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**BELGAPOST**

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The Journal of the  
Belgian Study Circle





# BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

Founded 1947

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

(Twinned with the Phila-Club Flemalle)

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

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DECEMBER, 1997

### EDITORIAL

We come to the end of another year – our 50th anniversary – one not to have forgotten and one that is making some "noises" in the philatelic world.

Regarding "BELGAPOST", I believe that this is also having some notice in the philatelic world. This issue gives various notes on the past year's work and especially on our weekend at Leamington Spa – probably the finest we have so far had.

As regards "BELGAPOST", the coming year has a number of interesting articles for you but we still urgently need more articles on stamps. Can you help?

Your editor must once again thank our "team" in putting the journal "to bed". Thank you all.

The committee and your editor send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our members.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me so well in what has been a difficult and stressful year for me. However, this support in our 50th year has been much appreciated and I have been honoured to be your President in this important year. Thank you all.

### TREASURER'S NOTES

All except two annual subscriptions are now to hand and prompt payment for auction lots from the Leamington auction will enable me to settle quickly to the vendors.

As anticipated, our 50th Anniversary events will increase our overall expenditure this year but the full position will not be clear until Spring next year when all transactions are completed. It is hoped, however, that we shall remain in a sound financial position as reserves have been built up in recent years.

If all goes to plan, this issue of "BELGAPOST" will include the January auction list, the 1997 cover page and the index to 1997. I am hoping to produce a cumulative index to the first nine volumes of "BELGAPOST" for circulation in Spring 1998.

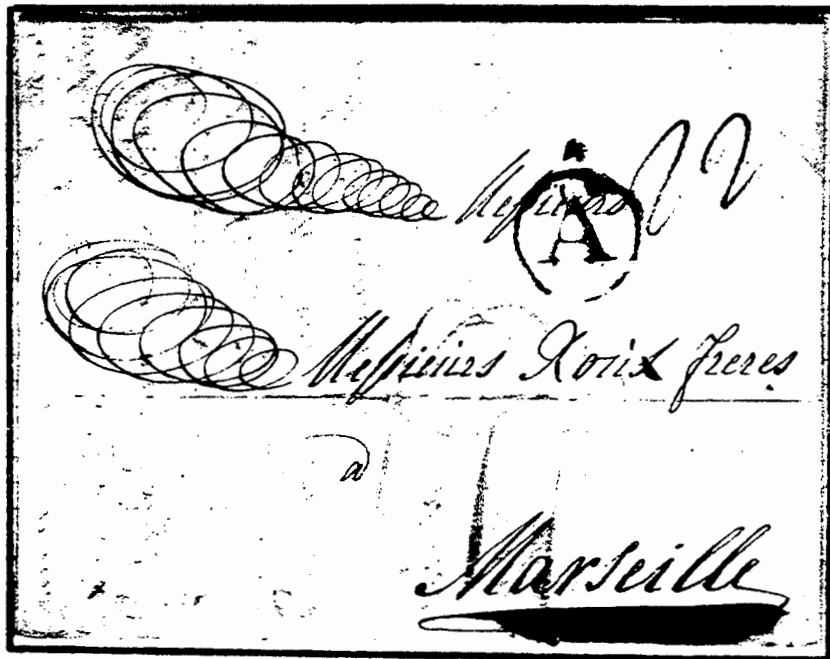
REG HARRISON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fred Goatcher writes:

"Thank you for another interesting "BELGAPOST". I always enjoy reading the postal history articles and the article of Mr. Giblin in the last issue is 'just up my street'. However, on the final page (page 117), the author illustrates a cover of 1781 to Alost with the Antwerp 'A' in circle. He states in para. 2 of the write-up of this cover that the Antwerp handstamp 'was applied there ..... but only on mail for Alost'.

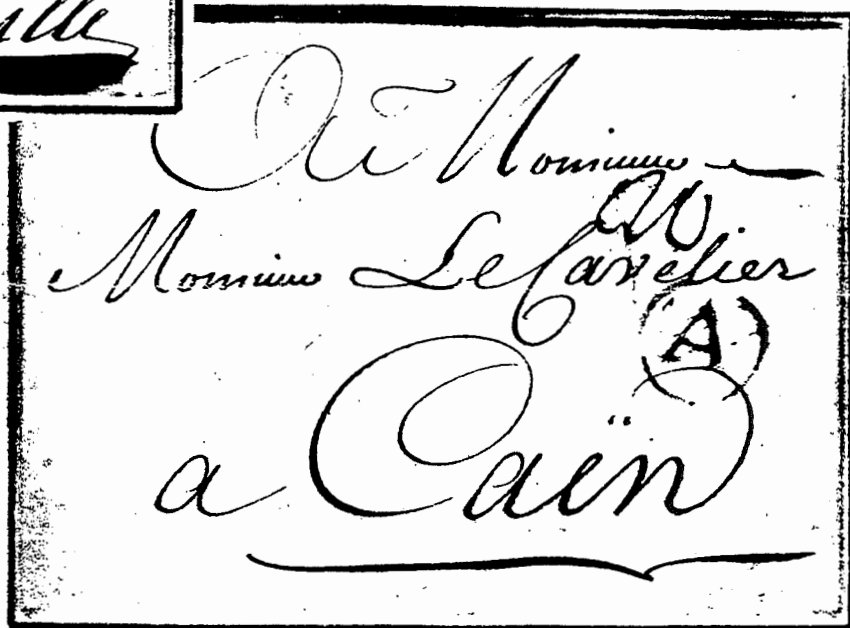
"To put the record straight, I enclose photocopy of letters from Antwerp (the second one is forwarded from Amsterdam) sent to Marseilles and to Caen."



From Antwerp 20 July 1772.  
An order for six sacks of walnuts  
costing £1,128.11.9.  
(Livres, sols and decimes.)

From Amsterdam 24 June 1773.  
An order to purchase 200 planks of  
pine.

(From Fred Goatcher's collection)

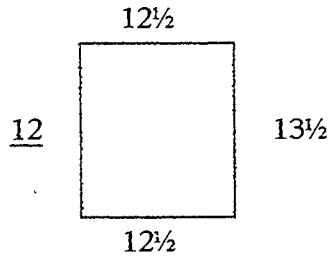


**Editor** – In the first letter from Fred Goatcher's collection, we see that six sacks of walnuts cost £1,128.11.9. It is pleasantly familiar for anyone brought up before decimal currency to see accounts drawn up in £.s.d., the unit of money measure throughout Western Europe in the old days.

In Flanders, 12 deniers (d) made one sou or sol (s) and 20 sous or sols made one livre (£) or franc.

S.J.A.

Ed Hirdler writes to say that in a 1c green perforated Medallion stamp he finds the perforations as follows:



Three perforating heads were used:

- a) Line  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .
- b) Comb with pins irregularly spaced, producing sheets with 1 row  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 row  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ , 4 rows  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ , 8 rows  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$  and 6 rows  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ .
- c) Comb  $14\frac{1}{2}$ .

Under b) we find as shown in the illustration above. What is the explanation? Your editor has been able to confirm this actual stamp.

Your comments or views would be welcome.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ralph Yorio writes:

"As a follow-up to your article on the Tin-Hat design (Vol.10, No.3), please find enclosed a slightly reduced photocopy of a photograph ( $7\frac{1}{4}" \times 9\frac{3}{4}"$ ) in my collection. It is printed in sepia with the back stamped in purple ink 'Speaight Ltd. 157 New Bond Street'; 'W' in an oval with 50968a handwritten in pencil in the centre.

"The photo is in its original folder ( $11\frac{1}{2}" \times 17\frac{1}{2}"$ ) in dark grey inscribed at the top left:

SPEAIGHT LIMITED  
 PHOTOGRAPHERS AND  
 PORTRAIT PAINTERS  
 157 NEW BOND STREET, W

"From its similarity to the Tin-Hat photo, I assume it was from the same photo sitting."

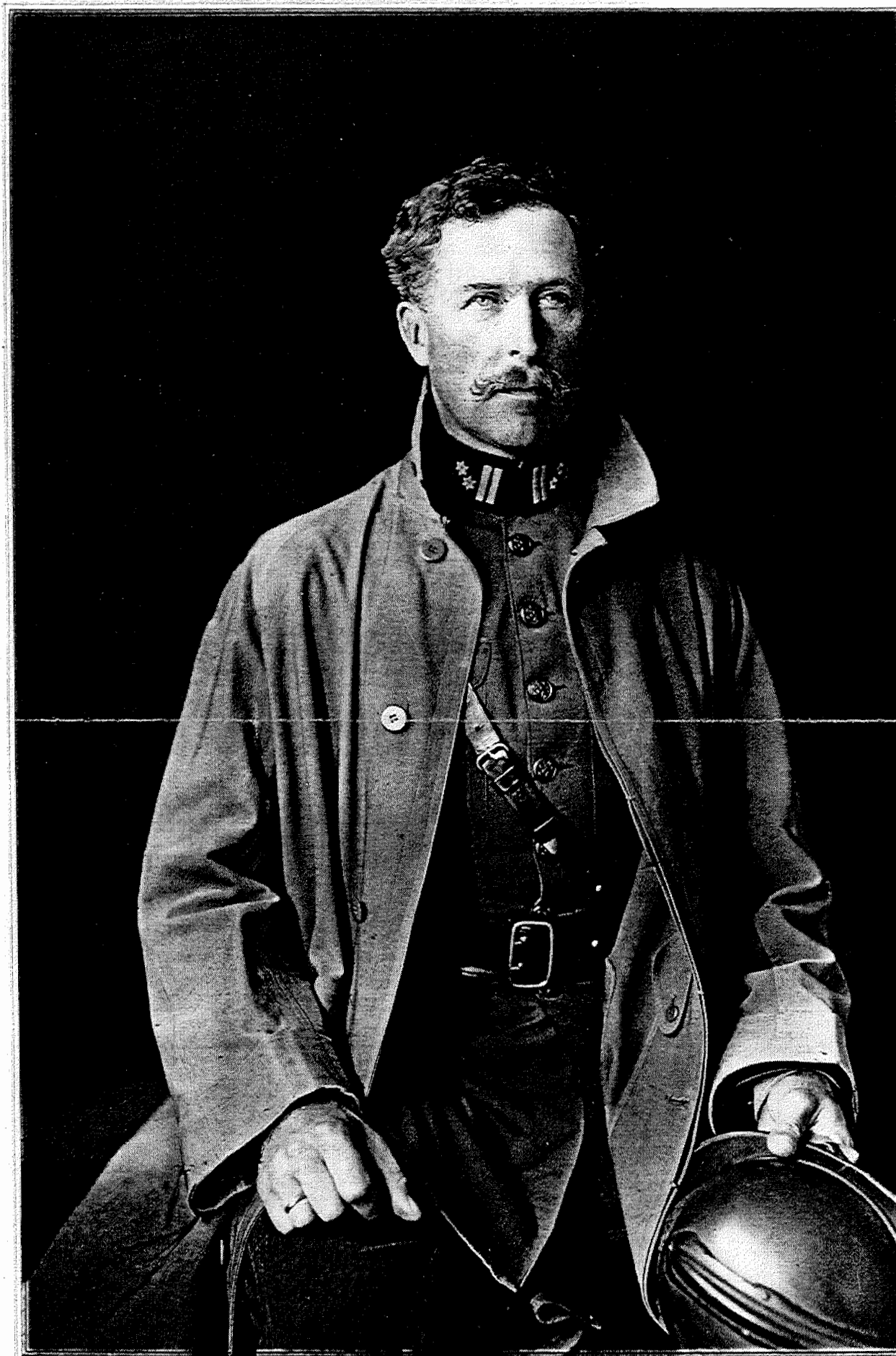
Thanks, Ralph - it certainly looks as if several alternative photographs were taken and submitted for consideration. Interesting to see the top of the Helmet.

#### AGM, AUCTION AND LUNCH - 25th APRIL, 1998

Further to the brief amendment slip in the last "BELGAPOST", the arrangements for this important meeting has now been concluded. The full agenda and auction list will be circulated with our next edition but in order to finalise the luncheon arrangements, a booking form is included with this issue.

A fine auction is being prepared which, together with an inviting lunch, should make this an enjoyable day. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing as many members and guests as possible.



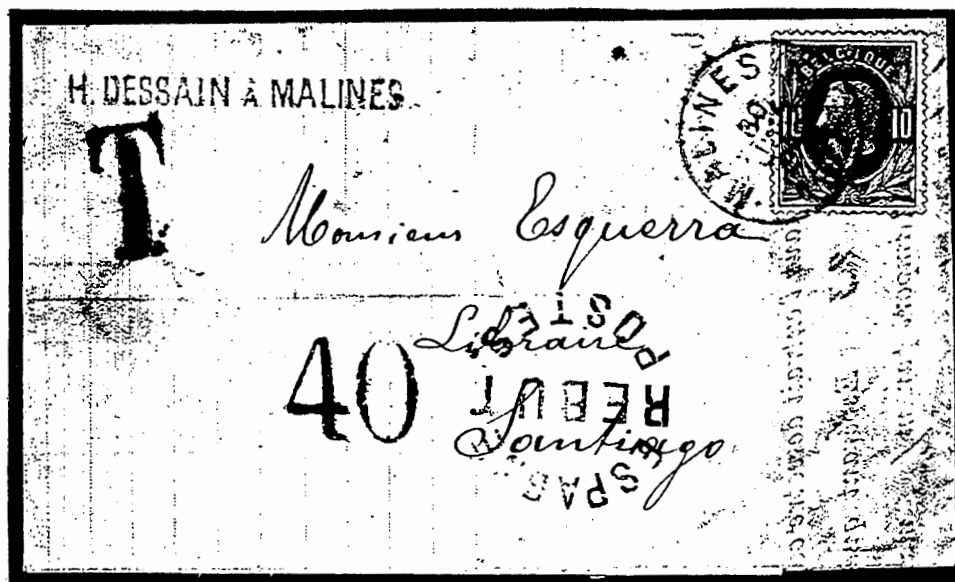


*Albert*  
1920

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our member in Eupen, **Gaston Jorquera**, sent two interesting letters (both illustrated) concerning some of the marks and asking if they could be interpreted.

The first is from Malines to Santiago - probably confused between Santiago de Chile and Santiago de la Compostela, Spain. The heading in the letter is to "Santiago de Chile, but was sent to Spain (Corunna) and has a transit mark on the back "Espana-Irun". Dated 30 J... 1877, it was underpaid (1869 - 10c) when the rate "overseas" was 50c at that time. It has the "new" T recently introduced and the "Espana Rebut Postes". The 40 is a Spanish mark and the amount to be paid. On the back, in manuscript, is "Desconocido" (Inconnu) - Unknown. No doubt it was sent to Spain and not to Chile.



