

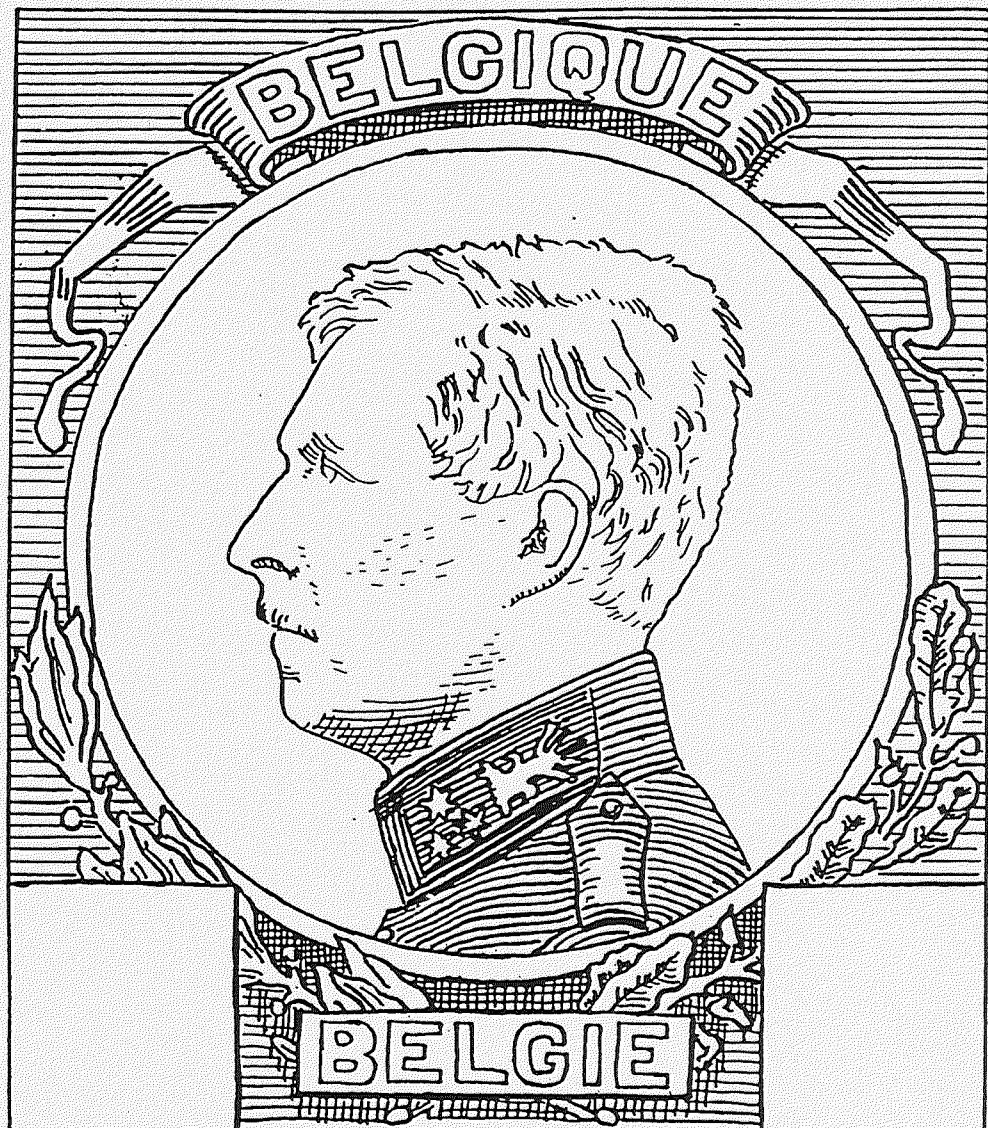
BELGAPOST

ISSN 0269 2759

Volume **10** No. **3**

SEPTEMBER, 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)

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

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Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

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EDITORIAL

It had been intended to complete the articles on the Montenez issues in this Volume (No. 10) but, owing to personal problems this year, the details of the Large Montenez issue will now appear in the next volume.

The Circle's 50th Anniversary has gone very well so far and this issue of "BELGAPOST" is planned to appear in September during the Leamington weekend meeting - this should be a good meeting for all those members who are able to attend.

Your Editor hopes that he will be able to do more work for "BELGAPOST" in the coming months.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As a separate report covers Midpex fairly comprehensively elsewhere in this issue, I will only add a few additional notes. I was very pleased to see so many officers of the ABPS present, also several members of the Royal.

Before lunch there was a seminar for all the participating specialist societies, which I attended. This was chaired by Michael Elliott, ABPS Chairman. He gave a brief review of current ABPS proposals for the future, and introduced a National and Specialist Society Handbook, which has just been published and is being distributed to all societies. This lists field of interest, officers and also any society publications. Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to recruitment, with a good response from the floor. The need for local clubs was emphasised as it was from these societies that most specialists graduated.

Looking forward to Leamington, for which arrangements are well in hand. Once again I am being sadistic and preparing a fun!? quiz.

Next year's meeting in Chester is another event to look forward to as it is a town of great interest. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our forthcoming series of meetings.

KEN CARPENTER

TREASURER'S NOTES

Generally speaking, our finances are sound and with the exception of four members, all subscriptions have been received for 1997/98.

After the auction at Leamington, our next sale will be in January 1998, and it is hoped to include a balanced range of material. A useful batch of postal history has recently been received but any member wishing to include material should contact me in good time as listing starts well in advance of the circulation date (December).

REG HARRISON

MEMBER NEWS

We have recently heard of the death of **Philip Fulford** who joined the Circle in 1981, and extend our sympathy to his family.

Our South African member, **Leslie Sackstein**, was recently in London on business and was able to fit in a visit to Charleroi and to Brussels. He is pursuing his Tin Hats collection and hopefully found more in Brussels to add to his studies than at the Exhibition.

Aside from philatelic news, **Reg Harrison** has become a grandfather for the second time. His daughter, Lorna, has recently given birth to Sarah Elizabeth, sister to Rachel. Mother, offspring and grandfather are all doing well!

Among competitors at CAROLOPHILEX 97 were:

Gaston Jorquera with his entry "The 10 Centimes of the 1869 Issue". This contained a wide ranging survey of this important stamp which is useful to students of both stamps and postal history. Included were details of printings and usage, together with a selection of the various cancellations available - losange of dots, double circles, single circles TPOs, etc. both on and off covers. Gaston was awarded a **Large Silver Gilt** and is now considering further competitions in the future.

Marc Lebrun had an entry in the Traditional Philately class entitled "Medallions 1849-1866". His display covered the genesis of this important stamp and concentrated on its printing, watermarks, plating, perforating, shades and varieties. Many good pieces were shown including a fine strip of 10 COB No.4. He was able to show the wide range of study possible in this issue and was awarded a **Gold Medal** and the **Grand Prix du Jury** for his entry.

Jean-Claude Porignon continued the classic theme with his entry "The Medallion Issues Foreign Frankings". This display consisted of fine covers showing a range of frankings especially the 40 Cents which was created to meet the higher postal rates needed for foreign mail. Seeing multiples of these stamps on covers gives an idea of their proper usage and the depth of interest that a study of this fine issue can generate. There were some superb covers included and Jean-Claude was awarded a **Gold Medal** for his entry. It is hoped that he may be able to bring his display to England to show at one of the Circle meetings.

In the literature class, **M. & Mme Deneumostier** both received awards. For her entry, "Les Cahiers du Congo (1996)", **Eliane Deneumostier** was awarded a **Large Silver**, whilst her husband, **Marcel Deneumostier** submitted his book "La Post Belge 1830-1849 (No. 38)", for which he was awarded **Silver**, being only one mark below his wife's score.

Our congratulations to you all!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MEETING 11th OCTOBER, 1997

Following the tremendous support of members for our Royal Display, we have decided to devote this meeting to members' SIDELINE collections. Although many members do not have a full display to show, most have small stand-alone sections of, say 12/24 sheets on a specific issue or topic. Examples of this are a soldier's correspondence, postal history of a small town or village, a study of a single stamp issue or its cancellation, etc.

Please come along prepared to share your interest with others - there is no need to speak on the subject if that is preferred. Please let our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, know beforehand (tel. 0121 354 8004) so that he can allocate time slots.

CHARLEROI 1997

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, the opportunity was taken to visit the Exhibition (23rd-25th May) and also to hold a meeting there especially for our overseas members who are rarely able to visit the UK.

The exhibition was held in a purpose built Centre which had adequate natural light, which is preferable for philatelic displays. My arrival at the Exhibition on the Friday coincided with the departure of Queen Paola following her visit to the Exhibition, which had her royal patronage.

Amongst the competition displays were several from BSC members, which are reported elsewhere. The exhibits were predominantly Belgian in content and an occasional break was needed to avoid viewing fatigue. Most areas of collecting were included e.g. pre-stamp, classics, airmails, postal stationery, railways, etc. The Medallion issues in the classic stamps were well represented although the 1865-1920's were somewhat absent. For example, I didn't see a display of the Tin Hats, 1893, 1912 or 1915 issues. These are interesting stamps and worthy of study. By contrast there were some good Military (especially World War 1) and Exhibition displays.

On the Saturday afternoon, following the Congo meeting, our Circle held its own meeting at which some 35-40 people were present. Under the auspices of Jean Bruwier, we had four widely differing displays:-

1. **Gaston Jorquera on the 10 Cent 1869 stamp.** With projected slides Gaston illustrated the variety of printings of and cancellations featuring on this well used stamp. Also included were a number of covers, especially to overseas destinations. Gaston had an entry in the Exhibition on this topic for which he was awarded a Large Silver Gilt.
2. **Alan Swale on his connections with Dr. Molly of Moresnet fame.** Alan has been able to trace his family through records and documents and showed a number of historic photos and items, including the famous Moresnet Locals and the bogus Moens issue. A member of the family who actually knew Dr. Molly is still alive at the age of 104!
3. **Monsieur Deneumostier**, together with his wife, showed us a selection of covers bearing the 40 Cent Medallion issues. This stamp at the time was a high value stamp mainly used for franking overseas mail and, as expected, various franking combinations occurred. Covers were shown and passed around for inspection during the display. At the end, on behalf of the Club Flemalle, Madame Deneumostier presented the Belgian Study Circle with a framed painting of Liege Post Office to commemorate our 50th Anniversary - this will be on display in due course.
4. Lastly, **Serge Toulief** gave a slide display on stamps and documents of propaganda of the 2nd World War. He illustrated the way in which sometimes small modifications could be made in the design of a stamp to alter its appearance. Likewise many stamps were forged by governments and illegally circulated in order to undermine the enemy's economy.

Of the four displays, two were conducted in English and two in French, which gave a very good balance. The meeting finished with a wine toast to commemorate a successful event. In the evening, a group of BSC members continued the celebration at a local restaurant, bringing an end for us to "CAROLOPHILEX 97".

Our sincere thanks go to Jean Bruwier for the organisation of our meeting and also to Mme Bruwier for her help and patience.



Alan Swale
speaking on
Moresnet

Marcel Deneumostier,
Jean Bruwier,
Eliane Deneumostier,
Reg Harrison,
showing picture of
Liege Post Office



Gaston Jorquera
giving slide
display on
10c Green 1869
(COB No.30)

Amongst those members present at Charleroi were Christine and Paul Blakey, Maurice and Pauline Wilkinson, Reg and Jean Harrison, John and Jean Hammonds, Alan Swale, Josef Deruyck, Jean and Mdme Bruwier, M. & Mdme Deneumostier, Jean-Claude Porignon, Marc Lebrun, Gaston Jorquera, Leslie Sackstein, Vincent Schouberechts and Renaud Loontjens

Within the Exhibition programme are details of the next Belgian National Event - BRUPHILA 99 - which will be held in Brussels 29th-2nd October, 1999 (shortly before the Millenium). A special feature will be the 150th Anniversary of Belgium's first stamp issue, the Epaulette. Please keep this date in mind: perhaps our Circle will be able to stage a further reunion in conjunction with this event.

REG HARRISON

MIDPEX - COVENTRY 28th JUNE, 1997

For the first time due to the initiative of our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, the Belgian Study Circle was present at this growing event. It is a fair for specialist societies which is supported by a good range of dealers for added interest. Over sixty societies were represented, with a waiting list for available sites. Every society was provided with a table and four large display frames to illustrate the range of collecting relevant to that society.

Our display included French Occupation, Independence of Belgium, Foreign Sorting Marks, Sunday Label Stamps and the Montenez Issue. Unlike some societies, thanks to Ken, our display was up and ready for the opening.

The purpose of the event was to spread the word of specialist collecting and provide information for prospective members. The BSC stand was manned by Jack Andrews, Ken Carpenter, Chris Howe and Reg Harrison, who answered various enquiries throughout the day, as well as meeting old friends. Possibly new membership may result but equally "showing the flag" was part of the intention. During the day, I saw the following members: Bernard Berkinshaw-Smith, John Hammonds, Barry Horne, Jeremy Martin, John Parkin and Iain Stevenson - other members may also have been present.

Although the organisers had taken over most of the premises, I noticed that the security staff were perplexed at letting club members carrying snooker cues through the check point!

Having attended this event for the first time, it appeared to be a great success and I heard one dealer saying, "I wish Stampex was as good as this". It was fitting that the Belgian Study Circle had a display there in this our 50th Anniversary Year.

The event is planned for every second year but a question must be raised as to whether the venue is big enough for the increasing demand for space. Either way, we should be looking to MIDPEX 99.

REG HARRISON

STOP PRESS - AMENDMENT TO CIRCLE CALENDAR

The Summer 1998 Meeting has now been booked for the Queen's Hotel, Chester, during the weekend 18th, 19th, 20th September 1998. Further details will be circulated in due course but members are advised to book these dates in their diaries now. Any enquiries to: Tony Geake (tel. 01392 877662).

