

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 3/2

ASNP



Netherlands Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NETHERLANDS
PHILATELY
Volume 3, Number 2

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Netherlands Philately is published quarterly by the American Society for Netherlands Philately, P.O. Box 555, Montclair, NJ 07042.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Finally, here is Volume 3, No. 2. Although it had been the Editor's intention to have this issue ready early in December, it didn't work out, and then a nice flu bug and the holidays played havoc with all the good intentions. However, we hope that the contents of this issue will make you overlook the fact that it is - again - late.

On the following page our President talks about the changes in this our third year. We also have some discussion about the feasibility of having our own ASNP circuits. Comments are gladly received.

Our fellow-member Frank Geiger, who had a booth at the ASDA show in the Coliseum in New York in November, happened to have complete sheets of three 1912 Surinam provisionals. The result is our next article about these ugly, but fascinating, stamps.

Our Vice-President, Larry Rehm, fills us in on the background of what the Special Catalog calls a "worthless" issue of 1944.

We deem ourselves lucky to offer you a translation of some remarks Mr. van Dieten published in his annual review. These remarks were also taken over by the *Maandblad* and another Dutch philatelic publication, *Ons Stokpaardje*. Very worthwhile!

The following article is concerned with Dutch windmills which have been portrayed on some Dutch issues. It is hoped that our readers will now be able to distinguish between the various types of windmills which we find all over the landscape. And don't forget the real life windmill to be found in Holland, Michigan!

Our faithful collaborator, Willem van Zandhoven, writes about some Netherlands Indies stamps. It is about time! Although it is a part of our area, Netherlands Philately hasn't run too many items on the Indies.

Surinam No. 245 is a shorter article which has been in our hands for some time. This did not mean that we didn't like it, rather, it had some illustration problems. Even now we hope that the printer will be able to make something out of very dark photos which may not show too much detail. Remember, the stamp is dark purple and the overprint dark blue. Some combination!

Finally, we have some short notes on what may be of interest to our readers.

Our next issue will be entirely devoted to Netherlands New Guinea, and this issue will be more than on time. That's a promise.

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Greetings from the President

by the Rev. Richard J. Bennink

One of the conditions of growth is change. During this past year some very significant changes have taken place within the ASNP as a result of our excellent growth. We have a new secretary, our editor has worked out the "bugs" in his typewriter and in the printing of our journal, additional duties in membership and publicity have been spread to other members, and incorporation of the ASNP into a nonprofit organization is being explored.

Early in the new year the members will be called upon to approve changes in our by-laws so that we might be able to incorporate as a nonprofit organization. The advantages of this are numerous. To continue paying the ASPS for first class and third class rates is draining our budget. We will be able to reduce our mailing costs considerably and prevent an increase in membership dues. Of course, a disadvantage of this will be slower mail delivery. Another benefit to the membership would be that donations to the society or to its library would be tax-deductible. Also, as an incorporated organization the officers and members would be protected from law suits; the society could be sued but not individual members or officers. In this day when people begin suits at the drop of a hat this is no small consideration.

Fortunately we are not so large that we don't need new members and continued assistance. Each of you is important. We rely upon you to spread the word about the ASNP. Various other opportunities to be of service are frequently made known in the newsletter. Also, let us hear from you if you have ideas about how we can most appropriately meet your needs. We cannot please everyone but give us a try.

Finally, a special thanks for standing by during the changes and delays of the last few months. Your continued support and comments of appreciation with your renewals and included with your ballots was gratifying.

ASNP Circuits?

Several members have written in about the ASNP starting a circuit-book service. We have even received two offers from members who would be willing to run these circuits, for which we are extremely thankful. Your editor has thereupon written for advice to the American Philatelic Society which, as you all know, runs a superlative circuit-book service. As a matter of fact, it was not only advice we sought, but we also liked to explore the possibility of having the APS with all its facilities run our circuit-book service. After due deliberation of the Sales staff of the APS this was found to be impossible. It was pointed out to us that ASNP members who are also members of the APS can request Netherlands or Netherlands Colonies circuit books. As far as I know there is a waiting period now, but that wouldn't be too long IF all our members who are also APS members would send in circuit books to the APS. Obviously, with more books it would be possible for the APS to have more circuits at the same time.

However, this is only one possibility. The other one would be to have our own ASNP circuits. For circuits we first need books. We also need a fairly steady flow of books because if we only send out four circuits per year of ten books each, we would need 40 books to begin with per year. To have more than ten members per circuit would cause to long a time for a circuit to be on the road. So, if we have say 40 members who would like to be included, we need 4 times as many books, and that means 160 books. If all our members would send in only one book, we would have enough to serve even more than 40 members now.

So, if we can manage all those "ifs" above we might start thinking about circuit books. Of course, just thinking alone is not sufficient. We will also have to take out insurance, and that might not be too easy. The USPS will pay only \$200 if a circuit gets lost in the mail, and believe me, they do get lost in the mail as far as the APS can tell us. Any value over and above will have to be insured by us. We also have to find some way in which the contents of the circuit books get microfilmed. Unfortunately, there ARE people who will replace a perfect stamp in a book with a damaged duplicate from their own collection. Obviously, without some means of proving which stamps were in a circuit book when it was received by the ASNP would be to invite disaster!

In view of criticism directed at some APS circuit books, we would also start out insisting that any member who would send in circuit books very clearly mark anything that would make a stamp different from fine-very fine. That is, thins, tears, etc. MUST be indicated. It would not be sufficient to price such a stamp at one-tenth of catalog, and assume that the buyer will know that at that low a price something is "wrong" with the stamp. To pay for insurance, postage and microfilming the ASNP would have to charge at least 20% of the proceeds. This was a calculation of the APS Sales Division.

If in view of the problems listed above members would still be willing to (1) send in circuit books, and (2) participate in circuits, please let the secretary know. State whether (1) or (2).

The Surinam Provisionals of 1912

by Paul E. van Reyen

When in October 1946 an unknown 12½ cent dark purple of the 1912 Surinam provisionals showed up at an auction in The Hague, nobody really knew what this stamp was. It was canceled, but it was decided that this must be a proof for the set of four that was issued in Surinam in 1912.

Actually the story began May 8, 1912, when a government decree was published in which the issue of a provisional stamp of the value of 12½ cent was announced. The stamp was described as having the word "SURINAM" at the top and in the center the value in large figures. This decree was supposed to have been valid on the day of issue.

On the 13th of June one of the correspondents of the *Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde* wrote from Paramaribo that the announced provisional stamps (plural) still were not available. He also wrote that stamps of four values were expected daily, a ½ cent, a 2½ cents, a 5 cents and a 12½ cents. The reason for these locally printed stamps was that the ordered stamps had not arrived from the Netherlands.

Well, this explains the fact that only of the 12½ cent stamp a proof exists. It is also possible that the proof had already been approved on May 8. The copy pictured above unfortunately does not show a legible date. When during the following month other stamps were found to be in short supply it must have been decided to print all four values in the same design.

Not only a dearth of stamps was experienced in the colony but also of post cards. On June 18 two post cards were issued in the design of the provisional stamps, one of 2½ cent (local rate), dark green on green paper, and one of 5 cent (foreign rate), dull red on pink paper. This was the first view of the local design the inhabitants of Surinam had. They didn't like it much. The stamps and post cards were printed by H. B. Heijde of Paramaribo, the largest printing establishment in town.

The 12½ cent stamp finally appeared on June 28, 1912 in 50,000 copies. The printing was done from a form of 50 clichés, and the first pass through the press printed 5 vertical rows of 10 stamps, the left hand side of the sheet of 100. Since there had been problems with the *tete-beche* stamps of the 1909 provisionals where also two forms of 50 stamps had been used, but where the paper had been turned around for the second pass through the press, this time H. B. Heijde made sure to move the form on the press rather than turn the sheet around. It was immediately noticed that some sheets showed two different tints of blue on the left and right half of the sheet.

It was also immediately noted that there were two "types" in the sheet. Type I occurs 58 times per sheet; type II 42 times. In type I the "1" of ½ is not aligned with the "2" and stands to the left of the fraction bar (see the bottom stamp to the left). In type II the "1" and the "2" of ½ are in line, both the right of the fraction bar. Although the "1" of ½ has the same position in regard to the ornament above, it is type I which comes closer to the proof in that the entire stamp is identical except for the position of the "1" of ½. This proves that although the proof was the model, two different clichés consisting of loose ornaments and figures must have been made to cast the clichés to make up the form of fifty subjects. Since I have not been able to study a whole sheet of 12½ cent stamps I cannot say whether perhaps more than two "masters" were used.

In Fig. 3 at the top of the next page we show the division of types on the sheet of 12½ cent stamps. For those of you who have the *Manual* by Schiller and de Kruyf, please note that their types are reversed.

On July 2nd the 2½ cent dark green appeared at the post office. H. B. Heijde must have been working overtime. Once again, 50,000 copies were printed, but this time in sheets of 50 (see the photograph of the full sheet on the next page). All 50,000 stamps were sold out shortly after the 15th of that month, whereupon Heijde began to print another order of 50,000.

With the 2½ cent stamp we also find two types. Type I occurs 32 times per sheet and type II only 18 times (yet both types list at the same price in the *Special Catalog!*). Type I shows the "1" of ½ directly beneath the scroll in the design, while type II shows the "1" to the right of the scroll (stamps no. 1 and no. 2 of the sheet are type I and type II, respectively).

Here too more than one master cliché must have been used to cast the 50 clichés that made up the form of 50. Note that not only is type II represented by the different position of the "½" but also the horizontal line to the right and above the "1" is broken and runs at an angle. This occurs



Fig. 1. Proof of 12½ cent stamp



Fig. 2. 12½ cent stamp: type II above, type I below

on all type II stamps of the sheet, and nowhere else on the type I stamps.

As soon as the 2½ cent stamps were delivered, Heijde started work on the next value which happened to be the 5 cent, which appeared at the post office on July 6. On July 19 all 50,000 printed were sold out, but by that time the 5-cent stamps from the Netherlands had arrived.

In the case of the 5 cent stamp we also find that two master cliches were used, although in this case 49 stamps were descended from one type and only one from the second master, the 6th stamp on the sheet. Forty-nine stamps show a break in the inner top horizontal line above the "U" of SURINAME, but the 50th stamp does not have this break, but one to the left of it. Also, 49 stamps show a "5" with one nick and a break between the ball of the "5" and the bottom, while the 50th stamp has two nicks.

Finally, on July 23 (remember, they had to print another 50,000 of the 2½ cent stamps), the last value appeared, the ½ cent stamp, all 50,000 of which were sold out the same day. In the afternoon of the 24th the mail from the Netherlands arrived but no ½-cent stamps were delivered so another batch of 50,000 ½-cent stamps were ordered from the printer which were delivered August 1. This second batch was sold out on August 13.

Because of a lack of blue printing ink, both the second batches of the 2½ cent and the ½ cent were less blue than the first batch, that is, the dark green of the 2½ cent tended to be a yellowish green and the lilac of the ½ cent tended to a pinkish color. Apart from these color differences, there were slighter differences among the two batches of 50,000.

In the sheet of ½-cent stamps we find some interesting double imprints which are very difficult to explain. Figure 5 on the next page shows stamp no 1 and no. 11 of the sheet. It is immediately notice-

I	I	II	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	8
II	II	II	I	I	II	II	II	I	I	4
II	I	II	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	6
II	II	II	I	I	II	II	II	I	I	4
II	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	8
II	I	I	I	I	II	I	I	I	I	8
II	II	I	II	II	II	II	I	II	II	2
II	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	I	6
II	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	I	6
II	I	I	II	I	II	I	I	II	I	6

58type I;42type II

Fig. 3. Division of types on sheet of 12½ cent

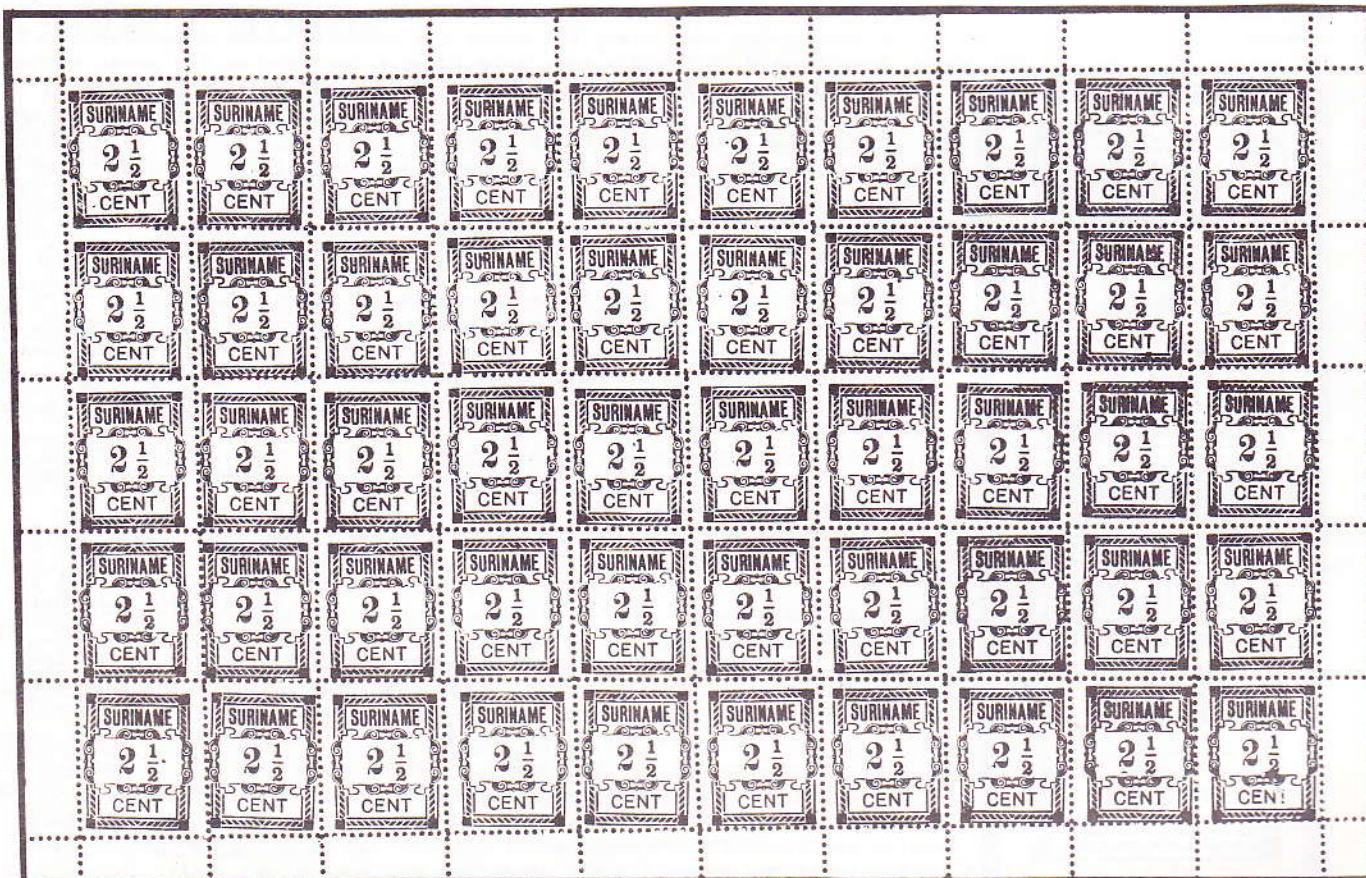


Fig. 4. Full sheet of 2½-cent stamps, showing very bad alignment of stamps in the sheet



Fig. 5. 1/2-cent stamps no 1 and 11

of the 12 1/2 cent were offered at 200% right after they were issued. Another correspondent in Paramaribo finally put the record straight, but he also "confessed" that when the mail that arrived from the Netherlands on July 8 delivered stamps of 2, 3 and 5 cent he went to the post office and bought the remaining 19,000 5-cent stamps! After the mail of August 8 delivered 1/2-cent stamps, he likewise went to the post office and acquired the remaining 1/2-cent provisional stamps, only 10,850.

If we also note again that the first batch of 50,000 1/2-cent stamps was sold out on the day of delivery we can only surmise that Surinam was full of "speculators," to use a current term. But then, without those "speculators," we probably wouldn't have been able to buy full sheets of the 1/2 cent, 2 1/2 cent and 5 cent stamps, at the latest ASDA show in New York, 65 years after the stamps were issued. And without those sheets this article might not have appeared for a long time!

Note: Thanks are due to the Postmuseum in The Hague for the division of types on the sheet of 12 1/2 cent stamps; to Jan Dekker for the copies of the old Dutch journals; and last but not least to Dr. Benders for his encouragement. Any mistakes in this article are the author's responsibility.

The 1944 Perforated Cross

by Laurence H. Rehm

Of the perforated cross which is found on the 2-cent value of the 1943-44 Germanic Symbols set, the NVPH Special Catalog says only that it was "makework" and worthless.

This is undoubtedly true; nevertheless there is a rather interesting story behind this item. The Scott catalog states in a brief footnote that it was issued in connection with an exhibition, the 15 cent surtax going to the Netherlands Red Cross. A contemporary account, however, provides a rather different explanation.

