

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



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Netherlands Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NETHERLANDS
PHILATELY

Volume 8, Number 4

From the President

Dear Fellow Members:

I am pleased to report that the schedule for providing our membership with quarterly issues of the ASNP Journal continues on course, through the good offices of the interim co-editors. I am particularly pleased with this issue, which encompasses a wide range of subjects as well as a "blockbuster" story affecting one of the so-called great rarities of Dutch philately. It is, of course, our "lead" story for the issue.

On the other hand, it is now quite apparent that a permanent editor of the Journal, and perhaps a separate editor for the Newsletter, will be required. Our former and original editor, after many years of faithful service, no longer is in a position to carry on. And due to certain personal commitments the interim editors cannot assume the role permanently.

Therefore, I repeat the plea made over the past year--without results, unfortunately--that a member or members step forward and offer to assume the editorship of our publications.

And last, but by no means least, I am very pleased to announce that an honorary life membership in ASNP has been bestowed upon Dr. Bertus Benders, a member of the ASNP Board of Governors and a leading light in Netherlands philatelic literary circles for many, many years. He is the first to be so recognized and it is a reflection of the esteem with which he is held both here and in the Netherlands. In addition to his valuable and many contributions to the Dutch philatelic press, Dr. Benders is well known as co-author of the award-winning "Standardwerk" --'A Postal History of Curacao'.

Sincerely,

Reinder van Heuveln
President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

January 1984

Letter From the President	64
5 Cent Orange Queen "Error"	65
Coat of Arms of Surinam	67
Book Reviews	67,68,69,71,81
A Member Writes...	68
Group Picture	68
A Non-Story	72
2 Netherlands Indies Covers	73
A Philatelic Calendar	75
Coil Corner	77
Treasurer's Report	77
The Evangelical Brethren	78
Heroes of the Sea	81

The 5 Cent Orange Prinses Wilhelmina Stamp

During the past year, culminating in an exhaustive article by Mr. Gert Holstege in *Het Maandblad voor Philatelie*, there had been rumors in Dutch philatelic circles that the famous 5 cent orange "Banging Hair" stamp (Speciale 35f --valued at Hfl. 22000 unused and Hfl. 16000 used) of the 1891 Prinses Wilhelmina series was in fact not a legitimate printing error but a deliberately produced fraud by someone in the printing plant of Joh. Enschede & Zonen, which had held the contract for printing Dutch stamps since 1866.



Unfortunately, *Het Maandblad* has withheld permission to us to present a translation of this excellent work of research, so we are more or less in the position of summarizing and extrapolating bits and pieces of information from various other sources.

For many years it had been popularly supposed--and accepted--that this orange version of the normal 5 cent blue stamp had been erroneously printed and that at least 50 copies, perhaps more in all likelihood, had been distributed to the main post office in Amsterdam where the error was almost immediately noticed and the remaining copies withdrawn from stock and returned to the postal authorities. Earlier doubts expressed in the philatelic press of the time, prompted by some discrepancies in the official explanation, were forgotten or laid aside. The matter went into limbo shortly thereafter and the outstanding stamps were accepted as true errors and became the most sought after of rarities in Netherlands philately.

Over the years a census of existing copies indicates there are about 10 unused copies and 5 post-marked copies in the hands of collectors and the Dutch Postal Museum. Two covers are mentioned in the NVPH "Speciale" catalogue, one probably being the example in the collection of the Dutch Postal Museum and the other in private hands. The "Weesp" cover illustrated herewith was sold in February



1982 in a Van Dieten auction sale, and we assume it to be the "other" remaining cover.

Fascinating as these stamps may be, in any case the "bottom line" is that this famous error is anything but an error and as such may not qualify for inclusion in future editions of stamp catalogues, most specifically the NVPH "Speciale". I use the conditional "may" rather than "will" because of some very interesting precedents of similarly produced "errors" that in fact are listed in many catalogues, including the "Speciale".

During the Christmas season we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. J. L. Van Dieten, the renowned Dutch philatelist and authority. Naturally, this interesting case was the subject of a long discussion during which he commented that there are quite a few similarly-produced varieties now given official listing in many stamp catalogues. For example, the 1958 12 cent/10 cent Juliana overprint "errors" on Speciale no. 712 (page 93 of the 1983 edition) were concocted by an employee of the printer. Quite cleverly, this chap purchased sheets legitimately at a post office, then smuggled these sheets into the plant where he applied the errant overprints. Since he did not disturb the official "paper count" control, he was able to walk out with his doctored sheets and for a while no one was the wiser!

There is also the matter of the gummed imperforate varieties of the 1867 Willem III issue that were given to the famous stamp dealer J. B. Mcens of Brussels, some of which later also turned up with contemporary postmarks. These are listed and priced in the "Speciale" although never regularly distributed to post offices in the Netherlands.

Also to be mentioned are the very common and notorious imperforate varieties of the 1940 Wilhelmina stamps (Speciale nos. 332v - 337v) which were expropriated from the Enschede plant by the German invaders, sent back to Berlin from whence eventually they made their way into the philatelic marketplace. If ever such errors deserve not to be listed anywhere, these are in the forefront.



One should also recognize that this kind of shenanigans is not restricted to the stamps of the mother country; the famous inverted and shifted overprints of the 1908 Dutch East Indies series-- "JAVA", "BUIJTEN BEZIT" and "DIENST" -- also were manufactured illicitly and never were on contemporary sale in post offices in the colony.



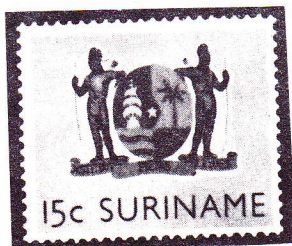
There are more such examples, leading to the interesting question of whether the 5 cent orange is to be continued in the existing listings of pariahs that retain a place in our catalogues. There probably will continue to be a market for this stamp, perhaps at a lesser price, because some will point out some degree of legitimacy because copies did pass through the post. However, we wonder whether its presence will be acceptable in exhibitions now that its true pedigree has been exposed. We'll see.

Meanwhile, another point of view on Gert Holstege's article was expressed by the well-known Dutch philatelist Roelf Boekema (both men are members of ASNIP, incidently) in a letter appearing in a subsequent issue of Het Maandblad. Mr. Boekema stated that the well-written article dispelled much of the mystery surrounding this intriguing item, but he questioned Mr. Holstege's conclusions that the stamp was a fantasy, a forgery, not justifying a listing in the Speciale Catalogus, and essentially worthless to a collector. Mr. Boekema said that Mr. Holstege's research showed that the stamps were in fact used to frank mail and were primarily used to defraud the postal system, not the collector. He also pointed out that the postal authorities never invalidated the stamps, nor did they prohibit their use. Letters franked with these errors were not charged postage due. And far from being worthless, he is of the opinion that the new publicity will result in a greatly increased value of these stamps. We'll see.

FWJ/LHR

The Coat of Arms and Flag of Surinam

Frans H. A. Rummens



The coat of arms which was adopted by the new Republic of Surinam in 1975 had already been in use for quite a while. We don't know the exact date, but the fact is that the Statute Stamp of 1960 (NVPH 348, and subsequent design on Zonnenbloem 18, at right and at left) already gave a picture of the ultimate design. We were struck by that design, as it seemed so awkward and so "dated". A bit of extra research brought to light that this design actually goes back exactly 300 years, to 1683! That was the year that the West-Indian Company took over the colony of Surinam from its previous owners, the States of Zealand.



