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"September" 1988

The lead article in this issue is an examination of the William III issue of Surinam, written by Journal Staff Member and Newsletter Editor Frans Rummens. A great deal of study went into this article, and our members have a fine opportunity to learn a great deal about this complex issue.

An article on the beginnings of photogravure web printing in the Netherlands follows, written by Jan Dekker, a name absent in our pages for many years.

A delayed Coil Corner follows. It had been written for the previous issue, but had become lost somehow in the shuffle this past summer.

This issue concludes with several shorter articles by Frans Rummens.

This issue also contains the subject index for Volumes 11 and 12, and serves to remind us all of the scope of fine articles which have been published in this Journal since 1986.

However, we cannot conclude this column without acknowledging the tremendous improvement in typography the Journal and the Newsletter have seen over the past several years. This substantial boost in readability has been the contribution of our hard-working compositor, Jan Enthoven. On behalf of all of our members, many thanks to you, Jan.

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THE WILLIAM III ISSUE OF SURINAM.

by Frans H.A. Rummens.

Introduction.

The first postage stamps of Surinam were issued on Oct. 1, 1873. This introduction to the novel system had been announced in the GB 42 and GB 43 (GB = Gouvernements Besluit = Government Decree) of Sept. 15, 1873. At the time, the (Dutch) Ministry for the Colonies had been the driving force behind the introduction of postage stamps. This situation would change quickly; by the end of 1874, 'Post' came under the responsibilities of the Department of Finance. The stamps quickly proved popular; in those last three months of 1873 alone, the sales of postage stamps amounted to Dfl. 1153.78. Actually, franking in the sense of 'prepaying total postage by the sender in advance' existed well before 1873. For example, the Royal Decree of 1869 No 9 (GB 44) stipulated that for letters (between Netherlands and its colonies) of up to 15 grams, the franked postage was 55ct, as compared to 75ct for unfranked letters. We also know the volume of mail in Surinam: 4823 unfranked and 10 020 franked letters were received during the year 1870. The postage stamp facilitated and simplified the franking process and rates dropped. Compulsory franking was not introduced until 1885; unfranked letters were then charged with a punitive port of twice the franked postage (GB 8, March 20, 1886).

The William III stamps were printed by Enschede & Sons in typography. The design was by Virey Freres of Paris, after a portrait by F.C. ten Kate. The early plates were prepared by the "Staatsdruckerei" in Berlin, soon to be replaced by plates produced by Enschede themselves.

The denominations of 12 1/2, 15, 20, 25, and 30ct were demonetized per 29-VIII-1898 (GB 27), followed by the 1, 2, 2 1/2, 3, 5, 10, 40, 50ct, 1 and 2 1/2 gld on 16-XII-1899 (GB 46). By that time the William III stamps had been largely replaced by the Wilhelmine-long-hair issue of 1892 and the numerals set of 1890-93 for the values of 5ct and under.

The printings.

I. The first printing took place on Dec. 24, 1872, with the values of 2 1/2, 3, 5, 10, 25 and 50ct. Note that this printing involves both high and low denominations; the institution of 'low value numerals' did not take place until 1890. In March and June 1874, all six values were printed again. Up to this point, all stamps were line perforated 14x14, with small holes.

II. The same values were printed again in August of 1875 and July of 1876, but now line perforated 14x14 with large holes. To this group the 2.50 gld stamp must be added. It was printed in August of 1878, but again line perforated 14x14 large holes (introduced 1-I-1879). The 25ct stamps of the groups I and II were exclusively of the ultramarine variety.

III. Early 1880 saw the reprinting of the 2 1/2, 3, 10 and 25ct values, but now perforated with the so-called B-comb i.e. 12 1/2 : 12 (and 11 1/2 : 12 in the first column of all sheets). These same values, except the 3ct, were reprinted again in mid-1883, along with the values 50ct and 2.50 gld, all but one with the perforation B (12 1/2 : 12). Note that the 2.50 gld does not exist in the 12 1/2 : 12 (or 11 1/2 : 12) perforation. The reason is that for the 2.50 gld a larger format was prescribed. The easiest way

to achieve that, is by going back to line perforation and make the beat a bit longer. Of course, the setting of the cliches has to be with wider margins too, so the printer presumably used the setting he already had prepared in 1878, and gave it the same line 14x14 perforation. There is a curious additional feature of these 2.50 gld stamps: the first printing (of 1878) was in sheets of 100, whereas the 1883 printing was in sheets of 25. It was also during the 'reign' of the B-comb, that the two different colors of the 25ct arose. The most common color is greenish blue (turquoise), while the rarer variety is ultramarine. It would be tempting to relate these two colors to the two printings. Indeed there is a difference in numbers: the printing of Feb. 1880 produced 1032 sheets (of 100), while the May 1883 printing had 2178. The turquoise color is reported to have a first known date of use of 21-I-1880 (Avezaat and Okker FDC catalogue, sixth edition). This is patently impossible, however, because the earliest of the B-comb printings was performed on 18-II-1880. We cannot check the ultramarine variety, because it was also printed in the 1872-76 years, and the A/O catalogue does not distinguish between different perforations. To account for the relative dearth of the ultramarine stamps, it must have been produced at the printing of 1880 (plus the small printings of 1872-76). See also the section on "numbers".

IV. In the 1882-84 era, three new denominations were printed: the 1, 2 and 12 1/2ct. These new values were perforated with a different comb i.e. 13 1/2 : 13 1/4. This is also the only printing for these denominations. Introduction was 1-III-1885 for all three stamps.