At the time the perforated cross variety appeared in 1944, there was a frantic attempt by many Hol-

able that the "1" has a double imprint, as well as "CENT" and the ornament on the right. According to a report in the *Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie* in 1934, this could be found on 16 stamps of the sheet, notably stamps no. 11, 14, 22, 23 and 25.

On the sheet I have examined I found the double imprint only on stamps no. 11, 14, 17, 22, 23, 25, and 50 lightly. There is really no good explanation for these double imprints; they cannot be off-sets. I am inclined to think that they represent very poorly cast clichés, but from a printing technical viewpoint I am not too happy with that "solution." Nevertheless, double imprints do exist on the 1/2-cent stamp.

Again, on the sheets of 1/2-cent stamps the stamps are very badly aligned across the sheet. In fact, the combination of alignments made it clear to me that one pair of 1/2 cent stamps without a bottom perforation (vertical pair) consisted of stamps no. 34 and 44 of the sheet. The perforation is also very haphazard. As you can see in the figure to the left, the bottom perforation goes through the top of the next stamp. In fact, in the sheet, this perforation line is almost 1/8 of an inch off at the left, although the perforation is fine on the right-hand side of the sheet.

Practically right after the stamps had appeared, the following misprints were reported: 5 and 12 1/2 cent double perforation; 5 cent imperf at bottom, and 12 1/2 cent imperf at right. Since then the 1/2 cent has also shown up with imperf bottom and a horizontal pair without perforation inbetween. The 5 cent has been found vertical pair without perforation in between, and the Special Catalog list an imperforate 12 1/2 cent, without price.

Here are the facts about this set of provisional Surinam stamps. What is almost as interesting is some of the information that can be gleaned from the old journals in regard to the philatelic "climate" of the time. The first news received in the Netherlands about these stamps was completely wrong including the dates on which the stamps were supposed to have appeared. Various correspondents in Surinam in their letters gave the impression that it was all a big boondoggle because the provisionals were sold even after the required stamps had arrived from the Netherlands. The Editor of the Dutch journal waxed extremely indignant about the whole affair, writing that sheets

landers to put what money they had into anything which might retain its value. Those with money found little to buy, and it is not surprising that many turned to postage stamps as an investment.

The account goes on to say that at a philatelic auction in The Hague in 1944 there was wild competition among bidders and even new issues were in great demand. One striking example was that of a number of two-cent stamps, current at that time, on which had been placed perforations in the form of a cross and on the back the words "Price 15c/surtax in favor of the Netherlands Red Cross." These stamps had been placed at the disposal of the auction organizers by the Netherlands Postal Authorities.

The demand for the stamps from the very beginning was so enormous that the sales were restricted to a maximum of ten copies per buyer. Finally the stamps were numbered consecutively. On the last day of the sale the maximum was reduced to five copies per buyer, even though the stamps available had been increased meanwhile from 150,000 to 200,000.

At four o'clock in the morning - the hour of the Nazi curfew, which is the earliest hour the Dutch people are allowed on the streets - a long queue began to form. In the course of the following few hours "good places" in the waiting line were sold for as much as 25 guilders apiece (approximately \$13.50 at that time). The crush was so terrific that several windows of the building in which the auction took place were smashed, and finally a strong police detachment was called to restore order in and outside of the auction place.

The strange part of all this is that it occurred despite the fact that the Official League of Philatelic Societies had, some time previous to the sale, drawn attention to the fact that the perforated two-cent stamps would not be incorporated in the Official Catalog, as the issue was purely a private affair. In other words, the new stamps would possess no particular philatelic value.

While the sale of this stamp continued inside the auction room, a lively trading ensued outside the building. One stamp having cost 15 cents brought an easy 2½ guilders and a block of ten, having cost 1 guilder 50 cents, found ready buyers for

10 guilders per block, and so on. Obviously, Type I: "open end" cross

the Netherlands Red Cross benefited greatly by this strange outburst of philatelic activity.

It was quite evident that the Hollanders were ready to invest their money in anything that had a possibility of security, lest the enemy strip them completely of what money they still had left.

The wild buying spree, however, was short lived, for after this stampede at The Hague to obtain stamps at any price, the Nazis stepped in and forbade Dutch newspapers to publish anything at all about postage stamps. This was done in the hope of discouraging Hollanders from spending more money on philatelic investments. Furthermore, the exchange of stamps with persons in countries outside the Netherlands was simultaneously prohibited and all ads asking for or offering postage stamps for collection purposes were banned.

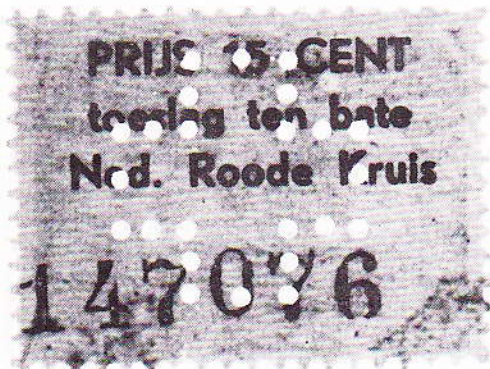
Type II: "closed end" cross

The foregoing account implies that the first perforated stamps were sold without a number. I have never seen an unnumbered copy personally, but they may exist. It also implies that a second "printing" of 50,000 copies was made. I could find no corroboration for this either.

What the article does not mention is that there are obviously two types, as illustrated herewith. Of the copies I have seen, the "open end" cross carries lower serial numbers printed in a smaller type face, and the "closed end" cross has higher numbers in a larger type face. This would indicate that the first type prepared was the open end, and the closed end type was produced later.

The perforated cross variety is still held in very low esteem in the Netherlands, not only because it was an unofficial issue, but because it was an example of known collaboration between the Netherlands Red Cross and the occupying authorities. Both types, however, are listed in the Dutch perfin catalog.

The variety is not uncommon here, and is found in many collections. For those who are intrigued by an item which is "different," the 1944 perforated cross will undoubtedly continue to be a collectible variety, despite any footnote comments in stamp catalogs.



WE RECEIVED a folder and colorful brochure from the National Postal Museum Canada which is located in the Sir Alexander Campbell Building, Confederation Heights, Ottawa (K1A 0B1). It is open daily (except Mondays) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The 50-page booklet (English and French) is available for 50¢ postpaid.

As soon as the Postal Museum has moved into its new downtown quarters next year, a Documentary Research Centre in philately and postal history will be available to researchers from all over the world. If more information about the Research Library is requested, please address correspondence to: Research Library, National Postal Museum, Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0B1.

The Stamp Market

by J. L. van Dieten

What a year! At the auctions continually higher prices so that for the first time in its 36 years' existence it was found necessary to issue a list with higher prices halfway through the year for the Special Catalog of the Netherlands. At the dealers more and more customers and continually rising sales. Because of the bad economic situation several collectors and/or speculators thus tried to profit from the circumstances and entered either part or full time into the stamp market. Small stamp stores rose out of the ground like mushrooms.

Then as a climax the Amphilex world exhibition, which was bigger and better than anything preceding, wherever in the world. With far over 100,000 visitors, record sales of special Amphilex stamps, and unexpectedly large sales in the over 160 dealers' and foreign postal administration stands.

A slight regression, like a hangover after the big party, was to be expected after such alleluia feelings. An offering of a large quantity of the more expensive stamps of the Netherlands among which hundreds of 10-guilder stamps from a Swiss speculator was sufficient to cause a small panic among some "investors." But on the whole the regression is not too bad and is confined to the top of some Netherlands stamps which had been greatly pushed up in price by investors-speculators. But the real collectors hadn't bought these stamps for some time.

On the other hand I believe that we should not look at these few lower prices too seriously. For the time being we should consider these as a correction on a price level that was somewhat overheated. For even if the "small" 10-guilder of 1905 (with hinge rest) in five years' time had risen from 750 guilders to about 3500 guilders and now dropped to about 3000 guilders, it is a fact that the total issue of this stamp consisted of less than 15,500 copies. In the course of time some of these have disappeared too. Not too big an issue for a stamp which is collected all over the world. As soon as the offerings of a few panicky speculators has been absorbed by the market, you can, even for these stamps, look at the future with confidence. It is of course pretty stupid to buy a large number of the same expensive stamps for an investment. For if you are forced some bad day to sell them all at the same time, the market might then not be able to absorb them all. A collector who has one copy of everything cannot suffer as badly. According to us prices of stamps will in the future show a slowly rising level because of the increasingly worrisome economy, the enormously raised expenditures of the government, the insane welfare payments and the abuses thereof.

Since our economists have not yet found a way to stimulate the economy without at the same time fueling inflation, prices will keep on going up no matter what happens. There are some special circumstances which influence special stamps, countries or collecting habits, but those we have always had and the results are not to be predicted. The economic problem is international and the results in the stamp world are likewise international, although there are certain fluctuations as a result of the various steps some governments take to combat inflation.

