

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 5/3

NEWS

The June issue of the *Maandblad* carries a warning by Mr. A. van der Willigen of the Bonds Certification Service, which we think important enough to translate for you. With the appearance of the automatic booklets a new collecting are was opened up, that of stamps which are imperforated on one side, or these in combinations.

Some combinations or stamps have now reached an impressive price, as for instance the 5 ct (Van Krimpen type) which is valued at fl. 27.50 for a copy with an imperf top, but only fl. 2.00 for an imperf bottom, both mint. The 60 ct Hartz on phosphorescent paper with a grey (same color as the stamp) St. Andrew's cross at the bottom is catalogued at fl. 9.00 if the combination is imperf on the left but perfed on the right. However, if the perforation is found on the left and the imperf margin on the right, the combination is worth no less than fl. 66.00!! (I am going to check through my "tons" of soaked-off material one of these days. The used combination cannot be that common either I think.)



Well, of course what happens when so-called common stamps all of a sudden appear to have gained a large increase in value is that a "stamp-dentist" (this is a Dutch pun since perfs are called "teeth" in Holland) looks for wide-margined copies, cuts off the perfs on one side, and "perforates" the other side with half-circle holes. A non-specialist may have troubles with this doctored copy, but actually it is not too difficult to detect. Just take a magnifying glass and check:

1. the fake perforation usually has smaller holes on the shorter side.
2. the distance between the perforation holes is never as regular as in the legitimate perforation (compare with the other sides)
3. the straight edge of the imperf side still shows between the perforation holes, while the regular paper "bridges" between the holes have irregular torn-off edges.

Most of this garbage comes most likely from Germany where the *Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde* regularly each 14 days has advertisements for firms which improve (!) stamps with bad perfs, no gum, etc.

Since lately the lower values of the Juliana Regina set have climbed to dizzy heights in price, some smart people have even taken these values out of booklets and peddle them as the regular stamp with an additional perforation on one side. Please be careful!

The cancel POSTERIJEN which has been and is used to cancel stamps which have escaped the regular canceling device (even on foreign stamps which arrive in the Netherlands without obliteration) is being replaced by a cancel with twice POST with a Maltese cross between the two words (so there are also two Maltese crosses). Any member who has seen a sample, and can send it on for a photo to be published, please be on the lookout.

The *Maandblad* also mentions a few varieties and faults in booklets. Booklet No. 24a shows two varieties: all booklets printed from the cylinder half A show a "normal" top of the right-hand side of the St. Andrew's cross, while those from cylinder half B have a wide top of this "leg."

Booklet No. 25A shows two plate or cylinder faults: in one the first line of the text has the word "Briefkaarten" without a dot on the "i." The second fault is a "closed" "5" in "PB25A" at the bottom under the text, so the "5" looks like a "6."

Mr. H. Koopman, the author of the Catalog of small round cancels, stated in his last edition that he had never seen a number of cancels. Several people apparently sent him copies or photos, so that now a much smaller number is left: Naaldwijk, Raalte, 's-Gravenhage-Stn, Rotterdam-Rheine, Amsterdam R.P.S.B., Nijmegen (with the 4-hr division), and 's Gravenh: (Parkst.). Wouldn't it be fun if one of our members could send Mr. Koopman one of these cancels?

We happened to see in the Public Library a book by William Hoffman called *Queen Juliana: The Story of the Richest Woman in the World*. On the cover it also says: Worth over \$600,000,000; Controlled by a "female Rasputin"; Married to a jet-setting, devil-may-care adventurer; Heartbroken by her daughters' Dominated by her powerful mother, Wilhelmina; Caught in the intrigue of the European courts; Ruler of a major industrial state, the Netherlands.

If any of you recognize this "charming" description as fitting, then the book is for you! If you wipe your eyes, thinking that I am kidding you, be disgusted with me. With the publication of this book, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich has certainly reached a new low in "biography." Where the author collected this garbage I don't know but he sure must have been busy in a number of gutters. One of the more hilarious items is that the "nobility in the Netherlands is so powerful." All of you with a Dutch background can tell the author something about that. The author also has a large number of "abdication" crises; practically anything that happened in Holland promoted such a crisis, according to the author.

Actually the book is so loaded with inaccuracies, false interpretations and plain old backstairs gossip that it would take a book of the same size to refute the author. He is as ignorant of Dutch politics as anybody can be, BUT he writes about it. If you want to be really disgusted, read the book, and send a letter of disapprobation to the publisher. I am certainly going to do that.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Once again we have a very much delayed issue of our journal. However, those of you who worry about getting four issues this membership year don't have to keep on worrying. The June issue will be printed right after the August Newsletter so that you can start voting and paying dues for the 1980-1981 membership year without feeling that you have been "cheated." The September journal will, however, not be issued until the end of September so that you should not expect it before the first half of October. This was done so that we can perhaps send it to more members all at once. As you know, we don't send the journal to those members who have not paid their dues yet.

We finally have the article promised a long time ago on the absolutely first cancellations in the Netherlands on the "liberation set." You may perhaps wonder about the "third person" used throughout the article. Dr. Bestebreurtje doesn't like to use "I" and "me."

