

# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



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# ASNP Netherlands Philately



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#### From the Editor

With this first issue of our second volume a look back seems appropriate. A year ago, the ASNP and *Netherlands Philately* itself were only a gleam in some people's eyes. I believe that we can say now that both are here to stay. Of course, at this precise moment we do not know yet how many members we will lose after this one year, but again we can only say that we can only be as good as the members want us to be. The ASNP is not just the officers or the Board of Governors, but ALL the members. Even if you feel that you are not able to do more than support the society through your dues, you are still a part of the society. If you want to do more, fine! So far we cannot say that we have lacked volunteers, except for one position, that of Advertising Manager. Some people may even feel that we haven't reacted fast enough on some suggestions. Please keep in mind that from the beginning we have felt that it would be better to move slowly and build strongly, rather than attempt to do a number of things and perhaps fail. This fall we hope to begin work on the Surinam Catalog...work in which several volunteers will participate. We had hoped to have the first installment out, but that has proved to be impossible. The results of the Mail Sale to support the library will also not be available until this fall. It takes time to decide which publications we shall buy with our meager funds. We don't want to rush out and buy just anything.

So, if you feel that the ASNP has made a contribution to your collecting fun (and profit), don't rush out and send us a letter. Instead, go out and collect a friend to join us. Or more friends. The more members we have the better we can serve you!

Another look back is provided for you on the inside back cover this time. Our Treasurer gives us his end-of-year financial report. As you can see, there is a small surplus, but we have to be very careful. Since all costs keep rising, and since we have kept the dues the same, we cannot expect to keep in the black unless we do get more members. Or more advertisements.

Have a very happy philatelic year.

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# Netherlands 1872 Issue

## Reconstruction of the Berlin Matrix of the 10-cent Value

By Edw. Matthews

### Berlin and Haarlem Plates?

After the design had been finalized, the "Staatsdrukkerij" in Berlin supplied the original matrix plate from which a limited number of new printing plates could be made, along with five initial printing plates. These were supplied for each of the six "cent" values, namely the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50-cent stamps. Therefore, there was enough material on hand to make a large printing plate of 200 subjects by assembling four plates of 50 each, of five horizontal rows of 10 subjects, to print sheets of 200 stamps. One plate of 50 could be held in reserve.

Prior to printing, the plates were mounted on lead bases and they were hardened to resist wear.



Forty years ago collectors had already discovered that there existed two entirely different sets of plates for the 5-cent value. The later type, which differs considerably from the Berlin proofsheets, has been reconstructed. Stamps from the earliest printings, especially many of those with line perforation 13½ x 14 small holes, do not fit in this reconstruction, but do show characteristic flaws found on the Berlin proofsheets. These early printings were made with the original Berlin plates; the plates of the later type we now call Haarlem plates. The oldest reconstruction with comb perforation 12½ : 12B small holes, can be dated prior to 1875. We have to assume that Enschede used up the original four Berlin plates and the fifth reserve plate, and wore out the Berlin matrix as well. It then became necessary to prepare a new matrix, using the original engraving and the 5 CENT slug, in order to make new matrices for new printing plates.

On the other hand, research in 1964 had already shown that it was unlikely that Haarlem plates had been made or at least been used for the 20 and 50-cent values.

It was, however, entirely possible that for the 10 cent, which was the most needed value after the 5 cent, Haarlem plates were used after exhausting the supply from Berlin. One of the major questions to be solved in plating this issue was: "Did Enschede use both Berlin and Haarlem plates?" While studying a large quantity of these stamps it became evident that some Berlin plates had survived until 1891, and that one or two new plates had been placed in service in 1887/1888. Some stamps from these new plates seemed not to show any of the characteristics of the Berlin plates. So these plates could conceivably be Haarlem plates, or again, plates made from a new matrix which in turn originated from the old "spare" plate doing matrix duty.

From another collector in Holland came the information that these new plates were also Berlin plates, which would lead us to conclude that no Haarlem plates were ever made for the 10 cent. A similar plate "rejuvenation" occurred with the 5 cent around 1888.

The Enschede inventories of April and November 1875 do not shed any light on the question, unlike the case of the 20 and 25 cent where the inventories mention four plates and two matrices each, and in the case of the 50 cent five plates and one matrix. We can assume that for the 20 and 25 cent the spare plate had been designated as matrix. It seems evident that after learning an expensive lesson with the worn plates of the 5 cent, the spare fifth plate for each of the other values was carefully kept aside to serve as matrix to prepare new matrices. We can therefore conclude that it is highly unlikely that Haarlem plates were ever made for the 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50-cent values.

### Plates

We are now faced with the second major question: "How many plates were used for the 10-cent value?"

Printing plates will show as constant primary plate flaws all the flaws the matrix shows from which the plates were made. These constant flaws allow identification of the position of each stamp in the plate.

In addition, each individual plate will also have, as a result of wear and handling, secondary plate flaws which are particular to that plate alone. Such flaws allow determination from which plate the stamp was printed as well as determining how many plates were used.

A block of 101 stamps from the Dutch Postal Museum shows stamps from one complete plate and two partial plates as follows (see photograph on page 3):

positions 11 to 50 incl. - called plate A  
 positions 1 to 50 incl. - called plate B  
 positions 1 to 11 incl. - called plate C

This block is perforated 12½ : 12C and comparison with dated stamps with identical secondary plate flaws dated this block around 1886-1887. All three plates, A, B and C, are Berlin plates.

Through careful study of this block and a large number of loose stamps we have come to the following conclusions:

Plate A - runs from 1872 clear through to 1891, the key to this dating being the well-known secondary flaw, vertical scratch, which occurs on perforation 13½ x 14 (Gerrish collection) right up to dated 1891 copies, perforation 12½ large holes - position 11.

Plate B - runs from around 1875 to 1891 - key, dented value frame - position 5.

Plate C - occurs with 12½ : 12B perforations, but with very few 12½ large hole perforations.

Let us look at some further evidence. The total printing of the 10 cent was 67,241,000 stamps or some 336,200 sheets, with an average possible production of about 250,000 sheets per set of four plates as was the case with the 5 cent of this issue; 8 plates in all would be quite sufficient.

The Enschede archives produce the following evidence for the period 1872 to 1875:

Received from Berlin in 1872		1 matrix	5 plates
Used as	1 patrix	1 matrix	4 plates
Added in Haarlem till April 1875	2 patrices	8 matrices	13 plates
Destroyed in November 1875		3 matrices	10 plates
Inventory in November 1875	3 patrices	5 matrices	7 plates

The total number of sheets supplied to the Central Warehouse stock from 1872 till the end of 1875 was 67,000, a very small number which could have been printed with ease from one set of plates. There has to be another explanation for the large number of plates and especially matrices destroyed in this short three-year period. I propose that many of these were defective plates from some of which no stamps were printed at all. Many stamps perforated 12½ : 12 small holes show rather poor impressions and this supports this proposition. This period may have been one of trial and error at Enschede.

When finally at year's end in 1875 a set of four good plates with one reserve plate was available, Enschede proceeded to print from these plates until they were worn out. Two of these plates actually survived to the very end in 1891. One or two plates seem to have been replaced around 1887.

Also, if many plates had been in use, we would have many secondary flaws which we could not position as to the actual plate from which they originated. In fact, I was able to account for about half the secondary flaws by just using the photographs of the large Postal Museum block.

This leaves us with the following:

from 1875 to 1891, a minimum of four to a maximum of six plates were used, exclusive of the reserve plates. One of these plates dates from 1872.

