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From the Editor:

This issue of *Netherlands Philately* opens with an unusual article which will show that there may be any number of articles "buried" in our members' collections. Enjoy this April 1 contribution.

Furthermore we have the last instalment of the Internment Camp stamps, a profusely illustrated article on the Netherlands Indies airmail stamps by M. Hardjasudarma and the next instalment of Famous Dutchmen (and Women), concerned with the one architect that ever appeared on the Dutch "Summer" stamps. And let us not forget the article by Dr. Rummens on the Surinam overprinted Floating Safe stamps.

A few book reviews end this issue.

Due to the rising printing costs, and an already announced rise in the postage rate early next year, we have been forced to raise our advertising rates, beginning with September of this year. The new rates will be \$80 for a full page, \$45 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page. The usual discounts will still be available for four consecutive advertisements.

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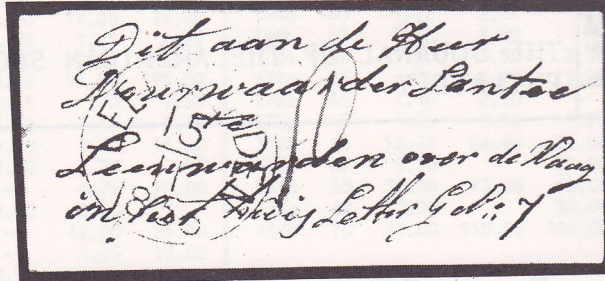
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PHILATELIC SMILES

by Kees Adema

Occasionally our hobby creates a smile, acknowledgement of the sweet and sour humor that we Dutch enjoy so much. I hereby share five items with you.

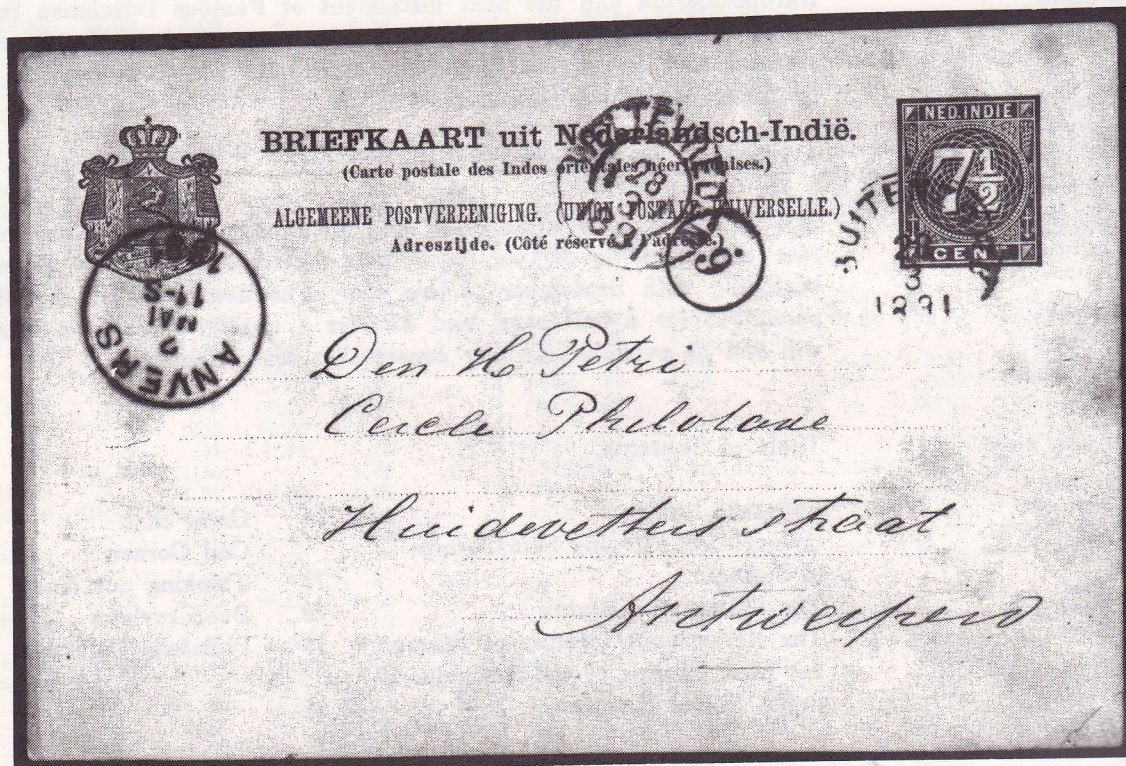


Item 1

Addressed to the process server in Leeuwarden, this letter carries a K45 marking on the face and a straight line sub-office marking of Buitenpost (K01) on the back.

The writer states that although he is not unwilling to pay his debt, he is at present unable to do so.

To emphasize his financial plight and at the same time economize, he made the letter's dimensions 7 1/2 x 3 cm!



Item 2

Item 2, a postal card sent from the Dutch East Indies to Antwerp, at first appears very much routine.

It was mailed from Buitenzorg and carries a cancellation of March 28, 1891, as well as a Weltevreden postmark of the same day. It arrived in Antwerp May 2nd, after a presumably uneventful trip by mail-carrying steamer.

Nothing unusual.

Buitenzorg April 91

Beminnde Heer

Ik jong zeer mooi Van afkomst 1/4
Hollands 3/4 malais bloed. Ik bevit
grootste koffie & suiker plantages van
eiland verbonden met jaht op rinoceross
en tijgers, ik gaarne met u wil trouwen
in de zoete hoop u spoedig hier kom
om helst u uwe teerbeminder

Banjak tabe! adieu normah mientjie
Gaga von Schitten
dan tjaoem tjaoem!

Item 2
reverse

The reverse side reads as follows, in broken Dutch
which I have translated literally to maintain the
flavor of the text, including spelling errors and lack of
punctuation:

Beloved Sir

I young very pretty Of origin 1/4 Dutch 3/4 malay
blood. I own largest coffee sugarplantations of island
connected with hunt on rinoceross and tigers, I dearly
want marry you

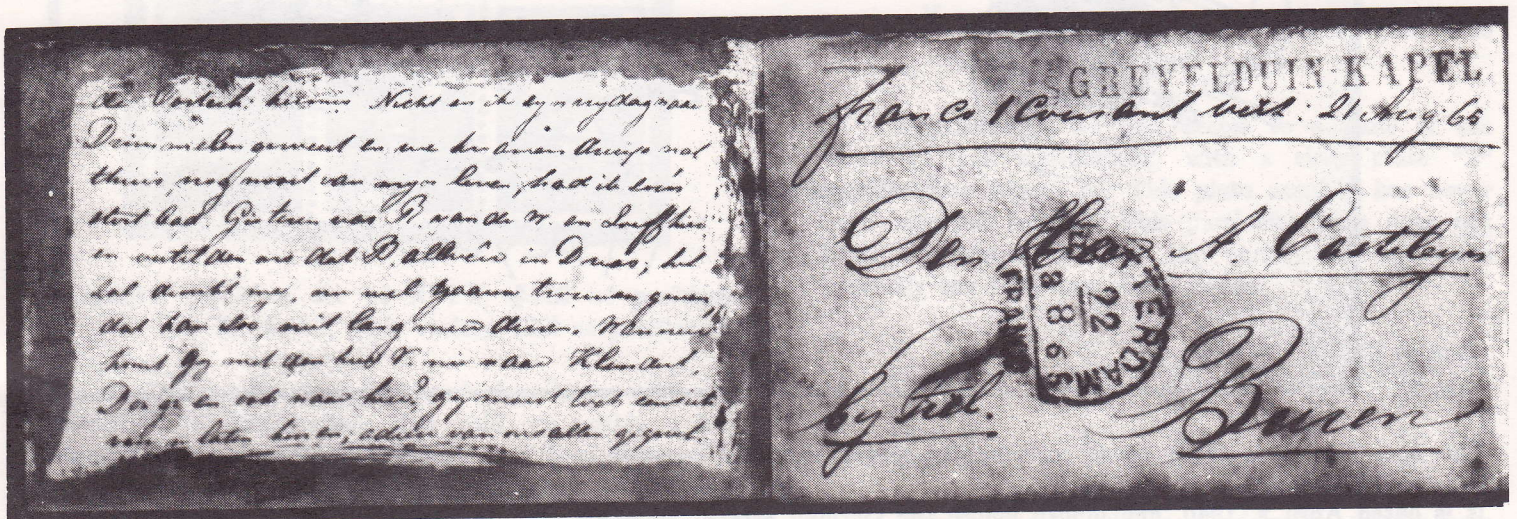
In the sweet hope you soon come here embraces you
your much beloved

banjak tabel Gaga von Schitten
dan tjoem tjoem! so long nonnah mientjie

"Banjak tabe dan tjoem tjoem" in Malay stands for
"many greetings and kisses," and the name of the
sender certainly seems playful.

But how can a card, mailed on March 28, be dated
three days later?

A fool's day joke between the correspondents?



Item 3

Next, a newspaper wrapper used illegally in that a message was written on the inside and then carefully pasted together to avoid paying the higher letter rate.