THE POST WILL ISSUE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMPS IN 1998:

No.	Date	Issue's name	Composition and denomination	Details
1	19.1	50th anniversary of women's suffrage in Belgium	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Allegory
2		Trains	1 stamp of 17 BEF	High-speed train
3	16.2	Literature	2 stamps of 17 BEF	- Gerard Walschap (1898-1989) - Géo Norge (1898-1990)
4		Promotion of Philately (The Belgian Royal Family)	2 semi-postal stamps and 1 semi-postal sheet at the value of: - 50 BEF + 25 BEF (sheet) - 32 BEF + 15 BEF - 17 BEF + 8 BEF	- Albert II (sheet) - Baudouin I - Léopold III The surtax goes to the support of the non-profit-association "Pro-Post"
5	9.3	Art in Belgium	4 stamps of 17 BEF in a booklet	Paintings by: - Félicien Rops (1833-1898) - Felix De Boeck (1898-1995) - Cobra art movement (1948-1951) - Gustave Van de Woestijne (Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent) to mark the bicentenary of the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent, this museum is depicted on the cover of the booklet
		Tribute to René Magritte (1898-1967)	2 stamps of 17 BEF	2 paintings by René Magritte
6	20.4	Nature	4 stamps of 17 BEF	Game from the Ardennes
7		75 years of philatelic trade	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Allegory
8		75th anniversary of SABENA	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Airplane
9		Tribute to René Magritte (1898-1967) Joint issue with France	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Painting by Magritte
10	4.5	Stamp Day	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Edmond Struyf, founder of the non-profit association Pro-Post
11		Europa	2 stamps of 17 BEF	National festivals: - Torhout & Werchter - Festival de Wallonie
12	8.6	Sport	2 semi-postal stamps and 1 semi-postal sheet at the value of: - 30 BEF + 7 BEF (sheet) - 17 BEF + 4 BEF - 17 BEF + 4 BEF	Ball games: - football (sheet) - kaatsbal (a sort of pelota) - handball The surtax goes to the support of the "Comité Olympique et Interfédéral Belge" (COIB)
13	6.7	Tourism: Heritage Days	12 stamps of 17 BEF in the form of a sheet	Heritage Days in Belgium (organized for the 10th time)
14	10.8	History	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Marnix van Sint-Aldegonde (1538-1598)
15		Free thought	1 stamp of 17 BEF	To mark the bicentenary of the association "Les Amis Philantropes"
16	7.9	Contemporary Belgian film	2 stamps of 17 BEF	2 scenes taken from recent Belgian films
17		Mniszech Palace (Warsaw) Joint issue with Poland	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Engraving of this historical building housing the Belgian Embassy
18	19.10	Universal Post Day	1 stamp of 34 BEF	Allegory
19		Youth Philately	1 stamp of 17 BEF	"Chick Bill" by Tibet
20		Space travel	1 stamp of 17 BEF	"Youth and Space" "Association of Space Explorers" World Congress in Belgium
21	9.11	Centenary of the FGFB-ABVV (socialist trade union)	1 stamp of 17 BEF	Old poster
22		Solidarity	1 semi-postal stamp at the value of 17 BEF + 4 BEF	Guide-dogs The surtax will be used to buy and train these dogs
23		Christmas & New Year	1 stamp of 15 BEF	"The Three Kings" by Michel Provost

NEW MEMBER

We welcome back after a few years absence **Ralph Yorio** of Florida. Ralph says he misses receiving the information in "BELGAPOST" and auction lists. He currently specialises in Leopold I issues but has an interest in "everything Belgium".

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Circulated with but separate from this copy of "BELGAPOST" is an up-to-date list of members of the B.S.C.

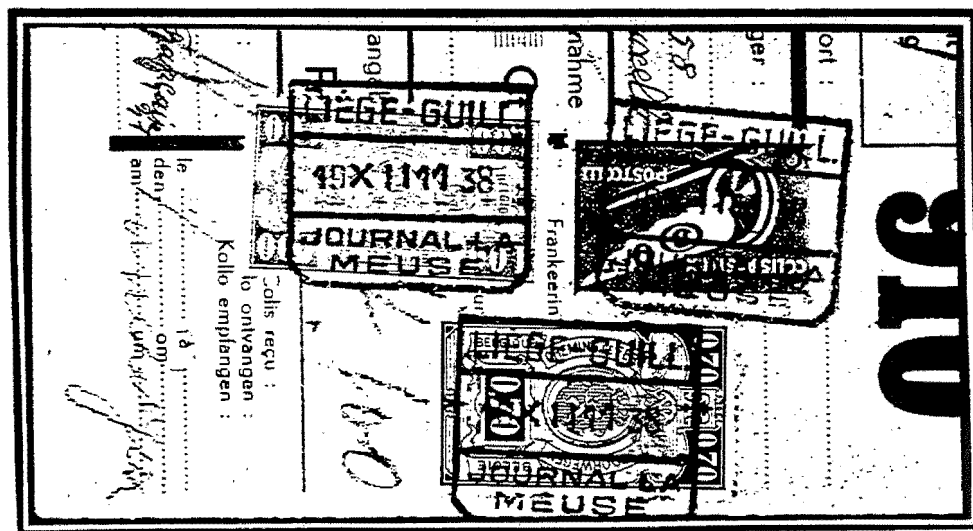
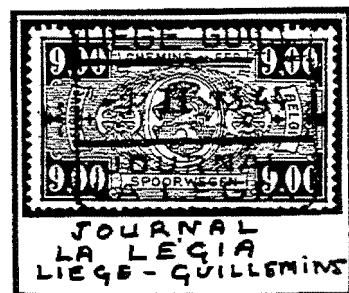
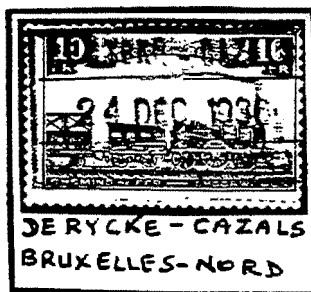
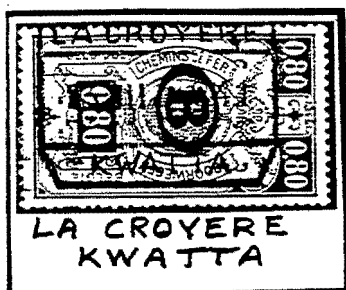
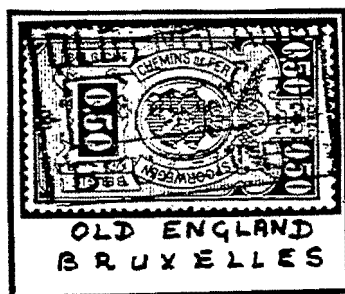
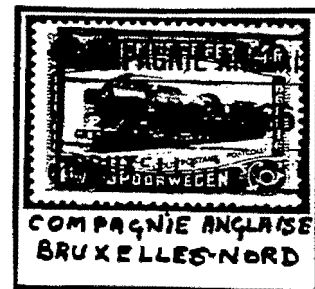
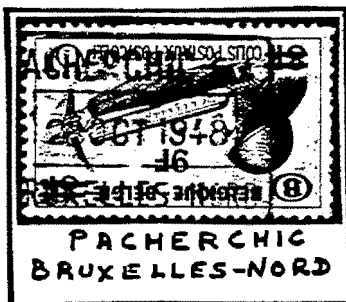
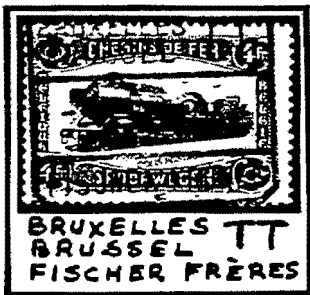
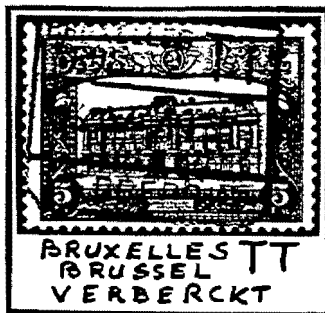
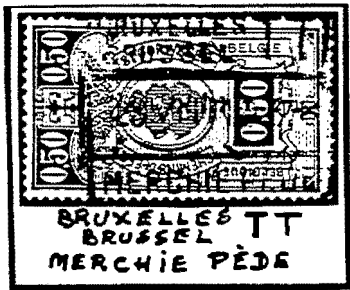
As in the past, members are requested to treat the list as confidential and not to divulge details of other members without first obtaining their permission.

The Railway Parcel Cancels of Individual Companies
by Norman Claydon

Following on from the article on Perfins on Railway Parcel Stamps by Tony Geake ("BELGAPOST" Vol.8, p.91), I have been looking at my small collection of stamps bearing the cancels of commercials firms, which seem to follow on from the Perfins. I cannot find mention of these in past editions of "BELGAPOST".

To date, I have identified the cancels of nineteen different organisations as listed and I would be interested to learn of further examples. Most have been in the years 1933-39 and the majority on Colis-post issues. Cancels are either rectangular or of the chamfered rectangle types, and the inscriptions in top and bottom boxes are as shown.

<u>TOP</u>	<u>BOTTOM</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Bruxelles Brussel T.T.	Bruxelles Mode	1935-8	
Bruxelles Brussel T.T.	Fischer Frères	1937-39	
Bruxelles Brussel T.T.	Merchie Pède	1937	
Bruxelles Brussel T.T.	Verbercht	1933-39	With 'J.V.' perfin
Brussel-Zuid La Croyere	Franchomme Kwatta	1937-39 1941	With 'F.C.' perfin
Liege Guill	Journal La Legia	1941-44	
Liege Guill	Journal la Meuse	1934-38	
Compagnie Anglais	Bruxelles Nord	1936-38	
Derycke-Cazals	Bruxelles Nord	1936	
Devosse	Bruxelles Nord	1938-39	Two sizes of cancel
Etablissements Georges Cohen	Bruxelles Nord	1951	
Franchomme & Cie	Bruxelles Nord	1951	With 'F.C.' perfin
Leclercq	Bruxelles Nord	1936	
Old England	Bruxelles	1937-38	
Pacherchic S.A.	Bruxelles Nord	1939-48	
Schulz	Bruxelles Nord Brussel (Noord)	1939	
S.K.F.	Bruxelles Nord	1938	
Texola S.E.R.L.	Bruxelles Nord	1951	
Verebercht	Bruxelles ?	1939	
Voyages Pullman	Journal La Meuse Liege	1960	



ORVAL ABBEY **(THE STORY BEHIND THE STAMPS)**

by Harold G. D. Gisburn

(first published in Stamp Collecting, 5th October 1946)

Eight miles south-east of Florenville, in the charming hill terrain of Ardennes, a loop in the Franco-Belgian frontier partially encircles a lovely valley, a typical "haunt of ancient peace", despite the tides of war which have so often surged through the nearby Sedan Gap. In ancient days, under its title of "Desertum Nostrum" it was wild and desolate enough, until a band of monks brought civilisation and raised in the valley one of the finest monastic edifices in Europe. Thus this once savage region was transformed into the Valley of Gold - Val d'Or, or Orval, which in modern times has given birth to some of the most interesting of Belgian charity stamps.

The Comtes de Chiny were the owners of this territory in the 11th century, and to Arnold II, Comte de Chiny, came in 1070 a company of Benedictine monks, seeking refuge from the civil wars which were then raging in their native Calabria. Arnold gave the brethren the wild valley as a residence and here their first dwelling-place was constructed. On a visit to Comte Arnold came his mother, Mathilde, formerly Princess of Chiny and later Duchess of Basse-Lorraine, and while resting by a spring in the courtyard of the embryo monastery she let fall into the water her wedding ring, treasured relic of her late husband. She offered an immediate prayer to the Virgin and then observed that a trout had caught the ring before it sank and was holding it above the surface of the water. Overjoyed at the miraculous occurrence she named the scene "Val d'Or" and subsequently became the monastery's greatest benefactress. This charming legend was incorporated into the arms of the Abbey - silver over a blue river from which rises a ring set with three diamond points, a motif which appears on a number of the Orval stamps.

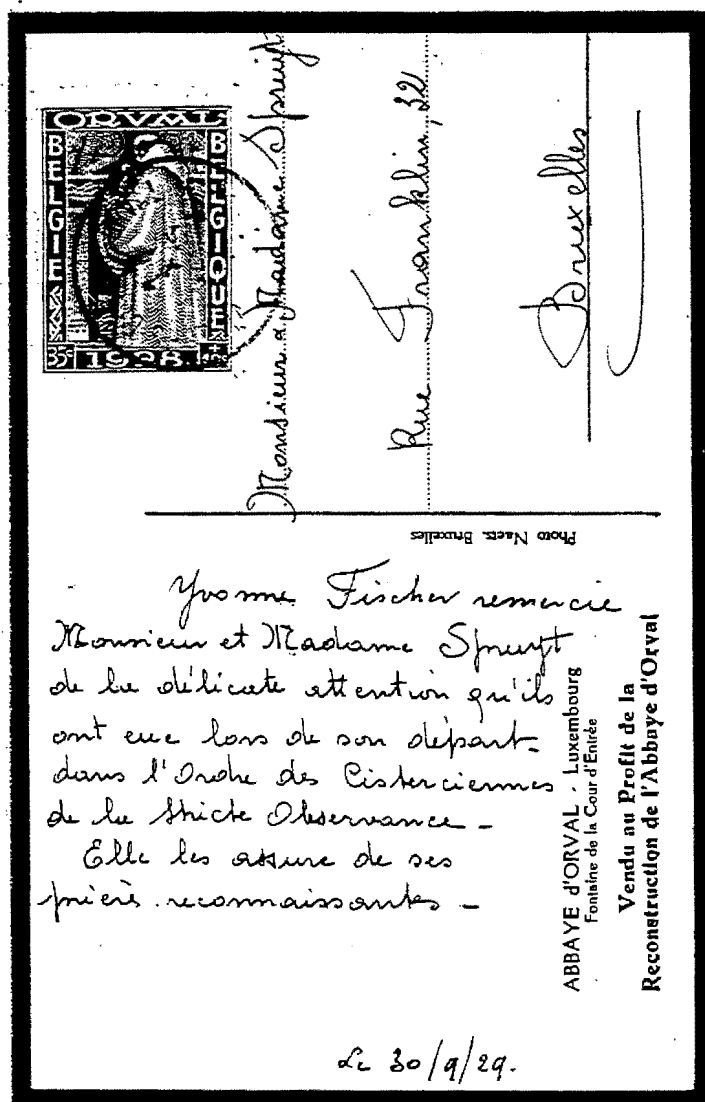
The Benedictines returned to Italy in 1080 and were replaced by some Canons Regular of Treves, who built the first chapel to "Notre Dame d'Orval", and consecrated it on 30th September 1124, as recorded in the Annals of Treves. The Canons soon tired of Orval (or the hard work involved in cultivating the valley) and left in 1130. They were succeeded in 1131 by monks of the great Order of St. Bernard of Citeaux, from the French Abbey of Trois-Fontaines, and the Cistercian fraternity remained at Orval for seven centuries, being responsible for the erection of the magnificent edifice of later years.

