

**BELGAPOST**

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DECEMBER 1995

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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DECEMBER 1995The Journal of the  
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

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DECEMBER 1995

### EDITORIAL

The last issue of "BELGAPOST" was somewhat different from what was originally planned, due to the loss of a number of articles when the Royal Mail was unable to deliver a package from Birmingham to Banstead. What is more, Royal Mail is not the slightest interested!!

We draw attention in this issue to the vandalism of the 10c Epaulettes!

This issue completes a five year "stint" by your Editor and his production team. We hope that members are happy with the results!

As this edition will come to you before Christmas, the team and I, together with the Committee members, send their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all.

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

I had a note from **M. Rene Silverberg**, who is 93. In it he says he hopes to be visiting Croydon shortly - he was last there in 1920. We must therefore contact him during his visit.

Two new Study Circles have recently been formed in Belgium:-

1. Cercle d'etudes "Konig Met Helm" under the Presidency of M. G. Jorin. The subscription is 250 BF p.a. and the Secretary's address is:

M. Rudy De Vos  
Kardinaal Mercierlaan 47, bus 21  
3001 Heverlee  
Belgium

2. The other circle is Cercle d'etudes Effigie Royale. The Secretary of this circle is:

M. R. Verpoort  
Oudergemselaan 64  
1933 Sterrebeek  
Belgium

One of our members who has several personal problems, is delighted to be able to turn to his stamps. They speak for themselves.

GEOFFREY WOOD, FRPSL

TREASURER'S NOTES

At the time of writing this, one auction has just passed and the preparations for the next auction in January have commenced. A separate auction report is elsewhere in this edition but the overall results are beneficial both to our members (buyers and sellers), as well as to the Circle's finances. For administrative purposes, the auction lots are timed to coincide with the "BELGAPOST" sendings as far as possible and also to include adequate time for postal bidders to respond (especially from overseas members).

Members wishing to put material into auctions, therefore, need to submit well in advance but, even occasionally, items may be deferred until later to ensure a balanced list of wider interest. Settlement to vendors is done as soon as possible after all buyers have cleared their accounts. Sometimes, with overseas buyers, this can take a little longer but, rest assured, I intend as little delay as is possible.

On a different note, although most members pay their annual subscriptions promptly on request, there are usually a few stragglers. Several reminders have been sent to the following members with no response and if any other member has contact with them, could you please ask if they can contact me to establish their intentions:

J. Buckner; R. Hazleton; A. Hillier; S. Osborne; J. Frost

It could be due to change of address, illness or personal reasons, but we do not want to delete their names without contact especially those who are long-standing members of the Circle.

REG HARRISON



AUCTION....AUCTION....AUCTION

With a final total of £3,354, our 21st October auction exceeded all our previous sales, in terms of both value and quality of material. Needless to say, the postal history items generally exceeded the estimates, but with some lots unsold. It was not surprising, therefore, that some later stamp lots did not attract bids in view of the total size of this sale. As per the last sale, tête-bêche and advertisements were keenly contested, likewise most railway material and the bulk of the book sections found new owners. The size of the sale was influenced by the quantity of material being offered to the Circle, which is being 'fed out' on a progressive basis to give a balance at each sale between the different areas of collecting interest, the aim being to get the best results whilst not flooding the market by putting too much out at any one time.

Within this edition are the results of the sale and also the Auction List for January, 1996. Previous results may provide a guide for future bidding. As commented previously, it can sometimes pay to spread your bids over more lots to improve your chances of getting something that you want.

We intend continuing our policy of keeping our sales comprising numerous small lots rather than large "chunks" and hope that is welcomed by members generally, although it does make for more work for the officers. Any comments or suggestions in respect of our auctions would be welcomed.

REG HARRISON

SUMMER MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1995

Once again, members met for the now annual event, this time in Weston-Super-Mare. Some arrived early and, after their evening meal on the Friday, were to be found arguing over the quiz sheets prepared by Ken Carpenter. (See note elsewhere). The actual event got underway on Saturday afternoon, after a free morning for sightseeing which, for many, included a visit to a large flea market and other shops, although I did not hear of any great "finds". Members were also able to view material offered for sale by bourse and, through the good offices of Reg Harrison, were able to view lots in the October Auction.

After lunch, Iain Stevenson gave a display and talk on "Express Mails", which was split into two main sections: "Rates and Routes" and "Postal Markings". The display included examples from 1682 in the Thurn & Taxis period, examples of "Cito-cito" (Quick-quick) endorsements, Post paid, then later "Par Estafette" letters. These were followed by Official Express letters, Telegraphs and a comprehensive range of later items up to modern-day material, including Express labels and cachets, Tram covers and items marked "Trouve a la Boite", ending up with Postogrammes.

After a break for tea, we were entertained by a nice display of Enclave material by Paul Wood (his first display to the Circle), "West Flanders Railways" by Tony Geake, which included selections of State cancels of larger stations, then smaller offices and TPOs. The clarity of the postmarks shown was commented on. Maurice Wilkinson then gave an interesting display on the Cross-Channel Mailboats, which included many nice earlier covers and illustrated postcards, ending up with a most comprehensive show of modern postcards of Ferries for numerous companies.

The Evening Dinner was attended by some 36 people, members and wives, who all enjoyed an excellent meal.

Sunday morning began with a fine display of "TPOs and Foreign Sorting Marks" by Reg Harrison, during which it was explained that these were primarily Routing and not Accounting marks. The material shown spanned both pre-stamp and stamped periods and it had proved a challenge to collect this type of material showing use of the same marks, but in either direction, ideally collected in pairs. Geoffrey Wood then gave a talk and display on "Line Engraving" in which he showed copies of the Bill Willis illustrations of the equipment used for engraving the first Belgian stamps, mainly Epaulettes and Medallions. Several examples of engravers' tools were also on display, followed by a number of album sheets showing examples of the stamps and varieties occurring in these issues. Jack Andrews, although suffering at the time from being unable to see properly, gave a wonderful display entitled "Six Great Cities", these being Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Tournai and Malines. This exceptional display concentrated mainly on Brussels with covers to many destinations. It also included Post Office Notices, Petitions, the first TPOs and many other items of interest for the period between 1459 to about 1900.

After lunch, Jack Gibbs gave a display entitled "Odds and Ends". Unfortunately, a number of members had been forced to leave early to travel home but those remaining were treated to a wide and interesting variety with Railway Parcels stamp proofs and imperf material, Dockets for parcels, Newspaper overprints, black prints and unadopted designs for several issues, plus quite a large range of covers and other material relative to World War 1. These last were supplemented by a display of covers and postcards relating to Nurse Edith Cavell shown by John Parkin.

Finally, to Tony Geake and his wife, Coral, I must extend the Circle's sincere thanks for all their efforts in arranging another fine weekend in Weston-Super-Mare. Thank you from us all.

JOHN PARKIN

WESTON-SUPER-MARE : PHILATELIC QUIZ

As mentioned in John Parkin's report on our weekend meeting, a quiz was prepared by Ken Carpenter, testing members' knowledge of Belgium. A copy of this quiz is reproduced here and members are invited to test their skills whilst sitting at home in their armchairs. The answers, together with the results of the quiz at Weston, will be reported in the next edition of "BELGAPOST".

**KNOW YOUR BELGIUM?**

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

- |                                                              |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. A SMALL FORM OF BRASSICA                                  | 16. BELGIAN POULTRY                                                              |
| 2. FOOLISH INSECT                                            | 17. ROGER KEYES VINDICTIVE HERE                                                  |
| 3. HAVEN FOR THE MENTALLY ILL                                | 18. CENTRAL CHURCH                                                               |
| 4. 50 CAPTURED 1500                                          | 19. CLAIMS TO BE BELGIUM'S OLDEST CITY                                           |
| 5. THE "SWEETEST" TOWN                                       | 20. SANCTUARY FOR RODENTS                                                        |
| 6. ROYAL GRAPE GROWN HERE                                    | 21. A VERY WARM SPOT                                                             |
| 7. FIRST BELGIAN - BUILT LOCOMOTIVE<br>WAS MANUFACTURED HERE | 22. KING'S TOWN                                                                  |
| 8. BELGIUM'S PREMIER FLOWER FESTIVAL                         | 23. ATOMIC GANGSTER'S GIRL                                                       |
| 9. TOC - H ORIGINATED IN THIS TOWN                           | 24. HOME OF THE MODERN TOILET!                                                   |
| 10. 300 ROUTED 3 000 HERE                                    | 25. GROUCHY STAYED HERE, 17. 6.1815                                              |
| 11. CENTRE OF THE STRAWBERRY FIELDS                          | 26. SONIC VILLE                                                                  |
| 12. USING A Mallet?                                          | 27. METALLIC FELINE                                                              |
| 13. "CHUMS" ANGEL SEEN HERE                                  | 28. A WARM PLACE AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR                                         |
| 14. HOME OF "MERCATOR"                                       | 29. BATTLE FOUGHT HERE ON 23.5.1706 & A<br>WORLD WAR I BATTLESHIP NAMED AFTER IT |
| 15. CULINARY ITEM                                            | 30. HISTORIC ARTILLERY PIECE IN EDINBURGH<br>CASTLE NAMED AFTER THIS TOWN        |

SPECIAL NOTICE - CALENDAR CORRECTION

Since printing our annual programme, a change has occurred in the **SPRING STAMPEX** which was listed for 27th February - 3rd March. This will now take place in Islington from **Wednesday, 24th January, to Sunday, 28th January, 1996.**

Please note in your diary and avoid a wasted journey. Perhaps Winter Stampex would be a more appropriate title. Also note the **AUTUMN STAMPEX** will be from **Wednesday, 18th to Sunday, 22nd September**, at the same venue.

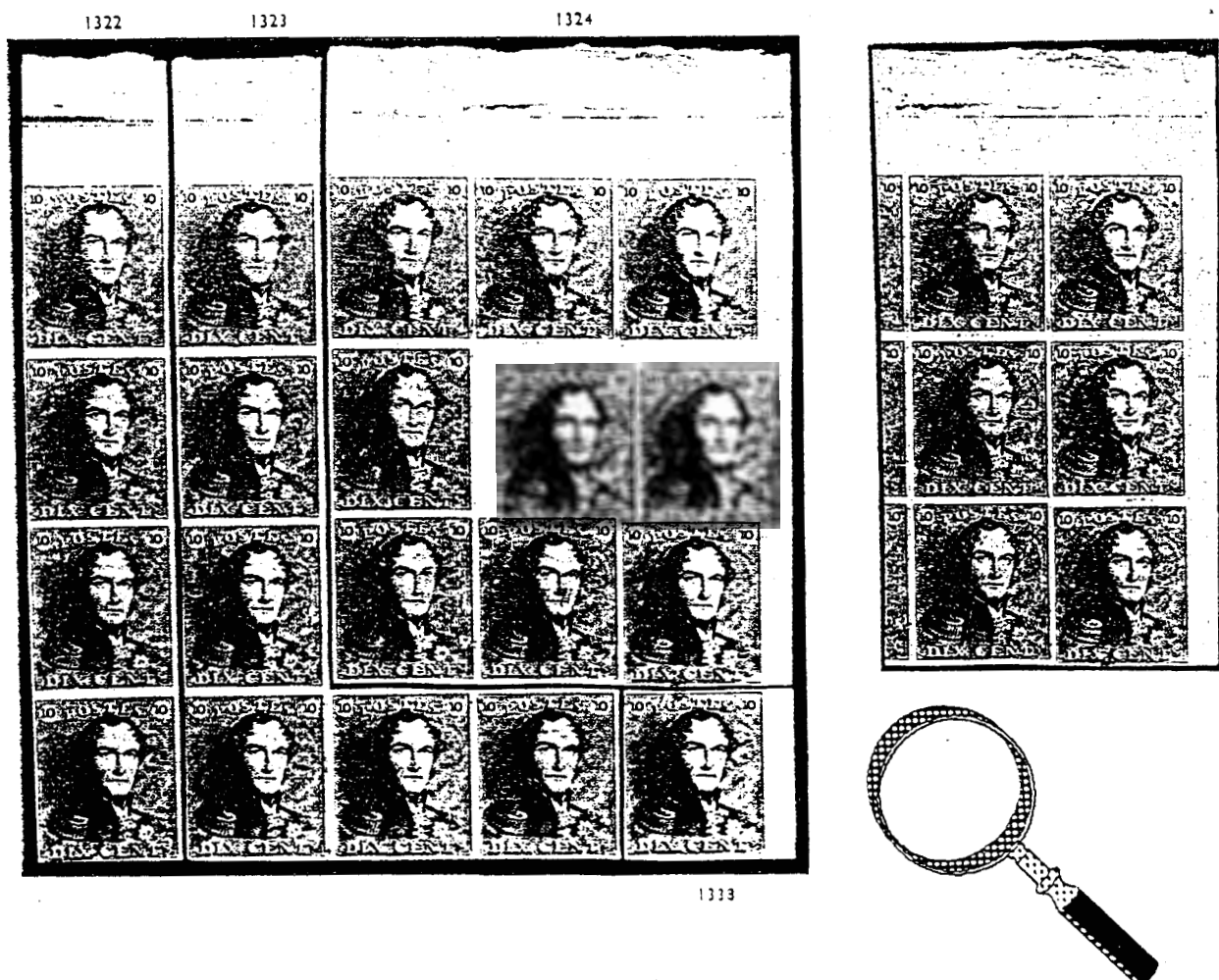
VANDALISM, or ?

We first came across a superb reconstituted block of twenty of the 10c Epaulettes in the Willy Balasse Catalogue published in 1949. It is shown, in colour, on page 34 of that catalogue. It consisted of a block of nine, an "L" piece of six stamps, a vertical strip of four and a single stamp. It is illustrated here.

It later went into the General Robert Gill collection and was sold by Robson Lowe on 21st October, 1965 (lots 1322, 1323, 1324, 1338), estimated 87,400 Swiss francs. We then find it in the Georges Marquet collection but without the single stamp. It was a pity that the Gill collection was split into four lots when, no doubt, the single stamp was sold elsewhere. The Marquet collection was sold by Willy Balasse, lot no. 1 on 17th October, 1987, estimated 800,000/1,200,000 Belgian francs. This lot covered the other 19 stamps.

Then, in the recent auction (50th) of Corneille Soeteman, we find severe vandalism. By now, the block of nine is cut down to a block of six, the lefthand vertical three stamps have gone (and the strip, presumably, has been destroyed by the way they have been cut). Surely no philatelist could do such a thing. All members of the Belgian Study Circle will deplore this vandalism.