The W. I. C. immediately sold part of its interest in Surinam to the City of Amsterdam and to the rich van Aerssen family. A seal which had elements from the three owners was then designed. It had in its center the coat of arms of the W. I. C.; a three-master in full sail, carrying the Generalty flag. This element had already been shown earlier on Surinam stamps. The well-known "ship" stamps of 1936 (NVPH 157-166, at left) were no doubt inspired by the W. I. C. seal, although, in this design, the ship is sailing the wrong way!



The 1683 coat of arms furthermore, showed an Indian at left and a Negro at right, plus the motto "Justitia, Pietas, Fides". That clearly resembles our design of the 1960 stamp, but two changes have occurred. First, when the colony was taken over by the States of Holland in 1796, the Negro figure at right was replaced by a second Indian. This modified design survived almost two centuries on Surinam. It was frequently used, even after 1815 when it was officially abolished (and replaced by the coat of arms of the Netherlands).

Somewhere between 1945 and 1960 the final change was made, to better reflect the impending independence of Surinam. This became therefore the design as shown at the beginning of this article. The three-master takes in just the left half of the coat of arms, symbolizing the past (the ships which brought the slaves). The right half symbolizes the present, although the King palm shown, also symbolizes righteousness: "the righteous shall flower as a palm" (therefore, the "justitia"). The diamond shape in the center symbolizes a heart, itself the symbol of love (pietas). The five-pointed star reminds one of the five ethnic groups which populate Surinam, just as the four points of the diamond symbolize the four compass directions. The star also symbolizes the "fides" or fidelity of the motto.



And all of this is crammed onto a tiny square of paper called a stamp. Yes, they do tell stories.



The story of the flag itself is much shorter. Surinam never had a flag of its own until 1959, the design of which is shown on the 1960 Statute stamps (NVPH 347, at left). But this design of five colored stars on a white ground was abandoned in 1975 and replaced by the present design (Zonnenbloem 17, at right). The colored bands are respectively green, white, red, white and green, with a yellow five-pointed star in the center.

BOOK REVIEW

FLORES (Adjutor-zegel en postale geschiedenis 1942-1946)
G. J. Bessels, 24 pp. Dai Nippon, Hilversum Hfl. 6.00

In 1943, on the island of Flores, the Japanese commander ordered a quantity of stamps printed in the Mission printshop. About 5000 stamps of the 10 sen value and 5000 postcards of a 5 sen value were printed. Only a small portion of these were actually sold at Flores post offices, and of these only a very few survived. This booklet is the definitive study of this local issue. I feel that these should be in the NVPH catalogue, but it is not, although it is not clear as to why not. (Editor's note: The Flores 10 sen stamp was listed in the NVPH catalogue from 1951 through 1962, but then was deleted from the catalogue along with all the Japanese issues, starting with the 1963 edition).

F. R.

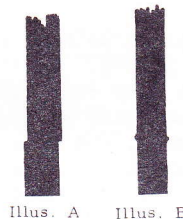
A member writes from England:

I am writing with reference to the article by Rummens and van Reyen in the August 1983 issue of 'Netherlands Philately', Vol 8 No 2, concerning the Surinam 1c on 7 1/2c overprint (NVPH 284).

I have in my possession a complete sheet (No F11910) of this stamp, which was cancelled to order at Paramaribo on 28 April 1955. However, it is very heavily inked and even more so than the one referred to in the Postmuseum, as position 68 is the only stamp on which a clear break ('E') can be seen. Even position 97 ('B') does not show as a break, although the bottom half of the bar is not entirely in line with the top half (Illustration A).

I have used a 10x magnifying glass and cannot see any other breaks, but in some cases types E and F (Positions 29, 38, 48, 57, 58 and 68) where the break should be, the bar has a small bulge usually on both sides (Illustration B).

Unfortunately because of the heavy inking I cannot help in filling in the missing position types, but working on the characteristic noted in the preceding paragraph, I would merely mention that position 18 might be type B and position 49 might betype C as I cannot see any actual break; more information is needed here.



Eric J. W. Bridges



West Coast Activities

Our indefatigable Librarian, Fernand Mollenkramer, rarely lets an opportunity slip by to promote ASNP. The photo at left shows member Mollenkramer with two other ASNP members, manning the ASNP table at Stamp Expo '82/Pacific, held December 10-12, 1982 in Los Angeles. Shown left to right are ASNP members Peter Gruenberger and Fernand Mollenkramer, the Consul General of the Netherlands Mr. I. Fietelaars (who opened the Exhibition), Mr. Israel Bick (Executive Director of Stamp Expo) and ASNP member Bill Schlosser.

BOOK REVIEW

De kinderpostzegelakties vanaf 1924

(The Child Welfare Stamp Sales Drives since 1924)
edited by B. Hylkema

The Child Welfare stamp issues of the Netherlands are unique in more than one sense. The stamps by themselves constitute a social monument of the first order, but equally unique is the annual sales drive which is organized by a National Committee, a sale which finds its outlets through the numerous local committees and schools. As a result the entire Child Welfare drive is surrounded by paraphernalia and mementos. There are posters, information leaflets, carnets, post cards, buttons, stickers, correspondence forms, just to mention a few.

All of this, together with the more philatelic information on the stamps themselves, special envelopes, special cancellations, maximum cards, is brought together in a large format (8 x 11") 80 page book. For anyone specializing in Child Welfare issues, this is a tremendous source of information. It is available for Hfl 15. - (postage included) from B. Hylkema, Healwei 33, 9244 AP Beetsterzwaag, and the Giro number is 1248758.

F. R.

Book Review

The NVPH Special Catalog 1984

by Paul E. van Reyen

It would be nice if I could give you some 'good news' about the Speciale Catalogus, for a change. But about the only thing that comes to mind is that the NVPH Committee for the Catalog finally--after ten years--has decided to add a used price to the Netherlands Antilles' 1973 additional values of the then (and now) current series (NVPH nos. 460-468). A definitive new series (with Queen Beatrix?) was promised last year, but was somehow cancelled.

And since we have mentioned 'price', let's see what the 1984 Speciale Catalogus has as compared to last year's. Admittedly, some prices have gone down--a very small amount. Regarding the Nos. 1-3 the only reductions are found in the unused pairs and strips and blocks of four. (And how many dealers have a supply of these?). The 5 gld stamp of 1896 (No. 48) dropped from 1000 guilders to 950 used, and from 2000 guilders to 1900 mint. The 2½ gld shows drops of 100 guilders mint in all perforations. The 10 guilder stamp of 1905 did not change: it is still listed at 2350 guilders mint and 2000 used! The 1913 10 guilder (No. 101) also stayed the same at 2250 mint and 2100 used.