Trouble came to Orval at various times throughout the centuries. It was almost totally destroyed in 1250 and reconstituted under the 17th Abbot (Guy of Chiny) in 1260-1271. The new church of Notre Dame d'Orval was consecrated in 1533, but in 1637 the abbey was pillaged and devastated by the French under the Duc de Colligny, Marshal of France. It was again rebuilt over a period of years lasting to the reign of the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, the new great church of St. Bernard being consecrated as late as 1782. Then in 1783 came the crowning misfortune. Orval, which had seen so many distinguished persons within its gates, had been misselected as the refuge for the fugitive Louis XVI. He never reached it, being arrested at Varennes, but in revenge the French revolutionary forces were ordered to destroy the famous monastery. After robbing it of all its treasures, they spent ten days in the work of utter destruction, and when they left nothing remained of the once glorious abbey but a heap of shapeless stones. Subsequently the valley and ruins passed through the hands of some dozen proprietors, until in 1926 the latest owners, M. and Mdme de Harenne ceded the property for the purpose of reconstruction. Thus began the modern history of Orval and its connection with philately.

In September 1926, arrived Abbot Pere Marie-Albert - 53rd of his line - with a devoted band of brethren bent on the gigantic task of reconstructing the ancient edifice. The first stone was laid on 25th June 1927, and the first of the new wings opened in September 1928,

coinciding with the premier issue of Orval stamps which were issued to assist the rebuilding fund. On 19th August 1929, the first stone of the great new church (Eglise Abbatiale) was laid by Cardinal Van Rooy, Primate of Belgium, in the presence of the Duc de Brabant (now King Leopold III), Princess Napoleon of Belgium, and other distinguished visitors. The Abbey was formally reconstituted by Pope Pius XI in October 1935, and the consecration of the 53rd Abbot (Pere Marie-Albert) took place in May 1936. The modern Abbey is a self-supporting community, engaged in farming, agriculture, cheese-making, brewing, together with the actual reconstruction of the buildings which goes steadily on. Funds for this are raised in various ways and with the approval of the Belgian Government, philately took a hand in the matter in 1928. So far, six series of Orval stamps, with appropriate surtax, have made their appearance, including (in 1941-42) a set of handsome miniature sheets.

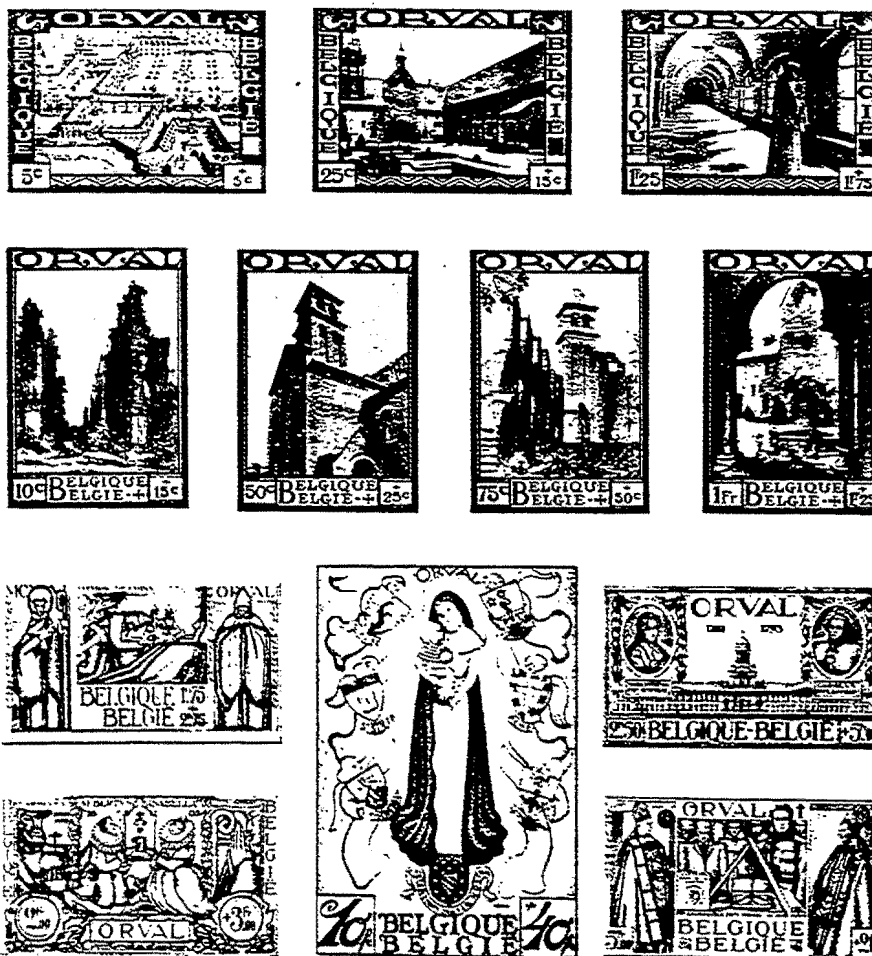
The premier series was issued on 15th September 1928, a set of nine stamps covering four designs. Of these the 5c and 25c depict Gothic arches of the new abbey church, and the 35c and 2fr. portray a Cistercian monk engaged in stone carving. The legend of Duchesse Mathilde and her ring forms the motif for the 60c, 1.75 and 3fr. and the set is completed by a view of the ruins of the former abbey with monks engaged in agricultural operations. On 3rd and 4th November of the same year occurred the Antwerp Philatelic Exhibition and 5,000 sets of this Orval issue were sold at this event and given the special Exhibition cancellation.



Souvenir Postcard with 35 cent of 1828 Issue

The imposing ceremony of August 1929, at which the Duc de Brabant took a leading part, was also commemorated with special stamps. These took the form of the original series of 1928 overprinted with the insignia of Prince Leopold - an "L" and Royal Crown, with appropriate date - 19.8.29. The third series was issued in 1933 by which year construction work on the new abbey had proceeded apace. The set ranged from 5c to 10fr. and 20,000 only were issued of each value, the small total accounting for its present scarcity. The designs depict various events in the history of the old and new foundations, and are fully described in the catalogue. One interesting point is that the 1fr. depicts the fountain of the new abbey. It corresponds to the "Fontaine Mathilde" of the ruined monastery, a pretty circular basin of clear water fed by a spring, in one corner of the ancient "Cour des Novices". This was the traditional scene of the losing of the ring and its miraculous recovery.

RECONSTRUCTION D'ORVAL 1933



Publicity Sheet in Colour illustrating the 1933 Series

After the lapse of six years, the next Orval series made its appearance on 1st July 1939. The six values in this set (75c to 5fr.) exhibited some of the progress which had been made in the interim; a modern note is struck on the 1fr.75 value which shows an aerial view of the ancient ruins and the adjacent new foundation. The design of the 2fr.50 is specially interesting, portraying the new Abbot (Pere Marie-Albert) and Cardinal Van Roey, the Belgian Primate, who had taken a deep interest in the work of reconstruction. Between them on the stamp is the statue of the Virgin and Child which occupies the niche above the great entrance to the Abbey, symbolising the Cistercian welcome to strangers at the gates.

Even under German occupation of the country, the work of the brotherhood was continued and a further series of stamps was placed on sale in 1941. The twelve denominations of this set were executed in photogravure, in handsome designs symbolising the various duties of the brethren, i.e. mural painting, sculpture, matins, prayers and chanting, whilst the highest value depicts two of the brothers discussing the architectural plans of the monastery in its final conception. This same stamp, in altered colour, was selected as the centre for the miniature sheets which were placed on sale in 1942. These were in four different types:

- a) Two large sheets - stamp perf and imperf - in blue and gold, incorporating the arms of the Abbey and decorated with the Trout and Ring motif in reference to the ancient legend. Date (1941) in black Roman figures.
- b) Two small sheets - stamp perf and imperf - with dates (1142-1942) in red Gothic figures. On a shield below is a grapevine, symbol of the ancient monastery, with a golden "trout and ring" superimposed.



The sixth and final series so far appeared in 1943. Six stamps (50c to 5fr.) comprise the set, in an exceedingly curious design. The central motif of five of them consists of one letter of the word "Orval", the highest value having the complete word. Each letter is made up of subjects from natural floral and fauna and the (perhaps inevitable) trout and ring add further decoration.

Such is the story of Orval and its stamps to date. The reconstruction work is still incomplete and it is probable that further stamps in aid of the fund will appear in due course.

THE MONTENEZ ISSUES, 1921-1925 and 1929-41

The Issued Stamps and their Varieties (PART 3)

THE 75c VALUE

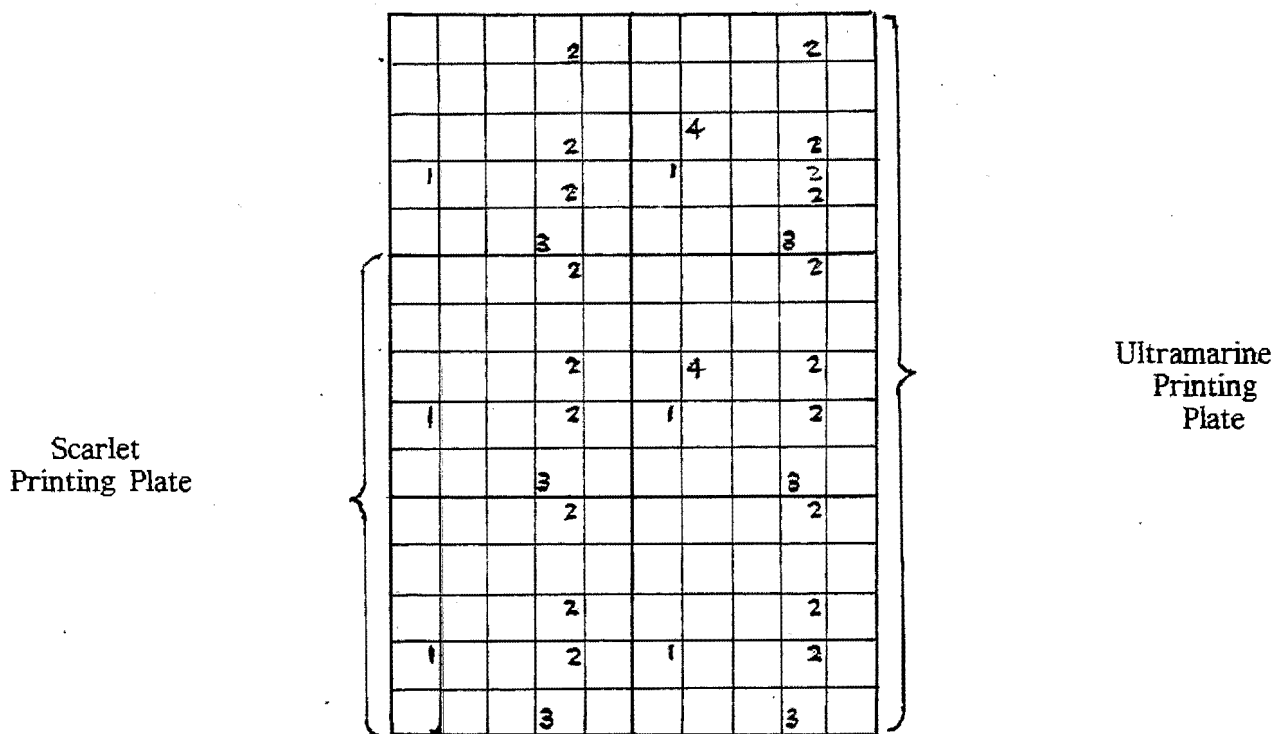
The 75c Scarlet (SG.314, COB 212) - The Plate Varieties

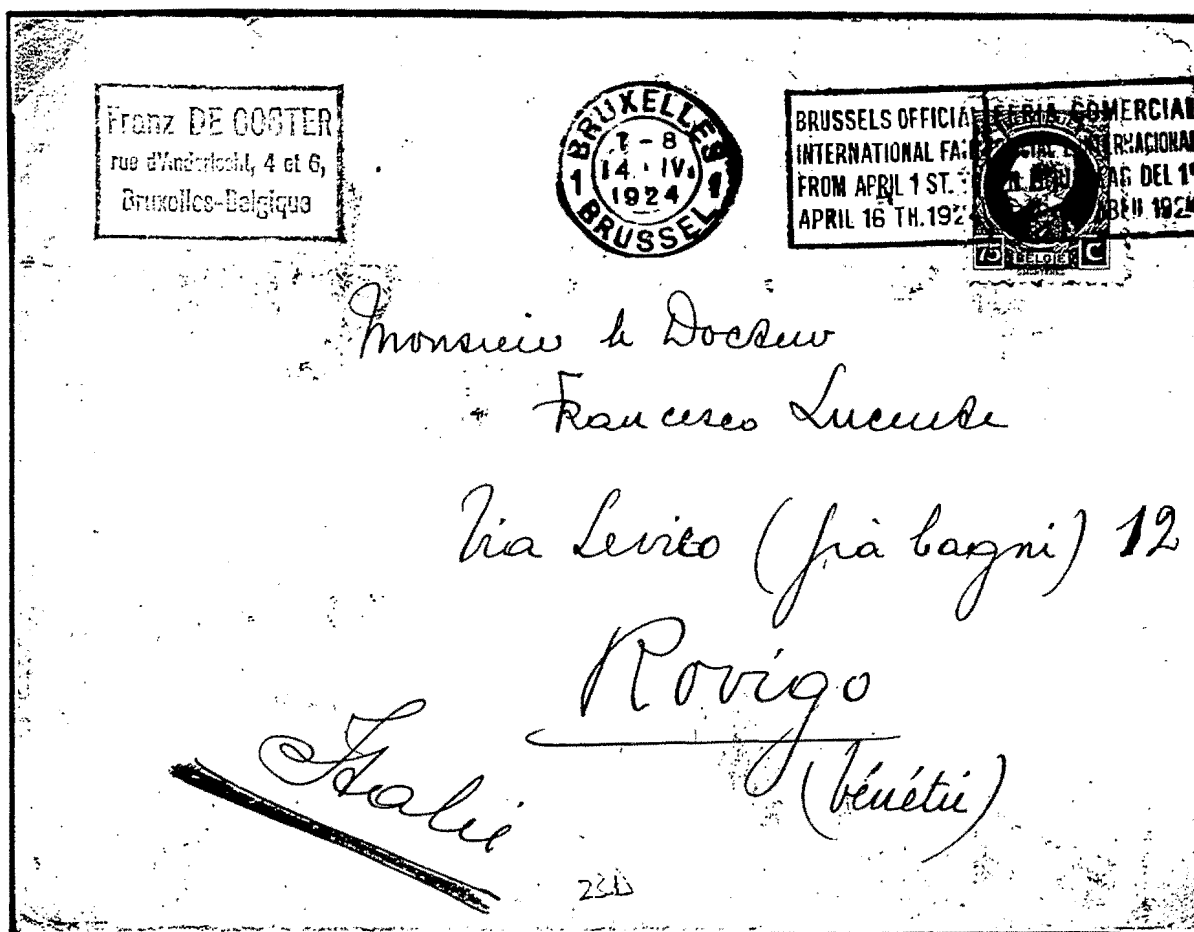
The first printing of the 75c value, in scarlet, was issued on the 5th December, 1922. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (ten rows of ten) all of which were perforated 11½. The total number of stamps printed was about 8 million from ten printing plates numbered 1 to 10. Plate 4 was little used and stamps from it are scarce.