We now see the block as shown here. Surely the complete reconstituted block should have been sold as one "unit".





REPORT OF MEETING 21st OCTOBER, 1995

The morning session was occupied by the auction, which is reported elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say that it was well attended and successful.

A few domestic announcements were made - mainly repeated in the Member News section - prior to the afternoon display. This was given by John Parkin and entitled "Covers up to 1900". It was planned as being complementary to the "Post 1900" display that he gave at Peterborough in 1994.

John began with the Austrian period, then continued through showing typical examples of postal history since that time. The quality of the covers displayed shows John's attention to condition and provided a reminder of the wealth of material available to a collector of Belgium. Touching upon the early days of Belgian independence, then the introduction of adhesive stamps, the display was both informative and colourful, and led to several members looking covetously at items of special interest to them. A sincere thank you to John and we hope that we will be able to see other parts of your collection in the future.

REG HARRISON

REPORT OF MEETING - 11th NOVEMBER, 1995

By way of a change, the topic for the morning session was "Cinderellas" - the display being given by Jeffrey Kalp. He started by stating that the term covered a wide range of types of material including Fiscals, Railways (in some countries but not Belgium), Semi-officials, Souvenir Sheets, but it was suggested that anything not valid for postal or official use seemed to sum up this sector of collecting. He outlined how he started and referred to the fact that members of the Royal seemed to be a major element of club attendances. His display to us covered only Belgian related material of which the labels produced for Exhibitions formed the largest and most well known section. Other items displayed included special overprints, souvenir sheets and range of material listed in the Erinnophile section of the catalogue. Also shown were a range of Rationing stamps used in connection with the last war.

Following a few domestic announcements, the afternoon's display was "Line Engraved", given by Geoffrey Wood. He explained and emphasised the need to understand the printing techniques involved which are essential if you are to follow the way in which varieties, etc. occur. To illustrate the making up of the printing plates, he brought along some early display sheets of Bills Willis, together with mock-ups of the rollers used for the Epaulettes and Medallions, and metal plates showing techniques used for repairs. There were also a few engraver's tools to complete the story.

Other sheets showed the plate construction, together with examples of some of the varieties produced. In all a brief but instructive display which will probably feature in our 1997 celebration programme.

REG HARRISON

MEMBER NEWS

James Moore of Stockport recently spent sometime in hospital but is now back home and assiduously following his numerous lines of philatelic interest, including pre-cancels.

Rosemary Green - had a fall leading to a fractured wrist. As a result, she and Doris were unable to go to Weston-Super-Mare as intended. Rosemary is now much improved and their visit to Congress on Hayling Island was a success.

Jack Andrews - our Editor has recently undergone surgery to his eyes with encouraging results. He is now able to read more easily and, after some adjustments to his reading glasses, hopes to get back to his normal philatelic activities.

## MEMBER NEWS

On a recent visit to Blackpool, your Treasurer was able to make contact with three of our members living in that area, R. Gabbott, P. Guffog and D. Bond. Mr. Bond is secretary of the Blackpool and Fylde Philatelic Society and I noted that another of our members, John Giblin, from St. Helens, is due to give a display at Blackpool next year.

Bernard Gillman-Davis - is now active philatelically again after a difficult domestic period. He still has some trouble with his legs, which he is soon to see a specialist about, but comments that if immobilised, he will at least have his stamps to keep him occupied. One of the benefits of philately!

Donald Vandy and Geoffrey Miller have recently penned some lines on the Circle in its early days. These are being collated to appear in the special publication on the history of the Circle planned for 1997.

We have been informed that Marcel Deneumostier of the Phila Club Flemalle has recently undergone hospital treatment for a circulation problem. He is responding well and we wish him a speedy recovery. As a result, the visit of Mme Deneumostier planned for STAMPEX in London in October had to be cancelled.

Bernard Gillman-Davis (cont) - Since writing the above, we have heard that Bernard has been active in his local Society - Hastings & District, where he recently won the McKenzie-Lowe Cup for a display on Early Netherlands Postal History. He is also due to become President of the Society in 1996.

## NEW MEMBER

As a result of a contact made by J. C. Porignon, we welcome the following new member:

Marc Lebrun, Liege

Interests - Medallions 1849-66 in all their aspects.

## REVIEW

"The post in Belgium and its Antecessors prior to 1849", by (BSC member) J. F. Giblin.

This is an A4, 36 page brochure prepared to accompany a lecture given by the author to the Austrian Stamp Club, on the topic of "The Austrian Netherlands".

It is a most interesting and useful introduction to the subject. It gives useful notes on the Thurn and Taxis family, and a long section on the postal service in the Austrian period, including articles by Anton Kumpf-Mikuli and Lucien Herlant (both translated by the author). There are useful references to the Sovereigns of Belgium, the general history of Belgium, the pre-philatelic history of the country, and the Thurn and Taxis. Also included are ten pages of covers from the various periods, from the author's collection.

In all, a fine way of illustrating a lecture.

"Zivilarbeiter Mail" by Heinrich Wasels.

All catalogues show about a page on this interesting subject. Very few collectors of Belgium seem to know anything on this subject - Civilian Labourers' postcards used in Belgium during the First World War.

Now we find this most useful article (eight pages) found in "GERMANIA" (August 1995) No. 3, Vol. 31. This is the quarterly journal of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society. At long last we get some useful information on a little known subject.

Results of Sale held 21st October, 1995

£.p.	£.p.	£.p.	£.p.	£.p.
1 27.00	59 19.00	119 11.00	210 110.00	307 15.00
2 21.00	60 19.00	120 11.00	211 .80	308 8.50
3 22.00	62 16.00	121 8.00	236 20.00	309 3.00
4 26.00	63 28.00	123 10.00	243 35.00	310 6.00
5 20.00	64 10.00	124 16.00	249 25.00	311 10.00
6 26.00	65 4.50	125 10.00	250 7.00	312 6.00
7 14.00	66 13.00	128 4.00	251 8.00	313 1.00
8 16.00	67 41.00	129 7.00	255 .80	314 1.50
9 17.00	68 20.00	130 25.00	257 5.00	315 9.00
10 18.00	70 28.00	131 5.50	258 7.00	316 1.00
11 31.00	71 7.00	136 3.00	259 3.50	318 12.00
12 31.00	72 16.00	137 6.50	260 18.00	320 6.00
13 27.00	73 13.00	138 6.50	263 350.00	321 3.50
14 16.00	74 12.00	139 10.00	264 3.00	322 2.50
15 19.00	75 18.00	140 4.00	265 12.00	323 5.00
16 30.00	76 24.00	141 4.00	266 4.50	324 .70
17 40.00	77 9.00	143 8.00	267 2.50	325 7.00
18 12.00	78 18.00	144 .60	268 3.00	326 2.00
19 25.00	81 28.00	145 .60	269 12.00	330 1.70
20 15.00	82 13.00	147 .60	270 80.00	331 .80
21 14.00	83 15.00	148 7.00	271 12.00	332 1.70
22 26.00	84 13.00	149 18.00	272 8.00	333 1.50
23 19.00	85 7.00	153 .80	273 3.50	334 2.50
24 16.00	86 15.00	154 .60	274 30.00	340 12.00
25 14.00	87 10.00	155 1.10	275 32.00	341 8.00
26 29.00	88 16.00	156 .60	276 85.00	342 12.00
27 8.00	89 8.00	157 .80	277 17.00	345 6.00
28 10.00	90 19.00	160 .60	278 11.00	346 6.00
29 30.00	91 6.00	161 1.50	279 41.00	347 5.50
30 15.00	92 16.00	162 5.00	280 35.00	348 6.50
32 22.00	93 11.00	165 7.00	281 25.00	350 3.50
33 15.00	94 5.00	166 5.00	283 5.00	354 10.00
34 12.00	95 8.00	167 3.00	287 3.00	356 2.50
36 16.00	96 26.00	178 1.00	288 10.00	357 9.00
39 7.00	97 40.00	185 .80	289 6.00	358 10.00
40 15.00	98 17.00	187 3.50	290 17.00	359 8.00
41 9.00	99 8.00	188 3.50	292 4.00	360 10.00
42 12.00	100 10.00	189 1.00	294 16.00	361 8.00
43 7.00	101 11.00	193 1.00	295 1.50	362 2.00
46 10.00	102 19.00	194 .80	296 4.50	365 5.00
47 8.00	103 23.00	195 2.00	297 4.00	366 6.50
48 10.00	106 15.00	196 2.00	298 4.00	369 10.00
50 26.00	109 7.00	197 2.00	299 2.00	370 12.00
51 12.00	112 6.00	198 2.00	300 4.00	373 7.00
52 20.00	113 8.00	199 21.00	301 1.20	374 10.00
53 6.00	114 16.00	200 15.00	302 5.50	---
54 26.00	115 12.00	201 1.60	303 5.00	---
56 10.00	116 26.00	202 5.00	304 2.00	
57 12.00	117 19.00	204 1.30	305 1.50	
58 38.00	118 18.00	206 1.00	306 4.00	

1.75 Fr Blue - Effigy Leopold III 'Poortman' - 10 Sep 1936.

Colours and Shades.

The enclosed Tables were compiled from the study and classification by A. Schreiber and J. Parent. The present article was translated from the French for BELGAPOST.

This stamp exists with a large spectrum of colour shades with numerous subtle colour gradations. Nevertheless it is convenient to define the following four distinct shades which can be identified with relative ease.

Navy Blue  
Cobalt Blue  
Blue-green  
Sky Blue

Analysis of the colour groups.

I Navy Blue: Issued between Sept 1936 and March 1938.

Plate numbers (to the right of stamp 80).

5 & 6 (Issued from Sept 1936 to Sept 1937).

5,6,7,8 (Issued from Oct 1937).

Marginal Inscription (at the right of stamps 30 and 40).

'Atelier du Timbre - Zegelfabriek'

All the known darker shades are included in this group i.e.

(a) Blue-black to steel blue (in 1936 to 1937)

(b) Indigo (in Nov 1937 to 1938)

IIA Cobalt Blue: Issued from May 1938 to Dec 1939.

Plates numbers (to the right of stamp 80).

Plates 7,8.

Marginal Inscription (to the right of stamps 30 and 40).

'Atelier du Timbre - Zegelfabriek'

Gum designation (in margin to the right of stamp 60).

G.3 (G indicating the manufacturer 'Gommers').

The colour shades of this group include 'Greyish-blue' and 'Saxony blue'. The latter being reminiscent to the blue used on Saxony porcelain.

(a) Greyish cobalt blue (in 1938).

(b) Cobalt blue (in 1938-1939).

IIB Ultramarine Cobalt blue: Issued In January 1940.

This shade has also been denoted Prussian Blue.

Plate numbers (below stamp 147 of pane).

9, 9(retouched) and 10.

IIIA Blue-Green: Issued from 1940 to 1942.

Plate numbers (below stamp 147 of pane).

9(retouched),10,11,12.

This colour ranges from a 'greenish blue' to a 'blue-green'.

IIIB Greyish Blue-Green. Issued in April 1942.

Plate numbers (below stamp 147 of pane).

11 and 12.

This group includes a number of subtle colour variations all denoted 'Slate-Blue'.

The paper is often tinted and it is also manifest that the cleaning of the plate was often neglected during printing.



Poortman 1.75 Fr (contd)IV Sky-Blue. Issued in Dec 1942.

Plate numbers (below stamp 147 of pane).

11 & 12.

This group includes shades which have also been denoted 'Pastel-blue' and 'Azure-blue'.

The paper is often tinted. In addition, the cleaning of the plate was frequently neglected during the printing process.

This stamp was replaced in May-June 1944 by the 1.75 Fr (blue) with the open collar design of Leopold III.

It should be noted that Plates 1,2,3 and 4 were in fact made but were never used. These were destroyed following the production of a series of unsatisfactory essays.

1.75 Fr Blue. Leopold III 'Poortman'. 10 September 1936.Plate 9.Summary

The make-up of Plate 9 was generally unsatisfactory.

The engraving of the right shoulder design is inadequate on numerous specimens of the stamp, often revealing a white area without detail.

After a limited printing this plate was retouched. The grid pattern of the tunic was made good by the addition of horizontal lines. On occasion some oblique lines were also enhanced.

As a result, out of the 150 stamps of the sheet, we find that 65 were retouched to a greater or lesser extent (it was the intention of the authors to report on a more detailed study of these features).

The stamp from this plate was first issued in January 1940.

The shades observed are as follows:-

- IIB Prussian blue: First state of the plate also retouched.
- IIIA Greenish-blue: Plate retouched.  
Green-blue: Plate retouched.



Plate 9 - 1st State  
(not retouched)



Plate 9 - 2nd State  
(Stamps retouched)

Analysis of Plate 9.

Key to Symbols : (-) = Horizontal line terminating in lower braid.  
 (/) = Oblique line terminating in lower braid.

A. Significant retouches.

The horizontal lines are pronounced and visible to the naked eye.

Examples are noted in positions 102,104,106(/),108,111(-). These are illustrated below.

B. Significant retouches.

As in case (A) but with one or two lines impinging over the right main frame into the right margin of the stamp. Examples noted in positions 71,72,74,77(/),81(-),87,91,94,97,101,103,107,109,114(/),117(-).

C. Medium to light retouches.

Generally visible with a magnifying glass and noted in positions:-

11,18,20,21,22,31,32,34,35,36,37,73(/),76,82,83,84,86,89,90,92,93(-),96(-),98,110,112,113,115,116,118,119,121,125,126,127,138,143 and 147(stamp above plate number).

D. Retouches with varieties.

Stamp 75 with type (C) retouch + two colour spots in the margin at bottom right corner of stamp.

Stamp 78 with type (B) retouch + colour spots in margin at bottom right corner.

Stamp 79 with type (C) retouch + colour spots in margin at bottom left corner (extension of stamp 78 variety).

Stamp 85 with type (C) retouch + Single colour spot in margin at bottom right corner.

Stamp 95 with type (B) retouch + horizontal colour line extending over the forehead of the King's effigy (use of 'plug' ?).

Stamp 99 with type (B) retouch + four colour spots on cheek of King's effigy.

Stamp 105 with type (C) retouch + penultimate oblique line in bottom right corner extends over the frame of the stamp.

Stamp 148 with type (C) retouch + two long oblique scratches in bottom margin.

E. Varieties in stamps without retouches.

Stamp 10 : Oblique scratch to the right of L of BELGIQUE.