Let me pause here for a moment. A recent auction catalog from the Netherlands, which also gives an estimate of what the lot may bring in their opinion, gives us for No. 47A mint (the 2½ gld) an estimate of 400 guilders against a catalog valuation of 1400 guilders! And for used copies of No. 47A No. 47B and 47C an estimate of values of 450 to 350. The 5 gld is estimated at 2000 guilders--normal mint copy at only 600. in mint NH "luxe" condition was log value of 1000 guilders. A er low 200 guilders against the gld (No. 80) mint NH in "luxe" is estimated at 1500, while the at 1000 guilders. Used copies bring from 900 down to 600 gld stamp of 1913 (No. 101) in mint at 2000 guilders (cat. 2250), estimated to bring 1000 guild-800 to 900 (cat. 2100 guilders. that even these 'estimated val-istic side in many instances.) uary 1984, does not show a sud-who have been bidding in Dutch-ered that many stamp lots could-Exceptions to this could only-and the really rare and excep-also exceptional.



In view of this it seems that we Catalogus as a market price indicator. (Ed. note: it was hoped that the Catalog Committee would "bite the bullet", so to speak, and make the perhaps distasteful but absolutely practical decision to bring pricing in line with present conditions. We recall that in the 1960's the Michel Catalog for Germany did in fact make a drastic downward revision to bring prices in line for many of the highly overpriced post-war issues. Perhaps the NVPH Committee will have a change of heart in 1985!) To continue: for those of you who may not yet be convinced I will give just a few more estimates and catalog prices. These are necessarily for the more expensive stamps, but they do paint a picture nevertheless. The guilder values of the 1946-47 Wilhelmina series (Nos. 346-349) are estimated to bring 700 guilders mint NH (cat. 1352). The guilder values of the first Juliana set mint NH are expected to bring half catalog, while a hinged set is estimated at no more than 600 guilders against a catalog value of 2560 guilders.

All the syncopated stamps, except for the rare 7½ cent (drie-gaats), are expected to bring 800 gld against a catalog valuation of 3006 guilders! A used "drie-gaats" is estimated at 3000 as against a catalog valuation of 6500 guilders. (Ed. note: we cannot help but recall that, at Amphilex '77, one of our members reluctantly parted with a used pair and a strip of three (two stamps of which were NH) of this 3-holer at 50% more than they would now bring; the market was "crazy" at that time, and catalog prices since then have not caught 'down' with the market.) The two big airmails, 15 and 25 glds, mint NH with margins (so what!), are estimated at 600 guilders, with the catalog value being 1400, while the used copies are expected to bring no more than 28% of catalog.

As far as prices are concerned, the 'new' 1984 Speciale Catalogus can be used very profitably as an inventory list, and no more!

Most of you who have been members of the ASNPF for some time will know that in the past some of our reviews of the NVPH Speciale Catalogus have been very critical, to say the least. At times the word 'sloppy' was used to describe the treatment of some areas. And once again, I am sorry to say, I have to accuse the Catalog Committee of not being logical. Let's go to the first series of the Netherlands: we find the variations of the 5 cent listed from 1a to 1r. No. 1a is plate I on thin paper, which is the normal state of affairs. Nos. 1b and 1c are Plate I on the average thickness of paper. Likewise, Plate VI was printed on thick paper (1q) and on thin paper (1r). However, lately copies of No. 1 have been found printed on ribbed paper, and that is not the normal state of affairs; hence these copies should not have received the No. 1g but, perhaps, No. 1ex or 1fx, depending on the color of this plate II stamp. The same is valid of course for the 10 cent No. 2f. These stamps on ribbed paper are completely irregular and as a result should not occur in the main listing of variations.

On page 26, under a discussion of the plates of the 1864 set, I have another complaint to register: the main text gives enough information to distinguish between plate I and plate II of the 5 cent stamp. This is, of course, very nice. But in the following listing we also find "10 cent plate II, used for a very short time". Nowhere do we find a description of this second plate, so the information is totally useless.

In view of the fact that at least for the Netherlands the listing comb 12½:12(A) has disappeared from the 1864 and 1867 listings, it only proves the disdain the Catalog Committee has for the "colonies" in that we still find 12½:12 for the perforation of the 1868 10 cent of the Indies! It is of course interesting that I wrote several years ago to the NVPH to alert them to this departure from logic.

But even under the "Netherlands" we find some strange omissions. On page 123 there is a footnote under the Juliana Regina high value listings: "1981. Queen Juliana phosphorescent. Because of a paper shortage the values: 1 gld, 1.50 gld, 2 gld, 2.50 gld, 5 and 10 gld were printed on phosphorescent paper identical to that of nos. 941-952" (the low values). If we go to page 89 we find that the Catalog Committee thought it worthwhile to separate the low values of the previous definitive series into "normal paper" and "phosphorescent paper". Perhaps to call it inconsistent is too harsh a judgment of the Committee.

We also note that the 1 cent telegraph stamp with inverted value (page 228) is still listed as "mentioned in the 4th Ferrari auction (June 1922)" while that stamp showed up in a September 1982 auction sale in Switzerland, where it was, indeed, described as the Ferrari auction item!

Now it is time once again to deplore the lack of sufficient warnings in the NVPH Catalogus of "dangerous forgeries" which may exist. In this respect I want to point out once again (and one member of the Committee knows that I personally spoke to him about this) the totally incorrect description which follows the listing of the "Armenwet" stamps. After all eight values are listed, the catalog says: "These stamps were issued January 31, 1913..." while the red overprint on the 1½ cent dark blue did not appear until February 1919. Especially with this stamp it would be extremely important to mention this date because an earlier date would immediately broadcast the stamp as a forged overprint. I do not understand why it would be that difficult for the Catalog Committee to add the information regarding the date of issue of the red overprint!.

But then, I do not understand either why the Catalog Committee would add a warning "Dangerous fakes exist" to some issues, and not to others. We find this warning under No. 81, but NOT under Nos. 130 and 131 (the 2½ gld and 5 gld of the 1923 Jubilee set), infinitely much higher valued stamps. We find a warning under nos. 134-35, but not under nos. 371-73 (the three highest values of the German occupation overprint, of which there are many false overprints floating around the market.) Although some FDC's have been faked (e.g. no. E8), we do not find this information in the Speciale Catalogus. Neither do we find a warning under the first airmail set of 1921. And to come back to the "Armenwet" stamps, which have been and probably still are being fabricated, the catalog does not recognize that fact either. In my opinion, one of the cleverest fakes and the most difficult to detect is that of the 1940 set of the Permanent Court of Justice. And lately I have found a like forgery in one stamp of the first Permanent Court set (and why fake only one?). But you will not find a warning in the Speciale Catalogus! Under the issued "Prisoner of War" stamp there is indeed a warning, but why place this warning in such a place that the unwary reader might think only the green stamp was faked and not the brown one too.

Finally, some miscellaneous remarks. Why, if the 1941 set of the Indies was finally separated into 12½ small holes and large holes, was not the same thing done with the provisional 5 cent of 1940 (blue)? The answer seems clear: it is not worth their while for a 2.25 gld and 0.25 gld stamp; but what exactly is a "Special" catalog? This type of information does not fall into the category of "Handbook" (which is the favorite answer the Committee gives: we do not pretend to give a handbook), but it demonstrates once again that the Committee is inconsistent, to say the least.

The Speciale does list the UNTEA stamps, but for a "Special" catalog would it be expecting too much to find the two printings distinguished?

Also, it must be clear by now, even to the Committee, that the so-called "imperforate values" of the second airmail set of the Indies are proofs, most likely stolen from the Postmuseum at Bandoeng. And even though all the airmails of the Indies up to and including no. 17 have been forged, we do not find that information in the Speciale Catalogus.

