

# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

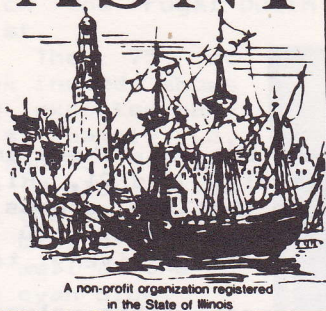


JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume **10/1**



# ASNPF Netherlands Philately



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PHILATELY  
Volume 10, Number 1

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#### Letter from the Editors:

It is with a deep sense of relief that we note our "printer's problems" seem to have been resolved, with the result that the June issue went out on time and, at this sitting, the same can be expected for the September issue of the Journal. Again, much credit and thanks go to Jan Enthoven and Dennis Finegan for their efforts.

Also, it is with regret--but with heartfelt thanks for a job well done in the past--that we announce that Harry B. Walton, Jr. must relinquish his duties regarding processing orders for albums, catalogues and books due to press of personal matters. Shortly, this society function will be taken over by Fernand H. Mollenkramer, who has been a tireless worker in behalf of our society. The actual turn-over details will be announced in a Newsletter at the appropriate time.

We call attention to a typographical error in the April Newsletter: the price for the Supplement to the Plate Error Catalogue should be \$1.50.

It is with happy expectations that we also can announce that member J.L. van Dieten will soon issue a revision of his highly acclaimed "Catalogus Proeven", originally published in 1966. Although we do not have details on the format and extent of the revision, we look forward to this book with "bated breath". Naturally, a full review will be printed in the Journal or the Newsletter, whichever issue comes first.

Finally, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of ASNPF by Paul E. van Reyden, the December issue will celebrate this birthday with a special edition. We are happy to note that through the efforts of Paul our Society has weathered the early problems of building a Society and its publications, and in recent years more and more members have stepped in to help maintain a lively pace for ASNPF.

Any member who can contribute manuscript or even short notes for the December issue is urged to do so at his or her earliest convenience. We want to make this Anniversary edition something special.

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# The Queen Beatrix Stamps

by: Paul E. van Reyen

On December 15, 1981, history was made when the long-awaited first stamp of the Queen Beatrix definitives appeared, the 65 ct, which in itself was just as ridiculous as the "design" of the stamp by P. Struyken, because at that time it was already known that the rate for a "first class letter" would go up to 70 ct.

In the course of the next nine months all other values of the set appeared, after which we were not "surprised" any more with a threatened higher value. As a matter of fact, only last year, probably in July 1984, a new cylinder was used to produce Juliana Regina 10-gld stamps on fluorescent paper, cylinder number 2.

This sequence of events and nonevents makes me believe that the original displeasure over the Queen Beatrix stamps has finally penetrated even the "public be damned" conscience of Prof. Oxenaar, the head of the esthetic service of the PTT, and that we may eventually see another definitive series. Even so, don't hold your breath -- that may take another three years if we go by the time it took to prepare the present stamp design.

However ugly, or beautiful, these stamps may be -- the colors are somewhat cheerful, although dull -- the peculiar way of printing them has opened up a fascinating collecting field, namely the cylinder numbers used for the black cylinder -- which can be used for all values -- and those for the colored cylinders.

For those who would like to go further, there are also the register marks in the margins, left of stamp No. 1 and right of stamp No. 100 of the right-hand sheet, and vice-versa for the left-hand sheet.

The first value appearing, the 65 ct, has the black cylinder number above stamp No. 4 of the sheet and the colored



number above stamp No. 5. These are L1 and L1, respectively, and R1, R1. This proves of course that the stamps were printed in double sheets of 100 which were cut apart before delivery to the post office.

On March 9 three further values were released, the 6.50 gld old rose, and the 70 ct blue-violet and 90 ct green. If we look at the cylinder numbers we find that the 70 and 90 ct were printed first for here we see that the black cylinder used for the 65 ct, which had been "used up" by January 8, 1982, was replaced by cylinder number 2, which gives us for both stamps L2, L1, and R2, R1, the blue-violet and green being the first cylinders used for these stamps.



Apparently the second black cylinder was also used up with these two values, for the 6.50 gld appears with cylinder number 3 so we get L3, L1 and R3, R1, the L1 and R1 being the first cylinder in the old rose color.

What all of a sudden also shows up too is a second printing of the 70 ct blue-violet, which appears with the same third black cylinder and the second blue-violet cylinder, which gives us L3, L2 and R3, R2.



Five new values were announced for July 1, namely the 75 ct pink, the 1.40 gld bluish-green, the 2 gld yellow, the 3 gld blue and the 4 gld yellowish-green. At the same time it was stated that the 1 gld violet and the 5 gld cyan blue were to be distributed for sale on September 2, 1982.

Why these stamps were saved for September 2 I don't know because according to the cylinder numbers used, the 1 gld was printed before the 3 and 4 gld stamps. Probably there were still plenty of 1 gld Juliana Regina stamps on hand





which the frugal Dutch wanted to use up first.

The 75 ct pink indeed shows the expected numbers, namely L3, L1 and R3, R1, and the 2 gld yellow has the same set, L3, L1 and R3, R1, as well as the 5 gld cyan blue.

And apparently while Enschedé was printing the 5 gld cyan blue, the third black cylinder



fell out and was replaced by the fourth, because we also find L4, L1 and R4, R1 for this stamp.

The 1.40 gld must have been printed after the 5 gld, because it shows up with L4, L1 and R4, R1, the first cylinder for



this bluish green. The 1 gld comes next for here we find L4, L1 and R4, R1, the L1 and R1 in violet.

This fourth black cylinder then gave out, for with the 3 gld blue we discover the first use of the fifth cylinder, giving us L5, L1 and R5, R1.



What happened then at the printing plant we don't know, but the fifth cylinder was apparently only used for this 3 gld stamp

(unless other values with this black cylinder were destroyed) because the last value announced for July 1, 1982, the 4 gld yellowish green, shows L7, L1 and R7, R1. The sixth cylinder must have been



faulty and discarded, or perhaps immediately developed a flaw.

The seventh cylinder was then used for a new printing of the 6.50 gld, where the color cylinder was still the first one, so that we get L7, L1 and R7, R1. The L7, L1 seems to be very elusive so far.

Another printing of the 70 ct showed up too, where the color cylinder is still the one used for the last reprinting, so that we find L7, L2 and R7, R2.



The black cylinder L7 and R7 did not last long apparently; early in June 1985 the 70 cent came out with cylinder numbers (black) L8 and R8, and (lilac) L3 and R3. This means that both cylinders, the black and the lilac, were renewed for this last printing of the 70 cent, the letter rate within the Netherlands.

As for the register marks, only the 65 ct still showed the usual crosses in the margin, as well as the placing of the cylinder numbers over stamps No. 4 and 5. All following values have different reg-



istration markings, a black circle within a colored one, and the cylinder numbers are shifted to stamps Nos. 5 and 6.

As soon as additional cylinder-number information becomes available, an update of this article will be provided in the Journal. It seems that very few dealers in the Netherlands stock these cylinder-number stamps; for this purpose it might be very handy to have a philatelic correspondent over there. Even then the "hunting" will be difficult because some clerks at regular post offices have been found to remove the top and bottom margins from their sheets (the side margins show the counting numbers) just as some people at U.S. post offices remove all the margins.



# THE BLUE BAND CANCELLATIONS OF 1924

## Part II

by Gert Holstege

Translated by Reinder van Heuveln

This is the second part of the article which 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 April 1985 issue of the ASNPN Newsletter.

### The Period of Preparation

In March 1924 a contract (fig. 9) was signed between the PTT and Van den Bergh factories thru an intermediary (J.G. Soeter from Voorburg) He would receive a commission of Fl 1,575.- every three months.<sup>3</sup> From the contract we see that 8 towns were selected where the advertising would be used in the stamp-cancellations.

In Amsterdam, Rotterdam (two), The Hague (two), and in Utrecht the idea was to use the not-continuing Flier cancellation machines. In Nijmegen, Groningen, Zwolle and Breda the continuing Krag cancellation machines would be used. Because the Van den Bergh concern was to prepare the design of the cancellation, they were told to make one for the Flier and one for the Krag machine.

The advertising department of Van den Bergh started to work on this and produced a design of which proof cancels exist (fig. 10). These proof cancels were mostly exist on the 1923 Jubilee stamps, because they were the most common stamps at that time.<sup>4</sup> The advertising department concluded from these samples that blue ink made a better impression than black (maybe because of the mostly darker colors of the 2, 7 1/2, 20 and 50 cent). Therefore the PTT was asked to use blue instead of black ink in the cancellation machines. After the designs were sent to the PTT the Government Mint, which made all the cancellers for the PTT, was ordered to fabricate 7 flags, of which one for reserve, for the Flier machines and 4 for the Krag machines according to the Van den Bergh design.

All these flags were ready by the end of August 1924 (fig. 11). On August 28, 1924 the Van den Bergh Concern was informed that unless last minute problems prevented it, its advertisements would be used beginning on August 31, and on the first day of September the public would be aware of it. Even the wish of Van den Bergh's for blue ink was complied with. However, the extra costs of these cancellers, plus the cost of the mechanics' travel expenses to install these cancellers in the various machines plus the cost of the blue ink, were charged to the account of Van den Bergh. The post offices where these cancellation machines were changed by Mr. J.C. Hoeben, warehouse superintendent of the Government Telegraph Section, were