V. A final printing took place late 1888. Of these, only one the 10ct, had been printed before; the other values being 15, 20, 30, 40ct and 1 gld. The latter 1 gld stamp had again an enlarged format (larger margins really), but unlike the 14x14 perforation of the 2.50 gld, the 1.00 gld was line perforated 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 in sheets of 25. This group was put on sale on 1-VII-1888. The other five values were perforated with a new comb, the so-called C-comb, which is 12 1/2 : 11 3/4. Numerically, that gauge is very close to that of the B-comb, however, no mistake is possible with the 15, 20, 30 and 40ct; they were printed only once, and all have the C-comb. For the 10ct, mix-ups are quite possible; it exists (amongst others) both in B-comb and C-comb. The slight numerical difference in gauge of 12 1/2 : 12 (B-comb) against 12 1/2 : 11 3/4 (C-comb) can be measured with an Instanta Gauge (of Stanley Gibbons). This gauge is continuous and can be read with an accuracy of plus/minus 0.1, provided the spacing between the holes is even. Furthermore, the B-comb was extremely worn, so that these stamps have very poor perfining. The holes are not round, the perfining at the top is almost without teeth, and the holes are often not in line, and not equidistant. The C-comb, by contrast, gives an almost perfect perfining all around. Also, any postmark on the 10ct before Dec. 1888 cannot be C-comb.

Note that during that latest production V, no reprinting was done for any of the values below 10ct. A decision had already been made at that time, that in the future these low values would not carry the king's portrait. The numerals set (NVPH 16-20) would not be issued until the ensuing 1890-93 years, however.

The Monarch Definitives

1873-89 King William III

Design by Virey Frères (Paris) after portrait by F.C. ten Kate, engraving by E.Schilling (Berlin), plates by Staatsdruckeri (Berlin) and Enschedé (Haarlem). Printed in Typography by Enschedé. Sheets of 100 (25 in 5's for old values) delivered ungummed (some values partially gummed locally), borders normally 1mm, but 2mm for old values.

1873-74 Comb perf 14x14, small holes



1875 Line perf 14x14, large holes



1880-83 Comb perf 12% : 12 (B-comb)



1880-83 Comb perf 11% : 12 (1st column B-comb)



1885 Comb perf 13% : 13%



1888 Comb perf 12% : 11% (C-comb)



1888 Lineperf 11% x 11%



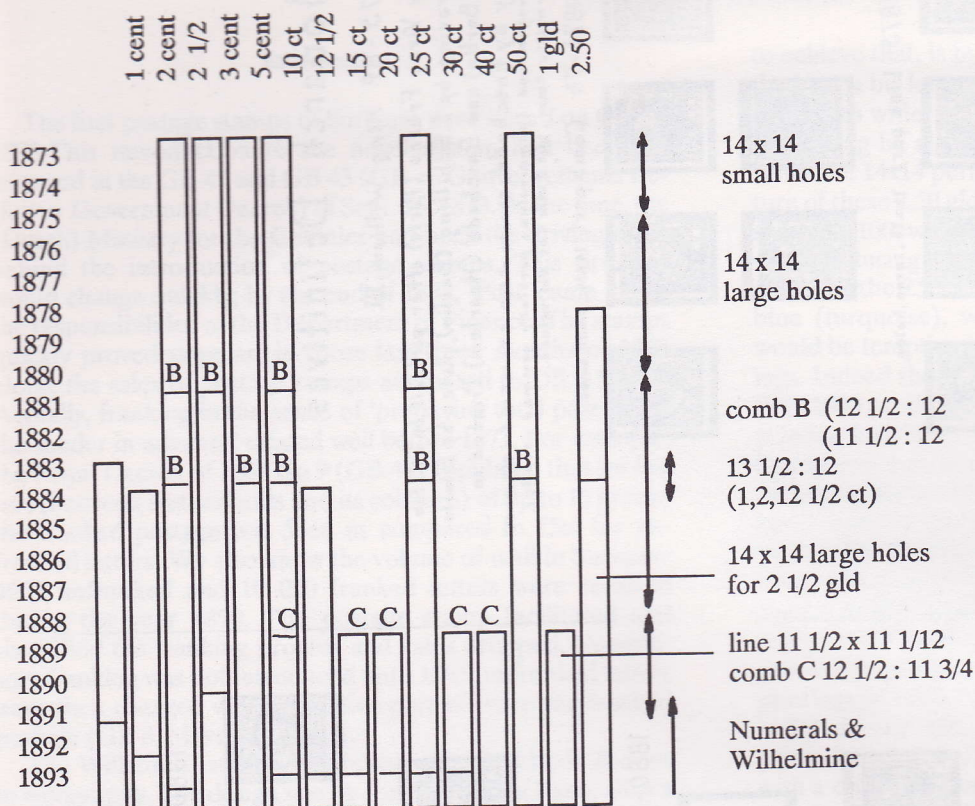


Table 1: Printing Dates

Table 1 gives an overview of the printing schedule as discussed above. With this schedule at hand, setting up this set in pure chronological order is a cinch. With such set-up it is really impossible to mix B-comb and C-comb stamps together (as is done in the NVPH's "speciale".) Figures 1 to 3 show our album layout.

The numbers.