Stamp 46 : Oblique scratch behind head at bottom of 'E' of cranium.

Stamp 56 : Curved scratch along BELGIE starting at left of first E.

Stamp 149 : Fine oblique scratch in bottom margin.

Stamp 150 : Fine scratch in bottom margin representing the end point of varieties of stamps 148 and 149.

									10
11								18	20
c								c	c
21	22								
c	c								
31	32		34	35	36	37			
c	c		c	c	c	c			
					46				
					e				
					56				
					e				
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	
b	b	/c	b	d	c	/b	d	d	
81	82	83	84	85	86	87		89	90
-b	c	c	c	d	c	b		c	c
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	
b	c	-c	b	d	/c	b	c	d	
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
b	a	b	a	d	/a	b	a	b	c
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	
-a	c	c	/b	c	c	-b	c	c	
121				125	126	127			
c				c	c	c			
							138		
							c		
	143					147	148	149	150
	c					c	d	e	e



Significant Retouches.

1951 'Poortman' 10 Fr. Reddish Lilac-Brown.

One of the most spectacular examples of the use of engraving in modern stamps.

Milling Error.

Parasitic strike of the 20 Fr. in plate 4 of the 10 Fr. value.

This is observed in stamps of the 8th column in positions 8, 18, 28, 38 and 48.

Residual traces of the figures 20 are also observed in the figures 10.

First State : The parasitic traces are sharp with a clean impression.

Second State : These traces are less pronounced as a result of continuous wear.



↑ 2nd State

↑ 1st State



A BELGIAN FORGERY by DE LA RUE

We illustrate an interesting item that was in the collection of the late B. Leslie Barker.

The forgery is mounted on a sheet of paper which is watermarked IMPERIAL TREASURY DE LA RUE and which bears the following inscription in manuscript:-

*"The attached is a forgery of a copper plated printed Belgium 10 cents stamp.*

"A polished copper plate was covered with ordinary engraver's etching ground, considerable heavy pressure was applied to it by means of a press. The colour in all work produced by the copper plate process lies, when dry, in hard ridges on the surface of the paper. Consequently, when the pressure was applied, the raised portions or ridges of colour penetrated the etching ground. The stamp was removed from the ground and acid was then applied, the result being that the portions of the copper plate where the ground was penetrated were bitten in. The plate was then perfected by going over the etching ground with a needlepoint and touching in any of the finer parts which might not have been sufficiently indented for the copper to become exposed to the action of the acid. The plate was then bitten a second time. The old red penny English stamp was forged in a similar manner."

The sheet was dated "16 July 1890" and endorsed "Imitation made by De La Rue & Co.". The item is illustrated here because of the statement in the last sentence of the description. It was not suggested that the 1856 official forgery of the Great Britain 1d. stamp, made by order of the Board of Inland Revenue, was produced in a similar manner.

Since seeing this item, the examples of the British official forgery in the Royal Collection and in the Phillips Collection show that, in both instances, the engraving is far clearer and deeper than that of the Belgian forgery.

In Leslie's opinion on this De La Rue production, he thought perhaps that this essay, or forgery, was submitted to Belgium about 1864, at the time of the competition essays. Belgian students will know that a commission was set up for a new stamp design in 1862 and every design was rejected, so an open competition was held in 1864 which again failed to produce any satisfactory design for the new issue. De La Rue at this stage could well have used the above forgery as evidence that line-engraved stamps were dangerous, in support of their claim that surface-printing was much safer.

This may have been one of the reasons why De La Rue got the next Belgian contract in 1865 with the side-face portrait of Leopold I so beautifully engraved by Joubert de la Ferté. It is believed that the hand-stamped date of July 16th, 1890, is nowhere near the date of production but is simply a file date, or the date when the item was given to somebody.

This item was Lot 304 in the B. L. Barker sale at Harmer's in London, 8/9 February 1977, and was estimated at £400-500. It remained unsold but reappeared in the George Hollings Sale held on 4th May, 1995. As Lot No. 128, it was estimated at £400-500 but was sold for £320. Taking into account the 18 year gap and the inflation over that period, it clearly is more suited to philatelic investors than collectors.





THE BELGIAN "FOREIGN" SORTING MARKS USED IN  
TRAVELLING POST OFFICES FROM 1840 to 1880

by Cyril Kidd, FSPH, President, TPO & Seapost Society

INTRODUCTION

This article was first published in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" on 2nd November, 1967. It was selected as the best in the Postal History Section in its New Writer's Competition and was a close runner up to the top prize in the competition. Since then, it has been updated by the extension of dates and the addition of Portugal. These additions are thanks due to Jack Andrews, Reg Harrison, W. Pfeiffer and J. P. Visser.

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During a period of some 40 years in the middle of the 19th Century, letters which travelled between Belgium and one of her neighbours were date stamped on the reverse with a distinctive mark which told not only the name of the country with which the letter was being exchanged, but also the name of the office making the transfer. In the great majority of cases, this was one of the bureaux ambulants which came into experimental use in 1840 and became permanent in 1849.

No definite date of introduction can be pinpointed. In fact, the practice seems to have been brought into use on different sections of railway at different dates, but it seems certain that their discontinuance was ordered towards the end of 1880.

It is only by deduction that one can identify the earliest marks used for this purpose and the strongest evidence that they have been correctly identified as having been struck in a bureau ambulant is the fact that early examples are all struck in green ink, a colour which was almost certainly earmarked for use in offices actually on board the trains.

The first route to be introduced was between Brussels and Antwerp on 15th September, 1840, but this does not seem to have concerned itself with distinctively marking mails for beyond the Belgian frontiers. A service was inaugurated between Brussels and Tubize on 1st December, 1841, and this was specifically charged with the sorting of mails to and from France. It was extended to Mons in April, 1842, and further extended to Quiévrain on 25th August, 1843.

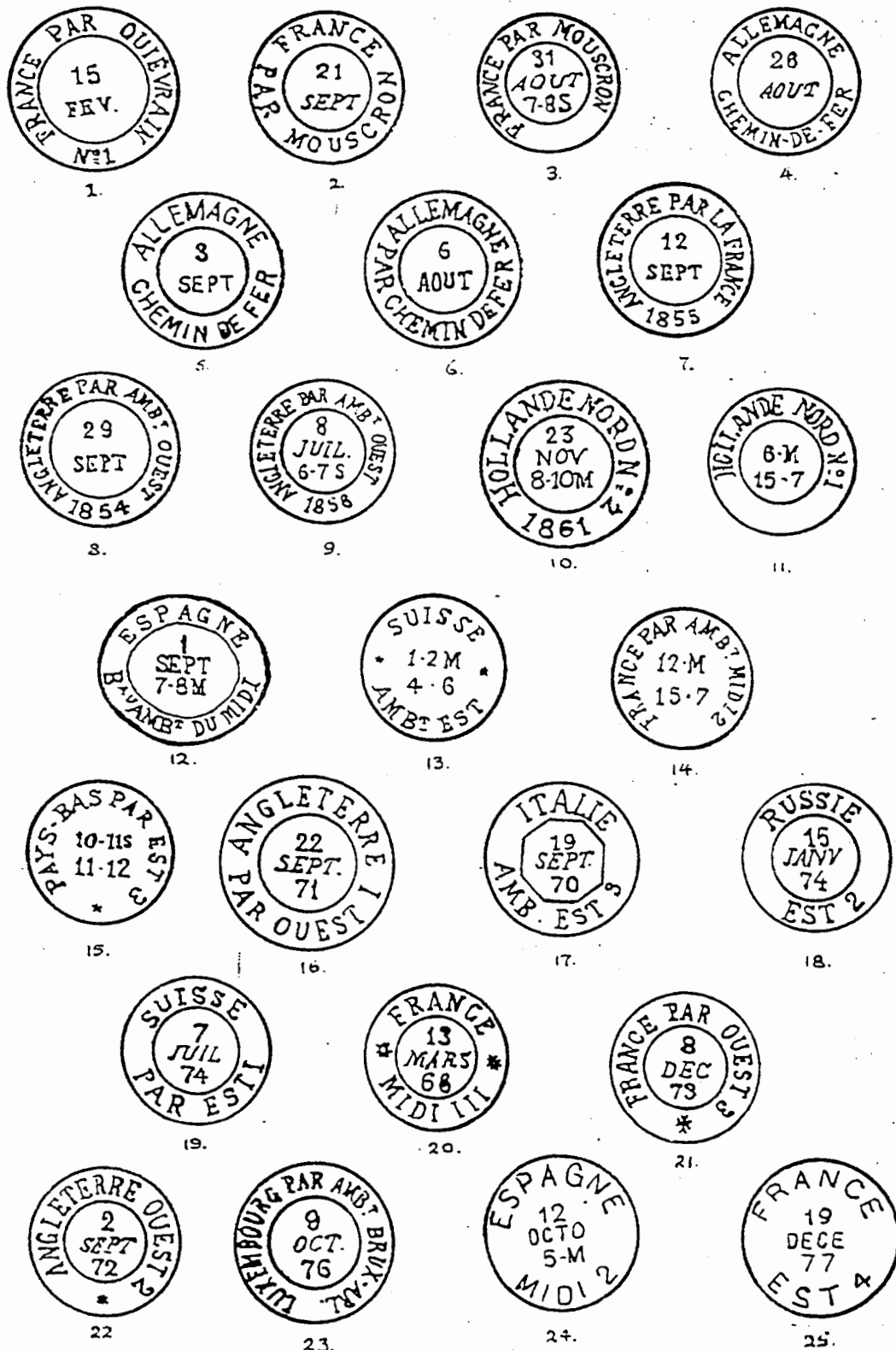
Type 1 is known on letters from France in the 1840s, struck in green on the reverse, and appears in black on a letter in my collection dated 18th February, 1855. It is also known with "No. 2" at the foot and there is little doubt that it was applied in the sorting carriage running between Quiévrain and Brussels.

On 28th July, 1843, a service commenced between Gand and Mouscron which was in direct contact with the French towns of Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing. Type 2 is known in green and Type 3 was used in black on 31st August, 1863. The latter occurs on a letter from Courtrai to Madrid and was obviously struck in error. The stamps are cancelled at Courtrai with the time shown as "7-8 S(oir)" and the "FRANCE PAR MOUSCRON" stamp is timed at "7 S(oir)". This must have been applied *after* the Mouscron to Gand train had taken up mails at Courtrai.

The last experimental service from which marks are known was that established on 21st October, 1843, between Verviers and Liège and ultimately extended to operate from Brussels. The marks struck on this route are somewhat more plentiful and certainly more easily recognised than those used on the other routes. The inscription "ALLEMAGNE/CHEMIN-DE-FER" or "ALLEMAGNE PAR CHEMIN-DE-FER", and the green shades of ink

used all point to use on board trains. Types 4, 5 and 6 may be found in almost any shade from greenish-yellow to greenish-blue until 1853, after which black ink came into use. The marks of this route are rather exceptional in that they may be found in 1845 and 1846 on mail passing through Belgium on its way from Germany to Britain. In all other cases, mail either commenced or finished its journey in Belgium

It is probable that other marks which have long been regarded as originating in sedentary offices were, in fact, struck in *bureaux ambulants*. Such a case is the mark illustrated in Type 7, "ANGLETERRE PAR LA FRANCE". This is a scarce mark and appears on a letter in my collection which left Brussels for Edinburgh on 12th September, 1855, and was sent via Calais instead of by the more usual route via Ostend. In view of the existence of a later mark ("Angleterre/Midi IV"), I would provisionally attribute this mark to the line Brussels-Tournai which opened in 1845 and subsequently formed part of the Brussels to Calais line.



**A LIST OF THE EARLY MARKS THAT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN STRUCK IN THE  
AMBULANTS BEFORE THE PRACTICE OF INCLUDING THE NAME WAS INTRODUCED**

ALLEMAGNE / CHEMIN-DE-FER	Green	1844-1846
	Green	1849-1851
	Black	1853
ALLEMAGNE / PAR CHEMIN DE FER	Green	1850-1853
	Black	1853
ALLEMAGNE / CHEMIN DE FER	Green	1851-1853
	Black	1853
ANGLETERRE PAR LA FRANCE	Black	1854 (25mm)
	Black	1855 (23mm)
ANGLETERRE PAR MOUSCRON	Black	1864
FRANCE PAR MOUSCRON	Green	1844-1850
	Black	1850-1868 (varieties)
FRANCE PAR ERQUELINNES No.3	Black	1856-1862 (Est 4 or 5)
FRANCE PAR QUIEVRAIN	Green	1843-1845
	Black	1860
FRANCE PAR QUIEVRAIN / CHEMIN DE FER	Green	1843-1844
FRANCE PAR QUIEVRAIN / No.1	Green	1847-1850
	Black	1850-1855(23mm or 25mm)
FRANCE PAR QUIEVRAIN / No.2	Green	1847-1850
	Black	1849-1853
SARDAIGNE PAR QUIEVRAIN	Black	1856

Apart from these fleeting examples there does not appear to have been comprehensive sorting of foreign incoming and outgoing mails whilst in transit until some years after the travelling post offices had been placed on a permanent basis. When the decision was taken to make the various services permanent in 1849, they were not named after the towns forming the terminal points but by the compass direction which they served:

NORD 1 and 2 ran between Brussels and Antwerp.

OUEST 1, 2 and 3 ran between Brussels and Ostend, but OUEST 3 was transferred to the line Gand-Mouscron in 1854. OUEST 4 was introduced on the Brussels-Ostend line in 1873. OUEST 5 was introduced between Gand and Luttre in 1876 and transferred to MIDI 7 in 1889.

EST 1, 2 and 3 ran between Brussels and Verviers and at a later date were joined by EST 6. EST 3 was split to operate as two trains EST 3A and EST 3B.

EST 4 and 5 operate in both directions between Erquelines at the French frontier and Verviers close to the German frontier, and carried vast quantities of mail which were never opened on Belgian soil.

MIDI 1, 2 and 3 operated between Brussels and Quiévrain and in 1890 were joined by MIDI 8.

MIDI 4 ran between Brussels and Tournai.

MIDI 5 and 6 operated between Brussels and Namur.

MIDI 7 appeared in 1889 in place of OUEST 5.

