

JUNE '95

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 19¹/₄

ASN P



A non-profit organization registered
in the State of Illinois
Founded in 1975 by Paul E. van Reyen

Netherlands Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NETHERLANDS
PHILATELY

Volume 19, Number 4

Editorial Board

Frank W. Julsen
Dr F.H.A. Rummens
C. Slofstra

Board of Governors

E. Matthews, Oakville, Ontario
Dr. Fred I. Reed, New York
Cees Slofstra, Eindhoven
Frank W. Julsen, Arizona

President

Vacant

Vice President

HansPaul Hager
1188 Wunderlich Drive
San Jose, CA 95129

Membership Secretary/

Advertising Manager

Jan Enthoven
W6428 Riverview Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

Corresponding Secretary

Marinus Quist
116 Riverwood Drive
Covington, LA 70433

Treasurer

George A. Comnes
3200 S. Ridge Drive
Richmond, CA 94806

Journal Staff

Editorial Collective:
c/o Hanspaul Hager
1188 Wunderlich Drive
San Jose, CA 95129
Publisher: Jan Enthoven

Newsletter

Editor: Frans H.A. Rummens
94 Munroe Place
Regina Sask
Canada S4S 4P7

Bookstore Manager

Fernand H. Mollenkramer
6301 Downey Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805

Librarian

HansPaul Hager
1188 Wunderlich Drive
San Jose, CA 95129

British Representative

Richard Wheatley

German Representative

Hans Wicher

Printed in U.S.A.

June 1995

From the Editors

After having survived editing the previous issue of the Journal and without receiving any comments (good, bad or indifferent) we are happy to bring you this issue.

We are putting in an effort to tap into new sources for material to be published. These new sources we see as coming mainly from the Netherlands, through the use of references in the 'Maandblad voor Philatelie'. When contacted, most people are quite helpful in sending us material they previously published in their club's newsletters. If anyone ever comes across an article which has not previously been published in either our Journal or Newsletter, please contact the author of the article in question and ask for permission to use it. If having to translate it into English deters you, please don't hesitate to contact us; we will gladly do it.

Also, everybody should think about writing an article themselves. At first you might think that you don't have anything to contribute. However, you probably sometimes wonder why certain articles appear in the Journal. You might find them to be 'too shallow', or 'too much in depth'. Realizing that the interests and knowledge of the membership covers a wide range should make it easier to come up with something you would like to share. Only through sharing will we learn from each other. Don't rely on somebody else to do the work.

This issue has, we think, a set of articles that most of the membership can relate to. Most material discussed, or similar material, has probably been seen or is owned by most of us. Go through your material and see how it relates to what's written here; you might look at it with renewed interest. Maybe you will find additional information; let us know, we love to hear from you!

Table of Contents

The 17 1/2 Cents Issues of the Netherlands.....	50
Netherlands Indies, an overview of Postal Rates (1863-1907).....	55
Fake Netherlands-Indies Cancels	59
The N.E.I. Veth high values, and their subsequent overprints 'On Cover'	61

Netherlands Philately is published quarterly by the American Society for Netherlands Philately.
©Copyright 1995, the American Society for Netherlands Philately.

(Opinions expressed in the various articles in this journal are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by ASN P or this journal.)

ASN P is Affiliate No. 60 of APS.

Advertising rates are \$80 for a full page, \$45 for a half page and \$25 for a quarter page.

THE 17 1/2 CENTS ISSUES OF THE NETHERLANDS

by John W. van Rysdam

After studying and writing on the 1/2 cents (see ASNP Journal of June 1991) and 22 1/2 cents (June 1993) issues I started asking again: Why did we need these 17 1/2 cents stamps and why in so many quantities?

Digging into the "Speciale", Buitenkamp-Muller (B-M) and da Costa did not find that many SINGLE uses for these stamps. The only single use mentioned in B-M is for letters of the second weight group (between 20 and 100 gram) sent to Belgium. This rate was in effect from 10/1/1907 through 3/1/1921, and again from 11/1/1928 to 4/1/1947.

Sure, in those days there were make-up rates to dispose of not-necessary values; stamps needed for parcellpost, braille and newspaper rates. However the braille and newspaper rates seldom came as high as 17 1/2 cents, while the parcellpost and sample rates mostly ended in even cents.

The main reason these stamps were issued was to save time for the clerks at the postoffice. Any Registered or Special Delivery letter was usually handled by the clerks. As can be seen from exhibit # 1 the rates for Registered or Special Delivery postcards, and later letters, sent within the Netherlands, added up to 17 1/2 cents. Instead of having to attach two stamps to the card or envelope, one 17 1/2 cents stamp would do the job, thus saving the clerk some time.

Exh. 1 shows a listing of the various 17 1/2 cents issues and the than prevailing rate structures.

"Letter I" refers to the first weight group (usually less than 20 grams).

17 1/2 CENTS AND RATE STRUCTURE

NVPH NO.	ISSUE	VALID FROM-TO	RATE STRUCTURE
66	Furcollar	6/1906 - 12/31/35	1/1/1871 - 10/16/16
67	Furcollar	6/1910 - 12/31/35	Postcard 2 1/2 + Spc. Dlvry. 15
			11/1/19 - 3/1/21
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Rgstrd. 10
			2/1/28 - 11/1/29
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Spc. Dlvry. 10
361	Guilloche	10/1/40 - 3/31/44	8/20/40 - 12/1/42
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Spcl. Dlvry. 10
385	Dove	1941 - 6/30/48	8/20/40 - 1/1/46
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Rgstrd. 10
416	Naval Heroes	1943/44 - 5/31/46	8/20/40 - 11/1/46
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Rgstrd. 10
338	Q. Wilhelmina	3/1946 - 9/30/49	8/20/40 - 11/1/46
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Rgstrd. 10
436	Liberty Issue	4/1/46 - 12/31/47	8/20/40 - 11/1/46
			Letter I 7 1/2 + Rgstrd. 10

When in February of 1947 it was noted that many 17 1/2 cents stamps of the Liberty Issue were still available at the postoffices, the PTT issued a special Service Order (H.108): "It has come to our attention that at many postoffices large quantities of the stamps printed in England, especially the 12 1/2 and 17 1/2 cents value, are available. These stamps should be sold on a priority basis. Additionally, unless the