In the second letter, we again find the 1869 issue 10c stamp from St. Leger to Lyon (France), again underpaid which should have been 25 centimes. In this case, we have a manuscript "5" (which seems to have come from the pre-adhesive) and is interpreted as 50 centimes (5 decimes). Dated 6 August, 1877, it travelled on the France/Midi 2 route.





**REPORT OF WEEKEND CONFERENCE AT ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA**  
**19th-21st SEPTEMBER, 1997**

A good turnout was always anticipated for this significant milestone in the Circle's development and no-one who attended was disappointed as around 40 members, partners and guests assembled at the historic Regent's hotel for what can only be described as a memorable occasion. The character of the hotel itself lent much to the atmosphere of the weekend. A central staircase illuminated by tasteful stained glass windows leads to pleasant bedrooms equipped with elegant period furniture and the modern conveniences we have all come to expect. We were in good company as well!! In the foyer a "roll of honour" unveiled by the late Earl Spencer boasts Sir Rowland Hill amongst distinguished previous guests.

Throughout the weekend the social niceties took precedence over the formal proceedings. At tea on Saturday, Doris Green cut a splendid cake in celebration of the Circle's 50th Anniversary. It was iced with a realistic facsimile of the 1849 Epaulette issue, which everybody judged to be far too much of a masterpiece to be eaten. Saturday's celebrations were crowned by a very pleasant dinner with excellent food and grand company, which was preceded by a sherry reception. The loyal toasts were followed by reminiscences of the early days of the Circle involving some questionable activities in the London smog and the alcoholic enlivenment of otherwise formal and accidentally tee-total receptions. Floral tributes were made to Doris Green and Jean Harrison, and the Barker-Johnson cup was presented to Michael Barden for his display of "-10%" issues.

It has to be invidious to try to distinguish between the excellent displays which made up the basis of the formal proceedings. What follows is very much a personal view and the view of a newcomer not only to philately but to the specific philately of Belgium. What impressed me the most was the willingness of members to share their knowledge and experience. At times I felt that the excellence of the materials on display could be seen as a discouragement to the novice but on further reflection, rather than being intimidating, the material is a source of inspiration. I think the new avenues and insights which opened to me personally are the best way of focusing on the displays themselves albeit at the risk of apparently trivialising collections of international import which is clearly not the intention.

On first appearances, neither Mike Barden's display of World War I, which came at the beginning of the first morning, nor Jack Gibb's display of "St. Adresse and Bar-le-Duc" at the end of the same sessions, seemed to have any focus in my own areas of interest. As usual in these matters, quite apart from the excellence of the displays and presentations, I was wrong. A brief introduction to soldiers' mail led to yet another avenue opening for my own collection whilst the revelation of my complete ignorance of the Le Havre Special Cancellations introduced a direct relevance which I was subsequently able to indulge in the auction.

Otto Sellinger's internationally renowned display of Registered Mail was not only a delight but also an exhortation to look at the subject with a new insight and focus. The effect on me was very much the same as Iain Stevenson's EXPRES mail when I first saw it about two years ago.

The first session of the afternoon was Tom Pring "Items from the Bearded King" and here I struck gold. The revelation that is Balasse and the varieties of the "lion avec chiffre" which Tom displayed have already sent me scurrying to my accumulation of these stamps with my magnifying glass in hand. If you have a spare copy of Balasse, I know of a good home.

Ken Morrell opened the batting on "Red Cross Issues" and was ably seconded by Paul Wood and Jack Gibbs. As always, there were dire warnings about the forgeries of the Monument de Merode issue but amongst the later issues it was nice to see the 1959 tribute to Henri Dunant in Ken's display. Many other countries featured Dunant in their Red Cross centenary issues in 1963 but it was the suffering in the Battle of Solferino in 1859 which moved Durant to write his pamphlet which directly led to the formation of the Red Cross.

The auction, reported elsewhere, followed the Red Cross. Perhaps it should have been the other way around so as to offer succour to the casualties of some of the fierce bidding.

On Sunday morning, my green complexion was not caused by the plentiful wine but by John Parkin's display of Labels and Tête-Bêche. Those of the Lion Héraldique and the Petit sceau de l'état issues lie very much in the centre of my own interests but I don't aspire to part sheets let alone the full sheet displayed by our Treasurer. The explanation of the origins of these stamps provided a new insight into the financial acumen of the Belgian Postal authority. What price a "one off" rarity when you can sell its cousins to avid collectors a thousand times over.

Iain Stevenson is very much of my own generation but I am sad to say my own interest in philately was declining at the time his was awakened by a boyhood discovery of unusual hexagonal stamps in Brugge. That Iain has obviously made good use of the intervening years is confirmed by his comprehensive display of telegraph and telephone stamps. As always, his display and knowledge of EXPRES issues was a delight.

Although one might question the wisdom of a government department giving carte blanche to its minions to "print their own stamps", the postal memorandum of 16 May 1946 which gave birth to the "-10%" or "Van Ackers" issues has given us all a rich harvest for study. The comprehensive display of these issued presented by Mike Barden fully justified the award of the Barker-Johnson cup. Once again we have an example of a short lived issue beset by forgeries but in this case, the enormous variation in legitimate items makes delineation difficult in all but the most obvious cases. Hopefully Mike's extensive knowledge of the subject can be passed to other members via the medium of "BELGAPOST".

I won't dwell long on Reg Harrison's outstanding display of foreign sorting marks which heralded the closure of the weekend and which was supported by Maurice Wilkinson's small display of the Moresnet local issues.

#### POSTSCRIPT

CHRIS HOWE

As a footnote, our excellent Menu Card was produced by Chris Howe (with the help of his son), which featured on the front a stamp of each of the six monarchs of Belgium. Together with individual place setting cards bearing the Belgian Lion and Crown, this helped to make Saturday's Celebration Dinner a memorable event.

Those attending during the weekend were:

Jack Andrews	Ken Dore
Jane Andrews	Iain Stevenson
Ken Carpenter	Graham Harvey
Jo Carpenter	Sue Harvey
Chris Howe	Ken Morrell
Reg Harrison	Irene Morrell
Jean Harrison	Tom Pring
Doris Green	Christine Pring
Rosemary Green	Jack Gibbs
Eileen Loader	Margaret Trainor
Peggy Batten	John Connolly
Ruth Wood	Renette Connolly
Eliane Hollings	Otto Sellinger
Tony Geake	Michael Barden
Coral Geake	Maureen Barden
Maurice Wilkinson	John Parkin
Pauline Wilkinson	Brenda Parkin
Paul Wood	
Bernice Wood	

During the weekend, we were also pleased to meet Sam Barden (from Australia but currently living in London) and Eileen Loader's daughter, Emma, and family.

A few photographs taken during the weekend will appear in this issue.

REG HARRISON



'MIDPEX' COVENTRY  
Ken Carpenter (Chairman)  
Chris Howe (Secretary)

LEAMINGTON  
Lecture Session  
Otto Sellinger (standing)



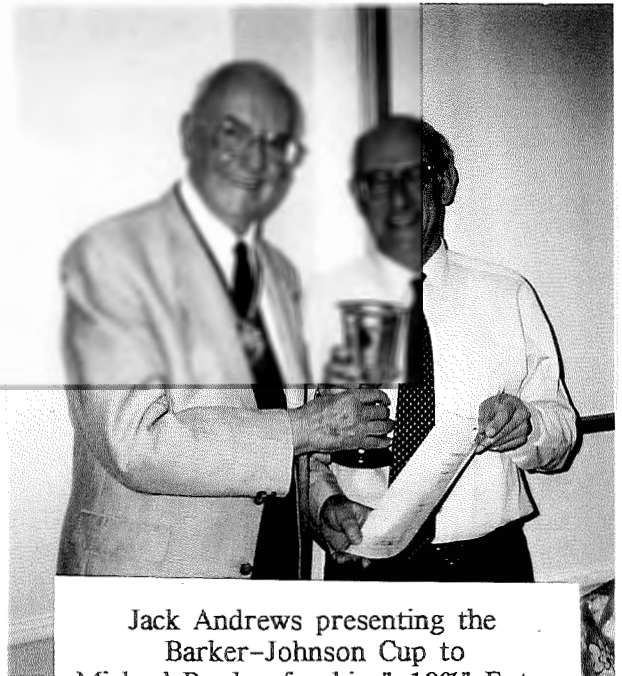
Jack Andrews (President)  
presenting a bouquet to  
Doris Green  
(Ken Carpenter on right)



Jack Andrews (President)  
and Doris Green  
cutting 50th Anniversary Cake



Close-up of Cake



Jack Andrews presenting the  
Barker-Johnson Cup to  
Michael Barden for his "-10%" Entry



LEAMINGTON  
Overall view of 50th Anniversary  
Celebration Dinner  
20th September, 1997



## ROBSON LOWE - A FAMOUS POSTAL HISTORIAN AND PHILATELIST

Robson Lowe died in Bournemouth on 19th August, 1997, at the age of 92. The "Father" of postal history, he established Robson Lowe Ltd. in 1926 with offices in Regent Street, London. In 1935, he set up the Regent Stamp Company which specialised in the retail of rare stamps and, in 1936, began to hold stamp auctions. He later moved his business to 50 Pall Mall, which attracted many postal historians to his auctions, and also to his Bournemouth Stamp Auctions, founded in 1945. The business was eventually acquired by Christies.

Robson Lowe wrote many articles, brochures and books, mainly on British Empire stamps, and in particular, the six volumes "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps". In 1950, he founded the Society of Postal Historians of which, over the years, he was President, Chairman and later, an Honorary Life Fellow of the Society.

He is survived by two daughters who, with their husbands, were for many years partners in their father's business. To them, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren, we extend our sympathies.

He will be sorely missed and we are unlikely to see his like in philately again.

*"Robbie", famous postal historian and philatelist - irrepressible, irreplaceable.*

S.J.A.

### REPORT OF MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE, 11th OCTOBER, 1997

The first meeting of the season on 11th October was attended by a small but select group who reviewed members' sideline interests.

Maurice Wilkinson produced a mixed bag including the photographic crest which graced the luncheon menu at this year's AGM. A very similar crest adorned the envelope containing the collection of postal stationery issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Belgian independence. His other items included private issues, postal vignettes and stamps for military mail. Maurice also sought comment on a paquebot cover with an unusual label.

Tony Geake displayed an interesting accumulation of fiscals stamps. Plenty of lions here for your secretary!! The selection covered taxes for advertising, bills of exchange and receipts, these areas being eventually replaced by a general purpose tax stamp. Tony reports that the receipt tax sometimes appears alongside postage stamps in circumstances where receipts were posted to recipients. Something to look out for are posters complete with the advertising tax stamps. John Barefoot's catalogue is the definitive work in this area but Tony's selection showed that it is not exhaustive.

John Connolly had some interesting forgeries of the 5f (COB37). The majority were obvious but some would be described by Gibbons as "dangerous". Ever been bitten by a postage stamp? But then even acknowledged forgeries of this stamp can attract a high price!!

Ken Carpenter's display of railway parcel bills concentrated on the goods being carried, varying from fish to detonators, might have been subtitled "cargoes". His attempt to match the engines of the 1949 issue of railway stamps with illustrated postcards still has a long way to go but is hampered by repeated changes in the engines' numerical designations.

Members present agreed to support a Circle stand at the 1998 SWINPEX to be held on 13 June should the opportunity still be available.

The meeting ended early with members dispersing into very heavy afternoon rain.

CHRIS HOWE

THE BARKER-JOHNSON CUP

As mentioned under the Leamington report, the Cup was won by Michael Barden, from Australia, for his entry "-10%".

Several members have asked about the origins of the Cup, which has prompted enquiries amongst our senior members as the records are somewhat silent on this matter. Our current information is as follows but any corrections or additions would be welcome.

The Cup was presented to the Circle in 1976 by our member **Derek Beresford-Johnson** in memory of his father, **Frank Beresford-Johnson**, who was a member of the Circle from 1956 until his death in 1963. 1976 also saw the death of **B. Leslie Barker** in a road accident, and the Circle agreed that the Cup should be jointly named in memory of both members.

Rules for the competition were drawn up, the intention being to increase the number of Belgian Exhibits in National and International Exhibitions. It was intended to be competed for at intervals not exceeding three years or a shorter interval if three or more members indicated their intention to participate. The first competition was scheduled to be held on 23rd April, 1977, at the AGM.

To my knowledge, there is at least one previous winner but not in recent years. Information in this respect would be appreciated.

However, the Cup and competition has not been actively advertised or promoted - something that should now be addressed to continue the momentum of the Circle's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Although intended to be held in conjunction with the AGM, this year the competition was timed to fit in with our Summer Meeting which has advantages in relation to judging time, etc. There would also appear to be advantages in leaving ourselves with a degree of flexibility for the future to fit in with prevailing circumstances.

Now for the Cup itself. Its origin lies in Bruges, at the College of St. Francis Xavier, where Frank Beresford-Johnson was a schoolboy in the English Section. The English boys were the first to form a National Football Team in Belgium. At the turn of the 20th Century, this team was the strongest in Belgium which led up to the best players being selected to play for Bruges FC, a team which has always been in the Premier Division. Derek followed his father in playing for the senior English Team, which won the cup outright in 1956 by beating the senior Belgium Team.

After an apparently short sojourn with the Société Philatélique de Bruges, the donation of the Cup to our Circle makes an interesting link with our chosen country of collecting.

I am very grateful to Derek for supplying the above information but any further contributions to this history would be appreciated.

REG HARRISON

"BELGAPOST" BACK NUMBERS

Although complete Volumes are kept in stock, requests have been received for the following parts which are not held at present:

Volume 8 No. 1  
Volume 8 No. 2

Would any member who is able to help please contact me direct. Incidentally, these two items are required to complete the set held by the National Philatelic Society.

