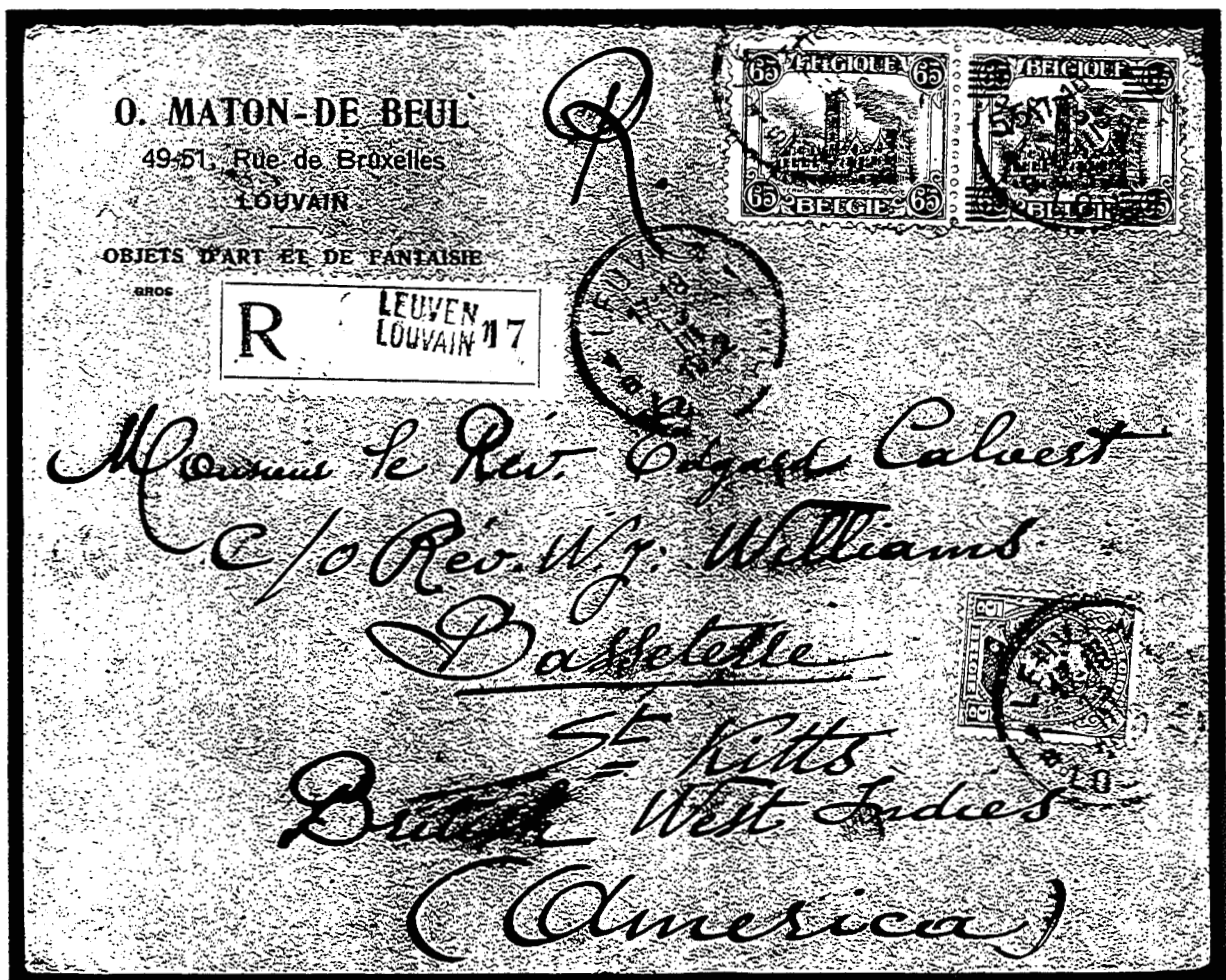
Block of 16 Depot 1921 indicating Overprinting Columns.



Registered Philatelic Envelope Brussels to Manchester 7th August, 1925. (COB 188A, 193, 198).

The surcharge sheets, therefore, showed a series of 65c and 55c stamps side by side, a pair giving the desired new rate of 1fr. 20c. Naturally, this surcharged issue, dated November 5th, 1921, should be collected in pairs. A variety of surcharge occurs, this being a shortened top bar on the obliteration of the bottom right corner value.

To include the various issue of the Termonde stamp, overprints "Eupen" and "Malmedy" were applied and were for use in those territories when they were ceded by Germany to the Belgians.



Envelope Leuven to B.W. Indies 13th March, 1922 (COB 188A, 137). Unusual destination.



AUCTION...AUCTION...AUCTION

Our 50th Anniversary auction held on the 12th April was a success, with a total sale of £2,847. We had attempted to include a wide range of material including some special items and a smarter auction list to mark this event. There was a considerable demand, both in the room and on the book, justifying the efforts involved in its formulation. Needless to say, many members were not lucky in obtaining the lots they desired – an indication that Belgian philately is still thriving.

Postal History items continue to sell well with the demand for some e.g. lots 1, 7, 11, 18, 38 being well contested. By contrast, some of the Rural Postman's Box Marks remained unsold. Express Mail and Postal Stationery lots rarely remain unsold – our difficulty is in finding more similar material.

In the 1919 section, the two lots 109 and 110 (both estimated at £5) sold for £20 and £30 respectively and my comments above equally apply in this section. TPO marks, especially inland, are still in demand even for philatelic items specially posted.

'Top of the Pops' as usual are the Tête-Bêche and Publicity lots. There appears to be an insatiable demand especially for the Publicity stamp and lots 164 and 165 could have been sold many times over. I am sorry that so many members would have been disappointed in their bids for this section.

Stamps in general were less successful, which reflects a current demand. It is unlikely that they will be available at these prices in the future and the early periods constitute a great source of study, which is the bedrock of our Circle's existence. An exception to this comment was the 1914 lot 206 which should keep the purchaser amused for a while.

Although no spectacular prices were involved, the Railways section continues to have its followers.

Finally, the Military section was the subject of keen bidding with lots 272, 273 and 274 being much sought after. This material does not appear often although the individual covers are not rare or expensive.

Out of the 276 lots on offer, 198 were sold representing 71%. Our difficulty is in repeating this standard in the future. Our next auction will be held at Leamington Spa on the 20th September when we hope to continue this achievement. Material for future sales is always welcome but do not forget that for some "stamp" items, the Exchange Packet is more suitable. Tony Geake will be pleased to receive books of your surplus material for circulation.

REG HARRISON

CAN YOU HELP?

Our member, **John Parkin** who has recently recovered from hospital treatment (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.14, p.163), is active in his philatelic interests. He is working on his ELSTROM issues and requires some coil strips as follows:

4 fr. Blue	R.46
5 fr. Violet	R.50
7 fr.50 Mauve	R.74
10 fr. Magenta	R.78

These are the bands of five stamps with the number on the reverse of one stamp.

If any member can help or knows a source, please contact John direct (tel. 01663 747613).

RESULTS OF SALE HELD 12th APRIL, 1997

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	31.00	54	7.00	108	4.00	158	5.00	215	6.00
2	50.00	57	16.00	109	20.00	159	13.00	227	50.00
3	18.00	59	8.00	110	30.00	160	9.00	231	12.00
5	21.00	60	15.00	111	1.50	161	9.00	233	70.00
7	58.00	64	6.00	112	1.00	162	8.00	234	26.00
8	26.00	65	6.00	113	1.50	163	11.00	235	12.00
9	15.00	69	40.00	114	3.50	164	20.00	237	9.50
10	21.00	72	6.00	115	3.00	165	36.00	238	5.00
11	37.00	73	4.00	116	3.00	166	3.50	239	1.50
14	25.00	74	5.00	117	3.00	167	4.00	240	2.00
17	26.00	76	5.00	118	3.00	168	8.50	243	16.00
18	22.00	77	11.50	119	10.00	169	1.00	244	11.00
19	31.00	78	12.00	120	2.00	170	2.00	245	11.00
20	27.00	79	18.00	121	2.00	171	35.00	246	13.00
21	50.00	80	21.00	126	55.00	174	6.50	249	4.50
22	50.00	81	13.00	128	3.00	175	5.50	250	5.50
23	50.00	83	8.00	129	2.50	177	3.50	252	4.00
24	55.00	84	18.00	130	2.00	178	22.00	253	80.00
25	60.00	85	10.00	132	1.50	179	15.00	255	9.50
26	18.00	86	11.00	133	8.00	180	19.00	256	9.00
27	12.00	87	8.00	134	3.50	181	40.00	257	20.00
28	30.00	88	5.50	135	3.50	183	18.00	259	6.50
29	15.00	89	9.00	136	3.00	186	1.50	261	13.00
30	19.00	90	8.00	137	4.50	189	2.50	262	8.00
31	10.00	91	4.00	138	3.50	190	1.50	263	1.00
32	15.00	92	6.00	139	5.00	191	2.00	264	1.00
33	12.00	93	5.00	140	3.50	193	40.00	265	3.50
34	10.00	94	1.00	141	3.50	195	5.00	266	2.50
35	20.00	95	9.00	142	4.00	198	6.00	267	7.50
36	7.00	96	1.50	143	8.50	200	3.00	268	5.00
38	21.00	97	1.50	144	2.00	202	20.00	269	9.00
39	15.00	99	20.00	145	2.00	203	5.00	270	5.50
40	12.00	100	12.00	146	7.50	205	7.50	271	11.00
41	10.00	101	23.00	147	5.00	206	30.00	272	110.00
42	13.00	102	5.00	148	4.00	207	27.00	273	31.00
47	8.00	103	1.00	149	15.00	208	7.00	274	74.00
49	10.00	104	4.50	150	10.00	210	15.00	275	22.00
50	26.00	105	12.00	154	3.00	211	12.00	276	25.00
51	10.00	106	7.50	155	5.00	212	6.00	---	---
53	8.00	107	3.00	156	2.00	214	30.00	---	---

B.S.C. MENU CARDS

The Circle has a supply of menu cards which are surplus to our archive needs. These cover many years and vary in size and content, but often contain an interesting photograph or design with an historic or philatelic connection.

It is proposed to sell these for Club funds. In order to simplify the process, a separate order list is circulated with this journal. The number available for each year listed varies so it will be a matter of 'first come - first served'.