Of course, stamps don't produce dividends or interest to live on. But at the present time there are a number of people with money who are not interested in dividends as much as they are in investing their money safe from inflation. The fun of collecting stamps, the relaxation away from business deals, are appreciated as untaxed dividends. As proved at Amphilex, another pleasure of our hobby is that no other one is so international as philately. Not only from North and South America, South Africa and Hawaii and practically all countries of the western world but also from the "East Block" countries came collections that we could admire.

A totally different question which in the future will be important for the value of an entire group of stamps is the following: the older stamps that are described as original gum without hinge. This fetish, to collect only stamps in this state, of which those before 1940 are difficult and the older ones almost impossible to get, has as a result that they are being sold - mostly to "investing" collectors - for insane prices compared to those paid for hinged or without gum stamps. Although I feel that I am injuring my own business I cannot refrain from bringing the following facts to the collectors:

a. because of the enormously raised prices of stamps with original gum and without hinges a large number of people (the Dutch term "lieden" is slightly more pejorative!) has gladly joined the occupation of fake-gumming or regumming, not only of very old stamps but newer ones as well. The majority of mint older stamps has these days fake or improved gum to make them "never hinged."

b. these "regummers" have attained such a perfection in their job that the experts in many cases are unable to see the difference between real and fake gum.

c. a result is that, given enough time, there will be so many expert regummers who will be able to give all unused stamps a "never-hinged" look - and this won't last that long - so that the extra value for never hinged will be diminished in time to the level of hinge-rest stamps.

d. we are now at the point where an institute as the "Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society" in London - we may call them the world's highest tribunal - will no longer give a certificate as to the condition of the gum! For the members of the "Royal" a stamp with or without gum has thus the identical value. According to me all experts will have to do the same within a short time, that is, as soon as we have reached the situation as described under "c." above. We will then have a lot less problems and fakes.

e. furthermore, I think I'm right in stating that generally the "real" collectors prefer used to unused stamps. The great collections, as we have seen at Amphilex, consist for the most part of used co-

pies, or even better, stamps on covers or post cards. Only thematic collections consist mostly of unused stamps as a result of the fact that in this branch of philately the picture is most important and not the postal function. And the picture shows up better without than with a cancellation.

f. finally it is a fact that stamps without gum seem to be much better able to withstand the pernicious paper fungus which we call "tropical stain." But I don't see yet that in the near future collectors will remove all gum from their unused stamps. Too bad! For we have lately discovered more and more that many stamps within a comparatively short time show tropical stains, which influences the value importantly in a negative direction. It is possible that this is caused by more and more collectors keeping their collections in safes and bank vaults for longer periods.

Many philatelists see in the never-ending stream of completely unnecessary new issues the demise of philately. I don't agree for I see all these colorful pictures more as propaganda, a stimulus to collecting. A country that issues too much of this garbage will find that there comes a time when this will no longer be tolerated and will lose its clients.

We will only say here: Collect for fun, be careful with your money, know what you are buying, and don't listen to beautiful stories. If you do this you will slowly build up a valuable collection which will keep its value. Also keep in mind that when you buy 100 (or more) stamps for 100 guilders, you pay 100 guilders in wages, but if you buy one stamp for 100 guilders, you have bought something which has a certain intrinsic value which it will keep.

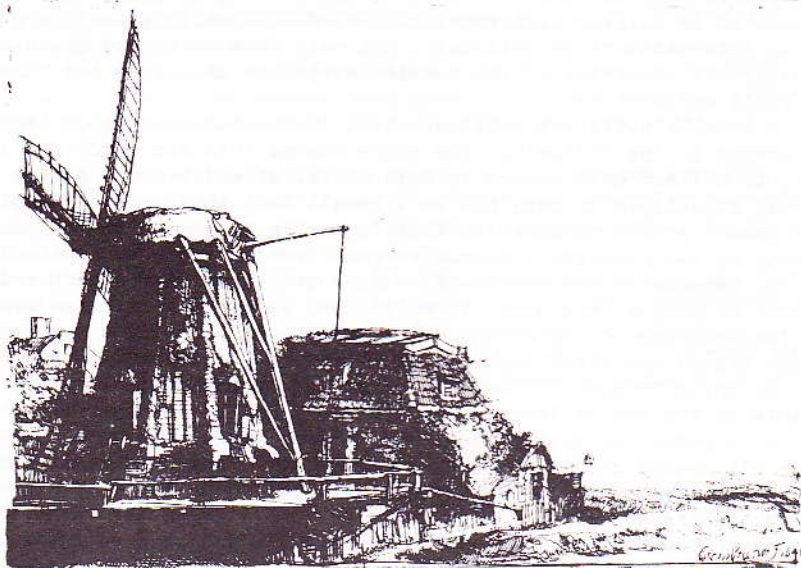
Editorial Note: Mr. van Dieten's Annual Report was received here in November, and it seemed a good idea to reprint and translate part of it, as giving the views of one of the major philatelic auctioneers in the Netherlands, which seemed to be of value to all collectors of Netherlands stamps. To our surprise, we found that we were not the only ones to think so: the November issue of the *Maandblad* also carried Mr. van Dieten's remarks. Thus it seems that even in the Netherlands Mr. van Dieten's views are considered to be worth reading; the more so in the U.S. and Canada where we are somewhat removed from the direct market in Dutch stamps.

DUTCH WINDMILLS

THROUGH the centuries Dutch artists have been fascinated by windmills in the Dutch landscape. The etching pictured here shows that even the greatest of them all, Rembrandt, did not disdain portraying one windmill, standing behind a dike. By the time you have finished this article we hope that you will be able to identify the type of windmill in the etching.

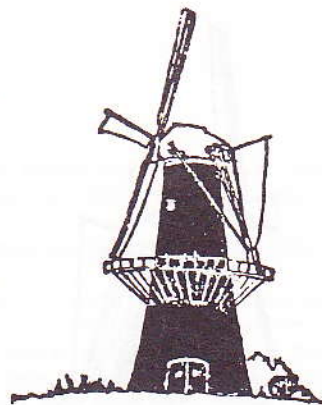
On stamps windmills have not been portrayed that often. In 1932 the 2½ + 1½ ct green showed a windmill in silhouette (NMPH No. 244; Scott No. B 54) and in 1963 an entire set of "Summer Stamps" was devoted to windmills. It is this latter set we will treat in the article, although we should also mention the definitive 6 cents of 1962 which shows windmills near Kinderdijk in South-Holland (NMPH No. 793; Scott No. 401).

Remarkably enough, the stamps of 1963 also show very little detail; it seems as if they are seen from a distance through an early morning fog. Perhaps that is the best way to show Dutch windmills which do show up in the landscape from a distance, but one never seems to get close enough to see the details. In this article we won't be able to get in all the details either, but we will try to give you an idea of the way windmills work.





Our 4-cent stamp shows a "stellingmolen," variously translated by 'gallery' windmill or 'tower mill with a stage.' The name 'gallery' windmill refers to the gallery around the body of the mill. Around 1604 Dutch millwrights started to build these large and tall mills to acquire more working and storage space. An additional advantage was that these mills did not have to be built on the outskirts of the towns, where originally the 'wall mills' used to be erected. The 'tower' mills were able to catch the wind across the other buildings in town! The gallery made it possible to have access to the vanes and the tail-pole to turn the cap into the wind. If you look at the sketch on the right, you will see the body of the mill done in black - the unmovable part - and the cap in white



- the movable part. All other sketches will show the same distinction between the movable and unmovable parts. As will be seen in the photo below, the door into the mill was large enough to accommodate carts with loads, usually of wheat or other corn. The large space inside the mill is divided into 'lofts,' some of which may be used as living quarters for the miller.

The grain is hoisted up to the 'bin loft' above the mill-stones. From there it is fed to the mill-stones on the 'stone loft,' usually at the level of the gallery or 'stage.' The resulting flour falls through chutes into sacks kept ready on the 'meal loft.' Below this loft are the 'grain loft' and the 'grain store.' Above the 'bin loft' are found the 'dust floor' and above that the top floor in the cap.

In most 'tower mills' there are two pairs of double doors for the carts to enter and leave without turning around. The power to hoist the grain up is also supplied by the wind.

The mill portrayed on the 4-ct stamp is located in Dokkum, a little town in Friesland, in the north of the country.



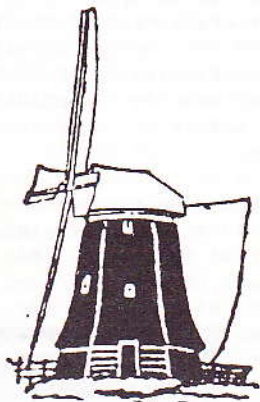
The 6-cent stamp shows the "Noord-Hollandse binnenkruier," or the North-Holland mill that is turned into the wind from inside the mill. There is no tail-pole, as can be clearly seen in the sketch below. Outside the province of North-Holland this type does not occur, although several mills in South-Holland show signs that they must once have been inside winders. The body of this mill is made of wood - in contrast to the South-Holland mill shown on the 8-cent stamp which is built of brick.

These large mills used for drainage purposes were developed in the watery region of North-Holland in the second half of the sixteenth century. They were a development of the 'wip windmill' (see the 30-cent stamp) in which the top was made smaller and the body larger so that the mill could generate a much greater power, while still remaining manageable. These mills soon replaced the 'wip mill' in the fight against the water.

The cap is turned into the wind in the top of the mill with the aid of a winch with a hand-wheel or a handle. Every time the wind changed the miller had to climb up into the top to change the cap, which was quite bothersome, so the next improvement was the tail-pole which made it possible to turn the cap from below, on the outside. Thus was born the familiar large octagonal mill of South-Holland (see the 8-cent stamp).

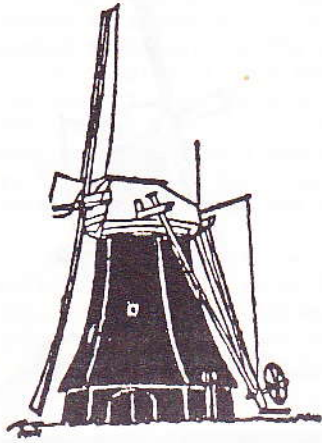
These mills performed their drainage function by means of a scoop-wheel mechanism provided inside or outside the mill. Such a scoop-wheel, however, can elevate the water only to a height of about five feet. For deeper polders (former lakes) the problem was solved by arranging two, three or even four mills in series, elevating the water in stages. Later on use was made of a device in the form of a primitive worm or screw pump.

The mill shown is found at Bergen in the province of North-Holland.



The 8-cent stamp portrays the "octagonal South-Holland polder mill," the most picturesque of all types. The space inside the cap of the outside winder can be smaller than is necessary in a North-Holland inside winder, and this can be clearly seen. The South-Holland mill has also a tapered form, so that it is more elegant, while the North-Holland mill looks sturdy, powerful and tall. The thatched mill body is supported by a brick structure. The interior machinery and mode of operation is identical to that of the North-Holland mill too. The hollow lines of the mill body are not only elegant (see the sketch on the next page), but also practical: the wind from the de-





scending sail in this way meets with less resistance.

The mill shown is found near Rijpwetering close to Leiden.

The 12-cent stamp shows the oldest type of them all, the 'post windmill.' To see the few remaining post mills you will have to go to North-Brabant, Limburg, Gelderland or Zeeland. This is a corn mill, and large numbers of them are to be seen in old engravings. The body of a post mill consists of a large square box, constructed to turn about a heavy wooden pillar - the post. The breast and the tail of the box are narrower than the sides so that they may catch as little wind as possible. From the sketch below on the right it can be seen indeed that the largest part of the mill is movable. The photo on the right shows an octagonal mill 'house' while most of them are square. Some of these are open - showing the construction of beams on brick or stone foundations - and are then called 'open post mills. The mill in the photo is called a 'post mill with a roundhouse.'

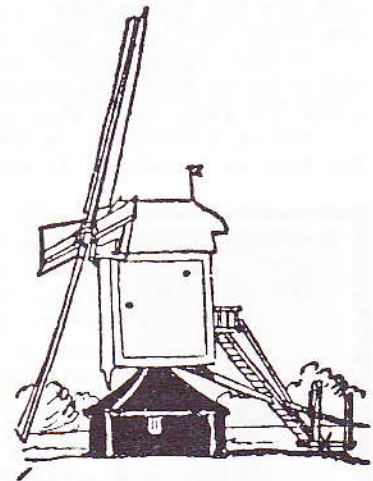


In the sides of the mill body are a couple of vent-holes which can be closed by shutters. When the wind starts to blow through a hole, it warns the miller that he should turn the mill because the direction of the wind has changed.



According to records extant it was about 1526 that this earliest type of mill was replaced by an octagonal smock mill with a revolving cap. This must have had a winch in the cap for only in the second half of the sixteenth century smock mills with tail-poles were constructed. Smock mills in which the whole body of the mill can be turned were found in Zaandam and used to saw lumber.

The stamp shows a post windmill at Someren in the province of North-Brabant.



The 30-cent stamp shows a "wipwatermolen," that is in a technical translation, a "hollow-post mill." This was the first mill used to drain the land. The upper part of the mill body is fitted on top of the pyramidal lower part and is supported by a heavy hollow wooden sleeve around which it can be turned as a whole. So this sleeve (the "hollow post") has the same function as the post of the post windmill, but it is hollow to accommodate the main drive-shaft. The lower part of the mill has just sufficient space to house the miller and his family.

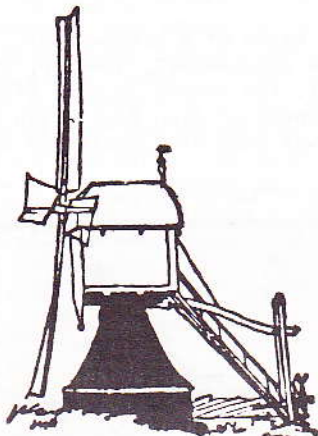
The main drive-shaft only works the scoop-wheel or the screw, so the upper part could be made smaller than it is in the post mill, and more manageable to turn.

The "wipwatermolen" is still to be found in great numbers in the polder regions, especially in South-Holland and Friesland. They are generally painted in bright colors and provide a gay note in the polder landscape of green on green. The finest still have their substructure covered with thatch.

The mill on the stamp is located at Hazerswoude, a village south-west of Leiden.

So far these technical details. For those of you who are able to visit Holland, Michigan, perhaps in Tulip Time (usually early in May) be sure and visit the real Dutch mill in Windmill Park on the border of the river. This was originally the mill in the North-Brabant town of Vught, which was dismantled in 1964 and re-erected in Holland, Michigan. This windmill had for long been in a dilapidated state and money was not to be found for restoration. When the offer came from Michigan to buy the mill for Windmill Park, the Dutch Windmill Society advised the government to accept it. At that point the burghers of Vught finally realized what they were going to miss, but luckily the mill was saved for Holland, Michigan.

Anyone who wants to know a lot more about Dutch windmills is advised to read Frederik Stokhuyzen's book Dutch Windmills, published by Van Dishoeck, Bussum. It is profusely illustrated and also has many chapters on other aspects of the windmills, such as their role in public life.



JAVA. - BUITEN BEZIT. - DIENST

by Willem van Zandhoven

SOMETIMES, to appreciate a particular stamp issue, one has to know a little about the history of the country. This is so with the overprints of the Netherlands Indies which appeared in 1908 and 1911, the famous (or infamous) JAVA., BUITEN BEZIT. and DIENST. stamps.

All these issues were contemplated in 1907 already, although issuing them was postponed until 1908, and for the official stamps until 1911.

What was going on in 1907 in the Indies? Well, to begin with, the war in Atjeh, which had dragged on for over 30 years and had become an embarrassment for the government, could be considered to be over in 1904, although for several decades the army stayed on to keep the peace. This result was largely due to the Commander in Chief and Governor of Atjeh, General J. B. van Heutz. In 1904 the Queen elevated him to the throne of Buitenzorg as Governor-General. His reign inaugurated a new system, but not only that, a new feeling began to penetrate the old colonial society. For one, Van Heutz spread the Dutch government over all the outer islands by having all the formerly almost independent Indonesian princes sign the "Short Declaration." This consisted of only three articles, which were clear and could not be confused. One could almost say that the Pax Neerlandica across the huge archipelago dated from that time.

Creating order and peace was quite expensive in the beginning, but Van Heutz proved that it pays because from 1906 on he always had a surplus in his budget. In this light it makes sense that the postal administration came up with the idea of the "statistical" stamps and the "official" stamps. In a country where the civil service ran everything (almost), it would be worthwhile to find out how much freedom of postage really cost. And in view of the fact that Java and Madoera were covered with roads and railroads so that the mail could be dispatched much more easily than in the Outer Islands where much transportation still took place by riverboats and even more primitive means, it made sense to find out whether this difference could be translated into lower rates for mail within Java and Madoera. By the way, Madoera, the island at the north-east of Java, had always been considered part of the system of Java as the main island.

The Ministry of the Colonies in The Hague was not too enthusiastic about these statistical stamps. Their reaction on the official stamps has not been recorded. But they did not think it necessary to apply these overprints to acquire statistical figures on the mail being sent in the Indies. It was also brought forward that stamps with JAVA should be allowed to be used in the Outer Islands, and vice versa, because if this was not allowed it would be impossible to send stamps for a paid answer to a correspondent either way. When the stamps were issued, this was taken into account. The official decrees mention that it was perfectly alright to use BUITEN BEZIT stamps in Java and Madoera, and JAVA stamps on the outer islands.

