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From the Editor

The journal in your hands is about the skinniest we have ever had, I believe. We are still ironing out the difficulties that are attendant on having an editor living in France, while all the work done on the journal to get it physically into your hands takes place in the U.S. A letter from France to the computer expert takes about eight days; his answer also travels that long. The USPS and the French PTT most likely do not spend too much thought on air mail outside the country. A plane from Kennedy Airport to Paris takes 7 (yes, seven) hours! What the mail does in the rest of the week I don't know.

Anyhow, we'll have a super-de-luxe June journal for you to make up for this skimpy one. Our first article should be of interest to Netherlands Indies-Indonesia postal historians. The "fight" for independence can also be followed through cancellations, it appears. A small article with many illustrations will, hopefully, do away with some of the confusing misinformation about the Surinam set of the Queen with long hair. We also have some improved captions for the postage due covers given in last year's June issue. New members ought to order this journal for sure. Our vice-president is present again with a "Coil Corner" too. Some "notes" finish this issue, but I want to alert all our members specifically to the note on the "PLA" cancellation of Surinam. Check your Surinam stamps! If you think you have something, please let me know.

Finally, we have a fairly extensive number of articles in portfolio, but they are all in Dutch. If there are any "volunteers" for translation jobs, please let me know. I have to stress, though, that I would like to be able to correct any translations which I think might not be up to snuff. (One of my own translations for *De Postzak* was improved, to say the least by someone else, as any of you who get *De Postzak* can have seen.)

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Circles of Ink, Spheres of Influence

by M. Hardjasudarma

Postage stamps can be an excellent political propaganda tool. Stuck on mail they travel far and wide, mute yet vivid testimony as to who is, or claims to be, in power in the land where they originated. Their existence may be brief, as in the case of Biafra or Katanga. Then again, initial provisional issues, often primitive overprints on the stamps of the adversary, can be the introduction to a continuous flow of issues, as in the case of Bangladesh or Indonesia. What is often ignored, even by some seasoned philatelists, is the existence of common cancellations similarly claiming sovereignty used in the routine process of obliteration of stamps on ordinary mail as this is processed in post offices. All these cancels bear the country's name, except sometimes when they fall into the wrong hands. Even though they occasionally do display the country name, pure propaganda cancels will not be discussed, simply because they are not commonly used to obliterate stamps.

You are now invited to go back in time and visit the Netherlands Indies. Before World War II this colony had postal agents in Penang and Singapore. They used cancels with "N.I." or "Ned. Ind." included in their inscriptions. These fall outside the scope of this article, since they had nothing to do with territorial claims. All they meant to indicate was their status as postal facilities of the Dutch Indies on foreign soil (read: British Malaya).

There was otherwise no necessity to include Netherlands Indies or an abbreviation thereof on ordinary domestic cancels. The Dutch had no need to inform or impress anybody in that manner. Things were going nicely for them, and by the end of the first decade of this century, after sending numerous military expeditions to many parts of the ar-



Fig. 2 Japanese Occupation era cancels used by Indonesians four months after proclaiming their independence. The Dutch name of the post office, Batavia/Harmonieplein, was changed to Djakarta (Indonesian)/Yamatobasi (Japanese).



Fig. 1 Borneo and Greater East (Naval Occupation Area) postcard bearing cancel totally in Japanese. In upper segment: Dai Nippon (Great Japan), lower segment: Teikoku Seifoo (Imperial Government)⁶, center strip: Singaradja. This cancel bears no date, but the card appears to have been mailed in February 1945 between two towns in Bali (Lesser Sunda Islands).

chipelago to subjugate native populations, they had pretty much consolidated their power. What propaganda needed to be done by the postal services was well taken care of by the many stamps bearing the likeness of King William III and later Queen Wilhelmina, all of course inscribed with the colony's name.

Things changed drastically when the Japanese made the Netherlands Indies the center of their attention and aspirations, and actually proceeded to occupy the region for 3 1/2 years, beginning in March 1942. Many of their cancels are inscribed Dai Nippon (Great Japan), and are partly or completely in — surprise! — Japanese characters (Fig. 1), showing a fine disregard for anybody unfamiliar with the language, which included just about everybody else. Yet,



Fig. 3 PTT Rep Indonesia cancels like these are known from 101 post offices in Sumatra.⁷ This "Registered" cover bears a backstamp of 2. 4. 46 and was thus "received" three days before it was mailed. In his eagerness to make this philatelic item look authentic, the postal clerk erred by predating rather than postdating the "arrival" cancel.

as (perhaps unintended) propaganda it was brutally effective. Dutch and Indonesian, their ignorance of Japanese notwithstanding, needed just one look at the cancels to be able to tell right away with a great deal of accuracy who was calling the shots. In a gesture of accommodation toward Indonesians, some cities were renamed, such as Batavia which became Djakarta (Fig. 2). In a way, propaganda for budding nationalist aspirations.

The Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945 provided a powerful catalyst that led to the birth of several nations in areas they once occupied. Indonesia was one of them. The independence of this republic was proclaimed by two of its main founders, Soekarno and Hatta, two days after

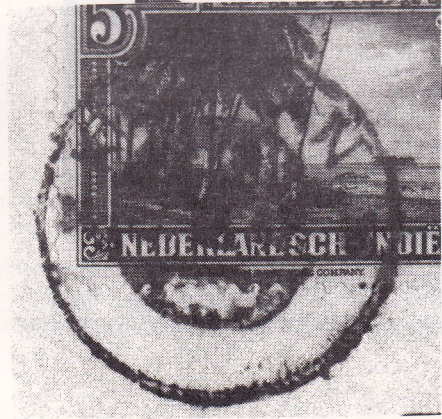
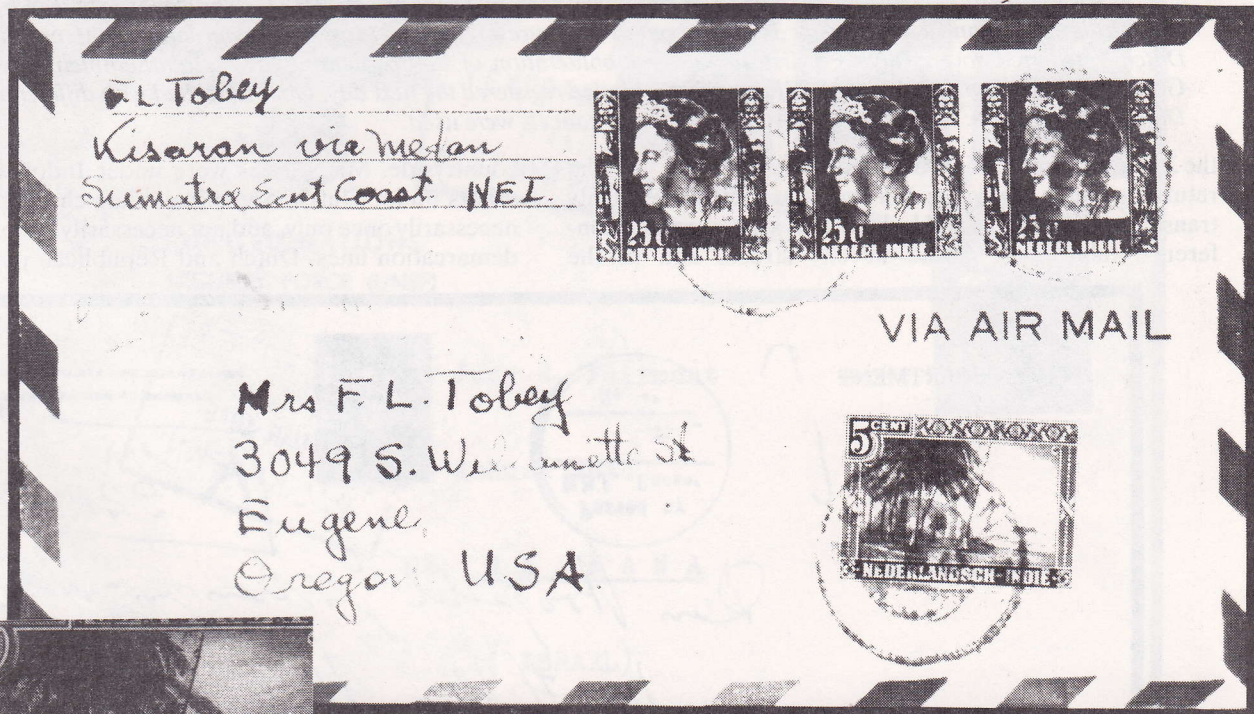


Fig. 4 Worn-out Republican type cancel as in Figure 3 from Kisaran used by the Dutch in 1947 after chiseling out the words "Rep" and "Indonesia," thus the empty bottom half (see the enlargement).

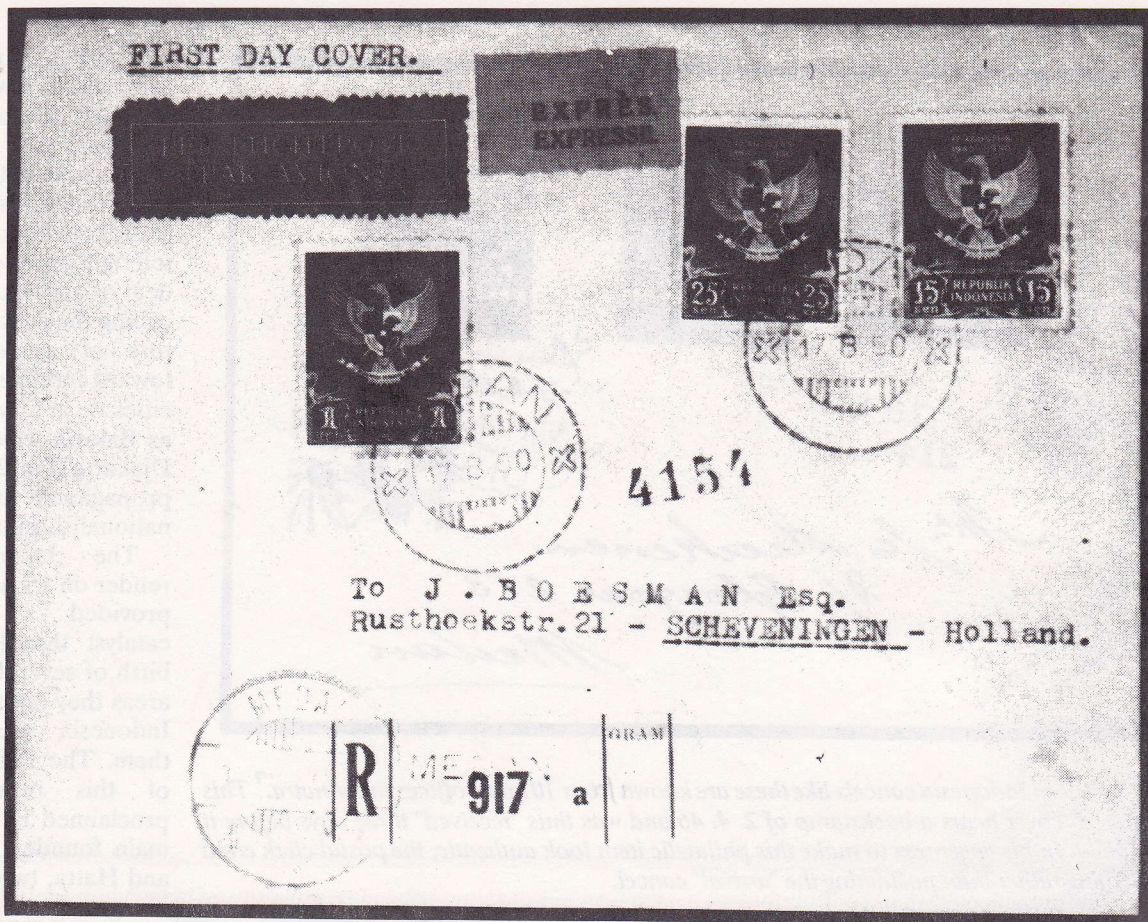


Fig. 5 Indonesian cancel as in Figure 3 chiseled out as in Figure 4 reused by Indonesians in Medan eight months after the Dutch transferred sovereignty as a first-day-of-issue obliteration of stamps bearing the national emblem, the mythical Garuda bird and the Five Principles (Panca Sila). Mailed registered the next day; label cancelled with different, standard Dutch period device. It is not known why two different cancels were used.

the Japanese capitulation. That this did not sit well with the returning Dutch is obvious. For four years, until sovereignty transfer in 1949, Dutch and Indonesians argued around conference tables, or battled in city streets and in the

countryside. Many areas were under Indonesian control, others under Dutch. Sometimes they changed hands, not necessarily once only, and not necessarily keeping the same demarcation lines. Dutch and Republican postal services



Fig. 6 Rectangular provisional Dutch cancel inscribed Nederlandsch Indie/PTT/ 22 Mar 1946/Balikpapan. Abbreviation of month suggest Australian origin. Censored RNF (Royal Netherlands Forces). Handwritten registration "label." Backstamp: Batavia/Amacab/3 Apr 46. All this on a scratched-out U.S. Navy penalty envelope. Domestic letter rate to 20 grams 10 cent, registration 20 cent.



Fig. 7 Two types of circular rural postal station cancels of Wasior, with rather modest "Ned.-" (postcard on right), and emblazoned "Nederlands Nieuw Guinea" in full (international postal money order on left).

advanced and retreated accordingly but sometimes functioned side by side in the same city. The postal history of this time is so unique and so complex as to drive philatelic

phanatics (pardon the spelling!) to utter despair and divine delight simultaneously.

On the island of Sumatra the nationalists created a common cancelling device, equipped with the inscanning PTT Rep(ublik) Indonesia (Fig. 3). Advancing Dutch forces would sometimes capture and use these very same devices, usually after cutting out the offending words "Rep. Indonesia" (Fig. 4). At other times they did not bother doing so, and used them as is.¹ There was no need to remove PTT since the initials which stood for Postal, Telegraph and Telephone (Services) were similar in the two languages (and English too, of course).

Following transfer of sovereignty to the Indonesians, some of these mutilated cancels were used by them for a while in that condition² (Fig. 5).

The Dutch also used a similar cancel, probably manufactured in Australia, as pictured in Figure 6, proudly proclaiming "Nederlandsch-Indië/PTT." This type is known from Balikpapan, Batavia, Biak, Buitenzorg, Hollandia, Morotai and Tarakan.³ (I realize this cancel is not round but changing

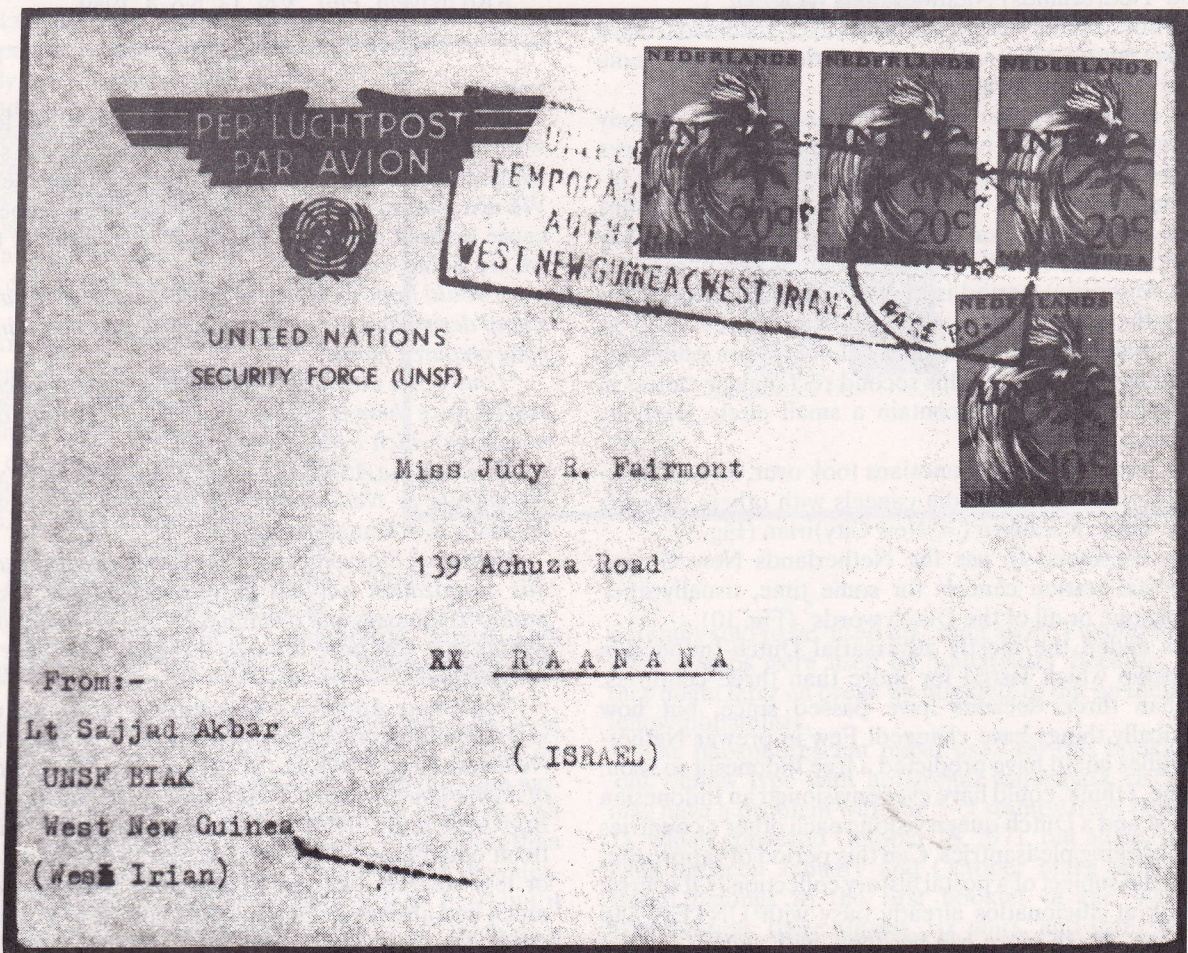


Fig. 8 Cancel spelling out UNTEA in full plus territorial indication. Used by UN Security Forces at their base post office in Biak. Somewhat overfranked cover to Israel, 22 Feb 63. Arrival backstamp: Raanana, 28 Feb 63.

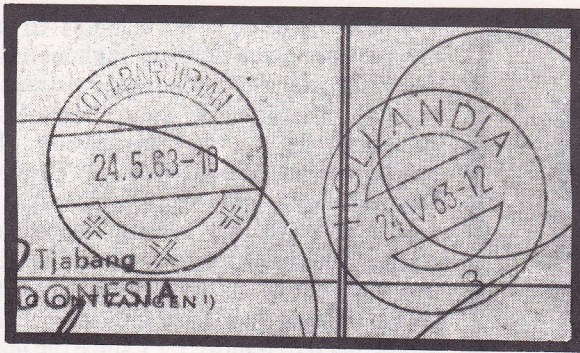


Fig. 9 Reverse of domestic postal money order. Dutch Hollandia cancel of 24 April 63, one week before the end of UNTEA (on right). Indonesian Kotabaruirian (new name for Hollandia) cancel dated one month later to the day (on left).

the title to "Circles and/or Rectangles etc." just didn't sound right. My apologies to all plane geometrists, the rest of you I'm sure don't mind (or don't care?).)

Toward the end of 1949 the Dutch departed Indonesia, but kept West New Guinea. One class of cancels stands out here. These are the rural postal station cancels, boldly inscribed "Ned(erland)s Nieuw Guinea" (Fig. 7).

This not so subtle propaganda was likely directed toward the native people running the postal stations in these remote areas as well as the rural populations.

The early 1960's were marked by increasing acrimony and armed conflicts between Indonesian and Dutch forces about the fate of West New Guinea or West Irian as the Indonesians called it. In October 1962 the United Nations stepped in to administer the area for seven months. Only one cancel of this UNTEA (United Nations Temporary Executive Authority) period is known with an inscription indicating the area. It is actually an official cancel⁴ used on military mail (Fig. 8), although most copies are philatelic. (Hopefully, you will take this second rectangular cancel in stride. After all, it does contain a small circle, partially redeeming itself.)

On 1 May 1963 the Indonesians took over, and immediately replaced the Hollandia cancels with others carrying the new name, Kotabaru (= New City)irian (Fig. 9).

They continued to use the Netherlands New Guinea rural postal station cancels for some time, usually after removing one or all of the Dutch words⁵ (Fig. 10).

Thus ended the mostly adversarial Dutch-Indonesian relationship which lasted for more than three centuries. Less than three decades have passed since, but how dramatically things have changed! Few in prewar Netherlands Indies could have predicted a free Indonesia so soon, and none, I think, could have ever envisioned an Indonesian president and a Dutch queen visiting each other's countries and exchanging pleasantries. Can this period of rapprochement be the subject of a postal history collection? Of course. Just look at aficionados already busy with UNTEA and West Irian. Much more can be done, with stamps, covers and cancels, even common ones.



Fig. 10 Reverse of domestic postal money order. Rural postal station cancel of Wasiar (see Figure 7) with Dutch New Guinea indicia removed from bottom segment. Used by Indonesians six weeks after the UNTEA period ended to legalize signature of recipient.

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Letters

Below we will give you some excerpts from letters that were addressed to our Membership Secretary, in some cases explaining why the writers had dropped their membership. We are glad to hear something from the membership, because without adequate "feedback" it is difficult to know if we are doing "right."

"I would hope to see more postal history items and less on stamp design and personalities. I have no interest in philatelicly prepared items."

"I have no intention of dropping my membership with ASNP since there is always a wealth of information in every newsletter which I enjoy very much."

"I believe the ASNP has done a fine job and has been very worthwhile to Netherlands collectors." (This member no* specializes in Canadian stamps.)

"The work that you people have done over the years to keep this organization viable is truly commendable. I know what problems illnesses and deadlines create. To maintain the high quality that you have through the years must give you great satisfaction."

"I think the ASNP is a wonderful organization with some very interesting publications! However, my interest is not in Netherlands generally, but in the Japanese Occupation issues of Netherlands Indies. ... Although I will say that the ASNP Bookstore and Library are useful resources!" (This is a difficult one, because through the years your editor has more or less steered away from this area, partially because so much had already been published before 1975, and also because the field is overrun with dubious items (did the Japanese really need 25-guilder stamps?) and out-and-out fakes.)

As the editor of *Netherlands Philately* I try to give a "mix"

How to Collect Used Booklet Stamps

Part 2

by Willem van Zandhoven

Booklet No. 8, consisting of four 1-ct stamps and eight 12-ct Juliana stamps comes in two varieties, dull and phosphorescent paper. It is the second booklet with 12-ct stamps, but the cancellation date can be used to distinguish between them. Booklet No. 7 on dull paper was issued on January 31, 1967, and booklet No. 8 on dull paper appeared January 29, 1969. So any cancellation date between these two dates means that booklet No. 7 is involved.

Booklet No. 8, in each version, will give you three different singles, six pairs, and three blocks of four. Figure 4 shows a page of what is my favorite booklet because of the contrasting colors!

Booklet No. 9 starts the Juliana Regina stamps, four 25-ct stamps that never appeared in sheet form! Here we have only two versions, the normal paper and the phosphorescent paper *without* watermark. This is white phosphorescence. Possibilities are limited: two singles, three pairs, and two blocks of four, one with two St. Andrew crosses. For a canceled copy of the entire contents of booklet No. 9ff see Figure 5.

In booklet No. 10 we find two 5-ct stamps and six 15-ct stamps, the same stamps as appeared earlier in booklets Nos. 1 and 2. Here we can definitely use the cancellation dates to distinguish between 15-ct stamps from booklets Nos. 1 and 2, and those from booklet No. 10, which came out January 18, 1971. Here Dr. Rummens warned about a possible late use of the earlier 15-ct stamps, and the 5 ct with bottom imperf. This is, of course, possible, but I believe that the booklets were

of articles in each issue: If we have a worthwhile article on Surinam we'll save for the next issue another article on Surinam. Not everybody is interested in seeing Surinam monopolizing one issue. On the other hand, what happens if all we have on hand are articles on one area? Your editor then goes "hunting" for something else that will spread the interest around. Of course, we like original articles best, but if any member knows of an interesting article in Dutch on a subject he or she would like to see covered, please let us know! Airmail postage to France from the U.S. is only 45 cents (I don't know how much it is from Canada).



Figure 8

normally sold to be 'used up,' right away. I would hesitate if these stamps were used by 'philatelists' because, indeed, they might later on break up booklets to put on their mail to fellow-philatelists.

The phosphorescent paper used for this booklet is the 'old' yellow type with horizontal watermark circles. You may have a problem with the 5-ct stamps from booklet No. 11, which appeared October 18, 1971, but again, the dates lying between January and October make sure that the stamp belongs to the first booklet of the two. Quick enumeration: three singles, six pairs, and three blocks of four.

Booklet No. 11, and its division into singles, pairs and blocks of four is given in Figure 6. You may note — if the



Figure 9

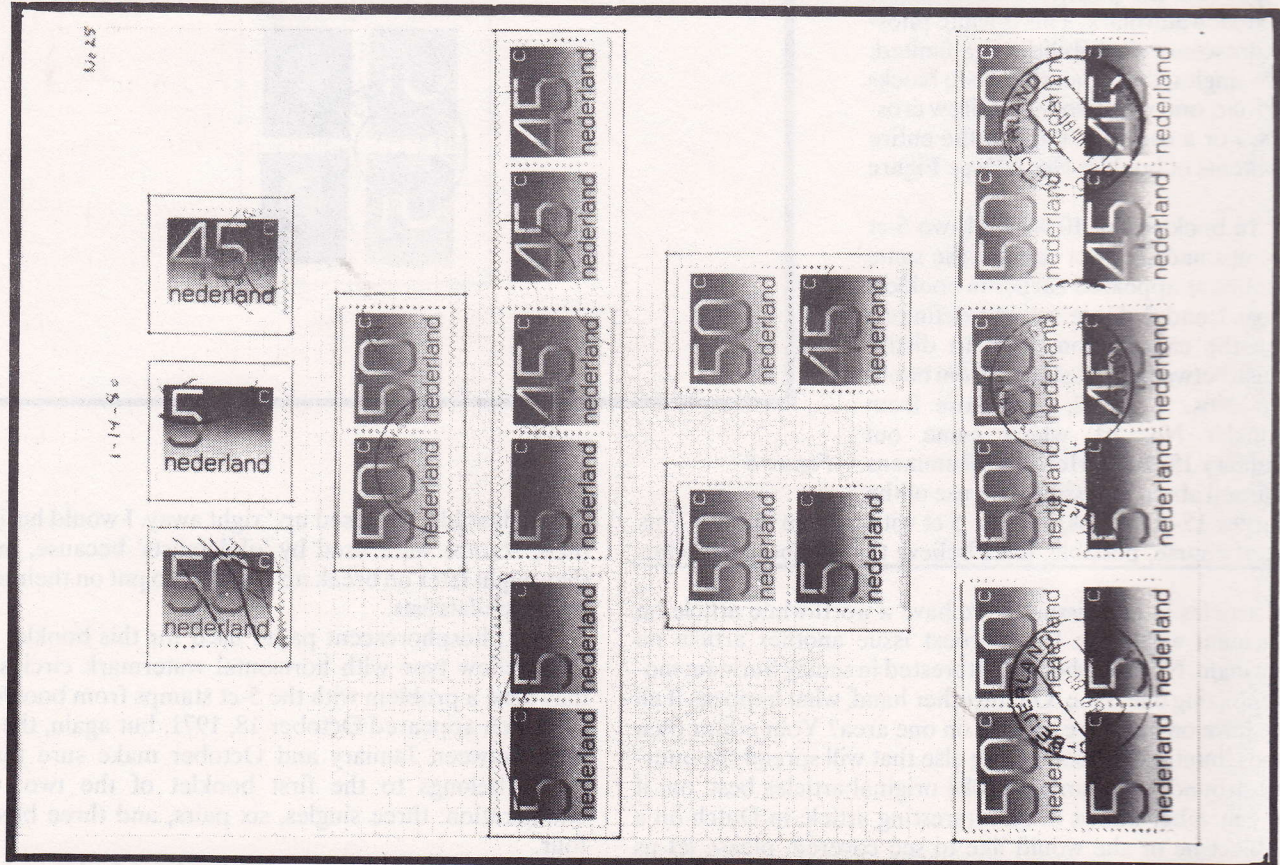


Figure 10



Figure 11

figures are clear enough — that some of my stamps don't follow the 'rule' concerning date of cancellation. This is because I didn't have enough loose stamps, so I pulled complete booklets apart. Hence I know that the stamps really belong to booklet No. 11.

In booklet No. 12 we see the second example of the Juliana Regina design, the 35-ct, and the last appearance of the 10-ct Delta stamp, but as was mentioned earlier, this time on phosphorescent paper *without* watermark. This seems to be a difficult booklet to get used stamps from (as is No. 13, according to Dr. Rummens). Booklet No. 19 also

has 35-ct Juliana Regina stamps, but that booklet was not issued until March 26, 1975. So, again, any date before that means that the 35-ct stamp comes from booklet No. 12, or from booklet No. 13, which also consists of 35-ct Juliana Regina stamps and one 25-ct Regina. But this booklet was issued January 22, 1973, so you still have a safe margin to assign 35-ct stamps to booklet No. 12.

This looking for clearly dated cancellations may have as a result that for once you may have to forego the 'nice' corner cancellations and instead use a really obliterating one, or part of a slogan cancel.

Booklet No. 14 has seven 25-ct Juliana Regina stamps and five 5-ct Van Krimpen numerals. But, there is a great difference between the 25-ct stamps from booklet No. 9 and those from booklets Nos. 13 and 14 (note that the booklet catalogue only mentions a difference in design and color between the stamps from booklets Nos. 9 and 14).

Most of you have already distinguished between these 25-ct stamps for your albums, since these stamps never appeared in sheet form. Simply put, the first design is more of an orange-red than the second, which may be called bright red, while the really distinguishing feature in the second design is the 'outstanding' rectangular background of the Queen's face. Compare Figures 7 and 5.

And so we go on. I guess that you have now grasped my special way of collecting used booklet stamps. You may not approve of it, but I still think the resulting album pages would be an improvement upon those you make up according to the Special Catalogue. Especially the 5-ct Van Krimpen stamps may give you difficulties because many booklets use these to make up a whole amount in guilders to drop in the vending machines. The same problems may also occur with the Crowel numerals, but if the dates do not help, you might

'destroy' complete booklet panes to get the singles, pairs and blocks of four you require.

To show you what you may wind up with, I'll furnish some photographs of booklets that I have complete: booklets Nos. 16, 22, 25, and 27, the first booklet with a Beatrix stamp. See Figures 8-11.

If you have comments, questions or worthwhile information to impart, please write to the Editor who will forward your letter(s).

Surinam 1892: Queen Wilhelmina with Long Hair

by Paul E. van Reyen

NOT MUCH attention has ever been paid to this first set of the young Queen Wilhelmina for Surinam. All six values came out on October 1, 1892, and apart from two values (10 and 12 1/2 ct). which are unused worth many times the catalogue price for the rest, prices are very low for such an 'old' set.

However, in view of some recent questions from members it seems that a small article on the 'young queen' is certainly overdue (see Fig. 1).

Let us first look at the NVPH dealer's catalogue. The set is there given the numbers 23-28, with the usual information that the paper is unwatermarked, and that the stamps, normally without gum, are perforated 12 1/2. For copies on covers we get the also usual NVPH 'treatment' about 'the price which a collector will pay.'

But then we see something very funny. According to this catalogue the stamps lost their validity on July 31, 1897. This is, of course, impossible, especially if we keep in mind that replacements for these definitive stamps did not appear until well into the next century. So, we turn to the *Expanded Catalogue of the Netherlands and Colonies*, edited by P.C. Korteweg, for 1935-36, where we find that the stamps were demonitized per August 1, 1907. The date 1897 that the NVPH gives now looks like a common mistake, except ...

this IS a very bad set to have any mistake like that attached to it!

We have seen that these stamps were available from October 1, 1892, which may be misleading because a decree of the Governor of Surinam of September 14, 1892 (In the Name of the Queen!) states that those stamps which still carry the portrait of king William III will be replaced "by and by" with stamps carrying the portrait of Queen Wilhelmina. Apparently so many stamps were still available of the previous issue that we wonder when the Queen Wilhelmina stamps were

really first used. We know of many covers canceled up to 1898 which carry nothing but William III stamps.

By 1898 the situation must have gotten slightly ridiculous. As you know, some king William III stamps were issued with a 10 cent overprint, starting a few days before Queen Wilhelmina was inaugurated in Amsterdam. The "frugal" Dutch! Our fellow-collector Charles Sacconaghi has two covers with Wilhelmina stamps, canceled in 1898 and 1899 (see Figs. 3 and 4). We don't know if it was possible to request the new stamps with the portrait of Wilhelmina at the post office. If so, earlier covers may be found yet.

But to get back to August 1, 1907, when these stamps lost



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

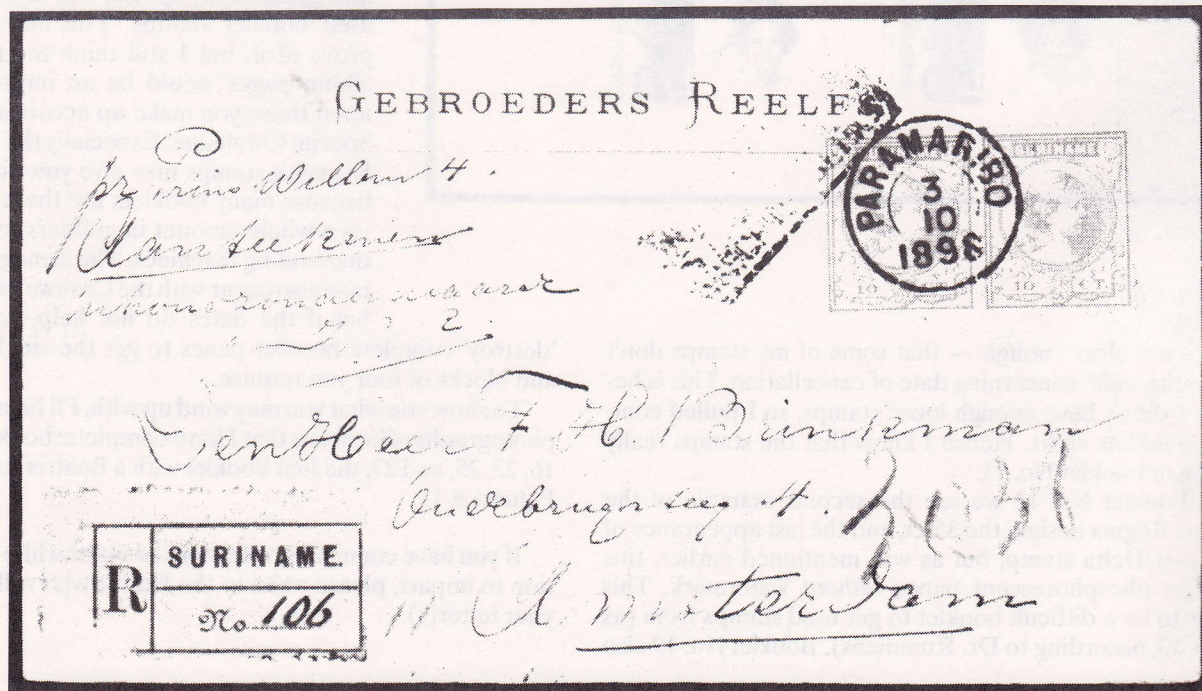


Fig. 3

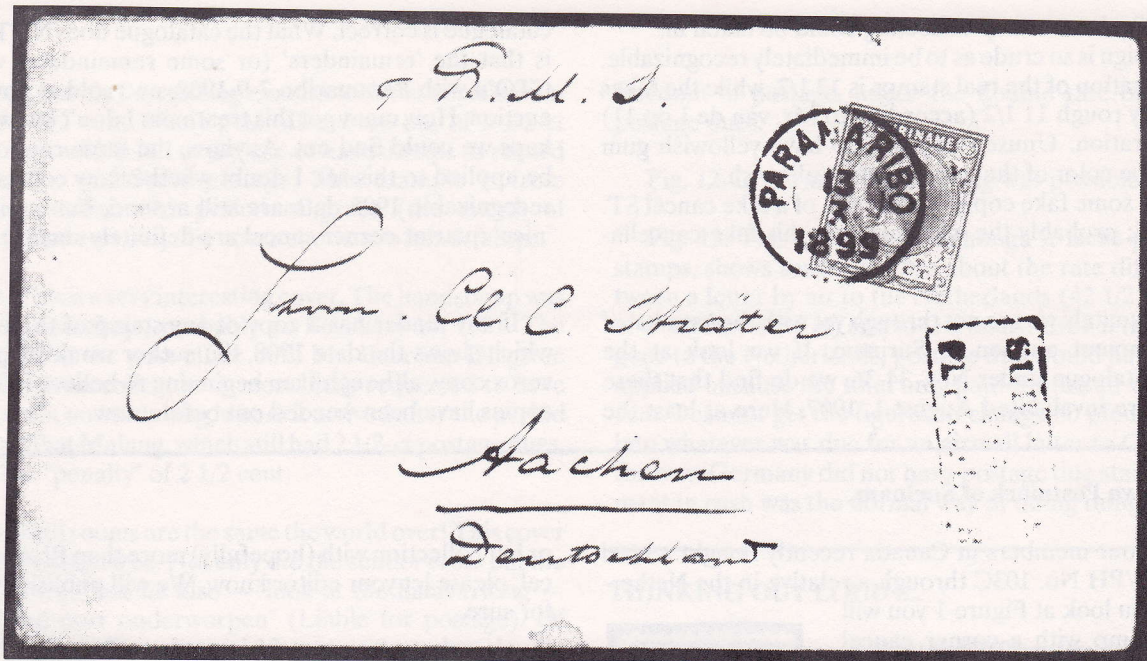


Fig. 4

their validity, an official government stamp auction in Paramaribo sold the 'remainders' of the set AFTER they had been canceled in full sheets with the squared-circle cancel Paramaribo 2-9-1908, that is a date more than a full year later than the official date of demonitization! These stamps can therefore be considered worthless. The *Expanded Catalogue* calls them "minderwaardig," or (in my translation) junk.

Obviously, the full sheets found their way to the stamp dealers in the Netherlands, where at least by 1935-36 they were firmly denounced. And now we can see something very interesting. In all my years of collecting I have never seen one of these stamps with a visible 1908 cancellation!



Fig. 5

requests for copies with a visible 1908 date have not been very productive either. There is only one conclusion possible: All copies that clearly show this year have been very carefully 'destroyed,' or at least removed from the market. Since these



Fig. 6

'bulk' cancels were applied to the center of a block of four stamps throughout the sheet, there must be plenty of stamps left over with parts of the word Paramaribo, but without the telltale 2 and 9 and 8 (see Figs. 5 and 6).

As these stamps appeared in 1892 the normal cancellation of the first ten years consisted of the double circle date stamp with the inner circle interrupted at the bottom by the year of the date. At the top the name of the town is found between the two circles (see Fig. 7). After January 1, 1902, beginning in Paramaribo, the squared-circle cancellation was used up to the end of this set. Please note that this particular



Fig. 7

cancel, which was introduced in 1892 in Curacao, had to wait another ten years before it was applied in Surinam (see Fig. 8).

The *Expanded Catalogue* also states that apart from the 10-ct stamp these stamps are seldom seen postally used. Perhaps in the Netherlands, because I have not found them as rare in American dealers' stockbooks. As a matter of fact, I have only the 20 and 30 cents with squared-circle cancellations, of which the 20 cents shows two digits of the date (19)06 (and thus does not belong to the CTO sheets of the auction),



Fig. 8

but the 10 cents could very well belong to these auction sheets, since it only has a clean right-bottom cancellation with ARAM readable (see Fig. 9). Any stamp that shows only about a quarter of the cancellation is suspect!

One of my stamps also shows that in Nieuw-Nickerie the double circle date stamp was still in use on September 26, 1902, hence nine months after Paramaribo had changed to the squared-circle cancellation (see Fig. 10).

And now we come to the famous (or infamous) forgeries of the entire set. In the good old days when I was checking circuit books for the APS I often removed them even from books submitted by ASN members! They should have known better because these fakes are not difficult to detect. If they were made by Fournier (which I still doubt), they were among the worst he ever perpetrated. Just compare Figures 1 and 2 which show a legitimate stamp on the left and a fake on the right, both equally enlarged. Only a total



Fig. 10

novice in Surinam stamp collecting could be taken in.

The design is so crude as to be immediately recognizable. The perforation of the real stamps is 12 1/2, while the fakes have a very rough 11 1/2 (according to Mr. van de Loo 11) line perforation. Unused copies also have yellowish gum Arabic. The color of the paper is also yellowish.

Finally, some fake copies have parts of a fake cancel ST. THOMAS; probably the whole set has this fake cancellation.

Unfortunately we are not through yet with the 'results' of the government auction in Surinam. If we look at the dealer's catalogue under Nos. 34-36, we do find that these stamps were invalidated August 1, 1907. Here at least the

catalogue is correct. What the catalogue does NOT mention is that the 'remainders' (or some remainders) were also CTO'd with Paramaribo 2-9-1908, and sold at government auction. How many got this treatment I don't know, but perhaps we could find out. Anyhow, the same caution should be applied to this set. I doubt whether any copies with the recognizable 1908 date are still around, but copies with a 'nice' quarter corner cancel are definitely suspect.

If any reader has a copy of any stamp of these two sets which shows the date 1908, the author would appreciate a xerox copy, although I am beginning to believe that all such copies have been weeded out before now.

An Unknown Postmark of Surinam

One of our members in Canada recently bought a used copy of NVPH No. 103C through a relative in the Netherlands. If you look at Figure 1 you will see the stamp with a corner cancel with just three visible letters, namely PLA. Since most stamps from Surinam are canceled at Paramaribo, this seemed somewhat unusual.

He then sent the stamp to Dr. Rummens who, by a process of elimination, thought that this could be a cancel of "G.G. PLACERMIJ," or "PLACER GROS," the only two names in which the combination "PLA" occurs.

If we then check Dr. J. D. Riddell's book *Suriname: A Postal History: 1700-1956*, we find on page 93 under "The Suriname Railway: Its Post Offices and Postal Cancellations," the following:

"The postal cancellations must be divided into two distinct groups, firstly, those used during the building of the railway track, and secondly, those used at the railway stations established after the completion of the railway."

The first type of cancellation consisted of the name in a straight line in a rectangle. both G.G. PLACERMIJ. and PLACER GROS are known in this type. Dr. Riddell goes on:

"The *SECOND TYPE* of cancellation was a 28 mm "Star" circular date stamp, with the name above, date in centre, and three "Stars" below, one lying down, and grills."

He then lists (p. 95) Lelydorp, Onverwacht, Republiek, Kwakoegron, Kabelstation, and Dam (with five "Stars") as being known with this second type of cancellation. "These cancellations, as mentioned before, were used at the Railway Stations, so named, and on cover are scarce. RR."

After comparing the type of letter used in PLA with those of a Paramaribo cancel I am convinced that here (Fig. 2) we have another "station" cancel unknown to Dr. Riddell. Until another cancel is found with more of the name visible we may not be able to say whether this cancel is G.G. Placer-Mij. or Placer Gros, although I am inclined to think the latter. This is strictly based on the distances between P and L and L and A.

If any of our members now finds a Surinam stamp in his

or her collection with (hopefully) more than PLA in the cancel, please let your editor know. We will publish the results, for sure.

P.E.v.R.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Appendix to "More Postage Dues on Cover" (Vol. 13, No. 4, June 1989)

Since some of the figure captions got scrambled (or worse) by the printer, we thought that our members would not mind to dig up last year's June issue of *Netherlands Philately*. and look again at the fantastic postal history items that our fellow-member Charles Sacconaghi was kind enough to share with us. In some cases we can also give some more information on the covers shown.

Fig. 1. On February 1, 1921, rates in the Indies were changed: letters from 10 cent to 12 1/2, postcards from 5 to 7 1/2, and printed matter from 1 to 2 1/2 ct. During this month no penalty (double the missing amount) was as-

sessed, but merely the missing amount with the normal minimum of 2 1/2 cent. Many post offices ran out of 2 1/2-ct postage dues which led to the use of handstamps to record the need for additional postage. This example is from Batavia, and since the period of grace (the month of February) had run out, this cover shows two handstamps.

Fig. 2. This is a very interesting cover. The handstamp was applied in Soerabaja, probably on February 10, 1921. The letter rested at the post office until Mr. Beer van Dingstee — a well-known collector — most likely requested to have the letter sent on to Malang, where it arrived after the period of grace so that Malang, which still had 2 1/2-ct postage dues, applied the "penalty" of 2 1/2 cent.

Fig. 4. Mail rooms are the same the world over! This cover was NOT postage free. Not only did the sender cross out the word "Portvrij," but he also — look at the handwriting — added "Aan port onderworpen" (Liable for postage). Of course the post office charged 10 cent postage due, double the amount of the regular 5 cent postage.

Fig. 5. Since no stamps were available in Java in December 1945, the post office in the Netherlands applied the single rate of 30 cent to letters received from the Indies. Why this letter — the only one I have ever seen or heard of — was censored is unknown to me. Kamp Adek was the most notorious women's concentration camp in Batavia.

Fig. 7. This cover shows that ordinary seemail from the Indies to the Netherlands cost only 12 1/2 cent, or in other words, the internal rate within the Netherlands Indies. The original address was Amersfoort; from there it was forwarded to Rotterdam. In Rotterdam the address was changed again, this time to Belgium, but mail to Belgium from the Indies was more than 12 1/2 cent, hence the post office in Rotterdam applied the "T" marking, with the result that in Tervueren 2.95 BFr. was collected.

Fig. 8. This cover also shows that the 10-ct rate for seemail was only valid for letters to the Netherlands, and *not* to Switzerland. By 1940 the local rate for letters in the Indies, and seemail to the Netherlands had been lowered (in 1937) to 10 cent.

Fig. 9. This special postcard for the "Crisis Fund" (with surcharge) was meant to go by "Postjager" on the special Christmas flight. The special cancel on the 30-ct stamp does not show up in the photo. The "Postjager" had to give up in Italy because of engine trouble. The "Pelikaan" left Schiphol December 18, 1933, picked up the mail of the stranded "Postjager" and arrived December 22, 1933, at Batavia, that is in 100 hours and 35 minutes. The normal traveling time was 9 days! What is remarkable is that the Indies PTT had a special cancel ready for the return flight. Of course the Dutch special flights stamp was *not* valid for this flight, so the sender had to pay 30 cents (but not 60 cents!) postage due.

Fig. 11. In 1948 the rate for a postcard was 6 cents. I am pretty sure that Lt. Colonels at the H.K.S. (Hogere Krijgsschool = Staff and Command School) did *not* enjoy

freedom of postage, hence the double rate of 12 cent in postage dues.

Fig. 12. In Paramaribo *anything* was possible in 1895!

Fig. 13. This 1932 cover, although it lacks postage due stamps, shows something too about the rate difference between a letter by air to the Netherlands (42 1/2 ct = 12 1/2 ct + air rate of 30 ct) and to Germany. Even if the letter had gone to the Netherlands, postage due would have had to be applied because the total only paid for the air charge of 30 cent. I cannot get the figures to change 50 pfennigs of 1932 into whatever was due for an airmail letter to Germany. By the way, Germany did not have postage due stamps, so payment in cash was the normal way of doing things there.

THINKING OUT LOUD

For the third year the Dutch PTT has issued 'December' stamps which are strictly discount stamps to send Christmas and New Year's wishes at a reduced rate. This is fine for all those who live in the Netherlands and whose friends and relatives, or business relations, live in the Netherlands. The stamps are not valid for mail outside the country unless additional postage is applied, or after January 1, 1990.

But what about the collectors of Dutch stamps who will never send any Holiday wishes from and to the Netherlands? The PTT sells these 'December' stamps ONLY in sheetlets of 20 for the tidy sum of 10 guilders (roughly \$5, more for Canadians). The only way one can acquire just one of these stamps is by ordering a year set for 1989. Most collectors, however, will buy one of these miniature sheets anyhow, which means a nice little profit for the PTT. Perhaps we collectors are paying for the 'loss' on the discount stamps.

And of course, when one PTT has found a 'milch cow' (*melkkoetje*) in these discount stamps, can the Netherlands Antilles PTT be far behind? It seems not, for in the issue schedule for 1990 is already found the announcement that on December 5 *two* discount stamps will be released, one for 30 cents and one for 1 NA guilder. Now all we have to do is wait to see whether these will also be issued in nice miniature sheets so that the collector will again be the ultimate 'loser.'

What is also surprising is the reaction of the Dutch philatelists. In the November 1989 issue of *Philatelie* (we used to say the *Maandblad*) the editor says: "We have had to wait fifty years but on November 30 next it is accomplished: then triangular stamps will be available again in the Netherlands!" Drs. Bakhuizen van den Brink entitled his column: "Surprise with the discount stamps of 1989: first triangular stamps since 1936!" Are the Dutch that fond of triangles as long as they are stamps?

And while we are 'bashing' the Dutch PTT, perhaps we can add a little more. When this "Thinking Out Loud" was in the typewriter the "Stamp Issuing Programme 1990" arrived in the mailbox. There appear to be only two months *without* any new issues, January and December, but both in October and November we will have two issues. We'll leave it up to you to figure out the 'damage,' especially if the "December stamp" is again sold only in full sheets (of 25 this

time?).

But what is really aggravating is the announcement for September 4: "One stamp with the theme 'A century of women of the House of Orange on the Dutch Throne.' Queen Emma, Regent and the Queens Wilhelmina, Juliana and Beatrix. Value: Dfls 1,50." As a 'historien manque' I can say here that constitutionally speaking Queen Emma never occupied the Dutch throne. At the moment her father, William III, died, Wilhelmina became Queen and thus 'occupied the throne.' Because of her tender age (10 years old), there was a regency, and the Queen Mother Emma became Regent until Wilhelmina was 18 years. Even so, Wilhelmina's picture appeared, not as "Princess Wilhelmina"

as the dealer's catalogue has it, but as the Queen (with long hair on the stamps issued in 1891).

Furthermore, is the PTT speculating on more than the wish to frank ordinary first-class mail in Western Europe (75 ct) in assigning the value of 1.50 guilders to this stamp? Which rate is this? Apart from one value of the 'Cour Internationale' stamps this is the *only* stamp of 1.50 guilders to be issued in 1990!

It is too bad that the accompanying "Best wishes for the coming year" are anonymous. I would have liked to know who perpetrated the drawing of a Dutch landscape that adorns these wishes.



BOOK REVIEWS

POSTCODE IN NEDERLAND: lijst van KodeerPlaats-Kentekens (KPK), 1978-88. Jos M.A.G. Stroom, 62 pages on A4 format (1988). ASNP price \$ 8.00, Order-On-Demand code 88-11.

You have seen them undoubtedly, on Dutch mail of the last 10-12 years; a series of orangy-red vertical bars, at the bottom of the covers. These are the postal codes, as prepared for the sorting machines. A little above those lines, there are some three or four additional characters, also in red, but perpendicularly written. These are the KPK's, the identity marks of the encoders. If you want to decipher these marks, here is the book/list/catalogue that will tell you how. This is a highly specialized field that will get you into the nitty-gritty of printing c.q. spraying, as different makes of encoder/printers left different marks. There are lots of figures in this book, including many of complete covers.

For the postal mechanization specialists this book is already a bible, for all others it will be a bore.

F.R.

SPECIAAL CATALOGUS NEDERLAND PLAAT-FOUTEN 1990 (special catalogue Netherlands plate errors). J van Wilgenburg, 100 pages, ISBN 90-9003028-X. ASNP price \$ 13.00, ordering code 90-1.

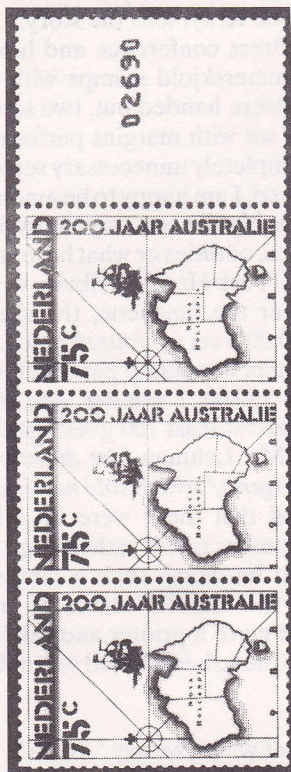
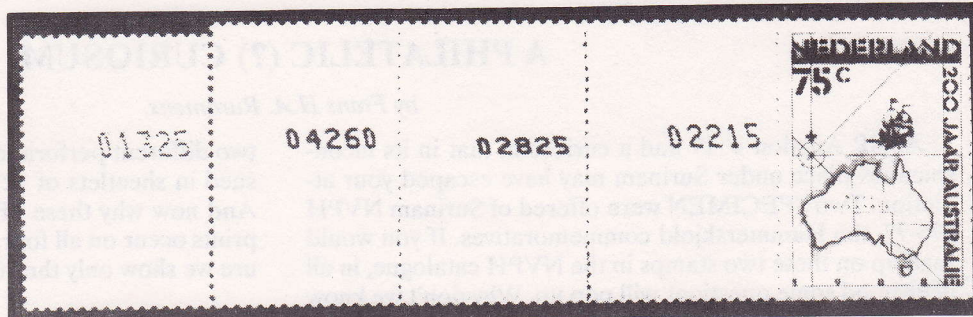
This fifth edition of the well-known Van Wilgenburg guide is twice the size of the previous full edition of 1980, almost entirely because of more plate errors being listed. To our great joy, the present edition for the first time contains a listing for the Overseas Areas. Sixteen for N.E.I., two N.N.G., four Curaçao/N.A. and no less than seventeen for Surinam. In the preface, the author warns, however, that if no new errors are reported to him, this Overseas listing may well be omitted next time. That kind of challenge is enough to get your reviewer into some state of excitation, and so he went to work, with the following results on not reported errors:

1. Neth. Antilles NVPH 210, the 25 ct UPU of 1949; a white "worm" coming out of the globe to the right of "1874". Reported by Paul van Reyen, Netherlands Philately 2 (4) 1977, page 64a.

Continued on page 55

Coil Corner

Just two of the 5,000 or 10,000 subject coils were released to collectors by the Philatelic Service in 1989. These were the 75c Australia coil (with Type 5 control numbers) and the 75c KNVB Football Union coil (with Type 4 control numbers).



With the release of the new long-awaited Rolzegel Katalogus in September 1988, revised classifications for types and position of control numbers were clearly established. As illustrated in this column in the September 1989 issue of Netherlands Philately (Vol. 14 No. 1), the new ink jet control numbers come in two types: the first one, Type 4, being larger than the later-appearing Type 5.

So we thought that area was neatly pinned down. Now it has been discovered that there are a variety of types of ink jet control numbers which have all appeared on just one coil, the recent 75c Australia.

As detailed in the current Postumaat Bulletin (for which we give full acknowledgment), all of these varieties were distributed at one time or another by the Philatelic Service in Groningen. How these will be classified is not known, but will probably await a stabilizing of the situation.

The Bulletin also informs us that the 1986 Billiards coil has been found with both Type 4 and Type 5 numbers, as has the 1987 Juliana/Bernhard 50th Anniversary coil issue.

The latest coil to be made available by the Philatelic Service is the 1987 Noordeinde Palace, which comes in rolls of 10,000 and has Type 4 control numbers. It can be obtained from Groningen in strips of 5; order number is 874900.

The "100 Years of the KNVB" (boy with soccer ball) coil is still also available from Groningen; order number is 894700.

A new Arpeco numbering machine, for use on ordinary 1,000-subject coils, has seen its first use on the as yet unreleased latest printing of the 65c Crowel. We have to wonder what these control numbers will look like — another variety yet?

LHR

Acknowledgment to: Postumaat; Jan Enthoven

Continued from page 54

2. Neth. Antilles 327, the 20ct of the 1962 "Culture" set; a white dot between "20" and "c" on position 22. Reported in Julsen and Benders' "Postal History of Curaçao", page 495.

3. Neth. Antilles 333, the "Anti Honger" overprint of 1963; a white "worm" at the foot of the "A" of "Antilles", position 53.

4. Neth. Antilles 281, the 20 ct of the "Disberg" definitives. Same flaw as under 3, printing No 9 of this set.

The last two errors were reported by your reviewer, first in Neth. Phil., but subsequently also in the "Maandblad" of May, 1984, page 382, complete with photo!

5. Schiller and De Kruyf's 1940 "Manual" mentions a dozen or two plate errors on N.E.I. stamps, which are not mentioned in the Van Wilgenburg catalogue.

It would seem, therefore, that Mr. van Wilgenburg ought to have done his homework, before issuing challenges and ultimatums!

In spite of this criticism, this is a very welcome catalogue, produced with great care, such as evidenced by the excellent pictures.

F.R.

A PHILATELIC (?) CURIOSUM.

by Frans H.A. Rummens.

ASNP Auction # 17 had a curiosum, that in its inconspicuous place under Surinam may have escaped your attention. Two SPECIMEN were offered of Surinam NVPH 376-77, the Hammerskjold commemoratives. If you would read up on these two stamps in the NVPH catalogue, in all likelihood some questions will pop up. Why don't we know the name of the designer? Why printed by E.A. Wright Bank Note Co? Why two different perforations, combined with

two different perforation patterns in the selvedge? Why issued in sheetlets of 12? Why these imperforate varieties? And now why these SPECIMEN overprints? These overprints occur on all four stamp varieties, although in the figure we show only the 10 ct in the 12 1/2 line perforation.

Most of the answers can be found in the December 1961 issue of "Netherlands and Colonies Philately" (Vol. XXVI, No 2), where editor Johannes de Kruyf tells the story:

In December, at a Press conference and luncheon, sheets of the Hammerskjold stamps with the SPECIMEN overprint were handed out, two sets to each invited guest; one set with margins perforated and one without this completely unnecessary separation. A fine gesture indeed, I am happy to be amongst the recipients... but, was this all necessary? Why purposely create new rarities, oddities or what have you? Ernest Kehr of the New York Herald Tribune wrote in his column, that after the luncheon, the sheets were being sold for \$ 20.00 a set (of four sheets F.R.) and a recent advertisement in a stamp paper offered the same 'things' for \$ 150.00. I wonder who buys items like that; there were at least 100 guests at that meeting and although Mr. Lehman (the director of the "Surinam Philatelic Agency" which sold new issues of Surinam F.R.) stated that there were no other copies available, that number is still rather large for material of this type to be worth such a fantastic price. I also question the 'official' status of such items; could not anyone go to a printer and ask him to overprint some of his mint sheets if and when they are issued?...

So far Mr. the Kruyf, to all of which we say "Amen".

Thanks are also due to Paul van Reyen and to Cees Slofstra, who contributed the figure. Cees says that the signature at the top of the sheetlet (H. Nelson?) is that of the designer.