In 1976, only eight years ago, the Curacao handbook by Julsen & Benders stated that the 2½ gld perforation 12½ (No. 70D) of Curacao was partially delivered to the islands. Yet the Catalogus continues to state authoritatively: "The 2½ gld (70D) was only sold in the Netherlands at the philatelic windows."

Under the Surinam 1909 provisional 5 cent stamp (Nos. 58-59; and why two numbers since this is only a perforation variation?) we still find the fairy tale about the two plates of 50 subjects which were placed in the press tete-beche. It is inconceivable that such misinformation still finds its place in the Catalog.

I may add here that I think it is very interesting and somewhat ominous that the Netherlands "Bond", the Association of Stamp Collectors Societies has not seen fit to raise its voice against the misinformation in the (1984) NVPH Speciale Catalogus.

BOOK REVIEW

Speciaalcatalogus Doorlopers en Combinaties 1983

(Special Catalogue "bleeders" and combinations)
Published by Philanca. Price Hfl 13.50 (ASNP)

This catalogue combines two previous catalogues, one on "bleeders" and one on combinations, which had earlier been published separately by Philanca.

Of the "bleeders" one knows the "design-bleeders" such as the famous "cows" of 1974. In addition, there are "color-bleeders", where the background color runs from one stamp into the next, and finally the "white-bleeders", where through lack of a frame line the white background runs from one stamp into the next. This catalogue lists all three kinds, both for the Netherlands itself and for the Overseas areas, with prices for mint and used pairs and singles.

The combinations (and single stamps) from booklets are listed according to the booklet from which it came (with prices for mint and used.) This is an attractive feature, especially when one decides to collect in this fashion, i. e., the booklet plus the corresponding combinations on one page. It does lead to duplication though, but the catalogue indicates whether a combination also exists in other booklets, and if so, how to distinguish, if at all possible, by means of paper, color, or gum differences.

In addition to combinations from booklets, this catalogue also lists the combinations obtainable from Child Welfare blocks and other commemorative strips. The "combinations" section is for the Netherlands only.

All in all, a useful catalogue on some peripheral aspects of Netherlands philately.

F. R.

BOOK REVIEW

TIMOR en SOEMBA (Lokale opdrukken aangebracht door de "Netherlands Indies Civil Administration" NICA).

G. J. Bessels, 36 pp. Dai Nippon, Hilversum Hfl 5.00

This is the story of overprinted stamps (Konijnenburg, dancer, Kreisler and Japanese issues). The overprint was either "NICA SOEMBA" or "NICA TIMOR" in two lines. The Soemba overprint also shows a horse head. These overprinted stamps were produced and used in the last four months of 1945, after the Japanese surrender and prior to the introduction of the liberation stamps on 1 January 1946. The important point is that these issues were legitimately sold and genuinely used, and were issued by the authorities of the time. They deserve mention in the NVPH catalogue.

F. R.

THE NETHERLANDS 1930 CHILD WELFARE STAMPS; A NON-STORY

Frans H. A. Rummens

Clearly recognizable as from André van der Vossen's artistic hand, the designs of this set show a young child in settings that symbolize Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The engravers are also well known: H. Seegers did the 1 1/2 ct, R. Steinhauser the 5 ct and the 12 1/2 ct, while J. Warnaar engraved the 6 ct. Recess printed on unwatermarked paper, the sheets of 100 were line - perforated 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 with the well-known variety of the two-sided corner syncopeation.



So much for the facts, which anyone could read in the "Speciale" catalogue. But we also happened to read van Putten's "Catalogus Voor Het Kind", in which all the Child Welfare issues are discussed in detail. And it was there that I found a most intriguing detail regarding the 1930 Child Welfare stamps. It says (and I quote in translation): "In Enschede letters franked with Child Welfare stamps were not accepted, and were charged with postage due." This really set my mind turning in thinking up possible explanations for this incredible incident. My first hypothesis was that it had something to do with the fact that the 6 ct stamp shows a Catholic saint, namely St. Christophe. In fundamentalist Protestant Netherlands, the whole idea of saints is blasphemous, so I envisaged some enraged postal clerks in Enschede refusing to process letters with these "ungodly" stamps. This idea is not farfetched; the uproar in radio, press and in the Commons in 1939 when the St. Willibrord stamps appeared almost toppled the government, and I still remember that in 1955 how the Minister responsible, was raked over the fire when the same St. Willibrord appeared on one of the bank notes. However, my hypothesis proved wrong, so that was the end of that.



Next, I came across a picture of a poster that had been used in 1930 to urge people to buy the Child Welfare stamps. I found this reproduction in Michiel van der Plas' book "Uit het rijke roomse leven", a documentary of the Roman Catholic "pillar" of Dutch society in the years 1925-35, when the epoch of "pillarization" was at its zenith. The poster was presented together with a letter complaining about the nudity of the child on the poster, so that "it was impossible to hang these posters where young boys could not see them". There was my second hypothesis; the up-right (or up-tight?) clerks in Enschede had engineered an anti-nudity protest. Again, my hypothesis was found faulty.

When I finally did find out the truth, it turned out that I had been chasing a red herring; the note in the van Putten catalogue is considerably in error. As was reported in the Maandblad of February and March of 1930, there was no incidence of letters, but only of a single letter. That letter did not bear a postage due, but merely a (presumably handwritten) note stating that the 6 ct stamp which had been used, was only a sort of propaganda seal, and was not valid for franking. After six years of Child Welfare stamps, one postal employee had still not cottoned on

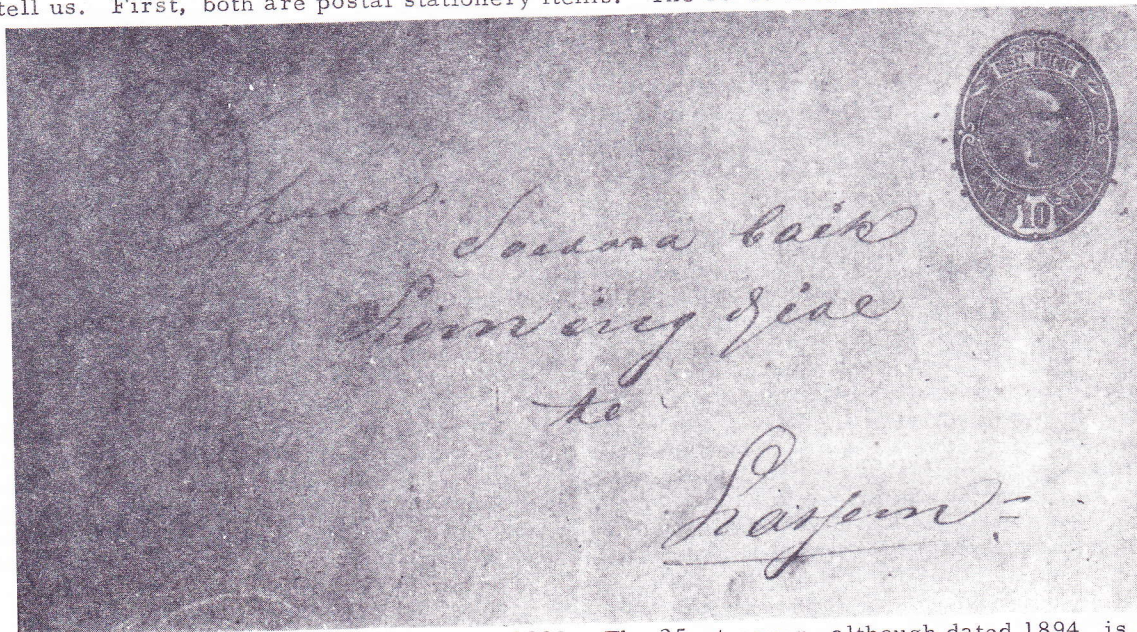
And who else but our Dr. Bertus Benders would have put me on the right track?

A CLOSER LOOK AT TWO NETHERLANDS INDIES COVERS

Paul E. van Reyen

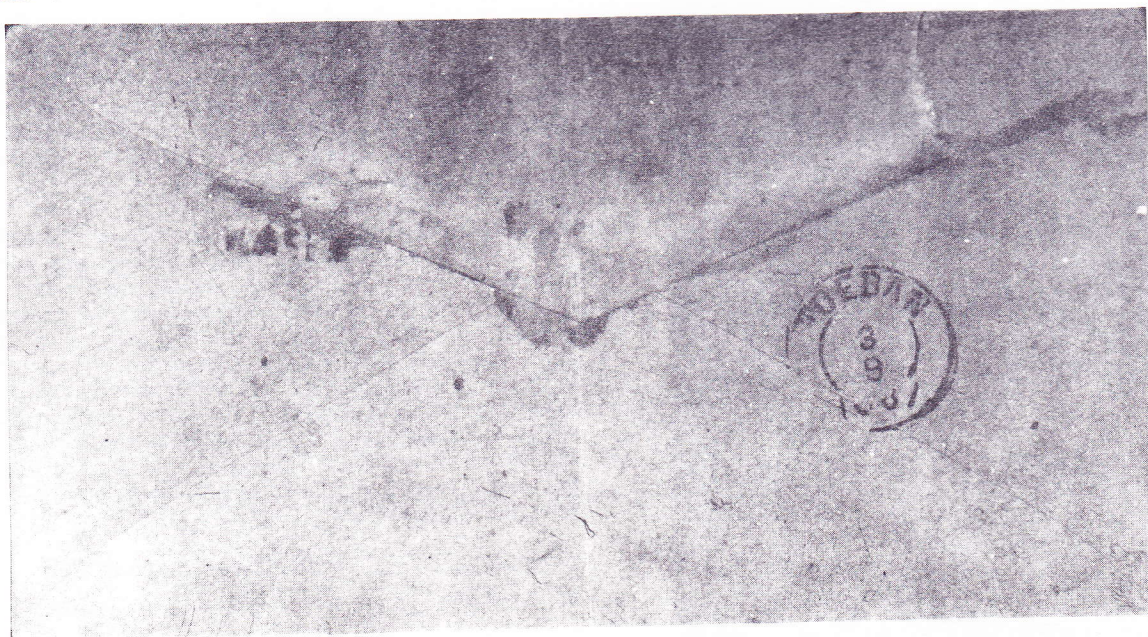
Sometimes very nice items can still be bought at comparatively small shows, where not too many dealers show up. Perhaps the advantage is that one has a more leisurely progress through the various boxes with "Netherlands" and "Netherlands Colonies" on them.

At such a recent show I acquired the two items which we will look at a little closer to see what they can tell us. First, both are postal stationery items. The 10-ct cover which is dated 1887 is the



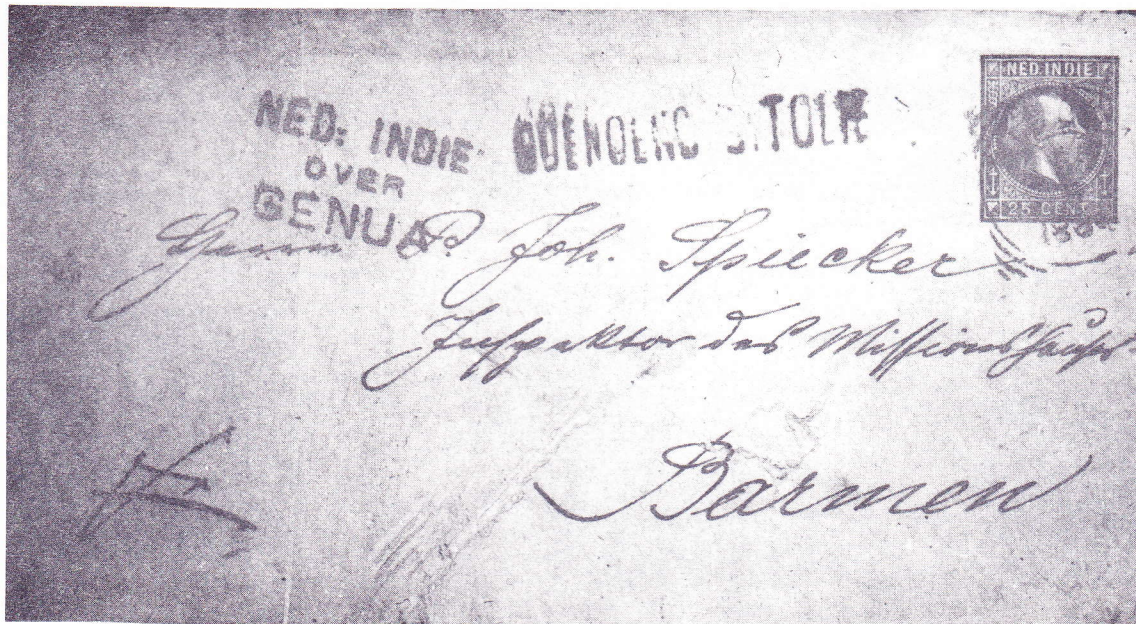
common Geuzendam No. 6, first issued in 1883. The 25-ct cover, although dated 1894, is actually an earlier envelope, Geuzendam No. 3a, issued in 1878-79.

The 10-ct cover carries a very clear numeral cancel "25", which is identified to the left by "Grisee." The date shown is September 3, 1887. The cover is addressed to Lasem. The back of the cover shows a cancel "Toeban", with the same date, and vaguely to the left a straightline cancel "Lasem."



According to Paul Bulterman in his book Poststempels Nederlands-Indie 1864-1950, the straightline cancel if used to indicate arrival, was placed on the back of envelopes, but on the front of postcards. Here it is used correctly.

When we now go to the map of East and Central Java, we find Grisee northwest of Sourabaya, at Madoura Strait. Toeban, the circular cancel on the back, is found just inside Central Java on the north coast. Lasem is somewhat more difficult to place. It is actually a small place a few miles east of Rembang. One would assume that Rembang would have cancelled this cover since it is obviously the major post office near Lasem, but that is not the case. So what we may then gather is that the mail went directly from Grisee to Toeban, and then along the coastal road to Rembang, but since Lasem lies on that coastal road, this cover was delivered there before Rembang was reached. It makes more sense this way.



For our second cover, of which only the front is illustrated, we must go to the island of Nias, off the west coast of Sumatra. Goenoeng Sitolie (generally spelled Sitoli) is the capital of that island. Although the square-corner cancel on the 25-ct impression is unreadable, a map helps us here. The town on the mainland, almost opposite Nias, is Sibolga, the capital of Tapanoeli, and with a little bit of trouble, we can indeed find Siboga and a date May 5, 1894. The back carries a date May 5, 1894. The back carries a date and cancel May 7, 1894, so it took the letter two days to reach the nearest harbor for transport to Europe. Actually, the letter arrived at Barmen in Germany on June 15, 1894.