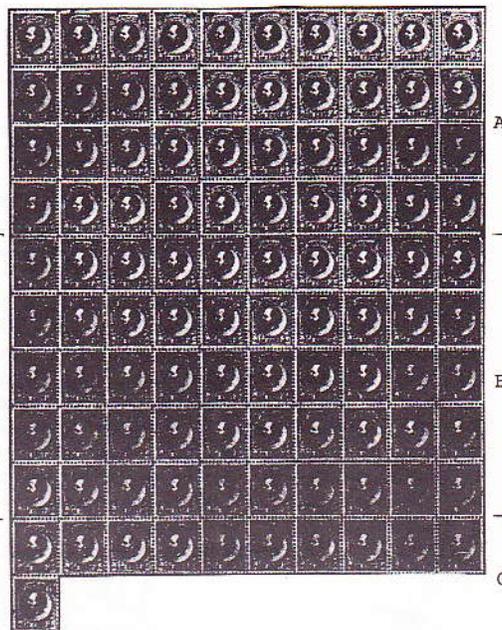
from 1872 to 1875, a minimum of four to a possible maximum of 22 plates were used, some of which may have had very short runs or never been used at all.

I believe we may safely say that from 1872 to 1875 no more than six plates or so saw any extended service. The remainder were defective plates scrapped in the house-cleaning at year's end in 1875. This would give for the entire period 1872-1891:

a minimum total of 4 + 4 - 1 survivor (plate A) = 7 plates  
 to a maximum total of 6 + 6 - 1 survivor (plate A) = 11 plates

The total number of sheets delivered to the Central Warehouse stock between 1875 and 1891 is 336,200 - 67,000 = 269,200 sheets.

This number of sheets corresponds very nicely to the average production runs of 250,000 impressions per plate for the 5 cent 1872. This quantity of 269,000 sheets would only need four plates plus one or



The block of 101 stamps in the Postal Museum in The Hague

two replacement plates toward the end of the run as plate wear became evident.

### Plating

The unsuspected long life of Plate A caused considerable waste of effort as many of its secondary flaws which appeared early in the life of this plate were mistaken for primary plate flaws, thus throwing the hunt entirely off the track.

Once the photographs of the block of 101 stamps were available, however, this mistaken notion was quickly cleared up.

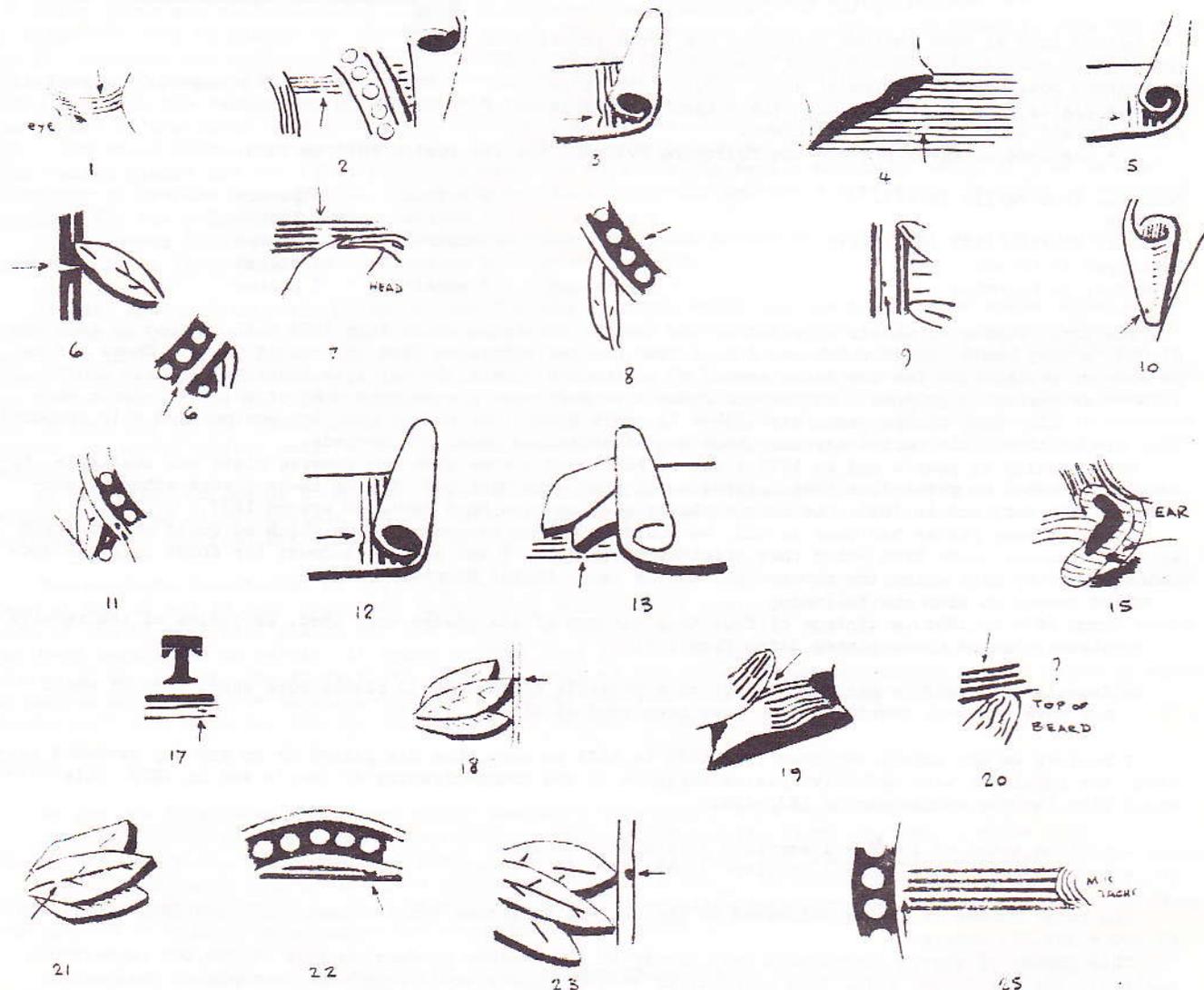
I duplicated this block using primary and secondary flaws visible on the photograph to locate each stamp.

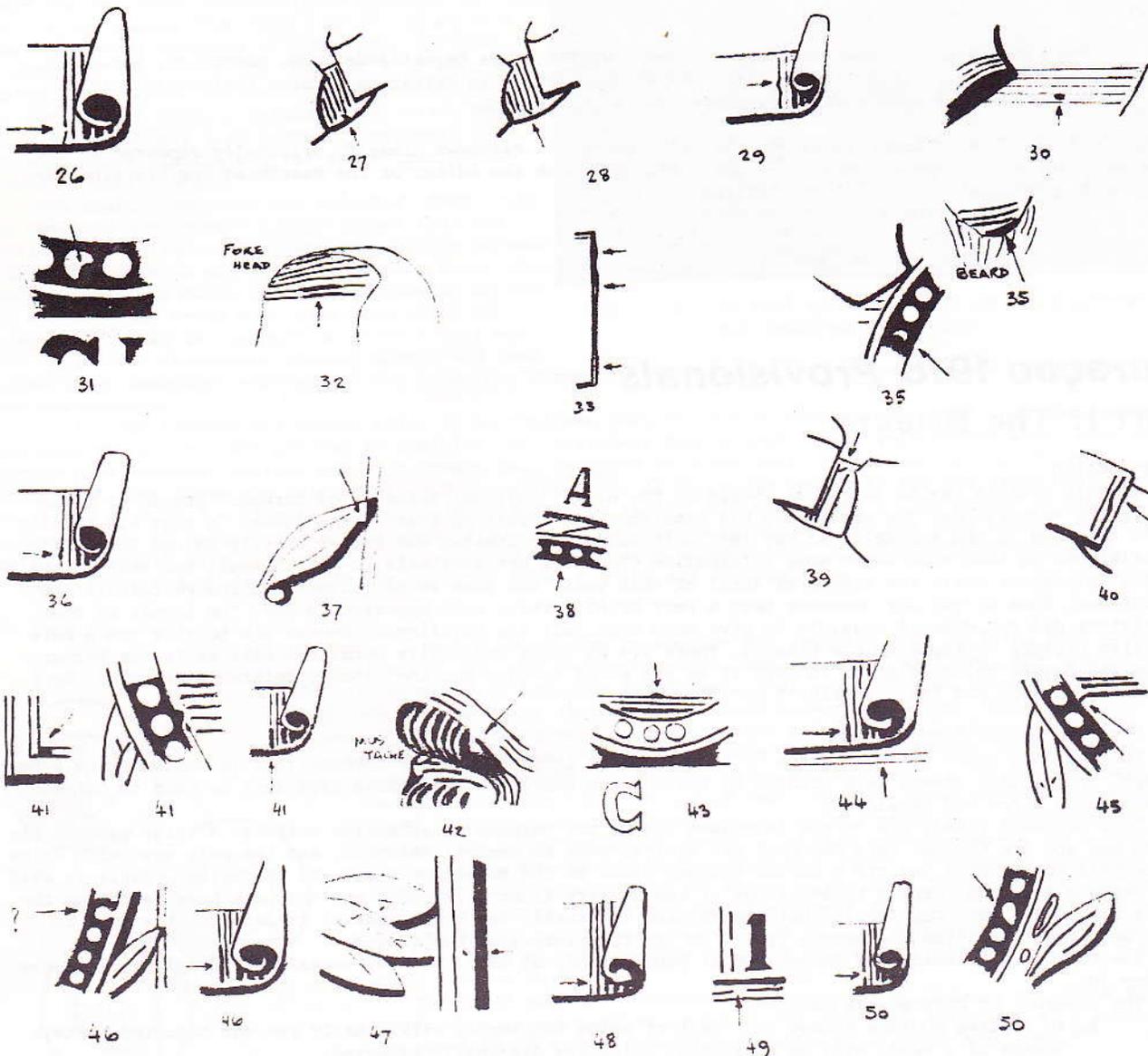
Next came checking of perforations and correlation of the vertical row to which the stamp belonged by use of contact prints of large blocks of perforated stamps. Checking the perforation of a stamp against a contact print allows positive identification of the vertical row to which it belongs and is in my opinion the only reliable way to distinguish positively between 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  : 12B and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  : 12C perforations.