Although the official Government Decree of February 18, 1907, first mentions the official stamps, we will pass these by since the Java and Buiten Bezit stamps were issued first. As a matter of fact, the Dutch catalog mentions the JAVA overprints first, while Scott offers first place to the BUITEN BEZIT ones. Both sets came out at the same time, but as Java is the more important island, or unit, the Dutch catalog obviously mentions these first.

The above-mentioned Government Decree (No. 1) then authorized overprinting a later to be determined number of the current stamps with JAVA and BUITEN BEZIT, namely, the ½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 5, 10, 12½, 15, 20, 25, 30, 50, 1 gld. and 2½ gld. At the same time it was authorized to apply some kind of overprint to the 15-cent stamps, because it had been found that these could - especially in artificial light - barely be distinguished from the 50-cent stamps.

Please note that the 7½, 17½ and 22½ cent stamps did not appear in the foregoing list! These stamps of the current series were not sent to the Indies until sometime in 1908, hence they could not have appeared in the list.

On the 5th of May, 1908, Circular No. 87, finally gave the numbers of stamps to be applied with the two overprints. We will mention these later on. At the same time the overprint on the 15-cent stamps was described as "two black, horizontal lines." In this circular the time of use of the overprinted stamps was given as three months, starting July 4, although the regular, not overprinted stamps were not supposed to be sold any more after June 30! The circular also mentioned that the purpose of these stamps was a statistical one, in which only letters with JAVA stamps, received in post offices in Java and Madoera were to be counted. Hence, no letters with BUITEN BEZIT stamps were to be counted, nor printed matter, newsletters, samples, and the like, whether with JAVA stamps or those for the Outer Islands. The period during which this was supposed to happen lasted from August 1 until October 31, 1908. Presumably, during July people with regular stamps were supposed to have used these up.

Although this is nowhere mentioned in my sources I believe that the overprints were applied at the Topographical Service at Weltevreden, near Batavia. A number of proofs have shown up, also of the two-line overprint on the 15 cent. One proof is known of the latter, in which the lines are 17½ mm distant instead of the chosen 3 mm. Strips of three 1-cent stamps are known with JAVA., BUIT. BEZ. and DIENST. diagonally applied reading from top left to bottom right. Another strip of three 1-cent stamps shows the middle stamp with a very low JAVA. Both these strips are horizontal. A vertical strip of three 10-cent stamps was probably called a "fantasy" product in the past; the top one has JAVA. regular plus DIENST. diagonally applied. The center stamp has only DIENST. regular, while the bottom stamp has DIENST. plus BUITEN BEZIT. This seems to be a proof of the DIENST stamp with the other two overprints applied later. The same thing can be said of a vertical strip of the 1-gld stamp, with three DIENST overprints, and a



JAVA, high

JAVA, on the top, and BUITEN BEZIT, on the bottom stamp. Finally, there are some combinations of BUIT. BEZ. diagonal from bottom left to top right plus BUITEN BEZIT, normal, on a 1-gld stamp; JAVA, normal and BUITEN BEZIT, normal on one stamp of 1 guilder; and BUITEN BEZIT, normal plus JAVA, diagonal. Some of these proofs can only be recognized as proofs in the strips of three.

On July 1, 1908, the stamps with overprint JAVA, and BUITEN BEZIT, appeared, that is, all the ones listed in the catalog, except for the 7½, 17½ and 22½ ct stamps which were not received from the Netherlands until later that year. (The proof of the 17½ cent was not approved till March of 1908.)



JAVA, regular

This first release of JAVA, stamps either consisted entirely of the so-called JAVA, high overprint (see the catalog where under JAVA, high the three above-mentioned values are lacking), or part of this first release consisted of the high overprint. The regular overprint is supposed to be right over the value imprint, but this doesn't always work either. It seems that all the inverted JAVA, overprints also seem to be from the original overprinting, because, again, we do not find the inverted overprint on the 7½, 17½ and 22½ cent.

The 7½, 17½ and 22½ ct stamps appeared in December 1908. At that time it was also decided that during February-June 1909 statistical data were to be collected so the period of use was extended. By Government Decree of December 22, 1908, authorization was given for a second printing.

Overall, the following totals were overprinted (note that the NVPH Special Catalog does not give any



JAVA, inverted

of these):

½ cent	5,780,000	15 cent with lines	306,000
1 cent	6,000,000	17½ cent	220,000
2 cent	1,200,000	20 cent	405,000
2½ cent	1,600,000	22½ cent	150,000
3 cent	300,000	25 cent	375,000
5 cent	1,620,000	30 cent	273,000
7½ cent	300,000	50 cent	294,000
10 cent	6,300,000	1 guilder	126,000
12½ cent	790,000	2½ guilder	24,000

Even more than a decade later the Dutch philatelic world was still upset about the many varieties and printing faults that showed up. It was called a "scandal" that the postal administration had not weeded out all the misprints before they were sold to the public. On the other hand, let's be realistic. In 1907 in the Netherlands East Indies the Topographic Service was probably pretty lucky if they could produce any overprints. The misprints are those that can be expected from an outfit that had to rely probably on pretty untrained personnel and lack of facilities. The completely inverted JAVA, overprints can probably be blamed on the post office, depending on how the sheets of stamps were stacked up at delivery to the Topographic Service. The JAVA, highs may have been due to a change in instructions. Nothing is really known about this, but it is possible that the first instruction was to print JAVA, at the top of the stamps. The other misprints are purely the result of bad printing. Major faults are: JAV on the 10 cent only. Here the last letter was completely damaged so that it didn't leave an imprint, or fell out, or was never inserted in the first place.

A shift to the right (the literature does not give a shift to the left) could produce a number of combinations such as the one shown at the right which reads A. JAV (others could be VA. JA or AVA. J.



A. JAV misprint

We also find semi-diagonal overprints where the sheet was put on the press crooked. One case is known of a ½ cent where the first six stamps of the sheet do not show an overprint because of this. The ½ cent is also known with a double overprint, while the 12½ cent is known with a double overprint of which one is inverted. Finally, almost all stamps occur without the period behind JAVA.

Since the 2½-guilder values of the JAVA, high and JAVA, invert are among the rarest and most expensive in our collecting area, they have been faked, of course. Other, less expensive stamps in the set have also been faked, so it would be advisable to have the more expensive ones expertized in the Netherlands. In general we can say that the JAVA, overprint on all stamps is exactly 15 mm long, including the period. In the real stamps we also find many damaged stamps (I have a 1 guilder where the J of JAVA, is like this typewriter J and has no serifs on top), and also stamps where the imprint "comes through" the stamp, that is, shows clearly on the back. I doubt whether fakers would go so far!

For ultra-specialists there are some extra rewards: most overprinted stamps occur in the same color varieties as the originals, which gives three tints, for example, for the 10 cent. Most others have two tints, except for the 7½, 15, 17½, 20, 22½ and 30 cent. And the stamps also have the plate faults in the original stamps, such as the missing "ray" at top right of the right-hand star of the 7½ cent (to the right of the value indication). Other platefaults occur in the 12½, 15, 17½ and 22½ cent. Interested readers can consult the Manual by Schiller and de Kruyf or the Handboek der Postwaarden van Nederlandsch-indië, both in our library.

The BUITEN BEZIT, stamps were issued the same day. So, here too, we find that the 7½, 17½ and 22½ ct were not issued until December 1908. (An earlier cancel seems impossible since the regular stamps were

NOT sold at the post offices while the overprints were being used.)

Total number of stamps overprinted was:

½ cent	3,170,000	15 cent with stripes	204,000
1 cent	2,400,000	17½ cent	140,000
2 cent	800,000	20 cent	170,000
2½ cent	900,000	22½ cent	90,000
3 cent	200,000	25 cent	250,000
5 cent	680,000	30 cent	182,000
7½ cent	180,000	50 cent	196,000
10 cent	2,600,000	1 guilder	84,000
12½ cent	400,000	2½ guilder	16,000



The distance between BUITEN and BEZIT. is 13 mm. on the numeral values (up to and including the 7½ cent), 10 mm. on the Queen Wilhelmina stamps up to and including the 50 cent, while I find from 15 to 17 mm. on the guilder values. However, one Queen Wilhelmina stamp is

known where the distance between the two words is slightly over 12 mm to 13 mm, and that is the 15 cent with the inverted overprint. Only about 20 sheets were overprinted this way, when it was found that the distance - which was the same as that for the lower values, much wider stamps - was not correct for these values. It seems that the 15-cent stamp was the first of the Queen Wilhelmina stamps to be overprinted. Since no normal 15-cent stamps with BUITEN BEZIT. were ever found with this 13-mm. distance, the entire printing of 20 sheets must have been inverted. (This is surprisingly not the conclusion of the Handboek mentioned on the previous page.) The photo on the left shows (top) the 13 mm inverted overprint and (bottom) the regular 10 mm overprint.



invert and normal

On the BUITEN BEZIT. stamps shifts have occurred in both directions, hence we find first rows of the sheet with only the word BUITEN (a shift to the right), nine rows with BEZIT. BUITEN reading upwards, and the right-hand margin with BEZIT. With a shift to the left the left-hand margin has the word BUITEN and the last row has only BEZIT. These are all listed in the NVPH Special Catalog.

An inverted overprint BEZIT. BUITEN reading downwards occurs on all values except the 7½ and 17½ cent. The extreme rarity of the 22½ cent with the inverted overprint perhaps is an indication that the second and later printings were done much more carefully than the first. It is of course possible that the Topographic Service had to rush the first printing somewhat although this again cannot be proved anymore. The Government Decree of February 18, 1907, seems to have given the printing plant enough time to have all the stamps ready by July 1908, but we don't know what other things had to be done by the Topographic Service.

The 15 cent inverted overprint is also known with a double overprint. Finally, broken letters and missing periods occur frequently. The Handboek lists missing periods in the 10, 15, 17½, 20, 22½, 25, 30 and 50 cents. In my collection is also a 2½ guilder stamp with a missing period.

Again, for the ultra-specialist, look for the color varieties and the original platefaults. I have not mentioned the perforation varieties in the guilder values, because these are adequately treated in the NVPH Special Catalog.

Because they are treated separately in all catalogs, we will now try to give the full story or as much as is known, even at this late date, of the Official stamps, those with the D in cirkel overprint, and those with DIENST.

The earlier-mentioned Government Decree of February 18, 1907, under no. 1 authorizes the overprint of certain stamps with the large D in black cirkel of the 1891 series with the picture of Queen Wilhelmina (long hair). These are:

10 cent	575,000	25 cent	60,000
12½ cent	75,000	30 cent	900
15 cent	85,000	50 cent	260,000
20 cent	200,000	2½ gld	22,000

This was not seen as a separate issue from those with DIENST. With characteristic frugality these old stamps were to be used up and to eradicate the youthful portrait of the Queen the large black cirkel was used. But before we go on to list the DIENST. stamps, we will step back and see what had happened.

It seems very clear now that the statistical review was first applied to the official correspondence, which up to that time had enjoyed freedom from postage. They were to be used for one full year and to be distributed to all authorities, public bodies, etc. which enjoyed this freedom from postage. The tariff was to be 4 cents per 50 grams for all mail.



In November 1907 it was announced that the stamps were ready, and all the forementioned authorities, etc. were invited to send in their "want" lists, the number of stamps they felt they would need. Such enormous numbers of stamps were requested that the whole project had to be postponed until the required stamps had been overprinted. What with the overprints for Java and the Outer Islands, the project was finally announced for October 1, 1911, to September 30, 1912, hence the full year of usage. This seems a pretty good means of identifying by wrong date of cancellation certain types of fakes. Any cancellation showing a date outside this one year, must be counterfeit!

First the Topographic Service applied handstamps to stamps of 10 cent (48,000), of 50 cent (1500) and of 2½ guilder (3500). Perhaps while this was done printing forms

were prepared with the black cirkel and the large D. The totals mentioned on the previous page include the handstamped stamps. It is said that these stamps can only be distinguished from the printed stamps by looking at a pair. If the position of the two D's is different on each stamp, they are handstamped overprints. Also the ink used for the handstamp impression seemed to have been rather oily so that sometimes a large oily spot covers the stamp around the overprint, even showing on the back.

The 900 copies of the overprinted 30 ct stamps were never issued, but disappeared into the archives of the postal administration at Weltevreden. Some of them must have "escaped" because they have appeared on the market.

Inverted overprints appear on the handstamp 10 cent, and on all values of the printed "D" overprint. Forgeries, especially of the inverted overprints occur, as well as of the 30 cent.



normal DIENST.

The Government Decree apparently gave the left-over figures of these older stamps because we find that slightly less was, in fact, overprinted. Of the 10 cent only 547,000, 12½ ct 73,000, 15 ct 83,000, 20 ct 196,000, 15 ct 58,800, 50 ct 256,000 and 2½ gld 21,700. It is possible that the difference was caused by spoilage by the Topographic Service.

Since a fairly large number of 2½-cent stamps of the previous numeral issue was left over, 300,000 of these orange-yellow stamps were also overprinted with DIENST. The list which follows concerns only the overprinted stamps of the current series:

½ cent	98,000	15 cent (very few with stripes)	250,000
1 cent	474,000	17½ cent	97,000
2 cent	3,500,000	20 cent	225,000
2½ cent	200,000	22½ cent	98,400
3 cent	1,000,000	25 cent	125,000
4 cent	4,000,000	30 cent	225,000
5 cent	500,000	50 cent	10,000
7½ cent	97,000	1 guilder	408,000
10 cent	500,000	2½ guilder	105,000
12½ cent	150,000		

In these official stamps we also find many printing errors, the most important being the inverted one which occurs on all stamps, except the old 2½ ct orange-yellow, the 4 ct, the 7½ ct, the 15 ct without stripes, the 17½ ct and the 22½ ct.

A double overprint is found on the 5-cent stamp. Minor varieties are also found, such as DIENST. with a high position of the "N" and "T" while others show a low position of the "S." There are damaged "I" and "E's," also DIENST. with a crooked "N" and finally, shifts have also occurred, so that the "D" is found on one stamp, while the rest is found on the next one. The NVPH Special Catalog also lists the two guilder values without a period. I have also a 12½ cent definitely without a period. There may thus be other low values where the period disappeared.



invert DIENST.

As a kind of footnote to the handstamp overprint, the 10 cent is also known with a double overprint and a sideways overprint.

Numerous fakes exist, especially of the inverted overprints, and also of the 15 cent with stripes. In the latter case a regular 15 ct DIENST overprint received the faker's two stripes or bars. These stamps too should be expertized!



normal DIENST.

A few years ago I wondered (1) why the unused official stamps would be so abundant that their prices are really depressed compared to the JAVA, or the BUITEN BEZIT. stamps, and (2) what had happened to the stamps after September 30, 1912. Of course, all unused stamps lost their value completely for postage purposes after that date, but what had happened to them? Some kind of answer is perhaps found in Government Decree No. 1 of February 18, 1907 (I.S. 123), in which it is also stated that all the authorities, etc. who had received official stamps were required to supply a list of the stamps used, and return the unused stamps to the postal administration immediately. Whether this was always done is another question. If the post office department subsequently auctioned off these "remainders," we may have the answer to the question as to the relative abundance of these mint stamps. The colonial archives in the Netherlands in so far as they haven't been destroyed yet may provide a definite answer.

We still have some further questions regarding the JAVA, and BUITEN BEZIT. stamps. Although they were officially demonitized April 1, 1909, they were used for the second statistical period of February-June 1909. The Manual of Schiller and de Kruyf also states: "again used in 1910." Unfortunately, the Manual does not give us anything else, but I have in my collection what seems to be perfectly legitimate stamps used throughout 1911. I have not found any information regarding the length of time the stamps were used in and after 1910. Any reader who has information regarding this point, please contact the Editor so that we may share with the other members. The Manual also states: "With the acquisition of a large stock of inverted surcharges by the postal department in March 1925, the stamps were again placed on sale and finally demonitized on December 31, 1925." Were any inverts really "used" then or did they disappear immediately into collections?

For the record: Several years ago I bought a registered cover from Batavia to Milwaukee, canceled November 29, 1910. On the front we find one 1-ct stamp, one 2½-ct, one 3-ct, one 4-ct, two 5-ct and one 7½-ct with BUITEN BEZIT. On the back are four ½-ct stamps, two with JAVA, and two with BUITEN BEZIT. They are all canceled, hence considered to be valid postage. The letter, as a matter of fact, was received in Milwaukee on January 7, 1911.

SURINAM No. 245

by Garrett De Mots

I have some information on Surinam NVPH No. 245 which may be useful to our readers. I have found errors in No. 245 (Scott No. 209) that are not listed in the Speciale Catalogus. These errors may have been described earlier in some publication, but not to my knowledge which is meager in this regard.

The Speciale Catalogus mentions that there are many deviations in the overprinting of Nos. 166 and 167 of 1936. One may infer from this that the publisher of the catalog deems the many variations in No. 245 to be insignificant and not worthy of listing with the exception of 245a (distance from bar to "1" about 5 mm) and 245f (double overprint of which one is inverted). It is possible that what I have found is insignificant, but I am inclined to believe otherwise inasmuch as one of the errors I have noted appears only twice in two blocks of 25 and 20 each, which originally were one block of 50. In these same two blocks of 25 and 20 NVPH No. 245a appears three times.

