

ONCE UPON A TIME ...

Entities that at some point issued or overprinted postage stamps,
and that ceased to exist as such

BELGIAN CONGO



Period: **1886 - 1960**

Independent state - Belgian Colony

HOW TO IDENTIFY THESE STAMPS



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1886, it was founded as an independent state by Leopold II of Belgium, and in 1908, it was annexed by Belgium as a colony. Its principal city was Leopoldville (now Kinshasa). It remained so until 1960, when it became the independent Republic of the Congo.

In 1482, the Portuguese navigator Diogo Cão discovered the mouth of a great river, which he named the Congo because the region was inhabited by a people of the same name. The Berlin Conference (1884–85), which oversaw the partition of Africa among European powers, agreed to recognize the Congo Free State as the personal property of Leopold II. Belgium managed the territory's mining operations while leaving health and cultural matters in the hands of Christian missions. Due to the numerous abuses committed, it became necessary to change its status to a "colony"—specifically, the Belgian Congo—in 1908.

All political decisions were made in Brussels, and on June 30, 1960, Belgium granted independence to the Congo. It was subsequently renamed Zaire in 1971, and it is the third-largest country in Africa by land area.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



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