As we promised in the last newsletter we would give you a photo of the inauguration stamp, with comments. Well, here is the photo and the comments. Anybody who has a different opinion, let us all know.

The continuation of the article on the Disberg set of the Netherlands Antilles follows. The Afterword may not cover all the problems; we would like to hear from those members who have an idea how to solve them.

We forgot an invitation to BEPEX early in 1981. Since the theme of the show is Netherlands and Colonies, it should be right up our alley. Please consider showing some of your "treasures."

Our Fakes and Forgeries suffers from misunderstood instructions to the platemaker: the air mail photos should have been the size of the DIENST stamps. And vice versa. We do hope you will enjoy it nevertheless.

Under Ex Libris you will find some book reviews, and finally we have a few answers to the questions posed in the last issue on the inside back cover. We do thank our members who took the time to check their collections and provide us with some additional information.

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Groesbeek 18. IX.44.15

by Dr. A. D. Bestebreurtje

PHILATELICALLY speaking, the summer of 1944 must have been quite heady. On June 15 the so-called Liberation set was put into use, at first only for Dutch ships sailing from and to Allied ports. This set consisted of only nine values, the 1½, 2½, 3, 5, 7½, 10, 12½, 20 and 30 cents. No doubt these stamps from the beginning were also meant to be used in the liberated Netherlands, and after the successful landing in Normandy, and the rush to the Dutch border of the Allied armies, this could not be far off.

As we all know, the southern provinces – below the big rivers – were indeed liberated in September 1944, but for the rest of the Netherlands there would be one fearful "Hunger Winter" separating it from liberation. According to the NVPH catalog, the "liberation" set was used from October and November 1944 in those parts of the country that were liberated by the Allies during and after the airborne operation, code-named Market-Garden, which was started on September 17, a Sunday. The purpose was to capture a whole series of bridges in the southern Netherlands which would enable the Allies to thrust into Germany from an unexpected side, namely from the eastern Netherlands, thereby bypassing the German Siegfriedline. The northernmost at Arnhem over the Lower Rhine, the "one bridge too far," as Cornelius Ryan called it, was the crucial part of the operation which failed to fall permanently into the hands of the British First Airborne Division and a Polish Airborne Brigade. After days of bloodiest combat, the exhausted troops who had not been reached by the advancing main force had to be withdrawn under cover of darkness across the river.

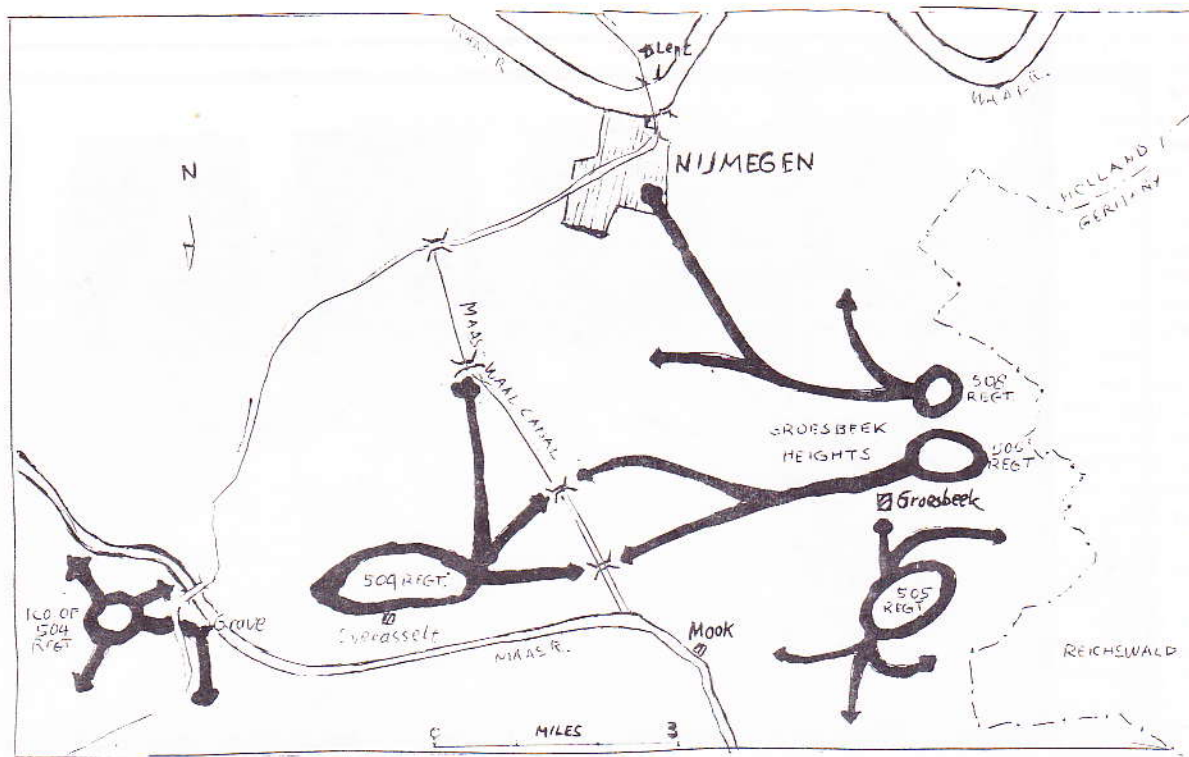
A group of bridges across a canal – the Maas-Waal Canal – and the large bridge at Nijmegen, the one closest to that of Arnhem and at the time of its construction the largest span in Europe, were the target of the American 82nd Airborne Division, under the command of Major General James M. Gavin. One of our members, the Rev. Dr. A. D. Bestebreurtje, at that time a Captain with Allied Special Forces, was attached to this unit as Dutch Liaison Officer. (His comment on the fleet of planes and gliders which left for operation Market-Garden is found in Cornelius Ryan's book *A Bridge Too Far* (Simon and Schuster, 1974): "unbelievable. Every plane the Allies possessed must have been engaged in this single scheme.")