Some stamps exhibit slight wearing, by white patches, in the value tablets, particularly on the inner side of the "C". No re-cutting was effected.

From a study of the relative positions of the recurring varieties, it again appears proved that from the master die, a cliché of five horizontal specimens was prepared and that an intermediate plate of 25 (five rows of five) was constructed by the repetition of the cliché five times. The intermediate plate was then reproduced four times to make the printing plate.

75c Scarlet





75 Cent Scarlet on Letter to Italy 14th April, 1924

Plate Flaws

There are four constant varieties:

- Variety 1 A white patch in the left of the upper part of the 'G' in "Belgie" appears four times: on stamps 31, 36, 81 and 86 in every sheet. This is the 16th stamp in each block of 25 (5 x 5).
- Variety 2 The righthand portion of the badge on the King's collar which terminates in five short white lines has the uppermost line extended at right angles to it. This flaw is found on stamps numbered 4, 9, 24, 29, 34, 39, 54, 59, 74, 79, 84 and 89 in every sheet. That is the 4th, 14th and 19th stamps in each block of 25 (5 x 5).
- Variety 3. Similar flaw to Variety 2 but in a rather less marked degree on stamps numbered 44, 49, 94 and 99 in every sheet; that is the 24th stamp in each block of 25 (5 x 5).
- Variety 4 On the 27th stamp in each sheet there is a coloured 'V' shaped indentation in the top of the numeral '7'. As this occurs but once only in each sheet, it was not present in the intermediate plate of 25 (5 x 5).

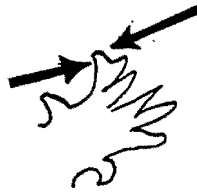
As the second cliché of five in each block of 25, that is the second and seventh rows in every sheet, contains none of these varieties, it would appear that the original cliché from which the intermediate plate was made had no flaw in it.

The four constant flaws common to all the 75c printings

Var. 1



Var. 2



Var. 3

As Var.2 although not so pronounced

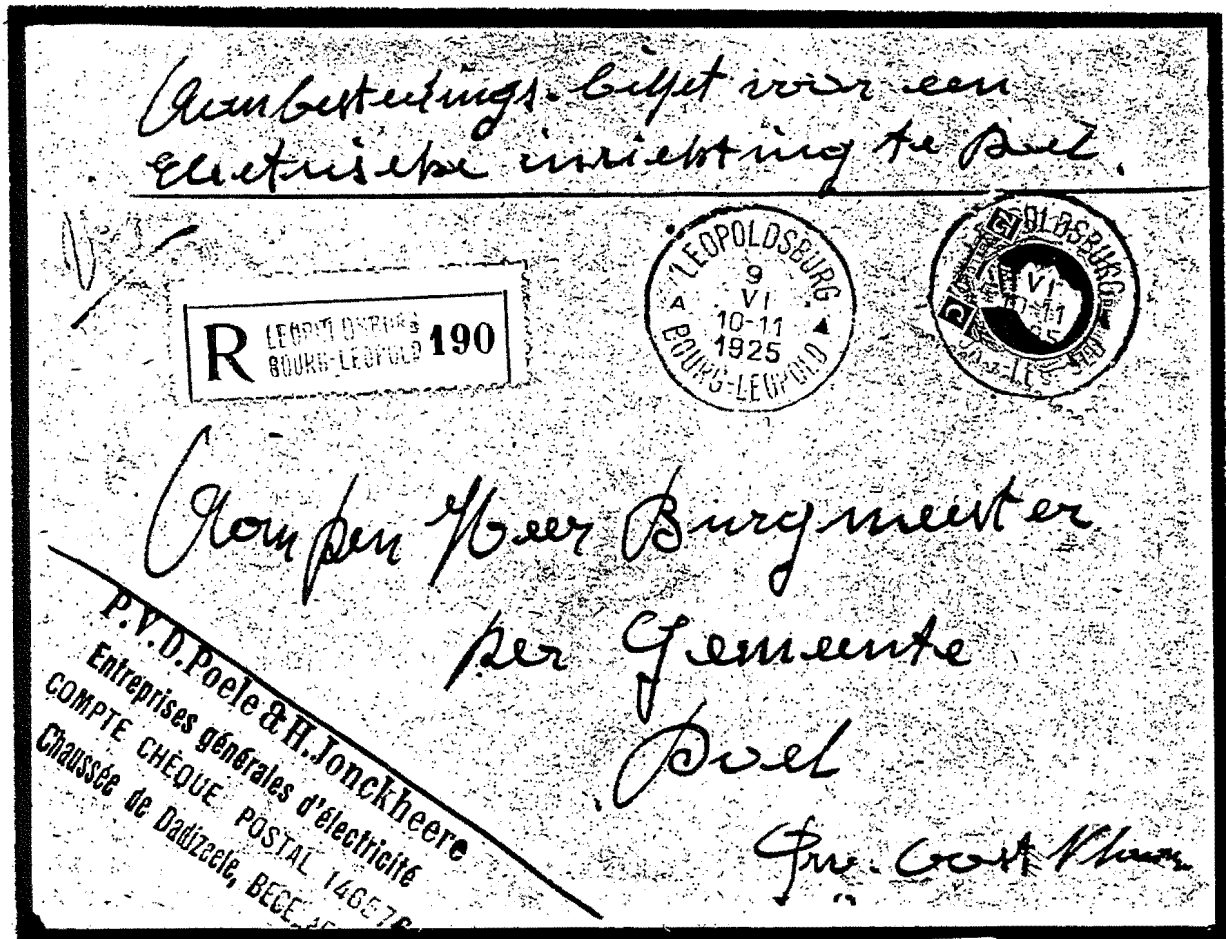
Var. 4



75c Ultramarine (SG. 315 (COB 213))

On 1st October, 1924, the colour of the 75c stamp was changed from scarlet to ultramarine. The size of the printing plate was increased from 100 (ten rows of ten) to print 150 stamps in fifteen rows of ten. The scarlet plate was used, with the additional five rows of ten taken from the upper half to comprise the full plate of 150 specimens.

Five plates were used, numbered 1 to 5, and there are three different perforations, 11½, 11½ x 12½ and 12½, of which the latter is rare. Works imprints "Depot 1924" or "Depot 1925" in black.



75 Cent Ultramarine on Registered Letter 9th June, 1925

That the plate for the ultramarine printing was constructed from that for the scarlet is conclusively proved by the relative positions of the varieties which appear as follows:

Plate flaws - all similar to those in the scarlet printing

- Variety 1 On stamps numbered 31, 36, 81, 131 and 136.
- Variety 2 On stamps numbered 4, 9, 24, 29, 34, 39, 54, 59, 74, 79, 84, 89, 104, 109, 124, 129, 134 and 139.
- Variety 3 On stamps numbered 44, 49, 94, 99, 144 and 149.
- Variety 4 On stamps numbered 27 and 77.

The 2nd, 7th and 12th rows contain no varieties.

THE 1 FRANC VALUE

1 Franc Deep Sepia (SG. 316, COB 214)

The 1Fr stamp of this issue was on sale at the Post Offices from 6th February, 1922. It was printed in sheets of fifty made up of five rows of ten stamps. There were two plates, each constructed from two intermediary blocks of 5 x 5 specimens. The plates were numbered 1 and 2, of which printings from the latter are scarce. The perforation is either 11, 11½ or 11 x 11½ and the Works mark on the sheets is "Depot 1922".

1 Franc

Deep Sepia Printing Plate

		2		1		3		2		1
		2		1		3		2		1
				1		3		2		1
		2		1				2		1
		2		1						1

Sepia
Printing
Plate

		2				3		2		
		2				3		2		
						3		2		
		2						2		
		2								
		2				3		2		
		2				3		2		
						3		2		
		2						2		
		2						5		
		2				3		2		
		2				3		2		
						3		2		
		2						2		
		2						5		

Blue
Printing
Plate

The stamps from these two plates are identifiable by the deep colouring and the sharp printing. A further characteristic is a very fine inner line of colour to the 'l' and 'Fr' in the value tablets.

In sheets of 50 the 'l' and 'Fr' in the tablets are lined.

In the sheets of 100 and 150 they are not



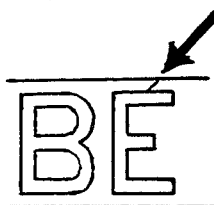
The proof that the plates were built up from an original cliché of five horizontal specimens is the identifying variety on the fifth stamp of each five throughout every sheet.

Plate Flaws

Variety 1 The first 'E' in "Belgie" is joined by a fine diagonal line of colour to the frame line above. It appears on stamps numbered 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 of every sheet.

Variety 2 All the stamps in the 3rd and 8th columns, except numbers 23 and 48, have a spot of colour in the centre of the ribbon on the right, i.e. stamps numbered 3, 8, 13, 18, 28, 33, 38 and 43. This flaw was never corrected.

Var. 1

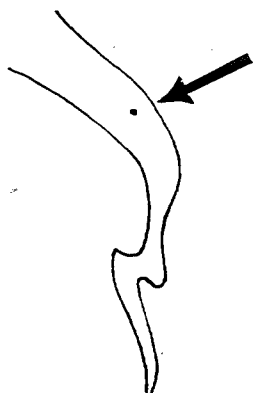


Variety 1, 2 and 3 as found in the sheets of 50

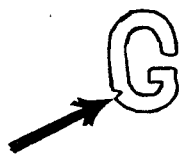
Variety 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as found in sheets of 100

Variety 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as found in sheets of 150

Var. 2



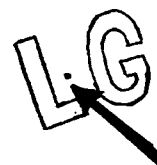
Var. 3

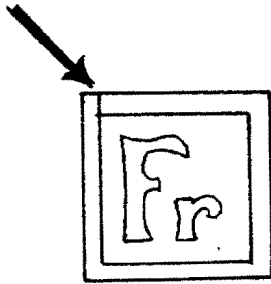


Var. 4



Var. 5





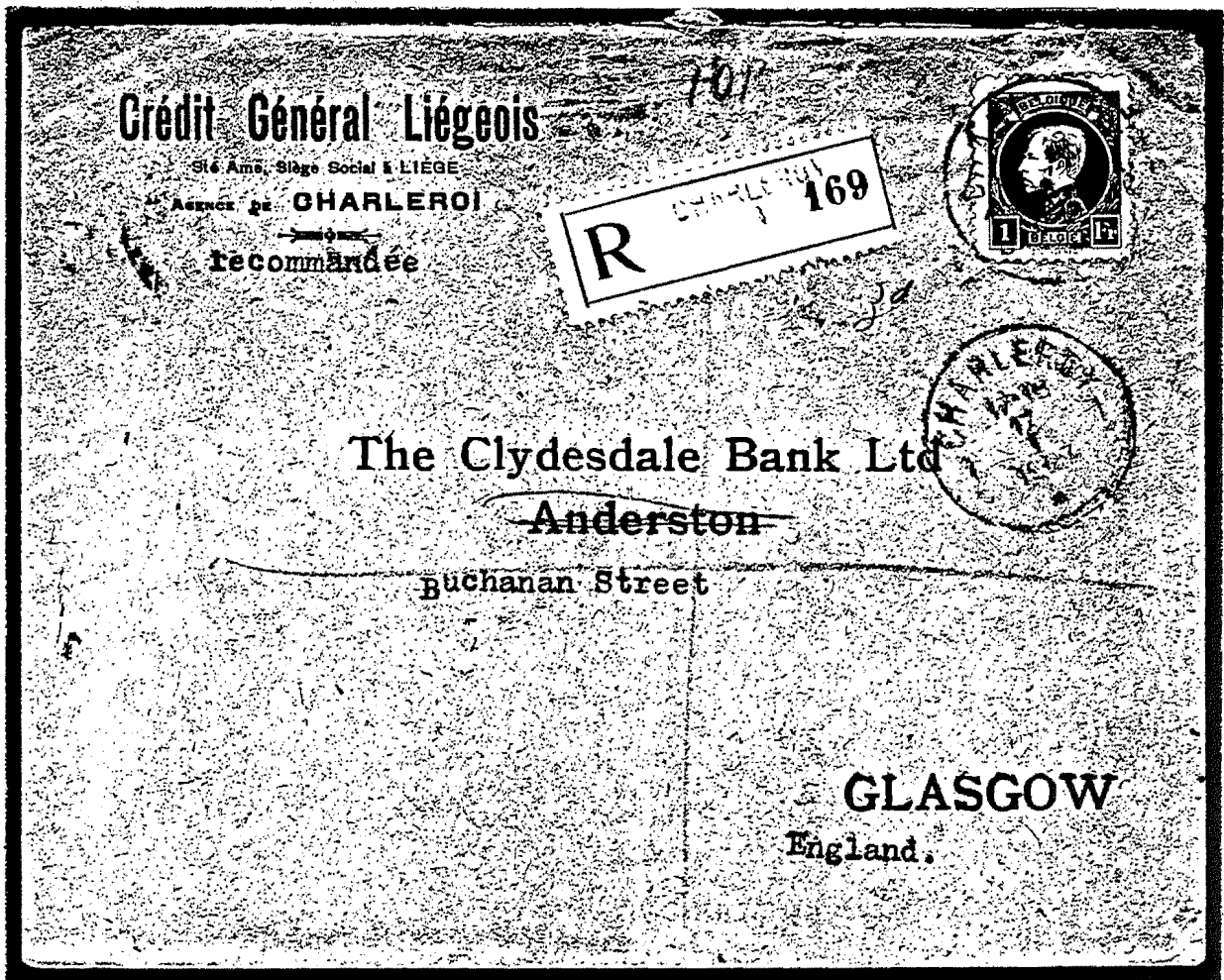
Frame flaw - in the 100 stamp sheets.

