

**BELGAPOST**Volume **11** No. **2**JUNE, 1998The Journal of the  
Belgian Study CircleC O N T E N T S

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# 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.*

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

JUNE, 1998

### **Editorial**

Whilst we still have a "small" stock of articles, please help us! We require a "large" number of these to fill some 36/40 pages for each issue, which we hope we can do. However, you must help.

Otto Sellinger's article on Registered Mail will continue for this and possibly two more issues. The Large Montenez has not been possible for this issue as promised, but hopefully will be in the next issue. And what can we have from you, to include in these issues?

Following our 50th Birthday, the philatelic fraternity, including the philatelic press, at long last appear to take notice of what this Study Circle is doing. We are getting a few new members coming into the Circle but more would help the Circle in many ways. Can you all help in recruiting more members?

Come to the Chester weekend and bring your friends!

### **REPORT OF MEETING - 25th APRIL, 1998**

Held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the meeting commenced with apologies for absence, followed by the report from our Chairman, Ken Carpenter, who outlined the activities of the Circle over the past year, concluding with the meeting at Heysel in April. Our President, Jack Andrews, continued on the same theme and thanked the officers of the Circle for their support and work over this significant year in the Circle's history. He also gave a special welcome to Jean Bruwier and his wife, Godelieve, and to Josef Deruyck, who had all journeyed from Belgium for the occasion.

The Treasurer, Reg Harrison, presented the annual accounts and stressed the important role that sales play in the Circle's finances. It was agreed that the subscription for 1998/99 be continued at £14.00.

The Secretary, Chris Howe, reported that he was still settling in to this role. He said the programme for 1998/99 was under consideration but would be similar to previous years.

Tony Geake reported on the Exchange Packet and also the arrangements for Chester in September. Tony said there is already a good response but everyone is welcome.

Following a brief report on "BELGAPOST" by Jack Andrews, he indicated that he would like to relinquish the role of Editor next year.

The election of officers - **John Parkin** is our new Chairman, whilst all the other officers were re-elected (see list on the front cover of this journal).

Our auction commenced before lunch, full details of which appear in this edition. Lunch was held at the nearby Vecchio Alpino Ristorante, where we received a warm welcome, together with excellent food and service, to the extent that some members were reluctant to resume the final part of the auction!! However, resume we did until tea and biscuits were served before we finally dispersed. A successful day's activities with a pleasant social ambience which has become the trademark of our Circle.

REPORT OF MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE,  
21st FEBRUARY, 1998

Don't you think it is a strange world of coincidences? I had entirely forgotten the subject of Reg Harrison's presentation (The First World War) in the preparation of my own when a few weeks ago I bought what I thought was a nice registered cover from Eastern Karelia. It was dated 21st January, 1942 and I quickly decided it was philatelic. It employed a complete set of five stamps which was most unlikely to be a correct postal rate. My Baltic history is a bit thin but I was aware that this was a small area of Russia occupied by the Finns, with the help of the Germans, from 1941 to 1944. "What on earth", I thought, "was a philatelist doing in a war zone yet alone one wasting scarce resources by sending unnecessary mail." Well, Reg soon showed us that there was nothing new about that sort of thing.

As usual, Reg's display was comprehensive, well presented and, of course, fascinating. I can understand the young man, in the flush of victory and away from home for the first time in his life, liberating a card from the post office and sending it home with the "Look at me" type of message. Having said that, I do find the activities of one collector, a Belgian collector at that, bordering on the bizarre. This man amassed a collection of covers from every post office in the country each bearing the overprinted Germania issue, some of which were not cheap even by the standards of our time. Having gone to all this trouble, he left them in the cellar piled in alphabetic order to become water damaged. In the process, he was censured by the clergy for wasting money at a time many of his compatriots were in dire straits.

Of course there were a great deal of correctly used items in the display, including some covers rescued from the waste paper basket of a submarine commander but it was the philatelic stuff that fascinated me. As Reg said, the scope offered to the philatelist is limitless when he has access to, or even control of, the stamps and also the handstamps and cachets. The display tracked the advancing armies in the early days, the battle zones themselves, German attempts to reinforce the split between the French and Flemish communities through the issue of stamps with the **CENT** overprint vice **CENTIMES** and finally the German retreat.

During the lunch break, the Circle's stand at SWINPEX was discussed. This will be held at Swindon on 13th June. Facilities are being provided free by the organisers but society members will have to pay the usual entrance fee to the event. The secretary is co-ordinating the display and would welcome contributions from members of, say, 15 sheets. Arrangements were also discussed for a meeting in Brussels the week before the AGM.

In the afternoon your secretary entertained. Well, I hope I did!! As a relative newcomer to philately and even to the Circle, I was a bit reluctant to respond when pressured by Reg. At that time I had not even thought about writing up let alone about displaying. I have only spent the last few years collecting. In some areas I have been recording what I've obtained but writing up, no. I started collecting Albania about four years ago and quickly found that hen's teeth would have been a better choice. To avoid losing momentum, and inspired by a memorial in the Upper Barracca Gardens in Valletta, I turned to lions. Initially the natural type but I quickly found the vast scope of European definitive issues, not least those of Belgium, to be more rewarding. In any event my display, The Trouble with Lions, was a basic review of the opportunities which exist. Although subsequently suborned into railway cancellations by the kind help of Bill Moss and into publilabels by a chance purchase at one of the early Society meetings which I attended, I am still looking for "an angle on lions". One potential avenue came from Tom Pring at the Leamington weekend, the Chiffre issues of 1869 and 1884. Helped by the encouragement of John Connolly and the acquisition of a copy of Balasse this might go somewhere in the future. In any event, I am always open to advice.

CHRIS HOWE

## EUROPHILA BRUSSELS - APRIL 1998

The above event, sponsored by the Belgian Stamp Dealers Association, provided an opportunity for a brief visit to meet our Belgian members and also to make available our own April auction lots for inspection. Held at the Palais Des Expositions and primarily for dealers not societies, through the efforts of our Vice Chairman, Jean Bruwier, we were able to use part of the stand of Albert Delchambre, CLUB 92, to whom we owe our sincere thanks.

During the Saturday, we were delighted to welcome a number of our European members whilst also looking at the other dealers' stands. By national standards, the event was of a moderate size and it was not accompanied by a competitive philatelic display. However, it was not difficult to empty one's wallet as there was some fine material available for purchase! The event coincided with the issue of some new stamps and the subsequent unending queues for these was both time consuming and frustrating.

Our party comprised Ken and Joy Carpenter, Ken Dore, Tony Geake, Reg and Jean Harrison. Jean Bruwier and Josef Deruyck were also on hand to assist us on the stand. On the Saturday evening, by the kind arrangement of Josef Deruyck, together with Josef's and Jean's wives, we all enjoyed an excellent dinner, at the San Remo Restaurant, Sint-Peters-Leeuw. A very pleasant end to a successful event.

We were reminded that the next important event in Brussels will be BRUPHILA 99 and an article on this event appears elsewhere in this journal.

REG HARRISON



Albert Delchambre with Vice Chairman, Jean Bruwier



Ken Dore, Josef Deruyck and Tony Geake

#### 1998/99 SUBSCRIPTION

As mentioned in the report of the AGM, the annual subscription has been held at £14 for a further year, largely due to the success of our miscellaneous activities.

Reminders have been sent out to all members and payments are currently flowing in. If, by the time you receive this journal, you have not paid your subscription, please do so as quickly as possible in order that I can concentrate on other matters.

R. T. HARRISON

#### **CIRCLE LIBRARY**

I have recently taken delivery of a dozen or so boxes of material from the Circle Library. Members will gather that there is a lot of interesting and useful information to hand.

I have made good progress sorting what we have but inevitably there is much work involved in compiling a comprehensive Library List. I will publish the List as soon as my business commitments allow.

In the meantime, if any members have particular subjects which they are researching, please let me know. I will happily extract literature now and send out material to any interested member for the cost of postage. I have photocopying facilities in my office, so copies can be supplied economically where copyright is not infringed.

Please write to me at the following address or ring before 7 p.m. only please:

Nick Martin  
Hughenden, The Plain, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1AB  
(tel. 01580 211771)

MEMBER NEWS

**Marcus Dekker** missed the April event at Heysel following a motoring accident when he was admitted to hospital but we are pleased to hear that he is now recovering well.

**Ken Carpenter** - our previous Chairman was recently honoured by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) by being given an Award of Merit. This was in respect of his work for the Streetly Philatelic Society, which he has served for many years. At the local presentation, Ken advises that he was honoured with life membership of Streetly PS, together with some very acceptable gifts, which came as a pleasant surprise. Congratulations, Ken.

**Jean-Claude Porignon** - we have received a note from **Marc Lebrun** that, for the past three months, Jean-Claude has been in hospital but is now recovering. We wish him a speedy return to health and hope to see his fine collection of Medallion covers in due course.

NEW MEMBERS

As a result of our visit to Brussels (EUROPHILA 98), we welcome the following new members to the Circle:

**Alan Stragier** - Overijse, Belgium  
Prestamp; EXPO 94 Antwerp; Foreign Mail to Belgium

**Robert Gilson** - Brussels  
Postal History - Letters and Cancellations

**BRUPHILA '99**

Brussels, 29th September-3rd October, 1999, will be the host to a major national philatelic exhibition to mark the 150th Anniversary of the first Belgian postage stamp - the Epaulette. This promises to be a big event, with competitions as well as commercial involvement, and detailed planning is now under way. This will, of course, be the last Belgian event before the Millenium and, therefore, a great opportunity to "fill those gaps" from the dealers expected to be present.

Following the pattern of recent years, our Circle is considering holding a meeting as part of the proceedings at which we give an opportunity to our European members to give displays. This has worked well in the past and hopefully can be repeated successfully in 1999. Such a meeting would break the pattern of our normal programme of events and provide a substitute to our Summer Country event.

We are currently investigating the possibility of using a central Brussels Hotel as our base for the weekend and including a special Dinner on the Saturday evening. Organised in our usual manner, this would leave members with flexibility and with the need only to make their own travel arrangements.

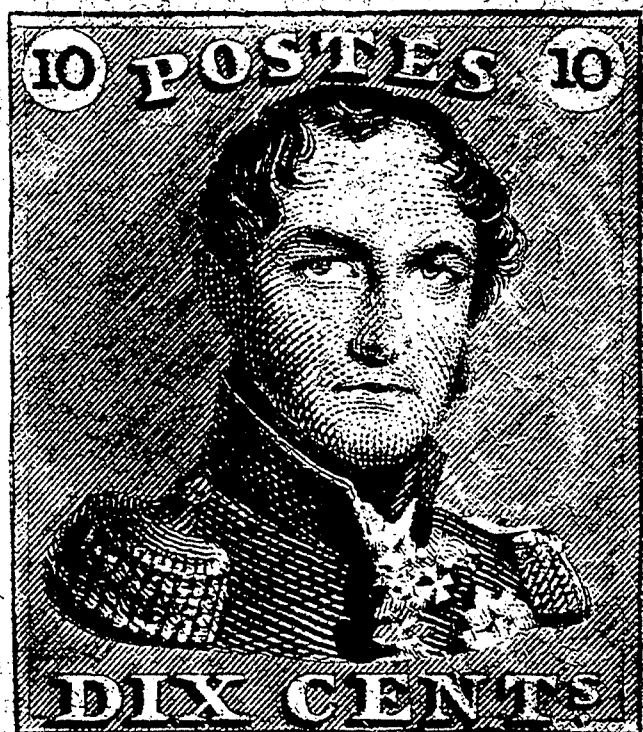
A circular will be sent out in due course to ascertain how many members would like to participate, following which a decision on whether to go ahead with arrangements will be made. By the time this journal appears, the event will be only fifteen months ahead.

We hope as many members as possible will be able to come and support our Circle at this very important event.

Any enquiries at this stage should be made to **Tony Geake**, who will attempt to co-ordinate the procedures on our behalf.

REG HARRISON

# BRUPHILA '99

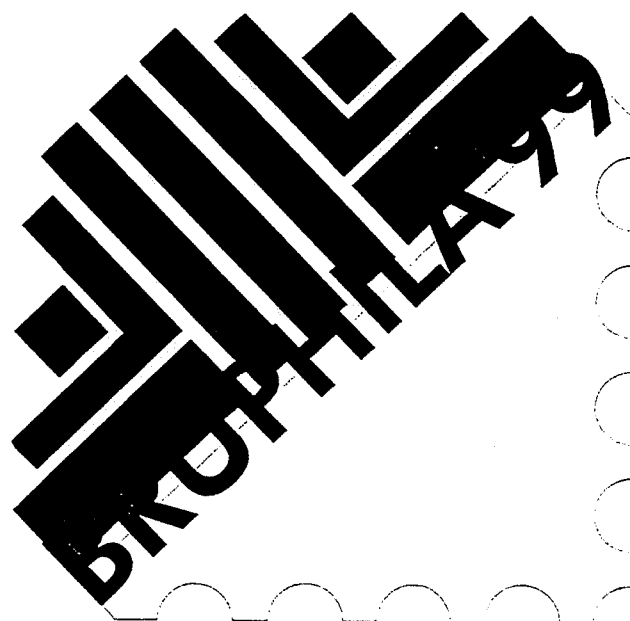


150 ANS DU PREMIER  
TIMBRE-POSTE BELGE

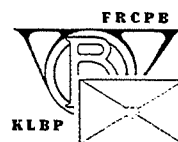
## INFORMATIONS

c/o PRO-POST  
Petite rue des Minimes, 2  
B-1000 BRUXELLES

Tél. 0032 (0)2 512 24 79  
Fax 0032 (0)2 511 85 46



150 ANS DU PREMIER  
TIMBRE-POSTE BELGE  
EXPOSITION  
PHILATELIQUE  
NATIONALE  
BRUXELLES • 29.9.- 3.10.1999



MTM

## CAN YOU HELP?

*In the mid 1980's, there was a BBC television series on The S.O.E. (The Special Operations Executive 1940-46). A member would like to see this series but unfortunately it is no longer available. If anyone has a copy of the video which they are willing to loan, please could you let me know.*

REG HARRISON



## SUMMER MEETING, CHESTER

18th-20th SEPTEMBER, 1998

Arrangements for the above event are now well in hand and further details will be sent out to those members who have expressed an interest in attending.

A varied programme of speakers is proposed which, together with an auction, should make for an interesting weekend.

On the Saturday evening, our customary Celebration Dinner will be held to reinforce the social aspects of our Circle's activities.

A warm welcome is extended to all members and their guests.

Further details are available from **Tony Geake**, tel. 01392 877662.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER 1st APRIL 1997 - 31st MARCH 1998



The Circle's 50th Anniversary activities are now substantially completed and are reflected in the detail of the accounts. The result, however, is that we still had an operating surplus of £590.00, which gives us a total reserve of £4,554.84 for carrying forward to 1998/99.

However, the only stable item of income is the subscription which would not cover our running costs without the income received from other activities, especially auction/sales commission. In effect, this means that if this source of income is reduced or ceases, our reserves would soon disappear. Currently the flow of sales material is encouraging but will it continue at this level?

Our operating expenses are broadly commensurate with our level of activities and it will be seen that publication and postage costs are rising. "BELGAPOST" production has improved and is considered to be amongst the best quality journals, both for content and presentation. It is hoped to continue with some colour illustrations wherever possible as the publications form an important part of the Circle's activities.

Within this past year there were a number of so called "extraordinary" items and, as agreed last year, we have subscribed to membership of ABPS (Association of British Philatelic Societies) whose next major event, MIDPEX, is in summer 1999.

Taking all of the past year into account, the Circle's successes are happily equalled on the financial front. As mentioned last year, the volume of transactions continues to increase and I am grateful to members for prompt payments without reminders. Our banking arrangements work smoothly and, this year, the interest received shows an increase on last year. Can I remind members to ensure that cheques are made payable to the "Belgian Study Circle" as those made payable to myself are refused by the bank and have to be 'recycled' through my personal bank account.

The current subscription fee of £14 has been held for three years and I am recommending that both for home and overseas members the subscription continues at £14 for 1998/99.

Finally, my thanks to the Hon. Auditor for ensuring that the Circle's financial affairs are kept in a businesslike manner.

R. T. HARRISON  
Hon. Treasurer

# BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1998

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£.	p.		£.	p.
1. <u>Subscriptions</u> received for			1. <u>Officers Expenses</u>		
a) Previous years	Nil		a) Postages	352.50	
b) Year ending 31st March, 1998	1,072.00		b) Publications	754.40	
c) Advance payment for 1998/99	14.00		c) Miscellaneous	269.26	
	<u>1,086.00</u>	1,086.00		<u>1,376.16</u>	1,376.16
2. <u>Miscellaneous Income</u>			2. <u>Hire of Rooms</u>		1,901.50
a) Room Hire	535.00				
b) Postage and packing	37.00				
c) Club sales	<u>280.15</u>	852.15			
3. <u>Bank Interest</u>			3. <u>Bank Charges</u>		11.09
Current Account	49.25				
Deposit Account	<u>137.44</u>		4. <u>Insurance Charges</u>		<u>22.00</u>
	<u>186.69</u>	186.69			
4. <u>Sale of Publications, etc.</u>		135.75			
5. <u>Auction/Sales Commission:</u>		1,604.85			
6. <u>Commission from Exchange Package Secretary</u>		<u>35.31</u>			
<b>Total Income 1997/98</b>		<b><u>3,900.75</u></b>	<b>Total Expenditure 1997/98</b>		<b><u>3,310.75</u></b>
			<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>		<b><u>590.00</u></b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	£. p.	£. p.
<u>Balance 31st March, 1998 comprising:</u>		
Current Bank Account	670.10	
Less Uncleared Cheques;		
No.304	15.00	
No.318	379.00	
	<u>276.10</u>	276.10
Cash in Hand		2.65
Deposit Bank Account	4,810.13	
* Less Account R.L.	103.50	
* Less Account E.H.	430.54	
B.S.C. Money	4,276.09	<u>4,276.09</u>
<u>Total</u>		<u>4,554.84</u>

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

	£. p.
<u>Balance at 31st March, 1997</u>	3,964.84
<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure 1997/8</u>	<u>590.00</u>
<u>Balance at 31st March, 1998</u>	<u>4,554.84</u>

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

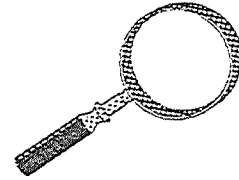
I certify that I have examined the books and that in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true view of the financial position of the Belgian Study Circle as at 31st March, 1998.

R. Leendertse Hon. Auditor

Date. 23rd April 1998

IMPERFORATE-BETWEEN VARIETIES of the  
1915/21 RAILWAY STAMPS  
("WINGED WHEEL" and "LOCOMOTIVE")

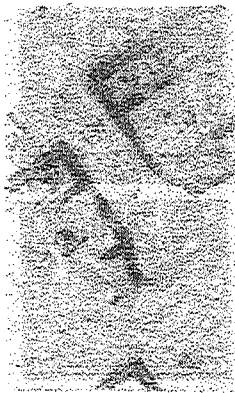
by M. J. Mobbs



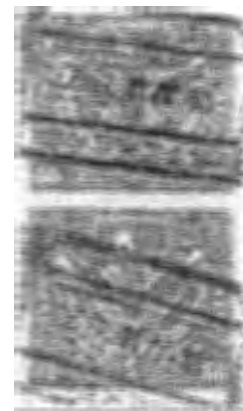
A while ago I purchased some imperforate-between varieties of the 1915/21 railway parcels issues. They were not mentioned in the Stanley Gibbons or COB catalogues and I therefore had to consult my rather dog-eared copy of the "Catalogue National Spécialisé" (CNS), published by IPE in 1976, which gave the following listing:

- a) 1915 Le Havre: 20c (imperf. vertically and between vertical pair);  
25c (imperf. vertically and horizontally);  
35c (imperf. vertically);  
40c (imperf. between vertical pair);  
10fr (imperf. between vertical pair)
- b) 1920 London: 25c, 30c, 55c, 1fr.10c, 1fr.20c, 2fr (all imperf. horizontally)
- c) 1920/21 Malines: 10c, 35c, 40c, 50c, 55c, 1fr yellow-brown, 15fr (all imperf. vertically). Also 10fr (imperf. between vertical pair).

It all seemed fairly straightforward until I looked at my stamps, which are illustrated below



Pair of 55c  
(SG P266/COB 86)  
imperf. horizontally



Pair of 60c  
(SG P267/COB 87)  
imperf. between



Strip of three 1fr.10c (SG P296/COB 116) imperf. vertically

The 60c and the 1fr.10c were not in the CNS listing. It seemed possible they were clever forgeries but I could not see anything obvious. The position was further complicated when Tony Geake told me that his old Balasse catalogue (1940!) gives a different listing, including horizontally imperforate varieties of the 20c, 40c and 10fr from the Le Havre issue. It is, however, possible that there is some confusion here between imperforate horizontally and imperforate between vertical pair. In any event, I would like to think we could establish which imperforate-between varieties of the of these issues really do exist and I would be interested to hear from any members who have copies.

The second question I would like to resolve is why the varieties are not included in the SG or COB catalogues. COB is not very helpful as to why items are or are not included but SG is very specific. Under the heading "Perforation errors and varieties", it says that *"authenticated errors ..... are listed provided no traces of perforation (blind holes or indentations) remain ..... Imperforate-between varieties are recognised where one row of perforations has been missed. They are listed and priced in pairs."*

On the face of it, therefore, the 1915/21 stamps should be included unless there is a problem with authentication. If so, then perhaps we can provide the necessary evidence. Or is it more complicated than that, e.g. an unwillingness to extend the listings of these issues, whose inclusion in the catalogues has always been viewed as dubious by some people? This might also explain the fact that some fairly obvious varieties of colour within the railway issues are not listed. Again, I would be interested in any views or information which members may have on this point.

#### REPORT OF AUCTION - 25th APRIL, 1998

Held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, out of a total of 331 lots, 229 lots were sold for a total of £2,089.50p.

With some exceptions, covers sold better than stamps, following the trend of recent sales. Early pre-stamp material went well, including the Independence period which previously has been sluggish, most items going for around the estimated prices. The section of early stamped covers were popular, the star item being Lot 64, the Guillochin overprint, which reached £190 - a fair price for a rare item seldom offered for sale.

TPOs, Express and Registered Mail were popular, whilst PREOs and Printed Matter were fiercely contested. Most items in this section went well over their estimates, notably Lots 152 and 153. Perhaps the new handbook on PREOs (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) has contributed to this collecting area.

The middle-period stamped covers were sought after but stamps, including the 1893 studies, only appealed to a limited number of members.

As usual, railway items were mainly sold, especially the Nord-Belge section. Item 303, the Moens card, was popular reaching £25.

In the final section - World War 1 - many items were popular including Lot 317, whilst the last item, Lot 331, estimated at £10, reached £64. This was a small collection of Enclave Mail which clearly appealed to many members although not obviously containing any rarities.

In summary, the property of twelve owners passed to thirty-three purchasers.

The next auction will be held on 19th September, 1998, at Chester, when it is hoped that a selection of books, etc. will also be included. Members wishing to include items in future sales should contact me direct but please remember that listing of lots is carried out well in advance of the actual sale dates.

A full list of results accompanies this report.

REG HARRISON



## RESULTS OF SALE HELD 25th APRIL, 1998

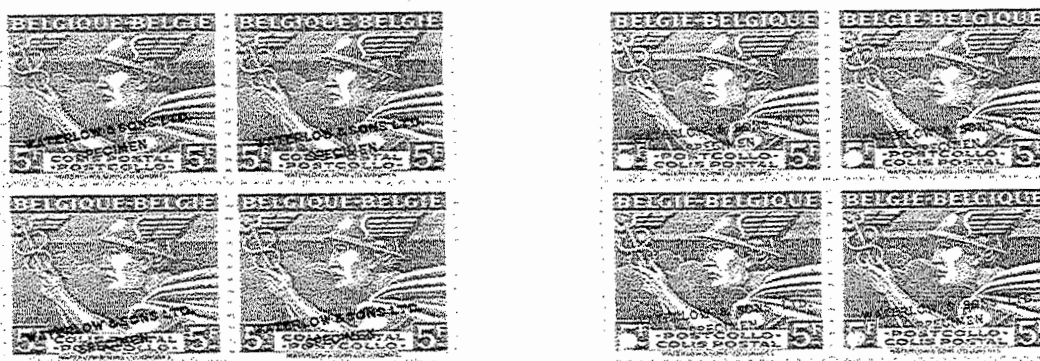
	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
1	15.00	60	4.00	110	3.00	174	3.50	266	7.00
2	12.00	61	15.00	111	5.00	175	3.00	269	2.00
3	12.00	62	15.00	112	19.00	176	4.50	270	.50
4	19.00	63	18.00	113	2.50	177	3.00	271	6.50
6	4.00	64	190.00	115	8.00	178	3.00	272	6.50
8	3.00	65	22.00	116	4.00	180	2.00	273	2.00
9	15.00	66	21.00	117	11.00	181	1.50	274	4.00
11	8.00	67	21.00	118	6.00	182	3.00	275	3.00
12	6.00	68	23.00	119	11.00	183	2.00	276	4.00
13	23.00	69	11.00	120	4.00	184	2.00	277	4.50
15	10.50	70	5.50	121	8.00	185	2.00	278	4.50
16	15.00	71	23.00	122	8.50	186	2.00	279	1.50
18	6.50	72	23.00	123	5.00	187	2.50	280	1.50
19	8.00	73	11.00	124	18.00	189	2.50	281	2.50
20	6.00	74	26.00	125	4.00	191	1.50	282	3.00
22	11.00	75	5.00	127	3.50	192	30.00	283	3.00
23	10.00	76	9.50	129	2.00	193	10.00	284	4.50
24	5.00	77	6.50	132	10.00	194	13.00	286	10.00
25	2.00	78	3.00	134	5.50	196	15.00	287	10.00
26	2.00	79	6.00	135	1.00	198	34.00	289	1.00
27	2.00	80	20.00	138	2.00	210	3.00	291	1.00
28	2.00	81	7.00	139	1.00	216	7.00	294	1.00
29	5.00	82	9.50	140	1.00	217	40.00	296	4.00
32	10.00	83	6.00	141	2.00	218	1.00	297	3.00
33	22.00	84	7.00	142	2.00	219	1.50	302	2.00
34	5.00	85	7.00	144	.50	224	8.00	303	25.00
36	6.00	86	8.00	145	7.00	225	14.00	306	3.00
37	5.00	87	4.00	146	4.00	226	15.00	307	4.00
38	9.00	88	4.50	147	7.50	228	24.00	308	8.00
40	14.00	89	4.00	148	7.50	234	35.00	309	3.00
41	14.00	91	4.00	149	2.00	238	32.00	310	10.00
43	12.00	92	3.00	150	3.00	239	40.00	311	6.00
44	6.00	93	2.00	152	9.00	242	.50	312	9.00
45	7.00	95	1.00	153	16.00	243	5.00	313	2.00
47	4.00	96	1.00	154	2.00	245	2.00	314	3.00
48	11.00	97	.50	156	1.50	251	1.50	316	8.00
49	5.00	98	1.00	157	3.50	253	30.00	317	41.00
50	6.00	99	2.00	164	4.00	257	35.00	318	4.00
51	5.00	100	3.00	165	3.00	258	51.00	319	10.00
52	5.00	101	3.00	166	8.00	259	5.00	320	6.00
53	6.00	102	4.50	167	3.00	260	3.00	321	2.00
54	6.00	103	17.00	168	2.00	261	2.00	326	2.00
55	15.00	104	15.00	169	3.00	262	5.00	328	2.50
56	6.50	106	4.00	171	1.00	263	6.00	330	4.00
58	12.00	107	15.00	172	2.50	264	1.00	331	64.00
59	21.00	108	5.00	173	3.50	265	1.50	---	---
END OF SALE									

# **WATERLOW & SONS LTD.**

## **BELGIUM 1945 PARCEL POST ISSUE**

by M. J. Mobbs

In his article of June 1996 ("BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.2), Alec Turner dealt with the "samples" produced by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. using the dies and plates in their possession. He referred particularly to those samples stuck on to a card and having a number prefixed by the letters S.T. I have never seen any of these cards but did recently acquire at auction two blocks of four of the 5F Railway Parcels issue overprinted 'Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Specimen'. One is SG P1117A (Belgique-Belgie) and the other SG P1117B (Belgie-Belgique). One has punched security holes and the other has not. Both are printed in red rather than the listed blue, otherwise they appear to be exactly the same as the issued stamps.



Were these used by Waterlow representatives as printers' samples as Alec describes or did they have some other purpose?

### **REVIEW OF JOURNALS**

"L'Amicale Philatélique" - The 1998 February issue (No.432) contains a long (Part 4) continuing article of the Postal Cards 1879-1914, and is well illustrated.

"Info-Phila" - The journal of our Belgian friends (Le Phila-Club Flemalle) contains a number of most interesting articles: 1) The Merode Monument issue of 1914 - the issue designed by MacDonald and printed by Verschueren of Antwerp, regarding its false obliterations; 2) The postage stamps printed by De La Rue and its "linguistic" problems; 3) International tariffs from Denmark to Belgium, and 4) The continuing article on the railway line "Chimay", again well illustrated.

"The Belgiophile" - The first issue of 1998 contains the first part of our member, J. F. Giblin's article, taken from "BELGAPOST" - The Post in Belgium and its Antecessors Prior to 1830". (Our Editor of "BELGAPOST" would appreciate it if articles taken from the BSC journal would mention that it has been taken from "BELGAPOST" and completely used, not just parts.) This issue also has an article on the "Chemins de Fer", by Thomas A. Gunn, Jnr.

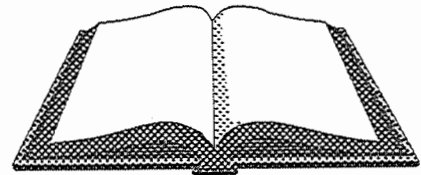
Our member, **Michael Barden**, (a new member of the ABPS) sends a letter to the editor of "Belgiophile" on his subject on "- 10%". It is reproduced in this issue.

"World Wars 1914-1918, 1939-1945" - This group is affiliated to Phila-Club Flemalle, and is issued by Serge Toulieff, Place Mattéoti 6, 4630 Soumagne. Issue No.34 contains, amongst other items, details of varieties of the 10 Centimes issue of the Merode stamps.

"Posthistorama" No.21, March 1998 - This journal also covers articles other than those connected with Belgium but we are reviewing only those that specifically refer to Belgium. Their editor, Claude Delbeke, gives a very important article on the Postal Relations between Sardinia and Benelux 1817-1853. Well researched. An article by L. Van Pamei (in Flemish) on the 1 Centime Medaillon is well illustrated. There is another stamp article (in a postal history journal) - this time on the 3.50 Fr. Brown of the Elström issue.

We have recently received three copies of a journal on the "Tin Hat" issue and we are now receiving this in exchange with "BELGAPOST". It is available from Guy Jorion, Prins De Lignestraat 1 Bus 2, 3001 Heverlee. It is the journal of the Study Circle "Konig Met Helm" and, at the present time, produces about seventy copies per issue, four times a year. Any member particularly interested in this issue should have this journal. Although written in Flemish (as many Belgian journals are), it is well illustrated and covers varieties of the stamps, postal stationery, postal markings, etc. The November 1997 issue contained an article on the Diplomatic Conference of Spa in 1920 (by J. De Bast). We send our best wishes to this Study Circle.

#### BOOK REVIEWS



We have not reviewed the "Catalogue Officiel de Timbres-Poste". The 1998 issue is superb. As well as the stamps of Belgium, it covers Congo, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and Europa, in some 608 pages and hard bound.

Every stamp is in colour and many varieties are listed. Postmarks of the first issues are given in detail, with suggested prices. Also given are details of special postal stationery, together with special sheets. The variety of papers used in the production of the stamps are also listed in some detail. Descriptions of the publicity stamps are well illustrated. Telephone stamps, local stamps, -10% issues are there, as are plate numbers of certain issues. Some twenty pages are given to booklets.

In all, this "catalogue", as we said above, is superb. It should be in every Belgian collector's library. It is published by "Chambre Professionnelle Belge Des Negociants en Timbre Poste", A.S.P.L., Galerie du Centre, Bureau 343, Rue des Fripiers 17, B.1000, Bruxelles.

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From the same publisher comes "Catalogue Officiel des Timbres Preobliteres de Belgique 1894-1996".

A hundred years of Belgian Pre-obliterated stamps is important to collectors who are interested in this subject. Again, all in colour, and many fine "pieces" are shown. In this book we find details of all the Ministerial and Service Orders - an important addition, and the hard bound book, in 192 pages, again should be in every Belgian collector's library.



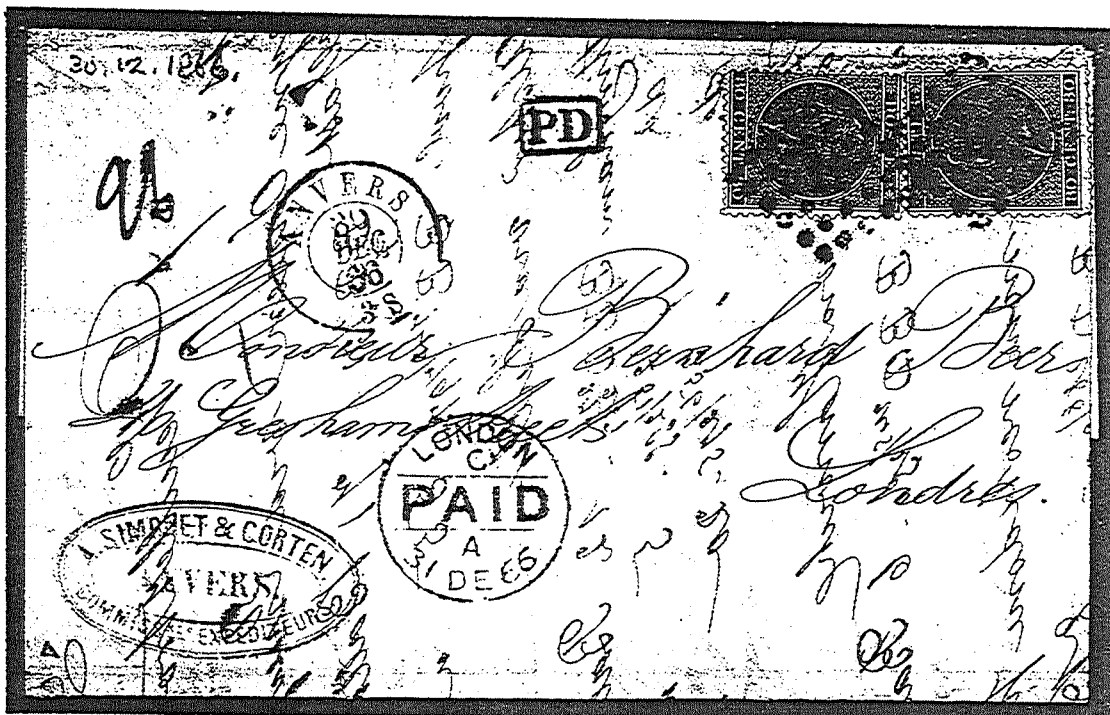
BELGIAN AIR MAIL

For some years now, it has only been possible to send mail to EEC countries at the airmail rate. At the time this was introduced, it was explained that it was now better and quicker to use Air services. As a result, no surface mail rate is available for most of Europe. When "BELGAPOST" Vol.10, No.3 was despatched, those copies to distant destinations eg USA, Australia, cost 67p whilst the copies to Belgium cost 79p each.

Our member, Maurice Wilkinson, took the matter up and I reproduce copies of two letters on the subject. The British Airways letter indicates that the use of air was discontinued nine years ago (unannounced ?) and naturally the Channel Tunnel provides a rapid system today. The Royal Mail letter is more intriguing as it refers to their Air by Road service. If Ostend is the "exchange centre", does this mean that letters by air were still transferred from Brussels Airport to Ostend for sorting, then back to Brussels for distribution? Also the "dedicated vehicle" goes to "the port" for onward transportation to Ostend. Which port, or is it the Channel Tunnel?

At present, mail to and from Belgium takes around 3 - 5 days in my experience. Not an unreasonable service by modern standards but slow by comparison with the second half of the last century when letters posted in Belgium were invariably delivered in England the following day - achieved by steamships and horse-drawn wagons. Ah, progress!!

REG HARRISON



Letter postmarked Anvers 30th December 1866. 3p. To London. Sent via Ostend and marked arrival London 31st December (franked COB 19 x 2 so presumably was double weight). Next day arrival in London was normal during this period, elsewhere in the UK an extra day was usually taken.

# BRITISH AIRWAYS WORLD CARGO

25th September, 1997.

Mr. M. Wilkinson,  
'Vianden',  
14, Charnwood Close,  
London Road,  
Peterborough,  
PE2 9BZ.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

Thank you for your letter of 15th.

Mails to Belgium are handled by Royal Mail International, but to my knowledge, it is eight or nine years since they travelled by air. Between the time that we stopped air lifting the mail and the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the letter mails were sent by road because ferry timings allowed a level of end to end service to be achieved which was comparable to air. With the advent of the Channel Tunnel you will appreciate that mails can be made up later in Britain and arrive earlier in Brussels by using this method than by taking the first flight out in the morning, so it makes good sense.

As to when British Airways (or Imperial Airways as it then was) took over from steamers, this seems to be lost in the mists of time. I have however discovered a document dated 1949 which indicates that mails to continental Europe started to be flown in 1919 (to Paris) and the service seems to have been extended progressively between then and 1926. It should be safe to assume therefore that Brussels would be served by air earlier during this period than later since the distance is the same and distance was an important consideration in the operation of those early aircraft.

I wish that I could be more specific than this but hope the information is of help.

Yours sincerely,



J. T. Flower.  
Airmail Sales Manager.

GEN9703

British Airways World Cargo Centre  
London Heathrow Airport PO Box 99 Hounslow Middlesex TW6 2JS  
Tel

British Airways Plc Registered office: Speedbird House Heathrow Airport Hounslow TW6 2JA Registered in England No. 1777777

date 10 October 1997  
your ref  
our ref COL10183403



Mr M Wilkinson  
14 Charnwood Close  
London Road  
PETERBOROUGH  
PE2 9BZ

Customer Service Centre  
Colnebank House  
30 St Peters Street  
COLCHESTER  
CO1 1HY

Telephone 0345 740740  
Fax 01206 784406

Dear Mr Wilkinson

I am writing further to your letter of 6 October 1997 concerning our international mail service to Belgium.

The letter you enclosed from British Airways was most informative and it is true that most mail does travel by our Air by Road service. This service is a high speed road link which enables us to transport European mail much quicker.

It might help to explain that airmail travels on scheduled flights and can only fill the available space on an aircraft therefore, any mail in excess of the space would have to wait for the next available flight.

Ostend is the exchange centre (distribution point) for Belgium's incoming and outgoing international mail, as London is our own. Under the UPU agreement between countries it was decided to operate the quickest and most efficient method in the transportation of mail.

Distribution offices in this country have what is called a dedicated vehicle which transports mail for Belgium to the port and for onward transportation to Ostend. In most cases this method could have letter posted in Peterborough in the morning in Ostend for sorting by the evening. Compared with transporting mail into London, waiting for a scheduled flight, airlifting it to Brussels and then transporting it to Ostend for further sorting and transportation to delivery.

To destinations outside Europe the delivery of airmail letters and packets is often measured in days, whereas surface it is measured in weeks. The customer identifies the airmail service as the quickest available and surface mail as the slower service.

I hope this information helps with your enquiry however, should you wish to discuss the matter further I have listed below the European Service Managers name and address which is, Franoise Grant of 49 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8SY.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Green  
CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

Enclosures: None

## THE BRUSSELS POSTAL MUSEUM

An idea of setting up a Postal Museum in Belgium started before 1914. It was not until 1928 that it became a reality when, under Minister Lippens, a royal decree set up a committee ordered to ensure:

- (a) the methodical classification and conservation of the Belgian and foreign stamps held by the Postal Administration;
- (b) the conservation of the original drawings, dies and copies of those stamps, and other items now obsolete.

In May, 1931, under Minister Forthomme, a royal decree ordered the setting up, in Brussels, of a Postal Museum in which:

"will be brought together collections of objects, documents, proofs, postages stamps ..... connected with the carriage of letters at present in areas of the Kingdom as well as the colony and under international relations".

In the report to the King which heads the decree setting up the museum, M. Forthomme said,

"of all the public offices, the mail is undoubtedly the one with most links with the public. Its conduct concerns very properly every citizen. Its history is unfortunately too little known to the masses and even to a large part of the staff ensuring its sources. The postal museum would let everyone realise the successive advances made by the postal service in a country which was the birthplace of the international post, thanks to the great postmasters of the Tour and Tassis family. Moreover, the museum would contribute to the cultural development and professional conscience of staff by increasing their liking for their job. Finally, it would enrich the work of the state by the gifts and offers in wills it is allowed to accept from those interested in the post through the ages and in the technical side of the postal service."

Thus the Postal Museum was created in 1931 but everything was still to be done with actually setting it up. This seemed impossible having regard to the general financial difficulties of the time. This problem, however, was solved owing to the devotion and inexhaustible goodwill of Mon. André de Cock (the first Director) and his collaborators.



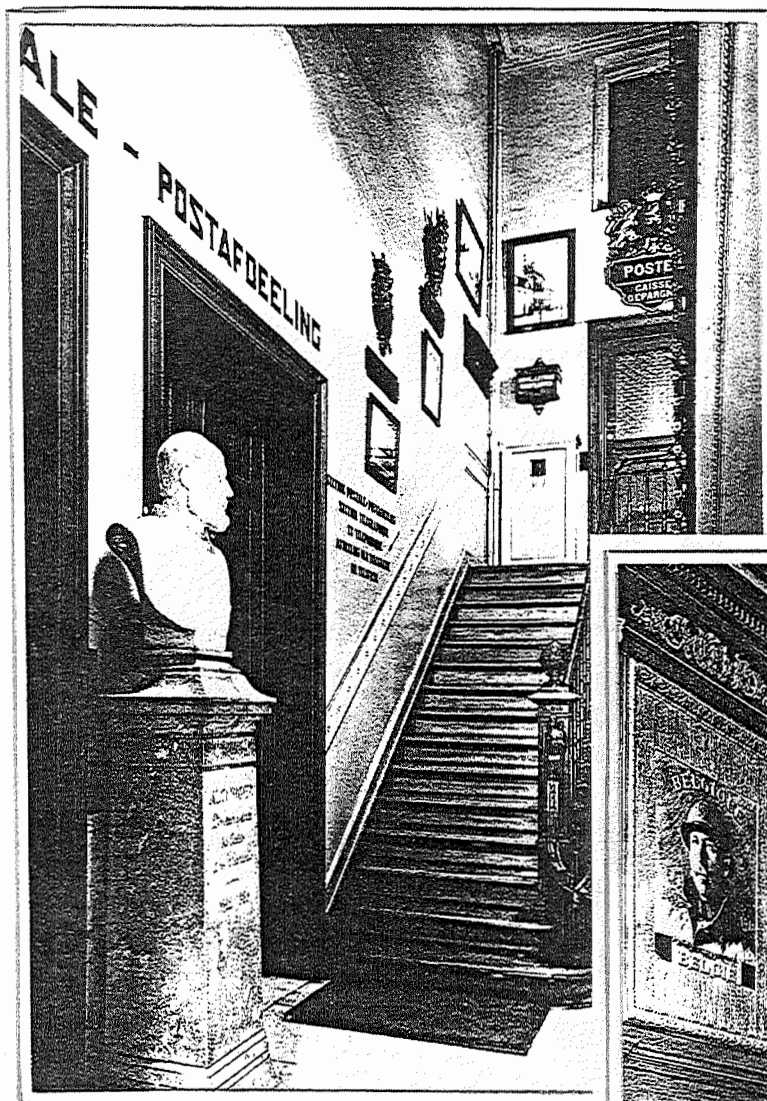
M. André de Cock

Born at Ledeberg (near Ghent)  
12th July, 1880.  
Died at Ghent 18th July, 1964.  
First Director of the Postal  
Museum. A great collector and a  
pioneer of postal history of  
Belgium.

*(Taken from a red chalk drawing by  
J. P. Jordens)*

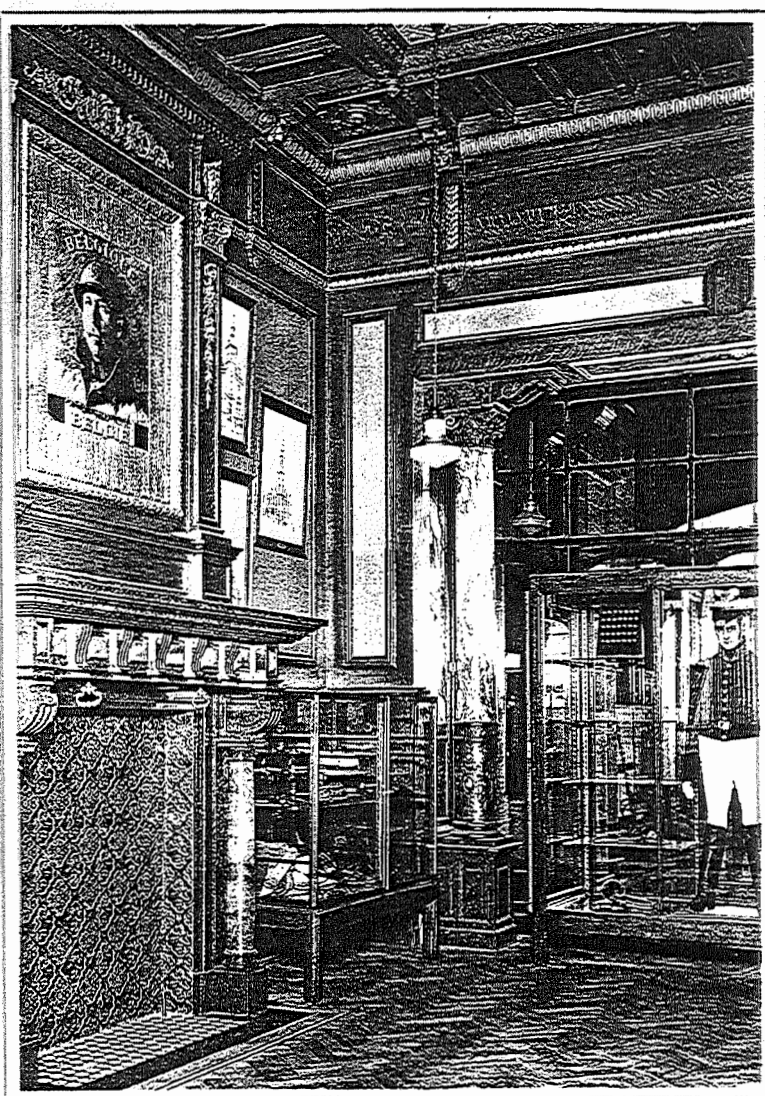
The opening of the Museum by Minister Bouchery in the presence of numerous celebrities took place on 7th November, 1936, in the building at 162 Avenue Rogier, where the Post Office Bruxelles 3 was situated. On the 21st November, 1951, a royal decree published the new formal statute of the postal museum. A Director was given the day to day control of the museum and overall control was ensured thereafter by a committee of six members under the chairmanship of the GPO Head.

As time goes by, the museum's holdings are considerably enriched, thanks to its own acquisitions and the generosity of numerous donors.



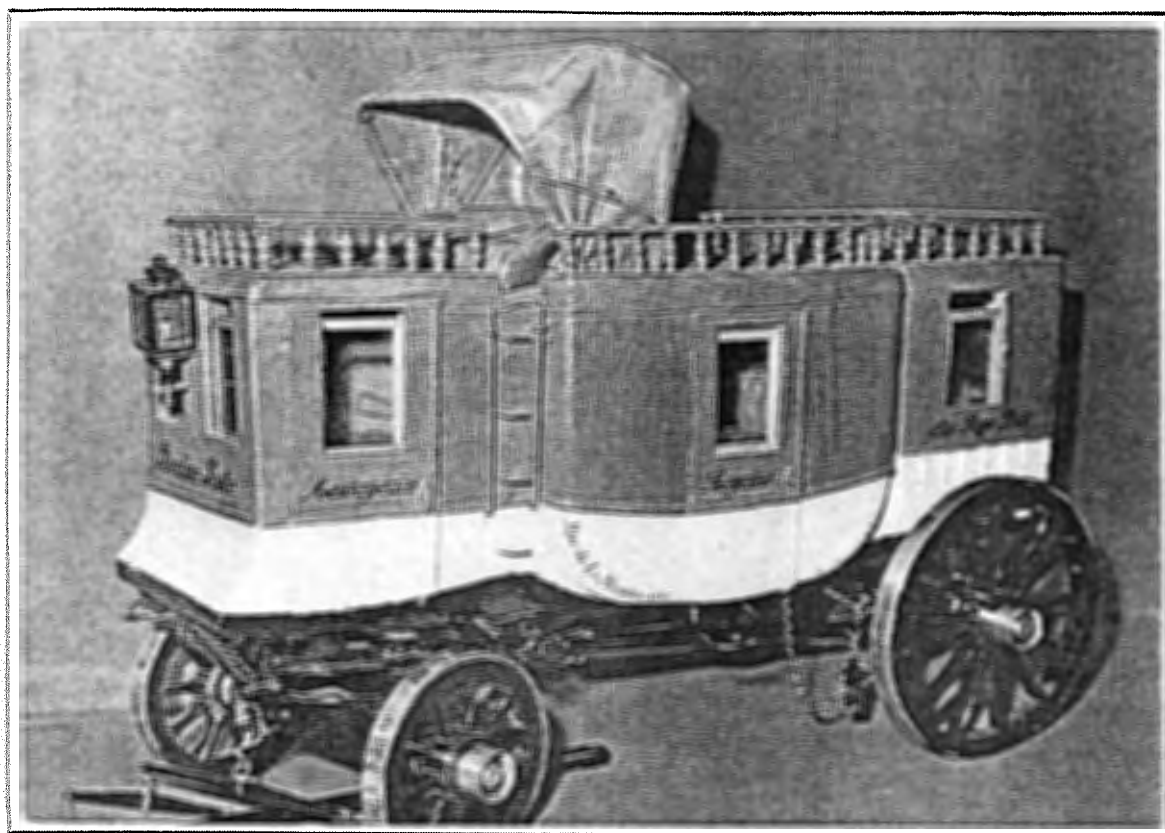
*Some views in the first museum*

*- 162 Avenue Rogier*



The Postal Museum is divided into three sections:

- 1) The first covers Postal History. It brings together documents, photographs, paintings, regulations and objects connected with the history of the letter posts before the founding of the Kingdom in 1830 and especially with the Communal Posts; with the Thurn and Tassis posts; the Horse Post during the Republic and the French Empire; and the post during the Dutch period (1815-1830).
- 1) The Stamps section includes collections of all Belgian stamps - Post, Telegraph, Telephone and Railway - issued since 1849; an important collection of foreign stamps; original designs of Belgian stamps; dies, plates and rollers used in the production of Belgian stamps. The collection has a unique holding of splendid engravings of boxwood, on copper and on steel. A rare collection of the finest copies of the first issues in the country is laid out in a hundred double-sided moveable panels. There is also a good collection of De La Rue punches and an interesting collection of the temporary and locally made "handstamps" for the -10% 1946 "overprinted" stamps.



*A model of the Coach of the "Messagerie Royale"  
(see Vol.5, No.3, page 5 of "BELGAPOST")*

- 3) The section reserved for the Telegraph and Telephone management is a large group of the apparatus used from their origins up to the present day.

The Post Museum also owns a library and numerous books, catalogues, magazines, manuscripts and photographic archives, which make up a real source of information on everything concerning the letter post, stamps, telegraphs and telephones.

There are, of course, many items not displayed but, on prior arrangements with the authorities, students can obtain access to items they normally cannot see.



*The "Horse Post"*  
*A printing in the Museum by James Thirion*



*The Brussels Postal Museum*  
*Petite Rue des Minimes 2, 1000 Bruxelles*

In 1971, the museum left 162 Avenue Rogier and reopened in another fine building in a very appropriate site - at the Grand Sablon - Petites Rue des Minimes 2, 1000 Bruxelles.

The Grand Sablon is, of course, the site of the Thurn and Taxis area (see "BELGAPOST" Vol.9, No.1, page 16).

S. J. ANDREWS

## A DELAYED RAILWAY CONSIGNMENT

by W. W. Moss

Although you cannot see the colour of this waybill, it is actually pink and reference to the top righthand corner confirms that it is a "Grand-Vitesse", in other words "Express".

This waybill is unusual in that there is no proper addressee and no description of contents. What it does tell us is that there was one package weighing 1.6 kg and that the postal fee was 55BF handling charge. The waybill originated at MOUSCRON station, originally addressed to the "Chef de Gare" at MONS ENTREPOT. There is also a "Transport en Doune stamp, later crossed out, which indicates that whatever the goods were, they were under customs bond.

BULLETIN D'EXPEDITION			DESTINATION		Départ		Arrivée		GRANDE VITESSE	
(B)			Manège		Affranchissement		150		200	
Les parties entourées d'un trait gras sont à remplir par l'expéditeur										
Destinataire			Chef de gare		C 120.8		N° de bulletin (A reproduire sur les étiquettes)		200	
Rue			MANAGE		MANAGE		N° arrivée		200	
Tel. N°			En gare de (Pour amorç. Bureau Restant)		TRANSPORT EN DOUANE		Expéditeur		Chef de gare	
Remboursement			A percevoir à l'arrivée		25 III 66		Rue		Mouscron	
Int. de livraison			Remboursement		25 III 66		C.C.P. n°			
Débours			Total		147		Tarif Spécial n°			
Valeur déclarée			Reconnu par la gare		12. 4. 1966		Nombre de colis		Poids brut	
Valeur assurée			Non Encombrant		1		Lb/Op/Am		Kg	
Je demande (marquer d'une croix)			Encombrant		1		à l'envoi/Zending ontvang./Sendung-erhalt.		heures	
<input type="checkbox"/> Remise à domicile			Kg		1		Lb/Op/Am		jour	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Restant			m³		1		à		heure	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Le passage							um		Uhr	
<input type="checkbox"/> Franco							Destinataire		Cadeau/maître/Emprunteur	
Signature expéditeur							A 584		1	
COLIS			NATURE				046.74			
Marques et N°	Nom bre	Emballage	Marchandise		Poids brut	Kg/m³ (2)	Coefficient de majoration	(1) voir feuillet 3		
			Colis non encombrants (plus de 250 kg/m³) (1)		6	1		24 III 66-8		
ne p. 150 en retour carton			Colis encombrants (moins de 250 kg/m³) (1)							



Mouscron is on the Belgian-French border so it is reasonable to assume that the package originally started out in France and presumably was accompanied by French paperwork that contained the information missing from the waybill. That it was addressed to the Chef de Gare seems to indicate that it was to have been called for rather than delivered.

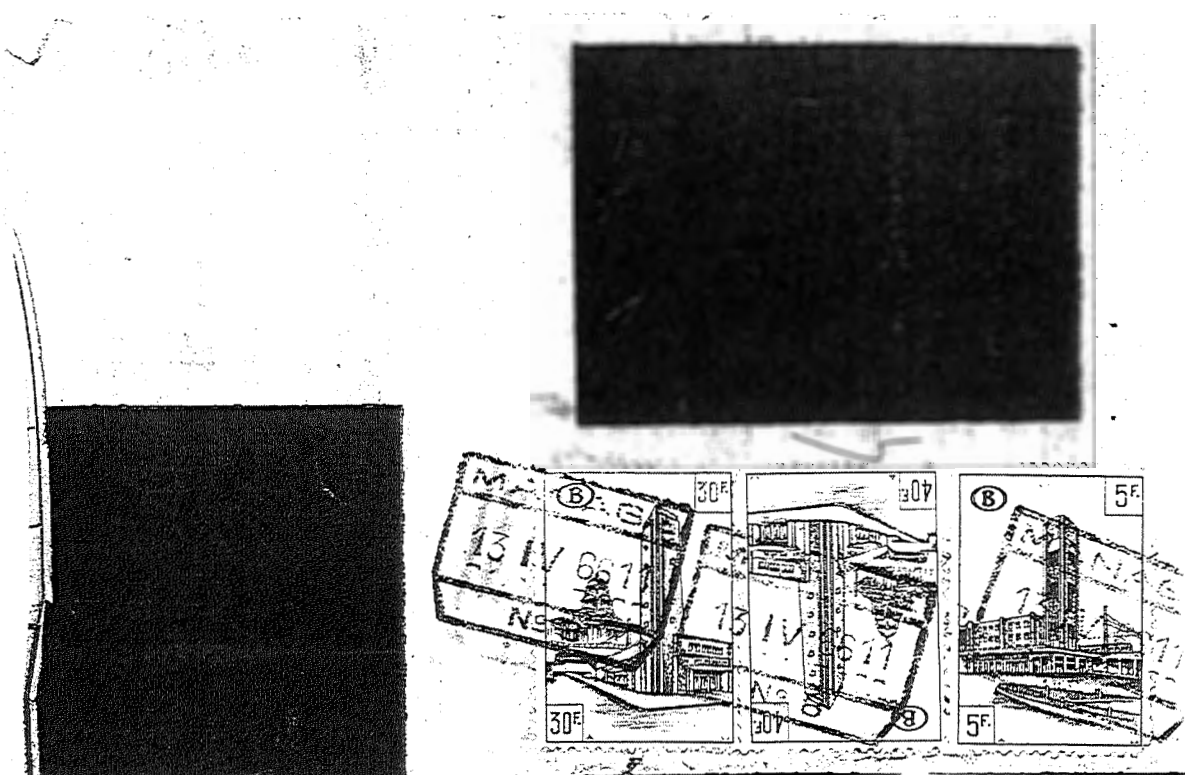
In the top righthand corner, the stamped waybill serial number has been crossed out and substituted. What the red C1308 signifies, I have no idea.

From now on, please remember that this is being transported "Grande Vitesse", for which service a premium is being paid. The most direct route from Mouscron to Mons by rail is by Line 75a to Tournai, Line 78 to St. Ghislain and Line 97 to Mons. In fact, these three lines are effectively continuous and roughly follow the border; the distance is approximately 70 km. However, this is presumably not suitable for "Grande Vitesse" because the package actually went from Mouscron to Bruxelles TT and thence to Mons Entrepot, a minimum distance of 150 km. This part of its' travels taking four days!

From the other writing on the waybill, it was then apparently redirected from Mons to Manage, again to the "Chef de Gare". We have no proof of the route taken from Mons to Manage but the absence of a second Bruxelles transfer cancel suggests that, this time, commonsense prevailed and it was sent the 25 km along Line 118. At any event, it duly arrived at Manage only a fortnight after arriving at Mons. Let's not be too harsh. It had gone to the wrong place and someone had to work out where the correct place was.

Finally, we have the interest of a Postman's route-code stamp, dated 12.4.1966, and a (to me) indecipherable receiving signature, with the receiving cancels on the stamps (on the back of the waybill) dated 13 IV 66 11. I assume that this means that the stamps were not cancelled until after the waybill was returned to the depot. The significance of the Post route-code is that the package was delivered after all, not held for collection. Perhaps the "Chef de Gare" addressing was simply to get it to the correct place which, if so, failed the first time up.

To sum up, we have a presumably urgent package (as noted "Grande Vitesse" travel demands a premium) which enters Belgium on either 23rd March or early 24th March, at a depot approximately 100 km from its destination, which then takes nineteen days to arrive.



# BELGIAN REGISTERED MAIL: FROM ITS BEGINNINGS TO 1920

## Part 2

by Otto Z. Sellinger

### b) The RECOMMANDÉ Handstamp: 20 Centimes Registration Fee



Figure 16 - Huy to Charleroi, 19th April 1869

The date of October 8, 1868 (fig. 15) represents the last month for the CHARGÉ handstamp as on November 1, 1868, the 45mm long and 8mm wide RECOMMANDÉ parallelogram begins its 14 years of fame and glory. In 1976 De Clercq<sup>11</sup> commented that one had to wait until March 17, 1869 for the "earliest" date of this handstamp, a full 4½ months following its official "first day". The next best date is shown in fig. 16, namely April 14, 1869, on a letter from Huy to Charleroi, its rate the same as that in fig. 15. In fig. 17 I show the only RECOMMANDÉ letter in this article with a declared value of 1,000 francs (?) penned on it, dated September 1, 1870, and weighing 14.9 gr. (two weights); applying the new and reduced postage rate to France to it (as of January 1, 1866), its total postage came to 1.10 franc (2 x 30 centimes for postage + 50 centimes for registration). Other points of interest of this letter are the mixed issue franking (1 franc stamp of Leopold I, 1865-66 issue + 10 centimes stamp of the Leopold II 1869 issue), plus a penned "Chargée" and an unboxed French "CHARGÉ" handstamp, the latter presumably struck by the French postal authorities in the erroneous belief that the letter contained currency. Yet it is abundantly clear that it did not since, in 1870, the enclosure of 1,000 francs would have necessitated an insurance fee of 2 francs (20 centimes per 100 francs or fraction thereof). The letter is stained by the five red wax seals on its back, which also shows the strike of the usual French weight control handstamp, duly signed by the official control clerk for 19.8 gr. (see fig. 13).

De Clercq<sup>11</sup> described two letters, dated January 25, 1881 and April 4, 1882, on which the RECOMMANDÉ parallelogram struck in Antwerp measures only 43mm in length. Train Post Offices (TPOs) were also authorised to use the RECOMMANDÉ handstamp and strike it on incoming registered mail. The inverse of this practice is shown in figs. 18 and 19 by two registered letters to Moscow, Russia, struck with two different Russian boxed registration handstamps, ZAKAZNOE and REKOMENDOVANO. The earlier of the two letters (fig. 18), dated August 3, 1873, weighed 12.5 gr. (one weight) and was franked by 2 x 30 centimes stamps of the 1869 issue, 40 centimes of which was for postage and 20 centimes for registration, rates in effect since July 1 1873, pursuant to the Belgo-Russian accords signed on June 13 1873 (June 1 1873 in the Russian Julian calendar).



Figure 17 - Brussels to Lyon, 1st September 1870

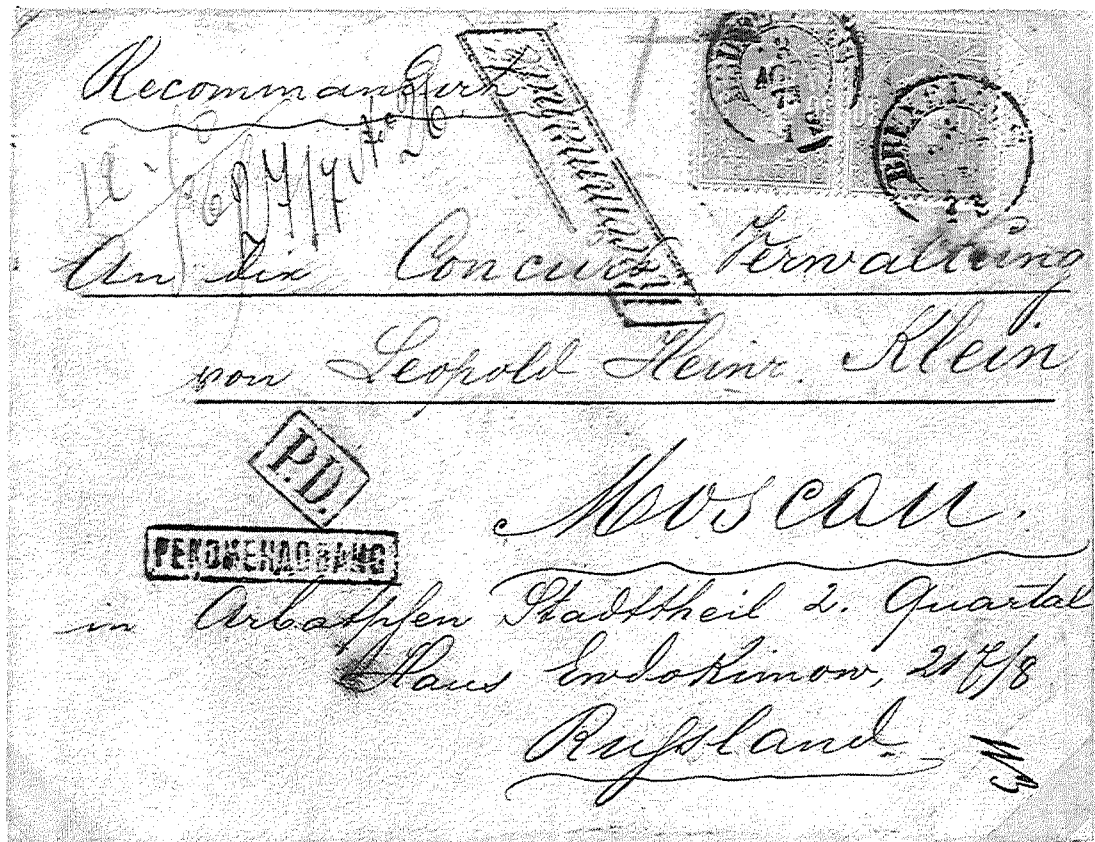


Figure 18 - Brussels to Moscow, 3rd August 1873



The letter in fig. 19, dated October 9 1877, marks the third anniversary (October 9 1874) of the entry of both Belgium and Russia into the General Postal Union (Union Générale des Postes). The GPU was founded as a result of the agreements reached and signed in Berne, Switzerland, by delegates from twenty European nations plus the United States of America. The Treaty of Berne was agreed to by King Leopold II on May 1, 1875. The final royal decree setting the postal and registration rates for all Belgian outgoing mail was signed into law on May 18, 1875. The registration was to be a uniform 20 centimes to all GPU member nations, effective July 1, 1875, with one notable exception, France, which delayed its entry into the GPU until January 1, 1876.

BELGAPOST VOL. 11, No. 2

The non-conforming RECOMMANDÉ handstamp of the village of Houdeng-Goegnies, near Mons, appears in fig. 20. It measures 32 x 5mm and letters struck with this handstamp are much in demand. The single-weight domestic letter shown in this figure, dated December 12, 1876, required 10 centimes for postage plus 20 centimes for registration. The lack of additional franking for forwarding it from Brussels to the Chateau of Ophem, near Looz, and the penned "à recommander" (using the infinitive form of the verb in the guise of an instruction) is also worth noting.

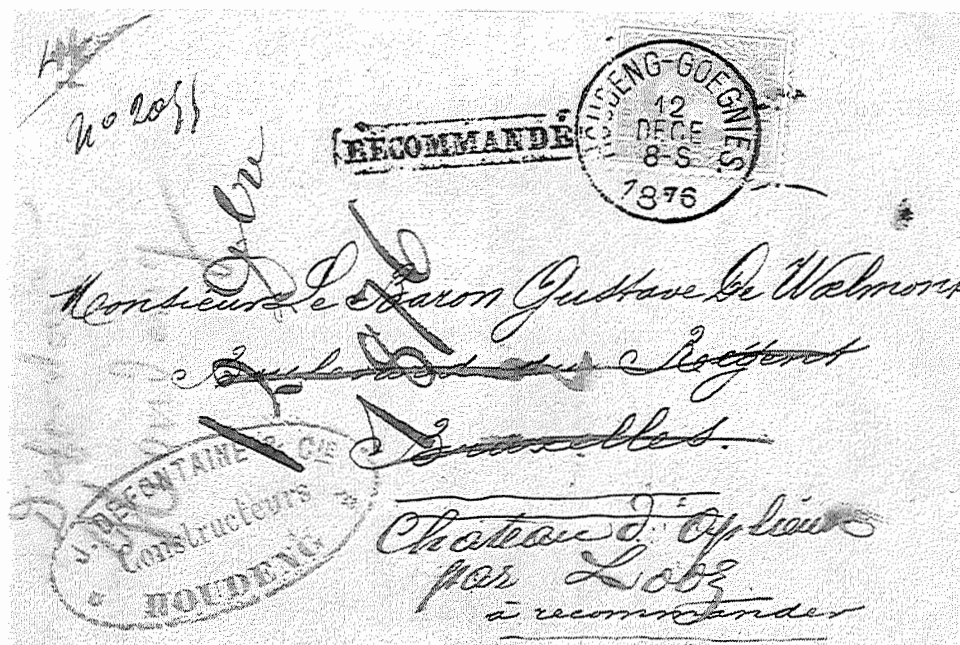


Figure 20 - Houdeng-Goegnies, 12th December 1876

Fig. 21 illustrates the use of the RECOMMANDÉ handstamp on a particularly interesting and rare letter, dated July 22, 1876, from Gand (Station) to Paris. The rarity feature of this letter is its exceptional franking for 40 of the required 45 centimes are represented by five 8 centime stamps, issued on January 1, 1870, and intended for franking printed matter to France at a rate of 8 centimes/40gr. By 1872, the use of the 8 centime stamp was extended to all printed matter and as of September 1873, this stamp could be used to complement regular postage. Its life span was very brief, however, as it was no longer produced or sold to the public after May 1876. Yet its use, as noted at this point and later in this article, was not voided until 1911. Letters franked with the 8 centime stamp, either in multiples or in combination with stamps of other issues, are extremely difficult to find.



Figure 21 - Gand to Paris, 22nd July 1876

Finally, figs. 22 and 23 provide evidence of the concurrent use of the terms "recommandé" and "chargé" in 1875, the year the GPU was founded. Since the uniform rate of 20 centimes for registration did not apply to France until the beginning of 1876, this rate is still 50 centimes for the two letters. They are shown principally to demonstrate that, in the mind of the public, there still reigned a lot of confusion regarding the proper nomenclature to apply to registered letters.



Figure 22 - Arlon to Bordeaux, 19th April 1875



Figure 23 - Brussels to Paris, 12th October 1875



## c) The RECOMMANDE Handstamp: 25 Centimes Registration Fee

As a result of the revisions of the Treaty of Berne by the Congress of Paris (June 1 1878) which had a participation of 32 nations, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) came into being on April 1, 1879, dividing the world into just two postal zones and one uniform registration fee of 25 centimes. However, Articles 2 and 6 of the UPU accords allowed a charge of 50 centimes for registration to some non-European countries. Furthermore, many countries, including the USA, refused to agree to pay the 50 francs reimbursement for non delivery/loss of a registered letter. The use of the 25 centimes registration fee in conjunction with the RECOMMANDE handstamp is illustrated in figs. 24-27. The use of the RECOMMANDE handstamp in lieu of the date cancel is shown in fig. 24 with a registered letter, dated December 11, 1880, *in loco* within the town of St. Nicolas. The postal clerk struck the handstamp diagonally across the 25 centime stamp, in illegal fashion, while cancelling the 10 centime stamp properly. As this out-of-line practice was observed rather frequently throughout the postal system, it was denounced as a "gross failure to follow regulations" in an Official Notice, date March 22, 1882, which warned the employees of possible penalties.



Figure 24 - St. Nicolas Local, 11th December 1880

The registered letter shown in fig. 25 was sent to a M. Devivre on April 22, 1881, and a 50 centimes stamp covered postage and the registration fee. It was mailed to St. Etienne, which was presumed to be in France. When it arrived in St. Etienne, Department of Loire, the addressee was declared *inconnu* (unknown) by the local mail carrier (penned on reverse), despite M. Devivre's Company street address penned in its upper right corner. The letter was opened presumably to verify the sender's address and was then struck with the three-line French handstamp: *Retour à l'expéditeur* in red. The sender's name and profession (M. Canler, avocat) was penned in the upper left corner for good measure. Noteworthy is the absence of any reciprocal marking providing for return registration. The letter's safe arrival in Brussels is confirmed by the April 25, 1881 backstamp. Was there a ruse at work here or was the letter sent to the wrong St. Etienne?

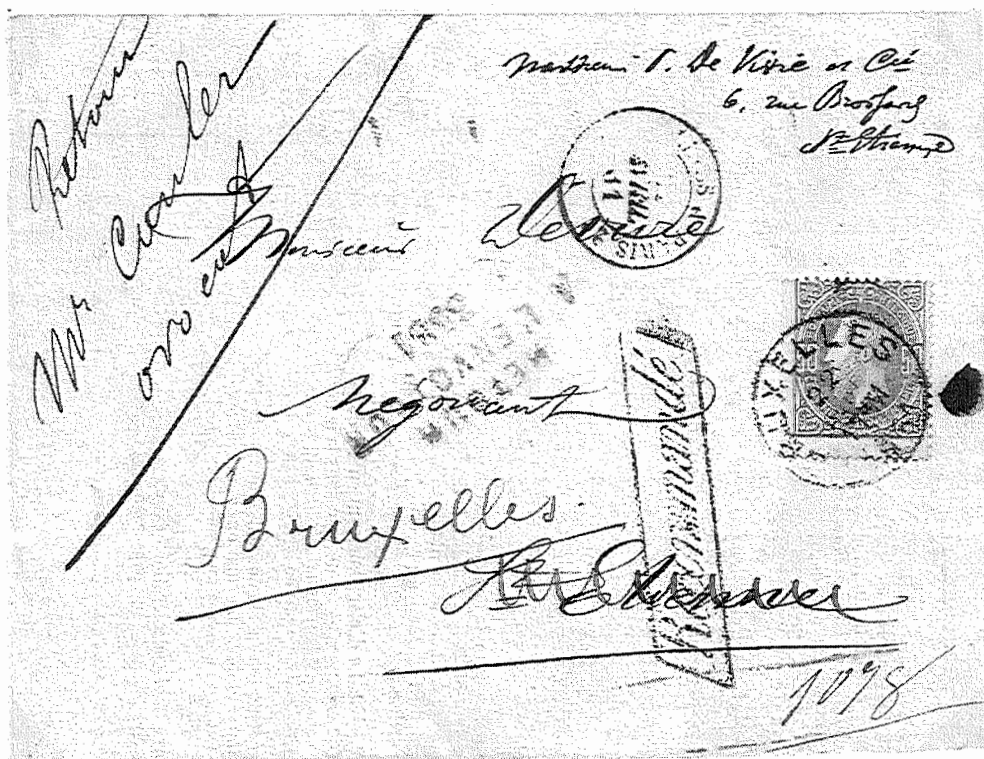


Figure 25 - Brussels to St. Etienne, 22nd April 1881

Fig. 26 shows a registered letter, dated April 25, 1880, and sent from Anvers (Bassins) to Bensensiel (Ostfriesland), Germany, franked as in fig. 25 with a 50-centime stamp. It also has a penned *Rekommandirt* in German and, to underscore its registered nature within Germany, a Bahnpost 10-Verviers-Cöln gummed registration label, German-style, with the word *Eingeschrieben* (has been registered) in red touching the stamp on its front.



Figure 26 - Antwerp to Bensensiel, 25th April 1880

This section ends with a letter, dated May 8, 1880 (fig. 27) from Brussels to Buenos Aires, Argentina, franked in tricolore fashion by 1.20 francs for postage (2 weights, 38 gr. UPU Zone 2, as of April 1, 1879), plus 25 centimes for registration, for a total of 445 francs. Here again, the RECOMMANDÉ handstamp catches the 20 centimes stamp (see fig. 24), which is also the target of the British REGISTERED-LONDON red oval handstamp.



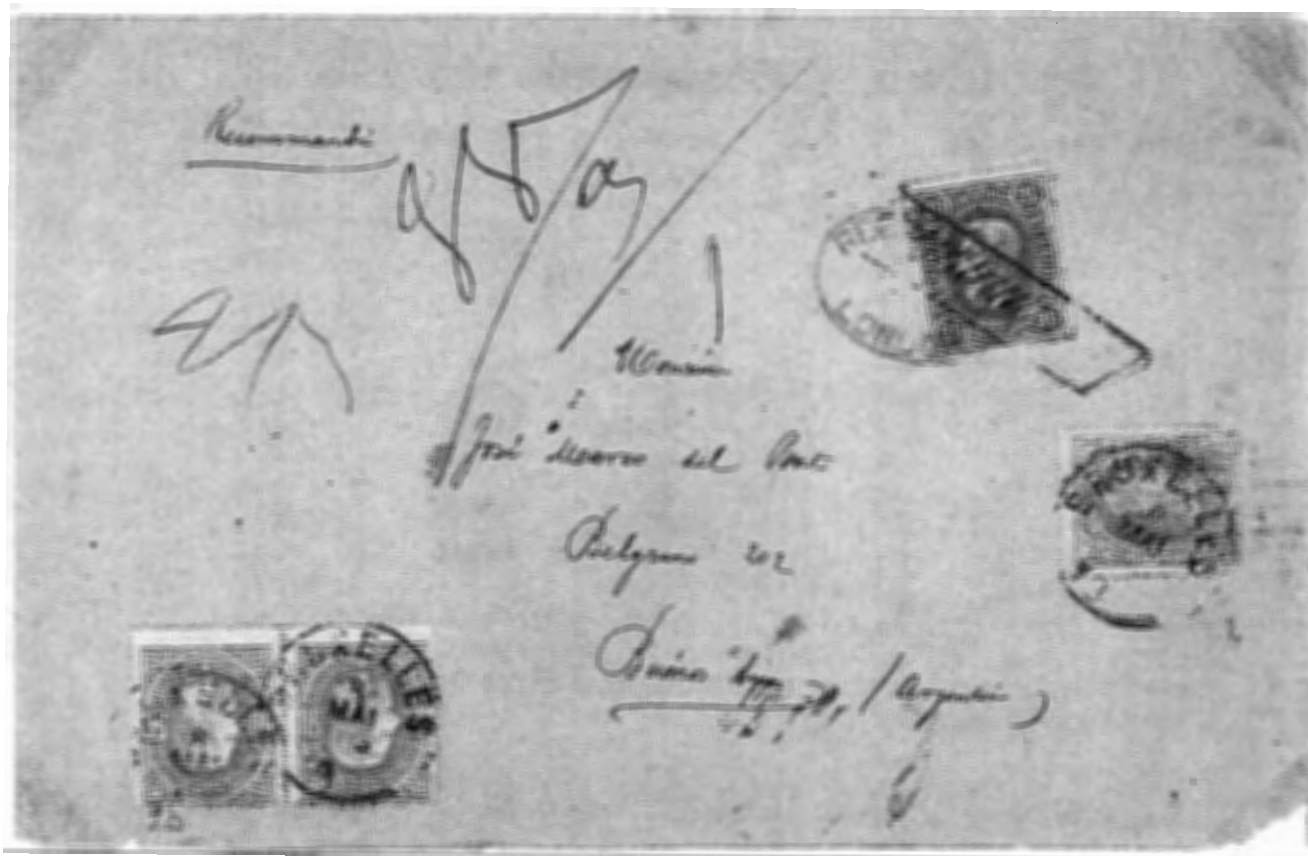


Figure 27 - Brussels to Buenos Ayres, 8th May 1880

d) The Etiquette Gommée (Gummed Label, GL)

The story of the Belgian *etiquette gommée*, translated here as "gummed label" and abbreviated as GL through the body of the text that follows, was first told in 1980<sup>9</sup> but a more comprehensive treatment appeared in 1983<sup>1b</sup> and in English translation in 1993<sup>1c</sup>. Other reports dealt with the subject in 1987<sup>13</sup> and again in 1993<sup>14</sup>. Hence only an abridged version of these accounts is repeated here, drawn principally from reference 1a. In more general terms, the GLs origin has been traced to the city of Vienna, Austria, where the GL was first used in 1865<sup>15</sup>. As a result of its favourable reception elsewhere in Austria, its use was expanded, first within Austria and then ever so gradually to other countries. By 1870 the GL was in use in Prussia within the province of Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine). Attempts to make the GL a uniform symbol internationally were slow in fruition, however, as debates over its format continued for several years. Although the decision to have the GL contain an R in red on a white background with lettering in black was taken by the UPU at its 1880 Paris Congress, the official directive to this effect was never uniformly implemented.

A Service Order issued in Belgium on July 24, 1882, mandated as follows: "As of August 1, 1882, the RECOMMANDÉ handstamp will cease to be valid and will be replaced by an etiquette to be affixed (glued) on all registered mailings".

Table II lists the GLs illustrated in the present article, describing their principal features, while fig. 28 depicts their appearance. A total of thirteen different types were issued in Belgium during the time period 1882-1920. In the text that follows, examples of registered letters exhibiting GLs 1 to 13 are shown, most in the context of a noteworthy point regarding the postal history of the period. The end-point for the article is the passage from 25 to 40 centimes for registration, which took place in late 1920.

Table II

Characteristics of the Gummed Registration Labels (1882-1920)

Type	Time Period	Format	R, mm. height	Perforation	BELGIQUE, length, mm.
1	1882-94	39½ x 11½	8	11	13*
2	1891-94	43 x 13½	6	12	16
3	1892-1901	44 x 13½	8	11	12
4	1901	43 x 13½	7½	11½	16½
5	1902	43 x 13½	8	11½	17
6	1903-05	42 x 13½	8	11	17
7	1904-05	43 x 13½	7	11½	21
8	1905-10	42 x 13	6	11½	20
9	1910-18	44 x 13½	8	11/11½	16½
10	1912-18	42½ x 13½	8	11/11½	20
11	1915-18	46 x 14½	7	imperf.	-
12	1914-19	43/44 x 13½	7½	11	-
13	1919-42	42 x 13	7	11½	-

All are in red except Types 1 and 8 which are in red or rose, Type 2 which is orange, and Type 12 which is in red or orange.

\*In Type 1, Belgique has only an initial capital; the others are all capitals except 11, 12 and 13 in which there is no Belgique. In Types 1, 2 and 3 there is a period after Belgique.

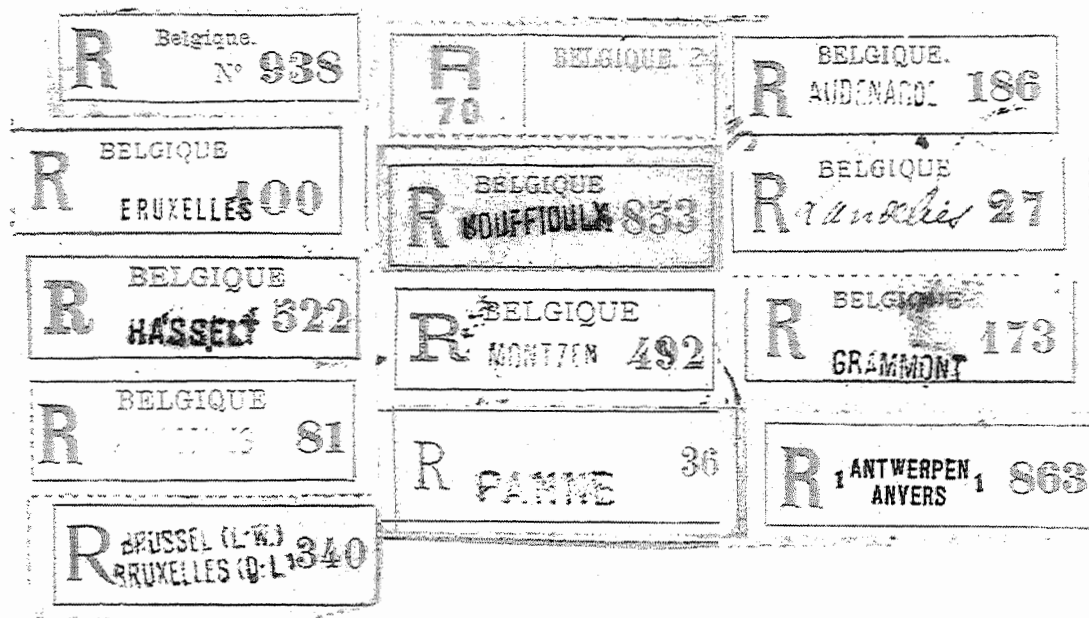


Figure 28 - Listed left to right:

Row 1 1-3. Row 2 4-6, Row 3 7-9, Row 4 10-12, Row 5 13

## GL 1: 1882-1894

This label, in use from August 1, 1882 to 1894, as all others following it, was issued to small town post offices in sheets of 100, numbered 1-99, and to medium and large town post offices in notebooks, numbered 1-999. GL 1 No. 68 used in the small town of Cronfestu near Manage and Mons (backstamps provided) is shown in fig. 29 on a letter dated January 5, 1883, to France. Several points may be made: a) the 50 centime franking is composed of two 25-centime stamps, issued in 1875 (perforated 15) and again, between 1883 and 1885, in aniline colours (perforated 15 and 14), spaced as far away from one another as possible (regulation in effect from November 13, 1880 to June 21, 1886); b) each stamp is struck with its own date cancel; c) no such cancellation is struck elsewhere on the letter (rule in effect until May 15, 1893), and d) a French border transit date cancel PARIS PAR GIVET, dated JANV 6 83 and a penned RECOMMANDÉE marking also highlight this commercial cover.



Figure 29 - Cronfestu to Arras, 5th January 1883

Fig. 30 shows a GL 1 on a letter mailed on January 21, 1884, within Brussels (E/V = En Ville). A BRUXELLES 3 date cancel is struck on the two stamps, an 1883 issue 10 centime and an 1875 issue 25 centime for a total of 35 centimes. The BRUXELLES 3 date cancel was reserved for registered letters, effective 1881, when it replaced the customary date cancel struck on the back of letters in the guise of a control postmark attesting to the safe arrival of a registered mailing. BRUXELLES 3 was, in turn, replaced (around 1894) by an oval, double circle, starred BRUXELLES RECEPTION postmark, usually also struck on the reverse of the letter.



Figure 30 - Brussels Local, 21st January 1884

Another GL 1 highlights the registered letter, dated November 4, 1885, to Rufisque, Senegal, via Bordeaux and Dakar. The close proximity to one another of the six stamps obviously contravened the "wide-spacing-of-the-stamps" requirement alluded to above; moreover, the 50 centimes mixed issue franking consisting of six stamps from three different issues (1869, 1883 and 1884) provides this letter with elements of rarity.



Figure 31 - Antwerp to Rufisque, 4th November 1885

Another uncommon usage of the GL 1, on a registered letter containing a printed notice franked with a 1-centime stamp to cover its postage and a 25-centime stamp to cover its registration (fig. 32), attests to its role in business communication. In this case M. Dykmans, an attorney, mails the printed notice to M. Laymans, a beer merchant, at 5 pm on March 28, 1889. The letter goes across town within Antwerp and as of 7 pm the local carrier has it but cannot find M. Laymans at home (after the two allowed attempts at delivery); he therefore re-addresses the letter to "Poste Restante" (General Delivery), reconsiders this late-in-the-day option, crosses out the penned Poste Restante and decides to return the letter to M. Dykmans with, as a result, a wasted 25 centimes registration fee for M. Dykmans.

As mandated by Service Order No. 20 of July 8, 1892, a town handstamp had to be struck inside GLs on domestic registered mail, effective immediately. The GLs tied to registered letters going to foreign destinations were to be so handstamped as of July 1, 1892. This rule did not apply, however, to GLs tied to incoming foreign registered letters (see separate section below).



Figure 32 – Antwerp Local, 28th March 1889

The registered letter to Callao, Peru (fig. 33), shows a GL 1 containing the LEDEBERG (suburb of GAND) town handstamp, dated October 14, 1892. The letter received a departure backstamp "GAND (STATION)" and a French double-circle routing cancel LILLE À PARIS on its front, both dated October 14th. On December 6, 1892, a Callao arrival backstamp as well as a Peruvian registration handstamp (No. 6520), were struck on the letter, but the addressee, M. Eugène Adam, could not be located. Hence the letter sat in Peruvian possession (VISADO POR CONTADURIA) until about March/April 1894 (15-16 months), when the Peruvian GLs NON-RECLAMENO RECLAMADO and REBUT, as well as the boxed handstamp RETOUR À LA GRIFFE (Return to Sender) were affixed to it, sending it back to Belgium. It arrived there on May 18, 1894, receiving the oval double circle BRUXELLES-RECEPTION postmark alluded to above, plus the very rare POSTES REBUTS-BELGIQUE date cancel in blue on the same day. The letter finally arrived in GAND for delivery to M. Léon Adam on May 19, 1894 at 5 am.

The last GL 1 to be shown (fig. 34) illustrates a particularly late usage, June 1901, a time when GL 2 was already out of use and GLs 3 and 4 were both current. The GL carries a bilingual handstamp TONGRES/TONGEREN and the letter front bears a date cancel separate from those striking the stamps. Also, the letter was struck by the following backstamps: BRUXELLES-RECEPTION (June 15), TIRLEMONT (STATION) (June 15), GENOVA-FERROVIA (Italian transit cancel, June 17), VELTEWREDE (Sumatra) (July 12) and MEDAN (Sumatra) (July 17). The franking consisted of 40 centimes in stamps, plus 10 centimes in the form of the postal stationery envelope for postage, plus 25 centime for registration: 75 centimes. The letter weighed 22 grammes, 2 weights (50 centimes).







Figure 33 – Ledeberg to Callao, 14th October 1892



Figure 34 – Tongres to Sumatra, 15th June 1901



## GL2: 1891-1895

GL2 is the only one of the thirteen GLs illustrated in the present article to have a design in which the registration number is placed under the letter R, both being inside a boxed area on the GLs left side. Fig. 35 shows an exceptional item of Belgian postal history, namely, a parcel front originating in St. Gilles (Brux.), a borough of Brussels, and, more precisely, in the stamp store of Jean-Baptiste MOENS, the original stamp dealer, album maker and catalogue publisher, known throughout philately. M. Moens' parcel was sent to a renowned American philatelist, H. E. Deats, in Flemington, New Jersey, on March 14, 1892. While the 37 weights (1.85 kg) book rate franking at 5 centimes/50 gr were accounted for by the 1.85 francs postage, the remaining 25 centimes covered the registration fee, for a total postage of 2.10 francs.



Figure 35 - St. Gilles to Flemington, 14th March 1892

[To be continued]

Belgian Registered Mail - Errata

The sentence on page 36 (second paragraph) starting "It should be noted ....." should be deleted as it provides erroneous information, there being no 40 centime stamp on the item.



## LOOKING BACKWARD

by S. J. Andrews

This article is based on a series of six interesting brochures by the late F. E. Wilson, the Birmingham dealer. No doubt many members who collect covers will find they have covers from or to W. T. Wilson (father of F. E.), also a dealer, from or to Mon. Adolphe Braet (or Braet-de-Jonghe). Your editor was a good friend of F. E. over many years and he was very interested in his "customers". Here is one of his articles from "50 Years of Philately". F. E. W. was always interested in Belgium and had a very fine collection (particularly early issues).



Brussels - Galerie Bortier



Sir Charles Stewart Wilson and W. T. Wilson (right)  
at Lygon Arms Broadway in 1928

"In the old Town of Brussels, off the Rue St. Jean, is the shabby old Galerie Bortier, and it was here that I found my greatest find. The glory of the Arcade has long since departed and it is now entirely given over to secondhand booksellers' shops. The Galerie Bortier has a sentimental interest for stamp collectors - as it was here that the famous Belgian stamp dealer, J. B. Moens, first set up shop before he moved to the Rue de Florence.

"In the year 1897, I travelled to Belgium to attend the wedding of my dear friend, Mon. A. B. (Adolphe Braet) at Bruges and having some time to spare in Brussels, I naturally made my way to the stamp haunts I knew so well. One of the shops was kept by Alexandre Moens, a son of the great "JBM". In the window I saw a large envelope with first issue 20c "epaulettes" (then worth about 2½d each). On looking them over, I saw to my astonishment a strip of ten, that is the complete width of the pane. I thought 'I shall never be able to afford this', but I enquired the price and Moens replied, 'il y a 10 pieces a 5 sous et cela fait deux francs cinquante'.

"Well, I paid the Fr.2.50 or two shillings and departed on my way, little realising what a bargain I had secured. Strips of four can be had, but I did not know of any strip of ten in the world! This unique piece was the particular bright star of my Belgian collection for many years. In 1911 it was exhibited at Vienna, where it was spotted by Congressman Ernest R. Ackerman of New York. Some years later, this strip of ten was sold to Ackerman for £7. Of course, blocks and strips were not valued then at anything like what they sell today!"

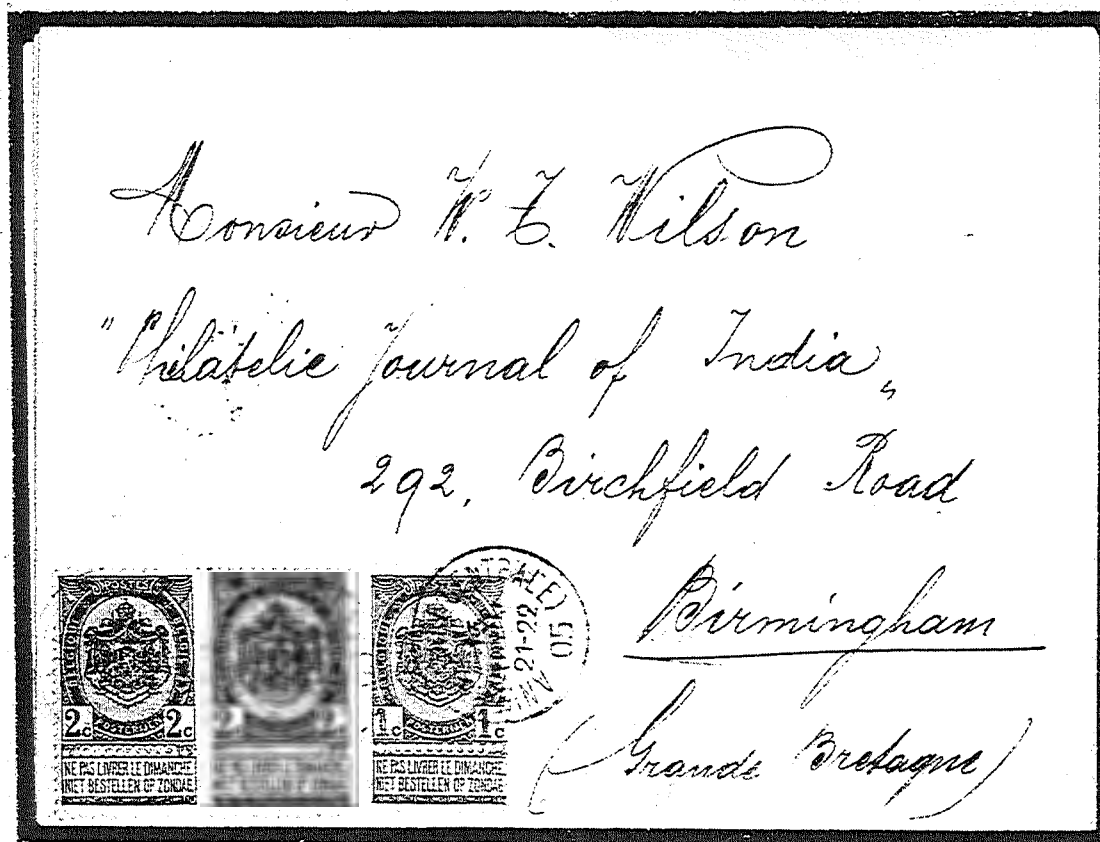


On Ackerman's death, the strip was acquired by H. R. Harman, who was then living in New York. F.E.W. attended the Bale Exhibition in 1948 and found that this by now famous piece was in the well known magnificent collection of Louis Zurstrassen.

The strip is cancelled by the vertical (distribution) 48 - Saint Léger. No.151-154 of the sheet (the first four stamps of this strip) show the famous "coquille blanche sur le P de Poste".

The strip is recorded in "Le Philateliqne Belge" No.7, April 1947, as "a Belgian find - a remarkable piece" received by Maurice Baeten. Also recorded in Balasse Magazine No.55, February 1948, page 8, as "cette très remarquable pièce" and recorded in the Zurstrassen collection.

Sir Charles Stewart Wilson was Postmaster of Bengal and later Director General of the Post Office of India and had fine stamp collections.



Envelope Antwerp to Birmingham, 15th June 1905