It is instructive to compare the 'numbers issued', as given in the NVPH "speciale" catalogue, with the 'numbers printed'. Presumably the NVPH tally is from official PTT announcements and may or may not be the same as 'numbers sold'. We shall assume here that 'issued' means 'the net number of stamps sent to the colony'. 'Numbers printed' is the easiest to define: it is the number indicated as such on the 'history sheets' of the Dienst Zegelwaarden (= DZW = Stamp Security service). There is a second number on these 'history sheets', namely the 'number approved', the latter being always equal or less than the former. We shall assume that the rejected sheets went back to the printer for destruction (after proper minuting of course). We do not have the numbers as packaged and sent to Surinam by DZW, although on a few history sheets a balance as of July 1876 was given. These crucial data may still be available from the archives of the warehouse in Amsterdam, where all shipments for the colonies were prepared. All available information on numbers have been collected in Table 2.

For the values of 1 to 10ct the 'numbers issued' is only slightly less than 'numbers approved'. Differences of 700 (2ct), 1100 (2 1/2 ct) and 600 (10ct) can perhaps be accounted for as the numbers sent to UPU for distribution amongst its members. All differences are in whole sheets of 100. Possibly DZW instructed Paramaribo to use up whatever they had received, pending the arrival of the Numerals issue of 1890-93.

The 3ct stamp is of some interest, since it was never reprinted in the periods IV and V. There is in fact a decree, GB 6 (7.7.85), stating that the "3ct stamp will no longer be reprinted and existing stock must be used up." However, according to Table 2, numbers issued (and sold) is 54000, almost 7000 less than what DZW had in stock. What happened to the remainder?

The 'number issued' for the 12 1/2 ct looks a bit suspicious, as if a typo error of 100 000 was made. The other 'number issued' are no longer in multiples of 100 as if the instruction had been for returning all stock as per a certain date. For the 20, 30, 40, 50ct and 1 gld, only a small portion of the total production was ever issued. Note that these were mainly of the last printing of 1888. It appears likely that at William III's death, the Wilhelmina-long-hair issue was quickly printed and

distributed with simultaneous withdrawal of all William III stamps. From all signs, it appears that the withdrawal was

Table 2 Numbers of Stamps.

	# stamps issued (NVPH)	# stamps approved (DZW)	# stamps printed (Enschede)
1ct	202 800	214 900	220 000
2ct	245 000	245 700	250 000
2 1/2 ct	334 000	335 100	340 400
3ct	54 000	60 700	61 200
5ct	320 000	343 300	345 400
10ct	554 000	554 600	565 300
12 1/2 ct	140 266	246 300	250 000
15ct	109 693	118 900	120 000
20ct	23 413	99 100	100 000
25ct	146 000	turq 386 600	393 000
	194 224	u.m.	
30ct	14 934	78 800	80 000
40ct	22 414	75 800	80 000
50ct	71 870	179 200	182 300
1 gld	16 941	27 745	29 700
2 1/2 gld	11 189	13 925	15 750

abrupt and total. The 'number issued' for the 25ct ultramarine of 194224 does not jibe at all with the scarcity of this stamp.

All values from 12 1/2 ct onwards were overprinted at one time or another (see NVPH Nos 21, 29-33, 37-40). Since this overprinting was done in Surinam itself, it would be expected that the 'numbers overprinted' would be included in 'numbers issued'. Perhaps then this assumption is wrong.

Dates of issue.

A study of the available information on dates of issue is also rewarding. The data are collected in Table 3. In the second

Table 3 Dates of Issue.

	Official (GB)	Avezaat/Okker	Earliest known cancel (A/O)
1ct	12-III-85 (3)	same	
2ct	12-III-85 (3)	same	
2 1/2 ct	1- X -73 (1)	same	
3ct	1- X -73 (1)	same	7- IX-89 (5)
5ct	1- X -73 (1)	same	
10ct	1- X -73 (1)	same	
12 1/2 ct	12-III-85 (3)	same	26- X -86
15ct	1-VII-88 (4)	I - 1889	24-VII-89
20ct	1-VII-88 (4)	I - 1889	10- I -90 (5)
25ct	1- X -73 (1)	1880 turq	21- I -80 ???
		I - X-73 u.m.	1- X -73
30ct	1-VII-88 (4)	I - 1889	8- IV-90
40ct	1-VII-88 (4)	I - 1889	8- IV-90
50ct	1- X -73 (1)	same	1- X -73
1 gld	1-VII-88 (4)	I - 1889	24- XI-91
2 1/2 gld	1- I - 79 (2)	same	1- I -79

- (1) GB 42 (15- IX-73)
- (2) GB 27 (20- XII-78)
- (3) GB 2 (17- II-85)
- (4) GB 22 (18- VI-88)
- (5) collection F.R.

column are the dates of issue as we have found them in the Government Decrees. Next to these are the data as given in the Avezaat/Okker FDC catalogue. There is only one major conflict, namely with the last printing of 1888.

The last column gives the earliest known cancels as observed on stamps or on cover or card. It still includes the erroneous data for the turquoise 25ct stamp. This list is exceedingly sparing and what data there are look as if they could be easily bested. One must remember, though, that in 1877 the dateless "204" numeral cancel came into use for Paramaribo. Perhaps it is significant in this respect, that the two new data we could add from our own collection, were both from NIEUW NICKERIE.

Concluding remarks.

In this article we have outlined some of the aspects of the first issue of Surinam. This treatise is by no means comprehensive, however. The story of design and proofs needs to be told some other time. The usage of these stamps, in relation to the postal rates of the time, has hardly been studied anywhere. Related to that would be the study of postmarks and postal routes, beyond what J.D. Riddell has indicated in his book. In addition, the overprints of the first issue have never seen a comprehensive study. Furthermore, the discrepancies noted in Table 2 need to be accounted for. Finally, a study about this first issue would be incomplete, if the William III postal stationery were not to be studied as well, and its results dovetailed with the history of the stamps.

Sources.

1. Extracts from the "Gouvernements Blad der Kolonie Suriname".
2. Extracts from the colonial year reports of the colony of Surinam.
3. J.D. Riddell, "Surinam, a Postal History 1700-1956".
4. "Standaardwerk over de Postwaarden, Deel III, Suriname", published by the Dutch society of stamp collectors (NVvPV), 1895.
5. History sheets of the "Dienst Zegelwaarden", courtesy G. Glas, director "Zegelwaarden en Filatelie".

Web Photogravure Printing

The Initial Chapter

by Jan Dekker

Editors note: In 1973, Jan Dekker started work on a detailed account of web photogravure printing as used in the production of stamps and related items at the plant of Jos. Enschede and Sons in Haarlem.

This was to be a major expansion of Mr Dekker's relatively brief article on this subject which was published in UPHILEX, the catalog of the National Postage Stamp Exhibition held at Utrecht, 13-15 May 1966. A translation of this article appeared in Netherlands Philately, Volume 7 Number 4 (June 1982).

Author Dekker was able to complete only the first chapter of this book, due to other demands on his time, primarily pressure to complete work on the ill-fated Leidraad project.

Due to a serious illness, Jan Dekker is no longer active in philatelic work; this has been a great loss to Netherlands philatelic research. Therefore all that exists of his projected volume on web photogravure printing, is the following chapter.

Introduction

The devastating economic crisis during the early thirties brought about a number of changes in the production of stamps for the Netherlands and her colonies. In addition to the size of the regular postal issues which had been in use since 1870, and of the fiscal adhesives, in use since 1886 (which was also used for commemoratives), two other basic sizes were adopted in the 1930's: the 36 and 70 ct. pictorials in 1931, and the larger size used for the A. N. V. V. Tourist set of 1932.



In addition to these four, three other basic sizes were in use: the large Netherlands railway parcel adhesives, the square Dutch East Indies Kreislers, and the unusual size used for turnover and coupon tax fiscals.



For these seven sizes, comb perforations were (or became) available, and by the end of 1933 the comb for the normal A-size was altered from 12 1/2 to the new 13 1/2: 12 3/4 with thinner pins. This change was introduced in order to eliminate the

need for the syncopated perforation used on coils of stamps dispensed from vending machines and from the POKO machines with which private firms perforated their initials into the stamps and mechanically affixed them to the envelope.

During this entire period, all stamp production was in the form of flat sheets. As the demand for stamps rose, it was recognized that more efficient methods of production must be introduced. This was especially true of coil stamps, as until 1934 all rolls of coils were assembled by hand from sheets of 200 subjects (10 wide x 20 high) by pasting a small part of the top margin of each sheet, to the lower part of the bottom stamps on the next sheet. These were then sliced to form, ten coils of 500 or 1000.

In September or October of 1903 a vending machine for rolls of 2 1/2 cent stamps was placed on trial at The Hague P. O. This marked the introduction of coil stamps in the Netherlands and their use expanded significantly in the 1920's.

Therefore in 1934 Enschede felt justified in introducing new methods in recess printing, enabling the greater use of the comb perforation as well as considerably more efficient production of coil stamps.

The First Web Printing Press Albert Frankenthal 1934 - 1961

The Albert Frankenthal press, installed at Enschede in 1934, could print one or two colors on a continuous web or roll of paper. The printed sheets of stamps then had to be perforated on another machine, as the press had no sheet perforating unit. Maximum width was about 38 cm. See Fig. 1.

On this press, stamps were printed for the Netherlands and for the Dutch West Indies. It also printed letter sheets and air-letter sheets up until 1961, when this work was transferred to the new Chambon press.

Originally used exclusively for printing coil stamps, in 1939 the Albert Frankenthal started in production of normal sheets of 200 subjects. The first value was the 5 ct. green Veth, and the 2, 5, and 10 cent Kreisler for the Indies. These were followed in 1940 by the 5 ct. Konijnenberg and six values of the bars overprint set.

All of these sheets show sheet numbers in blue double-lined figures on their side margins, and lack the usual control punch. The sheets however, had to be perforated in the usual way. They show the normal perforating bow marks and a cutting line in the center of the short margins.

They bear of course a single cylinder number, without the L or R known from the double sheets, printed in the normal sheet press side by side with the single web printed ones.

