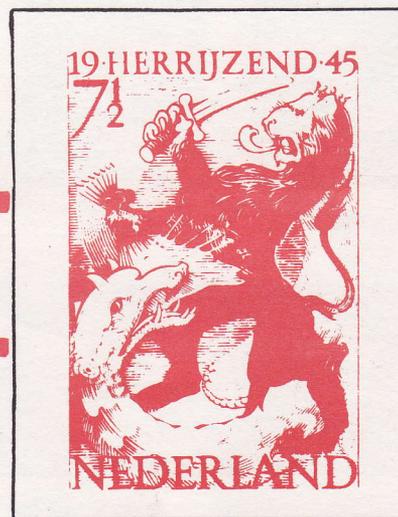


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Letter from the Editors:

The lead article this month is a fine example of good solid philatelic research, and it is the work of Journal staff member Frans Rummens. It is an excellent example of what an article on research should be.

The next article is the first part of a detailed study of the Netherlands Internment stamps used during WW I. It will probably take several issues to complete this article.

Paul van Reyen contributes a translation of an article about the first post office on St. Martin and also wrote a piece about a Netherlands Antilles plate fault.

The remainder of this issue contains the usual columns and an update on the Blue Band cancellations.

For those of you who are planning to send in material for publication in this Journal, please keep in mind that the deadline for receipt of articles is the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue. This means all material for the next (March) issue, should be in the Editors hands no later than February 15th, and if there are illustrations which require halftones or other photographic work, this should be received a week or so earlier.

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SURINAM NVPH #111; THE 3 ON 5CT OVERPRINT OF 1925.

by Frans H.A. Rummens.

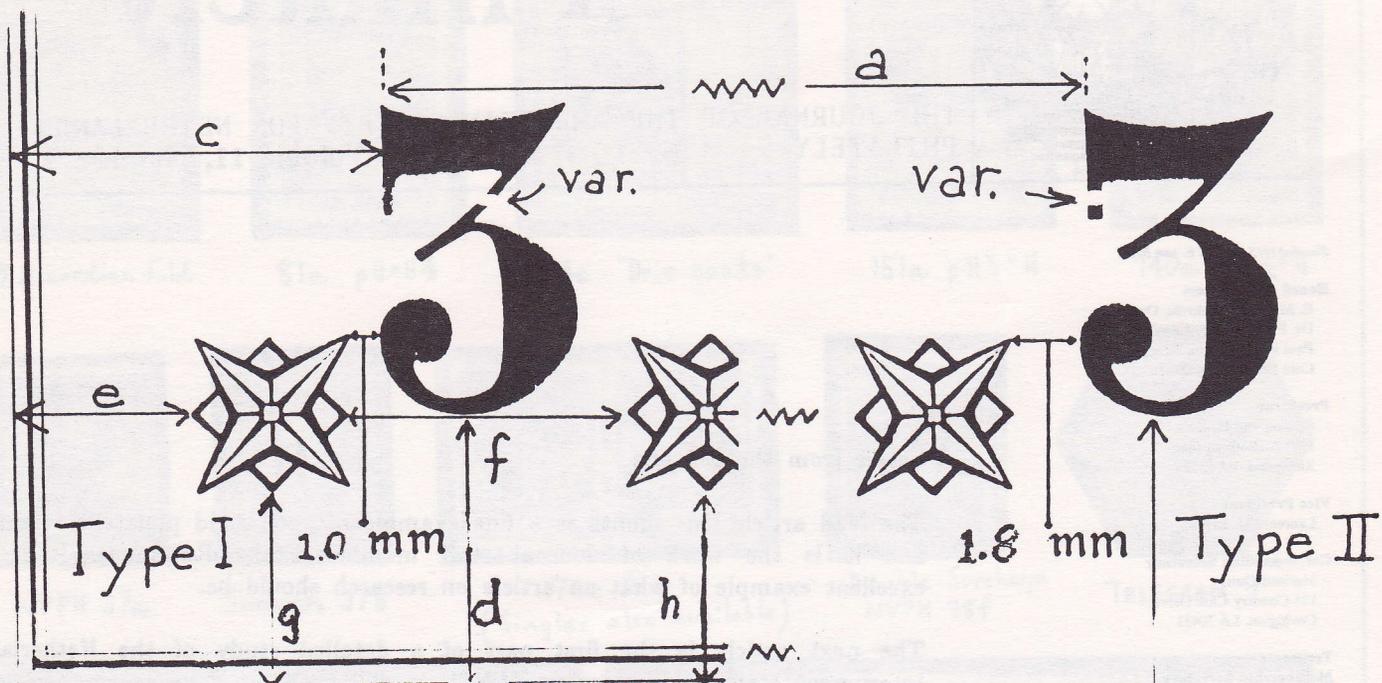


figure 1: definitions of types I and II.

The entire set of 1925-26 Surinam overprints has been discussed before in this Journal¹, including the bare facts on #111, the 3ct overprint on the 5ct green. These elementary facts are interesting though. As even the NVPH "speciale" acknowledges, there exist two types of overprint, with either 1.0 mm between the '3' and the left side 'star' (type I), or 1.8 mm which shall be designated as type II (see figure 1).

The earliest detailed references to the 1925-26 overprints that we have found were made by Benders². He gives the total printing for #111 as 175 050 and he indicated that for this overprint a printing form of one (horizontal) row of 10 had been used. Whereas this latter point is correct in principle, we shall see that the complete story is considerably more complicated. Benders did not state anything about the existence of two types.

The discovery of the two types was made by De Bie, who reported his findings in an extensive article in the "Maandblad"³. De Bie reported that, basically, each row of 10 had the following order of types I and II:

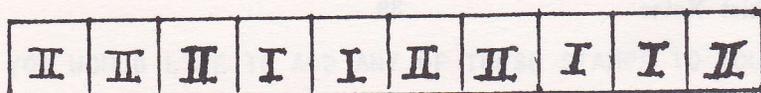


figure 2: the order of the two types in 9 out of 10 rows of stamps.

This order was found for 9 of the 10 rows (the exceptional second row will be discussed below), thus confirming that a printing form of 1x10 must have been the starting point. De Bie also pointed out that the 'broken neck' plate error (see figure 1) was found on all the overprints of the 9th (vertical) column. To that we may add that the variety 'broken serif' (see figure 1) is found on all the stamps of column 4, all of which reconfirms the 1x10 stereotype theory. But how could it be then that the second row is so different (as shown in figure 3)?

row 1	II	II	II	I	I	II	II	I	I	II
row 2	II	II	II	I	II	I	I	II	I	II
row 3	II	II	II	I	I	II	II	I	I	II

figure 3: lay-out of the printing sheet, including deviating order of the second row.

We will admit that upon reading this report by De Bie we were rather sceptical, a scepticism that only increased when neither De Bie nor later authors^{4,5,1} showed a photograph of that special second row. Nor did we know of any collector who had in his collection, or who had even seen, any such evidence. Until, that is, we were fortunate in being able to acquire the block of four shown in figure 4, which has the distribution II I / I I, which according to figure 3, would mean sheet positions 8,9,18 and 19.

Our doubts thusly quenched, our curiosity was now really aroused. If any further evidence was still needed, we next acquired a photograph of an entire sheet of the #111, a sheet that is present in the Dutch Postmuseum⁶. In figure 5, part of this photograph is shown. The reader may verify that the order as indicated by figure 3, is indeed found in this sheet.



figure 4: block of four, with types II I / I I in the two rows.

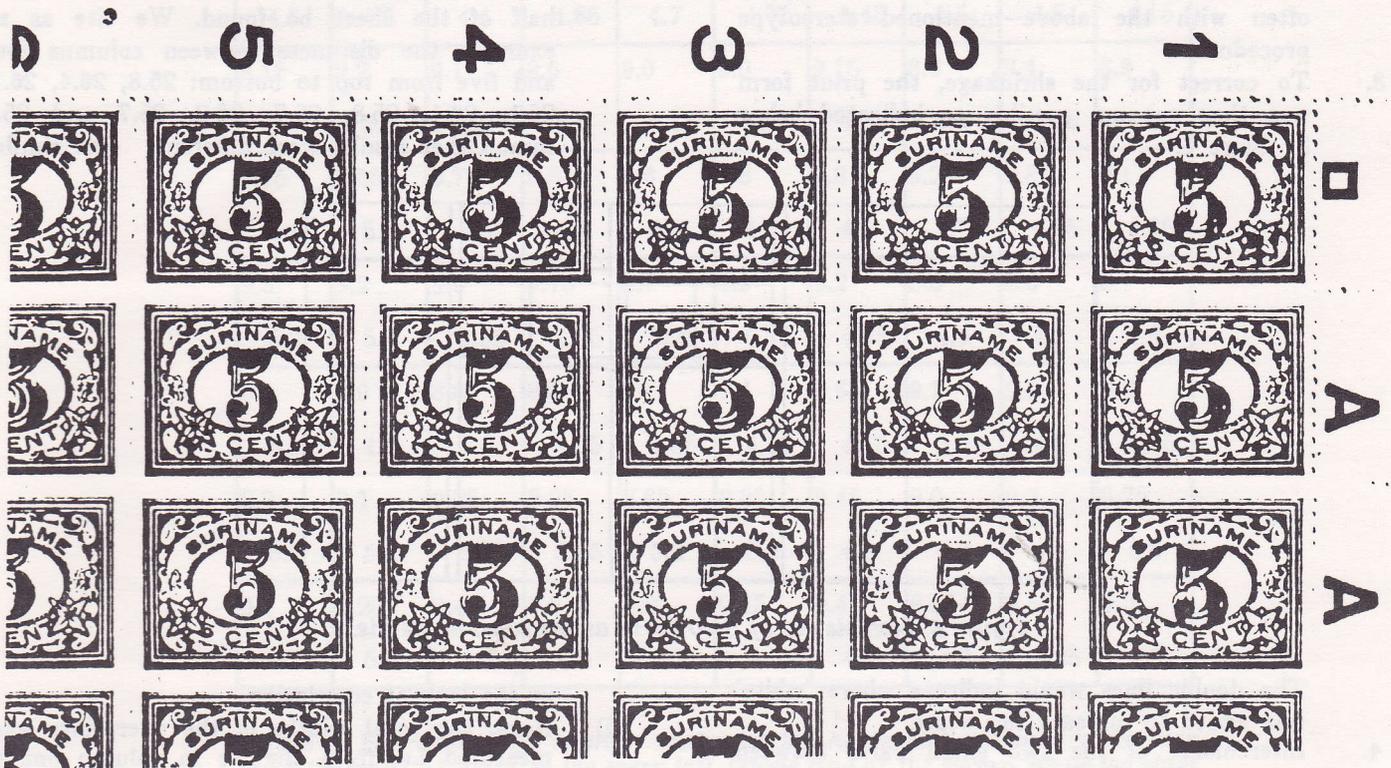


figure 5: part of an entire sheet, showing the aberrant second row.

The big question now was 'how did this ever happen?', a question to which De Bie already addressed himself. In fact, he proposed an answer, but that solution seemed so improbable, that it had only fueled our original doubts. It should be mentioned though, that De Bie had already on several occasions contributed to the knowledge of Surinam stamps, at which times he had shown himself to be an astute observer. De Bie lived in Paramaribo at the time, and was therefore close to the source. In his 1936 paper³ he recounts how, after his discovery of the types I and II, and the oddity provided by the second row, he went personally to the printing shop where the overprinting had been done, and how he found there still one employee, a helper, who had been around in 1925 when the overprints were made. (Incidentally, De Bie mentions the name of the printing shop as 'J.H. Oliviera', whom we know as the successor to H.B. Heyde firm, known of earlier overprints and provisionals). The thesis of De Bie consists of several parts:

1. Of the original logo of 1x10, a papier mache form was made, of which five copies were drawn. From the latter a print form of 5x10 was made up (this far as related by the Oliviera employee).
2. The 5x10 print form was used to first print the lower half of all the stamp sheets. It was noted that the width of the print form did not correspond to the width of the sheet (shrinkage of print form does indeed happen often with the above-mentioned stereotype procedure).
3. To correct for the shrinkage, the print form was then cut up, possibly as indicated below in figure 6.

