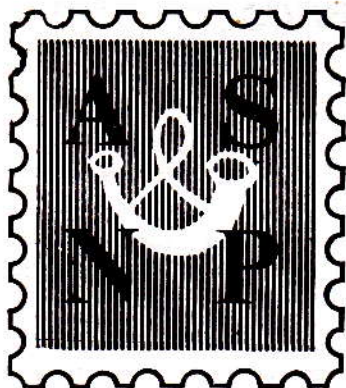


NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL
of the
American Society for Netherlands Philately
Volume 1/3



Netherlands Philately

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NETHERLANDS
PHILATELY
Volume 1, Number 3

March 1, 1976

EDITOR'S WORD

Board of Governors

Dr. A. M. Benders, Odijk
Frank Julsen, Paradise Valley
E. Matthews, Bracebridge, Ont.
Dr. Fred L. Reed, New York

President

Rev. Richard J. Bennink
3064 S. Jasmine
Denver, CO 80222

Vice President

Laurence H. Rehm
443 Stratford Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Secretary

Paul E. van Reyden
P.O. Box 555
Montclair, NJ 07042

Treasurer

John W. Van Buskirk
11 Park Place
New York, NY 10007

Netherlands Philately is published
quarterly by the American Society
for Netherlands Philately, P.O. Box
555, Montclair, NJ 07042

© Copyright 1976 the American
Society for Netherlands Phila-
tely.

(Opinions expressed in the various
articles in this journal are those
of the writers and not necessarily
endorsed by the ASNPH or this jour-
nal.)

Advertising: Advertising rates are
\$50 for a full page, \$25 for a half
page and \$15 for a quarter page.

Editors should never repeat themselves, except when it is necessary, of course. So, to repeat, this third issue is still almost an "experimental" issue in that we again have no "mix" of articles relating to the various parts of the Netherlands Kingdom. If this really disturbs you - the reader - please let us know.

My article on the NVPH Special Catalog provoked two letters one of which thought that I sounded overly bitter and angry; the other letter tried to explain away some of the "faults" of the Special Catalog, although I didn't buy all of them. It still seems to me that a catalog should be useful to the collectors; dealers have price lists! Perhaps, if our project on Surinam (see ASNPH News of February 1976) gets off the ground, we can do without the Special Catalog, at least for Surinam, and at least for information outside of prices.

We have again an article by Jan Dekker, this time ably supported by Mr. L. Goldhoorn. This article originally appeared in the catalog for the Groningen exhibition of last year May. The article by E. Horn on the Dutch Red Cross booklet(s) of 1927 may get people interested in this fascinating part of stamp collecting; booklets which appeared prior to the booklets of 1964 and following years. But be warned, these booklets are not cheap!

The little piece on the Surinam tete-beche 1909 stamps was the result of a brain storm in the middle of the night. For those of you who think that everything is already known about older stamps, let this be a reminder that you should take nothing for granted!

Since I am running out of space I hope that the authors of the last four articles won't mind that I do not introduce them. They really speak for themselves.

CONTENTS

The Last Postage Due Set of the Netherlands: The van Krimpen Issue of 1947-1958	34
Postal Booklet Collecting and Netherlands Booklet No. 39	38
Surinam - The 1909 Tete-Beche Local Printing	40
COILS - A Brief Review of the Roll Stamp	41
A Bicentennial Reflection: Dutch Involvement in the United States	44
The First Day of the Netherlands' First Postal Card	45
Comments and Communications	46
Letters	47
If Stolen Stamps Show Up in Holland	48

The Last Postage Due Set of the Netherlands

The van Krimpen Issue of 1947-1958

Introduction

The interest in postage due stamps on cover is growing rapidly. Therefore, it might be of interest to many collectors to understand why the different values were required as well as the basic rules for their use. As it takes too much space to start in 1870 and go up to the present, just the post-WW II period up to October 21, 1968 will be considered. On this date a completely new system was introduced.

This period was dominated by the Van Krimpen issue, although the older types of postage due stamps are found used well into the fifties. Records of all of the printings delivered since July 1, 1947, however, indicate just the Van Krimpen type. In addition, starting in 1952, there were introduced some 170 Postalia postage due meters for use at the larger POs. Most of these meters - printing in blue - are still in use for the settlement of business reply matter and parcel post dues.

The Use of Postage Due Stamps

Postage due stamps have been employed for four main categories:

1. Double the rate for prepaid mail (with a certain minimum). The amount due on foreign mail was rounded off upwards to the nearest amount in Dutch cents.
 - a. Not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid mail.
 - b. Ex-officio registration of letters containing money, securities or valuables.
2. Normal rate plus a fee.
 - c. Business reply matter.
 - d. Postal parcels sent unpaid (since January 2, 1950).
3. Postage that could not be prepaid or could be left to the expense of the addressee.
 - e. Reforwarding of local mail to inland destination
 - f. Foreign inland mail reforwarded from abroad.
 - g. Postage to be paid on official mail (*Aan port onderworpen dienststukken*).
 - h. Postal parcels reforwarded or returned (up to March 1, 1975).
 - i. Postal parcels sent not prepaid between March 1, 1949 and December 31, 1949.
 - j. Official reply matter to local authorities from February 1, 1966 to March 31, 1966.
4. Fees that could not be prepaid or could be left to the addressee's expense.
 - k. Special delivery fee (when requested) on registered mail or postal parcels from abroad or all after idle first delivery. (Abolished October 23, 1955.)
 1. Additional fee in the case of special delivery at a distance of more than 2½ kms from the Post Office. This was due only once per delivery. (Abolished October 23, 1955.)
 - m. Postal clearance fee on letters or parcels from abroad.
 - n. Preference fee on letters or parcels from abroad, when the custom clearance was done by the addressee and he took the mailing with him (notwithstanding saving the postal expenses on the delivery!)

Each delivery office has its own dues and fees account. If any letter or parcel was returned because of refusal by the addressee or reforwarded, the postage due stamps or the meter imprint was cancelled with mark NIETIG AFGESCHREVEN/TE (name of PO). The subsequent delivery office pasted new postage due stamps on.

Collectors can find examples of nearly all of these categories. Excepted, however, are parcel post cards and forms as these have to be signed for delivery by the addressee and returned to the postman. The stamps on these cards are sold, clipped, through the Government auctions. In exceptional cases complete cards were auctioned when there were many stamps on these cards (1967-1968).

The New Issue

After the end of WW II all twenty values of the J.A. Schnidlin 1912 and 1921 types of postage due stamps were in use. See Figure 1. These had originally been issued in the new fine perforation comb 13½:12-3/4. The 3CENT type 1912 was reissued by error in 1946. Postal Order dated October 16, 1946 announced considerably higher rates by November 1st. New postage due stamps of 11, 16 and 40 cts became necessary because of these rate changes, but no action was



Fig. 1



taken, most likely because Mr. J. van Krimpen wasn't ready yet with his new design for the postage due stamps. That new design signalled the end of the Schnidlin type dating back more than 75 years.

The new set was announced on July 2, 1947. It was stated to be comprised of seventeen values: $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 cents and 1 guilder. They would be shipped out after exhaustion of the current stock, which lasted till February 22, 1950. On that date it was announced that from then on only new type postage due stamps would be sent out. See Figure 2.

In July of 1947 the new values which had been announced in October 1946 (11, 16 and 40 cents) finally appeared, closely followed by the 15 and 20 cents. In September and December the 4, 5 and 10 cents were issued, together with the 7 and 35 cents which had not been announced previously in the original set. The 1, 3, 8, 12, 25 and 50 cents showed up in July 1948.

The new coinage act which came into effect on October 1, 1948, abolished the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. This was followed by Postal Order 765, dated October 27, withdrawing from use the postage due stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $7\frac{1}{2}$, 9, 11 and $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents and authorizing the postmasters to return these values to Haarlem. The most interesting is the case of the new 11 cent! This value represented the double difference between a printed matter card and the inland postcard up to February 1, 1948, when that rate was lowered to 6 cents. As no one was aware of this, the catalog price of the 11 cent rocketed. It was, however, a peculiar decision to take, as that value could still be used for business reply letters up to 20 grams. The whole matter was wound up by the communication that stated that the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent postage due stamp announced in July 1947 would never be issued. The still missing 30 cents and 1 guilder were announced in February 1949. An additional 6-cent value was issued in January 1950.

Together with the 7 and 35 cents, there were three values not mentioned in the original set of July 1947. The explanation for the 35 cents is easy as the postal clearance fee for letters from abroad was raised from 25 to 35 cents the 1st of November 1946. There are, of course, explanations for the 6 and 7 cents in the categories of business reply matter and postage to pay on official mail, but that is rather arbitrary and insufficient to explain the rather high numbers used. Most probably there was also insufficiently prepaid mail from abroad. For one thing, the new foreign rate of 3d from Great Britain instead of the previous $2\frac{1}{2}$ d required many 7 cent postage due stamps.

The Rate Increases 1950 - 1958

The increases of rates, of course, influenced directly the use of various postage due stamps. Some values vanished and new ones were needed. The last new values, the 26 and 60 cents, were issued in 1958 and therefore this period is now examined.

The postal parcels were the first victims. This service was resumed on May 6, 1947 with a weight restriction of 5 kgs. This restriction was abolished per January 12, 1948, but at the same time the prewar rates which went up to 7 and 9 kgs were dropped. Nonprepaid parcels were allowed again from March 1, 1949 at the normal rates. On January 2, 1950 a fee was introduced of 10 cents per parcel. The normal parcel rates were raised on June 1, 1950. An 85-cent postage due stamp was issued in September for nonprepaid parcels of 3-5 kgs. The corresponding normal postage stamp of 75 cents denomination was issued late in December 1951!

The rates for the normal mail were raised on July 1, 1953, together with the fee for nonprepaid parcels. The new 14-cent postage due stamp was issued for unfranked inland postcards.

The new Post Office Act of 1954 combined the old Postal Law of 1919 and the Parcel Post Law of 1917. This new law was followed by the 1955 Postal Decree and the new Postal Regulations issued by the PMG, effective on October 23, 1955. Now the rates of both the mail and the parcels could be harmonized resulting in higher rates for the parcels effective November 15, 1955. The new 90 cent postage due stamp was one of the consequences. All this was part of the thorough reorganization of 1955. The former *Hoofdbestuur* was transformed into *Centrale Directie* and the whole country was divided into postal districts. On April 1, 1957 nearly all rates were raised except for those of the inland letter and postcard, and all local rates were dropped. These, however, caught up seven months later, when a 95 cent postage due was issued, followed by the 24 cents and the fl. 1.75. The 85 and 90 cents disappear.

Nearly ten years after the first cleanup, the second one follows. Postal Order 181, dated April 11, 1958 announced the reissue of the 11 and 16 cents as well as the new values of 20 and 60 cents. There would be no new printings of the 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 20, 35, 85 and 90 cents. The complete set now consists of 1, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 24, 25, 26, 30, 40, 50, 60, 95 cents, fl. 1.00 and fl. 1.75.

In the foregoing years three values disappeared without notice: the 3 cents in March 1950, the 16 cents in November 1952, and the 4 cents in May 1954.

The Last Ten Years

During the last ten years of their use, there were many changes upwards in the rates, but few orders were published about the postage due stamps. The only exception is found in 1964. In January the 8, 14, 35 and 90 cents were revived, and the 26 cents disappeared. This value had already become superfluous on December 1, 1960. This value holds the record for the shortest real use! The reissue of the 8 and 14 cents finds its explanation in the use for printed matter business reply cards and for letters franked at the printed matter rate. We were unable to find the reason for the 35 and 90 cents.

Table 1. Various rates

	INLAND LETTER		LOCAL LETTER		INLAND POSTCARD			LOCAL POSTCARD			PRINTED MATTER		FOREIGN MAIL									
	nonrepaid up to 20 gr	paid printed matter	business reply	official to pay	nonrepaid 20-50 gr	official to pay	paid for printed matter	business reply	official to pay	nonrepaid	paid printed matter	reforwarded inland	official to pay	business reply	nonrepaid 1st weight	business reply	nonrepaid 2nd weight	unpaid letter	unpaid postcard	unpaid printed matter		
20.08.40	15	12	8½	7½	20	5	10	7	6	5	5	1	4	5	3	2½	6	25	15	5		
01.11.46	20	16	11	10	30	10	15	11	8½	7½	10	6	2½	5	5	3	8	40	25	8		
01.02.48							12	8	7	6		1										
01.10.48							14	3	8	7	12	8	1	6	7			50	24			
01.07.53			12	13	40	20	14	10	8	7	12	8	1	6	7			50	30	10		
01.04.57			24	16	15	12	50	26			16							50	30	10		
01.11.57							14	3	8	7	16							60	40	12		
01.12.60																						
01.01.64			14																			
01.07.64	30	16	18	15	60	30	20	13	10		20						8	20		16		
01.06.65	36	20	21	18	24												14	10	30	80	50	20
01.01.66			23				15	15			24						16	11				
01.05.66	40		25	20	20		24	17	12		30						13					
01.02.67		16			80	40	30	20	15								20	15	24		24	
																	24	17	30		90	

N.B. For normal rates, see the Appendix of De Postzak, No. 78, December 1967.

The stocks of the 3 and 20 cents were replenished according to PO 259, dated May 19, 1964; the 20 cent for unfranked postcards is self-evident, but the 3 cent most probably had to serve as a supplementary value between the 1 and 7 cents, diminishing the use of the 1 cent. It is striking, however, that no 80 cents was issued for unfranked letters from abroad, nor a 36 cents in 1965 for unfranked inland letters.

The use of official mail in the groups 2 to 5, inclusive, was abolished from January 1, 1966. Only group 1 remained, representing the national Government and its direct branches. The officials had the opportunity to use free reply cards and envelopes for inquiries. Such cards and envelopes could still be used after January 1st. During that first month, such matter was delivered free, but during February and March they were, however, charged with the single inland rate. After the end of March the normal double rate had to be paid. No such cards or covers charged at the normal rate have been found.

Postal Order H419, dated July 28, 1966: Postage due stamps to be given a trial discontinuance. Starting August 1, postage due stamps will no longer be distributed and will be replaced by normal postage stamps. Postage due stamps on hand must be used up. In cases of possible confusion a large red T must be written on the article and the stamps pasted near to it.

The usual "T" ("Taxe") indication on international mail is now introduced for inland use too. Further simplification was announced on October 3, 1968. Starting on October 21, the amount due will no longer be collected by the postman. A blue card will be affixed to the article (up to 500 grams), inviting the addressee to return the card with the amount due, pasted in stamps on it. The amount due - the single missing - will be rounded upwards to the next tenfold in cents. This system proved to be a full-scale success.

The Tables

Table 1. A number of the values in the van Krimpen type were used for different purposes in succession. These are found in Table 1. There the amounts to pay are also listed. For this purpose, the summary of the rates by the "rates specialist," Mr. W.S. da Costa, are used. Mr. da Costa also gave us the rates of the postal parcels and of the many fees. He had previously published much of this in *De Postzak*. We thank him cordially. Tables 2 and 3 relate to the postal parcels. In most cases one can ascertain whether the regulations were handled correctly. Table 4 shows the minimum amounts due as well as the fees.

From the tables it is seen that since 1964 the values on hand became gradually less efficient for normal use. The growing number of Postalia postage due meters (see Figure 3) and the increasing costs of printing new values undoubtedly played their part. Perhaps the discussion about the replacement of the postage due stamps had already started. The trial replacement of August 1st, 1966 was quietly continued until October 1968 when the new "card system" was introduced. The collectors, however, could buy postage due stamps - of those values still available - at the philatelic windows until mid-January 1972. That was the sad end of the oldest "philatelic service" in this country. On August 13, 1870, the sale of postage due stamps started - issued on April 15 of that year: "against payment to whom who wished to buy these new stamps for their collections for the appeasement of their curiosity."



Fig. 3

Table 2. Parcel post. To pay in case of reforwarded or returned postal parcels

Weight incl.	1 kg	2 kg	3 kg	5 kg	7 kg	10 kg
01.11.35	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>50</u>	(60)	(80)
01.11.46	<u>30</u>	x	45	<u>60</u>	(80)	(100)
12.01.48		x			x	<u>100</u>
01.06.50	<u>40</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>60</u>	75	x	<u>100</u>
15.11.55	<u>60</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>100</u>	120	<u>140</u>
01.04.57	<u>70</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>150</u>	200	<u>250</u>
01.01.64	<u>100</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>150</u>	200	275	<u>350</u>
01.05.66	<u>120</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>450</u>
01.02.67	<u>150</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>600</u>

N.B. The rates in brackets were not used because of the maximum of 5 kg. In this table and the following one the amounts underlined indicate that a single stamp was available.

Table 3. Amount to pay for unfranked postal parcels, fee inclusive

Weight up to	1 kg	2 kg	3 kg	5 kg	7 kg	10 kg
01.03.49	30	x	45	60	x	100
01.01.50	40	x	55	70	x	110
01.06.50	50	60	70	85	x	110
01.07.53	55	65	75	90	x	115
15.11.55	75	90	100	115	135	155
01.04.57	95	110	125	175	225	275
01.01.64	125	150	175	225	300	375
01.05.66	155	195	235	310	385	485
01.02.67	185	235	285	385	485	635

NB. The rates in brackets were not used because of the maximum of 5 kg.

Table 4. Minimum to pay and fees

Category	1a	2c	2d	4ml	4mp
20.08.40	2½	1		25	25
01.11.46	5			35	40
01.01.50			10		
01.07.53			15	50	100
01.04.57	10	3	25		
01.01.64					120
01.06.65		5			
01.01.66	15			70	
01.05.66			35		

Categories (see text also):

- 1a Minimum to pay
- 2c Business reply matter fee
- 2d Fee for unpaid postal parcels
- 4ml Clearance fee for foreign letters
- 4mp Clearance fee for foreign parcels

J. Dekker and L. Goldhoorn

Postal Booklet Collecting and Netherlands Booklet No. 39

The introduction of the automatic vending machine booklets in the Netherlands in 1964 awakened my interest in the earlier booklets of the Netherlands, Netherlands Indies and Curaçao. These are now listed in the NVPH Speciale Catalogus, the Netherlands booklets under numbers 1 through 55. Numbers 56 and higher are the automatic booklets, but my major interest is in the earlier series which I call Poststamp Booklets.

As I started to collect these Poststamp Booklets, I soon found out the following:

1. The only booklets which seemed to be available at all were numbers 22, 38, 50 and 51. All other numbers are difficult, if not impossible, to locate.
2. Most dealers carry no Poststamp Booklets at all.
3. Few collectors have any of these booklets in their collection.
4. The listing in the Speciale Catalogus is not complete.
5. Very little data are available on Poststamp Booklets.

The only worthwhile article on the earlier booklets was published in the *Maandblad* ten years ago.¹ This was expanded by the author, Jan Dekker, into a book published in the United States a few years later, and which is now out of print.² In both cases, Mr. Dekker provided a good basis for starting

out in this field, but many more than the 138 different varieties listed in this book are known to exist.

There has been no compilation of both the major and minor varieties of Posstamp Booklets; these include items such as types of interleaving, thickness and color of the cover stock, gum, perforation varieties and size. There is, on the other hand, a fine catalog of the automatic booklets which is published each year.³

The only article which I have found that brought out many varieties known of a booklet appeared several years ago in the newsletter of a Netherlands specialist group in Chicago.⁴ This covered 15 recognized varieties of the 5 cent Veth booklet, but actually, many more varieties than this are known of this booklet.

To make my point clearer, I will take one example which will illustrate this: Posstamp Booklet 39, which contains one pane of each of the five values of the 1927 Red Cross issue. This was one of a series of four booklets issued in connection with the Red Cross set. I chose this example because the booklets were made up from normal sheets (all the other early booklets - with a single exception - were made up from specially printed sheets). This reduces the number of minor varieties which can exist.

Use of the normal sheets made it necessary to issue booklets with eyelets on the left as well as on the right. The Red Cross set was issued in two perforations, 11½x11½ and 11½x12, both line perforations. This makes possible the existence of the following varieties:



	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
2 ct	11½	11½x12	11½	11½x12
3 ct	11½	11½	11½	11½
5 ct	11½	11½	11½	11½
7½ ct	11½	11½	11½x12	11½
15 ct	11½	11½	11½	11½x12

These four types would be found with eyelets on the right and on the left. Therefore, there are eight possible varieties of booklet 39, although this point was not mentioned in Mr. Dekker's book.

Similarly, for the other Red Cross booklets, we find: for number 40, there are 2 eyelet left and 2 eyelet right varieties; for number 41, there are 2 eyelet left and 2 eyelet right varieties; number 42, there are 4 eyelet left and 4 eyelet right varieties.

These are all major varieties, and not minor varieties, as they are based on differences in perforation. Booklet 39 should be listed in the Speciale Catalogus as:

Left 39a, 39b, 39c, 39d

Right 39a, 39b, 39c, 39d

But, this is not all. As my collection slowly grew, I found that my copies of number 39 varied in length. To date, I have booklets measuring 62 mm, 64 mm and 68 mm. Why this should be I don't know, although a study of the Red Cross issue disclosed that the overall width of the stamps varies considerably, as does the margin. More research is needed here.

This brings us to the conclusion that it is possible for each of the eight varieties of booklet 39 listed above to exist in at least three distinct sizes, and possible four (66 mm). Further study shows that the interleaving varies from white to grey-brown. Eyelets vary in size from 5 to 10 mm in diameter.

So, it is evident that many secondary varieties are available as well as the eight major varieties of number 39. This multitude of varieties is not covered in Mr. Dekker's book or elsewhere.

Therefore, I have embarked on the task of compiling a listing of all known varieties of Poststamp Booklets. For this undertaking I will need the help of everyone who has one or more of these booklets in his collection. I know that this will take a great deal of time and effort, but it is obvious that a specialized catalog of these booklets is needed.

To do this I have made up a questionnaire which lists all the data I am seeking. To simplify the operation of this survey in the United States I have asked a fellow collector to handle distribution. If you have any of the Poststamp Booklets of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Indies or Curaçao in your collection, even the most common, please send your name and address to Laurence Rehm, 443 Stratford Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Be sure to tell Mr. Rehm how many booklets you have, as each one requires its own questionnaire. Your help in this undertaking will be most appreciated.

However, if you wish to contact me directly on any aspect of Poststamp Booklet collecting, I would be delighted to hear from you. My address: E. Horn, Jr., Alinghoek 7, Drouwen (Dr.), Netherlands.

References:

1. "Eem halve eeuw postzegelboekjes 1902-1952," by Jan Dekker. *Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie*, September 1965.
2. *Postal Booklets of the Netherlands, Dutch East Indies, and Curaçao*, by Jan Dekker. Netherlands Philatelic Society, Chicago, 1969.
3. *Speciale Katalogus Nederland Automaatboekjes 1975-6*, by de Rooy and Hali.

Editorial Comment: Needless to say, your editor will be all too happy to publish some of this booklet information in a future issue of *Netherlands Philately*.

Surinam—The 1909 Tete-Beche Local Printing

At the end of 1908 it seemed likely that there was going to be a temporary shortage of 5-cent stamps, so the Surinam government decided to have 5-cent stamps printed locally. The *NVPH Speciale Catalogus* lists these as Nos. 58 and 59 (Scott Nos. 61 and 62) because part of the printing order was rouletted and part was perforated.

The *Speciale Catalogus* mentions that the stamp was printed in sheets of 100, of two plates, each consisting of 50 pieces. The two plates, the catalog, asserts, were placed in the press in such a way that the finished stamps of one half of the sheet were upside down, which caused the famous tete-beche pairs (5th and 6th rows).

The first-day cover catalog of Avezaat and Okker gives us January 20, 1909 as the first day of issue for the rouletted stamp.

This description of the sheets and the reason for the tete-beche pairs I had seen and read for a number of years, without really questioning the matter. In the 1940 *Manual* by Schiller and de Kruyf the same description occurs as well. So even then it was not questioned. Yet, on closely reading the statement, it should occur to the reader to wonder why the printer would put one of the plates upside down. There is no reason for it. No reason that makes sense in printing, anyhow. We could think of some philatelic shenanigans, but there is no reason for that if the answer is simple and makes printing sense.

The answer is very simple and makes a lot of sense. There was never more than one plate of 50 subjects. What happened is that the printer placed the plate on the press and ran sheets large enough for



100 stamps through the press. These sheets, of course, received only one impression, on one side (the right-hand side) of the sheet. Without changing the position of the plate, the sheets were run through again - a very simple procedure - and the blank side of the sheet now received 50 impressions, but these impressions showed up upside down compared to the first 50.

I assumed that this theory could be proved by looking at a number of tete-beche

pairs. The regular stamps are well aligned, both horizontally and vertically (see the illustrated cover for the horizontal alignment). If, as the catalog says, two plates were used, all or nearly all of the tete-beche pairs would show the same position for the left- and the right-hand stamps: either aligned, or low, or high. On looking at six pairs I found that the positions are all different; some are high, some are low - in various degrees - and one is aligned.

A real foolproof test would be to check a whole sheet. If only one plate of 50 was used, stamp No. 1 of the sheet would be identical to stamp No. 100, and so on. This I haven't been able to do because I don't know anyone who has a whole sheet of these stamps. However, in checking through a batch of old auction catalogs I came to that of van Dieten, May 9-16, 1975 auction, which shows as lot No. 1976 (see illustration) a tete-beche block of four, rouletted, with a first-day cancellation. From the appearance of the block it seems that the second run through the press was not very well aligned at all; the bottom stamps almost touch. (And if two separate plates had been used this "touching" could not have happened, by the way.)

The conclusion is that the description of the 1909 local 5-cent stamp should be changed somewhat to take account of this double use of only one plate of 50 subjects, thereby causing the tete-beche stamps.

Paul E. van Reyen



COILS ~ A Brief Review of the Roll Stamp

THE APPEARANCE last spring of the first Dutch coil imperforate on two sides has focused considerable attention on the coil issues of the Netherlands. Far from being a recent development, stamps in coil form have been issued by the PTT starting shortly after the first trials at The Hague in 1903.

However, for over thirty years the rolls had to be assembled from normal sheets, each strip of stamps being attached by hand to the next strip. It was due to difficulties which arose when these rolls were used in a certain kind of coil dispenser that led to the introduction of the syncopated perforation varieties starting in 1924.

In 1936 the installation of an Albert Frankenthal web press at Enschede permitted the production of coils in continuous form, and rolls of 500 or 1000 of the most frequently used values have been generally available since that time, except for the period 1942-1949 when the necessary coins were not available for the automatic vending machines.

There was, however, little interest paid to these issues as coils since it was quite difficult to make a positive identification as a coil; a normal stamp could be cut with a sharp pair of scissors or a razor blade to create the clean, slightly off-center cut characteristic of the roll stamps.

In April 1965 the practice of applying a number on the back of every fifth stamp of the roll was instituted, and this finally provided a means of positive identification. The first values to be so issued were the 8 ct. van Krimpen numeral type and the Juliana 10, 15, 18, 20, 30, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70 and 75 cent. Other values were added in the following years.

Two main areas in which stamps in roll form are used are the automatic

coin-operated dispensing machines found at railway stations and many public buildings, and in small hand-operated dispensers used by the postal clerks. Providing a serial number on the stamps greatly facilitates keeping an accurate inventory record by the post office clerk. Serially numbering coils has also been adopted by a number of other European countries.

The present-day interest in coil stamps therefore really started in 1965, although there has been no general agreement as to how they should be collected - as singles, strips of three, strips of five, or even longer. Those favoring the collecting of strips of five with the number on the back of the bottom stamp gained considerable support when the PTT Philatelic Service, acknowledging the growing interest in coils, started the distribution of coils in strips of five in 1971.

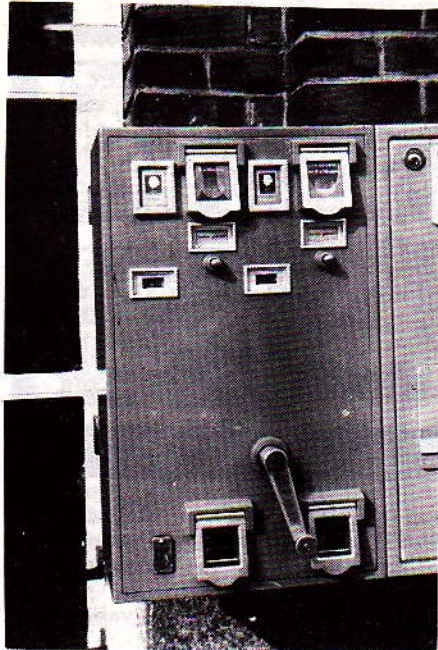
One of the two postwar coil issues, cancelled in 1950. The vending machine miscut is not uncommon.



Pre-1965 coil showing the sharp, clean, whiskerless cut, slightly off-center, as usual

IOC
NEDERLAND





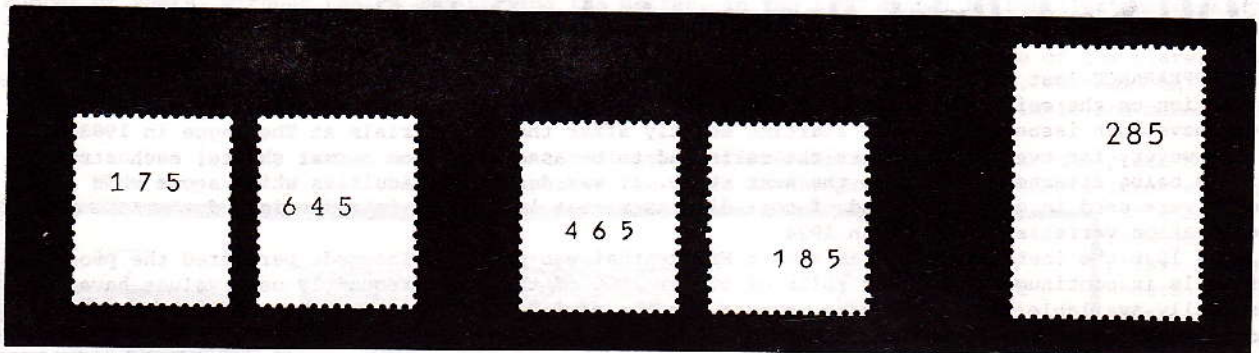
Coin-operated coil stamp vending machine

In 1973 a specialist group was formed to further the study of these issues (as well as automatic vending machine booklets, a closely allied field) which has grown rapidly in members and in activity. It now numbers over 300 members (several of whom are in the U.S.) and in addition to the publication of an excellent quarterly, it holds frequent meetings, usually in conjunction with an auction of members' materials. The prices so realized form the basis for establishing the comparative scarcity of each variety, and its current market value. A detailed and complete listing of all known coil varieties and their value was compiled by this group into a Catalogue of Numbered Roll Stamps, published last year (and available through the ASNP at \$2.25 postpaid).

This catalog establishes an interesting dual classification system. The first type of identification is as follows: The first numeral is, of course, the value shown on the stamp. This is followed by a small letter: "n" indicates that the top of the control number is toward the top of the image, while "k" (kopstaand) indicates the number is upside down in relation to the image on the stamp.

The next number indicates the typeface used to print the control number: "1" is the first typeface which has serifs on the numerals 1 and 4, and with the tail of the 5 pointing up; "2" is the second typeface, which is sans-serif, and the tail of the 5 points down; "3" is a larger typeface, used on larger format stamps such as the guilder values. (See illustration below.)

The next small letter (when used) indicates gum: "g" is a shiny natural gum, while "d" is a dull synthetic gum.



Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

The following capital letter indicates paper: "W" is a white or hi-brite stock, with widely varying degrees of luminescence under UV light; "D" is a dull paper which has a dark, inert appearance under UV light.

The final letter "F," when used, indicates that a phosphor coating has been applied to the face of the paper.

Therefore, the term 30.nlgW provides a good description of the specific qualities involved. What it does not do is identify whether this is a 30 cent Juliana of the 1953-67 issue, a 30 cent Europa, or a 30 cent Juliana Regina stamp. So a second classification system is used in conjunction with the first, utilizing NVPH numbers.

The 30 cent 1953 Juliana, as in the example above, 30.nlgW, has been assigned the classification number 624Ra. The variety 30.k2dD is listed as 624Rb. The 30 cent Europa of 1972 (30.k3dF) is 1007R and the 30 cent Juliana Regina (30.k1) is 941R.

This sounds a great deal more complicated than it really is; the Catalogue of Roll Stamps, referred to earlier, provides a simple and readily understood reference for all known varieties of control numbered issues.

Complete unit of 1000 serially numbered subjects



These strips of five are normally mounted so that the bottom stamp is turned up to show the control number. This, of course, displays the gum also, and even a superficial study of these issues will show not only the difference between natural and synthetic gum, but also marked differences in the types of synthetic gum. These stem from the fact that the paper is purchased pregummed from a number of paper manufacturers, each of whom seems to have their own formulas for synthetic gum.

Most of this paper originates in England. Fortunately, these variations have been the subject of much study by British specialists. The gum classification system which has now been accepted is as follows:

A Gum Arabic. Natural gum, glossy

The synthetics:

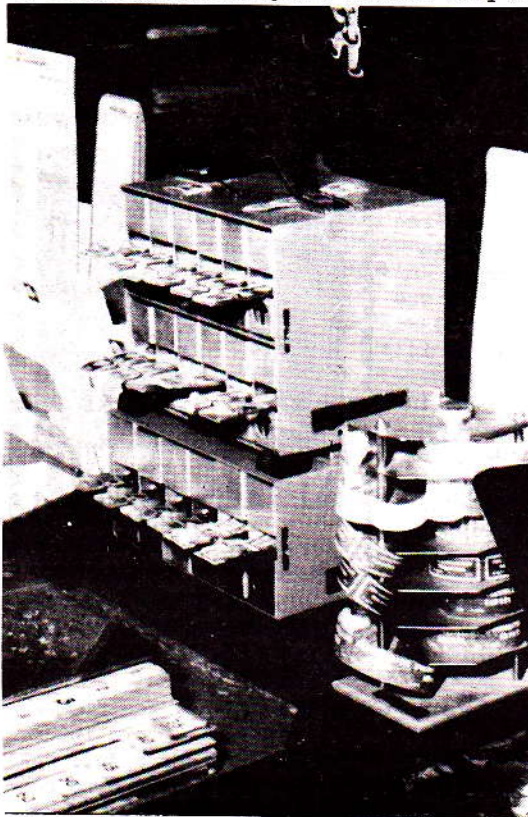
- B1 Henco-gum. Dull to shiny; white
- B2a Henco-gum. Dull; yellowish
- B2b Henco-gum. Shiny; whiter
- C1 PVA-gum. Dull; cream with white spots
- C2 PVA-gum. Dull; white
- D1 PVA-dextrine gum. Dull; bluish, striped
- D2 PVA-dextrine gum. Dull; bluish, smooth
- D3 PVA-dextrine gum. Dull; smooth with bluish-white spots

Unexpected demand for the recent Amsterdam 30 cent coil required a second printing which is easily distinguished from the first printing by the removal of the corner pins. This, of course, is well known. What is not so well known is the fact that a small part of the first printing was made on paper with a clearly different bluish gum. This gum variety (D2) commands a 1300% premium over the regular first printing with gum C1. Since the gum is always on display (at the bottom of the strip), gum varieties are readily apparent and are now acknowledged to be valid varieties.

Typical strip of 5 with bottom stamp turned up to show number and gum



The rapidly growing interest in these issues is reflected in current prices quoted in dealers' advertisements, as well as realized at specialist group auctions. The 18 cent Juliana coil, for instance was issued in a quantity of over 9,500 rolls of 1000 subjects each, which would certainly appear to be an adequate supply. However, at a recent auction of the Specialist Group, a single strip of 5 of the 18 cent Juliana brought f 139.00. Many other varieties are climbing as rapidly.



It is anticipated that articles on various aspects of coil collecting will be published in this Journal from time to time, and it is hoped that this article has provided the basic information for a better understanding of this rapidly growing field. Acknowledgment is made to Jan Dekker and to the Kontaktgroep Verzamelaars Automaatboekjes en Rolzegels for some of the above-given data.

Laurence H. Rehm

Hand-operated coil dispensing machine used by postal clerks

Editorial note: Since there is not enough space to start a new article here, I will take the opportunity to make a few remarks, some of which have to do with the article above. Laurence H. Rehm has done a superb job of providing us with all the illustrations in this issue of the Journal. That is pure photographs have to be translated into printing plates so that they can be printed. All this work has been done by Mr. Rehm. I don't have to add that this has saved the society a substantial amount of money.

Since Mr. Rehm also mentions a figure of 139 guilders in his article, and since I got a request to give some approximation of the value of the guilder, I will comply here by first stating that the Dutch guilder is "floating," which means that there is no firm amount of dollars that can buy a guilder. But around the beginning of February 1 Dollar bought roughly 2.6675 guilders, or, 1 guilder was worth between 37.45 and 37.55 cents. At the end of last year the guilder was worth about 40 cents, so the trend is favorable for us.

A Bicentennial Reflection: Dutch Involvement in the United States

With all the bicentennial festivities, I would like to reflect upon the role of the Dutch in the development of the New World and specifically the United States. This is the first of four articles which will deal topically with various stamps of the Netherlands and Colonies and the United States as they illustrate the historical material.

Early Exploration and Development

The Dutch became involved in the New World in seeking a passage to the East Indies in the early 17th century. Hugo Grotius' tract, *Mare Liberum*, written in 1604, was a defense of the freedom of the seas for all nations. A truce with the Spanish empire in 1609 temporarily ended the struggle of the Dutch for freedom from Spanish hegemony, and resulted in a split of the provinces. Those in the south remained under the control of Spain and later became Belgium. The northern provinces became the Netherlands. As a result of this split, the population of the northern provinces rapidly increased with refugees fleeing the south to escape Spanish domination. Among these refugees, estimated to be as many as 3½ million, were Huguenots and Walloons, Separatists from the Church of England, and Jews from Portugal and Spain.

At the same time, the United East India Company, formed in 1602, had been seeking a shorter, western route to the East Indies. In 1609 the English navigator, Henry Hudson, sailed from the port of Amsterdam on the Dutch ship *The Half Moon*. (See U.S. No. 372, issued on September 25, 1909, honoring the tercentenary of Hudson's discovery of the Hudson River.) After taking four months, Hudson's party sailed along the eastern coast and up a great river, traveling as far as what was later Albany, N.Y. Hudson concluded that this river was not the much sought after route to the East Indies.

Hudson returned on *The Half Moon* to Europe, but disembarked in England so as not to face the Company with his failure. However, the log book, which mentioned the beauty and fertility of the Hudson River valley, became the source of encouragement among merchants for the potential expansion of commerce in the New World, as well as a source of hope for many refugees. In 1620, a group of English refugees landed at Plymouth Rock. (See U.S. Nos. 548-549 and 1420. These stamps were issued on December 21, 1920, and November 21, 1970, showing the *Mayflower* and the landing at Plymouth, Mass.)

Until 1621 individual merchants traded with the Indians but in that year the West India Company received a monopoly in the Americas. In 1624 a large group of Huguenots and Walloons sailed from the Netherlands. Some settled at the mouth of the Hudson River, while others were placed at Fort Orange (Albany, N.Y.), the Connecticut River, and the Delaware River. (See U.S. Nos. 614-615. Issued on May 1 1924, these stamps depict the ship *New Netherland* and the landing at Fort Orange.) As a result of the renewed war with Spain, the West India Company sought to build a fort on Manhattan Island. Peter Minuit, a Huguenot, and Governor of New Netherland, purchased the island from the Indians in 1626. After he left the employ of the West India Company, Minuit assisted the Swedes and Finns in 1638 in obtaining a settlement at Wilmington, Del. (See U.S. No. 836, issued on June 27, 1938, to commemorate the Swedish-Finnish Tercentenary.)

The population of New Netherland grew rapidly; land grants attracted immigrants with rights for fishing, hunting, farming and trading. Colonization seemed to be more of an after-thought by the West India Company, which had as its goal commercial development and profit. By the time Peter Stuyvesant (c.1610-1672) became the last of six Dutch Governors in 1645, it was too late to shift the emphasis to organizing a colony.

Stuyvesant did his best, after transferring to New Amsterdam from Curaçao where he had lost a leg in the Spanish attack on St. Martin Island in the Leeward chain. (Illustration: Netherlands B117, issued on May 1,



1939.) Stuyvesant was given the responsibility of transforming a trading post into a permanent settlement with law and order. (Illustration: U.S. No. 1027, issued November 20, 1953, commemorating the Tercentenary of New York City.) To accomplish this task he established a rather authoritarian rule, yet with the motherland struggling for its very existence, and with the pressure of the English settlements on all sides, Stuyvesant was able to enforce order and allow some freedom. One of his most noteworthy accomplishments was the organization of a volunteer fire department. (Illustration: U.S. No. 971, issued on October 4, 1948, to commemorate Stuyvesant's volunteer firemen.)

During the 1660's the rivalry between England and the Netherlands, which had already led to the First Dutch War of 1652-1654 (of course, the Dutch call it the First English War), became more intense. Raids by English fleets on the Dutch possessions on the Gold Coast in West Africa preceded a full-scale attack on the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam. The fort on Manhattan Island was ill-equipped to han-





dle the large group of English forces that arrived on August 28, 1664. In addition, the English were being supported by the English inhabitants of the eastern part of Long Island, the New Englanders, Indians and French traders who all wanted to loot New Amsterdam. The citizenry did not want to risk devastation in a battle and Stuyvesant tried to save face by negotiating a rather mild capitulation. On September 6, 1664, New Amsterdam surrendered and became New York, a gift of King Charles II to his brother James, Duke of York. The English also received all of New Netherland and the Dutch business enterprises were allowed to continue without interference, which is what they wanted most anyway.

(To be continued.)

Richard J. Bennink

The First Day of the Netherlands' First Postal Card

IT IS generally agreed that the idea of producing an "open post sheet" (later termed a "postal card") was first proposed by a German post office official, but the proposal was not accepted, and its introduction was later taken up in Austria by Dr. Emanuel Hermann, an economics teacher.

Austria issued the world's first postal card on October 1, 1869, with the imprint of a profile of Emperor Franz Josef.

The next year, the Netherlands made some changes in their postal system, to be effective January 1, 1871. Among them were uniform postal rates throughout the country, the lowering of money order fees, the introduction of special delivery and the issuance of the first Dutch postal card. The postal cards were delivered to some post offices as early as November 30, 1870, but they were not valid for postal duty until January 1, 1871.

The cancellation common to that period was the small round with "M" or "A" following the two hours in the lower part of the circle. "M" was for *Morgen* or Morning, and "A" was for *Achternamiddag* or Afternoon. This is Vellinga Type No. 50a Cancel. The day was broken into five time periods from midnight to the next midnight: 12M-8M; 8M-12M; 12M-4A; 4A-8A; 8A-12M.

The First Day Postal Card shown here was bought December 31, 1870 (or before); the message as shown was written December 31, 1870; the card was deposited in the TIEL post office some time that night and received the earliest postmark possible -- 12M-8M on 1 JAN. 71.

In over 100 years only seven other cards have been reported as cancelled 1 JAN 71 -- all with late times of the first day or the time is illegible.

1. Dispatched at SLUIS on 1 JAN 71 ?-12M. This must be either 8M-12M or 8A-12M. The card is in the G. Buys collection in the Netherlands Postal Museum in The Hague.
2. Dispatched at ROZENDAAL on 1 JAN 71. This cancel has the twig/franco postmark with no hours of the day (Vellinga Type No. 51, meant for printed matter. It was against regulations to use this cancel on postcards.
3. Dispatched at ARNHEM 1 JAN 71 12M-4A.
4. Dispatched at ARNHEM 1 JAN 71 12M-?
5. Dispatched at BERGEN OP ZOOM 1 JAN 71 ?-4A (This has to be 12M-4A)
6. Dispatched at ROTTERDAM 1 JAN 71 12M-?
7. Dispatched at ROTTERDAM 1 JAN 71 8M-12M

As far as we can find there were no pre-first days ever reported, which would have been against regulations.



Handwritten text in Dutch, likely a business message or telegram, mentioning 'Rotterdam' and '1941'.

The reverse side contains a business message (non-philatelic) and shows that the card was received at ROTTERDAM on the same first day, between noon and 4 p.m.

The author has been collecting the various types of cancels from all offices that used each type. During World War II we bought cartons of Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies postal stationery from the late Dr. W.I. Mitchell of Berkeley, Cal. Before sorting to types of cancels we always examined everything for early dates, etc. For a while the earliest postal card was 6 JAN 71, then 2 JAN 71 and after years we were rewarded in finding the 1 JAN 71 and with the undoubtedly unique first four-hour bracket.

During the years we were indebted to many for their help. Among them are Mr. A.R. Kamphuis, Curator of the Netherlands Postmuseum in The Hague, the late Adrian F. Lindeman, the late Dr. W.I. Mitchell, Mr. A.C. Birch and Mr. Warner Bates.

Edward C. Smith

Editor's Note: Member Smith's fortunate discovery points up the importance of making a regular practice of checking postal markings. Are we all certain we do not have a parallel example in our collections?

Comments and Communications

There have been numerous criticisms, questions and comments on my publication concerning the watermark study (See Netherlands Philately, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 18-23.)

Our Editor, in his Newsletter No. 3, was so kind so suggest some corrections. As the subject matter is so difficult to comprehend, I here summarize some changes which will facilitate reading:

- Page 20, first paragraph, line 5: To restore the original meaning, change the word "move" to "cut" AND cross out "of the center"!
- Page 20, table 1: Insert vertical lines after each 10 Cent column.
- Page 21, table 2: Insert vertical lines after each B column; transfer the 2 bottom lines to the top of page 22.
- Page 22, table 3: Change y dev. for 10 III Q 3,4 to 97.5%.
Insert vertical line $\frac{1}{2}$ inch before group 2 and end it at horizontal line to be inserted above Group 4 (5 VI and 15 L both belong to Group 4).

It is suggested to substitute the word "frame" with "mould" which seems to be the preferred term. Frame is just one of three parts making up a mould.

More than one criticism concerns the number of measured stamps which one correspondent considers "insufficient for any research." My reply: I cannot agree with that at all! What number of stamps IS sufficient? There has to be a start somewhere and I, for one, will be very happy if all you fellows with larger holdings come out with your comparison figures to allow for better averages. (To single out the minimum figure 15 does not quite do justice; the number of 15 C examined in Q 2 is 104.)

Shrinkage or expansion of paper after printing, gumming, soaking off letter, etc. are unknown factors. Answer: Possible, but I doubt that they change the relative position of the watermark in the stamp and to eliminate such fallacies all neutral readings - 0 and + 1 - were disregarded. That also applies to the evaluation of my method of measuring (a repeated question): a millimeter ruler and translucent light which I consider perfectly sufficient for this study and which permitted measuring the many stamps and multiples on letter.

Irregular alignment of dies in most plates: True but hardly ever exceeding 1 mm (accounted for by eliminating all neutral readings).

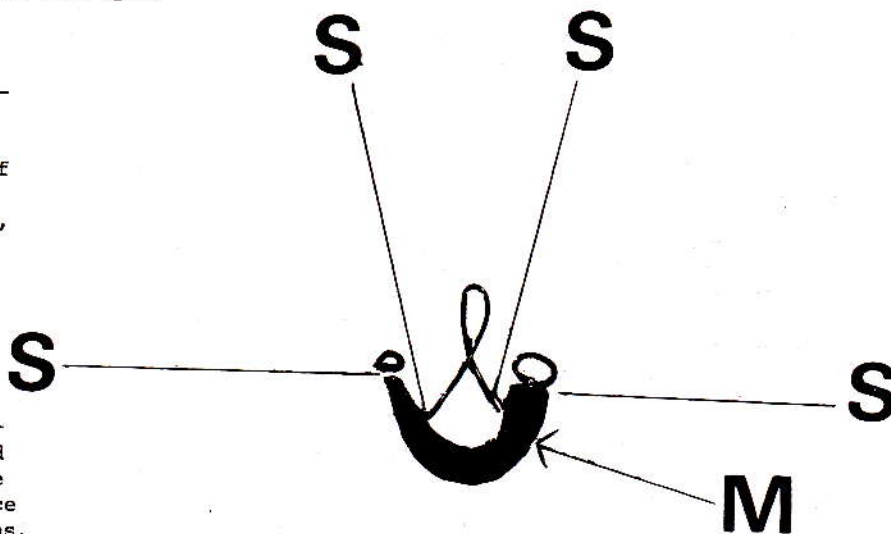
Human element -- printer's activities, e.g., the way the paper was aligned in the printing press: There must have been quite a good system as we do not know of any inverted or reversed wmk (except proofs); the wmk are aligned straight, vertical and horizontal. In Melville-Eason, *Postage Stamps in the Making*, page 78, one method is described for orienting the paper in the printing press. The "dancing of the watermark" falls into this category, but it cannot explain away the emergence of such patterns as 10 III Q 3,4. Dr. Lodder suggests to explain this phenomenon, if confirmed, with a different vertical composition of the steel plate (10:III), especially in the lower half. I must admit that for a fleeting moment I suspected that the vertical gutter in the plate was significantly reduced, but I soon rejected that theory after coming across some marginal copies of the horizontal rows 5 and 6 with margins of about 9 mm. Unfortunately, vertical gutter pairs of that plate are not known. Also the prevalence of the same phenomenon in other plates of that group suggests strongly that the explanation should be looked for in the paper.

Dr. Lodder also writes that he has measured the actual sheet No. III in the possession of Prof. van Dorp and the hor. distance between the mouthpiece of wmk pos. 1 and the opening of the posthorn wmk pos. 30 is 173 mm, not 170 mm as measured by me (top of page 20). The corresponding vertical distance is 197 mm, not 193 mm. He concludes that an accurate printer can actually position a sheet WITHOUT having the wmk cut out of the design of the stamp. If his measurements are correct, which I do not doubt, I fully agree. I also concur that discrepancies in the measurements between my photographs and the actual sheets can interfere with my conclusions.

Van Balen Blanken contends after examining my sheet I that it is identical with his I (formerly C) That may be so but it does not alter my conclusion that more than ONE other type of paper is as yet unknown.

In the *Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie* (December 1975 issue) an article by van Balen Blanken was published of which Mr. Fred Swarte was so kind as to send me an English translation. The translated title is "An inquiry into the connection between the shape of the watermarks and the plate positions of plate 1A - issue of 1852, 10 cent value." BB and his co-author Bert Buurman state that 4 types of paper were used of which 3 are known. According to correspondence received from BB the article brought interesting reactions, not only from philatelists but also from paper experts, and the door to further revelations seems wide open.

I doubt whether the present view that the wmk bits are made only of wire (silver or brass) is correct. I illustrate my version of a wmk bit derived from all the inferences I have gathered. I believe that the body of the posthorn is of sheet metal, to which the loop and two rings, all three bent from wire, have been soldered. The body, which may have been perforated with holes or slots, or both, to allow for the water to drip off, is then soldered to the wire frame. As BB was told by paper experts, the posthorns were completely made of wire and sutured with a fine silver thread to the frame. There is possible evidence of such sutures in some positions. I prefer to suggest that such bits may have come loose and had to be reattached, or had to be taken off for repairs or replacements.



Scheme of wmk bit: S = solder joints (4) of wire loops to metal body M

Dr. Fred L. Reed

Letters

The Editor, *Netherlands Philately*:

I appreciate the atmosphere of your columns and wish you well.

The 19th century stamps of Holland have been well studied and it is probably accurate to say that every rate for every type of postal matter has been dated and set out. In addition nearly every cancellation or postmark has been listed and had a value co-efficient ascribed to it according to its location of use.

Curiously, however, I know no listing of external rates in the pre-U.P.U. period giving the precise date of change from one rate to another.

Each change, of course, may be the subject of an individual treaty or negotiation, the record of which may no longer be in existence.

A group of collectors in Britain have endeavoured to build a skeleton framework from covers in their possession or from auction catalogue illustrations. It occurs to me that those of your members who are interested in this subject and have covers from Holland to remote parts of the world during the period 1852-1875 might be kind enough to let me have particulars.

Taking mail to the United States of America as an example we think most letters up to 1861 were paid 40 cents to England and the remaining charge was to collect on delivery whether sent by British or New York Packet, but we do have evidence of an 80 cents rate from 1854 to Jan. 1863.

In Aug. 1866 there is a letter franked 55 cents to New York with a red crayon 10 and a New York Packet 5: Would this be a 65 cents rate?

From mid-1868 to Dec. 29, 1869 we record 40 cents and March 1870 to March 1874 (still using the 25 cents of 1867) gives 25 cents.

Any information filling in gaps of this study will be gratefully received and acknowledged by

Ewart Gerrish
47 Grove Way
Esher, Surrey KT10 8HQ
Great Britain

If Stolen Stamps Show Up in Holland

IN VIEW of what happened to a collector - member of the New York N.C.P. - who saw some of his stamps illustrated in an auction catalog in the Netherlands - these stamps had been stolen some years ago - the ASNP asked the "Bond" in the Netherlands for some legal advice. An extensive letter by Mr. J. de Boer Azn., Attorney at Law, and advisor to the "Bond," was the result.

In this article we will give you the highlights, or rather, what is important. To simplify matters we will number the pertinent points:

1. If the theft has been a "real" theft (that is, you didn't give the stamps to somebody to sell for you, and he absconded with them), the owner can up to three years after the theft summon the holder of the stamps, even if this person acquired the stamps from somebody else thinking they were legitimately this person's property, to relinquish them. NO compensation is involved.

1a. An exception is when this person had acquired the stamps at a public auction in which case he must be recompensed for the exact amount he spent at the auction. This person MUST relinquish the property AFTER he has been reimbursed.

2. After three years almost any action against the holder of the stolen stamps is fruitless, unless the holder can be proved to have KNOWN that the stamps were stolen. Innocence is presumed by the court, knowledge about the stamps being stolen must be proved.

2a. This does not apply in case of "fraud," or somebody abused your trust and walks off with your stamps and sells them as if they belonged to him. In this case the purchaser cannot be forced to surrender the stamps, UNLESS he knew they were stolen, which again must be proved beyond a doubt.

3. The costs of a legal procedure involving the "confiscation" of stamps from an auctioneer were mid-1975 roughly 1500 guilders. The stamps thus should be worth much more than that to make it worthwhile.

4. During a procedure at law the victim of the theft should be able to produce the following documents: copy of the police report (showing that the stamps were indeed stolen); proof of ownership (very important, because a photo and even a notarized statement in itself are not sufficient; sales slips or descriptions in exhibition catalogs help - friends' statements, or the inclusion in a central register of a stamp club are of help too), which may be facilitated by giving the police an extended description of the stamps stolen.

5. The judge in the Netherlands may get expert advice, although in the case of whole covers and postal items photographs are usually conclusive. With stamps the situation is slightly more difficult because stamps are a "mass" item of which it may be difficult to prove that a stamp is the one stolen. Apparently the Dutch law (judge) is not as far yet as is the case in the U.S., where Mrs. Lane of the A.P.S. writes:

The failure of collectors to have their collections photographed may be based on the erroneous belief that only covers can be identified in this manner. Nothing is further from the truth. The way in which stamps tear apart from each other leaves paper fibers at the perforation tips as identifiable when magnified as are fingerprints. Photography is the method used by the FBI for identifying individual stamps, and it is the method recommended by them to collectors (*The American Philatelist*, June 1975)

Questions and comments are eagerly awaited by the editor. But have your stamps photographed first!

ASNP NEWS

We have to report a few new members:

Adrian J. Bahnerth	190	Mrs. Gerritje Wetmore	193
R.R. 1, Box 403		21919 98W	
DeMotte, IN 46310		Edmonds, WA 98020	
Dan S. Moore	191	The Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, Inc.	
22 Club Drive		P.O. Box 2219	194
Summit, NJ 07901		Sunnyvale, CA 94097	
Paul D. Mosher	192	John M. Beaufort	195
6 Perkins Square, Apt. 14		7446 S.E. 22nd Street	
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130		Mercer Island, WA 98040	

HALFYEARLY REPORT OF THE TREASURER

This report is based on our financial position as of February 1, 1976. It is still a halfyearly report because all the expenses for the first half year of the ASNP have been met. If you study the report you will notice that our expenses over this first half year have been more than half of what we have received. Some items are of course non-recurring: all the covers for the journal for a whole year have been printed in August 1975, so we don't have expenses there anymore. Yet, we feel that in view of the recent increase in postage (33%) we may have trouble in keeping the dues for next year at \$6. Following are the income and expenses accounts:

Income		Expenses	
Dues	\$1157.00	Printing, postage, stationery	\$ 726.22
Donations	179.00	NVPH catalogs	237.15
Advertisements	40.00	Bank charges	25.23
Other	338.00	Miscellaneous	23.51
Total	\$1714.00	Total	\$1012.11

February 6, 1976 the current bank balance was \$701.89.

FROM THE EDITOR

By the time the next newsletter goes to press in a little over a month we hope to have definite information about the appearance of the Handbook of Curaçao. At present we can already tell you that it is over 600 pages, and the impression I have is that it will be a superlative job.

Van Dieten Boeken Import has tentatively asked the ASNP to distribute this handbook in the U.S. which we have, of course, immediately accepted. For our members - and other - this means that the book can be ordered here, and shipped from Montclair, N.J., rather than from The Hague. We will keep you informed.

Several letters have been received from members who have taken the trouble to check their Netherlands Indies cancellations. Within a very short time this information will be sent to England.

Members who are also members of the A.P.S. will have noticed that the ASNP and *Netherlands Philately* are mentioned in the "World-Wide Listing of Philatelic Periodicals," in the January issue of the *American Philatelist*. Of course we hope that this will bring us a large number of new members.

Due to various things - a long list of excuses - the article on the Merauke covers which we mentioned and promised will appear in the June issue of this journal. One member sent us information on these interesting covers. Anybody else out there? For instance, we know of two covers with Netherlands "liberation" stamps (NVPH Nos. 428-442; Scott Nos. 262-276) which were cancelled at Merauke (whether legitimately or not) and sold in New York about two years ago.

We have also plans for articles on the "Dienst" stamps of the Netherlands Indies; the proofs made in the Netherlands Indies in the 1930's; the Surinam "buildings" stamps of 1961; etc. We also think it a good idea to run articles on "fakes and counterfeits." Anybody with some more ideas? Please let us know.

DUTCH-ENGLISH GLOSSARY

OUR main feature in the June issue will be either the first part of a Dutch-English Glossary or the whole thing. I have thought about just running it like an article, but also on making it more available by stapling it in the center of the journal, printed sideways, so that it can be removed, cut open and folded to make a handy booklet of 8½ by 5½ inches. This way you can carry it around with you. Let me know what you think. And is anybody willing to help in making up the glossary?