An indication of how optimistic many people were about the operation can be found in some anecdotes which appear in Ryan's book. One private took his pet hare with him, but he worried that it might wind up in a cooking pot. Another pet, this time Myrtle, a red-brown chicken who had already made several practice jumps, was going to be with her owner when he jumped into the Netherlands. One of the Dutch mine-

sweepers which had escaped from Holland in 1940 had carried with it a Lieutenant Commander Arnold Wolters (his rank in 1944) to England. Wolters was also going to be a part of the troops which were to land in the Netherlands.



Examples of the use of the "liberation set" on board ships of the Netherlands Navy



Area of operations of the 82nd Airborne Division (adapted from A Bridge Too Far)

He was quite excited about returning to Holland, and "was struck by the optimism, and I believed everything I was told. I really did not expect the operation to be very difficult. It seemed that the war was virtually over and the attack dead easy. I expected to land on Sunday (September 17) and be home on Tuesday with my wife and child at Hilversum." Wolters had with him a watch for his wife and a two-foot teddy bear for his daughter.

Considering this it does not seem strange that Captain Bestebreurtje, a confirmed philatelist, would carry with him into the battle prepared envelopes, that is, envelopes which had the liberation stamps attached to them. It was his intention, of course, to have these canceled, or perhaps sent off, at the first liberated Dutch post office.

The 82nd Airborne's first task was to secure the bridge at Grave (see map above), where the Maas River was crossed. As you can see from the map which was adapted from Ryan's book, major drop zones were near



One of the two covers canceled at Groesbeek on September 18, 1944 at 3 p.m.

the German border close by the Dutch village of Groesbeek. Gavin's main concern was that German tanks might suddenly emerge from the Reichswald along the German border. The 504th Regiment had grabbed the Grave bridge before it could be destroyed by the Germans, and by 7:30 p.m. on Sunday a crossing was secured over the Maas-Waal Canal at Heumen as well. By nightfall still on Sunday, the 508th Regiment had secured a 3½ mile stretch of the woods along the German border near Groesbeek, and during the night patrols entered Nijmegen and reached the approaches to the huge bridge.

If you now look at the photos, you will see two of the prepared envelopes canceled Groesbeek 18.IX.44.15, which means that they were canceled at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 1944. In between going on a reconnaissance with General Gavin, being pinned down by a German machine gun, killing and capturing some Germans with valuable information (pay-lists of all Germans in the area), and being wounded in both hands and left arm during a night patrol, Captain Beste-breurtje must have found time to go to the post office in Groesbeek, where, in typical Dutch fashion, the postal clerk undoubtedly laconically canceled these stamps, which he had never seen, but which were obviously stamps of the Netherlands.



The second letter with the Groesbeek cancelation

Although the 18th seems to be the first possible day of cancelation, Dr. Beste-breurtje also has a cover which bears the date of the 17th, canceled at Grave. As he states, "I don't know how this is possible - but that must be the earliest date these stamps were used in the Netherlands." One set of his collection is canceled at Nijmegen on the 20th when the city was fully liberated, and one at Eindhoven (captured by the 101st Airborne Division). He thinks that he may have given some prepared envelopes to others who later returned the envelopes to him.



The two other photographs show the liberation set canceled by the British Field Post Office No. 763 on September 29, 1944 that is, "once they had established proper lines of communication," according to Dr. Beste-breurtje.

Finally, we show you a Field Post Card used by the Dutch troops, and canceled by the Dutch Field Post/Nederlandsche Veldpost. (See the photo on the next page.)

Left: The higher values of the liberation set canceled by the British Field Post Office.

Inauguration

by Paul E. van Reyen

ACTUALLY the title of this short essay should have been something like "Inauguration stamp and other thoughts on present-day Dutch stamps," but you can see that that would have been much too long. Also, this should have appeared not in the March journal, because in March 1980 we didn't know yet what would be issued on April 30, but in the June journal. However, we don't have to keep up the fiction too consistently, so here you have my thoughts on the inauguration stamp, combined with other thoughts on recent Dutch stamps.

I have to thank our Governor, Dr. A. M. Benders, for information regarding the questionnaire on public appreciation of recent Dutch stamps which the PTT sent out, and the Editor of *Mijn Stokpaardje* for generously allowing me to translate from the June issue of that publication.