I then proceeded to compare the stamps from Plate A with those of Plate B and C to discover the actual primary flaws. I was not successful in identifying the characteristic flaw of each position, especially in vertical row 4. Some stamps seem to be perfect under the magnifying glass!

Dated copies or copies on cover of this stamp, especially from large offices would have helped a lot, but the vast majority of these stamps are cancelled with the numeral and dot postmarks, which are no help at all.

Drawings of the primary flaws identified by plate position accompany this article. See below:





In addition I have listed the actual plate and plate position of some of the well-known secondary plate flaws which are mentioned in the *NVPH Speciale Catalogus* and other publications.

Vertical scratch in front of head  
 White spot near temple  
 Split T  
 N.B. Split T occurs rarely on  
 Final D of Nederland broken  
 White patch South-East of King's nose  
 Blur on right arm of T of Cent

White spot in beard  
 Broken left frame  
 Scratch under upper left scroll + break in  
 right side frame  
 Dented frame around 10 Cent

Plate A	Position 11	NVPH cat.
Plate A	Position 45	NVPH cat.
Plate B	Position 7	NVPH cat.
Plate C	Position 11	-
Plate B	Position 22	Gerrish LP
Plate A	Position 42	Gerrish LP
occurs in various places and seems to be due to a double transfer 'kiss'		
Plate A	Position 43	Gerrish private corresp.
Plate A	Position 41	ditto
Plate A	Position 21	ditto
Plate B	Position 5	-

## References

Jan Dekker, F.R.P.S.L., De Haarlemse Postwaardenproductie in de Negentiende Eeuw, *Maandblad*, Nov. 1964.  
W. E. Gerrish, O.B.E., F.R.P.S.L., Holland 1872-1891: A Study in Serration, *London Philatelist*, 1955.  
Private correspondence with Messrs. J. Dekker and W. E. Gerrish.

Editor's Note: This article, in a Dutch translation by Mr. Matthews himself, originally appeared in the Jubilee issue of the *Maandblad*, July-August 1972. We thank the Editor of the *Maandblad* for his kind permission to republish the article in English.

# Curaçao 1918 Provisionals

## Part I: The Bisects

### Introduction

If this article has an author it should be Mr. H.F.J. Thissen, formerly of Curaçao, presently residing in the Netherlands. The reason why his name does not appear as that of the author is that his article which appeared in the *Maandblad* of May 1967 with subsequent updates was rather heavily edited during the translation. We have also added some information which was not available to Mr. Thissen, and which actually did not appear until the middle of April of this year, too late to be included in *The Postal History of Curaçao*. Some of you may remember that a very brief version once appeared in *NAS*. The format of that newsletter did not make it possible to give more than just the highlights. Now we aim to give you a more detailed picture of these unique bisects. There are no other officially permitted bisects in the Netherlands and former colonies area. In Part II we are going to give you the closely related history of the 1 cent "Haw" stamp, and the overprint 5 on 12½ cent.

### The Bisected 2-Cent Stamp

In June 1918 there was a shortage of 1-cent stamps in the Colony of Curaçao, and in September of 5-cent stamps. The regular stamps were printed by Enschede in Haarlem and in those days sent by ship to Curaçao. Apparently a hitch had developed.

This was most likely due to the increased use by the Germans of submarine warfare. A large part of the North Sea and the Channel were declared off limits, even to neutral shipping, and the only way Dutch ships could sail to the West was via a narrow channel close to the Norwegian coast and by Iceland. Early in 1918 the Germans tried to force a breakthrough at the western front in France, and this may have heated up the situation at sea too. One result, not spectacular in itself, was a shortage of 1- and 5-cent stamps in Curaçao, itself far from the battle front. So far the historical background.

The Curaçao *Publicatieblad* (a government publication) of 1918, No. 30, contained the following decree of May 30:

The Governor of Curaçao has decided:

1. to replace postage stamps of 1 cent of which the supply will shortly run out bisected postage stamps of 2 cents will be available, which are diagonally bisected;
2. this decree will become valid in Curaçao starting June 1st 1918 and on the other islands of the colony on the day it will be received there.

Point 1 of the decree concerns the bisected stamps mentioned under Nos. 71 and 71a in the *NVPH Special Catalog* (Scott Nos. 48a and 49a). If a 2-cent stamp is cut in half diagonally it seems that right-handed persons do it from bottom right to top left. We then get a left half (No. 71) and a right half (No. 71a). However, a left-handed person might cut from bottom left to top right, and we again get two halves, but they look completely different. In Curaçao the latter type of cutting is but found rarely; much more so on the smaller islands, Saba, St. Martin and St. Eustatius, as we shall see later on. Of all the bisects there occur in other words four different varieties, depending on the cut. The so-called left-handed cuts are much rarer, of course, than the "normal" cuts, especially as regards Curaçao! Let us consider what happened on the various islands.

### In Curaçao

Mr. Krafft, formerly Director of the post office in Curaçao reminisced about what happened some time in June or July 1918 when he went to the post office. He said that everybody was talking about these bisects only having philatelic value if they were pasted on a piece of paper or envelope with a legible and clear cancel. It was obvious that collectors and speculators were busy buying bisects, most of which were never postally used.

The *NVPH* catalog gives a total sold of 32,000 and for No. 72 even 32,200 while the latter were only

used for ten days. To anticipate the next section, No. 72 was issued from July 6 to 16. If we know that the total proceeds of the postal services throughout the colony for the year 1918 were estimated at f 28,550, we see right away that the sale of the 2½-cent bisects netted f 322, which in ten days makes roughly 1.13 percent. Obviously the sale of these bisects was far above that of the normal 1-cent stamps.

Yet these stamps are not inferior. They could be compared with commemorative issues that the collector gets canceled at the post office to make sure the stamps do not get damaged on a cover that goes through the mail. Really used bisects on cover are rare and worth much more than those on piece only. This is the more so since 1 cent was the tariff for in-country printed matter and used normally on newspaper sleeves and the like. So, thanks to the "speculators" we can now add these stamps to our collections.