Changes to Post Numbers - a Cross Reference

One of our members has recently compiled a full listing of post numbers, listed both in new number order (with old number cross referenced) and in old number order (with new number cross referenced), plus a listing in alphabetical order showing old and new post numbers. Each of the three listings runs to twenty pages, so it is clearly not practicable to include them in "BELGAPOST". However, they can be made available for reference at Circle meetings and will be available at Leamington Spa, and can be borrowed by members who wish to make their own copies. Interested members should contact Tony Geake who is holding a copy of each of the three lists.

EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1996

Activity was much lower in 1996 than in 1995, with material for the packet in short supply. As a result, only six half-circulations were completed during the year, with fewer books per packet. The percentage of sales on each half-circulation remained the same at 29%, which effectively means that, after circulating both halves, over 50% of the value of books was sold. £97 was contributed to Circle funds (last year: £150).

Commission on sales, based on books returned to members, was £47 (1995: £87) and insurance and postage recoveries totalled £51, below half the 1995 level. A further £29 was realised for club funds from railway parcel stamps donated by a member.

Expenses were also sharply reduced, mainly because of the reduction in the insurance advance premium on the lower level of activity, and no requirement for any adjustment premium for the previous year. The rate charged on books going out this year will be slightly lower at 1.6% (from 1.65%). Members are reminded that insurance is optional, and they can ask for only a proportion of the selling value of their material to be insured.

At the time of writing (mid-February), there is an absolute dearth of books for the packet. The last two packets went out at the beginning of November and there is still not enough material available to sent out another one. The packet cannot operate if members do not contribute material. Can members set themselves a target of - say - four books a year (more if possible) and achieve:

- 1) some empty space in stock books, etc. at present occupied by unwanted stamps;
- 2) some spare cash to finance a few extra purchases;
- 3) a flourishing Circle Exchange Packet.

Balances at 31st December, 1996

Representing

EXCHANGE PACKET - YEAR 1996
(plus packets completing circulation early 1997)

Page 53.

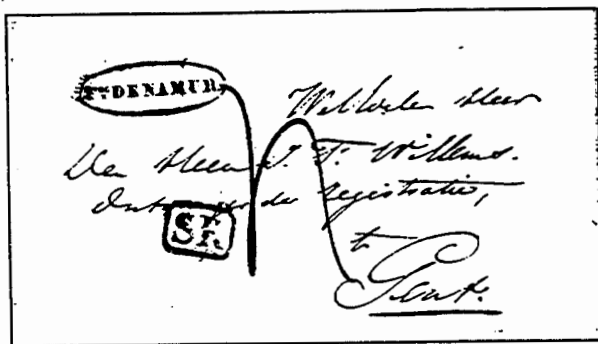
REVIEW OF JOURNALS

Because of work on the RPS display and other "problems", we seem to have become somewhat behind on our reviews, so we have rather a lot in this issue.

"L'Amicale Philatélique"

Sept. 1996 (No. 417). "Les Cachets gommés du Congo (étiquettes de réparation officielles" by Philippe Lindekens. This is continued in the next two issues (418/419) with a total of some 32 pages. It is interesting to see this journal has got back to its old useful contents.

In the October issue (418), they illustrate a fine copy of the "FBG DE NAMUR" in an oval and estimated 65,000BF in the society's auction of 1st October, 1996. It sold for 67,000BF and we are pleased to illustrate this item.



No. 419 (November 1996) has "a precursor" of "The English in the Military Posts of the First World War" by René Von Felten.

No. 420 (December 1996) shows some postcards of the Steam Trams in the various provinces (by Georges Waroquiers).

In No. 421 (January 1997) we find the first part to "Le Ravitaillement de la Belgique 1914-1918" by Gerhard Ludwig (13 pages). Anyone interested in this period would find this helpful.

"Le Philatéliste Belge" - We were delighted that this journal is to be published again, now in A4 size, in its 102nd year. Although we received preliminary details of this and that it was to start in January, we have not at the time of writing (March) received this journal. A previous member of the BSC, Elisabeth Mossiat, is president of the Société Philatélique Belge. The journal can be obtained from the president at Soinnes 5, B-5561 Celles, Belgium, at 650BF for 1997.

"World Wars, 1914-1918, 1939-1945"

This journal (No. 29) is the first copy that has come to your reviewer. It should be of interest to all students of the history of this period and contains a number of good articles. However, we have no further details except that this is distributed by Serge Toulieffe, Place Mattéoti 6, 4630 Soumagne, Belgium. The study circle is affiliated to Phila Club Flemalle, to which the BSC is also affiliated.

"Info-Phila"

The fourth edition of 1996 gives a useful article (10 pages) on the Poortman issue, the 60th year of this fine issue. This edition also continues the long going article of "Nord Belge", and includes some of the tariffs.

The New Year edition (No.61) begins with (five pages) on the Marginal Marks of the sheets of 300 stamps of the Medallions, and the "Nord Belge" continues.

Cercle de Philatélie "Paul de Smeth"

Any collector interested in Brussels would find "Modifications dans Les Communes Bruxelloises" (by Jean de Bast) useful. This is found in No.246 (June 1996 issues). The September issue (No.247) contains an important contribution to the Red Cross Issues of 1915 (seven pages). Unfortunately, your reviewer has not received No.248, but No.249 (November 1996) contains more information on the Offices of Brussels, this time by André Vatlet.

"Belgian Postal History (Posthistorama)*"

No.13 of this journal was reviewed in Vol.9, No.3 prior to my receipt of No.12 (December 1995), which has now come to light, together with Nos. 14, 15 and 16, completing all issues to the end of 1996. Our English members now find much of the content of this useful and interesting journal is written in the Flemish language and is difficult to understand. However, it does contain some very important and useful articles.

The four issues are reviewed together and amongst others we find:

Netherlands Tariffs in the period 1807-1827 by Cl. Delbeke (Flemish - nine pages)
Maastricht 1830-1839 by H. Van Vucht (Flemish - seven pages)
The obliteration "Losange de Points" by our member J. C. Porignon (French - 3½ pages)
"Les Lettres Désinfectées" by Cl. Delbeke (French)
A similar article but the marks in the Netherlands (same author) (Flemish)
The Marks BSP and FSP between France and Belgium by Jean de Bast (French)
"Les Services Affluents" by Emile Thiry (French)
"Postal Relations between Scandinavia and the Low Countries and France 1801-1853" by Cl. Delbeke (French)
"Postal Routes to the East Indies" by Cl. Delbeke (Flemish - 13 pages) - an important contribution.
Another contribution is on the posts of Zeeland (Netherlands) from 1742 by C. F. de Baar

BARKER-JOHNSON CUP + £50

As part of our 50th Anniversary, the winner of this year's competition will also receive a voucher for £50 to be spent at a BSC Auction (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9 No.4, p.130).

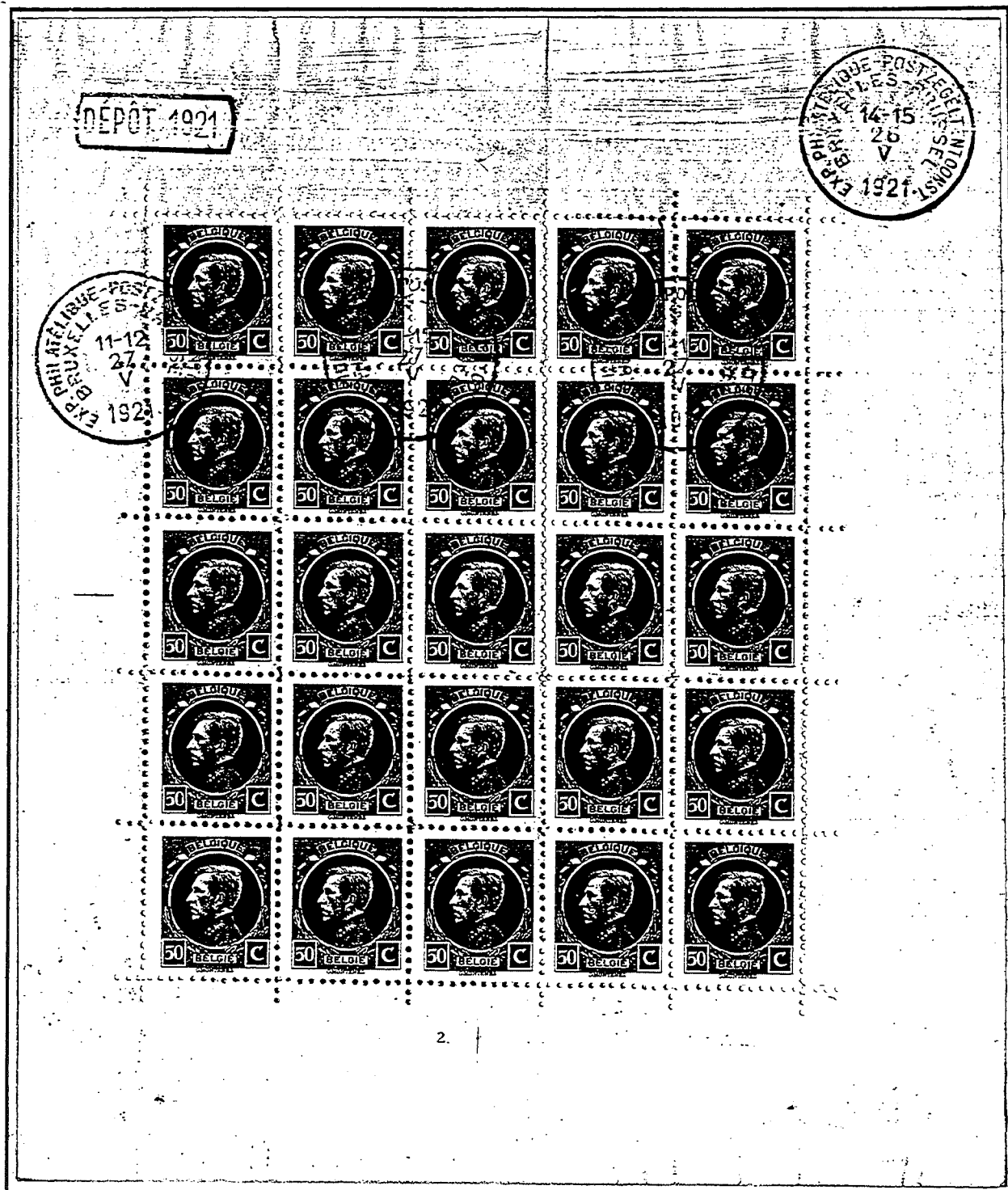
Members are reminded that they should notify our President, Jack Andrews, of their intention to compete by **not later than 31st August** and that if submitting by post, entries must arrive by **13th September**. A minimum of three entries is necessary so please start now and let Jack know of your intention.