On April 30, 1980, the first inauguration of a Dutch monarch took place since September 1948. It is not an occasion which comes too often, and although it is not a "coronation" it certainly does not lack solemnity, pomp and splendor. The Constitution spends some time on it and states explicitly that the inauguration ("inhuldiging") should take place in the capital, Amsterdam. Yet, for this solemn occasion, the Dutch PTT, or, rather, the designer, Prof. R. D. E. Oxenaar, who is also the head of the Service for the Esthetic Creation ("Vormgeving") of the PTT, managed to offer us nothing but the stamp you see pictured above. Perhaps it is a "nice" stamp (one of our members mentioned that he thought it better than most of what appears in the U.S. and Canada recently) but is it an "Inauguration" stamp? Let us listen to the words of the designer as printed in the PTT internal newspaper of April 30, 1980, vol. 13, page 11. The following is taken from *Mijn Stokpaardje*:

"I thought that the new queen should be portrayed on it and that the stamp should also be concerned with the inauguration solemnity. Also I wanted to keep the total representation in this time. I wanted to picture Queen Beatrix as a common person ("gewoon iemand"); as a 42-year-old mother of three children. And as for the inauguration, I wanted to show very clearly that that too is an occurrence of today. Hence no sceptre, no crown, no ermin coat. Thus I came to a collage of an unposed photo of Queen Beatrix - taken by Prince Claus at her 41st birthday - and a photo of the New Church. Because all Dutch monarchs are inaugurated in this church, I thought that a good illustration of the whole solemn occasion."

The choice of the photo of the Crown Princess Beatrix was not a quirk ("zomaar gedaan"). Hundreds of photos have been scrutinized. That this particular one was chosen was because she (the Princess) looked here extraordinarily spontaneous and unposed, which, according to Mr. Oxenaar, is because it is a photo for the family album.

Also a good recent photo of the New Church was difficult to obtain. Taking it had to be postponed to the last moment because the front of the church was partly covered with scaffolding. After an acceptable photo was obtained, a good relation between the two photos had to be ascertained. The color of the stamp brought some intense thinking. Mr. Oxenaar had been forced to accept some limitation. Because the printers, Joh. Enschede, were so busy, he could only work with three colors. There was a chance that the press on which normally these stamps would be printed would be busy with one of the other stamps to be issued. In that case the stamp would have to be printed on a press which would be limited to three colors.

"Hence the colors red, blue and orange. This to give the stamp a festive coloring ("tintje") after all."

What follows is a straight translation of the comment on this exposition of the designer as it appeared in *Mijn Stokpaardje*. I could have given my own comment, but I felt that this proves that not I alone am disgusted with this stamp, but quite a few people in the Netherlands too.

"Remarkable in the story of Oxenaar is the continuous use of two words: "I want." What he doesn't want just does not happen. And he didn't want to take into consideration ("gehoor geven") the urgent request of many tens of thousands of people to come up with a solemn and appropriate stamp for the inauguration.

"'I thought the new queen should be portrayed on it.' How lucky we are! He could have thought something completely opposite.

"'that the stamp should also be concerned with the inauguration solemnity.' We have looked for a sign of this solemnity, but in vain.

"'Also I wanted to keep the total representation in this time.' It sounds good, but it doesn't ring true. This is a time when single persons cannot respect the earnestly held beliefs of others.

"'I wanted to picture Queen Beatrix as a common person; as a 42-year-old mother of three children.' The man doesn't understand beans of it. According to that crooked argument Oxenaar should have portrayed her wearing an apron giving the children a bath. Mothers do that kind of thing.

"'I wanted to show very clearly that that too is an occurrence of today.' We think that the majority of Netherlanders think slightly differently about "that." Anyway, anybody with eyes could have seen very clearly (presumably on TV) that Queen Beatrix did not share Oxenaar's belief. Just take the way she rose to take the oath. She moved very slowly, clearly feeling that the next words "So help me God Almighty," would place a very heavy task on her. She was fully aware of the responsibility.



"because she looked here extraordinarily spontaneous and unposed'. The head of the state should be above the parties and their squabbles ("gehakketak"). Something which requires lots of thought and reflection. A bit of spontaneous behavior does not fit in there.

"We do agree with Oxenaar about the quality of the photo: one for the family album. He should have left the photo in there. At a birthday party a jolly face of Mom, when Dad takes the picture, is more appropriate than severity. But the inauguration of a King of the Netherlands is not a birthday party. Something which apparently escaped Oxenaar.

"The color of the stamp brought some intense thinking.' Well, well! The colors used we cannot endorse altogether. The ancient orange-white-blue as well as the newer red-white-blue is not appropriate. Only the white is white. On the other hand, we couldn't honor the color which is supposed to be orange by calling it orange.

"We don't like it ("vinden het geen stijl") that Oxenaar has saddled us with a piece of junk ("een lor, met een ondermaats vod").

So far the account in *Mijn Stokpaardje*. IF this criticism of one stamp stood alone we wouldn't have bothered you with it. You all know that I have been critical for a long time about the recent Dutch stamps because their appearance made it just that harder to entice people into collecting the area. There were not many stamps that one could brag about and invite young collectors to "try them out." Each of you may have different feelings about the Dutch stamp designs. That is your good right. A professional English designer thought that the computer-designed stamps of the Netherlands of 1970 were weird, while I liked them. You also have read that the "tulip" stamp in his opinion was bizarre (NVPH No. 1025; Scott No. 503).