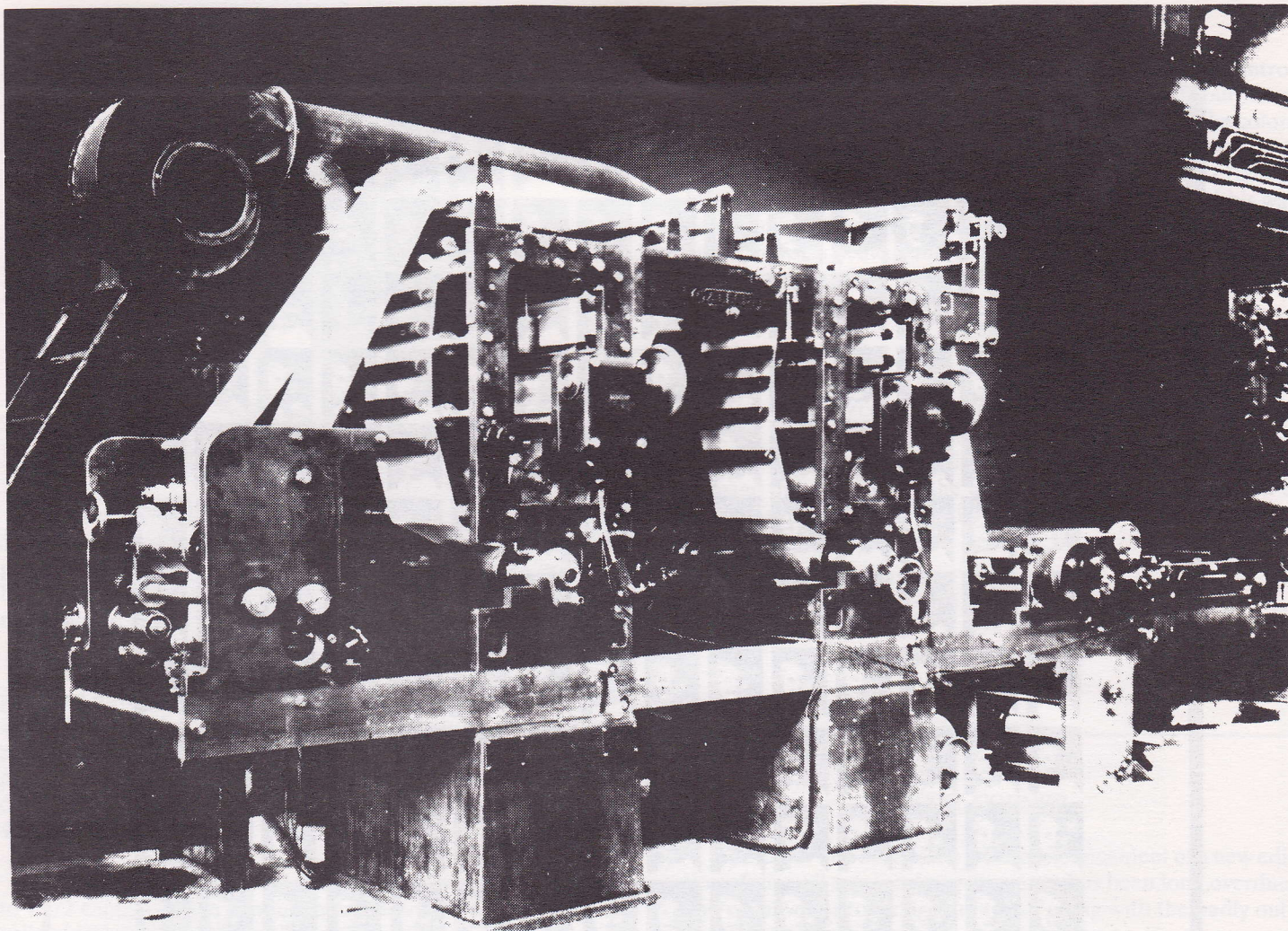


Figure 1 The 1934 Albert Frankenthal Web Photogravure Press, designed and built for Jos. Enschede and Sons.

This we also find in the 7 1/2 ct. dove of 1941 and the 2 ct. van Krimpen of 1948-55. Here however, there are no sheet counting numbers and therefore there is a control punch used after printing but before perforating. The single cylinder number and the cutting-off line are the only marginal markings.

The 1953 Floodissue was also printed on this press. The sheets have an orange and black cross midway on the right hand side margin.

The circumference of the printing cylinder was one sheet with margins, or about 57 cm.

Coils for Vending Machines

The first printing order for postage stamps on the Albert Frankenthal press was dated 14 April 1936, and specified three values: the 1 1/2, 5, and 6 ct. coils in rolls of 1000 each.

The 38 cm. printing width enabled the printing of 15 stamps across. On the margins, perforating machine markers (small squares) were printed just 10 stamps apart. (See Figure 2).

The perforation was done by a special machine with a four-row comb, thus perforating 60 stamps at a time. This can be verified from consistent perforation irregularities which reoccur every four stamps in the roll.

The circumference of the printing cylinder was 20 stamps, or 50.8 cm. The distance between the stamps was not always the same; usually there are slightly larger distances above and below every 20th stamp.

Since in the 1 1/2 ct. Lebeau and the 1940 7 1/2 + 2 1/2 ct. coils, variations in these larger distances have been observed, at least two different cylinders must have been used for these coils.

The oddly cut pairs dispensed by the vending machines were not caused by malfunctions of these machines, but by the fact that often there was considerable time lag between the printing and the perforating. A slight difference in the relative moisture could cause a marked difference in the length of the strip of 1000 subjects (over 25 m) This was the cause of the mis-cut pairs.