Still, the bisects are pretty rare. If we consider that perhaps 80 percent was saved, and then remember that the stamps were printed in fugitive ink, that many really used copies were thrown away, that many copies have tropical stains, and that others have perished in other ways, 80 percent is not too much. This means that there are only about 13,000 complete sets of two - one left half and one right half. Namely, there were 32,000 bisected stamps sold, which means 16,000 left halves and a like number of right halves, minus 20 percent, leaves us with 13,000 sets. And stamps of which there are only 13,000 copies can be called fairly rare. The catalog price proves this to some extent: 1959, f 2.00; 1963, f3.00; 1965, f 4.50; 1966, f 4.50 (and f 5.50 for No. 72); 1976, f 10.00 and 20.00.



Fig. 1. A left half and right half of the right-hand cut canceled in Curaçao

#### On Bonaire

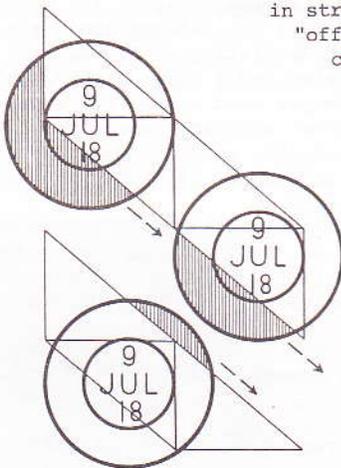


Fig. 2. The Bonaire cancel reconstructed on strips of five and three bisects.

All the known 2-cent bisects used on Bonaire are canceled July 9, 1918. They appear in strips (see fig. 2), not pasted on paper, and are still with gum. Are these the "official" bisects? Or are they from sheets that were canceled to order, and later cut into strips? Apart from the date which proves something, there are other reasons to believe that they are the real thing. If we look at the figure, we can see that the stamps do not show full cancels; none of the stamps show those parts of the cancels which would appear if the sheets were canceled to order. As a matter of fact, many of these strips show these parts in reverse on the gum which is caused because when canceling the strips, the inked canceling device also made impressions on the back-up piece, which were picked up by subsequent strips. Collectors who have these strips or stamps with the spots on the back should not try to remove them because they prove that the bisect in question is real. For stamps that do not show a full date it will be difficult to prove that they are real bisects, unless they are still part of a strip which somewhere shows a full date.

The total number of bisected 2-cent stamps on Bonaire should be very small. Bonaire post office receipts for 1918 were estimated at f 1,100. The quantity of stamps available for bisecting shall have been minor too.

#### On Aruba

No 2- or 2½-cent bisects are known from Aruba! This does not mean that they do not exist; some other bisects that were not known until April this year have now been added to the list.

#### The Islands "Above the Wind"

We have seen that the decree of May 31 would be applicable on the smaller islands "when it was received there." On Aruba and Bonaire, with good connections with Curaçao, this may have meant a delay of a few days only. According to the local newspaper, on June 3 the *20 de Julio* and the *Lelia*, both schooners, left for Aruba, and on June 5 the *Vesta* left for Bonaire, the first ships after May 31. The northern islands in those days and for many years following were only connected by sailing ships. A chartered schooner once a month visited the various islands.

On the next page we will give a list of sailing ships leaving Curaçao during the life of all the provisional stamps, also for those treated in Part II. All the decrees given by date and number in the first column are those in which certain provisionals are either announced or withdrawn from use. They will be further mentioned in the text.

Such a trip from Curaçao to St. Martin lasted between eight and twelve days, depending on the wind and tides. Not all three islands were always visited, that depended on passengers and freight. The connection

List of sailing ships leaving Curaçao after various decrees concerning the provisional stamps of 1918

		Arrival date
May 31 (No. 31)	June 3, <i>Lelia</i> to Aruba	June 4
	June 3, <i>Gloria</i> to Bonaire	June 4
	June 1, <i>Palmeto</i> to St. Martin	June 13 (probably)
July 15 (No. 40)	July 16, <i>Graciosa</i> to Aruba	July 17
	July 22, <i>Lelia</i> to Bonaire	July 23
	July 27, <i>Estelle</i> to S-S-S islands	August 7
July 5 (No. 38)	July 8, <i>Lelia</i> to Aruba	July 9
	July 5, <i>Lelia</i> to Bonaire	July 6
	July 27, <i>Estelle</i> to S-S-S islands	August 7
August 22 (No. 49)	August 26, <i>Lelia</i> to Aruba	August 27
	August 23, <i>Lelia</i> to Bonaire	August 24
	August 28, <i>Manetto</i> to S-S-S islands	September 8 (probably)
October 11 (No. 62)	October 19, <i>Estelle</i> to S-S-S islands	October 31 (probably)

Note: Arrival date for Saba and St. Eustatius is one day after the one given for St. Martin.



Fig. 3. St. Martin bisects of June 13.

between these three islands was maintained by a small sailboat or even a rowing boat. This happened once a week. Mr. Krafft was even once rowed from St. Martin to St. Thomas where he arrived deathly ill. The mail which was transported in this way too came from the three islands, Curaçao or the United States via St. Thomas.

In view of the dates given so far about vessels leaving Curaçao, the earliest date we can find on the bisected 2-cent stamps of the islands above the wind would have to be June 13. The earliest known cancellation on St. Martin bisects is JUNE 13, 1918 (see fig. 3). St. Martin also had a "speculator" who saw something in these bisects. While in Curaçao people used normal white paper to paste the bisects on, our St. Martin man used brown wrapping paper, in sheets of about 65 by 40 centimeters which held from 150 to 200 bisects. He did this on June 13, and repeated the whole procedure on July 13. Probably the schooner which arrived then also brought him some funds.

It is said that the islands above the wind have many left-handed citizens. However this may be, it is a fact that many of the St. Martin bisects show the so-called "left-hand" cut, from bottom left to top right. So one can collect in all eight different 2-cent bisects of St. Martin, the left and right sides of both the left and right cuts.

The St. Martin "speculator" apparently did not sell out right away. Years later he moved to Curaçao and after his death 1800 bisects were found. These included the 2½-cent ones too.

It is known that 2-cent bisects exist with a Saba cancellation. They are rare. They apparently did not surface until 1966 when a pair was illustrated with an article on first-day envelopes by C.Avezaat in the *Maandblad*. They are left-hand cuts, and the cancellation is JUNE 1, 1918! After everything we have said before, here are bisects that show a date which is "impossible," because the governor's decree couldn't have been known in Saba on June 1, 1918. Although it was originally thought that the cancellation was somewhat suspicious, we now think that Saba was the island with the earliest shortage in 1-cent stamps. Unofficially the post office in Curaçao may have suggested bisecting 2-cent stamps, and when the shortage hit the main island, they did the same thing. This argument is more appealing when we consider what happened with the Saba 2½-cent bisects. We will only know for sure when somebody finds a cover or other piece with a Saba bisect. It is also remarkable that so far no right-hand cut bisects from Saba have been found. It makes in our opinion the Saba bisects somewhat more legitimate than the St. Martin ones.

Up to April of this year it was firmly believed that there were no 2-cent bisects from St. Eustatius. You will even find this statement in *The Postal History of Curaçao*. Yet look at figure 5 at the top of the next page. This is a photo of the top part of an envelope with eight bisects, some left- and some right-cut. Since there are three right halves of a left cut, we believe that the whole envelope ori-



Fig. 4. Saba 2-cent bisects

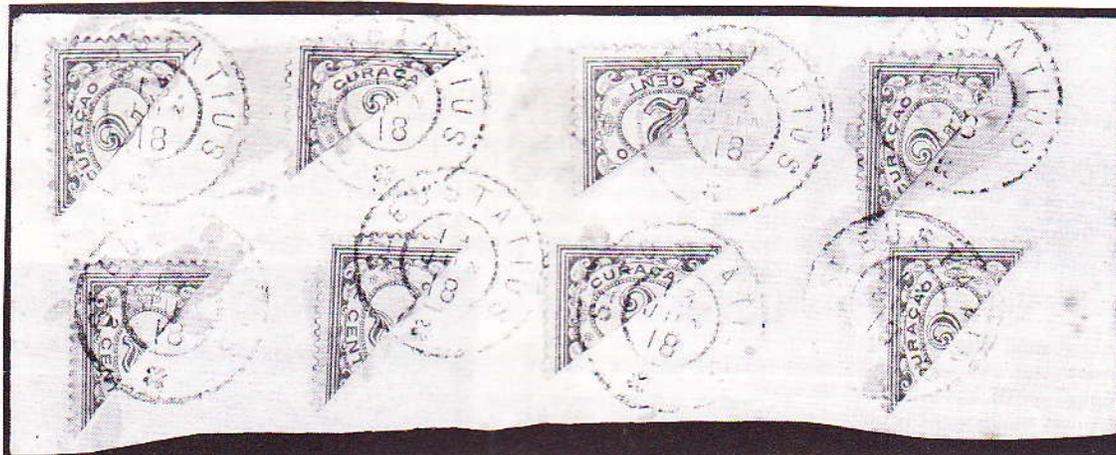


Fig. 5. The envelope with eight 2-cent bisects from St. Eustatius dated June 13, 1918

ginally carried bisects, thus a total of sixteen. The date, June 13, also fits with the arrival of the schooner *Palmeto*. These "unknown" bisects turned up in a Brooklyn auction; there may be others around.

How many 2-cent bisects are there with a left-handed cut? Mr. Thissen only knew of one that did not have a St. Martin cancellation. (Your editor also knows of one.) From the total number of St. Martin bisects about 40 percent seem to have been cut left-handed. Probably no more than 400 left halves and 400 right halves.

#### The Bisected 2½-Cent Stamp

About a month after the shortage of 1-cent stamps had been made up by bisecting 2-cent stamps, the supply of 2-cent stamps in Curaçao got desperately low, so that by decree of July 5, 1918, it was decided to bisect 2½-cent stamps. This resulted in NVPH Nos. 72 and 72a (Scott No. 49a). These 2½-cent bisects were only "used" for a very short period, because by decree of July 13, published July 15, the locally printed "Haw"-stamps of 1 cent, were introduced, again for Curaçao on the date of publication, and for the other islands when the decree was received there.

#### In Curaçao

In the island of Curaçao the situation is clear; the bisected 2½-cent stamps appear on July 6, 1918, and are invalidated July 15. Figure 6 shows the left half of a "normal" cut for Curaçao, dated July 13.

Figure 7 shows two left-handed cuts, a left half and a right half, both canceled July 12. It is an interesting speculation that the clerk at the window that day was left-handed.

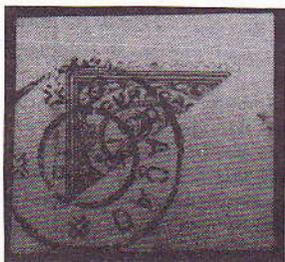


Fig. 6. Normal Curaçao 2½-cent bisect

#### On Bonaire

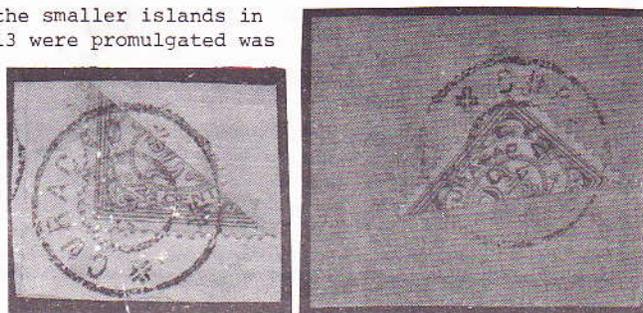
Hundreds of 2-cent bisects with dates up to July 9 from Bonaire make clear that there was no shortage of 2-cent stamps in that island, or that the decree had not been delivered yet. However, a "Haw"-stamp with a Bonaire cancellation of July 9, 1918 - too early - show that at that date the locally printed stamps were already available, so why should 2½-cent stamps be used? Yet, some bisects of 2½ cent with a right-hand cut, dated July 13, have shown up, and also a left-hand cut in the possession of one of our Governors., with the same date.

As we already wrote above, no bisects have shown up from Aruba, although this does not mean that they will never show up.

#### The Islands Above the Wind

The first sailing vessel that left Curaçao for the smaller islands in the north after the two decrees of July 5 and July 13 were promulgated was the *Estelle*, which did not leave until July 27, and arrived at St. Martin on August 7. This ship must have carried both decrees, yet we find bisected 2½-cent stamps from St. Martin (see Fig. 8). Most likely our "speculator" was well connected; he must have managed to have the first decree read whereupon he rushed to the post office to have some 2½-cent stamps bisected, before the second decree, which announced the use of the "Haw"-stamps, be-

Fig. 7. Left-handed cuts of Curaçao



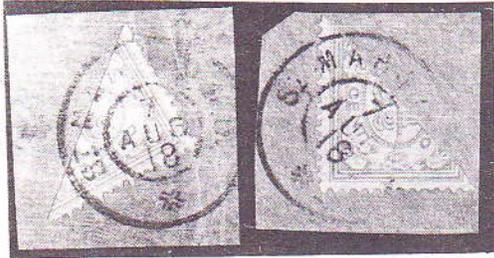


Fig. 8. 2-cent bisects of St. Martin

bisect the 2-cent stamps earlier, also ran out of 2-cent stamps, and began to bisect the 2½-cent ones. Once again, only a really postally used piece would give us the answer.

Although a bisected 2½-cent stamp from St. Eustatius was already known, the same auction mentioned above, produced an interesting piece, namely another top half of an envelope with only six bisects, all canceled July 10, and showing four left halves and only two right halves. The envelopes were identical, except for the fact that apparently two bisects have been removed from the left side of the envelope (see the jagged edge). These may have been the two missing right halves. And again we have to assume that the post office in St. Eustatius ran out of 2-cent stamps and began to bisect the 2½-cent ones, before they had received the pertinent decree of July 5.

Since this envelope only shows the normal right-handed cut, we can speculate that the missing bottom half of the envelope carried the left-handed cuts. If the "speculator" had thought about them this time.