For the last marking on this cover, "Ned: Indie over Genua", we turn to Paul Bulterman again, and on page 199 we find what we are looking for. This kind of marking was one of the last set to be used, unframed indications of the European port through which the mail was to pass. In the period May 1, 1877 to May 13, 1895, four European ports were named, Brindisi, Marseilles, Naples, and Genoa. Genoa was a late choice: this stamp was used from May 13, 1887. We also find that there were two stamp texts for Genoa, namely "via" and "over". The "via" stamp reads "Ned:Ind: via Genua". The color of these stamped markings was black, although many were found in purple; our letter carries a purple stamping. The straightline cancel Goenoeng Sitolie is in red.

This letter may have been overfranked with 25 cents. Paul Bulterman also gives a list of tariffs (on page 261), in which we find that the rate after April 1888 for the Genoa route was 15 cents. However, the extra 10 cents may have been applied to the transfer to Barmen, Germany.

What is remarkable is that only the town, Barmen, is given, but no country. This makes us think that perhaps most mail from Nias went to Barmen for a particular reason. We know that the Christian missionaries were working at Nias quite early; by the thirties almost one-fifth of the population was Christian. Although the address is almost unreadable, thanks to the German script, it is possible to make out "Inspektor des Missions . . ." for the second line. Here, obviously, is a letter from a missionary to his headquarters in Germany.

We hope that this short article may alert you to the possibilities of the cover-boxes of the dealers who attend some small shows. I must confess, though, that although perhaps the dealer did not exactly know what he had in his stock, he certainly did not lose on the last-mentioned cover, which was priced quite high.

A Philatelic Calendar

by Julius Mansbach

I recently embarked on a project which has enabled me to learn a great deal more about the stamps of the Netherlands and her former colonies, and especially about the subjects pictured on the stamps.

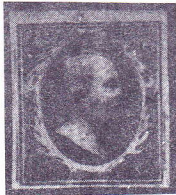
This has taken the form of a calendar, in which I select a stamp which has significance for each day of the year. This has been a greater task than one would first imagine, since most catalogues and encyclopedias, articles in the *Maandblad*, general literature sources, various Society journals and other references usually mention years -- seldom the month and date, which I require.

In addition to spending many hours in public libraries, I have received considerable help from the Netherlands Consulate in Chicago, which has a Dutch encyclopedia as well as other good references.

The greatest help came from the publicity releases of the PTT. So while the project has taken a considerable amount of time, it has been very rewarding in my much greater knowledge of the stamp and the subject it portrays.

Below are a few dates from my collection, selected at random. The project is not completed, as I am still looking for subjects for about a dozen dates.

January 1, 1852



On this date, the first Netherlands stamps were issued. They consisted of three values: 5, 10, and 15 cent. They were authorized by the law of 12 April 1850, and the details may be found in a circular of 12 November, 1851 issued by the Minister of Finance van Bosse. The 5 cent was in blue, printed from a total of 6 plates; the 10 cent in red, printed from 11 plates; the 15 cent in orange-yellow, printed from one plate. Each plate contained 100 subjects in four blocks of 25 separated from each other by a blank strip 10 mm wide. Each stamp has a watermark in the form of a posthorn.

January 2, 1934



This is the first known date of use of the 1934 Tercentenary issue of Curacao. The first three values portray Willem Usselinx who was born in 1567 at Antwerp, and was one of those Southern Nederlanders who settled in the north when they saw their part of the country was steadily returning to Spanish domination. For 30 years he worked for the fulfillment of his dream: the founding of a West Indies Company. At the turn of the century he proposed just such a company. At first his plans were well received, but then opposition developed, especially amongst those promoting the East Indian trade and who in 1602 had formed the East Indies Company. After much struggle and the war of 1621, the West Indies Company was finally formed, but along much revised lines. Bitterly disappointed because he was not even selected as one of the Directors of the new Company, he broke entirely with it, after having spent the best part of his life toward its founding.

January 3, 1679



The artist Jan Steen died on this date in Leiden, where he had been born. He was the son of a brewer, and after briefly attending the University of Leiden, he turned to painting. Managing to produce more than 700 paintings during his lifetime, Steen worked in a variety of styles, always with a genial approach. In addition to his career as an artist, he operated a brewery in Delft and, after 1670, one in Leiden. Though his name was often associated with taverns, on closer consideration his tavern scenes often contain a warning against excessive drinking and his "love scenes" are an allusion to the transient character of love. Although his paintings vary considerably in quality, he is one of the best painters of the Golden Age. His coloring, his representation of the subject and his character portrayal indeed make him a great artist.

January 7, 1937



On this date, Princess Juliana married Prince Bernhard von Lippe-Biesterfeld in 's-Gravenhage, in an event attended by millions of her people who had come to this city to witness the ceremony. The Royal couple had four daughters: Beatrix, January 31, 1938; Irene, August 5, 1939; Margriet, January 13, 1943; and Maryke, February 18, 1947. On May 13, 1940 Princess Juliana had to flee to England after Germany's invasion of Holland on May 10, and did not return to her homeland until March 13, 1945 when it had been partially liberated. The Princess had to take over the reins of government twice during the 50-year reign of her mother, Queen Wilhelmina: October 14 - November 1947 and May 14 - August 30, 1948. On this last date, which marked the Queen's 50th anniversary, Queen Wilhelmina resigned and Princess Juliana became Queen.

January 8, 1941



Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell died on this date while in Nyeri (Africa). Born on February 22, 1857, he was a career British Army officer who founded the Boy Scout and Girl Scout movement. He served in South Africa during the Boer Wars, as well as in India, Afghanistan, Malta, and West Africa. In the training of recruits for his force, he developed their self-reliance, resourcefulness and courage, and following upon his return to Britain, he was invited to develop a program for boys based on these principles. This developed in 1908 into the Boy Scouts, an organization which eventually spread throughout the world. In 1922, he became a baron, and in 1929, a peer with the title Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

January 9, 1464



Summoned by Philip "The Good" of Burgundy, representatives of the States (or Estates) of the regions under his rule, met at Bruges on this date. This meeting of the first "States General" was predominantly attended by the delegates of the southern sections of Burgundy. Also in attendance were delegates of a number of towns, as well as representatives of the states of Holland and Zeeland. At that time, the States General met only when convoked by the Sovereign. Shortly after the 1568 revolt against Philip II of Spain, the States General moved to the North of Netherlands. This now consisted of delegates of the Seven Provinces, which formed the so-called Republic of the United Netherlands. In the 1813 resurrection of the Netherlands as a Unitary State evolved the creation of a legislative body called the States General, which has developed into a Parliament whose members are elected on the basis of universal suffrage, and which is really representative of the people of the Netherlands. This new form of States General has very little similarity to the original body of the same name.