THE MONTENEZ ISSUES, 1921-1925 and 1929-41

The Issued Stamps and their Varieties

50c Indigo (SG 312, CO 187)

From a cliché of five, as shown on the proofs, we find at this stage the flaw "minute spot of colour on the King's forehead". It appears on the third stamp of the cliché. It may have been an intentional "secret mark". Being so very small, it may occasionally in a weak printing scarcely show at all, but it is important as it provides the development of the sheets.



The first stamp to make its appearance was in a special printing of the 50c value in indigo on the 26th May, 1921. The shade varies slightly from indigo to an intense indigo. Such variation being due either to air humidity or heavy inking of the plate.

A total of 250,000 of these stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (five rows of five) from plates made from the original horizontal cliché of five reproduced five times. The perforation was 11½ only. A few stamps exist imperforate horizontally between.

Stamp No. 6. "B" flaw.
(Variety 7)

Variety 1 (Minute spot of colour on forehead) on 3rd stamp of each row (Nos. 3, 8, 13, 18, 23).

Stamp No. 10 shows a spot of colour in the hair below "U" of "BELGIQUE" (Variety 3). Also a coloured spot in top right corner of "BELGIE" tablet (Variety 4).

Stamp No. 13 - Variety 5. Minute spot of colour between "G" and "I" of "BELGIE".

These stamps were all put on sale at the Philatelic Exhibition held at Brussels from the 26th to the 29th May, 1921, and were sold in complete sheets of 25.

Six printing plates were prepared but five only were used, numbered 1 to 4 and 6. Plate 5 was presumed kept in reserve in the event of a breakdown but an average of 2,000 sheets only were taken from each of the plates used. This printing is sometimes rather incorrectly described as a trial one.

Each sheet bears the Works "Depot 1921" imprint in the top lefthand corner and the Exhibition special cancelling handstamp in the top righthand corner of the sheet margin - both in black. The plate number appears below the 23rd stamp of each sheet and the handstamp dates are variously from the 26th to 29th May on sheets from all the five plates. Postally used copies of this stamp, particularly on cover, are difficult to find.

In view of what happened during the printings of this value in dull blue, it should be noted here that the backgrounds of the "50" and "C" in the value tablets of these indigo printings remained steadily solid throughout and none were retouched.

The Plate Varieties (50c Indigo)

There are six constant varieties common to these five plates and which continue throughout all the working plates, however constructed, for the dull blue printings of this value.

Variety 1 The 3rd stamps in every horizontal row of five has the very minute coloured spot on the King's forehead as referred to above.

Variety 2 The 5th stamp in every sheet has a coloured spot on the King's nose, again very small.

Variety 3 The 10th stamp in every sheet has a coloured spot in the extreme top right corner of the "Belgie" tablet, and



Var. 1



Var. 2



Var. 3

Variety 4

Also, a spot of colour on the crown of the King's head, in the hair, below the "U" in "Belgique".

Variety 5

The 13th stamp in every sheet has a minute spot of colour between the letters "G" and "I" in "Belgie" at the top.

Variety 6

A short diagonal line of colour in the white circle surrounding the portrait, just above the top oak leaf, on the righthand side of the stamp. It is always found in the 3rd vertical column of a sheet but never on the 23rd stamp.

Plate 1 on 3rd, 8th, 13th and 18th stamp

Plate 2 on 8th and 13th stamp

Plate 3 on 8th, 13th and 18th stamp

Plate 4 on 3rd, 8th and 13th stamp

Plate 6 on 3rd, 8th, 13th and 18th stamp



Var. 4.



Var. 5



Var. 6

Pl. 1

		1	6	2
		1	6	3
		1	5	4
		1	6	
		1	6	
		1		

Pl. 2

		1	6	2
7		1	6	3
		1	5	4
		1	6	
		1		
		1		

Pl. 3

		1		2
		1	6	3
		1	5	4
		1	6	
		1		
		1		

Plates for 50c indigo printings with positions of varieties.

Pl. 4

		1	6	2
		1	6	3
		1	5	4
		1	6	
		1		
		1		

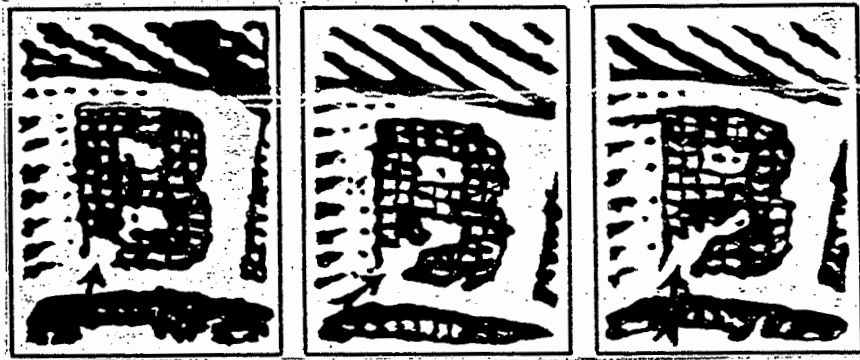
Pl. 6

		1	6	2
7		1	6	3
		1	5	4
		1	6	
		1		
		1		

Variety 7

One other major variety, generally known as the "B" flaw and referred to by "Balasse" under 211.VI dull blue printing, only began its life in this printing. The commencement of the diagonal fracture to the lefthand base of the "B" in "Belgique" can be found on the 6th stamp of some sheets from Plates 2 and 6.

It must be noted that not every sheet from these two plates show signs of this at first slight break or gradual weakening. The development and enlargement of the flaw is observed in the dull blue printings in which it finally becomes much more clearly defined.



No attempt at any time was made by the printers to have this flaw repaired.

Other repetition positional flaws observed are on some plates.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Plate 2 - 16th stamp | { | "L" in "Belgique" joined by a coloured line |
| | " 4 - 11th " | { | to frame line below. |
| 2. | Plate 3 - 7th stamp | { | "G" in "Belgique" joined to frame line at |
| | " 3 - 22nd " | { | top by a line of colour. |
| 3. | Plate 3 - 5th stamp | { | Leaf above "B" in "Belgie" cuts through |
| | " 3 - 15th " | { | white circle frame. |

A number of other small flaws occur on stamps from all the plates, particularly the projection of background lines into the King's profile. None of these are of real philatelic importance.

50c Dull Blue (SG 313, CO 211)

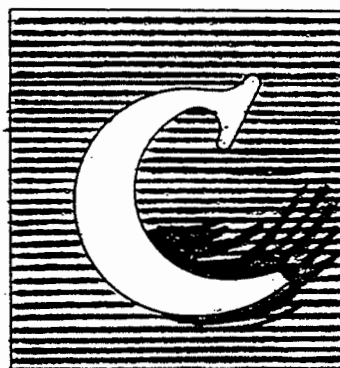
The first issue of the 50c stamp in dull blue was placed generally on sale at all Post Offices on the 21st September, 1921, in sheets of 150 with ten rows of 15 stamps. In 1923, printing plates with 15 rows of ten specimens were brought into use. The Works "Depot 1923" can be found on sheets of stamps from both these set ups.

Three makes of paper were utilised. A white wove paper, a slightly thicker paper which gives an appearance of corrugation and a rather oily yellowish paper.

From a study of the flaws appearing on the sheets from all the plates used for this issue, it is apparent that they were variously built up from the five intermediate plates of 5 x 5 specimens used for printing the stamps in indigo.

In early printings, the background of the value tablets remained fairly solid but after being in use for about 18 months or two years, definite signs of wear became apparent by the appearance of white patches. This wearing was more noticeable in the lower rows of the sheets.

In October, 1923, some retouching commenced and the recutting was variously done by incising parallel horizontal, vertical and/or diagonal lines. A partial recutting of the outlines of the figures and the letter "C" was also made. In some cases, the recutting altered the shape of the "5", giving it a projecting downstroke and, in some, the shape of the "C" giving it an elongated serif. This work was variously performed as required.



In 1924 the backgrounds of the value tablets were all completely recut with parallel horizontal lines. Subsequently, a few additional vertical or diagonal lines appeared on a small number of stamps following the recutting again of defective patches.

Balasse 211 V3 is not a retouch. Many variations of such flaw occur in the early printings long before any retouching of the value tablets took place. The majority of examples of this nature are to be found in the bottom rows of sheets. Stamps 140-143 Plate 1 (10 row sheets) illustrate this. All this applies equally to Balasse 213 V3, also 214 V3, which should read letters "Fr" instead of letter "C".

The perforations $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ are invariably found in conjunction with the completely recut value tablets. The former is definitely rare.

Plate numbers 1, 2, 3 and 10 can each be found with either large or small figures. Large figures on sheets with 15 rows of ten (to right bottom of stamp) and small figures on sheets with ten rows of 15 (to left bottom of stamp). Plates 8 with large figures and 20 with small figures were not used.

		1 3 6	2			1 6				1 6	2
		1 6	3 4			1 6		7		1 6	3 4
		1 5				1 5 6				1 5	
		1 6				1 6				1 6	
		1				1				1	
		1 3 6	2			1 6	2			1 6	2
		1 6	3 4			1 6	3 4	7		1 6	3 4
		1 5 6				1 5 6				1 5 6	
		1 6				1 6				1	
		1				1				1	

Plates for 50c dull blue printings
(15 rows of 10) with positions of
varieties.

		1		2				1		2
7		1		3	4			1		3
		1	5					1	5	
		1						1		
		1						1	3	
		1	3	2				1		2
		1		3	4			1		3
		1	5					1	5	
		1						1		
		1						1		
		1		2				1		2
7		1		3	4	7		1		3
		1	5					1	5	
		1						1		
		1						1		

50c dull blue - printing plate
of 10 rows of 15 stamps
showing position of flaws.

The Plate Varieties (50c Dull Blue)

First the six constant varieties which appeared on the stamps from the five intermediate master plates used for the indigo printings.

Variety 1 Minute spot of colour on the King's forehead -

15 row sheets:

On stamps 3, 8, 13, 18, 23,
28, 33, 38, 43, 48, 53, 58,
63, 68, 73, 78, 83, 88, 93,
98, 103, 108, 113, 118, 123,
128, 133, 138, 143 and 148,

10 row sheets:

Idem.

being the 3rd, 8th, 13th, 18th and 23rd stamp in each of the six blocks of 25 (5 x 5) which make up the printing plates. This flaw being so small does not always show but it is of importance in proving the make up of the plates.