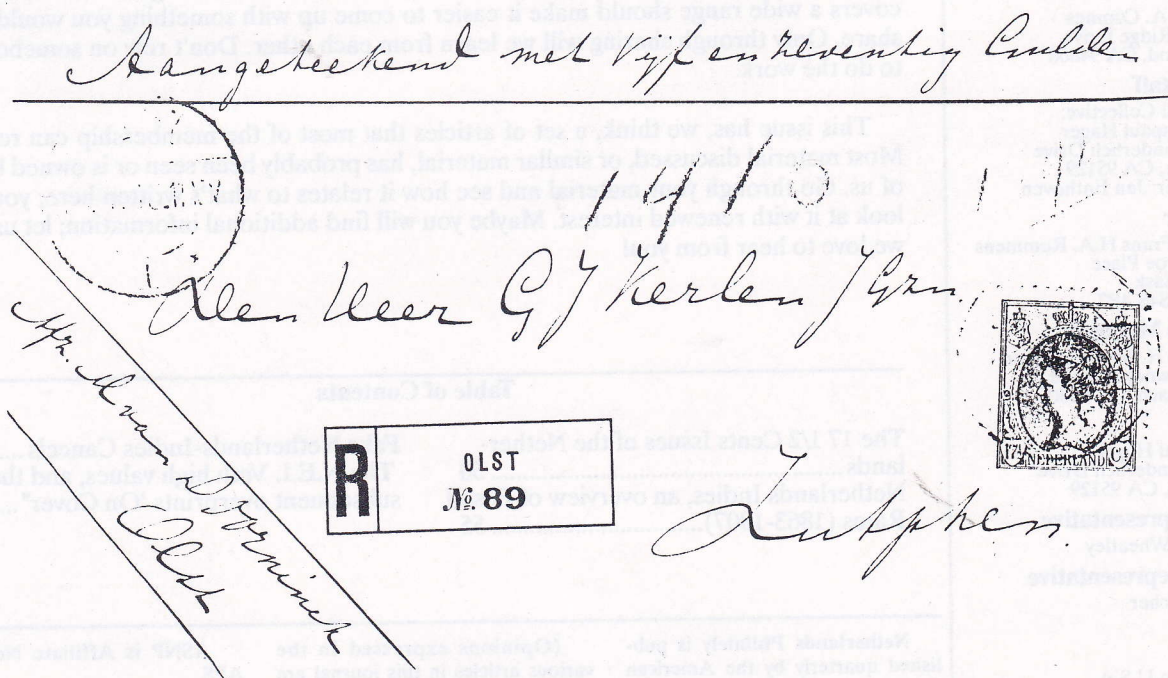


Fig. 1 Registered letter sent 1-26-1915 from Olst to Zutphen.

customer protests, when asked for stamps of other value, the previous mentioned stamps should be sold, if necessary complimented by other stamps (for example for stamps of 35 cents, use 2 stamps of 17 1/2 cent, or one of 12 1/2 and one of 22 1/2 cents)."

Checking deeper into 'overprints' I discovered that none of the above stamps had been used for: Postage Dues, Vending machine stamps (Syncopated Perfs), Armenwet (Social Services), Cour Permanent de Justice Internationale, and non at all used as overprints for the former colonies as was the fact with other values.

The only stamp used for Clearance Overprints was the 17 1/2 cents blue and brown of the 1899 Queen Wilhelmina Fur-collar Issue (# 67). In 1923 it became # 119 overprinted with 10 cents, # 133 overprinted with 1 Gulden, and # 2 of the Parcelpost C.O.D. stamps with an overprint of 15 cents.

Then the question came up: Are they worth collecting? Although the stamps itself, except for the # 66, are not priced that high the stamps on letters and cards as single usage show good prices for the older issues. Exhibit 2 shows their values, using the "Speciale" of 1995 and Buitenkamp-Muller (Seventh Edition).

All Prices are in Dutch Guilders, as per "Speciale" 1995, and Buitenkamp-Muller 1992/93

PRICES OF STAMPS AND STAMPS ON LETTERS

NVPH NO.	ISSUE	SINGLE STAMPS		STAMPS ON LETTERS
		MINT	USED	
66	Furcollar	130.00	35.00	450.00
67	Furcollar	45.00	2.50	90.00
338	Q.Wilhelmina	3.00	2.50	45.00
361	Guilloche	2.00	1.75	60.00
385	Dove	0.50	0.50	6.00
416	Naval Heroes	0.25	0.50	17.50
436	Liberty Issue	2.50	3.00	50.00

All in all it is an interesting set of stamps and well worth to make a special small collection of the stamps and its use on letters and cards.

Illustrations were provided by Mrs. Martinus Verkuil, Ralph Van Heerden, and Charles Sacconaghi.

Good luck!

References:
"the Speciale"
Buitenkamp-Muller - Postzegels op Brief (Stamps on letters)
da Costa - Posttarieven Nederland (Postal rates of the Netherlands)

All three books are available in our own ASNP bookstore and can be easily followed, even for rusty Dutch linguists.

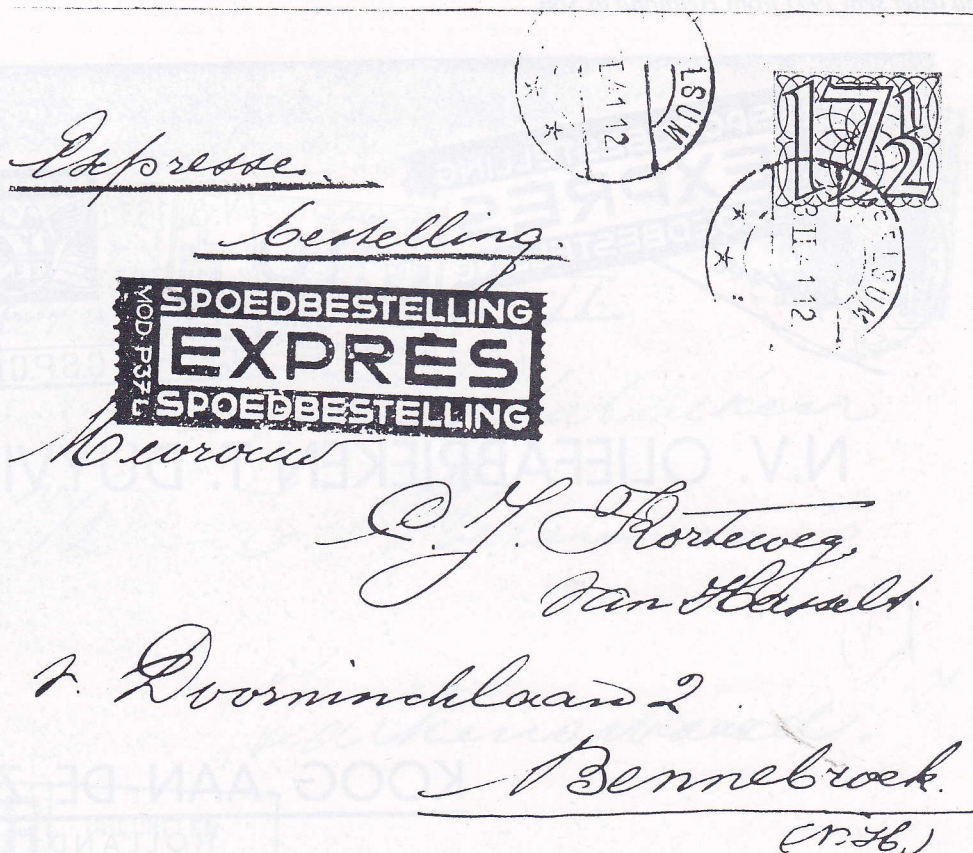
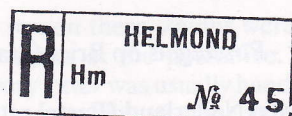


Fig. 2 Express Mail letter sent 1941 from Heelsum to Bennebroek.

Aangefekend



Heer. de Gough-Blouin



Son v. B.

Fig. 3 Registered letter sent 1941 from Helmond to Son.

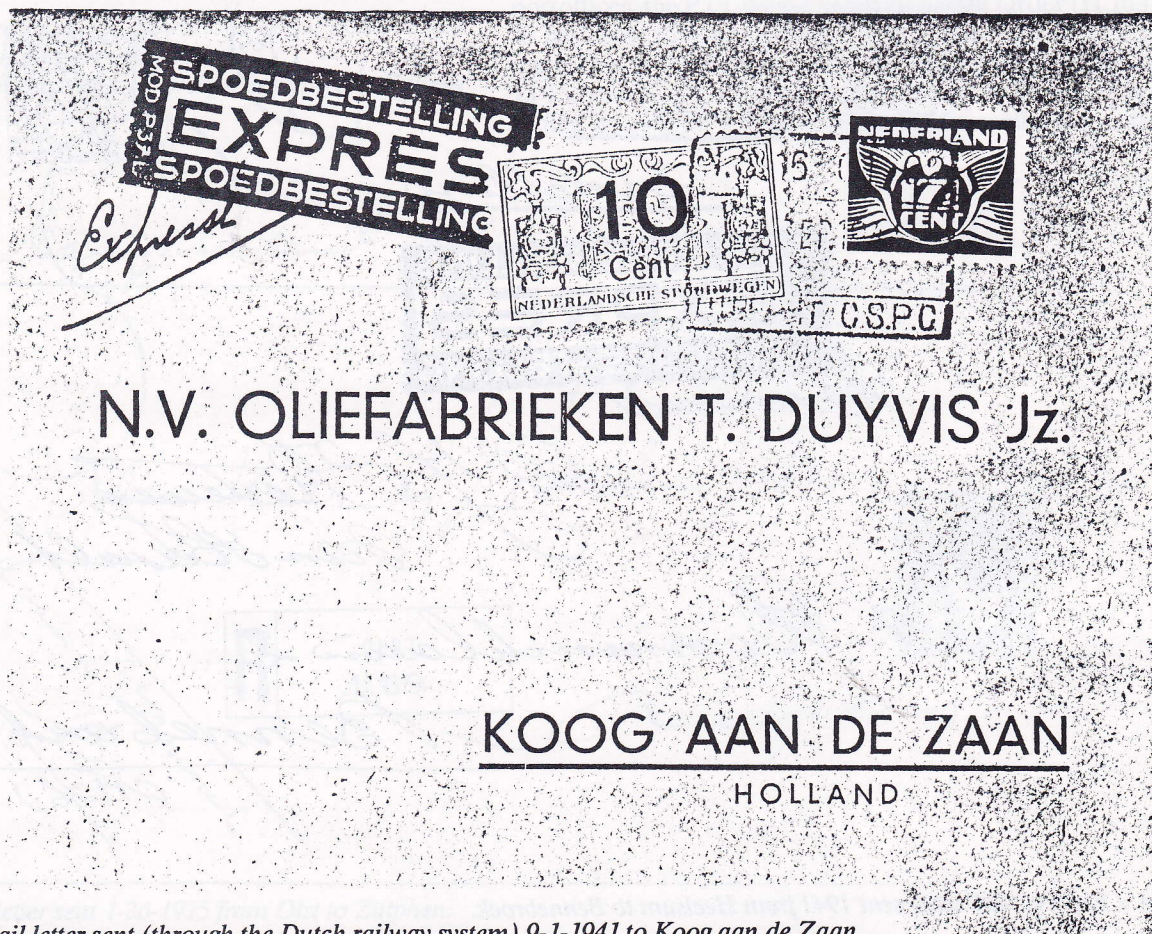
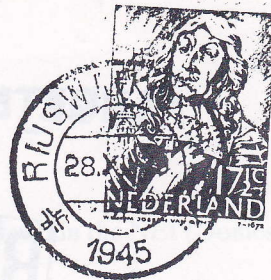


Fig. 4 Express Mail letter sent (through the Dutch railway system) 9-1-1941 to Koog aan de Zaan.

Nieuw adres: HAAGWEG 139 - RIJSWIJK
Nieuw telefoonnummer: 11.95.01

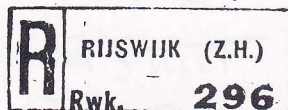


ANGELIEN

544

N.V. Steenfabriek "De IJsserwaard",

R H E N E N.



ONDERVAKGROEP ASBESTCEMENTWAREN
NASSAU DILLENBURGSTRAAT 47
's-GRAVENHAGE

Fig. 5 Registered letter sent 1945 from Rijswijk to Rhenen.

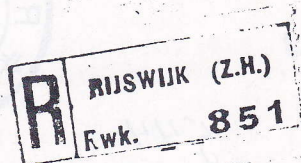


Van Willem II
Ligunfabriek
W. E. Kersten & Co
a
IJsserwaard.



Fig. 6 Registered letter sent 1945 from Rijswijk to Rhenen.

AANGETEKEN



Aan de Fa. Leccius de Ridder & van der Heyden

Cuneralaan 65

R H E N E N

BEDRIJFSGROEP
Steen-, Cement-, Glas- en
Fijnkeramische Industrie
HAAGWEG 139, RIJSWIJK (Z.-H.)

Fig. 7 Registered letter sent 8-20-1946 from Breukelen to Valkenswaard.



541
The Drake's family
220 Lo 20th St.
Philadelphia 3
Pa

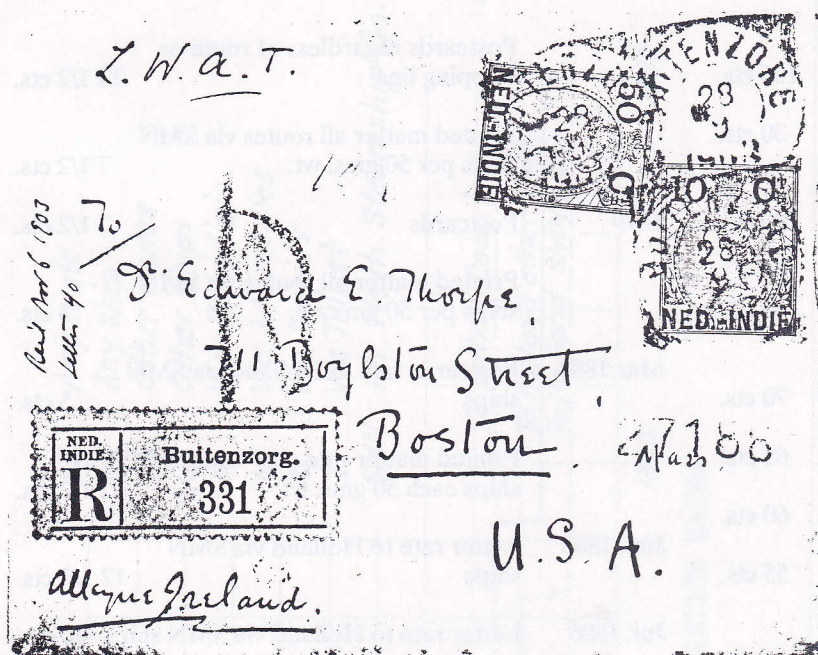


Fig. 8 Airmail letter sent 1946 from Haarlem to Philadelphia.

Surface rate = 12 1/2 cents
Airmail surcharge = 40 cents
Total 52 1/2 cents (made up through 3 x 17 1/2 cents)

NETHERLANDS INDIES (An Overview of Postal Rates (1863 - 1907))

by Ralph Van Heerden



Sample Letter:

A prepaid registered letter sent Sept. 28, 1903 from Buitenzorg via Weltevreden to Boston, Mass. USA

The 18 1/2 gms. weight, being over the 15 gms. single weight amount, double postage was assessed.

2 x 25 cts = 50 cts. postage, plus 10 cts. registry

When writing up the pages to mount stamps and covers, it often is confounding to understand the reason for the denomination of the stamp or for the postage paid on the cover. It can take considerable digging in reference material, if available, and/or correspondence with authors, the postal museum or other collectors to find the source of the rates.

In the case of the Netherlands Indies, complexity abounds due to routes available for foreign bound letters, and the subsidy given to encourage use of the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland (Netherlands Steamship Company (SMN)), zeepost, rather than using French, British or Austrian ships. Overseas letters were required to proceed to the written address by closed bag, to conform to the special rate paid, once the ships reached Marseille, Trieste, Brindisi, Naples, etc. In principle, mail annotated via country ship and route had a higher postal rate, so called zeetoeslag, than mail traveling the much slower overland route (to Europe).

The following then are some of the postal rates used during the postage stamp period, with possibly an inaccuracy here and there due to conflicting reference data, for letters, postcards, printed matter and newsprint, for:

I. Mail within the NEI (Domestic Rates).

II. The archipelago destinations of the Straits Settlements (Singapore, Pinang, and Malaca) and Portuguese Timor.

III. Mail to Holland & nearby European destinations.

DOMESTIC RATES

Jan. 1863	
Letter rate per 15 gms. wt.	10 cts.
For each increment of 15 gm. over 15 gm.	10 cts.
Non-officer military letter rate per 15 gms. wt.	5 cts.

Registered letter fee	10 cts.
1864	Printed matter rate per 50 gms. wt. 5 cts.
	Newsprint rate per sheet 1 ct.
Jul. 1875	Printed matter rate per 20 gms. wt. 2 cts.
	Postcard rate 5 cts.
	Newsprint rate per 25 gms. wt. 1 ct.
1877	Printed matter rate per 50 gms. wt. 2 cts.
Jul. 1902	Newsprint rate per 25 gms. wt. 1/2 ct.
1907	Printed matter rate per 50 gms. wt. 1 ct.
	Letter rate per 20 gms. wt. 10 cts.

II ARCHIPELAGO RATES

to 1876	Letter, postcard and printed matter rates the same as for foreign mail.
May 1877	Postcard rate 5 cts.
	Printed matter rate per 50 gms. wt. 2 1/2 cts.
Nov. 1881	Letter rate per 15 gms. wt. 12 1/2 cts.

III MAIL TO HOLLAND & NEARBY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

all letter rates are for 15 gms.wt.

1863	Letters with an undesignated route	90 cts.
	Letters designated via Triest (least sea travel)	105 cts.
May 1866	Letters to Holland via SMN ships	30 cts.
	Letters designated via Triest (other ships)	100 cts.
	Printed matter via SMN ships per sheet (20 cts. minimum)	5 cts.
Jun. 1866	Letters designated via Marseille (French ships) least land travel	70 cts.
Mar. 1869	Letters designated via Triest	65 cts.
Jan. 1870	Letters designated via Marseille	60 cts.
	Letters designated via Triest	55 cts.
	Printed matter any route per 50 gms. wt.	10 cts.
Jul. 1870	Letters designated via Brindisi (Franco-Prussian War closed the Marseille route)	60 cts.
Oct. 1871	Letters to Holland via SMN ships	20 cts.
	Printed matter rate per 40 gms. wt.	10 cts.
	Printed matter rate via SMN ships per 40 gms. wt.	5 cts.
	Letters designated via Marseille or Brindisi in the 60-75 gms.wt. range	300 cts.
Oct. 1875	Letters designated via Naples per SMN ships (quickest travel)	
	Franked	30 cts.
	Unfranked	60 cts.
	Printed matter via Naples per SMN ships per 50 gms.wt.	7 1/2 cts.
Feb. 1876	Printed matter via Brindisi per SMN ships per 50 gms. wt.	7 1/2 cts.
Apr. 1876	Letters designated via Marseilles, Triest or Brindisi per SMN ships:	
	Franked:	50 cts.
	Unfranked:	100 cts.
	Postcards	15 cts.

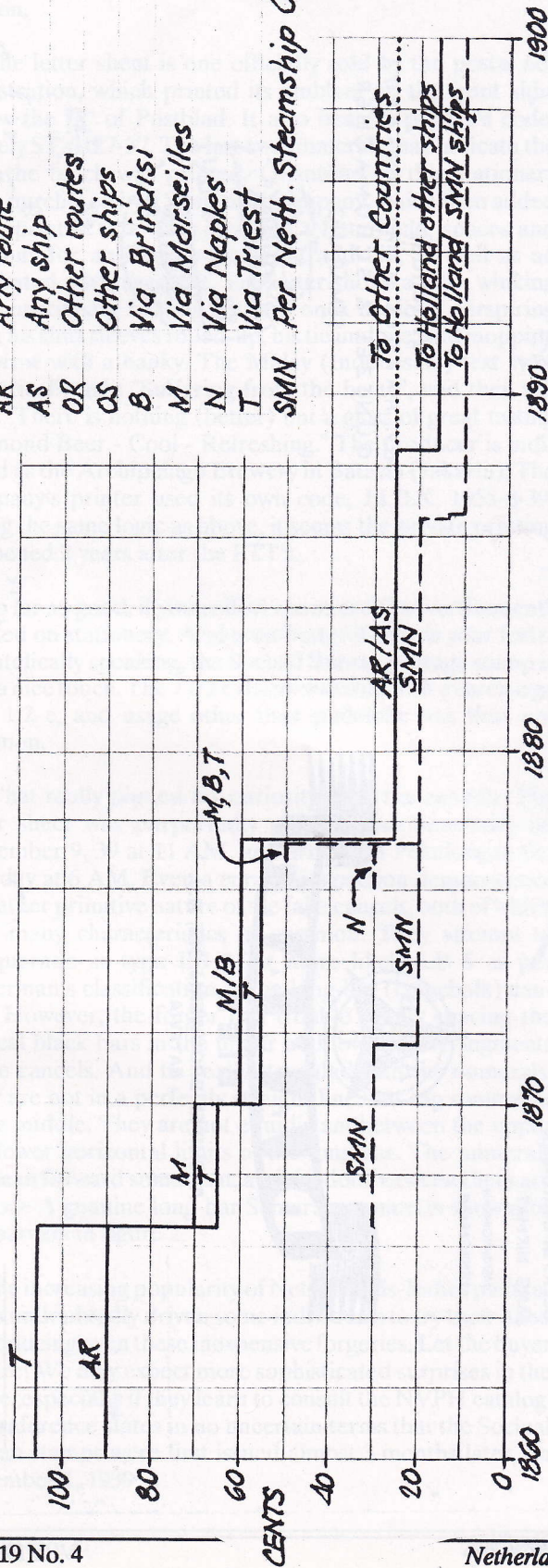
May 1877	Letters regardless of route or shipping line	
	Franked:	25 cts.
	Unfranked:	40 cts.
	Printed matter per SMN ships per 40 gms. wt.	5 cts.
	Postcards regardless of route or shipping line	12 1/2 cts.
	Printed matter all routes via SMN ships per 50 gms. wt.	7 1/2 cts.
1879	Postcards	7 1/2 cts.
	Printed matter all routes via SMN ships per 50 gms. wt.	5 cts.
Mar. 1882	Postcards rate to Holland via SMN ships	5 cts.
	Printed matter rate via Naples per SMN ships each 50 gms. wt.	2 1/2 cts.
Jun. 1886	Letter rate to Holland via SMN ships	12 1/2 cts.
Jul. 1886	Letter rate to Holland via SMN ships	10 cts.
Apr. 1888	Letter rate to Holland via other ships	15 cts.
	Letter rate to other countries	25 cts.
Jul. 1889	Printed matter rate via Naples per SMN ships each 50 gms. wt.	2 cts.
	Printed matter rate by other ships/routes each 50 gms. wt.	3 cts.
Jul. 1902	Printed matter rate by other ships/routes each 50 gms. wt.	2 1/2 cts.
Mar 1907	Postcard rate to Holland and other countries, any route, any ship	5 cts.
	Letter rate any route all shipping lines	12 1/2 cts.

References:

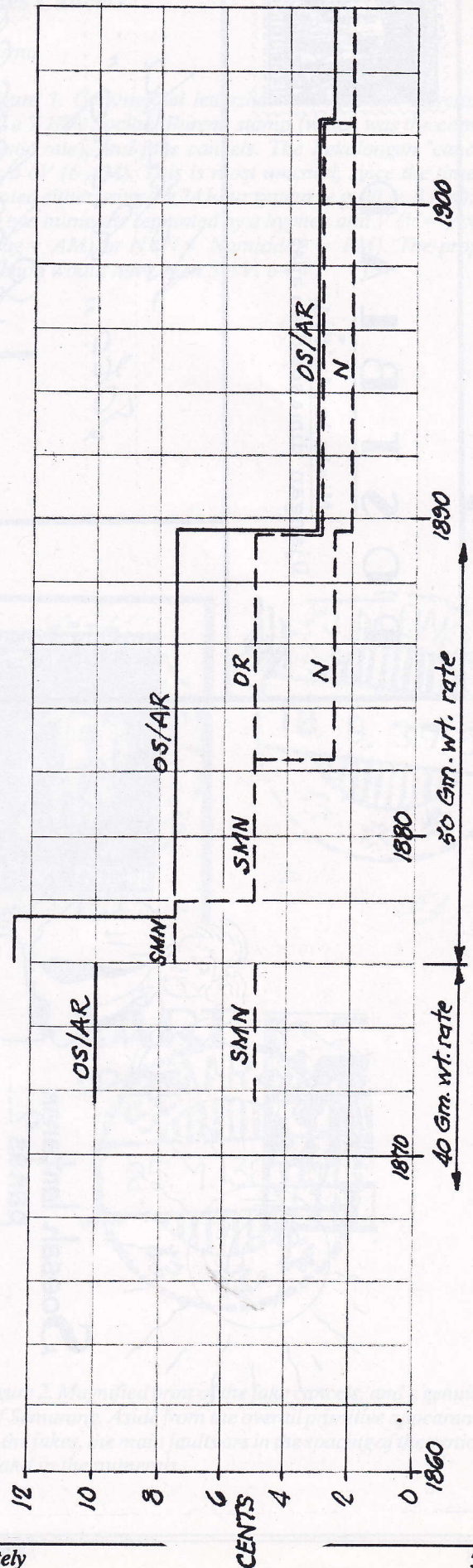
- Nederlandsch-Indie by R.A. Slew
- De Emissies 1870, 1883 en 1892.
- Handboek der Postwaarden van Nederlandsch-Indie
- NVPH Speciale Catalogus van de Postzegels van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen, Posttarieven.
- Van Dieten catalogus No. 554 (Voerman collection).

An Overview of Postal Rates 1860 - 1907

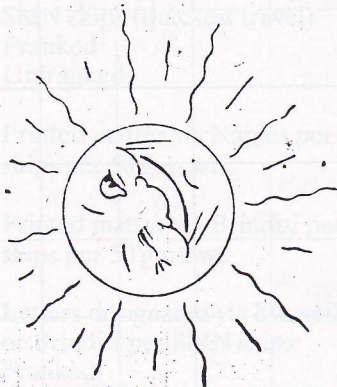
AR Any route
AS Any ship
OR Other routes
OS Other ships
B Via Brindisi
M Via Marseilles
N Via Naples
T Via Trieste
SMN Per Neth. Steamship Co. ships



HOLLAND AND EUROPEAN BOUND LETTER RATES



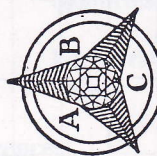
HOLLAND AND EUROPEAN BOUND PRINTED MATTER RATES



Soesah lantaran
panas?....

TIDAK ADA LAIN,
MELAINKAN SATOE
GELAS DIAMANT-BIER
JANG NIKMAT

MENDINGKAN
MENEGARKAN



DIAMANT

BIER

AROHIPEL BROUWERIJ OIE, N.V.
BATAVIA

J. I. B. K. 1055-8-39

POSTBLAD.

Niets insluiten.
Djangan dimasoeakkan apa².



Kapada
Joko, Liong
Pekalongan.

ST-6127-37

Afzender:

N.V. HANDEL MAATSCHAPPIJ
GÜNTZEL & SCHUMACHER
SEMARANG



Fake Netherlands-Indies Cancels

by: M. Hardjasudarma

At first glance, the lettersheet (postblad) illustrated in figure 1 would be a nice, and inexpensive addition to a Netherlands-Indies postal history or postal stationery collection.

The letter sheet is one officially sold by the postal administration, which printed its emblem on the front side, below the "P" of Postblad. It also bears a printer's code, namely ST-6127-37. The last two numerals may indicate the year the batch was printed. Quantities of this stationery were purchased by a Semarang company, which then added some printed text. This included a letterhead, spaces and columns for an itemized account and bill, as well as an illustrated advertisement. The latter shows a jolly, winking sun, mercilessly beating its rays on a hapless, perspiring man, his shirt sleeves rolled-up, his tie undone, and mopping his brow with a hanky. The Malay (Indonesian) text sympathetically asks "Suffering from the heat?", and then advises "There is nothing (better) but a glass of great tasting Diamond Beer - Cool - Refreshing." The producer is indicated as the Archipelago Brewery in Batavia (Jakarta). The company's printer used its own code, J.I.B.K. 1055-8-39. Using the same logic as above, it seems the private printing happened 2 years after the PTT's.

So far so good, if you collect commercial advertisements printed on stationery. And even better if beer is your forte. Philatelically speaking, the Sociaal Bureau postage stamp is also a nice touch. The 7 1/2 c stamp was sold with a surcharge of 2 1/2 c, and usage other than philatelic was thus not common.

What really piqued my curiosity were the cancels. The letter sheet was purportedly mailed from Semarang on September 9, 39 at 11 AM, and arrived in Pekalongan the next day at 6 AM. Even a cursory inspection demonstrates the rather primitive nature of the fake cancels, both of which have many characteristics in common. They attempt to masquerade as type LB 1, or more likely LB 5 as per Bulterman's classification of the long-bar (langebalk) cancels. However, the forger had trouble evenly spacing the vertical black bars in the upper and lower inner-segments of the cancels. And he really struggled with the numerals. They are not in a perfectly straight line, but sag somewhat in the middle. They are not equidistant between the upper and lower horizontal limits of the long bar. The numerals also lean forward somewhat, and the dots between them are too low. A genuine long-bar Semarang cancel is shown for comparison in figure 2.

The increasing popularity of Netherlands-Indies philately has undoubtedly driven some individuals to try their hand at producing even these inexpensive forgeries. Let the buyer beware! We may expect more sophisticated surprises in the future, especially if they learn to consult the NVPH catalog. This reference states in no uncertain terms that the Sociaal Bureau stamps were first issued almost 3 months later, on December 1, 1939.

Figure 1. Commercial lettersheet with printed advertisement, a 7 1/2 c Sociaal Bureau stamp (which was the correct domestic rate), and fake cancels. The Pekalongan "cancel" bears a 6V (6 AM). This is most unusual, since the time is indicated either using the 24 hour system (e.g. 20 = 8 PM), or using two numerals separated by a hyphen and V (V = Voormiddag = AM) or N (N = Namiddag = PM). The proper indication would have been 5-6 V, 6-7 V.



Figure 2. Magnified print of the fake cancels, and a genuine one of Semarang. Aside from the overall primitive appearance of the fakes, the main faults are in the spacing of the vertical bars, and in the numerals.

N.V. HANDEL MIJ. GÜNTZEL & SCHUMACHER

Bon No 22904

Semarang.

18 Sept. 1939.

Rekening No. P/D 348

voor

TOKO LIONG

PEKALONGAN

2	¢	a 48/1 fl. Klosterbier a f 22.-- per ¢
10	zkn.	Meel tjap Boerak a f 7,10 per 4 zakken
1	¢	Krenten
1	¢	Rozijnen

F.	44.--
"	17 75
"	11 25
"	11 --

F.	84.--
----	-------

Per 18 October 1939.-

The N.E.I. Veth high values, and their subsequent overprints 'On Cover'

by M. Hardjasudarma

For texts of this material
see Vol 20 / # 1

How difficult is it to find the 1 and 2 1/2 guilder Netherlands-Indies stamps designed by Veth, used 'on cover' ? And how about the JAVA, BUITEN BEZIT, and 30 cent overprints of the same stamps, also 'on cover' ?

In order to find some answers to these questions in a short time, one weekend to be exact, the following were inspected:

(1) auction catalog pages with pictures of Netherlands-Indies postal history lots of 4 major Dutch stamp auction firms from roughly the last 10 years, as follows:

- Van Dieten (VD) and J.K. Rietdijk (JKR) since 1984
- Nederlandsche Postzegelverlating (NPV) since 1985
- Wiggers de Vries (WDV) since 1987

For the periods indicated (until the end of 1994 - early 1995), the material is almost, but not totally, complete. A

few auction catalogs from other Dutch firms were also consulted.

(2) several examples from the author's collection.

The catalog page search yielded exactly three items (a fourth did not really fit in this study, but will be described). These were:

1: The 30 cent overprint on cover in combination with other stamps, including a Red Cross stamp of 1915 with a misplaced overprint. (JKR, Feb. '87)

2: A money order form with four copies of the 1 Gld. value. (VD, Apr. '91). (Figure 1)

3: Almost similar to #2 above, except with JAVA overprint. This is from memory since I was unable to find the page in question. I do remember it quite well, however, since it was a very nice item.

0505

STROOK,
die door den geadresseerde kan
worden behouden.
(bolih dipegang olih sipenerima).

verz. 7/7-1917

Bedrag van den postwissel in
cijfers.

Djoemlahnja postwissel itoe
tertoelis dengan angka
wolanda.

f. 65

AFZENDER:
SIPENGILIM:

E. H. Simon

Alg. Ontzager
te
Djambi

Versaek toezending
1 exempl. " Het
Indische Kookboek
(Holl. taal)

REG. W.
No 150/3415

MODEL W.

GOUVERNEMENTS POST-4 EN

BINNENLANDSCHE
Soerat postwissel akan
negri didalem daerat

ten bedrage van 1 Gld. 65 Cts.
banjaknia roepiah. sen.

Een gulden vijf en zestig cents

(Do gulden voluit in Latijnsche letters).
(Banjaknia roepiah itoe tertoelis dengan hoeroef Wolanda).

betalbaar aan:
terbajar kapada: Tan Fio Nio

Plaats van bestemming:
Tempat kadi man sipenerima: Batavia

Straat:
Djalan: Djembatan Batoe

Nommer: 317

Dagteekening: 18 Juni 1917

Kantoor van storting: 106

Betaalbaar te: Batavia

Handteekening van den postambtman:

1 GULDEN

1 GULDEN

1 GULDEN

1 GULDEN

Figure 1

4: An assortment of DIENST. surcharged stamps, including three single copies each of the 1 and 2 1/2 Gld. pasted on a large piece of paper and stamped with large, red, circular markings indicating their origin as U.P.U. specimens from the archives of the Madagascar Postal Administration (VD, Jan. '92).

In addition there are five items from the author's collection, all portrayed in this article (Figures 1 -5).

Dr. Jan Pieter Veth was born in 1864, in the Dutch town of Dordrecht, and studied at the Academy of Plastic Arts in Amsterdam. He became a celebrated, and sought-after portrait painter; a reputation he apparently did not relish. In 1900, the Department of the Colonies in The Hague approached Veth for a common design for all three Dutch colonies. This, after it had rejected several designs supplied by Enschede, the printer (1). The finished design shows Queen Wilhelmina in profile, facing left. Her portrait is enclosed by a circle, and flanked at the top by the figures of Hermes and Ceres, and below by sail ships. These high values were recess printed from steel engraved plates, in sheets of five rows of ten (2). The 1 Gld. was issued in January 1906 (Figure 1), the 2 1/2 Gld. on January 1, 1908. Both were demonetized on December 31, 1925. As a security measure to prevent re-use, a small number of these two values were immersed in indigo at the State Printing Office in Weltevreden, Java, and dried over wire nets, causing the bluish color to run, resulting in spotting on the surface. Since whole sheets were immersed, and since the indigo did not penetrate the full thickness of the paper, single copies will show whitish perforation tips, especially when held against a light (figure 2). (3).

On July 1, 1908, a series of stamps, including the Veth high values, were issued bearing JAVA. and BUITEN BEZIT. (Figure 3) overprints. The surcharges were probably printed at the Topographical Service at Weltevreden (1). They owe their existence to an attempt to determine the volume of mail on the islands of Java and Madura versus the rest of the colony. To this end, only stamps with the JAVA. overprint were sold on the first two islands for a fixed period of time. Stamps overprinted with BUITEN BEZIT. (abbreviated from the Buiten Bezittingen (4), or Outer Possessions) were available on the remainder (Figure 3). (3) This issue is marked by 'fantastic' (sic) combinations of overprint proofs (3), and in general by a 'scandalous' (sic) lack of care on the part of the postal administration that should have prevented such shoddy work, in the form of numerous types of misprints, to fall in the hands of the public (4). The stamps were demonetized on April 1, 1909, but again used in 1910. When the posts acquired a large stock of inverted surcharges in March 1925, the stamps were once again placed on sale, and finally demonetized at the end of that year (3).

Some years earlier, a series of stamps were surcharged with DIENST (Official), to determine the volume of official correspondence. This included both of the Veth high values (Figure 4), which were issued on October 1, 1911, and withdrawn on September 30, 1912. The proofs were made at the time of the JAVA. and BUITEN BEZIT. overprints, and subject to the same kind of postal mismanagement, which explains the numerous surcharge errors (3).

Finally, in 1917-1918, four different types were overprinted with new values. This included the Veth 1 Gld. which was surcharged with 30 CENTS (Figure 5), and issued in November 1918 (3).

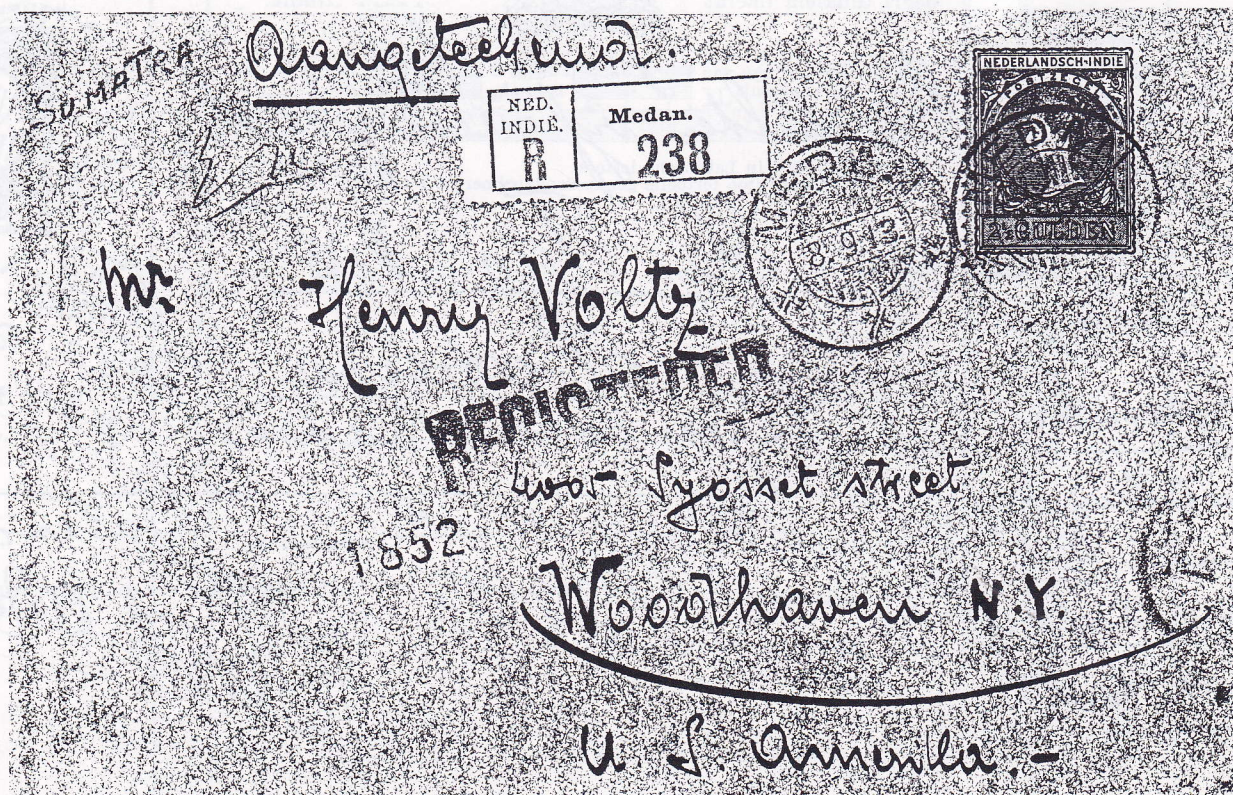


Figure 2

For the high priced, and often dangerously counterfeited items, namely the JAVA., BUITEN BEZIT. and DIENST. surcharge errors, one can say with a high degree of certainty that if these specimens exist "on cover", or even on large fragments, they must be very rare indeed. This is not surprising, since their scarcity was recognized early on, and most disappeared unused into stamp collections. The used specimens sometimes portrayed in auction catalogs were probably fortuitous finds carefully selected over the years from soaked-off stamps in bulk. Although these are no longer offered in that manner, the unoverprinted basic types still are. As recently as April 1994, lots of 200 used of 2 1/2 Gld. sold for between f 100 - 120/ each (WDV). That leaves the less esoteric and much less pricey basic types, or with normal surcharges. One can argue that this category is unlikely to be offered, much less illustrated in an auction catalog of a prominent firm. The money order (Figure 1) shows that this is not entirely true. Even though the stamps are common, used "on cover" they are not. However, philatelic use such as in Figure 3, tends to downgrade a lot into a non-illustrated one. The illustration in the JKR Feb. 1987 catalog (see above) was a fluke, as far as the 30 CENT is concerned. The lot was obviously portrayed because of the other, much scarcer stamp. Nonetheless, the resurgence of interest in Netherlands-Indies postal material in the last 5 years, fueled by a still small, but burgeoning and well-heeled class of philatelists in Indonesia has caused a notice-

able decline in supply, accompanied by a rise in prices. Lots that were heretofore considered commonplace, and therefore not worth portraying in auction catalogs, now often are. Although I lacked the time to check the catalog material by lot description, rather than illustration, I do not remember anything relevant except for two lots of philatelic covers, one of which is illustrated in Figure 3. in the past, the cheapest types, especially the unoverprinted 1 Gld. may have been hidden in multi-cover lots, which are rarely described in much detail. In recent years this has become increasingly unlikely.

In summary, the Veth 1 and 2 1/2 Gld. stamps, unoverprinted or surcharged with JAVA., BUITEN BEZIT., DIENST. or 30 CENT, are difficult to next to impossible to find "on cover". Even philatelically prepared covers are not common.

REFERENCES:

1. Van Zandhoven WA. The Veth Era, 1902-1940, Netherlands Philately, Vol. 3, no. 4, 50-53
2. Moorlag K. Netherlands Indies. The regular issues of 1902-1909 and overprints. Netherlands Philately, Vol. 9, no. 4, 64-72.

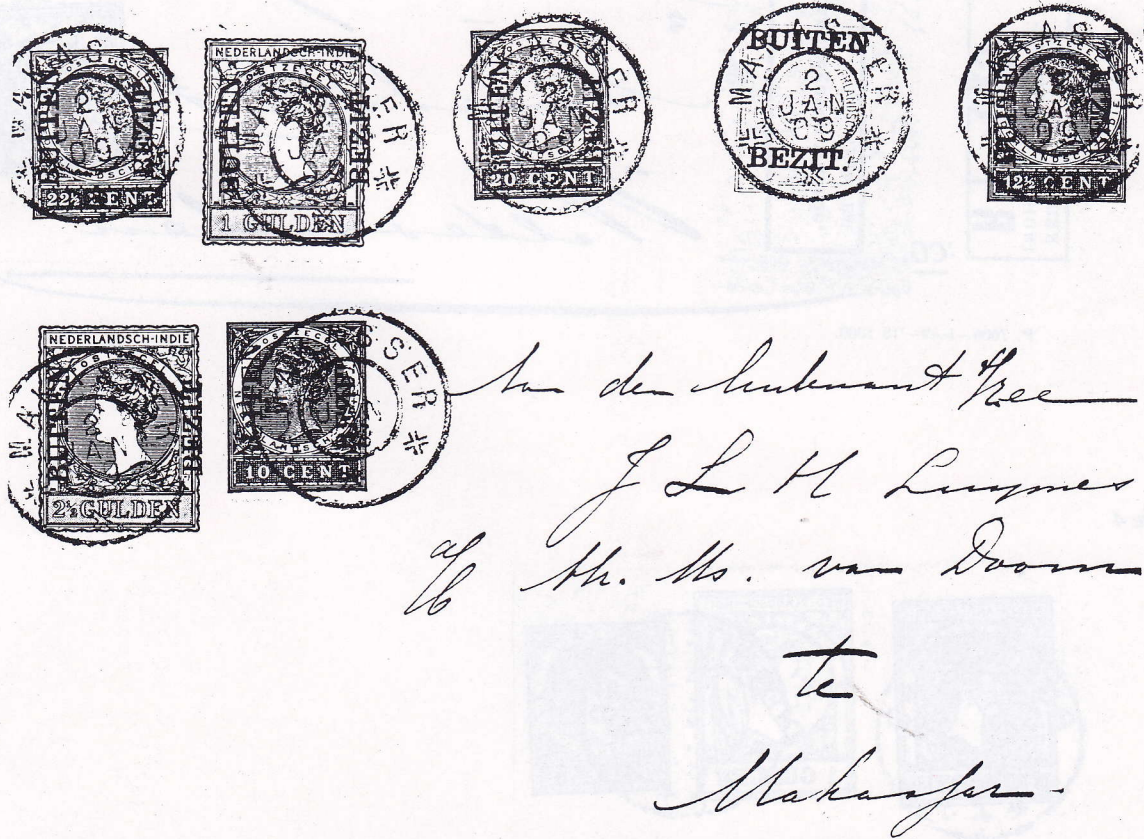
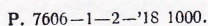


Figure 3

4. Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelverzamelaars. Handboek der Postwaarden van Nederlandsch-Indië. Deel 1.

6. Hille Ris Lammers D. Blauw papier bij de zegels van Nederland en Kolonien. Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie, Februari 1950, page 40.



64