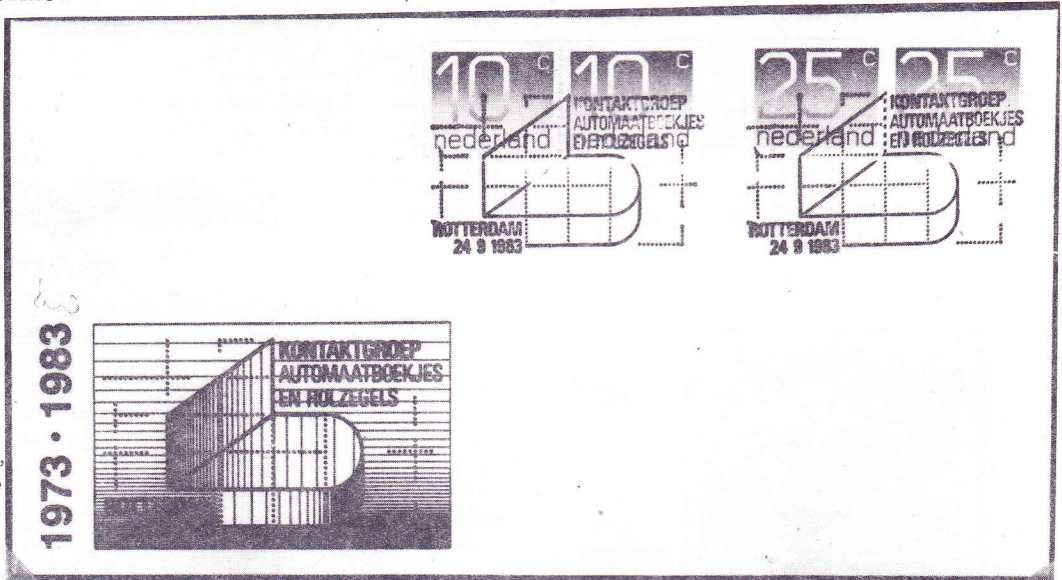
April 9, 1666



On this date, Admiral de Ruyter raised his flag on board the "Zeven Provinciën". This ship was built in 1665 by van den Tempel of Delfshaven, and was named after the provinces of Holland, Zeeland, Friesland, Utrecht, Gelderland, Groningen, and Overijsel. The design of the stamp was taken from a painting by Willem van de Velde de Oude, which hangs in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. After serving as Admiral de Ruyter's flagship for seven years, it was turned over to Jan van Brakel and to Evert de Liefde. In 1694, after almost 30 years of use, it was decommissioned and sold for scrap.

Coil Corner

The Contact Group of the Collectors of Automatic Booklets and Coil Stamps, through which much of the information has been obtained for this column over the years, has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. A well-attended meeting was held in Rotterdam on the 24th of September 1983 in celebration of the event. For the occasion, all the members present, received special covers which show a cancel designed for the meeting. The covers were franked with a pair of the 10 ct. Crowwel coil stamps, and a pair of the 25 ct. coils. These were dispensed from a regular coil vending machine which had been adjusted, just for the occasion, to dispense pairs only, of each of the two values.



We congratulate this thriving group on their many accomplishments.

LHR

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 1982 - December 31, 1982

Income		Expenses	
Dues	2603.94	Printing and postage	2237.60
Publications	1671.76	Publications	1851.92
Advertising	283.89	NVPH Speciales	750.00
NVPH Speciales	1109.55	Bank charges	101.71
Donations, typewriter	439.30	Typewriter	475.00
Donations, other	25.00	Library	124.25
		Exchange	25.00
		Misc. expenses	44.38
		Refunds	13.25
		Positive balance	510.33
	\$ 6133.44		\$ 6133.44

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. van Buskirk, Treasurer

The editors regret the delay in publishing this report.

Correction:

The article by A. F. Holleman on the liberation stamps of 1944-46, which was translated and published in the two previous issues of Netherlands Philately, was incorrectly attributed to the wrong publication. It originally appeared as part of "18 Essays" by the Rotterdam Philatelic Society.

Frans H. A. Rummens

It all started in 1415 when Jan Hus was burned at the stake in Prague. Hus had wanted to change the significance of the Pope and he also wanted to bring the Holy Scriptures to the lay people in the vernacular. During the Hussite Wars that followed - wars initiated in order to gain freedom of religion - a group of Hussites started a religious community. This developed into a real Church which called itself the "Bohemian-Moravian Brethren Unity". However, Protestantism was doomed to die out in that area, primarily because of persecution, and by 1620 very little was left. But here and there, in the mountains of Bohemia and Moravia, remnants of the old Brethren Unity still survived. They would have had little chance of survival were it not that a Guardian Angel turned up in the person of the Count von Zinzendorf, who had heard of the plight of the Brethren and who invited them to come and live on his country estate in Sachsen.

In 1722, the first bedraggled emigrants arrived to start the settlement which would be called Herrnhut (literally: pasture of the Lord).

Under the inspired leadership, both worldly and spiritually, of the Count von Zinzendorf, the Herrnhutter colony grew in size and also in confidence and esteem. They soon decided that they were ready to spread the Gospel outside their own community. They had a meeting in Copenhagen, at the court of King Christian VI, with a Negro from the West Indian island of St. Thomas, who had told them about the terrible conditions amongst the slaves.

In August 1732, 250 years ago, the first two missionary Brethren went off to St. Thomas. This has been commemorated by three 1982 stamps (see Fig. 1).

The 65 ct stamp shows a large Estate from the time of the Slave plantation. As a curiosity it can be mentioned here, that the majority of the planters on the (then Danish) islands of St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix were Dutch planters and as a consequence they and their slaves spoke Dutch. By contrast, in Surinam one had mostly English planters, which gave rise to a new language, the Negro-English or Shranan Tongo.



Fig. 1

The 150 ct stamp shows a portrait of Johann Leonard Dober (1706-1766) who was one of the two pioneer missionary Brethren who landed on St. Thomas in 1732. Dober spent the next 30-odd years in missionary work in the Carribean. His co-founder, David Nitschmann, who was even a bishop in the Moravian Church, has not been commemorated. We can only presume that he did not remain very long at his post. One statistic may be very telling here: between 1734 and 1736, 22 colonists out of a total of 29 died on St. Thomas and St. Croix alone.

The 35 ct stamp of Figure 1 shows the Grote Stadskerk, the great city church, at Paramaribo. This was included in this set to indicate that Surinam was part of the West Indian missionary efforts of the Moravians, some 250 years ago. But this is also somewhat misleading, because the mission at Surinam began distinctly later. The first scouts had arrived in 1735, but they were unable to achieve anything; one of them died, and the other two returned to Herrnhut in 1736. A second attempt was made in 1738, but in 1745 Surinam was again without missionaries except for a settlement in Berbice (presently Guyana).

From 1750 onward, however, a few missions amongst the Indians prospered: the one in Berbice, and a second one at Saron on the Saramacca River. A third one at Hope on the Corantine came into being in 1757. It would thus have been more accurate to date the beginning of the missions in Surinam at around 1750. The present-day Herrnhutters decided, however, to take 1736 as the official beginning



Fig. 2

of the Mission, which is the reason why in 1936 the "200-year Herrnhutters in Surinam" was celebrated (NVPH 151-156; see Fig. 2). The designer of this set, Eva Schutz, is herself a member of the Brethren Community; she is the daughter of Ludwig Schutz, a well-known Surinam missionary, teacher and pastor. The designs are typical; the missionary's white hand reaching out to help and welcome the indigenous colored hand.