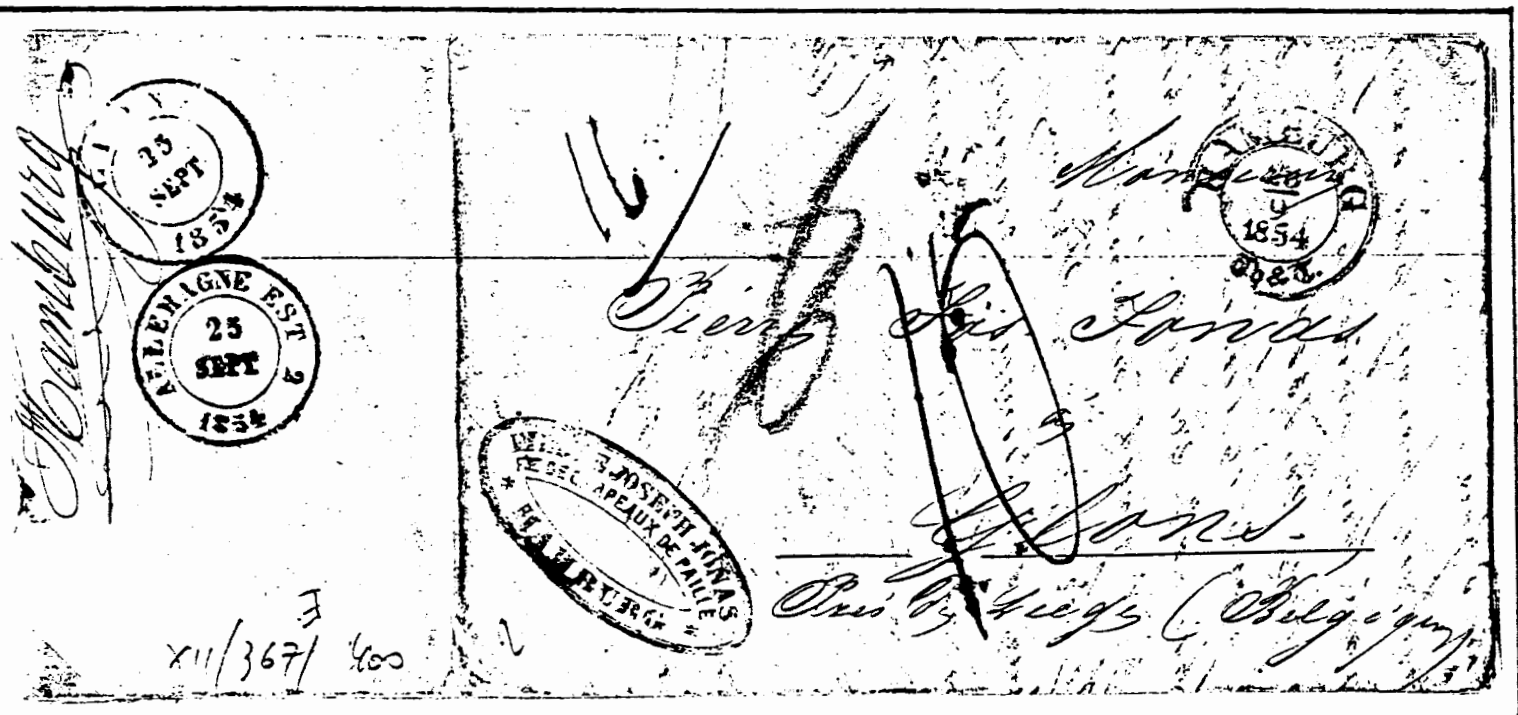
Throughout their life there was never any apparent policy as to whether Roman or Arabic numerals should be used in the titles. In the lists which follow, the title is given as shown in the datestamp. There also seems to have been considerable vacillation as to the details to be included in the stamp. At first, merely day and month were shown: but in the early 1850s the time was also shown. The year appeared at the foot in early marks but was subsequently omitted, and in the final type, it is possible to find the same datestamp with either day-month-time or day-month-year.

The countries named in these datestamps in alphabetical sequence are:-

ALLEMAGNE

Mails from Germany were sorted in transit from an early date and continued until 1880 on the *Ambulants de l'Est* running between Brussels and Verviers. Following upon the marks with "CHEMIN-DE-FER" at the foot, a number of different types appeared in which the name of the *ambulant* appeared. The following are known:-

ALLEMAGNE EST 1	Type 10	1859	with time shown
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 1	14	1861	with "61" at foot
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 1	15	1863	
ALLEMAGNE EST No. 1	11	1856-1865	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 1	18	1876-1878	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 1	25	1878-1880	
ALLEMAGNE EST 2	10	1855-1856	without time
ALLEMAGNE EST 2	10	1858-1860	with time
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 2	14	1861	with "61" at foot
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 2	15	1862-1867	
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 2	21	1875-1877	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 2	24	1878-1879	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 2	25	1880	
ALLEMAGNE EST 3	10	1854-1856	without time
ALLEMAGNE EST 3	10	1857-1861	with time
ALLEMAGNE EST No.3	11	1862 year in full in space at foot	
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 3	15	1862-1867	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 3A	18	1873	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 3B	18	1872-1878	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 3	24	1875	
ALLEMAGNE PAR EST 3	21	1874-1877	
ALLEMAGNE / EST 6	18	1875-1877	
ALLEMAGNE / NORD 1	18	1876-1877	
ALLEMAGNE / NORD 2	Type 25	1878	
ALLEMAGNE PAR OUEST 4	21	1877-1879	
ALLEMAGNE / AMB.BRUX.ARLON	25	1877	

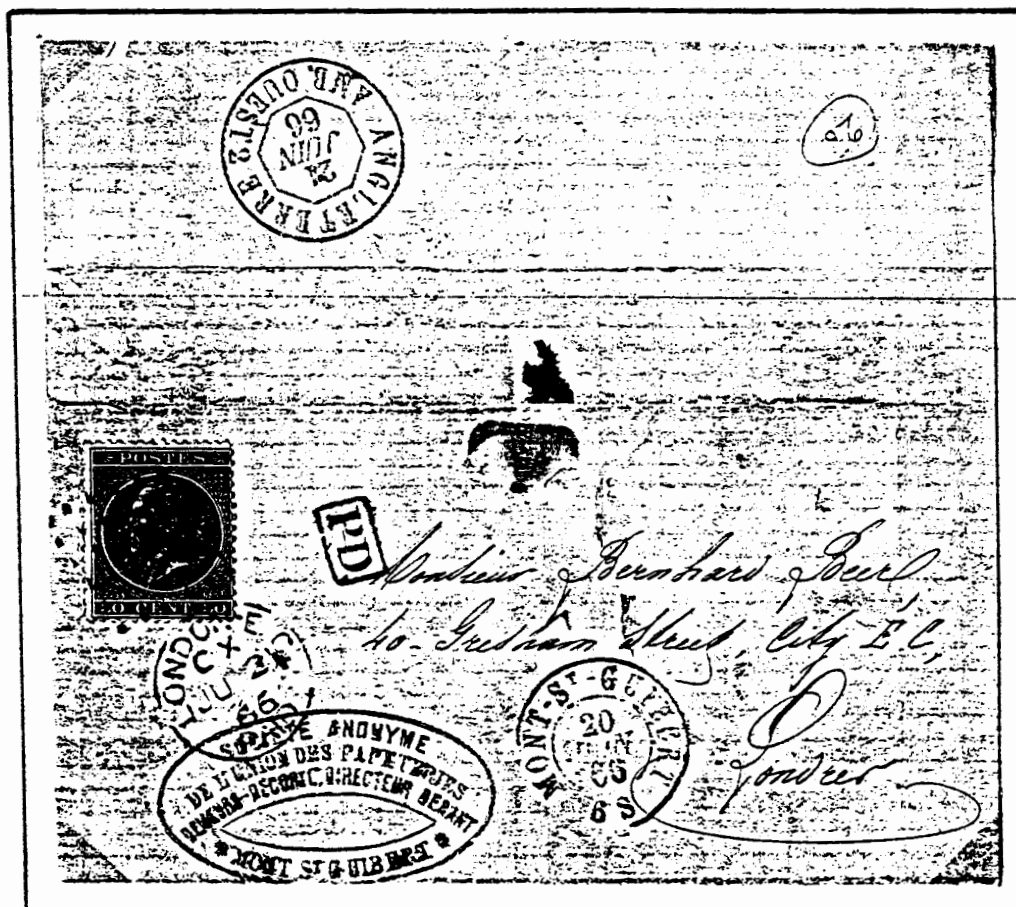


'ALLEMAGNE EST 2' HAMBURG to GLONS 23rd SEPT. 1854

ANGLETERRE

The earliest date of which I have a record for an *ambulant* mark with "Angleterre" in the inscription is 5th September, 1854. My own earliest specimen is dated the 29th of the same month. Prior to the transfer of sorting to the train it had been the practice to sort mails from Britain at Ostende. The earliest datestamps used in the train were inscribed "ANGLETERRE PAR AMBT. OUEST" and exist in two sizes. Later datestamps indicated whether they were struck on OUEST 1 or OUEST 2. There was also an outlet for English mail via OUEST 3, running between Gand and Mouscron, and letters from Brussels which were specifically routed via Calais were dealt with in MIDI IV which ran between Brussels and Tournai. The following marks may be found on English mails:-

ANGLETERRE PAR AMBT. OUEST	Type	8	1854	without time
ANGLETERRE PAR AMBT. OUEST		8	1860-1862	with time
ANGLETERRE PAR AMBT. OUEST		9	1854	without time
ANGLETERRE PAR AMBT. OUEST		9	1856	with time
ANGLETERRE PAR OUEST 1		14	1860-1864	
ANGLETERRE PAR OUEST 1		16	1867	with time
ANGLETERRE PAR OUEST 1		16	1871	with year
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 1		18	1875-1880	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 1		25	1878-1880	
ANGLETERRE PAR OUEST 2		15	1860-1866	
ANGLETERRE / AMB. OUEST 2		17	1864-1867	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 2		20	1868-1871	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 2		22	1872-1874	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 2		18	1875-1878	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 2		25	1878-1880	
ANGLETERRE / OUEST 3		20	1871-1876	
ANGLETERRE PAR OUEST 4		21	1877-1880	
ANGLETERRE / MIDI IV		20	1866-1874	



'ANGLETERRE/AMB.OUEST 2' MONT-ST-GUIBERT to LONDON 20th JUNE 1866

AUTRICHE

Mail from Austria entered Belgium by the Ambulants de l'Est and at least one specially worded transit stamp was used. This was:-

AUTRICHE / EST 2

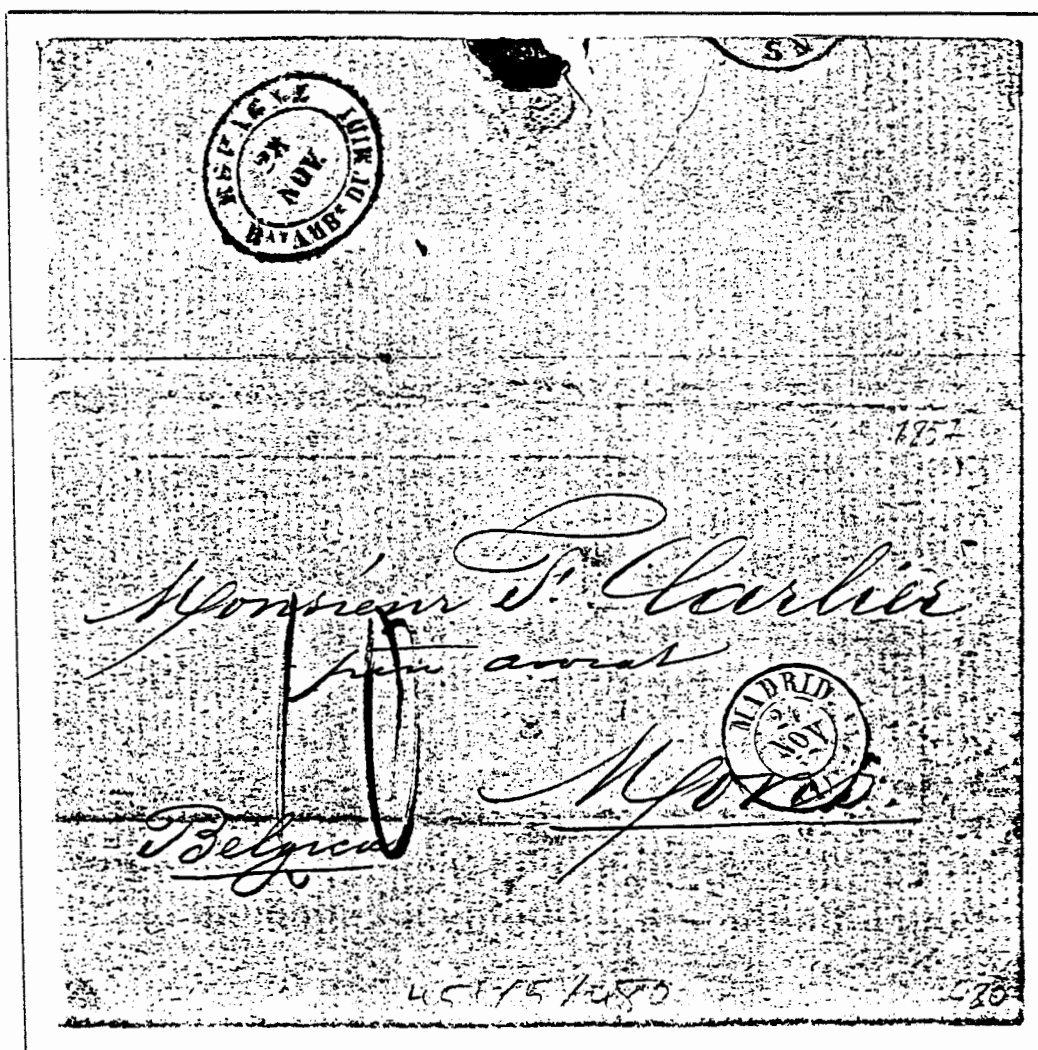
Type 25

1876-1879

ESPAGNE

Mail between Belgium and Spain was sent in closed bags across France. The office designated by Belgium for receipt and despatch of this mail was the Ambulant du Midi and from 1844 it is possible that the attractive double oval datestamp in Type 12 was used. At first it would only show the day and month and not, as illustrated, with the time added. The following datestamps are known:-

ESPAGNE / BAU.AMBT.DU MIDI	Type 12	1851-1855 with time 1859-1865 with year
ESPAGNE / MIDI I	24	1877
ESPAGNE / MIDI II	20	1868-1877
ESPAGNE / MIDI 2	25	1878-1879
ESPAGNE / MIDI 2	24	1880
ESPAGNE / EST 5	25	1877