So, each of us, as collectors, have our own opinion. But the results of a PTT-inspired questionnaire, recently made public, show that the Netherlands population is not too happy either with the stamps they are supposed to use. The questionnaire was sent to 1019 noncollectors and 1036 philatelists. I have preliminary comment on the results from one national newspaper and from *Mijn Stokpaardje*. It is almost as if they were talking about a different event. According to the newspaper R.D.E. Oxenaar was satisfied with the results which indicated only 5-6 percent of the stamps were considered to be ugly. On the other hand the journal states that three out of four people did not care for the products of Oxenaar and his co-workers. Needless to say, the paper also stated that PTT will not feel bound by the results of the questionnaire. Well, my question is then: "Why bother and spend a lot of money?"

These preliminary comments indicated that out of 50 stamps issued during the last ten years both groups of noncollectors and philatelists thought that the 75 + 25 cent of the summer stamps of 1979, the fragment of the stained-glass window with Prince William of Orange, designed by Prof. Wim Crowel, was the best. Second place for the noncollectors was the 45 cent of the Red Cross set of 1978 (NVPH No. 1162) the heart with torch, designed by Jaap Drupsteen, although the philatelists gave it only sixth place. Both groups were in accord about the third place, namely the Europa stamp of 1978, the Haarlem townscape, designed by Anton Pieck (the first time this famous "illustrator" was invited to design a stamp!). The last two places were well deserved by Marte Røling for her "Basketball" stamp of 1978 (NVPH No. 1160) and by Otto Treumann (who knows better) for his European parliament stamp of 1979 (NVPH No. 1173), the latter by vote of noncollectors as well as philatelists. Three other stamps which finished at the bottom of the pile were the Spinoza stamp, designed by Oxenaar's group (41st), the Eduard Verkade stamp of 1978, designed by Jan Kuiper, and the 45 cent for the printing trade, issued in 1976 (NVPH No. 1095), designed by W. Sandberg.

We have requested a copy of the questionnaire and the results so that we may give you a complete article on this important event in a future issue of the journal.

Although one of my sources stated that Prof. Oxenaar is appreciated by the new Queen as a designer, it is too bad that we will never know whether She also approved of "Her" inauguration stamp. But in the area of Dutch politics it is of course impossible for Her to state her approval or disapproval.

I realize that many of you may not agree with the foregoing. If so, we do have a column for Letters to the Editor, and within reason we will publish all comments we receive.

BEPEX

The theme of the next BEPEX show which will take place February 27-28, March 1, 1981, will be Netherlands and Colonies. The show will be held at the American Legion Post No. 147 in East Paterson (Elmwood Park). A special award will be given for the best entry showing Netherlands and/or colonies. Besides that an extensive range of awards is being offered, details of which will be given in a subsequent newsletter.

The frames used for the exhibits hold 8 album pages of the normal 8½ x 11 size. The fee per frame is \$3.00. The Association of Bergen County Philatelists, Inc., which organizes the show, will mail us prospecti explaining details and containing an entry blank. Rather than request over 300 of these to mail to all our members, we would prefer members who think at this time they would like to exhibit to let us know so that we can mail out the prospectus to these members separately. Since we are the only national society devoted to the Netherlands and its former colonies, this should be very much up our alley. We hope that a large number of members will decide to exhibit. Please send your requests for a prospectus to the ASNP, P.O. Box 555, Montclair, NJ 07042.

We will also have an exhibit of available philatelic literature at the show. More news later.

Date delivery	Colors	Printing			Paper								Gum			Perforation margins									
		Dull	Silky	Shiny	Half-circle	Marginal Imprint			Punch	English	Cream	Creamy white	White	Violino	Harrison	UV	Arabic	Synth.		A	B	C			
						Align-ment	Cross	Hooks										DN	UV						
25 Cent ctd																									
July 19, 1976	Ditto				2	4																			
Aug. 2, 1978	No color given																								
30 Cent																									
Feb. 27, 1958	Brown + green				2	2	ab																		
Feb. 17, 1959	Ditto				2	2	ab																		
Apr. 28, 1961	Ditto				2	2																			
Mar. 2, 1965	Ditto				2	2																			
Feb. 9, 1968	Ditto				2	2																			
May 9, 1969	Ditto				2	2																			
May 27, 1970	Ditto				2	6	a																		
Oct. 21, 1971	Ditto				2	6																			
Dec. 4, 1972	Ditto				2	4																			
Apr. 21, 1976	Ditto				2	4																			
Aug. 29, 1978	No color given				2	4																			
35 Cent																									
Mar. 2, 1959	Bronze green + pink				2	2	a																		
June 2, 1960	Ditto				2	2																			
Apr. 24, 1961	Ditto				2	2																			
Feb. 20, 1963	Ditto				2	2																			
Feb. 25, 1965	Ditto				2	2																			
Feb. 3, 1967	Ditto				4	2																			
Feb. 19, 1968	Ditto				4	2																			
May 9, 1969	Ditto				2	6																			
May 26, 1970	Ditto				2	6	1/2																		
Nov. 1, 1971	Ditto				2	2																			
Jan. 29, 1973	Ditto				2	2																			
Nov. 3, 1975	Ditto				2	2																			
Aug. 23, 1978	No color given				2	2																			
40 Cent																									
Aug. 5, 1958	Dark purple + emerald green				2	2	ab																		
Feb. 18, 1958	Ditto				2	2	a																		
Apr. 28, 1964	Ditto				2	2																			
Mar. 1, 1965	Ditto				2	2																			
Feb. 12, 1968	Ditto				2	2																			
1970	Ditto				2	2	a																		