All three missions came to a violent ending; Berbice in 1763, Saron burned in 1761, abandoned in 1779, and Hoop burned and abandoned in 1808. With that, the Brethren temporarily abandoned the Mission under the Indians and concentrated instead on the Negro slaves, the Creoles.

Of the Mission with the Creoles it can be said that eventually it became very successful, to the extent that there is even now a largely independent Creole Church. Central in this development was the church in Paramaribo, which soon got the nickname of "Mamakerki", the mother church. Started in 1778 as a simple 8x8 meter structure, it was enlarged and rebuilt several times. The present structure dates from 1828. In spite of that, a set of stamps was issued in 1978 commemorating "200 jaar Grote Stads-kerk" (Zonnenbloem 124-127; see Figures 3, 8, and 9). Only in the spiritual sense is the Mamakerki 200 years old. The designs of Rudi Chang are not very exciting; in fact, a much better view of the church is shown on the 35 ct stamp of Fig. 1.



Fig. 3

The beginnings of the Creole Mission at Paramaribo can be dated to 1765, when three Brethren were sent from Herrnhut, charged with this new task. Amongst these three was Christoph Kersten. This again rings a philatelic bell; in 1968 a set of stamps appeared, commemorating 200 years of the Mission firm Ch. Kersten and Co. (NVPH 499-501; see Fig. 4). As was the habit with all the original missionary Brethren, Kersten was a trained craftsman, a tailor to be precise. A Missionshop already existed at that time, but in 1768 the shop was given the name Christoph Kersten and Co., Ltd., when Kersten became the Praeses (i. e., the President) of all the Mission activities in Surinam. The C. K. C. prospered and expanded into many merchandising lines. Profits from the C. K. C. were channeled back into the Mission, making Surinam largely independent (financially at least) from Herrnhut.



Fig. 4

In 1900 the business aspects of Mission and C. K. C. were formally separated and during the great reorganization of 1928, C. K. C. fell back entirely to Herrnhut, totally separate from the Mission in Surinam. A further change came in 1940 when, because of the condition of War with Germany, C. K. C. was placed under government control. In 1950 however, C. K. C. was returned, but notably not to Herrnhut, but to the Mission Foundation of the Evangelical Brethren Unity at Zeist in the Netherlands. C. K. C. is now a multi-faceted company with about 2000 employees in Surinam, and is active or sharing in just about every business aspect in Surinam.

The reason that C. K. C. was turned over to Zeist, had partly to do with the political situation in Herrnhut, which found itself in East Germany after World War II, but it also goes back to the reorganization of 1928, at which time the Surinam Mission became the responsibility of the above-mentioned group at Zeist. This group in Zeist itself is very old, harking back to the visits Count von Zinzendorf was paying to the Netherlands in the early eighteenth century. It is known, for example, that in 1719 he met with the Princess-widow Maria Louisa (nicknamed Maaike-Moei) and her 8 year old son, the later Prince Willem IV. Friends bought the seigniory of Zeist for the Brethren, in the gardens of which a whole complex of buildings arose, which are still in use today as a residence for the Zeist Community.

Von Zinzendorf also conferred extensively with the members of the Chartered Society of Surinam in Amsterdam, which connections led of course to the Mission attempts in Surinam. It is interesting to note how von Zinzendorf defends his plans: "One must try to bring the Slaves to Christ, but one must exhort them at the same time to double their effort and fidelity. The Slaves must be admonished not to desire personal freedom, but to gracefully accept it when and if offered." That pretty well remained the attitude of the Brethren, albeit that the Slaves had hardly any other choice, lest they would risk being kicked out.



Fig. 5

Slave trading was abolished in 1814 (in the Netherlands), but total abolition of slavery, also called emancipation, did not come to Surinam until 1863, thirty-one years after the English abolished slavery for their colonies. The emancipation of the Negro-slaves was commemorated 75 years later (NVPH 183-186; see Fig. 5) and again in 1963 (NVPH 396-397; see Fig. 6). The first of July 1863 was anxiously awaited, but nothing exciting happened, except for perhaps a rush on local shoe stores which ensued! Emancipation reinforced the strength of the Creole Church, but it also became the source of a great crisis amongst the Brethren in Surinam.



Fig. 6

Before 1963, a civil marriage was forbidden for Slaves, so the Community accepted a "solemn promise" of the partners as an acceptable equivalent. With the emancipation however, civil marriage was allowed for ex-slaves and the Community now began to demand a civil marriage from all their Creole members, in spite of the fact that a civil marriage was still very difficult and expensive.

Many members were expelled for failure to not having been properly married. A near revolt broke out and Brother Heyde publicly took to the defense of the Creoles. In time the problems were solved, but Brother Heyde, however correct he may have been in his statements, was forced to resign as missionary. He then took up his old profession as printer and so started, in 1880, the first print shop in Paramaribo. Later, this printing shop was taken over by his son H. B. Heyde, whose name we can see several times in the NVPH catalogue. Acknowledged are NVPH 22, 58-59, 60-64 and 65-68 (see Fig. 7), but we can be sure that the overprints of 1892 (NVPH 21), 1898 (NVPH 29-33) and 1900 (NVPH 37-40) came from the same shop.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

A remarkable figure from about the same time is Johannes King (Zonnenbloem 125; see Fig. 8), who was from the Matuari tribe of so-called Forest Negroes (mostly Negro-slaves who had fled from the plantations, intermixed with Indian blood). Johannes King was born in 1830, but he came to Paramaribo in 1857 to talk about the many visions he had experienced. He taught himself to read and write and then undertook almost singlehandedly the evangelization of the Upper-Saramacca. Eventually the entire Matuari tribe became Christian, due to his efforts. He died in 1899.

We now approach the 20th Century and have a few philatelic highlights to report. There is, for example, a commemorative stamp for one Johannes Raillard (Zonnenbloem 127; see Fig. 9), who was Praeses of the Surinam Mission from 1939-1954.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Also in 1954, a set of stamps appeared (NVPH 312-315; see Fig. 10), semi-postals with the surcharge to the benefit of the Evangelical Brethren Community in Surinam, especially for their work amongst the youth. The occasion was the opening of their Youth Centre (visible in the center of the stamp design). The design furthermore shows children of five different races: Negro, Indian, Javanese, Hindustani and Chinese.

We must understand also that the E. B. C. regularly shares in the yield of the surcharges on the semi-postal "Child Welfare" and "Easter Welfare" stamps which appear every year. To symbolize this we show NVPH 558 from the 1971 Easter set, the design of which is virtually identical to the design of the seal of the Evangelical Brethren Community (see Fig. 11).

With some 40,000 members in Surinam alone, it may be said that the Moravian Church of the Evangelical Brethren Community is well integrated into Surinam life.

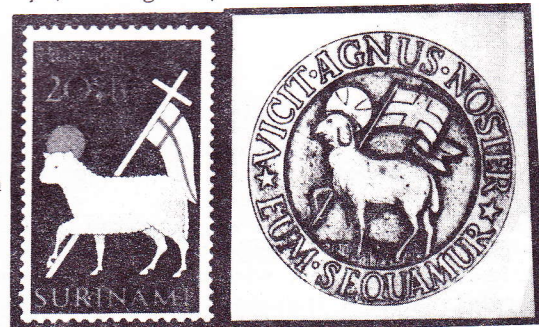


Fig. 11

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