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From the President

Dear Fellow Members:

I have been increasingly concerned about the fact that you have not received any publications for months. I am sorry to report to you that our editor, Mr. Paul van Reyen, has been ill and has been quite unable to do the work necessary to produce a Journal or a Newsletter, or even to enter into correspondence.

Paul has been hoping, as have we, that he would shortly be recovering to the point where he could resume his editorial work. This has not happened, and it is now apparent that he will be unable to do so in the near future. For this reason, I have granted Paul a sabbatical leave until September 1983.

Mr. Frank Julsen, one of our Governors, and Vice-President Larry Rehm will jointly take over editorial duties on an interim basis, and will resume the production of our Journals and Newsletters. They will be receiving assistance from a number of other members in this task.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have written me to offer help and constructive suggestions during this period, especially Dr. Frans Rummens, Harold MacDonald, Julius Mansbach, and Adrian Bahnerth, among others.

I ask your indulgence during this period, and we will be keeping you informed in our Newsletters.

Sincerely,

Reinder van Heuveln
President

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HOLLAND - 1872 to 1891 - A Study in Serration

By W.E. Gerrish, O.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

(A paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on March 3, 1955)

I. HISTORY

A ROYAL Decree of June 6, 1872, authorised the issue of a new type of postage stamp in the following values: -

5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 cents.

It further stated that the new postage stamps would be put into circulation as soon as the postage stamps of the present type are used up. The Decree further stated that a new value would also be issued, the 2.50 Gul., which would be sold from July 1, 1872.

The dates of issue, according to Moens, were: -

5 cent	July 12, 1872
10 cent	November 1872
15 cent	January 1873
20 cent	July 12, 1872
25 cent	February 1875
50 cent	January 1, 1874

These dates are no doubt authoritative, as Moens was in sufficient touch with events to obtain by special favour all the values imperforate. In the case of the 1867 issue, it is stated that he received a complete sheet of each value, but with the 1872 issue there must have been at least two sheets of the 5 cent value, as I have imperforate blocks of four on the paper and printing of the colour trials, and on a thinner paper with considerable mesh of the shade prevalent in 1886-87.

P. C. Korteweg, in his excellent book on the proofs of Holland, states that Joh. Enschede of Haarlem, the well-known printers, made a design for the frame and the head of King William III after a drawing by H.F.C. ten Kate. The engraving was done by E. Schilling, and the plates were made by the State Printing Works of Berlin, although at a later date the making of plates was taken over by Enschede. The first die was made by Schilling, who used the design of the frame of Enschede and reduced the drawing of ten Tate.



Korteweg states that in June 1871 proofs were printed of the 10 cent black on very thin paper watermarked with horizontal lines at short distances from each other, and of the 50 cent in black on thick white cardboard paper.

Later on in 1871 colour proofs from the Berlin plates were made on smooth white paper, without gum and imperforate. For the six lower values, besides black, each of the colours of the issue, except that appropriate to the value itself, were used. An exception to this is the 25 cent, of which no colour trial in carmine is known. The 2.50 Gulden had a series of rather gay colour trials in twelve colours.

After receiving the plates, the firm of Enschede in 1872 printed the 50 cent plate in the selected colours for the six values used. The paper is thinner, vertically laid, toned in colour, imperforate and gummed. These Haarlem proofs are scarce.

The statement with regard to the dates of issue is of interest in regard to some of the values. There may perhaps have been a token issue on the dates mentioned by Moens, but with regard to the 10 cent I find business correspondence in December 1872 and January 1873 franked by a mixture of the 5 cent 1872 issue and the 10 cent of the previous issue. Similarly, with regard to the 15 cent I have a business correspondence at regular intervals to London with the 1867 15 cent still used as late as February 1873. As regards the 20 cent, I have business correspondence from Rotterdam using the 1867 type in November and December 1872. I have the 25 cent used as late as October 1874 and the 50 cent (1867) used in December 1873 and January 1874, which ties up with the dates given by Moens.

The 12½ cent was necessitated by Holland joining the Universal Postal Union, and by a Decree of June 16, 1875, its use was authorised and it was put into circulation on July 1, 1875. Before its issue colour proofs were made in eight shades, imperforate, which can be found with or without gum, and in seven shades gummed and perforated 14 large holes. As one of these was in the issued colour of the 12½ cent, I fail to see how a distinction can be made between that and the issued stamp in this perforation. In fact, the late Mr. Warren, writing in the LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol. XXXIII, in 1923 said: "I still maintain the 12½ cent perf 14 large holes was not used." Copies of this stamp were passed through the post by favour of Beverwyk, and that in my possession shows the first numeral of the year date as an '8'.

No other values were added to the issue until December 15, 1888, when the 7½ cent and 22½ cent -- the latter representing the single registered rate-- and the 1 Gul were added. A block of fifty clichés of the 22½ cent value was used to print colour trials in no less than twenty-one colours, from which three were selected for use. I have, in addition, an unused block of four of the 22½ cent on the normal paper of the issued stamp and with gum, which is not recorded in the Dutch Specialist Catalogue.

Stamps overprinted SPECIMEN exist in all values, and I have noted that my copies of the 5, 10, 15 and 20 cent are perforated 13¼ x 14; 25 cent 12½ x 12 small holes and 12½; and 50 cent 12½ x 12 large holes irregular comb which I will in future refer to as 12½ x 12B. SPECIMEN overprints are also found in the 1888 values, and here I find both a thick and a thinner SPECIMEN, probably due to the over inking of what appears to be, by its irregularity of registration, a hand stamp.

II. PERFORATION

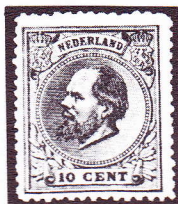
Having dealt with the issue of the stamps themselves, and before dealing with their method of production, there is much to be written about perforation. Surely no other issue of an industrial nation can have had such problems of serration, or perhaps to be more accurate can have presented philatelists with so many problems.

So long ago as 1900 Westoby, in his "Comprehensive Adhesive Postal Stamps of Europe" deals with the whole matter through the statement, 'During a period from 1872 to 1888 the perforations varied so much between 11½ and 14 and compounds that it would only confuse the ordinary collector to attempt to bring order out of disorder.' He further remarks "Stamps in which the gauge of the perforations vary so much as in those printed at Haarlem were for the most part perforated by single line machines and the manufacturers seem to have made use of the first which came to hand so that what was the gauge one day was possibly not that of the next day.'

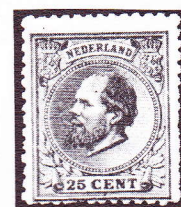
Confusion has, however, during the lapse of time yielded to study and the pattern is not quite as complicated as it may at one time have seemed. As always in matters concerning the nineteenth century stamps of Holland, Mr. Warren leads the way by his article "Perforations Galore" which appeared in "Gibbons Stamp Weekly" in 1910.



14 SH



13¼ x 14 SH



12½ x 12 SH

THE LINE MACHINES. 14 and 13¼ SMALL HOLES

At the start of the issue Enschede had available line machines perforating 13¼ and 14, and there is, I think, no doubt that these were used for about the first nine months of the printings. It is significant that the three values stated by Moens to have been issued in July 1872 are the only three which are found perforated 14 small holes. Unfortunately, both the lower values are rare and my only dated copy of the 20 cent is June 1873. The combination of 13¼ x 14 appears to have done most of the work until March-April 1873.

12½ x 12 Small Holes

The 12½ x 12 machine with small holes then came into use for the 5 and 10 cent. My earliest date for this perforation on the 15 cent is September, and on the 20 cent, December 1873, with a few covers showing the use of the 13¼ x 14 on the higher values until these dates.

It is the construction of this 12½ x 12 machine that has added another complication. The left-hand portion of the horizontal comb had one pin fewer between the two vertical lines and only gauged 11½. The remaining segments of the comb were also irregular to a lesser degree, and I have noted them running from the second row as 12 3/4 full, 12 3/4, 12 3/4, 12½, 12¼, 12½, 12½, 12½, 12½ respectively. I have no doubt it was the second row which created the stamp that years ago could be found in most dealers' stock books as perforated 13 x 12, with sometimes a note that it was uncatalogued and rare.

This machine seems to have been the only one in use until the middle of 1875, and as the 25 cent was not issued until early that year it is quite a scarce stamp with the small holes perforation.

There must have been difficulty in separating the stamps with the small holes perforation, because thicker pins were ready by March 31, 1875, when the 15 cent postage due stamps of the Netherlands Indies were issued perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12B.

It is stated in the Dutch periodical "De Philatelist" in their issue for January 1935 that the order for proofs of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamp was given on May 15, 1875, and that the proofs were received on June 5th. It is interesting that for the perforated proofs a line machine giving a clean-cut hole perforated 14 was used, and this would appear accurately to date the end of the work of the small holes machine. It is also worth comment that the second hole from the left of the first vertical row -- the $11\frac{1}{2}$ row -- frequently appears as a blind hole.



14 LH



$12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12B LH

14 Large Holes. Line Machine

The 14 clean-cut large holes perforation was mainly used for the colonies and is catalogued as 1874. We have definite evidence of its use for the colour trials of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ cent in May 1875. Is it not likely that its extremely limited use for the stamps of the mother country would have corresponded to the interregnum for a few days while the new pins were being fitted to the $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 machine? The 25 cent value seems the only stamp whose bona fides with this perforation are not somewhat suspect, and I notice Darwen records a used copy dated June 1875.

The 5, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 20 and 50 cent with this perforation were first chronicled by Stanley Gibbons in 1908, and the late A.J. Warren, writing in the LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol. XVII, of that year, remarks with regard to this perforation that "The 5, 20, 25 and 50 cent have all, I think, a real philatelic value". From that date these stamps have appeared from time to time both in the important collections and in auctions, but at the moment they are not accepted, apart from the 25 cent, by the Dutch Expert Committee and do not appear in the Specialist catalogue. At the moment the whole of the evidence is being considered by the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in conjunction with the Dutch Expert Committee, and I would prefer to make no detailed comment at this stage. My previous paragraph, however, indicates that during the early months of 1875 there may well have been a period for a few days when the comb machine was out of action and one of the line machines, of which the 14 large holes was being currently used for the colonies, would have been at hand for any urgent supplies that were required. (Ed. comment: Apparently the two Committees have failed to resolve this problem, as the 25 cent continues to be the only value listed in the "Speciale Catalogus" in this perforation.)

$12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12B

For the next ten years the $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 machine with the new pins giving larger holes-- still the same irregular comb with the left-hand vertical row gauging $11\frac{1}{2}$ -- was in use.

The salient feature of the work of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 small holes machine, apart from the size of the hole, is the blunter teeth, and recognition can also be assisted in some values by shade, which I will deal with under that heading.

It is important to remember that because one stamp has a smaller hole than another it need not necessarily have been produced by the small hole machine. The size of the holes and the cleanliness of cutting varies quite considerably during the ten years this large holes machine was in use. The possibility of pins of increasing size being used cannot be entirely rejected, but in my view the increasing size of the large holes perforation was caused by the pins becoming blunter during use, and perhaps by a greater number of sheets being perforated at one operation which would cause the tapering point of the pin to go farther through the paper.

Dated copies perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and thereby indicating the use of this machine can be found until March 1887, but they are not common after the early months of 1885 and Mr. van der Wiel records July 2, - 1885 as his first date for the new $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 machine with a regular comb, henceforth called $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12C.

During this ten years' use of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 large holes machine a new comb machine gauging $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $13\frac{1}{4}$ with large holes was brought into use.



13½ x 13¼ LH



12½ SH



12½ x 12C

13½ x 13¼ Large Holes Comb

Stanley Gibbons lists this as 1875, but I have been unable to find any evidence to support this date and neither, I think, did Mr. van der Wiel who also studied this point. My earliest dated copy of the 1872 type from this machine is June 1877, although I record a copy of the 1876 issue with this perforation dated March 1877 and Mr. van der Wiel records one also on the 1876 issue in April 1877.

There is no doubt that the early holes made by this machine are smaller than the later ones, and for a long time the 5 and 10 cent were listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue perforated 13½ small holes. Warren suggested as long ago as 1908, LONDON PHILATELIST, Vol. XVII, that stouter needles replaced broken ones of the 13½ x 13¼ perforation, but I wonder if the argument I have already advanced for the varying size of the holes in the 12½ x 12 is not the more likely? Although I have a fair number of dated copies of other values in this perforation, I have not yet been able to record a date earlier than September 1878 on any of the other values, and this machine seems to have been used jointly with the 12½ x 12B until the end of 1884 with dates for each month in the case of the 5 cent until November 1885. In my remarks I am ignoring odd copies used in isolation very late, as these are almost certain to have been freaks on whose unsupported evidence no philatelic weight should be attached.

12½ Small Holes

A new comb machine with small holes gauging 12½ regularly was available in early 1885, although the reason for the reintroduction of small holes serration is obscure. My earliest date here is February 1885 for the 5 cent, but I have an undoubted copy of the 1 cent with this perforation dated as early as 7 December 1884. This perforation seems to have been in substantial use--with the exception of the 12½ cent, where it is quite a scarce item--from early in 1885 until the middle of 1887 on all values, with use for the 15 and 50 cent values extending until the following year.

With regard to the 12½ perforation, the small holes and blunter teeth are so entirely different from the larger pins, and with additional assistance through more dated copies being found no difficulty should be experienced.

12½ x 12C

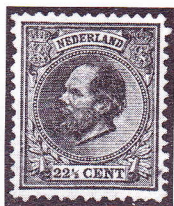
I have not found it always easy in the case of stamps gauging exactly 12½ horizontally to distinguish between perforation "B" and the new 12½ x 12 machine with a regular gauge and, of course, without the 11½ variation of the left vertical row. Van der Wiel puts the first use of this new machine as July 1885 and it seems to have been responsible for the whole of the serration, assisted by the 12½ small holes machine in the earlier years, until the end of 1887, when it was joined by the 12½ large holes machine.

My evidence shows the use of 12½ x 12C until the end of 1889 in the case of all values except the 50 cent where it survives until the middle of 1891. This, of course, was the machine used for perforating the three new values which appeared in December 1888, and in their case sufficient copies had been perforated by it to make the use of the new 12½ large holes machine unnecessary with the exception of a small printing of the 22½ cent in a distinctive blue-green shade which I have dated in November 1891 and March 1892 with the 12½ large holes machine. The 1 Gul., in fact, is found in 12½ x 12C at regular intervals until the early months of 1894.

12½ Large Holes

The 12½ large holes machine is first found in my collection in January 1888 and continues until the end of the issue, which, in the case of all but the 5 cent value, was not until November or December 1891.

During the use of this machine a soft, coarse paper was used which, to the uninitiated, may sometimes give the appearance of small holes. An occasional curiosity are stamps perforated 24 vertically with in one case a complete double row of perforation at top indicating a dual descent of the comb.



$12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$

On the subject of perforation it might also be mentioned that the abnormally long stamps appear infrequently after 1880. As they were perforated by a comb machine, does this mean that some attachment had been fitted to regulate the interval, or that a greater proficiency had been obtained in the use of the machine?

It will be seen by the foregoing remarks that, although for practically the whole of the issue two machines were in use, the varying perforations do fall into a definite pattern. To my mind it is rather a pity that catalogue editors in this country do not separate the small holes from the large in the case of the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and the $12\frac{1}{2}$ machines. Particularly in the case of the $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, their scarcity value is entirely different; and if space must be economised I would wonder whether a separate listing of the $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ variety is necessary. Could not its value be determined by a footnote and a mathematical coefficient?
(To be continued)

Postal Booklet Notes

(This column was originally scheduled for the delayed September 1982 Journal)

The 1982-83 edition of the DeRooy-Hali catalogue of "Automaatboekjes" has made its appearance, this time with a lime-green cover. Price remains at Hfl. 13.00 from the authors at Postbus 1051 - 5140 CB Waalwijk, The Netherlands.

Only two booklets (#27 and #28) have been issued since the previous catalogue, and they represent the only basic additions to the book. Which leads to a common complaint: pricing of the stamps remains almost identical to that in the previous edition. In their introductory remarks the authors conclude that "prices have not changed much" over the past year. Their pricings haven't changed, it is true, but the market regularly discounts the DeRooy-Hali prices by an average of 40%. Therefore, it is unfortunate that this year, instead of repeating last year's levels, the pricing was not adjusted to the real market level--becoming a true 'netto' catalogue.

In the section pertaining to the various combinations, a new numbering system has been employed. Now the basic classifications are based strictly on the type of margin of the stamp(s), i.e., "boven"/top imperforate, or "links en rechts ongetand"/left and right (sides) imperforate, and so on. Then the various combinations involving the stamp margin are separated into singles, pairs, strips and blocks.

Thus, the 50 cent Crowel with top margin imperforate is assigned "A-10" as its basic catalogue number, with additional appendices for Paper (FW - phosphor white) varieties or gum varieties (D2 or E). Stamps with bottom margin imperforate start out as "B-", with eleven categories in all.

In the "A" group are listed 10 stamps that come with top margin imperforate. Each of these is assigned a number based consecutively on the denomination: the 1 cent v. Krimpen is A-1, the 10 cent Delta is A-6 and the 50 cent Crowel is A-10. Then, catalogue numbers 11 to 14 are assigned to pairs of stamps in the "A" group. Thus, the Andreas Cross + 10 cent Crowel is catalogue number A-11 and the 45 plus 5 cent pair is number 14.

I fear this numbering system is in danger of falling apart if and when a new denomination becomes part of a new booklet, a likely event if postal rates change. Suppose a 75 cent or 85 cent rate is effected, and presumably it will be a Queen Beatrix design: then, according to this new numbering system, it should become "C-13" (or D-15, depending on position within the booklet pane). But C-13 is now assigned to the Andreas Cross + 25 cent Juliana Regina item.

It seems almost inevitable that this numbering system may cause complications down the road. And as a collector of cominaties, I don't relish the difficult job of reworking a want list every time a new catalogue appears.

A permanent numbering system could be employed simply by adding a lower-case "a", etc. after the basic classification letter, i.e., "Aa" for singles, "Ab" for pairs, "Ac-" for strips, and so on--and then assigning a permanent sub-number for each of the existing denominations/combinations (and for new ones as they appear) within the "a", "b" and "c" groups. The Andreas Cross + 10 cent Crowel then would have a permanent and simple catalogue base number of "Ab-1" and would never be affected by the addition of new denominations to the booklets. As things now stand, one new denomination in any basic group will require complicated changes in all of the numberings. F W J

Coil Corner

The year 1982 saw the long-awaited appearance of the first Queen Beatrix "computer" coils. The 70 cent was issued on May 13, and the f 1, f 2, and f 6.50 coils were issued on September 2.

These coils are issued in rolls of 1000, and are imperforate on the two long sides. The set illustrated at right was routinely supplied as part of the New Issue Service of the PTT Philatelic Service, at just face value, with no postage or handling fees.

For the record, these coils are produced from a pair of cylinders which print two continuous strips of ten rows, separated by a blank gutter the width of one stamp, and with margins on each side. Repeat length is 21 subjects.

Two concentric circles, one in each color which form the register mark system, are printed in the two margins opposite the 1st and 21st stamp. These concentric circle register marks are the same as those seen on the Queen Beatrix sheet stamps, but those used in the production of the coil stamps are trimmed off and discarded.

Also trimmed off is a square block of the tint color at the 21st stamp, used to activate the correction adjustment of the perforator. As I pointed out in my article on the perforation correction teeth (Netherlands Philately, June 1981), the change to coils with two straight edges has eliminated the previously identifiable correction tooth, which indicated not only the starting point of the repeat length but also the press used to produce the coil.



1982 Coil Issues

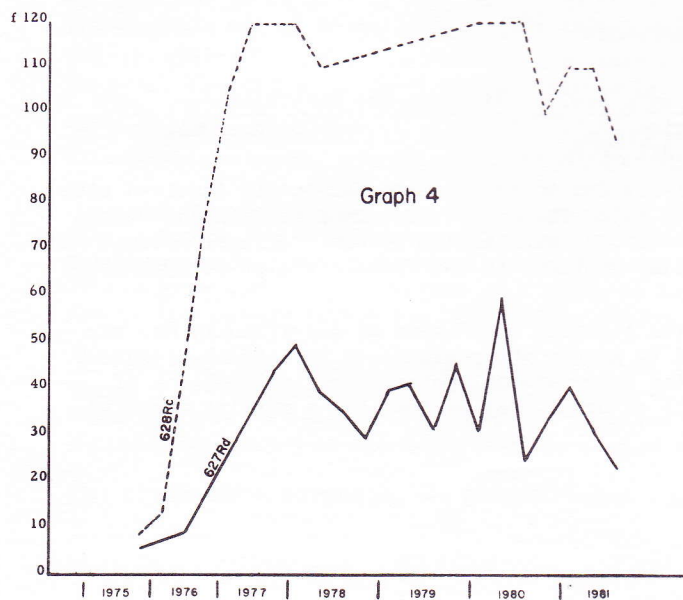
Resuming the analysis of prices realized which I have made covering past auctions of the Booklet and Coil Collectors Study Group (to which due credit is acknowledged), we come to the pair of coils covered in Graph 4.

This graph plots the price pattern of first quality strips of 5 of the 40 cent Juliana coil 627Rd and the 45 cent coil 628Rc. The 40 ct. coil first appeared in the auction of September 1975, going for f 6. - . In March 1978 it reached f 50. -, peaking to its high of f 60. - in June 1980, and it now brings between f 24. - and f 42. - . The pattern of this variety is unusual in that at least one example has been included in every auction from 1977 to date, and is the only coil strip of 5 to do so. It may be that someone has a good supply of 627Rd, and places one in each auction that comes along.