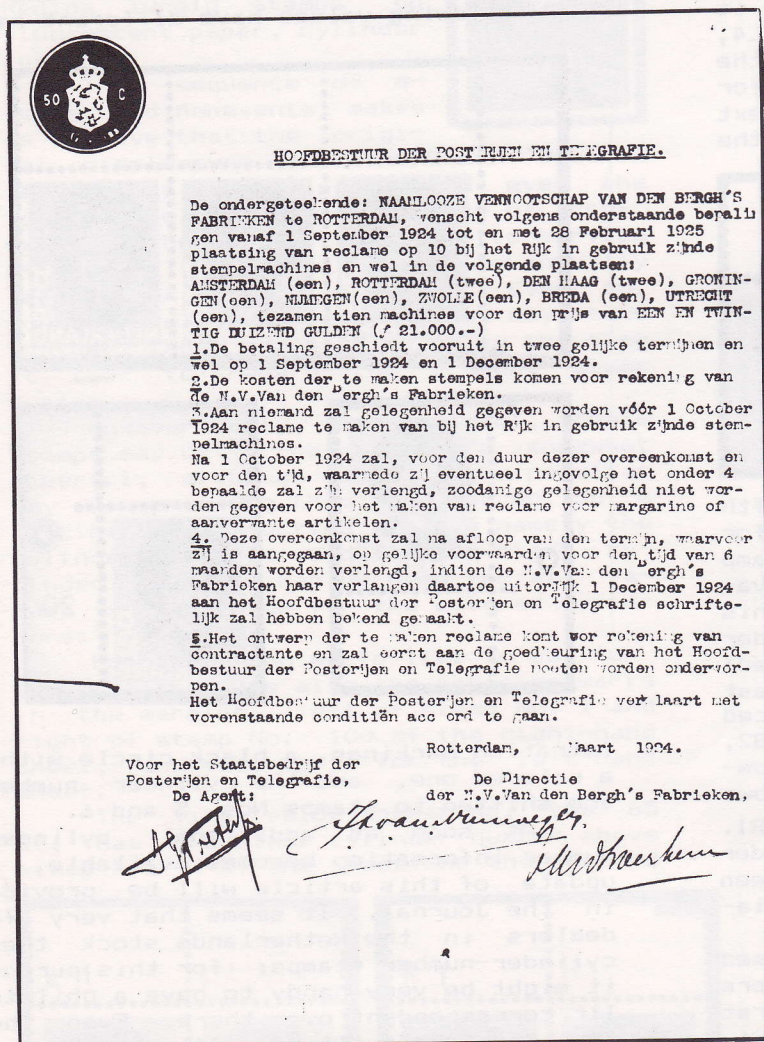
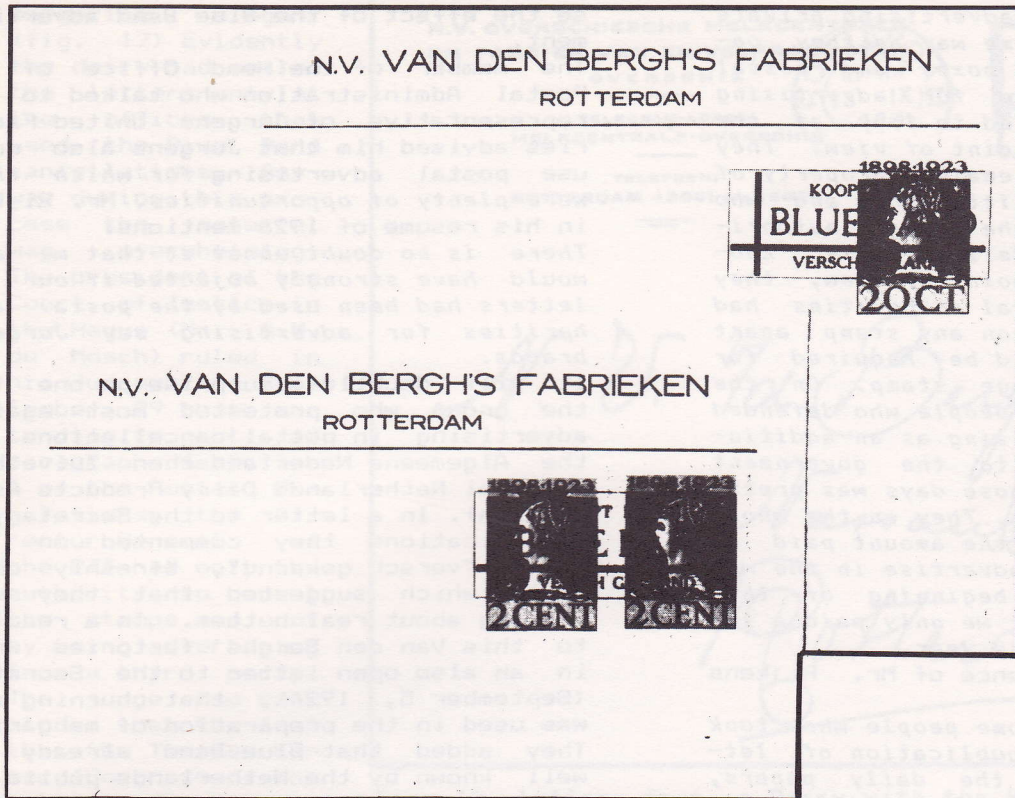


Fig. 9 This is the contract between the PTT and Directors NV Van den Bergh factories concerning the advertising of Blue Band in the flags of the cancellation machines. (Archives Central Directory PTT in the Hague)





say "Nation of shopkeepers" and they will be right. In the same issue of the NRC we find: Imagine a manufacturer of natural butter who would see his mail decorated by the PTT with the Blue Band advertising, and you have a perfect example of the unlawful and tasteless acts of our Postal administration.

What Mr. Paul Rijkens thought of these letters in the newspapers and what his experience was of that, we find in his letter of 1926 to his [colleague in England:

As soon as the first letters with our advertisement stamped on them appeared, they created a great sensation and within a very short time dozens of letters were written to

Fig. 10 Two envelopes from van den Bergh's Factories with Jubilee stamps, with "trial" cancellations.

told to use them as of August 31 and also to use the dark blue ink as soon as it was available. Until then they could use the normal black ink. So the Blue Band cancellation showed up on September 1, 1924. Mr. Paul Rijkens would later declare that all these preparations and the contract with the PTT were kept in absolute secrecy "as we from the beginning feared opposition from other sides".

the papers, some opposing the new lines followed by the postal authorities, others defending them. A good many of these letters came from people who were not directly interested in our particular advertising campaign and who only wrote from a public point of view. They claimed that it was inferior for a government de-

Reactions in the Press

The reaction of the public to the Blue Band cancels was immediately fierce and in many newspapers a discussion started as to its admissibility. On September 3, 1924 many articles appeared in the New Rotterdam Newspaper (N.R.C.) in which there was a strong agitation against the cancellations: Our Dutch postage stamps are cancelled with an English margarine brand and this is a very downgrading idea. Our neighbors across the sea will



Fig. 11 Proofcancellations of the Krag machine in Nijmegen, dated August 28, 1924. This machine was officially used starting September 1, 1924 (Archives PTT, the Hague)



partment to stoop to advertising private goods, just in the same way as they opposed against pillar boxes and postal carriages being used for advertising purposes. Others tried to look at the matter from a legal point of view. They claimed that letters remained property of the people who had written them and who had trusted them to the postal authorities for purposes of delivery only. Looking at it from this point of view, they claimed that the postal authorities had not the right to put on any stamp apart from such which would be required for cancelling the postage stamp. On the other hand there were people who defended this matter of advertising as an additional share of income to the government which especially in those days was pretty badly in need of funds. They on the whole grossly overestimated the amount paid by us for the right to advertise in the way as explained in the beginning of this letter for which right we only paid a sum of Fl 21,000 for half a year.

A very curious experience of Mr. Rijkens was the following:

Finally there were some people who took part in the general publication of letters and articles in the daily papers, simply for the purpose of getting their own name put before the public and in this way deriving a gratuitous advertisement for their firm. We had one striking example when one of our biggest customers selling Blue Band wrote a letter in the paper opposing our new method of advertising. When we enquired into his motives, he said that the more letters appeared in the papers, the better the advertisement would be for us and he did not see any reason why he should not get his share in this cheap method of advertising either. It is clearly understandable that one of the most important competitors, Anton Jurgens United Factories, abhorred this advertising. In an internal message of September 2, 1924 the question was raised that some of their outgoing mail could carry the advertisement of their competitor. Jurgens considered taking steps, either administratively or legally. Neither of these steps were taken. An associate of Jurgens had found out from the Head office of the Postal Administration, that these questions had been discussed. He was advised that the administrative way was hopeless, and that legally no success was expected either. Before this affair, some concerns had protested the advertising of the Jaarbeurs (Annual Fair) and without a legal process they were convinced by the Postal Authorities of their rightful use of the cancellation. Neither had Jurgens legally attacked the PTT about their way of cancelling letters. It seems that the question of the legality of advertising in cancellers was justified. A second point was that a legal action by Jurgens against the Government, with Van den Bergh's factories on the sidelines, could increa-

se the effect of the Blue Band advertisement.

The member of the Head Office of the Postal Administration who talked to the representative of Jurgens' United Factories advised him that Jurgens also could use postal advertising for which there were plenty of opportunities. Mr. Rijkens in his resume of 1926 mentions: *There is no doubt about it that we also would have strongly objected if our own letters had been used by the postal authorities for advertising say Jurgens' brands.*

It will doubtless surprise no one that the group who protested most against advertising in postal cancellations was the Algemeene Nederlandschen Zuivelbond (General Netherlands Dairy Products Association). In a letter to the Secretary of Communications they commented on the words "versch gekarnd", (freshly churned), which suggested that they were talking about real butter. In a reaction to this Van den Berghs' factories wrote in an also open letter to the Secretary (September 5, 1924), that churning also was used in the preparation of margarine. They added that Blue Band already was well known by the Netherlands public and nobody would confuse it with real butter. This protest of the Zuivelbond was also sent to the Secretary of Internal Affairs and Agriculture. On September 10, 1924 this Secretary wrote a letter to his colleague, the Secretary of Communications, stating that he also thought that this obtrusive private advertising should immediately be removed from the postal cancellations. He also wrote to the Zuivelbond that he agreed with their standpoint. This official opinion was also printed in the newspapers. In a letter (probably composed by Mr. Van Royen) of September 20, 1924, from the Secretary of Communications to his colleague the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture, we read the following:

*It is not desirable that the public finds out about differences of opinion inside Government circles, which in this case could be used at the expense of the State. It goes without saying that a lawyer of the opposite party could use these circumstances to his advantage.*

#### Two processes for immediate judgment<sup>5</sup>

Respectively on September 16 and 20, 1924, the dairy "Hofstede Oud-Bussum", Inc. at Huizen, and the "Association for Dairy Industries and Milk Hygiene" at the Hague applied for immediate judgment against the Netherlands Government<sup>6</sup> to remove the Blue Band advertising from the postal cancellations. On September 9 the dairy Hofstede Oud-Bussum sent letters to several people with advertising for real butter on the envelope. All these envelopes were cancelled by the PTT with the Blue Band



margarine slogan. (fig. 12) Evidently the dairy had mailed the letters only at the offices that used the Blue Band cancellations. Any-way during this process the material was overwhelming. The president of the Court of Justice in the Hague (Mr. A.M. du Mosch) ruled in his judgment of September 29 that according to art. 12 paragraph 4 section 1 of the Postal Regulations, the Director-General of the PTT had only the authority to cancel the stamps and not by using advertising from a third party. The judge also concluded that the fact that the Tweede Kamer (Congress of the Netherlands Government) had approved the budget for the

PTT, which included income from advertisements in postal cancellations, was of no importance. A budget item does not give the postal service the right to use advertisement on the mail of the plaintiff (dairy Hofstede Oud-Bussum) which could damage her interests.

The Postal Service also claimed that advertising in postal cancellations had become very common, but the judge ruled that these messages only were for general interest and were not advertisements of a competitive nature between private concerns.

The examples from foreign countries (fig. 13 and 14) which the postal service showed to prove that advertisement was used elsewhere, were turned down by the judge as irrelevant because this was a Netherlands affair. Furthermore he thought the examples (fig. 13), except for one (fig. 14), did not show a view different from the one current in the Netherlands.