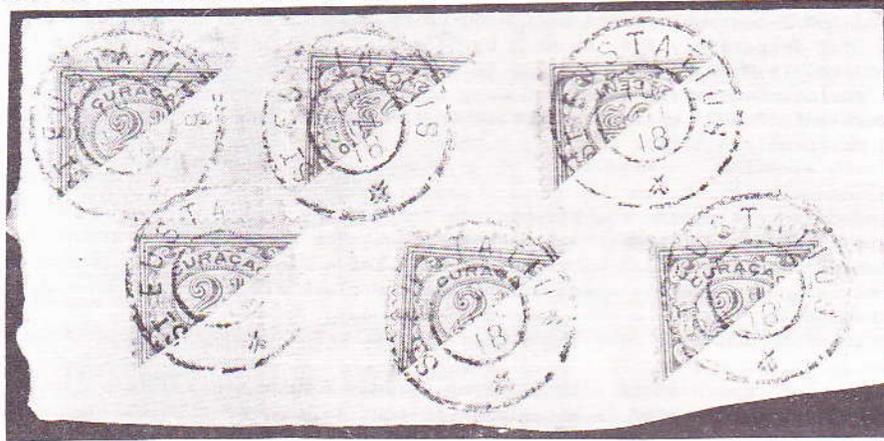


Fig. 10. Six 2½-cent bisects from St. Eustatius, July 10, 1918

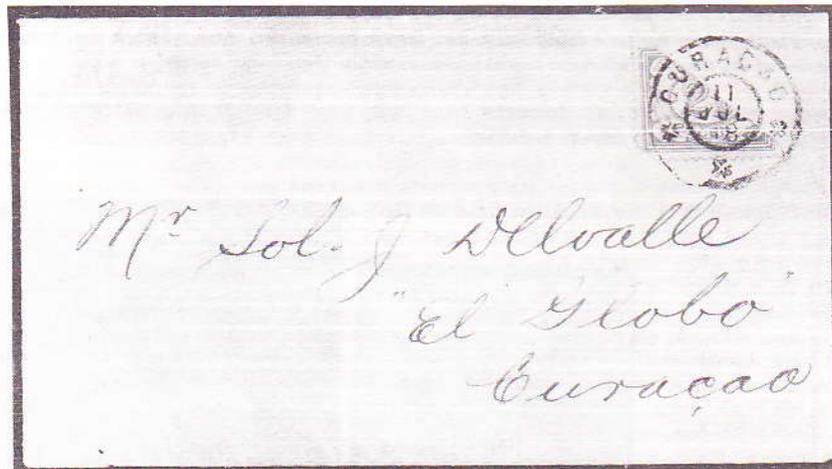


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

came operable. He was in a big rush, obviously; the stamps are badly cut, and pasted helter-skelter on the same brown wrapping paper, which in some cases is creased, showing previous use. The 2½-cent bisects of St. Martin have a unique distinction; they were "valid" for only a few hours! These 2½-cent bisects also occur in all possible variations so that one can collect eight different varieties.

In Saba we have something highly unusual. There are bisects of the 2½-cent stamp with a cancellation JUNE 10, 1918 (see Fig. 9). With the "early" 2-cent bisects of Saba, we have to conclude that the post office on that small island, having started to

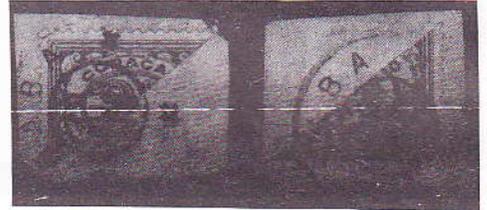


Fig. 9. 2½-cent bisects from Saba

This concludes the article on the Curaçao bisects of 1918. Really used pieces, even philatelically inspired ones, are extremely rare. In Figure 11 you will see an envelope with a 2½-cent bisect to an address in Curaçao, and Figure 12 shows mixed usage of 2-cent and 2½-cent bisects on a censored cover to the U.S., unfortunately mutilated, but surprisingly all left-hand cuts, dated July 11, 1918. Anybody with additional information please contact the editor.

# Paper, Gum and Printing Varieties of Post-War Dutch Stamps

By R. C. Bakhuizen van den Brink

## Introduction

In studying the post-war Dutch stamps under ultraviolet (UV) light you'll find a whole range of papers and also a variety of gums. This article is meant to set up a frame for study, introducing a few notions that may be helpful. Research is in an early stage so all reactions are very welcome. My address is P.O. Box 9, Leiden, Netherlands.

## Paper Varieties

Study both back and front of your mint stamps. The front is often covered with a coating, and the back normally carries gum. Both coating and gum may change the appearance under UV.

Used stamps may be affected by the whitening agent of the cover, getting a hibrite appearance that is not original. So take care!

Apart from the Gouda experimentals (NVPH Nos. 774-776; Scott Nos. 404, 406-407) we may distinguish three main categories of paper:

- Inert paper or dull (D)
- Dirty paper, 'vuil' (V)
- White paper (W)

Several charity stamps on D paper have a chalky coating that gives a reddish reaction under UV. Arabic gum gives a yellowish shiny appearance under UV. Until 1963 D paper had a tendency to react yellow, but from 1967 it has a tendency to react red. The term hibrite is inadequate here.

We have to distinguish between two ways of adding brightening agents to the paper:

- a. Fibers that react under UV, and can be seen separately
- b. Brightening agents spread evenly throughout the paper.

When the fibers dominate and contrast with the rest of the paper, we have V paper.

When the fibers don't stand out and we see an even white, we have W paper.

It's obvious that we have a two-dimensional field (number and density of the fibers, intensity of the brightening agent) and therefore the three divisions overlap, but the division into three categories has been found practical.

I mentioned the chalk coating earlier, but the most important coating has been the phosphor one. We may find it in combination with all three types of paper, D, V or W. We also have to distinguish three types of phosphor coating: yellow, white and (yellow)-white. The latter only in combination with paper supplied by Harrison & Sons, Ltd. This paper is W without watermark, recognisable by its gum (see the section on Gum). The phosphor coating reacts yellow on some mint copies but most used (and soaked-off) copies react yellow too, although the normal reaction is white!

## Examples

D no watermark	Commemoratives (charity)	+ 1963
V no watermark	ditto	+ 1956-1967
W no watermark	ditto	1961-1971
D (red) no watermark + yellow coating	ditto	1968-
V no watermark + yellow coating	1969 Europa 25 ct; Statute 25 ct (N,NA,S!);	
	1970 Civil Code 25 ct	
	1972 Europa, Thorbecke	
W no watermark + yellow coating	1969 Erasmus	
W no watermark + yellow phosphor in ink	1975 Savings 50 ct	
D (red) no watermark + white coating	Definitives	+1956, 1967-
D watermark	Definitives	+1956-1967
V watermark	Definitives	1967 Europa
D (red) watermark + yellow coating	Definitives	1967- 1967 Europa
V watermark + yellow coating	Definitives	????

Note that W does not exist in watermarked paper!

Not surprisingly, when you study the definitives you find a whole range of V paper. Any subdivision of V should be based on the two independent ways of adding brightening agents, as mentioned above. Some values only exist on V paper: the 4 and 6 ct landscape, and the 18 and 24 ct Queen Juliana, Hartz type (NVPH Nos. 620 and 622; Scott Nos. 346C and 347A). What is more surprising is that some commemoratives exist on two types of paper:

- 1969 Europa 25 ct (NVPH No. 925; Scott No. 475), both D (red) and V + yellow phosphor
- 1970 Civil Code 25 ct (NVPH No. 963; Scott No. 480), both D (red) and V + yellow phosphor

The V variety may be the scarcer one.

#### Gum

A classification of gums as introduced for the stamp booklet catalog follows:

- A arabic gum, shiny
- B synthetic gum, non-Harrison, dull
  - B1 whitish, slightly shiny
  - B2 yellowish
- C Harrison PVA gum
  - C1 creamy with white spots
  - C2 creamy/white with white horizontal or vertical lines (faint)
- D Harrison PVA-dextrine gum
  - D1 bluish with white horizontal or vertical lines
  - D2 bluish with white spots

Synthetic gum was introduced gradually, beginning with the 1965 18-ct stamp for the Marines (NVPH No. 855; Scott No. 440). In 1966 the ICEM; Summer semipostals, and the Special Flights stamp were all B1. In 1967 the Technical University, Amphilex and Red Cross stamps (except for the 15 ct) were all B2. The Summer semipostals (except for the 12 ct) were B1. The Europa stamps and the two exceptions have A. In 1968 all the commemoratives and charity stamps have B2, except those on Harrison paper (see the Harrison list); from then on all commemoratives and charity stamps, again with the exception of the Harrison-paper ones, have B2, although the 1969 Summer charity set has B1 for the 15 and 25 ct, and A for the 12, 20 and 45 ct.

In this transition period you'll find A, B1, B2 for both commemoratives (charity) and definitives. As in the same period the phosphor coating and paper D (red) were introduced, it means a very interesting period with a lot of research possibilities!

#### Harrison Paper

1970 Summer charity and 1971 Prince Bernhard 25 ct are on non-phosphor paper: W no wm + gum C1  
With the introduction of the Juliana Regina definitives (30-90 ct), the Harrison phosphor-coated paper arrives.