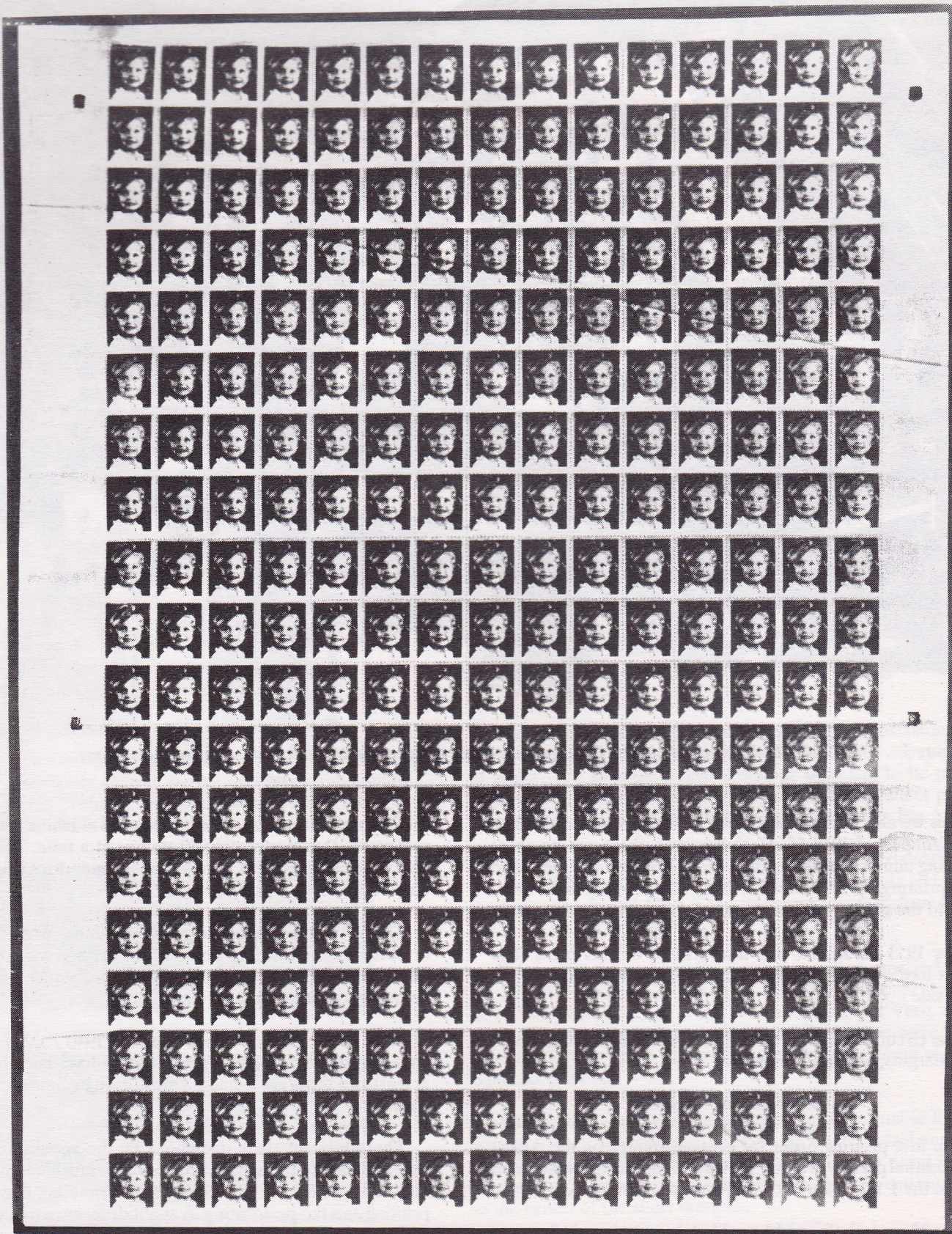


Figure 2 Printed and perforated section of web, 15 subjects wide, prior to separation into rolls of 500 or 1000. Note small perforating machine markers, ten rows apart. This example is the "Shirley Temple" adhesive for testing coil dispensing machines.

Copyright 1975 by Burt Buurman



Another consequence of the web printing of the 1 1/2 and 3 ct. dove in coils, was that these two values were printed in photogravure since 1936. Sheets of these values were printed by offset until 1941, at which time sheet printing for all numerals up to the 50 ct. were produced by gravure.

This however was brought about by the 1940 "bars overprint" set having already been printed by photogravure, as well as post cards of the same issue. Combinations of the two processes exist on 1940 post cards; the numeral "5" was overprinted by photogravure on the 3 ct. and the 3 + 3 ct. reply cards printed by offset, and it is believed the same exists on the 4 ct. and 4 + 4 ct. cards.

On August 20, 1940 the inland letter rate was raised from 5 to 7 1/2 cents, and the vending machines were provided with coils of 500 pairs of 7 1/2 x 2 1/2 ct. "overprinted bars" in early November 1940. These were replaced by the dove type in mid-1941. Other combinations listed in the Speciale Catalogus originated from the philatelic windows or from complete coils purchased by collectors.

Use of the vending machines was suspended between May 1942 and March 1949 because of the zinc wartime coins.

Because of still higher postal rates decreed November 1, 1946, the vending machines when returned to service, were filled with the 2 ct. van Krimpen and the 10 ct. Juliana en face in 1949. In 1953 the 10 ct. was changed to the en profile type. In April 1955 the new Regina press took over production of coil issues, as detailed in the next section. (editor's note: The "next section", as mentioned earlier, was never written).



At the time the 13 1/2 :12 3/4 perforation was being introduced, special coil adhesives were printed for testing purposes. These had no value indication but were originally in the colors of the 1 1/2, 5, 6, and 12 1/2 ct. stamps. These came in two types: a white Andreas cross in a colored rectangle (known originally in grey, blue-grey and red), and a young girl's head (this was commonly referred to as Shirley Temple), originally known in green, reddish brown, and blue. The latter type is also known with vertical straight-edges.

Fakes

Faked mis-cut pairs of the 1 1/2 ct. dove have been found. These are cleanly cut and are missing the necessary irregularity which is caused by the seven transporting pins (divided 2, 3, 2) which normally fall into the perforation holes. These pins damage the cut edge of the genuinely mis-cut pairs, which is the point the originator of the fakes failed to observe.

COIL CORNER

The major news this issue is the announcement of a new edition of the coil catalog. Its appearance has been long overdue, and we have for too long, had to get along with the badly outdated 19S2 edition.