I have found two deviations in the overprinting which may be worthy of note. They are:

1. The dislocation of the "1" of $\frac{1}{2}$ to the left (on two stamps out of 45).
2. A broken fraction bar in " $\frac{1}{2}$ " (on four stamps out of 45).

The positions of these errors are illustrated below.

In addition to the deviations described above, I have also noted the distance from the bar to the figure 1 to be 2 mm on one stamp. Inasmuch as this error appears only once in the same two blocks I am also inclined to believe that this deviation may be worthy of note. As can be seen above (hoping that the photos print well) the distance is usually either 3 or 4 mm.

Finally, it can also be noted that there are stamps (I don't know where in the sheet) where the distance between the "1" and the fraction bar, which is generally 1 mm, is only $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. If the photo to the right gets printed right, you may be able to notice that the right-hand stamp of the pair has this $\frac{1}{2}$ mm distance between the "1" and the fraction bar.

I have also seen stamps in which the bar over the old value $7\frac{1}{2}$ has a break (or consists of two pieces) about one-third of the distance down.

If any reader has additional information (anybody with a full sheet perhaps), please let the Editor know.



4 mm



3 mm



1 mm



$\frac{1}{2}$ mm

		$\frac{1}{2}$		
			$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
				$\frac{1}{2}$
				$\frac{1}{2}$

		$\frac{1}{2}$		
				NVPH 245a
			NVPH 245a	NVPH 245a

NOTEWORTHY NOTES

Under 1921 the NVPH Special Catalog lists as number 106 the overprint 4 on 4½ cents (Scott No. 106). Immediately following is Platefaults, with as a first variety the broken "4" (No. 106f) and then "left-hand bar" with a short vertical bar:

106fa lists "short and above" while No. 106fb lists "long above and below."

We thought it worthwhile to portray two photos of No. 106fa so that our members may know what to look for. The left-hand copy came out of a circuit book at 50g. Right now the NVPH Special Catalog lists this variety at fl. 125 mint and used. Some varieties like these can still be picked up by the discriminating collector who knows what to look for.

We hope to give more of these photos from time to time or when photos of varieties which are listed but not illustrated become available. Any member who has a variety like that and wants to share it with others please contact the Editor.



NVPH No. 106fa

NVPH No. 106fa



UNBELIEVABLE FAKE

In going through a circuit book recently our eye was arrested by something that didn't seem right. Pretty soon we decided that it was the color of the stamp which didn't seem right, so we bought the stamp and did some research.

The stamp that jarred us is illustrated to the left, the left-hand stamp. While the stamp to the right is rose and light-blue, the other one is red and blue. Once the color difference has been noted, one immediately goes on to look at other points. And this is where a knowledge of postal history comes in handy. One notices immediately that the stamp on the right has a squared-circle cancellation, while the one on the left shows the central bar with date. What we can see of the date seems to indicate 21 October 1915, at twelve noon. Well, the Netherlands Indies overprints demonitized on January 1, 1908. So apart from anything else, the date is wrong. Of course, the type of cancel is also wrong. From 1900, when these stamps appeared until 1908 the squared-circle cancels were generally in use in the Indies, so the cancel is wrong too. With these two facts in our armory we now look at the stamp itself, or rather the overprint. I have to confess that it looks pretty good, but some differences show up (perhaps not in the photograph, but that is the printer's fault!). Let us describe these: there is nothing wrong with the shape of "25" and "Ct." On the fake stamp they may look a little heavier, but that may also be due to the colors of the stamp. With "Ned.-Indië" it is a different story. Especially the DIE shows up as being NOT in line with the rest of the overprint: these three letters go slowly up.

On the whole I would say a very good forgery, except for the wrong cancel and the wrong date. Although I have never seen these darker shades of red and blue with the overprint "Ned.-Indië" the real stamp is known in two shades, so the rose and light-blue may not be the only right color.

Checking things in the NVPH Special Catalog - which does not list a warning about fakes with this issue - I notice that they don't give any issue figures for this set either. Since they were used up before the definitive set of 1902-1908 was being sold at the post office, the numbers of stamps sent to the Indies will come close to totals sold. We then find that of the 10 cent 21,000,000 copies were sent to the Indies, of the 12½ cent 1,100,000, of the 15 cent 3,550,000, of the 20 cent 1,391,575, of the 25 cent 1,350,000, of the 50 cent 900,000 and of the 2½ guilder 92,000.

Having the Handboek der Postwaarden van Nederlandsch-Indië handy I looked up what this handbook has to say about this issue of 1900. As we know, the 2½ guilder exists in two line perforations: 11½ x 11 and 11 x 11. The line perforation 11 x 11 didn't get issued in the Netherlands until 1901. Hence, if we look at the number of 2½-guilder stamps that were sent to the Indies we could almost surely say which were the first perforation (11½ x 11) and which the last. In 1899 20,000 stamps were sent to the Indies; in 1900 a total of 37,000; in 1901 30,000 and in 1902 only 5,000. It seems fairly evident that the last 35,000 sent had the perforation 11 x 11. Hence, this perforation is almost half as rare as the 11½ x 11. Yet the Special Catalog has only a difference of 5 guilders both for the mint and used copy. Mint copies of the 2½ guilder do not appear very often at auctions either these days.

New publication

We read in *Mijn Stokpaardje* - a philatelic monthly mainly devoted to topical collectors, it seems - about a new publication, namely a special catalog of the combinations of the Netherlands. This catalog is devoted to listing all the combinations possible from booklets since 1964. It seems to be the third printing, although this title had not been known to me before.

The reviewer especially mentions a column of combinations on cover or postal stationery. There are about 150 prices for this material and only 36 are under 10 guilders! There are no less than 24 listings of 100 guilders or more. One of the tricky things with these prices, however, is that they are limited to stamps or combinations on really mailed items which are not overfranked. A listing of postal rates is included in the catalog for this purpose.

From the above-mentioned it is clear that we haven't seen this catalog. If any member would be interested in acquiring this catalog, please let the Editor know. We will then try to get it from our supplier in the Netherlands, Van Dieten Boeken Import. By the way, the Dutch price is 6.75 guilders.

Question Box

Under this heading we may from time to time have questions that members have sent to the Editor to get answered. Sometimes we may not be able to answer directly; in that case we may pose the question and invite the membership to provide an answer, if possible. If the question concerns a stamp or cover, try to enclose either a photo or xerox copy of the item. Xerox copies, of course, cannot be used for printing, so in that case we have to find another solution. As a matter of fact, the answer to one of the questions we received is contained in the article on the JAVA, etc. overprints. That was why the 15 cent of 1902 was also known with the two lines, stripes or what have you.

So, if you have a question, let us know.

LETTERS

One of the letters we received was written to point out where our Economic Profile in the latest issue may have missed something. The writer stated that the tax structure in the Netherlands did not encourage saving in the normal way so that people might very well decide to "save" by buying stamps, which must be very hard for the Internal Revenue of the Netherlands to keep track of. I fully agree. I would also add that something I forgot was that there is a lot more money floating around in the Netherlands than the official figures show. Having a second job, or doing some outside work on weekends, for instance, and getting paid in cash has all kinds of advantages, both for the jobholder and for the employer, who does not have to fill out forms, pay tax on the worker, etc. This money too plays a role in the stamp market, I'm sure.

Many, many more letters have been received which your Editor hasn't had a chance to reply to. As long as this issue of *Netherlands Philately* was being worked on, there just wasn't enough time to write long or even short letters. Most of my letters turn out to be (too) long, but that is sometimes the result of trying to get all the information available to the person who writes.

From now on I will have more time to answer letters because the day-to-day correspondence dealing with new members, etc. has now been taken over by Mrs. Francis, as you all know. I also hope that it will be possible to keep a better eye on requests for publication of small ads, either in the journal or in the newsletters.

From this spot - and we hope that our readers will get to this page - we would also request information from our members on two airmail stamps of Surinam. We wonder whether any member has a so-called bridge pair of Surinam airmail Nos. 18 and 19. Or, a left- or right-hand margin with stamp where the margin shows that the sheet was torn. In other words, showing proof that this stamp could have been one of a bridge pair if the sheets had not been separated. I hope this is clear enough. We are trying to ascertain whether the stamps printed by Kolff in Batavia were printed in sheets of 100 or 200. (In the case of the 5 guilder stamp this would mean that if they were printed in sheets of 200, only 100 sheets were printed, since the total printed is only 2,000 stamps.)

Bridge pairs of the imperforated stamps are just as good to prove this question, by the way.

**happy
holidays**