Fakes and Forgeries

IT is quite surprising that the forgers of the past seem to have concentrated so valiantly on the airmail issues of the Netherlands Indies. So far we have given you fakes of the first two sets, and the overprints on some stamps of the second set. We have seen - imperforate - forgeries of NVPH No. 13 (Scott C13), but we have not been able to acquire these yet for our ASNP forgery collection. Van de Loo's book on forgeries mentions a fake of NVPH No. 14 (Scott C14), the 30 cent airmail of 1931, but now we can offer you photos and a description of all three values of this set, including the 4½ and 7½ guilder stamps.

Before we go on with the description, we want to note that now only the stamp for special flights (NVPH No. 18; Scott C18) is not known to have been forged. This reinforces in our mind the belief that all these stamps were fabricated *before* 1933. We cannot prove this, but seems more than likely in view of the fact that none of these stamps are really very worthwhile forging.

If you look now at the six photos to the right, you will see the fakes in the left vertical row. As you immediately can see, the most characteristic difference is the large margin of each fake stamp. A second pronounced difference is that the colors are all paler: the 30 ct red violet in the fake is a pale red violet while the same applies to the blue and green of the 4½ and 7½ guilder stamps. These characteristics are so obvious that we are surprised that the auction house that tried to peddle these stamps did not know better!

The perforation of the forgeries is line perf 13, instead of line perf 12½. The paper is slightly less white than that of the real stamps while the gum is cream-colored.

The three forgeries we have show a very vague line around the design of the stamp, which may mean that these fakes were printed one at a time. This supposition may be strengthened by the fact that none of the three is exactly the same size. In the 30-cent fake we have not been able to discover characteristic No. 5 of the forgeries book; namely, the oval inner arcs in the 3, nor the variation in distance between the C and e of Cent. We were going to give you very much enlarged detail figures of the three values in the fakes and genuine stamps, but the plate maker got his instructions mixed up.

This is the reason why the photographs on the next page showing some faked overprints on the Netherlands Indies Official stamps are so extraordinarily large. But perhaps this will enable you to make a real careful study of these fakes which are - after all - not too difficult to distinguish from the real stamps, once you have some comparison material.

Considering that photographing these particular stamps is a very difficult job because of the dull, dark colors, we have tried to give you the ones with the most contrast, hence we show you the fake overprints again on the left and the genuine ones on the right of the 7½ cent, the 25 cent and the 12½ cent. The latter are cut diagonally at an even distance from the overprint to show you the difference in the angle of the overprint, which also shows up immediately if you have a lot of stamps next to each other. As a matter of fact, this was the way they showed up in a circuit book, where eight of the set up to the 1 guilder were found to be faked. A characteristic which does not show on the photographs, of course, is







that seven of the eight fakes showed a red five-pointed star on the back, obviously an earlier attempt to separate these sheep from the goats - or is it vice versa - but which had not done too much good. Anyway, other fakes of this set may carry this star on the back; it will pay you perhaps to check this out.

In all, we found fake overprints on the 2½, 7½, 12½, 17½, 22½, 25 and 50 cent, and on the 1 gulden, which you will see above, again the fake on the left and the genuine overprint on the right.

Even within these various forgeries, the angle of the overprint differs; in the 17½ cent it is almost vertical, while, for instance in the 2½ cent the angle is practically indistinguishable from that of the real overprints. We do believe that these fakes have been made with a handstamp.

If we concentrate on the photos, and for instance look at the "E" of DIENST, we will immediately see an obvious difference. While the regular E has practically vertical serifs, those on the fakes are more normal, with a slight angle on the inside. This can be seen especially well in the photographs above of the two 1 gulden stamps. This same difference also occurs on the lower values, as may not be too easily seen on the photographs on the preceding page. Another major characteristic is that all these fake overprints lack a well-defined period after DIENST. The genuine period should be a perfect circle and should be positioned very slightly *above* the line. This is also true of the JAVA. and BUITEN BEZIT. overprints. Of course, the missing period could also be a genuine variety of the genuine overprint, even though the NVPH catalog only lists these for the two gulden values. They do occur on the lower values as well.

Other characteristics of the forged overprint are also concerned with the serifs of the other letters apart from the above-mentioned "E." The two serifs of the "N" for instance are in the genuine overprint perfectly flat straight lines, while the fakes show serifs with angles at the outside, again, best seen in the 1-gulden stamps above. This is also evident in the hanging serifs of the "T."

Any member who after checking his or her own collection finds similar fakes in the DIENST set, or perhaps the JAVA. and BUITEN BEZIT. stamps, is cordially invited to contact the editor.