Variety 2 Spot of colour on King's nose -

15 row sheets:

Nos. 5, 10, 55, 60, 105
and 110.

10 row sheets:

Nos. 5, 10, 15, 80, 85
and 90,

being the 5th stamp in each of the six blocks of 25 (5 x 5).

Variety 3 Coloured spot in the extreme top right corner of the "Belgie" tablet, and

Variety 4 Also a spot of colour on the crown of the King's head, in the hair, below the "U" in "Belgique".

15 row sheets:

Nos. 15, 20, 65, 70, 115
and 120

10 row sheets:

Nos. 20, 25, 30, 95, 100
and 105,

being the 10th stamp in each of the six blocks of 25 (5 x 5).

Variety 5 Minute spot of colour between the letters "G" and "I" in "Belgie" at the top.

15 row sheets:

Nos. 23, 28, 73, 78, 123
and 128

10 row sheets:

Nos. 33, 38, 43, 108, 113
and 118,

being the 13th stamps in each of the six blocks of 25 (5 x 5).

Variety 6 A short diagonal line of colour on the white circle surrounding the portrait, just above the top oak leaf, on the righthand side of the stamp. This is the other small, though important, flaw which does not always record on the stamp.

In the 15 rows of ten stamps, it is found in the 3rd and 8th vertical columns, and in the ten rows of 15 stamps, in the 3rd, 8th and 13th vertical columns. It never appears on the 23rd stamp in any block of 25 (5 x 5) and every block of 25 conforms to the make up of one or other of the plates used for the indigo printing.

Variety 7

The "B" flaw, first observed on the 6th stamp of some sheets from Plates 2 and 6 of the indigo printing, occurs four times in the sheets of the 15 rows of ten. On the 11th, 66th, 111th and 116th stamps. This is the 6th stamp in each of the blocks of 25 (5×5) 1, 4, 5 and 6 contained in each sheet. In the sheets of ten rows of 15, this variety occurs twice only, on the 26th and 101st stamp. In this case, it is the 6th stamp of blocks (5×5), 3 and 6 in each sheet.

In these printings the flaw is progressively more developed, in three stages. Ultimately the break goes completely through into the lower part of the bottom white interior portion of the "B" in "Belgique". No attempt at any time was made by the printers to have this damage repaired.

Variety 8

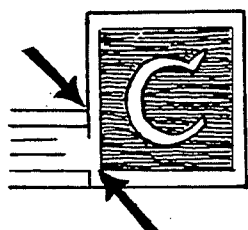
The outer lefthand frame line of the "C" tablet is broken at the bottom and two of the connecting horizontal lines are broken off short. This is found on the fifth stamp in the sheet and in that position only, always in conjunction with the original background tablets or the partially recut ones.

Var. 8The "C" Flaw

Plates 1 to 5

Dull blue printing

Corrected Plates 6 to 10



Pl. 6



Pl. 7



(Pl. 8)



Pl. 9



Pl. 10



It was during the building up of the 15 rows of ten Plates 1 to 5 from the intermediate plates of 25 that this damage occurred to the 5th stamps of one of the intermediate plates (5×5).

It is probable that the first five printing plates were constructed before the flaw was noticed. Later plates from 6 to 10 in which the background of the value tablets were completely recut had this flaw variously repaired. It must be remembered that this is not a continuing repair but that each plate was probably repaired by different workmen at different times. Such repairs were not necessarily made in the order 6, 7, (8), 9, 10.

It was at first thought, about 1926, that the second five plates were the first five recut and retouched. This theory has not been borne out by subsequent study.

On plate 6: The vertical line was repaired. The two horizontal lines were reincised with thickened ends.

On plate 7: The vertical line was repaired. Nothing done to the horizontal lines.

On plate 9: The vertical line was repaired. The two horizontal lines reincised, curved upwards.

On plate 10: The repairs were so well executed that they cannot be noticed.

Plate 8 is a mystery. Balasse does not give it as being used and we have neither seen stamps from it nor have any knowledge of the reputed repair to the fifth stamp on the plate.

Mr. J. H. Chapman always admitted never having a sheet from this plate although he did describe the 5th stamp repair on it as follows:

"Vertical line repaired. Horizontal lines repaired, upper once curved upwards and lower one downwards."

This flaw does not appear on any of the plates printing the ten rows of 15 stamps.

Variety 9 Flaws in the engravers name.

The defective "EZ" in the engravers name occurs on the 3rd and 78th stamps from the ten row plates, that is the 3rd stamp in blocks 1 and 4. From the 15 row plate, it occurs once only, on the 53rd stamp, which is the 3rd stamp in the 3rd block of 25 (5 x 5).

The small "z" variety occurs on the 4th and 79th stamps from the ten row plates, that is the 4th stamp in blocks 1 and 4. From the 15 row plates, it occurs on the 54th stamp; which is the 4th stamp in the 3rd block of 25 (5 x 5).

The broken "E" occurs on the 48th stamp from the 15 row plates.

The large malformed "G" is on the 46th stamp from the ten row plates.

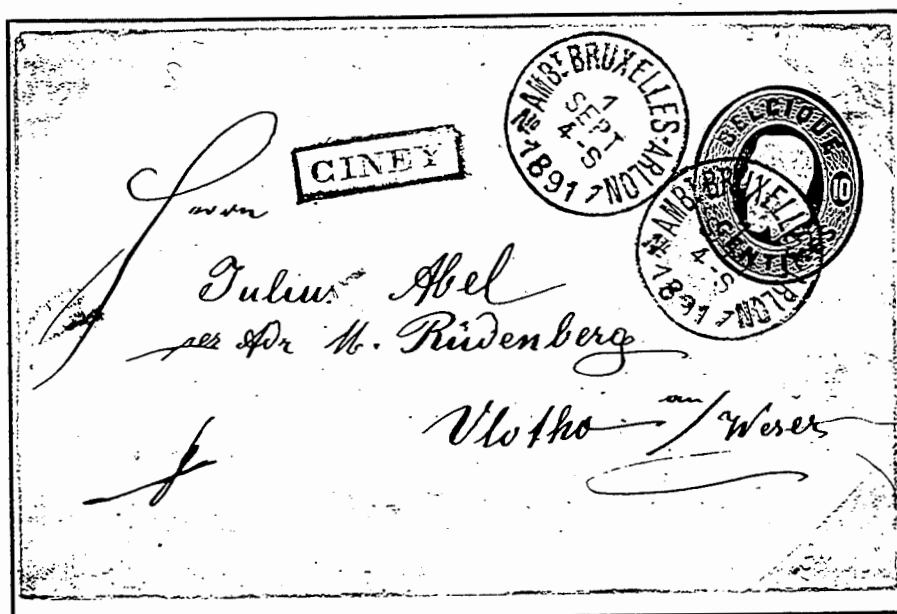


50 cent Dull Blue (COB 211) with COB 138, 139 and 197 on registered envelope Arlon to Michigan, 6th September 1922

To be continued

"LIMIT LIMITROPHE"

At the time of this letter (1891), the postal authorities allowed a lower rate for such items to be sent to other countries bordering Belgium up to a distance of 30 kilometres.



This 10c postal stationery envelope (just issued on 1st August, 1873) was sent to Germany at this special rate.

The letter was posted at Ciney Railway Station and on to the train, where it was cancelled. It travelled on the Bruxelles-Arlon No. 1 TPO.

OSTEND-LONDON-CAIRO-BAGHDAD, 1923 (23rd August)

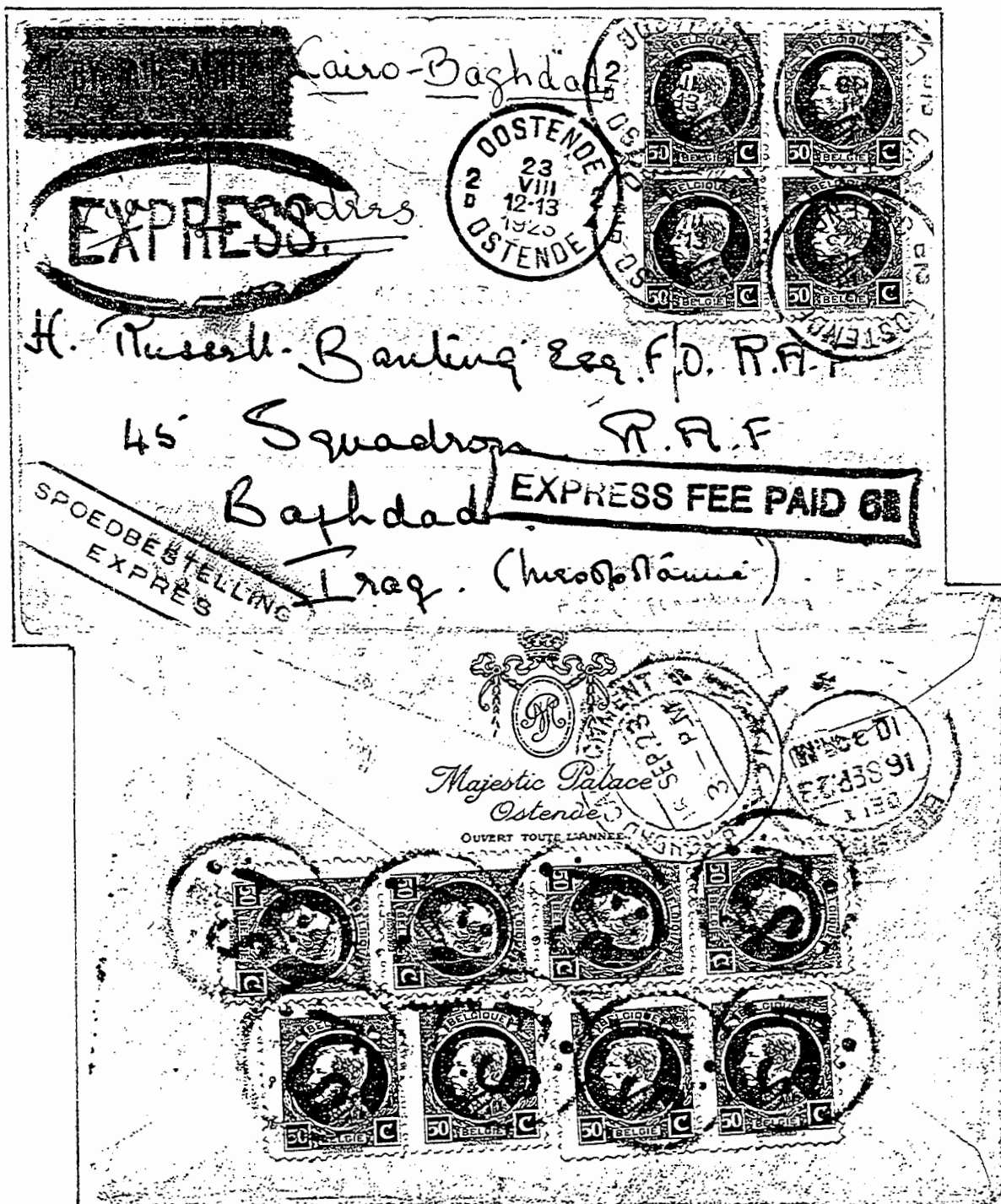
This cover had an interesting journey and the rating is particularly unusual.