This was corrected for the blue printing of sheets of 150.

Variety 3 In the second block of 25 (5 x 5) a small white indentation is found in the outer curve, near the bottom, of the letter 'G' in "Belgie" on the second stamp of each of the top three clichés of five. This is the 7th, 17th and 27th stamp in every sheet. This flaw was never corrected.

This value was also printed in sheets of 100 in ten rows of ten stamps in a paler shade of colour from nine plates numbered 1 to 9. Perforation was either 11 x 11½, 11½ or 11½ x 11. The Works marks "Depot 1922", "1923", "1924", "1925".

In a few of the later printings a small number of the value tablets were slightly retouched by the incision of horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines in the background. There appears on many stamps a small white patch in the background of the 'Fr' tablet above the 'Fr'. Another noticeable variety in this tablet is the frame line extension due to a slip of the burin in retouching. The inner left side extends upwards to the outer frame line above. Some go half way only, but mostly to the top.



1 Franc Sepia on Registered Cover to Glasgow 17th January, 1923

Plate Flaw (Varieties)

From a study of the flaws, it is proven that the printing plates were made up by duplicating the five row plates used for the deep sepia printing.

The Variety 2 flaw appears in the same positions as in the small sheets and additionally on stamps numbered 53, 58, 63, 68, 78, 83, 88 and 93.

The Variety 3 flaw similarly as in small sheets and additionally on stamps numbered 57, 67 and 77.

Two other constant varieties appear at this stage.

Variety 4 A large coloured dot between the 'B' and 'E' in "Belgique" occurs on the 10th stamp in every sheet.

Variety 5 A small coloured dot between the 'L' and 'G' in "Belgique" occurs on the 98th stamp in every sheet.

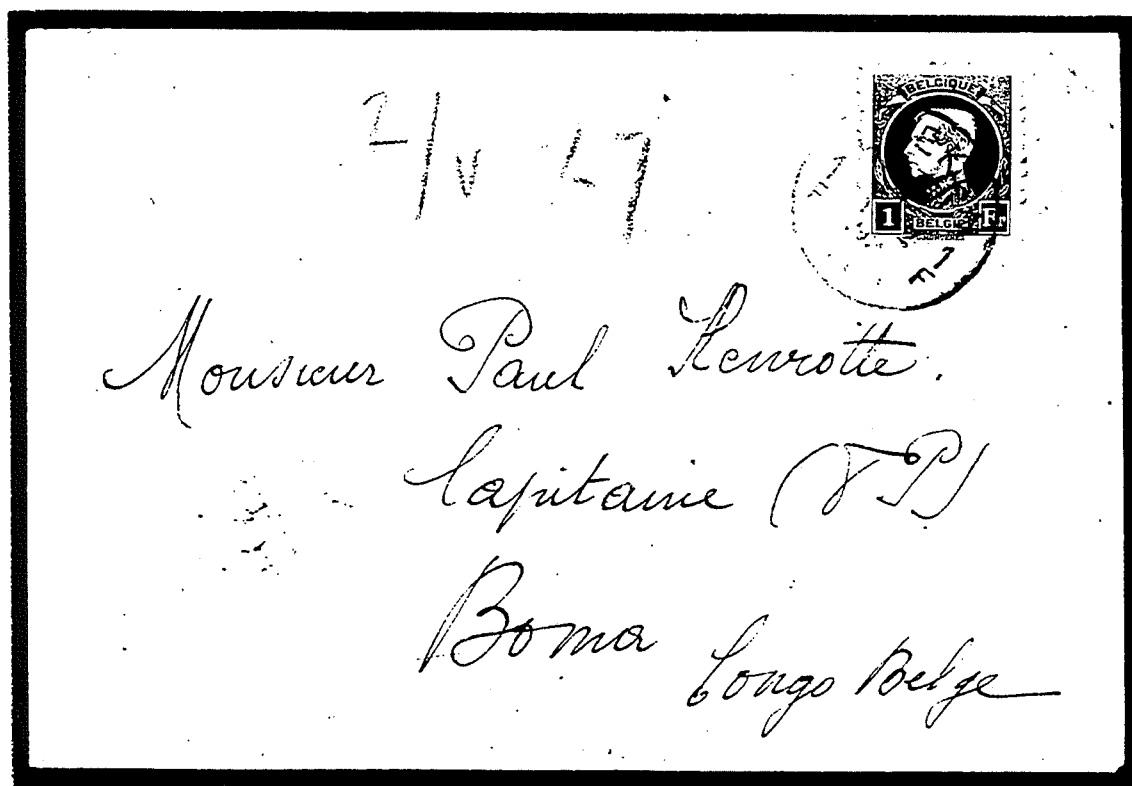
These two varieties were never corrected.

The variety 'Balasse V2' in which the laurel breaks through into the white circle above the 'B' in "Belgie" appears to be isolated to Plate 5.

1 Franc Blue - in Sheets of 150

The colour of the 1 Fr. stamp was changed from sepia to blue and placed on sale from the 1st December, 1925. The size of the printing plate was increased from 100 in ten rows of ten to 150 in fifteen rows of ten specimens.

Five plates numbered 1 to 5 were used. All the sheets were perforated either 11½ or 11½ x 12½. One sheet perforated 11½ was found at the Zele Post Office imperforate at bottom, giving ten copies. The sheet was broken up.



1 Franc Blue from Laeken to Boma 3rd May, 1927

A slight variation in the depth of colour may be observed but Messr. Enschedé & Sons are renowned for the care taken in their colour mixing.

A very small amount of recutting, with horizontal lines, was made to the background of some value tablets. That in the '1' tablet is more noticeable.

From the repetition in position of the five uncorrected flaws it is proven that the additional fifty specimens for this plate were transferred from the lower half of that used for the printing in sepia and placed at the bottom of it.

Plate Flaws (Varieties)

All the varieties are found in exactly the same positions as appearing in the sepia printing and additionally as follows:

Variety 2 On stamps numbered 103, 108, 113, 118, 125, 133, 138 and 143.

Variety 3 On stamps numbered 107, 117 and 127.

Variety 5 On stamp numbered 148.

Variety 4 Is on the tenth stamp only in the sheet as in the sepia printings.

The plate flaw Variety 1 on the fifth and every multiple of five stamps was not corrected.

Due to wearing of the intermediate plates, this minute flaw gradually did not appear so well defined and finally disappeared entirely. It may, therefore, be found on any fifth or multiple of five stamps in any sheet of the 1 Fr. whatever the format or colour. In the blue printings it is either very weak or completely missing.

(To be continued)

CHARLES WIENER'S ESSAYS

These were his projects for 1866, the centre design based on the Portuguese stamps. None were accepted.



All were mounted on a card on which is written "Projets d'encadrement de timbres poste pour 20 et 10 centimes - Ch. Wiener".

A POSTAL DECREE OF 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1919

No. 610

Posts

Creation of Postage Stamps with surcharge

ALLEMAGNE - DUISCHLAND

The Minister of Railways Marine, Posts & Telegraphs

In view of Article 3 of the Royal Decree of 16.9.1915 which authorises the Minister of Railways Marine, Posts and Telegraphs to determine the context, colour, as well as the period of validity of the values created by the aforesaid Decree.

Further to our Decree of the 16.9.1915 made in execution of the Royal Decree indicated above.

Further to our Decree of 30.6.1919 creating a new type of postage stamp of 25 centimes representing the Monument of Liege.

Decrees:-

Article 1

A surcharge 'Allemagne-Duitschland' shall be imprinted in black on the postage stamps of the issues named hereunder, in order that they may be used in the Belgian zone of occupation in Germany.

Article 2

The new stamps shall be placed on sale as from September 29th of this year. They will only be available at face value for franking correspondence emanating from Belgian troops of the Army of Occupation.

Correspondence must be posted at military post offices and addressed to Belgium.

Article 3

They will remain valid until such time as a Ministerial Decree shall retire them from circulation.

The Director General of Posts is charged with the execution of the present Decree.

Brussels 10.9.19

The Minister of Railways Marine Posts & Telegraphs

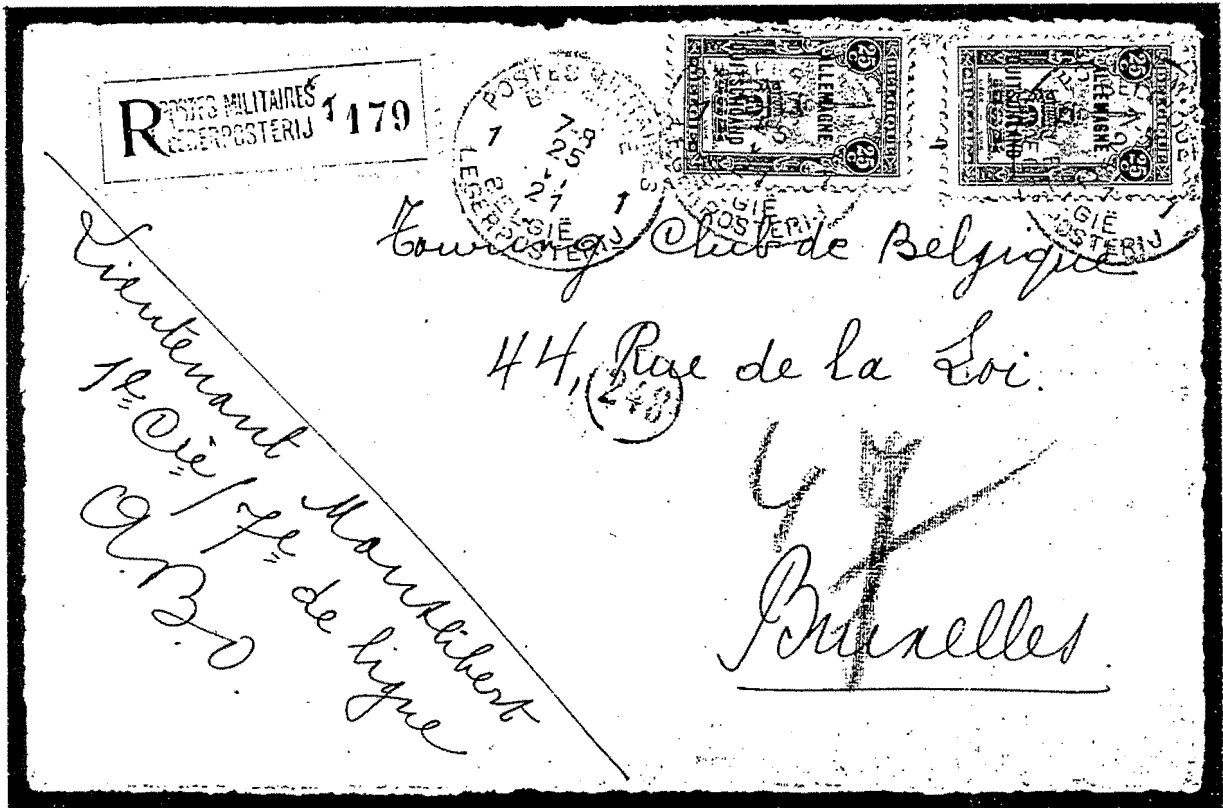
RENKIN



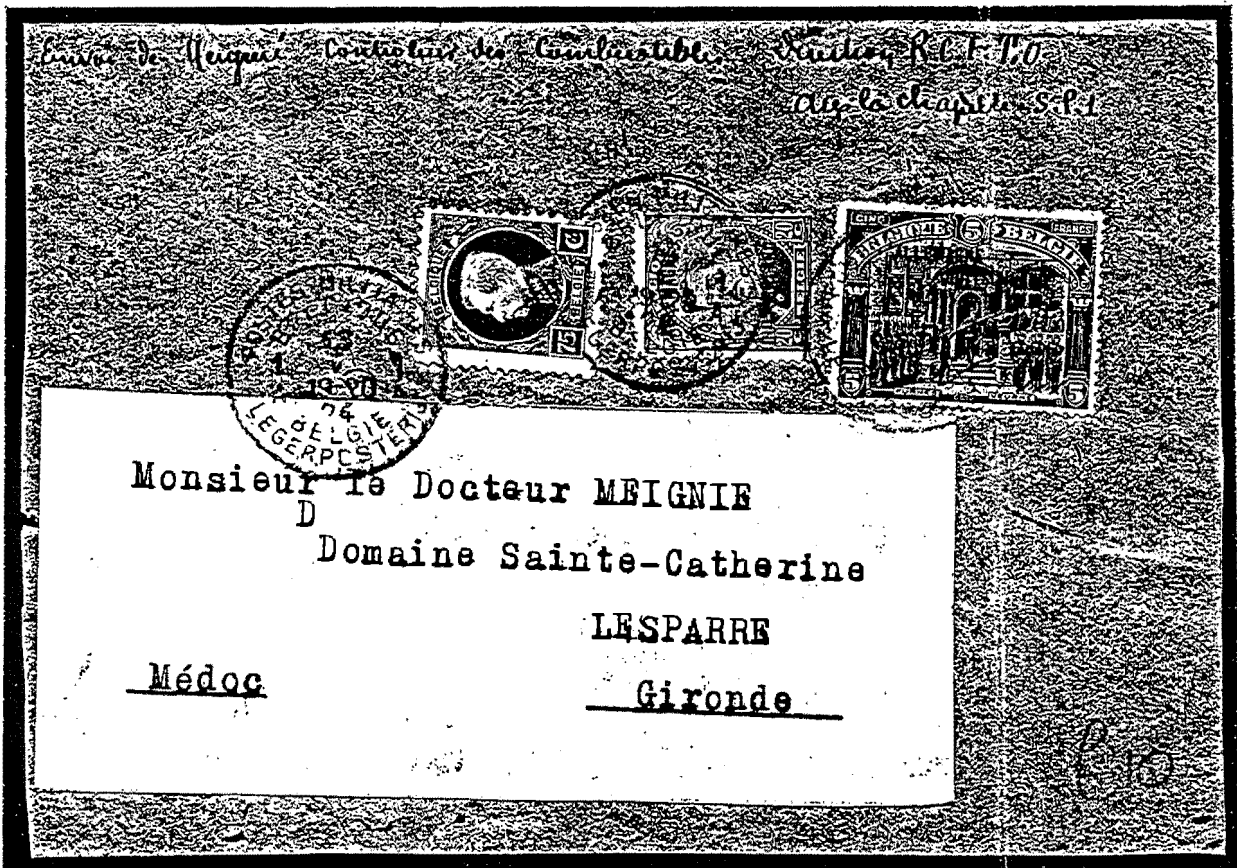
Albert Small Heads showing Overprint



Envelope from Aachen Military Hospital to Paris 23rd November, 1922 with 2 x 25c (OC 45).