Another example of a fake overprint (NVPH No. 118; Scott No. 121), the 10 on 12½ cent, has shown up. Apart from the slightly purple color of the overprint, this one could immediately be spotted because of the double-circle cancellation of Amsterdam, 23 DEC 99, hence about 23 years before the overprints appeared.

Finally, although this has nothing to do with "Fakes and Forgeries," we would like to alert you to the possibility of confusion in buying some Netherlands Indies postage dues, namely between NVPH Nos. 23-39 and Nos. 41-48. As you can see from the catalog, both sets are perforated 12½ comb perforation, but the latter set was printed in the Indies and has the 12½ comb perf with small holes. This may have been the perforation machine of the Topographical Service in Batavia, but we will probably never know for sure. Especially in buying complete sets of the Kolff set it pays to check very carefully whether the cheaper stamps, especially No. 28 of course, were not substituted for the much more expensive stamps of the later set. However, in one case it pays to check whether No. 48 with a favor cancel or even a real cancel was not substituted for No. 39, which, used, is worth four times as much as No. 43.

Apart from the slight difference in perforation, the Kolff stamps are printed on slightly thicker paper, cream-colored, while the gum is rough and has sometimes very small bubbles showing.

Ex Libris

A postal history: Philatelic Service The Netherlands by Rene J. Kuypers

In looking through the review copy, one is struck by the question as to why the subject matter of this book has never been touched upon previously. Virtually every collector of Netherlands material has had some contact with the efficient and cooperative Philatelic Service of the Dutch PTT, yet the history of its activities has never been chronicled until now.

Author Kuypers has done an impressive job of covering the story of the Philatelic Service from its earliest days in the form of a philatelic mail service in 1915 in the post office at Haarlem through its greatest period of growth starting in 1949 until its relocation in Groningen in 1978.

In addition to the extensive history, the author identifies and classifies all cancellations and postal markings used by the Philatelic Service since its earliest beginnings, as well as similarly covering its brief but notable incursion into printed (typographed) cancellations, its use of registry markings and labels, and its stationery, which has become familiar to collectors throughout the world.

Of particular interest is the complete coverage of the varied Philatelic Service publicity releases, including the spectacular full color series starting with the 1950 Summer Set (FDC E-1). These early releases are now true collector's items, as well as their beautiful registered covers. As the author points out, most collections of used 20th century Netherlands contain examples of Philatelic Service cancels from these covers.

Over one-third of the book is devoted to an appendix in which is listed detailed data on all special postmarks used by the Service, stationery types, every publicity release which has been issued, as well as examples of all known postmarks and postal markings used to date. The amount of research which went into this volume, which we understand took over ten years to complete, is formidable, to say the least.

Many members will recall that author Rene Kuypers designed the cover for *Forgeries Forgeries*, the translation of P.F.A. van de Loö's book on the forgeries of the Netherlands and Colonies, published by the Netherlands Philatelic Society of Chicago last fall. The fully illustrated 150-page book is also published by the Netherlands Philatelic Society of Chicago, which currently is confining its activities to publishing works such as the subject book.

Highly recommended to all those interested in the operation of the PTT Philatelic Service, the book is available directly from the Chicago organization at \$6.50 per copy postpaid: Julius Mansbach, Secretary, 6323 N. Francisco, Chicago, IL 60659.

LHR

10 Year Anniversary Commemorative Booklet by the Netherlands & Colonies Philatelists of Northern California

Apart from some lists of past officers and those who were present at the first meeting in December 1969, this 35-page booklet contains nine articles on various facets of Dutch philately and postal history. Albert R. Muller contributed an article on the semipostal stamps of the Netherlands from its beginning in 1906 to 1978. "The Simon de Brienne Covers" translated from the Amphilex '77 catalog gives for the non-Dutch reader a fascinating account of the approximately 2,000 covers dating from 1689 to 1706, which after having been kept in a locked trunk for centuries finally were handed over to the Postal Museum in 1926. George Vandenberg has a piece on the Liberation stamps of 1944-1946 in which the illustrated cover shows a Koninklijke Marine cancel without the number behind the date (11 Oct. 1944). For a cancel with this number see page 34 of this issue.

A very original piece of research concerns the "Netherlands Indies Zee Brief Mail: Chinese Correspondence Between Riouw and Rembang in the 1850s," by F. L. Dunn and L. F. Yap of the Division of Medical Ecology, Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Providing three illustrations, the authors transliterate the various Chinese markings and chops, and identify them on the covers. They come - tentatively - to the conclusion that there was a "duality" of postal services in the Indies. Contact with the Dutch postal service is indicated by the oval marking "Ongefrankeerd / ZeeBrief / Riouw" while every letter is also marked with the name of the Chinese mailcarrier/handler. The authors would like all those collectors with Chinese letters to contact them for further research which is obviously required. As a parenthetical remark I would venture to ascribe the "abundance" of Chinese letters sent to Rembang to the presence of a philatelist with the "liberating" Dutch troops in Rembang during the Indonesian Police Action of the late 1940's.