1972 Children, including miniature sheet, gum C1

1974 Nature, gum D1; Football, gum C2, D1

1975 Amsterdam 30 ct, sheet, gum D1

coils, gum C1, D2

coils, sync. perf., gum D2

35 ct, sheet and coils, gum D2

Synagogue, Leiden University, gum D1

Liberation, Zeeland Steamship Co., Schweitzer, Braille, and Children, including miniature sheet, gum D2

1976 Lottery, gum D2; also the new 55 and 75 ct Juliana Regina stamps, gum D2

The definitives deserve a separate article and so do the coil stamps.

#### Printing Directions

To complete this article one more concept will be introduced. With a strong lens (16 X) it is possible to see the screening points of the of the photogravure printing. It's relatively easy along the edges. Because of centrifugal forces the printing ink runs out (on the paper) in one direction, the so-called printing direction (*drukrichting*), resulting in the following phenomenon:

at one side the printing is slightly darker and the screen points get blurred; at the other, opposite side the printing is slightly brighter and the screen points become separate and visible.

We denote the directions, in relation to the face of the stamp:

B (*boven* = up), R (right), O (*onder* = down), L (left)

We may also see the running ink forming 'waves,' horizontal for L and R, vertical for B and O.

Printing directions have proved to be a very powerful philatelic instrument. Dutch definitives in essence are printed as follows:

van Krimpen numerals, landscapes, sheet-fed, always B or O

reel-fed (including coils), always L or R

Juliana Hartz type, sheet-fed, always L or R

reel-fed (including coils), always B or O

It means that on the reel-fed cylinders the stamps have turned 90 degrees, and a change from B to O means that the cylinder was set in reverse in the press.

All Juliana Hartz values above 30 ct were printed on a sheet-fed machine, and therefore coil stamps (40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 75, 80 and 95 ct) can be determined immediately by their printing directions!

The Hartz stamps with phosphor coating are the easiest stamps with which to determine the printing direction. For instance, the first printing of the 15 ct (1967) (NVPH No. 619a) shows horizontal waves very clearly.

#### Conclusion

Dutch post-war stamps display quite a variety when studied under magnifying glasses and UV. Especially

the definitives exist in varieties that can be distinguished quite easily and deserve a listing in the *Speciale Catalogus*.

An article on coil stamps and the Juliana Regina stamps is in the making.

*Editor's Note:* In our next issue we will have some microphotographs to show some of the varieties mentioned by Mr. Bakhuizen van den Brink in his section on Printing Directions. Our arrangement with a photographer fell through so we cannot illustrate them at this time.

## A Bicentennial Reflection: Part III

ESTABLISHING NEW COLONIES AND RECOGNIZING A NEW NATION

By Richard J. Bennink

The idea of establishing Dutch colonies in the New World initially rested with Willem Usselincx (see Neth. Antilles No. 110). His plan of colonization was less than successful because few Dutchmen wanted to leave their native land. However, on June 3, 1621, the States General granted a charter to the Dutch West India Company to expand its efforts in the New World. The Company's admiral, Piet Hein, captured the Spanish silver fleet. Hein's accomplishment (Illustration: Netherlands No. 255) brought the Company a quick profit of nearly 12 million guilders (and Hein himself some kind of immortality; a children's song about his exploits is still being sung today in the Netherlands). This allowed the West India Company in 1634 to send an expedition under the leadership of Johannes van Walbeeck (remarkably enough, when this was commemorated in 1934 (Neth. Antilles, Nos. 110-126) it was found that no portrait of him existed, so a typical 17th



Usselincx

century ship was substituted), to occupy the islands of Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire. Colonies were later also established in Guyana (Surinam) and on the islands of St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Martin. By 1642 Dutch possessions extended from New Netherlands to Brazil, giving them absolute control of slave trading and maritime commerce in the New World.



Fort Zeelandia

Surinam which had been conquered during the second war with the English by a fleet from the province of Zeeland became a Dutch colony with the Treaty of Breda (see Surinam Nos. 349-351, which commemorated the signing of this treaty by Britain, France and the Netherlands). The first map of Surinam was drawn by Willem Mogge in 1671 (see Surinam No. 391). An earlier English fortress at the mouth of the Surinam River was expanded by the Dutch and named

Fort Zeelandia (Illustration: Surinam No. 300, showing present-day remains of the fortress). The English had originally colonized the area and brought a number of English Jews to work the plantations. These hard-working immigrants settled further up the Surinam River in an area known as Jewish Savanna. The first synagogue in the Western Hemisphere was founded in 1685, and commemorated in 1968 by a set of three stamps (Illustration: Surinam Nos. 359-361. The illustrated stamp shows an old map with *Joods Dorp en Sinagoge* = Jewish Village and Synagogue). The Dutch Reformed Church in Paramaribo (see Surinam Nos. 299 and 354-355) is one of the oldest Protestant churches in South America.

With Van Walbeeck's capture of Curaçao in 1634 (Illustration: Netherlands No. 169), the Dutch obtained an island with several excellent harbors (Illustration: Neth. Antilles No. 169). Willemstad provided an important transfer port with a strong fortress for protection from the pirates, and large warehouses for the storing of goods. Curaçao has had a long history of being a melting pot for various cultures and nationalities. The liberal policies of the Dutch allowed both





Jewish Savana

freedom of enterprise and religion, with Catholics, Jews and Protestants living amiably together (see Neth. Antilles Nos. 324-326 showing three old places of worship). In addition to Curaçao, the Dutch also obtained rights over her neighboring Leeward Islands, Aruba and Bonaire, to complete the "A-B-C" grouping. In keeping with a new policy of looking for ports to enhance trade rather than to extend colonization, the Dutch established themselves also in three Windward Islands, St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Martin, the latter divided between France and the Netherlands.

St. Eustatius was the most significant of the three "S" islands, although it became a pawn between the Dutch, English and French during their open warfare in the 18th century. Between 1664 and 1674 St. Eustatius changed hands ten times and from 1674 until 1696 the English occupied it for fourteen years. Fort Orange (see Neth. Antilles No. 336), guarded the primary harbor on St. Eustatius which protected trading ships from pirates. On November 16, 1776, with the Dutch in control of St. Eustatius, an incident occurred which had a lasting significance on the history of both the Netherlands and the thirteen rebellious colonies of England in North America. Under the direction of her captain, Mr. Robinson, the colonies' naval vessel *Andrew Doria* sailed along the coast of St. Eustatius in front of Fort Orange. Flying from her mast was the flag of thirteen red and white stripes of the American colonies.



Fort Orange



The Andrew Doria and Fort Orange

The *Andrew Doria* fired a cannon salute of eleven counts. Commander Rave, in charge of Fort Orange, asked for instructions from St. Eustatius' governor De Graeff. The order was given and the American ship was answered with a salute of nine cannon bursts. Thus, the Dutch became the first foreign power to recognize officially the flag and the independence of the United States of America (see Neth. Antilles No. 273, at left). The English navy later retaliated by leveling St. Eustatius, and it never again assumed as important a role in Dutch trading or colonization.



Dutch Reformed Church in Paramaribo



Synagogue and Catholic Church, Curaçao

The English later retaliated by leveling St. Eustatius, and it never again assumed as important a role in Dutch trading or colonization.

(To be continued)

## Unknown Proof of Surinam

In 1912 Surinam again had supply problems as far as its stamps were concerned. The result was a set of four stamps, 1/2, 2 1/2, 5 and 12 1/2 cent, which was locally printed by H.B. Heijde in Paramaribo. At the spring auction of De Nederlandsche Postzegelverveiling in Amsterdam one lot consisted of a canceled proof of the 12 1/2 cent in dark purple. Mr. Koopman, who signed the proof, stated in a letter that he had seen more copies, used and unused, quite a number of years ago. While he did try to find out more about these proofs, he did not succeed. For your information we show a photo of the proof (right) and a regular stamp of 12 1/2 cent. It is clear that this is indeed a proof; all the small scrolls and other printing ornaments show up to perfection while those in the regular stamp are more or less incomplete or ragged. Any reader knows more about this proof?



## Curaçao Forgery

The illustrated 60-cent King William III of Curaçao of 1889 (see photo on the left) is a -- not too dangerous -- forgery. The measurements are 19 x 23 mm, as of the original stamp; the olive yellow color is close to the original, but there are other features that expose this copy:

1. the perforation is line 12 x 14; of the original stamp always comb 12½:12
2. the design shows white areas on the nose and under the left eye of the portrait. The curl on top of the "6" of "60" is not as "curly" as it should be
3. the paper is much too thin, almost transparent

The differences in the design (nose and cheek) are the characteristics of the famous forgeries of Fournier of Geneva, who has faked the entire series (illustration on page 379 of *The Postal History of Curaçao*).

It is a pity that only a fragment of the postmark is shown on the stamp; it would have shown that the cedille under "ç" is missing (always a characteristic of forged Curaçao postmarks) and that the date is 5.3.1890, a certain feature of the Fournier forgeries. The "real" squared circle postmark was introduced only in April 1891.

A. M. Benders



forgery

real stamp

## Book Reviews

*Speciale Katalogus Automaatboekjes Nederland 1976-1977* by de Rooy and Hali

The fifth edition of this specialized catalog on the automatic booklets of the Netherlands has recently made its appearance. This catalog has been accepted for several years as the recognized authority on these issues, and both its numbering system and valuations are used without qualification by Dutch auction houses as well as by an increasing number of dealers.

The rise in interest in these booklets is evidenced in the growing number of lots of sought-after varieties seen in recent auctions; one prominent Amsterdam auction house has averaged over 56 lots of these booklets in three of their last four auctions. Each issue of the *Maandblad* carries a number of buy and sell ads for the booklets, identified and priced per the de Rooy/Hali catalog.

Therefore, anyone with interest in automatic booklets will find this catalog indispensable. It carries a detailed description of all major and minor varieties of vending machine booklets since the appearance of the first trial booklets in Rotterdam and Utrecht in 1962. Prices quoted are realistic, and reflect the figures these booklets are bringing both in auctions and at dealers.

It is rather interesting to compare the prices quoted in each successive edition. For instance, booklet 6a (5 x 20 ct) with the text "De girodienst" was issued in May 1966 in a quantity of 1,068,110. Prices listed were:

1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
f3.50	2.50	4.00	8.00	18.00

The next 5 x 20 ct booklet, 6b, appeared in February 1967, in a quantity of 553,522. Prices were

f10.00	30.00	45.00	250.00	350.00
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The counting marker, a small square appearing on the fold of the cover



once in every 10 booklets, is much sought after. Prices of the same booklet, with counting marker, are:

--- 45.00 75.00 450.00 875.00

This seems to be a great deal of money for a booklet which cost f1.00 and was in plentiful supply less than 10 years ago. But these prices are being realized; the compilers of the catalog are merely recording the pattern.

Another interesting series to compare is the 4 x 25 ct Juliana Regina booklet, which first appeared in 1969, and was issued in eight different texts over a two-year period. Valuations were:

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
9a	f 4.00	3.25	3.75	9.00	30.00
9b	10.00	30.00	40.00	250.00	500.00
9c	7.50	22.50	25.00	45.00	140.00
9d	3.50	7.50	9.00	50.00	250.00
9e	2.50	5.00	7.00	50.00	200.00
9f	2.25	4.25	7.00	55.00	300.00
9g	1.75	1.75	3.00	17.50	125.00
9h	1.50	1.50	3.00	9.00	30.00

Booklet 9b, with text "Betaal Giraal/Uw Postgiro zorgt ervoor" was not a limited issue; 1,054,395 booklets were sold. The counting block variety of this booklet is priced at f1000.00. The following booklet, 9c, was issued in only half the quantity of 9b, yet is valued at less than one-third the price.

It is certainly difficult to analyze the reasons for the irregular pattern of prices quoted in this catalog, such as the comparison given above. Suffice to say, the rapidly growing interest in postal booklets requires that the collector of these nonphilatelic, totally legitimate issues of the Netherlands Post Office obtain each year's edition in order to keep up with the almost incredible increase in value they are experiencing.

The 1976-77 edition lists all known varieties of these booklets, including printing marks, gum varieties, variations in ink and cutting, illustrating the variations whenever possible. It is complete through booklets 20 and 21, the Wim Crowel numerals issued in March of this year, and includes explanatory notes in English. ASNP has arranged for the U.S. distribution of this catalog, which is now available at \$4.50 postpaid.

Laurence H. Rehm

*The Postal History of Curaçao* by Frank W. Julsen and A. M. Benders. The Hague, 1976. \$36.00 plus postage.

This long-awaited handbook on the postal history of Curaçao lies before me while I am writing this. It is formidable - if that is the word to describe a handsome information-filled 626-page clothbound book, printed on the best glossy paper, with an absolute wealth of illustrations from every period and providing not only the specialist but also the general collector of the Netherlands Antilles with everything and anything he has ever wanted to know about this fascinating country.

Does this sound too enthusiastic? Not at all! Let me give you a brief overview of the contents. Starting with the earliest markings known, the authors then give us: Development of the Post; Geotroieerde West-Indische Compagnie; Commissie voor de West-Indische Handel; British Occupation Period; Office of Government Secretary; Netherlands Royal Packet Mail; "Posterij Curaçao"; British Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; Additional Shipping Connections; Early Postal Communications Between the 6 Islands; Forwarding Agents; Supplementary Carriers; and a list of Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices.

The next section is concerned with Postal Markings, and here we find a catalog of pre-postage stamp markings, and then an exhaustive list of all the postal markings used on stamps, such as: Unframed Franco, Numeral cancels; Large single-circle Curaçao; Small single-circle Curaçao; and so on in sixteen chapters which in many cases give the relative values of these cancels from other islands than Curaçao. Even to the nonspecialist these tables with "points" for the rarer cancels should be of value.

Section III treats the implementation of the post, which - in case you didn't know - is concerned with administrative markings, such as Markings relating to the payment of postage; Additional sea charges; Registration markings and labels; and Censored mail. This last chapter fills about 50 pages which are absolutely necessary for anybody who collects Curaçao censored covers. Supplementary markings and Special event markings, such as First flights and FDC's, make up the rest of this section.

Finally, we find the most complete listing of the postage stamps, proofs, and postage dues of Curaçao that has ever appeared in print. The information on some definitive sets is so extensive that it will do a lot to change even the specialist's set-up of pages. Since the authors recognize that new information is bound to appear in this area, they urgently request anybody who has additional information to contact them. It is the intention that an appendix will be issued eventually to list this new information. We did not forget the postal stationery and the fiscal stamps which close the book. Especially the fiscal stamp information is worthwhile, never having appeared in print before.

Paul van E. Reyen

Just published:

## A Postal History of Curaçao

by Frank W. Julsen and A. M. Benders

treats the postal history, the steamship routes and airline connections, describes all cancellations and postmarks exhaustively, as well as the stamps, proofs, registry labels, postal stationery, revenue stamps and others.

A book of 624 pages with hundreds of illustrations. The text is in English.

Thanks to a subsidy from the "Stichting Filatelie" this handbook can be sold for f 90.00

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#### Financial Report for the Membership Year 1975-76

As of August 10, 1976:

Income	
Dues	\$1355.00
General donations	215.20
Library donations	20.00
1976 NVPH catalogs	338.00
Advertising	130.00
Miscellaneous	2.25
	<u>\$2060.45</u>

Expenses	
Printing, postage, stationery	\$1490.09
Bank charges	33.98
1976 NVPH catalogs	237.15
Curaçao handbook	88.27
Miscellaneous	10.00
	<u>\$1859.49</u>

Net income \$ 200.96

Note: Without the general donations, the ASNP would be slightly in the hole, as you can see. We need at least 250 members to break even on expenses, let alone create a reserve fund for rising costs and postage rates.

John W. Van Buskirk  
Treasurer

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