Registered Envelope P.M.B. No. 1 to Bruxelles 25th June, 1921 with 2 x 25c Perron Liege (OC 46).



Parcel Front P.M.B. No. 1A to France 13th May, 1924. Franked with 75c Montenez (Unoverprinted), 20c (OC 44) and 5 Frank (OC 53).

THE ORIGINS OF THE TIN HAT DESIGN

In "BELGAPOST" Vol. 9 No.4, page 140, a short article appeared on this stamp with a brief reference to its origins. Our South African member, Leslie Sackstein, recently joined the Tin Hat Club (Koning Met Helm), whose president, Guy Jorion, was present at Charleroi and who seeks further information on the origin and role of the photographer who started this issue.

ALBERT I.

THIRD KING OF THE BELGIANS

1909—1934



Copy of the famous portrait taken in Belgium by R. Speaight of London and used in the design for the "Roi Casque" issue of 1919 by Jean de Bast.

Photo of King Albert on front of BSSC Menu dated 29th March, 1952
(note Shoulder reduction)



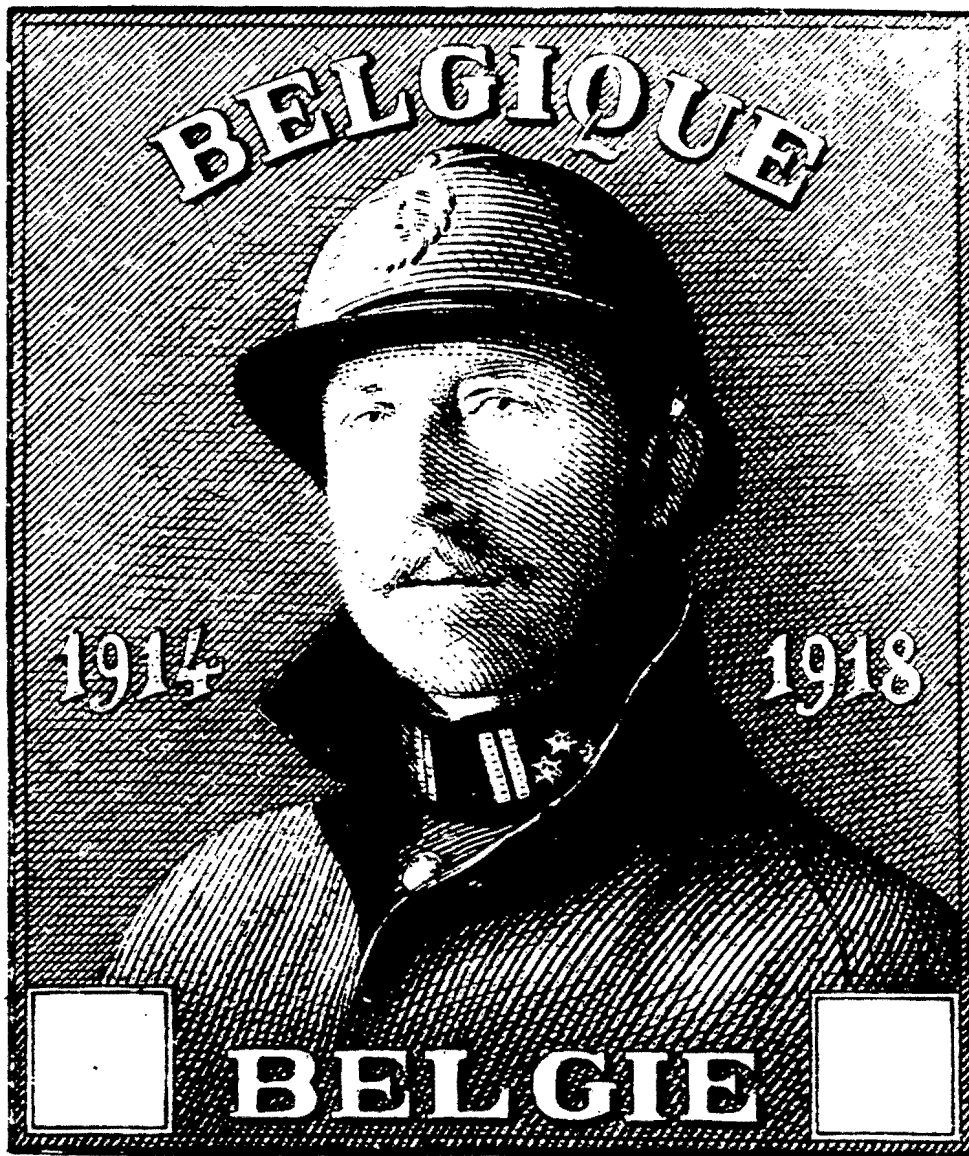
Print of original photo from Picture Agency (see text)

The information I have at present is as follows:

Richard N. Speaight was a court photographer with Robt Speaight, who had premises in New Bond Street, London. At the request of the Belgian Minister of Posts, he travelled to the Yser enclave in September, 1917 to take a photograph of the King in uniform, wearing a helmet.

In an account by Alexander Holland in The Kensington Philatelist, No.1, September 1921, further explanation is given of the photographer's role. He states that Speaight went by command of His Majesty for the express purpose of taking the photograph on Belgian soil. He continues, Mr. Speaight says "the photograph is considered a wonderful likeness and was taken on a stormy and wet day in a barn used as a garage by the Army and within a very short distance of the front-line trenches. At the time, the guns were reverberating on all sides, a swallow had her nest of young in the barn and kept passing constantly in and out attending to her brood while the improvised 'studio' was in use".

The details in this account, occurring so soon after the event, suggest that the author may have known the photographer personally. It certainly disproves the suggestion at one time that the photograph was taken in London during a visit by King Albert.



The resultant Stamp Design Proof (without value)

The resulting photograph was printed, size 8" x 10" (200 x 254mm), and on the reverse is marked "PAY FEE TO/HARRIS'S PICTURE AGENCY/50 FLEET STREET EC4/PHONE CENTRAL 1310". This was a company that provided a photographic service to the newspaper industry around the Fleet Street area at the time, as well as to other customers.

The design was approved but King Albert did not desire publication during the war, hence its appearance in 1919 as a Liberation Stamp. It appeared initially as a 10 cent stamp and was very popular, to the extent that it sold out on the day of issue in many offices. However, we are mainly concerned here with the origin rather than the subsequent issues.

Not surprisingly, shortly after its foundation our Circle made a major study of this stamp issue and a series of small articles appeared in the Circle Newsletters. Eventually this led to a study published as Record No. 12 in September, 1956. It was produced by H. C. Armstrong, who gives credit to the assistance given by Jack Andrews and Fred Kilby.

During the course of these studies, it came to light that the original negative (or print?) was discovered by our Founder, Harry Green, under unusual circumstances. During the 1939-45 War, the premises of Rob^t Speaight in New Bond Street were bombed and Harry Green went round to see what had survived amongst their stock. He rescued the Tin Hat portrait which appeared on our Luncheon Menu Cards of March 1952 and December 1978. The Circle has a copperplate of this design, size 4" x 6" (100 x 152mm), from which our photographs have been produced. Note that this version does not include all the original photograph, especially the King's left shoulder.

The above information is based on documents available to the Circle but possibly other members may be able to add or verify the details outlined. Could you please contact me if you are able to help.

REG HARRISON

Sources of reference

1. B.S.S.C. Record No. 12, September 1956
2. B.S.S.C. Newsletters around 1951-52
3. Belgium - Bertram Poole, 1922
4. The Kensington Philatelist No. 1, September 1921

FOR SALE - WATERLOW ARCHIVE SHEETS

The Circle has for sale a collection of the Waterlow archive sheets:

- a) 1915-1919 Pictorial Values including Franken;
- b) 1944 Lion Victory Issues.

These are complete sheets and contain markings indicating orders and quantities invaluable for studies.

Before being offered for public auction, if any member is interested in these sheets, please contact Reg Harrison.

THE POST IN BELGIUM AND ITS ANTECESSORS PRIOR TO 1849

By J.F. Giblin (Part 2)

THE POST IN THE AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

There now follow translations into English, made by the author, of two seminal papers on this topic which are worthy of greater dissemination than they currently appear to enjoy.

The first is from the German text of the relevant sections of a book by Anton Kumpf Mikuli, the "Nestor of Pre-Philately", entitled "Neue Briefe ueber Alte" (Wien. 1933 pp 242). He was born on 8th April 1879 at Kaplitz in Southern Bohemia His family was of Franconian origin from the Sudetenland and his father was an Austrian government official. The boy started to collect postage stamps in a childish way whilst at elementary school but gave this up when he went to grammar school. Upon completion of his schooling he entered a military academy and was commissioned as an officer; finally rising to the rank of Major during the First World War he served as Major of the Commissariat in a Guards Division and won many decorations including the Franz-Josef Order with Swords. After his retirement, in 1919, he assembled an important collection of the classical stamps of Austria and the German States, but it was the appearance of Edwin Mueller's works on Austrian cancellations which, in 1928, turned Anton Kumpf-Mikuli's attention to the collection of pre-stamp postmarks. Between 1929 and 1933, there appeared in the philatelic magazine "Die Postmarke", which was edited by Edwin Mueller (1898 - 1962), thirty nine richly illustrated articles on pre-stamp postmarks under the title of "New Letters about Old Ones" which was finally printed together as a book in 1933. His collection of pre-stamp letters was first shown at IPOSTA (1930) and gained him a silver-gold medal and a prize of honour. It was shown again at WIPA 1933 when he founded the "Society of Collectors of Pre-Stamp Letters and Postal Documents" (S.A.V.O.). This collapsed in 1939 but was revived in 1946 with Anton Kumpf-Mikuli again as President. In 1949 he became a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London (a Life Fellow in 1962) and in 1960, he received the Gold Society Medal of the V.O.P.V.. He was a prominent member of the "Vindobona" philatelic society of Vienna after 1933; being elected its Honorary President in 1949. Anton Kumpf Mikuli died in Vienna on 15th October 1968. The appended translation is of Chapters XXIX (Belgium and Luxemburg).

The second translation is from the French text of the relevant sections of the work by Lucien P. Herlant entitled : "La Poste aux Lettres et les Marques Postales, en Belgique de 1648 à 1849" (Bruges 1946 pp 182). This was the first major work by this author and is an important contribution to philatelic history in its own right . It appears to have inspired him to have extended his researches into "Les Marques Postales" of the individual provinces. These were published for Hainaut (1949); Liège (1957 and 1979); Brabant (1957 and 1978) Eastern Flanders (1962 and 1972); Western Flanders (1966), Anvers (1967); Namur (1968), Luxembourg (1969) and Limbourg (1970).

After his death in the middle of 1981, it was felt that all this very valuable work should be collected together and issued as one continuous volume for the benefit of the postal historians of the area. This compilation was published in Brussels on the occasion of "Belgique 82", under the auspices of "Pro- Post" and with the title : "Les Marques Postales Prephilateliques de la Belgique" (Ref. c9). Without doubt this volume will remain for many years as the sole authoritative handbook on this topic and essential reading for any student in this field.

POST in the AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

By Anton Kumpf-Eikuli

(Translated by J.F. Giblin)

Introduction

Further to the article by Colonel L. Herlant, that appeared in AUSTRIA No. 71, Spring 1985, pp.34-46, it was thought appropriate to publish a translation also of the relevant chapter in "Neue Briefe über alte" (Vienna 1931, pp.158-162). The following is, therefore, submitted as another contribution to a topic that is rarely covered in the philatelic literature.

Chapter XXIX : Belgium and Luxemburg

Present day Belgium, up to 1713, was a part of the Spanish Netherlands and then, at the Peace of Utrecht, at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, came to the Republic of Holland only to fall to Austria, from the latter, a year later at the Peace of Rastatt. During the Spanish and the Austrian sovereignties, the House of Thurn and Taxis undertook the postal administration. French troops came into the Spanish or Austrian Netherlands during the Wars of the Spanish, Polish, and Austrian Successions since France took part in these.

There is no doubt that the first postal strikes of these countries were introduced by the French and these were taken over by the Taxis Post.

BRUXELLES LOUVAIN BRUXELLES

Abb. 1048

Abb. 1049

Abb. 1050

From here outwards they then took their way to Germany. They are, throughout, long strikes with French descriptions of the places. As the oldest, one knows the strike of Brussels from the year 1707. Abb. 1048 and 1050 show later strikes of this city of 1747 and 1758.

ATH OSTENDE DE LIEGE

Abb. 1051

Abb. 1052

Abb. 1053

Abb. 1049, 1051, 1052 and 1054 show other French strikes from the war period of 1748, 1752, 1762 and 1766. Occasionally one encounters also origin/arrival strikes with DE, as that of Lüttich, which then was an independent bishopric (Abb. 1053 of 1786) and obliquely written strikes as Abb. 1056 of 1792. Around this period we also find strikes

MONS SPA WATERLOO
BRUSSEL

Abb. 1054, 1055

Abb. 1056

Abb. 1057

with Flemish descriptions of the place (Abb. 1055 of 1792). However, in addition to these long strikes there are also single circle strikes which only contain one letter. Abb. 1058 shows such a strike of Ghent of 1772, Abb. 1060 that of Antwerp of 1782. One might attempt to consider these as City Post strikes as these were then used by the Paris City Post to designate the post office. However this is not correct since they occur on long distance letters. The most puzzling, however, is the H strike (Abb. 1059 of 1779), which I can follow up to 1807, then,

C H A

Abb. 1058

Abb. 1059

Abb. 1060

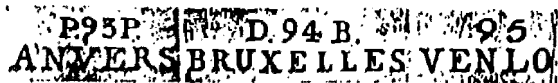
of course, in a somewhat larger type in a completely circular form. One finds it on letters from Hamburg, so that one takes it for a Hamburg strike, on letters from places in Holland, so that one assumes, that it may be a border post strike to designate the post from Holland. It was also regarded as a city post strike, a French censor strike etc. It is a fact that this strike which mostly occurs on letters coming out of Holland and going towards or through Brussels, was struck on the front side and that these letters practically always only bear this

strike and no other departure strike. Evidently, it might be a question of a specific postal strike of Brussels.