A remarkable defense of the Postal Service was that anyone, who did not want the Blue Band cancel on the stamps, could avoid this by not placing the stamps in the upper right hand corner of the letter, so the cancellation machines could not process it.<sup>7</sup>

Mr. Du Mosch had no trouble disarming this statement, because:

1. the circumstantiality of the working of the cancellation machines was only known by insiders and certainly not by the claimant (dairy Hofstede Oud-Bussum);
2. article 12 paragraph 3 section 1 of the Postal Regulations prescribes that the stamps should be placed in the upper right hand corner, therefore the postal service can not defend itself by showing a different method of affixing postage stamps in contradiction to this article.

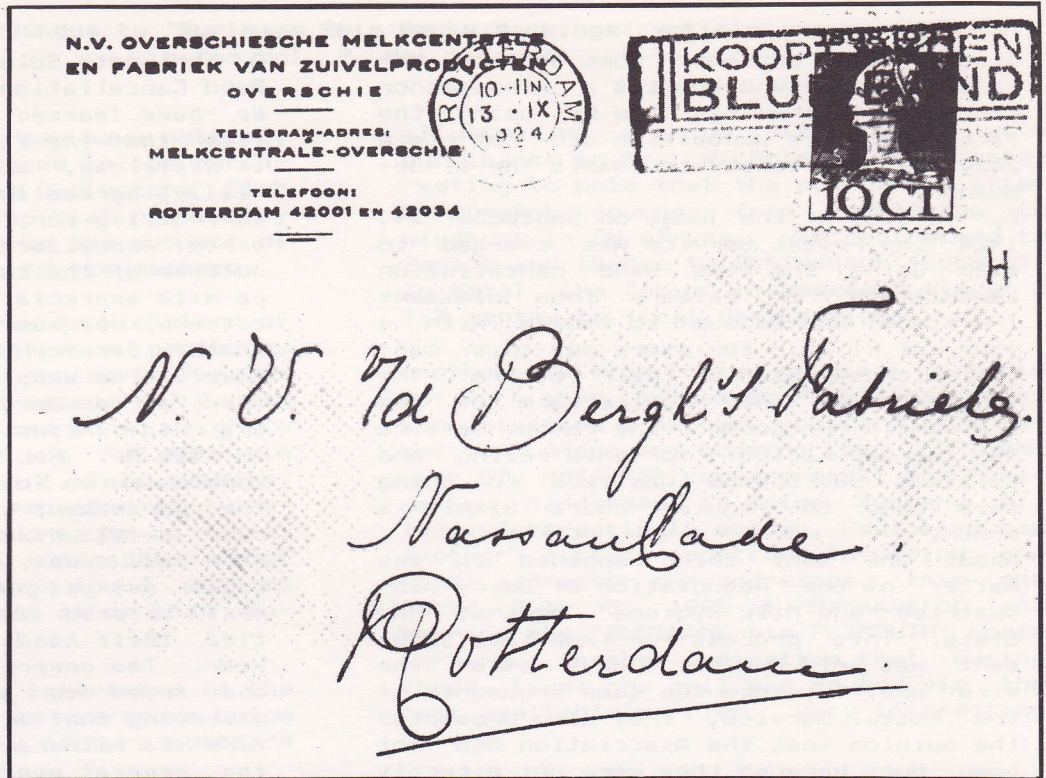


Fig. 12 Letter from a Dairy with the Blue Band advertising! (Flier cancellation machine Rotterdam type 3)



Voorbeeld van  
Rundboordelane,  
waartop hier de  
tapijt leveranciers  
of parketvloer  
bureau's zich  
Londen plaatsen.

Fig. 14 Example of an Italian machine cancel with advertising. Next to it commentary by Mr. Van Royen: "Some competitors would protest this advertising".



Fig. 13 Three examples from Belgium, France and Canada with machine cancellations with advertising.



3. the whole argument does not work because someone who commits a misdemeanor can not further his case by using the fact that his opposition did not take away his opportunity to commit the misdemeanor.

By verdict of the judge on September 29, 1924 the Postal Service was charged to stop using the Blue Band cancellation immediately on letters from claimant (Hofstede Oud-Bussum) to others with a fine of Fl 25.- for every day this cancellation was used on their letters. The judgment was only for letters of the claimant! Furthermore the Postal Service was charged Fl 100.- for this ruling and Hofstede Oud-Bussum was told to bring this case to regular court within a month.<sup>8</sup>

About the same thing happened in the matter of the "Association of Dairy Industries and Milk Hygiene" against the State. This process for immediate judgment was held exactly 4 days after the first one. Besides the same arguments of the Postal Service, they also presented the opinion that the Association had not been hurt because they were not directly involved in trading dairy products or milk. Mr. Du Mosch, the president of the court, ruled that no one should have to accept illegal acts whether there was damage or not.

By verdict of the judge in this second case on the same day, September 24, 1924, the Postal Service was charged with a fine of Fl 10.- for every letter of the "Association of Dairy Industries and Milk Hygiene" cancelled with the Blue Band cancellation, and the Postal Service was also fined Fl 100.- for the ruling. In addition the "Association" was told to bring the case to regular court within a month.<sup>9</sup>

In the morning of September 29, 1924 before these judgments were known, a discussion took place between the Postal Service and Van den Bergh's factories. It was agreed that they would annul their right to use Blue Band advertisements in postal cancellations. The Van den Bergh's factories also agreed not to insist on compensation but retained the right to be the first in line to use similar postal advertising. Because they had already paid half of the agreed upon amount to the Postal Services, this amount, after the deduction of 1/6 of Fl 21,000.-<sup>7</sup> plus 1/6 of the cost of the cancellers<sup>7</sup>, was credited by the Postal Service to an account for future use of advertising. If the Postal Service again would start using private advertising in cancellations, the Van den Bergh's factories would immediately insist on their rights. Advertising cancels for the yearly Trade Fair, Exhibitions, Tourism and other information of a general nature were not included under this advertising. The following press release was issued:

#### A Fortunate Solution regarding the Blue Band Cancellations.

*We have learned from competent authorities that the Van den Bergh's factories in Rotterdam, when they were asked officially, agreed to cede their right to use advertising for their Blue Band brand in postal cancellations, regardless of the outcome of the court cases. We acknowledge with appreciation the position of this concern, because after all, it was the Postal Service who initiated the contract. The annulment took place without the Van den Bergh's factories asking for any compensation.*

In 1926 Mr. Paul Rijkens described this conclusion as follows:

*The Government got into a rather difficult position. They were being attacked from all sides, but on the other hand could not get out of the official agreement entered into with our firm which tied their hands for a period of half a year. The government then approached us and tried to play a game of bluff by asserting that it would be better for our firm to withdraw from the agreement as the general opposition must undoubtedly have an injurious affect on our business. This, of course, was not true. We never scored a better effect with any method of advertising than in this particular campaign.*

To be continued

#### Notes:

<sup>3</sup> This is the usual 15% commission for advertising agents.

<sup>4</sup> See Nederlandsch Maandblad 1974, page 595.

<sup>5</sup> Both trials are in the archives of the Head office of the PTT in the Hague. They also were published in the "Weekblad van het Recht" #11246/1924, page 2 and 3 and the first trial also in "Nederlandse Jurisprudentie" 1925, page 417.

<sup>6</sup> The PTT is part of the Government. A lawsuit against it or against either of its three divisions (Postal service, Telegraph and Telephone) can only be started as a summons to the State of the Netherlands.

<sup>7</sup> This defense only refers to the Flier (non-continuing) cancel machines. In the cities which used the Krag continuing cancel machines (Nijmegen, Groningen, Zwolle and Breda) the stamps would have to be pasted in the middle of a letter, because otherwise they would be cancelled by the Krag Blue Band cancel machines.

<sup>8</sup> At that time this was the proper procedure to handle a court case.

<sup>9</sup> Only for the month the Blue Band cancellation was used and that was 1/6 of the duration of the contract.



**Addendum to "Suriname Ship Route Markings" article  
in the Vol. 9, No. 1 issue:**

As some of our members may have noticed, this article was reproduced in the March-April 1985 issue of "The Collectors Club Philatelist", after a special request by the Editor, who considered the subject of great possible interest to its members.

As a result, member Drew A. Nicholson of The Collectors Club sent us a photocopy of the below postcard, posted in Paramaribo in 1903 and addressed to German Southwest Africa. It bears a slightly overinked impression of the "SURINAME VIA PLYMOUTH" handstamp Type 1. This example, along with previously reported card posted at Paramaribo and addressed to Java, verifies our original supposition that these "indirect" markings found use on mail addressed to places other than Europe.

For those particularly interested in the details of this usage, we reproduce below the postcard (actually a picture postcard

illustrating a cocoa plantation), with our thanks to Mr. Nicholson. It is interesting to note that the postcard, after a 10-week journey from Paramaribo to Windhoek in SW Africa, was redirected to Berlin and thence to Gehlenbeck (Lubeck). In total, the "trip" encompassed almost 3 1/2 months to final destination.

Another addition to the original article is furnished by member Paul van Reyen, who possesses a picture postcard addressed to London and bearing the "SURINAME over ST. NAZAIRE" routing mark; the Paramaribo handstamp is dated January 31, 1906. Interestingly enough, Paul also has another picture postcard involving the same addressor and addressee, this one dated July 8, 1905 at Paramaribo and bearing the "SURINAME via PLYMOUTH" route marking. Another indication that during those times the mail was routed via the next available carrier. Very interesting covers.

Suriname Sc. #21

Indirect mail marking (black)



Paramaribo (black)

Postmarks and cancellations (in sequential order):

1. Paramaribo - 4/5/03
2. Windhoek (Ger. SWA) - 16/7/03
3. Bestellt/Postamte B (Berlin) - 17/8/03 - Germ. forwarding cancellation
4. Gehlenbeck 18/8/03

**Handstamped marking (in blue):** (Applied in German Southwest Africa)  
 "nachges. am 16/7/03 nach Berlin W./ Mohrenstr. 7/ "forwarded on 16/7/03 to Berlin W./ Mohrenstr. 7/  
 Oberkommando der Schutztruppen" High Command of (Colonial) Defense Force"

**Manuscript marking (in red ink):**  
 Gehlenbeck (bei) Lübbecke (just west of Minden, within Minden postal admin. district)

**Sender (violet ink):**  
 J.C.M.S. Conradi/Paramaribo



# 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 II

Some comments first: After having mentioned some historical facts in the previous part (see Netherlands Philately, Vol. 9, No. 4) we now come to the actual postal activities. The following text is meant only to give you - in abbreviated form - some background information about the resumption of postal activities in the various parts of the Netherlands Indies. Of overriding importance is the division of the Netherlands Indies into two military zones, that is, that of the South East Asia Command under Mountbatten and that of the Australian general Blamey (later Berriman). The latter area coincided largely with that of the South-west Pacific Area Command of MacArthur.

I do not pretend to be complete. That would not be possible because of the scarcity of reliable archival material. However, I believe that there is not a single collector who can likely boast of a complete collection from these confused times.