"Rolzegelcatalogus 1988/89" was published this past September. Journal staff member Frans Rummens routinely reviews any publication which he feels will be of interest to our members, and he will be covering this most welcome volume along with the price and ordering information.

As promised previously, I have selected two typical pages to show you from my coil collection, illustrating how I have mounted the usual strips of 5, with control number displayed on the "bottom" stamp. (See the next two pages for the illustrations).

The mounts are Hawid, and I use the factory-applied adhesive for holding the strips in place; I have avoided the use of double-coated tape wherever possible due to the ban on the use of such tape by the exhibition world (although I have not shown my coil collection for some years).

The blank pages are Elbe American #1423-Q, and the lettering was made by use of the Leroy system, using templates 60CL through 200CL, and pens 000 through 1.

The strips are mounted in the order listed in the Rolzegel Katalogus, but my collection is far from complete -- a number of known varieties have never shown up in the Postumaat auctions, and regular auctions which might list coils, do not give sufficient information as to the variety offered.

NETHERLANDS
 COIL ISSUES
 1965 - 76 SERIES



Normal, I
 White
 Gum A



Inverted, I
 Dark
 Gum B2



Normal, I
 Phosphor Yd
 Gum B2



Inverted, I
 Phosphor Yd
 Gum B2
 Dull finish



Inverted, I
 Phosphor Yd
 Gum B2
 Shiny finish



Inverted, I
 Phosphor Yd
 Gum B2
 Chambon press

NETHERLANDS
1966-73 COIL ISSUES



Normal, I
White
Gum A



Normal, I
Dark
Gum B2



Normal, I
White
Gum B2



Inverted, I
Dark
Gum B2
Purplish brown



Inverted, I
Dark
Gum B2
Reddish brown

Hope all interested members received their copy of the previous Coil Corner in time to order the 5000-subject coils from

the PTT Philatelic Service; I received my strips promptly and in good shape.

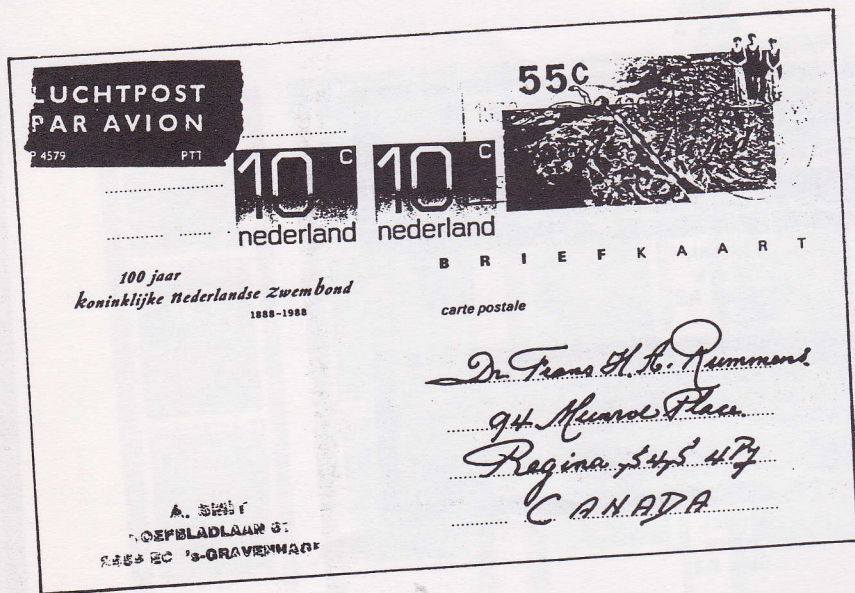
LHR

THE STATIONERY COLUMN.

Frans H.A. Rummens

There seems to be a growing tradition of having one special commemorative post card each year. Last year it was the "NOC" card and before that the "Flevoland" card. Now, a post card commemorating "100 jaar Koninklijke Nederlandse Zwem Bond 1888-1988" (100 years Royal Dutch Swimming Federation) has been issued on August 23, 1988. Yet, another

tradition was broken. On all previous commemorative post cards, the left side of the front was taken up by an illustration, and the imprint of the stamp was that of an existing stamp (partial exception: 'the 100 year post card' issue of 1971). In any case, the front-left has now been cleared, reportedly because of many complaints about the lost writing space (those frugal Dutch again!). But in order to make it still festive, the imprinted "stamp" is of a design of which no real stamp exists. The illustration has become the stamp! What will the album and catalogue industry do now? Provide a little rectangle, just large enough for a cut-out? True, it has no perforations and licking it won't do you any good, but functionally it is as much stamp as the traditional kind. The design shows waves in a blue and green swimming pool; at top left an illustration from a swim manual of 1930, and at top right some members of the 1920 ladies' water polo team. The denomination is 55ct i.e. the post card rate not only for the Netherlands, but also for the rest of the Benelux, and for the remaining CEPT countries. Twenty cents extra makes it air mail for the rest of the world. Old traditions die only slowly, though. There is still quite a bit of French language instructions such as "carte postale", "expediteur", and "par avion", just like the old UPU rules would have it. Strange, though, to have foreign language instructions on a post card that is basically meant for home use. Or have UPU rules given way to CEPT rules?



PHILATELIC CURIOSA

Frans H. A. Rummens

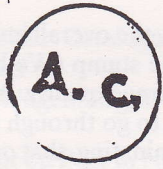
Those Konijnenburg Imperfs.

You have probably seen them, the Dutch 1940 issue of Queen Wilhelmina, designed by W.A. van Konijnenburg, completely imperforated. In the NVPH catalogue they are listed as 332 v - 337 v, in the denominations of 5, 10, 12 1/2, and 15 ct, the same as on the cover shown below. "But that is impossible," I hear you exclaim, "those imperf stamps are unfinished products, never issued by the PTT." Of course, you would be right; those stamps were confiscated by the German occupation troops, in 1940 and some (actually quite a few) got into the hands of dealers and collectors via this highly irregular route. And since they were never officially issued, they were not valid as franking stamps. Furthermore, the usage of Queen Wilhelmina's portrait for any purpose was "verboden" and so even the regular perforated "Konijnenburgs" were invalid.

Let us study this cover a little closer. The 12 1/2 ct flying crow stamp for "special flights" is totally superfluous, as is the

air mail sticker. In 1942 there was no civilian air mail between the Netherlands and Germany and least of all any special flight. The cancellation is interesting, because it is a valid special cancel for the 15th "Day of the Postage Stamps", on October 11, 1942. It was also customary at such an event to have a special registration sticker, to be used only that day, at the site of the celebrations. But that also tells us perhaps how this piece arose. The PTT employee working at this special one-day auxiliary post office was, of course, a friend of philately. During that day he was probably bombarded with the most outlandish requests for special cancellations. Let us also assume that he was no "collaborator" but a real patriot. Presented with this piece of philatelic handiwork, he just put the R-sticker on (registration right was only 10ct then), cancelled the whole thing and then handed it back.

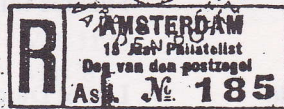
At least, the above makes for an interesting speculation. However, it is also WRONG. On the back of the cover, there is a clear circular date stamp HAMBURG 14.10.42.-11. So, the cover went indeed through the mail. Now that explains also the A.C. mark on the front of the cover, because that is a German military censor code! That being the case, then, perhaps, the



AANTEEKENEN

Herrn
Karl Hennig

Hamburg 39
Winterhuderquai 16



cover did travel by air, be it on a military plane? The plot is thickening, you might say, but how on earth did all of this happen?

The answer lies in the addressee. This Mr. Karl Hennig was a well-known stamp dealer, indeed domiciled in Hamburg. Herr Hennig thought that the war was fun, and so he travelled to the various newly occupied areas to create philatelic curios. There are several of these 'make-up' covers originating in the Netherlands, and bearing German stamps, or a mixture of German and Dutch stamps, always by air mail, and usually

registered. Herr Hennig must also have been a smooth talker, to get these covers into German (military) air mail bags.

Thanks to Julius Mansbach who provided the above information.

Editor's Note: In previous issues, this Journal has published comments about the imperforate van Konijnenburg set; E. Matthews in Vol. 5 No. 3, page 49 (March 1980) and J. L. van Dieten in Vol. 8 No. 4, page 66 (January 1984) which has a pretty good illustration of their use on a registered cover.

BOOK REVIEW.

De Nederlandse Postzegels van 1986. (The Dutch Stamp Issues of 1986.) Publisher: jointly PTT and State Printers and Publishers. July 1988. Code number 88-6, ASNP price \$15.00.

With this issue, the PTT has picked up the backlog of many years. Ideally we should see the 1987 book before Christmas 1988.

This book starts with an essay by Rudie Kagie. 'Stamps', he says, 'are high quality ambassadors of the country in question, and therefore they carry a political message.' Whether it is Bob Marley on the stamps of Jamaica, or J.F.K. on Bhutan stamps, or LOVE on the U.S. stamps, or wind energy on a Dutch stamp, the message is always there. This was realized as early as W.W. II, when bogus Hitler stamps were used to demoral-

ize the German population. The essay is not bad, but it has little direct relation to the Dutch stamps of 1986, or of any other time.

The meat of the book is undoubtedly in the detailed descriptions of design and background of the 1986 issues. The text consists, in part, of the integral reproduction of the texts, written by Cees Janssen, as they appeared in Pro-fil, the Dutch-language brochure on each issue, which is available at no cost at all post offices. There is one little problem though: this Pro-fil part is set in a very small letter type, so that one needs 20/20 vision to read the text without a magnifying glass. The problem is compounded by the printing in a light grey color. The designers of this book try very hard to be original and creative. But graphic design should enhance the text and not detract from it. There is, however, with each issue an additional text by Paul Hefting on the background of the issue. Then, of course, there

are the sketches, the designs, the proofs, all portrayed in full color. The reader learns all kinds of interesting things, such as an attempt to have all four summer stamps in se-tenant combination in one sheet ('impossible' said the printer. However it is regularly done in the U.S.A. and in Canada!) We also learn that again (after Child 1985) there was an attempt to have triangular stamp shape, namely for the Delta stamps, only to have it torpedoed again by the PTT on ground of practical problems (such as tearing). We finally learn what is upside up for the Child 1986 stamps; it is with the largest dimension horizontal and the text on its side, with the base to the right. Therefore,

the NVPH catalogue had it all wrong, but let us not be too hard on them; the designers themselves put them sideways in the souvenir sheetlets!

Looking over all the designs of 1986, the overall impression is very good. There was really only one stamp (Wetboek van Strafrecht) that was below the high average quality. As before in this series of books, it is again a joy to go through the 1986 book. There is so much in it that is illuminating, that one keeps reading bits and pieces for a long time.

If only all ASNP members could read Dutch!

F.R.

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

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