The French Revolution and its consequences made its first attack upon the Austrian Netherlands. Already, by the end of 1792, Brussels was occupied by the French. However, in 1793, it was again recaptured by the Austrians but this did not prevent the French, in the same year, in annexing the Belgian Hennegau to France as Department 86 (Jemmapes; after the place of the first victory over the Austrians).



Abb. 1061 shows a departmental strike as it was used in this region. The collapse of the alliance in the first War of the Coalition, forced Austria to cede the Belgian Provinces to France at the Peace of Leoben, or Campo Formio, in 1797, and by this they were lost for ever. From these, as well as from the Bishopric of Liüttich were erected the Departments 91 (La Lys), 92 (Escaut), 93 (Deux-Nèthes), 94 (Dyle), 95 (Meuse Inférieure), 96 (Ourthe), 97 (Sambre et Meuse) and 98 (Forêts). Abb. 1062 to 1069 show the departmental strikes of places from these regions, amongst them two P.P. strikes (Abb. 1064 and 1067) and two DÉBOURSE strikes (Abb. 1062 and 1063) of which the specific three line strike of Bruges attracts attention. The strike of Venlo (Abb. 1066) is also worthy of attention. The asymmetrically arranged departmental number of this indicates that the strike originally contained the Dutch description of the place VENLOO. They further usually used, especially in the smaller places, the earlier strikes, also in Flemish (Abb. 1057 of 1800).



At the beginning of 1814, after the first defeat of Napoleon, the House of Taxis again received the Belgian postal affairs. However,

they did not hold them long since the Vienna Congress of 1815 formed the Kingdom of the Netherlands out of the Austrian Netherlands and

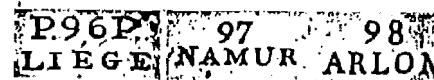


Abb. 1067 Abb. 1068 Abb. 1069

the earlier Dutch Republic. At once, the departmental strikes vanished, that of Ghent was even used already in March 1813 without a number (Abb. 1070). The use of the French place strikes was forbidden and Dutch or Flemish ones took their place. Thus, inter alia, from Gand (Ghent) came (Gond (Abb. 1071 of 1816), from Louvain



Abb. 1070, 1071 Abb. 1072, 1073 Abb. 1074, 1075

(Lüven) came Leuven (Abb. 1072 of 1818), from Namur came Namen (Abb. 1073 of 1819), from Liège (Lüttich) came Luik (Abb. 1074 of 1828) and from Mons came Bergen (Abb. 1075 of 1828). Abb. 1076 shows an old P.P. Departmental Strike still used in 1828. Franko-place strikes, such as Abb. 1077 of 1819, were also introduced. At the beginning

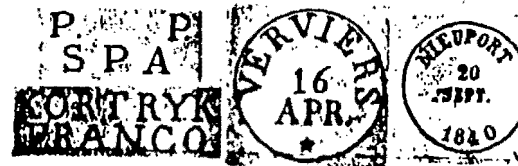
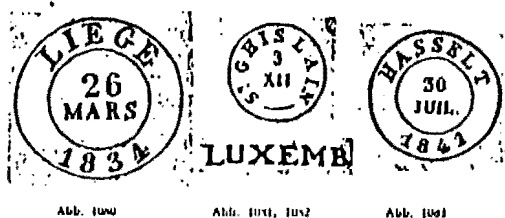


Abb. 1076, 1077 Abb. 1078 Abb. 1079

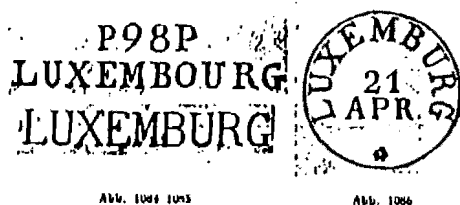
of 1829, the single circle strikes previously mentioned were introduced (Abb. 1078 of 1829).

The constant strife between the dominating protestant Dutch and the otherwise disposed catholic Flemish and Walloons of Belgium led, in the summer of 1830, to the successful revolt of Brussels and, in the autumn, to the declaration of independence of Belgium which, in 1831 at

the London Conference, was also recognised by the Great Powers. The Dutch strikes were superseded and in their place appeared Belgium double circle strikes in the French style, at first in a large type as Abb. 1080, later in a smaller one as Abb. 1083. One often also encounters single circle strikes as Abb. 1079. The smaller post offices, with distribution offices, in 1836, received small single circle strikes with information of the month in Roman numerals (Abb. 1081 of 1841).

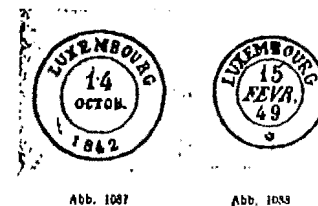


The postal strikes of Luxembourg have a similar history to those of Belgium. At the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, Spanish Luxembourg came to Austria. Likewise, the first strikes were introduced by the French and taken over by the Taxis Post. Abb. 1082 shows the strike of the City of Luxembourg of 1765 which used the shortened letters as then used in France. In 1795, Luxembourg was conquered by the French. They



received the country at the Peace of Campo Formio in 1797, ceded by Austria, so that it came into France as Department 98 (Forêts). Abb. 1084 shows the P.P. Departmental strike of Luxembourg. In 1815, created by the Vienna Congress, Luxembourg became an independent German Federal State under the King of the Netherlands. As in Belgium we find Dutch long strikes instead of French ones (Abb. 1085 of 1818) to which then followed, at the beginning of 1829, the generally introduced Dutch single circle strikes. The Belgian declaration of independence

found Luxembourg in sympathy with the French. At the beginning of the forties we find the Belgian (French) two circle type (Abb. 1087) and, at the end of the forties, a form of strike which is the same as that then used in France (Abb. 1088). The old German "Lützelburg" lay underneath, also as a German Federal State, but ever more under French influence.



The colour of the Belgian and Luxembourg strikes in the 18th century is practically always black, on individually red. The H- and A- strikes on the other hand are always red. The departmental strikes, up to the mostly red P.P. strikes, are in general black although many places also favoured the red colour. Under the Dutch sovereignty, the long strikes are mostly black, the single circle strikes always red. However also the subsequent Belgian and Luxembourg strikes are practically always red; in the forties also blue.

POST in the AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

by Lucien Herlant (translated by J.F. Giblin)

Introduction

The following article is translated from the appropriate pages (pp.28-41) of the work by Lucien Herlant entitled "La Poste aux Lettres et les Marques Postales; en Belgique de 1648 à 1849" which was published in Bruges in 1946 (Les éditions A.G. Stainforth). The sub-divisions in that work have been retained unaltered in this translation.

Before the War of the Austrian Succession

The peace concluded at Utrecht, on 11th April 1713, by Louis XIV with the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the States General of the United Provinces, the Duke of Savoy, the King of Portugal and the King of Prussia, brought to an end the War of the Spanish Succession. Further, by the Treaty of Rastadt, on 6th March 1714, Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor, accepted the sovereignty of the Spanish Netherlands. This date of 6th March 1714 may be considered as the start of the Austrian suzerainty. This period, happily for the provinces, was a relatively calm and prosperous epoch.

From the postal point of view, the Austrian period gave birth to sensible improvements. A decree of 20th February 1720, of His Imperial and Catholic Majesty, gave the postage letter franchise to different authorities and to certain Orders. In the same year, on 5th March, a decree of Charles VI forbade the masters, postillions or drivers of stage-coaches of Liège, Maastricht and Lille to transport letters upon entering or leaving the country. A new list was published on 6th May 1722 of those who enjoyed the postage franchise of letters to the Low Countries.

In 1725, Prince Anselme François of Taxis obtained control of the posts by means of an annual payment of 80,000 florins, despite the

observations of the States of Brabant. In 1728, Baron Sottelet offered to pay 200,000 florins for this service. Despite this offer, the Prince of Taxis obtained, in 1729, confirmation of his title of "General of the Posts" (Postmaster General) for a term of 25 years, by means of augmenting the fee by 45,000 florins to an annual payment of 125,000 florins.

Hardly confirmed in this situation, the Prince of Taxis introduced, on 16th January 1729, a new tariff of general fees which were in future to be raised and paid, for posting letters at the post offices of the Low Countries. A poster of 8th May 1729, fixed the conditions by which the Prince of Taxis and Taxis exercised the administration of the posts as a result of an agreement concluded with the Estates of Brabant.

The same year, on 9th June, the Archduchess Maria-Elisabeth made known the formalities to be completed, by which the mail and despatches of the Collateral Councils and the Exchequer Offices, were to be exempted from postage. The "Services" mentioned, "Council of State", "Privé Council" etc., had to be indicated at the side of the address. On 27th August 1738, Maria-Elisabeth vindicated this to the drivers of stage coaches and to the coachmen, who carried the packets of letters, where to charge for the letters; either entering or leaving the country.

This decree, having given rise to complaints, was suspended on 22nd October 1739 in so far as it concerned "the letters which are transported by waggon, and other carriages on level ground, to places for which there is not a regulated route" and it was finally annulled on 6th July 1740.

The Prince of Taxis, General Administrator of the Postes, having complained "of those of the messengers established at St. Hubert, who were conveying letters to Liège, Namur, Malines and other places of the Low Countries" on 6th June 1744 addressed a despatch to the Council of Luxembourg and the latter, by a decree of 4th July 1744, defamed those who "collected, transported and distributed letters to the prejudice of the Postal Administration".

There were, in 1744, a hundred postal tenant distributors in the Austrian Netherlands. These were the same as those of 1714 apart from the following which are no longer mentioned in the postal documents and of which no departure marking is known since 1714:-

ERQUELENS (ceded to the Duchy of Juliers, 1.5.1719)	MEULGSTEDÉ
TELELEN (ceded to Prussia 15.10.1715) and	POPERINGHE
EXHAERDE	RIDDERVOORDE
GHISLAINGUIEN	ST. GERARD
HAESDONCK	SCHELDEWINDICKE
ISQUE	SCHOUWEILER
JAUSSÉ	THILT
KAULIL	VAL
KESTERGAT	VALENTIN
LANTFERME	VOSCAPEL
MARIMONT	WAREM
	WEUQUERT

On the other hand, the following offices were created:-

AERSCHOT	GREVENMACHER	* LIERRE
ARLON	HAL	* LOKEREN
CHINY	HASSELT	MASEYCK
CINEY	HERVE	* NINOVE
DINANT	HUY	ROCHEFORT
SPA	* SOIGNIES	

Of these 18 offices, those marked with a * are known to this day, as having indicated the departure of the letter either under a manuscript form or by manual seal, before 1744.

TYPE P.A.L.

*At David Debruges
de Courtray de Charleroy
de Namur hier Furnes*

TYPE P.A.L.

ALOST WAVER LOKEREN

DEBRUGES GAND S:NICOLAS

BR LECOMTE

It is a fact that very few of the departure marks, in manuscript or from a rubber stamp, are found on letters dating from 1710 to 1740.

Letters sent postage paid bear on the right hand the following manuscript marks: P.P - Portvrij - Port Payé - Franco etc.

Francys *franche*
port-vrij *franco*

In order to give the reader an idea of the obligation incumbent on the postal service, we shall reproduce, in Appendix VII, a copy of the instructions given to the Postal Director of Ghent by the Prince of Tour and Taxis on 6th March 1730. (Not reproduced here: J.F.G.).

The War of the Austrian Succession

Maria Theresia succeeded her father, Karl VI who died on 20th October 1740. In the same year the war with Louis XV broke out. Invading Flanders in June 1740, the French troops took successively Menin, the fortress of Knocke, Furnes and Ypres. They fought the English at Fontenoy on 11th May 1745, seized Tournai on 22nd May, Ghent on 10th July, Bruges on 18th, Audenaerde on 21st, Termonde on 12th August, Ostend on 23rd August and Nieuport on 5th September 1745.

In 1746, they took Vilvorde on 4th February, Brussels on 21st, Antwerp on 11th June, Mons on 11th July, Charleroi on 2nd August and Namur on 30th September. They defeated Charles of Lorraine at Rocourt, to the north of Liège, on 11th October 1746 and for the first time, the whole of the Austrian Netherlands, apart from Guelders and Luxembourg, was occupied by France.

During the siege of Maestricht, the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, on 23rd October 1748, ended the war within the territory of the Austrian Netherlands. During the course of this occupation, the French respected the institutions and kept certain officials, but they raised taxes and recruits.

The administration of the posts was managed by the occupying power; many of the directors were replaced by French agents and the receipts made a profit for France. On 27th June 1745, at the camp below Tournai, Louis XV prohibited: "giving any trouble or hindrance to the postal couriers and ordinary postillions, not only of his Kingdom but of all other countries even of the enemy".

Not wanting to be behind her adversary, Maria Theresia gave the same safeguard from Brussels on 7th July 1745 and, on 25th October 1746, Moreau de Seychelles, Administrative Officer of the French Armies in the Austrian Netherlands, directed the contractors in the provinces of his department, to send to the office of the administration in Brussels; "copies of their accounts".

As a result of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, on 23rd October 1748, the accounts were terminated in all the postal offices at the date of 20th November 1748. Thus, the receipts in the name of the Prince of Taxis, who gradually replaced the French employees in proportion to the evacuation of the territory, took effect starting on 21st November.

AUDENARDE

GAND **T^RNAY** **MONS**

SOMBREF YPRES FURNES

Goffelst aelst: genape.

The use of manual strikes to mark the place of departure of the letters became general practice and manuscript inscriptions are still encountered a great deal.

The strikes of "port-payé" (postage paid) make their appearance:-



These strikes also served for stamping the letters of the military as well as those of the civilian population.

It is even probable that the military agents, handling the objects of correspondence of the army post in the same locality as the civil ones may have used the same manual strikes for stamping the departure on the military letters.

These marks are thus taken into consideration as affixed by French offices in conquered or occupied territory, and are sought after.

After the War of the Austrian Succession

The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748 returned to the Empress all that she possessed in the Low Countries before the war.

The Seven Years War (1756-1763) did not spread into the Austrian Netherlands and did not entail any territorial changes for them.

Meanwhile, on 30th December 1756, by virtue of a treaty between the King of France and the Empress of Austria, the towns of Ostend and Nieuport were entrusted to the safe-keeping of France during the war. This occupation lasted respectively up to 10th and 15th February 1763.