'ESPAGNE/BAU.AMBT DU MIDI' MADRID to MONS 24th NOV. 1857



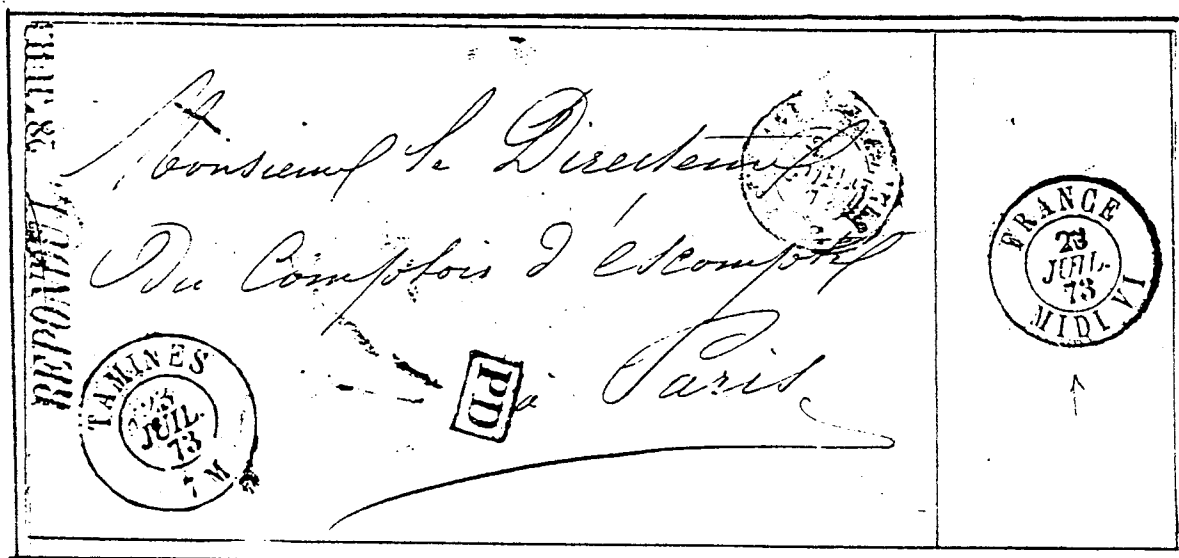
FRANCE

As might be expected, by far the greatest variety of marks is to be found on mail to and from France. Most of this mail found its way via the Ambulants du Midi, but the Est and Ouest routes also handled quantities of French mail. A surprising thing is that the marks with "FRANCE" at the top and the name of the ambulant elsewhere in the stamp were rather late to appear. It would appear likely that the "FRANCE PAR QUIÉVRAIN" marks continued in use during the early years of permanent operation. During the late 1850s it was customary to apply the normal datestamp, "AMT DU MIDI No.1" or "No.2" to the reverse of mail to France. This continued until at least the end of December 1861, but by September of that year the first marks inscribed "FRANCE PAR AMBT. MIDI 1", or "MIDI 2" were also in use.

The great preponderance of mail from France entered at Quiévrain and was handled in MIDI 1, 2 AND 3, but MIDI 4 running between Tournai and Brussels, and MIDI 6 on the route from Namur to Brussels were also called upon to deal with certain despatches and receipts. OUEST 3 (Mouscron to Gand) dealt with mail from the neighbourhood of Lille destined for Antwerp, and both EST 4 and EST 5 (Erquelines to Liège and return) also carried a considerable amount.

The exact reason for routing a letter away from its normal route is unlikely ever to be known, and some occurrences are truly surprising. As an example, a letter in my collection from Bruges to Paris in 1861 has the rare mark "FRANCE/EST V". One can only think that at certain times it was necessary to direct mails to abnormal routes to relieve the pressure on the normal route which, in a small country, would have little elasticity on the comparatively short journeys. The following are known:-

FRANCE PAR AMBT. MIDI 1	Type 14	1861-1865	
FRANCE / MIDI I	20	1866-1872	
FRANCE / MIDI 1	18	1868-1875	
FRANCE / MIDI 1	24	1875-1879	
FRANCE / MIDI 1	25	1879-1880	
FRANCE PAR AMBT. MIDI 2	14	1861-1865	
FRANCE / MIDI II	20	1865-1870	
FRANCE / MIDI II	18	1872-1873	
FRANCE / MIDI 2	18	1874-1876	
FRANCE / MIDI 2	24	1875-1880	
FRANCE / MIDI 2	25	1880	
FRANCE / MIDI III	20	1866-1867	
FRANCE / MIDI IV	18	1868-1873	
FRANCE / MIDI 4	18	1873-1875	
FRANCE / MIDI 4	Type 24	1878-1879	
FRANCE / MIDI 4	25	1880	
FRANCE MIDI VI	18	1873	
FRANCE / OUEST 3	20	1867-1873	
FRANCE PAR OUEST 3	21	1873-1877	
FRANCE / OUEST 3	18	1879-1880	
FRANCE / OUEST 4	18	1875-1878	
FRANCE / OUEST 4	24	1878-1880	
FRANCE PAR EST 2	14	1863-1865	
FRANCE / AMBT. EST	13	1867	
FRANCE / EST IV	18	1864-1876	
FRANCE / EST 4	25	1877-1880	
FRANCE / EST V	18	1867-1875	The inner circle disappeared from FRANCE EST V IN 1870.
FRANCE / EST 5	24	1877-1879	
FRANCE PAR AMBT. BRUX-ARLON	23	1873-1880	



'FRANCE/MIDI VI' TAMINES to PARIS 23rd JULY 1873

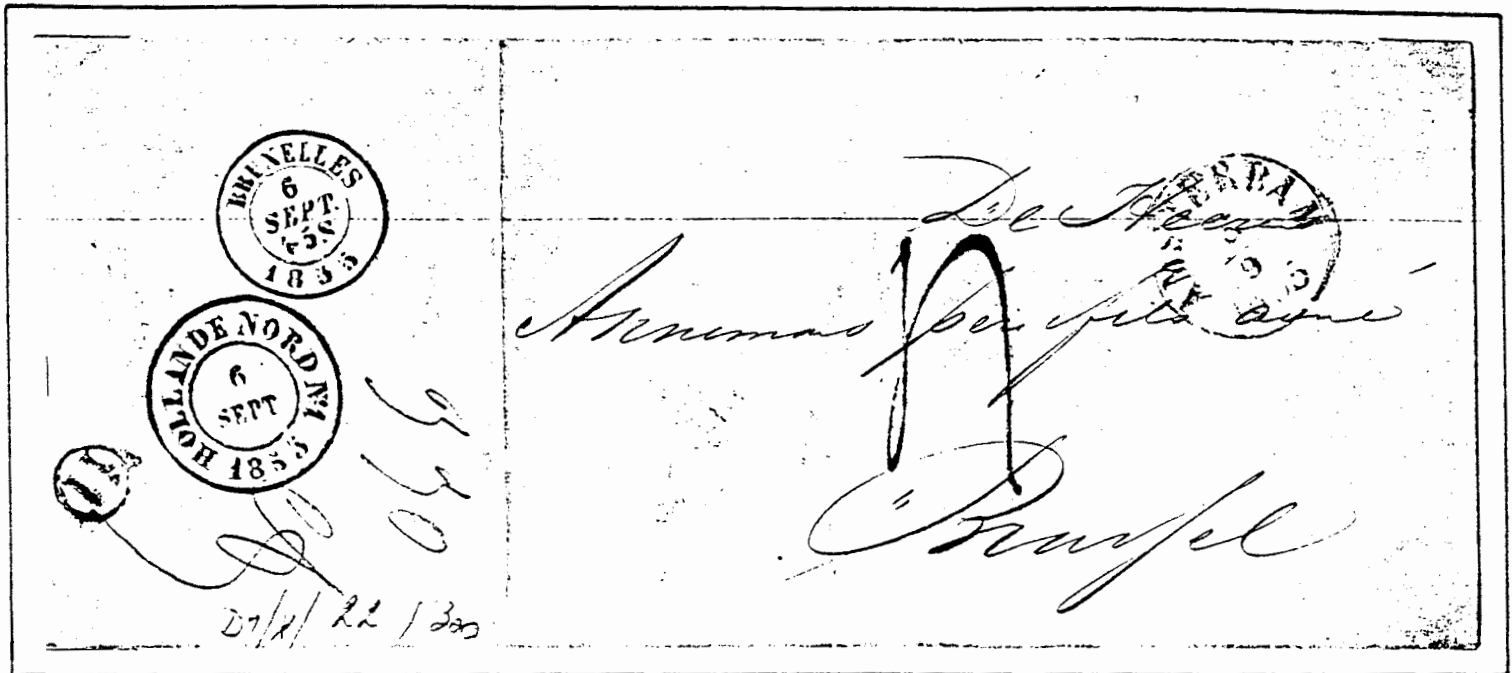
### HOLLANDE

Mail between Belgium and Holland does not seem to have been marked in the *Ambulants du Nord* until the second half of the 1850s. This may be due, in part, to the fact that the transport and sorting of mail was carried out by the Dutch postal authorities as far as Antwerp. Indeed, for many years Dutch TPOs terminated at Antwerp. These were at first known as "MOERDIJK-ANTWERPEN" and after the bridging of the Hollandsch Diep, "AMSTERDAM-ANTWERPEN". In consequence, the quite considerable mail for and from Antwerp would not need to be marked in transit. Mail passing between Holland the rest of Belgium south of Antwerp was handled in either Nord 1 or Nord 2 and received an appropriate mark. Nord 3 did not commence until 1879 and may never have been equipped with a special stamp: certainly none has so far been recorded. Mail for the Limburg province of Holland was handled in the *Ambulants de l'Est* and special stamps were provided. Marks known with "HOLLANDE" in the inscription are:-

HOLLANDE NORD No. 1	Type 10	1852-1862
HOLLANDE NORD No. 1	11	1865-1866
HOLLANDE PAR NORD 1	21	1870-1873
HOLLANDE NORD 1	22	1874-1876
HOLLANDE / NORD No. 1	18	1876-1880
HOLLANDE AMBT NORD No. 2	(?10)	1851
HOLLANDE NORD No. 2	10	1855-1861
HOLLANDE NORD No. 2	11	1856-1869
HOLLANDE PAR NORD 2	21	1869-1873
HOLLANDE / NORD 2	18	1875-1877
HOLLANDE NORD 2	22	1873-1879
HOLLANDE EST	(?10)	1854
HOLLANDE EST No. 1	11	1861-1863
HOLLANDE EST No. 2	11	1864

Early examples of Type 11 had the year in full between the two circles at the foot. This was later omitted.





HOLLANDE NORD No.1' AMSTERDAM to BRUSSELS 5th SEPT. 1853

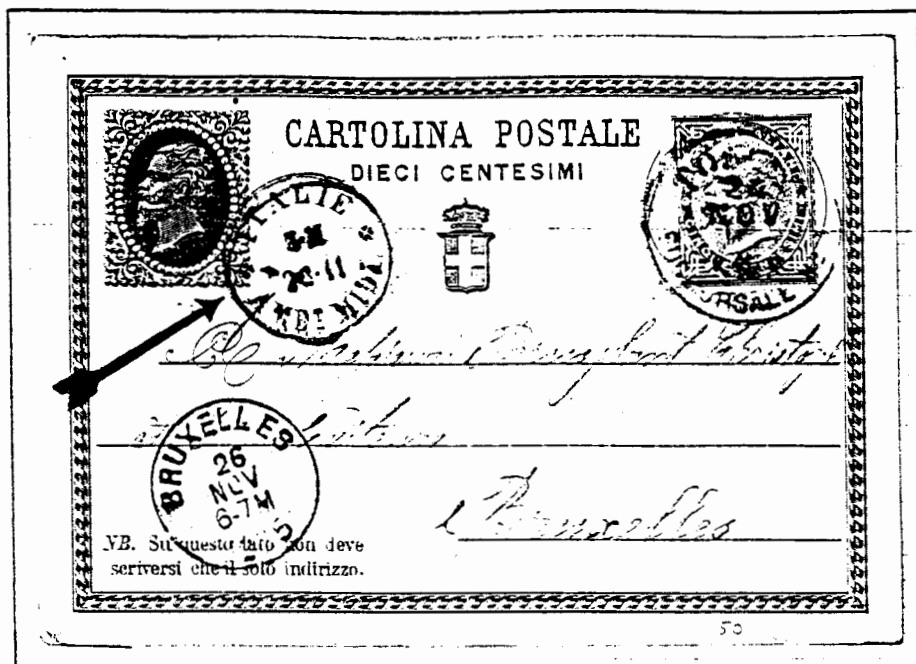
### ITALIE

There were two routes in use for mails in transit between Italy and Belgium. The number of covers seen is insufficient to warrant any firm conclusion as to whether the two routes were used simultaneously.

The route via France and the *Ambulants du Midi* was in use from 1866 to 1868 and from 1873 to 1875, according to my specimens; and the route via Germany and the *Ambulants de l'Est* in 1870 and 1872. Further covers may prove that both routes were used during the entire period as occasion demanded.