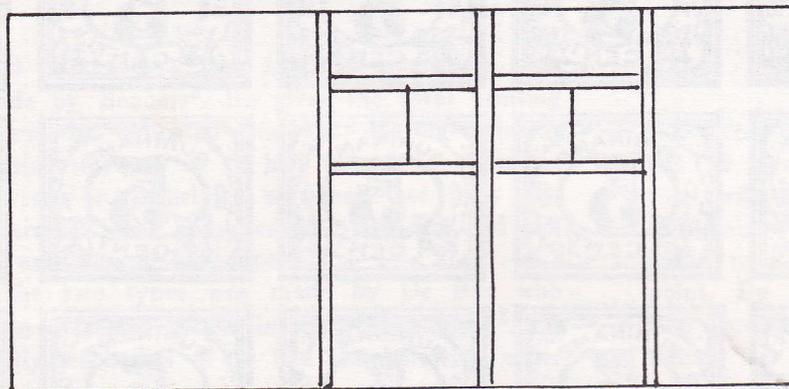


figure 6: possible cut of 5x10 form as proposed by De Bie.

The double lines would indicate where 'white' was added to increase the width.

4. Interchange of the two small parts between these double lines of the second type line would then have resulted in the order as indicated in figure 3.

5. Then the upper halves of all sheets would have been overprinted.

There are several attractive aspects to above hypothesis of De Bie such as: it forms indeed a possible explanation for the row 2 enigma; it leaves columns 4 and 9 undisturbed, which is in concordance with the plate errors found in these two columns and also parts 1,2 and 5 of the hypothesis had the strength of an eye witness report. However, De Bie did never provide any further evidence; to him the hypothesis was an explanation; beyond commenting that the 'shrinkage', 'cutting of logo's' and 'whiting' were normal procedures in a print shop in those times, he did not test his ideas. Yet, it would seem easy to find evidence for a cut-up like in figure 6, had one ever occurred. For example, the 'whiting' would have resulted in larger distances between certain overprint elements. So we began our search by measuring all the horizontal distances 'a' from serif to serif of the 3's on the Postmuseum sheet.

The results were as follows:

- (i) constant horizontal distances 'a' between the numerals 3 were only found between columns one and two (26.2 ± 0.1 mm), three and four (25.7 ± 0.1 mm) and nine and ten (25.3 ± 0.1 mm). Between all other columns, the distance 'a' was not constant, neither was the pattern of the bottom half reproduced in the upper half of these columns, nor could the expected increased distances 'a' in the upper half of the sheet be found. We cite as an example the distances between columns four and five from top to bottom: 25.8, 26.4, 26.1, 26.1, 25.8, 25.7, 26.2, 25.7 and 25.8 mm. Other results were different, but similar

in the lack of correlation.

- (ii) Next, the total widths of the overprints were measured i.e. from the 3's in column one to the 3's of column ten, with the following results (see figure 7):

row	width (mm)
1	231.0
2	231.6
3	231.6
4	231.9
5	231.4
6	231.3
7	230.4
8	231.5
9	231.3
10	231.6

figure 7: overprint distances across the sheet.

(Note that in working from photographs one has to take into account the dimensional errors introduced in the photographic process; all our distances have been corrected for distortions, based on the known dimensions of the real stamps).

The first conclusion to emerge from the data in figure 7 is that all these distances are very closely the same (apparent deviations of the 1st and 7th row will be explained later). There is therefore no 'widening' of the upper half print form as suggested by De Bie and as indicated in figure 6). Secondly, there was absolutely no need for such widening, as the overprint widths in the bottom half are very close to the true width of 231.6 mm of nine real stamps.

(iii) We next extended our measurements to the vertical distances 'b' of bottom-of-curl-of-3 to top-of-horizontal-bar-of-3. In other instances of typographed overprints, we had always found that such vertical distances were very nicely constant. This is to be expected, since the original type is set on a horizontal, straight rule. Much to our surprise, only the

9.55	9.9	9.8	9.4	9.4	9.45	9.75	9.1	9.5	9.0
4.4	4.3	4.4	4.25	4.2	4.25	4.05	4.1	4.15	4.1
9.35	9.6	9.55	9.4	10.0	9.1	9.25	9.85	10.0	9.4
4.4	4.6	4.7	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.75	4.6	4.65	4.5
9.3	9.55	9.1	8.8	8.9	9.15	9.7	9.05	10.0	9.3
4.6	4.85	5.05	5.3	5.15	5.2	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.05
8.3	8.6	9.1	8.85	9.0	9.1	9.2	8.6	9.4	8.65
4.5	4.5	4.4	4.65	4.7	4.75	4.45	4.5	4.5	4.15
9.15	9.2	9.1	8.6	9.0	9.0	9.15	8.6	9.4	8.9
5.35	5.35	5.2	5.1	5.35	5.2	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.4
9.35	9.55	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.25	9.8	9.1
5.1	5.0	4.65	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.35	4.65
9.0	9.2	9.0	8.75	8.7	8.9	9.2	8.6	8.6	8.1
5.2	5.2	4.85	4.85	5.25	5.15	4.65	4.9	4.2	4.3
8.9	9.0	8.8	8.5	9.0	9.4	9.65	9.1	9.2	8.6
5.1	4.9	4.4	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.65	5.0	4.5	4.65
9.0	9.1	9.25	8.95	8.65	9.35	9.45	9.0	9.3	8.75
5.3	5.1	5.05	5.05	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.6
9.1	9.25	9.4	9.0	9.0	9.45	9.4	8.85	9.55	9.0
5.25	5.05	4.6	4.5	5.2	5.25	4.2	4.3	4.25	4.3

figure 8: The upper left number indicates the horizontal distance 'c' in mm from the serif of the '3' to the outer left frame line of the stamp, while the other number in each square indicates the vertical distance 'd' from the bottom of the curl of the '3' to the outer bottom frame line of the stamp.

distances 'b' between the 3's of the first and second row were reasonably constant, at 20.63 ± 0.15 mm. The next best constancy was found between rows five and six, except that the distance is 20.90 ± 0.2 mm for nine of the ten distances, while between stamps 60 and 70 the distance was 21.6 mm. All other results indicated less constancy and no resemblance between the data of the top half as compared to those of the bottom half of the sheet.

From the above observations the following general conclusion may be drawn: *Theses 1,2,3 and 5 of De Bie are wrong.* Instead, the evidence so far presented, points to a 10x repeated 1x10 logo to form a 10x10 printing block, with no obvious explanation of the odd type-sequence in row two.

At this point, it was also clear that substantially more cutting and refitting had taken place than indicated by figure 6. We next tried to determine which (group of) overprints had moved where by how much, but this turned out to be a largely impossible undertaking. The reason is the element 3-to-element-3 basis of our measurements. Any special distance always has then a dual explanation: either one element moved one way, or the other moved the other way. For that reason we abandoned the above approach entirely and started all over, this time measuring each overprint '3' relative to the outer border lines of the stamp it was on, (distances 'c' and 'd' in figure 1). In figure 8 the results are given.

The following conclusions emerged from the data of figure 8:

- (i) The horizontal distance 'c' is not only variable within a row, but from one row to the next the pattern is not even reproducible. Here and there recognizable fragments emerge, but these are always very localized. For example, look at the distances 'c' for overprints in positions 1,2,3,11,12 and 13. These could form evidence of the second row of overprint elements just shifted 0.2 to 0.3 mm to the left relative to the overprint elements of the first row.
- (ii) The vertical distances 'd' appear to exhibit a bit more regularity. For the first row these distances vary only between 4.1 - 4.4 mm, almost a constant value therefore, as it should be. For other rows these distances 'd' may be different, as the height of the overprint not necessarily matches the vertical dimension of the stamp. For the second row the vertical distance appear to be 4.4-4.75 mm, a perfectly acceptable range, therefore, except that for stamp 14 that distance is 5.0 mm.

Evidence of overprint element #14 having been cut and lifted? Going through the matrix row by row, it appears that generally that vertical distance is around 4.5 mm, with slight variations from row to row, but that also in places a distance of 5.2 mm is operative. Note that the difference of $5.2-4.5 = 0.7$ mm corresponds to 2 points in printer's parlance. In several other places the lifting of certain '3' elements seems closer to 0.3 or 0.4 mm, corresponding to 1 point.

- (iii) The general conclusion of the measurements on the '3' elements seem to be that very considerable cutting and refitting of the 10 stereotypes must have occurred, much more than suggested by figure 6.

If that is so, then the star elements should show a similar cut-up pattern.

It was therefore deemed necessary to next concentrate on the 'star' elements. It would actually have been logical to start with these 'stars'; they are lower in the design, so would have been set earlier, possibly directly on the rule. The '3' is set higher and it must therefore have been set later, after some 'lead' had been set between the 'stars'. As it turns out, there are two distances between the 'stars'. That distance is either 8.0-8.3 mm or 8.8-9.1 mm, i.e. a 2 point difference. Therefore the typology arises from this difference in star-to-star distance; combined with a constant distance right-star-to-3, the result is two distances 3-to-left-star. Figure 9 gives the essential numbers.

The distance 'f' is found to be constant within each column, with the exception of positions 15 through 18; interchange of the 15,16 and 17,18 pairs would bring about a complete constancy in each column. This implies, however, that the second row logo was cut in at least three places.

The distances 'g' and 'h' show unusual variations. In the first row these distances gradually decrease from 2.7 to 2.2, in going from left to right. This may be explained by the top logo not having been aligned properly horizontally. The second row seems perfectly normal; distances 'g' and 'h' are 2.8 ± 0.2 mm. The third row shows basically three distances: 2.3 ± 0.1 mm for positions 28-30, 2.9 ± 0.1 mm for positions 21-23 and 27, while 3.3 ± 0.2 mm for the remaining positions. This means, that the third row logo must have been cut in three places too, but in a manner different from the second row logo. These different heights above the rule must have been caused by inserting 'leading' of 2 respectively 3 points height. This has been indicated in figure 9 by loops with 2 and 3 arrows respectively. All other rows have been treated likewise. Having established this pattern of cuts and vertical displacements in figure 9, one can next discern the

3.0	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.5	2.3
9.0	8.9	8.9	8.2	8.0	9.0	8.9	8.1	8.3	8.9
2.7 2.6	2.6 2.6	2.6 2.5	2.6 2.5	2.5 2.4	2.5 2.3	2.4 2.2	2.3 2.2	2.3 2.4	2.3 2.2
2.8	2.9	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.2 →	3.0 →
8.9	9.0	9.0	8.1	9.0	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.2	8.9
2.6 2.7	2.5 2.7	2.6 2.8	3.0 2.8	2.9 2.8	2.7 2.7	2.9 2.7	2.6 2.7	2.8 2.7	2.7 2.7
2.9	2.9	2.4 ←	3.0	3.0	2.3 ←	3.1	3.1	3.8 →	2.9 →
9.0	↑ 8.9	9.0	8.2 ↑	↑ 8.2	9.0	↑ 8.8	8.0	8.2	9.0
2.9 2.9	2.9 2.8	3.0 3.1	3.5 3.5	3.3 3.1	3.4 3.2	2.8 2.8	2.5 2.3	2.4 2.2	2.4 2.3
1.9	2.0 ←	2.2	2.9	3.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.5 →	2.1
9.0	9.0	9.0	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.8	8.1	8.1	9.0
2.6 2.6	2.7 2.8	2.5 2.5	2.7 2.8	2.9 3.0	3.0 2.8	2.8 2.7	2.7 2.6	2.8 2.6	2.5 2.2
2.5	2.5	2.2 ←	2.6	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.7	3.4	2.3 →
9.0 ↑	↑ 9.0	8.9	↑ 8.2	8.1 ↑	↑ 9.0	8.8	8.1	8.2	9.1
3.8 3.7	3.7 3.6	3.3 3.2	3.3 3.2	3.6 3.6	3.5 3.4	2.9 2.8	2.8 2.8	2.7 2.7	2.7 2.7
2.8 ←	3.0 ←	3.1 ←	3.5	3.7	3.0	3.4	3.5	4.0	2.8
9.0	↑ 9.0	9.1	8.2	↑ 8.1	9.0	8.8	8.1	8.2	9.0
3.3 3.2	3.3 3.2	2.6 2.7	2.8 2.6	3.2 3.2	3.1 2.8	2.6 2.8	2.9 3.1	2.5 2.7	2.8 3.0
2.4	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.1	2.8	2.9 →	2.7	1.6
9.1 ↑	↑ 9.0	9.0	↑ 8.2	8.2 ↑	↑ 9.0	8.9	↑ 8.1	8.2	9.0
3.5 3.5	3.4 3.4	3.1 3.0	3.2 3.0	3.5 3.4	3.3 3.2	3.1 3.0	3.1 3.1	2.6 2.6	2.6 2.4
2.0 ←	2.3	1.9 ←	2.5	3.0 ←	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.4	2.0
9.0	↑ 9.0	9.1	8.3	8.1	9.1	8.9	↑ 8.2	8.2	↑ 9.1
3.3 3.3	3.1 3.1	2.7	2.7 2.8	2.8 2.8	2.7 2.6	2.8 3.0	3.0 3.1	2.7 2.8	3.0 3.2
2.4	2.5	2.6 ←	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.5	2.2
9.0	9.1	9.0 ↑	↑ 8.2	8.2	9.0	8.8	↑ 8.2	8.2	9.1
3.5 3.5	3.5 3.4	3.3 3.1	3.4 3.2	3.5 3.5	3.4 3.4	3.1 3.0	3.0 3.1	2.8 2.9	2.8 2.9
2.4 ←	2.6 ←	2.7 ←	3.1	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.7	2.5
9.1	↑ 9.1	9.1	8.3	8.2	↑ 9.0	8.9	8.0	8.1	9.1
3.5 3.4	3.2 3.1	2.7 2.7	2.6 2.7	3.4 3.4	3.2 3.3	2.6 2.6	2.5 2.4	2.5 2.6	2.6 2.7

figure 9.

At top left is the distance 'e' left-star-to-outer-frame-line, in the center is the distance 'f' between-the-two-stars, while at the bottom the distances 'g' and 'h' from the stars-to-the-bottom-frame-line are given.

same pattern also in the distances 'd' of figure 8, except that the pattern is not quite so clear in the latter case. This, no doubt, finds its cause in the extra leading (thus extra play) to set the '3' in between and above the 'stars'.

Next, consider the distances 'e' of figure 9. Let us take the top row as the reference row. We then see that the second row has very similar distances 'e', except for positions 19 and 20. This means that the second row logo was cut between positions 18 and 19 (which we knew already from the 15,16 and 17,18 interchange) and next a 2-point lead was put in this cut, thereby shifting the overprints of positions 19 and 20 about 0.7 mm to the right. In figure 9 this is again indicated by a balloon with arrow. Going back to figure 8, we see a similar shift. Going over the other rows, one similarly encounters horizontal shifts of parts of each row. The total pattern is not unique, though, because we have no way of knowing whether the logo of row one was cut or not. The choice of row one as a reference is fortuitous perhaps, since this reference seems to require the least number of proposed cuts. It may also be reiterated that the distances 'g' and 'h' in row one, decrease very smoothly from left to right. The strongest suggestion that indeed row one was not cut at all, comes from the coincidence between the cut information from distance 'e' as compared to those of 'g' and 'h' in the other rows. See, for example, positions 24-26, 43-44, 45-46, 65-66, 71-72, 81-86 and 91-92. With any other row as a reference, this coincidence disappears. Finally, returning to the data of figure 7, it is perhaps no coincidence that the total width for row

one is the smallest of all, consistent again with fewer cuts or none at all.

Summary and Conclusion.

Since the definition of type I and II, as given by De Bie, involves the numeral '3', the relative positions of these type elements were a natural starting point for analysis. This became a wild goose chase as demonstrated in the early part of this article. Only after both 'stars' had been chosen as the key type elements, did clarity emerge, as indicated by the analysis of the data of figure 9. It would therefore be logical to define type I and II by the distance 'f' between the two stars being either 8.2 mm (type I) or 9.0 mm (type II). The distance left-star-to-numeral-3 is much more easily visualized, however, so we will not formally propose a change of definition.

All the data are consistent with there having been one original 1x10 setting, of which 10 copies were made, to make up a 10x10 form. Then, to create a better fit between overprint and stamp sheet, all stereotypes with the possible exception of the top one, were vertically cut in several places, to allow insertion of extra lead, in the horizontal and/or vertical direction. In the process of refitting these pieces, two of these, belonging to the second row, were accidentally interchanged, giving rise to the deviant second row. This latter conclusion conforms to De Bie's hypothesis number 4. As for the other parts of De Bie's hypothesis; this just goes to show the unreliability of eye witness reports, eleven years after the facts.



Postscript: Governor Cees Slofstra recently acquired some interesting items. Above is shown a block of four with the types II I / I II. corresponding to positions 7,8,17,18, and also a rare 'COLONIAS' overprint used by the Portuguese postal administration to send to their colonies as specimen.

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4. L.H.L. de Stuers; Ned. Maandblad voor Philatelie. Nov 1955, pp 264-265.
5. F.W. Julsen; Linn's Stamp News, May 23, p 66, 1977
6. Courtesy Mr. A.R. Kamphuis, of the "Nederlandse Postmuseum", The Hague.

THE NETHERLANDS INTERNMENT STAMPS

by K.E. König
translated by J. de Kruyf

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Well over three years ago I started to devote more of my time to these stepchildren of Netherlands Philately. Because of their mysteries they had received my interest long before that. In the beginning of 1948, aided by the very sketchy literature and a few facts from the "Postal Museum", I wrote a short study—article in which I straightened out a few misconceptions that had slipped in over the years. When I finally had put all of it down on paper, it looked rather sad. It did appear in print however¹), and was more of a success than I had expected, because both the so-called "Dealers" Catalog (Speciale Catalogus) and the "Michel" catalog included several of my facts in their 1949 edition while "Zumstein" did so in 1950. Yet I was not very pleased with my work because the known facts remained far below the average knowledge of the various Dutch issues that have appeared since 1852.

My detective instincts awakened anew when in the middle of 1949 some Dutch dealers imported 3800 complete sets from Belgium — for the nth time positively the last remainders — and of a very light shade so that the thought of reprints occurred immediately, of later printings and even of forgeries. I looked for contacts with various official and semi-official sources that had been connected with the internment service in our country during the years 1914 to 1918. Ever since that time, practically without interruption, I have been busy with this matter and more than 200 letters have been written on the subject. The results of these sleuthing expeditions — sometimes as fascinating as a detective story — you will find in the following pages.

Before I begin, however, I want to express my deep appreciation to all those who have so generously contributed to make the picture of these stamps as complete as possible. In the first place I name all official and semi-official establishments: The War Department and its War Historical Section and Central Library, the Government Printing and Publishing Department, the Netherlands Postal Museum and the institute for the Publishing of Books for the Army (I.U.B., Frederikskazerne), all in The Hague, The Royal Military Academy in Breda, The Typographic Service in Delft, the Officers of the N.V. Graphic Institute of Johannes Enschede and Sons in Haarlem, the Officers of the printing firm of J. van Boekhoven in Utrecht, the Technical Institute for

Graphic Arts in Amsterdam; also the University Library and the Public Library in Amsterdam and the Rotterdam City Library.

In the second place the more than 50 collectors and dealers from every part of the country who responded to my plea in the "Nederlands Maandblad voor Philately". A 'stream' of information — partly accompanied by proof material — came to me, while others furnished me with verbal information and made their material available for study.

None of the above will blame me if, last but not least, I mention by name a few contributors, all non-collectors. Their cooperation especially made it possible for me to get on the right track or — and this is very important — enabled me to find the last missing link. They are Lt. Col. ret. H.J.C.J. van Stockum of Princenhage, W. Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, P. Knuttel (Director of the Government Press), G. Driessen (Director of the I.U.B.), J. Jansma (Representative of the firm of J. van Boekhoven); further Mr. and Mrs. S. Sijmonsbergen—van den Berg and Mr. and Mrs. H. Onclin—Willems of Amsterdam, and finally the Messrs. P. Borst, G.J. Scheepers and W. Wisse of Amsterdam, The Hague and Haarlem respectively.

The first five mentioned generously and elaborately replied to my many letters with their numerous questions, notwithstanding my often — in their eyes "difficult" philatelic stubbornness, and even made me presents of several cards and letters with markings. The two couples received me in their homes as guest and told me of the printer and the designer and their work. And the last mentioned gentlemen were kind enough to print a notice of mine in their respective publications — "Drukkersweekblad", "Graficus" and "Libelle" which ultimately enabled me to track down the designer and the printer of the stamps. And in so doing it was also possible to clear up other questions.

As you will notice, I did not lack cooperation. As far as philatelists are concerned, this can be expected, but for non-philatelists this certainly is not the case. It should not be surprising that I am extremely grateful for this cooperation, but especially for the extraordinary interest which they — as outsiders — displayed in this subject. I hope that the ties that were formed through this correspondence and these visits will continue to exist.

¹) See "Vlaamsch—" and "Nederl. Postzegeltijdschrift" 1948 pp 51/53 and 70/71.

INTRODUCTION

At the start of my investigation I was aware of only two facts, one negative, the other positive. The negative fact was that the printing establishment of Enschede and Sons – the well known printers of our stamps and banknotes – had not printed the internment stamps. The positive was the existence of Order Number 49 of the Netherlands P.T.T. of February 3, 1916, which reads as follows:

Free franking privileges. The Military Authorities contemplate making labels available to internees to be used on correspondence between such internees and persons residing in the German occupied places in Belgium to which postal services with the Netherlands is permitted. Such labels will have the following inscription:



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

AUG. 1914
KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN
INTERNEERINGSKAMPEN²⁾

Mail bearing such labels are to be sent to Utrecht³⁾. The normal date cancellation is to be applied, partly on the label and partly on the envelope. In addition the following marking is to be applied as heretofore:

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

This is the only official P.T.T. notice about these stamps, and because the order mentions the word 'label', it is not surprising that, when the stamps appeared and became known to collectors, two opposing camps were formed at once, one insisting on 'labels', the other stoutly defending the term 'stamps'.

Unfortunately, in the heat of the argument, nobody thought of making a thorough study of the circumstances surrounding these stamps at the time in order that the elementary, but nevertheless important, philatelic information could have been preserved for posterity. Now, 35 years later, all this was so much more difficult. Most of the people who had something to do with it at the time are no longer living and the one source that should have all the information, the military authorities, could not find anything in their archives regarding this matter. But persistence paid off. Extensive correspondence followed and many official and private persons were consulted; the result you will find summarized on the following pages.

GENERAL RULES OF THE POSTAL REGULATIONS FOR INTERNEES

Interesting facts about this subject were found in a book dealing with the mobilization of our armed forces in the years 1914–1918⁴⁾. In this book an article entitled "De Interneering hier te Lande" (The Internment in this country) by the then commanding officer of the Internment Depot AMERSFOORT-ZEIST, former Major-General J.T. Oosterman, mentions in a few lines on pages 820/21 something about the postal services. I cannot resist recording

these lines here verbatim:

7. POSTAL SERVICE.

Within the country's boundaries the internees enjoyed the same privileges as the Netherlands' military personnel, e.g. free franking privileges for letters up to 20 grams, for postal cards and for printed matter and newspapers up to 100 grams.