### a. The First PTT Cancels

The first PTT cancels were, according to J.A.D. Krajenbrink, probably made in Australia. They were first used in the areas recovered from Japan in the Eastern part of the archipelago. This cancel, measuring 5 x 3 cm, was used at Hollandia, Biak, Morotai, Tarakan, Balikpapan, and later in Batavia (see Figs. 1-3). Two small vertical bars behind the numerals and the month are conspicuous.

The first cancels are usually found on covers from the Netherlands Indies Civil Administration (NICA) or in combination with cancels Staff Office NICA (SONICA) with the state arms in the center and accompanied by the motto *Je Maintiendrai*, and Commanding Officer NICA (CONICA), Gr(ote) Oost & Borneo, or Morotai (see Fig. 4).

It is a challenge to get the cancels from the above-mentioned places with the earliest possible date stamps. Almost simultaneously with these cancels the first postwar censor marks appear with the text "Passed RNF Censor No. ..." and initials of the censor. RNF means Royal Netherlands Forces. Cancels of this type were used, among others, at Merauke, Hollandia, Biak, Morotai, and Tarakan (Fig. 5).

### b. No Stamps Available

As there were originally no stamps available at Bandjermasin, Borneo, the NICA solved this by the use of two rubber stamps with the text "No Stamps Available" (Figs. 6 and 7).

At that time Bandjermasin was occupied by Australian troops. It is remarkable that the back of many covers shows the prewar censor marking "Gecensureerd". From the beginning of November 1945 a postal cancel was available again. To stay in Borneo for a while, from the beginning of October 1945, the first American Bank Note stamps were distributed. The available literature shows that the earliest dates on which these stamps appear with postal cancels would be: Hollandia, October 10, 1945; Biak, November 16, 1945; Balikpapan, November 14, 1945; Batavia, April 16, 1946. The dates on which these stamps were distributed at other places are unfortunately unknown. Some research has shown that the above mentioned dates are not entirely correct. There are, for instance, stamps known with the cancel Balikpapan, November 13, 1945.

### c. Postal Activities in Singapore

As soon as Singapore was liberated, various activities were developed to ascertain what had happened to the Dutch families during the Japanese occupation. In the building of the Nederlandsche Handels Maatschappij the Dutch Post and Information Office was established where about 60 people were working.

At the beginning of November 1945 mailings were possible to Batavia, Palembang, Medan, Padang, Rangoon, Bangkok, and the Netherlands. Mail destined for the Netherlands was carried to London by British military airplanes, and from there despatched to the Netherlands. The post office in Singapore used, among others, a circular rubber stamp of which the first date of use is unknown.

No stamps were used on these mailings. On the letters to the Netherlands the weight was indicated. Postage for a letter up to 10 grams to the Netherlands was 30 ct. This postage due was supplied by regular stamps. For some reason or another sometimes no postage due was demanded. The weight indication up to 10 grams was applied by means of a small stamp - most likely in the Netherlands.

Other indications on mail are: "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" and "On His Majesty's Service (DHMS)". See Figs. 8-12.



NEDERLANDSCHINDIE  
P.T.T  
23 OCT 1945  
MOROTAI

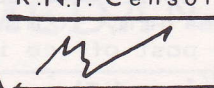
(1)

NEDERLANDSCHINDIE  
P.T.T  
13-NOV-1945  
BALIKPAPAN

(2)

NEDERLANDSCH INDIE  
P.T.T.  
24-DEC-1945  
BATAVIA

(3)

Passed by  
R.N.F. Censor  
  
No. 34

(5)

C.CONICA GR.OOST & BORNEO  
MOROTAI

(4)

No 5 STAMPS AVAILABLE  
7.5 x 1 cm

(6)

No 5 STAMPS AVAILABLE  
4 x 1 cm

(7)

NEDERLANDSCH INFORMATIE KANTOOR  
SINGAPORE

(8)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

(9)

<10 Gr.

(10)

NETHERLANDS POSTOFFICE  
28 DEC 1945  
SINGAPORE

(11)

OHMS

(12)

NETHERLANDS INDIE ARMY  
SYDNEY

(13)

NETHERLANDS  
Post  
27-MAR-1946  
Office  
BRISBANE

(14)

NETHERLANDS POST OFFICE  
BRISBANE  
337 CULLUM ST.

(15)

28 DEC 1945

(16)

Bt. C.  
29 JAN 1946

(17)

P. T. T.  
2 MCH 46  
BATAVIA-C.  
(AMACAB)

(18)

RAPWI  
POSTKANTOOR  
16 FEB 46  
BATAVIA

(19)

Bij-  
POSTKANTOOR  
GRANIE-BULEVARD  
14 MAR 1946  
(BATAVIA)

(20)

BUITENZORG  
28 MAR 1946

(21)

SEMARANG

(22)

POSTKANTOOR  
P. T. T.  
TJIMAH

(23)

BANDOENG  
22. 1. 46

(24)

SEMARANG  
-1. 3. 46-

(25)

SOERABAJA  
9.12.45

(26)

RAPWI-POST  
PADANG N.E.I.  
5 NOV 1945

(27)

K.D.P. P.T.T.  
21 DEC 1945  
MEDAN

(28)



#### d. Postal Activities from Australia

Not only in Singapore was there a Dutch post office, but also in Australia were active post offices, among which a post office for the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) in Sydney, and the Dutch post office in Brisbane (see Figs. 13-15).

#### e. Postal Activities in Java (Map A)

As was stated before, the first British troops arrived in Batavia on September 29, 1945. Other places where the British successively took over from the Japanese troops were Sourabaya, Buitenzorg, Bandoeng and Semarang. Following the arrival of the British a number of organizations were established in Java.

As the first, I want to mention the British counterpart of the NICA, the Allied Military Administration and Civil Affairs Branch (AMACAB). The RAPWI must be mentioned at the same time. RAPWI stands for Relief Allied Prisoners of War and Internees. Through the RAPWI the worst patients found in the liberated internment camps were evacuated to Australia. This rescue and evacuation were necessary because the Indonesian "authorities" refused to allow the women from the internment camps to move so that they could be sent, for instance, to Singapore.

The RAPWI also took over mail delivery from the Netherlands Indies Red Cross. A number of post offices was occupied by Indonesian revolutionaries. The main post office in Batavia, for instance, was not again administered by Dutchmen before July 20, 1947.

In Java too there were originally no stamps. For some time after the Japanese surrender Japanese occupation stamps were seen with the republican names of towns, or slogans such as "Merdeka" (Freedom).

The first American Bank Note stamps were supplied to the public in Batavia on April 16, 1946. In Medan in Sumatra it took even longer.

The first British cancels (Fig. 16) used in Java only had a date indication in English and eight vertical bars. The earliest known date of use is December 26, 1945. The stamp (violet) was used as an arrival cancel for mail from the rest of the Indies and as despatch cancel for mail to the Netherlands and other countries. Not before the spring of 1946 is it seen on stamps.

Another arrival cancel, applied to the back of mailing pieces, was that of Batavia-Centrum (Fig. 17). It was made from the first British cancel. Clear impressions are particularly rare. The color is always violet.

The AMACAB and RAPWI had their own postal cancels (Fig. 18-20), which were placed on the back as arrival cancels. From those places where British detachments were stationed, auxiliary cancels were soon seen on mailing pieces. A few examples are those of Semarang, Buitenzorg and Tjimahi (Fig. 21-23). Prewar cancels were used on postal pieces from Bandoeng, Semarang and Soerabaya (Fig. 24-26).

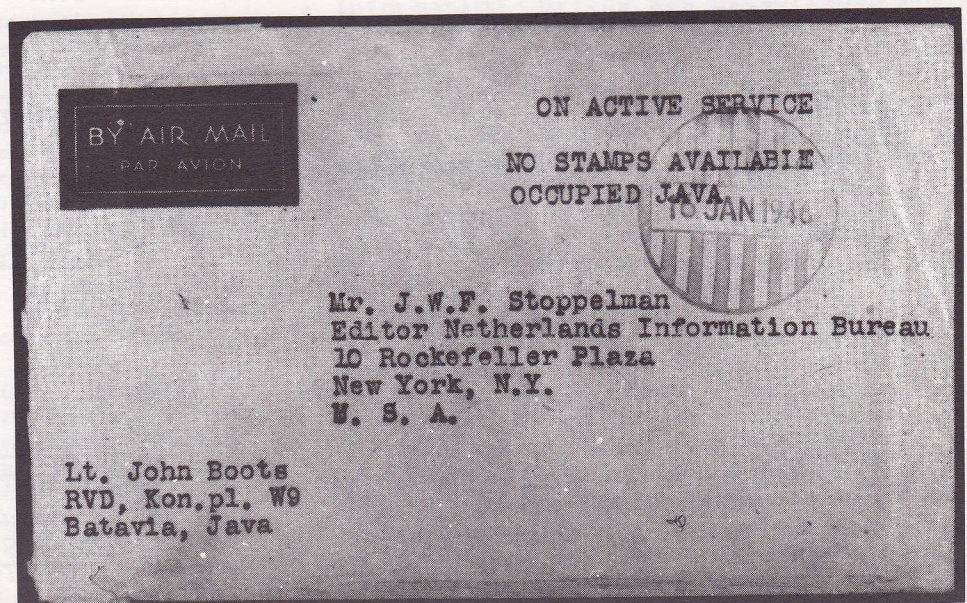
In Batavia, on the other hand, from the beginning an arrival cancel was used that resembled the prewar Batavia-Centrum cancel. Under the date bar can be found the numbers 1 through 5, 7, 8, or 10.

#### f. Postal Activities in Sumatra (Map B)

Visiting Sumatra we really get to know the postal activities of the South East Asia Command. As we stated earlier, British units were planned for Padang, Medan and Palembang. In Sumatra too there were no Netherlands Indies stamps available. The RAPWI was here very active too. You see (Fig. 27) a cancel of RAPWI-Padang with a reasonably early date. The first date of use is not known. This cancel is shown actual size. It occurs quite often on home-made envelopes and on envelopes from firms in Malaya.

In North Sumatra the Kantoor (Office) Displaced Persons (KDP) is notable for the variety of postal cancels (Figs. 28-31; No. 30 also occurs without a date). In addition, a temporary cancel (Fig. 32) is also known from Medan.

The AMACAB cancel is used at Palembang (Fig. 33). Many times one also sees the British Field Post cancel No. 2 (Fig. 34).





KDP-PTT MEDAN  
29 Dec 1945

(29)

KDP-PTT  
MEDAN  
29 Dec 1945

(30)

K.D.P. - P.T.T.  
18 DEC 1945.  
MEDAN.

(31)



(32)



(33)



(34)



(35)



(36)

TANDJONG  
PINANG

(37)



(37a)



(38)



(39)

POSTKANTOOR  
27/12-45  
KOEPANG

(40)

AMBOINA

(41)

AMBOINA

(42)

MALINO  
CONFERENTIE  
JULI 1946

(43)





From Padang on Sumatra's west coast a British field post cancel (No. 2) is known from November 17, 1945. Also, a cancel from the republican regime was used there, dated December 24, 1945, PADANG-INDONESIA.