The mark "ITALIE/EST V" is known from the route Erquelines-Liège and would be provided for use on letters from Charleroi and other towns along this important cross-route, which were being forwarded via France. The following datestamps are known:-

ITALIE / AMBT MIDI	Type 13	1863-1876
ITALIE / MIDI II	20	1866-1874
ITALIE / MIDI 2	25	1875-1878
ITALIE / AMB EST 3	17	1870-1874
ITALIE / EST 4	18	1876
ITALIE / EST V	18	1875-1877
ITALIE / OUEST 3	18	1877-1878

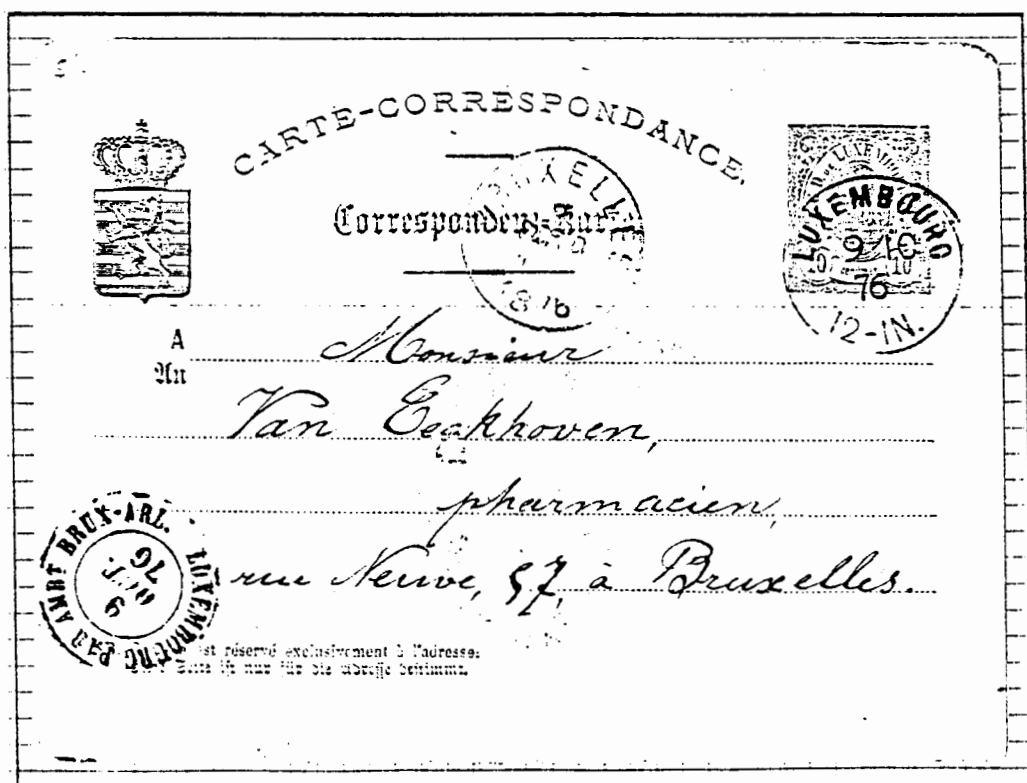


'ITALIE/AMBT MIDI' TURIN to BRUSSELS 24th NOV. 1875

### LUXEMBOURG

The only route of importance for mails between Belgium and the Grand Duchy was by the Ambulant Bruxelles-Arlon, which commenced somewhat later than the general introduction and did not operate under a compass-point title. During the 1870s distinctive sorting marks were used on this route. Also during this period, some of the labour of sorting mails to and from Antwerp was moved to the Ambulants du Nord and an appropriate mark was used on Luxembourg mail. The list of known datestamps is short:-

LUXEMBOURG PAR AMBT (PAR NAMUR)	Type 23	1872	
LUXEMBOURG PAR AMBT BRUX-ARLON	23	1875-1880	
LUXEMBOURG PAR AMBT BRUX-ARLON	25	1880	(very rare)
LUXEMBOURG / NORD 1		1876-1877	



'LUXEMBOURG PAR AMBT BRUX-ARL' LUXEMBOURG to BRUSSELS 9th OCT. 1876

PAYS-BAS PAR EST II	Type	15	1866
PAYS-BAS / EST 2		18	1876
PAYS-BAS PAR EST 3		15	1867-1868
PAYS-BAS PAR EST 3		21	1873-1877
PAYS-BAS / EST 3		18	1871-1872
PAYS-BAS / NORD 2		25	1879-1880
PAYS-BAS / OUEST 4		25	1876



## PORTUGAL

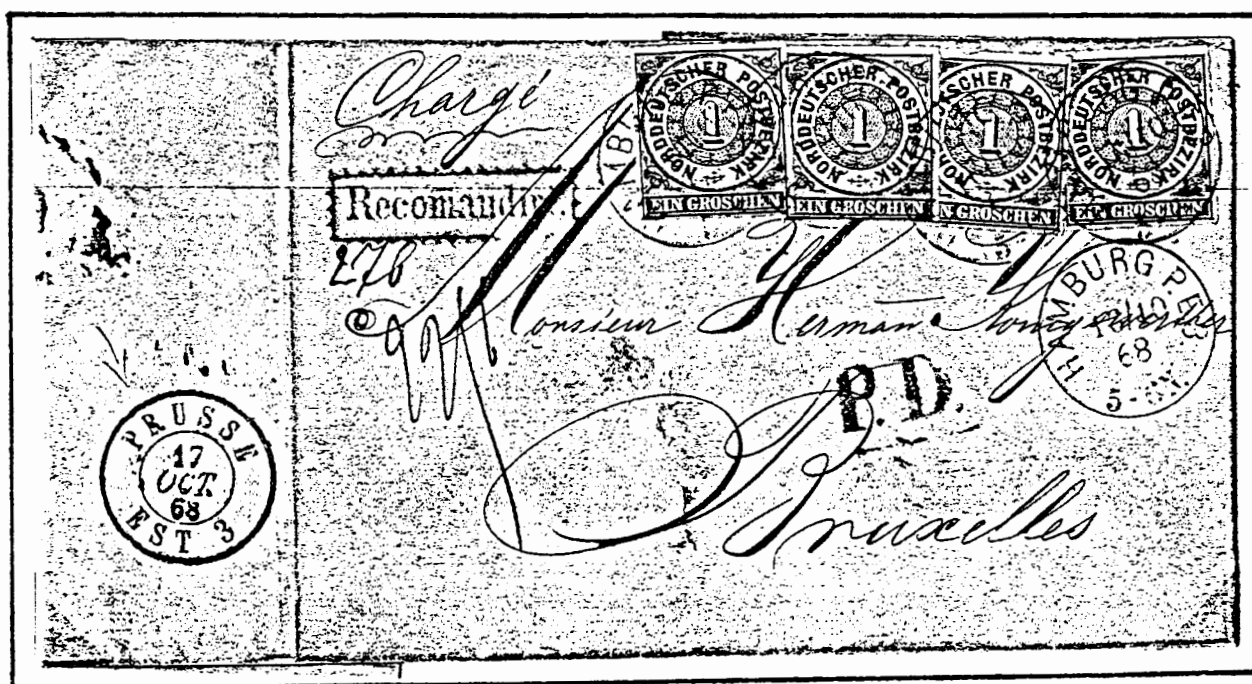
Porto, le 8 Avril 1878.  
 Monsieur l'Empereur  
 Croyez la bonté de  
 remettre par la poste:  
 1. Abt 1877-78. Journal des  
 Dames, par Sophie - à l'adr.  
 de Mr. Antonio Monteiro  
 da Silva - Villa do Conde.  
 Agnes, Marquis, nos  
 salutations empreintes.  
 Agnes  
 1878  
 Agnes, Marquis, nos  
 salutations empreintes.  
 Agnes  
 1878

'PORTUGAL/MIDI II' PORTO to BRUSSELS 8th APRIL 1878

PRUSSE

A series of datestamps inscribed "PRUSSE" was in use on the *Ambulants de l'Est* between 1868 and 1872 and may have temporarily replaced those inscribed "ALLEMAGNE". Certainly, I have no record of an "ALLEMAGNE" stamp used during those years. The datestamps known are:-

PRUSSE / EST 1	Type 18	1868-1873
PRUSSE / EST 2	18	1868-1872
PRUSSE / EST 3	18	1868-1873
PRUSSE / EST IV	18	1880
PRUSSE PAR EST V	21	1872
PRUSSE PAR AMBT BRUX-ARLON	23	1872-1877



'PRUSSE/EST 3' HAMBURG to BRUSSELS 16th OCT. 1868

RUSSIE

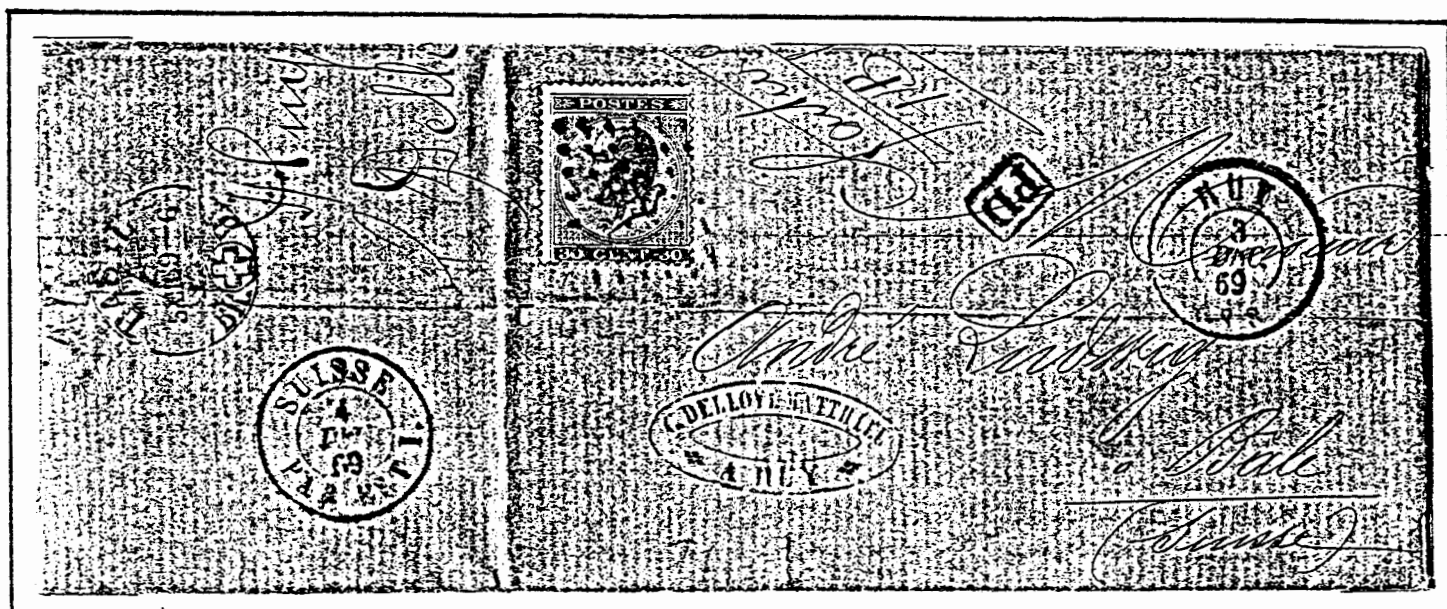
Late in the period of use of this class of datestamp, the mail between Russia and Belgium was "closed" for its passage across Germany and probably at this time the mark "RUSSIE/EST 2" came into use. I have it on a letter from Riga to Brussels and know of one other example. The only recorded datestamp is:-

RUSSIE / EST 2	Type 18	1873-1876
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SUISSE

Under an instruction of 5th May, 1850, all mails to and from Switzerland were to be made up and sorted in MIDI III, but no datestamp with that title is recorded. However, a datestamp of Type 7 inscribed "SUISSE PAR QUIÉVRAIN" is known used in 1852 and was probably the stamp used in the *ambulant* MIDI III. Later, mail seems to have travelled by way of Germany and the *Ambulants de l'Est*. Some mail for Antwerp was dealt with in NORD 1. Recorded:-

SUISSE / AMBT EST	Type 13	1866-1869	time, day, month
		1874	day, month, year
SUISSE / PAR EST 1	19	1869-1874	
SUISSE / PAR MIDI II	20	1866-1875	
SUISSE / MIDI IV	20	1877	
SUISSE / NORD 1	18	1874-1876	



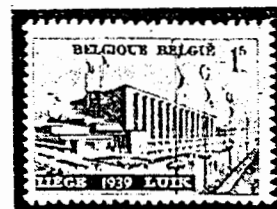
'SUISSE/PAR EST I' HUY to BASLE 3rd DEC. 1869

In many of the types used, the matter contained in the inner circle (the moveable part of the inscription) may be found made up in a different manner and giving different information. Figures 24 and 25 illustrate this point: these are essentially the same stamps but, right at the end of the life of this type of mark, the date was shown in place of the time.

Fourteen countries are named in the stamps shown. How many remain to be discovered? Many of the items recorded have only been seen once and it is at least probable that there were others in use from which the first example has yet to be recorded.

## BELGIAN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

By S. J. Andrews and O. C. Loader



(This article appeared in "Philately" in Jan/Feb. 1958) 1939 Exhibition Pavilion

For some fifteen months Brussels traffic has been thrown into complete chaos by extensive road development schemes. Not content with flyovers, the Belgian engineers have tunnelled deep into the sub-soil of the city and sub-under-tunnelled, all in the cause of speeding the movement of the traffic which is expected at the time of the International Exhibition due to be opened there on 17th April next.

Since the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851, International Exhibitions have been held in many parts of the world, but with its strategic position at the crossroads of so many trade routes, Belgium has seen more than any other country.

The first International Exhibition to be held in Belgium was at Brussels in 1880. This tied in with the celebration of fifty years of Belgian Independence and the main Exhibition buildings, now the Cinquantenaire Buildings, are still a pleasing landmark in Twentieth Century Brussels. Many Exhibitions have followed and all are recorded philatelically – either by the issue of special stamps or by the use of distinctive cancellers. In the space of one short article we cannot refer to all, but limit ourselves to mentioning only the most important.

The 1880 Exhibition has left us only special cancellers. The first Exhibition for which stamps were issued was held at Antwerp in 1894, and February and March of that year saw the issue of three low value stamps showing the arms of Antwerp. At this period in Belgian history all stamps were appearing with special labels attached so that the sender could indicate whether or not he wished the letter to be delivered on Sunday, by detaching the label or leaving it intact. These "Sunday Labels" were a part of every stamp issued by Belgium from 1893 to 1914.

This Antwerp Exhibition is also of interest since for the first time the Congo State received full publicity. It was from photographs shown in the Congo Pavilion that the designs for the first Congo pictorial stamps were taken.

In 1897 Brussels was again the venue of an Exhibition and in October and November, 1896, two values in an extra large format were issued; the design shows St. Michael who is one of the patron saints of Brussels (Fig.1). Cancellers used were similar to those used at previous Brussels Exhibitions varying only in the format of time and date indication.

After Exhibitions in Gand and Liege, recorded only by cancellations, Brussels was again the site in 1910. On this occasion two series each of four values were issued (Fig.2) and they were the first of Belgian issues now listed under a "Charity" heading. No indication of extra charge appears on the stamp but in fact the stamps were sold at a premium. This 1910 Exhibition also saw the first mechanical "Flag" cancellation (Fig.3) and an unusual and rare telegraphic mark in octagonal format. It will be noticed that all cancellations of this period are bilingual; Flemish having been accepted as equal to French as the national tongue.