Postage paid in stamps— 12 x 50c Montenez issue: 6.00Fr. Made up as follows:—

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| a) | International letter rate:
(up to 20 gr. weight) (from 01.03.1921): | 50c |
| b) | Express rate: | 1.00Fr |
| c) | Standard Air Mail rate: | 1.00Fr. |
| d) | Surtax for Cairo-Baghdad
(this was under a special Order No. 99 of 4th Sept.1922) | 3.00Fr. |

We are 50c short!

Possibly the sender was an aviator – the addressee certainly was. The sender could well have added 50c thinking the letter may well have been sent by air from Brussels to London. But there is no evidence of this being the case and most probably it was sent by sea: Ostend-Dover-London.



The postage had to be paid in Belgian stamps and those on the back of the letter were cancelled in London "F.S." - Foreign Section.

Air mail letters of this period often provide a problem to postal historians. This is our suggestion on this occasion. What do you think?

(P. R. Bertram Collection)

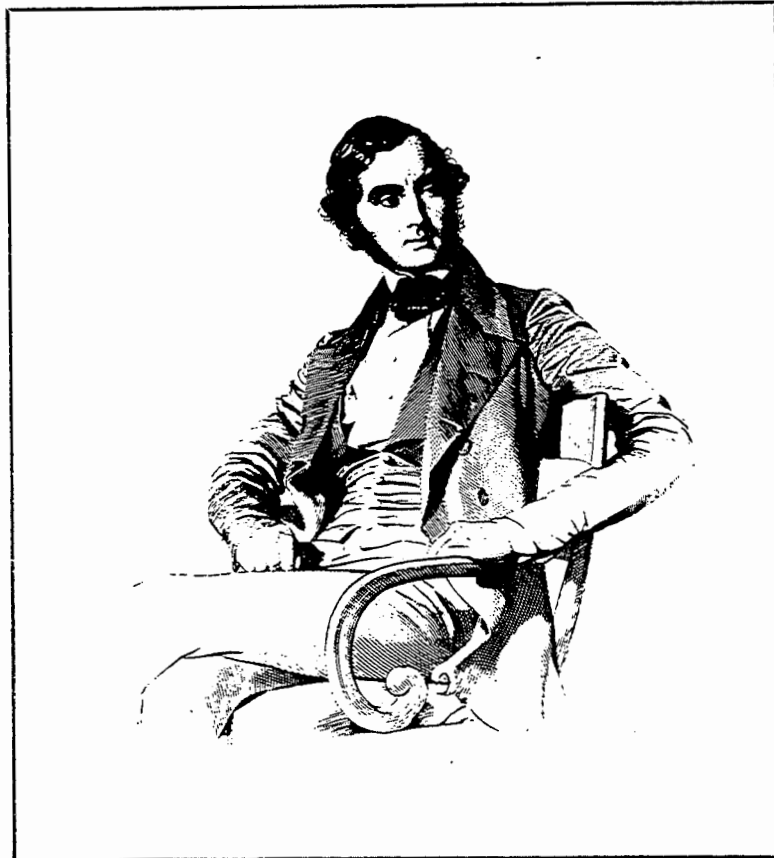
S. J. ANDREWS

JOUBERT DE LA FERTÉ

We gave a short article on this famous engraver in "BELGAPOST" Vol. 4, page 80, and can now give some more details.

Much of the fame of the work of De La Rue stamp printing rested on the delicacy of the engraving of the dies from which the printing plates were prepared. For that, one man was principally responsible – Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté, and for so long has he been identified with De La Rue in the minds of philatelists, that it comes as a surprise to learn that he was not on the staff.

He was commissioned on a free lance basis by Rowland Hill to produce the die for the first British 4d, and subsequently by De La Rue for later work on Colonial stamps and, of course, on some Belgian stamps.



THE TREATY OF PARIS, 1949

As a result of the provisions laid down in the Treaty of Paris of March 29th, 1949, a few small areas of German territory were placed under the jurisdiction of Belgium and the Netherlands on April 23rd of that year.

The area ceded to Belgium comprised only 20 square kilometres and had a population of less than 700. In the main, it consisted of the villages of Losheim and Bildchen.

The existing post office at Losheim was taken over by the Belgian postal authorities, but it was closed as part of a reorganisation scheme on December 8th, 1952. Thereafter, Losheim was amalgamated with the nearby Belgian village of Manderfeld as far as its postal affairs were concerned. At Bildchen, a postal agency was opened on November 7th, 1949, which continued to function until April 20th, 1957, when the man in charge suddenly died. No special regulations ever existed for the territory administered by Belgium. The one-ring cancellations introduced in Losheim and Bildchen are similar to those in use at the time in Belgium.

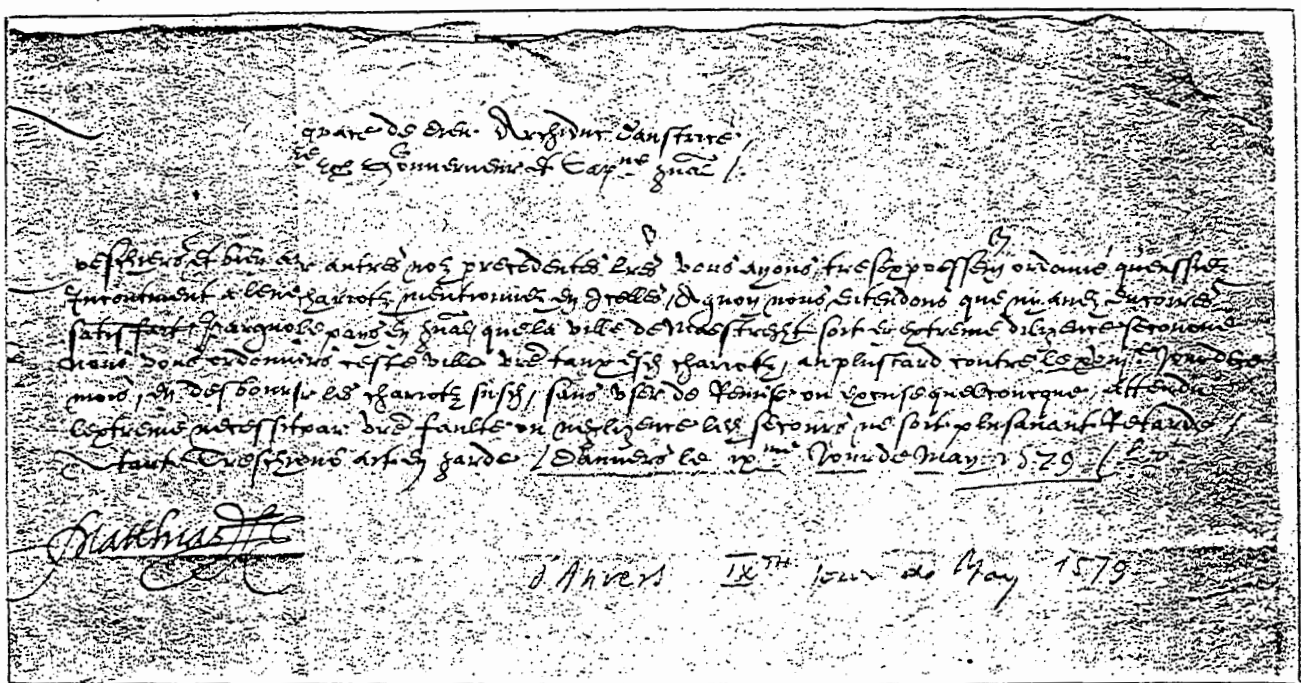


The agreement of 1949, having been conceived as an interim settlement only, Belgium and the Federal German Republic agreed under the terms of the Treaty of Brussels of September 23rd, 1956, that the major part of the disputed territory, including the two villages, be returned to Germany. The actual transfer took place at midnight on August 27th, 1958.

THE EMPEROR MATTHIAS - 1579

Matthias was Governor of the Netherlands at the time of this letter, 9th May, 1579. In 1612 he became Emperor and, in 1615, he confirmed the appointment of Lamoral I of Thurn and Taxis as Hereditary Postmaster of Europe.

The letter is sent from Antwerp and is signed by Matthias. It came from the collection of B. L. Barker and sold at Harmer's on 8th February, 1977 (Lot 10).



KNOW YOUR BELGIUM – PART 2

ANSWERS

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

THE POST IN BELGIUM AND ITS ANTECESSORS PRIOR TO 1849

By J.F. Giblin

Synopsis

Maximillian I of Habsburg, Holy Roman Emperor who had acquired the Low Countries by his marriage to Mary, the sole heiress of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, in 1477, is also renowned for founding the Imperial Post in 1490. It was in that year that he concluded an agreement with Roger, Johann and Franz von Thaxis that the House of Thurn and Thaxis would provide a postal service to unite his courts with those of the other principal states of Western Europe.