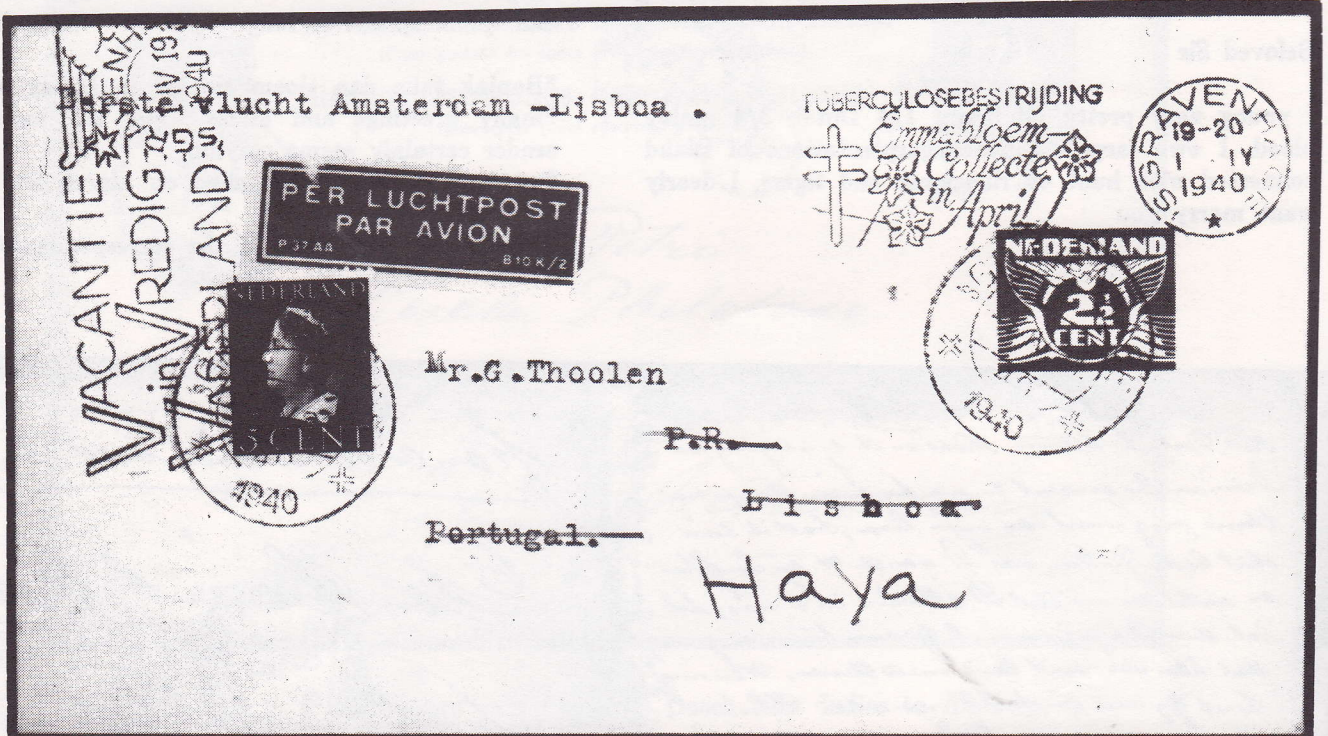
The writer did not escape punishment, albeit from an authority higher than the Postal Service.

He writes that "nog nooit van mijn leven had ik zo'n stortbad", i.e. never in his life had he experienced such a downpour. Punishment before the crime.

Item 4

When in 1902 it started using a new cancelling machine designed by Mr. v.d. Valk, the Postal Service undoubtedly had good intentions.

But couldn't someone have figured out beforehand that a device heated by a kerosene flame and subsequently branded into letters would damage the contents? Who was in charge, Nero? This card (item 4) thankfully escaped the carnage and is now in my collection.



Item 5

The final item is a flight cover carrying the slogan cancel: "Vacantie in Vredig Nederland", meaning : "Vacation in peaceful Holland".

It is dated April 1, 1940, one month before the German attack. A cruel April fool's joke indeed.

This article was written on April 1, no fooling!

The Overprinted Floating Safe Stamps of Surinam (NVPH 130-136)

Frans H.A. Rummens

Whereas the Floating Safe stamps for the Netherlands and for the Netherlands Indies were indeed used in the intended manner, similar contracts for Surinam and Curaçao never made it to ratification. The stamps had already been printed by Joh. Enschedé, and so, in order to let nothing go to waste, these stamps were overprinted in black, also by Enschedé, with the word "frankeerzegel" (= postage stamp) and new denominations. The original stamps were intaglio printed and they had a variety of plate numbers. The overprint was in typography. Perforation is line 11 1/2 for all denominations.

Below we summarize this set:

NVPH	Denomination	Known plate nos	Numbers sold
130	3 cent on 15ct	2,3	178,850*
131	10 cent on 60ct	1,2,3	123,800
132	12 1/2 cent on 75ct	1,3,4	102,050
133	15 cent on 1 1/2 Gld	2,3	61,150
134	25 cent on 2 1/4 Gld	2,3	37,350
135	30 cent on 4 1/2 Gld	2,3	33,800
136	50 cent on 7 1/2 Gld	1,3	36,100

* 178,850 according to Schiller and De Kruyf and the 1951 NVPH "speciale"; however, the 1987 NVPH "speciale" says 178,300.



Figure 1: Block of six of NVPH #132 of positions 5-7, 15-17, with variety 132f at position 6.

The stamps were issued in Paramaribo on October 26, 1927, where they sold out within a few hours. As was so often the case in Surinam, there is a certain speculative aura surrounding this issue. These stamps were, however, used in franking for quite a while; they were demonetized on August 28, 1930.

There is an interesting plate variety on the 12 1/2 ct: at position 6 (of the first horizontal row) the fraction bar is sometimes absent. Figure 1 shows a block of 6 (some idiot removed the top selvedge!) with the variety top center. Figure 2 shows an enlargement. The panes in the "Nederlands Postmuseum" show the variety on plate 1, and both absent and present on plates 3 and 4.



Figure 2: Enlarged stamp of position 6, from the block of Figure 1.

Interestingly, we had access to a pane of the same 12 1/2 cent stamp with a clear plate "2" imprint (see Figure 3). This plate number has never been reported before. This particular pane does not have the absent fraction bar variety. So we have presently the following observations:

	132f variety	132 normal
plate 1	v	?
plate 2	?	v
plate 3	v	v
plate 4	v	v

This leaves us with a considerable puzzle; how is it possible that the plate error could appear and disappear three times? This is the more mystifying

since Figure 2 leaves absolutely no doubt with regard to the total and complete absence of that division

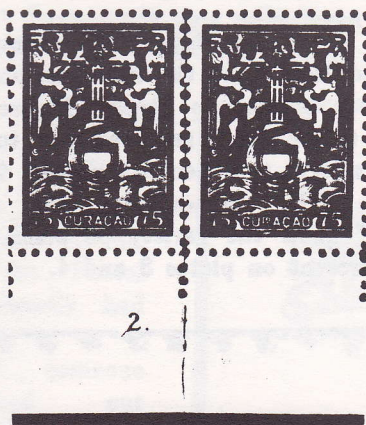


Figure 3: Portion of a full sheet of #132, showing plate 2. This sheet did not contain a 132f.

bar. It is now absolutely imperative that the two question marks in the above table be removed. Can anyone help?

Thanks are due to Frank Julsen, to the "Nederlands Postmuseum", and particularly to Laurence Rehm for miraculously producing Figure 2 with the dark brown background suppressed against the black overprint.

Comment by the editor: Perhaps we only have a question mark here if we assume that before the overprint was applied all the sheets of 75-cf stamps were kept in the order of printing, that is, a pile with Plate 1 sheets on top and Plate 4 sheets at the bottom. This is most unlikely. We must, given the appearance of complete 12 1/2's on some sheets, assume that the sheets were not in order and that during the printing the fraction bar broke off.

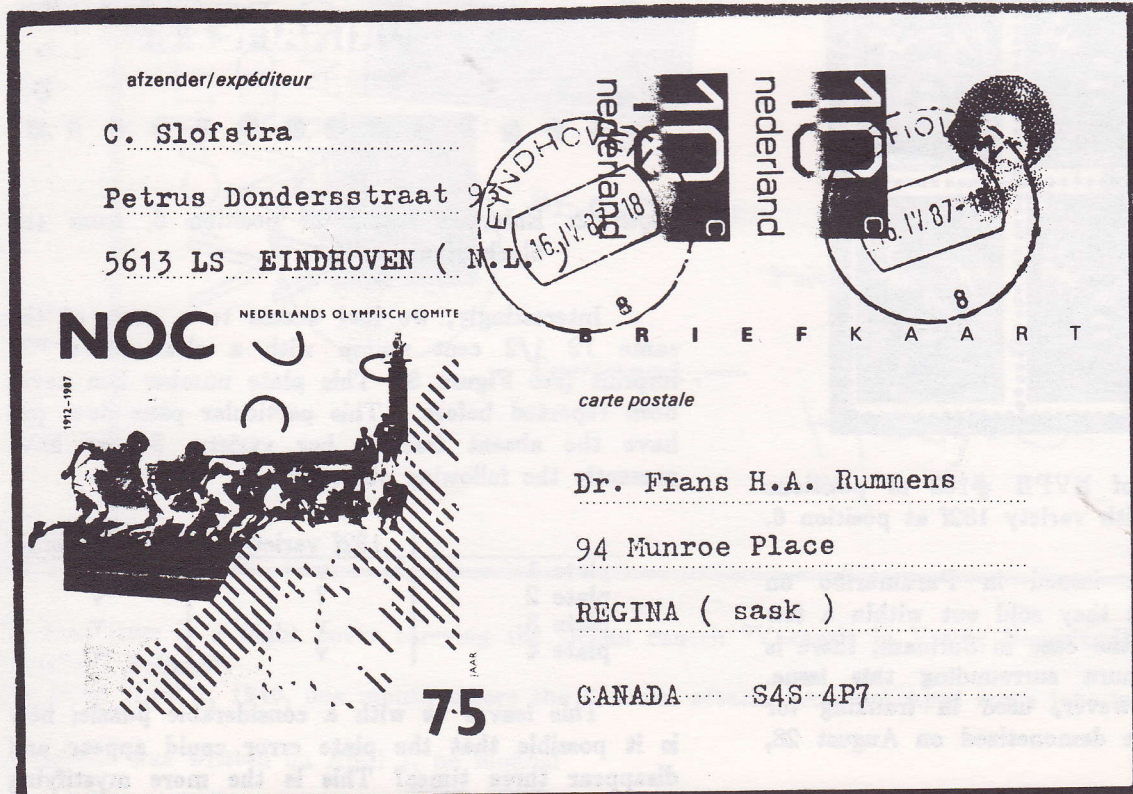
THE STATIONERY COLUMN

Frans H.A. Rummens.

On April 16 a new commemorative post card was issued. The occasion was the Netherlands Olympic Committee reaching the respectable age of 75 years. The design shows the start of the 800 m race in the Amsterdam Olympic Stadion in 1928. The

five olympic rings are also represented, somewhere; the yellow one has wandered away entirely from the design (it is seen just above the D of EINDHOVEN in the sender's address). 2 1/2 million of these cards have been printed in the 5c denomination (Beatrix!).

Designer was Matt van Santvoort.



In the 'stationery column' of last December (Neth. Phil. Vol 10, #2, p 42) we wrote about the "Postmerken '86" post card. We then speculated that the cachet was an overprint, applied on regular post cards. We now know that the "Postmerken '86" card was indeed a 'privately over-printed post card', albeit that Enschedé & Sons were the private printers.

THE NETHERLANDS INTERNMENT STAMPS

by K.E. König
translated by J. de Kruyf
Conclusion

The study of the material available to me – including the 55 letters with internment stamps in the Postal Museum – further proved the following to me: the majority of the cancellations are dated before February 15, 1916; the earliest date is February 3, the latest March 8, 1916 (Postal Museum). This letter must have slipped by the Postal Authorities because, as we saw before, the PTT notified the High Command that the German military authorities in Belgium had refused to accept the letters and had returned them with an imprint of one of the stamps "Zurück, weil unzulässig" or "unzulässig zurück", either framed or unframed and in various letter types (see fig. 3, 7, 16 and 17). The internees got their letters back and were informed of the circumstances, so that we can reasonably assume that cancellations after February 1916 do not (cannot) exist.

Be careful of forgeries, however, and this is a warning that was already made in the Dutch philatelic press in 1917. I cannot but repeat this warning and heavily underline it. In the course of my study it was proved to me – and confirmed by reliable persons – that for a period of several years an official fabricated such letters with markings in his possession. Cancellations after February 1916 are immediately suspect. Earlier markings – they also exist, I saw one from "Amersfoort, November 21, 1915" – are, of course, pure nonsense. Among seven letters with the green stamp, sent to me by the expertising service of the Society, were two forged letters. One was quite obvious, the other one was complicated.



Fig. 16 Not a 100% letter. It misses a postal cancellation



Fig. 15 Post card from Breda to Legerplaats bij Zeist

Also be extremely careful with letters on which only oval (usually violet) military markings are shown. These stamps, almost without exception, fell into private hands – or else they can be easily reproduced – and such a marking does not offer the slightest proof that the letter is a genuinely used internment letter. Such a letter should normally show:

1. A postal town cancellation
2. A military Internment-depot marking
3. The marking: PORTVRIJ / FRANC DE PORT / Militaires étrangers / internés dans les Pays-Bas
4. One of the German censor markings: Zurück, weil unzulässig

In addition there often is the signature or the initials of one of the camp commanders, partly on the letter

and partly on the stamp.

It need not surprise us that the military markers themselves are not in evidence at the Postal Museum. These were the property of the military and were not postal markings. More suspicious, however, is the fact that after checking the archives of the Museum, it was discovered that not all the postal markings were on hand. The following markers are contained in the archives of the Museum:

- WOLFHEZEN - INTERNEERINGS-DEPOT, name- and date stamp
- HATTEM - INTERNEERINGSDEPOT, st. 1 and 2, name- and date stamp
- RIJS - INTERNEERINGSDEPOT, name- and date stamp
- LEGERPLAATS BIJ LOOSDUINEN, date stamp
- LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST, name- and date stamp
- LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST, st. 1, 2 and 3, date stamp
- UDEN VLUCHTOORD, namestamp and date stamp
- UDEN VLUCHTOORD, st. 2, date stamp
- UTRECHT, EXP. VOOR BELGIE, name- and date stamp

and - four - samples of the rubber stamp:

PORTVRIJ
FRANC DE PORT
Militaires étrangers
internés dans les Pays-Bas

Not on hand therefore are: LEGERPLAATS BIJ OLDEBROEK, LEGERPLAATS BIJ HARDERWIJK, NUNSPEET VLUCHTOORD, EDE VLUCHTOORD

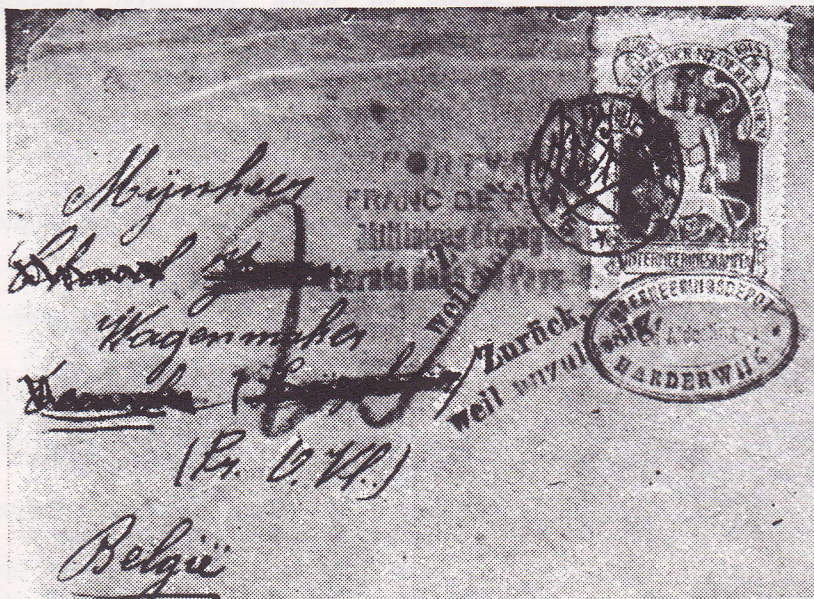


Fig. 17



Fig. 18 Internment camp markings

and LEGERPLAATS BIJ LAREN (N.H.), the last of which was not used for cancelling letters of Belgian internees.

It is superfluous to state that the brown stamps with any cancellation belong in fantasy land. I know that something like that has been fabricated, but it can only have been done unauthorized. If, in addition, they are cancelled February 1916, they must have been prepared later and cancelled with the cooperation of a postal employee. In short, this is a philatelic impossibility, a nothing.

The markings that decorate these internment letters are very interesting and I will reproduce a few here for our readers including the marking:

PORTVRIJ / FRANC DE PORT / SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE,

a marking that also occurs with the last line first.

All these internment markings, cancellations of army posts, obliterations of internment camps, censor markings, etc. are silent reminders of the first world-wide holocaust that wrecked humanity in our century²⁴).

²⁴) In the 2nd World War numerous collectors also pounced on such markings.

3,800 COMPLETE SETS IMPORTED FROM BELGIUM

In my "Acknowledgement" I wrote that in the middle of 1949 some 3,800 sets were imported from Belgium for — it is said — one guilder per set. Because the color was so much lighter and the sudden appearance of "the very last remnant", there was at first considerable sales resistance. The stamps were thought to be reproductions, reprints from the original plates or even forgeries. This was quite understandable since nobody knew anything about these stamps. Not only was the printer unknown, but also the number issued, the remainders, and what happened to the plates. And, to top it all, had not Mr. J. Bohlmeier — wellknown to the older collectors — in 1918 written the following²⁵):

"Yet, a warning should be issued here. Not only were thousands of these stamps returned from the camps to The Hague, but the printer can continue to produce them. Lately, large quantities have been offered, together with the brown stamp. The brown one is not worth more than a picture, don't waste any money on that. The used stamps on cover are interesting because of the Dutch and German markings".

Since I did not know whether I would ever be able to track down the printer, I started some preliminary investigations. The paper was analyzed by the paper expert Dr. J. Bekk of the laboratory of G.H. Bührmann's Papiergroothandel N.V. of Amsterdam. For the burning test this expert had on hand a copy of the pale green stamp (one of the 3,800 Belgian imports) and a white margin from a block of 12 stamps from a sheet of the dark green stamps. Both showed the same fiber composition, namely particles of pine wood, esparto grass and rags, and Dr. Bekk in his report Number 10,053 of November 29, 1949 reached the following conclusion:

"Because of the rare combination of rags, esparto and pine wood, it would be most unlikely that the two papers did not come from the same source".

Forging, or reprinting (from newly prepared stones) on original paper seemed rather unusual, and after a visit to the Postal Museum this theory could be discarded. A study of a full sheet there — also of the light print — brought me further along. Several plate faults noted on stamps on cover, were located in the sheet, proving that they were not forgeries, nor reprints and that at the most they could be later printings from the same plate (stone) on original paper.

Further searching — talks with experts and correspondence with the firm of J. van Boekhoven — established that this premise was also very unlikely.

²⁵) In "Nederl. Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde" 1918, page 20.

It could be assumed and this has been confirmed by printers — that there was no question of later printings at all, but that such shadings are the result of over- or under inking of the plate or — because the prints were not all made on the same day, or — because the printer had to re-ink during the printing.

The plates (stones) no longer exist and we can safely assume that when the order was stopped by the authorities, the plates were re-polished by the printer so that they could be used again. The Frisch Brothers Printery took over all the stones of the firm of J.R. van den Berg and I talked with two employees (lithographers) of the Frisch Bros. who at the time of transfer sorted the stones. I have learned much from these two printers and they have answered many of my questions. They told me that the "Internment stones" were not on hand at the transfer and therefore are not present now. In this connection the firm of J. van Boekhoven wrote me as follows²⁶):

"The stones were the property of this printer (J.R. v.d. Berg) and he probably re-polished them to be used again".²⁷)

After what I have heard about the person of J.R. van den Berg, it would be silly to think that he would have continued printing on his own after the order was stopped by the authorities. As far as the printer was concerned, the internment stamps — they were stamps without imprint of value — were nothing more than his regular work, like labels for bottles, cans, etc. Also, no stamp collector was interested in them at the time. In addition, the one issue of 65,000 finished the job, because the following month the brown stamps would be used. The brown stamps were delivered a month later and it is not improbable that the stones used for the green stamps had already been re-polished.

Whether strange things were done with the stamps that remained in the internment camps, is a different story. In view of the information received, my answer to that question has to be a firm YES. One of my informants, a retired high officer who at the time occupied a high and important position at the Zeist-Amersfoort camp, answered my question regarding the discontinuance of the camps as follows²⁸):

"Without doubt no attention whatsoever

²⁶) Letter of September 12, 1950

²⁷) Storing of stones is no small matter. Only when the printer expects to use them again does he keep them, otherwise they are re-polished to be used again.

²⁸) Letter dated October 8, 1949

was given to camp property or equipment that was loaned to the camps. Hundreds of musical instruments, among which some of my own private property, the whole library, again including hundreds of my own books, were simply given to the internees as presents, etc. etc."

And about the stamps themselves, my informant writes in the same letter:

"In the summer of that year (1916) my adjutant, the Belgian Sub-lieutenant Somers, unrequested, brought me a large number of them - I mean the green (stamps). Evidently on that day and afterward, being valueless, they were given away in large quantities to all comers. Even though at that time I had a stamp collection, I did not even put them in my album and about ten years later I found the whole lot all stuck together and threw most of them out".

When later I required again about the bundle of stamps, this officer wrote me²⁹):

"This bunch of stamps was left over, uncanceled; I have none left but I remember that I sold a good number of them in 1940 or 1941 to a father and son, stampdealers from

Apeldoorn, who were very much interested. Kleekamp or a similar name."

Shortly after the liberation (WW II), at a stamp dealer in Amsterdam, I remember having seen a large part of a sheet of the green stamp, unused but without gum. From all of this we can safely draw the conclusion that only a fraction of the stamps were sent back to the internment service at The Hague. And what had been returned has probably been disposed of, most likely to one or more smart boys who something in this. In 1918 Mr. J.B. Robert wrote the following³⁰):

"In January in The Hague one person offered 30,000 brown and 10,000 green stamps @ 1/2 cent and 3 cent respectively and another offered 108 green stamps, pasted on yellow envelopes @ 1 gulden per stamp. One of the interested parties asked us for advice and we tried to discourage the purchase, but, as so often happens, both did buy the lot, but for 50 cent. This 'bargain' they could not let slip by."

Thus it can be seen that the irregularities did not take place at the time of printing but later with the remainders. The authorities did not order destruction and the leftovers were sold at will.

OPINIONS ABOUT THE STAMPS THEN AND NOW

The following will show what some collectors of 1917/18 thought of the internment stamps. An author, unknown to me, (for several reasons he appears to be an enthusiastic Belgian philatelist) writes the following in a 'letter to the editor'³⁰):

"This stamp, issued by the Dutch Government, has officially been recognized for postal use! Why is no mention made of it in the Yvert & Tellier catalog nor in the war-stamp catalogs of Senf, Booleman, Gibbons, etc.? Used on cover, only a small number can possibly have been preserved, in my opinion 1000 at the most. Intended for the soldier, he was very careless with them. The majority were damaged, lost or destroyed during an unexpected alarm, I believe in April of 1916. It was recommended that the internees destroy anything that appeared superfluous so that in case of a sudden departure, their baggage would be as light as possible. It will be very difficult to obtain this stamp in the future and it could very well become the "greatest rarity" of Holland. It is to Holland's credit to find a rare stamp that was not issued for speculative reasons!"

And Mr. J.B. Robert wrote the following about these stamps³⁰):

"For this 'letter to the editor' also (meant

is the letter mentioned above), the same as for all such letters, the editor is not responsible, although he considers inclusion of this stamp obligatory in all war-stamp catalogs, and also in catalogs that list labels indicative of free franking privileges and that have been recognized as such by the postal authorities. Our internment stamps, for instance, can be compared with those of Switzerland".

And what is our thinking in 1951, the year I am writing this, 35 years after the stamps were issued and used for one month? The green stamp, the one that was officially issued, is undoubtedly collectible even though it was issued by the military - and not by the postal authorities. As mentioned in the Introduction, they were tolerated by the PTT in its decree and by its directive to employees to officially cancel these stamps. Added to that is the fact that the stamps were issued for legitimate use and not for speculative purposes³¹). It is puzzling, therefore, that our internment stamps are listed only in the "Michel" and "Zumstein" catalogs. The other worldwide catalogs, such as Yvert, Gibbons and Scott don't mention them at all; even Yvert, the bible of Dutch collectors, which does list the Swiss internment

³⁰) See "Nederl. Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde" 1918, page 21.

³¹) See "Postscript" at the end of this article

²⁹) Letter of June 13, 1950

stamps of 1870/71. Perhaps you know it, that little pink stamp with the black text (and nothing else):

Militaires français
internés en Suisse
Gratis

of which the printer and the number issued is unknown³²). The logic of this escapes me. The late J.B. Robert wrote that our stamp could be compared with that of Switzerland; I would say - after my study - that our interment stamp (on cover) "philatelically" is on a higher level, even though the Swiss stamp is a free franking stamp and ours is not (the well-known marking was used for that in our case). In any case, during the month of February 1916, NO letter or card could be sent to Belgium, by a Belgian internee, without this stamp.

The Netherlands internment stamps - on genuine letters with the various markings - are deserving of much greater interest than they have received to date. We are therefore of the opinion that the price ratio of mint versus genuinely used on cover, as they are listed in the Dutch catalog and pricelists, is entirely out of line. The price for a mint copy is entirely too high. I have called attention to this in 1948, unfortunately without results. And this is still the same old story. The notation in the so-called 'Dealers Catalog': "Genuinely used copies on covers or cards are rare" may just as well be omitted for this notation is completely contradicted by the



Fig. 19 Postmarked "Legerplaats bij Harderwijk"

price listed for mint copies. And why does this catalog mention that: "of the green stamp 23,252 copies were distributed" while in my article of 1948, which article has been read by the catalog committee, it is clearly stated that - among others - 23,252 copies were distributed in Zeist. Pay particular attention to that "among others". There were other camps and they were surely distributed there also.

And what about the price of the brown stamps. This prepared - but never issued - stamp (this has now been established) is priced far too high. Apart from the fact that this stamp has to be catalogued as 'prepared, but not issued' and as such should be much lower in price, we can also safely assume that many more copies of this stamp were preserved.

SAMPLE OF CATALOGUING

February 1, 1916. Internment stamps. Stone print on paper without watermark by the printing firm of J.R. van den Berg, Amsterdam. Designed by the graphic artist A.P.W. van Starrenburg. Depicted is the 'Netherlands Virgin' with lion and flag, on the brown stamp part of an internment camp in the background. The stamps have no imprint of value; line perforated 11 1/2 x 11 1/2, number issued 65,000 of each

No. 1 - green

No. 2 - brown and yellow

The color varieties in the green stamp are the result of more or less ink. Printed in sheets of 65 (5

rows of 13), the brown stamp in sheets of 72 (9 rows of 8).

The stamps were intended for use by Belgians interned in the Netherlands on letters to Belgium. Each internee was to receive two stamps each month @ 1/2 cent each. The green ones were intended for use in February, the brown - if use had not been prohibited on February 24 - in March. The brown stamp, cancelled is pure fantasy.

The earliest cancellation on the green stamp - February 3, 1916. Beware of cancellations after February 1916, also of letters without postal markings! Forgeries do exist!

³²) See: Zumstein, Special catalog Switzerland.

POSTSCRIPT

During the printing of my brochure and as a reaction to my series of articles in our "Maandblad", an article of Mr. J.M.N. v.d. Drift³³⁾ appeared in the "Maandblad" in which, on the basis of my study and the quoted sources, he concluded the following:

"We have written before that these labels, at best, could be considered war mementos which, on cover, are worth whatever someone will pay for them. The loose stamp, unused or with a fraction of a marking, in our opinion has no value whatsoever and money spent for it is wasted".

As you notice, the writer has very little regard for our internment stamps. That, of course, is his privilege, although we cannot agree with his reasoning. He, too, compares ours with the one of Switzerland of 1870/71 and says the following:

"There is a marked difference with the Swiss internment stamp, which, according to its inscription, is a mark of freedom of postage; in no way can the Netherlands internment stamp be compared with this stamp, a real war stamp".

I have indeed compared both stamps, but I have never called ours a 'freedom of postage stamp' in my study. What I don't see, however, is that the Swiss - because they were free franking stamps - were "true war stamps" and that ours, because they were not, were NOT "true war stamps". A thick fog still shrouds the Swiss stamps; this fog has now been lifted in our case and that was the purpose of my study. Anyone may think of it what he wishes. I consider the green stamp genuinely used on cover and provided with all the markings, of postal and philatelic value.

CLOSING WORD

With this I have set down everything the Netherlands Internment stamps and -markings had to tell me and, after three years of tracking down and with the help of many others, I have been able to preserve all this for the future. For a moment I have hesitated to put all I had learned down on paper. It seemed like desecration, in the sense that many of the big and little secrets that, after hours of searching, reams of correspondence and numerous discussions with official and private persons, had been extracted, and would now be made available to anyone and by publication reduce the attractiveness. Until now, whenever I had looked into something and had found the answer, it seemed like a secret between

the stamps, the markings and myself. Now all has been published and anyone can read it; this seemed like some form of treason to me.

There is another reason that made me hesitate to publish, and I will get this off my chest here and now. Interest in literature among Dutch stamp collectors - and even among the leading figures in the stamp world - is sadly lacking, and any financial contribution that is solicited for this, is too much. Why throw your money away!

I close this study with a polite but urgent request to all. Please let me know what in this study has not been covered, or has been partly or incorrectly described, so that I may have the satisfaction to know everything about my "stepchildren", the Netherlands Internment stamps.

Koog a/d Zaan, February 26, 1952

³³⁾ See "Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie" 1952, page 18: "Hebben de Interneringszegels philatelistische waarde? (Do the Netherlands Internment stamps have philatelic value?)"

Reprinted from Netherlands & Colonial Philately through the courtesy of J. de Kruijf.

A PHILATELIC CALENDAR

by: Julius Mansbach

March 15, 1614



Franciscus de la Boë Sylvius, the first of our physicians, was born on this date in Hanau in Germany of Flemish parents. He received his medical instruction in Sedan, Leiden, Wittenberg and Jena, and obtained his degree at Basel in 1637. In 1638 he returned to Leiden where he had hoped to obtain a post at the University, but he was allowed only to give private lectures in anatomy. In 1641 he moved to Amsterdam, where he soon established a lucrative practice, was appointed physician to the poor-relief board of the Walloon Church, and became a supervisor of the Amsterdam College of Physicians in 1657. In 1658, he became Professor of Medicine at the University of Leiden, where he inspired several greatly gifted students.