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 2





This first excursion into "Charity" stamps evidently did not prove a financial success to the Post Office, because we find what we presume was the remainder of the same stamps appearing the next year overprinted "1911", and a few months later a further remainder came out overprinted "Charleroi 1911" on the occasion of yet another international exhibition in that town.

The next issues of "Exhibition" stamps were not until 1930 when single stamps were issued for Exhibitions at Antwerp and Liege; these showed respectively the famous painter Peter Paul Rubens who lived and worked in Antwerp in the 16th Century and Zenobe Gramme, born near Liege in 1826, an electrical engineer who was the inventor of the first industrial dynamo and was responsible for introducing "alternating current".



Fig. 5



Fig. 4



Fig. 6

1st July, 1934 saw the issue of a set of four pictorial stamps which provided advance publicity for the International Exhibition at Brussels in 1935. This Exhibition was planned on a much vaster scale than any previously; twelve separate Post Office Bureaux operated in the Exhibition grounds and the special canceller (Fig.4) included reference to the Bureau Number 1a to 1f and 2a to 2f. Concurrent with this Exhibition three stamps were issued, the design being the same in each case and showing an early mail coach (Fig.5). These stamps carried a charity premium devoted to the postal charities and were printed in miniature sheets of ten.

Liege was the venue of the next Exhibition in 1939 and again a set of four stamps appeared. The theme of the Exhibition was "Water" and the location of the Albert Canal shown on the 1.50Fr. value (Fig.6). Again the special cancellers showed the Bureau Number; this time only four being used and designated A.B.C. and D.

We are not poster stamp collectors, but feel that these Exhibitions have been the cause of so many issues of stickers that this article would not be complete without mention of them. Some of these labels are artistic and beautifully produced. The most prolific issues date from the 1897 Exhibition at Brussels and these frequently find their way into stamp collections (Fig.7). Collectors, whether of Belgium or thematic, should beware of these which are sometimes incorrectly described as essays for exhibition stamps.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Now Brussels again is to be the site this year of another Exhibition to show the world's advance in all spheres, scientific and otherwise; the Thirty-first International Exhibition, the eleventh to be held in Belgium and the first since the 1939-45 War. Forty-eight countries and seven International organisations will be participating and a site of some 500 acres will be taken up by the many pavilions.

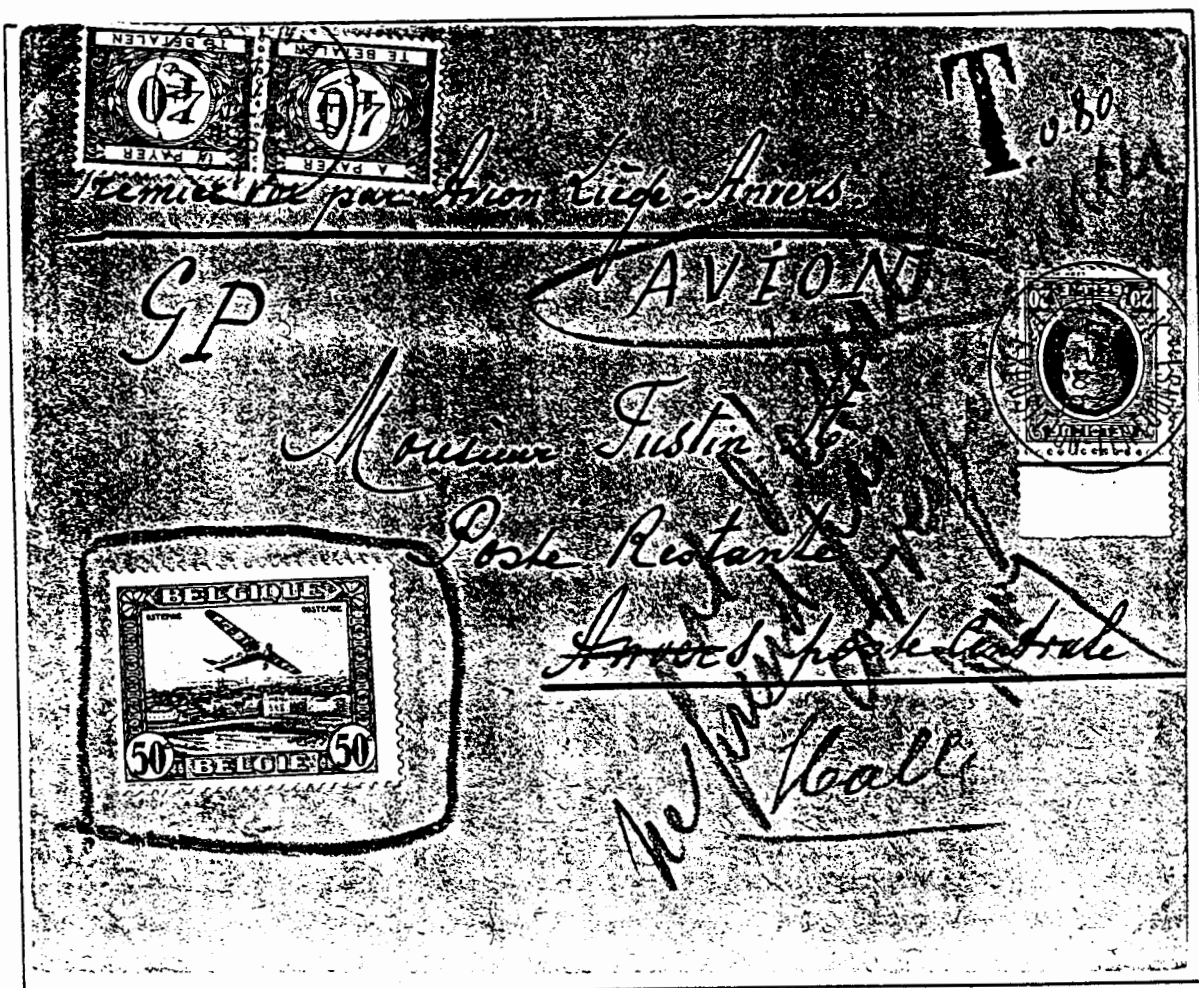
Already we have had two stamps issued by way of advance publicity; the design is the same for each, the values being 2 and 4 Fr. (Fig.8). The central subject of this design is the "Atomium", the central feature of the Exhibition. Each of the globes of this structure has a diameter of 60 feet and will house a restaurant or a pavilion, whilst the connecting passages will house lifts and escalators.

Whether all the road works will be completed on time and whether all the Exhibition buildings will be finished by 17th April, or will follow the precedent of many previous Exhibitions, we cannot say. Of one thing, however, we can be sure and that is that this Exhibition will not be forgotten by philatelists as the Belgian Postal Authorities have already announced that a set of six pictorial stamps will be issued.

#### FROM LIEGE (EXHIBITION) TO ANTWERP

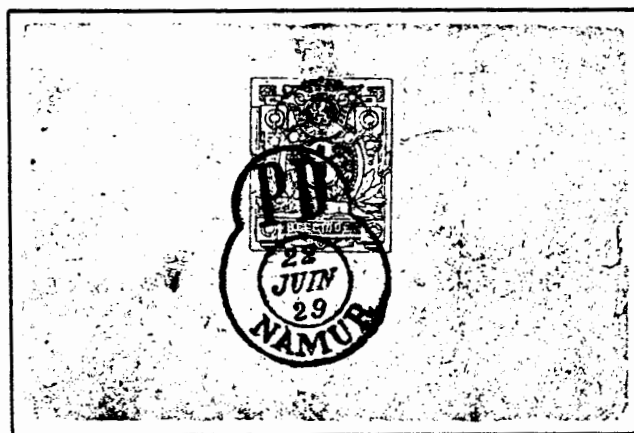
Intended to be sent by air on 16th June, 1930, the letter was marked "VOL D'ESSAI NE PREND PAS CORRESPONDANCE" (i.e. trial flight, no correspondence carried).

The airmail stamp was not acceptable for payment of ordinary mail and the letter was treated as underpaid. The letter rate at this time was 60c per 50 grammes. 20c paid. 80c (double rate) for underpaid.





1870 ISSUE  
8 CENTIME VALUE



THERE IS NO RECORD OF THIS VALUE HAVING BEEN SUGGESTED OR  
ISSUED IN THE FORM OF A MAGAZINE/NEWSPAPER WRAPPER AS THIS  
APPEARS TO BE.

THIS TYPE OF POSTMARK, FOR PRINTED MATTER, WAS IN USE FROM 1869  
TO 1877, BUT IS NOT KNOWN FOR NAMUR.

IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THIS IS A COMPLETE FAKE.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDALLION ISSUE (continued)

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
40 CENTIME VALUE

THE ACCEPTED ROBINSON DIE.



THIS DIE IS KNOWN ON JAPON PAPER, THICK WHITE PAPER  
GREY-GREEN THICK WHITE PAPER, BROWN RED THICK PAPER  
INITIALED "H.R" (ROBINSON) AND ON CHAMOIS CARTON.

CHARACTERISTICS of the DIE.

- |                                   |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. LINE ON L.H. VALUE TABLET.     | 5. LINE BETWEEN FRAMES ABOVE "Q"                                 |
| 2. LINE ON LEFT FOLIAGE.          | 6. INNER FRAME LINE EXTENDED DOWN<br>TOWARDS BOTTOM OUTER FRAME. |
| 3. LINE ON R.H. VALUE TABLET.     | 7. INNER FRAME EXTENDED TOWARDS<br>OUTER BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER     |
| 4. LINE TOP RIGHT BETWEEN FRAMES. | 8. LINE ACROSS FRAMELINE ABOVE THE<br>"S" OF "CENTS".            |

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.

PRODUCTION OF LINE ENGRAVED STAMPS BECAME EXPENSIVE, MAINLY DUE TO THE RAPID WEAR OF THE PRINTING PLATES. THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, IN 1862, DECIDED TO SET UP A COMMISSION CHARGED WITH THE STUDY OF A NEW METHOD FOR THE PRINTING OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE COMMISSION SUGGESTED PRINTING BY TYPOGRAPHY BUT TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO FORGE THE STAMPS IT REQUIRED ARTISTS TO SUBMIT PROJECTS FOR PRINTING IN TWO COLOURS.

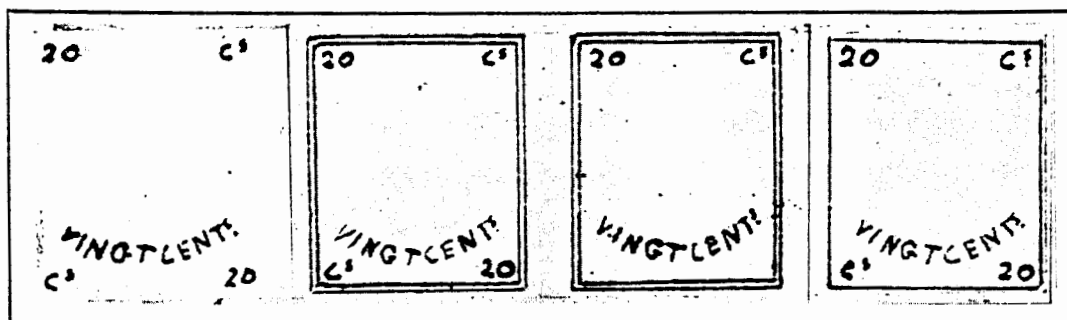
J. WEINER FIRST PROPOSITION FOR BI-COLOUR DESIGN.



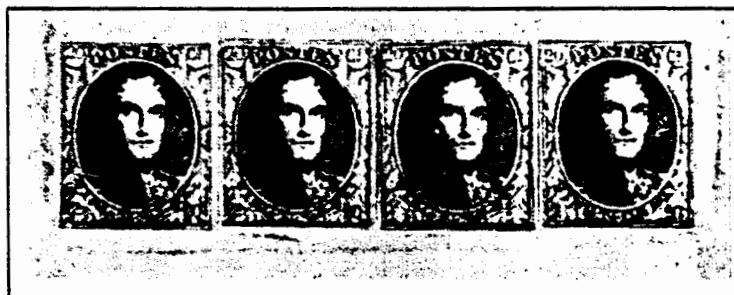
THIS USED THE FIRST ROBINSON ESSAY FOR THE ORIGINAL "MEDALLION" ISSUE "L'ESCARGOT", OVERPRINTED WITH THE DESIGN BELOW. THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS OF THE PROOF, IN BLACK WITH THE OVERPRINT ALSO IN BLACK, NOW IN THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM.



THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
1862 COMMISSION PERIOD  
J. WEINER FIRST PROPOSITION



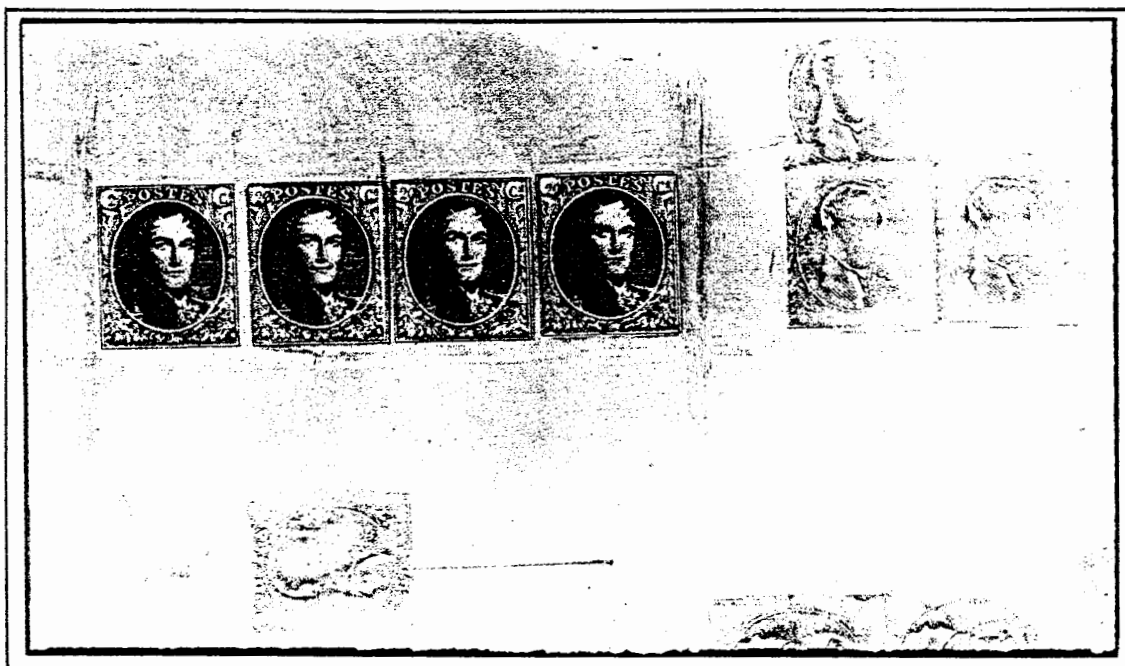
PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ORIGINAL DRAWING FOR THIS PROPOSITION.