²⁾ On the brown label – never used – the wording is different. See fig. 1 and 2.

³⁾ The expedition Bureau Netherlands-Belgium was located at Utrecht. This office acted as distribution center.

⁴⁾ Captain J. Kooiman "De Nederlandsche Strijdmacht en hare Mobilisatie in 1914" published by Herman de Ruiter, Arnhem, no date. This book, which appeared in sections, has become quite scarce and is available in only a few libraries.

The well known changes herein were made on September 20, 1915⁵⁾.

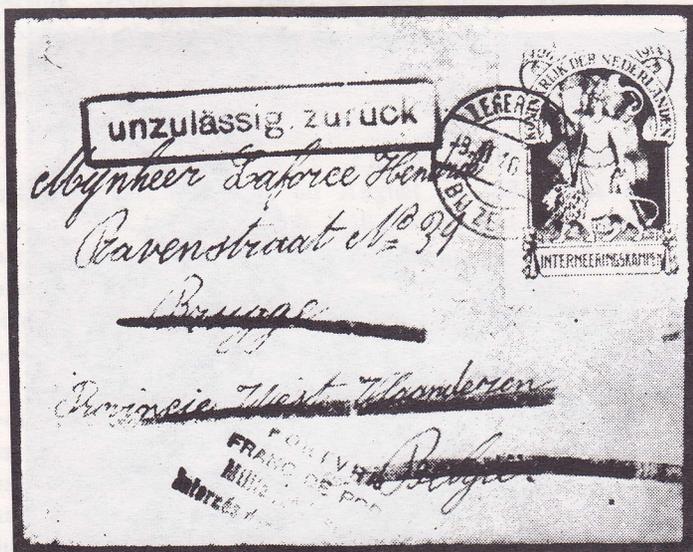


Fig. 3

According to the Rome Postal Treaty of 1906 the franking of letters and the registration fees were also free for internees. The interned German and English military personnel, and partly also the Belgian, were in a favorable position in connection with their correspondence. The postal service for Belgian soldiers to Belgium and vice versa, was very difficult.

Originally this service went via Calais, later via Aix la Chapelle (see fig. 5). The Dutch-Belgian border was closed for traffic. Much of the mail did not reach its destination. In the beginning of January 1915 the Germans stopped all correspondence

with Belgium; in February it was permitted again, but only with Brussels, Liege, Verviers and Antwerp. In May 1915 the German government announced, among other things, that the Belgian internees in the Netherlands had no right to correspond with their relatives in Belgium. In the following October all such correspondence was discontinued and letters and postal cards were returned to the senders. In December the German legation in The Hague announced that the German censors in Aix la Chapelle were no longer in a position to examine the great number of letters and postal cards destined for Belgium.

All steps made by our government for humanitarian reasons led only to the concession that one piece of mail would be allowed for internees with relatives living in the General-Government of Belgium, and this only on postal cards with attached reply cards.

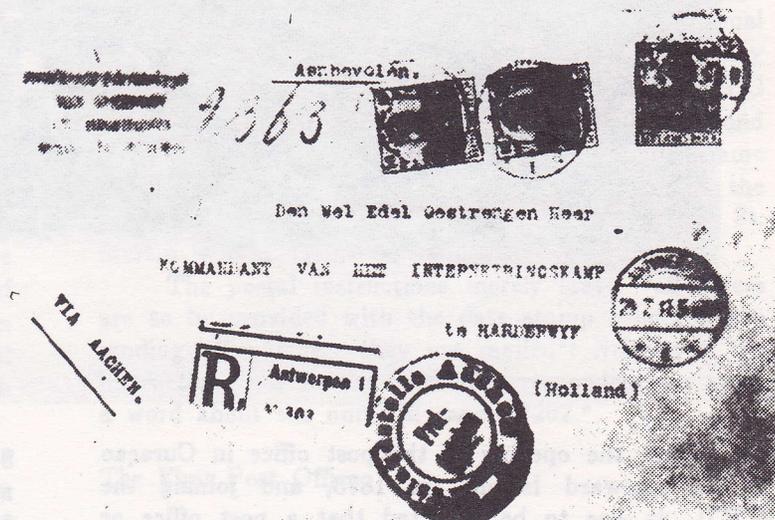


Fig. 5 A cover from occupied Belgium to the Commandant of the Internment Camp at Harderwijk

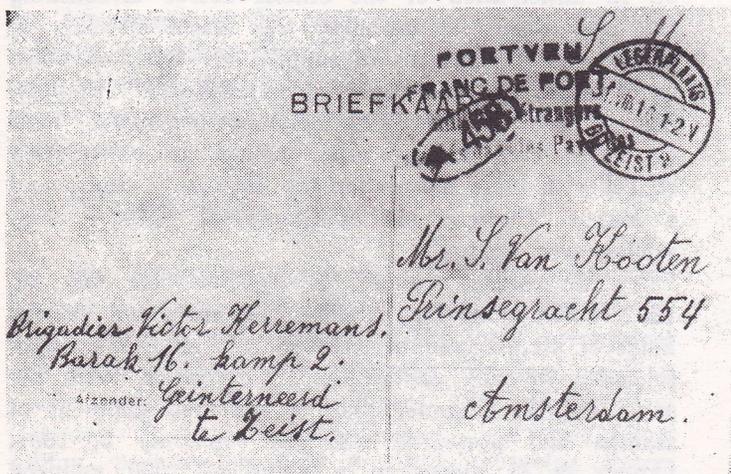


Fig. 4. Post card sent by a Belgian internee to an Amsterdam address

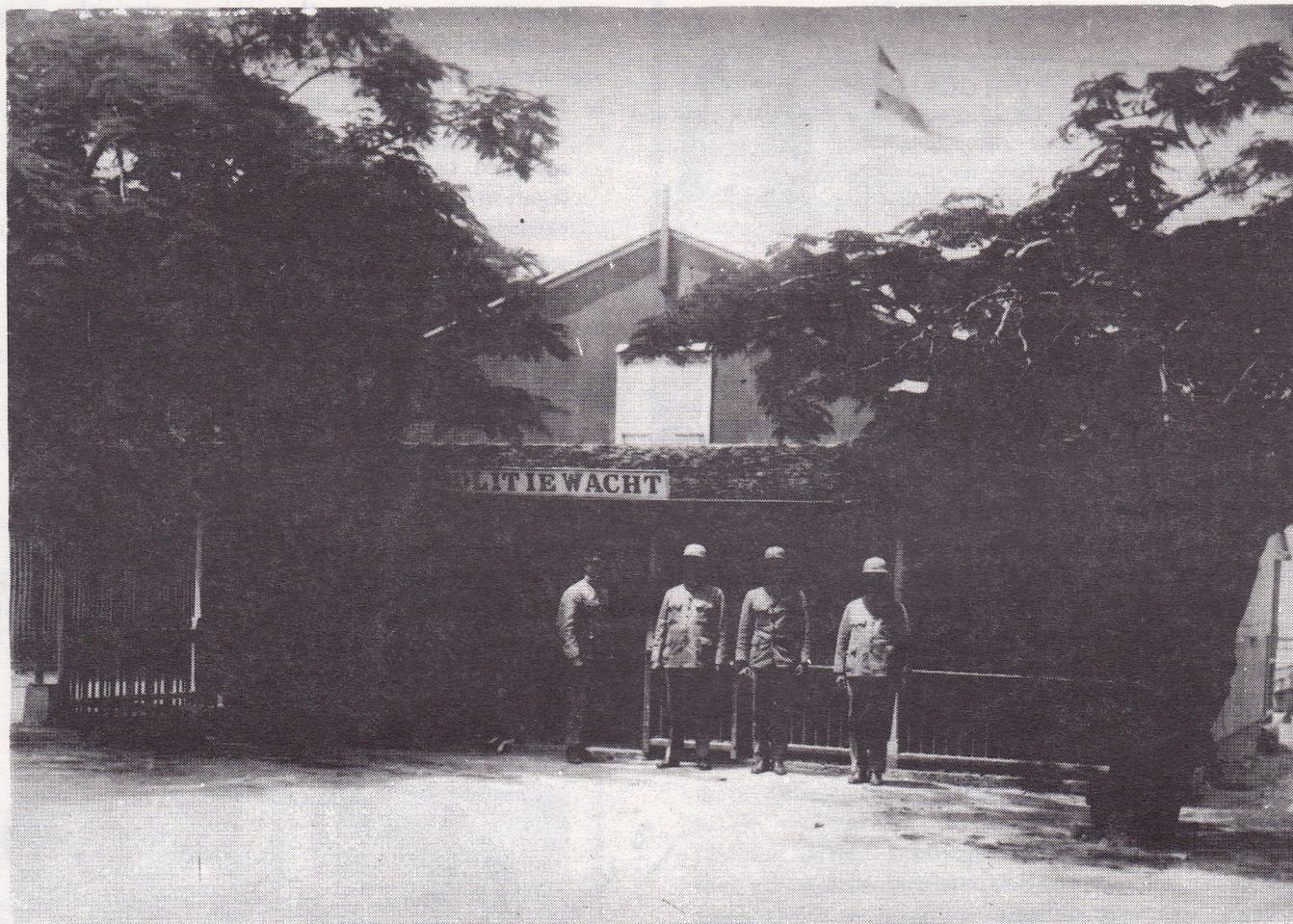
- 5) Beginning September 20, 1915 free franking privileges for letters within the Netherlands were discontinued; those for postal cards remained in force, but for normal correspondence only and not for commercial cards. Daily papers or periodicals that were issued at least once a month and did not weigh more than 100 grams were also free. The regulations for marking the free franked mail were continued. Free postage for foreign countries for internees was also continued in the same manner as heretofore.

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To be continued.

The Day the Post Office of St. Martin N.A. Opened

Dr. A. van der Sar



After the opening of the post office in Curaçao in the Leeward Islands, in 1873, and joining the U.P.U., it was to be expected that a post office or an auxiliary post office would be opened on one of the windward islands. But when? Benders¹ surmised 1883, because of the earliest known small-round cancel of March 10, 1883. However, already in 1879 there was a letter of the Government Secretary Wellink to the Governor of Curaçao about the desirability of establishing a post office in St. Martin.²

The Governor on January 8, 1880 doubts the necessity, but the Minister of the Colonies answers on July 8, 1880³ that he is inclined to open a post office in St. Martin as a trial, although he is not convinced that the proceeds will cover the costs the first years. Its purpose was to be of benefit to business (salt pans, a.o.) and the civil government, as well as the thought that the St. Martin post office would service the other two windward islands, St. Eustatius and Saba which, with St. Martin, were dependent on the postal service of the British island of St. Kitts for the overseas correspondence to America and Europe, and for the local correspondence on the Danish island of

St. Thomas, where a younger brother of the magistrate of Saba, Mr. G.J.A. van Eps, as "forwarding agent" received and despatched the mail⁵.

Local ships took care of the transport of the mail to St. Kitts where the postage was taken care of. In anticipation of the official decree establishing the post office, a beginning was made on July 8, 1881 with a shipment of supplies for the post office at Philipsburg by the English schooner Matilde, captain E.B. Hassell. This shipment contained, next to forms etc., among other things an obliteration cancel with loose figures for the date, a T stamp and a stamp "Curaçao via Southampton," and a brass sealing-wax stamp.

The registry cancel "R" followed on July 30, 1881. Instructions for handling the mail, and various kinds of ink, arrived in October 1881 with the Dutch schooner Camille, captain E.H. Simmons. With the same English schooner Matilde the first shipment of stamps and postcards was sent on July 8, 1881, namely 9,720 pieces to a value of 1000 guilders, divided as follows: 2000 stamps of 2 1/2 ct, 1500 of 3ct, 800 of 5 ct, 2000 of 10 ct, 1000 of 25 ct, and

20 of 2.50 gld, with 200 postcards of 10 ct and 1400 of 7 ct.* By decree of July 30, 1881, No. 308, "Publicatieblad" No. 15, it was officially decided that starting October 1, 1881, a post office would be established at Philipsburg, St. Martin, N.G.

Troubles in Curaçao

The Administrator of Finance, J.C. Mensing, writes to the Governor on August 5, 1881, that he feels obliged to notify that it is likely that very soon there will be a total lack of Curaçao stamps of all sorts, except those of 2.50 gld. The Governor in his letter to the Minister of Colonies mentions "except those of 2.50 gld, 50 ct and 3 ct a piece."

Mensing suggests⁶ (outgoing letters 40/106) to request the Magistrate of St. Martin to return the stamps and postcards at the first opportunity. To realize this the Administrator was empowered to make a special contract with the packet schooner Guillermina, captain J.J. Scopeau, to fetch the package above-mentioned for a sum of 150 guilders. In addition, for this special occasion, the schooner would have freedom from harbor dues. On August 23, 1881, the Magistrate of St. Martin, van den Bossche, answers that the package with stamps has been returned to the Governor of Curaçao by the Guillermina.⁶

In the meantime extensive telegraphing and letter-writing developed between Curaçao and The Hague about a speedy delivery of large numbers of stamps.⁴ The Governor of Curaçao, J.H.A.W. van Heerdt, also informs the Minister that by Decree of August 8, 1881, No. 319, it was decided to establish the mentioned post office not until January 1, 1882.⁴

New supplies of stamps had in the meantime arrived at Curaçao. A second shipment of stamps to St. Martin followed. From the specification of the Administrator of Finance it appears that the second shipment was identical to the first (outgoing letters 319, dated October 25, 1881). On December 5, 1881, the Magistrate of St. Martin acknowledged to have received a package from captain E.B. Hassell of the mail schooner Matilde, which purported to contain a number of stamps and postcards to the value of 1000 guilders.

The First Post Office Director

To keep the costs as low as possible, the function of post office director would preferably be entrusted to a civil servant of the local government and be considered as a "second function" with a yearly salary of 300 guilders (lit. Ministry of Colonies). It appeared that nobody had been found willing, because on July 3, 1881 (outgoing letters 199/90, No. 234) it was suggested to the Governor of Curaçao to appoint Mr. Lewis Percival as Post Office

Director, starting October 1, 1881, for a remuneration of 300 guilders per year, without a claim on any advantages officially connected with civil service employment (with the change of date for the opening, the date of employment was also pushed up to January 1, 1882).

Lewis Hoekstra Percival, born in St. Martin N.G. on December 29, 1852, merchant, was an associate of the firm of D.C. van Romondt, the latter also being Magistrate ad interim. Percival was also connected to the Van Romondt family by his marriage in 1874 to Harriette Marie van Romondt (information Population Registration, St. Martin). For how long he was post office director I have not found, but in 1916 he appeared to live in Brooklyn, N.Y. (Memories of St. Martin, page 62).

The First Cancel of St. Martin

The design and lettering of the text of the cancel gave some problems. Originally the Minister of Colonies suggested to "Water Works" (Waterstaat): Philipsburg - St. Martin N.G.,⁴ but for the normal size of cancel this inscription contained too many letters⁴; shortening it to Philipsburg - St. M.N.G followed,⁴ after which the Minister of Colonies found that it was better to drop the little-known name Philipsburg, and instead to use the name of the island so that the cancel would simply read: St. Martin - Ned. Ged.⁴

The postal instructions merely state: "all pieces are to be provided with the date stamp cancel of the sending office where they are mailed"! Neither in the instructions nor in the further correspondence is there a word about the numeral cancel "202."

The First Post Office

The first post office was located in a small building on the square which is now called "de Ruyter Square." The Customs and Receiver were likewise located there. This lasted until 1923. In November 1923 the barracks under the Court House ("and in the little building facing it across the Front Street then doing duty as a Post Office") were rebuilt (from Memories of St. Martin, page 96).⁸ In the Court House, the Post Office, Customs and Receiver office were once more united, "While the former Post Office building from its nearness to the sea and the alterations made gave better facilities as Police Headquarters."⁸ See the photograph, reproduced with permission of the author, Dr. J. Hartog.⁹

The new quarters in the Court House are still in use (1976). The various changes within and around the Post Office are given in the illustrations in The Court House of St. Maarten.¹⁰ The front of this historic building can be found on various values of the Van Disberg definitive series, 1958-1959 and 1973

(among which the 2 1/2 gld).

Sending the Mail

After the establishment of the Post Office in St. Martin, instructions followed about the way in which and to where the mail should be sent. Correspondence from St. Martin to the Netherlands should be addressed to Railroad Post Office - Antwerp-Rotterdam in a closed pouch. Reverse mail from the Netherlands was sent via the Railroad Post Office - Rotterdam-Vlissingen by British packet boats to Philipsburg. Letters etc. from and to England for the time being, according to the postal regulations of February 14, 1879 regarding the mail in the West Indies, had to be delivered to the postal administration in St. Kitts, piece by piece, and not in pouch.^{3a}

That the Post Office after January 1, 1882, functioned can be proved by a letter of February 6, 1882 from the Minister of Water Works to Colonies^{4b} in which he announced that on January 27, 1882, the first telegram from the Post Office at Philipsburg, dated January 10 inst., had been received, and which "showed to have been prepared exactly according to the regulations." It is remarkable that up to now no dated cancels for 1882 are known, but who knows? In contrast to the expectations the Post Office at Philipsburg paid for itself, as is shown in a letter^{7b} from the Magistrate a.i. D.C. van Romondt to the Governor of Curaçao, dated January 8, 1883 ("to forward under cover hereof the required statement from the Postmaster, by which your Excellency will find that the Post Office though placed under considerable disadvantage has nevertheless yielded a sufficient revenue to defray the expenses of its administration, leaving a balance to its credit").

I have to thank W.E. Fortin, temporary head Central Historical Archives at Curaçao, N.A., and H.G. Wondaal, from the State Archives, Arnhem-Schaarsbergen in the Netherlands, for the help extended to me.

Letter to the Editors

I am a student, and have been collecting stamps of the Netherlands for several years. At the present time, I am very interested in the stamps and especially covers from the International Court of Justice, and am having considerable difficulty finding additional items.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance in my search.

Thank you.
Murray Abramson
3007 Glendale Ave.
Durham, NC 27704

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 - c. archive number 3424, file No. 5.
 - d. archive number 3443, file No. 11.
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7. Yearly Report St. Martin, 1862-1886 (years 1881-1882)
 - a. Letters Nos. 20, 21, 27, 29, 30, 44, 49, 50
 - b. letter 1883, No. 2.
8. J.C. Waymouth, Memories of St. Martin (Netherland Part), 1852-1926
9. Dr. J. Hartog, St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius (SSS), 1974, VAD, Aruba
10. Dr. J. Hartog, The Courthouse of St. Maarten, 1974, de Wit Stores N.V., Aruba/St. Maarten.

Note of the translator: This article originally appeared in Mijn Stokpaardje of April 1976 (pp. 174-175). It appears here in an English translation with permission from the author, Dr. A. van der Sar, and from the Editor of Mijn Stokpaardje, Mr. N.F. Hedeman (since deceased). The photo was graciously provided by Dr. J. Hartog, Salzburg, Austria.

*Translator: I want to point out that the list of stamps and postcards given does not add up to 9,720 pieces, nor does it add up to 1000 guilders. In 1881 there were also no postcards of 10 cents and no postcards of 7 cents, although there were overprinted postcards of 7 1/2 cents on 15 cents and 12 1/2 cents. I cannot offer a solution: the possibilities of a faulty transcription (and/or printing) are such that only a look at the original papers can solve this problem. It IS remarkable that no reader of Mijn Stokpaardje ever commented.

Translated by Paul E. van Reyen

Postal Booklet Notes
By Frank Julsen

A clarification is due our members regarding PB 32, reported in the June 1986 issue as not having the surcharge amount included in the stamp designs. The illustration furnished by the PTT indeed did not include the surcharge amounts, but the actual stamps do include the surcharge amounts as listed at the top of that month's column. Sorry for the misinformation!

Meanwhile, on June 17 two new booklets made their appearance, containing respectively various values of the Crouwel and the new Beatrix designs. I had alluded to these briefly in my June column as being necessary because higher postal rates were to go into effect on July 1.

PB 33A is a rather pleasing combination of one 5 cent, two 10 cent and five 55 cent Crouwel stamps, for a total booklet cost of Hfl. 3.-. The official First Day cover, from Groningen, bears a printed cachet in dark pink, showing a postal booklet vending machine.

- d- 55c imperforate at bottom and right side
- e- 55c and 5c vertical pair, imperforate at top and bottom
- f- 5c imperforate at bottom
- g- 10c imperforate at bottom
- h- 55c and 10c vertical pair, imperforate at top and bottom
- i- block of: 55 55 imperforate at top
5 10 and bottom
- j- block of: 55 55 imperforate at top
10 10 and bottom
- k- block of: 55 55 imperforate at top,
10 55 right side and bottom
- l- 10c and 55c horizontal pair, imperforate at bottom and right side
- m- 5c and 10c horizontal pair, imperforate at bottom
- n- and if we want to go to extremes, I suppose we could include the bottom strip from the pane as well as combinations thereof.

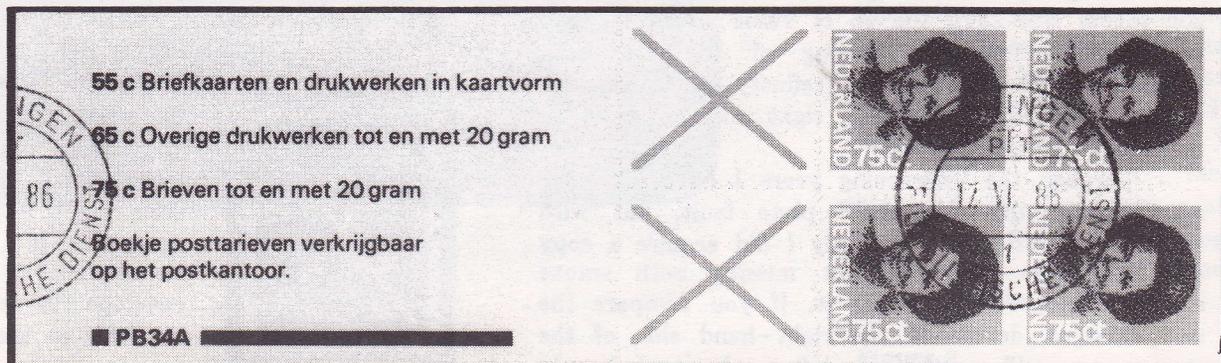


The new 55 cent value is a pleasing shade of light green. The perforation is the usual 12 3/4 : 13 1/2. All kinds of "combinaties" can be made from this booklet pane, depending upon the inclination of the individual collector. To "go along" with the purists, let me list the possible combinations that I was able to compile:

- a- 55c imperforate at top
- b- 55c vertical pair, perforated only on left side
- c- 55c imperforate at top and right side

I leave it to the individual as to how far he would like to go in assembling various combinations from this interesting pane. It will be interesting to see how the editors of the Speciale handle this and similar new issues.

PB 34A is a rather dull affair, consisting of a block of four of the 75 cent "rose" Beatrix of the famous 1981 design, perforated 13 1/2 : 12 3/4. As the illustration shows, there is the necessary Andreas cross beneath each of the two bottom stamps in this block.



The cachet on the First Day cover is identical to that of the PB 33A, but the color is purple.

Combinations will prove to be no problem with this booklet:

- a- 75c imperforate at top and at left
- b- 75c imperforate at top and at right
- c- 75c imperforate at left
- d- 75c imperforate at right
- e- 75c and Andreas Cross in vertical pair, imperforate at left
- f- 75c and Andreas Cross in vertical pair, imperforate at right
- g- 75c and 75c horizontal pair, imperforate at top and at sides
- h- 75c and 75c horizontal pair, imperforate at sides
- i- 75c and 75c vertical pair, imperforate at left
- j- 75c and 75c vertical pair, imperforate at right
- k- block of four, imperforate at sides, with Andreas Crosses at bottom

Happy hunting!

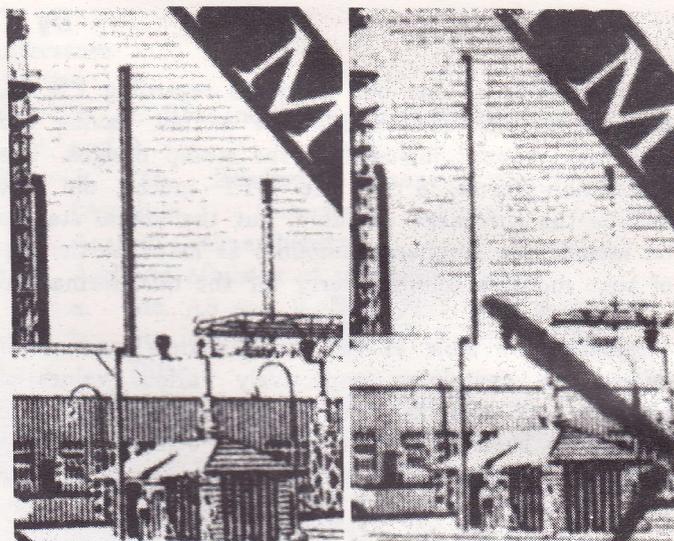
**A Netherlands
Antilles
Plate
Fault.**



Years ago when I still attended the monthly meetings of the Netherlands and Colonies Philatelists in New York City I heard a rumor that a particular stamp of the Antilles existed where the two smoke stacks on the right were completely gone. I call it a rumor because a copy of this stamp was not shown at the same time.

Those of you who are very well informed know immediately that the stamp in question is NVPH No. 256 (Scott No. 234), the 25 ct value issued in 1955 to honor the yearly meeting of the Caribbean Commission. It shows an oil refinery in Aruba, and the two smoke stacks on the right may not even be real smoke stacks.

Through the intervening years I have diligently searched for this "rumored" plate fault, but with scant success. However, recently I did acquire a copy of this stamp which, if not missing both smoke stacks, comes very close to it. If you compare the two enlarged details of the right-hand side of the stamp, you will see that the left smoke stack is only



Normal

Variety

represented by a very thin line, while the smoke stack on the right only shows the slightest vertical line when looked at through a magnifying glass.

Since not too many "plate faults" of the Antilles are mentioned and recognized, it seemed a good idea to let you all know about this particular stamp. Perhaps it is only an intermediate "fault" and the real missing smoke stacks (totally) are still to be found.

Paul E. van Reyen

Coil Corner

The PTT Philatelic Service has issued its Stamp Program for 1987, but did not indicate which of the new stamps would be issued in coil form. The 75 ct value of the two Delta Project commemoratives issued October 7, 1986, was to be available also in coil form, but the date of release was not known at the time this was written.

Some time ago, I mentioned that I had found a batch of POKOs which I divided up and offered to give to any ASN members who might be interested. Needless to say, the response cleaned out my small supply. Recently, I came across some St. Andrews cross adhesives which were produced in the late 1930's for testing coil dispensing machines.



These are listed in the Rolzegel Katalogus as Test Zegel T-15, and for those who might be interested, I would be glad to send any ASN member an example in return for a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A few coil pairs are available at the same price.

LHR

The Blue Band Cancellations of 1924
 Part IV
 by Gert Holstege

Translated by Reinder van Heuveln

In *Filatelie Informatief*, Supplement 13, July 1986, some additional information concerning this interesting subject was published.

Mr. Holstege states:

Mr. Whok in Spijkenisse and Mr. Peters in Weert report that they have cancellation Rotterdam, Aug 30, 1924 in their collections (see note on page 43 of A.S.N.P. where Benders mentions it). Mr. O. Cornelisse in Lochem reports a similar cancellation of Aug. 30, in type 3 and according to Benders (note 11) the earliest date was September 1st. Also Mr. Cornelisse writes that the scarcity quotation for Utrecht-Station is missing. This should be S (scarce).

Mr. Batmee in Weert sent me a copy of a change of [address-card, cancelled Nijmegen, 31 Aug, 1924 with the Blue Band cancellation. Illustration 11 shows a proof-copy of the Nijmegen cancellation dated August 28 (page 5 ASNP). The cancellor must have been sent there immediately after the test and used.



Figure 1

Mr. Whok and Mr. Boumans in Deventer requested additional explanation of the differences between 1 and 4 of the Blue Band cancellations Rotterdam. The reason of this difference is that this city used two cancel machines according to Mr. Benders in his article in the *Netherlands Monthly Journal for Philately* 1933, pages 128-132, 150-152.

For the serious collectors of these covers I recommend to study all what Dr. Benders has published (see note 10 page 43 ASNP). In Rotterdam the first cancellation machine was always used but when the mail increased, the second machine was activated. Therefore the cancellations of the first machine are more common than the second. From the writings of Mr. Benders we learn that the date-parts of the cancels were changed frequently at that time, also between the two machines. There is no difference between these date-parts of Type 1 and 4. See fig. 1).

And finally Mr. Maitland in Castricum sent me a very interesting variation on the Blue Band cancellation in October 1924.



Figure 2

The Blue Band affair was extensively discussed in the press. It created a substantial increase of the sale of Blue Band margarine. The cocoa-concern Van Houten in Weesp created a kind of cancel, which looks like the Blue Band (see fig. 2) Of course this particular cancel was put on the envelope before it reached the post office. The text reads: "Everyone buys Van Houten Cocoa and Chocolate".

Letter to the Editors

In response to the article of mine which you published in Netherlands Philately, one of your ASNP members, Donald C. Rose of McMinnville, Oregon, responded with some new information.

Mr. Rose was the addressee of two of the Hindenburg crash covers described in my original article (Netherlands Philately, Vol. 10, No. 4). He writes that he actually received three covers.

All were addressed directly to him from a correspondent in Holland. He kept one and returned the other two (my numbers 2 and 24). He later traded his cover to a collector in Detroit.

Mr. Rose's cover is now the 26th known of the still existing Netherlands Hindenburg crash covers. He reports that his receipt of the burnt covers was well



Donald Rose's third cover

covered in an illustrated article in the local newspaper at the time.

The May 1987 issue of The American Philatelist is scheduled to be devoted to aerophilately, and I am planning an extensive article for this special issue, on Hindenburg crash mail. I would still welcome any additional information on these covers.

Cheryl Ganz

THE STATIONERY COLUMN.

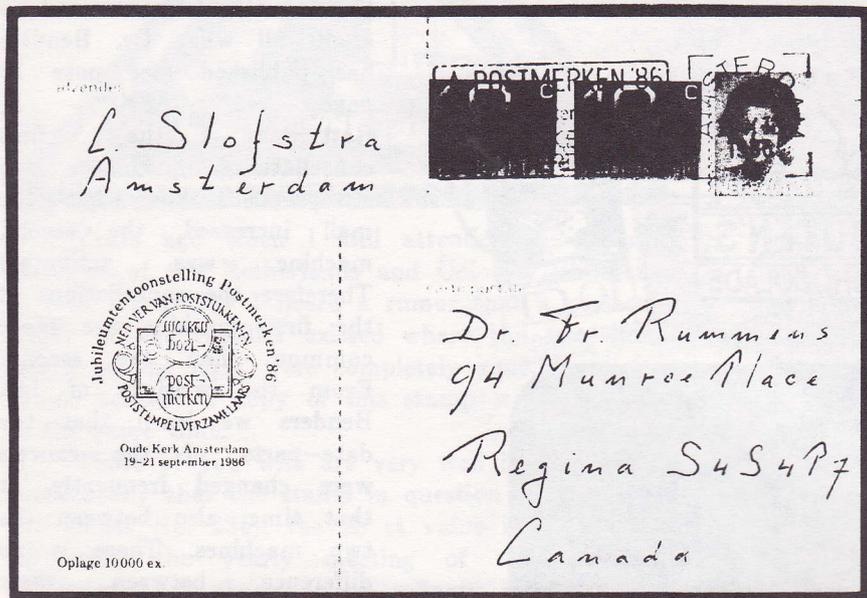


Figure 1

There are quite a number of interesting things to tell about the post card shown in Figure 1.

On June 17 the new 55 cent Beatrix inland post card came out. That was a bit early, because the changeover from 50 to 55 cent in this rate, took only place per July 1, 1986. The surprise was, that the color is light blue, not pink as was announced

earlier. Another novelty is, that 55 cent stamps (to frank one's own post cards) are only available from booklet 33A; there are no sheet- or coil stamps in this denomination. Since the printed 55 cent post card has no phosphorescence, the post card has a phosphor bar, just to the left of the Beatrix imprint. At least, that is where it is supposed to be; by accident about 2 million cards have the phosphor bar to the right of the Beatrix imprint.

The post card shown is special in yet a different way. It shows a cachet, commemorating "Postmerken '86" the jubilee exhibition of the 40-years-old "PO&PO", the club that specializes in postal pieces and post marks. The cachet appears to be in the same color as the rest of the card. Here, however, is our question: if Enschede had a special run of the post cards with cachet, then it is a

'private post card'. If, on the other hand, PO&PO bought 10 000 normal post cards of 55 cent, and subsequently had the cachet printed on them, then it is a 'privately overprinted post card', to use the Geuzendam nomenclature. We noticed a small color difference; the cachet is slightly towards the ultramarine, as compared to the rest of the card. This,

however, does not necessarily mean much, since even if Enschede did print the cachets, it is likely they did it in a separate print run, possibly with the post cards already cut from the large printing sheet of 7x7=49.

By the time of the exhibition (Sept. 19-21), the new rates were in effect, but for overseas the new rate is 75 ct, hence the additional franking with a pair of 10 cent stamps from a booklet (possibly 33A). The card was cancelled with a special POSTMERKEN '86 slogan machine cancel, that was only available at the exhibition site. The slogan cancel shows also the tower of the 'old' church in Amsterdam, where the event was held. Note that the card does not bear an airmail sticker: this is not required since all post cards for overseas destinations go automatically by air.

Figure 2 shows what happens in an early use of the 55 cent post card. It has a cancel of 27-VI-86, so just prior to the start of the new rates. The overseas post card rate was then 65 cent. That means, inter alia, that the overseas rate on post cards went up by 15.4%, which is quite a bit more



Figure 2

than the '5%' increase, the PTT was talking about. Note also the 'postage shortage' mark that was applied in red on the card. Matter of fact, this mark is wrong, since it should have read T10/65.

F.R.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PHIL ZWART.

by Frans H.A. Rummens.



This interview took place during 'AMERIPEX', May 1986. Mr. Phil Zwart and his co-director Mrs. Gerardine Derksen lead "Phil R. Zwart b.v.", a stamp business well known to our members through the

advertising in the 'Journal' and the 'Newsletter', and certainly well-known by those collectors who visit large exhibitions and bourses.

F.R. Mr. Zwart, what is your involvement in the Dutch world of organized philately?

P.Z. Of course, we are members of the NVPH, but more in particular, I take part in the Expertizing committee, the Catalogue committee and the committee charged with bringing a new "Leidraad" of the stamps of the Netherlands into being.

F.R. Is the NVPH in a crisis?

P.Z. Perhaps it was, but in my view that is over now.

Particularly now that we have formulated a code of ethics.

F.R. How does one become a member of the NVPH?

- P.Z. a) Full-time dealer, who derives his living from his stamp business. No part-timers or retired semi-full-timers.
- b) Having been registered in the local Chamber of Commerce for at least 2-3 years.
- c) If the dealer also operates a shop, he/she must first obtain, like all Dutchmen in those circumstances, a "middenstandsdiploma" (business certificate).
- F.R. What is needed to obtain the NVPH 'certificate'?
- P.Z. All dealers who have been accepted as members, automatically receive the certificate. However, this is not an empty gesture. The dealer must sign the certificate and its by-laws. This enables the NVPH to take legal action against an ill-behaving dealer; without the certificate the NVPH would have a very weak legal base.
- F.R. Then why are there so many dealers who are not a member of the NVPH?
- P.Z. First of all, many dealers are not genuinely full-time. Also, there is a balloting committee, which scrutinizes every application in great detail. Last year, for example, of the 40-odd applicants only two were admitted.
- F.R. Why are there so many dealers who know nothing of philately?
- P.Z. There is a complex of reasons for that. First of all, I should point out that the problem is a global one. Then, in the Netherlands, 1977 was a philatelic bull-market and a lot of people jumped in and started a stamp business. In fact, the Government provided subsidies to unemployed people, who wanted to learn a new trade. Also, to view it from another angle, the public gets what it wants. If there are dealers who do little more than sell new issues, albums and accessories, they exist and survive only because their services are in demand.
- F.R. Why is there an NVPH stamp expertizing committee while the "Bond" (Association of stamp clubs) has already one?
- P.Z. The "Bond"'s committee is basically a one-man show, run by Mr. A. v.d. Willigen (who has since died. ed.) and that is not a sufficient base. The NVPH committee consists of five persons, three fully qualified ones, plus two apprentices. There is therefore a guaranteed continuity.
- F.R. Why is the "speciale" not better? Why are there still so many 'errors' or ambiguities, and why is there no reply to people who send in suggestions?
- P.Z. We realized that there was a problem, but I feel that we now have measures and policies in place to improve matters. The catalogue committee consists of 6 persons: 3 dealers, 1 auctioneer, and 2 wholesalers. These people come together once a year for 8 working days, during which all decisions have to be taken. These people take time off from their businesses, to do this pro-Deo job. We are really only amateurs, compared to the full-time professionals who work on the Michel or Stanley-Gibbons catalogues. In any case, we now consider all proposals and people do get replies. Remember too, that some of our critics were sometimes not very tactful either. Also, there are technical matters to consider, such as a small addition to the text requiring 2 or 3 pages to be reset, meaning greatly increased workload and expense.
- F.R. There are many philatelists though, who bristle at the title of "speciale".
- P.Z. Perhaps that is where the entire problem lies. Perhaps we should have omitted the word "speciale" and retitled our standard catalogue as "junior". Then there would be no problem, except for the void there would be left at the top.
- F.R. That gets us to the "Leidraad". We heard already a year ago that the 14 volumes were ready to be printed, but that your committee appeared to have raised new objections. What is the truth?
- P.Z. First of all, that "Leidraad" is needed as the real "speciale" for specialized collectors. The problem is that the "Filatelie" Foundation, which is supposed to subsidize this venture, has said: "Show us half a manuscript and we will consider the proposal". Not unreasonable, you might say, but we are dealing here with a large group of authors, some are real prima donnas and as a group, they are as flighty as a group of artists. Fact is, that the "Filatelie Stichting" still has not seen a single page of the manuscript. The chairman of the "Leidraad" committee is Mr. Cuppens (ex-president of the "Bond", ed.), who has a knack for mediations. He (Mr. Cuppens) still thinks the project will fly, eventually.
- F.R. After the 'acquisitions' of the Okker-Avezaat and the Buitenkamp-Mueller catalogues, has the NVPH still more expansionist plans?
- P.Z. That is quite possible. You must remember, that the NVPH "speciale" makes good money. With that money we can subsidize other catalogues, like the two you mentioned. We do this, however, without exercising any editorial influence. We think this is the way to go.
- F.R. Finally, the NVPH has always seemed quite secretive to me. How does one approach this body?
- P.Z. If we appeared secretive, I can assure you that such was not intentional. In fact, every "speciale" carries the address of the secretariat on page one (Weteringskade 45, 2515 AL 's Gravenhage, ed.). Having said that, you still may have a point; our P.R. could be better.
- F.R. Thank you.

BOOK REVIEWS

NVPH Speciale Catalogus 1987. ASNP price \$9.00.

This 46th edition of the Dutch Association of Stamp Dealers catalogue is a pleasant surprise. The values of many stamps have been drastically reduced, to better reflect the market situation. In addition, quite a few text improvements have been implemented.

In the 'Netherlands' section, the changes begin already with numbers 1,2 and 3. The #1 5 cent stamp used went from fl. 100.00 to fl. 80.00; in unused condition from fl. 750.00 to fl. 500.00, and in MNH condition from fl. 1600.00 to fl. 1000.00. Also the #4 5 cent was slightly reduced. Not much change in the next classical issues except for some rarities, such as the 1867 50 cent gold color on cover from fl. 5000.00 to fl. 3000.00, and the #35f (5 cent orange) from fl. 18 000.00 to fl. 12 500.00. The Inauguration 1 gld (#49) went from fl. 550.00 to fl. 450.00 for the unused condition and in used condition from fl. 220.00 to fl. 200.00, and from fl. 4250.00 to fl. 2000.00 for a used block of 4. There is also the odd increase; for example, unused #56 (3 cent fur collar) from fl. 40.00 to fl. 50.00. The tete-beches (#61 b,c) came down considerably, and so did the #80 10 gld: from fl. 2350.00 to fl. 2000.00 unused, and from fl. 2000.00 to fl. 1800.00 in used condition. The other 'topper', the #101 10 gld, lost fl. 350.00 both in used and unused condition. Also the two 250 cent overprints #104 and 105 came down by about fl. 100.00. The #130 and 131 (5 and 10 gld 1923 Jubilee) stayed at the same value, however. From 1925 onwards almost all non-definitives came down by 10 to 20%.

The war stamps stayed constant, but from 1946-1966 the decreases for non-definitives are about 20%. Definitives stayed pretty well constant, except that the 75 cent Juliana 'en face' continued its upward march. From 1966 onwards the decreases are more like 20-30%. For example, the ecology strip of 1974 went from fl. 18.00 to fl. 12.00, the Amphilex 1977 set went from fl. 10.00 to fl. 6.00. Substantial increases were noted for the 'special' booklets such as Red Cross (1983) and Summer stamps since 1984. The Red Cross booklet went from fl. 12.50 to fl. 20.00, for example.

The values for all syncopated perfing issues really came down (-25%) with a thud. There were almost no changes in the vending machine booklets except for the booklets with the 25 cent Juliana Regina in various paper and screen varieties. Amongst the air mail stamps only the L12-13 sea gulls showed a small change: down fl. 50.00 for unused (MNH). Surprise in the postage dues. For the numbers 1-12 there are now three price columns: it now turns out that the old prices for unused really pertained only to

MNH! The "Armenwet" stamps came down with fl. 75.00 for the set, but the incorrect text is still there. The most significant increase is for the MNH International Court of Justice stamps of 1977: from fl. 3000.00 to fl.4500.00 or a whopping +50%. One noteworthy change in the entire 'Netherlands' section is the re-inclusion of all the known plate numbers of the engraved stamps. For this purpose, the Rembrandt set was even re-designated as intaglio plate printed, rather than photogravure.

In the Netherlands Indies part, the MNH #2 came down from fl. 2250.00 to fl. 1500.00, the Bandoeng Fair overprints lost fl. 75.00, the air mails #14-17 lost about 20%. Floating Safe stamps lost fl. 100.00 in unused condition and that is just about it. We noted two increases as well; the #273 Pelita stamp unused went from fl. 3.25 to fl. 4.00 and the 'Indonesia' overprint with triple bar on the Hartz 1 gld, went from fl. 2,25 to fl. 4.00 unused.

The New Guinea Juliana 'en face' set increased by fl. 16.50 for the unused set and the UNTEA set unused lost another fl. 25.00.

In Curaçao some increases in the classics such as +fl. 5.00 for the unused #17 5 cent numeral, and +fl. 20.00 for the unused Wilhelmina long hair 25 cent (#22), and +fl. 25.00 for the unused 5 gld of the Jubilee set. Some slight losses in the early 'Antilles' group, but a +fl. 29.00 change for the Juliana 'en face' set. But then the slashing becomes almost universal from 1956 onwards, with changes in the -10 to -50% range, mostly for the unused stamps, bringing their CV often equal to that of the used stamps and approaching on occasion the face value!

The 6 cent 'Disberg' stamp (#275) continued its tumble with another fl. 3.50 loss down to fl. 7.50. From 1978 on, the CV's are mostly stable, with even the odd increase here and there. Booklets 1 and 2 went up by fl. 1.00, but the 3A and 4A booklets lost fl. 1.00. The Prince Bernhard Fund air mails (L18-25) increased by fl. 35.00 and fl. 30.00 (unused and used respectively), and the postage due unused set of 1948 went up fl. 15.00 to fl. 250.00.

Suriname: +fl. 50.00 notations for #21 (the 2 1/2 cent overprint) and its varieties, and a few other increases scattered through the classics section. The price reductions of 10 to 50% start in 1953 and continue right to 1975, the independence date. No change for L18 (the 5 gld air mail). The 15 and 30 cent butterflies (L47 and L50) have now a separate listing for the Bradbury printing as #47A and 50A, but without CV indication. The airmail set of 1965 went from fl. 13.50 to 7.50.

Overall we are pleased: particularly the price reductions in the Netherlands 1946-1976 were very long overdue. The reductions for Neth. Antilles and Suriname for the 1955-1975 era are the third

successive slashing, so it is now an ideal time to set up a collection of these areas. That would also include ARUBA, whose first stamps are listed, but without CV.

The textual changes are significant too, if only as an indication that the NVPH is beginning to listen. It appears, that now there is an effective communication channel, so we should explore and exploit that further. Your reviewer hereby asks that all readers who have ideas for improvement, send their ideas to him. He will collate all information and put it through the pipe line.

F.R.

Typering van de ankeropdrukken van Bali, Lombok en de kleine Soenda eilanden.

(Typology of the anchor overprints of Bali, Lombok and the lesser Sunda islands), by R. Hausman, 19 pages on A4 format.

Published by DAI NIPPON. Order-on-demand only, code # 1986-8, ASNP price \$4.50.

This brochure (a book it is not) deals with the well-known 'anchor' and 'DAI NIPPON' overprint (#53 of the DAI NIPPON catalogue on Japanese occupation). Apparently, eleven different types have existed and these are shown in 300% linear enlargement photographs. A short introduction outlines the steps required for a determination of which type one has in hand. Such a typology is only a beginning. As Bruijnesteijn has shown in his study of the central Sumatra overprints, one next needs to know which type was used where and when on what stamps and with what cancel. Here lies another challenge for the super specialist!

F.R.

De Postzegels van Midden Sumatra onder Japanse Bezetting.

(The stamps of central Sumatra during the Japanese occupation) by W. Bruijnesteijn.

Published by DAI NIPPON, 82 A4 format pages, illustrated, 1986. Order-on-demand only, code 1986-9, ASNP price \$15.00.

The period of April 1942 till late 1945 was a chaotic time for the Dutch East Indies archipelago. This is reflected in the almost incomprehensible multitude of overprints on the stamps of that time. There is a seemingly unending stream of newly-discovered overprint varieties, many of which are fakes to compound the puzzle. Dr. Bruijnesteijn has tried the almost impossible task of defining and documenting the 'regular' stamp and overprint. 'Regular' means issued via post office counters, in the correct area, during the correct period. Central

Sumatra consists of the West Coast and Riouw provinces with the autonomous cities of Boekittingi (i.e. Fort de Kock) and Pajakombo. The overprints here are of the Andrew cross type and the DAI NIPPON JUBIN in Japanese characters. Either overprint exists singly, but there were also many combinations. Dr. Bruijnesteijn has found some 60 different overprints, not counting the combinations. He has identified the exact place of usage, the period during which they were used and the frequency of use.

To complete the story, he has also identified the cancels used in that period. This starts with the original cancels of the N.E.I. government, then on October 5, 1942, the changeover to the Japanese calendar, and finally the cancels in Japanese characters. All this is profusely illustrated; the quality of the illustrations is just good enough to be of help in the determination process, but generally not good enough to see whether one has a fake at hand. The book ends with a systematic catalogue, per original stamp and then per overprint, listing what has been shown to exist. There is even a (catalogue) value for almost all items. Most values are in the fl. 10.00 to fl. 400.00 range, so better make an arrangement with your bank before starting a specialized collection of this nature!

All in all, a posthistorical study of great philatelic calibre. The interested reader could also learn from a far more extensive review of this book, a review written by J. Bonn in the "Maandblad" of June 1986, pages 414-416. If need be, your ASNP librarian can help provide a copy of the above mentioned article.

F.R.

Filatelie Informatief, part 12, Dec. 1985.

By subscription only, code 1985-9, ASNP price \$8.50.

In this part 12, we find four contributions. The first two are from the hand of J. Voskuil, who continues his series on "Veldpost". The first covers the period 1940-1950, basically World War II and its aftermath. The field post of this period is mainly that of foreign armies: first of all the German "Feldpost" and later the American, British and Canadian field post, including the Netherlands "Veldpost" of such units like the "Prinses Irene Brigade". The field post in the Netherlands East Indies of the 1945-50 period is treated only summarily. Voskuil's second contribution deals with the Korea and Nieuw Guinea period, although during this period also several large-scale exercises took place in the Netherlands itself, for which the "Veld Post" cancels were used again.

W. Stomp wrote a short contribution about the "debourse" Departmental cancels used in the Breda

region from 1811-1813. This is actually an extension of Gert Holstege's contribution on the oval cancels with post office name and "afgeschreven".

The series Fakes and Forgeries continues with a very interesting article by W. Keizer on 'War Forgeries'. Apart from a very few World War I forgeries, this article relates mostly to World War II, when British, American, Russian and also German intelligence services tried to undermine the enemy's morale with fake letters, requiring, of course, fake stamps. There is one page in full color of most of these War forgeries, which is just as well, since all of these stamps are rare to extremely rare.

F.R.

Filatelie Informatief, part 13. By subscription only, code 1985-9, ASNP price \$8.50.

A bad omen: this issue does not carry a date. It would have been the first issue of 1986, but then, it was mailed out in August. It seems, the publisher is falling more and more behind on the intended schedule of 3 issues per year.

Two major articles plus some shorter addenda. Mr. D.W.F. Verkade wrote a treatise on 'stamps and copyright'. Any member with a training in law will presumably be delighted by this contribution, but for others it may be too far removed from main stream philately.

Much more generally enjoyable is the continuation of W.Keizer's article on 'War Forgeries' (see also F.I., part 12). This time we read about German forgeries destined for Great Britain, British forgeries intended for occupied France, forgeries related to the Netherlands. (1 1/2 cent Lebeau dove and the "Houdt Goeden Moed" overprints) and British forgeries for Italy and Norway. Finally the 'cold war' (1945-55) period is discussed, during which a postal war was waged between the two Germanies.

As before, F.I. continues to provide excellent reading.

F.R.

Filatelie Informatief, part 14. By subscription only; code 1985-9, ASNP price \$8.50.

It would seem that SAMSOM is trying to catch up on the production of F. I. issues. This is issue #14, however all indications that this is really the second issue of 1986 have now carefully been omitted. Let us see whether indeed they can produce and deliver the third issue of 1986 still in time.

"Veldpost" has been a frequent subject in past F.I. issues, the sum total of which really equals a

complete book on the subject. Here, however, F.I.'s format shines; as is usually the case after publication of a book, all kinds of interesting new finds were reported to the author. The loose-leaf format now allows us to read an immediate follow-up, rather than having to wait perhaps 10 year for a book's second edition.

The remainder of this issue is a masterfully written story on the Netherlands Postage Due stamps issued in the 1906-1912 period. Author Holstege, with his access to the official PTT archives, has done it again; an exciting story from beginning to end. This is the period of the 3 and 50ct on "een gulden" dues (P27-28), the 4 and 6 1/2 overprints (P29,30), also of the "De Ruyter" overprints P31-43 (although their story was already told by Holstege in an earlier F.I. contribution) and of some of the permanent dues that were supposed to replace the overprints. Each of these stamps has its own story, but let's whet your appetite with a brief overview of the 6 1/2 cents. In that time, picture post cards could be sent under the (1 1/2ct cheaper) printed matter rate, provided there was no message on the card, apart from the sender's name. Many people could not resist the urge to pen down a one- or two-word message, which was then promptly punished by the PTT with a 1 1/2 + 5 = 6 1/2 ct postage due. This need for a 6 1/2 ct postage due became an overprint of 6 1/2 on 20ct, simply because there was an oversupply of the standard (P23) 20ct postage due stamps. After many trials (all shown in full color), the PTT finally settled on the overprint design as per P30, as issued in 1906-7. At the same time, another clean-up action (of the "De Ruyter" stamps), resulted in another 6 1/2 ct overprint postage due stamps. In the mean time, a permanent 6 1/2 ct (P20) was printed, but not yet distributed because of the various overprint 6 1/2 ct dues still available. Then, however, per October 1, 1908, the 'punishment' due of 5ct was lowered to 2 1/2 ct, obviating the need of a 6 1/2 ct dues, but creating the need for a 1 1/2 + 2 1/2 = 4ct postage due stamp. Some of the P20 6 1/2 ct stamps were issued and used, however, and in fact quite a number were sold for philatelic purposes, but most of the new 6 1/2 ct stamps were never distributed, and overprinted to 4ct to create P29. Holstege offers the opinion that the P20 6 1/2 ct postage due as single dues franking on cover is perhaps Netherlands' greatest on-piece rarity. Through his full documentation of, amongst others, internal PTT memos of that time, the author provides a rare opportunity of an intimate look at official postal thinking, some 70 years ago.

As before with F.I., this is high quality stuff, worth a subscription (or at least a borrowing from the ASNP's library!).

F.R.

Nederlandse Loketstroken (Dutch Wicket Franking Stickers) by J.M.A.G. Stroom and C.J.H. Matser. Published by Novio-post, 40 pp, illustrated, 1986. Order-on-demand only. ASNP price \$3.50, code 1986-10.

On January 27, 1986, the Dutch PTT started full-scale operation (at 127 post offices) of little machines, operated by postal employees at the wickets, which produce stickers to be affixed to mail pieces. These stickers are at the same time 'stamp' and 'cancellation' (see also ASNP Newsletter of April 15, 1986, page 17). Prior to the January '86 date, several tests were conducted with machines from various manufacturers, starting in 1963.

This booklet not only describes the historical development of these newfangled 'stamps', it also catalogues what is presently known about them. Preceding that is an introduction which gives useful definitions of these 'wicket strips' and several look-alikes such as the franking meters, machine cancels and vending machines stickers (the latter do not yet exist in the Netherlands).

A very useful introduction into this novel philatelic area.

F.R.

Postmerken '86. (post marks '86) Published by PO&PO, 413 pp, illustrated. Code # 1986-11. ASNP price \$30.00.

When the "Nederlandse Vereniging van Poststukken en Poststempel Verzamelaars" (or PO&PO, for short) celebrated their silver jubilee in 1971, it published "Na Posttijd", a collection of essays and articles, that is still an often-used reference book. Now, in 1986, PO&PO celebrates its 40th anniversary and before us lies another collection of articles, this time named after the exhibition that PO&PO organized this past September.

There are ten contributions, eight of which are dealing with Netherlands postal history. The lead article is by C. Muys, whose 'some aspects of the postal exchanges between the Netherlands and England in the 1700-1850 era' is a 110-page book all by its own. This, of course, is pre- or co-philately, but nevertheless a fascinating aspect of history.

J. Vellekoop then continues his "Armenwet" studies with a 12-page article on the red overprint on the 1 1/2 cent blue. His archives' study has led to very surprising conclusions. We won't spoil the fun, by telling you what these conclusions are, but we promise you, that the article reads like a detective story.

Three authors (Da Costa, Rozema and Vos), then present a 50-page study on the C.O.D. delivery service of the PTT, and the corresponding philatelic traces this left. An eminently readable account of a practically forgotten area.

J.M.A.G. Stroom then discusses the "facier Mark II"; this is one of the earliest machines that could automatically put all mail pieces upside-down and facing the cancellation head. Well known from these experiments are the 'Gouda' stamps (NVPH #774-6) on yellow fluorescent paper, but there have been many more experiments, as fully documented now by the author. This area of 'postal mechanization' has become rather popular in the Netherlands, thanks mostly to the pioneering efforts of Mrs. Vrijaldenhoven-Oostra.

Dr. E.A.B. ten Brink then gives another co-philatelic account; this one is about the horse-drawn 'postillions' in the period of the French occupation (1799-1813).

An extremely useful article by P. Storm van Leeuwen discusses the 'postal establishments of simple nature in the Netherlands Indies'. This deals with the "Bestelhuis" cancels, certain of the train-stop long name cancels and other sometimes not-so-official auxiliary mail collection points, that were active one time or another. The author has taken a new tack in this so confusing topic, by exclusively using Postal Service documents. This turns out to be very revealing and helps considerably in solving many questions that were still outstanding, but the author needs 90 pages to tell it all!

A.P. de Goede and H.P. Rozema then tell us about the night hours characters on the 'large round' cancels of the Netherlands, which were usually 10-12 N and 12-6 V. However, split-up hour characters like 12-1 V, 1-2 V, 2-6 V also exist and the authors relate how these came into being as a result of a daily night train between Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

J.F.Cley and J.A.G.M. van Roosmalen then show that the so-called "Bossche tanding" also existed in Gendringen, Amsterdam and a few other places.

A second article of J. Vellekoop presents us with something unusual, yet extremely useful: an index of all articles that have appeared in exhibition catalogues since 1952. Many important studies found their one-and-only publication in such catalogues, and it is helpful for researchers to know what is published when and where.

All told, a monumental book, in hard cover and on high quality paper with splendid figures, a book that would be easily worth 3 times the selling price. Our congratulations to PO&PO for a job well done (and that without subsidy of the "Filatelle" Foundation!).

F.R.

Katalogus Postzegel- en Automaatboekjes Nederland. (Catalogue of booklets of the Netherlands), by De Rooy-Hali, 1987. Code number 1986-12, ASNP price \$10.00

The changes between this 13th edition and its 1985 predecessor are minimal. Booklet 6fFq shows a slight upward change as do booklets 12 and 13. Booklets 17 are down from Fl. 20.00 to fl. 16.00, a new slight printing error has been found with booklet 23bS and that is about it. The only significant changes are in the addition of the new booklets 27b and 31-34, and the increase in value of Red Cross and Summer stamp (1984) booklets. The one spectacular novelty is a booklet 27b without the black printing of Beatrix' portrait, an oddity listed at fl. 4000.00 (so far, 3 have been found).

This catalogue came out on the same day as the 1987 NVPH "speciale", so one would expect some consultation to have taken place between the two groups. Perhaps there was, but then not a very fruitful one: it remains a mystery, why the De Rooy-Hali prices for the main numbers of booklets 1-20 are anywhere from 10-100% higher than those in the NVPH catalogue. All of a sudden the NVPH begins to look like the 'good guy', which is a pleasant change of atmosphere!

Again there is virtually no information on used booklets, either on cover or soaked off, and once again the FDC and combinations sections have been omitted. This is a pity, particularly since the De Rooy-Hali system for cataloguing combinations is superior to that of the NVPH.

Next time better?

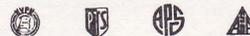
F.R.



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