Sabang was the source of cancel No. 35, usually, however, with an unreadable date. From arrival cancels on the back one may conclude that it dates from March-April 1946. On postal pieces the American Bank Note stamps already occur.

g. Postal Activities in the Riouw Archipelago (also Map B)

Figures 36 and 37 show a couple of cancels that were used in the Riouw Archipelago in, respectively, Tandjong Pandan on Biliton Island, and Tandjong Pinang on Peloe Bintang near Singapore.

h. Postal Activities on the Sunda Islands (see map of SW Pacific area, printed in part I)

The island of Sumbawa was occupied in November 1945 by a battallion of the KNIL, coming from Bangkok, Thailand. Bali was occupied in February 1946 by the battellion "Gadja Merah" (Red Elephant), (Fig. 37a) while the Dutch part of Timor was occupied in August-September 1945 by Australian troops, which after a short time were replaced by KNIL units. Exceptionally little is known about the resumption of postal activities on this island.

Figures 38 and 39 show cancels from Sumbawa and Larentoeko on Flores.

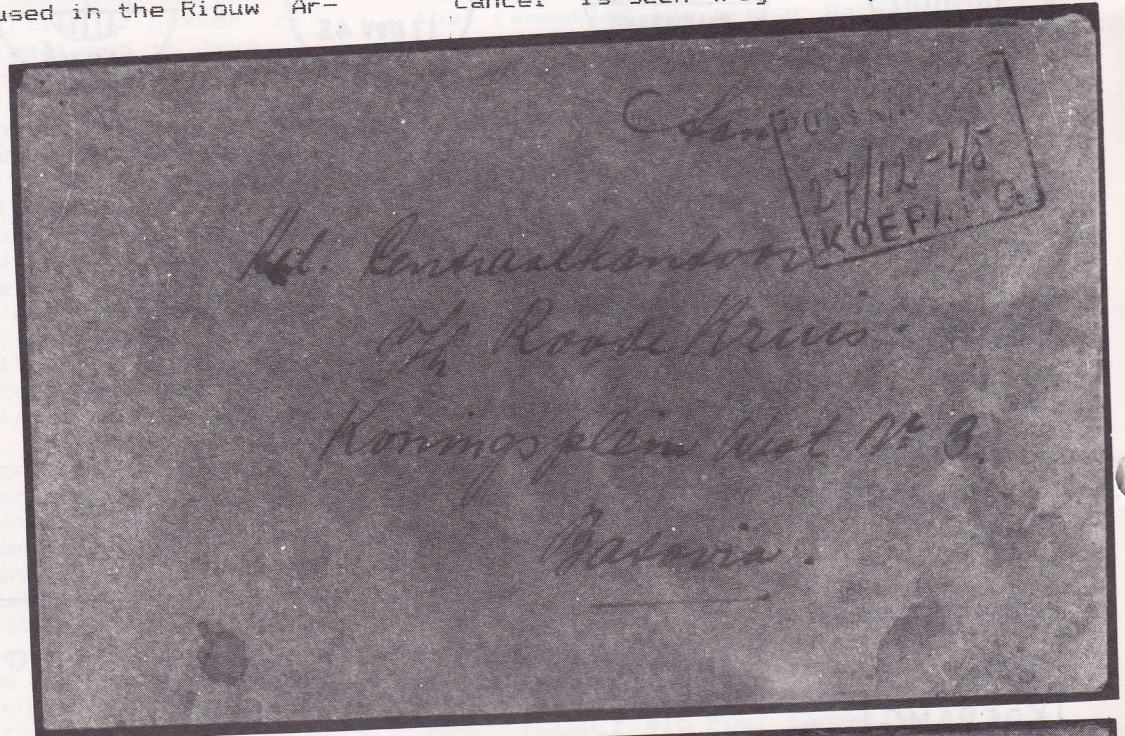
Timor does show a special and possibly unique cancel. From

the beginning of December 1945 the cancel shown in Figure 40 was used in which the date is filled in by pencil. On the day after Christmas the canceller was kept very busy. From January 2, 1946, the date was applied by means of a rubber stamp. From that date on stamps were also available (Queen Wilhelmina, 10 ct., of the American Bank Note series.

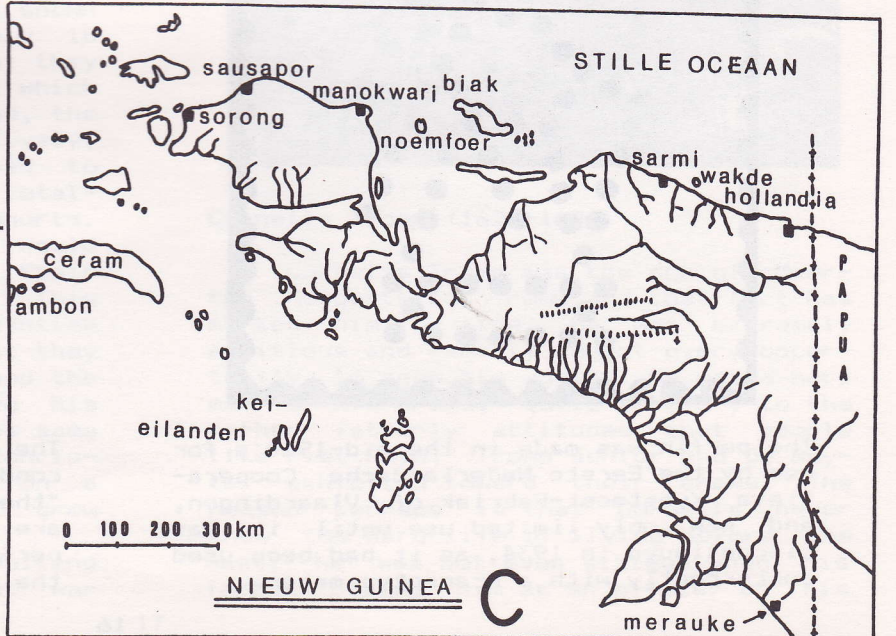
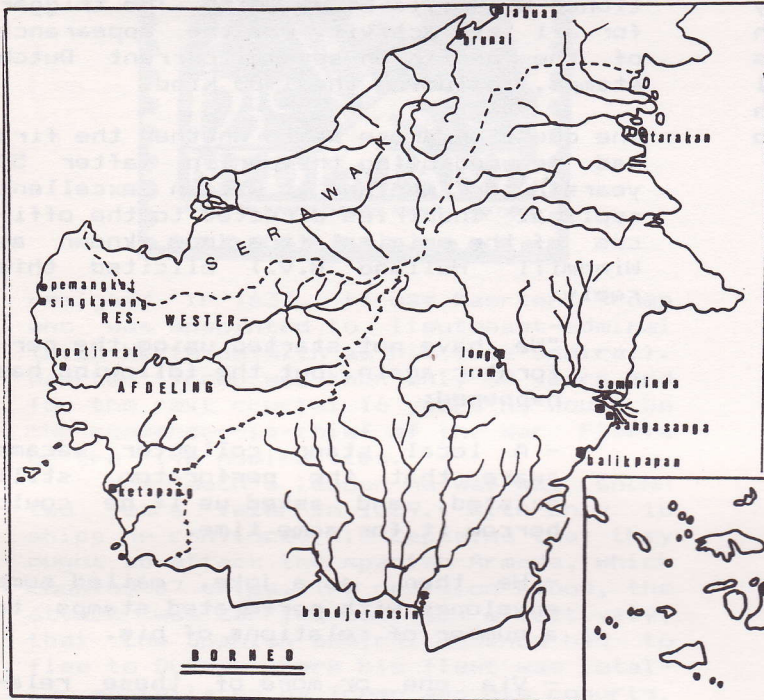
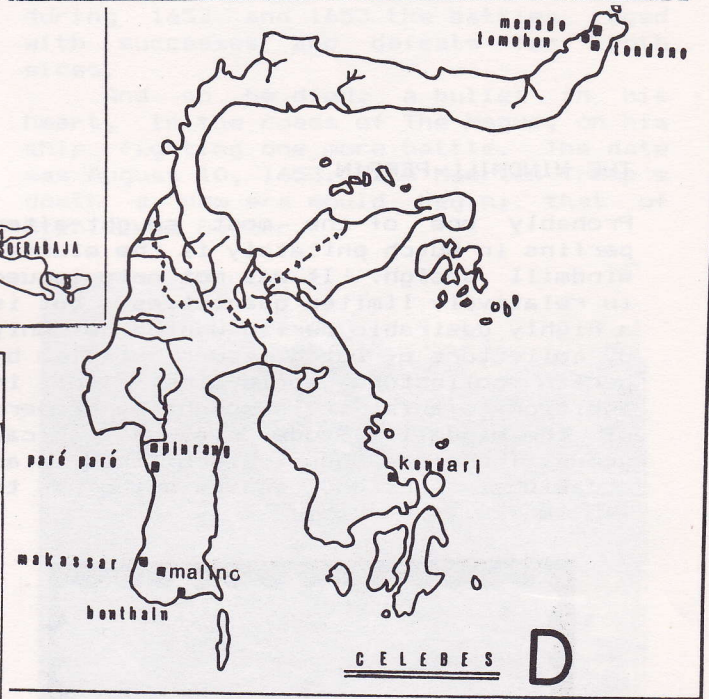
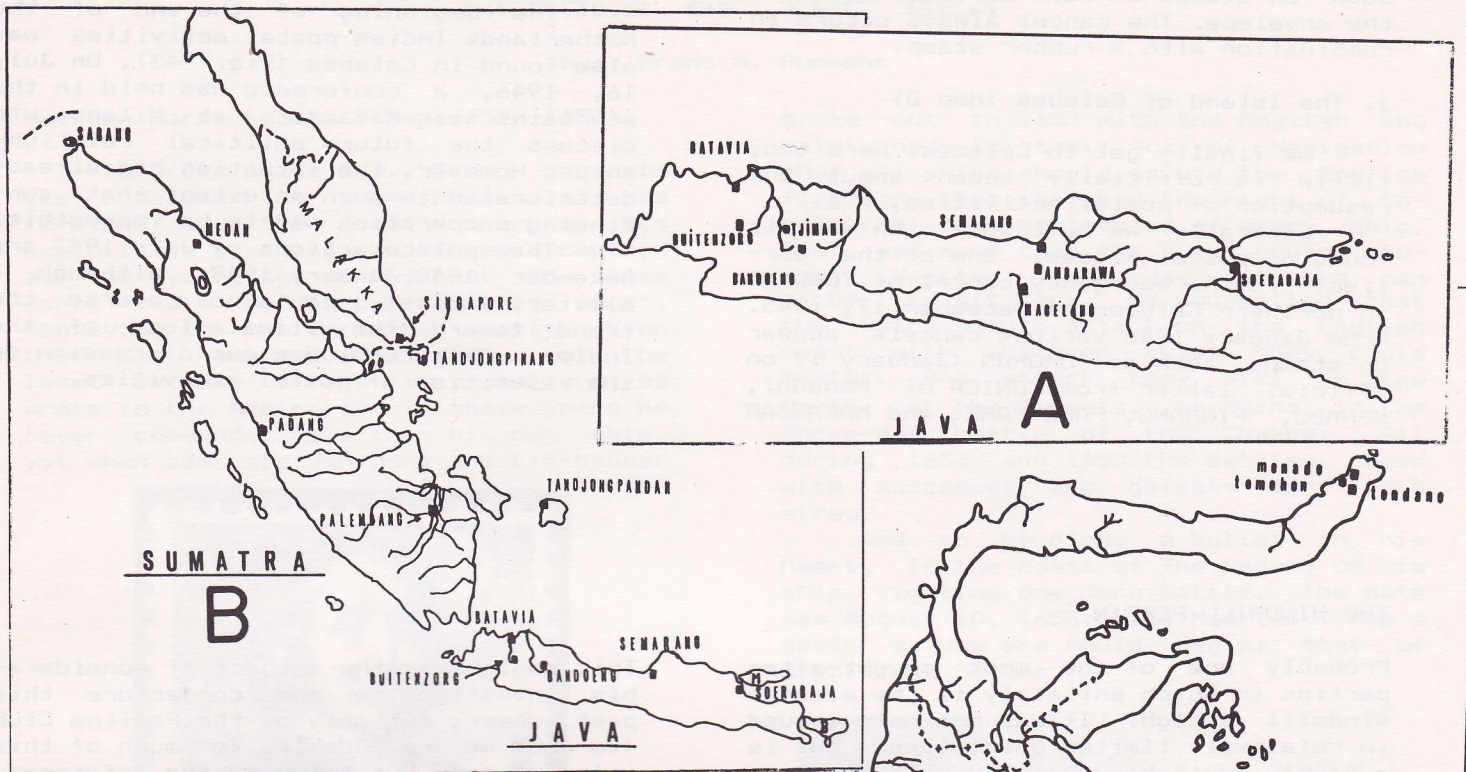
i. The Island of Amboina (Ambon) (Map C)

Several cancels were used on Amboina: From January 1946 the large cancel AMBOINA in combination with a date stamp on the postage stamps. (Fig. 41).

In February and March 1946 the small cancel is seen (Fig. 42), which occurs









both on stamps as well as elsewhere on the envelope. The cancel always occurs in combination with a rubber stamp.

#### j. The Island of Celebes (Map D)

We finally get to Celebes. Here too, little is officially known about the resumption of postal activities, etc.

Generally we must work with what is found on postal pieces. One of the earliest is the emergency cancel of TONDANO in northern Celebes of December 17, 1945. From January 1946 various cancels appear on stamps, such as TOMOHON (January 17 on official letter from CONICA of Manado), MENADO, PINRANG, PARE PARE, and MAKASSAR

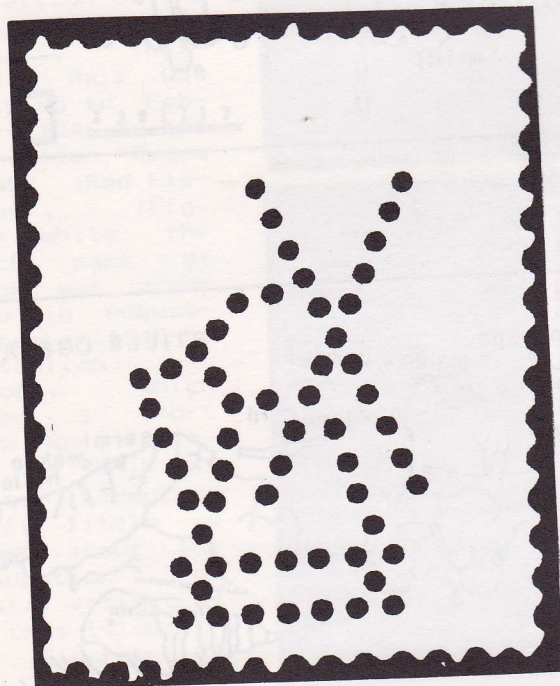
(the cancel reads Makasser).

The beginning of the end of the Netherlands Indies postal activities was also found in Celebes (Fig. 43). On July 16, 1946, a conference was held in the mountains near Makassar, at Milano, to discuss the future political relationships. However, the situation had already deteriorated to such an extent that continuing cooperation was to be impossible.

The police actions of July 1947 and December 1948-January 1949, although a military success, could not reverse the trend toward the ultimate loss of the Indies. This concludes our discussion on the resumption of postal activities.

#### THE WINDMILL PERFIN

Probably one of the most sought-after perfins in Dutch philately is the elusive windmill design. It was not only issued in relatively limited quantities, but is a highly desirable perfin wanted not only by collectors of Dutch issues but also by perfin collectors world-wide. And in addition to this, it is sought by members of the Windmills Study Unit, a topical group. Therefore when it is offered in an occasional auction, copies bring up to \$15 to \$20.



The perfin was made in the mid-1920's for use by the Eerste Nederlandsche Coöperatieve Kunstmest-Fabriek of Vlaardingen, and saw only limited use until it was discontinued in 1934, as it had been used concurrently with a Francotyp meter.

This design was the subject of considerable investigation and conjecture this past summer, not only by the Perfins Club (to whom we are indebted for much of this information) but also by the aforementioned Windmills Study Unit. The trigger for all this activity was the appearance of the perfin on several current Dutch stamps, including the 1983 Kind.

The question arose as to whether the firm had resumed using the perfin (after 50 years!) or whether it was an excellent replica. Inquiries directed to the offices of the original firm (now known as Windmill Holland B.V.) elicited this reply:

"We have not started using the perforator again, but the following has happened:

- A local stamp collector became aware that the perforator still existed, and asked us if he could borrow it for some time.
- He then, as a joke, mailed some envelopes with perforated stamps to a number of relations of his.
- Via one or more of these relations, this perforation must have come onto the market.

Consequently the showed perfin is not a forgery but we have not started using the perforator again and have no intention to do so."

The conclusion reached by the groups conducting the investigation, is that "these perfins are NOT forgeries. They are authentic; punched from the original perforating device with the permission of the owner."



## HEROES OF THE SEA

by: Frans H. Rummens

### Maerten Harpertszoon Tromp (1598-1653)

To write about M.H. Tromp presents its problems. It seems he was at sea forever, and the sheer number of his exploits is stunning. He became a captain at the young age of 26, but in those early years he did but "little work", convoying on the North Sea mostly. Even then his name and fame grew, not the least because of the many letters he wrote to the Admiralty. In those years he never commanded more than his own ship, yet when admirals Van Dorp and Liefhebber



resigned in 1637, it was Maerten Tromp who was appointed to lieutenant-admiral (with Witte de With as his vice-admiral). Maerten Tromp was then only 39 years and for the next crucial 16 years he would be the commander-in-chief of the War Fleets of the Five Admiralties.

How much a leader he was was shown two years later in 1639. With only 18 ships he convinced his captains that they ought to attack the Spanish Armada, which counted 67 ships. The decision stood, the attack was carried out so effectively, that the Spanish admiral Oquendo had to flee to Duins, where his fleet was totally annihilated by Tromp and his cohorts. The Spanish foe was beaten and it would now only be a matter of time or Spain would have to sign a peace treaty. This was to come in 1648, but in the meantime the penny pinching Dutchmen thought they did not need a War fleet anymore, and the decline of the Fleet began. Even his flagship was sold to France. At the same time the English had come to the conclusion that they needed a War fleet on a permanent basis, and their fleet grew enormously.

Just in time the States of Holland ordered 150 new ships built. But war

broke out in 1652 with the English who maintained in their Act of Navigation that all ships should salute the English flag and that they had the right of inspection for contraband of every ship. That was more than the Dutch could stomach. Maerten Tromp was not the man either to sit back. He counselled that the Dutch should attack on the English coast with whatever ships they could muster. And attack they did, in the North, at the Singels, at Duins, in the Three-day battle of the Channel. All during 1652 and 1653 the battles raged with successes and defeats for both sides.

And so he died, a bullet in his heart, in the roads of The Hague, on his ship fighting one more battle. The date was August 10, 1653. With Maerten Tromp's death a new era would begin; that of Michiel de Ruyter.



### Cornelis Tromp (1629-1691)

Cornelis Tromp was the son of Maerten Harpertszoon Tromp and that fact has marked him for life. He was extremely ambitious and eagerly sought every opportunity to show his worth. He was a hard man for his crews, quite contrary to the rather fatherly attitudes that people like Piet Heyn, Tromp senior and De Ruyter exhibited toward their crews. The reason perhaps is that Cornelis never knew the hard life of living before the mast; he was not even sixteen when his father placed him as an officer on his



own ship. Promotions came fast; at age 20 he was appointed captain with the Amsterdam admiralty and at age 24 he was promoted to rear admiral. His first trip as a captain was under commander Van Galen, a voyage to the Mediterranean, to fight the Barbary pirates.

During the first English War Cornelis served again under Van Galen to operate mainly in the Mediterranean. It was here that a most shameful situation arose. Cornelis had just taken command of a captured English ship and was laying anchored when, in the night, the English returned in sloops, overcame resistance and recaptured their ship. Our hero, Cornelis Tromp, had to jump into the sea from his cabin window lest he be captured too, or worse.

But he was in luck as well; just as the report about his unfortunate loss of a ship reached the States, the latter also just heard about the great victory that the elder Tromp had obtained against the English on the Singels. They quickly forgave and forgot and in no time Cornelis has a new ship under his feet, taking revenge on the English again. From this time onward he commanded usually a squadron, and managed to be sent out with instructions that left him a great deal



of freedom. He liked to fight his own war; he dutifully reported about his deeds, but never informed the States about his plans.

It seemed that Cornelis got his chance in the second English War, after the defeat at Lowestoft in June 1665. Several admirals were killed and De Ruyter was away on a voyage to the West Indies, so it befell on Cornelis to reorganize the fleet and to be prepared for battle again. But as he planned to set sail with the fleet, De Ruyter returned from the West and to his bitter disappointment Cornelis had to relinquish the supreme command to De Ruyter. As a consolation prize came his promotion to lieutenant-admiral of the Admiralty of the Maas (i.e. Rotterdam).

Cornelis Tromp was a magnificent fighter, but his appetite for independent action brought him in trouble time and time again. De Ruyter made great allowances but the breach came in August 1666, at the Two-day sea battle. De Ruyter in his "Seven Provincien" got himself in trouble and counted on Tromp for help. But the latter had gone on a merry chase all by himself and was nowhere in sight, only to return the next day. This cost him his job. From August 1666 till the Spring of 1673 Tromp was out of work. Finally, in 1673, after intervention of the Prince of Orange, De Ruyter and Tromp shook hands again.

