

# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 9/4

# ASNPN



A non-profit organization registered  
in the State of Illinois

# Netherlands Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NETHERLANDS  
PHILATELY  
Volume 9, Number 4

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*Netherlands Philately* is published quarterly by the American Society for Netherlands Philately.

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Advertising: Advertising rates are \$60 for a full page, \$35 for a half page and \$20 for a quarter page.

#### Letter from the Editors:

The lead article this month is on the Dutch East Indies issue of 1902-09, and includes a factual summary of the issue plus a number of illustrative covers. It was written by a new contributor to these pages, member Kees Moorlag of Ontario, Canada.

Member Gert Holstege is the author of an article on the elusive Blue Band cancel of 1924, which has the unique distinction of being the only purely commercial cancellation to have been used by the PTT. Due to the length of Mr. Holstege's detailed report of his research, the article is appearing in three installments.

Paul van Reyden has contributed on of his inimitable examinations of the current NVPH Speciale Catalogus, and is also the translator of a fine illustrated article by Col. G.A. Geerts on the beginnings of post-war mail service in the Dutch East Indies. Due to its length, this translation will appear in two installments.

Dr. Frans Rummens contributes his usual share of interesting articles in this issue, including one of his "Heroes of the Sea" as well as several reviews.

An assortment of shorter articles from various sources completes the issue.

We feel it in order to comment on the late delivery of the last issue of the Journal, which some of our members experienced. This time, and we repeat, this time, the cause lay not with the ASNPN, but was the result of the recent increase in postal rates.

In order to qualify for our special low postal rate, we must meet a number of rigid requirements, one being that only a certain value and type of stamp be used to frank copies going to domestic members. The March Journal was actually ready for mailing by mid-March, and all members living outside the U.S. were sent their copies at that time.

However, Distribution Manager Dennis Finegan was unable to obtain the required stamps for domestic members for over a month, despite repeated orders for same and visits to the Post Office. As many of you are fully aware, trying to get a monolithic government organization such as our Postal Service, to move when needed, is an almost unsurmountable task. And the Newsletter was held up due to the delay in mailing the Journal, as it is to appear between each issue of the Journal.

We certainly hope that our members receive their copy of the Journal more promptly this time.

**NETHERLANDS INDIES**  
The regular issue of 1902-1909 and overprints

by: Kees Moorlag

This issue of 1902-1909 consists of 8 values in numerals design, in standard horizontal format, 11 values in portrait design in the standard vertical format, plus the 1 and 2 1/2 guilder in larger format and a modified portrait design.

The eight numeral stamps were designed by J. Vurtheim, whereas the eleven others, the 1 and 2 1/2 guilder values, all with the image of Queen Wilhelmina, were designed by Jan Veth. The perforation of the 1 and 2 1/2 guilder is line 11, 11 1/2 and combinations thereof. The

perforation of the other stamps is comb 12 1/2. In the Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelhandelaren (NVPH) Catalogue this issue is found under the numbers 40 to 59.

Finally, all the stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper by Joh. Enschede and Sons. All the cent values stamps were printed in typography in sheets of 200, whereas the guilder values were recess printed, from steel engraved plates, in sheets of 5 rows of 10.

POSTMARKS

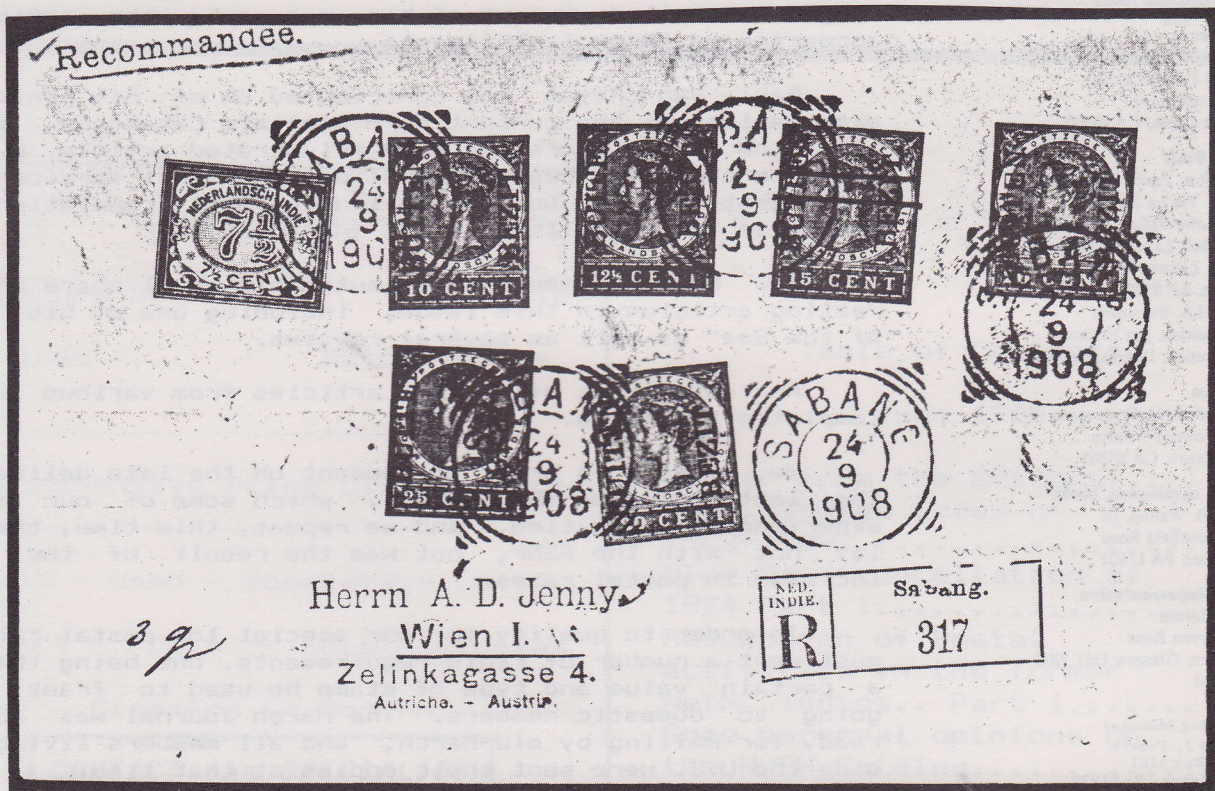


Figure 1

The Cancellations or Postmarks used on these stamps consist mostly of the squared circle, which came into regular use on April 15, 1893. By "regular use" I mean that the squared circle cancellation was used before April 1893 in a few Postoffices. It remained in general use until about 1913.

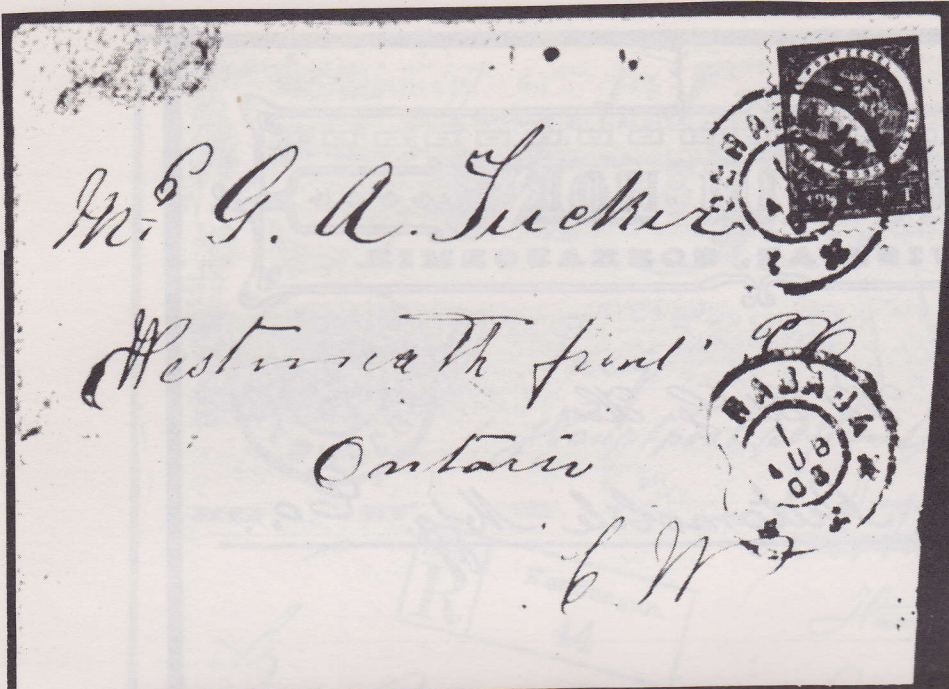


Figure 2

In this figure the large round or star type Postmark is clearly evident. This Postmark was introduced in 1905. The cover with this Postmark has a Java overprinted stamp, mailed to Westmeath, C.W. (Canada West). Westmeath is in the province of Ontario, on the Ottawa river in Renfrew County.

This cancel as well as the previous one and the next one were slowly introduced (and withdrawn) until in 1917 the long date bar cancel replaced all of them.



Figure 3

The Postmark with a short date bar (shown in this figure) was issued in 1908. It went through various modifications such as wide, narrow, short and long date bars, until in 1912 a modification came into use where the outer circle was broken up into small pieces called biffage. In the Netherlands-Indies the Chinese merchants were trying to reuse the postage stamps by removing the cancellations. By using this broken outer ring or circle, it was thought that the small pieces made deeper imprints on the paper and thereby made the Postmarks more difficult to remove.



Figure 4

Another type of cancellation was the straight line cancel, which was being used by auxiliary Post Offices and at some railroad stops. The cancellation shown in figure 4 shows a boxed straight line cancel, in blue, from Tjisa'at, Java. Tjisa'at, was a railroad stop with limited postal service. This cover was backstamped, Weltevreden, the main Post Office, November 23, 1912.

A railroad stop postal facility, like Tjisa'at, was usually no more than a mailbox with the availability of postage stamps. Also, someone was necessary to empty the mailbox and cancel the outgoing mail. This someone usually was the Railroad Station Master. Registered and express mail was not accepted in these places.

Figure 5

The Postmark shown in this figure is a straight line cancel from Kendangan, Borneo. The main Post Office of Bandjermasin has its stamps on the cover also. Kendangan was an auxiliary Post Office from 1897 and was one of the auxiliary offices that was able to issue registered letters because it had its own personnel. The overseas letter rate of the time was 12 1/2 cents and 10 cents for registration.

Figure 6

The Netherlands-Indies also had Special Postal Agents located in Penang and Singapore. These offices were established in 1878 and were used to facilitate the forwarding of mail from parts of the Indies such as Borneo, Sumatra, and some smaller islands near the Malaya Peninsula. Instead of taking the mail to Batavia (the capital of the Netherlands-Indies), it could be placed on vessels to either Penang or Singapore. Here the mail would be processed and a Special Postmark, shown in figure 6, would be affixed. The mail would then be placed on board steamers, sailing for Europe.