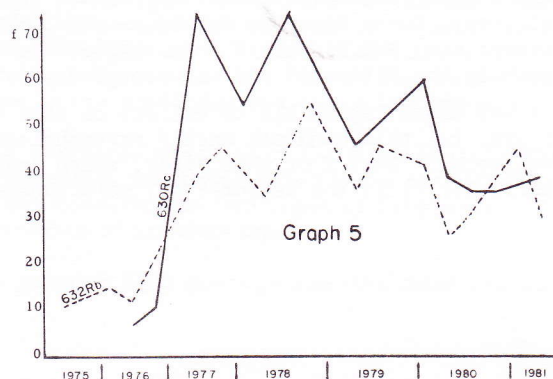
The 45 cent coil 628Rc brought f 8.50 in its first auction in September 1975. Its peak price of f 120. - was reached in March 1978, but around f 100. - has been pretty much the rule recently, the last price being f 95. - in December 1981.

The 60 and 70 cent coils 630Rc and 632Rb are shown in graph #5. The first of these varieties was sold initially for f 7.50 in the September 1975 auction, and brought its highest price, f 75. -, in the December 1977 auction. It has been gradually decreasing in value since December 1978, and brings f 35. - to f 40. - today.

The 70 cent coil appeared in an earlier auction, in January 1975, bringing f 11. -. Its highest point of f 55. - was reached much later, in March 1979, and has now dropped to f 30. - or f 45. - today.



Graph 4



Graph 5

Graph #6 shows the 75 cent Juliana and the 1970 Europa coils. The 75 cent coil 633Ra started at a price of f 30. - in September 1975, peaking at f 170. - in the September 1980 auction. It brought f 100. - in its most recent auction in June 1981.

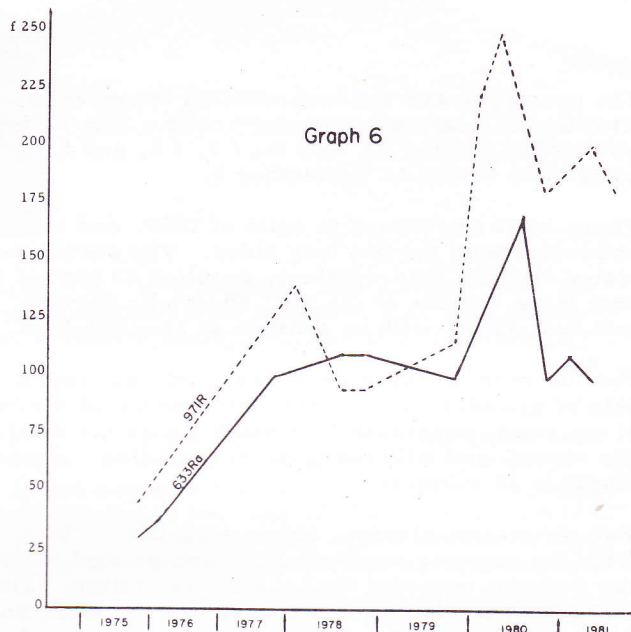
The 25 cent Europa coil started out in 1975 at f 45. -, a healthy increase from its original cost of f 1.25 at any post office, just five years earlier. It did not reach its peak of f 250. - until June 1980, and brought f 180. - in the December 1981 auction.

I will conclude this analysis in my next column.

LHR

Book Reviews

by F.W.A. Rummens



"Particuliere en Particulier Bedrukte Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Gebiedsdelen" ('Private and Privately Printed Postal Stationery of the Netherlands and Overseas Areas') by A.W. ten Geuzendam, 64 pages, 52 illustrations, 1981. Available from the ASNPN at \$8.50.

Between 1909 and 1916 the Dutch PTT offered to print the sender's address on postal stationery (both envelopes and postcards) at no extra costs, provided at least 500 were ordered at the time. These are the private postal stationery pieces mentioned in the title of this latest Geuzendam catalogue. Amazingly, there were only a handful of takers during the seven years that this PTT offer was extant, so these pieces are now extremely rare. Because of their unobtrusive looks (two lines with name and address printed in the same color of the rest of the printing in the place where normally it says "afzender" followed by two dotted lines) it is easy to overlook them and it is therefore certainly worthwhile checking your collection.

The privately printed postal stationery is a completely different kettle of fish. They consist of regulation-type pieces (mostly cards but also a few envelopes) where the purchaser has taken them to a private printshop to have some message printed on the blank space. Many of these commemorate some special event such as a philatelic exhibition, special mail flight, or a jubilee in the royal family, and are often beautifully designed "cachets" (to use much abused American terminology). Others simply constitute an advertising message. Of this privately printed kind the numbers printed were usually very low, sometimes as few as 30 and rarely more than 500; but because of their prettiness many, if not most, survived the waste-basket so that, while still considered rare, they were not entirely out of reach. That is fortunate, because many of these would be top-items in certain thematic collections.

There is a separate price sheet with the catalogue, which shows prices ranging from Hfl 6.00 to Hfl 175.00, but Mr. Geuzendam warns that this list is extremely tentative, due to lack of competitive price formation.

Even though you may never collect any of these pieces, the catalogue, partly because of the many illustrations, is worth its money in its own right. The reader will be fascinated by the light thrown on this obscure corner of Dutch philately.

"Nederlandse Oorlogspost Rondom de Tweede Wereldoorlog". Deel 2, Binnenlandse Moeilijkheden. (Netherlands War Mail of World War II, Part 2, Interior Problems') by W. J. van Doorn. Published by the Dutch Society "PO & PO", 144 pages, 1981. Price Hfl 20.00.

This booklet makes for fascinating reading, particularly for those who were personally involved with the 1939-45 events in the Netherlands. We read about Dutch Field Post, Interned British and German military, Dutch censure, German censure, philatelic curiosa (such as the several "illegal" stamps and overprints) and finally a long chapter about the postal problems in the chaotic winter of 1944-1945, both in the liberated and the occupied provinces.

It may prove impossible to collect on this side of the Atlantic such items as described by Mr. van Doorn, but this handbook should nevertheless be read by anyone who pretends to be a "Netherlandics" collector. Part I of this study, which dealt with the international philatelic ramifications of World War II in the Netherlands, unfortunately is out of print. May we hope for a reprint shortly?

FAKES AND FORGERIES

Paul E. van Reyen

It is remarkable that so many previously "unknown" forgeries have shown up lately. Some of these have not been described as yet in Mr. van de Loo's book on Dutch forgeries.

Our column is devoted to two "sets" of fakes which have not been discussed in print until now - as far as we know. The first "set" consists of NVPH Nos. 14, 16, 17, 47, 64, 66, 73, 75 and 98, which, in our opinion, derive from the same "forgery studio" because of some shared peculiarities, such as the perforations and in two cases the peculiar cancel "Schiedam," which is found not only superimposed on another cancel on the used copy of No. 17, but also on No. 98. The only stamp which may not altogether belong is No. 47, which is a "new" forgery of this expensive stamp.



Let us now go to the forgeries themselves. The "coat-of-arms" stamps, Nos. 14, 16, and 17, mint and used, all have line perforations which are either 12 or 12¼ tending to 12. As can be seen from the photos above, most all the perforations have clipped edges. No. 14 has a yellowish gum which looks as if the stamp had been in a sweatbox. The mint No. 17 has no gum, and the color is too yellow. The used No. 16 has a "small round cancel" Utrecht 5 JAN 94, which can also be found on the bottom cancel on the used No. 17. The Schiedam cancel on the latter stamp has too heavy an outer ring for a legitimate "double-ring cancel."

The photo of No. 16, the only one of these forgeries to have been acquired for the ASNP forgeries collection (the others were far too expensive) hopefully shows that the horizontal lines in the background beyond the pearl circle are either very irregular or missing altogether. In the 1 ct black, they are far too heavy at the top but missing in the bottom part. In all of these forgeries, the paper is fairly thick.



The Guilder Queen Wilhelmina (NVPH No. 47) has a nonexistent line perforation 11-3/4 x 11-3/4 and also shows clipped perforations. The paper is very white, the colors bright red and ultramarine. Especially the red is a shade which instantly alerts the collector who has seen this stamp in its various printings before. The cancel LVEEN is too small to be a regular "small round cancel."

The forged Queen with Fur Collar stamps are part and parcel of this "set" because of the line perforations which, again, are 12 and 12¼ tending to 12. The perfs are also clipped as the photos show.

Nos. 64, 66 and 75 have very brown gum; No. 73 has shiny yellow gum, all unlike any kinds of gum that occur on the real stamps. The brown color of No. 64 is too light and very shiny. The No. 66 (no photo) has a smeared cancel the size of the previously noted Utrecht cancel. The colors of No. 75 are grey and pink violet (the pink shade is especially suspicious) while the No. 73 has yellow green and yellow orange (much too light). The center medallion is too small for the space left for it.

Our second "set" of fakes was acquired by the ASNP as a complete used set of Curaçao postage due stamps, NVPH Nos. 21-30. The van de Loo book was consulted, but these fakes were not listed. What is more, a really close scrutiny revealed that the set consisted of two types of forgeries. The 2½ cent (see photo) is one type, and the rest of the set consists of another type.

For comparison purposes, we have included a photo of a genuine 2½ct postage due (the mint example).



More than eight months later, ASNP acquired another copy of this 2½ ct fake, in the identical color, but mint. We must confess that this particular forgery is so good that only a "suspicious" feeling caused us to look at it more closely. The perforation is almost perfect, the corners are neatly formed, indicating a comb perforation. However, when we start using our magnifying glass (as the illustrations are considerably enlarged, these characteristics should be readily visible), it immediately becomes apparent that all the letters are too thick.

These letters especially fill up the top panel. The shape of the letters is good, but there is just too much of them. The same goes for the frame lines which are so heavy that the green seems to about "disappear"; also note how the inner frame line at the left and below the "T" of "TE" seems to push the outer frame line out. This characteristic was also found in the latest mint acquisition. All in all, a dangerous stamp in a color which might fool people although it is a little to the yellow-green side if a genuine stamp is placed next to it.

The rest of the set makes the mind boggle! Especially when seen as a set. The photo of the 5 ct already shows that a numeral "dot" cancel was used, the numeral being "5". Another fake with a numeral cancel is the 10 ct, but here the numeral used was "64". The rest of the set is cancelled with an unclear squared-circle cancel (12½, 15), a double-circle cancel (25 through 50 ct), and one with an early Dutch model of the bar in the center (short bar type) cancel where the date is found in the bottom segment of the circles (1923), whereas in Curaçao three crosses are found here. In no case does there seem to be a cedilla on the second C of Curaçao.

The distinguishing characteristic in this type of forgery is the most peculiarly formed R in PORT (see the photo). It seems as if the foot of the right-hand leg of the R is ready to "kick". The frame lines are not as heavy as those in the 2½ct fakes (note especially the thinner ovals of the chain), and the perforation once again shows very good corners, indicating comb perforation. Altogether, another dangerous forgery, really, unless you take the time and care to study your intended acquisitions a little more carefully, using all sources available to you to detect these fakes.

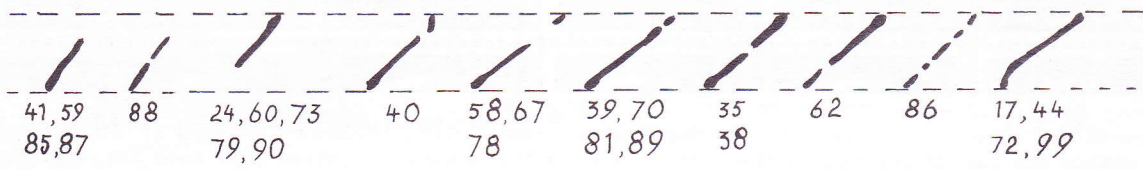
For those of you who are "in" on printing, one easy characteristic of all of these forgeries is that whereas the genuine stamps show that they were typographed, these fakes do not have the indentations on the back (especially in the numerals and CENT), and therefore are most probably printed by offset.



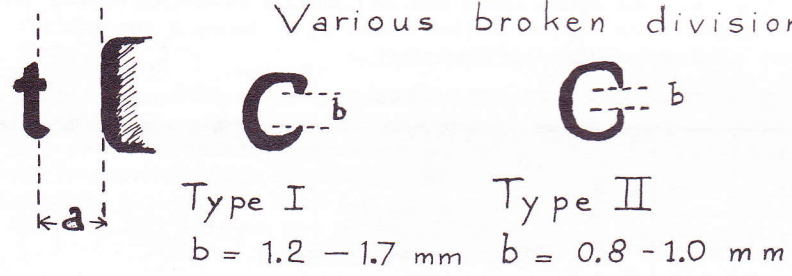
F. H. A. Rummens

In Surinam, supplies of low-denomination stamps began to run out in 1947. The landscapes set of 1945 was virtually sold out. There had been several overprints in 1945 to fill the gap. A new set, designed by J. v. Krimpen, was in the making, but would not be ready until August 1948, and some provisional solution had to be found. Thus were created by local overprinting, the NVPH Nos. 245 and 246. Unlike other Surinam provisionals, these two have drawn very little attention. The #245 saw some discussion in Netherlands Philately Vol. 3 (2), but for #246 even the Dutch literature is very scant. The NVPH "Speciale Catalogus" mentions one variety, namely 246a: 'distance between t and obliteration bar ½ mm' and perhaps one of the more interesting findings of this study is that variety 246a does not exist.

We had the opportunity to study actual size photographs of the material the Postmuseum possesses: an upper half sheet and a lower half sheet (the complete sheets, without and with overprint, are 10x10). At first sight this material was rather discouraging, since it appeared that almost every single overprint was different. One of these cases where you have to collect an entire sheet, in order to have all the varieties. Not even that perhaps, because with so much variation (read: sloppy printing technique), who could guarantee that there would not also be differences from one sheet to the next? One can easily surmise that this very thought must have crossed the minds of earlier philatelists, who then gave up, thus explaining the absence of any substantial literature.

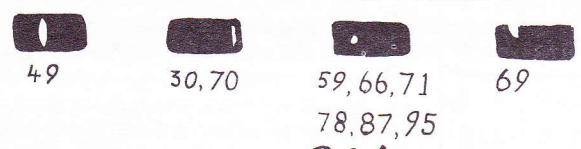


Various broken division bars



Over the years we have accumulated about two dozen 'varieties' of 246, all with various nicks and sundry differences. The first break-through came when comparing this accumulation against the photographs of the two half-sheets: all copies could be positioned on the sheet without any problem. No unidentified copies had been left over; this meant two things: that only one setting of type had been employed and that these tiny variations are really plate varieties and not just printing incidents. To give a complete listing of all these "varieties" would serve little purpose: we then would end up describing every one of the 100 stamps.

Obliteration bar varieties:



damaged numerals: **2½** : 2-9, 16-19

i : 45 **1** : 1 **1** : 62

damaged c **C** : 11 dropped t **Ct** : 4,5

In Figure 1 some of the more interesting faults are given, however. As one can see, there are enough broken fraction bars to start a swizzle-stick recycling shop.

The damaged numerals of positions 2-9 and 16-19 merit some special attention (see Figure 2). In the top row, it looks as if all the numerals (the large 2 as well as the small 1 and 2) have a smeared foot, whereas in the second row it looks as if the foot of the large 2 is slanted.

Figure 1

Some of the more distinctive varieties in the overprint, and their definitions

A close study of the actual stamp shows that these are really double or smeared-out imprints. Whereas the actual mechanism of this phenomenon was not immediately clear, it reminded us of similar occurrences on Surinam stamps. For example, Paul van Reyen's article (Neth. Phil., Vol. 3 (2)) on the Surinam provisionals of 1912, notes a recurring double imprint on the ½ ct in certain positions. Also, the shifting division bar of Surinam NVPH 213, the 7½ ct on 10 ct orange, has been well documented (Neth. Phil., Vol. 1(1)), although in the latter case the type was in either of two positions during the actual printing step.

At this point we obtained another photograph, this time of an entire sheet. Except for heavy inking obscuring some of the finer characteristics, we found this sheet to be virtually identical to the two half sheets of the Postmuseum, but with an interesting exception: the so-called double imprints on the whole sheet were much more distinct and extended over positions 2-10, 13-19, 24-28 and 36.



Fig. 2

Portion of the upper half sheet, now in the Postmuseum, with positions 5-10 and 15-20. Note particularly the double imprint of the bottom part of the numerals. Also note bent fraction bar in position 17, the dropped t of position 5, the t with an extra cross bar at position 19 (which is a secondary flaw) and the two damaged C's at positions 11 and 13 (the latter again being a secondary flaw). In positions 6, 18, and 19 one may also notice the new C variety.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a =	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3
b =	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	<u>1.0</u>	1.2	1.3	1.4	<u>0.8</u>
	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>	1.3
	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.0
	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4
	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.4
	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.6
	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.2
	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4
	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.3
	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.3
	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.2
	1.4	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.9</u>	1.5	<u>0.9</u>	1.2	<u>0.9</u>	1.3	<u>0.9</u>
	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2
	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.8</u>	1.3	1.3	<u>0.9</u>	1.5	1.3	1.3	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.8</u>

Fig. 3

Distribution of distances "a" (upper number) and "b" (bottom number) in the 10x10 sheet. Distances "a" and "b" as defined in Figure 1, with Type II C underlined.

The double, or smeared out, imprints now could also clearly be seen in the C, the t (giving sometimes the appearance of a dropped t) and the obliteration bar. Looking along the first (or second) row, one could clearly see that the line of overprints was crooked.

The following 'explanation' seems to cover the observations. The printing form was made up of 10 lines of loose type (it is a fact that all 10 overprint rows are different). The space between the lines was filled up with wooden strips (called "furniture"), after which the whole form was placed in the steel frame or chase of the press, top-side-top, flush with the left and bottom wall of the frame. The open space between form and frame at the top and on the right were filled up with more wooden blocks and with the customary steel wedge devices used to lock up the printing chases. To fit our story, it is necessary to assume furthermore assume that at the top of the form, two such wedges were used, approximately above the positions of the second and the ninth column, and that these wedges were either not sufficiently tightened, leaving loose play in the form, or (more likely, in our opinion) overtightened, leading to buckling of the spacers.

We further assume now that the press was one of the 'flat-bed cylinder' type, where the frame (with the form in it) is the moving flat-bed, and where the cylinder grips the sheets (of stamps) one

distance
"a"(mm) frequency position(s)

0.8	1x	41
0.9	1x	1
1.0	2x	30,51
1.1	2x	31,81
1.2	19x	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
1.3	43x	xx
1.4	25x	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
1.5	3x	44,67,88
1.6	2x	34,60
1.7	1x	54
1.8	1x	53

Fig. 4

Frequency distribution of "a", the distance from t to the obliteration bar, showing random variation.

distance
"b"(mm) frequency position(s)

0.8	3x	10,92,100
0.9	9x	82-4,86,88,90-1,95,99
1.0	3x	6,18,19
1.1	-	-
1.2	12x	xxxxxxxxxxxx
1.3	40x	xx
1.4	22x	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
1.5	7x	xxxxxxx
1.6	3x	27,69,79
1.7	1x	57

Fig. 5

Frequency distribution of "b", the distance between the points of the letter C in Ct, showing the existence of two varieties.

by one and rotates this sheet over the flat-bed, the latter which is moving underneath the stationary cylinder. Unless the two motions (of flat-bed and cylinder) are perfectly synchronized and aligned, there may be friction between the sheet and the form, possibly enough for the sheet to 'pull' the type, if the latter is not battened down properly. The shaking to-and-fro motion of the flat-bed frame with the form is an added incentive, of course, for any type to loosen up if it has the chance. And to suggest that the press available in Paramaribo (probably Oliviera's) in 1947 was slightly rickety, does not seem farfetched either.

What now of variety 246a? We have measured all the distances between the t and the obliteration bar (distance "a" in Figure 3). And Figure 3, but even more clearly the frequency distribution chart of Figure 4, shows that distance "a" ranges from 0.8 to 1.8 mm, with an apparently random variation in between, centered at 1.3 mm. Not only is there no 0.5 mm distance (as 246a implies) but the actual shortest distance is not different from any of the others for any specific reason. And if you might want to collect these short distances, then why not also the long 1.7 - 1.8 mm distances? And then, why not the intermediate distances of 1.0 - 1.1 and 1.5 - 1.6 mm? In our opinion, the variety 246a should be deleted from the NVPH catalog.

But there is, after all, a real variety in that there are two different types of C. It can most easily be defined by the distance "b" between the points of the C as indicated in Figure 3. The histogram of Fig. 5 shows clearly the existence of the two types. In type I (85 times per sheet) the distance between the points of the C is about 1.3 mm, whereas in Type II (15 times per sheet), that distance is about 0.9mm, primarily because the lower point is much longer, ending almost vertically.

We would like to thank Harold MacDonald, Frank Julsen, and Paul van Reyden for substantial help in the preparation of this article.

The ASNP stock of books has grown to impressive proportions. We recommend this list be checked over carefully -- there is something for almost all Netherlands collectors. All are in Dutch unless otherwise indicated. They are available through: Harry Walton, Jr.
560 Greenfield Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

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2. Niederlande Zifferausgabe 1876 (in German) (Handbook on the 1876 Numeral stamps)	Hans Wicher	7.00
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4. Handboek/Katalogus Postzelboekjes, Nederland - Ned. Indie - Curacao	E. Horn	17.50
5. Suriname, A Postal History 1700-1956 (in English)	Dr. Riddell	8.00
6. Special Catalogus Eerstadbrieven van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen. 5e editie	Avezaat/Okker	8.75
7. Handboek Stempels Ned. -Indie 1864-1950	Bulterman	
8. Particuliere Postwaardestukken Ned. Geb. (Private Stationery Catalog)	Geuzendam	
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11. Vervalsingen van Ned. & O.G. Deel II	v. d. Loo	14.00
11a. Forgeries of Netherlands & O.G. The complete volume including the 1982 Supplement. (In English)	v. d. Loo	21.00
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13. Postvluchten Uit De Geschiedenis van het Luchtpostvervoer (Luchtpostcatalogus)	J. Boesman	15.00
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21. 1979 Nederlandse Postzegels	PTT	
21a. History of the PTT Philatelic Service. In English	R. Kuypers	6.50
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25. Catalogus Postzegels op Brief, Nederland 1852-1978 eerste editie 1980	Buitenkamp/Muller	\$ 5.00
26. Speciale Catalogus van de Grootrondstempels van Ned.	D. C. Hoogerdijk Jr.	7.50
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Member Aladar Vali of 5512 Rosedale Avenue, Montreal, P.Q., Canada H4V 2J1 is interested in exchanging better value Netherlands stamps with ASNP members, preferably those living in Canada or eastern United States (although we can assume that is not a pre-condition). Scott catalogue basis.

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For sale at same price paid in Dutch auctions:
(NVPH numbers)

Postage Due: 8AI \$72; 4BII \$52; 5AIV \$120
Regular #16B \$90. All mint with full perfs;
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Also want to buy Netherlands postage dues:
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THE PERFORATED CROSS

Harold F. MacDonald and Larry Rehm

A recent item in Linn's prompted some research on the 1944 unofficial Red Cross perfin, found on the 2 ct swan (NVPH No. 407). All references make it clear that the perforated cross and the printing on the back, were privately applied, thus making the item worthless philatelically. Scott's catalogue, for instance, says in a footnote:

In 1944, 200,000 copies - - were privately punched with a cross and printed on the back with a number and the words "Prijs 15 cent toeslag ten bate Ned. Roode Kruis." These were sold at an exhibition, the surtax going to the Red Cross. The Dutch Post Office tolerated these stamps.

Nevertheless, there is a rather interesting story behind this stamp. It began in the depths of the Occupation, when there were frenzied attempts by Dutch citizens to purchase anything of value during those agonizing times. A contemporary account follows.

A quantity of two cent stamps, current at that time, were perforated in the form of a cross and were printed on the back with a statement saying, Price 15 cents; surtax in favor of the Netherlands Red Cross. These stamps had been placed at the disposal of the campaign organizers by the postal office.

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 was the earliest hour the Dutch people were 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 sale took place, were smashed and finally a strong police detachment was called to restore order in and outside of the building.

The strange part of all this is that it occurred despite the fact that the Official Netherlands 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 listed in the Special Catalogue, as the issue was purely a private affair. In other words, the altered stamps would possess no philatelic value.

While the sale of the stamp continued inside the building, a lively trading ensued outside. One stamp which had cost 15 cents, brought an easy 2 1/2 Guilders, and a block of ten, which had cost 1.50 Gld., found ready buyers for 10 Guilders per block, and so on. Obviously the Netherlands Red Cross did benefit greatly by this strange outburst of philatelic activity.

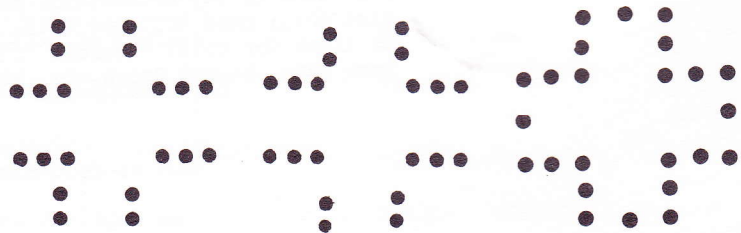
It was quite evident that the Hollanders were ready to invest their money in anything that had a possibility of security, lest the Occupiers strip them completely of what money they still had left. The wild buying spree, however, was short lived, for after this stampede at The Hague to obtain stamps 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 money on philatelic investments.

Furthermore, the exchange of stamps with persons in other countries was simultaneously prohibited and all ads asking for or offering postage stamps for collection purposes were banned.

This completes the contemporary account, which implies that the first perforated stamps were sold without a number. The authors have never seen an unnumbered example, but they may exist. It also implies that a second "printing" of 50,000 copies were made. We have not been able to confirm this.

E. J. Enschede's catalog lists two kinds of these perfins: #7, the closed end cross, and #7P, the open end cross. There are at least two types of 7P, as shown below.

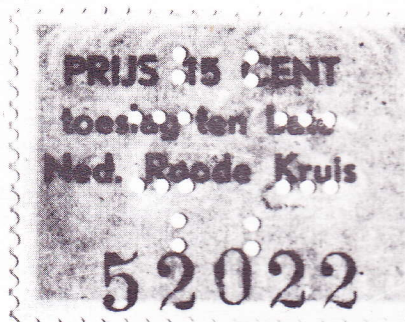
As can be seen by these illustrations, and by the pictures on the next page, the cross varied in several respects throughout the issue. A description of each cross follows (all measurements approximate).



Type 1

Type 2

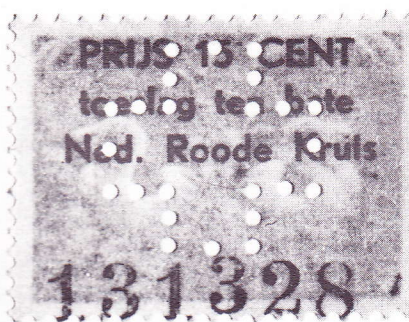
Type 3



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

Type 1 (Serial #52022): The holes on the horizontal bar of the cross are 5.3 mm apart, while the vertical bars are 5.6 mm. The vertical bar is also shifted to the left of the theoretical center of the cross. All holes in each arm are in line horizontally and vertically.

Type 2 (Serial #70493): Each arm has the same spacing of 5.6 mm, and each arm is centered. The holes of the vertical arm are NOT horizontal (off .5 mm). In both types 1 and 2, each vertical arm consists of two vertical holes, while the horizontal arm has three holes. The serial number on this example is in smaller type than the other two. Also known in this type is #63855.

Type 3 (Serial #131328): Each arm is three holes wide and measures 6.6 mm. The holes forming the junction of the two arms are in line with the horizontal arm, but not the vertical arm. Also known in this type are numbers 131311 and 147076.

With just a few examples available to the authors, no firm conclusions can be reached. It does appear possible that the vertical arm was punched separately from the horizontal arm. The question then arises as to why this would have been done, as well as how it was accomplished -- in full sheets, strips, or even the use of single dies.

A parallel question would be why there was a change from the open end to the closed end type, and at what point this change was made. It is of course entirely possible that other patterns exist. If you have an example of this stamp with a different pattern, please send it to: Harold F. MacDonald, 2354 Roan Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, for examination. I will return it in two days. Additional information would also be greatly appreciated. A follow-up article with all serial numbers and new information, will then be published.

- References: - Stamp Collecting in Holland; Edith M. Fisher. STAMPS, April 1945
 - Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue
 - The Perforated Cross; The Post Coach. June 1970
 - List of the Perfins of the Netherlands; E. J. Enschede. July 1976
 - Linn's Weekly Stamp News. April 1983

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Frankeerstempels Nederlandse Gemeenten, Deel 1, by D. Veenstra. Available from the ASNP @ \$7.00

This large loose-leaf (50 sheets printed on both sides) pseudo book lists all the fancy machine franking designs for the northeastern provinces of Groningen, Friesland, Drenthe, Overijssel and Utrecht, for the municipalities and for the (semi-) government agencies within these areas. Such a franking consists of three parts: on the right is the true franking part stating "Nederland" plus the franked value; the middle part could be considered the "cancellation", as it states the town or city plus the date; and finally to the left is the fancy part, carrying some kind of propaganda message. The latter can be quite pretty, particularly in the case of towns, et cetera, since these often show the seal or coat of arms of the unit in question.

Mr. Veenstra has listed all these exhaustively in this part 1 for five provinces. A small selection is also illustrated.

It appears to us that to start such a collection one has to be situated in the Netherlands, preferably as a civil servant, so as to build up a network of "contacts". On a much smaller scale, though, any of us, expatriates, could very well start a collection of postal pieces from our own home town. For this purpose, Mr. Veenstra's book should be an extremely useful reference guide to at least one aspect of such a "hometown" topical. F.H.A.R.

Library News

Fernand Mollenkramer

After seven years as librarian of A. S. N. P., I am proud to announce that we have reached a milestone. More than 100 books are now in the library in addition to all the periodicals and catalogues. All this has been accomplished by many of the membership sending donations and/or books to the library. A sharp, keen eye of our editor, Mr. Paul van Reyen, who bids in auctions for worthwhile additions, has also been of great help in building our library. A collective thanks to all who have contributed to this cause.

We should make mention that recently we have received cash donations from members Mr. W. Korstanje and Mrs. Odijk; this will enable Paul van Reyen to "raid" the auction sales again. The following members have sent books to the library recently: Mr. Lincoln Kieffer, Mrs. N. Odijk and Mr. Harold MacDonald. Finally, I might add that the library is gradually increasing its file of the POSTZAK to encompass numbers 76 through 109. Anyone else willing and able to add to this file?

Before listing additions to the library, let me call to the attention of our members that members Mike Dekker from Canada and Wim Boerdam of California have promised to do translating from Dutch to English. Thank you, gentlemen. Now we are seeking someone who will translate from German to English.

	Book Nr.
OFFICIEELE CATALOGUS INTERN. POSTZEGELTENTONSTELLING AMSTERDAM, 1909.	328
by Ned. Ver. van Postzegelverzamelaars Language: Dutch 88 pages	
NVPH catalogs 1947, 1949-61, 1973-77	302
FTC Catalogue by Avezaat 1971	301
1975/76 Studiegroep Zuid West Pacific, with map of SE Asia	410
Handboek de Postwaarden van Nedrl. Indië by Ned. Ver. van Postzegelverzamelaars 1922-24 Part I Regular issues; Dutch language; 113 pages	199
Part II Postage Due issues; English, French; 250 pages	199a
POSTZEGELKUNDE en POSTWEZEN (87 short articles in a special edition of Ned. Maandblad voor Philatelie, 1932); photocopy; 442 pages	200
FORGERIES OF NETHERLANDS & COLONIES by P.F.A. van de Loo Language: English; illustrated; one binder	201
DE NEDERLANDSE POSTZEGEL PRIVAATRECHTELIJK BESCHOUWD by Staatsbedrijf de P.T.T., 1952 Language: Dutch; 40 pages	202
40x CHILD WELFARE in the NETHERLANDS by C. de Moor Language: Dutch and English; photocopy; 140 pages	203
HET NEDERLANDSE POSTMUSEUM - 1929-1979 by Staatsbedrijf de P.T.T. Language: Dutch; illustrated; 70 pages	204
L'ART DU TIMBRE NÉERLANDAIS by Philatelic Service P.T.T., 1961 Language: French; illustrated; 16 pages	205
HOE ONTSTONDEN TYPEN I EN II: ISSUE 1867 Netherlands by Ned. Postmuseum, 1947. Language: universal; very small booklet	206
DE AFSTEMPELINGEN op de POSTZEGELS van NEDERLAND by Schreuders & Co., 1897 Language: Dutch; illustrated; 60 pages	207
JAARVERSLAGEN NEDERLANDS POSTMUSEUM (1957, 1963, 1971) by Ned. Postmuseum Language: Dutch; illustrated; each book approx. 35 pages	208
DE POSTZAK by Orgaan v/d Ver. van Poststukken Poststempels verzamelaars Language: Dutch; in binders: Nrs. 76-90; 91-102; 103-109	

Why Is Recess Printing "Out"?

Frans H.A. Rummens

In the adjoining illustration we see pictured one of the Netherlands 1970 Summer Stamps, the 1973 Juliana silver jubilee stamp and the 1979 Union of Utrecht stamp. What do these three issues have in common? Answer: they constitute the only issues of the Netherlands where recess printing was employed in the decade 1970-79. Two of the three were not even pure recess printing jobs; in the 1970 Summer stamps recess is combined with offset (for the colored background) and the Jubilee stamps was done by a combined photogravure-recess process.



The 1955-69 period was not much better; 14 stamps over eight issues divided as follows:

1957 De Ruyter (2)	1965 Marines 300 years (1)
1959 v. L. M. (2)	1967 Amphilex (3)
1960 Mental Hygiene (2)	1969 I. A. O. (1)
1964 Univ. of Groningen (2)	1969 Erasmus (1)

Of course, recess printing was used for the first three issues of the Netherlands, and was used intermittently ever since; it was used extensively in the period 1930-55 when almost one-third of all stamps (more than one-half of all issues) was done in recess printing. With the 1955 Summer stamps comes the abrupt end of the recess printing era. The change is so conspicuous that one begins to wonder: "Did some high PTT official retire in 1955 to be succeeded by someone who did (and does) not like recess printing? We once heard the excuse offered that recess printing would not lend itself to mass production, but that argument surely holds no water since even today quite a few countries print a great proportion, if not all, of their stamps by the recess process.

We can offer only a personal opinion here, but we believe it worthwhile to say it in print: recess printed stamps have a beauty particular to the process and it is therefore regrettable that not more of the new issues are printed by that method. If proof is needed, take a magnifying glass to the 1913 and 1923 Jubilee issues, or to all the "gulden" values of the definitive sets from 1900 until the 1951 Juliana "en face", and you are sure to become an immediate fan of recess printing. Having done that, next imagine how glorious the results would have been had, for example, the 1956 Rembrandt set been done in recess. There have been many issues like the Rembrandt set, where the design clearly demanded the recess process, and yet, through somebody's whim or fancy, the unnatural offset or photogravure process was forced onto the design.

Maybe a lesson was learned with the Beatrix definitives. It could not be done, it was argued (with great tunnel vision), because it could not be done with photogravure. So the designer had to tell them how it could be done by a hybrid typography process. Surely there must be a place under the sun for recess printing as well.

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