AIR MAIL STAMPS OF THE NETHERLANDS INDIES POSTAL HISTORY: A PICTORIAL ESSAY

by M. Hardjasudarma

A grand total of eighteen air mail stamps were issued in a five-year period, between 1928 and 1933. Initially, these special stamps could only be used to prepay air mail charges over and above the standard postage for any given piece of mail. Ordinary, non air mail stamps were needed to fulfill the standard fees including registration. This regulation was abolished on October 1, 1933 (April 1, 1931, according to Bulterman).

Figure 1

The first air mail series consisted of five overprinted values issued in September, 1928. The cover depicted was registered at Tegal on October 29, 1928, sent on to Bandoeng, where it was put aboard a plane at Andir airport, which went on the first return flight to the Netherlands on November 6, 1928. Arrival postmarks of Amsterdam (on reverse) and The Hague (special purple propeller cancel) dated November 16, 1928. Note regular 32 1/2 ct stamp (lower left) to fulfill basic postal fees.

Figure 2

Cover bearing second air mail set. Mailed from Koetaradja on January 7, 1929, about one month after it was issued. Basic fees again prepaid by 32 1/2 ct definitive.

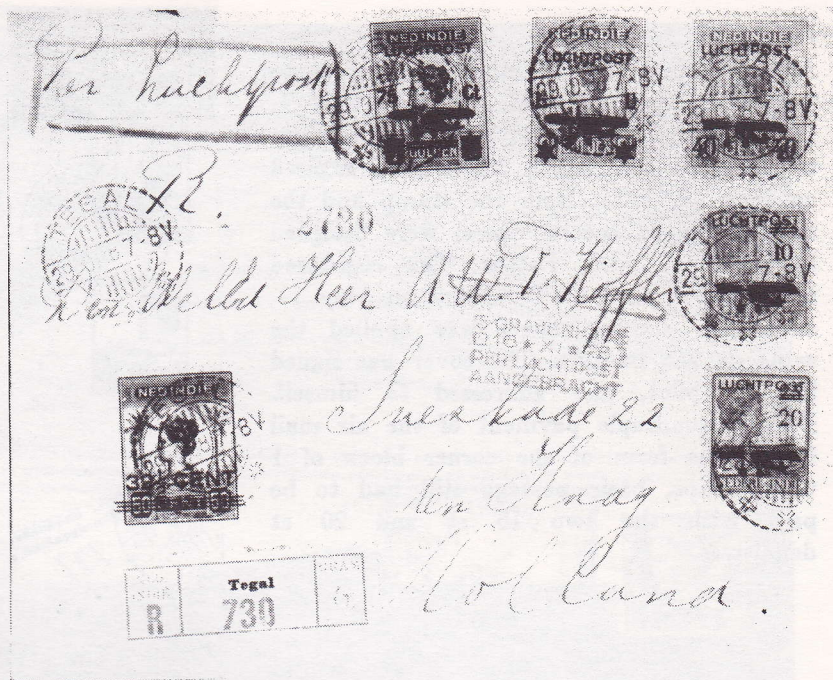


Figure 3

Top: 30 ct black overprint on issue of 1928. Weltevreden, November 14, 1930 to Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Bottom: 30 ct green overprint on issue of 1928. Batavia Centrum November 20, 1933 to Aruba, Netherlands Antilles. Arrival postmarks: Curaçao December 28, 1933 and Aruba January 3, 1934. The two stamps were issued because of a recent lowering of the air mail rate for five gram letters to the Netherlands. The black - green distinction of the overprints is unfortunately absent in this picture.

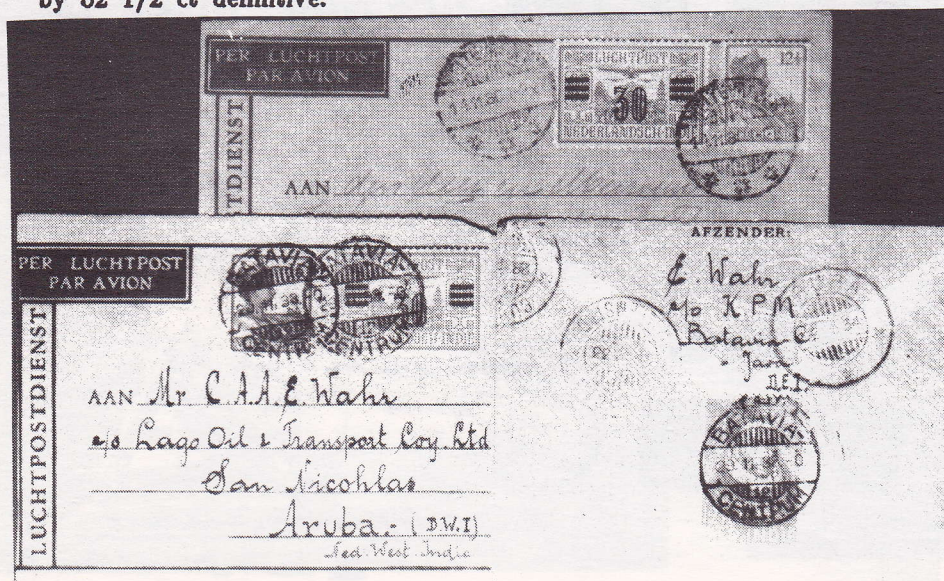


Figure 4

Abel Tasman flight, Netherlands Indies to Australia, May 12, 1931. Issued April 1, 1931, the special 1 Gld stamp could only be used for this flight. Its validity expired on May 16, 1931. Both the stamp and the lozenge shaped special cancel were designed by the pilot, M.P. Pattist. This registered letter was mailed at Bandoeng on May 11, 1931, the special cancel was applied the same day at Batavia. The cover was signed by the pilot, and addressed to himself. Despite quadruple payment of the air mail fee in the form of the corner block of 1 Gld stamps, basic postage still had to be paid with the two 15 ct and 20 ct definitives.

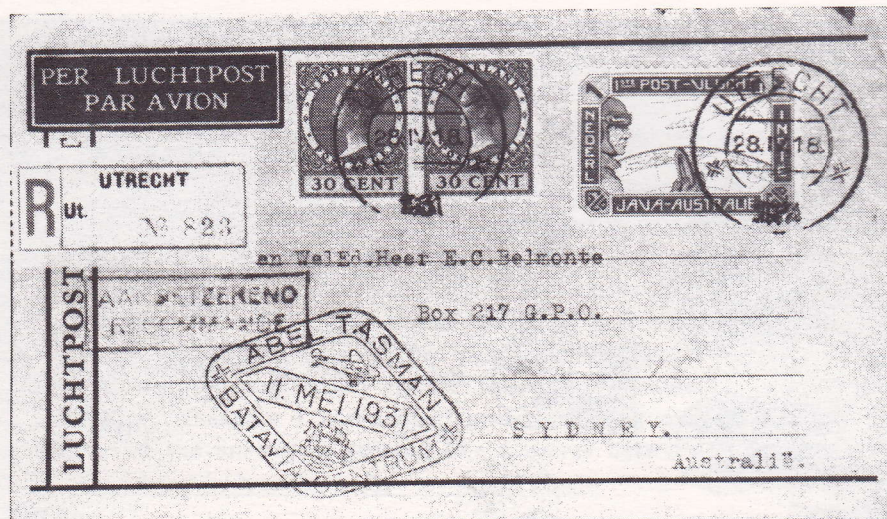


Figure 5

Abel Tasman flight cover mailed from the Netherlands (Utrecht, April 28, 1931). The special 1 Gld stamp paid the Netherlands Indies to Australia air mail rate. No other stamp could be used for this purpose. The 30 ct pair of four sided syncopated perforation Netherlands stamps prepaid the remaining postal charges. This arrangement, allowing a Netherlands Indies stamp to be obliterated by a Netherlands cancel is unique.

Figure 6

White Cross Colony charity series on registered cover, Semarang February 10, 1932 to Amsterdam. Air mail fee prepaid by two air mail stamps, including the low value (30 ct) of a three value set issued May 12, 1931.

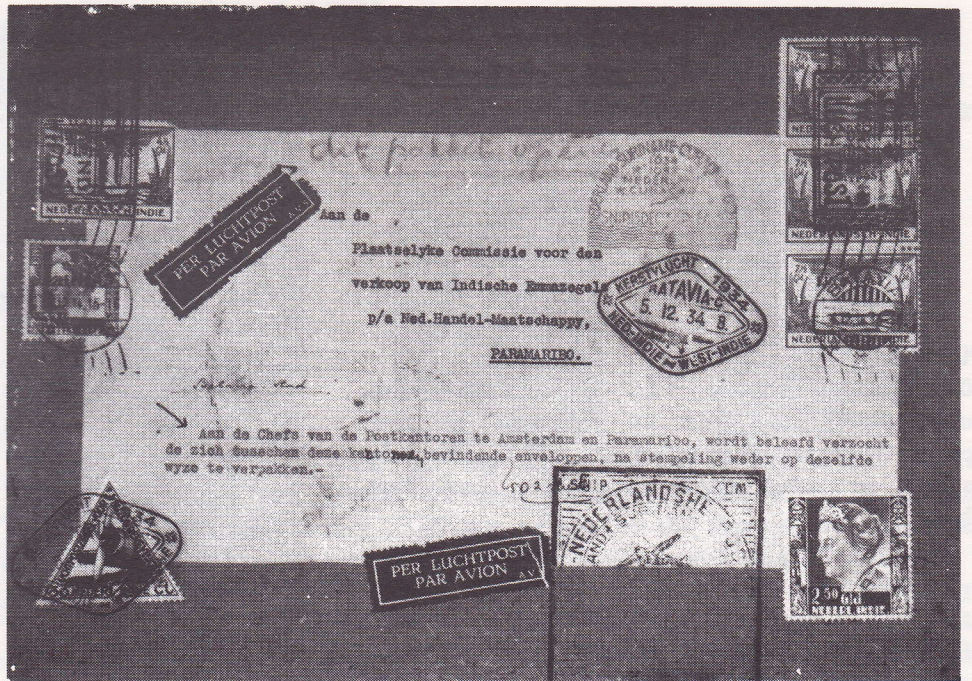


Figure 7

The two high values of the May 12, 1931, air mail series, on the front panel of what used to be a heavy cardboard package containing 502 special flight covers. The airplane "De Kwartel" transported these and other mail to the Netherlands, where they were further flown on board "De Snip" (square cancel at bottom right of figure 7, as well as semicircular cancel in figure 8 RIGHT) to the West Indies and Surinam.

Figure 8

Magnified views of figure 7
LEFT: Single 4 1/2 Gld stamp obliterated with roller cancel "Send via air mail". At bottom 30 ct triangle bearing the special "East Indies - West Indies" flight cancel, Batavia-C. December 5, 1934.
RIGHT: Vertical strip of three of the 7 1/2 Gld value, similarly obliterated. Two stamps unfortunately have nibbed perforations, but this is difficult to avoid



since these high values were only used on heavy air mail parcels. These were the only 4 1/2 and 7 1/2 Gld values ever issued in Netherlands Indies, other than the high values of the Marine Insurance series.

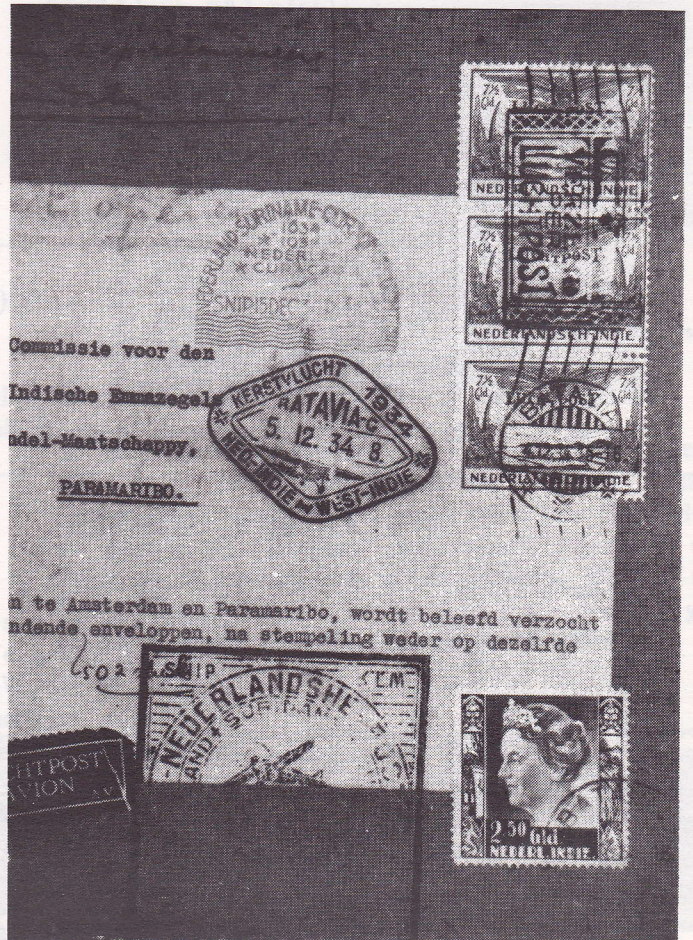
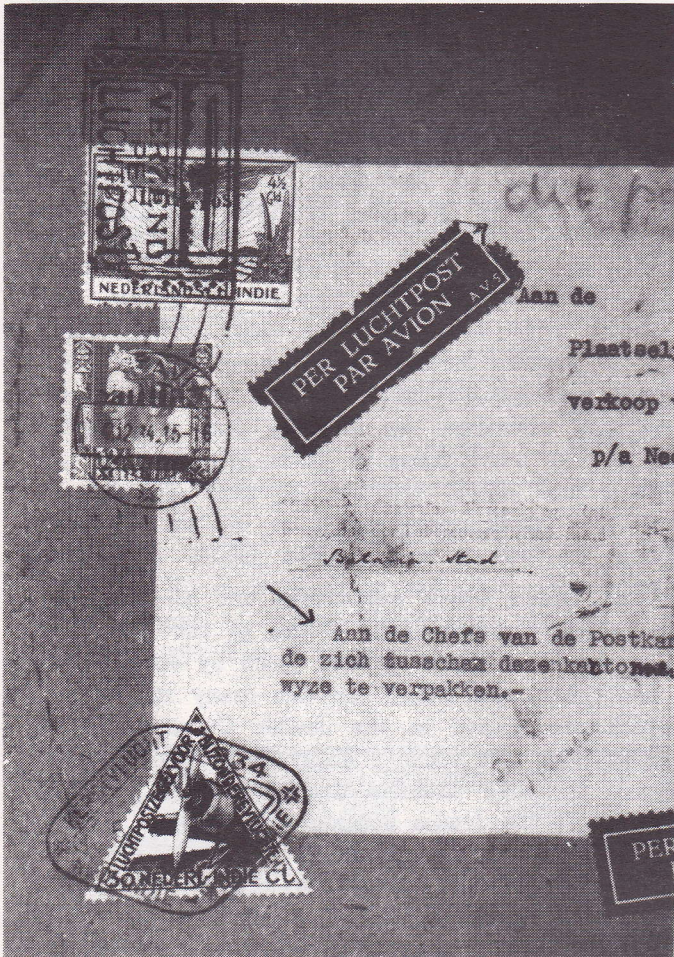


Figure 9

50 ct blue overprint on 1.50 Gld air mail stamp, issued July 1932. Used on registered air mail cover, Semarang November 1, 1934, after the special air mail stamp regulation had been abolished.



Figure 10

30 ct "Special flights" stamp, the only triangular stamp issued by this colony. As the name implies, it could only be used for special flights. The stamp bears the special cancel of the "Pelikaan" flight, Bandoeng December 26, 1933 (bottom left). This was the return flight to the Netherlands. Postage from Holland to Bandoeng had previously been prepaid by the 30 ct Dutch triangular stamp (Top, right) cancelled with a special red postmark ("postjager") at Amsterdam on December 9, 1933. Arrival at Bandoeng was on December 22, 1933. See also figure 8 LEFT.

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References:

- NVPH Special Catalogue (in Dutch).
- Bulterman, P.R., Postmarks/Netherlands Indies/1864-1950 (in Dutch).
- Boesman, J., From the history of air mail transportation (in Dutch).

A PHILATELIC CALENDAR

by: Julius Mansbach

March 21, 1975



On this date, a stamp was issued which reproduces one of the many tombstones in the Jewish cemetery Beth Heim (House of the Living) at Blenheim, Curaçao which is the oldest burial ground (used by settlers from Europe) in the Western hemisphere and which contains many monumental headstones, replicas of which are housed in the Jewish Cultural Historic Museum in Curaçao's Kuiperstraat. The stamp's design is a fragment from the headstone of Mordechay Hesquiau Mamias de Orasto, an influential figure and prominent merchant in the Jewish community who died on May 5, 1716. It depicts the solemn entrance of the Biblical Mordechai riding the king's horse, guided by Haman through the streets of Susa, capital of Persia, after victories over their enemies. Details of the story are found in the well-known Book of Esther.

GREAT MEN

This fifth instalment of the Great Men (and Women) series, long delayed, centers on only one stamp, but roams around a lot more than previous segments which described some of the great men and women the Dutch PTT has deemed worthy of remembering. Of course, the series so far has concerned itself only with the original sets of "Summer Stamps" which unfortunately was broken off in 1954.

This time we want to discuss the only architect the Netherlands has portrayed, namely H. P. Berlage, who lived from 1856 to 1934, and who can be found on the 7 + 5 ct of the 1954 "Summer" stamps (NVPH No. 643; Scott No. B266). Remarkably enough, the building which constituted Berlage's earliest "masterpiece", the Exchange in Amsterdam, can be seen on one of



the summer stamps of the following year (NVPH No. 657; Scott No. B278).

This latter set is otherwise quite interesting too, and should be compared with another "architectural" set, the summer stamps of 1969 (NVPH Nos. 920-24; Scott Nos. B444-48) and finally with the two 1982

stamps depicting the Palace on the Dam Square in Amsterdam (NVPH Nos. 1273-74; Scott Nos. 647-48).

Leaving Berlage alone for a moment, let's get somewhat closer to the architecture chosen for these stamps. The 1955 stamps definitely show us buildings, and even if we see only a detail, the building stands firmly behind that detail. On the other hand, the 1969 stamps - not the greatest designs by R. J. Draijer - are first too two-dimensional, the two villas, and wind up with an impossible overview in the 25 ct, which could as easily have been a child's construction with toy building blocks, and a distant view in the 45 ct which more likely suggests an architect's model rather than a congress building. Only the 20 ct is more or less acceptable in that it tries to give a three-dimensional view of a 1930 open-air school in Amsterdam.

The Palace on the Dam Square stamps suffer from a malady which almost all Dutch stamps lately display.



With very few exceptions the choices of the Esthetic Service for stamp designers seem to be afraid that they don't put enough on the stamps, with the result that the stamps themselves need to be "explained" in detail and cannot be made out by the unaided eye. Perhaps they would look better if they were slightly enlarged (at least 4 times) but with the intimate size of 27 x 32 mm they only provoke smiles (some people) or grumbles (some other people).

What was so great about Berlage that he was the only architect ever portrayed on a Dutch stamp? It seems that he was the first one to discard neo-Romanesque, neo-Gothic, or neo-Renaissance styles (see the Rijksmuseum for a gruesome example



of neo-Dutch-Renaissance, NVPH No. 1335; Scott No. 671), and build something in an honest contemporary style, which may have had some debt to Morris in England, but which produced the Exchange in Amsterdam which seems to "fit" in the Dutch surroundings. It is certainly not a building you would expect in France or England.



Is it great architecture? I don't know, especially when one remembers what happened in Chicago around and before that time, and what Frank Lloyd Wright did in the early years of this century. Perhaps all we can say is that it is great Dutch architecture, and leave it at that.

Although architectural theory in the Netherlands took flight soon after the Exchange was finished, and even exerted some influence in other countries (see the recent republishing of the "De Stijl" journals), the main result in my view was that especially the "Amsterdam School" produced some very nice-looking facades, which are still admired, behind

which the dwellings were willy-nilly fit in. There is one famous block in Amsterdam with such a nice front in which the windows were found at floor level of the apartments behind the front. Needless to say, new windows had to be cut in afterwards.

When I began writing this installment of "Great Men (and Women)" I did not know that the Europe stamps issued May 12 of this year were to portray "Modern art with the emphasis on architecture." An article by an architect illustrated with all the "architecture" stamps the Netherlands has issued is to be found in the May Maandblad.

Paul E. van Reyen

COIL CORNER

The PTT Philatelic Service has recognized the demand by coil collectors, to make available strips from the 5000-subject coils currently being used by the large-volume mailers. In a recent Philatelic Service Publicity Release, thirteen of these otherwise unobtainable coils, were briefly offered to collectors. Again, these were not shipped automatically to subscribers with Current Accounts, but had to be ordered separately.

no longer be available by the time this issue of the Journal is received.

Fortunately for those of us who like to mount our coils on an album page (rather than just stash them away in a vault box, for instance), all of the coils in this listing have control numbers, which means that the customary strips of 5 would be all that is required.

Stamps on coils of 5000 pieces

In 1986 some definitives and special stamps have been issued again on coils of 5000 pieces.

They differ from the stamps in sheets by their countnumbers on the gumside of each fifth stamp. The special stamps on coils of 5000 pieces are perforated just like the stamps in sheets, on four sides.

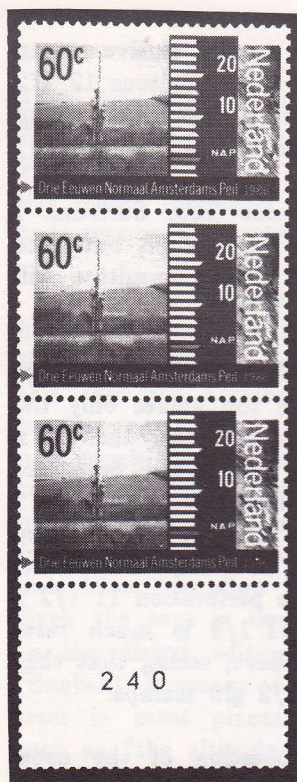
Except the stamp Normaal Amsterdams Peil (864112) all stamps of the following list are provided with a sprayed-countnumber. Collectors of coilstamps of 5000 pieces can obtain these stamps in strips of five, from the Philatelic Service in Groningen.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Order-number</i>	<i>Price of strip of five</i>
60 cents Figure (two sides)	104018	Dfls. 3,00
65 cents Figure (two sides)	104019	Dfls. 3,25
70 cents Beatrix (two sides)	404012	Dfls. 3,50
75 cents Beatrix (four sides)	404013	Dfls. 3,75
90 cents Beatrix (four sides)	405016	Dfls. 4,50
60 cents NAP (old numbering)	864112	Dfls. 3,00
70 cents Europa 1986	864412	Dfls. 3,50
50 cents Utrecht	864511	Dfls. 2,50
60 cents Utrecht	864512	Dfls. 3,00
75 cents Sport (draughts)	864711	Dfls. 3,75
75 cents Sport (billiards)	864712	Dfls. 3,75
65 cents Deltaworks	864811	Dfls. 3,25
75 cents Deltaworks	864812	Dfls. 3,75

These coil stamps will be available as long as supplies last but not later than 1 June 1987.

It is hoped that ASNP members interested in coils, took advantage of this offer in the Publicity Release, since the information on this offer was received too late for inclusion in the previous Coil Corner, and will

Several aspects of this list are worth noting; first, both numeral and the Queen definitives are included as well as commemoratives. Secondly, just one of the Beatrix definitives has the typical coil pattern of two



straight edges, while the other two are perforated four sides. Finally, one of the commemoratives has the last appearance of the conventionally-printed control number (60 ct Amsterdam Peil), while all of the others have the now-standard ink jet control number (which the PTT calls a "sprayed-countnumber").

The latest bulletin of the Automatic Booklet and Coil Stamp Contact Group (which is now called, much more simply, "Postaumat"), provides the information that the 55 ct Crowel coil has now appeared with inverted control number, and has been assigned catalogue number 1114Rb.

LHR



THINKING OUT LOUD

This is not an editorial, because editorials are serious things with a "message" and we don't want to give messages, especially not to collectors of postage stamps. They are far too individualistic to be interested in "messages."

No, this is just thinking out loud, and one thing that has struck me lately is the proliferation of small (medium) auctions in the Netherlands. This development may be deplored by some, others may not have thought about the favorable possibilities of a small auction house.

One of these is the possibility of acquiring some stamps that never appear in that way in the major houses. Imagine that you need the 5 and 10 guilder stamps, used, of the Surinam definitive set of 1945. You can, of course, bid on the whole set used at the major auctions, but for them to make one lot out of the 5 and 10 guilder stamps (even if they were available in the collection auctioned) does not pay.

Most lots at the major houses nowadays may be hundreds of guilders in catalog value (apart from the Nos. 1 and 2 of the Netherlands), but the smaller auctions may have and have had lots cataloguing no more than 15-20 guilders.

If you are the kind of collector who after a number of years has all the "cheap" stamps, and many of the expensive ones, bought at auction, but lacks a goodly number of the "in-betweens," those stamps that catalog from 10 guilders to 100 guilders, you might do well to contact a small auction house in the Netherlands to see what they can offer you. It has worked for your editor, and some other members have commented favorably on their dealings with a minor Dutch auction house. Perhaps it will work for you too. In case you are interested, your editor has a few addresses.

-o-

Many of you, readers, may have wondered about the "four issues" of the Journal I promised in March. Some thought that this meant that I would only be editor for one year. However, all I meant to say was that I was now responsible for the regular four issues per year. As a matter of fact, we are already looking for an editor who will take over in 1989, because I will be moving to France after retirement, and editing an American journal from the "wilds" of Burgundy must be an impossibility.

So, if any of you feel an urge to do something for the ASNP - yes, the line forms on the right -

be sure to let us know. The sooner you find out how simple it really is these days to be editor, the better.

-o-

One of our members in Canada has donated quite a few forgeries to the ASNP fakes collection. How did Mr. John Slofstra accomplish this? Well, with the book on fakes by Mr. van de Loo (and perhaps some articles in *Netherlands Philately* on fakes and forgeries) he has systematically gone through his collection and weeded out what he considered to be suspicious stamps. Quite a few of these were the well-executed postage dues forgeries of Surinam by Fournier. His message was always the same: If these are really forgeries, I'll donate them to the ASNP. Needless to say that we were very grateful to Mr. Slofstra. Any other member out there who feels like cleaning out his collection? It is very simple. Your editor will gladly supply you with a "second opinion" on any stamp you consider might be spurious.

And talking about fakes and forgeries, one of our members in Arizona received some stamps on approval from a dealer. One of the stamps in question was quite apparently a fake. The member wrote to the dealer about the stamp being fake, and offered to buy it as a *forgery*.

Perhaps I am too suspicious, but when I heard that no answer came from the dealer I was convinced that a less knowledgeable collector will receive this forgery next. Of course, as a real stamp.

-o-

Unfortunately, we feel we have a small gripe against the pricing policy of the NVPH Special Catalog. We have had this gripe for a number of years, but perhaps the NVPH Catalog Committee will now listen somewhat more closely. One never knows!

Please turn to 1928 in the Netherlands part of the catalog and look at the Child Welfare set of that year. As you notice, the two top values, the 7 1/2 and 12 1/2 ct occur in two different perforations, namely 12 x 12 and 12 x 12 1/2. If you see a used set it is a foregone conclusion that the set consists of 220-21B and 222-23A, that is, the two top values are 12 x 12. Although I have been collecting the Netherlands since about 1970 I have *never* seen a copy of the 12 1/2 ct perf. 12 x 12 1/2. It still is lacking in my collection.

Yet, the NVPH lists this totally elusive stamp at only 2.75 guilders *more* than the ubiquitous 12 1/2 ct perf. 12 x 12. Isn't it time that this stamp received a price that is commensurate with its rarity?

One more example, this one from Surinam. I am sure I have mentioned this one before, but once again, perhaps this time the NVPH Committee will listen.

The 1928 Jubilee set of Surinam has three different perforations, but of the top values only the 2 1/2 guilder occurs in two perforations, the 11 x 11 1/2, and the 11 1/2 x 11 1/2. Used both are listed at fl 525.00, yet some time ago at auction I had to spend almost the same amount on the used 2 1/2 guilder perf. 11 x 11 1/2 as I did for both the 2 1/2 and 5 guilders used in the perforation 11 1/2 x 11 1/2. Obviously, the 11 x 11 1/2 is much rarer than the NVPH wants us to believe, seeing that they give the same price to both 2 1/2 gld stamps.

And here it is *not* a question of the usual answer the Committee gave in the past: "If we really price these used stamps according to their rarity, more forged cancellations will appear." The forged ones we will always have, but this is a question of recognizing that one stamp is much rarer than another.

-o-

Finally, and here I may be trespassing on the Newsletter's terrain, some comments on the newest wrinkle in Dutch philately, namely the sale of facsimiles of the really expensive Dutch stamps, of course, MNH, which, in this form, can fill your album for a few hundred guilders to the envious astonishment of your competing fellow-collectors. Thanks to the goof of the advertising department a double-page spread about these "treasures" appeared in the April Maandblad. Needless to say that the Maandblad was highly embarrassed and promptly had a disclaimer printed for the May issue, which also came out two weeks early.

We have ordered a few of these facsimiles and our Newsletter Editor is going to "torture" them in his chemical laboratory. The results will, no doubt, appear in a future Newsletter, where Dr. Rummens will also comment on this newest twist in our field.

PEvR

BOOK REVIEWS

List of Dutch Perfins, 4th edition, by E.J. Enschedé. Edited by J.A. C. van Rijswijk. Publisher: Filitex, Wageningen. Loose-leaf with 4-ring binder, 267 pages, illustrated, in English. ASNP price \$32.00; code number 1986-18.

A new edition of an already well-known handbook is always awaited with bated breath. Will the author succeed again in improving his oeuvre? In this case the answer is an emphatic 'yes'. Perhaps because an editor was called in, the information is now much more accessible. All information is brought together per perfin, that is description, usage, date of permit, period of use, and picture. The loose-leaf format, together with the computerizing of the entire data base, will allow rapid and inexpensive up-dating. Even the text is improved: whereas the introduction to the **third** edition was utterly unintelligible, the (English) language text is now understandable, at least in most places. One still sees many bloopers such as "the altitude of the first letter", the "relative perfin", "reproductable perfin", "postal item" (for 'postal stationery'), "underneath follows" (for 'below follows', "The success of the combative measure" (we have no idea of what this means), the "use of marking-perforators was terminating", "perfin having a line on its extreme", "Number of identification" (for 'identification number') and numerous others. We don't understand this; shortly after the publication of the third edition we wrote to the author, pointing out the atrocious English, and offering our translating services, free of charge, as soon as a new edition would be contemplated. That letter was never even acknowledged. It would appear that some Dutchmen are rather pigheaded in this respect*: they apparently feel that if they understand their coolie English, it should be good enough for the rest of the world. So here is a renewed offer to Mr. Enschedé: I will translate into proper English the first 15 pages taken up by Preface, Contents and Introduction, free of charge, on condition that these revised pages will be part of the first supplement, whenever that will be published.

We have yet another request; now that all the information is computerized, it should be easy to supply, in addition, a listing per NVPH number. That would be of inestimable value to other specialists who want to know things like "which Lebeau design stamps exist as perfin?" and "which Child Welfare stamps exist as POKO's?" Finding the answer to such questions is presently a lot of very tedious work.

* see also our Review in 'Netherlands Philately' of March 1987, pp 70-71, of Bulterman's "Nederlands Indie; Japanse bezetting 1942-45; Postwaardestukken."

All in all, we recommend this book warmly to all Perfin and POKO enthusiasts.

F.R.

Dat Kleine Beetje Extra (that extra little bit), by R. Boost, J. Kiestra and H. van Otegem. Published by the "Voor het Kind" Foundation; about 75 pages, illustrated, in Dutch. ASNP price \$10.00; code number 1986-17

This booklet commemorates the 60 years of Child Welfare stamps of the Netherlands. Although it was designed and written for children (it was presented to all children who volunteered in the 1986 action), it is well worth the attention of adults, and of collectors in particular. The lay-out of this booklet is remarkable; all pages are vertically divided into two parts, on one half, one of the Child issues is shown (in full color) and described, while the rest is taken up by other information about the annual Child Welfare actions. For example, much attention is given to where the monies from the surtax go and how the policies regarding this have changed over the years. An introduction tells how the Child stamps are designed and produced, and how the entire volunteer sales system works.

A very interesting and sympathetic little book for anyone who likes to have a bit more background on the Child Welfare stamps.

F.R.

De Nederlandse Postzegels van 1983. (The Dutch Stamps of 1983). Presented by Paul Hefting. Published by the State Printers, illustrated, 110 pages, ASNP price \$12.00; code number 1986-14.

This volume in the well-known series starts with an introduction by Paul Liefink called "het strikje of de envelop" (the bow on the cover), a reference to the fact that the stamp is like a business card; it introduces you to the bringer. Liefink shows with dramatic effect the link between stamp design and architecture style, both of these reflecting the thoughts of their era. This evolves into a lively story on how in to-day's world a stamp is created.

This is followed by the usual in-depth discussion of each 1983 issue separately. In this part, all the designers also come to the fore, discussing their ideas and sometimes also the unique techniques utilized for the design. For example, the ANWB stamp design started as a 3-dimensional frame into which various visual elements were suspended; the whole was then photographed. A similar process was followed for the "Stijl" stamps and here we learn that originally a set of four was planned, so the reader

may get absorbed in the designs that were eliminated.

Then, of course, the infamous "Luther" stamp, the design of which seemed to emphasize the schism aspect of the Reformation and of Luther's work in particular. The reader can now take note of a very interesting exchange of letters between Dr. H. Berkhoff (professor of Theology) and Mr. P. Leenman, the then Director-General of the PTT. There is no solution to the controversy, only an erudite definition of two contrary opinions.

Those who thought that they had seen better designs than the 1983 Child Welfare stamps, were onto something. It turns out now, that these designs were made in great haste, because the original designs, already approved by the Director-General and by the Secretary of State, ultimately were rejected by the Minister, who refused to send the design on to Queen Beatrix. What was the matter? Well, designer Joost Roelofs had thought up another 'first' for Dutch stamp design; he had portrayed the theme of 'Child and Environment' in a set of 4 cartoons, showing children taking a dog for a walk. The thought that the world's first turd-on-stamp design would be from the Netherlands, evidently was a bit too much for the Minister.

In any case, the design of the cover of this book definitely is a novum; it looks all the world like a paper bag from Safeway and just when you tear this wrapper off, it turns out to be the cover.

Lots of interesting things, good entertainment.

F.R.

De Nederlandse Postzegels van 1984. (The Dutch 1984 Stamps). Published by the State Printers, illustrated, 85 pages, ASNP price \$12.00; code number 1986-15

The State Printers are now really making headway in the publication of the latest members of this set of books. In the present case, '1984' was published in just under two years after the expiry of that year.

It starts with an extensive essay by Jan Noordhoek entitled "Afscheid van de brief" or 'Goodbye to letter writing'. The letter as phenomenon really arose in the time of the Renaissance, so by the time the stamp was invented, the letter had developed into a major cultural instrument. Now it seems that the letter is doomed; replaced by telephone, video tape and computer. Reading this essay is not quite meant for the last 10 minutes before turning in! Better set aside a quiet evening, because progress will be slow but thought-provoking. Easily the most literary and erudite of essays in this series of year books.

Probably the most talked-about designs of the year 1984 were those of the set issued on the occasion of Filacento. However, this set was already

written up by Paul Hefting and Gert Holstege in "Filatelie Informatief", so we can skip this now. From a design point of view, the World Wildlife Fund stamp was interesting. The letters and the leaves were cut open and the pieces bent forward or backward. Colored transparencies and back-lighting did the rest to create an interesting photo of an almost 3-dimensional art object.

Then, of course, this was the year that Joost Swarte won the Asiago prize for the world's best stamp design for his Child Welfare cartoons. Your reviewer has a painful admission to make at this point: he is almost beginning to like these 1984 Child Welfare stamps. Perhaps this is so because the 1986 designs were so much worse!

In summary, a luxuriously produced, artistically high-minded book, that might be considered as the best in this series, created so far.

F.R.

Filatelie Informatief, part 15. Samsom Publishing, Dec. 1986. By subscription only; ASNP price \$13.00, code number 1985-9.

This issue #15 is really the third part of 1986. Interestingly, it is marked as such, in contrast to part 14, which bore no such identification. It would seem therefore, that SAMSOM has caught up, so we may perhaps look forward to a somewhat more orderly publishing schedule.

In this 15th issue, J.L. van Dieten writes about 'one century of stamp dealing', the story of the Van Dieten company, started by his father in 1886. The story also of a century of tall stamp stories; there are many anecdotes and reminiscences. Also a century of stamp collecting with descriptions of the earliest albums, catalogues and philatelic journals. We also read the story how Van Dieten Sr. lost all his stock in the May 1940 bombardment of Rotterdam; how they first had to wait 3 weeks for the hot rubble to cool off, how the seven safes were finally opened to show all the albums apparently still intact, and how they disintegrated to a powder at the slightest touch.

Also in this issue, a study of the Belgian definitives King Baudoin, design Elstrom. Perhaps not so interesting for 'Netherlands' collectors, but then, SAMSOM likes to sell its product also to the Dutch-speaking Flemish.

Gert Holstege tells the story of the last Dutch forgeries—to-defraud-the-Post. It concerns NVPH 81, the 10ct grey, wide hatching, of the fur collar issue, and NVPH 108, the 12 1/2 ct red numeral. Actually, this time Holstege's story is not quite as exciting as his earlier detective work. The reason is probably that the originators of the forgeries were never found, so the story is essentially unfinished. Nevertheless we learn interesting details of this matter through the archival material of the PTT that was

explored and published for the first time.

Finally, a contribution by G.H.J. van Tongeren on 'Foreign Forgeries to Defraud the Post', including a comprehensive list of these forgeries.

All in all, again a very readable issue. With it came a letter from the publisher, promising even better and more for the future, as a result of an extensive poll that was taken amongst the subscribers. We shall gladly look forward to it.

F.R.

Other New Books: Your reviewer regretfully announces that he is no longer buying every new book relating to Dutch philately. Below are listed several new books that will not be reviewed, but which are nevertheless available to ASNP members.

FIP. Ursprung und Werdegang des Internationalen Verbandes der Philatelie.

(Origin and development of organized international philately) by Leon Putz, in German. ASNP price \$48.00. Order on Demand Only. Code number 1987-4.

Postroutes 1810. (Postal routes of the Low Countries in 1810.) Published by the "Topografische Dienst Nederland." ASNP price \$20.00. Order on Demand Only. Code number 1987-5.

Handboek Nederlandse Frankeerstempels. (Handbook of meter frankings), by D. Veenstra. Third edition, 400 pages. ASNP price \$28.00. Order on Demand Only. Code number 1987-2.

Handboek Veldpoststempels Nederland vanaf 1953. (Handbook of Field Post Cancels of the Netherlands since 1953.), 150 pages. ASNP price \$14.00. Order on Demand Only. Code number 1987-3.

A PHILATELIC CALENDAR

by: Julius Mansbach

February 5, 1975



In recent years and as vehicular traffic increased, it became necessary to plan a better means of connecting the major parts of Curaçao without hampering shipping. Engineers drew their plans for what is today the Queen Juliana Bridge which is featured on a stamp issued on this date. It is a towering masterpiece as well as a piece of engineering elegance as it reaches toward the sky above three-century-old Willemstad. The central arch rises 197 feet above the water, making it the highest in the Carribean and one of the highest in the world. The bridge has not only solved the local problem of allowing speedy travel by the residents between their offices in Punda and residences in Otrobanda, but also forms a convenient link to the numerous resort areas scattered along Curaçao's coast.

July 1, 1875



The General Postal Union was officially established in Bern (Switzerland) on this date after being ratified by the 22 nations which had sent delegates to a gathering in 1874. Three years later, the organization changed its name to the Universal Postal Union. Today, the UPU is not only the oldest, but the largest international organization. Its purpose from the beginning was to form a "single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence". Prior to the establishment of the UPU, getting a letter from one country to another was an involved, expensive and sometimes impossible undertaking. In 1875, the first year of its operation, the organization handled some 144 million pieces of international mail. Now, more than a billion pieces are delivered every day. In 1947, the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations.