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# ASN P



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## From the Editor,

It is towards the end of the year that I'm writing this, so time to either reflect on the past or think about the future of the ASN P. I prefer to take a look at the future.

Where will the ASN P be the next year, five years from now, twenty five years from now?

In the short term I see no drastic changes; we will continue to mail you a Journal or Newsletter every two months. If membership picks up and we can afford it we will go to quarterly publication of each, like we did for many years.

In five years I expect to still see pretty much the same membership base, but with many more members having access to a computer and the Internet. Contact among members should expand dramatically too from what we have now. Emails back and forth should be common, with scanned images attached. Sharing of knowledge will be the main purpose, but also developing friendships.

Now let's look ahead twenty five years. The membership then should be just about 100% computer savvy and publication of the Newsletter and Journal will be on the Internet. Contributing should be much easier, bringing in new authors, adding to the variety of articles. There will be no more need to mail any publication, cost should be basically nil and subscriptions as we have now, will be a thing of the past. I see us having monthly 'virtual' meetings over the Internet. We will be able to see each other online, and look at the material one wants to discuss or has questions about.

Will we be better off? As an ASN P no, but as individuals interested in philately I would say definitely so.

The ASN P as we have it today is unique; we are all 'corresponding members', we don't know each other. Most people you see mentioned in the column on the left have never met, have probably never even corresponded. Still we have been at it for close to 25 years, something must bind us.

It is the love of philately and that will be with us for a long time, at least another twenty-five years.

Enjoy the current issue; as always, you might not like what we offer in this issue, but in another four months the subjects will be quite different.

Hans Kremer

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# POSTAL HISTORY OF EDE

(A review of some postal events until 1946)

by C. Frank

(First published in Exhibition Catalog of De Globe, 1996)

Translated by: L. J. Vroomen

## Period until 1814

The development of the region Holland during the 17th and 18th century did not involve the Veluwe (an area of the Netherlands roughly bounded by Amersfoort, Zwolle, Apeldoorn, and Arnhem) at all. This was equally so with the development of mail service, such as appointments of postmasters, postillion and letter-carrier services. As there were no navigable waterways, transport via tow-boats or any other regular (water)service did not exist.

When the 'Statenpost' was established in 1752 the carriage mail route from Amersfoort to Deventer continuing on to Munster was the only important mail

route besides the Northern 'Hamburg route' to Hamburg (Amsterdam-Lingen) via Elspeet. The route crossing the Veluwe, taken by the route to Hamburg, was later followed by the 'Zwolle route'.

Other routes to Germany and beyond, i.e., the Prussian mail, the Cologne route and the routes by the Thurn and Taxis' mail passed through Arnhem, Wageningen and Utrecht to Amsterdam or Nijmegen, Wageningen, to Utrecht and Amsterdam. Later on also via Amerongen with a connection to Tiel (see figure 1). The Southern Veluwe was left out. Justifiably so, as this area was notorious due to highway robbers and only accessible by unpaved roads and paths through forests.



fig. 1 The main postal routes surrounding the Veluwe. J.C. Overvoorde map



fig. 2 Map of T. Mollo (1805) with the Arnhem-Amersfoort-Amsterdam postal route.

During the time of the Batavian Republic (1795-1806) a new postal organization took effect on January 1, 1803. Mail routes were extended and modified. During this period, as shown on the famous postal map of T. Mollo from 1805, the shortest way to Amsterdam was by crossing the Southern Veluwe. The route went from Arnhem via Lunteren and Amersfoort to Amsterdam (see figure 2). The inn at Lunteren served as a 'horse way-station' for the postillions, later it was used to replace the horses of the mail coach. This inn was hotel 'de Roskam' in the center of

4604 if you count the neighboring villages. Until the defeat of Napoleon, at the end of 1813, Ede does not show anywhere. The mail was delivered in the country by mail carriers either on foot or on horse. One may assume that during this time this mail existed mostly of Church or government documents.

During the period 1811 to 1812 we find mail transported via Arnhem (# 121) as well as Amersfoort (# 118). In the archives of the town of Ede no information

the village. Wouter Floor was named postmaster here in 1809.

During the period of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (1806-1810, under Louis Napoleon) an agreement was made with France on August 1, 1809. All existing main and branch offices received a so-called 'masson-cancel' (long town name cancel) from Paris. Ede is not among these 114 offices.

On January 1, 1811 a new postal law came into effect where we came under the jurisdiction of the French postal service that divided the country into nine regions. Ede was not included in the 86 offices that received regional cancels (with a regional departmental number). Ede was located in the triangle Arnhem, Amersfoort, Wageningen. With the division of 1807 Ede resorted under the Wageningen (part of departement #121, Upper IJsel) office. Ede itself had, during this time, a population of 1763,

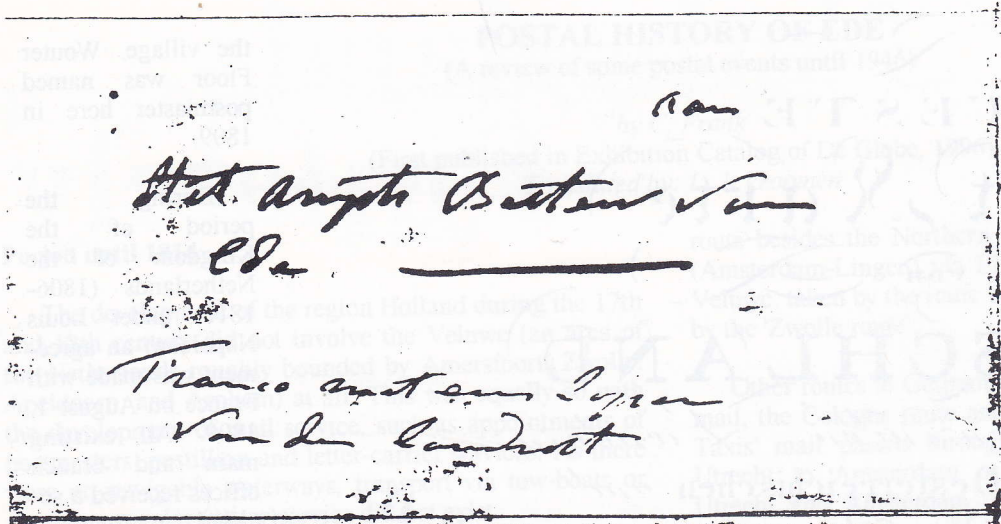


fig. 3 1809 Franco Letter sent 'met een looper van den Landdrost' from Arnhem to Ede.

about these Arnhem and Amersfoort connections can be found on the mail sent to the town-administration of Ede during this period. Nearly all postal pieces showed either no indication at all (carried by messengers of the municipality or town administration) or a carrier indication (see fig. 3). The rate by mail carriage from Arnhem to Ede was two stuyvers in 1812.

A completely different way of mail delivery in the 17th century was the 'innkeeper's mail'. Traveling salesmen and other people that traveled around had their letters addressed to a hotel or inn, where they picked up their mail regularly, for a small compensation. The innkeeper held and sorted the mail by name sometimes in so called 'postboxes' with pigeon-holes. This was also the case in Ede. This service was offered by Mr. van Raay the owner of the hotel 'the Posthoorn' in the old city center. (Notaris Fischer street nowadays). The marking on a letter from Arnhem of 16-7-1771 to Mr. Smith, secretary at Vheen attests to this (see figure 4) (possibly it reads: van 't Vheen, Ederveen, 't Lunters Veen - Veenendaal?)

#### Period after 1814

On April 28, 1808 the 'Instruction Generale' went into effect in Paris. This general set of instructions regarding the Servicing of Letters by Mail was printed in Dutch in 1810 and served, starting 1-1-1811,

to set-up the Mail system in our country according to the French model. One part concerned the regulation of rural-mail by establishing Distribution offices.

This took place in Ede in 1834. The distributor was appointed by and reported to the Director of the postoffice in Amersfoort. The function

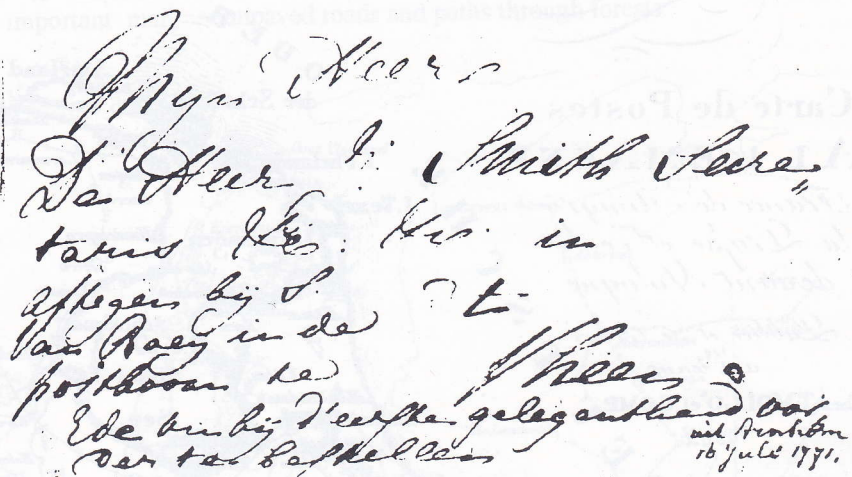


fig. 4 Letter dated 16-7-1771 with text "af te geven bij S. van Raay in de posthoorn te Ede om bij d'ersten gelegenheid verder te bestellen". (to be deposited at S. van Raay in the posthorn in Ede and to be delivered further at the first opportunity)

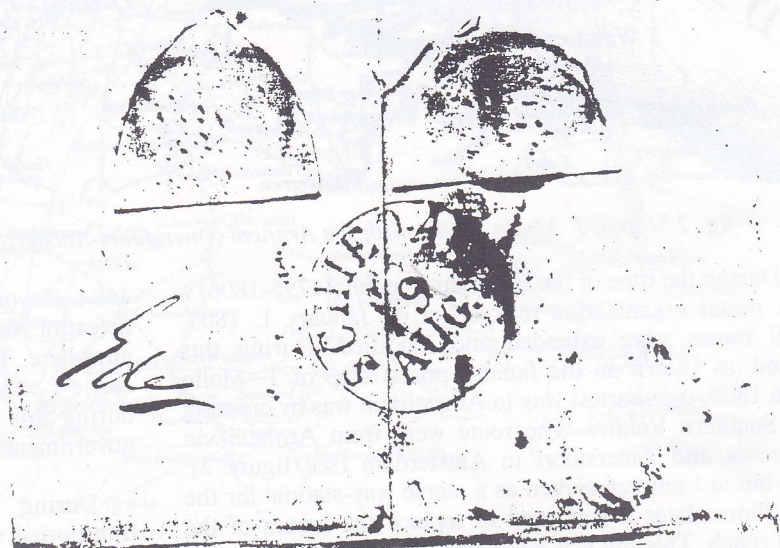


fig. 5 Letter dated 19-8-1835 with hand written "Ede" cancel.

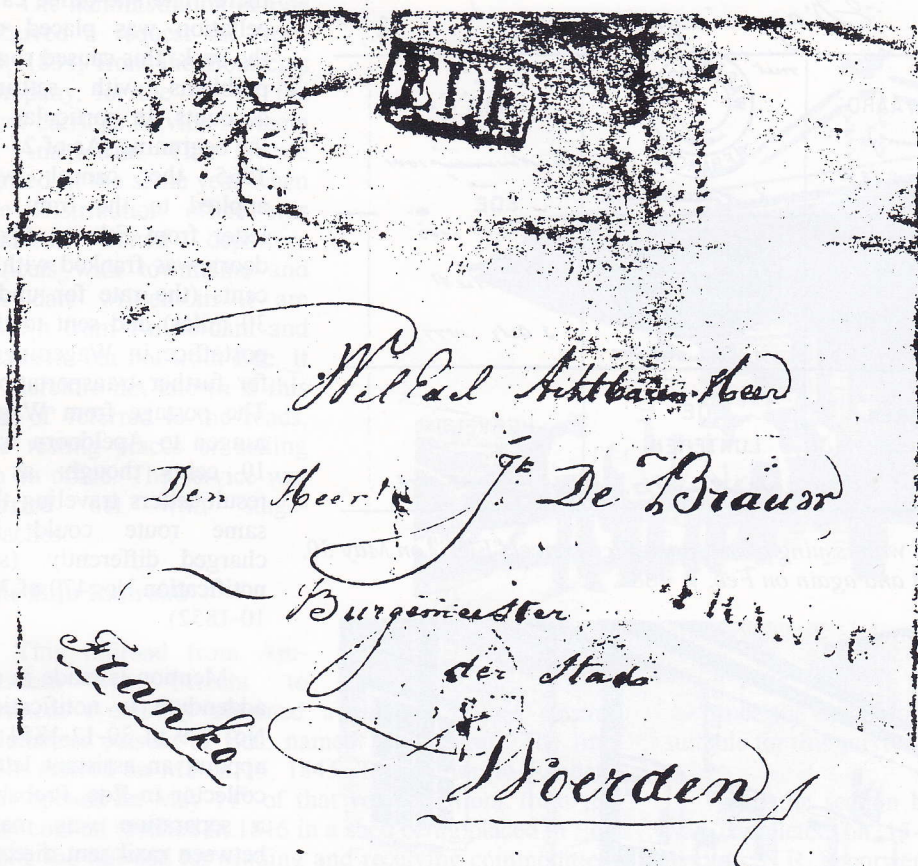


fig. 6 Letter dated 14-6-1837 with boxed EDE distribution cancel. Prepaid - FRANCO

of the distributor was only to receive and deliver letters and parcels. His office was a room at home, the function was usually a part-time job and often not even remunerated. Income was derived from charging postage on letters from individuals (the government, church and military authorities usually had free franking privileges). For every letter accepted, one half nickel was charged, delivery cost one nickel, two nickels for the hamlets further away (Otterlo-Lunteren). Until the beginning of 1836 the name Ede was written on the letters (see fig. 5). Thereafter a cancel in box EDE was applied. Cancels of the distribution offices were produced according to the fancy of the distributor and exist in many variations (see fig. 6). There were no written regulations.

The new Postal law went into effect on September 1, 1850 and a sub-office was established with increased

several times (1873, 1883) (fig. 8).

Postage stamps were allowed to be canceled only with the town-name cancel if the letter had another sub-office as destination, without passing through a postoffice.

responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the post office in Wageningen. Mr. Prins was appointed as first 'letter-collector' and he also had his office at home in a separate room. A cancel with Egyptian (Seriffed; classical type face, like "EDE") characters was issued to him by the Director of the Postal service; the cancel used black ink (fig. 7). In 1865 it was requested to cancel in red but in 1881 the regulations were changed again to use black once more.

This distribution cancel was used in Ede, against regulations, for a very long time. This cancellation is known on stamps issues of 1852 through 1876.

Around 1868 the Egyptian (Seriffed) type cancel was replaced by one with 3 mm high Grotesque (sans-serif; block type lettering, like "EDE") characters. This last cancel was replaced

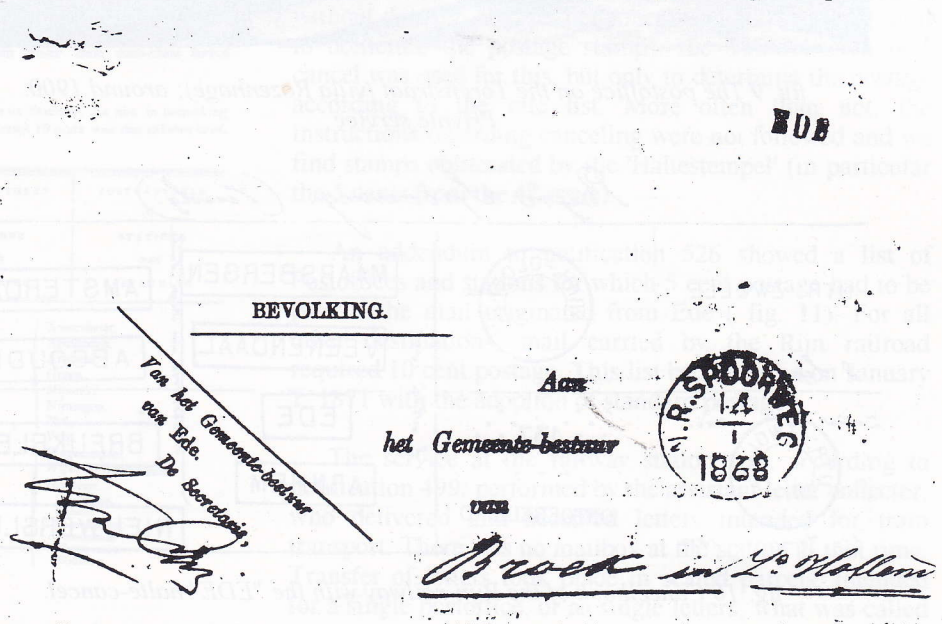


fig. 7 Postal card sent 14-1-1868 from town offices of Ede, with sub-postoffice Egyptian letter cancel. Sent via N.R. Spoorweg.

*Wageningen.*

293






 24 Sept. 1867 Buiten aanw.	DODEWAARD (Nieuw) 29 Juni 1870.	met  kas. 16 November 1872.	 16 November 1881 EDE 9 Febr. 1883 Cachet. 3 Oct. 1877.
 24 Maart 1869.	" RENKUM 23 Sept. 1870.	 10 Februarij 1873	
AANGETEEKEND KAPOSTIJD ONTOEREIKEND 17 April 1869.	OMMEREN (Nieuw) 26 Sept. 1870.	EDE LUNTEREN 26 Mei 1873.	HERVELD 2 Maart 1878.

fig. 8 Cancelbook of Wageningen with issuing of sub-postoffice cancel "EDE" on May 30, 1873 and again on Feb. 9, 1883.

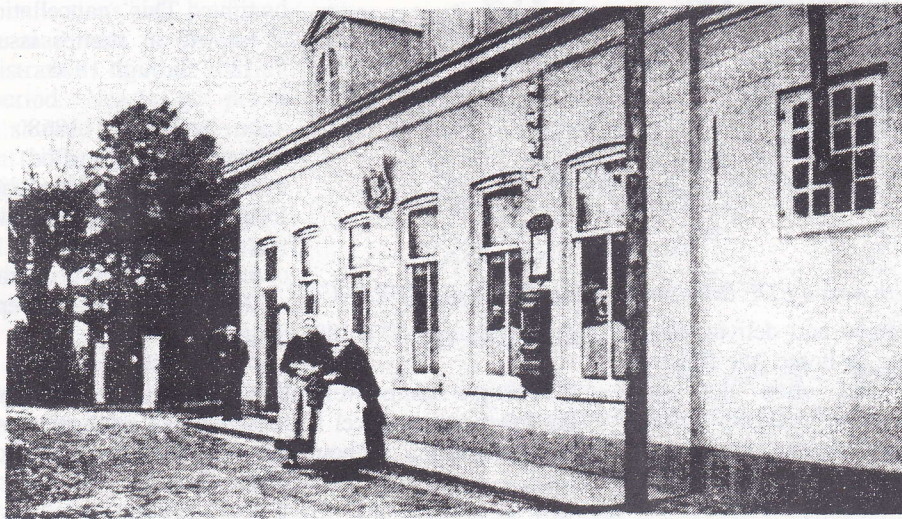


fig. 9 The postoffice on the Torenstraat (villa Rozenhage); around 1900.  
Private service

*Rijn-Spoorweg. (Verd.)*

3



UTR.-ZWOLLE 8 Sept. 1873.		MAARSBERGEN VEENENDAAL EDE ARNHEM	AMSTERDAM ABCOUDE BREUKELEN NIEUWERSLUIS
UTR.-ZWOLLE kas. 11 Januarij 1874	 ONTOEREIKEND	18 Maart 1876	

fig. 10 Cancelbook of the Rijn-railway with the "EDE" halte-cancel.

there. The sub-office cancellation was placed on the back; this caused some problems with settling accounts, in particular in the beginning. As of 25-1-1865 the cancel was applied to the front. A letter from Ede to Apeldoorn was franked with 5 cents (the rate for under 30 miles) and sent to the postoffice in Wageningen for further transportation. The postage from Wageningen to Apeldoorn was 10 cents though; as a result letters traveling the same route could be charged differently. (see notification No. 470 of 30-10-1852).

Mention is made in an addendum to notification No. 499 of 30-12-1854 to appoint an assistant letter collector in Ede. Probably a separation was made between mail sent directly to and from the neighboring sub-offices and all mail received and sent via the Rijn railroad.

This separation could be the reason why the old distribution cancel of 1836 and the sub-office cancels of 1850 and even 1873 were used concurrent for several decades.

The sub-postoffice was moved later to the Molensstraat with Mr. A. v. d. Craats as letter collector. In the 1871 yearbook mention is also made of a branch sub-postoffice (most likely just a room in a house to handle the mail arriving by train).

The sub-postoffice was replaced by a postoffice on June 1, 1890. The villa 'Rozenhage' in the Torenstraat was rented for this

Letters for other destinations (to or via other postoffices) were sent to the postoffice in Wageningen and canceled

purpose. Mr. A. Goudriaan was appointed as postmaster. (fig. 9).

The administration of Ede received a request on April 10, 1834, from the Bouricius company, for the 'use of the mail carriage service Arnhem to Amsterdam. This service started in the same year when the Distribution office was opened. Boxed departure cancels with townname and the date written in it are known from Amsterdam and Arnhem, but not from Ede. It is therefore not known if this 'use of' referred to the roads, the resting places or setting up an office. The service was carried out with stage-coaches.

### The Rijn Railroad

This railroad from Amsterdam via Utrecht to Arnhem eventually obtained a railway station several kilometers outside of Ede, named: 'de Klomp'. The first train arrived on March 15, 1845. The section to Arnhem was opened on May 14<sup>th</sup> of that year. Petitions from the City council resulted in 1846 in a shed being placed in Ede along the railroad for sending and receiving commodities. A so-called island station, in between the two tracks, was built in 1878.



fig. 12 The Ede island station; around 1910.

Since the opening of the sub-postoffice in 1850, mail suitable for this service was sent via the Rijn Railroad.

When the section between Amsterdam and Emmerik was completed on 15-2-1856, date cancels were issued reading: N.R. Spoorweg (N.R. Railroad), (fig. 7).

As per notification No. 526 of 7-1-1857, 'rolling' postoffices were supplied with a small cancel with the name of the station, the so-called 'Haltestempel'. This cancel in box with dot was issued from Ede in 1857 on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February. On 20-2-1860, 1869 and May 12, 1876 three more of these cancels were issued but now without dot (fig. 10) Neither cancel was allowed to be used to obliterate the postage stamps, the 'FRANCO in box' cancel was used for this, but only to determine the postage according to the rate list. More often than not, the instructions regarding canceling were not followed and we find stamps obliterated by the 'Haltestempel' (in particular the 5 cents from the 4<sup>th</sup> issue).

An addendum to notification 526 showed a list of Postoffices and stations for which 5 cent postage had to be paid if the mail originated from Ede (fig. 11). For all other destinations, mail carried by the Rijn railroad required 10 cent postage. This list became void on January 1, 1871 with the adoption of standard postage.

The service at the railway station was, according to notification 499, performed by the assistant letter collector, who delivered and accepted letters intended for train transport. There was no mailbox at the station at that time. Transfer of letters took place in sealed parcels, intended for a single postoffice, or as single letters, what was called 'mail by trainconductor'. His only function was to receive and deliver mail, not to cancel. After 1878, when the

### PORTLIJST voor het Expeditie-Kantoor op den Nederlandschen Rijn-Spoorweg.

AANWIJZING van de Postkantoren en van de Stations op den Nederlandschen Rijn-Spoorweg, tussehen welke, als op eenen afstand van 30 Nederlandsche mijlen of minder van elkander gelegen zijnde, het port 5 cents voor den enkelen brief bedraagt.

NOTA. Het port tussehen al de overige Postkantoren en Stations, die niet in betrekking tot elkander op deze Lijst vermeld staan, bedraagt 10 cents voor den enkelen brief.

POSTKANTOREN of STATIONS VAN AFZENDING.	POSTKANTOREN of STATIONS VAN BESTEMMING.	POSTKANTOREN of STATIONS VAN AFZENDING.	POSTKANTOREN of STATIONS VAN BESTEMMING.
Dutcherggen.	Naarden. Nijkerk. Oudewater. Tiel. Utrecht. Vienen. Wageningen. Woerden. Wijk bij Duurstede. Zaai.	Ede.	Amersfoort. Apeldoorn. Arnhem. Gronau. Nijkerk. Nijmegen. Tiel. Veijp. Wageningen. Wijk bij Duurstede. Zevenaar. Driebergen. Druis. Maarsbergen. Voerendaal. Westerweert. Wolthuis.
	Abrouwa. Bresbaten. Ede. Haustrbergen. Maasdam. Nieuwerakuis. Veenendaal. Vreeland.		

fig. 11 Part of 7-1-1857 list with 5 cent postal rates mailed from Ede





fig. 13 Postoffice of Ede Refugee center.

island station was built, a separate area was set aside for the receipt and delivery of goods and mail. (fig. 12).

On May 1, 1864 the telegraph office of the Rijn railroad was opened for general in-country traffic and on March 1, 1865 also for out of country traffic.

### Refugee camp Ede

As a result of the occupation of Belgium by the Germans during World-war I, many people fled to 'neutral' The Netherlands. After the fall of Antwerp there were, during October 1914, more than 700,000 refugees in our country. This increased to over 925,000 bij November 1. This large influx required the building of a number of refugee camps, of which the largest were Nunspeet, Ede and Uden. Building started end December 1914 on an area of some 30 hectares, on the Ede heath along the 'Verlengde Arnhemseweg'. In spite of the cold winter months this camp was opened already in the beginning of February and occupied by 468 refugees. There were 3,500 refugees in May, over 5,000 in mid-June; it maxed out at over 5,400.

This camp, divided in three villages, Schelde, Maas and Leyedorp, and the neighboring 'Danish village' was provided with all 'facilities'. They had their own central heating, church, hospital, schools, cinema, laundry, a weekly publication 'Ons Leven' (for 3 cents), a telephone office and later a telegraph and post office. (fig. 13)

fig. 15 Card of 30-9-1918 with free Military franking privileges (sent from Ede).

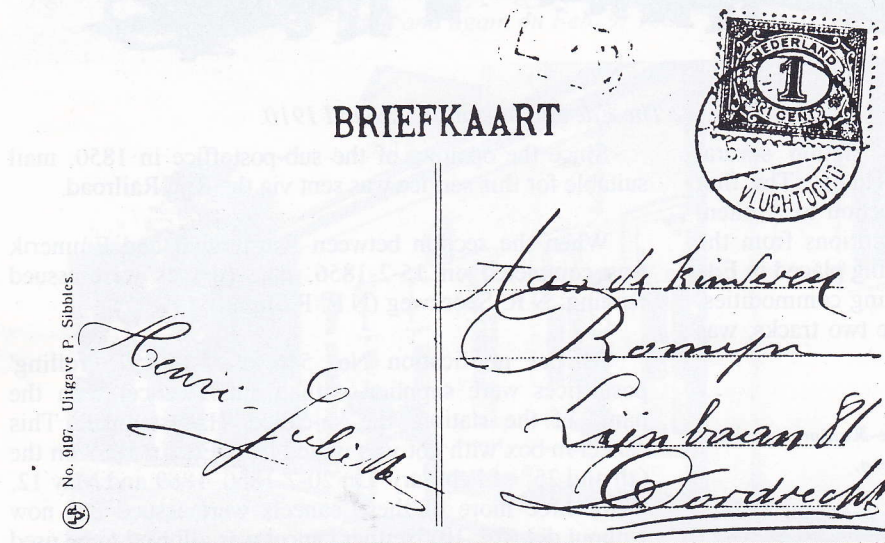
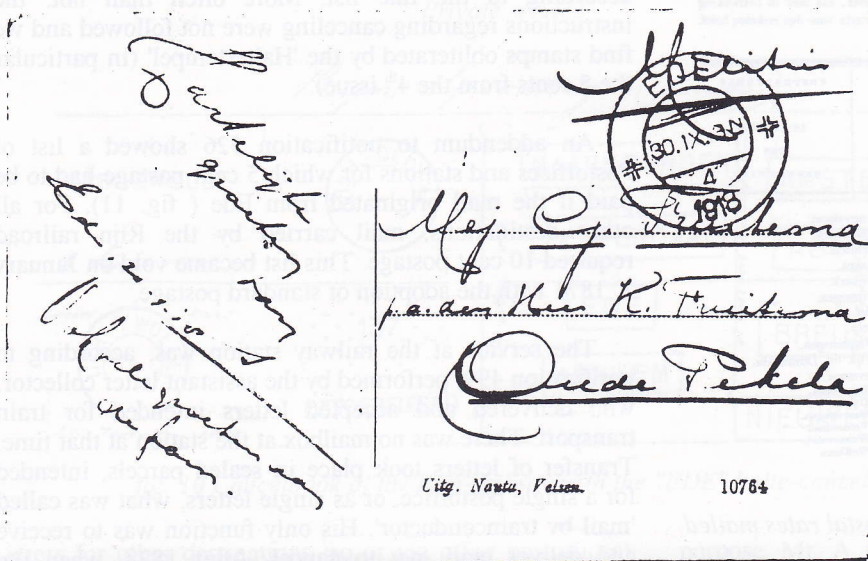


fig. 14 Postal card of May 5, 1915 with "Ede Vluchtoord" cancel



Mail sent from the camp was canceled: Ede-Vluchtoord. (fig. 14)

The camp was evacuated during May of 1917 and its inhabitants were moved to Nunspeet.

The war ended on November 11, 1918 and on December 13, the 556 residents of the 'Danish Village' returned to Belgium.

A cement marker with the inscription 'Belgisch Vluchtelingen kamp V.O.E. 1914-1918' is the only remaining indication of the location of the camp. (V.O.E. = Vluchtelingen Oord Ede)

**Garrison town**

Ede became a garrison town by Royal Decree of March 30, 1905. The first units arrived on May 1, 1906.

This also resulted in a move, in the beginning of 1907, into a completely new postoffice at the Arnhemseweg. A number of barracks were already finished during the mobilization of '14-'18. Restricted leave regulations and many transfers from barracks to the borders of the country resulted in increased mail with home. The military had 'postal freedom' (fig. 15).

During WWII, the Germans occupied the barracks. The E. Beekman and the S. Stevin barracks became home for the 'Waffen SS', others were used for training purposes. The S. Stevin became Luga, the Beekman was renamed 'Reichsführer SS' barrack.

The postage free letters usually had a date cancel: "Deutsche Dienstpost Niederlande" with townname, a military unit cancel, as well



fig. 16 Waffen SS letter of 11-8-1943 with 'Ede - Deutsche Dienstpost Niederlande' cancel

as: "Feldpost" as a cancel or written (fig. 16).

After the liberation the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade was temporarily housed in Ede, while waiting for repatriation. The farewell parade was held on November 6,

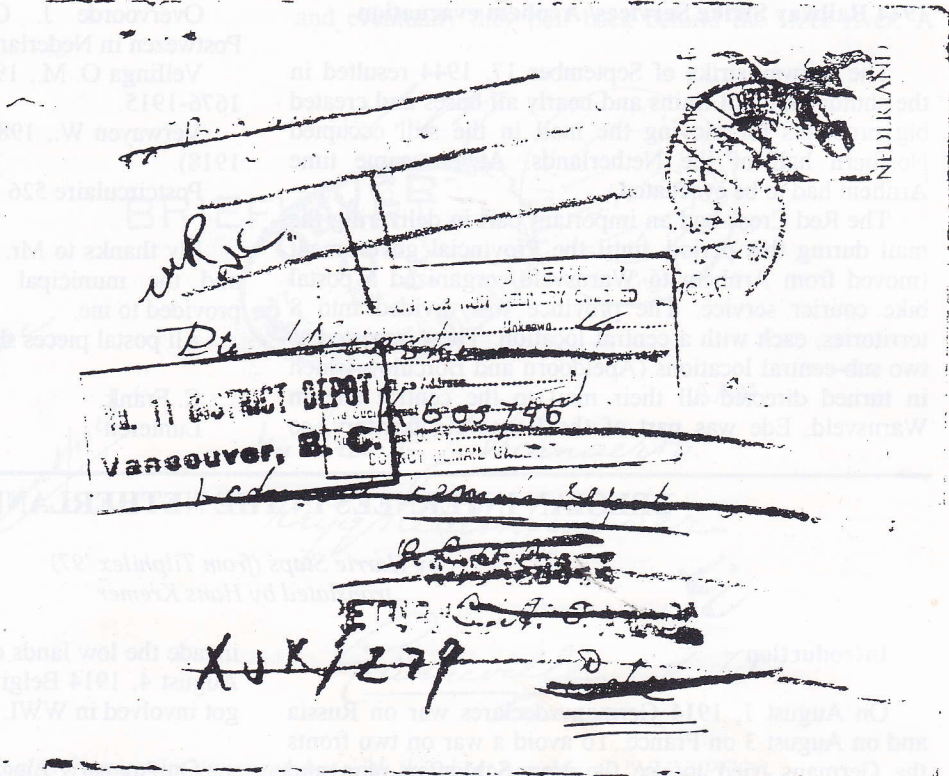


fig. 17 Letter of 31-12-1945 sent to a Canadian soldier in Ede. The soldier could not be located; letter was forwarded to Canada, but again no luck. Letter went to the "Dead Letteroffice" in Ottawa and from there returned to the Netherlands.

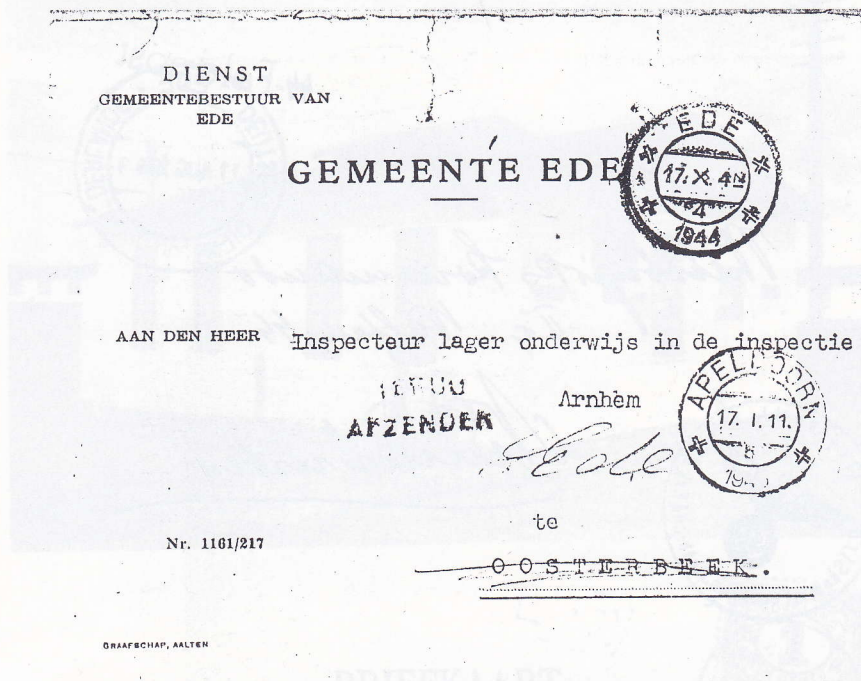


fig. 18 Letter sent from Ede to Oosterbeek on 17-10-1944. Undeliverable and returned via Apeldoorn through the provisional courier service.

1945. The Canadian field post used, for mail that had to be forwarded to Canada, the cancel: "ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA" (fig. 17).

#### 1944 Railway Strike Services/ Arnhem evacuation

The railway strike of September 17, 1944 resulted in the shutdown of all trains and nearly all buses and created big problems for moving the mail in the still occupied Northern half of the Netherlands. At the same time Arnhem had to be evacuated.

The Red Cross had an important part in delivering the mail during this period, until the Provincial government (moved from Arnhem to Warnsveld) organized a postal bike courier service. The province was divided into 8 territories, each with a central location. These reported to two sub-central locations (Apeldoorn and Borculo), which in turned directed all their mail to the central site in Warnsveld. Ede was part of the Barneveld territory, so

mail sent from Ede went first to Barneveld, then to Apeldoorn and then to Warnsveld, where it started on its way to its final destination. The letter shown (fig. 18) was sent Oct. 17, 1944 from Ede to Oosterbeek, could not be delivered and on the way back (Jan. 17, 1945) received the Apeldoorn cancel. Most likely this is an indication that it followed the provisional provincial courier service.

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My thanks to Mr. R. Lagerwey of the Postal museum and the municipal archives of Ede for information provided to me.

All postal pieces shown are from my own collection.

C. Frank,  
Lunteren

## BELGIAN INTERNEES IN THE NETHERLANDS 1914-1919

by Harrie Staps (from Tilphilex '97)  
translated by Hans Kremer

### Introduction

On August 1, 1914 Germany declares war on Russia and on August 3 on France. To avoid a war on two fronts the Germans tried to use the Von Schlieffen plan and eliminate France quickly. With this plan the Germans, by using a strong right flank through Belgium, wanted to

invade the low lands of Northern France. Accordingly, on August 4, 1914 Belgium was invaded and subsequently it got involved in WWI.

On August 7 Liege falls. The Belgian army retreats to the ring of fortresses around Antwerp, although some Belgian and German troops cross the Dutch border. The



Vluchtoord Nunspeet, Een der tuintjes voor de slaapbarakken

Illustr. 1 Postal card from camp Nunspeet with the longbar cancel "KAMP BIJ NUNSPEET". Since this card was mailed by a civilian it was franked with a 1 cent stamp.

Netherlands wished to remain neutral and both groups were disarmed and interned in Alkmaar. By the end of August the Germans were moved to Bergen (close to Alkmaar) and the Belgians to Gaasterland, a part of the Frisian province.

On September 28 the Germans initiated the attack on Antwerp, and on October 10 it falls. The majority of the Belgian army is then already behind the canal running between Gent (Belgium) and Terneuzen (The Netherlands) and eventually they pull back behind the IJzer river. A



Illustr. 2 Another card, also from camp Nunspeet, but with the short bar cancel "NUNSPEET-VLUCHTOORD". It was mailed without any postage because it was sent by a soldier. Also notice the Dieppe (France) censor mark.

group of about 33,000 soldiers cross the Dutch border at Koewacht, Sas van Gent, Clinge and Nieuw Namen. They are disarmed and put into camps in Amersfoort, Assen, Gaasterland, Harderwijk, Kampen, Leeuwarden, Loosduinen, and Zwolle.

The wounded as well as sick soldiers, totaling 797, were divided over the camps in Breda, Dordrecht, Roosendaal, Rotterdam, Tilburg, and Utrecht.

All these soldiers, who fled the war, were registered and they all received an identification card.

Starting August 7, about 100,000 Belgian civilians also fled the acts of war and crossed the Dutch border. They too were put up in camps, located at Amsterdam, Baarle Nassau, Bergen op Zoom, Ede, Gouda, Hontenisse, Nunspeet, Roosendaal, and Uden. Between October 1914 and February 1915, civilians as well as soldiers were spread out over the entire nation, whereby the civilians often were put up outside the camps.

#### Postal Camp Cancellations

At several of the previously existing camps there were already small post offices. PTT decided to also set up small post offices at the recently opened larger camps. The existing camps continued to use the cancellations they already had. Newly issued cancellations often reflected the camp's new function, so in some cases a camp could have cancellations with prefix or suffix of "KAMP" or "LEGERPLAATS", while for the same camp also "VLUCHTOORD" or "INTERNEERINGSKAMP" was used (Illustr. 1 and 2)

The following spreadsheets give an overview of these cancellations:

LONG BAR CANCEL		
TOWN NAME	CANCEL NAME	1ST DATE of USE
Ede	EDE-VLUCHTOORD	1-13-1915
Harderwijk	LEGERPLAATS BIJ HARDERWIJK	9-5-1912
Laren	LEGERPLAATS BIJ LAREN	8-14-1913
Nunspeet	KAMP BIJ NUNSPEET	7-14-1911
Oldenbroek	LEGERPLAATS BIJ OLDENBROEK	4-29-1908
Uden	UDEN VLUCHTOORD	2-6-1915
Zeist	LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST	9-3-1912
	LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST 1	9-3-1912
	LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST 2	10-4-1912
	LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST 3	10-4-1912

SHORT BAR CANCEL		
TOWN NAME	CANCEL NAME	1ST DATE of USE
Ede	EDE-VLUCHTOORD	9-4-1917
Hattum	HATTUM+INTERNEERINGSDEPOT	11-5-1916
Nunspeet	NUNSPEET-VLUCHTOORD	7-9-1917
Laren	LEGERPLAATS BIJ LAREN	12-9-1915
Oldenbroek	LEGERPLAATS BIJ OLDENBROEK	1-27-1916
Rijs	RIJS-INTERNEERINGSDEPOT	10-30-1915
Uden	UDEN-VLUCHTOORD	5-20-1917
Wolfhezen	WOLFHEZEN+INTERNEERINGSDEPOT	12-2-1917

STRAIGHT LINE CANCEL		
TOWN NAME	CANCEL NAME	1ST DATE of USE
Harderwijk	LEGERPLAATS BIJ HARDERWIJK	9-3-1912
Laren	LEGERPLAATS LAREN	8-14-1913
Nunspeet	NUNSPEET-VLUCHTOORD	7-24-1915
Rijs	RIJS-INTERNEERINGSDEPOT	3-5-1915
Uden	UDEN VLUCHTOORD	10-30-1915
Zeist	LEGERPLAATS BIJ ZEIST	9-3-1912

Besides the before mentioned cancellations, Laren, Rijs, Uden and Wolfhezen also used lacquer cancellations.

#### Military Camp Cancellations

Various camps not only used the postal camp cancellations, but on outgoing mail a military camp cancellation as well. The purpose of these cancellations is not clearly understood, but most likely it is some kind of control or censor cancellation.

#### Other Camps

Then there are those camps that didn't have a cancellation at all, and whose mail went through the regular local post office. This type of mail is only recognizable through the address of the sender or receiver. The camps in question are: Bakhuizen, Balken, Oudemirdum (all three resorting under Gaasterland), and further Alkmaar, Amsterdam, Baarle Nassau, Bergen op Zoom, Dordrecht, Griensveen, Groningen, Heerlen, Gouda, 's Hertogenbosch, Hontenisse, Hooghalen, Loosduinen, Leeuwarden, Roosendaal, Scheveningen, Veendam, Winschoten, and Zwolle.

#### Postage Free Mailing

According to the The Hague convention military personnel in time of war is exempt from postage for picture postcards and postcards. On November 14, 1914 the Netherlands also granted free postage for letters sent by internees. There was such an avalanche of these postage free letters that on September 3, 1915 this privilege

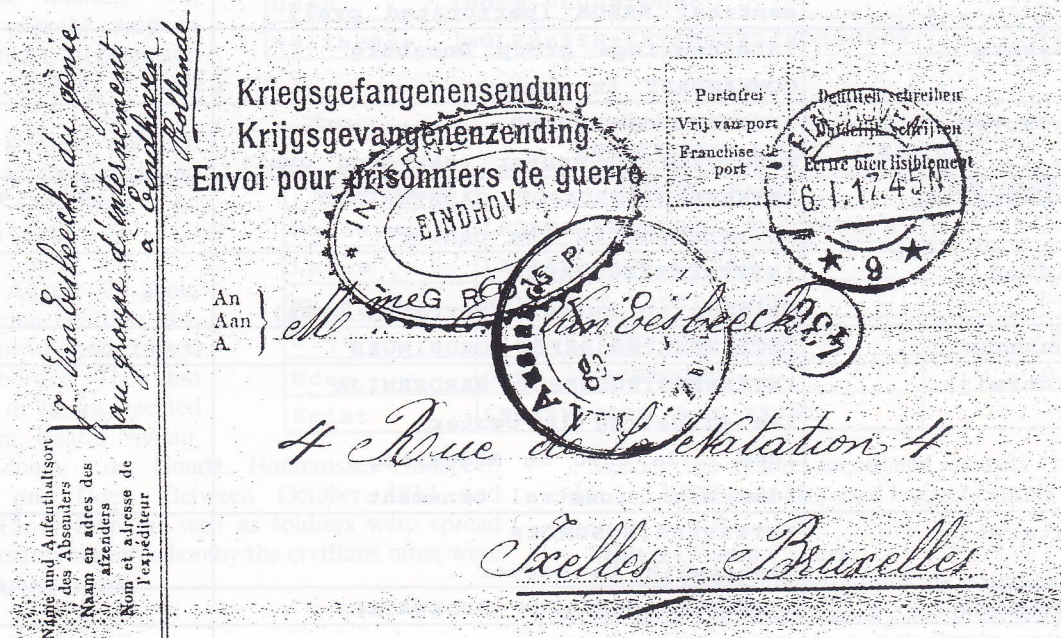
MILITARY CAMP CANCELS		
TOWNNAME	CANCEL TEXT	1st DATE of USE
Amersfoort-Zeist	AMERSFOORT-ZEIST INTERNEERINGSDEPOT in the center	
Apeldoorn	INTERNEERINGSGROEP Apeldoorn in center	
Bergen	INTERNEERINGS-DEPOT BERGEN-N-H. in center	
Breda	INTERNEERINGSGROEP centraal BREDA (perforated oval)	
Doesburg	Interneerings groep Doesburg COMMANDANT in center	
Eindhoven	INTERNEERINGSGROEP EINDHOVEN in center (serrated oval)	
Gaasterland	INTERNEERINGSDEPOT GAASTERLAND an ornament in the center	9-1-1914
Geldrop	INTERNEERINGSGROEP Geldrop in center (serrated oval)	
Groningen	INTERNEERINGSDEPOT GRONINGEN	
Harderwijk	INTERNEERINGSDEPOT HARDERWIJK 1-e Afdeeling in center Idem 2e thru 5e Afdeeling Idem with central ornament	
Oisterwijk	INTERNEERINGSGROEP Oisterwijk in center	
Oudewater	INTERNEERINGSGROEP OUDEWATER	
Tilburg	INTERNEERINGSGROEP TILBURG in center	
Urk	INTERNEERINGSGROEP URK in center	
Vlissingen	COMMANDANT BIJZONDERINTERNEERINGSDEPOT VLISSINGEN in center	
Zeist	Interneeringsdepot Legerplaats Zeist	

CANCELS W. and W/O FRAMES		
TOWNNAME	CANCEL TEXT	1st DATE of USE
Apeldoorn	DE COMMANDANT VAN DE INTERNEERINGSGROEP APELDOORN w/o frame	
Geldermalsen	Commandant Interneeringsgroep GELDERMALSEN frame 40 x 14 mm	
Leerdam	Interneeringsgroep LEERDAM frame 50 x 20 mm	
Nunspeet	COMMANDANT INTERNEERINGSGROEP NUNSPEET w/o frame	
Rotterdam	INTERNEERINGSGROEP ROTTERDAM w/o frame	
Utrecht	COMMANDANT INTERNEERINGSGROEP UTRECHT frame 64 x 17.5 mm	

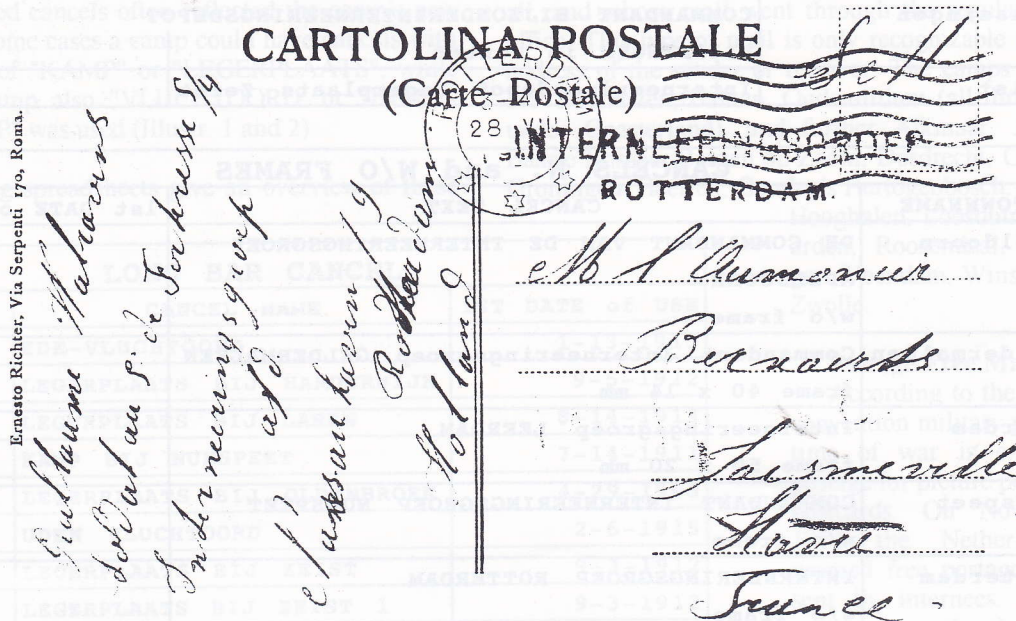
was revoked. To distinguish military mail from other mail the notation "S.M." (Service Militair) was used. Mail from the internees was canceled with the following cancel (illustr. 5):

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

- This cancel can be found in the following types:
- Type 1 Steel cancel; letter height of capitals 2.5 mm for PORTVRIJ FRANC DE PORT and 3 mm for the capital M of Militair, etc.
  - Type 2 Rubber cancel; same dimensions
  - Type 3 Rubber cancel: 3 mm and 4 mm
  - Type 4 Rubber cancel; 4 mm
  - Type 5 Rubber cancel; 4 mm and 5 mm
  - Type 6 Rubber cancel; 3.5 mm, all capitals
  - Type 7 Rubber cancel; 4 mm all capitals



Illustr. 3 Oval Military Camp Cancel "Interneerings Groep Eindhoven", and Aachen Censor mark "Auslandstelle Aachen/Freigegeben"



Illustr. 4 "Interneeringsgroep Rotterdam" without frame.

LEGERPLAATS  
BIJ HARDERWIJK



*Ritmeester L. H. Coerson*

*Commandant Aanwullingsdepot*

**PORTVRIJ  
FRANC DE PORT.  
Militaire Strippers  
internés dans les Pays-Bas.**

*Emmerich*

please refer to "Kentekens van de Nederlandse censuur gedurende de eerste Wereldoorlog" van Drs. W.J. van Doorn, and also to PO&PO's "De Postzak" # 155 of March 1988.

Mail to and from unoccupied Belgium went via Folkstone in England and Dieppe in France. Military mail was handled from there by the Belgian Military Mail Offices.

Folkstone had the censor mark "C.F.", with and without circle. Dieppe had the oval cancel "Ouvert par l'Autorité Militaire" (Illustr. 2 and 7), with numbers 0 through 50, and also the French censor strips "Contrôlé par l'Autorité Militaire" in various sizes and colors.

Illustr. 5 Cover showing a longbar and straight line cancel (Legerplaats bij Harderwijk), as well as the 'postage free mailing' cancel.

With D.O. (Dienstorder) no 57 of February 1915, a post office was setup in Utrecht especially for handling the mail of Belgian internees to and from the unoccupied part of Belgium, and also for outgoing mail to the occupied part of Belgium. This post office was located in Utrecht's central station (Illustr. 6)

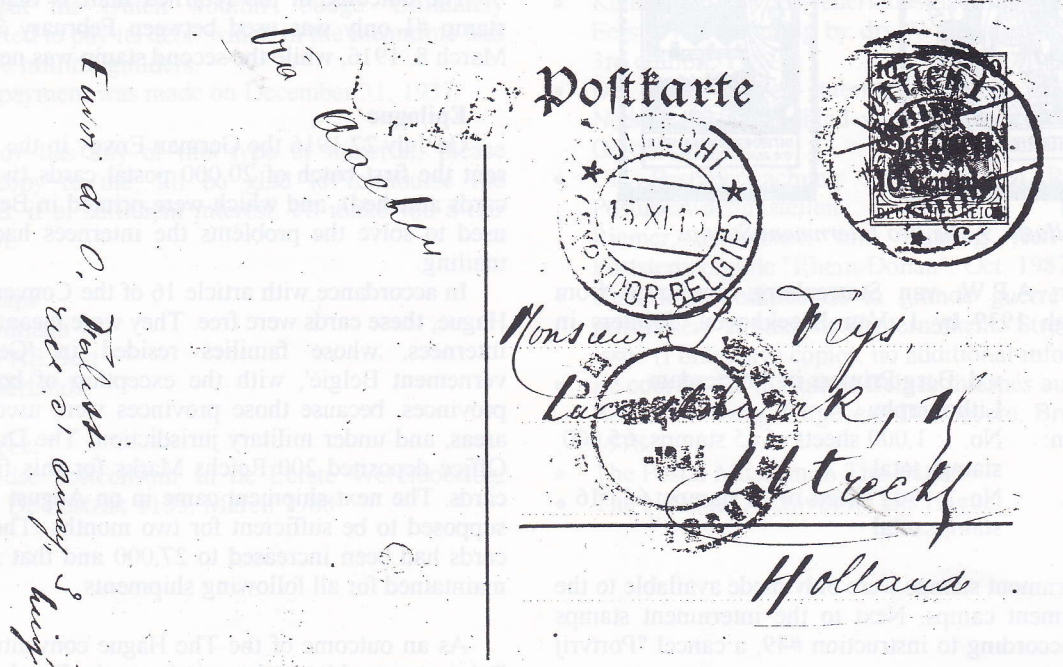
**Censoring**

The mail from and to the internees often has censor marks on it. As far as Dutch censor marks is concerned

The Belgian military post offices added a cancel indicating that it was military mail, with and without a number, as well as a Belgian censor strip "Censor Militaire" and exists in rose, white, gray, and green.

Mail to occupied Belgium went via Aachen (Germany) and received a cancel "Auslandstelle Aachen Freigegeben", that exists in three types (Illustr. 3 and 8)

Mail from occupied Belgium traveled via Aachen or Emmerich. In Aachen the same cancels were used. In



Illustr. 6 Card sent from Liege via Aachen to Utrecht with the special cancel (EXP. VOOR BELGIE) used for Belgian internees; used at the Utrecht central station.



Emmerich they used a similar cancel, but it has a letter or Roman number before the star, indicating the department, and after the star the censor number.

Censor marks of other countries are not dealt with in this article.



Illustr. 7 The censor cancels of Dieppe (France). They exist with numbers from 0 through 50.



Illustr. 8 The three different types of Aachen censor cancels. The difference between type 1 and type 3 is just the font of the 'g'.

### Internment Stamps.

February 3, 1916 there is another D.O. (#49) from PTT Headquarters, once more granting freedom of postage through the use of control stamps. For the amount of 1 cent the internees could buy 2 stamps. This is also the maximum number of letters they could send to the German occupied part of Belgium. The idea was to issue a new 'control' stamp every month. The following facts are known about these stamps (Illustr. 9):



Illustr. 9 The two Internment Stamps

Designer: A.P.W. van Starrenburg; employed from 1911 through 1939 by J. Van Broekhoven, Printers in Utrecht

Printer: v.d. Berg Printers in Amsterdam  
 Print: Lithography  
 Print Run: No. 1: 1,000 sheets of 65 stamps; 65,000 stamps total  
 No. 2: 903 sheets of 72 stamps; 65,016 stamps total

The internment stamps were only made available to the main internment camps. Next to the internment stamps should be, according to instruction #49, a cancel "Portvrij etc."

In Harderwijk the stamps were canceled with the "Interneeringsdepot Harderwijk" cancel, which were numbered 1 through 5.

It should be noted that only in Harderwijk a signature was placed across the stamp; why this was done is not clear (Illustr. 10).

On February 24, 1916 there is a letter from PTT to the commander in charge of the internees, letting him know that the German authorities had rejected the internment stamps, because they felt that the cancel indicating that there was freedom of postage was sufficient and also that they were afraid that the space under the internment stamp would be used for secret messages.

The letters were sent back with the cancel "Zurück weil unzulässig" ("Sent back, not tolerated"). This cancel was applied in Aachen.

There are several versions of this cancel:

Zurück  
weil unzulässig

Type 1: 2 lines. Capital "Z" 5 mm high.  
 Type 2: 2 lines. Capital "Z" 4 mm high.

Zurück  
unzulässig.

Type 3: 2 lines in frame (40 X 16 mm).  
 Capital "Z" 4 mm high.

unzulässig zurück

Type 4: 1 single line in frame (64 x 12 mm)

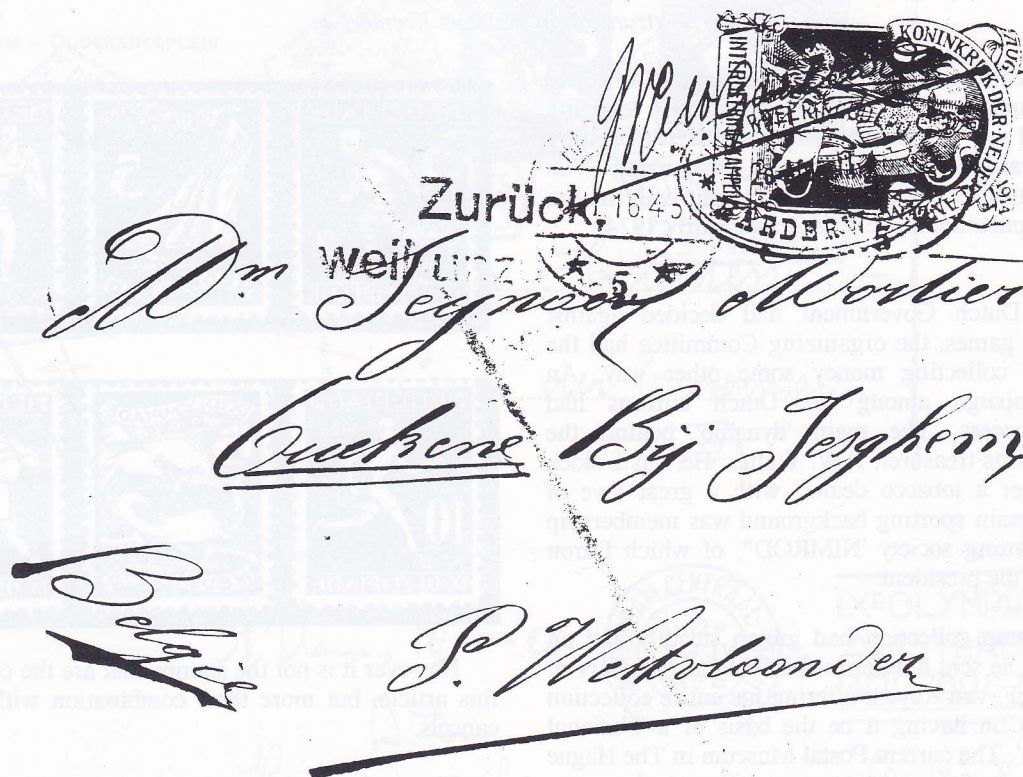
The outcome of the returned mail is that internment stamp #1 only was used between February 3, 1916 and March 8, 1916, while the second stamp was never used.

### Epilogue

On July 27, 1916 the German Envoy in the Netherlands sent the first batch of 20,000 postal cards (with response cards attached), and which were printed in Belgium, to be used to solve the problems the internees had with their mailing.

In accordance with article 16 of the Convention of The Hague, these cards were free. They were meant for Belgian internees, whose families resided in 'Generaal-Gouvernement België', with the exception of both Flanders provinces, because those provinces were used as staging areas, and under military jurisdiction. The Dutch Foreign Office deposited 200 Reichs Marks for this first batch of cards. The next shipment came in on August 28, and was supposed to be sufficient for two months. The number of cards had been increased to 27,000 and that number was maintained for all following shipments.

As an outcome of the The Hague convention of 1907, Belgium was obligated to reimburse the Dutch government for the costs incurred for housing and feeding the Belgium internees. The Netherlands sent a bill for 53 million guilders to the Belgium government. Belgium tried to split



*Illustr. 10 Letter sent from the internment camp in Harderwijk with the signature of W. Gaillard over the stamp. The letter is canceled February 3, 1916, making this a first day of issue cover.*

the costs, but the Dutch wouldn't budge. Ultimately Belgium started to pay its debt, which in the meantime had gone up to 60 million guilders.

The last payment was made on December 31, 1937.

If anybody has any of this type of material, please forward a copy to me; I'll be glad to reimburse the expenses and, if of sufficient interest, I'll make you a fair offer to buy it.

Harrie Staps  
Rembrandtlaan 10  
NL-5684 AE Best  
The Netherlands

**References:**

- Nederlandse postcensuur in de Eerste Wereldoorlog, PO&PO, De Postzak #155, March 1988

- Kentekens van de Nederlandse censuur gedurende de Eerste Wereldoorlog by drs. W.J. van Doorn, Po&PO, 3rd edition, 1987
- De Nederlandse Interneringszegels, K.E. König, Nederlands Maandblad voor Philatelie, May through October, 1951
- Die Postüberwachung im Deutschen Reich durch Postüberwachungsstellen 1914-1918 Karel-Heinz Riemer, Handbuch und Katalog Heft No. 109, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau", Oct. 1987
- Historique postales de la grande guerre Camps de prisonniers et stations d'internement, Strowskis, 1978 Issue (I only have copies, no additional information)
- Le courrier des militaires Belges internés aux Pays-Bas, René Silverberg, Uitgeverij De Meyere, Brussels, Aug. 1978.
- The Postal Museum in The Hague
- The National Archives in The Hague

## The 1928 Olympic Stamps of the Netherlands and their Cancellations

by *Laurentz Jonker*  
(translation by *Hans Kremer*)

It was 70 years ago that the Olympic games were held in the Netherlands for the only time. After much lobbying by Baron Tuyll van Serooskerken he succeeded in getting the games awarded to Amsterdam. Unfortunately Van Tuyll didn't get to see the games; after a bout with the flu, aggravated by pneumonia, he passed away early 1924.

After the Dutch Government had decided against sponsoring the games, the organizing Committee had the tough task of collecting money some other way. An ambitious campaign among the Dutch citizens had tremendous success. The main 'dynamo' behind the Committee was its treasurer, P.W. Waller. He was a stock broker and later a tobacco dealer, with a great love of philately. His main sporting background was membership in the elite hunting society 'NIMROD', of which Baron Van Tuyll was the president.

Waller's stamp collection had grown steadily and on April 25, 1924 he sent a letter to the General Secretary of the PTT, Mr. J.F. van Royen, offering his entire collection with the intent on having it be the basis of a 'National Postal Museum'. The current Postal Museum in The Hague is the direct result of this initial generous donation.

When Mr. Waller, as a member of the Olympic Committee, approached PTT about the issuing of a series of postal stamps with surcharges, for the benefit of the Olympic Games of 1928, his request was given careful consideration. Ultimately the request was approved, resulting in the issuance, on March 27, 1928 of the "Olympic stamps of 1928". The series consisted of eight values:

1 ½c	Rower	7 ½c	Shotputter
2 c	Fencer	10 c	Distance Runner
3 c	Soccer Player	15 c	Equestrian
5 c	Yachting	30 c	Boxer

The total surcharge for the series was 13 ½ cents

The stamps were available through September 15, 1928, and the total 'take' for the Olympic Committee added up to about fl. 50,000. The last day of use was Dec. 31, 1928.



However it is not the stamps that are the central part of this article, but more their combination with the special cancels.

The pentagonal cancel was designed by A. van der Vossen. It symbolizes the five continents connected. There were a total of three cancels, respectively numbered: "N1", "N2", and "N3". The first two were used during the games, starting May 17, at the special 'Amsterdam Olympic Stadium Post office'. The "N3" cancel was only used at the 'Amsterdam-Zuid' post office. After July 28 this cancel is relocated at the temporary post office on the Olympic stadium grounds, where it was used as 'backup' cancel. Since the games were held in two parts, May 17 through June 13, and again from July 28 through August 12, the cancels were only used during these two periods. The characters in three of the arms of the star of David are exchangeable. They are the M (Month), D (Day), and U (Hour). The other two arms have the year (1928) and the number of the cancel (N1, N2, or N3) in them (Illustr. 1).

The usual color of the cancel is black; however, it can also be found in violet. This was done per special request only. The "N1" and "N3" violet cancels are very rare.

Another 'Olympic related' cancel was the slogan cancel used at the Amsterdam Central Station post office. It was put into use on April 1, 1928. It reads: "IX<sup>E</sup> OLYMPIADE /AMSTERDAM/1928". For the first two days an interesting error occurred. The "N" of "STATION" was put in backwards i.e. it read in mirror image. Last day of use was June 7, 1928.

The Mulder company from Gouda had the sole rights to 'Olympic pictures'. They leased the right of the Olympic picture postcards to "Weenink & Snel". This company issued a total of 121 (!) different postcards. The first 12

488

SERIE B

AMSTERDAM - OUDEKERKSPLEIN



*20 IV 28*  
*Amsterdam*



EILERS - NEDERLANDSE KARTEN - UITG. - MIJ. "KOSMOS" -

*D. v. Heerssen*

*Cond. der briefkaarten*

*73*

AFZENDER:

26.VI.28 N3

Amsterdam, Dam met Plantsoen.

*A'dam, 18-4-28.*



IXEOLYMPIADE  
AMSTERDAM  
1928



*D.D.*

*Harlijk gefeliciteerd met je verjaardag.*

*Kell*

*AAN mej. C. Verbinder*

*In de mijneres*

*in de mijneres*

H63

OLYMPISCHE SPELEN: 1928



*Einschrijven*

CITIUS - ALTIUS - FORTIUS

MONOPOLIE UITGAVE BRIEFKAARTEN



*K. de Vries, Sneek Pays Bas*

COPYRIGHT: WEENENK & SNEL, THE HAGUE

*Amsterdam - Louis - 1928*

*Heerssen Charles Messer*

*Ch. Lombard - Ch. de Roches*

*Eaux-Vives - Genève Suisse*



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cards also were issued as a booklet, with a perforation on the left so they could be torn out. The paper sometimes is smooth, other times it is somewhat rough.

The main subjects are the Olympic stadium itself and impressions of the game of soccer, but also athletics, bicycling and swimming were displayed.

The first card shown here is the back of card number 17 (bird's eye view of the Olympic Stadium). It is an interesting card, due to the variety of cancels. Registered airmail from Amsterdam to Geneve, Switzerland. Postage is correct: Rate for a postal card to a foreign country was 10 cent, airmail surcharge 5 cent and registration costs 15 cent, for a total of 30 cent. The date "11.VIII.1928" has extra significance since it was on the day that Dutch boxer Bep van Klaveren won the Olympic featherweight boxing title. The registration sticker "Amsterdam Stadion" was hand canceled. Prior to June 28, 1928 these registration stickers were filled out by hand, using pen or pencil.

The second W&S card (# 78, the Olympic torch) shows a franking of 2 copies of the 1 1/2 cent Olympic stamp, depicting a rower. First impression would be: nothing special. Correct franking, Olympic stamps on Olympic card, nice, but unfortunately, no Olympic cancellation. But hold on. The local cancel shows: "Sloten, 10.VIII.1928". Would you believe, the Olympic rowing finals were held on that day on the waters surrounding the village of Sloten! The Olympic pentagonal cancel was not available there, but an interesting cover after all.

#### References:

- Handboek Postwaarden Nederland, May 1994, pages C8-1 through C8-20.
- De Stempelrubriek from "De Philatelist", Bondsdocumentatie Centrum, 1991, pages 82-83.
- Catalogue of 'Hobby en Filatelie' Stampshow, Zwolle, 1998, pages 17-20.

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## A Master Forger and his Work

### R.E.P. Maier and his methods

by Kees Adema

If you are a collector of early Netherlands or Netherlands East Indies postal history markings, the name Maier brings a chill down your spine. This master forger managed to fool many collectors, including some of the best known, during a lengthy "career".

Well-known philatelist expert and philatelic *rechercheur extra-ordinaire* Henk van der Vlist examined three questionable items in my collection, purchased many moons ago from a long-time collector whose reputation is beyond reproach. Henk found them to be forgeries and has previously written about two of them in "Notities", the organ of the Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie. Wherever this article refers to research, analysis and conclusions, all credit should go to him. With his permission, I have adapted Henk's observations to fit the format of this article.

First some background. R.E.P. Maier was a well-known, knowledgeable, philatelist, with numerous articles in prestigious periodicals such as the "Maandblad" to his credit. While stationed in the Indies during the 10 year period from 1924 to 1934 (as an officer in the KNIL's topographical service) he traveled extensively and examined many old archives. Sometimes he was given old letters, in other cases he stole them. He confessed to having stolen 100 letters with VOC cancels.

Upon his return to The Netherlands in 1934 he became known as one of the experts on Dutch East Indies cancels. Several famous philatelists used Maier's observations in

articles and even books.

Unfortunately for collectors, Maier not only stole letters from several archives, often making them more "interesting" by adding or "improving" cancels, he also manufactured handstamps of existing cancels as well as cancels invented by him. It is impossible to ascertain exactly what he forged and when he did it. It is clear that thousands of items are involved. Maier was charged on March 23rd, 1960 and after a search of his home the authorities **confiscated** "323 stamps mostly cut into linoleum, 1132 "postal pieces", 515 of which are not forged or are irrelevant". Fortunately many of these pieces are now safely locked away in the archives of the PTT museum, but other forgeries found their way into collections via unsuspecting auction houses and indeed they do show up to this day. It - alas - testifies to Maier's expertise that he fooled so many collectors for so long, although some of his "creations" were rather primitive, for instance leaving out one of the three St. Andrew's crosses in a D(elft) 3 stiver marking.

Several philatelists were involved to some extent in exposing Maier's evil ways in the 1950's. Mr. Giphart, of the PTT Museum and famed philatelist Jo de Kruyff come to mind (the latter - now in his 90's - recipient of the famed Costerus medal, one of the founders of the Netherlands and Colonial Philately, the philatelic organization in the U.S.A. active from 1934 to 1976, forerunner of the ASNPN). On May 21, 1973, another well-

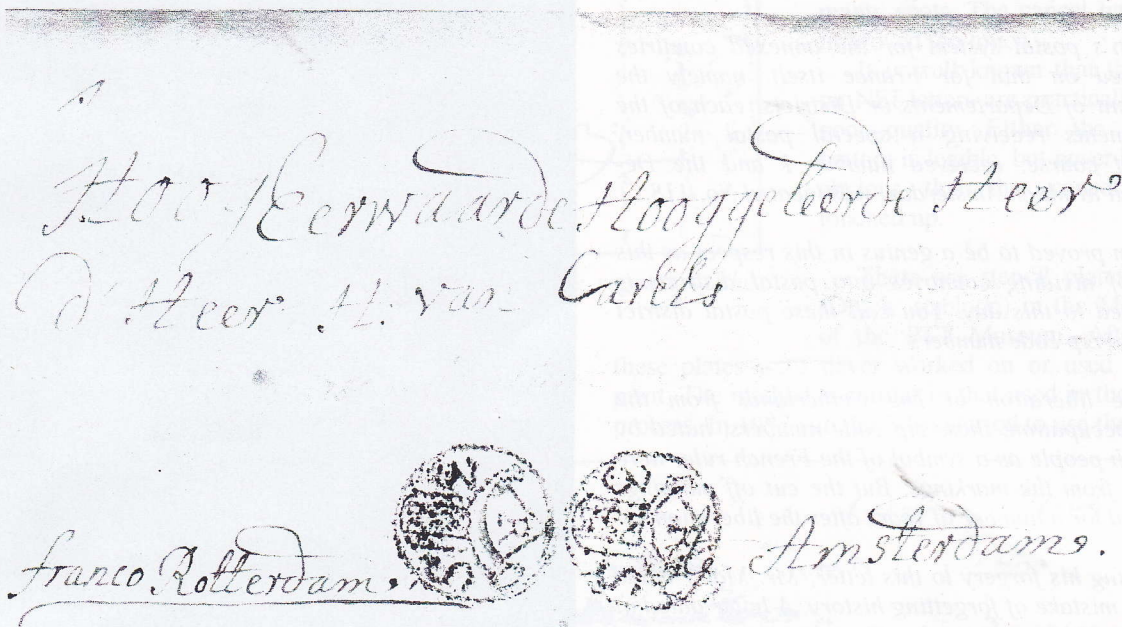


fig. 1 - An effort has been made to erase the address, but it is still partially legible.

known colorful philatelic personality, Roelf Boekema, recently deceased, gave a talk to the membership of the NCP at The Collector's Club in New York and I hereby quote verbatim his version of "how the Maier forgeries were discovered", as published in the NCP organ of June 1973:

*"Towards the end of the year 1957, just before my fiftieth auction, a well known collector by the name of Maier brought me a very valuable collection of rare postal markings of The Netherlands and of the former Dutch East Indies with which, naturally, I was very happy. After Mr. Maier had left and in the privacy of my office, I examined the collection and, although at first glance everything appeared to be genuine, it was just too beautiful, or, as the Germans say: "es ist zu schön um treu zu sein" and it left me with an uneasy feeling.*

*As mentioned, my 50th auction was at hand and I started to describe the various lots. The first letter from Mr. Maier's collection I picked up to catalog gave me the clue to the whole story. On this letter was a postal marking DEBOURSÉ AMSTERDAM. The letter was mailed at Honfleur, near the city of Le Havre in France and the date on this letter was January 1812, and that was the mistake that gave the whole thing away - just a little date.*

*What was the mistake of Mr. Maier's life? To explain this we have to dig into the history of The Netherlands, specifically the annexation from 1810 to 1814 by Napoleon. Because the letter we are dealing with was dated in 1812, it had to be handled by the Postal Authorities in power during the French (Napoleonic) period.*

*Napoleon's postal system for the annexed countries was based on that for France itself, namely the assignment of Départements or Districts, each of the Départements receiving a special postal number. Paris, of course, received number 1 and the Département in which Amsterdam was located No. 118.*

*Napoleon proved to be a genius in this respect as this system of dividing countries into postal districts is being used to this day. You call these postal district numbers "Zip code numbers".*

*After the liberation of The Netherlands from the French occupation, these zip code numbers, hated by the Dutch people as a symbol of the French rule, were removed from the markings. But the cut off markings were used for a number of years after the liberation.*

*In applying his forgery to this letter; Mr. Maier made the fatal mistake of forgetting history. A letter dated in the year 1812, during the French occupation and destined for Amsterdam, **had** to bear the number 118. You can look at this postmark for centuries, but you will not find the number 118. It is not there. And this*

*indeed, was the key to the disclosure of all his forged products.*

## DEB AMSTERDAM

Mr. Boekema's talk went on at length about other forgeries - for instance the aforementioned D(elft) cancel with two instead of three St. Andrew's crosses etc. For the purposes of this article the above quotes should suffice.

One of the covers with forged/altered cancels from my collection draws one's attention to it because of its partially bleached address. Persons who have stolen letters from archives and - obviously - want to keep it quiet, often removed the name of the addressee. Examples of such "destroyed" archives are well known. The bleached text on the letter in question (fig. 1) reads "oudste leraar Der Evangelisch Lutherse Gemeente" (oldest teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Community). Because the two three stiver cancels on this letter were also "enhanced", it was quite obvious that it was a forgery.



fig. 2 - Note the differences in the upper and lower 3 and S.

In its conviction of Maier, the court stated the following:

*"(We) declare forfeited all the accused's items confiscated in this matter except for the documents he obtained from the archives of the council of Amsterdam, of the Walloon-reformed council of Amsterdam, of the Evangelical-Lutheran community of Amsterdam and of the dike board discharging sluices etc. at Edam. We hereby order the return of these items to the administrators of said archives".*

The bleached out text "oudste leraar Der Evangelisch Lutherse Gemeente" leaves no doubt as to the letter in question being a forgery. Maier had stolen it from the above mentioned archive and "improved" the cover with enhanced cancels. Figure 2 shows that the two cancels differ in several aspects: the 3's, the S's and the posthorns all differ. The 3 in the lower cancel almost touches the posthorn whereas the upper one shows a considerable space in between. P.C. Korteweg, in his book "300 jaar Postmerken", depicts this cancel (3.7 - page.33) as having a broken circle. On this 1755 letter the cancels do not

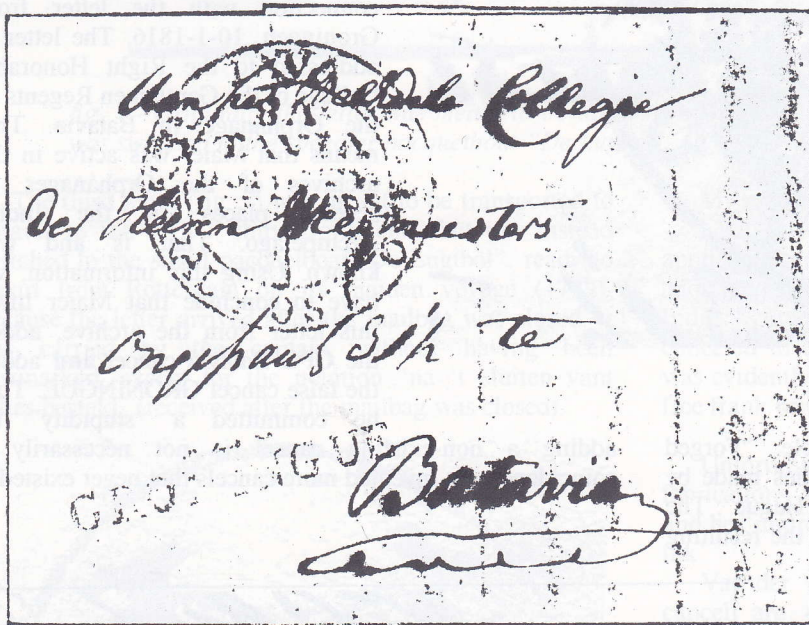


fig.3 - Letter stolen by Maier from the archive of the regents of the orphanage in Batavia.

appear to have this, although with 3 stiver markings it is often difficult to determine this because an excess of soot or ink used when applying a cancel, or a handstamp's lengthy use often caused the spaces to fill, creating the appearance of an uninterrupted circle.

The second letter concerns a cancel JAVA GENERAL POST

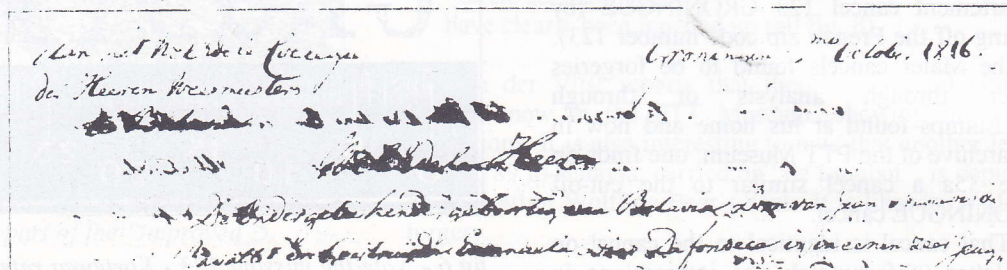


fig. 4- Heading of this 1816 letter.

OFFICE BATAVIA DOLLORS STYVERS. In Wolff de Beer's book "Poststempels in Nederlands Oost Indie 1789-1864" this cancel is depicted on page 130. Van der Vlist determined that this cancel was too perfect to be real. Studying the original letter, he determined that it too had been "enhanced" or "improved" (Maier referred to them as "verfraaid"). It too was a forgery and indeed Maier had written an article "The (Dutch East) Indies postal markings during the English interim administration 1811-1816" in which he made reference to this cancel:

*An English tariff for sealetters has not yet been located, however, from available data the following table could be constructed. Those letters, all addressed to Batavia and there cancelled with the Post-Office cancel, show the following rates, written in ink:*

*from The Hague 12-13-1808 (Via the Cape) 1D.32 St. etc.*

*from Groningen 10-1-1816 31 1/2 st. etc.*

*One has to conclude that during the English period unfranked sealetters from Europe were taxed with 36 stivers, which amount - shortly after the transfer of power - was reduced to 31 1/2 and in 1819 to 15 stivers.*

The letter in question indeed originated in Groningen (Fr: Groningue), dated Pmo October 1816 and was sent to Batavia with the porto indication 31 1/2 (fig. 3). While studying the round cancel JAVA GENERAL POST OFFICE etc, it was noted that the "red" ink showed variations in color in several, indeed many, spots. The cancel had also been improved too much.

It is well known that these cancels on NEI letters are practically always of poor quality. Either the top or the bottom is legible, but never both, so it is obvious that this cancel has been touched up.

There are stencil plates of cancels (Dutch: sjabloon) in the Maier archive of the PTT Museum. After the trial these plates were never worked on or used to obtain a print. The method is similar to that used in the silk screen process. In 1997 van der Vlist started to use them to obtain



impressions with these stencil plates, resulting in a different analysis and proof of the procedure Maier used. The cancel **Java General Post Office Batavia Dollors Styvers** is a complete forgery.

When manufacturing a stencil it is not possible to cut out an uninterrupted line, circle or letter. Therefore Maier left tiny bridges or spans. **These he filled in after having made the impressions using the plates.** The first issue of the new magazine "Fakes and Forgeries Experts"

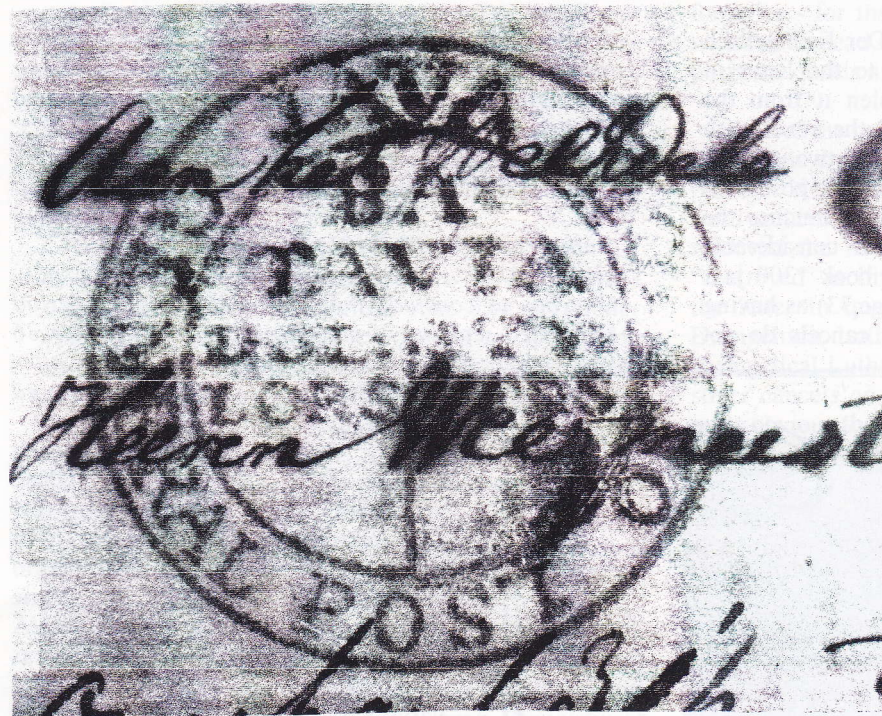


fig. 5- too good to be true

(October, 1998), which carried the article: "Forged Cancellations used on cover Dutch East Indies made by R.E.P. Maier found in the PTT Museum, The Hague". The article shows pictures of the plates as well as the resulting impressions.

In addition this letter shows a cut-off (gekapt) cancel GRONINGUE (fig. 6). This cancel is not mentioned anywhere in the philatelic literature. This is of course not conclusive proof. The PTT Museum confirmed van der Vlist's suspicion that this cancel had never been made out of the département cancel 123 GRONINGUE (by cutting off the French zip code number 123). In the Maier cancels found to be forgeries either through analysis or through handstamps found at his home and now in the archive of the PTT Museum, one finds on page 35a a cancel similar to the cut-off GRONINGUE cancel.

That cancel is identical to the cancel on the letter (unfortunately the impressions in the archive were made with water-based

instead of with oil-based ink, so that the impression has more or less seeped out). That this is an obvious Maier forgery will be clear when one reads the following item quoted from his conviction by the Amsterdam Court of Justice:

*"on the face of a letter dated May 24, 1850, addressed to the "Gentlemen Agents of the Batavian Orphanage Krawang Department", the accused, deceptively and falsely, added an impression - mentioned below - of manufactured and/or imitated cancels, to wit: an oval cancel "Sourabaya Franco", and oval cancel "Krawang" and a cursive cancel "Na Posttijd"*

If you think the English sounds tortured, you should read the Dutch text from which I translated this.

The above mentioned shows the connection with the letter from Groningen, 10-1-1816. The letter is addressed to the Right Honorable College of the Gentlemen Regents of the Orphanage in Batavia. This means that Maier was active in the archives of the Orphanages in several places in the Indies Archipelago. That is and was known. Using this information, we have to conclude that Maier lifted this letter from the archive, added the GPO Batavia cancel **and** added the false cancel GRONINGUE. That he committed a "stupidity" by adding a non-existing cancel is not necessarily a coincidence. He invented more cancels that never existed.



fig. 6 - Note the missing 123 - Korteweg refers to these cancels as 21 Z/N (= zonder nummer or without number)


  
 Welck. Heer  
 De Heer W. Kraane  
 Secretaris der Wed. Kammer  
~~Van de Post~~  
~~de Post de Lugtbol~~  
~~van Rotterdam~~  
 Batavia  
 D. P. G. met sluiting van de  
 Valies besteld

fig. 7 - Originally the letter was meant to be taken to Batavia by the VOC vessel "Dordrecht", but it was switched to the speedier packetboat "De Lugtbol", ready to depart on its maiden voyage.

The third letter (fig. 7) was meant to be transported to Batavia by the V.O.C. ship "Dordrecht", but was instead switched to the small packetboat "De Lugtbol", ready to depart from Rotterdam on its maiden voyage (1789). Because the letter arrived after the mailbag was closed, it was carried by the captain without having been postmarked, except for the notation "na 't sluiten vant valies besteld" (received after the mailbag was closed).



fig. 8- note the bottom part of the "improved" 5

My reasoning for the 5 stiver rate was as follows:

Upon arrival in Batavia the 5 stiver marking was to be applied, according to regulations. As the letter was addressed to an orphanage, the extra 2 1/2 "copper" stivers Indies currency, which normally would have been collected to equal the 6 "silver" stivers Dutch currency, was evidently not charged, since such institutions enjoyed free frank privileges in the NEI at the time.

Unfortunately the VOC 5ST is one of Maier's fabrications. Originally the cancel was not fully depicted and he "improved" it, partially with a pencil, partially with ink.

Van der Vlist's findings of questionable details in the cancel are numerous and many are clearly visible, especially when viewing the enlarged detail of the cancel.

Most obvious, although there are many other items:

- the small S and T are at similar height and the 5 has seeped - here it even touches the outer circle
  - the left part of the V
  - left and right part of the O and the
  - circle segment of the C
- have clearly been touched up (all fig. 8)

Van der Vlist reports that there are several similar cancels, now in the PTT Museum, showing the same corrections. It is also interesting to note that another letter from 1789 to Batavia, carried on "de Lugtbol", is depicted on page 40 of Wolff de Beer's book. It is likewise a Maier forgery.

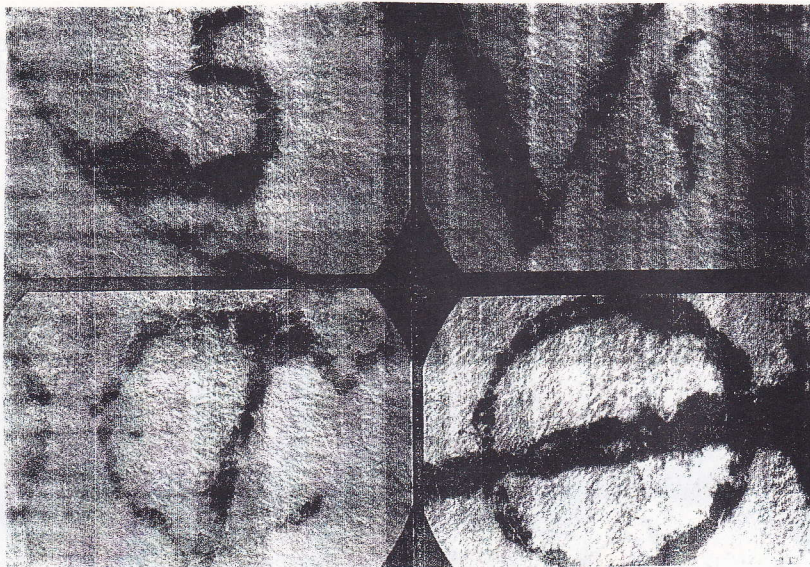


fig. 9- enlarged segments of the VOC cancel; touched up areas are clearly visible

So what happened to Lieutenant Colonel Maier? He was convicted - on March 27, 1963 - to a jail term of 200

Archives Scheepvaart Museum Amsterdam for schedule "de Lugtbol"

days (of which 150 conditional), a fine of Fl. 20,000.-, 3 years probation, forfeiture of confiscated goods. Although I could not find any information on this, I believe he indeed did go to jail but was released earlier because of his age.

Sources:

Notities van de Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie (1993/1994) - article H.W. van der Vlist

"Fakes Forgeries Experts", No. 1 - October 1998, pages 89-92 - article H.W. van der Vlist

Netherlands & Colonies Philatelie, Volume XXXIII, No. 2 - June 1973

P.C. Korteweg: "300 Jaar Postmerken van Nederland 1570 - 1870"

W.S. Wolff de Beer: "Poststempels in Nederlands Oost Indie 1789 - 1864"

## "DINGAANSFLIGHT" OF DECEMBER 6, 1938

by L.M.A. Crandel (catalog Noordphila '98)

In 1938 the K.L.M. organized a special flight to commemorate "Dingaansdag" in South Africa. This flight carried special airmail covers. But first let's look at a bit of history.

What was there to celebrate in South Africa in 1938?

The Maandblad in 1938 writes:

"Since on December 16, 1838 the deciding battle between the pioneers (Voortrekkers) of the European colonists in South Africa (the Boers) and Zulu king Dingaan ended in a victory for the Boers, this day, December 16, is one of the most important days to commemorate in South Africa"

Dingaansdag is since 1952 called "Geloftedag" ('Promise Day'), but with the new ANC Government of Nelson Mandela this day is now mainly celebrated only by the descendants of the Voortrekkers. This name (Geloftedag) came about when Sarel Celliers and Andries Pretorius (who was the commander of the Voortrekkers) promised that if the Boers defeated Dingaan, they would build a church on the spot where the defeat took place. This 'Geloftekerker' indeed was built; it is what is now called the Voortrekker Monument".

Another quote from the Maandblad:

"The KLM found this enough reason to send a plane to Johannesburg, representing the Netherlands at the ceremonies at the Voortrekker-centenary.

The KLM received permission to carry mail on the flights both ways. In 1938 this was something special since

it broke Imperial Airways' monopoly. The permission was given because there was an official Dutch delegation, headed by Jhr. Mr. F. Beelaerts van Blokland, vice-president of the Raad van State, on board. This delegation was also to be present at the ceremonial first brick laying of the Voortrekkermonument".

### The Flight.

The KLM used a Douglas DC-3-G2 airplane with registration PH-ALR ("de Reiger").

### Crew:

Captain: J.B. Scholte

2nd Pilot: A. Viruly

Radio Operator: J.B. Pestman

Chief Mechanic: P. Dunk

Steward: A. Eggenhuizen

Passengers: Going 11, and 12 on the return flight.

### Route:

Dec. 6: Amsterdam-Marseille-Napels

Dec. 7: Napels-Athens-Cairo

Dec. 8: Cairo-Wadi Halfa-Khartoum

Dec. 9: Khartoum-Juba-Nairobi

Dec. 10: Nairobi-Broken Hill-Bulawayo

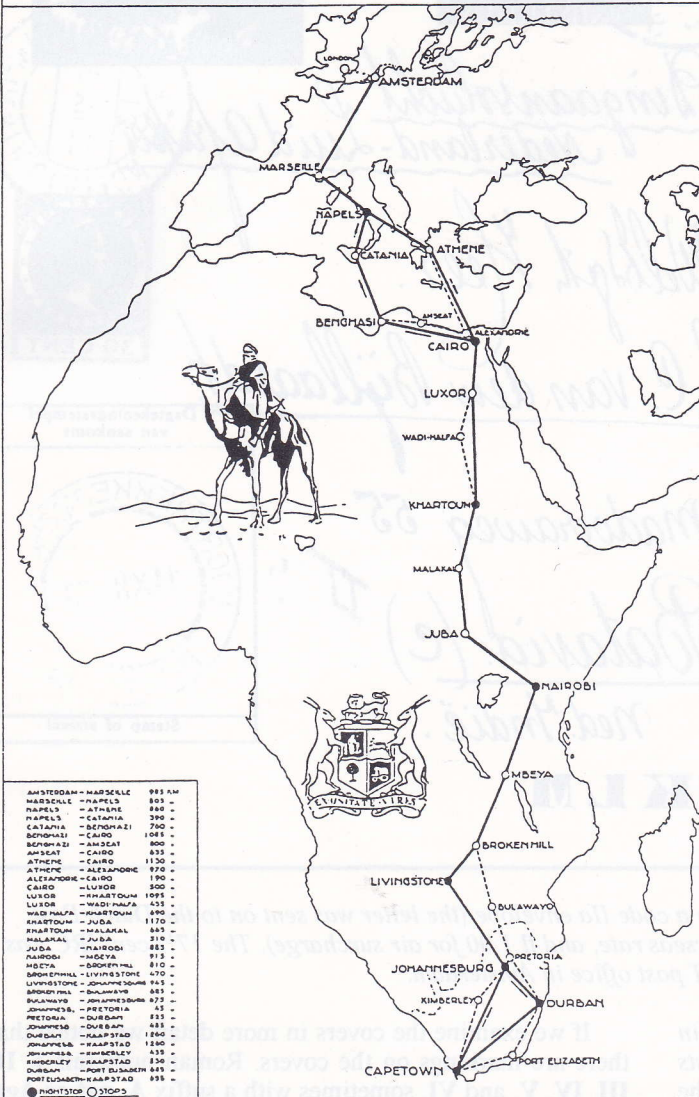
Dec. 11: Bulawayo-Pretoria-Johannesburg

Dec. 26: Same route back, but with an additional stopover (due to strong head winds) in Brussels

Dec. 31: Arrived back in Amsterdam

The underlined towns were stopovers.

**SPECIAL K-L-M FLIGHT**  
 6-31 DECEMBER 1938  
 THE NETHERLANDS-UNION OF SOUTH-AFRICA  
 ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
 „VOORTREKKERS“-CENTENARY  
 "DINGAANSDAY"  
 DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - 1938



Map showing the route of the Dingaansflight

The Dutch PTT, to commemorate this first flight to South Africa, on November 22, 1938 issued a stamp for "Bijzondere Vluchten" (special flights). It was a 12½ cent stamp, darkblue and darkgrey, with the picture of a 'Flying Crow' on it.

Not only in the Maandblad, but also in various other national and regional papers, there were extensive articles about this unique flight, especially unique for philatelists. The papers tried to explain in detail how to order of one of these special airmail covers.

The KLM spent fl 533.70 on PTT's behalf to have 20,000 envelopes and folders made. The envelopes and folders could be picked up for free at the KLM offices. The

cost (fl 533.70) was supposed to be paid back by PTT, but if this really has happened remains a secret. There is no evidence in any of the archives.

Something else about these envelopes. They are generally well known among Aero-philatelists.

The Maandblad says the following:

"The KLM, together with PTT, printed a special envelope. This is of a generous format, and even with postage attached, leaves plenty of room for special cancels, even arrival cancels. The covers handled by the PTT, had a variety of stamps on them and undoubtedly will look good in an album; not only as a nice philatelically franked cover, but also as souvenir of this historic flight. There is something else very interesting about these covers, something innovative that will make the philatelists very happy. On the front of the cover are the stamps and cancels of the outgoing flight, while the back has the ones for the return flight. If you kept the cover unimpaired you would only see the front if you put the cover in an album and you wouldn't be able to see the stamps and cancels on the back. To see both sides you would need two covers. The big secret of this Dingaans cover is, that if you open it, by cutting the sides\*, the back will also show right side up; it was purposely printed upside down on the back of the cover".

\* Fortunately not too many collectors did this

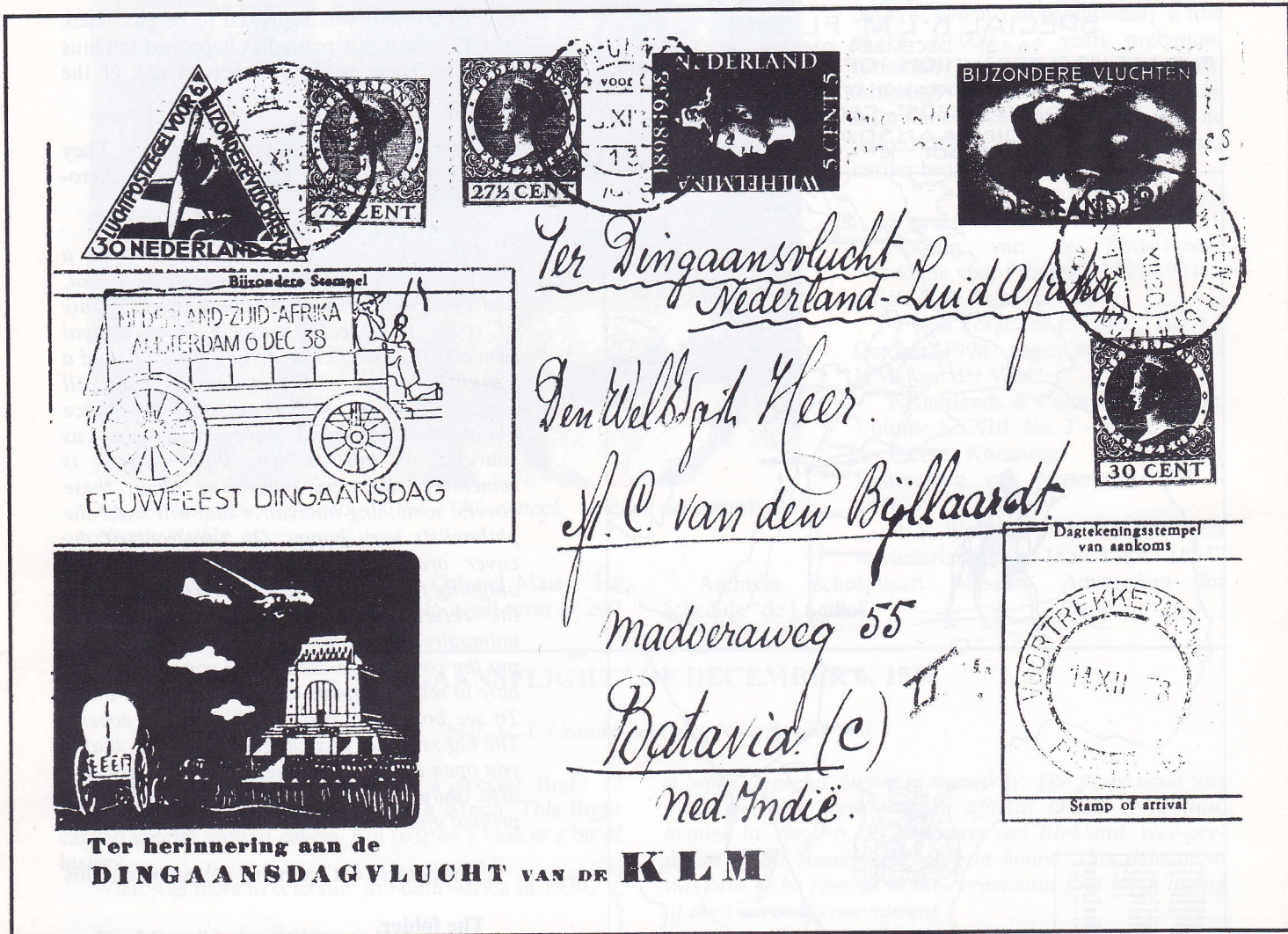
**The folder.**

This was nicely done. It has a lot of information, but it is not easy to understand for the 'layman'. The stories in the papers and the Maandblad weren't that clear either for collectors and 'laymen'.

**PTT News**

Even for the employees of PTT the instructions were not that clear. In "PTT Nieuws" of January 16, 1939 we read:

"It is being said that on the morning of November 12, 1938 a PTT employee had his head in his hands, while reading the just received 'Dienstorder' (D.O=service order). When asked what troubled him he answered that he was studying for his Dingaans-exam. Even if this is not a true story it illustrates the problems interpreting the order. At the Amsterdam C.S. the Dingaans fun started on November 21 when the first requests were received, and one employee was assigned to handle these. The next day another employee was needed, the day after another 4, then 10 more. There was an avalanche of checks, money orders, reply coupons and such and on December 5, three groups totaling 40 employees were working to stay ahead of all these requests. When during the night of December 5 and 6 it



Cover prepared by sender. PTT determined this to be a code IIa envelope (the letter was sent on to the Dutch East Indies). Total franking is 1.12½ cent (12½ cent for overseas rate, and fl 1.00 for air surcharge). The 17½ cent IRC was handled by the PTT post office in Amsterdam.

was 'last call' for the Reiger, all requests that had come in on time were handled and there even were some requests that had come in late that could be accommodated". (The deadline of having the envelope in Amsterdam was Dec. 2)

The folder, as well as the D.O.s gave various way for sending the covers. It was also possible to let the PTT handle the covers, one only had to supply the necessary fees. That the instructions were not very clear to many shows in the number of envelopes completely handled by PTT instead of the sender self, 14,000! This the PTT had not expected. The covers handled by PTT received a rich variety of stamps; they wanted to use philatelic franking. Used were the 30 cent triangular and 12 1/2 cent 'special flight' stamps, and the 1938 Jubilee stamps (Queen Wilhelmina's 40 year reign), complimented by stamps of other series. In all 100,000 stamps were put on the covers.

If we examine the covers in more detail we notice that there are markings on the covers. Roman numerals I, II, III, IV, V, and VI, sometimes with a suffix A, agt or Agt. A few covers received an Arabic number (for example 4)

What did the various codes represent?

- Code I All mail with final destination South-Africa
- Code II All mail sent with the Reiger and returned by boat (not to the Netherlands)
- Code III All mail sent by the Reiger and returned to the Netherlands by boat.
- Code IV All mail sent and returned bij the Reiger received code IV. For the return part only definitive stamps (not semi-postals) were used.

So far this code system matches what it said in the folder. But there were other ways and for those there were codes as well.

To be continued

Bonus Page



1  
Miss P.L. Webb.  
Gothamers.

Wadde. Cape.  
South Africa.

Ter kortmanning aan de  
DINGASVEDAGVLECHT van de KLM