REG HARRISON

# THE MONTENEZ ISSUES, 1921-1925 and 1929-1941

## THE ISSUED STAMPS AND THEIR VARIETIES (PART 4)

### THE TWO FRANC VALUE

The 2 Franc, Deep Green (SG 318, COB 216)

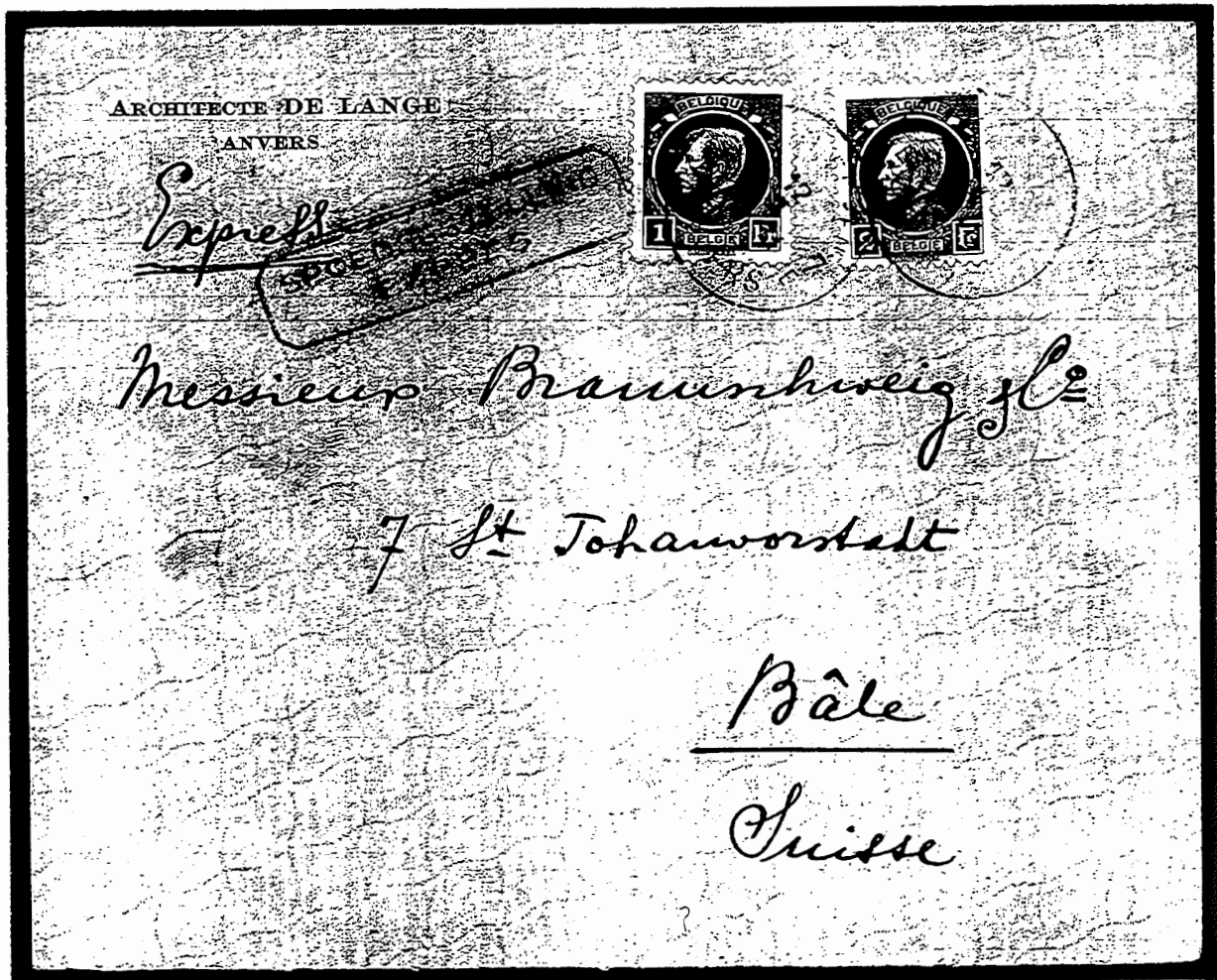
The 2 Franc in deep green was issued on the 5th December, 1922, in sheets of 100 (ten rows of ten) stamps. Perforation 11½ only. Seven printing plates were used, numbers 1 to 5 in small figures and 7 and 8 in large figures. Plate No.6 was not used. The plates were built up from two intermediate blocks of 25 (5 x 5) specimens, arranged:

1. 2.
1. 2.

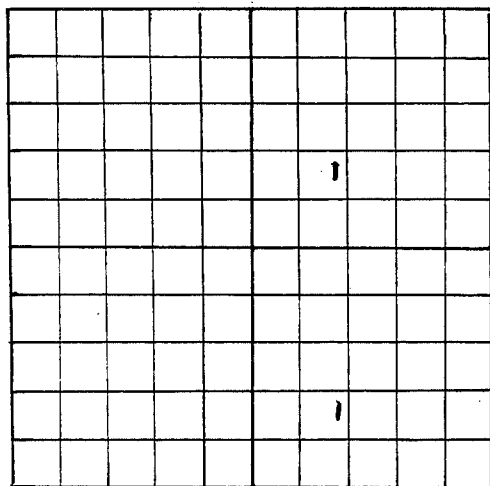
The same arrangements is found in the set up of the 10 Franc plate.

Although sometimes stated to be a rather uncommon stamp, it will be noticed that the total printing of 8 million is similar to that given for the 75c scarlet stamp.

There are a number of small plate flaws, particularly in the "Fr" value tablet but these do not appear to be constant. One constant flaw appears twice in every sheet, the 17th in each block No.2 of 25, that is on stamps numbered 37 and 87. This variety has a white spot in the lower limb of the "B" in "Belgique".



ANTWERP to BASLE 12th January, 1926. 1Fr. and 2Fr. - Express



Variety 1

White spot in lower limb of "B" of BELGIQUE. It is the only constant flaw in this value.

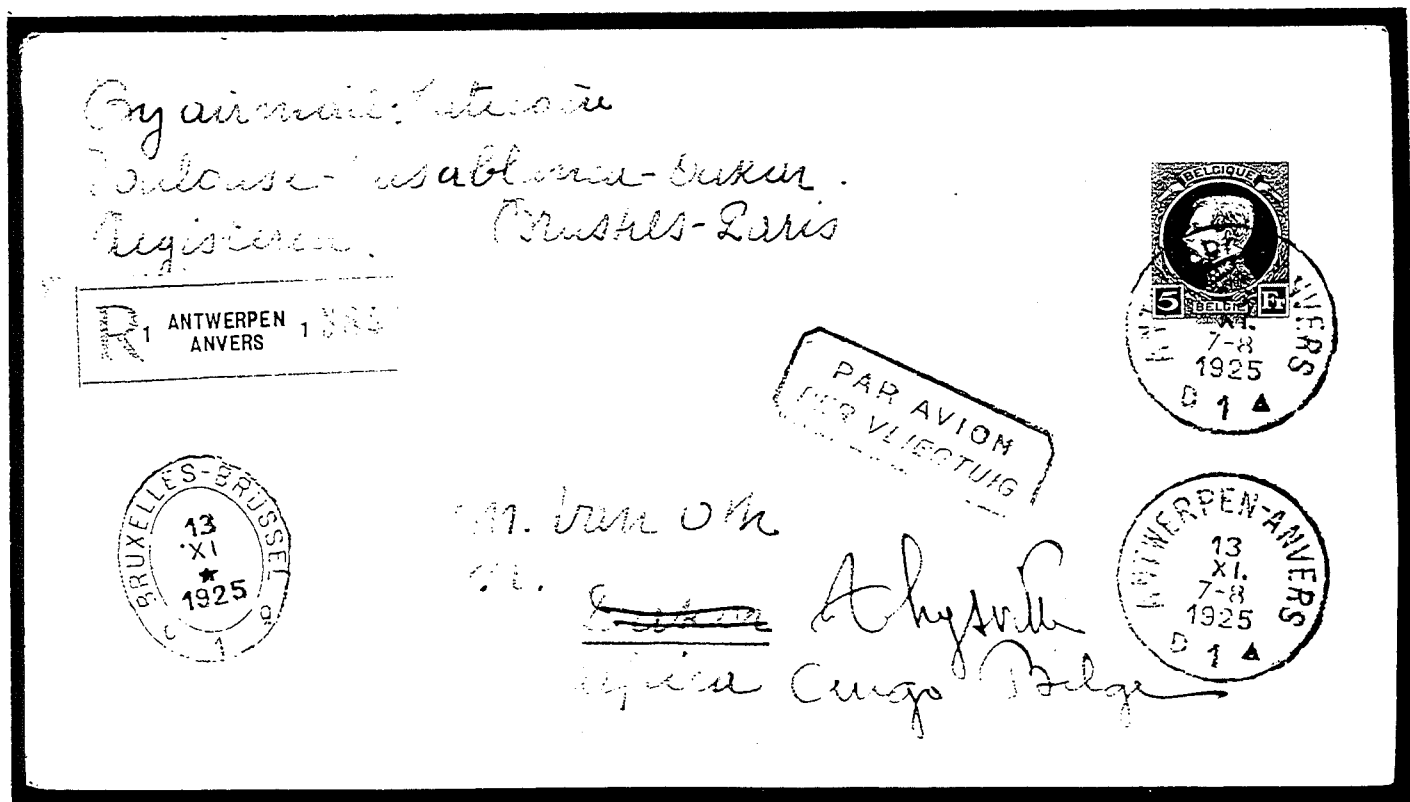


THE FIVE FRANC VALUE

The 5 Franc, Purple (SG 319, COB 217)

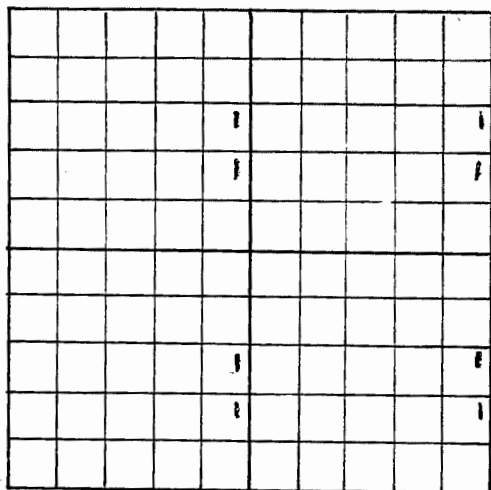
The 5Fr. stamp, printed in purple, was issued on the 15th October, 1923, in sheets of 100 in ten rows of ten stamps. Altogether only 1,000 sheets were printed from two plates which were numbered 1 and 2 and all were perforated 11½. The printing plates were built up from an intermediate block of 25 (5 x 5) specimens reproduced four times. Mainly, in view of the small printing, plate flaws are negligible.

A characteristic variety and one which is helpful in ascertaining how the plate was built up, is an uncoloured flaw in the uppermost limb of the second "E" in "Belgie" which occurs on the 15th and 20th specimens in the intermediate block of 25 (5 x 5). It is therefore found on stamps numbered 25, 30, 35, 40, 75, 80, 85 and 90 in every sheet.

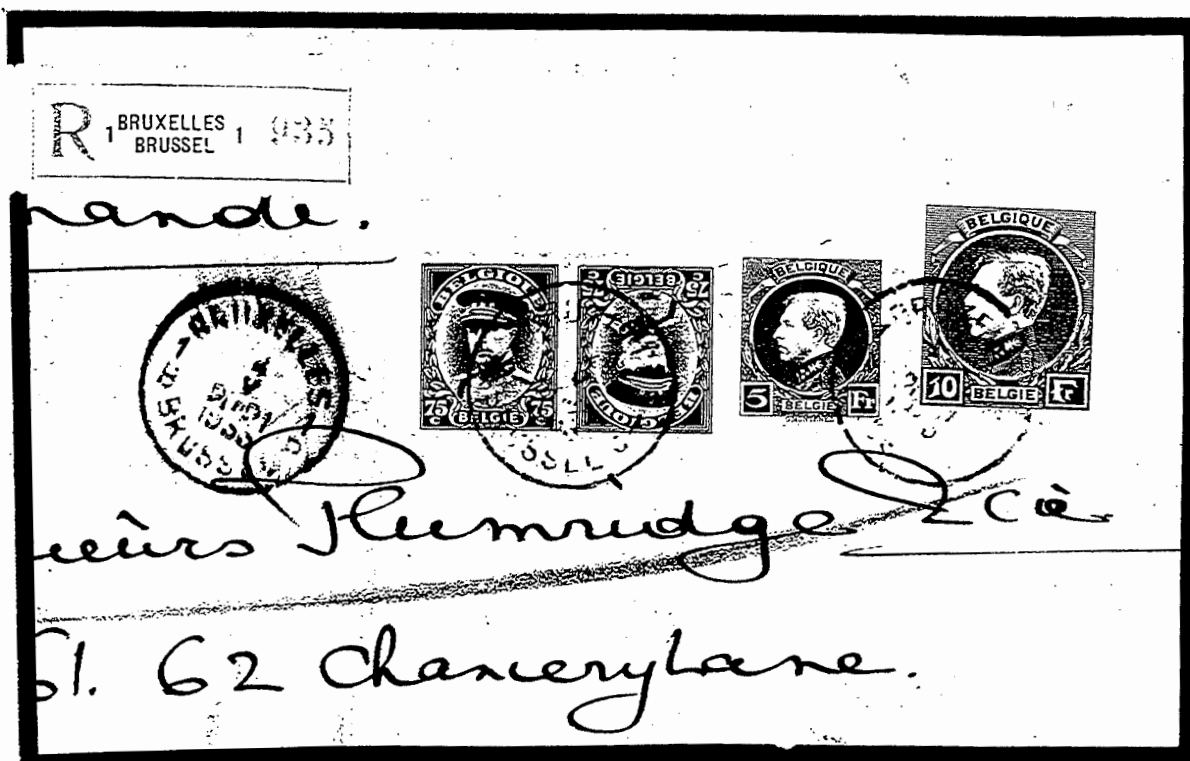


ANTWERP to DAKAR 13th November, 1925. 5Fr. Purple (COB 217)



Variety 1

This is the only plate flaw and consists of a white patch in the upper stroke of the second "E" in "BELGIE". It occurs twice in each intermediate block of 25 (numbers 15 and 20).



Part Front BRUSSELS to LONDON 4th May, 1933. 5Fr. Purple (COB 217), TB 15, COB 289. Registered.

### The 5 Franc, Red Brown (SG 320, COB 218)

A special issue of 50,000 sheets of four (2 x 2) stamps of this value were printed in red brown from a small plate, without number. All were perforated 11½. These miniature sheets were placed on sale at the International Philatelic Exhibition held at Brussels during the week commencing 24th May, 1924. A special Exhibition handstamp – bilingually inscribed – was imprinted in the top left corner of the sheet and the Works mark "Depot 1924" in the bottom right corner.

Some sheets have the appearance of being printed on a tinted paper. This is due to an occasional incomplete cleaning of the printing plate. There are no plate varieties.

See "BELGAPOST" Vol. 10, No.1, page 19, for an illustration of this special sheet.

## THE TEN FRANC VALUE

## The 10 Franc, Claret (SG 321, COB 219)

The 10Fr. was place on sale from the 5th December, 1922. The printings were made from four plates numbered 1 to 4 in sheets of 100, ten rows of ten stamps, and all were perforated 11½.

Each printing plate of 100 specimens was constructed from two intermediate blocks of 25 (5 x 5) arranged:

1. 2.  
1. 2.

There are at least four constant varieties found on every sheet.

Variety 1 A coloured spot in the upper limb of the "F" in "Fr" occurs on the 44th and 94th stamps, i.e. the 24th stamp in each of the blocks of 25 numbered 1.

Variety 2 A coloured dot in the "r" in "Fr" occurs on stamps numbered 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36, 46, 61, 66, 71, 76, 81, 86 and 96 in every sheet, i.e. the 6th, 11th and 16th stamp in each of the four blocks of 25 (5 x 5) with the addition of the 21st stamp in each of the blocks numbered 2.

Variety 3 A diagonal coloured scratch extending from the King's hair to his mouth occurs on the 89th stamp - this is "Balasse VI". It did not, therefore, exist on either of the original intermediate blocks, the damage occurring when the printing plate was built up.

Variety 4 A short fine line of colour from top of the epaulette extending to top of the collar occurs on the 7th and 57th stamp in each sheet, i.e. the 2nd stamp in each of the two blocks of 25 numbered 2.

There is another constant flaw - a spot of colour on the crown of the King's head, in hair, below the final "E" in "Belgique" (variety 5). This occurs in one vertical column, either the 5th or 10th. It certainly occurs in the 5th vertical row, so presumably in the 10th column. Can any member confirm this?

One or two other flaws can be found but do not appear to be constant.

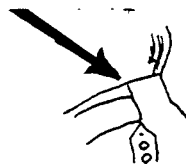
				5		4			
2				5	2				
2				5	2				
2				5	2				
			1	5	2				
				5		4			
2				5	2				
2				5	2				
2				5	2			3	
			1	5	2				



Variety 1



Variety 2



Variety 3 is "Balasse VI".

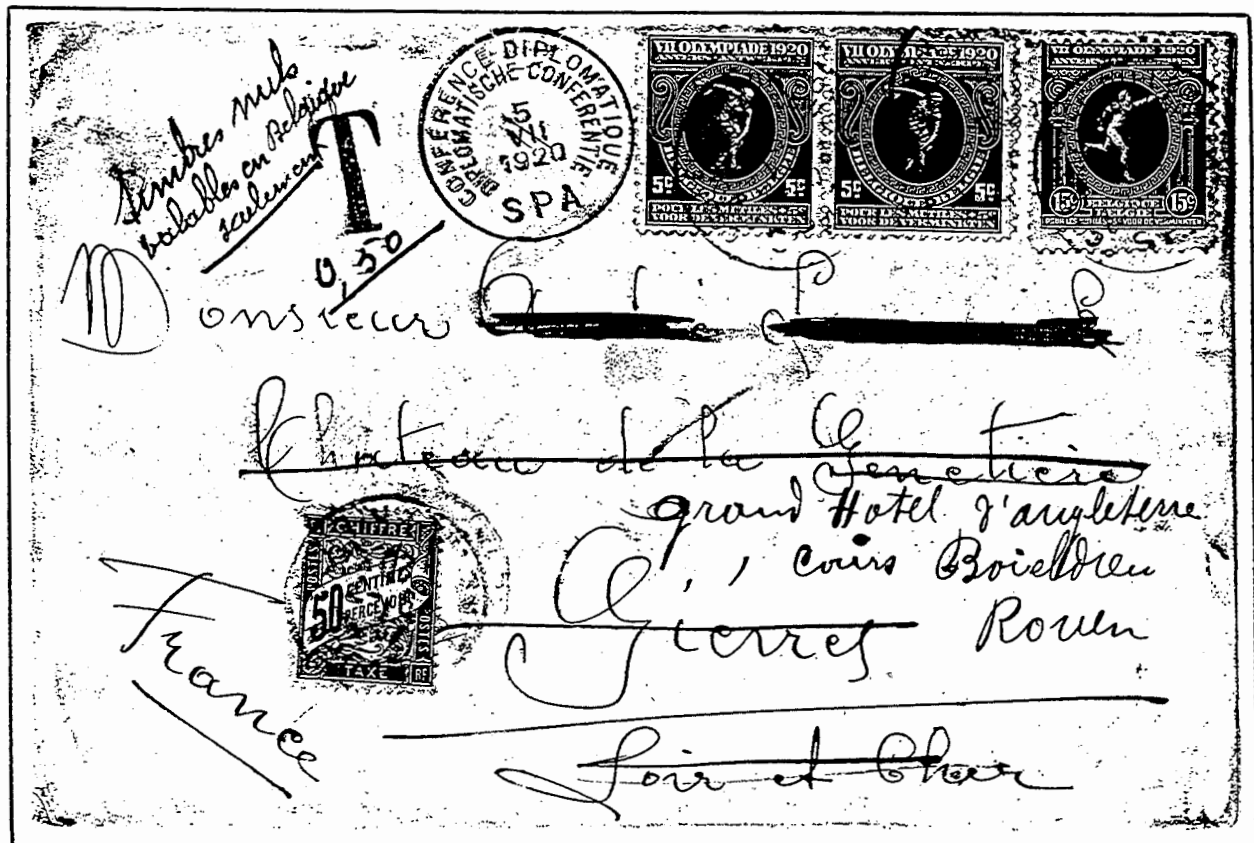
Variety 4



Variety 5

**THE SPA DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, 1920**

The issue of postage stamps (7th Olympic Special Issue) was not valid for use on international mail and correspondence so franked was treated as unpaid. "TIMBRES NULS VALABLES EN BELGIQUE SEULEMENT." Postage due on delivery - 50 centimes.

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Michael Barden**, from Australia, is busy working on World War 1 and -10%. He, together with his wife, was present at our Leamington Spa meeting and won the Barker-Johnson Cup, plus £50, for the -10% (from under our English noses!).

**Otto Sellinger**, from USA, was also at Leamington, where he gave a fine display of registered mail. For those who showed concern, Otto did eventually arrive home safely from Leamington.

**Peter Watts** notifies us that his wife, Sharon, presented him with their first child - a daughter, Rosie (7lb 13oz) on 1st September. As a result, he was granted permission not to attend Leamington! Our congratulations and best wishes to them all.

Our Secretary, **Chris Howe**, recently became a grandfather for the third time. His daughter gave birth to Jordan Christopher (3½ kilos) on 14th September - just in time for the Leamington meeting! After initial concern, Jordan is now thriving. Congratulations, Chris.

Our Northumberland member, **A. L. Soulsby**, writes to say how pleased he was to hear of our Leamington meeting and that he recognised several of the signatures on the menu card sent to him by Ken Morrell. His domestic circumstances give him little respite but he still likes to keep in touch with events.

## MEMBER NEWS

Ken Dore, after a long period of absence through ill-health, was able to attend Leamington. He says it was his first outing, which he thoroughly enjoyed. We were all delighted to see him back in circulation. Whilst confined at home, his hobby has greatly assisted him - his COB No.30 and exhibition collection continues to improve. Keep it up, Ken!

Peter Russell has for some time of late been kept busy looking after his wife, Nancy. Following a series of medical tests, she recently underwent hospital treatment and is now back home and improving. This should give Peter more time to devote to his main interest, the 1915 Albert issues, and we hope to see him at Regent's College in due course.

## NEW MEMBER

Arising from a contact by Jean Bruwier, we are pleased to welcome to the Circle Olivier Simons of Sterrebeek, who collects Postal History and Classic issues.

## AUCTION .... AUCTION .... AUCTION

The auction held at Leamington collected a total of £1,753, and the property of nine vendors passed to 33 buyers (15 in the room and 18 postal bidders). As this sale was largely made up of smaller value lots, the total result was encouraging. Trying to include a wide cross section of collecting areas is always difficult but I hope the result was appreciated - it is, of course, always governed by material offered by owners. Members are reminded that there are no extras - the hammer price is the price paid - but bids below Estimate/Reserve are unlikely to succeed.

Fixing this figure, however, is based on judgement rather than scientific accuracy and as an outcome some surprising results arise, especially if numerous bidders seek the same lot. As an example, Lot 5 went high (estimate £8 - realisation £27), likewise Lot 59 (estimate £15 - realisation £28), and Lot 113 (estimate £1 - realisation £9.50). Lot 118 was much sought after being a significant item of modern postal history interest.

There was a larger section than normal of World War 1 material, most of which sold. Lots 157, 158 and 180 were in demand and it is good to see the interest shown in this aspect of postal history.

A balance does seem to emerge between estimate and realisation over a complete auction. Taking the various sections, the early postal history periods are popular, including Registered/Airmail and Miscellaneous Postal History. The -10% section sold out as this is rarely offered in our sales. Postal Stationery and Railways went well. By contrast, Stamps, unless exceptional, are more difficult to sell. They do, however, form the bedrock of our hobby and members are urged not to overlook them. It is unlikely that they will remain at current valuations for much longer.

Overall, the number of lots sold was 197, representing 67% of the total offered.

The next auction - to be held in January 1998 - should include much Postal Stationery, Postage Dues, Dover-Ostend, Middle-Period Covers, TPO's and miscellaneous postal history.

A complete list of the results is included in this volume.

REG HARRISON



## RESULTS OF SALE HELD 20th SEPTEMBER, 1997

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
3	5.00	51	8.00	120	2.50	177	2.00	221	15.00
4	6.00	52	1.00	122	2.00	178	1.00	222	21.00
5	27.00	53	5.50	123	4.50	179	1.50	223	9.00
6	18.00	55	4.00	133	10.00	180	21.00	225	5.00
7	11.00	56	2.00	134	8.50	181	6.50	226	8.00
8	5.00	57	5.00	135	2.00	182	7.00	227	35.00
9	5.00	58	7.50	136	7.00	183	2.00	232	23.00
10	19.00	59	28.00	137	2.00	184	6.50	241	15.00
11	3.00	60	16.00	138	5.50	185	3.50	244	18.00
13	5.50	61	25.00	139	8.00	186	5.00	245	6.50
14	5.50	62	20.00	140	5.50	187	3.00	246	2.50
15	5.00	63	9.00	141	6.00	189	3.00	247	1.50
17	1.00	64	25.00	142	3.50	190	3.00	248	13.00
18	4.00	65	4.50	143	1.00	191	3.50	249	21.00
19	5.50	66	11.00	144	2.00	192	3.00	250	8.00
21	9.00	68	1.00	145	5.50	193	5.00	251	3.50
22	7.00	69	1.00	146	4.00	194	1.50	256	35.00
23	6.00	71	4.00	147	2.00	195	1.00	257	22.00
24	6.50	72	5.50	148	3.00	196	10.00	258	8.50
27	2.00	73	4.00	149	3.00	197	7.00	259	4.50
28	6.00	74	3.00	151	4.50	198	3.00	262	6.00
29	8.00	75	9.50	153	7.00	199	3.50	265	9.00
30	5.00	76	5.00	155	1.50	200	11.00	266	3.00
31	5.50	77	3.50	157	23.00	201	10.00	267	8.50
32	10.00	78	3.00	158	25.00	202	8.50	269	10.00
33	6.50	83	3.00	159	7.50	203	10.00	270	31.00
37	2.00	90	3.00	161	4.00	204	4.00	274	2.00
38	2.00	95	6.00	163	2.00	205	5.00	276	5.00
39	5.50	97	3.50	164	4.00	206	2.00	278	7.50
40	5.50	98	3.00	165	2.00	207	63.00	279	10.00
41	5.00	99	4.00	166	2.00	208	61.00	280	6.50
42	5.00	102	8.50	167	9.50	209	30.00	282	6.50
43	6.00	104	55.00	168	2.00	210	16.00	285	11.00
44	8.50	108	8.00	169	4.50	211	37.00	289	20.00
45	13.00	112	1.00	171	2.00	212	27.00	292	30.00
46	11.00	113	9.50	172	2.00	216	11.00	293	8.00
47	4.00	116	14.00	173	4.00	217	20.00	294	10.00
48	13.00	117	1.00	174	2.00	218	16.00	---	---
49	5.00	118	31.00	175	3.00	219	4.00	---	---
50	5.00	119	2.50	176	2.00	220	4.00	---	---

AN UNUSUAL POST-WAR CARD

The card illustrated below has been sent in by James Moore of Stockport.

It was sent from Heyst to Rousse in Bulgaria on the border with Roumania. Posted on 24th May, 1945 (two weeks after VE Day) and marked arrival 1st August, a total of 68 days. The wonder is not the length of time taken but the fact that it arrived at all, given the chaotic conditions in central and southern Europe at that time.

The franking is 1BF (foreign postcard rate) comprising COB 672 (pair), plus COB 673, cancelled by a brown cachet. Lower left corner 593 in a 26mm circle - censor mark?

Sent from one doctor to another, the message on the reverse roughly translates as follows:

*"My dear Confederate,*

*"Here we are at the end of the war. I trust that you have not undergone too much. Personally, I have not had too good a time of it. My fine house at the seaside is uninhabitable and will cost me about half a million francs to put it to rights. Physically, I have not been too bad and my family likewise.*

*"When I wrote to you during the war, I said that I would keep on your behalf a set of all the stamps issued here although you asked for five such sets. However this has not been possible - in view of the number of my other correspondents and the high cost of the stamps, I have had to economise. I trust that we can now carry on with our exchange."*

*Best Regards*

*Doctor Ern Leclercq"*

Apparently he must have been a keen philatelist trying to help supply other like-minded doctors.

It is interesting to note that most of those wartime issues are abundant today at low prices and almost impossible to sell. Not a good investment 50+ years ago!



# POSTAL HISTORY OF BRUSSELS (FINAL PART) (continued from Vol.10, No.1)

## Head Office Sections

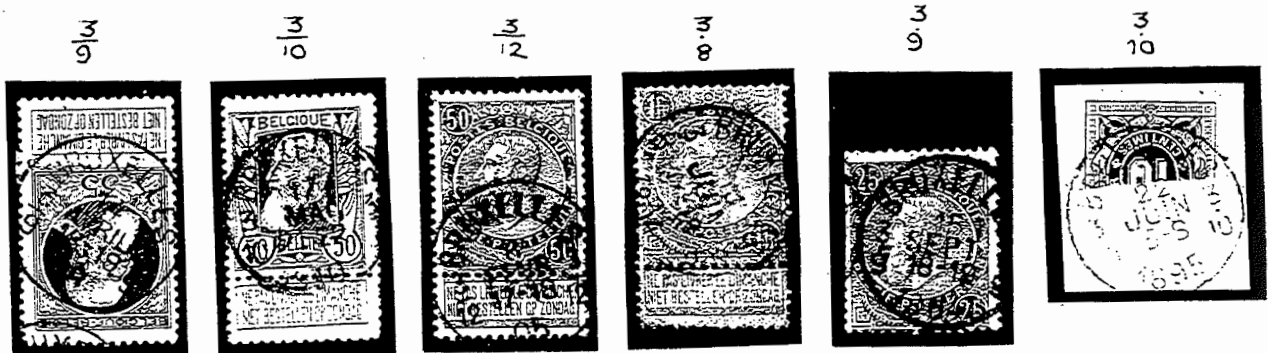
Of special interest is Section 3 dedicated to registered postal matters. Here there appeared for a while "LES FRACTIONNAIRES" or fractions with 3 above 8, 9, 10 and 12. Sometimes there is a bar separating the numbers e.g.  $\frac{3}{9}$  or simply a dot e.g.  $\frac{3}{8}$

Often there is a handstamp of 3 BRUXELLES 3, as well as the fraction handstamp on the same cover e.g.  $\frac{3}{8}$  BRUXELLES  $\frac{3}{8}$

This suggests that they represent sub-sections of Section 3 in the Head Office but little otherwise is known about these marks - they are not common!



Registered Envelope Letter to SALISBURY, 7th November 1901. "BRUXELLES 3" Cachet

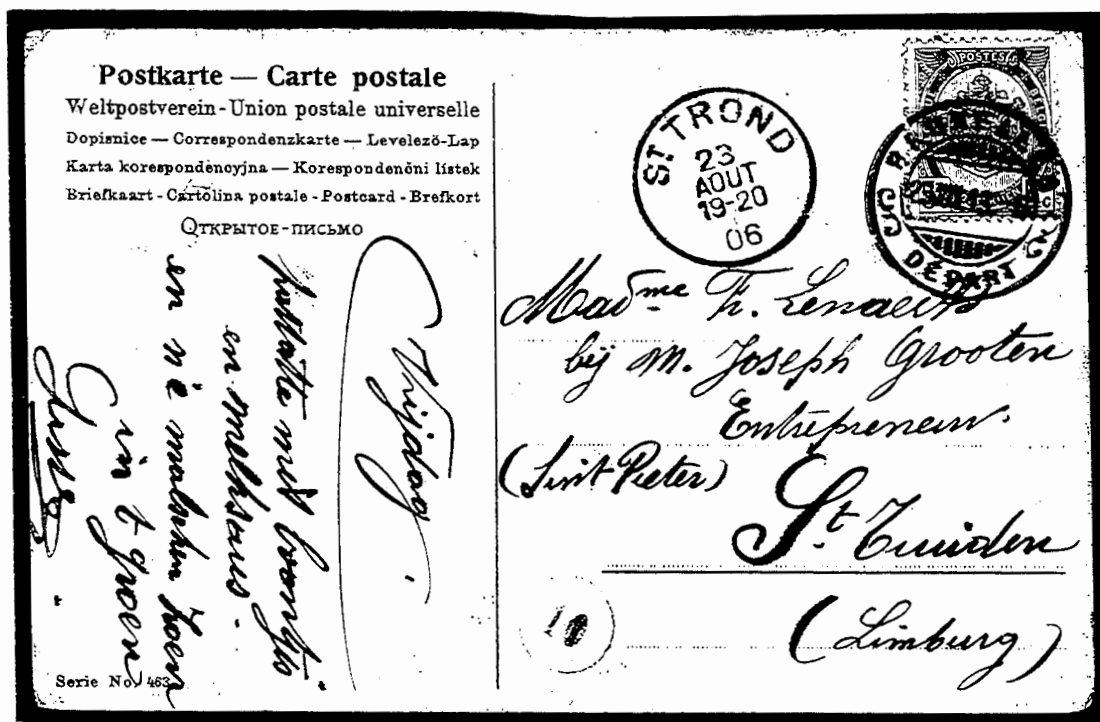


# Bridge Style Departs

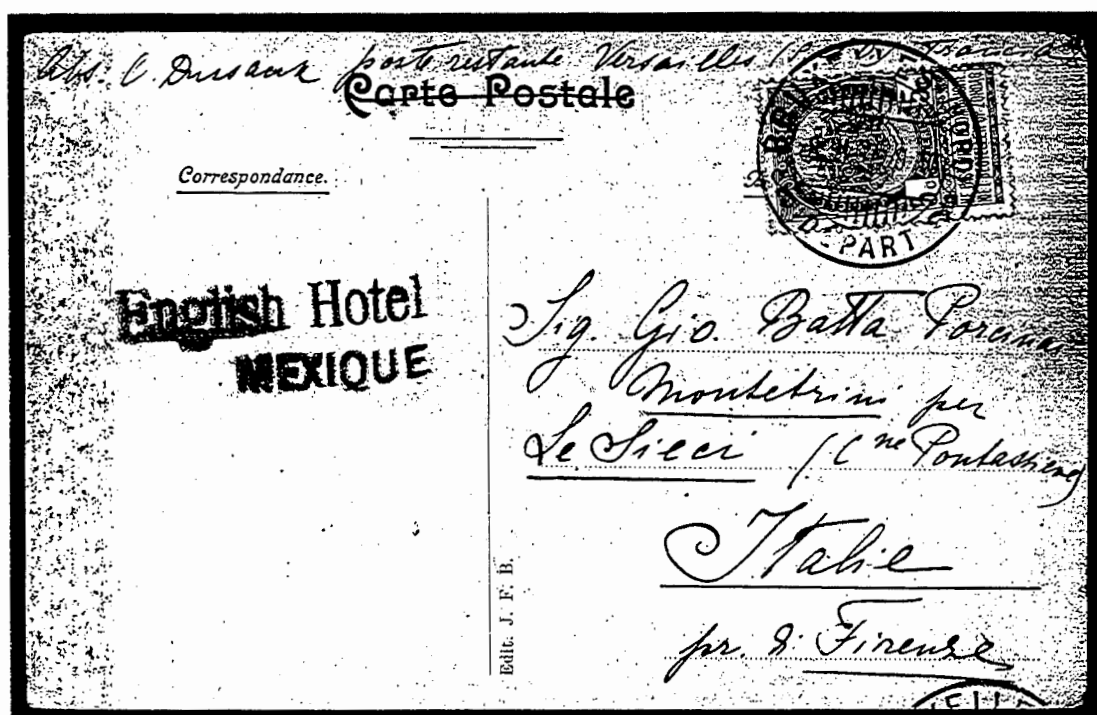
From 1906 to 1908, a small number (twelve) of offices were issued with a large bridge style double circle canceller with vertical hatching in the central segments. Most of these related to Railway Stations and there were three variations in the design. Of these twelve cancellers, three were issued to Brussels:-

Bruxelles Depart	25mm diameter
Bruxelles (Midi) Depart	27mm diameter
Bruxelles (Nord) Depart	29mm diameter

They are mainly used on Postal Stationery.



"BRUXELLES-DEPART" to St. Truiden 23rd August, 1906



"BRUXELLES (NORD) DEPART" to Italy 8th June, 1907



# Agency Offices

These were basically offices or shops which were authorised to accept mail for collection and onward transmission by the Post Office. Created to cater for the increasing volumes of mail, Brussels had up to 57 Agency Offices opened between 1900 and 1910.

A handstamp was used originally with the wording e.g. BRUXELLES AGENCE NO.3. From 1910 onwards the word AGENCE was omitted but replaced by two stars with the number repeated twice - one on each side, e.g:

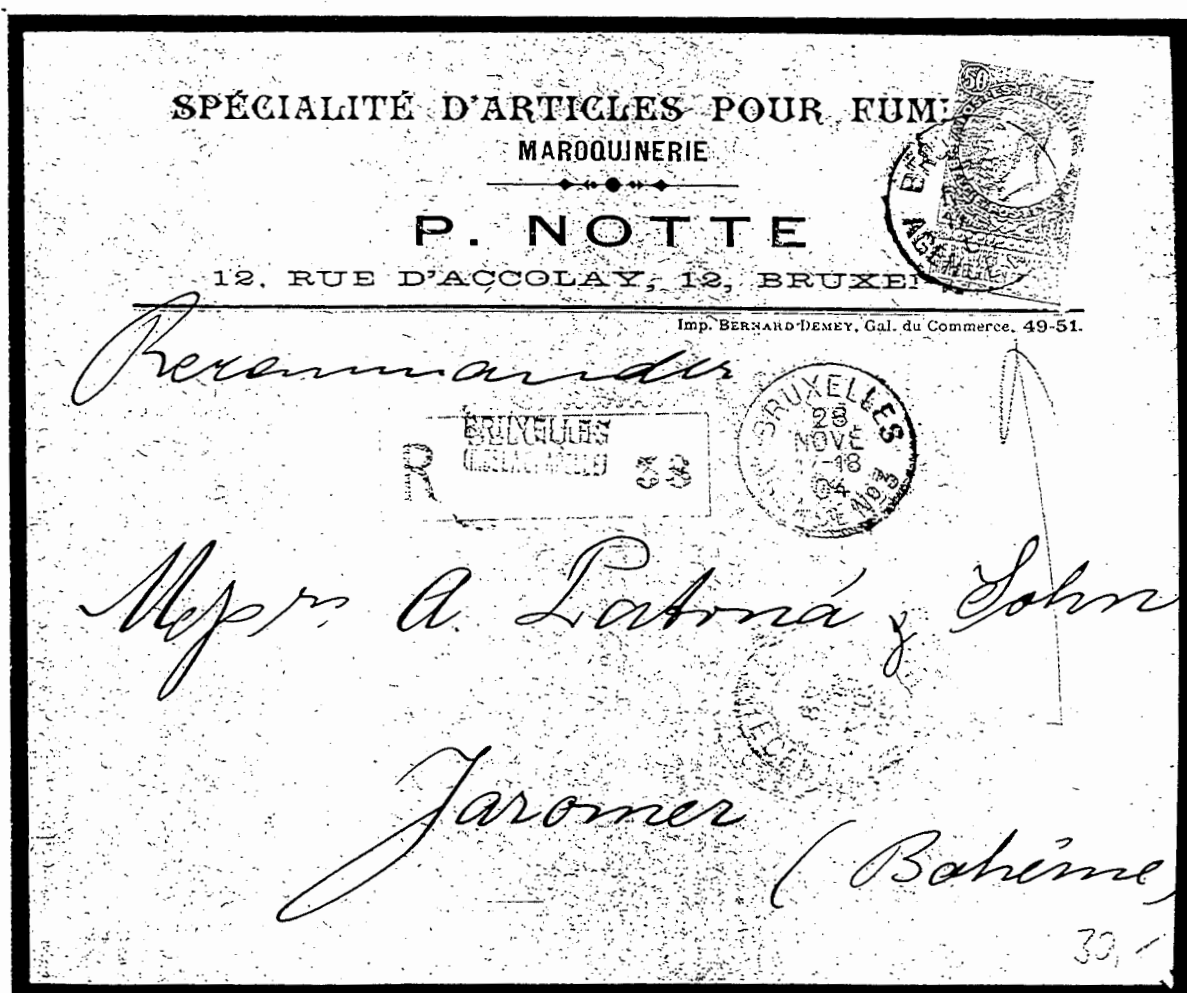
30 BRUSSEL 30/BRUXELLES  
☆ ☆

The stars were initially hollow but later versions were solid.

From 1920, a revised form had the number once only at the bottom of the circle, e.g:

BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL/ \* 38\*

These marks are only found on special mail, especially registered letters, and these have a matching number (and linguistic predominance) on the registration label.



"BRUXELLES AGENCE No.3" to Bohemia 28th November, 1904

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE  
DE BELGIQUE  
3, MONTAGNE DU PARC, 3  
BRUXELLES



RECOMMANDEE

15 Octobre 1918.

*reçu par Dépôt.*  
- *Boat Capital J.W.*  
- *8 Parts Réserve.*  
- *anciennes.*  
- *8 (nouvelles)*  
- *16 Parts.*

*Monneur Dequenne Yrmand*  
*Vendu: 2.*  
*Reste: 6.*  
*37 Rue Montoyer.*

BRUSSEL 38  
BRUXELLES 38 662

"BRUSSEL 38 BRUXELLES 38" Local letter 16th April, 1919

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE  
DE BELGIQUE  
3, Montagne du Parc, 3  
BRUXELLES



Re R BRUXELLES 38 739  
BRUSSEL

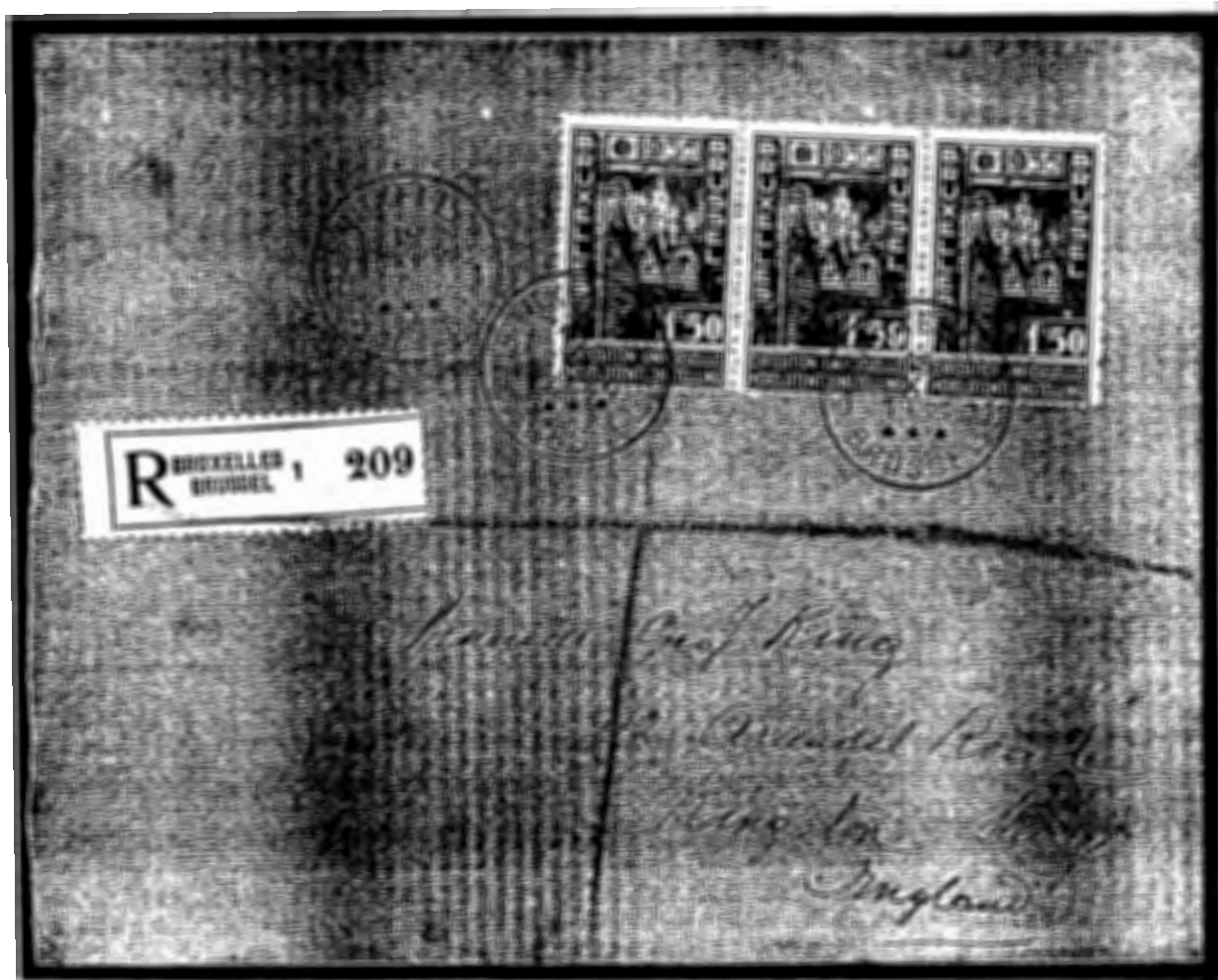


*Monneur Vermande Dequenne*  
*20 avril 1920.*  
*37, rue Montoyer*  
*Dépôt - 8 Réserve / nouvelles*  
*au*  
*Compte Titres n° 204.*

"BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL ★ 38 ★" Local 21st April, 1920

Philatelic Bureau

During the period 1920/1930's, sendings from the Brussels Philatelic Bureau received a special handstamp which incorporated three stars. A single circle (25mm) canceller BRUXELLES 1 BRUSSEL 1 with a central plug showing DAY/MONTH/YEAR/\*\*\* was utilised. Usually such mail was registered. Further information on dates of known usage of this canceller would be appreciated.



"BRUXELLES 1 ★★★ 1 BRUSSEL" to Kingston 15th November, 1935

Postal Boxes

The use of an upright losange containing the letters A, B, C and D is mentioned by Hanciau on page 412 of his book on Postal History.

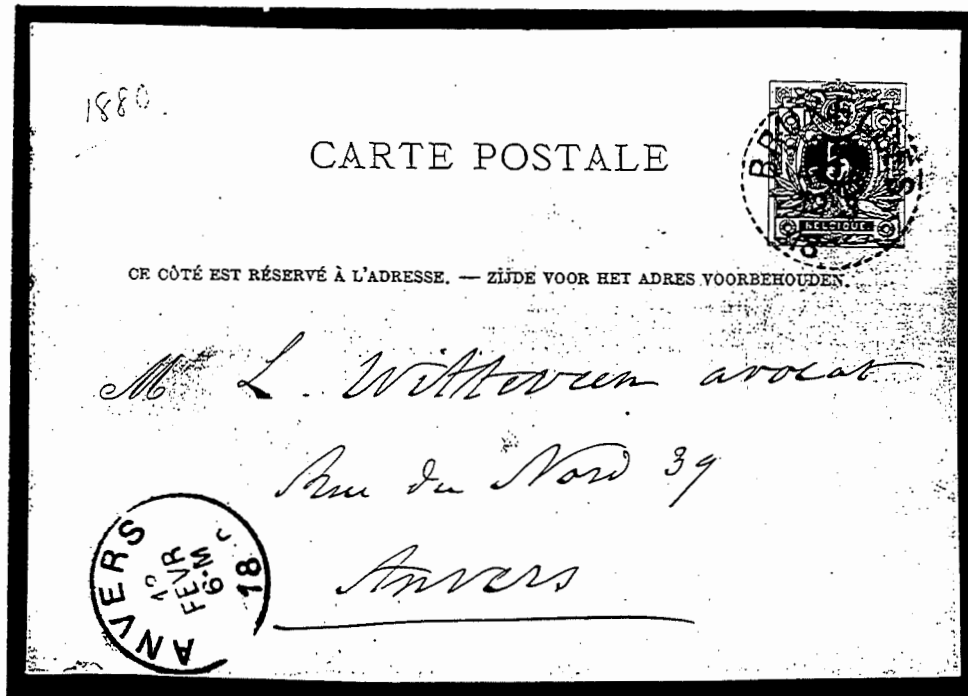
Mail arriving at Brussels and put into a locked box (for which a charge of 1-2 franc per month was made) received this mark. Of the mail that I have seen (1904-1927), only some are marked BOITE POSTALE, others bear Brussels addresses, some of which are commercial firms. Mail both from inland and foreign sources received these marks.

By the dates in question, the designation of offices by the letter A to E had ceased in Brussels so were these marks all used in the Central Bureau? Perhaps a member can explain the system in use and the charges made. Although not rare, neither are they common so perhaps only the top letter of a bundle was marked. Of those that I have seen, the most common use appears to be on postcards.



Experimental MarksCircle of Dots

Believed to be a trial cancellation, it comprises a single circle (24mm) which instead of being continuous, takes the form of a ring of dots. In use between November 1879 and May 1880, it is seen on both stamps and postal stationery but is rare. The example illustrated shows a clear impression so it was not obviously discarded for technical reasons.



Experimental Circle of Dots 12th February, 1880

Circle with Lines of Parallel Dots

There are two versions of these experimental cancellers in which the parallel lines are either small dots or dashes. Both were only used for a short time around March 1884. They are extremely rare and I have only one example on a loose copy of COB 30.

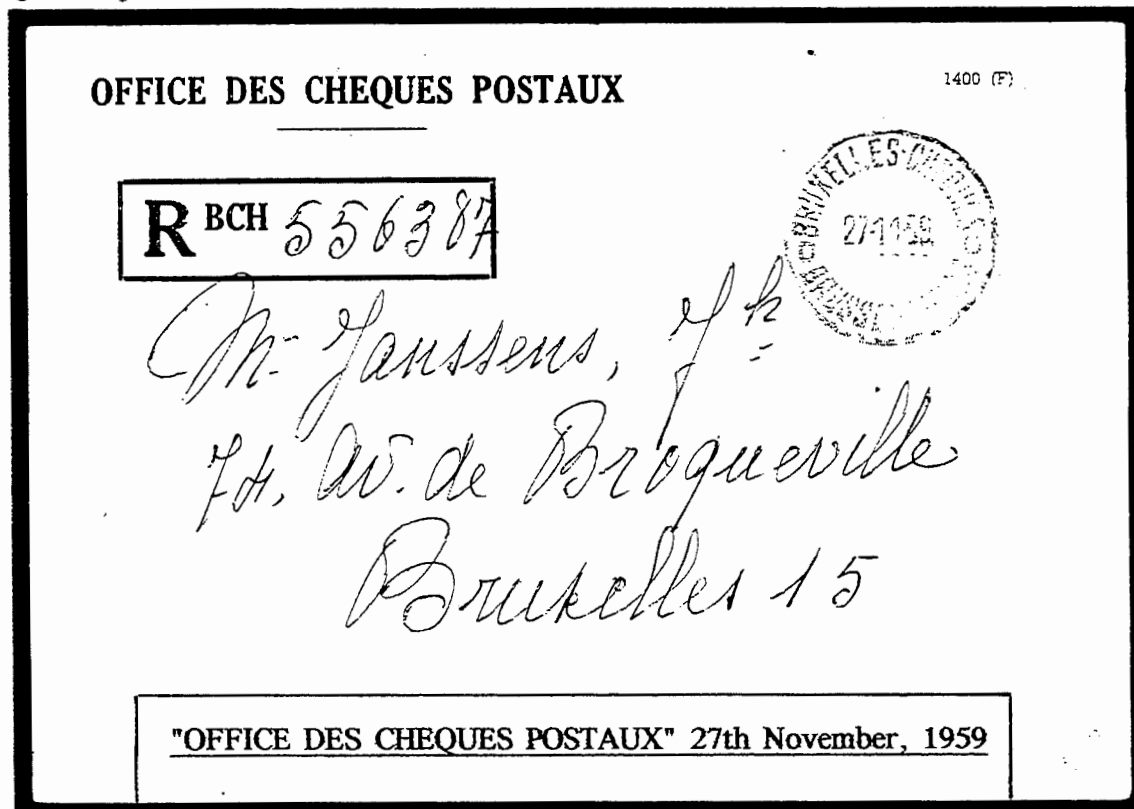


"BRUXELLES-CHEQUES/BRUSSEL CHECKS" 2nd November, 1935

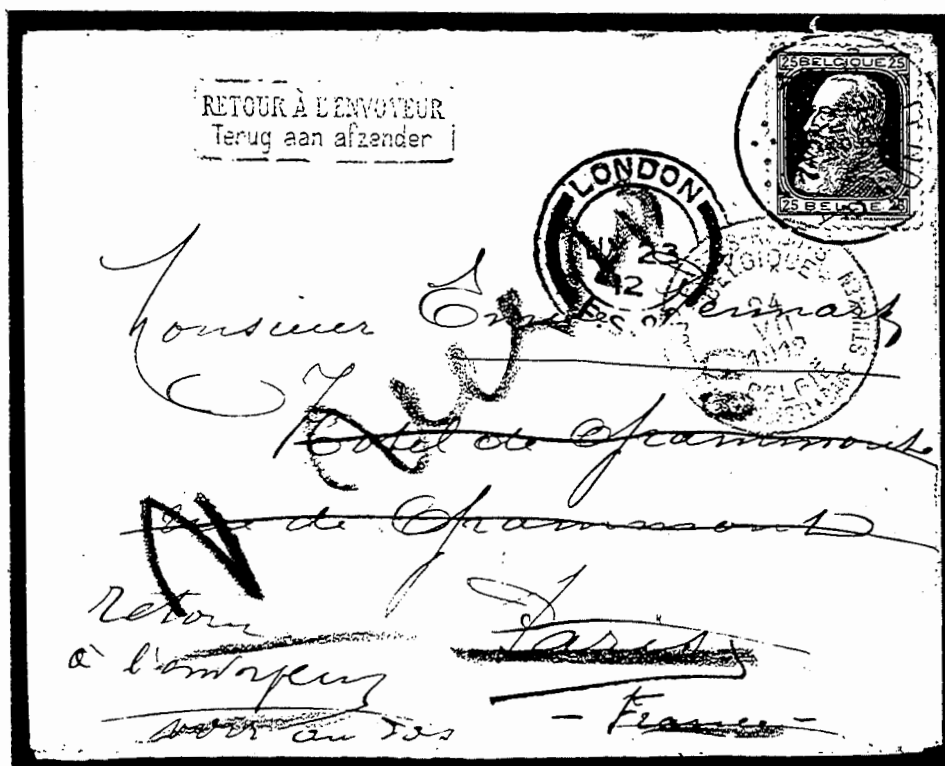


Special OfficesBruxelles-Cheques

A bilingual handstamp with the legend BRUXELLES-CHEQUES/BRUSSEL-CHECKS with two side letters is seen struck in blue ink. Although unofficial, it is occasionally seen cancelling a postage stamp.

Rebut

For mail which was undeliverable, a mark REBUT was applied on the envelope. Initially it took the form of an "R" in a losange of dots, later a REBUT handstamp or CDS bearing the words POSTES-REBUTS BELGIQUE. Later versions bore a bilingual description.