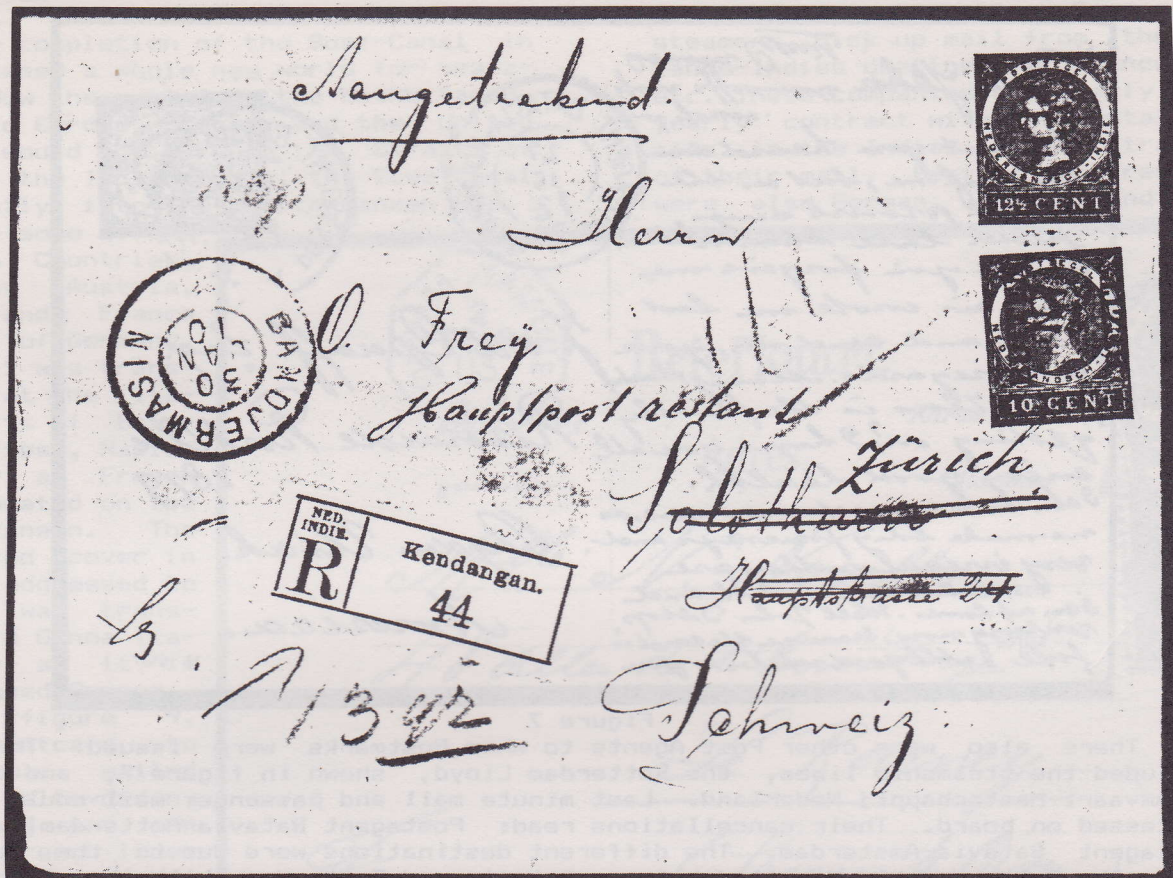


Figure 5



Figure 6

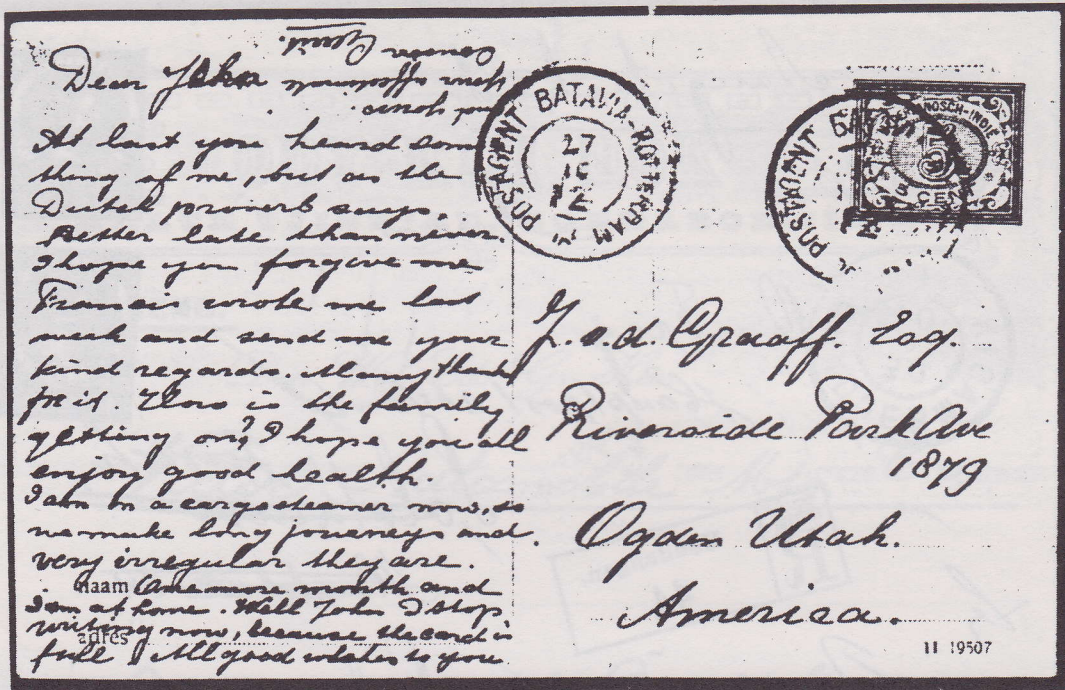


Figure 7

There also were other Post Agents to whom Postmarks were issued. These included the steamship lines, the Rotterdam Lloyd, shown in figure 7, and the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland. Last minute mail and passenger mail could be processed on board. Their cancellations read: Postagent Batavia-Rotterdam, or Postagent Batavia-Amsterdam. The different destinations were due to the fact that the Rotterdam Lloyd sailed between Batavia and Rotterdam while the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland sailed between Batavia and Amsterdam. An officer on board of one of these steamers was given the responsibility for handling the mail. Both companies sailed on alternate weeks from Batavia to either Rotterdam or Amsterdam.

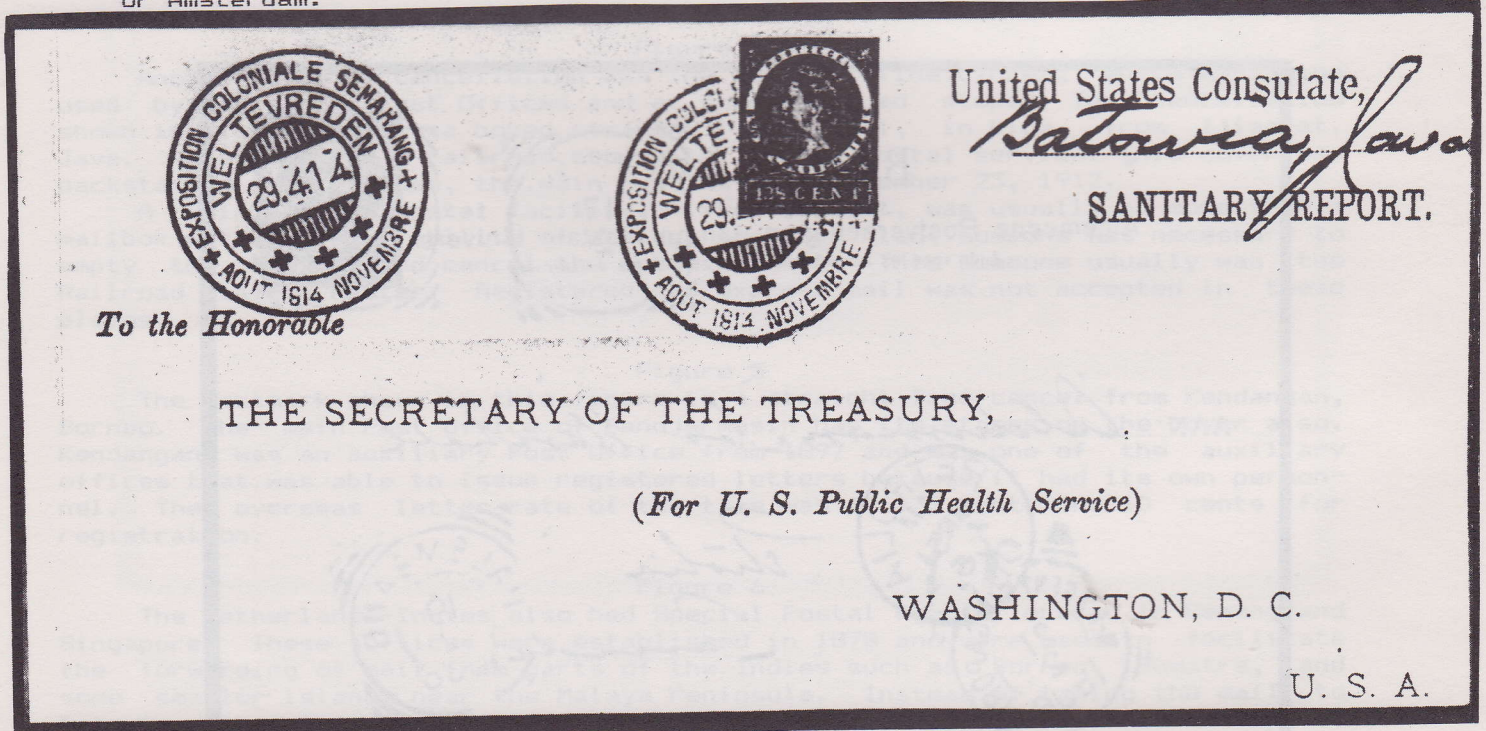


Figure 8

This figure shows a cancellation which was first ever used to promote a special event. The event being advertized in this case was the Colonial Exhibition in Semarang, which ran from August to November 1914. The Postmark for this occasion was issued to 15 selected Post Offices only.

**MAIL ROUTES**

The completion of the Suez-Canal in 1869 opened a whole new world for seafarers. Now the mail from the Netherlands-Indies to Europe, Canada and the United States would go through the Strait of Malacca, the Indian Ocean, the Suez-Canal and finally, into the Mediterranean Sea.

For some of the European Countries, such as Austria, Switzerland, France and part of Germany, the mail was transferred at the Italian ports of Brindisi, Triest, Naples etc. or at French ports located on the Mediterranean. The registered cover in fig. 1 addressed to Austria was transferred in Genoa Italy, or as it is backstamped Genoa.

In figure 9, the postcard to France was mailed from Weltevreden, Java and put on board a French liner sailing between Yokohama, Japan and Marseille, France. This ship put its

own Postmark on the mail piece. This particular company, Ligne France, had its steamers pick up mail from the Netherlands-Indies destined for France, Austria etc. These companies had yearly or multi-yearly contract with the Postal Authorities in the Indies for the transporting of their mail. Besides the French, there were also German, English and Japanese

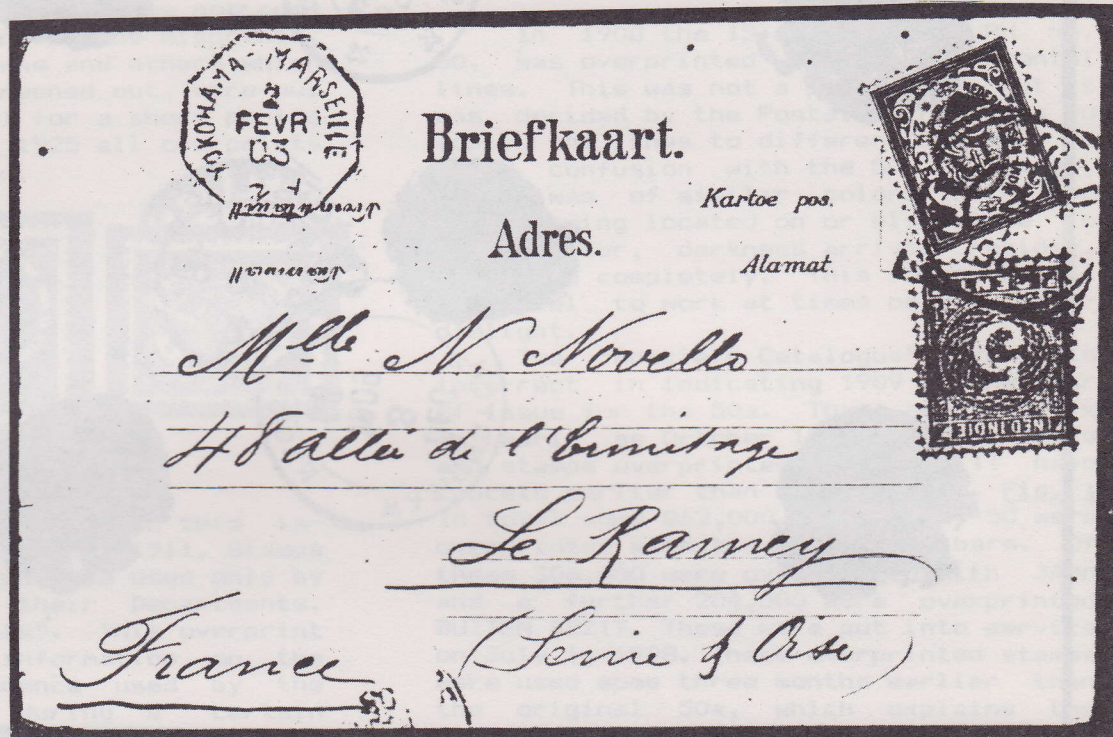


Figure 9

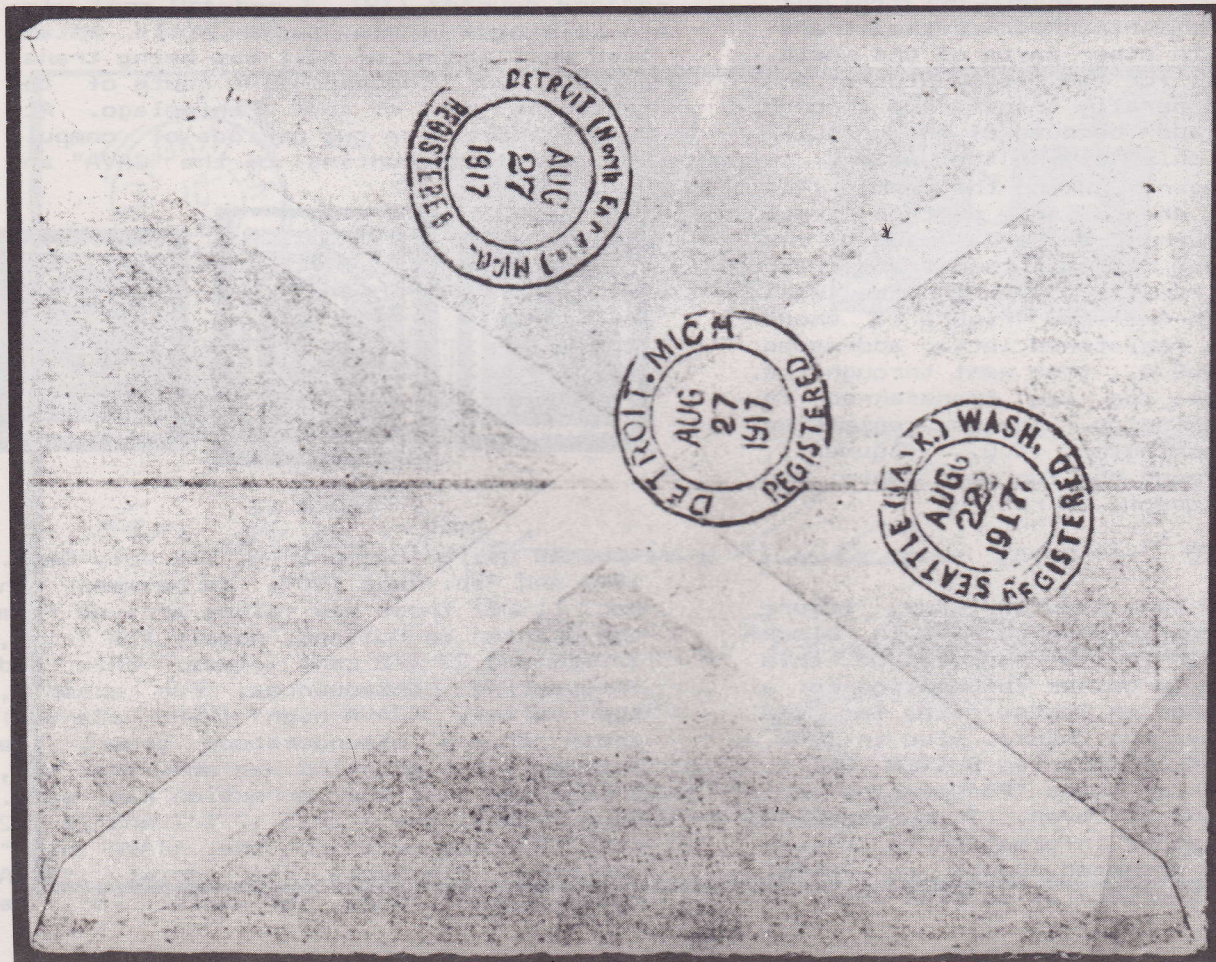


Figure 10





Figure 11

Companies who contracted for the transport of mail to other parts of the world.

The mail for the United States and Canada was generally transferred through London, England because of the regular service by ships plying the waters to Europe. However, during the years 1914 through 1918, when a large part of Europe was at war, much more use was made of the Pacific route. Mail was then transported across the Pacific Ocean to the west coast of North-America. Figure 10 shows the back of a registered letter addressed to Detroit, U.S.A., that went through the Pacific route and was transferred in Seattle, Washington. Another registered letter to Washington, D.C., figure 11, was taken through the European route and backstamped London, in red.

#### THE OVERPRINTS

In 1908 this regular issue, figure 12, was overprinted with JAVA in block capital letters. The purpose of this overprint was to gather information for a proposed change in Postal rates for the Islands of Java and Madura. Also in 1908, this issue was overprinted BUITEN BEZIT, figure 1, which means "Possessions outside the Island of Java". This overprint was used to gather information in connection with a proposed change in Postal rates in the territories outside Java.

This particular survey would establish what amount of mail was being transported over the expensive route of the remaining part of the archipelago. Actually there were two periods of compulsory use (and counting) of the "JAVA" and



Figure 12

"buiten bezit" overprints, viz July-Sept. 1908 and Feb.-June 1909. In between, in Dec. 1908 three new values arrived from the printer in Holland, namely the 7 1/2, 17 1/2 and 22 1/2 cent values. This had interesting consequences. For example, the variety "JAVA high" (NVPH 63a-80a) arose from a misunderstood order; the entire first printing was done that way, but after that the correction was made. As a result, the 7 1/2, 17 1/2 and 22 1/2 cent do not exist in the "JAVA high" variety. Similarly the variety "JAVA upside down" does not exist for the

7 1/2, 17 1/2 and 22 1/2 cent, and the "BUI TEN BEZIT upside down" does not exist for the 7 1/2 and 17 1/2 and is very rare for the 22 1/2 cent. Some of these inverts are shown in figure 14.

There was a third period of use in early 1910, this time the "JAVA" overprints were sent to the outer areas, whereas the "BUI TEN BEZIT" stamps went on sale on Java, but their use was not compulsory. Finally, many of the misprints, such as the upside-downs and others which initially had been screened out, were put up for sale (and use) for a short period in 1925. On Dec. 31, 1925 all overprints were again demonetized.



Figure 14

The overprint "DIENST" on this issue, figure 13, occurred in 1911. Stamps with this overprint could be used only by the Government and their Departments. Dienst means "officials". This overprint was used to gather information on the amount of correspondence used by the Government Agencies during a certain period of time. These stamps were used only from October 1, 1911 through September 30, 1912. The cover in figure 13 has

two overprinted stamps of the regular issue. The two stamps on the right were also used by the Government, but were not part of this survey and not of this regular issue.

All overprints and varieties thereof have been forged extensively.

THE 15 ct AND 20 ct STAMPS

In 1908 the 15 ct brown, NVPH No. 50, was overprinted with two horizontal lines. This was not a pre-cancel, but it was decided by the Postal Authorities to apply the lines to differentiate and to avoid confusion with the 50 ct stamp, which was of similar color. With the Indies being located on or else close to the equator, darkness arrives rapidly, early and completely. This forced Postal personnel to work at times only by candlelight.

The "Speciale Catalogus" (NVPH) is incorrect in indicating 1909 as the year of issue for the 50a. There are cancels as early as October 1908 to prove this and stamps overprinted BUI TEN BEZIT have cancels earlier than October 1908. Fig. 1 In total some 862,000 of the No. 50 were overprinted with two horizontal bars. Of these 306,000 were overprinted with JAVA and a further 204,000 were overprinted BUI TEN BEZIT. These were put into service on July 1, 1908. These overprinted stamps were used some three months earlier than the original 50a, which explains the earlier cancellations and the error in the NVPH catalogue.

Overprints JAVA and BUI TEN BEZIT do

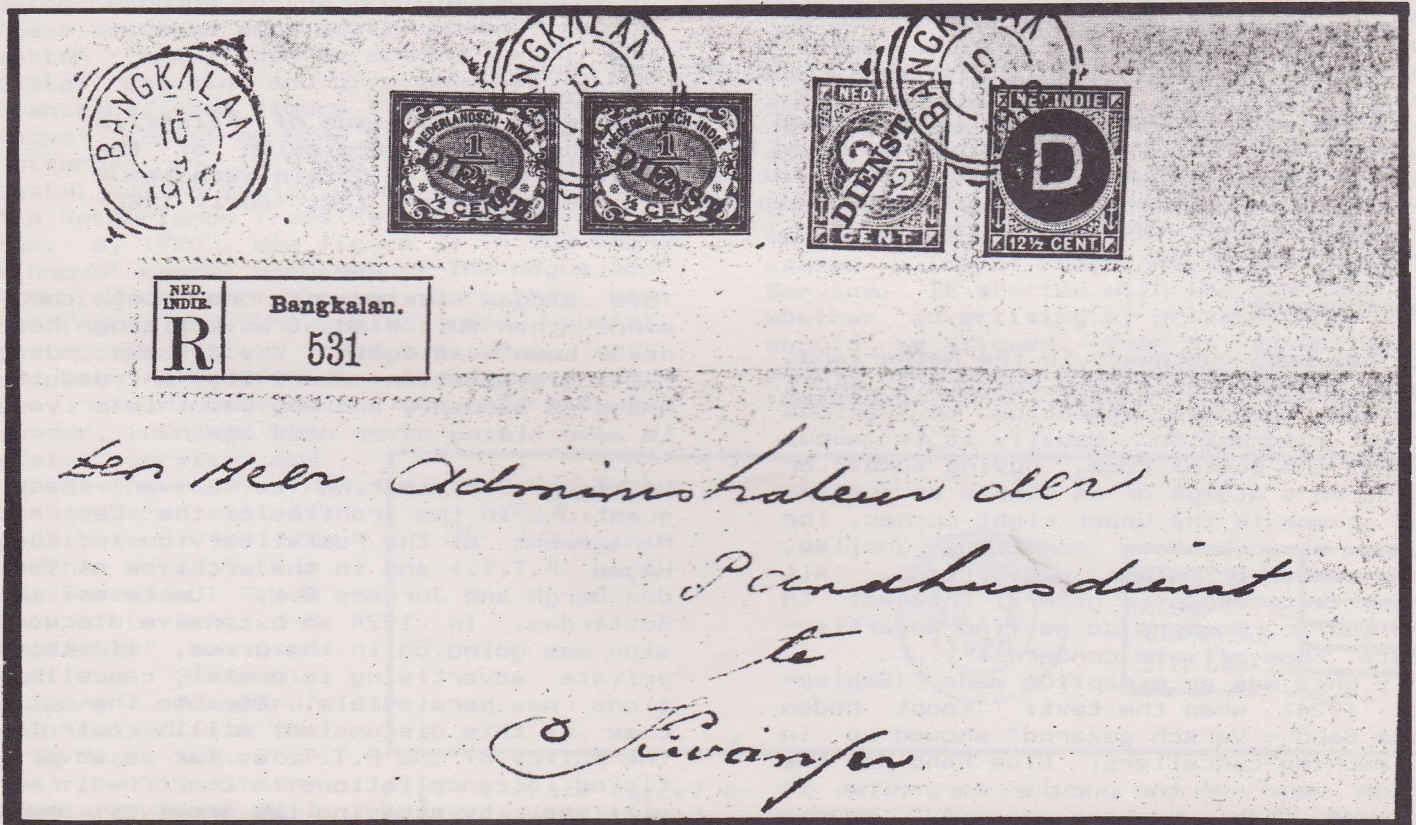


Figure 13

not exist on No. 50, only on 50a. There is an interesting variety of the No. 50a with 13 mm space between the words BUITEN and BEZIT, rather than the 10 mm which was standard for the small format portrait stamps. This variety exists in the regular and the upside-down overprints. The 13 mm is the standard distance for the horizontal format numerals.

The overprinting of DIENST was done in 1911 when, strangely enough, many original 50's were still around but only a few 50a's received that overprint. The cost of these stamps today bears that out.

The 20 ct olive green, NVPH No. 53 appeared in 1905, with the earliest known cancel date being December 5, 1905, after the change was approved by the Authorities in 1904.

The 20 ct greenish slate, No. 52, which was issued earlier, caused recognition problems with the 10 ct, which was of similar color. That is why the 20 ct olive green was printed.

There are however, other stories told by experts. One of them is, that the 20 ct greenish slate was not in accordance with the color scheme of the Universal Postal Union, to which the Netherlands Indies belonged. The 20 ct olive green, however, which was issued in 1905, fitted in with that color scheme. Suppor-

ting the latter hypothesis is the fact that the 20 ct slate was demonetized in July 1905, which did not happen until December 31, 1925 for all the others.

In the meantime 1,116,400 of the remaining 20 ct slate were overprinted diagonally with 10 ct in black and issued as No. 62 on July 6, 1905.

#### FUGITIVE INKS.

Finally, I would like to point out that in 1912 an issue similar to the regular of 1902-1909, but not containing as many values, was printed with a soluble ink, while the guilder values were immersed in an indigo solution. (NVPH 40a-49a,60,61). The reason for this was to prevent the reuse of postage stamps after removal of the cancellation.

#### Literature:

Handboek der Postwaarden van Nederlandsch-Indie

Vol. 1 (N.V.v.P.V.)

Manual of the stamps of Netherlands, Netherlands-Indies, Curaçao and Suriname. A.A. Schiller and Joh. de Kruyf (1940)

Poststempels Nederlands-Indie. P.R. Bulterman (1981).

## THE BLUE BAND CANCELLATIONS OF 1924

by Gert Holstege

Translated by Reinder van Heuveln

This article was originally published in the September 1984 issue of *Filatelie Informatief*, and is being reprinted here with the express permission of the publishers, Samson Uitgeverij B.V. Full information on how to obtain each issue of this fine new publication, has been given in detail in the last (April 1985) issue of the ASNP Newsletter.

### Introduction

It has been customary in the Netherlands that the machinecancels contain a short message to call attention to various postal information. Usually it is about using the postal code, buying summer or children's stamps or as simple as putting the stamps in the upper right corner. The flags also mention sometimes jubilaes, congresses or stamp exhibitions. All these texts are of a general interest to the public. Nowhere do we find advertisements from private concerns.

Only once was an exception made (September 1924) when the text: "Koopt heden Blue Band - Versch gekarnd" showed up in 10 machine cancellers. Blue Band was the trade name of the popular margarine in Holland then; "versch gekarnd" means: churned fresh and "koopt heden": buy now.

This slogan lasted only one month and since then this kind of advertising has never been used again. Why did the postal-administration start it, why was it ended so suddenly and why was this private advertising never used again?

We found information to answer these questions in the archives of the Central Management of the Postal Service in the Hague (P.T.T.) and in the archives of Van den Bergh and Jurgens B.V. (Unilever) in Rotterdam. In 1924 an extensive discussion was going on in the press, if this private advertising in postal cancellations was permissible. Because the outcome of this discussion still controls the policy of the P.T.T. as far as advertising in cancellations is concerned, we will see, by studying the archives, what happened in 1924 concerning this matter.

We will follow the proceedings chronologically. In the archives of Van den Bergh and Jurgens B.V. we found a letter from Mr. Paul Rijkens, dated 1926; at that time Director of the Van den Bergh factories in the Netherlands, to Mr. E.H. Plank, director of Van den Bergh Limited, the English branch of the Van den Bergh Consortium. In this letter, Mr. Rijkens writes a summary of what happened in 1924 with the Blue Band advertising in postal cancellations. We find some ideas of the procedure of Van den Bergh in this affair. Certain passages from this letter will be acknowledged in this article. At the end of this resumé a list will be published of the various cancellations and include their scarcity.

#### Previous History

In April 1919 the Postal Service started using slogans in the machine-cancellers. These messages were mostly postal information like "open an account with the postal checking and giro-service" (giro-transfer), see figure 1, in a non-continuous<sup>1</sup> cancel machine at Amsterdam and Rotterdam in 1919 and 1920, or not of postal nature as for example: "visit the 4th Netherlands Trade Fair from Feb. 23 - Mar. 6, 1920", see figure 2, in the continuous<sup>1</sup> cancel machines of The Hague and Flushing. The following years this was continued and the public read postal instructions like "Address your mail complete with street and house number, also mention your own address as sender, you help the postal service" and "Enclosing money in unregistered mail is prohibited". In 1922 another cancellation "Netherlands Trade Fair at Utrecht, 4-9 September" was used and the Steamship Company "Zeeland" was helped with the flag "Kon. Ned. Postvaart Vlissingen-Engeland; Royal Mail Great Britain-Flus-



Fig. 1 Postcard in 1920, franked with a 5 cent type "bontkraag" (fur collar). This cancel was by a Flier cancellation machine with flag: "Open an account with the postal checking and giro service". Note also the label "deliver on Sunday".

hing (figure 3)". Most flags in cancellations, continuous or not, contain only straight or wavy lines in stead of text. The Postal Service had received early on some complaints about text in the cancellations, so the flags were used only sparingly until the end of 1922. On November 1922 the Head office of the Postal Service received a letter from "Drachenquelle, Inc." with the request to use at Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague and if possible at some other large post offices a canceller with the word "Drachenquelle", with or without mentioning "therapeutic wellwater". The argument was that this kind of cancellation was allowed in Germany (figure 4). This request caused a lot of reactions in the Postal Service. It started with the question of whether advertising by private companies should be allowed. Even an advertising cancel was produced (figure 5). It is remarkable that before the discussion



Fig. 2 Proof cancel by the Flier cancellation machine with flag: "Visit the 4th Netherlands Fair, Feb. 23 - Mar. 6, '20". (Archives of the Central Direction of the PTT, the Hague)

started in the Executive Committee of the P.T.T., the newspaper "Het Vaderland" in The Hague raised some questions in an article on November 25, 1922. It seems they were very anti-postal advertising, when rumors started that the P.T.T. was considering it. Because of the various opinions inside the Executive Committee we have to consider the possibility that this was "leaked" to the press. The big objection of the newspaper was that no one has the right to put advertising on someone else's property.

Early December 1922 the Executive Committee draws up a reply to "Drachenquelle" in a letter to the Secretary of Communications. It was mentioned in

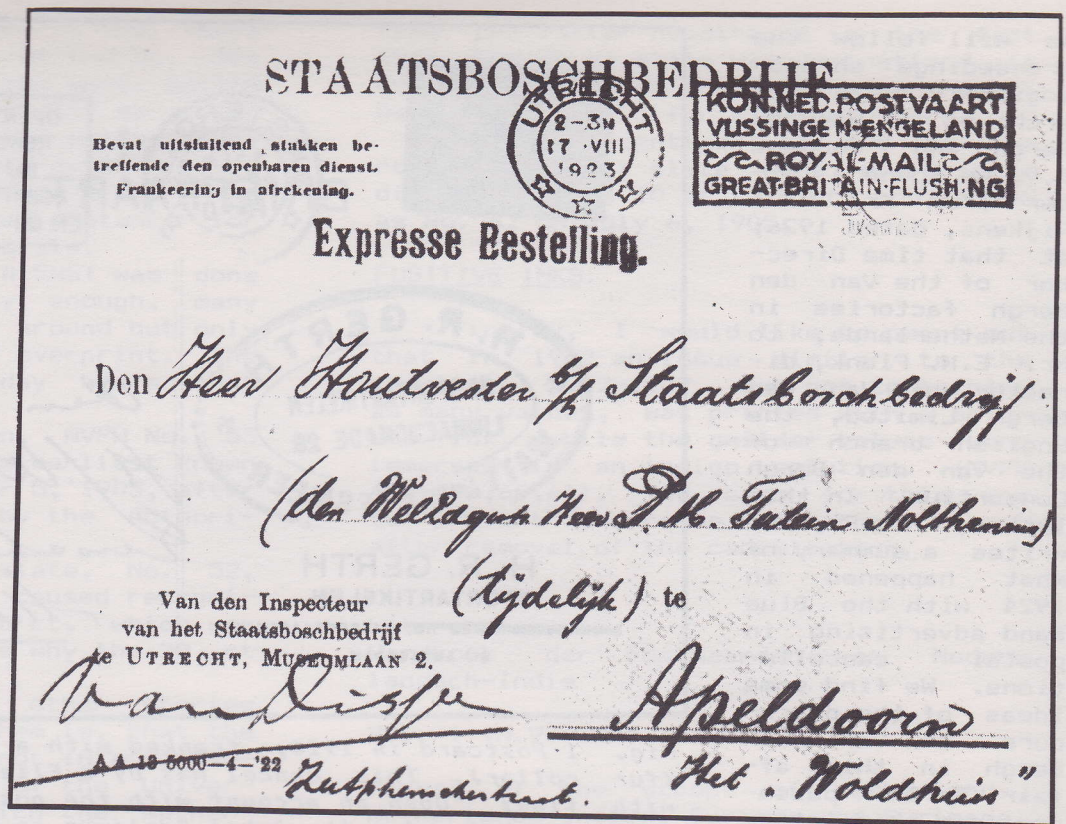


Fig. 3 Express-letter from Utrecht to Apeldoorn with 40 cent type "bontkraag" cancelled by the Flier cancellation machine with flag: "Kon. Ned. Postvaart Vliissinge-Engeland, Royal Mail Great Britain-Flushing". Because this was a Government letter only the express charges (= 40 cent) had to be paid.



Fig. 4 Two pieces with postage, which the firm Drachenquelle sent to the Netherlands postal service, when they asked for advertising in cancellations (Archive of the Central Director of the PTT in the Hague)

there that if we are selective with these cancellations there could be income created by these advertisements. The Postal Service could look forward to a substantial income from outside sources.

The chief of department 4 (letters and parcel post) was against advertising in postal cancellations because:

- 1<sup>st</sup> in Germany private advertising in postal cancellations was not allowed, but only announcements of benefit to the general public;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> private advertising in cancellations might invite complaints from the general public (see the article in the newspaper "het Vaderland");
- 3<sup>rd</sup> judging what should or should not be allowed was dif-

ficult and could lead to problems; 4<sup>th</sup> the advertisement could lessen the clarity of the postal information in the cancel, like place of origin, date or hour of sending.

Mr. Blink, chief of department 5 (legal section of the P.T.T.) and Mr. A.E. van Foreest, Head Inspector of the P.T.T., were of the same opinion.

Mr. Blink also mentioned that the Postal Service was authorized to make the stamps unfit for reuse, but had no authority to put other texts on the envelopes.