Joseph II, Emperor in 1765, ruled alone after the death of his mother, the Empress Maria Theresia, which occurred unexpectedly on 29th November 1780. He suppressed the regimes of the Barriers by deciding, on 7th November 1787, upon the destruction of the fortresses that sheltered the foreign garrisons. On 16th April 1782, the last Dutch left the Barrier locations. After frontier incidents with the United Provinces, the Treaty of Fontainebleau, on 8th November 1785, regulated the question of the boundaries.

The United Provinces renounced their claims on Postal and ceded Dalhem and other places; the Emperor abandoned his rights over Maestricht, Vraenhoven and other towns. This treaty came into effect on 10th June 1786. The territorial differences with France, Prussia, the Prince Bishop of Liège, the Prince Abbot of Stavelot-Malmédy and other neighbouring states were settled at the same time.

This period saw the confirmation of the improvement initiated previously in the postal area. Numerous decrees were published tending to increase the efficiency of the postal service. Without being concerned with the technical details, the Sovereigns nevertheless continued to intervene to fix tariffs and to regulate claims.

The Duke of Lorraine, Governor of the Low Countries, by a decree of 24th February 1750, authorised the establishing of a post on horseback to Moerdyck, Breda and Berg-op-Zoom with stages at Achterbroek, Nederbosch, Westwezel and Putte.

The franchise exceptions, in favour of the postal tenants, continued to be the object of decrees: of 14th July 1751, 23rd July 1755, 12th February 1759, 13th February 1767, 11th May 1769, 13th January 1773, 5th December 1774 and 6th March 1776.

In 1753 de Taxis asked, under conditions fixed by himself, for the renewal of his lease which would expire on 4th May 1754. He obtained satisfaction on 10th February 1753, despite the opposition of the States of Brabant, who wanted the same conditions as in 1729.

On 12th February 1757, the decree of 9th June 1729 relating to the postal franchises, was completed by a regulation stipulating that "every remonstrance, rescript, notice or memoire, sent to the government, and not directly concerning the service of the Empress or the public good, must be franked".

In the same year, on 8th July, the Council of Hainaut ratified a regulation for the messengers from Chimay to Mons and vice-versa. The following year, on 5th July, a decree giving the best direction of the routes of the post from Brussels to Luxembourg, cited the post offices as follows:- Brussels, Genappe, Sombroff, Namur, Vivier l'Agneau, Emptines, Marche, Grandchamps, Flamisoul, Steinfort and Luxembourg.

On 5th July 1759 a decree of Prince Charles of Lorraine concerned: "the visit which was made to Ghent by the mail coach of the postal postillions". On 6th October 1764, a regulation prohibited: "the couriers,

postillions and other postal supporters from charging anybody for the transport of merchandise." The lease obtained in 1753 by the Prince of Taxis was due to expire on 4th May 1774; but Prince Alexander-Ferdinand already in 1768 asked for its renewal. Astonished (with reason) at this great haste, the Financial Council again proposed to control the receipts and to go to an adjudication. But again, due to the influence that he exerted at Court, the Prince of Taxis obtained a new concession, dated 9th June 1769, for a term of 25 years, for the price of 135,000 florins per year. The new lease authorised the public to include articles of value inside the letters which must be previously franked and registered, by the sender, at the postal office. In the absence of these precautions, letters which appeared to contain money or of which the superscription leads to the supposition that articles of value were enclosed, were sent to the General Office of Dead Letters in Brussels where they would remain until they were claimed.

On 20th December 1769, a regulation of the Queen-Empress forecast measures to prevent the defrauding of the royal postal rights and confirmed the edicts of 4th November 1551, 28th September 1566, 13th November 1600, 29th August 1677 and 16th October 1713.

On 8th January 1770, a decree settled the posts on the new route from Hal to Ath, by Enghien:-

- 1 post and a half from Brussels to Hal and vice-versa,
- 2 posts from Hal to Braine-le-Comte and vice-versa,
- 1 post and a half from Hal to Enghien and vice versa,
- 1 post and three quarters from Enghien to Ath and vice-versa.

On 1st December 1773 a ruling of the Council of Luxembourg established messengers in the parts of the province where there was no postal service; Vianden, Ettelbrück, Schleyden, Neurbourg, Weisch, Diekirch, Hoescheidt, Hosingen, St. Vith, Weiswampach, Kayl, Echternach, Bitbourg, Remich, St. Hubert, Mirwart, Orchimont, Neufchâteau, Bastogne, Houffalize, Durbury, Etalle, Hachy and Graide.

The complementary arrangements, relating to the letter post franchise, were the object of a communication from the Empress dated 23rd January 1776. On 5th February 1776 the guards at gateways and bridges were forbidden to delay the postal couriers who carried the letter mail.

In the same year, a Frenchman Sir Paris de l'Epinar, presented to the Governor a project for establishing a Little Letter post in Brussels, i.e. an institution carrying the city letters for the city exclusively.

He proposed amongst other things:-

1. The establishing of a general office in the centre of the town.
2. hourly distribution on the hour.
3. the possibility of pre-payment of the letters by means of special marks.
4. stamping the letters with a date and hour strike.
5. indicating on the letters the name and address of the sender.
6. carrying circulars at a reduced tariff.

The attorney-general of Brabant, pleading that the Little post was only able to prosper in large cities, like London and Paris, finally rejected the proposal.

On 19th June 1777, a decree regulated the course of the post by the new paved route from Ghent to Ostende by Deynze, Thielt and Thourout:

- two posts and a quarter, from Ostende to Thourout
- two posts, from Thourout to Thielt
- a post and a half, from Thourout to Bruges
- two posts, from Thourout to Dixmude
- a post and a quarter, from Thourout to Roulers
- one and a half, from Thourout to Oudenburg
- one and a half, from Thourout to Chistelles
- one and a quarter, from Thielt to Deynze or Petegem
- two and a half, from Thielt to Courtrai
- one and a half, from Thielt to Roulers
- one and a half, from Deynze or Petegem to Ghent.

On 5th May 1781, a decree was concerned with the messengers in the province of Luxembourg.

The Thielt office was transferred to the place where the road to Thielt joined that from Courtrai to Bruges, by a decree of 25th August 1783. This place then was actually called "Posterie".

On 18th August 1784, a decree established a postal tenancy at Renaix and regulated the posts in the following manner:-

- two posts from Renaix to Grammont
- two posts from Renaix to Leuze
- two posts from Renaix to Ath.

Finally on 30th September 1789, a decree established a postal tenancy at Furnes where, however, an office had existed since 1695.

At the end of 1789, commerce and industry had so expanded that, in all parts of the country, the postal service was so organised that where there were no offices, messengers existed subjected to common regulations which guaranteed the regular transport of correspondence.

There were about 140 postal tenancies, with or without offices, of which there were 80, known by having the place of departure marked. (Those marked by a +).

These are those of 1744, plus the following:-

• ACHTERROEK	• FONTAINE	• RENAIX
+ BATTICE	• FRAINEUX	• ROLDUC
+ BINCHE	• CHISTELLES	+ STAVELOT
+ BEVEREN	• GOSLES	• THIELN
+ BUCHOLT	• HAMMONT	• THIELT
+ BOUSSU	• HAVELANGE	• THORN
+ CAPRYCKE	• HOOBSTRÆTEN	• THOUROUT
+ CHIMAY	• HOIN	• VERVIERS
• COUÏENBERG	• LESSINES	• VIANDEN
• COUVIN	• MALMEDY	• VILVORDE
• DIXMUDE	• OREYE	• VIRTON
+ ECELLO	• PUTEM	+ WATERVLIET
+ EUPEN	• PUTTE	• WESTVEZEL

In 1787, at Brussels, the "Bruxelles" cachets are replaced by "BRUSSEL". For the other Flemish towns, such as Bruges, Courtrai, Audenarde, Alost etc. nothing similar can be proved. The manuscript inscription of the place of departure was again in use.

TYPE P.A.N.

erschot Grammont wirobe
Tubise Detronow Herwin

But the use of signature stamps became gradually more general.

(Continued overleaf)

REMEMBER A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE SHOULD ACCOMPANY ALL ENQUIRIES TO THE A.S.C.

TYPE P.A.L.

DESTAVELOT

D'EECLOO SPA CHARLEROY

MENIN EVMEU DEYNSE

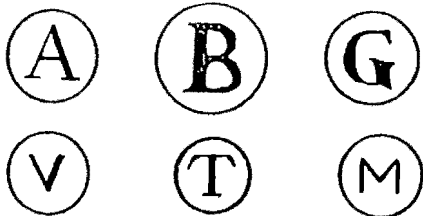
ARLON FLAMISOUL DIEST

DE HUY GENAP DEMASEYCK

LUXEMB **MONS** MALMEDY

Nivelle *Namur.*

TYPE P.A.L.



·S·H·

A : Anvers ; B : Battico ; G : Gand ; V : Vilvorde ; T : Tournai ;
M : Menin ; SH : St Hubert.

Certain offices even used the cachets "Port Payé" or "P.P." - those of Louvain, Ghent, Bruxelles, Malines, Ostend, Bruges etc.

P.P.

LOUVAIN

PP

GAND

P.P.

BRUXELLES

P.P.

MALINES

Port Payé

OSTENDE

PP

BRUGES

It is worthy of note that for letters sent "Port Payé", the increase in the postage due was indicated on the reverse and not on the front of the letters.

Letters carrying the same above, but imprinted with a rubber stamp are rarely encountered, mainly because it was very unusual to write "Port Payé" and, in the second place, because the postmasters seemed to have had a preference for manuscript annotations, Franco., P.P. etc. which are encountered more frequently but which were, nevertheless, little used.

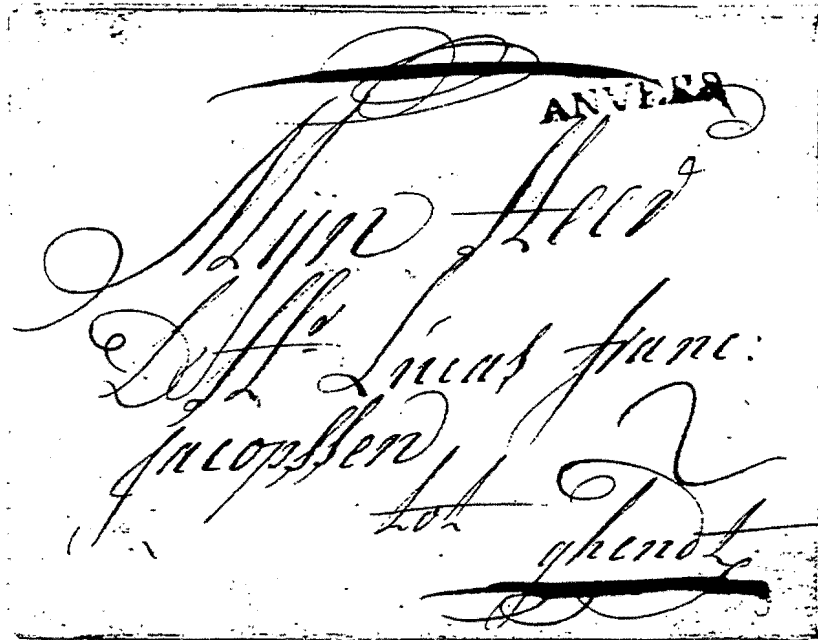
In order to show to the reader the obligations of the postal tenants and letter distributors we give, in Appendix VIII, a copy of the agreement concluded, on 9th January 1789, between the directrix of the Posts of Ghand and the distributor at Eecloo. (Not reproduced here : J.F.G.).

Conclusion

The author then deals with the revolution in 1789 in Brabant and the creation of the "Republic of the Low Countries" in 1790, in opposition to the reforms of the Emperor Josef II, and the submission of this Republic to the Emperor Leopold II; a submission formalised by the Treaty of La Haye on 10th December 1790. From the point of view of the post, nothing changed in this period. However, on 29th April 1792, the First French Republic declared war on Austria, defeated the Austrians at Jemappes on 6th November 1792 and took Brussels on 14th November. The jurisdiction of the Princes of Tour and Taxis in postal matters was abolished and the era of the Austrian Netherlands came to an end.

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

1747.



The above letter-sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the black single straight line of Anvers - or Antwerp - a city of Brabant that is situated on the Scheldt at a distance of 47 miles from its mouth and 27 miles to the north of Brussels.

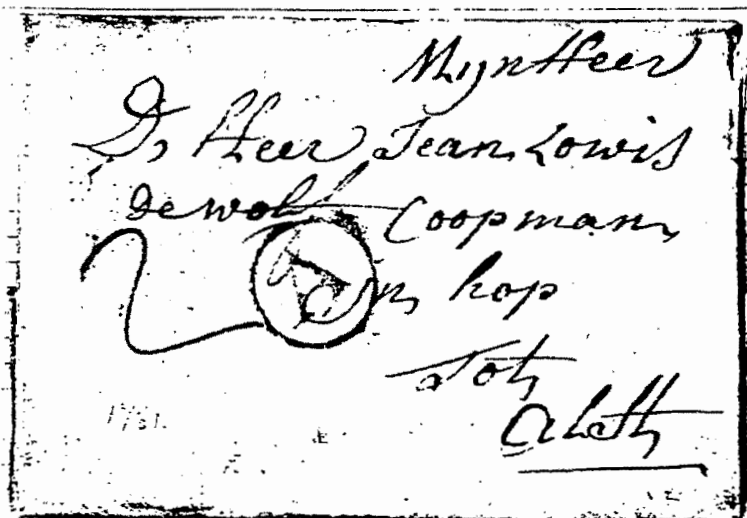
This letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written on 7th. April 1747.

It has been addressed to Ghendt; a city of eastern Flanders situated at the confluence of the Scheldt and the Lys at a distance of 30 miles west-north-west of Brussels.

During the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748), Anvers was occupied by the French from 11th June 1746 to 31st January 1749.

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS

1781.



The above letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written, on 13th March 1781, at Antwerp; the great port on the Scheldt situated 47 miles from its mouth and 27 miles to the north of Brussels.

It has been struck, on the obverse, with the red 11mm diameter single circle, enclosing an (A); a mark of the Thurn and Taxis Post that was applied at Antwerp, at the end of the 18th. century, but only on mail for Alost.

This letter-sheet has indeed been addressed to Alost or Aelst - the capital of Austrian Flanders situated on the Yender at a distance of 7 miles south-south-west of Yendermande.

The postal tariff of 2 sols has also been written, in manuscript, on the obverse of this letter-sheet. This was the rate for local postage.

(To be continued)