THE FINISHED OVERPRINT BASED ON THE DRAWING ABOVE  
WAS APPLIED TO THE STRIP OF FOUR- THE ACCEPTED  
"NEUTRAL" DESIGN OF ROBINSON WHICH HAD BEEN  
STRUCK ON THE ENGRAVER'S WORKING PLATE.

THIS WAS PRINTED ON A GRAINED ("GRÉNÉ") PAPER.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.  
J. WEINER FIRST PROPOSITION.

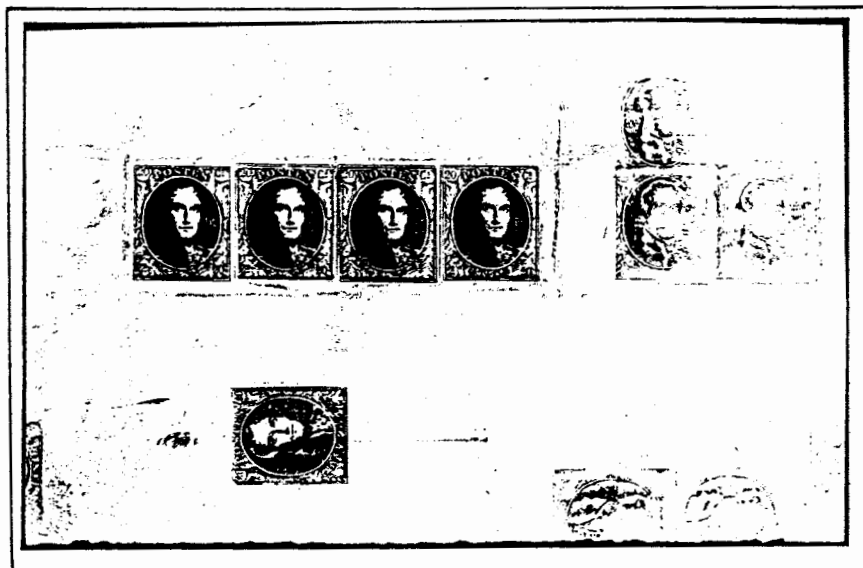


THIS STRIP OF FOUR FROM THE "WORKING PALETTE" SHOWS THE  
RED OVERPRINTS ON A BLUE PROOF ON LAID PAPER.

THE ILLUSTRATION IS FROM THE CATALOGUE OF THE "MELLOR"  
COLLECTION, THE PROOF NOW BEING IN THE "CRUSTIN" COLLECTION.

A SIMILAR PROOF IN BROWN WITH THE SAME RED OVERPRINTS IS  
IN THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM

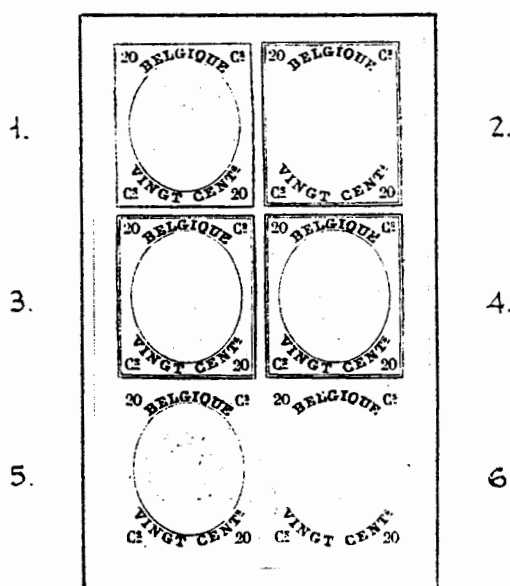
THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
1862 COMMISSION PERIOD  
J. WEINER FIRST PROPOSITION



THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS OF THE BROWN DIE PROOF, EX CAROLY  
COLLECTION NOW IN THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM

THE OVERPRINT IS IN ORANGE-RED.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.  
JACQUES WIENER PROPOSITION.



THIS PLATE OF 6 "SURCHARGES" OR "OVERPRINTS" WERE USED IN  
THE PREPARATION OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> PROPOSITIONS BY J. WIENER

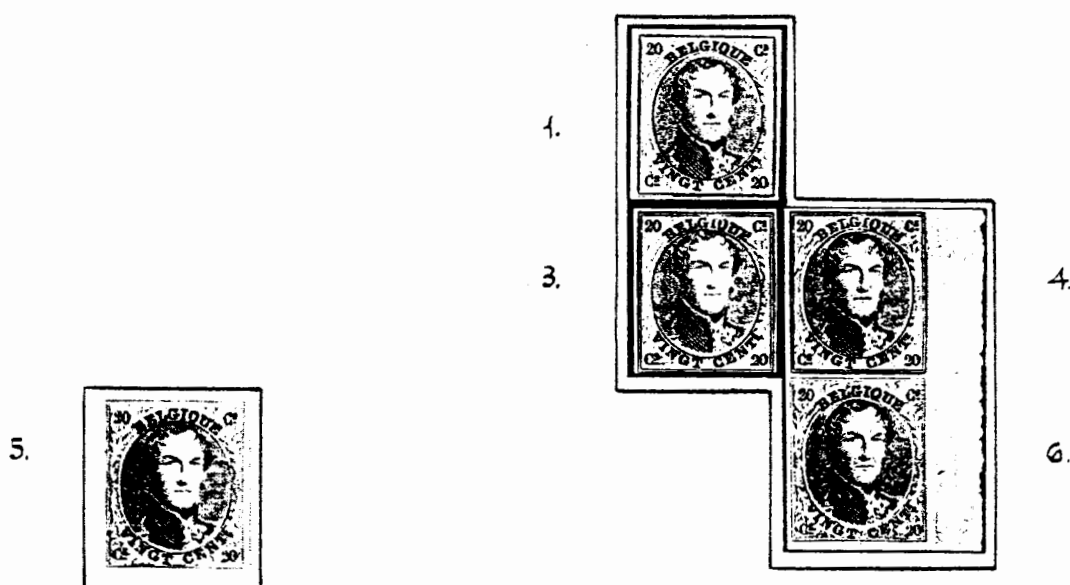
- FRAME 1. SINGLE LINE FRAME WITH CENTRAL OVAL  
FRAME 2. DOUBLE LINE FRAME WITHOUT CENTRAL OVAL.  
FRAMES 3/4 DOUBLE LINE FRAME WITH CENTRAL OVAL.  
FRAME 5. NO OUTER FRAME, WITH CENTRAL OVAL.  
FRAME 6. NO OUTER FRAME, WITHOUT CENTRAL OVAL.

THE ORIGINAL PROOF SHEET IS PRINTED IN BLUE

THE 'MEDALLION' ISSUE  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD

J. WEINER SECOND PROPOSITION.

THE SMALL PLATE OF 6 "SURCHARGES" WAS USED TO  
OVERPRINT THE SMALL SHEET OF 6 OF THE ROBINSON  
UN-ACCEPTED FIRST ESSAY OF THE MEDALLIONS.



BLUE OVERPRINT ON RED MEDALLION.  
EX. KING LEOPOLD III COLLECTION.  
EX. F. DANDOIS COLLECTION.

OVERPRINT IN BLUE ON RED MEDALLION.  
THESE PROOFS ARE IN THE BRUSSELS  
POSTAL MUSEUM

DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS OVERPRINTS ARE  
GIVEN ELSEWHERE.



THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE

JACQUES WIENER PREPARED A PLATE OF SIX 'SURCHARGES'  
TO OVERPRINT ON BLOCKS OF SIX ESSAYS PREPARED BY J.H.ROBINSON.  
FIVE TYPES WERE INCORPORATED WITHIN THIS PLATE OF SIX.



TYPE 1.

SINGLE FRAME LINE  
OVAL IN CENTRE



TYPE 2.

DOUBLE FRAME LINES  
NO CENTRAL OVAL



TYPE 5.

NO FRAME LINE  
OVAL IN CENTRE

TYPE 4

DOUBLE FRAME LINES  
OVAL IN CENTRE.



TYPE 6.

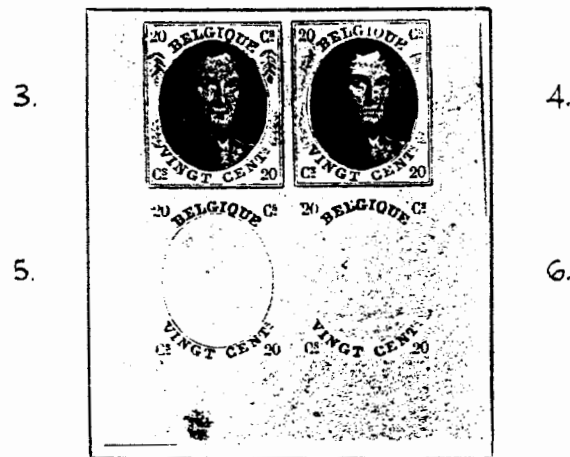
NO FRAME LINE.  
NO CENTRAL OVAL.

THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE COLOUR REPRODUCTIONS OF PROOFS FROM THE  
B. LESLIE BARKER COLLECTION  
SOLD AT HARMERS, FEB. 8, 1977, LOTS 291, 292.

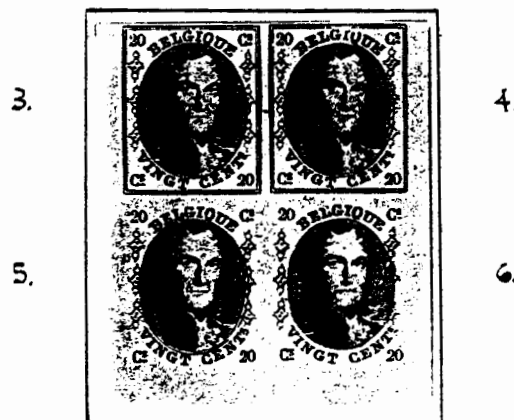
THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.

J. WEINER THIRD PROPOSITION.

AGAIN USING THE PLATE OF 6 "SURCHARGES", WEINER PRODUCED ANOTHER PROPOSITION, BY ADDING TO THESE DESIGNS, CUT-OUTS OF THE PORTRAIT MEDALLION FROM THE ISSUED STAMPS.  
NOS 3,4,5,6 OF THE SURCHARGES WERE USED IN THIS WAY.



1c. GREEN & 20c BLUE ADDED. NOTE ADDITIONAL WORK AT SIDE OF THE MEDALLIONS.



40c. RED MEDALLIONS ADDED, WITH ADDITIONAL WORK AT SIDE OF THE MEDALLIONS, DIFFERENT TO ABOVE.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE.  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.  
J. WEINER FOURTH PROPOSITION

THIS PROPOSITION APPEARS TO BE A DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
PREVIOUS IDEA AND SHOWS THE "MEDALLION" CUT-OUT  
APPLIED TO AN INK OR WATERCOLOUR DRAWING BASED  
ON FRAME 1 FROM THE SMALL "SURCHARGE" SHEET.

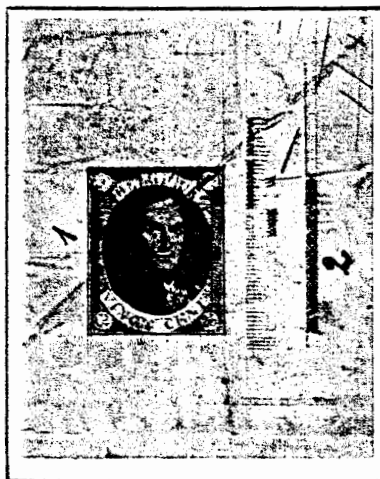
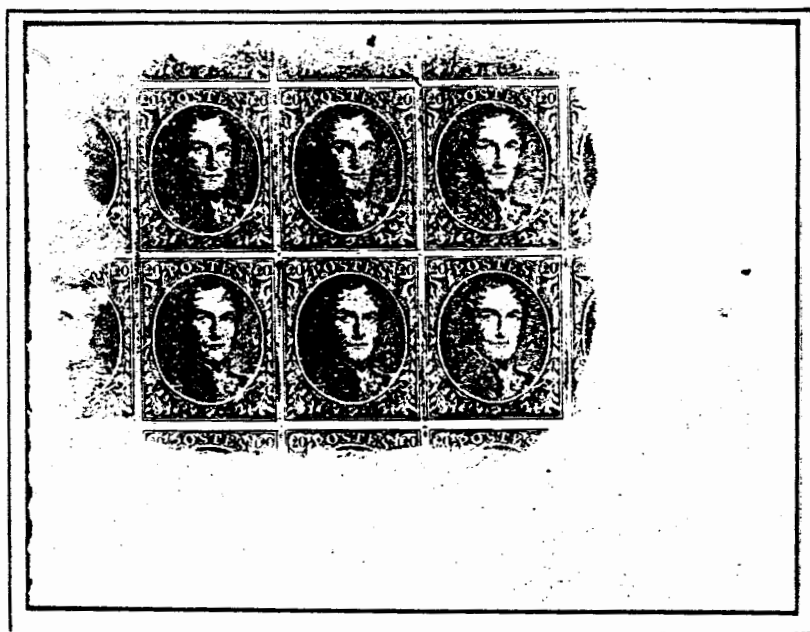


ILLUSTRATION FROM W. BALASSE SALE N°425 CATALOGUE  
19 FEBRUARY 1977.

THE "MEDALLION" ISSUE  
THE 1862 COMMISSION PERIOD.  
J.WIENER FIFTH PROPOSITION.



THIS PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY PRINTING FROM THE 20 CENTIMES PLATE  
OF 1850 IN TWO COLOURS

ONLY 6 COMPLETE IMPRESSIONS WERE USED AND PORTIONS OF  
THE SURROUNDING STAMPS ARE SHOWN. HOW THE TWO-COLOURED  
EFFECT WAS ACHIEVED IS NOT KNOWN, BUT THEY ARE FOUND IN  
LILAC AND GREEN, CARMINE AND BLUE, AND BLUE AND CARMINE

EX CAROLY COLLECTION  
NOW IN THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM