

# ***BELGAPOST***

## Volume **11** No. **4**

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Belgian Study Circle

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# **BELGAPOST**

# **Volume 11 No. 4**

## **EDITORIAL**

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The death of our President and Editor, Jack Andrews, leaves us with a gap as over many years he has been the major source of articles in our publications. He was halfway through a series on the Montenez issues, which it was hoped to complete, and we were hoping to record something on Early Merchant Posts, which was Jack's current area of attention. Watch this space.

However, he had asked me to include an article he wrote many years ago as he felt many current members may not have seen it when originally published. This is on Belgian Gothic Stamps and appears in this issue as a tribute to him.

If we are to fill future issues of "BELGAPOST", more contributions from members are urgently needed. Please consider if you have some knowledge or interest that could be put into print. I would be happy to discuss aspects or topics if there are areas of doubt or to give general advice.

REG HARRISON

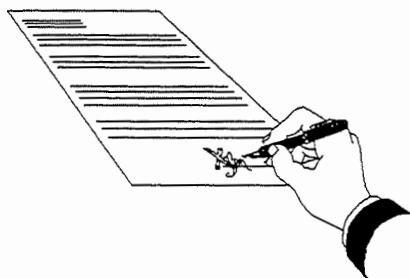
## **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

As we settle down to the long winter evenings, with less and less time for outdoor pursuits, we might consider devoting more attention to our indoor activities. My own thoughts seem to gravitate towards philately, in particular the Belgian variety, probably because my Belgian collection has so much work waiting to be done on it.

I look back on these past few months since becoming Chairman with a mixture of happiness and sadness: happiness for what appeared to be a most successful weekend at Chester where a most interesting and varied programme was enjoyed; and sadness in that, immediately afterwards, we had to say farewell to our President, Jack Andrews, whom I know will be sadly missed by us all.

With the onset of autumn, may I, along with my wife Brenda, wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a philatelically prosperous New Year. I look forward to meeting many of you at future events.

JOHN PARKIN



## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

On inspection of some of his charity stamps, **Tom Pring** writes to say that on the 1Fr.75 value of the 1928 Anti-TB issue (COB 271) he found that the first E of BELGIQUE was deformed into an F. He can find no record of this and asks if other members can check their copies to see if it reoccurs.

He has also acquired a quantity of **COB 480** and would like to know if anyone is studying these stamps or their postmarks. Please reply direct to Tom Pring.

REPORT OF WEEKEND MEETING AT CHESTER  
18th - 20th SEPTEMBER 1998

As expected from previous experience of Tony Geake's organisational skills, Circle members were eagerly anticipating an enjoyable and informative weekend and we were not to be disappointed. We were all, however, saddened by the news of our President's death a few days previously. For early arrivals, the weekend started by all being perplexed by Ken Carpenter's quiz on Friday evening which required the identification of a selection of "well-known" Belgian buildings, views and objet d'art.

On Saturday morning, at the beginning of the conference proper, we all stood in silence in memory of our President, Jack Andrews, who will be sadly missed. Apologies for absence were received from Doris Green and Gaston Jorquera.

I don't think anybody could, and I certainly wouldn't, claim to have a deep interest in all aspects of Belgian philately. Without fail I have always found something of interest and, more importantly, something to learn from every display I have seen. This weekend was no exception and what follows is a very personal review of the material displayed.

Graham Harvey tackled the Waterlow issue of 1915 in a systematic manner, the stamps themselves, varieties, stamps on cover and finally the sheets from the Waterlow archives; the sheets having been professionally mounted so as to both facilitate display and afford protection. It was the 2 franc stamp which appealed to me with a rampant lion bottom left. Whilst I knew of the colour and perforation varieties, I was unaware of the differences of up to a millimetre in the size of the design. COB describes the design as "Anti-Slavery" in contrast to Gibbon's "Annexation of the Congo". There was some discussion about the possible origins of the design; perhaps it is from a painting whose title would clarify the matter. Please let me have any comments.

Iain Stevenson's topic of Precancels, or "Preos", is very much an interest of mine. Iain's display of pre-1938 items was complemented by Ken Dore's contribution of the post-1938 issues. Initially the precancel was applied by hand roller on bulk purchased stamps for use on printed mater but after 1906 they were commonly applied typographically. The year 1938 saw the final demise of individual town precancels which followed a decade of increasingly scarce usage of the hand rolled types. Things to look for are the early 5c and 10c stamps which are very rarely seen with the roller applied precancel and derive from use of an incorrect roller when cancelling stamps on savings sheets.

Ken Dore described himself as a "squirrel", an idiom later explained by our Chairman for the benefit of our Belgian colleagues and also contrasted with the less flattering "magpie" - a squirrel applies to individuals who collect and then hide away objects whilst a magpie steals the objects he hides away. Ken emphasised the difficulty of finding exhibition issues with genuine postal usage.

I have nothing but admiration at the persistence of those who attempt to plate stamps and John Connolly's attempt on the plates of the Epaulette and Medallion issues would be no exception. John did make one plea for information - he has some examples overprinted NP or fv and is uncertain as to their origin. He has examples of the overprint G which was used for security purposes by the Banque de Paternostre Guillochin, Emile Sirault et Cie Mons before the postal authorities took exception to the practice.

As the subject matter is quite outside of my experience, it would be wrong to comment on Ken Carpenter's display of Pre-stamp Postal History. What drew everyone's attention was the single stamped cover. The stamp had not been cancelled in the normal manner, an omission corrected by the postman using his own circled 49 handstamp applied in a neat pattern on the stamp.

Reg Harrison's display of German Postal Stationery from World War I very much complemented that given at Regent's College earlier in the year. Had there been fewer philatelists in the German ranks perhaps the outcome of the war might have been different! At the end of Reg's display, our Chairman thanked displaying members for their efforts and this was followed by the auction, reported elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday's activities were concluded by an informal dinner during which the Chairman presented Eileen Loader and Ruth Wood with certificates denoting their status as Honorary Life Members: a very poignant moment when they both realised that these had been signed by our President just prior to his death. (Similar certificates were also signed by Jack to be given to those Life Members not at this meeting.) Reg Harrison carried our late President's final message to the Circle.

Sunday morning commenced with Tony Geak's display of the 1879 Railways issue and stations of the Chimay line. He commented on the rarity of the 1879 cancellations and hypothesised that these originated from documents accompanying parcels to foreign destinations. It seems that internal documentation was initially destroyed until its commercial potential was recognised. Tony's analysis of over 200 examples of the 50c stamp led to him concluding that there was a separate Malines printing of this stamp. This hypothesis, which contradicts the Gibbons view, is supported by the identical shade of rose being used in early examples of the 1882 issue, which was undoubtedly printed in Malines. An observation that the position of the wheels either side of the central lion moves relative to the position of the stamp frame led to interesting discussion about the type of printing plates used. Tony suggested that cancellations of the Chimay line are scarce because of the short nature of the route, only forty miles or so compounded by the fact that a number of stations are merely halts or intersect other lines. Tony displayed examples of the various types of cancellations with some different examples evident on photostats provided by Josef Deruyck.

Maurice Wilkinson provided a display of Aero Philately from the early days of 1925 to more recent times. Much was made of the philatelic nature of some of the material but genuine postal usage was in evidence. A return to the use of handstamps in lieu of the more usual Airmail sticker was commented upon, as was the apparent fact that UK airmail to Europe only gets as close to the air as the air in the tyres of the Post Office vans! Despite the airmail sticker routinely being applied and European mail being charged at airmail rates it appears that most, if not all, such mail travels by rail. Jack Gibbs' complementary display of Aero Philately included helicopter and balloon flights as well as the more conventional aircraft. In drawing attention to an Antarctic flown cover, Jack commented on the hangdog expression on the face of the huskies in the 1957 Antarctic Expedition issue. The wrong side of the globe, freezing cold and probably missing their lunch!! Two covers of particular interest involved accidents. The first a helicopter crash into the River Meuse in September 1950, the second a May 1958 flight to Leopoldville which crashed at Casablanca having taken off from Lisbon. Shades of "Play it again, Sam" were emphasised by the "SINISTRE CASABLANCA" cachet on the cover!

Just after noon, the Chairman thanked contributors and closed the conference.

CHRIS HOWE

#### LUNCH, AGM, AUCTION - 24th APRIL 1999

Following the pattern of last year, it is planned to arrange a lunch at a nearby restaurant around 1 p.m. We hope to return to last year's venue but at the time of going to print no confirmation was available. As soon as firm arrangements have been made, details will be circulated to interested members - but please book the date in your diary now!!

REPORT OF THE MEETING, REGENT'S COLLEGE, 10th OCTOBER 1998

As with last year, a very small but select group of members met for the first meeting of the season. Your secretary "entertained" on the subject of Publibels, the series of postal stationery cards printed initially by l'Agence Belge de Publicité Postale with the objective of raising funds for various postal charities. The card design includes an advertisement in the bottom lefthand corner adjacent to the space for the delivery address. The advertisement, sponsored by government or commercial enterprises, appears in single or multiple language variants depending on the area in which the sponsor required the cards to be distributed. The series reflects the changes in internal postcard rates seen in ordinary postal stationery cards but is unique in employing only definitive stamps with the lion design current at the time of issue. Surcharges in a variety of forms were employed when postage rates changed; such usage increasing during periods of rapid inflation. There are approximately 3,000 different cards which were issued in print runs of between 500 and 2,000,000. The first 200 or so cards are not numbered but, with a few exceptions, cards after this include a number at the bottom of the left edge or left bottom edge. Cards after No. 2225 include the letters F (French), V or N (Dutch) or A (German) used singly or in combinations to denote the language(s) employed on the cards. The "stamps" themselves follow the four main series of adhesive stamps, namely the Lion héraldique, the Lion écusson, the chiffre sur lion and the chiffre sur lion avec banderole. There are face values within the publibel series which are not reflected in the adhesive series and some of the colours are different where values correspond. Although primarily intended for internal use, there were two short tourist series issued in 1949 and 1957 for destinations abroad. Both were on the blue card usual for "cartes pour l'étranger" and employed the 2.50 franc agricultural definitive in carmine or the 2.50 franc chiffre sur lion definitive in red. Many internal publibels were sent to destinations abroad with suitable additional adhesives added. The question nobody was able to answer was when the issue of publibels ceased. 1990 seems the best guess. With nearly 3,000 issued, with this figure being almost doubled when surcharges are considered, it was obvious your secretary has a long way to go. Offers on a postcard to .....

In the afternoon, five members who had displayed at Chester, treated Jeffrey Kalp and myself to the "gems from the Chester weekend". In fact, it was a good opportunity for us to have another look at what we might previously have overlooked. Ken Dore began by explaining that his gems were those which he personally enjoyed the most. In his exhibition issues he singled out amongst others the Belgica 72 issue which he suggested demonstrated that the classic issues never lost their appeal. Maurice Wilkinson told us that his "gems of aero-philately" were chosen because they reminded him of those collectors from whom he had obtained these items - philatelists who were sadly no longer with us. At Chester, Ken Carpenter's display of prestamp postal history had included only one of the covers he had brought to show us. This was one of a small group collected under the heading of countries which had ruled Belgium in the past and their flags. So Ken brought along the balance. I for one was not aware that the colours in the German flag had changed. Tony Geake's analysis of over 300 examples of the 50c value of the 1879 railway stamps was summarised in his contribution. In my view, this was the gem of the Chester weekend offerings; but it leaves me still struggling with the statistical significance of five stamps out of 154 when about fifteen would have been expected. I am reliably informed that an analysis of the chi squared value will resolve the matter.

Standing in as Chairman, in my eagerness to have another look at Tony's stamps, I failed to give John Connolly the opportunity to explain his selection from the plates of the epaulette and medallion issues. A discourtesy I didn't recognise until I was on the train home. Belated apologies, John.

CHRIS HOWE

**S. JACK ANDREWS**



**PRESIDENT  
1997 – 1998**



## OBITUARY - S. JACK ANDREWS

It is with great sadness I report the death following a short illness of Jack Andrews on 10th September, 1998. He was born in Hertfordshire in 1913 but grew up in Northamptonshire, where he was married in 1939. Whilst living there he joined the Belgian Study Circle in 1947, narrowly missing being a founder member (No. 15). At the time of joining he listed his interests as -10%, Montenez, Middle Leopold I and Pre-Cancels. He quickly became active in the work of the Circle and was a major contributor to studies, exhibits and articles, and developed a deep interest in postal history and postage rates. A regular attender at meetings, he could be relied upon to provide backup material for displays given by others less knowledgeable.

In 1950, following promotion in a lift manufacturing company, he moved with his wife, Frances, and children David and Jane, to Birmingham where he lived at Barton Lodge Road for the rest of his life.

His talent in writing up displays and creating articles quickly saw him in position as Editor in 1952, a role he continued on and off until his death. Any sheet written up by him is immediately identifiable using his skills acquired during his seven year apprenticeship as a draughtsman. In recent years, much of Jack's collection has been sold through our auctions and I know many of our members treasure his sheets. It was a conscious decision he made some years ago that the Circle members should benefit from his collection and was his way of thanking the Circle for the help it had given him in the past.

Jack had, of course, other interests beyond the Belgian Study Circle, including the Postal History Society and the Solihull Philatelic Society. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society.

When in late 1996 Jack was asked to accept the post of President, he accepted with great pride and enthusiasm and was delighted to wear the newly created President's Badge for our 50th Anniversary celebrations. This started with our display to the Royal in January 1997, for which Jack was responsible, followed by our Anniversary Lunch in April - an event that was overshadowed by his wife's illness.

At Leamington in September 1997, Jack was back in his stride and presided over a memorable weekend at the Regent Hotel. After dinner on the Saturday, he regaled us with some memories of his early days in the Circle.

In June 1998 we saw Jack's last appearance at SWINPEX '98 where our Circle had a stand. He was looking forward to our meeting at Chester in September but, when he realised he would not be able to attend, prepared a short speech for me to give on his behalf. Sadly he died shortly after we had spoken so his final words for the Circle were given posthumously.

Jack was a great stalwart of our Circle and a good friend, and we salute him for his kindness and friendship over the years. A group of our members attended his funeral in Solihull on 21st September.

We extend our sincere condolences to Jack's daughter, Jane, and son, David and his family.

REG HARRISON

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **"Bureaux Ambulants de Belgique 1840-1988"** De Bast, Herman 1998, 461 pp, Club '92

This latest book on the Travelling Post Offices covers a very wide field and is unlikely to be surpassed. It contains amongst other information the various Acts and Orders relating to the Ambulants and comprehensive timetables for all the train services.

Commencing with the experimental service in 1840, it then covers the first postal services on all the railway lines, as well as the various cancellations and markings in great detail. This period was, of course, noted for the use of green ink – a fact established by our Circle many years ago by Jack Andrews and Oliver Loader. A 32-page display of green markings was submitted by the Belgian Study Circle at BELGICA '72.

From 1849, a permanent system with marking was established, all of which is well covered, together with station box marks and frontier marks. Major changes in 1895 are charted right up to 1988 when the system was withdrawn.

For all the marks illustrated, first and last dates are listed together with valuations. This is an extremely useful reference point at which, if nothing else, to establish "relative" scarcity in assessing cover valuations.

It is well illustrated throughout with both accurate drawings of postmarks, etc. and photographs of actual covers.

The authors are to be congratulated on this fine work of reference which I predict will become a classic handbook. Superbly printed with a semi-stiff cover, Albert Delchambre and the Club '92 have made a major contribution to our philatelic knowledge. A must for every serious student of Belgian philately.

### **"Catalogue Officiel de Timbres-Poste 1999"**

Destined to be the valid catalogue in the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the first Belgian postage stamps – the Epaulettes – it closely follows the 1998 format and contents. In 1998, a number of improvements and additions were included, ranking it above previous editions. Not surprisingly, therefore, 1999 is almost a reprint of 1998 marked only by minor price changes. I was unable to detect any major new areas or entries. It is, however, well produced in colour with a high standard of printing and hard covers.

The sections where valuations on cover are listed are very useful as a guide to scarcity but stress is placed upon these being for single stamps on cover. Many overseas destinations, especially airmails, required high frankings (sometimes multiples) and I suspect at some stage mixed frankings will acquire a valuation of their own. The inclusion of cover valuation I do applaud and hopefully it will establish a true assessment of scarcity. For example, the 1927 Houyoux overprint 1.75 on 1.50 (COB 248) has for several years been listed as 1500BF on cover. This valuation has puzzled me as such covers are frequently seen here as 1.75 was an overseas rate. In the 1999 edition, it has been revalued at 1200BF which possibly is still rather high.

In summary, a fine catalogue but perhaps justifying the policy of some members only to buy alternate editions. This edition is listed as the last in which prices will be in Belgian Francs only.

R.T.H.



## JOURNAL REVIEWS

### "Posthistorama", No. 23, September 1998

Although subtitled 'Belgian Postal History', this contains articles on other countries eg Edinburgh Brunswick Star, French Postal Rates, Postal History of Geneva, and stamps eg Elstrom Marginal Markings. However, there is an article by C. Delbeke on Postal Relations between Sardinia and Benelux, together with several small items of postal history interest.

### "Koning Met Helm", No. 4, August 1998

This is the Tin-Hat club and most of this edition is devoted to a study of the 5 Cent by M. Noel and a list of the plate numbers of all values by G. Jorion, which is well illustrated. Hopefully there will be sufficient articles in the future to continue this journal. Essential for all serious Tin-Hat collectors.

### "L'Amicale Philatelique"

No. 433, March 1998 - A further detailed article by J. De Bast on postcard rates and markings, which is well illustrated.

No. 434, April 1998 - A continuation of the above dealing with View Cards, Illustrated Cards and Fantasies.

No. 437, September 1998 - Belgian Congo censure bands during 1914-1918 by L. Janssens and an article by G. Ludwig about Adophe Max and his internment during World War I.

No. 438, October 1998 - Telegrammes de Luxe by P. De Dobbeleer, and Congo Censorship during 1940-45.

### FIRST WORLD WAR - 16th NOVEMBER 1916 BEIRENDRECHT STRAIGHT-LINE HANDSTAMP



**RESULTS OF AUCTION HELD AT CHESTER 19th SEPTEMBER, 1998**

	£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.		£.p.
2	6.00	64	2.50	126	4.00	185	1.00	238	2.00
4	5.00	65	.50	127	4.00	186	2.00	239	2.00
5	6.00	66	2.00	128	11.00	187	4.00	240	4.00
6	2.00	67	1.00	130	2.00	188	3.50	241	6.00
7	7.00	68	1.00	131	21.00	189	5.00	242	9.50
8	2.00	70	9.00	140	2.00	190	12.00	243	5.50
9	8.00	71	1.00	142	1.00	192	2.00	244	6.50
10	4.00	72	1.00	143	27.00	193	2.00	246	5.50
11	4.00	73	3.50	144	31.00	194	2.00	247	7.50
12	3.00	74	1.00	145	30.00	195	2.50	249	3.00
13	9.00	75	35.00	146	23.00	196	1.50	250	2.00
14	2.00	77	3.00	147	19.00	197	2.50	254	4.00
15	8.00	78	8.00	148	6.00	198	7.00	255	5.00
16	2.00	79	6.00	149	4.00	199	4.50	258	15.00
17	2.00	80	3.00	150	10.00	200	4.00	262	5.50
18	1.50	81	3.50	151	2.00	201	1.00	264	1.00
21	2.00	82	4.00	152	21.00	202	1.50	265	1.00
22	1.50	83	2.00	153	26.00	203	3.00	269	3.00
23	1.50	84	5.50	154	1.00	206	.50	272	2.00
29	2.50	85	8.50	155	27.00	207	3.50	276	2.50
35	2.00	86	5.00	156	8.50	208	6.50	279	8.00
36	2.50	88	4.50	157	22.00	209	1.00	280	2.00
37	4.00	91	3.00	158	60.00	210	4.00	281	8.00
38	4.00	92	27.00	159	6.00	211	4.00	282	2.00
39	2.00	93	1.00	160	2.00	212	3.50	285	5.50
40	2.00	94	3.50	161	1.50	213	21.00	289	2.00
42	2.00	95	1.50	162	3.00	214	1.00	292	4.00
44	3.00	96	1.50	163	3.00	215	21.00	294	3.00
45	12.00	98	1.00	164	1.50	217	4.00	297	5.50
46	1.00	101	2.50	165	1.00	218	4.00	298	4.00
47	5.00	102	2.00	166	1.00	220	1.00	299	14.00
48	3.00	105	4.00	167	3.00	221	1.00	300	4.00
49	2.50	107	6.50	169	20.00	222	.50	301	9.00
50	3.00	110	2.00	172	8.50	223	4.50	302	8.50
51	3.00	113	5.50	173	13.00	225	3.00	306	5.00
52	3.00	114	4.50	175	17.00	226	2.50	308	8.00
53	15.00	115	2.00	176	10.00	228	4.50	312	4.00
54	5.50	116	11.00	177	6.00	230	8.00	313	15.00
55	17.00	117	9.50	178	3.00	231	2.00	315	2.00
56	16.00	118	8.00	179	4.50	232	66.00	---	---
58	12.00	119	68.00	180	2.50	233	4.00	---	---
60	10.00	121	5.00	181	2.50	234	4.50	---	---
63	7.00	123	5.00	182	1.00	235	2.00	---	---
END OF SALE									



REPORT OF SALE - 19th SEPTEMBER, 1998

Although there were not many expensive items, out of 316 lots 212 were sold for a total of £1,421. Most items went for around their estimate, notable exceptions being lot 92 (estimate £6) £27; lot 119 (estimate £15) £68; lot 131 (estimate £6) £21 and lot 232 (estimate £18) £66. A quick glance at these items reveals their relative scarcity and the discerning tastes of our members.

As in the past, well written-up pre-stamp material sold well, likewise TPO/Foreign Sorting Marks in which there seems to be a growing interest. This is an area of collecting in which there is scope for more study - often they occur on covers which are retained for other specialised interests.

Postage dues are starting to attract more attention, likewise Exhibition linked material, which covers a wide scope for collecting. As the title implies, Miscellaneous Postal History contains the odd lots and are usually popular but difficult to estimate.

The Military section contained a wide variety of modest covers, many of which were left unsold, but the same could not be said for the -10% section which was eagerly fought over, as was the Tête-Bêche and Publicity section. Possibly following more attention in the COB Catalogue, the section of middle period stamped covers sold well. Good commercial usage during this period is not common as so many were only used by philatelists and will probably appreciate in the future.

Railway material did not attract the usual attention, neither did Books and Literature.

On balance, a reasonable sale in which the property of twelve members passed to thirty new owners. Further material for future sales is always welcome and should be sent to me well in advance of known sale dates.

At the end of the sale, a discussion was held following a request from an overseas member regarding the handling of identical bids. The current procedure is that the first bid received is given priority. It was explained that normally overseas members are airmailed the auction list before it is released to UK/European members in order to "even the odds". It was agreed to retain the present system but to take into account the date of overseas mailing where appropriate. (Note - the occurrence of identical bids is not common.)

A further discussion on the policy of handling "Buy Bids" took place. It was agreed that in future, because of the risk of identical buy bids being received, they be converted in consultation with the member concerned into fixed amounts and handled in the normal manner.

REG HARRISON

THE TELEPHONE ISSUE OF 1st JANUARY, 1891

This was designed by E. Mouchon and H. Hendrix, and engraved by A. Doms. It was printed at the Malines Works. Printed in sheets of ten stamps with ten counterfoils.

This half sheet is one pane of five, with the other pane of five being separated by a margin and "interpanneau". Perforated 11½m, it was off sale from 11th July, 1903.

7061-10170

<p>MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES &amp; TÉLÉGRAPHES          MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN, POSTEN EN TELEGRAFEN</p> <p>Acquit d'une taxe de conversation dans les <b>BUREAUX</b>          TÉLÉPHONIQUES PUBLICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Franc</b></p> <p><i>Bulletin à réclamer et à conserver par les correspondants.</i></p>	<p>Bewijs van betaling voor een gesprek in de <b>OPENBARE</b>          TELEFOONKANTOREN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Frank</b></p> <p><i>Dit bewijs door de sprekers te dragen en te bewaren.</i></p>
<p>MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES &amp; TÉLÉGRAPHES          MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN, POSTEN EN TELEGRAFEN</p> <p>Acquit d'une taxe de conversation dans les <b>BUREAUX</b>          TÉLÉPHONIQUES PUBLICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Franc</b></p> <p><i>Bulletin à réclamer et à conserver par les correspondants.</i></p>	<p>Bewijs van betaling voor een gesprek in de <b>OPENBARE</b>          TELEFOONKANTOREN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Frank</b></p> <p><i>Dit bewijs door de sprekers te dragen en te bewaren.</i></p>
<p>MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES &amp; TÉLÉGRAPHES          MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN, POSTEN EN TELEGRAFEN</p> <p>Acquit d'une taxe de conversation dans les <b>BUREAUX</b>          TÉLÉPHONIQUES PUBLICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Franc</b></p> <p><i>Bulletin à réclamer et à conserver par les correspondants.</i></p>	<p>Bewijs van betaling voor een gesprek in de <b>OPENBARE</b>          TELEFOONKANTOREN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Frank</b></p> <p><i>Dit bewijs door de sprekers te dragen en te bewaren.</i></p>
<p>MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES &amp; TÉLÉGRAPHES          MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN, POSTEN EN TELEGRAFEN</p> <p>Acquit d'une taxe de conversation dans les <b>BUREAUX</b>          TÉLÉPHONIQUES PUBLICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Franc</b></p> <p><i>Bulletin à réclamer et à conserver par les correspondants.</i></p>	<p>Bewijs van betaling voor een gesprek in de <b>OPENBARE</b>          TELEFOONKANTOREN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Frank</b></p> <p><i>Dit bewijs door de sprekers te dragen en te bewaren.</i></p>
<p>MINISTÈRE DES CHEMINS DE FER, POSTES &amp; TÉLÉGRAPHES          MINISTERIE VAN SPOORWEGEN, POSTEN EN TELEGRAFEN</p> <p>Acquit d'une taxe de conversation dans les <b>BUREAUX</b>          TÉLÉPHONIQUES PUBLICS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Franc</b></p> <p><i>Bulletin à réclamer et à conserver par les correspondants.</i></p>	<p>Bewijs van betaling voor een gesprek in de <b>OPENBARE</b>          TELEFOONKANTOREN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1 Frank</b></p> <p><i>Dit bewijs door de sprekers te dragen en te bewaren.</i></p>

ATELIER DU TIMBRE

IMBRES TELEPHONE DE 1 FRANC N° 099363

## BELGIAN "GOTHIC" STAMPS

by S. J. Andrews

(This article was first published in "Stamp Fair" c.1948)

Today, many collectors, having perforce to limit their collecting, are turning to "thematic" collecting, i.e. the collection of stamps bearing on a single subject such as ships, trains, aeroplanes, birds, animals, etc. One of the most interesting of all subjects, and certainly one that has a wide field as far as stamps are concerned, is architecture. This subject can be pursued right from the time of the Pharaohs up to the present day. Perhaps one of the most interesting sections of this long period is the Gothic architecture and many extremely interesting hours can be spent on studying the buildings of this period incorporated in stamp designs.

This short article is devoted to the Belgian Gothic period only, for this country is probably as rich as any in this style and the Belgian Postal Authorities have certainly realised this, for her stamps give some magnificent examples of the work. Many other periods are, of course, shown on various Belgian stamps and the subject is well worth following up.

The architecture of Belgium during this period (AD 1200-1550) was governed by the same general principles as applied to all Gothic architecture in Europe but was of two types, that of the hilly part to the east being influenced by its Teutonic neighbour, Germany, and that of the low-lying part (Flanders) to the French character.

Belgian architecture is impressive largely by reason of its towers, spires and belfries; while no country is richer in the architecture of town, trade and guild halls. Throughout the Netherlands (Holland and Belgium) there is abundance of clay which supplied beautiful red bricks and this material of itself lent beauty to the style, more especially of domestic architecture, as seen in the façades of houses in the prosperous mediæval towns of both countries.

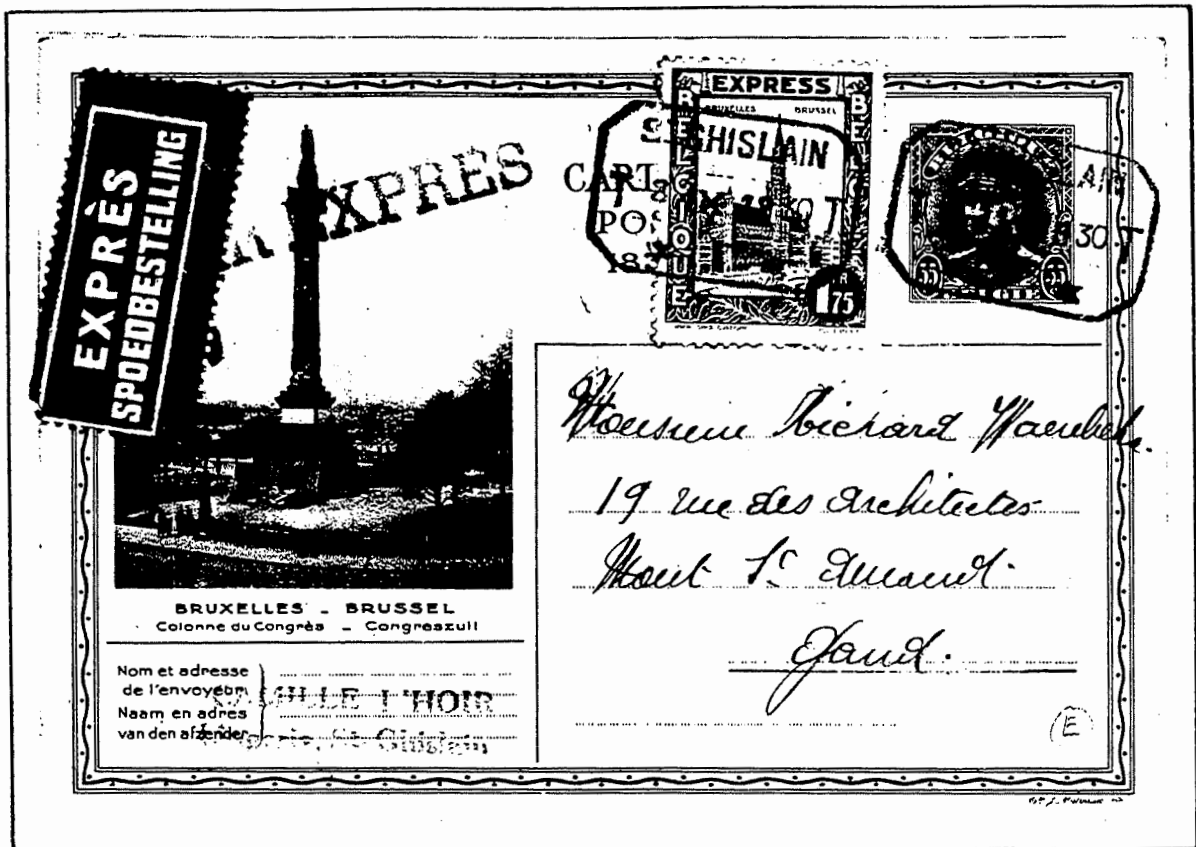
Belgium lies on the northern flank of the Ardennes and here beautiful marbles and stone are plentiful and were employed in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges, for churches and town halls; while granite-like stone from the hills was also used as in the many towered cathedral at Tournai, pictured on the 25 centime value of the 1928 Charity Set. This cathedral, built 1066-1338, illustrates the styles of three successive periods and is largely built of the favoured black Tournai marble. The nave is Romanesque; the circular-ended transepts with four towers and a lantern are Transitional (AD 1146) and the choir is fully developed Gothic.



Tournai Cathedral, COB 268

Mediæval architecture marched abreast of the social progress of the intrepid and industrious Belgian nation and the independent towns rivalled each other in the acts of war and peace. Guild houses and town halls of great magnificence, large in conception and rich in detail, reflect the wealth and prosperity of the merchants and weavers of such towns as Bruges, Antwerp, Louvain, Brussels, Ghent, Ypres, Courtrai and Oudenarde.

Some very fine examples are amply depicted on the stamps. The Town Hall, Brussels, on the 1fr.75c value of the Express Letter Set, has a typical Gothic façade, three storeys high, with mullioned windows and a profusion of statues, with a high roof, dormer windows and a central tower with richly ornamental upper octagon. It is a stately municipal building, built AD 1401-55.



Town Hall Brussels, COB 292C

At Bruges, as in many other cities, the belfry was a distinguishing feature of independence and signified an important privilege, often obtained by charter from the feudal lords. The belfry here, picturesque and commanding, dominating the old market hall of which it is a part, is 352 feet high and forms a landmark for many miles. Its carillon of bells is famous. Two very fine portrayals of this tower are shown, one in the 1939 Charity Set and the other the high value of the 1929 Set. This latter is probably one of the finest views in all Belgium and the recess printed stamp gives grace and elegance to the design. The Bruges belfry has been immortalised by Longfellow:

"In the market place of Bruges  
Stands the belfry old and brown;  
Thrice consumed and thrice rebuilt,  
Still it watches o'er the town."



COB 519

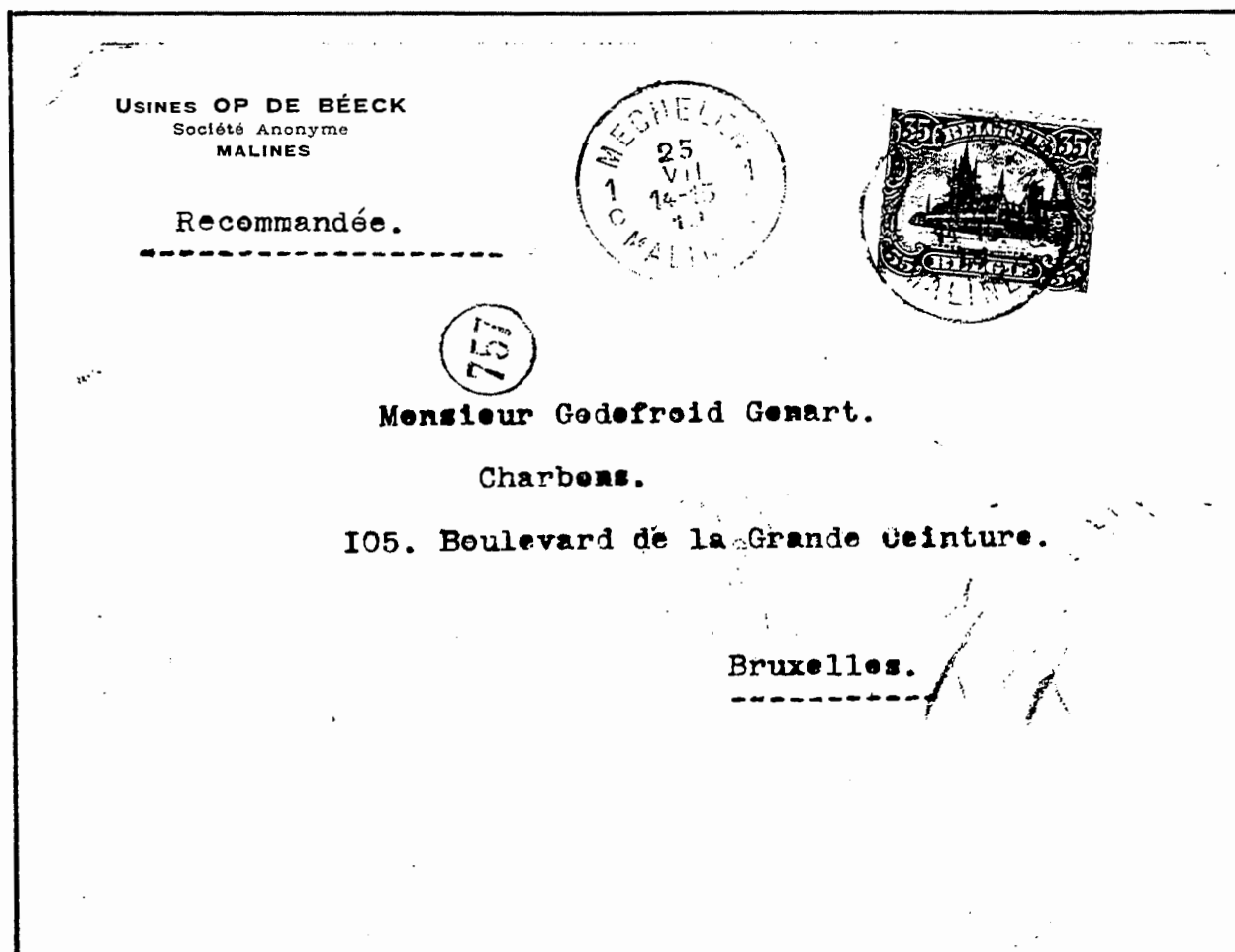
Bruges Belfrey



COB 298



The Cloth Hall, Ypres (AD 1200-1304), was the most famous and amongst the most ill-fated of all buildings erected during this period for mercantile purposes. Here was sold much of the cloth for which the country was famous. Until its complete destruction in 1915 by the invading Germans, it remained the most imposing monument of mediæval commercial architecture, with its long simple lines of repeated windows and statues, its high pitched roof and great central tower. The Belgian Post Office honoured this noble building by depicting it on one of the "Martyr Town" stamps of 1915.



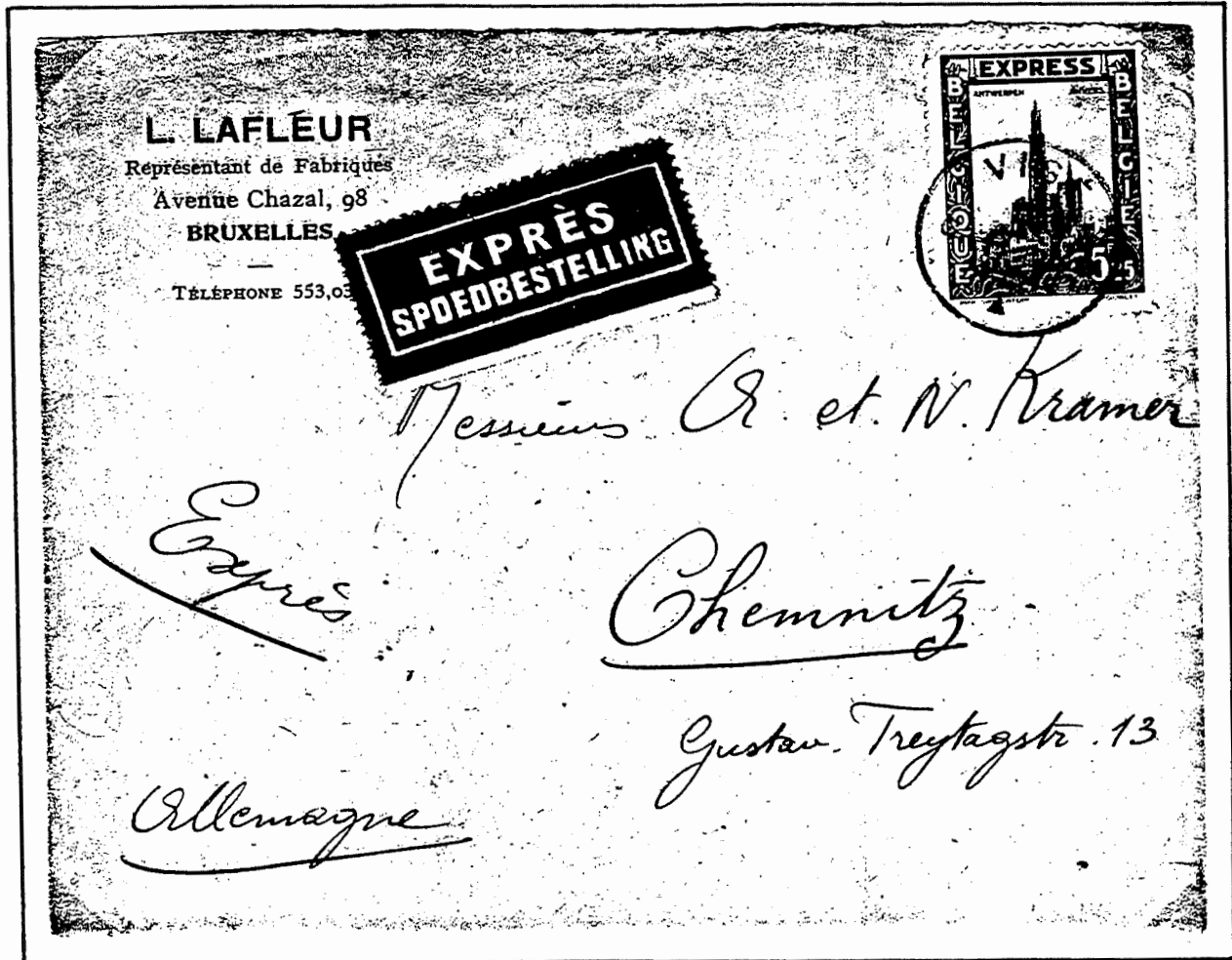
Cloth Hall Ypres, COB 142

The Cathedral of St. Gudule, Brussels, depends largely for its effect on its elevated site and two fine western towers (AD 1518), as shown on the 1fr.75c value of the already mentioned 1928 set. The choir (AD 1226) is generally considered the earliest Gothic work in Belgium. The large side chapels have some wonderful stained glass.



St. Gudule, Brussels, COB 271

Antwerp Cathedral, depicted on one of the Express Letter Sets, is probably the most impressive church in the country. It is remarkable for its nave and triple aisles and stained glass. The west front with its one immense tower and spire 400 feet high is graceful in the florid taste of the Gothic period.

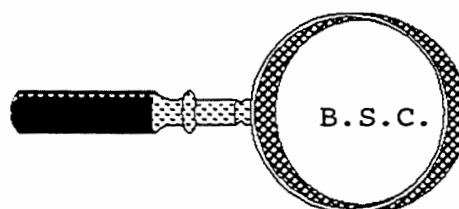


Antwerp Cathedral, COB 292G

An excellent example of the military Gothic of the period is shown on the 1fr. value of the 1930 Charity Set. It is the Castle of Ghent (rebuilt AD 1180). It formerly belonged to the Counts of Flanders. Judicious restoration gives a vivid impression of the disposition and use of the various parts of a complete fortified castle of the Middle Ages.

It is hoped that this short article will act as an introduction to the study and enjoyment of a whole range of stamps depicting the world's great architectural treasures. If it succeeds, then once again it will be seen that the study of the world's postage stamps is one of the greatest educational hobbies of our time.

The few short notes given here by no means exhaust the study of the Gothic period as depicted by the stamps of Belgium.



## BELGIAN REGISTERED MAIL: FROM ITS BEGINNINGS TO 1920

### Part 4

by Otto Z. Sellinger

#### GL 9: 1910-1919

As the use of this GL spans the World War I period (1914-1918), many registered letters mailed from Belgian towns and villages, either domestically or abroad, were franked with German occupation stamps, mostly those of the General Government (first issue: October 1, 1914; second issue: May 1, 1916) that ruled over a large part of Belgium. Registered letters leaving the territory administered by the German Army Corps and which comprised several towns in France, bore the "Territoire des Étapes" (December 1, 1916) issue stamps and are only infrequently seen. Registered mail originating in the sliver of Belgian territory, known as the "Territoires non-envahis" (unoccupied territories) and comprising 23 towns and villages, also made use of GL 9. The town handstamps on WW1 GLs were thus quite diverse and often of local production and "imperfect" appearance. The broad topic of WW1 registered mail originating in Belgium will not be further covered in this article as it represents a body of knowledge deserving separate and comprehensive treatment. A few examples only of the "mainstream" usage of this GL are given below.

A ten-weight registered letter to Italy (fig. 54) is shown, dated October 5, 1910, and bearing a tri-colour franking and a handstamped rather than a pre-printed town handstamp Bruxelles (Nord). This high value franking obeyed the new international rates (as of October 1, 1907) of 25 centimes for the first weight stage plus 15 centimes for an additional 20 gr. for a total of 25 plus  $(9 \times 15) = 1.60$  francs for postage plus 25 centimes for registration.

The use of GL 9 during WW1 is illustrated by the registered letter in fig. 55 from Jemappes-sur-Meuse to neutral Switzerland, dated February 7, 1916. As may be seen, a RECOMMANDÉE was penned on its front by the sender, the Coal Mines of Kessales, and a dateless double circle postmark in blue "AUSLANDSTELLE AACHEN" struck on it as well by the General Government censor, with FREIGEgeben in its centre, signifying "OK to release". The GL appears to be unmodified by the German Postal Authorities while the occupation stamps (50 centimes for postage plus registration) received the Belgian type II, unilingual date cancel (22.5mm in diameter) in use since November 1910.

The same GL 9 and date cancel appear on the registered letter in fig. 56, mailed to a Belgian internee residing in the internment camp of Zeist, Holland. Yet the stamp on this letter is a 25 centimes of the 1915 (London print) issue and the town handstamp and date cancel those of Oostvleteren, one of the 23 "free Belgium" localities during WW1. Since the sender must have been a beneficiary of the "no fee for postage" exemptions for military personnel, no postage was required and only the registration fee had to be paid.

A post-WW1 use of GL 9 (fig. 57) exists on a registered "*Echantillon sans Valeur*" (sample with no commercial value) mailing dated June 13, 1919, from Gent (unilingual date cancel in Flemish) to Seattle, USA. A US boxed "*Registered*" handstamp was also struck on the envelope, which received a boxed "*Free US Custom, Seattle*" handstamp as well. The postage amounted to 10 centimes (5 centimes/50 gr. with a 10 centimes minimum) plus 25 centimes for registration with no extra fee for the forwarding within Seattle.

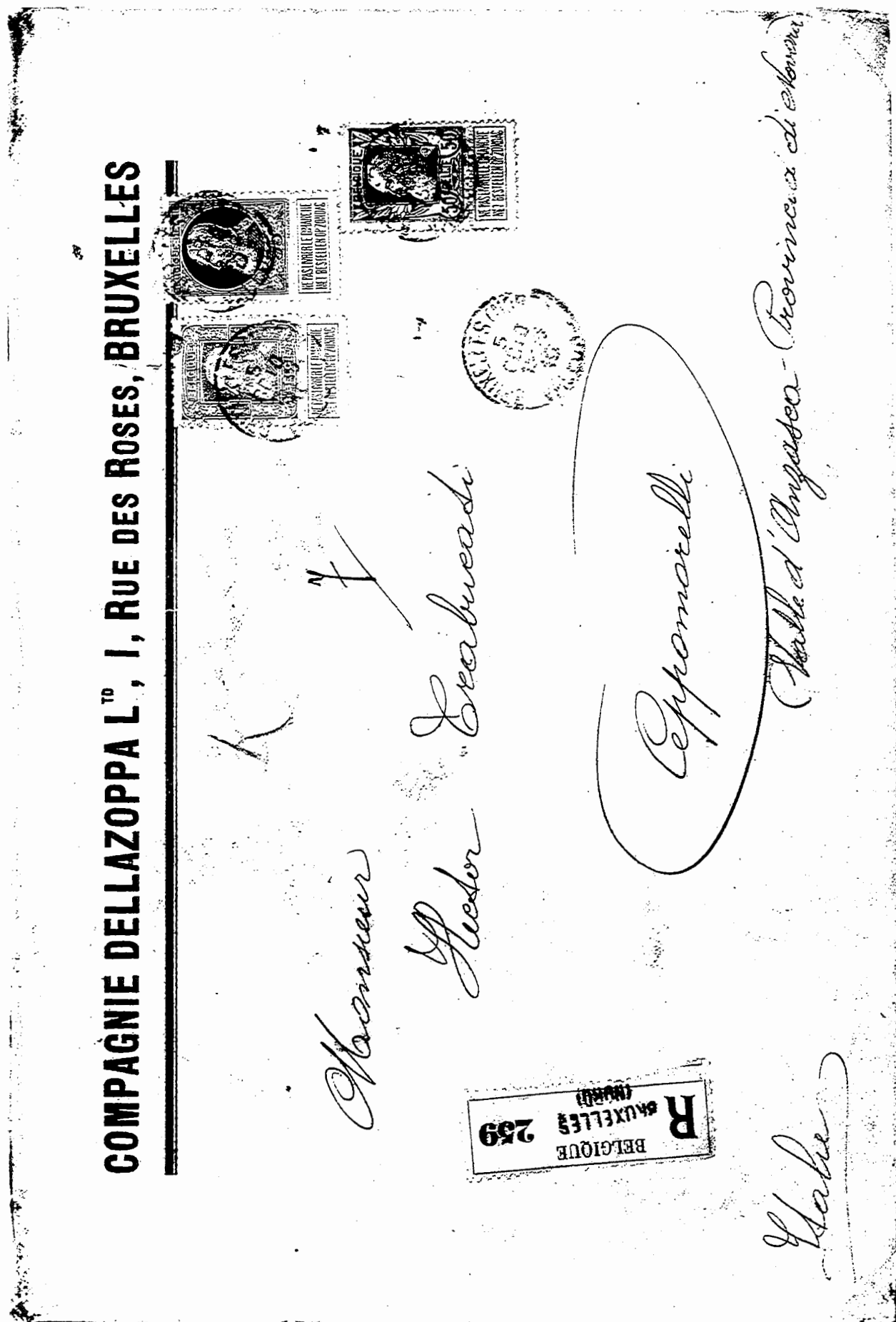


Figure 54 - Brussels to Ceppomorelli, 5th October 1910



Figure 55 - Jemeppe-sur-Meuse to Lucerne, 7th February 1916

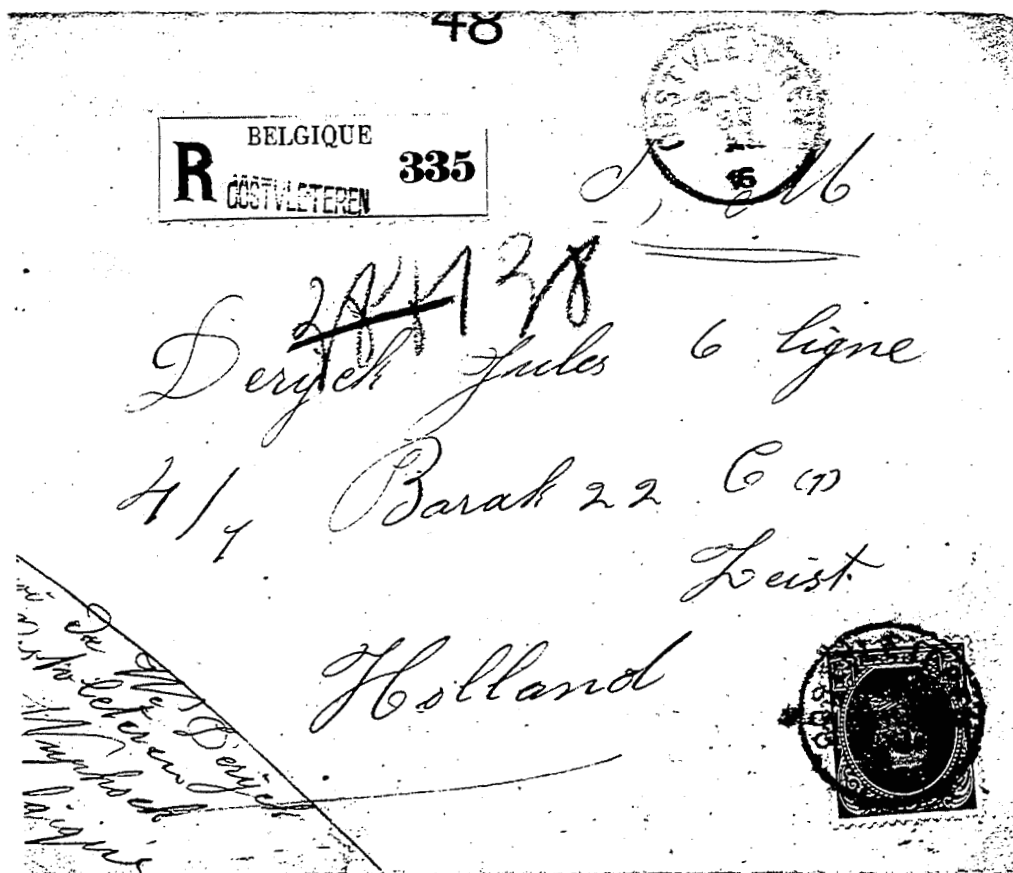


Figure 56 - Oostvleteren to Zeist, 30th November 1916



Figure 57 - Gent to Seattle, 13th June 1919

## GL 10: 1912-1918

The postal card to Holland bearing a GL 10 (St. Bernard) and a blue pencilled A.R. (Avis de Reception, see fig. 40) penned in Dutch as "Met Ontvangsbewijs" and underlined in blue, shows the availability of this service in 1916. The franking was 10 centimes for postage and 25 centimes each for registration and the return receipt (fig. 58).



Figure 58 - St. Bernard to Holland, 14th January 1916




The other GL 10 (fig. 59) symbolises the provisional nature of things postal in the immediate post-WW1 period, i.e. on December 12, 1918, in Dinant. The advertising cover to Brussels received: a) a GL 10 with Dinant written in red ink; b) an inverted PAYE handstamp indicating that payment of postage took place in cash at the window, there being no stamps available; and c) the totally provisional octagonal private bank handstamp for receipt of cash "Dinant-Caisse" with the date 10/12/18 in red ink inside a circle. If nothing else, this common registered letter demonstrates a "business as usual" attitude in Dinant, barely one month after Armistice Day, November 11, 1918.

## A. DEGRAUX & C<sup>IE</sup>

### DINANT

<p><b>CONFECTIONS pour hommes, jeunes gens et enfants</b>          -- IMPERMÉABLES --  <b>BELLE CONFECTION SUR MESURES</b>  <b>DEUIL EN 12 HEURES</b>          DRAPERIES &amp; TISSUS EN TOUS GENRES          ARTICLES BLANCS  <b>NAPPAGES - STORES - RIDEAUX</b>  <i>Spécialité de Toiles fortes</i>  <b>CHEMISES SUR MESURES</b></p>	<p><b>CONFECTIONS POUR DAMES ET FILLETES</b>          TISSUS, SOIERIES, NOUVEAUTÉS  <b>ROBES &amp; VÊTEMENTS SUR MESURES</b>          SPÉCIALITÉ POUR DEUIL          LINGERIES, BRODERIES          -- TROUSSEAUX, LAYETTES, CORSETS, MERCERIE --  <i>Ganterie, Bonneterie, Passementerie</i>  <b>BLOUSES, JUPONS, PEIGNOIRS</b>  <b>FOURRURES</b></p>
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**R** BELGIQUE **41**

**PAYE**

158

Messieurs Fischer frères,  
 38 rue aux Choux,  
 Bruxelles

Figure 59 - Dinant to Brussels, 12th December 1918

#### GL 11: 1915-1918

GL 11 was a truly provisional gummed label seen only on registered mail departing the "Free Belgium" territory during WW1 and the small Belgian enclave of Baarle-Hertog-Baarle-Duc in neutral Holland. This is a town near the Belgian border in which even today (I was there in 1996) a Dutch and a French-speaking Belgian Post Office co-exist a few blocks apart.

Fig. 60 illustrates three features characteristic of the postal service operations outside of German-occupied Belgium during WW1: a) The GL 11s "emaciated" appearance, so different from the bold "Made in Belgium" GLs of the prewar years; b) the use of charity (semi-postal) stamps to pay for part of the 1.10Fr. postage required by the 5-weight registered letter to Canada, namely 85 centimes for postage (25 + 4 x 15 centimes) plus 25 centimes for registration. To this end, 5 centimes of one of the semi-postal stamps issued on January 1, 1915 in London to benefit the Belgian Red Cross was used to make up the total postage, while the other semi-postal 5 centimes stamp was tied on as an add-on; and c) Baarle-Hertog being but a subsidiary "Dépôt-Relais" post office, its datestamp carries the two distinctive stars, seen in Fig. 45.



Figure 60 - Baarle-Hertog to Montreal, 16th May 1916

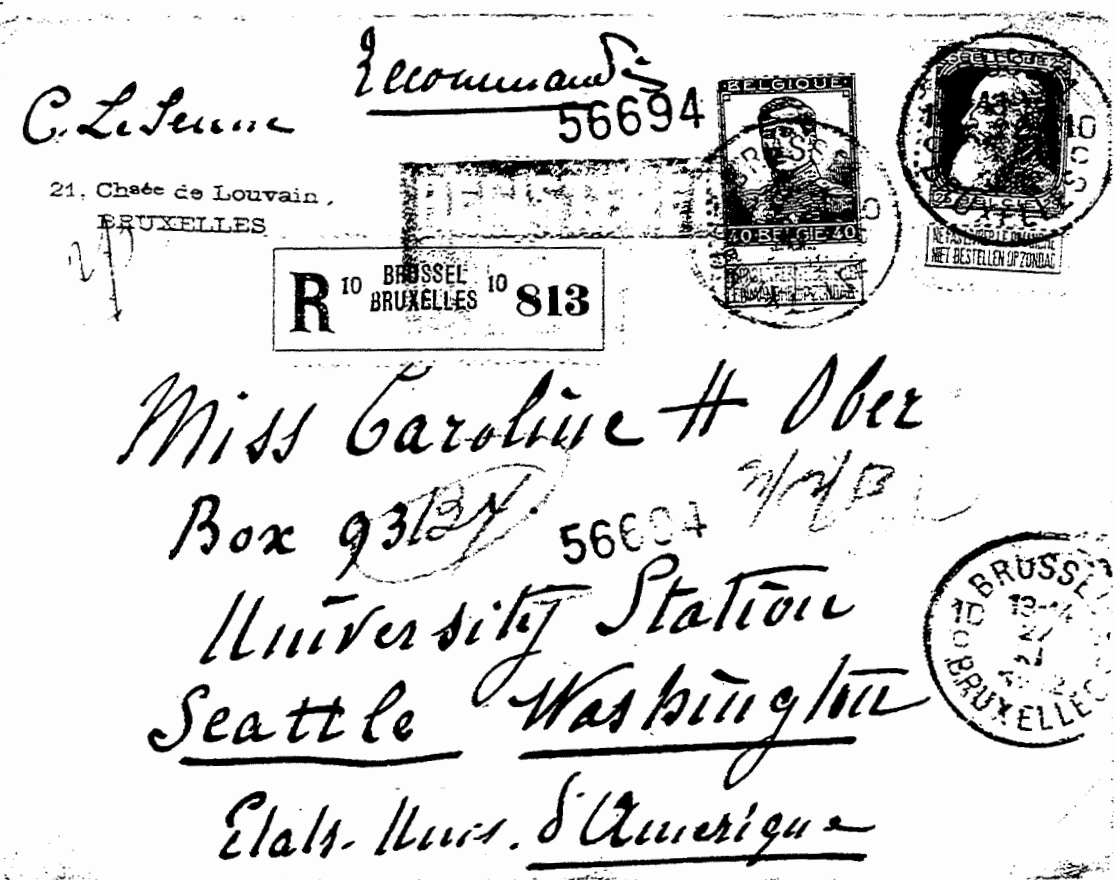


Figure 61 - Brussels to Seattle, 27th November 1912

## GL 12: 1914-1919

Of all Belgian GLs in use during WW1, GL 12 had the most prominent role, inasmuch as its usage was numerically preponderant. In Silverberg's article<sup>1b</sup>, GL 12 is listed as seeing life in 1914. Yet, according to De Keyser<sup>19</sup> this GL, characterised mainly by the omission of the word BELGIQUE on it, was noted on a letter from Ixelles to Tournai on December 24, 1913. A letter in my possession, Fig. 61, carries a bilingual town-handstamp on a GL 12 dated November 27, 1912. The mixed issue franking from Brussels 10 to Seattle, USA, is composed of a 25 centimes Grosse Barbe issue stamp plus a 40 centimes Pellens issue stamp, in circulation as of July 1, 1912, the 65 centimes paying for the double-weight postage (25 centimes/20 grammes + 15 centimes per additional 20 grammes, as of October 1, 1907). A United States REGISTERED handstamp adorns the letter's front together with two Chicago (December 10, 1912) and two Seattle (December 13, 1912) backstamps.

A 1918 use of the GL 12 is illustrated in Fig. 62 on a registered letter from Courcelles 2 (as of October 19, 1910), dated August 22, 1918, addressed to a Belgian forced-labour worker in Bed 9640, Barracks 24 in the Forced Labour Workers' Camp in Essen, Germany. The registered letter was sent special delivery and a German red gummed label "Durch Eilboten-Exprès" was tied on the letter, together with a handstamp of the German Military Examiner in Brussels-D. The letter's franking was 25 centimes each for postage and registration plus 30 centimes for special delivery: 80 centimes. The stamps were cancelled with a peculiar datestamp, resembling the 28mm in diameter date-cancels, used on the Grosse Barbe and Pellens issues, yet differing from these by virtue of its five dots in the lower portion, instead of seven or thirteen. Whether this peculiarity is unique for the Courcelles 2 date-cancel remains to be resolved. The effectiveness of special delivery instructions is confirmed by the letter's arrival in Essen in three days yet, regrettably, as noted in a pencilled remark on the flap: "addressee could not be reached".



Figure 62 - Courcelles to Essen, 22nd August 1918



A postWW1 usage of GL 12, Fig. 63, with a provisional large capital letter BRUXELLES 1 town-handstamp and a large size REGISTERED struck by the US postal clerk, occurs on a registered letter, dated January 3, 1919, to Floral Park, New York, USA. The letter has, on its reverse side, an 85 x 57mm "opened by censor" No. 314 label plus two oval New York Reg.y Div. datestamps (February 24, 1919). It is evident that censoring the letter delayed its arrival in Floral Park considerably.



Figure 63 - Brussels to New York, 3rd January 1919



Figure 64 - Brussels to Cincinnati, 14th February 1920

A rather late date for GL 12 is illustrated in Fig. 64. This registered letter from Brussel 1 to Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, dated February 14, 1920, sports a GL 12 with a bilingual BRUSSEL-BRUXELLES 1 preprinted handstamp, typical of the capital. Of interest is the rare usage of the 1 Franc "Helmet" issue stamp, together with a 40 centimes stamp of the same issue on it, a seven-weight letter (25 + 6 x 15 centimes + 1.15 Francs for postage plus 25 centimes for registration: 1.40 Francs) to the US. A registered letter from Hachy to Arlon, Fig. 65, is dated still later: ie December 28, 1920, and is provided with a GL 12, provisional in appearance and in the numeral and town-handstamp patterns, probably because of its war-remainder provenance. The franking of the letter amounted to 40 centimes (25 + 15 centimes for 2nd weight) for postage plus 40 centimes for registration (as of September 20, 1920).



Figure 65 – Hachy to Arlon, 28th December 1920



## GL 13: 1919-1942

With the illustration of the use of GL 13 (no BELGIQUE plus a slender, short [7mm] and elegant R), this article's objective is nearing its end.

A particularly early date for GL 13, given the usage of GL 12 on the 1920 letters shown in Fig. 66, is illustrated in the censored, registered letter departing Brussels (Quartier Léopold) on April 22, 1919 and arriving in Luxembourg (Ville) on April 23, 1919, to reach its final destination in Dommeldange (near Eich?) on April 24, 1919. The exclusive use of the 1915 semi-postal stamps, although unusual after the War, was perfectly legal until August 15, 1920, and they paid for the reduced postage rate to Luxembourg of 15 centimes/20 grammes (as of February 1, 1919 and until February 1, 1921). Registration, as usual, was 25 centimes. Thus, only half of the face value of the four stamps (80 centimes) served as postage, the remainder going to the Red Cross.



Figure 66 – Brussels to Eich, 22nd April 1919

A registered letter, Fig. 67, dated December 6, 1920, and with a bilingual LIEGE-LUIK 1 town-handstamp in its GL 13 and a bilingual type III datestamp on the 50 centimes stamp of the 1915 issue arrived in Connecticut, USA, underfranked. Indeed, as just noted, registration went up to 40 centimes on September 20, 1920, yet only 25 centimes were charged in December of that year.

Finally, the registered letter in Fig. 68 demonstrates that not only did a registered letter travel to the USA underfranked in 1920 but it could also travel without a gummed label. In fact the commercial letter, franked with two 25 centime stamps of the 1915 issue, left Ensival on February 25, 1920 and arrived in Oak Park, Illinois, USA, on March 18, 1920. Its delivery was facilitated by the boxed, US-style REGISTERED handstamp, probably because the US postal clerk noted the typed and underlined Belgian "Recommandée". The subsequent re-routing of the letter to Little River, Dade County, Florida, proceeded uneventfully and, hopefully, reached The American Ammunition Company following its move from Illinois to Florida (sic).



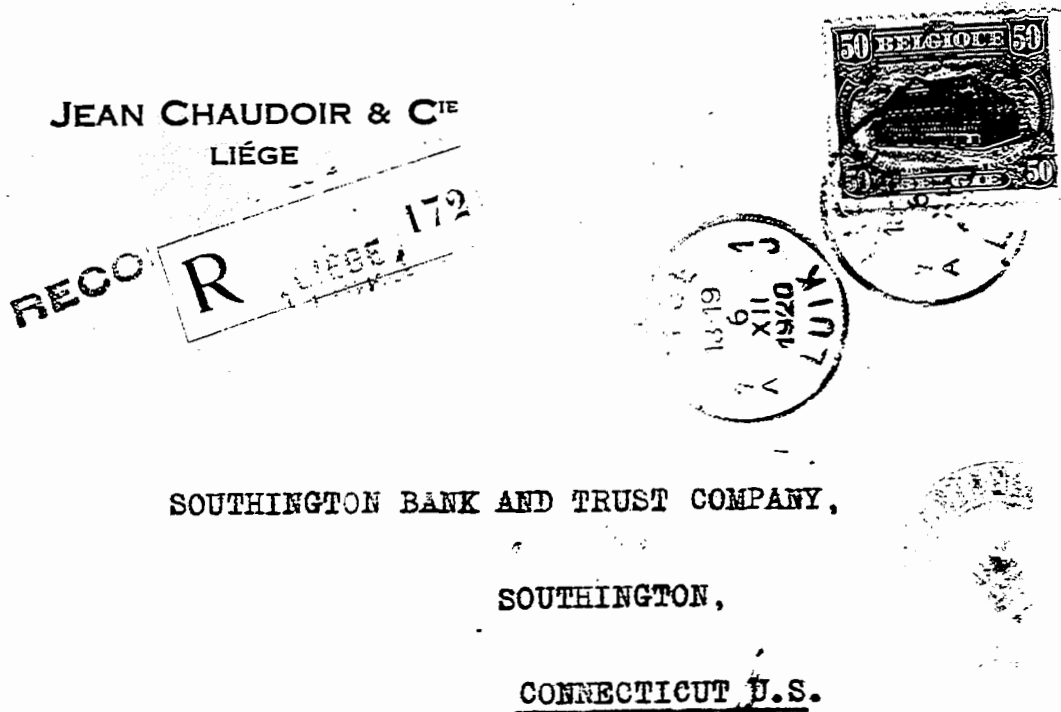


Figure 67 - Liege to Connecticut, 6th December 1920

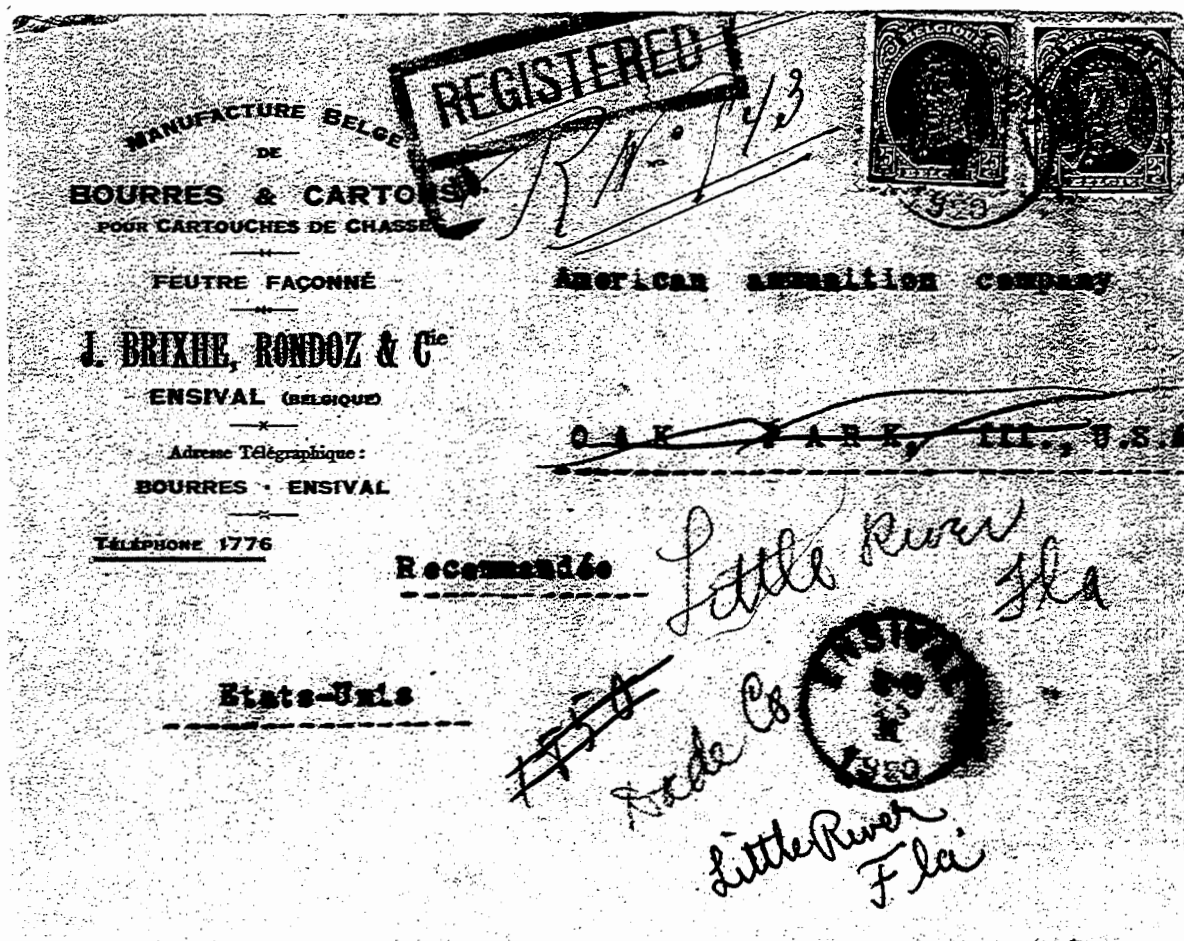


Figure 68 - Ensival to Oak Park, 25th February 1920



Figure 69 - La Paz to Tournai, 6th April 1905



Figure 70 - Schaerbeek to Montevideo, 25th June 1909

# GLs ON INCOMING REGISTERED MAIL - FOREIGN GLs ON BELGIAN OUTGOING MAIL

In order to ensure the proper handling of incoming registered mail at a time when Belgium had gummed labels (after July 1882) and the originating countries did not, Belgian GLs were affixed on such incoming letters. No inscription was allowed but as Fig. 69 indicates, this was not always strictly adhered to. Note the Bolivian three-line, blue, ornamented registration handstamp. Finally, to point out the relative reciprocity of this process, the Montevideo registry clerk tied an Uruguayan GL on the registered letter from Schaerbeek (R. Royale Ste. Marie) to Montevideo, dated June 25, 1909, and arriving in Uruguay on July 16, 1909, despite the presence on it of a regular GL 8 (Fig. 70).

**Note:** As mentioned at the beginning of this article, listed below are some references to registration in the pre-stamp period.

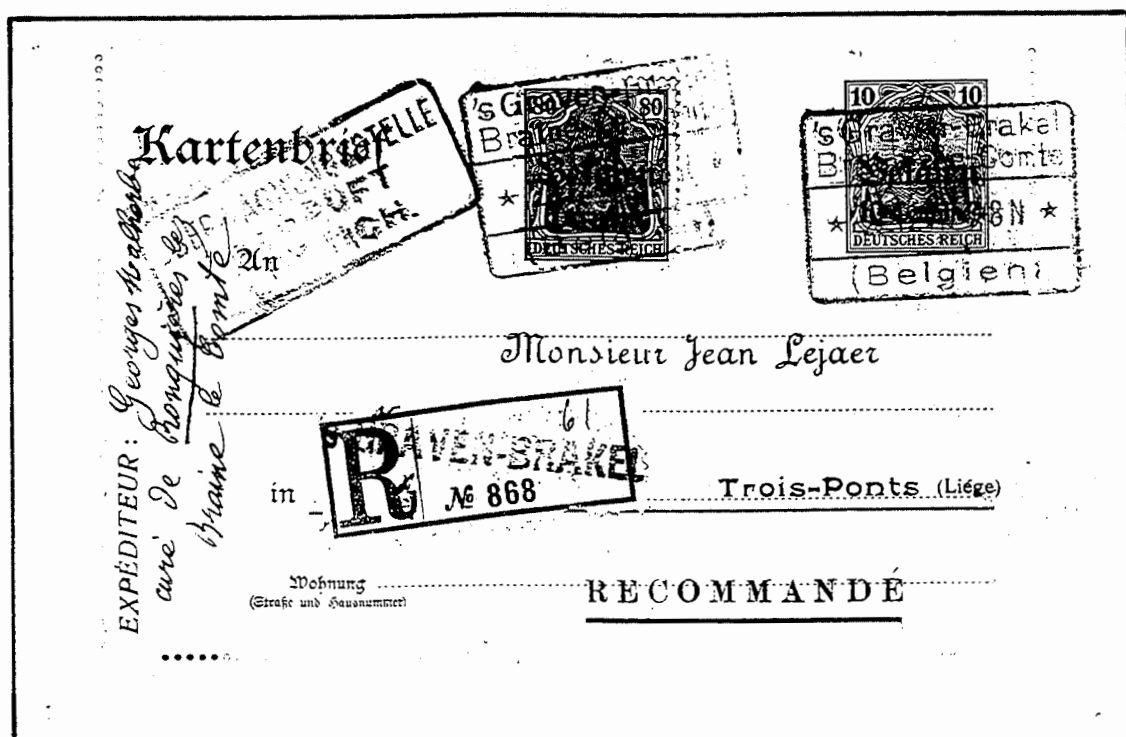
- a) Palmans, W. "Postmerk NB (*nota bene*) voor aangetekende Brieven", in *VBP Studiedring*, September 1979.
- b) The article by J. Van der Linden in Reference No. 7 of the Bibliography: "Anvers dans le réseau international des postes de la Tour et Taxis, 1541-1789", pp 63-111.
- c) The article by M. Coopens and P. De Gryse in Reference No. 7 of the Bibliography: "Le trafic postal à Anvers", pp 25-62.

## Reference

19. De Keyser, P. *Bandelette-Club* 6, No. 3, 32 (1995).

## FIRST WORLD WAR - PHILATELIC INSPIRATION

A letter card to which has been added a 1 Franc overprinted stamp for philatelic purposes. From Braine-Le-Comte, 22nd December 1917, to Jean Lejaer who was attempting to obtain a cancellation from all post offices in Belgium. Note use of CURÉ for posting.



# NON-RAILWAY CANCELS ON RAILWAY STAMPS

## Part I

by W. W. Moss

Starting with Tom Jones in 1970, a number of surveys of Railway Cancellations have been made and articles written. One area that has not been covered so far is the use of non-Railway cancels on Railway stamps. They fall roughly into two categories. Telegraph and General Post, and they will be dealt with in that order. Although it says General Post, in effect this means CDSs as will be noted later.

I am most grateful to Mr. Norman Claydon for supplying me with information on cancels in his collection; this study is based on that and on my personal collection and is not intended as an exhaustive survey, but as something to start interested parties on looking through their collections and adding to the lists, both types and places. It is also a plea for information, as will become apparent.

One point to note, all place-name spellings used in this article are those on the actual cancel. That all the three main types of cancel (Rail, Telegraph and CDS) were in use on Rail stamps virtually simultaneously, at least in the early part of the century, is shown by Fig. 1. Note that these are all from the same place (SAVENTHEM) and on the same stamp (CF 27). Similar application can also be found on General Post stamps as these were apparently used for Rail purposes from quite early dates (we have documentary evidence for this from the mid-30s onwards and stamps with parts of rail cancels back to pre-1900) and can be found with Railway or Telegraph cancels. Telegraph stamps also appear with each of the cancel types. This will be discussed further.

The example given happens to be on the top value stamps of the particular issue but this is by no means the usual case for Telegraph cancels on either Rail or General stamps. They appear on stamps as low as 20c (CF 138) though this might of course have been a 'make-up' to value.



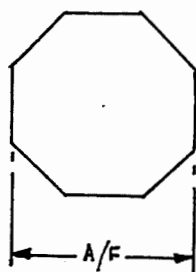
Fig. 1

### 1. Telegraph Cancels

As far as use on Railway stamps is concerned, these are mainly in the form of Octagonal handstamps. There is another type, a rectangular box usually with chamfered corners, for which we have a few examples used mainly in the 1940s.

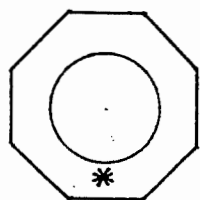
#### a) Octagons (Figs 2 and 3)

At first glance these looked pretty straightforward, being an Octagonal handstamp with the usual date information and either with or without an internal circle; the earlier ones with, the later without. However, as we should expect from the varieties of Rail cancels, this is an over-simplification.

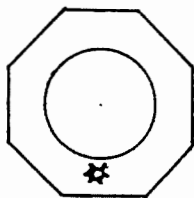


A/F	TYPE
22mm	1
24-25mm	2
28mm	3

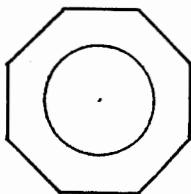
FIRST NUMBER - SIZE



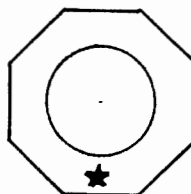
1



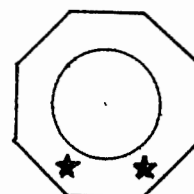
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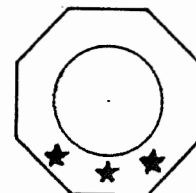
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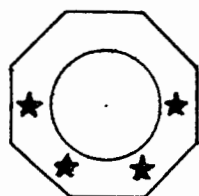
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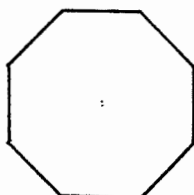
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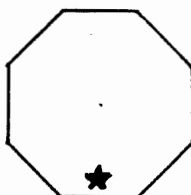
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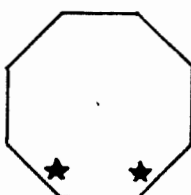
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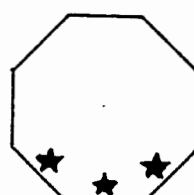
8



9



10



11

SECOND NUMBER - GEOMETRY

13  
JUL  
88

a

13  
JUL  
88

b

13  
JUL  
1888

c

12  
MAY  
1904

d

12  
MAY

e

21  
IX  
14

f

21  
IX  
1914

g

NO  
DATE  
BLOCK

h

SUFFIX - DATE FORMAT

IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR OCTAGONS

Fig. 2



TYPE 1/1a



TYPE 1/2a



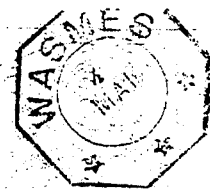
TYPE 2/3c



TYPE 2/4b



TYPE 2/5b



TYPE 2/6e



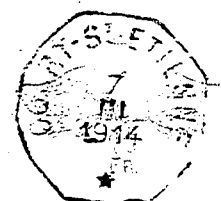
TYPE 2/7b



TYPE 3/8g  
(FOR INFO)



TYPE 2/9b



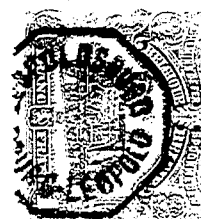
TYPE 2/9g



TYPE 2/10d



TYPE 2/11g



TYPE 2/8

Fig. 3



The varieties are:

- i) Size.
- ii) Inner circle/no inner circle.
- iii) Year in full/2-number.
- iv) Month in letters/Roman numerals.
- v) Month upright/italic.
- vi) With/without asterisks/stars.
- vii) Colour.

Fortunately these are not used in all possible permutations.

In order to bring some discipline to identification a 3-symbol system is used. Refer to Fig. 2. The first symbol (a number) defines the size category, effectively small, medium and large; the second symbol (a number) defines the geometry as per the illustrations; the final symbol (a lower-case letter) defines the date-block type, again as illustrated. Note that in no case is time given.

This selection of geometries and date-blocks are based on the actual varieties present in the NC and WM collections, information on others would be welcomed and fed into the system in a follow-up. Examples of various configurations are illustrated in Fig. 3 and identified using the 3-symbol system.

Taking each variant in turn -

- i) Sizes run from approximately 22mm A/F (across flats) to 28mm A/F. The biggest size only appears on General Post stamps so far and an example is illustrated for reference.
- ii) In general terms inner circles came first, plain Octagons later; in practice there is considerable overlap, the latest inner circle being 1911, the earliest plain being 1884, though this is something of an anomaly, and the earliest 'real' one is more likely 1905.
- iii) Almost all inner circles have 2-digit years, there not really being room in the circle for the 4-number year. However exceptions again, the most notable being type-3 where the year is in full at the base between the circle and the Octagon. In plain Octagons, the earlier ones tend to have 2-digit, the later 4-digit.
- iv) This follows the pattern of other types of cancel (Rail and CDS). Originally all months were 'names' (always in French on octagons) and then later changed to Roman numerals. This change was better organised than most, the latest 'name' being 1911, the earliest 'numerals' being 1914. Can anyone close the gap?
- v) Some early examples (always small) have the month in italics; the latest is 1889.
- vi) Some early examples have one of the types of asterisk but these are always outnumbered by ones with stars except very early. The latest asterisk is 1898. There can be from none to four stars present, the only examples with none being Type 3 with date and Type 8 where the place-name takes up the whole circumference. So far we have not found an Octagon with no inner circle and four stars. Stars are always solid.
- vii) Colour is usually black, rarely blue. However, as there are only four examples of blue it was not thought worth adding a fourth symbol; they will be noted in the list under 'Comments'.

There is one major variety known (Fig. 3). This is a cancel for LEOPOLDSBURG which has no information at all except the place-name. However, as this is used on CF 71 it is most probable that this is being used as a temporary post-First World War cancel. In that case it does not strictly belong in this article (see CDS chapter in a future issue of "BELGAPOST") but it is illustrated for information.

The cancels that NC and WM have are listed below. The earliest date is 1880 and the latest 1919 (the undated ones are all on earlier stamps than this). For comparison the earliest and latest dates for Octagons on General postage stamps are 1887-1929. These easily overlap the latest for Octagonal cancels on Telegraph stamps, that being 1910 (on TG14), Telegraph stamps having ceased to be used on 1st March, 1911.

Octagonal Cancels

<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Stamp</u>	<u>Type</u>
BATTICE	1880	FEVR	CF 4	1/1a
BEAURAING	1925	JUIL	CF150	?
BLEYBERG	1882	OCT	CF 4	1/2a
BRUXELLES CHEE. DE LOUVAIN	1889	OCT	CF 12	1/4a
CINEY	1884	SEPT	CF 2	2/6b
COURT-ST-ETIENNE	1914	III	CF 47	2/9g
DIEST (STATION)	1897	NOV	CF 26	1/2a
DOLHAIN	1920	V	CF 69	2/10g
DOUR	1887	DECE	CF 12	2/6b
EENAEME	1881	NOV	CF 5	1/6a
EENAME	1902	JUIN	CF 21	2/6b
ENSIVAL	1884	JAN	CF 1	1/2a
ERWETEGEM	?	JUIN	CF 27	2/5?
ERWETEGEM	1903	OCTO	CF 40	2/5b
ERWETEGEM	1906	AVRIL	CF 41	2/5b
ESEMAEL	1884	AOUT	CF 12	2/6b
ESNEUX	1885	NOVE	CF 12	2/6b
FORCHIES	1885	AVRIL	CF 3	2/6b
FRASNES-LEZ-BUISSENAL	1920	IV	CF 97	?
FRASNES-LEZ-GOSSELIES	1884	NOV	CF 12	1/2a
GAND (RABOT)	1886	AOUT	CF 1	2/4b
GAND (RABOT)	1886	DECE	CF 6	2/4b
GEMBOUX	1920	II	CF 76	2/5g
GEMBOUX	1920	I	CF 64	2/5g
GEMBOUX	1920	II	CF 84	2/10g
GENTBRUGGE (NORD)	1903	JUIL	CF 24	2/4b
GENVAL	?	?	CF 74	2/9?
HAMME	1903	MARS	CF 24	2/4b
HAMME	1903	SEPT	CF 40	2/4b
HAMME	1904	JUIL	CF 39	2/4g
HAMME	1908	OCTO	CF 34	2/?b
HAMME	1909	NOVE	CF 41	2/4b
HANNUT	1887	JUIL	CF 7	2/4a
HENNUYERES	1904	MAI	CF 39	2/5b
HERSTAL	?	?	CF 24	2/4?
HERSTAL	1889	MAI	CF 11	2/4b
HUY (STATTE)	1909	AOUT	CF 35	2/4b
KNOCKE	1903	JANV	CF 24	2/6b
KOEKELBERG	1905	MARS	CF 30	2/9b
LA HULPE	1886	JUIN	CF 12	2/5b
LAEKEN (STAT.)	1919	XI	CF 65	2/9g
LAEKEN (STAT.)	1920	I	CF 71	2/9g
LAEKEN (STATION)	1903	MAI	CF 35	2/4b
LANDEGHEM	?	SEPT	CF 12	1/1a
LAVAUX	1890	MARS	CF 11	2/4b
LEAU	1890	FEVR	CF 11	2/6b
LEMBECQ-LEZ-HALLE	1903	NOVE	CF 35	2/4b
LEOPOLDSBURG BURG-LEOPOLD	N/A	N/A	CF 71	2/8h
LICHTAERT	1904	JUIL	CF 41	2/5b
LIEGE (LONGDOZ) (ZOO...)	1928	VIII	CF138	2/8g
LOTH	1895	AOUT	CF 13	2/6b
LUSTIN	1895	OCTO	CF 28	2/3c
MEULEBEEK	1903	SEPT	CF 25	2/3c
MEULEBEEK	1904	AOUT	CF 37	2/3c

Octagonal Cancels (cont.)

<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Stamp</u>	<u>Type</u>
MODAVE	1890	JUIL	CF 11	2/6b
MONSVILLE	1885	MARS	CF 2	2/4b
MORESNET	1923	V	CF107	2/11g
MORESNET	1923	II	CF117	2/11g
MOUSTIER	1903	SEPT	CF 38	2/4b
MOUSTIER	1905	AOUT	CF 37	2/9b
NIVELLES EST	1886	SEPT	CF 12	1/4a
OGY	1902	JUIL	CF 19	2/7b
OGY	1904	NOVE	CF 35	2/7b
OLSENE	1904	SEPT	CF 39	2/6b
ORP	1920	V	CF 71	2/11g
PAEL	1887	OCTO	CF 11	2/7b
PATURAGES	1904	MARS	CF 38	2/5b
PITTHEM	1896	OCTO	CF 13	2/4b
QUIEVRAIN	1909	FEVR	CF 37	2/5b
SAVENTHEM	?	NOVE	CF 27	2/5?
SAVENTHEM	1888	JUIN	CF 13	2/5b
SAVENTHEM	1904	MARS	CF 14	2/5b
SAVENTHEM	N/A	NOVE	CF 17	2/5?
SCALAIGNEUX	1911	MARS	CF 35	2/3c
SIGNEULX	1884	AVRIL	CF 3	1/2a
SIGNEULX	1887	NOVE	CF 11	2/4b
SIVRY (STATION)	1913	DECE	CF 39	2/5d
STADEN	1910	SEPT	CF 42	2/10d
THIELT	1890	AOUT	CF 11	1/2a
THUIN (OUEST)	1882	AOUT	CF 5	2/5b
TROIS-POINTS	1898	DEC	CF 12	1/2a
WARNETON	1887	JUIN	CF 11	2/6b
WASMES	N/A	MAI	CF 12	2/6e
WILLEBROECK	1919	AOUT	CF 65	2/9b
WILLEBROEK	1888	MAI	CF 11	1/2a

b) Rectangles (Fig. 4)

There are very few of these on Railway stamps, rather more on General (postage) stamps, where, due to the usually smaller size of stamp, they are less likely to be fully identifiable. At first sight there appears to be a similar variation as with the Octagons of have or have-not an inner box; in fact, the inner box only appears clearly on PATURAGES. Some other places seem to show traces, see SINT-LAMBERT and ROMEDENNE in Fig. 4, but these are faint and inconsistent; it is assumed that the marks are caused by mismatch of the removable date-block.

There is a lot of variation in the bottom of the cancel but the most common is two solid stars as SINT-LAMBERT; this is not obvious from the ones listed here but a survey of identifiable examples on General post gives nine locations with stars and four with other things (including two BRUXELLES with the translation at the bottom). This is not the place to go into these in detail, unlike the Octagons which had widespread variations on Railway stamps; perhaps someone would be interested to make such a study. The one virtual constant appears to be the middle line which always has a capital 'T' at either end and a date in between in the format Day/Month/Year. On most examples the year is in full, the notable exception being PATURAGES which has the year as two numbers and shows the time. Up until at least July 1948, the format is Day/Month/Year/Time, then, from at least October 1949, this changes to Day/Month/Time Year; again, can anyone reduce this gap?

As the examples available are so few, it was not thought worth setting up an identification system as for Octagons. Fig. 4 shows the principal types, including some on General post stamps for reference. (This also shows the problem with cancels on this size; note that there is a BRUXELLES one which has square corners - perhaps we shall need to have an identification system eventually.)

The cancels are listed below. The earliest is 1931, the latest 1951; on General stamps the earliest legible date is 1921 (on CO 144) but there are several others on stamps of the Albert 1915-19 series with illegible dates. In any event, there is definite evidence for an overlap between this type and the Octagons. The latest date on General post is 1966 (TUBIZE on CO 1361).

One final point - PATURAGES seems to have embraced this type of cancel on Railway stamps with some enthusiasm: it is by a long way the most numerous of its type in both collections.

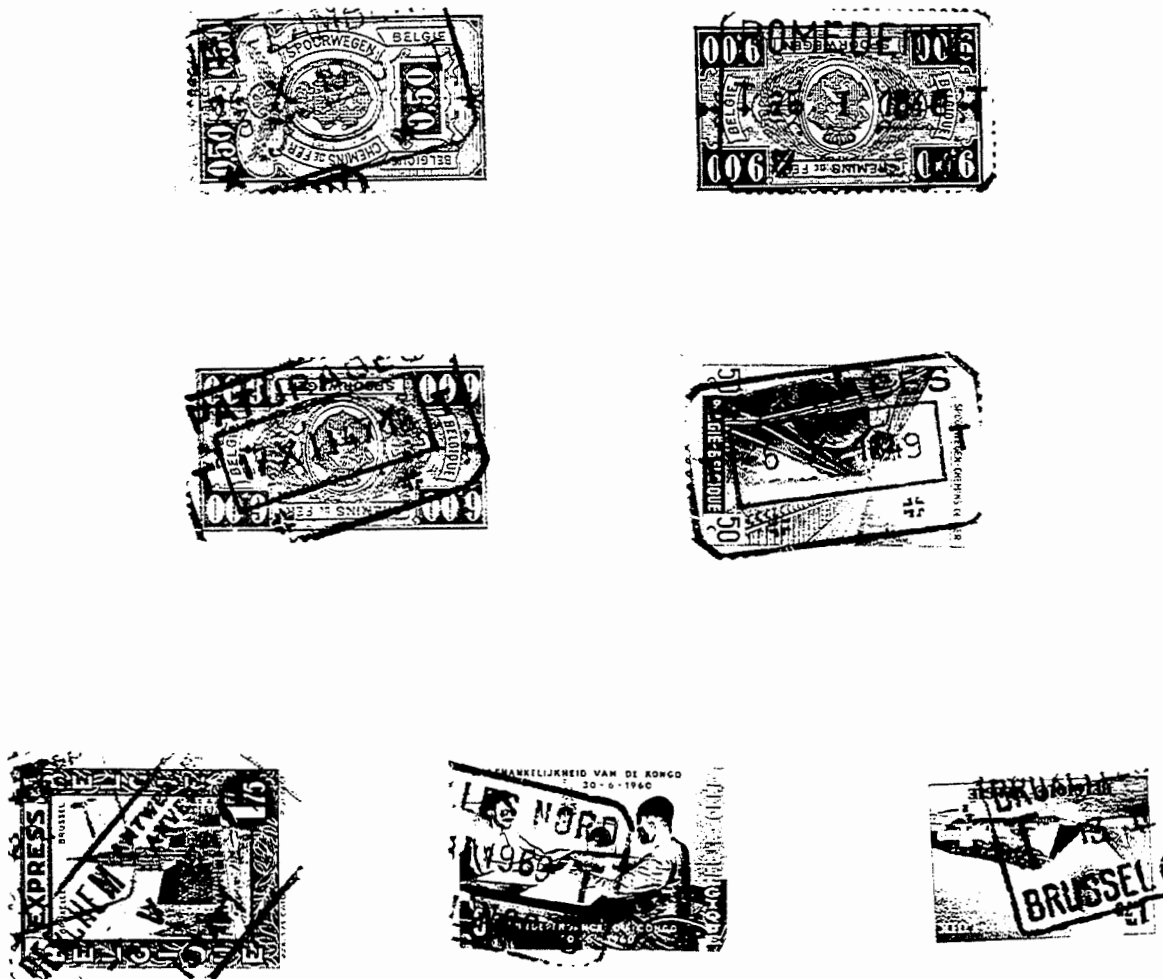


Fig. 4

Rectangular Cancels

<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Stamp</u>	<u>Inner</u>	<u>Bottom</u>
DOUR	1937	VII	CF162	No	Stars
HEMIXEM	1931	VI	CF163	No	?
LAVAU	1941	III	CF220	No	Stars
MORLANWELZ	1951	?	CF309	No	Stars
PATURAGES	1945	II	CF240	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1945	VII	CF255	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1945	XI	CF286	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1947	XII	CF251	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1948	III	CF282	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1948	VII	CF300	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1949	X	CF268	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1949	XI	CF270	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1950	VI	CF307	Yes	Crosses
PATURAGES	1950	VI	CF308	Yes	Crosses
ROMEDENNE	1940	I	CF161	No	See Fig. 3
SINT-LAMBERT	1943	X	CF240	No	Stars

c) Discussion (Fig. 5 to 7)

The real question to be answered is whether these cancels were used on actual Rail Postal Documentation, ie Parcel Post Waybills rather than Telegraph forms. Real documentary evidence would be very nice to have but meanwhile please note Fig. 5 and the facsimile of Jones, Fig. 17. The handstamp described by Jones on p.17 and illustrated here is found as an overstamp on stamps with mainly Hexagon cancels, here it is on an Octagon. Jones notes that the lettering reads (in part) 'CH. DE FER POST. ET TEL' which presumably means that Telegraph was treated separately to Rail Post but came under the same audit procedure.



Fig. 5

On the evidence currently available, it would seem that Telegraph cancels indicate a non parcel post usage (with the possible exception of LEOPOLDSBURG noted above) and, for the purist, probably not a postal usage at all. It won't stop either NC or WM from collecting them whenever we get the chance!

The other thing to note is that with the exception of BLEYBERG and PAEL (and this is on the Vicinal), all the places listed for both Octagons and Rectangles are Railway Stations. One may say "of course they would be, they are on Railway stamps", but as we shall see later, this is certainly not true of the use of CDSs on Railway stamps so why (apart from as above) no non-Railway Station locations? Do other members have such cancels in their collections?

There are still two puzzles. First, why were both Rail and General stamps apparently used for Telegraph even while the specialised Telegraph stamps were current? We have plenty of documentary evidence for the use of General stamps on waybills although the actual documents which I have seen are all much later and use 'Colis Postal' stamps. However, General post stamps with parts of Rail cancels can be found back to at least 1899 and probably earlier (on CF 56, 60 and 70); Mr. Tony Geake reported instances of Hexagons on General post stamps in "BELGAPOST" Vol.7, No.2.

Similarly (as noted above), we have early General post stamps with Octagons, so where are the documents with Telegraph cancels on them? In fact, only one we have (from NC) is shown in Fig. 6 and is a Telegraph cancel on a Telephone Receipt, thus muddying the waters even further, as does Fig. 7 which shows yet another combination, a Hexagon Rail cancel on a Telephone stamp (TP 22); but these take us far away from our theme and are shown only to illustrate the problems. Incidentally this is the only used Telephone stamp that we have. What type of cancel is normally used on them?



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

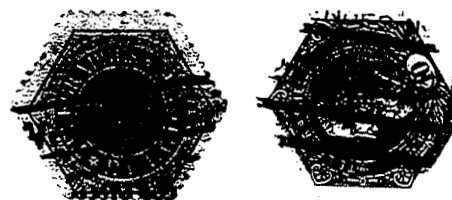


Fig. 8

In fact there seems to be a certain amount of crossover in usage as Telegraph stamps also appear with Rail cancels (Fig. 8). The other interesting point about these is the dates: the WANDRE cancel is on TG9, first issued in 1893 but is a Jones Type 7/8 and is unlikely to be earlier than 1895; the other cancel is for HAMANDES and is clearly dated 1909 (it is on TG11). If nothing else, these prove the reverse point to the one in the introduction. Not only were all three types of cancel used on Rail stamps but all three types of stamps were used on documents subject to Rail cancellations. ADG states ("BELGAPOST" Vol.6, No.1, p.22) "Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Railway Station Parcels Offices were authorised to transact business of all three classes" and certainly Fig. 1 appears to bear this out in part. (Did Telephone come into one of these categories?)

Maybe so but surely they would also have had supplies of the correct relevant stamps for each purpose? Or did the Railway Stations only stock Rail stamps? (If so, why Rail cancels on General stamps?) Or was it just a case of 'use whatever comes to hand on the day' (and Telegraph stamps are much more difficult to tear off the sheet).

One other point to ponder – none of the Telegraph cancels listed above appears on a 'Post Colis' stamp. (They would, of course, have to be Rectangles. Is the 1929 latest date for an Octagon a coincidence?)

Finally, why are there far more Octagons than Rectangles used on Rail stamps? Even allowing for the difference in time span of the two lists, the change is significant. For Octagons over a 48-year period we have 85 examples from 63 locations, for Rectangles the figures are 20 years, 17 examples and 7 locations. And what happened in 1952? And in 1967? (Years after last dates for Telegraph Rectangles on, respectively, Rail and General stamps.)

*(to be continued)*