Vincent Hugo shows a photo of a rare Riverboat cancel used on the Para River in Surinam on February 24, 1900. One card was known with this Boven Para small circle cancel, dated December 27, 1895. Albert Muller shows his largest and smallest Netherlands covers with illustrations. The largest cover was bought in 1968 for \$1.00 and now has an NVPH catalog value of 114.00 guilders (stamps only). Harold F. MacDonald has an article about the provisional issues of Surinam 1925-26, and the long and short fraction bars of the Netherlands 1½ and 2½ cent postage dues are translated from a 1932 Jubilee issue of the Maandblad. Finally George Vandenberg discusses the printer Oscar Berger-Levrault and his "essays" of 1866, resulting in a total of 690 different "proofs" which are not included in the Van Dieten Proof Catalog (1966).

This interesting publication is available from George Vandenberg, 2629 Briarwood Drive, San Jose, CA 95125 for \$7.50 + 50¢ postage.

PEVR

All our members are urged to order these two interesting publications in our field.

In the April Newsletter we promised to review this bibliography which can be ordered from the author at P.O. Box 230, CH-1009 Pully, Switzerland, for \$3.00 or \$4.00 airmail. As we can assume that our members - with exceptions - are mainly interested in UNTEA, we will not review the entire booklet, but concentrate on the opening "chapters" and the UNTEA part. The booklet first lists a number of "Documents and Legal Studies on UN-Peacekeeping Operations," mostly in English, with 2 French and 1 German source. These are of course concerned with all UN operations in trying to keep the peace. A few "Memoirs" follow. Then we get "National and UN Official Documents," and "Articles or Studies Dealing with Several Operations." "UNTEA" lists 16 articles, among which an article by Richard Wheatley of the Netherlands Circle in Great Britain, "UNTEA - Its History and Stamps," which has been offered to us for republication in our journal.

All in all, even for somebody who doesn't collect anything but UNTEA, this is a handy bibliography, which seems to be worth its price.

Answers to Inquiries

In our last issue of the journal we showed you the photo of a Netherlands Indies cover of 1936 which carries a Kelly green Registry label. Our member, Victor Esbensen, wrote to say that he has a number of these, and one from Padang also has the "a" to the right of the number. This "a" does not appear on the more common bright red Registry labels. So now we have a number of these green labels, but we still don't know what their use was - if different from that of the red ones. Perhaps one of these days we will find out.

Victor also has found a notable plate fault in the 2 gld stamp of Netherlands Indies, 1941 (NVPH No. 286; Scott No. 246). The flaw consists of a 5-mm long vertical line across the Queen's face, through the center of the jaw, almost. It "is definitely part of the original plate and is not dirt on the plate, as can be seen with a strong magnifying glass." If all those of you who collect Netherlands Indies please check their 1941 2 gld stamps, you might find another copy of this plate fault. Please let your editor know.

Here is a question which may have some bearing on future articles in the journal. Not all of you have to answer; from the number of letters received I think I can chart a course. Lately in the Netherlands there are many people interested in the printing direction which shows up in some ways in the finished stamp. In some cases it helps in establishing different printings of the same stamp. The first printing may have run from top to bottom, which means that the photogravure raster at the top shows clear points, while those at the bottom show a ragged straight line because all the triangular spaces between the points have been filled in, and the second printing might have been just the opposite.

Personally I think that this is very interesting IF there are two printings of the same stamp that can only be distinguished by these printing directions. BUT it seems to me somewhat of a waste of time to start to establish printing directions for stamps which have had only one printing.

If any of you are interested in this new phenomenon of collecting, and wants to see articles in our journal on the subject, please let me know. If some of you agree with my viewpoint, stated above, please let me know too. It might help in choosing articles.

The Mail Bag

Many people may not agree with the current issues being produced by the Dutch PTT. Although I don't collect contemporary material as my main interest, I do try to get a few copies. In my judgment they compare favorably with whatever is being issued in Canada and the U.S. Chauvinism? May be. Do not forget that we cannot compare old techniques and appreciation with contemporary technology and trends. We cannot apply our "old" ideas to "modern" times and expect it to conform to us. Criticism is fine, but we have to keep it in context.

Mike Dekker

Our Canadian Governor, Ed Matthews, sent us a letter in regard to the small article on the mint International Court of Justice stamps. This article also mentions the imperf Queen Wilhelmina 1940 stamps, which are only listed in mint condition. The journal from which this article was borrowed also mentioned a set which had been used in the Netherlands. Well, Ed Matthews sent a xerox copy of a cover he has with the four imperfs, sent registered on July 8, 1943 from the stamp wholesaler H. Fiorani in Amsterdam to a business address in Amsterdam.

This proves that not all the imperfs stolen by the German occupation forces were shipped to the U.S. via Switzerland. In a following issue of *Mijn Stokpaandje* a photo was also shown of an identical letter with the four imperfs, but not from the same address. It was, however, also a stamp dealer.

We have also received a number of letters from people who volunteered for the NVPH Catalog Committee, and for some work for the journal and/or newsletters. Needless to say, these letters were much appreciated and they will be answered as soon as this issue has been delivered to the printer's. All other correspondents who are still waiting for an answer, please have a little more patience. Between now (end of July) and the first week in August we hope to have all the materials for the newsletter out.