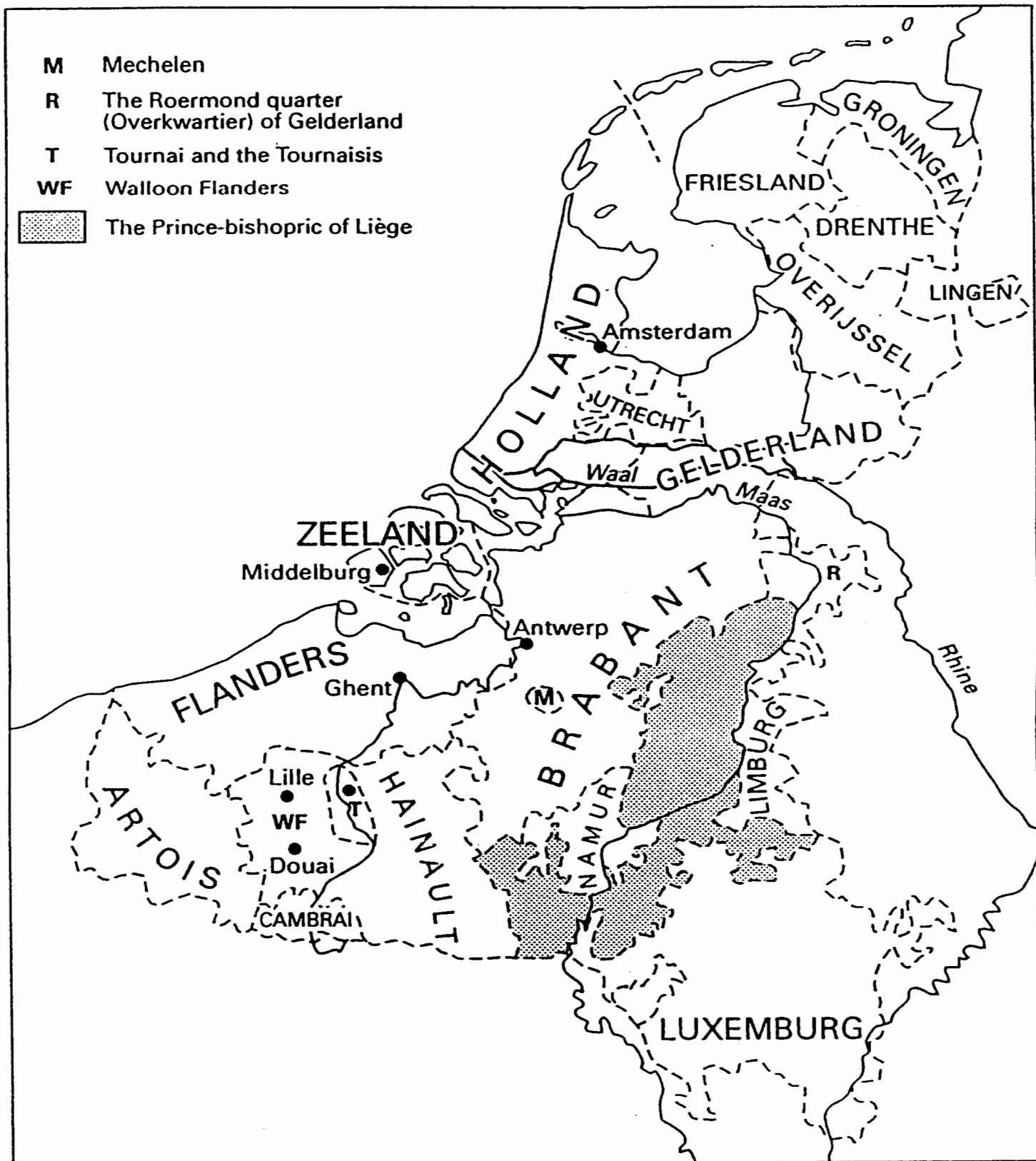
It was during the religious wars of the following century, in the reign of his great-grandson Philip II, that the seventeen provinces of the Low Countries became divided into the Northern Protestant ones under William of Orange, with the name of the United Provinces, whilst the southern Catholic ones remained faithful to Philip II with the name of the Spanish Netherlands or Low Countries.

Apart from a short period from 1598 to 1621, when the southern provinces were constituted as an independent Kingdom under the daughter of Philip II, the Archduchess Isabelle, these provinces remained under Spain until the extinction of the Spanish Habsburg dynasty with the death of Charles II of Spain in 1700. The Treaty of Munster, in 1648, had confirmed finally the division of the Low Countries so that the Spanish Netherlands now comprised no more than ten of the original seventeen provinces as enumerated in the "Pragmatic Sanction" of Charles V; the Holy Roman Emperor who was the grandson of Maximilian I.

After the conclusion of the War of the Spanish Succession the Treaty of Rastadt, of 6th March 1714, transferred the sovereignty of the Spanish Netherlands to Charles VI of Habsburg the Holy Roman Emperor of the Austrian dynasty, and thus the southern provinces became known as the Austrian Netherlands, or Low Countries, from 1714 to 1794. Although the War of the Austrian Succession of 1740 to 1748, the Seven Years War of 1756 to 1763, the Brabant Revolution of 1789 to 1790, and the French invasion of 1792 to 1793 all resulted in brief periods when the Austrian authority was negated, it was not until the French occupation, from 1794 to 1814, that the Austrian Netherlands ceased to exist. The area was divided into nine departments (Nos 86, 91 to 98) and administered as if it were an integral part of France. The authority of the Thurn and Thaxis postal administration was abrogated and the postmarks, as in France, incorporated the departmental numbers.

In 1814, the Emperor Napoleon I evacuated the Low Countries and, after a year in which the Great Powers decided its future, the whole of the "United Netherlands" was placed under William I of the House of Orange-Nassau, and administered as a single country from 1815 to 1830. However, as both Flemish and Walloon were excluded from any share in government, Liberals and Catholics were alike dissatisfied and the revolution of 1830 in France gave them the opportunity to rise in open insurrection.

On 4th October 1830, Belgium was declared independent by a provisional government and on 4th June 1831, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg was elected the first King of the Belgians; Leopold I (1790 - 1865). The name was that used by Caesar (De Bello Gallico I.i): "Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae." The Dutch spellings were removed from the postmarks which otherwise continued in use until the introduction of adhesive postage stamps on 1st July 1849.



The provinces of the Netherlands in the age of Charles V

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

The great river delta, formed by the embouchment of the Rhine, the Maas (Meuse) and the Scheldt into the North, or German, Sea, has always been known as The Low Countries - Les Pays Bas - the Netherlands.

In addition to its considerable military importance, due to its strategic position, this area also marks the boundary between the Celtic and the Germanic peoples of Western Europe. The significance of this isogloss is still reflected in the ethnic tensions of its inhabitants to the present day. The Romans used the word "Belgae" as a generic name for all peoples, both Celtic and Germanic, that they found north of the Seine and bounded in the west by the ocean and on the east and north by the Rhine. The Belgae thus occupied one of the three great divisions of Gaul, as "Gallia Belgica". and it remained under Roman domination until 409 A.D. when the Franks, who had been settled there since the reign of the Emperor Julian (360 - 363) made themselves the rulers of the area.

After the rest of Gaul had been conquered by the Franks, it became mainly part of the Kingdom of Neustria and thus of the Empire of Charlemagne (768 - 814). By the Treaty of Verdun, in 843 A.D. when that empire was divided among his heirs, the areas of Flanders and Artois were included in the Kingdom of France, but the northern parts, including Brabant, went into the Kingdom of Lotharingia; a sovereignty that extended as far as the Mediterranean as a "Middle Kingdom" under Lothar; a grandson of Charlemagne who also obtained Italy with the title of "Emperor".

This "Middle Kingdom" soon lost its independence and became a source of constant dispute between the Kings of France and those of Germany. In the petty wars that ensued the area of "Gallia Belgica" was broken up into various dukedoms, counties and other minor Lordships. The richest and most important was the County of Flanders (land of the Vlaanderen).

This extensive domain then lay between the Lower Scheldt, the North Sea, Artois, Hainaut and Brabant; being later divided into the present provinces of Eastern and Western Flanders, as well as Zeeland in the Netherlands and French Flandre (department du Nord) which was conquered by Louis XIV. The County of Flanders was acquired by the House of Burgundy in 1369.

The middle province on the Southern frontier of Belgium which is traversed by the valley of the Sambre became known as Hainaut or Hainault; a name implying the existence of a forest. Baldwin IV (1120 - 1171), Count of Hainault married Alice the sister of the Emperor Henry VII and took Namur (Flemish Naemen) as her dowry. Namur lies between Hainaut on the one side and Liege and Luxembourg on the other and extends from Brabant up the valley of the Meuse to the French frontier. Philip III of Burgundy acquired Namur in 1421 by purchase and Hainaut in 1433 by deposing the Countess Jacqueline.

Brabant was named after Brabo, a semi-mythical Flemish chieftain, or alternatively is derived from "Brabant" (O.H.G.) "the ploughed district", and now is the province that lies between the Scheldt and the Meuse. It was originally connected with the Duchy of Lower Lorraine but, in 1190, Henry I (The Warrior) (1183 - 1235) assumed the title of Duke of Brabant. The Margraviate of Antwerpen (or Anvers), whose name is derived from the Flemish "aen't werf" (at the wharf) was united with the Duchy of Lower Lorraine in 1100 when the Emperor Henry V conferred that duchy on Godefrid I, Count of Louvain and Brussels. The present province of Antwerp lies on the northern border of Belgium; being bounded on the west by the Scheldt. The Duchy of Limburg is now the province in the north east of Belgium with the Meuse forming its eastern boundary. The Dutch provinces of Northern and Eastern Limburg, to the north, were also once part of a united duchy which was bounded by Brabant, Antwerp and Liege. The county of Limburg (limit castle) founded by Walram of Arlon in the 11th century was raised to a duchy in 1190 under Walram III who married, in 1214, Ermesinde of Luxembourg (1186 - 1247) and founded a line of Holy Roman Emperors and Kings of Bohemia of the Luxembourg line. Philip III, the Good, of Burgundy inherited Brabant, Antwerp and Limburg in 1430 upon the death, without heirs, of Anthony, Duke of Brabant.

The province of Liege (Flemish : Luik; German : Lüttich) lies in the east of Belgium, nearly bisected by the valley of the Meuse. This area was a bishopric, founded in the 8th Century and never a secular lordship although, of course, the influence of local nobles was brought to bear upon the election of the bishops. Thus, in 1456, Philip II of Burgundy had his nephew, Louis de Bourbon, appointed to that see. The name is derived from "Leodicus vicus" or "the peoples town", and the province is now surrounded by Luxembourg, Namur, Brabant, Limburg and Germany. The bishopric essentially preserved its independence until the Peace of Luneville in 1801 when it went to France. By the decision of the Peace of Vienna, and a special convention of 23rd March, 1815, it became part of the United Netherlands.

The province of Luxembourg (Luxemburg) and of course, the present Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, take their name from the fortress of Lützelburg (ie. little castle) which a Count Siegfried acquired in 963 A.D. Under Conrad I (1060 - 1080) it became a County of the Empire and went, by two female inheritances, first to the county of Namur, and then to the Duchy of Limburg. It was raised to the rank of a Duchy by the Emperor Charles IV in 1354 and then, in 1443, Elisabeth, the niece of the Emperor Sigismund, sold the duchy to Philip III of Burgundy (1396 - 1467) who was her nephew by marriage. Thus it came into the possession of the House of Habsburg by the marriage of Maximilian I to Mary of Burgundy in 1477. With the extinction of the Spanish Habsburgs in 1700, Louis XIV of France seized the fortress of Luxembourg but it was restored to the Austrian Netherlands by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Both the lands of the present Grand Duchy and those of Belgian Luxembourg were together constituted in 1815 as a Grand Duchy under William I of the Netherlands. Their separation took place after the revolution of 1830 when the final peace treaty of 1839 made the French, or Walloon, part a province of Belgium.

This is the largest and least populous of the nine provinces of Belgium being situated naturally against the Grand Duchy which lies to the south-east of the Kingdom. Thus of the original territory of Luxembourg, the Grand Duchy is the eastern part whilst the Belgian province is the western. The province is watered, not by one of the great rivers but by three minor ones; the Ourthe, the Semois and the Sure.

The Nine provinces of the present Kingdom of Belgium may, therefore, be summarised as follows:-

PROVINCE	PROVINCIAL CAPITAL	AREA Sq. MILES
Anvers/Antwerpen	(As province)	1093
Brabant	Brussels	1268
East Flanders	Ghent/Gand	1158
West Flanders	Bruges/Brugge	1249
Hainaut	Mons	1437
Liege/Luik	(As province)	1118
Limburg	Maastricht	931
Luxembourg	Arlon	1706
Namur/Namur	(As province)	1413

Flemish (Dutch) is spoken by "the Flemings" in the provinces of East and West Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg and the northern half of Brabant. French is spoken by "the Walloons" in the provinces of Hainaut, Namur, Luxembourg, Liege and the southern half of Brabant. Brussels is officially bi-lingual.

THE POSTS OF THE HOUSE OF THURN AND TAXIS

The Château de Beaulieu at Mechelin (or Malines) - Brussels is a famous museum devoted to a great collection of items related to the family and postal organisation of the House of Thurn and Taxis. Although this family possesses many other residences, and its family seat is at St. Emmeram on the Danube near to Regensburg, it is highly significant that this museum is located near to Brussels in Belgium. That country has also honoured the family both by depicting Franz von Taxis on a splendid individual stamp (SG MS 688 - 1935) and by portraying Beaulieu and eleven members of the house on a commemorative set (SG 1398 - 1409 - 1952).

The Emperor Friedrich III (1452 - 1493) had originally arranged in 1457 that Roger de Tassis would organise a postal service within Italy. Then, in 1489, a Johannes Dax (Dax, badger, Tassis) was appointed as Chief Postmaster to establish a postal route from Innsbruck, in Austria, to Mechelin, where Maximilian I was now established as the husband of Mary of Burgundy.

However, it is Franz von Taxis (or Francesco de Tassis) who is regarded as the true founder of the Taxis posts in 1491. In 1500, Philip I appointed Franz as "Capitaine et Maitre de nos Postes" and in 1505, a treaty was signed between Philip I and Franz von Taxis (1450 - 1517) to establish a vital postal connection between the Low Countries and the French, Spanish and Imperial Courts in Germany. Then, in, 1516, this arrangement was extended by Carlos I of Spain (later the Emperor Karl V) by arrangement with Johann Baptista von Taxis (1476 - 1541) who, in 1520, was nominated by Karl V as "General Postmaster". Later, in 1543, Lamoral I von Taxis was created "General Postmaster" to succeed his father. In 1563, he became specifically General Postmaster of Flanders (ie the Low Countries).

Thus, the scope of the Taxis postal administration was gradually extended throughout the whole of the Empire to include the independent German states as well as the Habsburg hereditary dominions. In 1586, the Taxis postmaster in Cologne, a Herr Henst, proposed to the Emperor that the whole of the Reichpost organisation should be unified and should take over all the courier arrangements in the vicinity of that city. That of Nuremberg was absorbed in 1570 but that of Rotterdam remained separate until 1714.

The social ascent of the family also continued apace. Leonard I (1523 - 1612), the son of Johann Baptista, became an hereditary Imperial Baron in 1608, and his son Lamoral I (1567 - 1622) first received, in 1615, the command of the Reichpost as an hereditary fief, and then in 1621, was created an hereditary Count (Graf) of the Empire. His grandson, Lamoral II (1621 - 1677), was permitted, in 1650, to add the name of "Thurn" to his surname by the Emperor Ferdinand III. The court genealogists were able, to the great satisfaction of all concerned, to confirm that the Taxis family was descended from a noble family called Torriani, or della Torre, living in Valsassina near Lake Como whose ancestry could be traced back to 1311 in Milan. Thus the famous name of "Thurn und Taxis" (Torre & Tassis) came into existence.

Then, in 1695, the Emperor Leopold I elevated Eugen von Thurn und Taxis to the rank of an hereditary Prince (Fürst) of the Empire. Since that date there have been twelve such princes, the most recent being Albert who was born in 1983. The fourth prince, Alexander (1704 - 1774), finally achieved the greatest authority for his house. In 1744, Karl VI made his Postmaster Generalship an Imperial Throne fief. In 1748, Franz I created him his Deputy at the Reichstag in Regensburg - to which city the prince moved his residence - and in 1754, the House of Thurn and Taxis was admitted to the Council of Princes.

However, successful competition with the Thurn and Taxis post grew at an early date, as the petty Germanic rulers, or Landesherrn, started their own Landesposten within their small dominions, in opposition to the Reichspostregals of the Emperor. In this manner they could both assert their own independence and augment their state incomes. Thus, in 1646, the Prussian-Brandenburg post was founded which, as the Prussian dominions were gradually extended, later grew into the German Reichpost. Next followed the Saxon postal service of Braunschweig - Lüneburg and, with the progressive weakening of the Imperial authority in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Thurn and Taxis postal area steadily diminished until by the nineteenth century it was confined to the small southern and central German principalities.

Indeed the influence of the Thurn and Taxis postal administration was also threatened in the hereditary Habsburg dominions themselves by the rise of the posts of the House of Paar. This family also came originally from Bergamo and had introduced the postal system first into Hungary under Louis II and then into Austria proper under Ferdinand I. In 1624, Johann Christoph, Graf von Paar was invested with the office of Chief Postmaster in Hungary, Austria, Bohemia and the adjoining provinces, except Silesia, by the Austrian chancery. In 1629 he also received the office of Internal Chief Postmaster to the Court and the Crown Lands and in 1630 his authority was extended over the post offices of Silesia. However, when Ferdinand II in 1636 extended his duties to the forwarding of the mails of the Imperial Ministers, of the Imperial Suite and of foreign ambassadors, this decision led to a legal conflict with the rights of the House of Thurn and Taxis which was resolved finally by confining the Paar jurisdiction to lands within the Habsburg domains. Finally, in 1722, the Paar family had to surrender the administration of its posts to the Austrian Exchequer when the posts were thus nationalised.

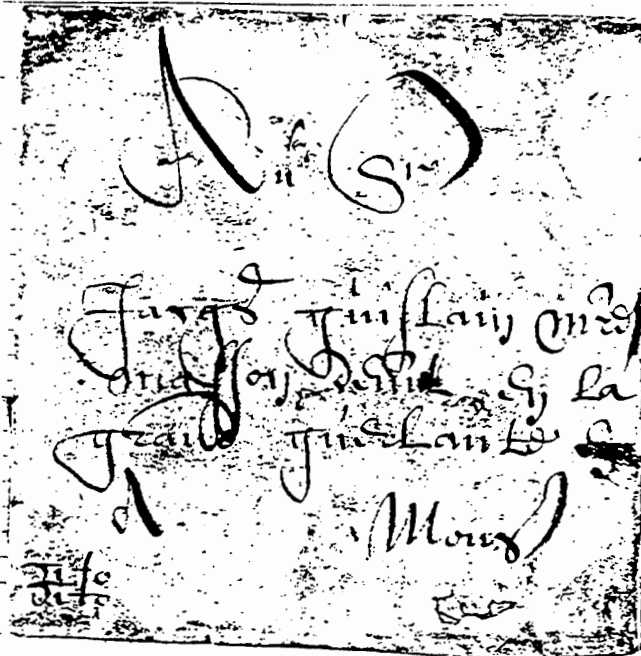
In 1790, the House of Thurn and Taxis lost control of the posts of the Netherlands, whilst in 1801 it also lost the posts to the west of the Rhine by the Peace of Luneville. However, a postal convention was signed with France which included the introduction of "Rayon" markings (meaning 'region' or 'radius') to indicate the distance of a place from the Rhine as a central point. In 1806 the concept of "Imperial mail" was terminated whilst the posts in Bavaria were lost in 1808 and those in Baden were lost in 1811. Although the postal rights of the House of Thurn and Taxis were reasserted at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the posts of Württemberg were lost in 1851. Next Thurn and Taxis joined the German-Austrian Postal Union in 1851 and, in the following year, started to issue its own adhesive postage stamps, in Kreuzer for the Southern District and in Silbergroschen for the Northern District.

However, the major political changes in Germany led, in 1866, to the Prussian occupation of the General Post Office of Thurn and Taxis in Frankfurt and, on 30th June 1867, their whole postal administration came to an end. On the payment of 9 million marks (£3 million) the Thurn and Taxis Posts were purchased by Prussia on 1st July 1867. Thus an episode of European postal history of considerable importance and interest was finally concluded.

It now remains to consider, in outline, the use of hand-stamped place names in the Spanish and Austrian Netherlands during the period of the Thurn and Taxis posts. It is generally agreed that this usage was a relatively late one since such departure markings were originally simply manuscript ones and the transition to hand-stuck ones was a gradual and non-uniform process. The necessity of some such practice was because most correspondence had its postal tariff paid at the place of destination by the recipient and the post office of delivery had to know the place where the missive had been posted to make the appropriate fiscal calculation.

SPANISH NETHERLANDS

1654



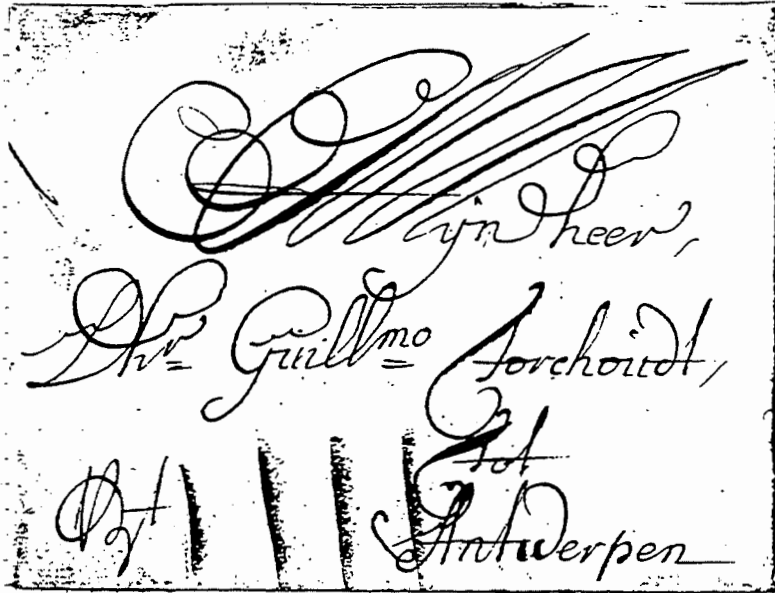
The above letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written, on 15. 8bre 1654, at Maubuge; a town situated on the Sambre at a distance of 13 miles south of Mons.

This letter-sheet has been addressed to Mons - or Berghem - a city of Hainault which is situated on the Trouille in a large coal basin known as the 'Borinage'.

On the obverse of this letter-sheet has been written Cito Cito to indicate an "Express" postal marking.

SPANISH NETHERLANDS

1695.



Mijn heer,
Mr. Guillmo Torchoit,
Antwerpen

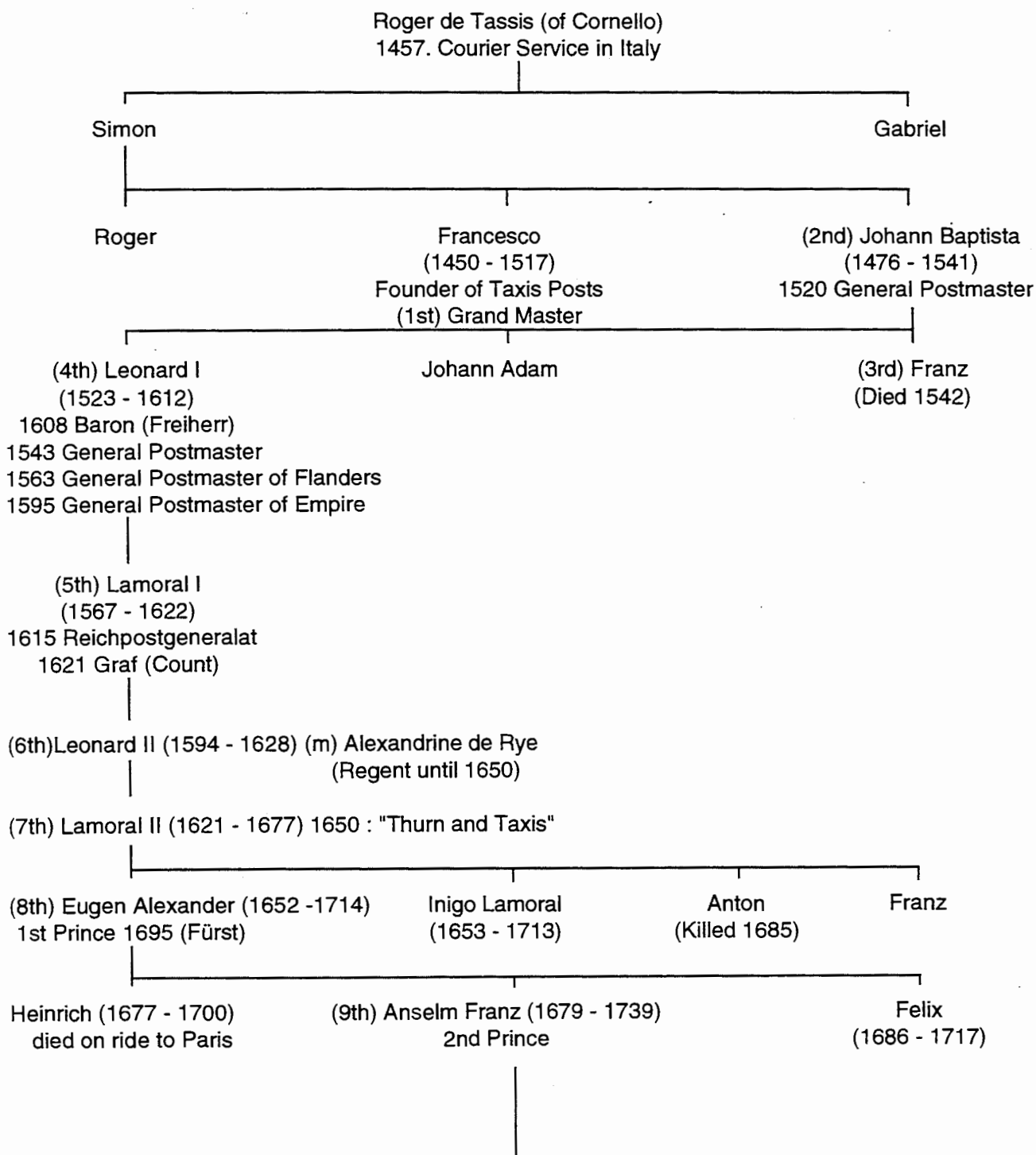
The above letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written, on 6th. July 1695, at Ostende; the seaport of Western Flanders situated on the German Ocean at a distance of 77 miles west-north-west of Brussels.

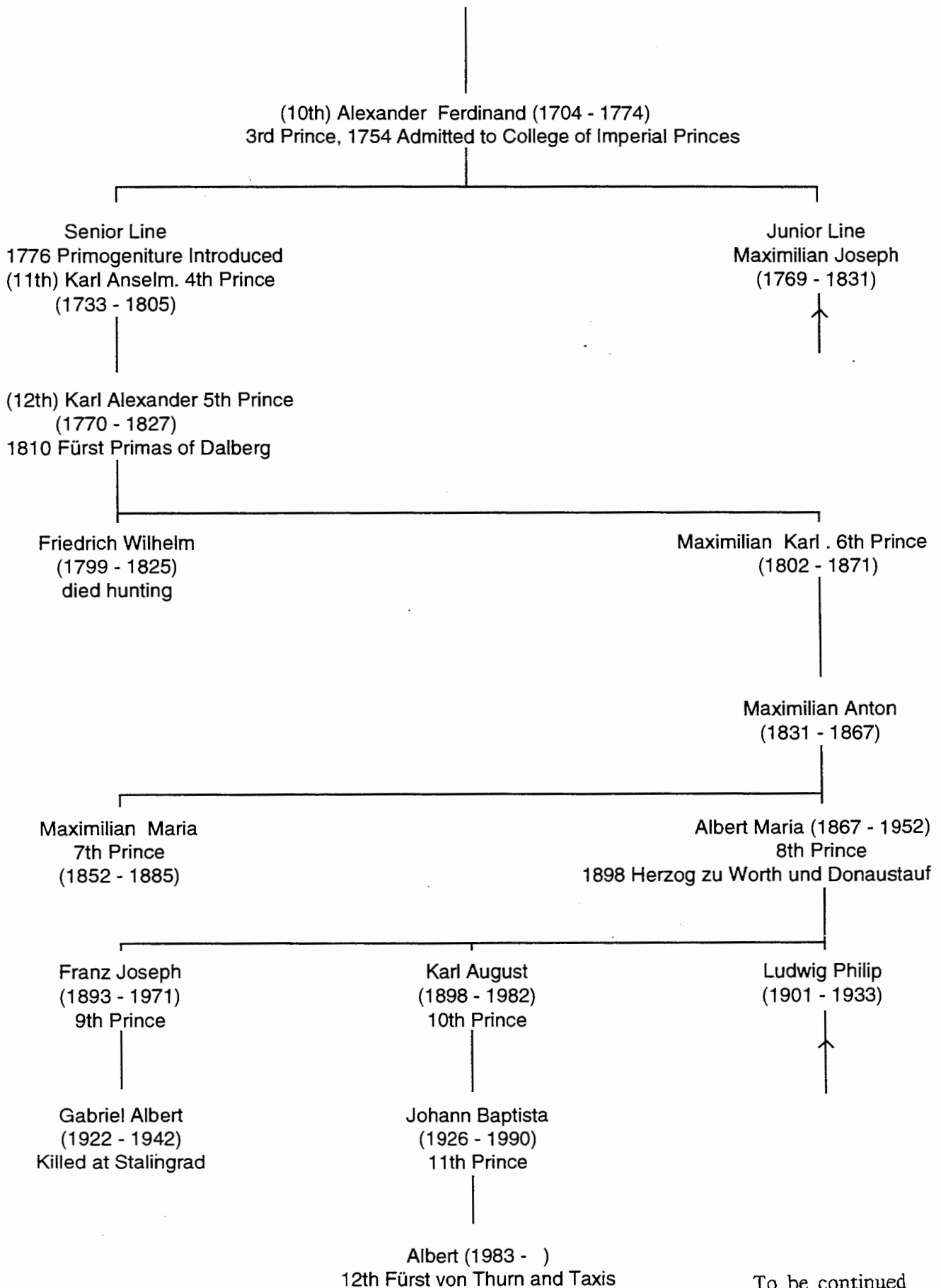
This letter-sheet has been addressed to Antwerpen; the seaport on the Scheldt which is situated 47 miles from its mouth and 27 miles to the north of Brussels. Its name "aen't werf" means "at the wharf."

The postal tariff of 1111 or 4 sous has been written in red crayon on the obverse of this letter-sheet.

The text informs the recipient that the boatman Willem Herman has come from London with the previous convoy and has been in Antwerp for some time. As soon as the same ship has been loaded in Lisbon the recipient will be informed. In Bilbao, a well tested frigate, named the Santa Maria Magdalena, of about 40 tons and armed with eight cannon, under Captain Johan Vermees, is being loaded and will sail with the convoy of Flandria.

THE HOUSE OF THURN AND TAXIS GRAND MASTERS OF THE POSTS





To be continued