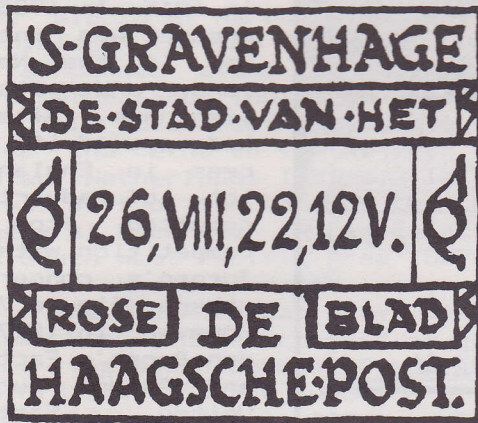


Fig. 5 Drawing (made by Van Royen?) for advertising the weekly newspaper "De Haagsche Post" (Archive of the Central Director of the PTT in the Hague)

The General Secretary of the Central Committee, Jan François van Royen (see figure 6) thought differently. He started his comments that all previous remarks had been *slaps in the air*, but this was rebutted by Head Inspector Van Foreest, who reacted by saying that it was *probably better than a slap on letters*. Van Royen continued that there was no practical problem in doing it, but the only question was if it was possible from a legal viewpoint. If the public did not want advertising on letters they should also realize there was an income of Hfl 20,000 at stake. He proposed a new article in the Postal Laws to try out the feeling of the National Assembly and to try to convince them. The Director General E.P. Westerveld agreed with Van Royen. Therefore a letter was written to the Secretary of Communications on February 5, 1923, in which the original request from "Drachenquelle" was mentioned including all pro and con arguments. The letter ends with: *There is a motive to consider advertising in postal cancellations as a means to increase income, the difficulty lies with the question if the Government has the authority to do this on letters which are entrusted to the posts for transportation only. This difficulty could be settled by adding this to the Postal Laws. Furthermore it might be possible to add a note of change to the proposed Budget of Postal Services as far as receipts are concerned if this advertising in postal cancellations is appro-*

*ved. I have the honor to request your Excellence to make a favorable decision.* That the Chief of Department 4 (letters and parcelpost) still had objections shows in his remark that he was of the opinion he had to sign the proposal with the annotation "b.v."<sup>2</sup>. Also Mr. Blink, Chief of Department 5 (legal section PTT) remained against it. Anyway the Director General went along and on February 8, 1923 also the Secretary of Communications.

It should be clear now that especially the efforts of Van Royen made the introduction of cancellation-advertising possible. The consequences of this will be discussed later in our story. In the PTT archives we could not find what kind of answer was eventually given to "Drachenquelle", but it is evident that their request was turned down. The archives of Jurgens Margarine Factories show that the PTT was actively looking for suitable advertising for the machine cancellations. Jurgens Margarine Factories declined the offer but Van den Bergh's Factories in Rotterdam showed interest.



Fig. 6 Mr. J.F. Van Royen (1878-1942) Head Secretary PTT (Archive of the Central Director of the PTT in the Hague)

Butter and Margarine Factories in the Netherlands in 1924

In this story we will see that both the margarine- and the butter manufacturers play an active part. To clarify this situation it is necessary to give a short history of how this developed until 1924. In the last century Van den Bergh and Jurgens were competing butter merchants. In 1870 margarine was invented, a product



Fig. 7 Letter with 10 cent Jubilee 1923, cancelled with Flier cancellation machine (Rotterdam Type I). The Blue Band advertising also on letter itself; text same as cancel

made from certain edible fats and oils, which was not only a substitute for butter but was also cheaper. Both butter merchants started to produce margarine almost immediately. Because of the improvement in the standard of living of working class at the beginning of the 20th century, margarine became a successful product, especially in the industrial cities in England and Germany.



Fig. 8 Dr. Paul Rijkens (1889-1965). He was mainly responsible for creating the Unilever-concern. He wrote that letter in 1926, which we quoted extensively in this article. (From W.J. Reader's book: Fifty year Unilever (1980). Published by William Heinemann Limited, London)

Therefore both concerns increased their activities beyond the National borders and in 1924 both had factories in various countries of Europe. One of these margarine brands from Van den Bergh's factories, Blue Band, was introduced in England in 1915. In 1923 this product was introduced in the Netherlands under its English name, after it had proved its success in England. A lot of advertising resulted from the competition with the Jurgens' concern and others (figure 7). However in 1927 Van den Bergh's Factories and Anton Jurgens' United Factories would be joined together in what was called the Margarine Union. And in 1930 this Union in its turn merged with Lever Bros Ltd in the enormous concern of

Unilever. One of the people who had an important role in these mergers was Mr. Paul Rijkens (figure 8), the one who wrote that letter in 1926 and gave his commentary on the cancellation-advertising. To keep the story in perspective, we have to remember that in 1924 Van den Bergh's concern and the Jurgens concern were still competitors.

Notes:

To be continued

<sup>1</sup> A continuing machine canceller creates a continuous imprint across the letter or postcard and of course, the stamp. About 1920 the so-called Krag machines were used, named after its inventor, the Norwegian Colonel Nielse Krag. There were electrical Krag machines which could handle 1000 pieces of mail per minute and manual ones, which averaged about 400 per minute. The post offices at Groningen, Breda, Nijmegen and Zwolle had the latter kind equipped with the Blue Band advertising flags.

A not-continuing machine canceller would only cancel the stamp in the right upper corner of the letter. This existed as a day cancel plus flag. In 1920 they were the so-called Flier machines, electrically operated, and made in the U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup> b.v. = buiten verantwoordig = without responsibility.

# The resumption of Postal Activities in the Former Netherlands Indies from April 22, 1944

Col. G.A. Geerts

translated by Paul E. van Reyen

Originally published in "Goudapost", the quarterly publication of the Stamp Collectors Society 'Gouda'

## Part I

### The Historical Background

In the middle of March 1944 the then Dutch Minister for the Colonies, Dr. van Mook, announced plans in Australia to form a Netherlands Indies government in exile. This government would eventually take up the reins in the as yet to be liberated Netherlands Indies. This conquest was part of the task of the American general MacArthur in his capacity of C-in-C South West Pacific Area (SWPA).

Under MacArthur's command was, among others, the 6th American Army, nicknamed the Alamo Force, under command of general Krueger. The Dutch colonel Giebel belonged to his staff in the function of Netherlands Indies Civil Affairs Officer (NICA). The NICA would be responsible for the government of a certain liberated area and control the indigenous population.

Part of NICA was furthermore the Staff Officer NICA (SONICA) and the Detachment Commander NICA (CONICA). This information is given here in regard to the postally used cancels which will be discussed in Part II.

April 22, 1944, troops of MacArthur conquered both Hollandia and Tanah Merah in Netherlands New Guinea. Colonel Giebel and Major Schermer immediately took the civil government in their hands.

From his headquarters near Hollandia MacArthur continued the advance along the north coast to Wakde, Sarmi (May 17, 1944), Biak (May 27, 1944 and Sausapor (July 1944).

On September 15, 1944, the attack was opened against the island of Morotai, bypassing the island of Halmaheira, where about 30,000 Japanese troops were stationed.

MacArthur's General Headquarters soon followed to Morotai.

On October 20, 1944, MacArthur attacked the island of Leyte in the Philippines with 600 ships and about 250,000 troops. The first 4000 kilometers from Australia on the way to Tokyo were achieved. MacArthur had kept his word - he was back in the Philippines.

This operation cut the area occupied by the Japanese in half, and about 500,000 Japanese were cut off from their home base.

During the remainder of the fight against Japan, the reconquest of the

Philippines was to get preference to all other military operations. Regardless, it would be February 4, 1945, before MacArthur could enter Manila.

In the spring of 1945 operations against the as yet to be liberated part of the Netherlands Indies were to be continued.

In the beginning of April 1945 Washington approved the plans to have Australian troops reconquer Tarakan, Balikpapan and Brunai, on the island of Borneo. On May 1, 1945, the attack upon Tarakan and Brunai was started from Morotai. The advance was made by units of the 9th Australian Division, augmented by one company of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL). On July 1, 1945, units of the 7th Australian division (commanded by General Berriman) landed near Balikpapan. On August 15, 1945, the war against Japan was over. On that day Japan capitulated. On the same day the South West Pacific Area Command was abolished and MacArthur was named Supreme Commander Allied Powers Pacific. It was furthermore decided that the Netherlands Indies would be part of the South East Asia Command (SEAC) under Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

Later on, Sumatra and surrounding islands, as well as Java, were to be under



the command of a British representative of SEAC. Borneo, Celebes and the Great



East (the Moluccas, the lesser Sunda Islands, and New Guinea) were to be under Australian command and be governed from Morotai. Commanding officer was General Blamey, commandant of the 1st Australian Army Corps.

On August 17, 1945, Sukarno and Hatta proclaimed the Republic of Indonesia. The lack of allied troops made it easier for them to occupy strategic military positions.

The deployment of the various allied troops after a while was as follows:

o On September 9, General Blamey ordered the Japanese commander to collect his troops at places indicated by Blamey (this concerned about 100,000 troops).

o In the middle of September 1945 General Berriman (commander of the 7th Australian Division) sent units from Balikpapan to Makassar and Bandjermasin. From Morotai units were sent to Menado in Celebes, and to Ambonia.

o Australian units from Darwin in Australia occupied the Dutch part of Timor. Some time later a company of the KNIL took over from the Australians again.

o On September 29, 1945, the first British troops arrived at Batavia. To the great perturbation of the Dutch, the British commander declared that he would request the republican leaders in Java and Sumatra to govern in the areas they controlled. Protests from the Dutch side did not help.

Furthermore, it was decided that the British occupation forces would come to Medan, Padang, Palembang and Batavia. As soon as more troops became available, occupation forces would also take over Buitenzorg, Bandoeng, Semarang and Sourabaya.

o In October 1945 a unit of about 100 men of the KNIL occupied the area of Kendari in East Celebes (Commander Lt. Abbink).

o In the middle of October 1945, a detachment of the KNIL (about 160 men) arrived at Pontianak (West Borneo). Under the command of Col. Spoor and captain de Goede, an incipient rebellion was frustrated.

After this, detachments were sent out to Singkawang, eastward to Singkang, and southward to Simpang. As one of the first indigenous authorities, Sultan Hamid returned to Pontianak. In the middle of December 1945, the government of West Borneo was returned to the Netherlands Indies authorities.

o On November 4, 1945, the 1st Battalion Infantry (KNIL) arrived in Batavia with orders to safeguard the surrounding area.

In the same month about 7000 former prisoners-of-war of the KNIL arrived from the Philippines aboard an American aircraft carrier at Balikpapan. In exchange 7000 Australians could go home.

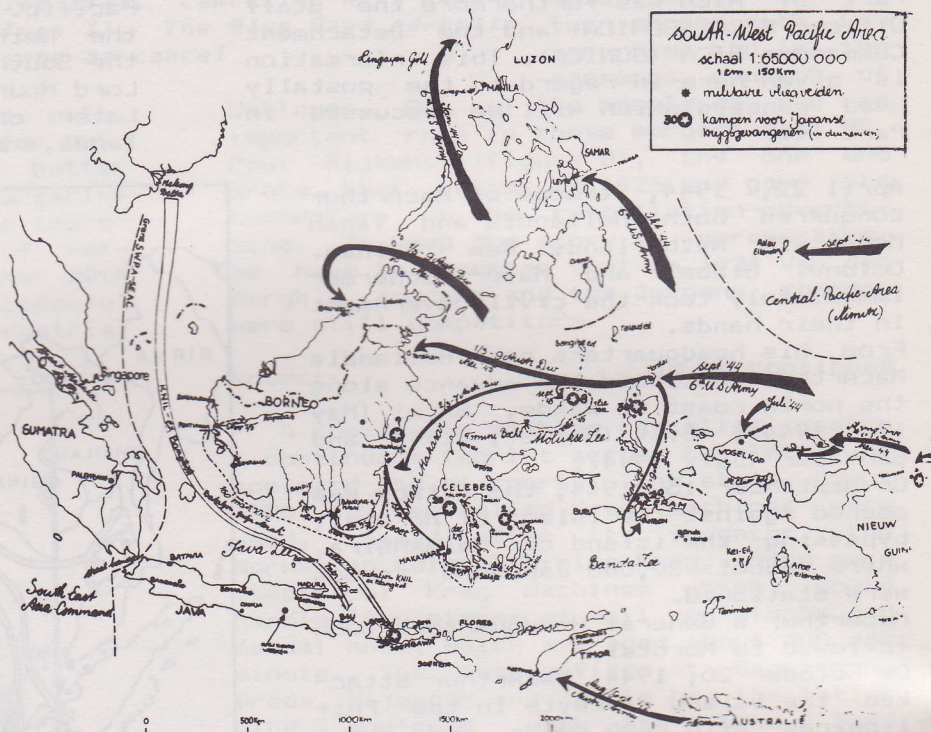
Furthermore, the occupied places in Celebes were expanded (Palopo on the Gulf of Bone, Bonthain on the south coast of Gorontalo, Posso on the Tomini Bight). The Resident of Menado, Mr. Comans de Ruiter, took up the reins again in his Residency.

o In November 1945 a battalion of the KNIL, from Bangkok, occupied West Sumbawa.

From the end of November almost the entire area of the Great East and Borneo were again under Dutch government. In Java only in Batavia, Bandoeng and Semarang were Dutch units found.

Other units, arriving from the Netherlands, were kept in Malaya by the British.

o The military operations in the spring of 1946 were to be closed by the occupation of Bali by the KNIL battalion "Gadjah Merah," recently arrived from Saigon, and the arrival of British Indian units (among others, the 80th Indian Infantry Brigade and the 5th Indian Infantry Division). The last-named unit was to depart



again in the beginning of MAY 1946.

o Conferences (April 1946 at "De Hoge Veluwe" in the Netherlands and July 16, 1946 at Malino in Celebes) were the first visible signs of the coming independence of Indonesia.

After this summary historical background, I will turn to the postal history of this period in Part II.

## Some Personal Opinions on the NVPH Catalog

Paul E. van Reyen

Your editors wish to call to the attention of our members, the statement printed in the masthead of each issue, and which is especially pertinent when an author expresses strong or controversial opinions:

"Opinions expressed in the various articles in this journal are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by ASNP or this journal."

In the past, several reviews of the yearly issue of the Special Catalog have appeared in this journal in which some goofs were noted, and especially the lack of information on dangerous forgeries was deplored. It was also noted that it was somewhat ridiculous to refer interested proof collectors to Van Dieten's Proof Catalog, which had some value in 1966, but in the meantime prices must have changed somewhat - almost 20 years of continuous inflation - and various unknown proofs have since appeared. Some in Mr. Van Dieten's own auction house - which makes it even more incredible that after all this time no update has appeared.

This, of course, does not bother the NVPH one bit. Neither does the fact that although prices for Dutch stamps have been falling through the last three years one cannot find the extent of the decline in the prices given in the catalog, including the last one (1985).

I finally question the use of the word "Special" in its title. In my opinion this is very far from a "special" catalog. A better title would be "slightly expanded catalog," referring to the "Catalog" which appears in the beginning of the year and which treats only the main catalog numbers, with some exceptions. In the Foreword the NVPH states blithely that "We feel sure that the catalogue will not be free from errors and we shall

be most grateful, therefore, to receive any comments or criticisms from users. These will naturally (sic) be taken into account when we come to prepare the following edition." You can see this for yourself, because this is from the English Foreword.

Faithful readers of Netherlands Philately know very well that the previous editor has tried many times to offer "comments or criticisms" which took him exactly nowhere. In most cases the cry was: "The catalog is not a handbook," in others the catalog committee, against for instance the considered opinion of the Postmuseum, plainly refused to include a major error, probably because the error is not found in most dealers' stocks. This is not an attitude to confer faith in the appellation "Special Catalog."

It will be easy to refer to numerous instances where the catalog just does not deserve the "Special" label. One, a general complaint, which has been aired many

times in the past, is the fact that an overlarge number of stamps or sets lack an issue date, not to mention a date of demonetization. The first may not be too important, the latter makes it only too easy for a collector to buy a stamp in good faith which has a cancel which was applied after the stamp was already invalid for postage.

Another general complaint is that, while



**SPECIALE CATALOGUS**  
van de postzegels van nederland  
en overzeese rijkdelen 44e EDITIE

for instance the 1965 catalog listed all the known plate numbers, that proof of being "special" has long been dropped. It does not matter whether only one collector is interested in plate numbers, having no plate numbers relegates the catalog to the category of "slightly expanded" only.

A very few plate numbers are still listed, probably because dealers' stocks are important, such as the high values of 1899-1905, the Jubilee stamps of 1913 and 1923, and the high values of 1926-1927. Is that all the collectors are interested in? No, but it is all the dealers are interested in.

To give another example of how "special" the catalog is: In 1981, only four years ago, the Juliana Regina stamps of 1, 1.50, 2, 2.50, 5 and 10 guilders were reprinted on phosphorescent paper. Even though all the European general catalogs - Michel, Yvert & Tellier, Zumstein, and Stanley Gibbons list these separately, with their own prices, the "Special Catalog" still has only a footnote giving the collector no idea whatsoever how scarce or common these stamps are. The reason, of course, is that the dealers do need an ultraviolet lamp to distinguish them from the earlier printed ones, which is really too much trouble, so "if we don't list them, we don't have to worry about them." An almost identical case are the printings of the 2, 3, 4 and 5 ct of the latest International Court of Justice stamps. All these occur on dull white paper with shiny gum; on white paper with dull yellowish gum; and on shiny paper (Violino) with dull gum. Does the NVPH list these? No way. Do some European general catalogs list them? Yes. Dealers who advertise these stamps in the Maandblad have to use the numbers and descriptions of the Zonnebloem catalog, which many of you may know.

These are prime examples of an attitude collectors do not need to expect or accept from their dealers.

In some cases the tendency of the NVPH to list the cheapest varieties first gives rise to ridiculous listings. If we want a good example, turn to the Netherlands postage dues of 1894-1910. First we get Type I (and we have to go to the picture to find out that this type was issued "since 1896.") The main listings gives us, lo and behold, even more dates for later-appearing values.

The Type III stamps, which came out in 1894-1895, get a-numbers, from 14a to 26a.

Now, before we get carried away, I want to get at it in a consistent and especially logical manner. The previous postage due set of 1881-1887 consisted of ten values, the sheets of 200 in which each was printed having, in various combinations, all four types of postage dues. In other words, one might say that all four types appeared simultaneously,

and hence it makes sense to list them first regardless of perforation, and the according to perforation.

In 1894, however, the printing plates were carefully constructed of 200 loose cliches of Type III. From 1896 the printing plate was made up of four blocks of 50 of Type I.

The Type III stamps should thus have major numbers, followed by a separate listing in major numbers of the Type I stamps. The two types did not appear simultaneously, and the only characteristics the stamps share is the color, and even here we may distinguish three major color variations, and many paper varieties.

As for the postage dues of 1947-1958, some collectors, not super-specialists, but people interested in the postal history of postage dues, might also appreciate some issue dates. Which stamps came out in 1947 and which in the following years up to 1958? The Special Catalog could not care less, because that doesn't put any extra money in the dealers' tills. Some people might also want a little more information in the catalog about the watermark varieties. Did the set originally come out with vertical rings, or were the deliveries mixed, so that one value could be printed and delivered both on vertically and horizontally ringed paper? It seems to me that this information wouldn't turn the catalog into a handbook.

Let us now turn to the garbage printed about the Floating Safe stamps of the Netherlands. Ten years ago B. Verbeek wrote a well-researched article in the Maandblad (January 1975, pp. 12-15) which gives somewhat different figures from those given at the end of the catalog listing. Where the catalog says: "Number sold +/-5000 sets," we find in the Maandblad that of the 15 ct 14,344 were sold (and about 621 given away, etc., which probably also have found their way into the stamp market); the 60 ct 7,819; the 75 ct 7,027; the 1 1/2 gld 5,385; the 2 1/4 gld 4,947; the 4 1/2 gld 4,664; and the 7 1/2 gld 4,595 (with all these the extra 621 should be added too). Ten years ago Mr. Verbeek also wrote that the NVPH should indicate the true figures of all values sold, rather than talk about +/-5000 sets.

The Maandblad article also makes hash of another choice item in the catalog: "The set was removed from sale in September 1923." That should be September 1, 1923, but a second sale by subscription took place before March 31, 1929, for the nominal value, and a third sale took place in October 1930, the subscription being closed on December 4, 1930. Then, finally, were the last remainders destroyed. It should not be too difficult to add this information to the catalog, but the NVPH cannot be bothered with a serious definitive study. As the dealers

couldn't be bothered for several years when a serious study of the 1923 Jubilee 35 ct, perf. 11 x 11 appeared, and fought it tooth and nail.

On the Armenwet stamps I will just repeat my complaint about what I see as an attempt to confuse the collector by not stating the issue date of the 1 1/2 ct with red overprint. Readers of my previous reviews know all about this. Just for the record, perhaps, the dealers could add that these stamps were not only supplied to charity organizations, but were also available for collectors.

On the Court of Justice official stamps I think it especially suspicious (there is no other word for it) that the really very dangerous forgeries of part of the first set and the whole second set are not mentioned in the catalog.

The illogic of the numbering system shows up in the latest addition, the 40, 45 and 50 ct, with the design of the Peace Palace, which are not added as Nos. 33-35, but placed separately at the end. Needless to say that nobody knows exactly when Nos. 27-40 were issued, although we find 1951-1953 and 1951-1958 as the usual combination dates.

The 1 ct Telegraph stamp with inverted value is still dignified with the footnote about the fourth Ferrari auction (June 1922), while everybody but the dealers apparently knows that this stamp is now in Dutch hands after a recent auction in Switzerland.

As we all know by now, the "colonies" are the stepchildren of the dealers' catalog. After who knows how many years the No. 2 of the Netherlands Indies is still perforated 12 1/2:12. This is remarkable since the same perforation machine perforated Dutch stamps 12 3/4:11 3/4. Of course, no more stamps will be sold if at some future date (2000?) the perforation finally gets corrected. Perhaps at the same time the dealers could get rid of the ridiculous perforation 12 1/2:12b and -c.

Is it really not known how many stamps were issued or sold from 1870 to 1931 (Nos. 3-134). If they list this elusive information for the Netherlands, why not for the Indies?

For No. 260, which is really not a stamp (a piece of paper issued at the post offices in the country whose name appears on the stamp), the dealers still maintain that this item was only sold at the philatelic window in Amsterdam. That is probably done to warrant the ridiculous price of 775 guilders, while it is most likely that about 10,000 of these stamps were stolen at the government printing plant in Melbourne, Australia. If the dealers are so sure, why don't they also list how many were sold in Amsterdam. It would be profitable (for the collectors, of course) to find out how many of these 50 ct stamps were actually bought and sold (at auction) during the war years (1940-1945) in the Netherlands. That

would indicate indeed only the ones sold in Amsterdam.

The treatment of Netherlands New Guinea would be funny if it weren't so unspecial. There are practically no figures for stamps or sets sold (or supplied), but then, one can buy NNG complete MNH for about 200 guilders, so why take the trouble? What is also still deplorable is the listing of the Dutch postage dues used in NNG from 1950 to 1954. After giving a list of "officially applied" postage dues, the catalog then asserts that many copies were cancelled to order on application from a customer. These are worth less. Less than what, since the catalog does not list prices for the "officially applied" ones either.

When we now get to Curaçao-Netherlands Antilles, we have to realize that when eight years ago the Handbook on Curaçao came out, the dealers had an excuse: If you want to know more about these stamps, buy the Handbook by Benders and Julsen. This may be a rotten attitude, but it is defensible. What is not is that after all these years misstatements still occur in what is given. On the first page, under the 1873-1889 set, the catalog still states that up to 1923 stamps were sold without gum. For the real story, see the Handbook.

Under 1916, Queen Wilhelmina, the high values, we still find the story that the 2 1/2 gld, perf. 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 was only sold in the Netherlands at the philatelic window. For the real story, that is, the facts, see the Handbook.

On page 301 (1985 ed.) all of a sudden we find: "From 1918 on all stamps of Curaçao appeared with gum." How about "1923" from page 296?

I have to confess, though, that the catalog has many issue figures, much more than the Indies, but there is still cause for wonder: Some of these figures are derived from the Handbook, in one or two cases the catalog even gives figures when the Handbook states that these figures are unknown, but what about the discrepancies? Are they just sloppy editing, or is the NVPH sure that the Handbook is wrong? What to think about the large discrepancies regarding Nos. 178-181, the high values of the first Queen Wilhelmina set after the war? The NVPH says: "1 1/2 gld, 53,000; 2 1/2 gld, 11,000; 5 gld, 6,800; and 10 gld, 5,600. The Handbook has for the same four stamps, respectively, 31,286 + 19,079; 8,973; 4,687; and 3,457. Only the first value comes close, the rest differs by as much as a few thousand stamps. We find the same strange discrepancy between the figures given by the Handbook and those given by the dealers with the high values of the last airmail set. Are the dealers better informed than Dr. Benders and Mr. Julsen were? Who knows, we'll never find out, of course.

Under Surinam we find many issue figures in the beginning and even some dates of demonetization, one of which is definitely wrong. But when we come to 1909, the locally printed stamp (No. 58-59), we still find the fable about the two printing plates of 50 subjects which were placed next to each other, one upside down. Netherlands Philately had an article on this stamp (and why the dealers give this one stamp two numbers I'll never figure out) in which it was proven once and for all that only one plate of 50 subjects was used, which was not replaced on the press when the sheets went through a second time. Hence the tête-bêche middle rows.

The dealers cannot claim that they never saw this article because it was sent to some of them and was mentioned in many letters to the catalog committee. But again, do they sell more stamps when a glaring error in the oh-so-special catalog is corrected? No, of course. Perhaps this is a case, that when the new information comes from a foreign country, the dealers feel that an outsider has no right to correct them. I would not be surprised.

Under the Surinam airmail stamps, we find that several years ago the NVPH dropped the figure of 2,000 after the 5 gld 1941, No. 18. Now there is no issue figure at all. Do the dealers know that perhaps 10,000 of these stamps were issued? Which would, of course, ruin the nice fat price of 750 guilders mint and used. I wonder. To wind up this blast at the "Special Catalog" (and you should read what some people in the *Maandblad* write about the errors, inconsistencies, and sloppiness of this "special" catalog), I still feel that the "Bond" in the Netherlands should go after the dealers, especially since the prices given in this catalog are getting more and more ridiculous. It is very useful as an inventory list, but don't try to estimate the value of your collection based on this catalog. The auction results in the Netherlands would soon disappoint you. At least one major auction house now gives the catalog price, followed by what they figure the lot will bring, which in some cases is no more than 50% of catalog.

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## Hero of the Sea

Tsjerck Hiddes de Vries

by: F.H.R. Rummens

Tsjerck Hiddes was born the son of a miller in the Frisian village of Sexbierum, just north-east of Harlingen. We know little about the young years of Tsjerck, but it is known that already in 1648, at the tender age of 26, he was a ship's captain in the merchant marine, and in 1659 he became captain-general, the highest rank in the merchant marine.

*In addition to the questions raised by Mr. van Reyen, the 1985 edition includes a new feature which could be of help and a great time-saver when one is looking for certain information. It is a Register or Listing which is detailed in the following:*

Register of the Postage Stamps Emissions  
as described in the  
NVPH Special Catalogue  
compiled by: Dr. H.G. Hermans

This register will try to assist looking up postage stamps in the catalogue of the Netherlands Postagestamps Dealer Association (de Vereeniging).

It contains, for each of the four territories listed in this catalogue pertaining to the Dutch Kingdom, the following three parts:

1. A PERSON REGISTER, which in alphabetical order lists the names of all the persons who ever appeared on one of the stamps, or whose names have been mentioned on the stamps.
2. A SUBJECT REGISTER, listing the subjects, portrayed on the stamps. In putting together this register, the opportunity has been used to group the stamps by subject, which will assist the topical collector, and show what the Dutch Kingdom has to offer in topical subjects.
3. A DESIGNER REGISTER, which gives an overview of all the artists, who have worked on the design of their stamps. Only those have been listed, who are mentioned as principal designer, and only if the stamp design is partially or in total made up from a photograph is the photographer's name mentioned.

The numbers mentioned in the Register are the same numbers used in the Special Catalogue.

Postal items, such as: Postage-Dues, Safe stamps, Cancellations, Envelopes, Vending machine Booklets etc., which by its nature have already received a special mention in the Catalogue, are not listed in the Register.

Tsjerck Hiddes then had his domicile in Harlingen, the seat of the Frisian Admiralty and of the third largest (after Amsterdam and Enkhuizen) merchant fleet. He was married and had nine children, most of whom died prematurely. In 1661 he was elected to be a City Father of the town of Harlingen, a very high honor indeed.

Tsjerck Hiddes' service in the War fleet had begun in 1658 when he took part in the battle of the Sont; the Swedes were bottling up the Dutch merchant ships and they therefore needed to be taught a lesson. Tsjerck was captain on the fluyt



"Judith". The Swedes were beaten and that was a good thing for the Dutch Republic; with their thousands of ships a year on the Baltic Sea run, freedom of passage was of tremendous importance.

In 1655 Tsjerck Hiddes offered his services for the War fleet. He took part in the first battle of the second English War, the Battle of Lowestoft. This became one of the worst defeats for the Republic in its history. Tsjerck Hiddes blamed it in a long accusatory letter to the Admiralty on the lackluster leadership of the Admiral, the Hollander Van Wassenaer-Obdam. The Republic lost not only 17 ships and 5000 casualties, but also the lives of three of its Flag-officers. Amongst these was Auke Stellingwerf, the Frisian Lieutenant-Admiral.



In his stead the Frisian Deputies of the States General appointed our hero "Captain Tjerck Hiddes de Vries, for his courage and experience".

Months were spent to re-outfit the Frisian Squadron of the War fleet. In June 1666 the battle

with the English started up; the Four-day Battle. This time there was more success for the Republic, but they lost lieutenant-admiral Cornelis Evertsen the Elder. Tsjerck Hiddes had a great deal of input in this victory. He led the Zealand-Frisian Squadron and is credited with the decisive breakthrough of the English lines.

In August of the same year the English and Dutch fleets were at it again in what is called the Two-day Battle. Lieutenant-admiral of the Combined States Fleet was De Ruyter, but even he could not prevent defeat. He fled, his fleet still intact, but the English had imposed their will on the Dutch. Henceforth the English would increasingly be able to maintain their infamous Act of Navigation. The Dutch Republic was still powerful and immensely rich, but the beginning of the decline had been made.

Tsjerck Hiddes was severely wounded in this Two-day Battle and he died a few days later in Flushing. He lies buried in the Main Church of Harlingen, but unfortunately it is no longer known which stone covers his grave.

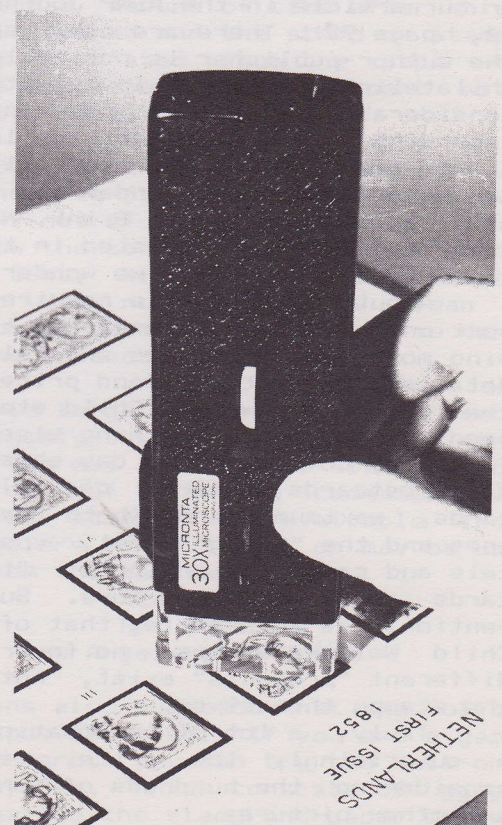
#### Useful Magnifier

Your editors have both recently acquired a very useful magnifier which is much more powerful than the usual glass. This is a 30x scope which has its own built-in illumination, is easy to focus, and has a good, flat field of view.

It's made by Micronta and is available at any Radio Shack store.

The normal price is \$12.95 which is reasonable enough, but if you time your purchase just right, you might be able to pick one up at a sale they occasionally run, for \$7.89.

A worthwhile tool.



## BOOKREVIEWS

Van Putten's Catalogus  
weldadigheidsuitgiften  
Voor het Kind

*Van Putten's Catalogue for the  
Child Welfare Stamps.*

Third Edition, 1984-'85, 188 pages.  
Published by De Courier-Putten  
ASNP price \$ 7.00

A few years ago we reviewed for you the first edition of this catalogue, which specializes in the Child Welfare emissions of the Netherlands, and we recommended it warmly, saying that it would be invaluable for anyone who would want to set up his Child stamps in a topical specialized fashion. We then said that there were some errors, expressing the hope that they would be eliminated in a subsequent edition. It is galling, therefore, to notice that many of these errors are still there. For example, it is not true (page 11) that 1928 was the first time the words "voor het kind" appeared on the stamps, because that was in 1924. Also, (page 10) R. Steinhauser was the designer for both the 5 cent and the 12 1/2 cent stamps of 1930. Then, both under 1929, 1930 and 1931, non-existing se-tenant pairs of the syncopated varieties are listed, such as "6 and 4 cent" and the like. Finally, under 1930, page 11, we still see the erroneous statement that 'letters franked with Child stamps were refused in Enschede and charged with postage due'. (see the "Maandblad" of January and March of 1930 or our article in the ASNP Journal Vol 8, #4, page 72). There are other signs that the author-publisher is not following the philatelic literature. In recent years, a considerable amount of new information regarding (amongst others) Child Welfare stamps and blocks has been published in the Maandblad, mostly under the signature of R. Bakhuizen-van den Brink. Nothing of that has been incorporated in this specialized catalogue and we wonder why?

About 75 pages are required to report on the stamps themselves; the remaining more than 100 pages are filled with detailed descriptions (and prices) of all the products, where Child stamps have been affixed onto something else, such as first day covers, first day sheets, first day postcards, first day plasticized cards, maximum cards (both the "right" ones and the "wrong" ones), special cancellations and cancellation logos, "thank you" cards and a whole lot more. Suffice to mention, as an example, that of the 1983 Child Welfare stamps, no fewer than 48 different "products" exist, not counting the stamps themselves.

Truly, a lot of information, and at a surprisingly low price, especially considering the hundreds of photographs and other pictures.

Catalogus Kinderbedankkaarten  
*Catalogue of  
Child Welfare Thank-you Cards*  
1985-86, 52 pp, ASNP price \$ 6.50

This is an update of the Salet-van Wilgenburg catalogue that we have reviewed before, although the authors' rights have now gone to the "Study group Thank-you Cards". The one we reviewed before, was of 1979-80, but we don't know whether there were any in between. Numbering of the various editions would certainly be an improvement. One next notices, that the prices have changed substantially: up about 30% up to about 1970, with a small decrease thereafter. Top price of Hfl 1250.- is for a 1949 card with "C" text, i.e. directed to local organizers. There are some welcome changes too: for example, this time all the "private" cards from the "Amsterdam Comité" are shown in full, there is now a list of other "Thank you" cards, mostly issued by the Summer Stamp Committee, and the paper quality has changed for the better. The price of the booklet has more than doubled since 1979.

A comparison with the above reviewed Van Putten's "Voor het Kind" catalogue 1984-85, is also interesting and perhaps more to the point, particularly since it goes for the same price, but is more than 3 times as voluminous. To begin with, the latter catalogue has prices, that are generally somewhat (10-20%) higher, or even considerably higher (50-100%). Apparently it is still difficult, to get a true reflection of the market. The Salet-van Wilgenburg catalogue contains a few more specialties, and its greatest asset is perhaps that all the cards are explicitly pictured, outside as well as all the different insides. We have no fear that this catalogue will find its place.

Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van  
Nederland en Overzeese Gebieden  
*Catalogue of postal stationery of the  
Netherlands and Overseas Areas*  
A.W.ten Geuzendam, 5th edition, 75 pp  
Sept 1984. ASNP price \$ 10.00

We had been looking forward to this new edition, because the previous one was of Nov 1979 vintage. There was a 1982 price list supplement as an interim measure, but we were also hoping for more than just new prices. And that we got.

The layout is all new, with all the material presented in two columns per page, with a Chapter heading at the top of each page. Combined with a somewhat smaller type, this leads to more than twice as much information per page. This actually improves the readability and

## Coil Corner

significantly reduces the frequency of leafing. Other innovations are date of issue (or earliest known use), printing quantities (where known), wicket price (over the franking value), end-of-validity dates, and lots of other interesting comments. For the first time also International Reply Coupons are listed. A very useful novelty is a comprehensive tabulation of the relevant postal rates. Most of these innovations do not, however, apply to the Overseas Areas. Why not, we wonder?

The prices have gone up systematically, since 1979. The increases range from 50-100%, with a few exceptional 200-300% increases. The higher % increases are invariably for the scarcer items, and the top prices go to the early Overseas Areas pieces of which the supply is really limited even considering the low demand.

The catalogue is bound in a better fashion and won't fall apart, the way the 4th edition did. All in all, warmly recommended.

Van Putten's Catalogus  
"Dag van de Postzegel"  
Van Putten's  
"Day of the Postage Stamp"  
catalogue 1985-86.

Published by "De Courier" (Putten)  
27 pages, ASNP price \$ 4.00.

This is a new kind of catalogue, but believe it or not, "days of the postage stamp" have been around since 1937. In that almost - half century only one stamp was issued, namely Netherlands NVPH 422, the 1943 postcoach, so this one is listed in all its varieties, on piece or off. The one other postage item is the 1971 special postcard. For the rest there are the special cancels, on ordinary mail or on special postcards or envelopes, and the special slogan cancels that the PTT used since 1971. Nice idea, to have such a catalogue; it really inspires to setting up a specialized collection in that field. That is all the more attractive, since this catalogue is probably not exhaustive, so that research might well turn up unknown material. We have a few comments though. We would like to see a picture of all the special cancels, with their reference number (rather than only about half of them on pages 7-9). Also, at least one special registration label should be pictured. The slogan cancel pictured on page 24 is almost invisible. We also wondered about item # 33 of the special cancels, where 26-10-68 is indicated as the cancel date, as compared to 12-10-68 as the correct day. Prices generally vary between Hfl 3.00 and Hfl 15.00, with a few items (usually special cancels combined with special cachets) at higher prices, up to Hfl 60.00. So all of it remains quite affordable.

In summary, a useful, interesting booklet.

F.R.

At the urging of Journal staff member and Newsletter editor Frans Rummens, we will examine more fully the question posed to us some months ago, namely, what is the best way to remove cancelled coil stamps from the envelope without damaging or losing the control number. Our answer appeared in Volume 8 No. 6, page 120 (June 1984) and it recommended the old-fashioned method of steaming.



An alternate method is by use of the "Stamplift" device. As one can see from the illustration, it is a plastic box incorporating a pair of felt pads and a perforated shelf on which the stamp-and-paper combination is laid. Both pads are well dampened and the box closed for an indeterminate amount of time after which the box is opened and the stamp or stamps carefully separated from the paper by means of a tweezers. If they part with difficulty, repeat the process.

I have found that this method requires up to an hour to "soak" in the moisture-laden confines of the box but this method does allow the stamp or strip to be removed in time, without too much effort. While it does not produce as clean a separation as steaming, there is no danger of one contacting live steam.

The box is large enough to just accommodate a closely-trimmed strip of 5 of the Format A (normal definitive) size but not a strip of 5 of Format G (commemorative size). The Stamplift is available from stamp dealers for \$ 4.50, or may be obtained from the manufacturer:

Stamplift  
Box 75115  
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Dr. Rummens also suggests that the following methods be tried: If you are a gambler at heart, you can try the all-or-nothing system, which consists of carefully floating the stamp-and-paper on top of a tray of water until the paper looks



damp, then removing the subject from the water and slowly separating the coil from its paper. If unsuccessful, repeat but take care not to let the stamp itself become damp, or all is lost.

An alternative method to this, recommended by the Kontaktgroep, is to use a mixture of one part of 90° alcohol and three parts of water. The procedure is then the same, and the alcohol is supposed to improve the absorption by the paper. They also recommend use of a teatowel to blot up excess water when trying to separate the coil. And if it is not readily removed, repeat the process.

Personally, I've tried a number of methods but will stick with steaming, which I find to be fairly rapid, and certainly as dependable as any other system I've run across. The final determination of success however, is how firmly the sender has affixed the coil to the envelope initially. A really thorough job of gluing will defy saving the control number with any method of removal.

The Kontaktgroep informs us that a number of current varieties are now available as coils in rolls of 5000. This is quite an increase over the customary rolls of 500

or 1000. These large rolls are designed for use in rapid stamp affixing machines, and are not meant to be used at postoffice windows or vending machines.

These coil stamps are perforated on four sides, and have the control number on the rear of each fifth stamp, numbering from 005 to 995, which is repeated 5 times per roll. For the collector, they may be obtained only at the PTT Filatelistische Dienst in Groningen in the customary strips of 5.

Currently available are:

	Order number	Price
90 ct Beatrix	40 40 16	f 4.50
140 ct Beatrix	40 40 22	7.00
50 ct Europa (1984)	84 44 11	2.50
70 ct Europa (1984)	84 44 12	3.50
70 ct W. van Oranje (84)	84 46 00	3.50
70 ct Toerisme (1985)	85 42 12	3.50
60 ct Bevrijding (1985)	85 44 12	3.00
65 ct Bevrijding (1985)	85 44 13	3.25

These coils are not supplied automatically to those with current accounts, but must be specifically ordered. Orders for less than f 20.- total, require an extra f 2.- for handling

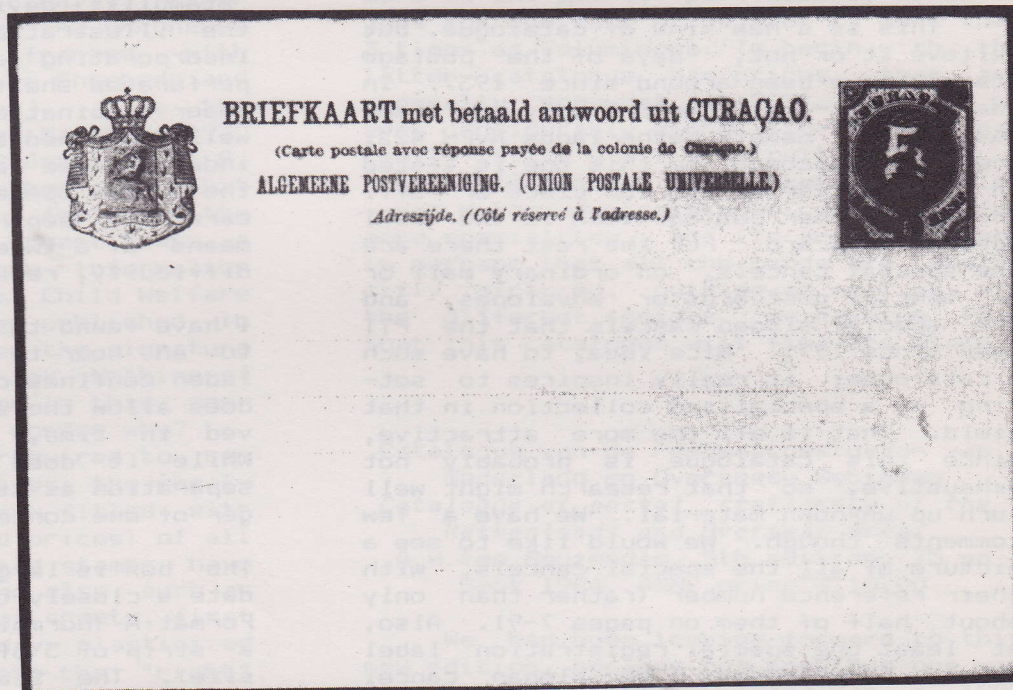
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#### Newly Discovered Curaçao Item

Member Vincent Hugo of Epsom, Surry sends us a previously unrecorded SPECIMEN postal card from Curaçao.

Julsen and Bender's *A Postal History of Curaçao* does list this card (Geuzendam #12) with SPECIMEN overprint Type A which measures 14 1/2 x 2 1/4 mm. The newly discovered card however has a Type B overprint which measures 22 x 3 1/4 mm. And as the illustration shows, the overprint is inverted.

We thank member Hugo for sharing this item with us.



#### Small Ad

Paul van Reyen is making a study of the Netherlands Postage Due Issue of 1894-1910 (the dark blue and black series), and would appreciate the opportunity to acquire quantities (large or small) of this issue. If you have an accumulation or a collection of them and can help Paul in his work, contact him at P.O. Box 555, Montclair, NJ 07042.

## A PLEASANT FIND

by Julius Mansbach

Frank Julsen's account of his fortuitous discovery of a "cracked plate" variety (Netherlands Philately Vol. 8 No. 6) in a dealer's stock, reminded me of a similar experience I had. About five years ago at a dealer's shop, I picked up a copy of the 1944 12 1/2 cent Crow airmail with horizontal ring watermark, which at first glance was definitely different in appearance.



Close examination at my home disclosed that the second color had shifted toward the upper-right corner about 1.5 mm, leaving a white or near-white gap above the bird; this is especially noticeable above the neck and the tail.

I sent the copy to Enschede the printers, who replied that they could not comment on this, and that I should contact the PTT in The Hague.

This I did, but before I received a reply from them, I was surprised to see a write-up and illustration of this variety in the following issue of the Maandblad (March 1979 p. 198). No source for the discovery was given.

The PTT reply referred me to the just-published item in the Maandblad and said it had been caused by the fact that it was "produced in two printing runs i.e. blue and greyish brown, which were shifted a little in respect to each other."

The identification of the two colors actually used in printing this issue was interesting in view of the Speciale's listing of the two colors as "matte blue and blue grey."

Well, regardless of what the colors were, I feel that my lucky find not only provided me with an interesting variety, but I feel sure brought about the recognition of the existence of this variety in the philatelic press.

### The Double-Ring Postmark

It is quite likely that most of our members have encountered, at one time or another, a peculiar double-ring town cancel dated in the mid- to late 1890's. The most common is that from Amsterdam, and the more scarce example would be from Maassluis. It made its appearance at a time when the "Small round" dated hand-stamp, first introduced in April 1877, was being considered for retirement.



Actually, this double-ring postmark was a test format that was used in only four cities -- Amsterdam, 's Gravenhage, Gouda and Maassluis -- beginning in early 1894. Examples of dates through 1898 have been noted.

This "test", it appears, was of short duration, with the design being modified into what is now known as the "Large Round" cancel. Although the test cancel continued in use to some degree in the original four test markets, actually the Large Round format was introduced in mid-1894 and by 1895 was in common use in almost all offices throughout the system.



Although in limited use, it is not impossible to obtain examples of the double ring from all four offices. In fact, an interesting album page or two can be assembled with "early and late" dates for each of the four; for the more ambitious collector, examples on various denominations will expand the scope of the presentation, especially on the 1891 Wilhelmina "Hanging hair" series and the modified 1876 upright cipher stamps. Although theoretically possible, rare indeed would be examples on the 1872 Willem III series.