In 1674 De Ruyter sailed to the West again, while Tromp with the other half of the fleet was to search the Atlantic coast for the enemy French war fleet. Not finding any, he entered the Mediterranean, for which he had no mandate. The States resented this highhandedness and he lost his command to never regain it again.



## The Dutch Red Cross Ship for Invalids

In 1957, the Netherlands issued a set of four charity stamps marking the 90th anniversary of the Netherlands Red Cross (NVPK 695-699). One of the designs depicted the "J. Henri Dunant", which is a ship used to transport invalids on combination pleasure and convalescent cruises.



This was the idea of one Franz Delhez, a doctor in the Netherlands Red Cross, who first conceived the idea of providing boat trips for bed-ridden people. The doctor felt that the psychological effect on the invalids would be tremendous.

His idea was enthusiastically endorsed by the Dutch Red Cross headquarters in The Hague, and work on the project was started at once. Reaction to news of the plan was very favorable and a great volume of mail was received from invalids supporting the idea.

The Netherlands Red Cross proceeded to lease a river boat, the "Kasteel Staverden", and converted it into a floating hospital with 70 beds. A selection process was followed to determine the names of those most deserving of taking the first trip.

Dr. Delhez's idea became a reality as a doctor, a specially qualified nurse, 20 Red Cross nurses, six attendants, and five kitchen workers accompanied the bed-ridden patients on the cruise which was a tremendous success.

The enthusiasm of the patients who sailed on the "Kasteel Staverden" was so impressive that the Dutch Red Cross hired the river boat for a portion of each year so more of these less fortunates could enjoy these scenic cruises.

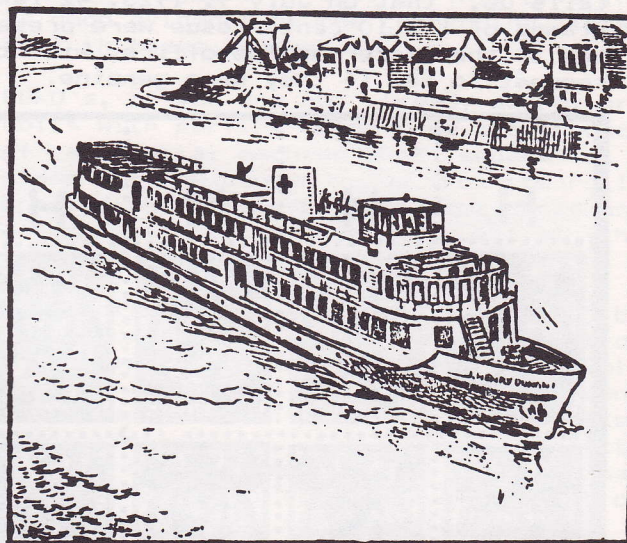
The Dutch Red Cross had long hoped to build its own ship, but it took a catastrophe to bring this about. After the inundation of Zeeland in 1953, a disaster fund was set up and ultimately it was found that there were sufficient funds

left over to help build a hospital ship designed to navigate the scenic waterways of the country.



The ship was completed in 1959 and named the "J. Henri Dunant", after the humane Swiss banker who founded the International Red Cross in 1863.

This remarkable ship, equipped with every modern convenience and aid to assist its bed-ridden tourists, has uplifted the spirits of thousands unfortunate people, bringing them much joy. Such progressive action by the Dutch Red Cross has been heralded as a great step forward in the aid of invalids.



As the "J. Henri Dunant" steams her way through the picturesque canals of Holland bringing a bit of the outside world to those who otherwise would not be able to see it, it is to be hoped that other nations will follow in its wake and take steps to bring a little brighter outlook for unfortunate invalids in other parts of the world.

*Adapted from a feature by Monty Wedd which ran in Linn's Weekly Stamp News some time ago, and printed here with the express permission of the publishers.*



**10 CENT FUR COLLAR  
"WIDE LINE BACKGROUND"  
FORGERY; CAUSING POSTAL LOSSES**

by: Gert Holstege

The article about the 5 cent hanging hair in the orange color caused a discussion about forgeries causing postal losses. (Maandblad 1983 pg. 633-639 and pgs. 837 and 953).

The first case is the hanging hair stamps, made by Carl Gietzelt, master engraver at Joh. Enschede en Zonen, which are hardly recognizable as fakes, as the same printing materials and paper have been used as the originals.

The only reason we know about this forgery is that Gietzelt was so naive as to produce the 5-cents blue stamp, which he wanted to sell to dealers and collectors, printed in the orange color, which fact was immediately discovered and caused his dismissal from the company.

The second case of forgery against the Postal administration in the Netherlands took place in 1923.

Drs. A.M.A. van der Willigen has already issued publications about this case. (Maandblad 1978 pg. 20-21)

It concerns the 10 cent issue Fur Collar "with wide background lines" (NVPH nr. 81) and the 12 1/2 cent numeral (NVPH nr. 108).

The condensed version of the story tells us, that on July 9, 1923, 42 faked stamps of the 10 cents issue were presented at the Amsterdam Postoffice, with the request to see if they were genuine.



1. Forged fur collar stamps "wide background lines" 10 cent gray, mint in a block of three times five stamps with in the perforated selvedge even the five issue letters "H" forged.

On June 30, 1923 the same request had been made at the Vaals Postoffice for the 12 1/2 cents issue.

Further investigation showed that it concerned several hundreds of stamps. More detail about this case can be found in van der Willigen's article in Het Maandblad 1978 pgs. 20-21. The overall result was that the Postoffice stopped producing more 10 cent stamps with the fur collar.

This stamp was later replaced with the 10-cents overprint NVPH 116-120) and later on the 1923 Jubilee stamp (NVPH 124). Van der Willigen's article and the before mentioned December 1983 article shows several of these stamps.

The Dutch Postal Museum has 26 faked 10 cents and 9 faked 12 1/2 cents stamps in its possession, which are all in mint condition. The Philatelic Society of Arnhem "The Globe" has in its forgery collection a partial sheet of 15 of the faked 10 cents stamps. (Illustration 1). Even the issue letters in the selvedge are faked!

Of the mint condition 41 10 cents and 9 12 1/2 cents stamps are known, but used examples are very scarce. Van der Willigen mentions that he only knows about one used stamp discovered by collector D.O. Kirchner of the Hague, who found the stamp in a lot of cover separated stamps. This stamp is shown in an article by Dr. G.W.W. Bölian in the "Vraagbaak der Philatelie" by F.C. Korteweg pg 250. The present whereabouts of this stamp are unknown. Not too long ago Van der Willigen discovered another used stamp in a circuit book!

To my surprise I received a third example, mailed by a Rotterdam collector, who read the December article. (Illustration 2) It is too bad that of the cancellation only the word "street" can be read, which lets me to assume that the stamp was cancelled by a larger city postoffice, which has branch offices, (Amsterdam?). The Rotterdam collector told me, that he found his copy among his duplicates.

All in all it seems that this 10-cent-forgery-to-the-disadvanta-



2. Forged fur collar stamp "wide background lines" 10 cent gray, the third known example, found in the duplicate stock of a collector.



ge-of-the-postoffice has been on quite a large scale. The issue of the 10 cent fur collar with wide line background was more than 213 million, which means that many readers might have some of these stamps. Maybe one of the forgeries, although the chances are very small, can be found among them.

The stamp can be recognized as follows:

1. The very poor print quality (lithography).
2. The different size (18.5 mm x 23.0 mm in stead of 18.2 mm x 22.2 mm for the genuine 10 cent stamp).
3. The different perforation, line perf. 11 x 11 in stead of the comb perf. of 12 1/2 of the genuine stamp.

The third characteristic is the most obvious.

If you feel that you have a 10 cent or 12 1/2 cent forged stamp I am more than willing to inspect the stamp for you, and if it is indeed a forgery to the disadvantage of the postoffice, I will issue a "certificate of forgery".

As such a forged example never has been auctioned, I have no idea about the value of these forgeries.

Contact: Gert Holstege, Paardebloem 6, Rotterdam.

*This article has been reprinted from the May issue of the Maandblad and is printed here with the express permission of the publishers and Mr. Holstege.*

#### Views on Filacento

by: Percy Gregoire-Voskamp

*Editors note: Member Gregoire-Voskamp of Manitoba has sent the Editors a copy of the house organ which was distributed at Filacento by the Amsterdam dealer Theo Peters, and accompanied it with these comments.*

Filacento was the first international exhibition I had attended, and I have to admit to being somewhat traumatized by the busloads of visitors which disembarked and by the three floors of displays. The official programs were sold out by noon of the second day.

Fortunately my mother is also a stamp enthusiast, and understood that part of the holiday must be spent at the exhibition. Many a wife ended up being sidelined on the second and third day. They could not believe that their husbands could spend all that time looking at, and even getting excited about, little bits of colored paper.

It is very evident that I have a long way to go, even to dream of putting a collection together like those which were on display. What pleased me most, however,

was the fact that in most cases I was not ignorant of the material on display. For that, I have the articles and the books made available through ASNP, to thank.

I could not spend as much time at Filacento as the exhibition deserved. However, I just could not justify spending a full four days at the show while still taking time to visit the stamp shops and the weekly visits to the open-air stamp marts in Utrecht and Amsterdam.

This was an experience, too. I was amazed at what was available, and at the price. For the first time in my experience, the catalogue was just thrown away. Many of the items I purchased, mint or used, were no more than fifty percent of catalogue. Even the shops were discounting on mint unhinged.

In summary, I came back from this trip very enthusiastic about collecting Dutch stamps.

#### Coil Corner

A recent Kontaktgroep auction listed over fifty lots of POKO's, some with minimum bids in excess of f 150.-. This offering is good evidence of the continuing interest in these issues.

POKO's, if you are not already aware, are coils with perfins which were the product of a special machine that separated a stamp of the chosen value from the roll, applied the perfin pattern, moistened and affixed it to the envelope, all at the single turn of a crank.

The rolls of stamps were assembled by hand from strips of sheet stamps. Most of the stamps are syncopated perf (or "Rol-tanding") although POKO perfins are found on stamps issued prior to, and after discontinuance of, the syncos. In fact, the particular requirements of this machine were the direct cause of the introduction of syncos in the Netherlands.

The listing of POKO lots reminded me that years ago, I stashed away a bunch of duplicates, accumulated during the period I was putting together my POKO collection. They really don't do me, or anyone, any good sitting in a cigar box, so the first ten members who have an interest in these issues, may have a batch of 25 different assorted POKO's merely by sending me a stamped, self-addressed #6 3/4 envelope at 1734 Leisure World, Mesa, AZ 85206.

LHR



**Postal Booklet Notes**

Ever since the appearance in 1964 of vending machine stamp booklets containing se tenant designs, we collectors have happily and eagerly formed collections-- both unused and postally used-- of these "combinaties"; as the publishers of the NVPH Speciale Catalogus so named them. And indeed these made for relatively inexpensive but very colorful collections. The incidence of "normal" and "phosphor" and other coated papers added a bit of spice to the endeavor.

To wring out the most from these combinations, the editors and collectors did not overlook any of the mathematical possibilities, with the result that through 1981 no less than 172 "combinaties" were listed, numbered and priced in a separate section of the Speciale. Everything was neat and orderly.

However, we regret to note that comes March 16, 1982 with "automaatboekje" PB 27A the combinations from this basic booklet format all are listed on pages 174-75, but assigned no number. We wonder why, since these are from a specific booklet and the booklet is now a definite entity. The same treatment is accorded automaatboekje 28.

At the risk of being "picky", why not a reference number after the "70 cent Beatrix" on page 174? This would be of help.

Another question arises regarding the 1983 Red Cross booklet PB 29 and the 1984 Birds PB 30. Both are listed on page 169 as "automaatboekjes", although PB 30 was sold only over-the-counter, not dispensed in vending machines. We also might suggest identifying PB 29 as "Red Cross Booklet" and PB 30 as "Birds of the Field" instead of merely referring the catalogue user back to an earlier page for proper identification. Of course, that in itself is not enough to cause a revolution. However, again it causes some confusion and extra work for users of the catalogue listings.

We suggest also that, if the Red Cross booklet is truly an "automaatboekje", then why not give it the same listing positioning on page 175 of the Speciale instead of an incomplete combinations listing on page 156, in the body of the catalogue? We also question why the combinations "50 + 25 and 70 + 30 2 sides imperforate" and perhaps even the se tenant pair of the "70 + 30" are not


listed. They appear to be as legitimate as similar combinations in previous booklets.

The same question can be registered against the incomplete listing of combinations for the "Birds" stamps on page 158.

It is to be hoped that the editors of the Speciale Catalogus will accept these comments in a positive way. After all, the Speciale is supposed to be the guide for collectors of stamps of the Netherlands. We should try to make it completely useful.

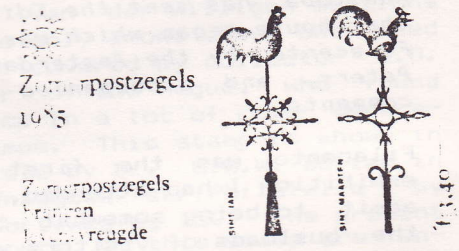
\* \* \* \* \*

We also chronicle the appearance of PB 31, another semi-postal 4-stamp booklet with a book value of Hfl. 3.40 -- sold only over the counter, hence not to be classified as an "automaatboekje". Date of issue was March 26, 1985, the subjects being two each of "Sint-Maartenskerk" in Zaltbommel (50 + 20 cent) and "Sint Jans-kathedraal" in 's-Hertogenbosch (70 + 30 cent). Cover text is blue on yellow card stock. On sale until May 10, 1985.

  
Stichting Comité voor de  
Zomerpostzegels  
Kerkgebouwen

pttpost PB 31

In opdracht van de Stichting Comité voor de Zomerpostzegels, aan de hand van de inzendingen van de zomerpostzegels:  
- de Nederlandse plaatselijke verenigingen op sociaal-cultureel gebied  
- de Nederlandse sociale verenigingen  
- de verenigingen van belang voor de zomerpostzegels in de Nederlanden



The combinations to be had from this booklet are:

- a) 50c + 20c: imperforate top and bottom
- b) 70c + 30c: imperforate at sides
- c) 70c + 30c: perforated at bottom only
- d) 50c + 20c and 70c + 30c: a + b above
- e) 70c + 30c: b + c above

Perforation is 13 1/4 on the appropriate sides.

\* \* \* \* \*

We can also report that on April 1, 1985 was issued a new version of automaatboek-



je PB 27A, with new text and a different cover design in grey ink on yellowish cover stock. Thus we have a PB 27B with same stamp denominations and colors as are found with the 1982 booklet PB 27A.

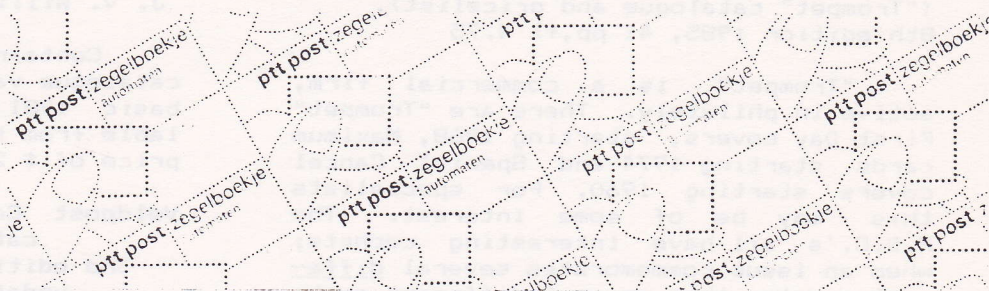
Neem een abonnement op de nieuwste Nederlandse postzegels.

INLICHTINGEN:  
 1. De Dienst PTT  
 2. Postbus 103  
 3. 3700 GB ZWOLLE

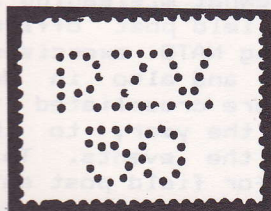
■ PB27B



FWJ



**A WARTIME ODDITY**



Occasionally one runs across the card illustrated below, which has a large perfin P.Z.V./50 not only through the stamp but also through the post card.

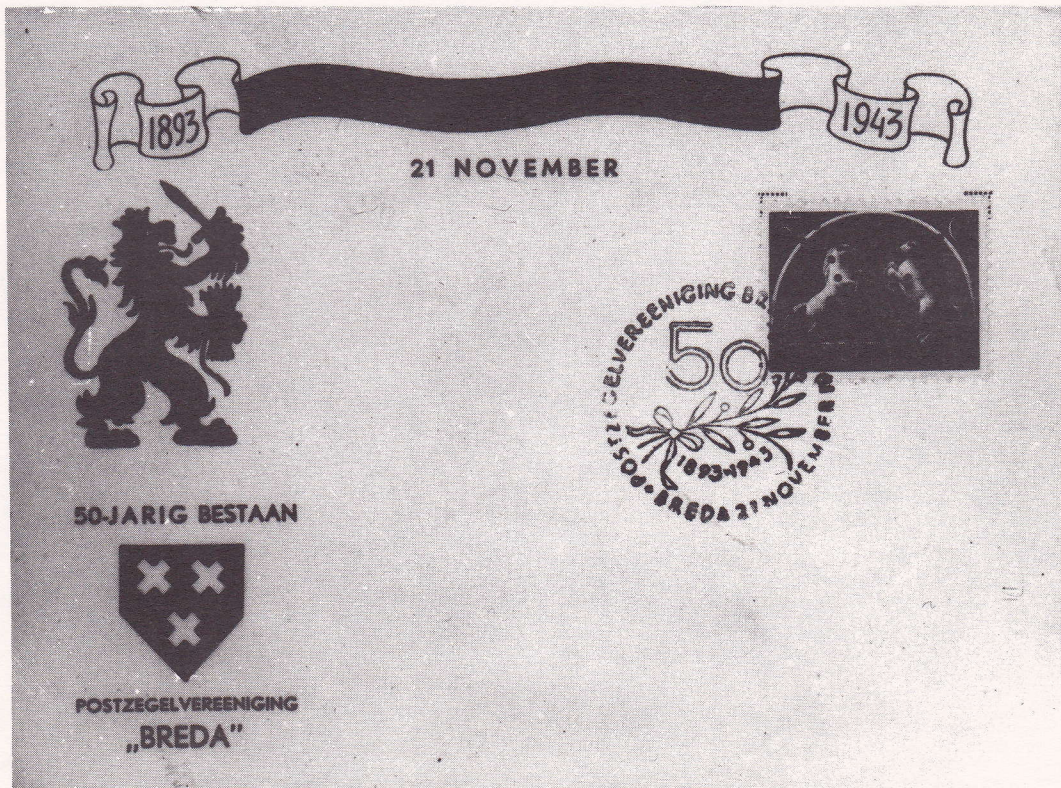
This was an effort during wartime to create a desirable philatelic item, but it was quickly recognized for exactly what it really was; the Dutch call it "maakwerk". Ostensibly issued in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Breda Philatelic Society on 21 November 1943, it was never sanctioned by the Dutch postal authorities.

The piece had no franking value whatever, and the perfin is not recognized as legitimate by E.J. Enschede in his authoritative catalogue of Dutch Perfins. The card does carry a special commemorative cancellation featuring the 50th anniversary, and this is listed in v.d. Wart's "de Poststempels van Nederland" as item no. 271.

**Letter from a member:**

*With reference to strong criticism of the Editors of the Speciale, let's be careful; you cannot fight Goliath, and bitching all the time in our magazine is not good either.*

*The Speciale is still the Bible for the average and more advanced collector, and the very very specialized members are rather few. What I mean to say is, do not throw out the baby with the wash water.*





## BOOKREVIEWS

"Trompet" catalogus en prijslijst.  
("Trompet" catalogue and pricelist).  
8th edition 1985, 41 pp, fl 4.75

"Trompet" is a commercial firm, active in philately. There are "Trompet" First Day covers, starting 1968, Maximum cards starting 1974 and Special Cancel covers starting 1960. For specialists this may be of some interest. The F.D.C.'s all have interesting cachets; when an issue commemorates several different events, then several different cachets are prepared. The cancel is usually a first day ordinary round cancel of the Hague or some other town or city (the special cancels on the NVPH covers are protected by trade-mark rights). The Maximum cards are specially cacheted, but all are cancelled on the day of issue in the Hague, so that normally they will not conform to FIP regulations. The special cancels initially referred to special "Europe" events, but recently other events like balloon races, 200 years Netherlands-U.S.A. diplomatic relations, Floriade, and the like were also included. This catalogue is of little use for collectors; perhaps its major use is by dealers who sell these "Trompet" products. For those who insist, the address is: Trompet, P.O. Box 135, Vlaardingen.

## Speciaal Katalogus Plaatfouten Nederland Supplement 1985.

(1985 supplement to the special plate error catalogue for the Netherlands)  
J. v. Willigen, 8pp. ASNP price \$ 2.00

Contains additions, up-dates and new catalogue values. Goes very well with the basic 1981 catalogue that is still available from the ASNP for the special sale price of \$ 2.50.

## Veldpost Catalogus Nederland (field post catalogue Netherlands).

3rd edition 1982, 149 pp. with 1984 update, ASNP price \$ 9.00.

This catalogue is prepared and published by the "Circle of Field Post Philatelists". It lists all the round cancels with the word VELDPOST that have ever been used, starting in 1957. Although the title includes the word "Netherlands", this is somewhat misleading as many of the temporary field post offices were in Germany (during NATO exercises) or in Lebanon (U.N.) and also in New Guinea. The cancels are crosslisted to the post offices, to the year, to the cancel number, and to the events. This catalogue is clearly for field post enthusiasts only. What is lacking, however, is a clarifying text. We understand that a Field Post Handbook is also in the making, though.

F.R.