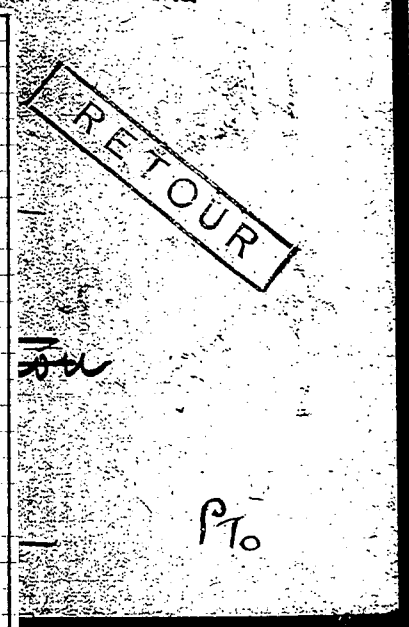
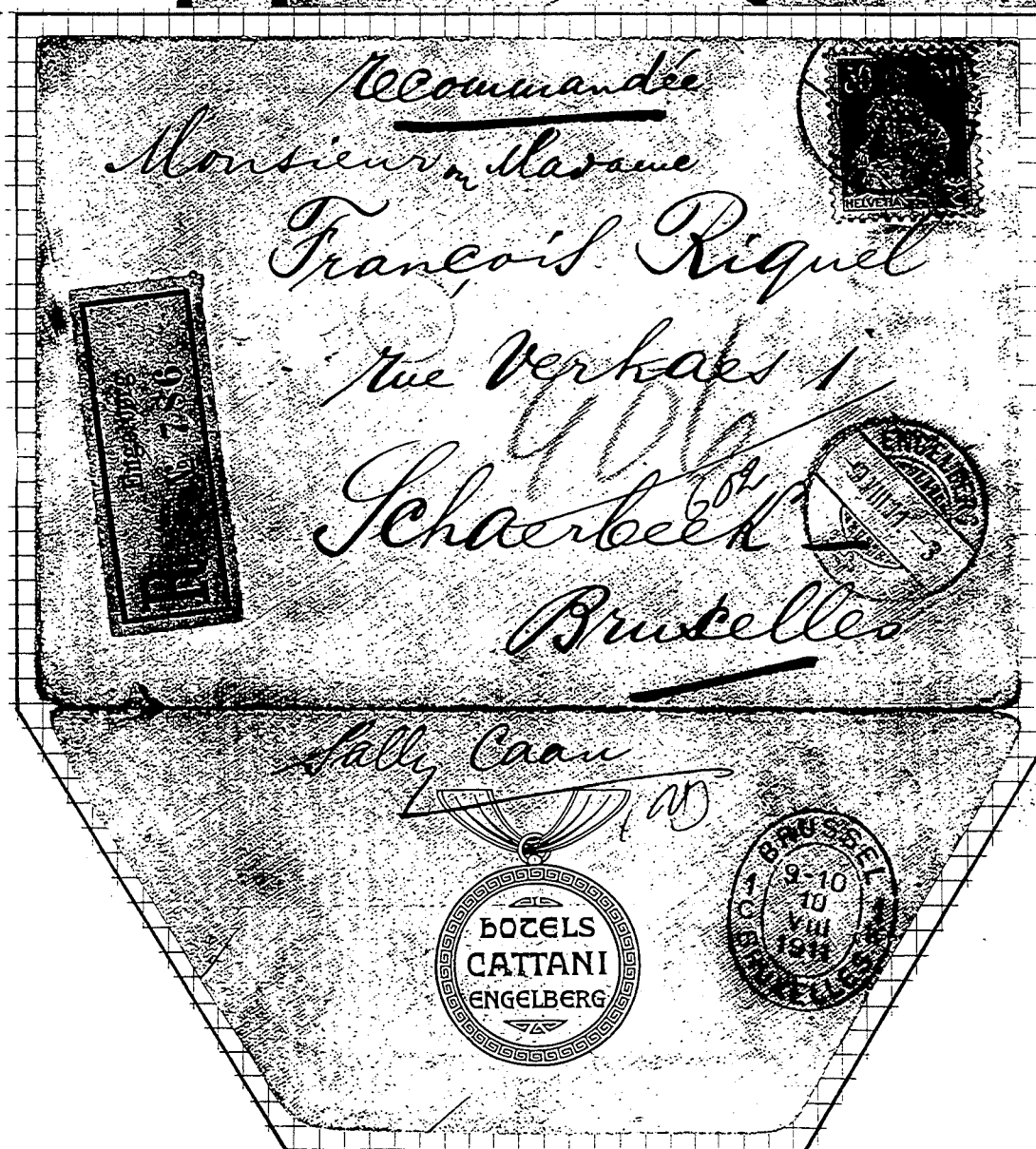
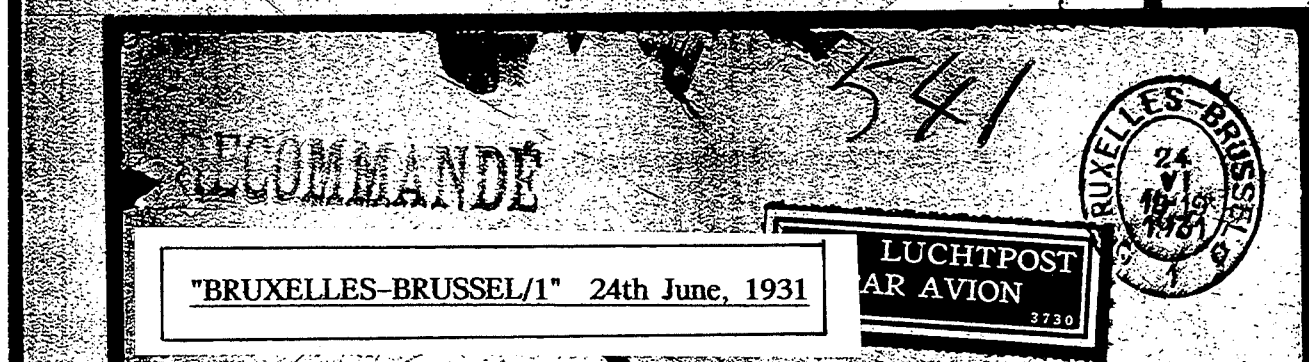
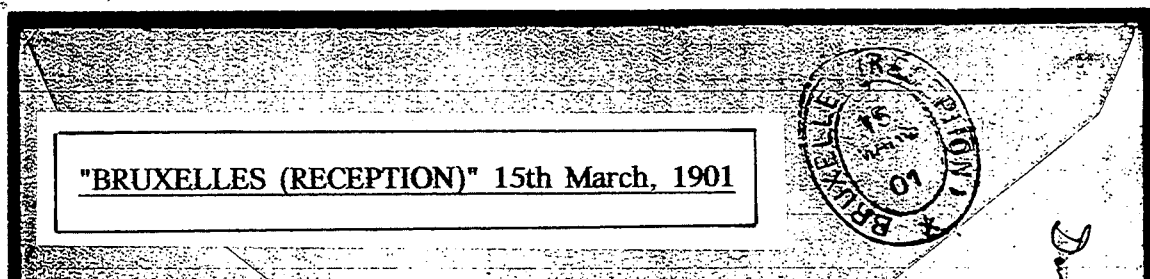


"POSTES-REBUTS BELGIQUE" 27th July, 1912



Receipt of Registered Mail

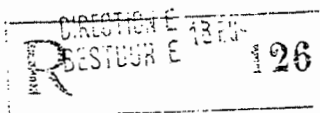
For mail (except postcards!) which was registered, on arrival in Brussels on oval handstamp 'BRUXELLES (RECEPTION)' was applied from around 1895. This became bilingual 'BRUXELLES-BRUSSEL' from around 1910, of which there are two versions (see illustrations).



**"BRUSSEL/1C 1K/  
BRUXELLES"**  
**10th August 1911**

## Official Cachets

For mail originating from the Postal Bureau, various office markings have been used. A bilingual mark in blue ink "SERVICE DES POSTES/POSTDIENST" in script is illustrated, used in 1929. Also an official envelope during World War 2 marked BUREAU DE POSTE DE BRUXELLES 1 containing a forwarded letter. No bilingual considerations apparently.

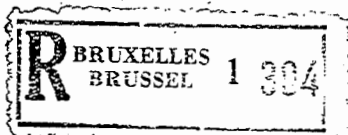


*Monsieur Geo J. King* 182  
*35, Algiers Road*  
*Louvres S. E. 13*

*Service des Postes  
 Postdienst*

"SERVICE DES POSTES/POST DIENST" 17th November, 1929

**Bureau de poste de Bruxelles 1**



*26/6*

*55*  
*Seldford*



*Mr. George. Fey*  
~~*Marcus 9/11 Main Seldford n° 4404*~~  
~~*I. Fischelstein Pionier Berlin G.34*~~  
~~*For P.M. 3 Hüb 55 Weidenweg 87*~~

"BUREAU DE POSTE DE BRUXELLES 1" Envelope 20th June, 1941

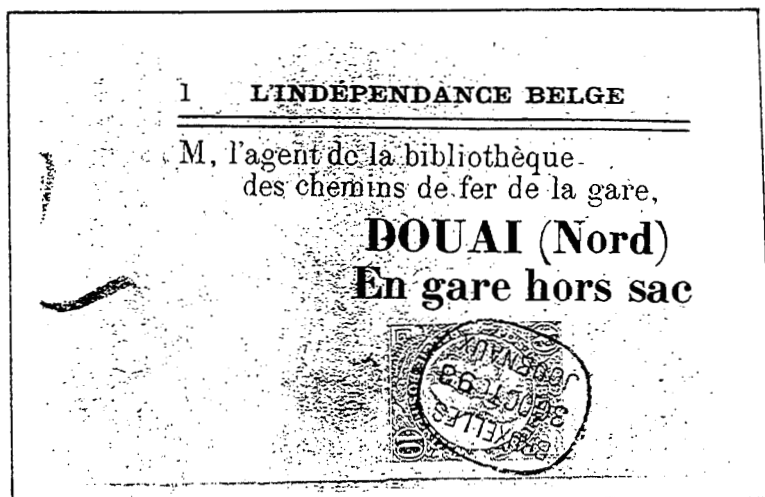
Brussels Airport

For mail originating at Brussels Haren Airport, a special cachet is illustrated which is bilingual. This is one of many which were in use at the airport created specially for specific flights or events.

Printed Matter

For newspapers and journals, special circular handstamps were created bearing the letters PP or PD. Generally, these were not solely for Brussels although it still handled the bulk of such mail. In 1881, upright oval cancellers were introduced with the year in the top segment.

In 1893, a smaller squared circle type, bearing the legend "BRUXELLES/DATE/JOURNAUX", was introduced until 1910, when this also was replaced by a bilingual version which, of necessity, was larger in size.



*In conclusion, this article whilst not comprehensive, indicates the wealth of Brussels markings which I hope will be of interest to members.*

RTH



REVIEW OF JOURNALS

Unfortunately, as no reviews have been made during the past six months there is much to do – so here we go!

**L'Amicale Philatélique** – The second part of the article on "Le Ravitaillement" is found in No. 422 (February 1997). This contains much of this issue.

No. 423 (March 1997) gives details on the postal relations between Belgium and Constantinople by Jean de Bast.

No. 424 (April 1997) has a very useful article – the earliest postal markings of Belgian Aero letters by Walter Major.

A short article on Registered Etiquettes from France to Belgium in 1916, by Gerhard Ludwig, is of some interest. By the same author, a short article on the German special postal trains, 1914–1918, is found in No. 425 (May 1997). Again by the same author, is a useful article on the posts between St. Gilles to Siegburg in the First World War.

In "BELGAPOST" Vol.10, No.2, we announced that "**Le Philatéliste Belge**" was to be published again. The first issue duly arrived in April 1997. In A4 size, some 24 pages in high quality paper, no advertising, well printed, good illustrations – what more could we ask. We do hope that this first issue can survive! Amongst the articles we find one of the Large Montenez issue – this may well complement our own forthcoming article (probably March/April 1998).

**"World Wars 1914–1918, 1939–1945"** – We have now received three more issues of this journal (Nos. 30, 31, 32). Apart from an article on the Nord–Belge railway line and its postal markings, the remaining articles are about Germany and its postage stamps etc.

**\*Info-Phila** – Issue No. 62 carries an article on the Small Montenez issues, mainly on the plate numbers – which has already been dealt with in our own articles in "BELGAPOST". There is also an interesting article on "Le Chemin de Fer de Chimay". Both articles are continued in No. 63, together with a good article on the 40c issues of Belgium from 1849 to 1865.

**"Belgian Postal History (Posthistorama)"** – First, we should congratulate the Editor/President, Claude Delbeke, on being honoured at Coventry in October on becoming a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Amongst issue Nos. 17 and 18 (March/June 1997), we find the French posts in relationship with Constantinople (M. Hecq). Many other articles (both in French and Flemish) can be found in these issues, mainly on subjects other than Belgium.

For the first time, we have received odd issues of "**The Belgiophile**", this being the official journal of the American–Belgian Philatelic Society. It is now in its fourteenth volume (1997). The editor is Harry W. Wilcke, of 116 Dock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446–6230. The Auction Chairman is our member, Otto Sellinger, who was with us at the Leamington Spa weekend.

# THE POST IN BELGIUM AND ITS ANTECESSORS PRIOR TO 1849

By J.F. Giblin

## THE "CONQUERED DEPARTMENTS" OF FRANCE

By their decrees of 15th January and 16th February 1790, the French Constituent Assembly abolished the ancient provinces of France to replace them originally by 83 departments. These were then numbered in alphabetical order from No 1 : Ain to No 83 : Yonne. During 1793 and 1794, numbers 84 to 90 were added whilst No 115 was added in 1808. Each postal town within a particular department was given the specific departmental number to be placed above its postmark.

As French domination spread across the Continent of Europe, many adjacent areas were absorbed into France and treated as if they were indigenous departments. In particular, these areas of the Austrian Netherlands were given the following numbers during the period of 1st October 1795 and 1st March 1814:-

No.	Department	Capital
86	Jemappes	Bergen/Mons
91	Lys	Brügge/Bruges
92	Escaut	Gent/Gand
93	Deux-Nethes	Antwerpen/Anvers
94	Dyle	Brussels
95	Meuse Inferiere	Maastricht
96	Ourthe	Lüttich/Liege
97	Sambre-er-Meuse	Naman/Namur
98	Forets	Luxembourg

During this period, in general, all the postal towns had their names transliterated into French and their postmarks prefixed with the departmental number. If the postage had been pre-paid then that number had the capital letter P placed before and after it; eg. P86P Mons.

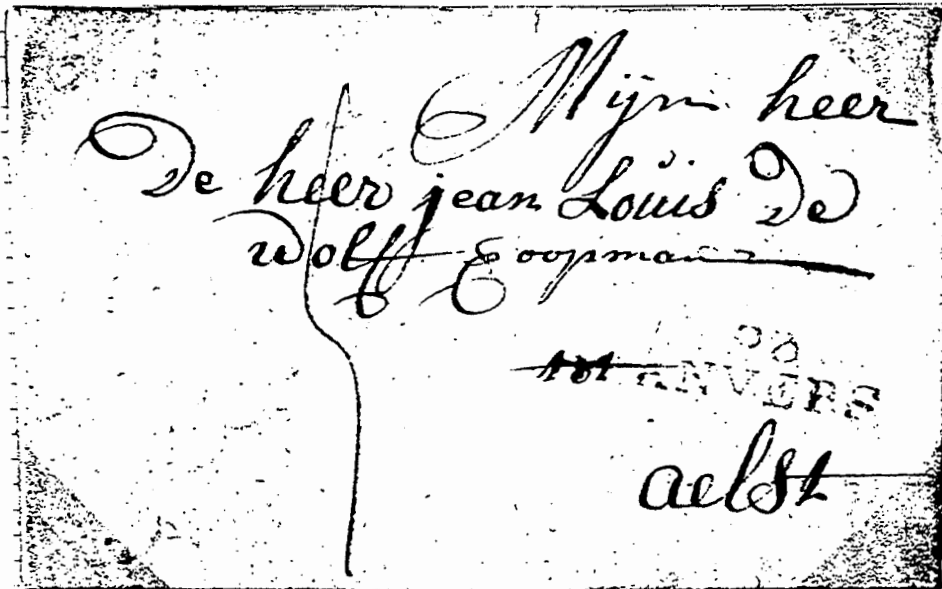
It was only after the suppression of the Kingdom of Holland, on 16th March 1810, that the northern Dutch provinces were converted into nine (Nos 118 - 126) French departments for a period that ended on 31st December 1813.

No.	Department	Capital
118	Zuiderzee	Amsterdam
119	Monden van de Maas	Den Haag
120	Monden van den Ijessel	Zwolle
121	Oppen Ijessel	Arnhem
122	Vriesland	Leuwaarden
123	Wester-Eems	Groningen
124	Oester-Eems	Aurich
125	Monden van de Schelde	Middelburg
126	Monden van den Rhijn	Herzogenbusch

Parts of the Dutch provinces were also included in No 92 (Schelde); No 93 (Twee Nethen) and No 95 (Beneden Maas).

## DEPARTEMENT CONQUIS

1797.



The above letter sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the red straight line postmark of 93 Anvers - or Antwerpen - the city on the river Scheldt, situated 27 miles north of Brussels, which, from 1st October 1795 to 1st March 1814, was the capital of French Département Nr 93: Bui de Nettes or Deux - Nettes.

This letter sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written on 22nd December 1797.

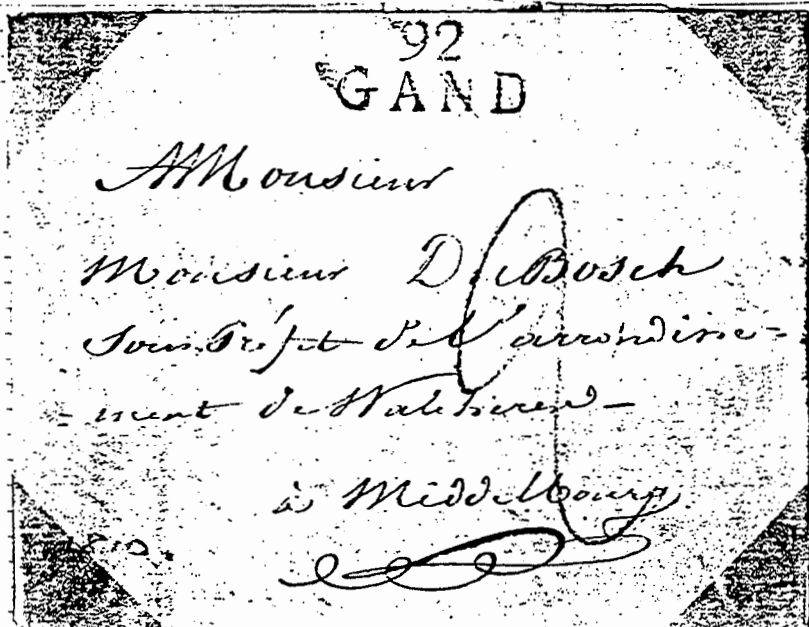
It has been addressed to Aelst - or Alost - a town on the river Yender, previously the capital of Austrian Flanders but, for the same period, placed now in French Département Nr. 92: Schelde or Escant.

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

93  
ANVERS

## DEPARTEMENT CONQUIS

1810.



The above letter-sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the straight line postmark of 92 Gand - or Ghent - the city situated at the confluence of the Scheldt and the Lys at a distance of 30 miles west-north-west of Brussels which was then the capital of the département conquis Nr. 92; Schelde or Escaut.

This letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written on 14th. May 1810.

It has been addressed to Middelbourg - or Middelburg - the Dutch fortress town on the island of Walcheren situated at a distance of 4 miles north-north-east of Flushing. It was then the capital of the département conquis Nr. 125: Scheldemündungen or Bouches de l'Escaut.

The postal tariff of 2 décimes has also been written in manuscript on the obverse of this letter-sheet.

## THE KINGDOM OF THE UNITED NETHERLANDS

It was during 1798, in London, that the exiled Stadholder, William V (1748 - 1806), and the British Government, not only began to plan for the restoration of the Dutch Republic, under the House of Orange, but also to agree to merge the Austrian Netherlands with the northern ones to constitute a firmer barrier against France. The son of William V, soon to be known as William I (1772 - 1843) King of the United Netherlands, landed at Scheveningen, on 30th November 1813, to be hailed as the symbol and the repository of Dutch liberty. As the severance of the southern provinces from France was the "conditio sine qua non" of British diplomacy. Lord Castlereagh finally, in the Protocol of 21st June 1814, obtained the agreement of the Great Powers to the unification of the Netherlands and, on 31st July 1814, William I took over the governance of the southern provinces. On 16th March 1815, William, I took the title of King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg.

The postal consequences of these events were that the whole country was administered as an entity in accordance with the postal decree of 1st October 1815; the southern provinces being constituted as the 4th and 5th Districts.

As an obvious reaction to the French occupation, the numeration of the conquered departments was removed; quite literally by their physical excision from the actual postmarks. However, the use of the initials P.P. (Post Payé) was retained. A more controversial alteration was the replacement of French town names, in the Walloon areas as well as in the Flemish ones, with town names in "Dutch", as part of a measure of uniformity throughout the whole of the United Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

During this period, of 1814 to 1829, the postmarks were almost invariably of the single straight line type struck in either black or red ink. Only in 1829 were single circle postmarks, with the day and month, but not the year, introduced for certain post towns. The use of the word, "FRANCO" (Paid) only appeared as a straight line addition to the town name where this was appropriate.

## THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

The Kingdom of the United Netherlands could have been a splendid nation, rich and prosperous, if all the various interests had been fully safeguarded. However, many vexatious measures were taken in the political, linguistic and religious fields that provoked a violent measure of opposition to the government of William I. The July 1830 revolution in Paris against the French King Charles X appears to have been a major influence in the Southern Provinces leading to the formation of Provincial Government in Brussels on 25th September 1830. On 4th November 1830 a National Congress was summoned that, on 18th November 1830, proclaimed the independence of Belgium.

A Dutch army invaded the Southern Provinces in retaliation but made only slight progress and the Great Powers, of Great Britain, Prussia, Austria, and France, summoned the Conference of London to adjudicate. On 4th June 1831, the British candidate for the Belgian throne, Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, was duly elected as Leopold I. It was not until 1st February 1839, that William I notified to the Great Powers his final acceptance of the Thirty-Six Articles of the Treaty of London and took possession of the parts of Limbourg and Luxembourg, there granted to him, on 22nd June 1839. The present day Kingdom of Belgium thus came into existence.

It was not until 1st July 1849 that adhesive postage stamps, portraying the head of Leopold I facing to the right and displaying "Epaulettes" on his right shoulder, came first to be issued. Thus, for eighteen years, postmarks continued to be struck on the obverse of entires to confirm the date of receipt. The language of the postmarks was altered to reflect that of the place of origin whilst the single straight line postmarks gave way to the use of single and double circle ones now containing the day, month and year of posting; the year usually placed at the bottom of the circle with the day and month in the centre. In this way Belgium followed the general development of postmarks throughout civilised Europe.





LEOPOLD II

ROI DES BELGES.

*Signature* *notaire par Piquet*

*Secrétaire du Roi*

UNITED NETHERLANDS

1817.



The above letter-sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the red single straight line postmark of Antwerpen - not now written 'Anvers' - the seaport and city on the Scheldt situated 47 miles from its mouth.

ANTWERPEN

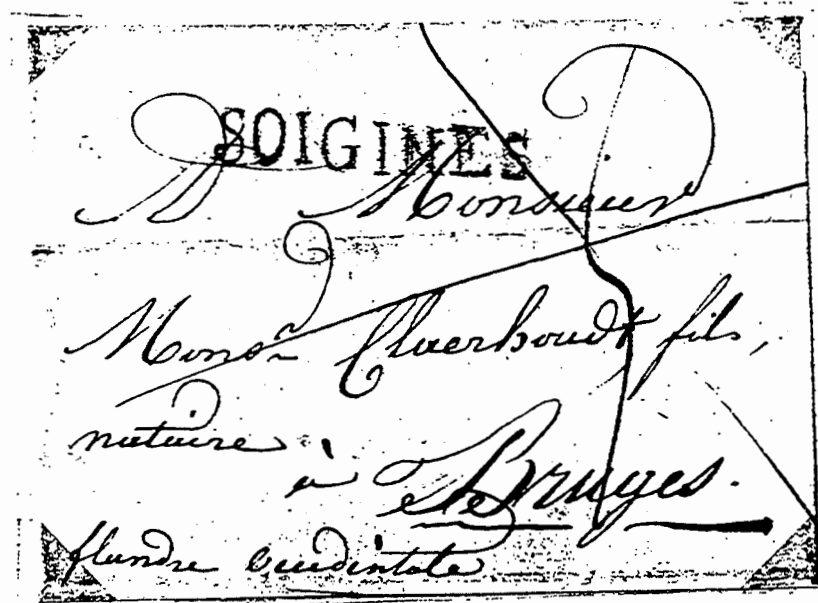
This letter-sheet has been clearly dated, internally in manuscript, as having been written on 27th. September 1817.

It has been addressed to Gand; 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.

The postal tariff of 5 décimes has also been written, in manuscript, on the obverse of this letter-sheet.

UNITED NETHERLANDS

1824.



The above letter sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the single straight line postmark of Soignes - or Soignies - a town of Hainault situated on the Sene at a distance of 10 miles north-east by east of Mons.

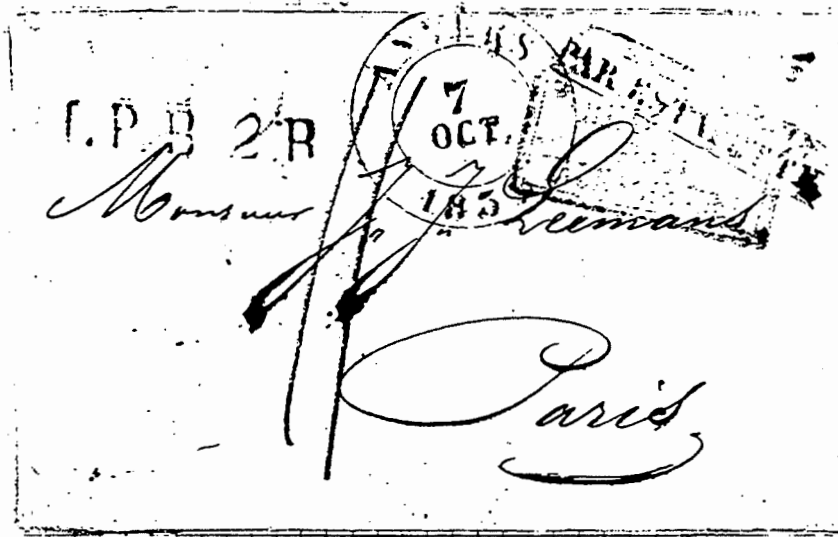
This variation of the spelling of the name of the town confirms that this cover was posted during 1824.

The cover has been addressed to Bruges - or Brugge - a town of Western Flanders that is situated 13 miles east of Ostende.

The postal tariff of 5 décimes has also been written, in manuscript, on the obverse of this cover.

# BELGIUM

1834.



The above letter-sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with four red postmarks, or cachets, to carry it from Anvers to Paris as follows:-

L.P.B. 2.R

"Lettre Pays-Bas. 2-District."



"Entry mark"  
"Valenciennes."

The 30 mm diameter double circle postmark is dated 7.Oct.1834 and to expedite delivery the letter-sheet has been sent by "Express Courrier" so that the 18 mm diameter blue single circle Paris Office receipt mark, struck on the reverse of the letter-sheet is dated just two days later.

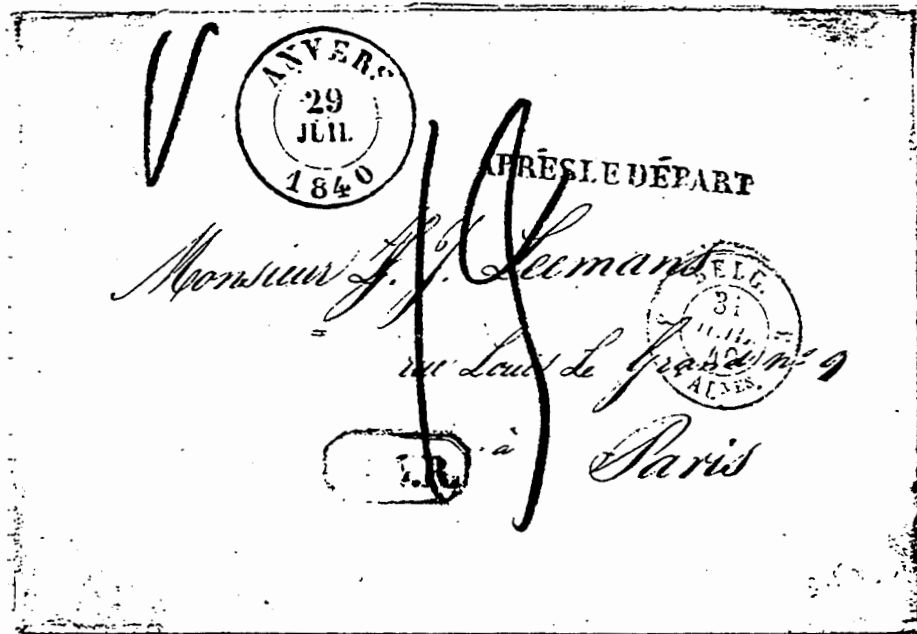
**PAR ESTAFETTE**



The postal tariff of 11 décimes has also been written, in manuscript, on the obverse of this letter-sheet.

BELGIUM

1840.



The above letter-sheet has been struck, on the obverse, with the red 23 mm diameter double circle postmark of Anvers, dated 29. Jul. 1840, - or Antwerp, - the city on the Scheldt situated 47 miles from its mouth and 27 miles north of Brussels.

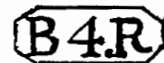
It has been addressed to Paris - the capital of the Kingdom of the French - also being struck on the obverse with three other cachets:-



Entry mark.  
Valenciennes in red.

APRÈS LE DÉPART

"Too late mark"



"Belgique. 4. Rayon"

The postal tariff of 13 décimes has also been written, in manuscript, on the obverse of this letter-sheet.



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  - (b) Wood A.G. Belgapost. December 1981. 1. (2) p 32.



## A DECREE OF 1ST NOVEMBER, 1701

A Decree of the Marquis of Bedmar, made at Brussels and dated 1st November, 1701, fixed the general rates of postage for letters to all places covered by the Administration. All Belgian letters to whatever destination passed through either Brussels, Antwerp or Ruremonde postal centres. The varying rates - in sols- were based on whether the letters were single sheets, double sheets, or by ounce weight, from which centre they were despatched, and to the place or country they were addressed. It may be noted that the respective values of the various coinages in the Netherlands were:

1 Guilder = 1 Florin = 2 Francs = 20 Stuyvers, 20 Sols or 20 Decimes.

1 Stuyver or Sol or Decime = 15 Penninger or Deniers

The Sol subsequently became the Sou, or 5 Centime piece.

The full metric system was introduced for postal purposes as from 1st January, 1821.

From 1st January, 1824, a new monetary system was introduced into the Administration of Posts, by which one-hundredth of a florin equalled 2 centimes. The figure appearing in manuscript on a letter had to be multiplied by 5 (five) one-hundredth of a florin. Therefore a "2" represented 20 centimes, a "3" 30 centimes and so on.

Eleven sols were apparently the maximum charged on a single sheet letter, whilst those bearing above 12 sols were assessed by weight.

The Florin, of Florentine origin, was a coin of gold or silver, varying in value according to period and country.

The Sol, roughly one-twelfth of a livre, approximately in English currency - the livre was equivalent to 9½d.

The Decime, one-tenth of a Franc. In English currency, the franc was equivalent to 10d.